

Sunflower Service



Quarterly

KANSAS CAMPUS COMPACT

SPRING 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Kansas State Student wins Newman Award
- Plans in place for regional conference
- Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming events

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Kansas State student wins Newman Award

For the first time in Kansas Campus Compact history, a Kansas student was selected as one of the recipients of the prestigious Frank Newman Award for Outstanding Civic Leadership. Molly Hamm, a student at Kansas State, was selected as one of the two recipients of this year's Newman Award by the national office of Campus Compact.

Hamm is a junior at K-State, studying education and non-profit leadership. She has been actively involved in civic engagement throughout her studies, believing that being in college "required much more than membership – it required a conscious and active effort to always improve anything that you touched."

The Newman award provides \$5,000 in financial support and mentorships to help students achieve their civic and academic goals. The award, established by the Frank Newman Leadership Fund, honors the legacy of Frank Newman, one of the co-founders of Campus Compact. Part of the award is the implementation of a mentoring program with her college president. Hamm was one of two students selected nationwide, along with Leticia Burkhalter of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

As the director of community and internal relations for the Kansas State Greek Community, Hamm won grant support to co-found Greeks Going Green, a nonprofit that educates fraterni-

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Serve America Act signed into Law

In March, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, an historic piece of legislation expanding the resources and impact of national service in the U.S. Passage of the bill represented a fulfilled promise of the Obama campaign to those committed to improving and expanding service opportunities.

Campus Compact was the only higher education association included in the draft-



President Obama at signing ceremony (photo courtesy of www.nationalservice.gov)

ing and negotiations process, providing substantial input to key legislators and mobilizing state-level sup-

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*Matthew Lindsey,
Executive Director,
Kansas Campus
Compact*

KsCC reduces dues for smaller schools

The Kansas Campus Compact Executive Board agreed unanimously during their spring conference call to a plan that reduced dues charged to schools with less than 1,000 full-time students.

The plan cuts the KsCC base fee that will be charged in 2009-2010 from \$1,500 to either \$500 for schools with fewer than 250 full-time enrollments (FTE) or to \$1,000 for schools with between 251 and 1,000 FTEs. Dues for schools

with 1,000 or more FTEs are not set to be changed. In addition, Campus Compact will not increase national dues next year.

The change was prompted by several factors, not the least of which was the effect of the current economic downturn on school finances.

"This was based on a recognition that a number of very small schools in the state are not members but are doing excel-

lent things in the field of civic engagement and could be valuable partners," said Matthew Lindsey, Executive Director. "We already cap the dues at the high end to make it easier for the big schools. If we can make it slightly easier for the smaller schools, we're going to enhance our pool of creative thinking and energy."

Three current members are affected by this change.

Global Youth Service Day a success at SWC

Brae Johnson

"Changing ourselves and the world around us through servant leadership" – this is the vision of the leadership team at Southwestern College. The leadership team, as a service learning organization, participated in Global Youth Service Day 2009 from April 23-25.

As one of the AmeriCorps VISTAs at Southwestern College, I have the honor of directing the first year leadership team. My team endured and overcame many challenges in order to run a successful Global Youth Service

project. Their hard work prevailed. Global Youth Service Day 2009 included 250 volunteers in the Winfield area.

We named our project TLC Day (Team Leadership Construction Day). The students wanted a name that the elementary students could catch onto easily. TLC Day was linked to the concept that quantity was not as important as quality. The leadership students were very intentional in choosing what they wanted to improve in Winfield through the service work. They paid particular atten-

tion to the need around town. They also paid attention to what areas their younger volunteers would be excited about improving. Southwestern Leadership wanted this to be a project that not only used high school and college age volunteers but specifically energized elementary age kids in doing service work. They wanted the kids to catch onto this concept early in their lives.

Finally, our project came together to include two work days at three elementary schools to improve the outside facili-



Elementary students in Winfield, KS participate in Global Youth Service Day (photo courtesy of Brae Johnson)

Reflections on VISTA, 2008-2009

Steve Godecke

The 4th quarter of our 2008-2009 year of VISTA service is a time of reflection, uncertainty, and more or less moderated panic.

