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New Tutoring Opportunity
By Meng Li

S.O.S. has recently partnered up with the Easthampton Schools to develop a new volunteer program for Smith students. The Easthampton Schools has joined the ranks of numerous other tutoring opportunities available to Smithies, including the Gerena Community School and the Bridge Street School. On November 1st, the Easthampton Schools is starting an after-school program for 5th to 8th graders. It will run Monday through Thursday from 2:30 to 5:30 PM.

Barbara Craig, volunteer coordinator for the after-school program, is especially keen on recruiting Smith students for the tutoring program. Craig said, “I find Smith students to be extremely professional, well-trained and they always come in on their best behavior. The women are excellent role models for our kids and they are always extremely focused on working with the students when they are here.”

Not only are the tutors an integral part of providing academic support for the students and classroom help for the teachers, they are also great role models and adult figures that the students can look to for support. College students can provide a refreshing outlook on life for the (Continued on page 6)

Urban Education at Gerena Elementary School
By Emily Knaphus

Over the past few years, SOS and other departments at Smith College have been developing a strong relationship with the Gerena Community School in Springfield, MA. Through the Urban Education Initiative program (sponsored by the education department at Smith College), Smith students have the opportunity to provide language arts and math tutoring to students attending school in the North End of Springfield, which is described as one of the poorest neighborhoods in Massachusetts. Currently there are 50 volunteers from Smith involved in the tutoring program. They work one-on-one with a group of third through fifth graders three times a week in a school that is designated (Continued on page 6)

A Big Thank You to Jamie Wilcox for putting together the October Blood Drive, and to all of you who Donated!

Roxanne Stokes, Gerena tutor
What is "S.O.S" Anyway?
Who, What, Why, and How...
by Kasha Ho '04

Service Organizations of Smith (SOS) is a comprehensive community service program dedicated to facilitating connections between Smith students and the local community. It does so by providing opportunities and support for students to work with local agencies that address relevant community concerns. SOS works with over 60 different agencies whose missions range from environmental issues to multicultural awareness, women's issues, literacy, medical and legal concerns. Information about these agencies is available at http://www.smith.edu/sos.

Students are able to deepen their education, strengthen their understanding of social issues, and establish connections with diverse communities through community work. These connections and experiences take shape in many forms. SOS helps students find long-term and short-term placements with agencies that they are interested in. Opportunities include intensive internships and America Reads work-study, community-based learning courses, and organizing fund drives, blood drives, meal preparations at shelters, and holiday gift activities each year.

How it works...

Student members of the SOS executive board play a key role in promoting community service in the college body. The board meets weekly to plan events and to discuss ways to support local agencies and the Smith students, who are interested in volunteering. These plans and events are then circulated to S.O.S house representatives from each house on campus, and these representatives spread the word to interested students within their houses. Each member holds a different position to specialize in certain areas of volunteering.

The SOS program is supported by several wonderful staff members including Director Tiertza-Leah Schwartz, Car Coordinator Becca Danton, Awesome Office Lady Esti Milam, General Office Assistant Faith Weller, and Bookkeeping Assistant Dorie Delin.
Deborah Rogal and Camaren Subhiyah
Fund-Drive Co-Chairs

Hello! Our names are Deborah Rogal and Camaren Subhiyah and we are your Fund Drive Co-Chairs this year. The fund drive doesn’t begin until February, but we’re excited that we can introduce ourselves to you now! The primary focus of the fund drive is a month-long event during which the entire campus will come together and raise money and then grant it out for an issue that affects the Pioneer Valley local community. We also organize educational forums and other fundraising events to raise awareness on campus. All of the money that we raise as a community will support local organizations—it is a significant opportunity for Smith to give back to the community that supports us.

Deborah is a senior Art History major and lives in Haven house. This is her second year on the S.O.S. board and she is really looking forward to holding a new position within the organization and being able to participate and aid our community in a new way. Camaren, a Philadelphia native, is an economics major and lives in Scales House. This year, Camaren will be fuller if you involve yourself in community service. Volunteering can be an education in itself.

