



Athletes in Service to America

Spring 2003 - Vol. 2, Issue 3

Newsletter

Highlights From the Field

Collectively, the Athletes in Service to America corps members at all four sites continue to impact the lives of youth in the neighborhoods surrounding Canisius College, Eckerd College, University of Kentucky and Northeastern University. Here are some figures on our service through May of this year: **3,500 youth** have benefitted from service for a total of **49,540 community service hours!**

In addition to the ongoing tutoring, mentoring and recreation service efforts at our operating sites, we wanted to share some highlights from the field.

Canisius College - Many of the Canisius corps members take advantage of the generous tuition waiver and commit to two years of service while enrolled as full-time graduate students. This year six members have successfully completed their student teaching placements and will go on to apply for certification. Those members are: Jill Iacono, Erica Kuper, Katie Scott, Nicole Sidebottom, Tom Shamp and Sarah Royer. In addition, Jessica Leas was selected by one of her students at School #72 to be her "special person" for 8th grade graduation. Jessica had the honor of pinning the student's graduation pin at the ceremony.

Eckerd College - The Pinellas County Schools recently recognized corps member, Ken Rostek, as an "Outstanding School Volunteer" in its annual ceremony on April 8, 2003. The annual event recognizes the achievements of school volunteers for their service and support to a particular school. Ken was nominated by teachers and staff from Bay Point Middle School as the "adult volunteer." The following is taken from the award booklet, "Ken Rostek is dedicated, sincere and encouraging. His positive influence, and ability to relate to young people, enables him to instill the importance of academic success." Congratulations to Ken and all of the Eckerd members for continuing to provide great service and support to Pinellas County schools.

Northeastern University - Sport in Society, with Athletes in Service corps members as delivery agents, has teamed up with the Boston Red Sox and the Ron Burton Training Village to provide athletic and life skills opportunities for urban youth. The Ron Burton Training Village, named after the local sports legend and dedicated philanthropist, brings urban youth to its 300-acre campsite for weekend retreats and summer camps. This partnership is operated in cooperation with Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and local District Attorneys. During the Spring of 2003, NU corps members have been working with the youth on adventure-based life skills clinics, sportsmanship, conflict resolution and teambuilding activities.

Director's Message...

It's that time of year and we are happy to report that spring has arrived at all of our sites, including Buffalo and Boston. It is also that time of year when some of our members are winding down their service years. To those members, the staff at AIS wish you good luck with the next chapter on life's journey.

There are still many of our members who will now switch gears and serve during the summer. There is always work to be done and we know that you will continue your commitment to make a difference.

The Parent Office would also like to say "congratulations" to all of our members who have completed either undergraduate or graduate degrees while serving. Well done!

Yours in service,

Eileen Smart

Member Spotlight



Name: Autumn Laidler
Site: Eckerd College
College: DePaul University
Sport: Soccer

Autum Laidler, originally from Oxford, MI, is a graduate of DePaul University and a four-year member of the women's soccer team. Autumn serves as a full-time member and has worked with both elementary and middle school youth in the St. Petersburg area at Gulfport Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, Bay Point Middle, and Campbell Park. After finishing her service, Laidler would like to pursue a career in the teaching profession.

Corps Member Reflections

Perspectives from the front lines of service from our corps members.

This was one of the best weeks I've had during my time in AmeriCorps. On Wednesday morning I left for Washington, D.C. with two teachers and 20 kids from the Dearborn. They were mostly Cape Verdean kids from the bilingual class, but I knew most of them from DASA (the after-school program). Great kids, great city, great time! It was an absolute blast showing all of the first or second generation Americans all of the monuments, museums and other foundations of our country. We managed to hook up a Capitol tour from one of our Congressmen, which was fantastic. My personal favorites are the Lincoln Memorial and the Marine Corps Memorial, and I think the kids enjoyed both of them. Recreating the Gettysburg Address with the kids was amazing and fun! They also go to go on a Riverboat cruise on the Potomac, and these kids can dance! Even the bus ride down was fun! I'm totally exhausted, but in a good way.

- NU Corps Member

I am so glad that I have started working with ESL for the most part of the day. It really made the most sense at this part of the year. I feel that I really make a difference in their lives, and it's quite noticeable just from looking at their faces when I walk into the classroom.

- Kentucky Corps Member

Pomp & Circumstance

Most would agree that successfully completing a year of service is a challenge in itself. Many of our AIS corps members are pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in addition to their commitment to the program. Again this year we would like to recognize those members who have attained their degrees while completing their service.

Congratulations to all who have finished and good luck to those who continue their studies.

Canisius College

Deirdre Abels
Tom Shamp
Jason Longo
Katie Scott

University of Kentucky

Kenny Miller
Emily Oetjen
Sandi Dengler

Eckerd College

Jonathan Silva

Northeastern University

Cate McDermod

Life After a Year (or two) of Service

In preparation for the post-AmeriCorps experience, we encourage our new (and old) alumni to register on the National AmeriCorps Association website. The organization, formerly known as AmeriCorps Alums, has some great resources and information for current members and alumni. For example, the website offers:

- Access to Job Databases
- Alumni Health Care Information
- Listing of Higher Education institutions that match education awards
- How to request a duplicate education award
- Tax information
- Access to the Alumni Network

Register today at www.lifetimeofservice.org

To all of our alumni, especially our newly crowned alumni, please make sure that you forward any new contact information to the Parent Office. We hope to stay in contact with all of you and keep you updated on happenings with the program. If you happen to have information that you would like to forward please send it to:

Marisa Petreccia at m.petreccia@neu.edu



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