The final few months of a VISTA year are a whirlwind of finishing and preparing to pass on projects, wondering whether they will stand the test of time, looking back to consider what impact they may have in the lives of others and our host institutions... and of course, hunting for what we're going to do next.

I am no exception to this experience, though as my leadership of our VISTAs draws to a close, it is an advantage that I've been through this twice before.

Since I began working with KsCC in December 2007, our VISTAs have enabled over 4,700 students and community members to contribute more than 150,000 hours of service. They have led 151 training and reflection activities, and 243 presentations. They have partnered with 211 other organizations to serve their communities, and gathered \$180,000 in cash and in-kind resources. These things are distilled into numbers because that is the 'neatest' way, inadequate though it is, that we have to prove the success of our programs. Sometimes we need to pause and breathe life back into the data.

Each time a volunteer engages in service and follows through with a well-done reflection, not only is his or her life and the community enriched, but the call of fur-

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Newman Award to KS student (*from p. 1*)



Newman Award winner Molly Hamm
(photo courtesy of K-State Media Services)

ties and sororities on minimizing their environmental impact. Since its inception in 2008, Greeks Going Green has enlisted 14 chapters nationally.

Hamm has extended her commitment to the international environmental movement as a regional coordinator for the UN Environment Programme's Kick the Carbon Habit Education Campaign and as an intern with the United Nations Foundation, planning the first-ever Global Youth Leadership Summit on climate change.

Hamm's commitment to education has led her to be a campus recruiter liaison for Teach for America and the service chair for the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society. She has also served on the advisory board for the K-State

Center for Child Development and provided a student voice for teacher preparation programs at K-State as a member of the Teacher Education Advisory Council. In addition, as president of the Student Foundation she oversaw the K-State Proud campaign, a student-led initiative that raised more than \$100,000 in student awards.

"Working with K-State President-elect Kirk Schulz, Molly developed a mentoring plan that the two will implement next year. The plan also presents the opportunity for ongoing mentoring partnerships for future students," said Mary Tolar, interim director of K-State's School of Leadership Studies. "This is yet another demonstration of how [Molly] is changing the landscape of student civic engagement at K-State."

"I've met countless people... possessed with that most American of ideas, that people who love their country can change it."
President Barack Obama

VISTA Reflections *(from p. 3)*

ther service is strengthened. Each presentation is a chance to break down barriers in the minds of many people; barriers that say there is no need or responsibility to engage with fellow community members to solve problems (especially poverty). Each community partnership is a success in reminding organizations that they, too, must engage with each other to get more done with limited resources.

What the future holds for the particular projects we have been working with, I can't say. We have done all we can to set our projects up for success, and it is almost time for them to stand on their own. But whether they continue for one year or fifty, we should not forget the little but powerful successes that hide in our big numbers.

Two things I would like VISTAs to remember:

First, I have never worked with a finer group of people. When challenged, you are ready to grow. Sooner or later, there are good things ahead for you. Second, what's coming at you is never as important as the attitude with which you face it. This is true for a job transition, a runaway train, a rabid alpaca, and anything else that puts you on the spot. Especially beginnings and endings.

Global Youth Service Day *(from p. 2)*

ties. Two of the three schools primarily teach low income students. We also had volunteers from Southwestern College and Winfield High School. The result was a great mingling of volunteers in Global Youth Service Day.

In celebration of all that this community of volunteers accomplished for the

schools, we held a picnic celebration at the local park. The park chosen for the picnic was the very park that the community came together to build six years ago. It was a project based on volunteer hours itself. I am very proud of all that Global Youth Service Day 2009 represented in Winfield.



Daniel Stanford and Adam Marcotte of Pratt Community College help rebuild a Chapman, KS house (photo courtesy of Kansas Corps)

Kansas Corps comes to Chapman

On April 4, 2009, Kansas Corps brought more than 50 students and staff members from six colleges and universities across the state to Chapman, KS to engage in a variety of community service projects.