Chandler Patton and Jordyn Rozensky
Community Projects Co-Chairs

Guten Tag! My name is Chandler (my real name is Mary, but the powers that be call me Chandler, I don’t really know why.) I am from Ft. Worth, Texas, a Sophomore, a Pre-Med Anthropology and Latin Studies Major and a resident of Albright House. I’m not just your average Smithie, I also have a job on the side. I am a Phlebotomist at Cooley-Dickinson Hospital, which means I get to draw vials and vials of blood out of the veins of innocent victims. But really, I do it because I get to wear hot-looking scrubs. I am excited to be one of the Community Projects Co-Chairs this year, I look forward to serving you!

Jordyn Rozensky is representing Sessions house as “Miss Community Projects Co-Chair” in this first ever Miss SOS Beauty Pageant. Jordyn is excited to be involved in the pageant, not just for the crown, but for the opportunity to meet all of you. She studies English and Religion, and hopes to one day save the world with her involvement in not-for profit work. In her spare time she enjoys long walks, roller coasters, bubble baths, and posing in front of the mirror in full evening gown attire. More than anything she believes that children are the future of us all, and desperately wants world peace. For the talent portion of the competition she will delight us all with the ancient art of baton twirling. Jordyn was also the original Scary Spice, but was forced to leave the group due to creative differences.

Susan Chun and Lindsay Sears
Short-Term Projects Co-Chairs

Greetings Smith! My name is Lindsay Sears and I am one of the two Short-Term Project Co-Chairs this year. I live in Hubbard House: I’m a sophomore and a Classics major. I love knitting and eating way too much chocolate. You’d be most likely to find me lounging in the purple room of the campus center with a Harry Potter book (the British edition... obviously.) I’ve done lots of work with SOS in the past including the Food Bank Farm projects, a long-term commitment at Pride Zone Northampton, and tutoring at Gerena Community School in Springfield. I look forward to a great year with you!

Hi! My name is Susan and I’m a senior majoring in Education and Psychology. I live in Washburn house. I started off my Smith career with SOS as a part of the First Link Pre-orientation program. Ever since then I have been involved with SOS, first as an SOS house rep, and then as the Community Outreach Intern on the SOS board. Along the way, I have met wonderful people who are dedicated to community service and had many invaluable learning opportunities. This year, as one of the short-term projects chairs, I will be coordinating and organizing short-term volunteer projects throughout the year. I am glad that I will be able to finish my years at Smith where I started—with SOS.

Barbara Calvert
Chair of House Representatives

Hey All! My name is Barbara Calvert. This year I’m extremely excited to be involved with SOS for the second year by serving as Head of House Reps! I served as Sessions House rep last year. Coming from Maysville, Kentucky (for those of you who are wondering YES we really wear shoes!) I am 20 years old and a sophomore Psychology major and a possible Education minor. In addition to SOS I am a Sessions Complex HONS, Co-President of Smith College Habitat for Humanity, and on Rec Council (Be on the lookout for info about our fall concert!).

What does an SOS house rep do you might ask? A house reps duty is to keep all members of the house informed about community service projects that are going on in the Northampton Area and on Smith Campus. They also serve as a resource for students and can give them information about volunteer agencies. They also help with SOS projects such as the two blood drives, winter gifts, and the fund drive. In addition they will plan community service activities for the house to do as a whole. Put your house rep to work! If you have any ideas for a house community service project or want to get involved with community service talk to your house rep! They can get you pointed in the right direction!
Community-Building Service Projects

If you want to get your house, sports team club or group of friends involved in community service then Chandler Patton and Jordyn Rozensky are the people to contact. They will be setting up work dates with Habitat for Humanity, MANNA, Friends of the Homeless, Greenfield Animal Shelter and All out Adventures (an outdoor recreation program for people with disabilities) so that organized groups from Smith can go! Working on these projects will help you build house community, team camaraderie, and club unity, but most importantly it will be helping out the community we live in! mpatton@email.smith.edu, jrozensk@email.smith.edu

Community Service Fair

Our Fall Community Service Fair was held September 21st and it went off without a hitch! Thank you to all who attended the fair, we have had great response from the agencies. Also, thank you to those who helped make cards for the Calvin Coolidge Nursing and Rehab Center, the residents there appreciated it very much.

