



THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

CAMPUS CORPS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

A QUICK NOTE

This is the first edition of The University of Montana Campus Corps Newsletter! This will be a monthly newsletter that features Campus Corps members at The University of Montana and their projects, as well as upcoming events and past successes. If you would like to submit information about a project you are working on, or photographs from events you have participated in as a Campus Corps member feel free to do so!

Please e-mail submissions to Erin at erin.joronen@mso.umt.edu.

CAMPUS CORPS MEMBER PROFILE: CORI

Cori is a Campus Corps volunteer with America Reads/America Counts. America Reads/America Counts is a volunteer program that matches student volunteers, with children in local schools who have been identified by teachers, reading specialists, or parents as needing extra help with reading, writing, or math. As a Campus Corps member, Cori has worked to increase the number of America Reads/Counts volunteers and has reinstated the work-study option for America Reads/Counts volunteers, allowing students who are eligible for work-study the chance to be paid for their volunteer hours. In addition, Cori has organized, and is currently organizing, Dr. Seuss Day, an annual celebration of reading traditionally held on March 2nd (Dr. Seuss's birthday). Also this semester, Cori has set up a training session with Mary McCourt, of the Missoula City-County Health Department, for volunteers working with children in the community. This training session is not only for America Reads/Counts volunteers. Parents who volunteer in schools and other Campus Corps members who work with programs that focus on the education of children are welcome to attend. The training will be held Saturday, February 6th and will cover child development and behavior management issues.



What Cori finds most rewarding about her work as a Campus Corps member is being able to witness the people who volunteer for America Reads/Counts get connected with the community, and see the change in confidence that the volunteers often experience due to the feeling of being valued and importance that comes along with tutoring a child. Another rewarding part of Cori's Campus Corps project is the access she has gained to various organizations in Missoula. Learning of these organizations, what they do and what resources they offer, and volunteering for them has allowed Cori to enrich her studying experience. Cori is a graduate student in the College of Education and Human Sciences here at The University of Montana. She taught for 17 years overseas, in a number of different countries, but because she was certified to teach English as a Second Language she had to go back to school for a degree in Education when she moved back to the United States. Becoming a Campus Corps member for America Reads/Counts has allowed Cori to stay involved in classrooms and the school system while she works on her degree.

CAMPUS CORPS MEMBER PROFILE: NORA

Nora is a Campus Corps member working for Blue Mountain Clinic here in Missoula. Blue Mountain Clinic is an independent, nonprofit family practice clinic centered on patient care and advocacy. As a Campus Corps member for Blue Mountain Clinic (BMC), Nora has several different roles. This includes community outreach, working on grant funding and other fundraising, health education, and care counselor. For example, Nora is currently working behind the scenes to help organize BMC's 3rd annual Off the Rack fashion show fundraiser, which will take place at 8:30 on February 6th, at the Wilma Theater.



Nora completed a term as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Campus Corps in Bozeman and a term in the Peace Corps before continuing on with school as a graduate student studying Social Work. As a Service-Learning Campus Corps member, Nora's project is directly connected to her studies. As such, working at BMC offers Nora the opportunity to better understand the systems people work with and provide a greater sense of advocacy and awareness to those who struggle with navigating some of the healthcare systems. Based on her previous experience with national, and international service, Nora is committed to the belief that working with nonprofits is a way to intuitively understand a community, and that any opportunity to get more involved with a community is worthwhile.

CAMPUS CORPS MEMBER PROFILE: MIKE



Mike is a Campus Corps member working for the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project (MUD). MUD is an organization in Missoula that exists to create a replicable model of sustainable living through education, demonstration, and celebration. As a Campus Corps member, Mike is the tools maintenance coordinator for MUD. He works to make sure tools are in working condition, is tackling the task of organizing a tool database to keep track of what tools are checked out of the MUD Tool Library and who has them, works on a bit of fundraising and does some site improvements at MUD (things like fixing the gate and building a shed).

Mike came to Missoula from the mid-west where he worked in a business that supplied people with luxury items. His previous career is part of the reason he became involved with Campus Corps; he wanted to give back to the community. And working for MUD couldn't be more different from his previous job. He works to help people learn how to lead more sustainable lifestyles, and has become more creative, specifically in figuring out how to complete tasks on a limited budget. This newfound creativity has been useful in his life apart from MUD. Mike is a graduate student in Business Administration here at the University of Montana, and has integrated lessons learned from his position at MUD into his studies.

