



COLORADO
COLLEGE

THE DIFFERENCE

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The Collaborative for Community Engagement Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

Arts for Social Change	1-2
Journal Club	3
Women and War	4-5
Empty Bowls	6
CCE Updates	7
Upcoming Events and Announcements	8

Arts for Social Change



Service Quote of the Block:

You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.
-John Wooden

by Laurel Hecker '13

On the first floor of Mathias Hall, sixteen students live together under the theme "Arts for Social Change." This Living-Learning Community (LLC) is one of four at CC, and is the only one advised through the Collaborative for Community Engagement. In keeping with that theme, and with the help of their advisors, residents commit to exploring the effects that art can have in areas such as social justice and activism.

This LLC is new for the 2012–2013 academic year, and grew out of a lack of interest in the Grassroots Organizing LLC. Though it is new, the Arts for Social Change residents have wasted no time in determining a direction for their community. Community Advisor Flora Liu '15 recalls, "We had a dinner meeting

continued on page 2

and we spent two hours just discussing, ‘what’s art?’ and ‘what’s social change?’” Eventually they determined, she says, “Arts for Social Change is [about] using any type of art to create an awareness in people or to make them engage in a certain topic.”

Their chosen topic, which will be born out through their year-end project, is mental health. There has been a growth of discussion around mental health at CC over the past few years, but the LLC will attempt to tackle the subject in a way that encompasses both the creative aspects of their theme and the mission of the Collaborative. Their Program Coordinator, Adison Petti (the CCE’s Health and Human Rights Coordinator), explains, “There is a two-part requirement for the project. They have to form some type of a collaboration on campus and form one collaboration with the community.”

The project is still a work in progress, but they are well on their way to achieving those

goals. Liu says, “We started with, ‘let’s have an exhibition of art,’ and then we built on top of that—we want to really engage people.” The LLC is now planning a panel discussion in addition, in which they will discuss how art can be used to effect social change. They are also looking into creative and interactive ways that other students and community members can share stories and thoughts on the topic of mental health. They plan to partner with other student groups, as well as artists and activists from the community.

Before beginning work on their project, residents of the LLC met blockly for a dinner and discussion around the relationship between art and activism. During the fall semester, they met with Associate Professor John Gould of the Political Science department, Steve Wood from Concrete Couch (a community art organization), and Assistant Professor Ryan Platt of the Drama & Dance department. This type of frequent engage-

ment with ideas, guest speakers, and each other is one of the distinguishing features between the LLC and a traditional residence hall. “People both have to opt in and commit,” Petti explains. “You live together, you’re doing this project together. They really get to drive [that experience] for themselves.”

Along with that greater commitment comes a strong bond between the residents. “Meeting so frequently makes the residents know each other really well,” says Liu. “It really helps create a sense of community, and we’re like a little family here.” Those bonds become important when it comes to pulling off a campus-wide event, like the one the LLC is planning for their mental health project. Liu identifies this as the biggest challenge of the LLC experience, but adds, “Now we’re taking baby steps and it’s become much less intimidating.” Their project is slated to come to fruition during 7th Block.



The Arts for Social Change LLC endeavors to use art to raise awareness and engage the community.

Journal Club

by Laurel Hecker '13

The Collaborative for Community Engagement is now home to a new initiative focused on keeping staff members up to date with research and best practices in the fields of community-based learning, research, and service. “Journal Club,” the idea for which was originally put forth by the CCE’s Assistant Director for Community-Based Learning and Research Virginia Visconti, has recently been implemented as a weekly reading and discussion. She explains, “it would be wonderful if we could actually take time to read some of the academic scholarship that informs the work we do.”

Dedicating time each week for this curriculum allows CCE staff the opportunity keep in touch with the world of community engagement beyond CC and bring their findings to bear on their work on campus. It will also enable them to better advise student groups. “We really want student groups to [engage with the literature] as they think about their own projects and programs with community partners...we can be suggesting readings at the very least,” Visconti says. At its core, Journal Club is one of many efforts by the CCE to enact its mission of coupling service with academic engagement.

“The journal club is designed to foster a common set of understandings and a common language related to the CCE’s mission. It offers staff members an opportunity to integrate rigorous academic scholarship into their public work.”

—CCEJC Mission Statement

Each meeting of Journal Club follows a similar format. Staff members complete readings in advance. Facilitation of discussion is a rotating position, and that person is responsible for bringing discussion questions to the table and leading the group through that week’s readings. Discussion often focuses on how staff members can apply the reading to their specific and various fields. After the meeting, one person takes on the task of writing a blog post about that week’s discussion.

This spring, Journal Club will lay the ground work for a continuing program. The block-long discussion themes for this semester— “introduction to community-based learning

and research,” “risk and resilience,” “public health models of prevention,” and “community development” —seek to establish a common vocabulary and over-arching goals for work done through the CCE. Next fall and in the future, Visconti predicts that Journal Club will draw its discussion topics from specific projects and initiatives within the office: “we’re going to try to be really integrated and move from foundational topics to more specific areas of activity.”

Journal Club is truly a group effort, and hopes to connect with other similar discussions on campus. In that vein, its syllabus, readings, and blog will be publicly available on the CCE website.

