THE FAREWELL EDITION

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Community Service Internship Program by Camaren Subhiyah

CSIP is truly a unique program that places Smith students with a myriad of non-profit organizations in the Pioneer Valley. From shelters for abused women to after-school tutoring programs, CSIP combines a range of opportunities for students with different interests and experience. Meeting once a week, interns review recorded conversations with the individuals at their placement, in order to learn how to engage in their relationships and fully support those in need.

Working at Jessie’s House this past year, I provided administrative assistance to the over worked staff as well as provide emotional assistance to the general occupants. Having prior experience working in shelters, I initially felt comfortable in the environment, but quickly learned that at Jessie’s House there is a unique culture defined by those who inhabit the space. The residents are constantly moving, and therefore the culture is constantly changing. I have met many people who have taught me so many things, that it would not only be impossible to convey it in a newsletter, but also unsuitable for this context, as all of these relationships are confidential.

The weekly CSIP seminars encouraged me to redefine the role of a volunteer and guided me through some emotionally difficult conversations. Bonnie Atkins and Tiertza-leah Schwartz led our group discussions as we navigated through our process reports – the conversations with the individuals at our placements that all interns were required to record. Through these seminars, I learned my fundamental role as a supporter, and gradually redefined the dynamics of my conversations. CSIP has been a great experience, and I recommend anyone who is interested in community service to apply for the 2005-2006 CSIP positions.
BOARD UPDATES
Wrapping up a wonderful year with S.O.S.

Short and sweet: Short-term project update
Susan Chun and Lindsay Sears
(Short-term Co-chairs)

Since spring is here, Smithies have been spending more time volunteering outdoors. On March 26, fifteen sleepy volunteers packed into vans early in the morning and traveled to Holyoke. We soon woke up when we saw Nuestras Raíces Inc’s new farmland that we were going to help develop. For the next four hours, we picked up trash, did construction on a greenhouse, hauled logs, and cleared brush. By lunchtime, we had all worked up quite an appetite, but we felt good knowing that we helped develop farmland that is going to benefit the community. On April 2, six animal lovers volunteered at the Pioneer Valley Humane Society. For several hours, these lucky six got to play with animals; giving them some time to exercise. One of the volunteers, Jamie Wilcox ’07 said, “It was a pretty fun project, and definitely would advise doing it as often as possible.” On April 16, nine Smithies went to help out on the Food Bank Farm, planting leeks and onions that will eventually be donated to the Food Bank.

Thanks to all who participated in these projects! We’ve really enjoyed being your Short-term Co-chairs this year. We hope you will continue to volunteer for short-term projects, where you can make a big impact with just a few hours of your time.

Out with the Old, In with the New
Announcing your 2005-2006 S.O.S. Board!

Chairwoman: Stacy Braverman
Blood Drive Chair: Claire Bolton
Community Education Chair: Julie Esterline-Losczyk
Community Projects Chairs: Samin Green, Yuliya Yermolina
Fund Drive Chairs: Elizabeth Wolfson, Katy Means
Head of House Representative: Lindsay Sears
Short-Term Chairs: Esi Cleland, Lauren Pitts
Recruitment Intern: Rachel Finklestein
Agency Outreach Intern: TBA

Message from the Chair:
It's the end of the semester: the sun has finally come out, but with it comes exams and final papers. It's a time to think about what's ahead (summer!) and what is coming to a close. Take this time of transition to ask yourself a few questions: How did you spend your year at Smith? Were you satisfied--with your studies, your grades, your life outside the classroom? What did you learn this year?

If, when you ask yourself these questions, you think of community service you've done through SOS, we've done our job. SOS gives Smith community members an opportunity to reach out to the greater community--a chance to take your nose out of that book and do something for someone else. Ask any student who has made community service a part of her life: she'll tell you that it was more than worth the time.

Was SOS not a part of your year? Now is the perfect time to start thinking about your goals for next year, whether you'll be back at Smith or somewhere else in the world. Thumb through the SOS directory and discover agencies that excite you. When September rolls around, you'll be ready to jump right in.

Anna
**Fall 2005 Blood Drive Info**

Jamie Wilcox (Blood Drive Chair)

Both blood drives this school year were highly successful, flaws and all. Thanks to the student body, faculty, and staff, enough blood was collected to aid almost 1,000 patients! Smith College and the American Red Cross will be collaborating again next year to bring a blood drive to campus each semester. The fall and spring drives are scheduled to be October 25 (1-7pm), and February 15 (1-7pm), 16 (11am-5pm) and will be run by the incoming Chair, Claire Bolton. Another hearty thank you to all the donors and volunteers for your time and compassion! This is your 2005-2006 batty Blood Drive Chair signing out...

