

Volunteer & Service Learning Center

BOSTON COLLEGE

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

Post-Graduate Volunteering

Do you ever wonder what BC students do after graduation? Each year more students are seeking opportunities to volunteer after graduation. What is generating the interest? Some say the state of the economy, others say increased exposure to volunteer opportunities during college, while others say it is more knowledge about the opportunities available to volunteer after graduation. Whatever the reason, Boston College students once again display a strong interest in volunteering after graduation.

Over 200 students attended the annual Post-Graduate Volunteer Fair on October 21st. Since that time the VSLC has hosted several other events to allow students to discern the option of volunteering after graduation. In February, the VSLC and the Career Center hosted a panel discussion to offer students an opportunity to hear from members of the BC community who previously participated in a post-graduate volunteer program. The VSLC later hosted two informal gatherings for students to ask questions and gain feedback about the option of volunteering and seek information regarding various post-graduate volunteer programs.

The VSLC knows of over 40 graduates that plan to volunteer after graduation and there are undoubtedly more. In honor of their commitment, the VSLC hosted a post-graduate reception on May 1st to express gratitude and support to these students. Also in attendance were members of the BC community who have inspired these students to pursue volunteer opportunities. We wish these students the best of luck in their future work.

For more information about where students are serving and our continued efforts to support them, check out our webpage: http://www.bc.edu/offices/service/post_graduate.html
Also, if you are an alum, faculty member or staff person who participated in a post-graduate volunteer program, we would love to hear from you about your experience.



Students at the Post-Graduate Volunteer Reception. To the left, students gather with Professor Steve Pope. On the right, a student converses with BC administrator, and former Peace Corps Volunteer, Joe Burns.

Chili Bowl Event



Faculty and staff gather to enjoy lunch with colleagues and also hear from students and faculty who have visited communities that benefit from the Chili Bowl Fundraiser.

On March 26, Boston College held its first “Chili Bowl Fundraiser” in support of scholarship initiatives for young people in Nicaragua and El Salvador. The event was a wonderful testimony to the sense of community we can and often do share here on our campus. Alistair Ward and Kristen Loncich, both doctoral students from the Physics department (and ceramics enthusiasts) created sixty unique ceramic bowls and donated them for this event. Over eighty faculty and staff members attended the event and \$1,600.00 was raised for the scholarships. Attendees had a chance to enjoy lunch with colleagues and also hear from students and faculty who have visited the communities that benefit from the scholarships. Thanks to all who attended, and watch for a repeat of this fun event next year!

Inside this issue:

<i>BC Ireland ServiceWeek</i>	2
<i>Welles R. Crowther Service Award</i>	2
<i>BC Hoops for Hope Tournament</i>	2
<i>Cleansweep</i>	3

BC-Ireland Service Week

During spring break, ten students traveled to Ireland for an international service trip. In Dublin, the group of students along with the staff leaders met with various speakers who discussed the Irish economy, Irish policy, and recent developments of emigration in Ireland. Furthermore, the students spent the week working within the community while in Dublin. The placements included a community center, preschool, public health clinic, after school program, and a rehabilitation center for recovering drug addicts.

Senior trip leader Caitlin Connolly had this to say about the experience: "This trip has opened my eyes to the importance of furthering the global initiative. Although this trip was only a week long, the experience of volunteering and reflecting on the way in which Ireland has developed has encouraged me to continue advocating for vulnerable populations, which can be found in all areas, even developed countries. Boston College aims to develop its students as men and women for others. Service trips, much like the Ireland trip, allow students to break free from the Boston College community and to serve justly."



The participants traveling through the streets of Ireland on the Bus. Participants include: Elizabeth Smith '10, Benjamin Killips '11, Christine Chea '09, Sarah Griesbach '10, Amanda Leahy '11, Keavy Gilbert '11, Kelsey Youngman '11, Samantha Ly '10, Caitlin Connolly '09, Julian Ponsetto '12

Welles Remy Crowther Service Award

The 4th annual Welles Remy Crowther Service Award was announced at the Student Leadership Awards Ceremony on April 17th. This year's winner is Su In Park, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences. Among her many involvements with service while at BC, Su In was honored for her sustained work and leadership with Appalachia, the Boston College Campus School, and hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf Coast. In honor of Su In's servant leadership, the Welles R. Crowther Charitable Trust has made a \$1,000 donation to Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialogue on Development (CCIDD) an organization Su In worked with during an Arrupe International Service Trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. The funds will be specifically geared towards families and renovations for the community called La Estacion. Congratulations Su In!