Short-Term Projects

SOS short-term projects are off to a great start. On September 18th, 9 Smithies braved the pouring rain and cold to clip, sort and clean garlic at the Food Bank Farm. The Food Bank Farm provides fresh vegetables to food banks and various organizations throughout Western Massachusetts. Thanks to all who participated.

Thanks also to those who delivered cards to residents at Calvin Coolidge Nursing/Rehabilitation Center on October 2nd. Your small act of kindness surely brightened someone’s Saturday.

Coming up, on November 14th, AIDS Care is having their annual Chocolate Buffet and Auction fundraising event. We are looking for volunteers to help cater, clean up and serve during the event, from 1:30-3:45 or 3:30-5:45. There will be lots of chocolate! If you are interested in participating in this fun and delicious event, please email sosstu@email.smith.edu or call the SOS office at x4595.

Another upcoming project is the S.O.S. annual Winter Gifts Project. For the past 10 years, S.O.S. has sponsored 50-60 children, which supports the Hilltown Church’s Pantry. The pantry serves the Western Franklin County, one of the poorest counties in the state. Sponsors are responsible for buying gifts on the wish list of each child. All gifts need to be in by December 1st. If interested please contact the S.O.S. office at sosstu@email.smith.edu or X4595.
CSIP is Off and Running!

CSIP (Community Service Internship Program), a collaboration between S.O.S. and the Smith School for Social Work, is entering its 6th year as an internship program for Smith students. Interns are placed at various social service agencies in the area, ranging from a homeless shelter in Northampton to a public elementary school in Holyoke. Interns work at their respective agencies for 6-8 hours a week. This is then coupled with a weekly hour and a half long seminar where students come together to discuss the issues that come up at work. The seminars are used as a place for reflecting on work and learning effective methods of listening, speaking and social engagement.

Interns for the 2004—2005 academic year:
○ One at Children's Aid and Family Services
○ Three at Urban Education Initiative/Springfield Schools
○ One at Bridge Street School/America Reads
○ Two at Safe Passage
○ One at Big Brothers Big Sisters/Buddy’s Club
○ One at Jessie’s House

CSIP would like to thank Maureen Mahoney for her continued support and funding.

CLASSIFIEDS

Easthampton Schools Volunteer Program
The Easthampton Schools After-school Program is starting up on November 1st.
The program runs Monday – Thursday from 2:30 – 5:30
Volunteers will be doing one-on-one tutoring with the same student on a weekly basis, either one day or week or two days a week. The After-school Program is geared towards the middle school division of the Easthampton Schools, with students ranging from 5th graders to 8th graders. This is a long-term volunteer commitment and students must commit at least one day a week. The School asks that volunteers be consistent and come on the designated days each week. Interested students can contact the Easthampton Schools directly: Carrie Hague, Coordinator of the After-school Program, 413-529-1530 x238 Or contact the S.O.S. office first at x4595 and arrange transportation as well.

Girls Incorporated of Holyoke
Girls Inc. is looking for phenomenal women to be M.A.T.C.H. mentors. M.A.T.C.H. (Mentors and Teens Connecting in Holyoke) is a unique program that provides girls age 12-18 with a one-on-one mentoring relationship to prepare them for college and beyond. Must be responsible and reliable, able to be a positive role model to teens, and willing to commit at least 8 hours a month. For more information contact Peggy Vezina or Jenny Whitley at 413-533-0796 x112 and x113, pvezina.holyoke@girls-inc.org.