RAP SESSIONS: PROFESSIONAL CITIZENSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A RAP session is a great Citizenship Development opportunity and should not be missed!

If you have experiences you would like to share or questions you would like to discuss with other students who are committed to community work, leading a Reflection, Action, Partnership (RAP) session could be a great fit for you. Examples of RAP session topics include: Using Arts as a Tool for Reflection, Public Health and Community Service, Community Work Abroad and Confronting Privilege in Community Work.

Be creative! There are many ways to lead a RAP session. If you have ideas you would like to discuss, please let us know. The Office for Civic Engagement is happy to support you in planning and facilitating your RAP session. Also, it is possible to co-lead a RAP session with 1-2 other students

Members that are selected to lead a RAP session will be able to participate in a **Reflection and Facilitation Training**. This will occur on **February 18th from 9-3** and be presented by Lowell Jaeger, a facilitator for Conservation Corps as well as an author and professor. His trainings are excellent and it will look great on your resume. In addition, high quality presentations may be selected to present at the Campus Corps Spring Summit this April. This is a great opportunity for professional development, as well as a chance for you to promote your organization!

There is still an opportunity for members to lead a RAP Session! Turn in your application ASAP to the Office for Civic Engagement in order to participate! If any members are interested in the February 18th Facilitation Training with Lowell Jaeger, please contact Anna Semple (anna.semple@mso.umt.edu, x5531). There may be room for members that aren't leading RAP Sessions but would like to learn more about leading discussions.

A COUPLE OF FUN EVENTS FROM LAST SEMESTER



Make a Difference Day: On October 24th AmeriCorps Members in Missoula participated in a couple of service projects for Make a Difference Day. One group collected toiletries to be donated to the Poverello Center, and the other raised money to purchase and serve a special meal at the Poverello Center. Participants in the toiletry drive collected enough items (toilet paper, razors, shampoo, etc.) to be distributed to over 40 people, and \$135 was donated to purchase materials for 111 meals that members served at the Poverello Center.

Adopt-a-Veteran/Adopt-a-Family: The Office for Civic Engagement (OCE) and the University Center Bookstore worked together in partnership with the Salvation Army and the Poverello Center, once again, to sponsor community projects to bring some cheer to those in need during the holiday season. Between the veterans and family members from the adopt-a-family project over 150 individuals received presents and food for the holidays.





FEBRUARY DATES

- February 1- Deadline for leadership conference papers 5pm
- February 2- Volunteer Fair and Diversity ContinuUM 10am-2pm
- February 3- Volunteer Fair and Diversity ContinuUM 10am-2pm
- February 10-Diversity ContinuUM display 1pm-3pm
- February 10- Team meeting 5:30pm-6:30pm
- February 11-Diversity ContinuUM display 11am-2pm
- February 12-Diversity ContinuUM display 11am-2pm
- February 18-Reflection and Facilitation Training 9am-3pm
- February 20- Leadership Conference (all day)
- February 24-Team Meeting 5:30pm

The University of Montana Campus Corps is celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day the first week of the semester (January 25th) through the second week of February (February 12th) this year. For MLK Day, Campus Corps and the Office for Civic Engagement are hosting **the Diversity ContinuUM**. Students will be asked to get their photos taken and tell how they contribute to the diversity of UM. Students will be able to have their pictures taken in the UC atrium January 26th and 27th from 11am-2pm and February 2nd and 3rd 10am-2pm. Ten photographs that best represent the spectrum of diversity on campus will be chosen to be printed and matted, the rest of the photographs will be displayed digitally on a large projection screen along with each individual's story. These images will be displayed in the UC atrium February 10th 1pm-3pm and February 11th and 12th 11am-2pm.



FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT
THIS NEWSLETTER CONTACT:

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CAMPUS CORPS AND WHAT IS GOING ON WITH CAMPUS
CORPS MEMBERS IN THE REST OF MONTANA VISIT:

[HTTP://WWW.MTCAMPUSCORPS.ORG/](http://www.mtcampuscorps.org/)