BC Hoops for Hope



The Annual Hoops for Hope charity three-on-three basketball tournament took place on April 18, 2009 at the Flynn Recreation Complex. The tournament raises money on behalf of the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research.

The Jimmy V foundation was established in 1993 in honor of Jimmy Valvano, a legendary basketball coach and ESPN commentator. Shortly before his death, Valvano delivered a speech, which included his now famous appeal: "Don't Give Up... Don't ever Give Up!"

This year, the tournament drew about 130 players consisting of a male's division, women's division, and co-ed division. It is estimated that about \$5,000 was raised for The Jimmy V Foundation. Quintin Barnes, a senior at Boston College and a three year member of the Hoops for Hope student committee explained, "It was very inspiring to see everyone come out to support the V Foundation and play in this tournament. The energy and commitment to improving others' lives and contributing to our surrounding community is something that one cannot tire of. I had a lot of fun planning the event, and I hope to see the same enthusiasm in the years to come."

Check out the website for more information about the tournament at: <http://www.bc.edu/clubs/hoopsforhope/>

"Compassion manifests itself in solidarity, the deep consciousness of being part of humanity, the existential awareness of the oneness of the human race, the intimate knowledge that all people, however separated by time and space, are bound together by the same human condition." ~Henri Nouwen

Cleansweep



Calling all students, faculty, staff, & alumni of Boston College!

Cleansweep has been in existence at BC for 17 years giving students on lower campus the chance to donate clean, re-usable items to Boston area agencies who can put them to good use. Volunteer teams, made up of students, faculty, staff and alumni, help collect and sort the items for agencies to pick up at the Plex on Agency Day. Over **128 agencies** have been invited to Cleansweep this year. They include schools, shelters, soup kitchens, daycares, and more. For a complete list, visit our website: www.bc.edu/service and click the Cleansweep link.



"As an agency in Lower Roxbury working with children, families, and individuals the goods we received are put to good use. Thank you again ... it is a great idea."

~Emmanuel House

"I was able to get... computer printers, file cabinets, extension cords. I was amazed at the quantity of items, and was pleased to see that so many non-profits were able to profit from the abundance of articles left behind by your students."

~Newton Senior Services

Mission of Cleansweep

- * To connect with and support the Greater Boston community in a thoughtful, respectful, meaningful, and helpful way
- * To provide a way for students living on lower campus to give away items that are still good, but that they cannot or do not want to take home for the summer
- * To help the environment by reducing waste, recycling and reusing
- * To connect with other members of the BC community

Volunteers are needed to:

- ~ help collect items on lower campus
- ~ sort donated items
- ~ greet and sign in volunteers

**Sign up for one or more shifts.
Help those in need, build community,
reduce waste, get a free t-shirt!!!**

**To sign up, visit: <http://www.bc.edu/cleansweep>
and click on the "volunteer" link.**

ATTENTION FACULTY & STAFF

Interested in volunteering? Volunteers are needed on:

Monday, 5/18 3pm-8pm
Tuesday, 5/19 10am-2pm, 2pm-5pm, 5pm-8pm
****Wednesday, 5/20** 10am-1pm, 1pm-4pm, 4pm-7pm

To sign-up, visit: <http://www.bc.edu/service/programs/cleansweep/volunteer.html>

****We are especially in need of volunteers for these shifts!**



VOLUNTEER & SERVICE LEARNING CENTER

McElroy 114
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

617.552.1317
volunteer@bc.edu
www.bc.edu/service

A safe and happy
summer to all!!

*Interested in learning more about VSLC events?
Email vslc@bc.edu to find out how you can get
information about upcoming events that you
can get involved in!*



Mark your calendar!

Looking to read or share a good book for the summer?

Join the *Volunteer & Service Learning Center* for

A summer book swap!

When: Monday, June 1st to Friday, June 26th

9am-5pm (9am-3pm on Fridays), closed Sat. & Sun.

Where: 115 McElroy

Questions: Call Kate Daly at 2-1317 or email kate.daly.1@bc.edu

All left over books will be donated to a local non-profit

***Please include books that are in good shape and that you think others will enjoy.

Stop by often (you don't need to give or take to give or take)!!