All Out Adventures
Volunteer to have fun this winter! All Out Adventures makes outdoor recreation accessible for people both with and without disabilities. Assistant outdoor leaders needed. Training provided – contact Bryce if interested: 413-527-8980 or bryce@alloutadventures.org

Interfaith Community Homeless Shelter
Interfaith is looking for volunteers to assist the professional staff between the hours of 7:30-9:00 PM one evening a week. This over-night emergency shelter is open from November 1 – April 30, 7 evenings a week. Some of the duties include: cleaning the kitchen, answering the phone, basic maintenance of the laundry room and sleeping area, engaging in activities with guests. Interested? Contact Yvonne Freccero at 586-2354 or yfreccero@aol.com

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Happy 89th Birthday to Rita Wilkins!
The Smith tutoring program gives the children at Gerena the chance to strengthen their reading and quantitative skills, develop study skills, and build their confidence as learners. The individual attention the students receive has a huge impact on their school performance. For example, Gerena teachers have noticed that children’s vocabulary and study skills have improved and students have showed significant improvement on the high stakes Massachusetts MCAS tests. The Gerena students are also aware of the impact the tutoring has had on their academics. Amber, a fourth grade student said, “Today I had a test and I remembered what Roxanne told me and I got an A on it”.

The students at Gerena don’t only receive academic support from Smith tutors; they are also able to develop a stable relationship with a positive adult role model. Susan Chun is a senior who tutored last year at Gerena, she found that “you’re not just a tutor, you’re also a friend and a role model - a consistent adult figure in their life once a week… It’s really important for them to have that role model who is there every week for them. You don’t know what kind of family situation the students at Gerena come from, you could just tell when all the tutors walk in, they’re all very excited. It’s something that they enjoy, it’s a good positive influence on their lives.”

Smith tutors benefit from the program just as much as the Gerena students do. They feel that it makes them value their education a lot more, and rounds-out their educational experience at Smith. Roxanne Stokes, a sophomore at Smith feels that the Gerena tutoring program enhances her education; she said, “it makes me value education more. When I see what these kids go through it makes me want to work harder.” Susan Chun sees her work at Gerena as an important part of her school career because “it gets you connected with other things in the world besides your schoolwork. Why are we actually in school? What are we getting this education for?”

Smith students tutor at Gerena for a variety of reasons. Many are part of the America Reads program, where they work at Gerena as an alternative to work study, others are part of community-based learning projects through Smith courses, and some are just in it for the involvement in community service. No matter what their reasons are for volunteering at Gerena, the students all get a lot out of the experience. Not only do they spend valuable time with children who need it, tutors also learn a lot through their interaction with the principal and a learning specialist.

Smith’s growing engagement with Gerena reaches beyond the tutoring program. Gerena students are also able to get involved with the Smith community through programs at our Art Museum and 25 Gerena students receive support to attend Smith Summer School. Through the Smith-Gerena partnership, students from both schools are able to grow and learn together. We hope that this partnership will continue to flourish in years to come.

Besides the benefits for the students at Easthampton, tutoring also has major advantages for the tutors as well. It is often an eye-opening experience for Smith students to go from being in an affluent environment to a community that has less resources and wealth. Craig said, “It provides an eye-opener for tutors who come into our community. They hear stories about the kids’ lives, about what they have and what they don’t have. The tutors also have a chance to learn about some current issues of the youngsters and what they have to go through.”

The Easthampton Schools after-school tutoring program is looking for students who have the ability to take on a leadership role in the community. They must have an understanding of different cultural and economic groups and be able to act in a dynamic way in different situations. Easthampton Schools is looking for tutors of all different personality types. Above all, the person must be someone who is warm, open, compassionate and willing to listen and share their own stories. Please call Carrie at 413-529-1530 ext. 238 if you are interested in getting involved!