The Chapman community was devastated by a tornado in June, 2008. Although a great deal of rebuilding is done, many needs remain unmet.

At the Chapman event, participants included stu-

dents from Pratt Community College, Bethany College, Fort Hays State University, Hesston College, Kansas State University and K-State-Salina. They removed metal from a creek bed, filled holes left by tree removal, cleaned

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Serve America Act passes *(from p.1)*

port for this bill.

Campuses in Kansas will benefit from the Serve America Act through several components. It:

- Establishes "Campuses of Service" funding for projects to disseminate service-learning models and best practices;
- Expands funding to Learn and Serve America for higher education grants;
- Increases support for AmeriCorps positions--from 75,000 to 250,000 by 2017.

The act also raises the value of the Eli Segal Education Award for service participants and creates five special-focus "service

corps" programs which enable campuses to work with their communities in education, clean energy, human services and social innovation projects.

Congress must now fund the expansion through the 2010 budget process which has begun. The President requested \$1.149 billion for national service programs, a 29 percent increase over 2009.

Kansas has a voice in the effort, as Rep. Tom Tiahrt is the ranking Republican member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee with authority on these issues, though he voted against the Serve America Act last month, as did 5 of the 6 Kansas congressional members.

KS Corps serves Chapman *(from p.4)*

yards, painted houses, and installed framing, insulation, and dry wall for new windows on one of the homes being rebuilt.

According to Joyce Dickinson, a resident of Chapman, "Without the help of volunteers like this group, Chapman could never have made the progress it has."

In nearly a year, significant leaps forward have been made as students, KsCC VISTA members, and volunteers of all ages have chipped in.

Kansas Corps, founded and housed at Fort Hays State's Center for Civic Leadership, was

created in 2007 to unite student volunteers from Kansas' colleges and universities to serve the public service needs of the state of Kansas. The idea is that with a single phone call, this group of college student volunteers can be mobilized to provide disaster recovery, social services and/or community development assistance to anywhere in the state.

Chantelle Arnold, project coordinator for Kansas Corps, noted, "Overall, this project was a remarkable success. It really shows the tremendous value that college student volunteers can provide to the state of Kansas."

Kansas Service by the Numbers

6.1 million

\$7,353,372

49.6%

Number of hours served by AmeriCorps members in Kansas, 2004-2008

Value of Eli Segal AmeriCorps Education awards received and used in Kansas, 1995-2008.

Portion of Eli Segal AmeriCorps Education awards used at KsCC member institutions.



Kansas | **Campus Compact**

Spring 2009

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Kansas Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents dedicated to strengthening community service, civic engagement and service-learning partnerships between institutions of higher education and the communities they serve. Formed in 2003, **KsCC** currently consists of 12 member schools.

KsCC is one of 35 state affiliates of **Campus Compact**. Nationwide, **Campus Compact** represents over 1,200 schools and nearly 6 million students.

KsCC CALENDAR

May

25: *Memorial Day*

26: FREE Risk Management in Service Learning Webinar (Ohio Campus Compact)

June

11-12: 1st Summit on Incorporating Social Justice and Service Learning into STEM Curriculum (Ithaca, NY)

15-18: Campus Compact Annual Directors Meeting (Portland, ME)

22-24: National Conference on Volunteering and Service (San Francisco, CA)

30: "True Hero" Prize for Student Service applications due

July

3: *Independence Day (observed)*

8: Careers for the Common Good quarterly progress reports due

11-14: Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement (Pittsburgh, PA)

17 Kansas Volunteer Commission meeting

20: KsCC Executive Board conference call

August

15: VISTA Quarterly progress reports due

October

5-6: Fostering Global Citizenship in Higher Education Conference (Brattleboro, VT)

25-27: 2009 Assessment Institute (Indianapolis, IN)

29-31: Race, Ethnicity, and Community Engagement in Higher Education Conference (Lubbock, TX)

Have an event you'd like on the calendar? Send it to: ksc@ksu.edu.