

Athletes in Service to America

A Newsletter for Members, Alumni and Friends

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Highlights from the Spring

Members continue to serve their communities

The 2001-02 service is not quite over, however the academic has come to a close. That marks the beginning of many new summer opportunities for our members, but also marks the conclusion of another great year of being in our public school and local community center service sites. There have been so many wonderful moments over the past months, but we would like to highlight some news from around the country.

CANISIUS - The Canisius College site continued its collaboration with the Phys Ed Partners. Corps members who have served at School #53 in Buffalo are able to offer physical education opportunities to elementary school students. The public schools currently do not offer physical education for students K-3. Over 150 students from the neighborhood school are able to have access to Canisius athletic facilities. This partnership between Athletes in Service, Canisius College, and the neighborhood schools has been in existence for * years.

ECKERD - Two corps members garnered awards in recognition of their service during this year. In April, Jill Carson was awarded the Outstanding School Volunteer at Clearwater Intermediate School and Lealman Intermediate School. Andrew Black was the recipient of two volunteer awards as well. Black received the Outstanding School Volunteer at Bay Point Middle School in April along with Carson. In May, Black was the winner of the Mark. W. Smith Award from the entire graduating class of Eckerd College. The Smith award honors students who have shown leadership, has acted as a role model, has demonstrated initiative, and has made a difference on the campus.

KENTUCKY - Members have been involved with numerous activities and some new initiatives. In April, corps members collaborated with UK student-athletes for the annual School House Rocks event at Memorial Coliseum. Over 3,000 4-5th grade students arrived on campus to hear messages

focused on character issues. Each team did a skit on a word that describes character, such as "honesty", "integrity", "kindness", "fairness". The UK corps did their skit on "honesty."

NORTHEASTERN - The NU corps was able to partner with the Massachusetts Service Alliance in a first-ever peer training. Corps members trained other AmeriCorps members on diversity and conflict resolution skills. The day-long event was held at Northeastern and AmeriCorps members across the state participated. April was a busy month of collaborations in the Boston area. NU corps participated in the annual Peace Games festival (a local AmeriCorps project), the Mayor's Youth Summit, and the annual NU Service Day.

Corps Member Reflection

Excerpt from a corps member journal

He earned incentive this week, so I get to take him out for an ice cream cone. He talks all the way to the ice cream parlor. He is working on an assignment for writing class. He is writing a children's book. He has turned it into a story about himself editing out the inappropriate parts because after all, it is a children's book. The only time his face has emerged from his lined paper is to get his treat on Friday.

We are walking and he gabs about everything, life, his uncle, his bike, and his book. I am interested and amazed at the same time, because this is the boy who was mute for almost three weeks.

He doesn't stop talking. A block from the school we stop at a side store to buy napkins. I hand them to him and he says, "Thanks." Then he says, "There is something I want to tell you but I'm not very good at it." I say, "okay." He makes my entire year and says, "Thank you. For listening. I didn't know people cared."

For that – it has all been worth it.

Submitted by Lisa Nolan
NU corps member
May 2002

Corps Member Spotlight



Name: Garneth Francis
Site: Canisius College

Francis, originally from Buffalo, NY, is a full-time member at the Canisius site. Francis is a former student-athlete from the University of Buffalo where he competed as an infielder of the baseball team. During this year of service, Francis continues to work with D'Youville Porter school, Build Academy, and the Urban League. Among his duties as a corps member, he tutors many students in subject areas of math and science, drawing on his undergraduate major of electrical engineering.



Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order to the following AIS corps members who, in addition to their service, have also earned degrees (either undergraduate or graduate) during the service year.

ECKERD

Andrew Black
Morgan Orender
Brian Stapf

NORTHEASTERN

Matt Cavallaro
Lauren Haas

KENTUCKY

Miranda Martin
Falana Greenwell

CANISIUS

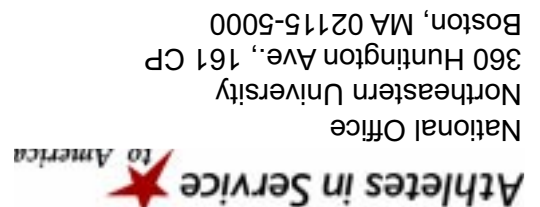
Keith Banas
Rick Buza
Jeff Gilson
Michelle Kelsey
Lynn Lambright
Erin Rountree
Melissa Ryan
Rich Skrabucha



Athletes in Service to America is a proud member of the AmeriCorps network and Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society



SPORT IN SOCIETY



Message from the Director

Well it is that time of year again, when the academic year has come to a close and summer begins. To those continuing on into summer opportunities we know that you will continue to positively impact the youth that you will work with. Just as the Parent Office reflects on the service year of 2001-02, we would like to commend all of our members who will be finishing their year of service. To those who have already done so, we welcome you into our alumni group.

As members we hope that you have enjoyed your service year and have learned new skills to prepare you for your next step. We also hope that your experience in National Service continues, and that you continue to serve your communities wherever you are throughout your lifetime.

Yours in Service,

Eileen Smart

Recruiting Continues for 2002-03 Year

If you know of any student-athletes who would qualify as good candidates for Athletes in Service to America, please direct them to our website for more information. Whether you know of a former teammate who might be interested or you work in a college athletic department, please refer potential candidates. Again, the five national Athletes in Service sites are located at Canisius College, Drexel University, Eckerd College, University of Kentucky and Northeastern University.

We are happy to announce that candidates can now access our application online by visiting our website. Candidates can download an application, cutting down time on mailings. Candidates can get contact information about our five sites and read about what it is like to be a corps member. National recruiting efforts continue throughout the summer, with the 2002-03 service year beginning in late August/early September.

Visit our Website at:

www.sportsociety.org/ais.html

New Resources for Alumni

Whether you just served last year, or you served seven years ago, great strides have been made to streamline resources for members and alumni. Many alumni call the Parent Office with questions regarding their education award. We wanted to make obtaining this information more efficient for you. The new websites launched by AmeriCorps are very informative and useful. Of course we still love hearing from all of you, but now you can get information regarding your education awards, life after AmeriCorps, tax information, etc. Please visit the following websites:

Official site of the AmeriCorps Alumni Association:
<http://www.lifetimeofservice.org>

For information on ed awards and tax information:
<http://www.americorps.org/members/index.html>

Alumni Corner

Name: Katie Vieth
Site: University of Kentucky
Year: 2000-01

I entered the program not really knowing what to expect. Members from the past preached about the amount of time you had to serve and how great it was to receive an education award. What they didn't tell me and what I didn't realize, was how rewarding working with kids was. I was able to discover how much of a difference I could make in a child's life. Now that is a cool feeling! Most kids crave positive attention. They desire to have someone to look up to, so they can model their actions after them.

Being an Americorps member gave me that awesome responsibility and opportunity. Not only has Americorps opened my heart to these children, but it has helped me realize that I want to work with kids as my profession. I will never forget my experiences with Athletes in Service. I would encourage any person who has an open mind, heart and desire to help others to join Americorps. We do make a difference and as a collegiate athlete we have an extra tool that most people don't...we are automatic ROLE MODELS...now what we do with that power is up to us!!!!

*Please forward updated contact information to
Marisa Petreccia at m.petreccia@neu.edu*