Visit Journal Club online at:

www.coloradocollege.edu

»*Collaborative for Community Engagement*

»*About Us*

»*Journal Club*

Women and War

by Laurel Hecker '13

On Wednesday, January 30, the CCE hosted the second of its Women and War panel discussions. The panel consisted of seven female soldiers with a total of over 80 years of service among them. Members of the CC and Colorado Springs communities gathered to ask questions and listen as the soldiers spoke about their personal experiences, military culture, and the Pentagon's recent decision to allow women in combat roles.

The panel opened with introductions from CC President Jill Tiefenthaler and CCE Director Jessica Copeland. During the first portion of the discussion, Copeland asked questions that had been collected in advance from students and faculty members. The standing-room-



only audience listened attentively to stories about the decision to join, military families, and the role of faith. Though they deal with tough situations on a regular basis, all have found a way to work through them.

Sometimes it is a matter of difficult conversations with your kids, as when Combat Medic Bailey asserted, "if my child loses a parent, I want them to understand it wasn't for nothing." Other times the challenges lie in accepting imminent danger or the loss of control over one's own life, for which several panel members mentioned the importance of personal faith.

After the initial period of prepared questions, the discussion was opened up to the audience as well. Among the many questions posed to the panel, some of the topics included the military's support of veterans in regards to mental health, the rules of engagement, universal standards, and conflicts between orders and personal opinion. The timely matter of the Pentagon lifting its ban on women in combat



was of course brought up, and all panel members agreed the decision is a good thing. “We’re all equal, and it’s been unequal for a bit as far as where women could work,” said Sergeant Arnold. Specialist Muggly added, “It’s going to be rough at the start, but I think in a few years

we won’t hear anything about it—[men] will adapt.”

Audience members were clearly curious about many aspects of military life, and the panel obliged them with thoughtful and personal answers. Though Colorado College is surrounded by various mili-

tary establishments, our community is often out of touch with the institution or falls victim to stereotypes. Discussion like this one, as part of the CCE’s initiatives on Military Engagement, are helping work to fix that.



On the horizon: Empty Bowls

By Alexandria Romo '14

Empty Bowls is an annual event at Colorado College meant to raise awareness of hunger, a significant issue in the Colorado Springs community. Empty Bowls will be held this year on March 4th, the third Monday of Block 6, from 6-8 PM in Bemis Great Hall. The event is open to the Colorado College and Colorado Springs communities. Tickets cost \$10.00, which includes a handmade ceramic bowl (generously donated by the Colorado College Arts and Crafts Department), unlimited soup (prepared by CC Students, Staff, Faculty, campus groups and community donors), and live entertainment. Due to the popularity of the event, each ticket admits one guest for a 30-minute increment of time. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at the Colorado College Worner Center



desk beginning February 18th. All of the proceeds raised from ticket sales are donated directly to the Colorado College Community Kitchen.

Through this event, we hope to emphasize the harsh realities of hunger in the community and the impact it has on individuals in our Colorado Springs community. The money raised by Empty Bowls funds the CC Community Kitchen, which serves a hot meal to the

hungry in Colorado Springs every Sunday, year-round. By informing people about hunger and homelessness and by donating the money to the CC Kitchen, we hope that students will be able to see exactly where their money is going and what its impact is in the community. Each guest of the Colorado College Community Kitchen will tangibly experience the benefit of each dollar raised at Empty Bowls.



Photos from Empty Bowls 2012

CCE Updates

A few brief updates about projects and initiatives currently in the works at the Collaborative.

Questions? Come visit our office in Worner 205.

As part of CC President Jill Tiefenthaler's "Year of Planning" initiative, the CCE is working towards proposing goals for the college's future development.

We are in the process of establishing our name and face as an office. We held a party in upstairs Worner on February 6 to help students get to know us, and we are connecting with various organizations and institutions, including KRCC and the Colorado Springs Independent.

The CCE now co-hosts the CC Business and Community Alliance, which endeavors to strengthen the ties between CC and the wider community. We are working with the B&CA and the Career Center to provide more internship opportunities for students.

We are working on finalizing the registration process for new student groups, as well as the advising structure.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Council on Collaboration Meeting	
March 4	The Council on Collaboration's lunch meeting for Sixth Block will be held Third Monday, March 4th, 2013.
Empty Bowls	
March 4	The annual fundraiser for the CC Community Kitchen takes place Monday, March 4th from 6–8 p.m. Tickets are \$10, available at the Worner Desk beginning the first day of Sixth Block, or at the event.
CCE Steering Committee Meeting	
March 11	The blockly meeting of the CCE Steering Committee will be held over lunch, Fourth Monday of Sixth Block, March 11th, 2013

COLORADO COLLEGE

THE COLLABORATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Our Mission Statement:

The Collaborative for Community Engagement challenges students and faculty to integrate rigorous liberal arts scholarship with collaborative community-based work in ways that strengthen and transform both in the process. In the tradition of liberal education and its emphasis on active citizenship, we provide a continuum of opportunities for the Colorado College community to deepen and contextualize classroom learning by engaging in reciprocal and sustainable collaborations with local, regional, national, and global partners. By fostering skills for planning, implementing and examining civic action, the Collaborative facilitates leadership development and promotes a social responsibility that is reflective, imaginative, and self-aware.