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**Farewell from the Interns**

Hello Everyone! It’s been a great year and we have had a fabulous time being Agency Outreach and Student Recruitment Interns. We have had two successful community service fairs, with great student turn-outs both Fall and Spring semesters. A big thank you to all the students and agencies who came to the fair! We’ve partnered up with several new agencies this year including: Easthampton Schools, the Performance Project, S.T.E.P. (Skills, Training Enrichment Program) and Cooley-Dickinson Hospital. There will also be other new agencies to look for in the Fall of 2005. We have published newsletters focusing on: Social Justice, Education and Public Health. We couldn’t do it without immense help and support from the lovely S.O.S. board members. Thank you to the entire board! We’d like to welcome and say congratulations to Rachel Finklestein, the 2005-2006 Student Recruitment and Agency Outreach Intern (T.B.A.)

As we close out the 2004-2005 school year, we’d lastly like to thank Tierzza-leah Schwartz, Director of Voluntary Services and Esti Milam, S.O.S. Administrative Assistant, for your help, support and guidance.

Peace Out,
Meng and Emily

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**Fund Drive Wrap-Up**

The 2004-2005 S.O.S Fund Drive, “Breast Cancer Awareness and Treatment”, was an educational and monetary success. The generous participation of Smith students exceeded the Fund Drive Co-chairs’ expectations; they feel much gratitude and appreciation towards all of the participants. The fund drive included several Educational Teas, which were held at various houses on campus. These teas were arranged in hopes to spread awareness about breast cancer, and also to educate students about the startling statistics of diagnosed women in the surrounding community. Members of the American Cancer Society as well as a breast cancer survivor came to educate and share their stories with Smith students. Another fundamental part of the drive was the annual benefit concert. This year, the concert featured several talented performers including: Al Mosley and friends, Steve Waksman, Dean Jennifer Walters, the Smiffenpoofs, and an Indian/Pakistani dance group. The concert was a success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. The Fund Drive Co-chairs also worked in conjunction with the Community Education Chair to schedule a breast cancer community educational luncheon. The luncheon featured speakers from the American Cancer Society and Cancer Connection. The women who spoke were truly inspirational, and shared personal stories about the afflicted loved ones in their own lives. Still in the process of wrapping up, we have not yet calculated the final amount raised, but are currently contacting local organizations to inform them of grant applications.

The fund drive co-chairs would like to thank all those who donated to the Breast Cancer Awareness and Treatment Fund Drive. Students, faculty, staff, parents, and local businesses were all truly generous and giving throughout the drive. We would also like to thank all of the people who helped us: the students and the S.O.S. board, who have advertised and helped us with miscellaneous tasks, the staff and faculty that led us throughout the fund drive process, the performers who gave us a delightful show, and the countless others who aided the drive in countless ways. Thank you all very much.

Camaren Subhiyah
Deborah Rogal

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**Fall 2005 Blood Drive Info**

Jamie Wilcox (Blood Drive Chair)

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**Community Projects Chair**

Chandler Patton

Thank you to Julie Esterline-Losczyk, Elizabeth Koenig, Lillie Zuck, Rachel Finklestein, Angela Siquibal, Molly Miller, Kimberly Pucher and Nicole Overstreet and their houses or clubs for participating in some great projects! They did projects with Friends of the Homeless (Shelter cleaning), Lathrop Homes (Bingo and Valentines Day Party) and Habitat for Humanity. Also, we have a week of service for Smith Faculty and Staff for the last week of April coming up. They will be working with Habitat for Humanity, AIDS Care and The Food Bank Farm.
Classifieds

It's NOT too LATE to apply for SOS Positions for Next Year!

Be a CSIP intern!

SOS is still accepting applications for the Community Service Internship Program (CSIP). CSIP is designed to give students an intensive experience that will make a contribution to the surrounding communities through their work at local, non-profit, social welfare agencies. The Program selects ten students and combines individually designed internships with structured reflection, support, and analysis in an ongoing group seminar. This is a year-long program. For more information, please visit http://www.smith.edu/sos/csip.htm.

First Link Team Leaders Needed

FIRST LINK is a community-building pre-orientation program at Smith that allows incoming students to learn more about local community issues and meet others interested in community service work. The dates: team leaders need to be on campus and available by August 28th, 2005. To apply to be a team leader, please contact the SOS office X4595, or sos@email.smith.edu

Car Coordinator

S.O.S. is looking for someone to fill the Car Coordinator Position for the 2005-2006 school year. This is a great opportunity to have an on-campus job with an office that really makes a difference in the community. The S.O.S. Car Coordinator is responsible for scheduling car use for individuals doing community service work, and also members of the Chapel. This job consists predominantly of office work: schedule handling and manipulating, and emailing/phoning students to confirm reservations. Hours require a couple morning and are otherwise flexible and can be decided by the student. If you have any questions, or are interested in setting up an interview, please contact the SOS office at X4595 or sos@email.smith.edu.

ALSO—if you're going to be around this summer, there are still plenty of volunteer opportunities for you to take part in. All Out Adventures is getting ready for some really fun spring projects (contact Bryce at bryce@alloutadventures.org) and the The Food Bank Farm is doing some serious planting and will be harvesting not too long from now—they would love your help (contact Michael at foodbankfarm@yahoo.com).

HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE!