

The Community Engagement Chronicle

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Health Team
- Sierra Bussey
Caring Companions Team
- Ian Hill
Interfaith and Cross-Cultural Team
- Amanda Hoefner
Education Team
- Cathie Schult
Community Development Team
- Ashley Skoczynski
Literacy Team
- Jordyn Rush
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Movie Night to Honor Hepburn

Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 7 p.m., “*Breakfast at Tiffany’s*” will be shown at the Marcus Cinema in downtown Ripon with a film-inspired, and jewelry-themed silent auction beginning at 6 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Audrey Hepburn Children’s Fund.



Audrey Hepburn, Academy Award-winning actress, international movie star and a humanitarian of remarkable scope, began the

Children’s Fund in 1994.

Hepburn acted as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF for many years prior and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992.

Said Hepburn about her Children’s Fund: “I speak for those

children who cannot speak for themselves, children who have absolutely nothing but their courage and their smiles, their wits and their dreams.”

The movie night will be a celebration of Hepburn’s humanitarian efforts, and an effort to effect a change for millions of physically and emotionally abused children.

Donations have already come in from students, local artists and area businesses.

For only \$5 you can support this incredible, rare opportunity to see this film classic on the big screen! (Ripon College students discounted price of \$3) Come down and support this great organization!

Office of Community Engagement

Students of the Month

Whitney Levash

Being a member of the Bonner Program, Whitney is no stranger to the hard work and benefits that accompany volunteering. However, Whitney has gone above and beyond the expectations of the program, sharing her passion for animals and becoming a great asset to one community partner specifically—the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter. She serves at the shelter as a regular volunteer, and also played a vital role in the Lucky Dog Cat-Sino Night. Not only was Whitney working the door and selling tickets, she hand-stitched all the animal ear headbands worn by the volunteers. After such a big event, most people take a break, but Whitney spent the following week volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in North Carolina.



Amanda Hoefner



Amanda was nominated for her role in the Think College Early Program, which encourages low-income middle students to continue their education past high school. Amanda helped to pair over 15 middle school students with mentors from Ripon College and created a series of presentations that included guest speakers and hands-on activities to help students explore and understand college more in-depth. She continues to work with Ripon Middle School’s counselor Barb Eddy to ensure the stability of the mentor relationships and arrange a day on campus for the student participants.

Volunteer Work, Physical Labor—That’s Spring Break!

“What an awesome experience! I can not wait until next year! While we were there, our team was in charge of mudding and sanding dry wall, texturing ceilings, ripping up and laying ¾” plywood floorings, painting, putting in a door, and building a porch railing. It was amazing how hardworking our team was to get so much done in a short amount of time.” *Sara Heim, on her experience in Flatgap, Kentucky over Spring Break.*

Among the throngs who flocked to other parts of the nation and globe this Spring Break, was a group of six socially conscious women who spent their week in



Flatgap, Kentucky. Molly Breitbach, Sara Heim, Jolene Rueden, Megan Sikowski, Jessica Solverud and staff member Melissa Bemus took part in Ripon’s Alternative Spring Break Program and volunteered their time to help those affected by poverty. They worked with the CAP, the Christian Appalachian Project; CAP and the ladies’ mission: bring safety, stability and happiness to Americans affected by poverty.

Our Ripon students did us proud! They worked hard for a full week helping to do all sorts of construction and renovation work on houses of poverty-stricken citizens in Flatgap.

All the volunteers were split up, and put into groups with vol-

unteers from different parts of the country. Sara Heim, one of Ripon’s volunteers, worked with volunteers from Maine, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, and “all sorts of other places.” She and her group worked on the house of a woman who was duped by a contractor. The man agreed to a job, took the money, started the job, and then ran—leaving the family without their savings and without the renovations. Sara and her team did a fantastic job of fixing the mess and brought the home back to livable status. This is just the story of one participant—Sara.

Each individual on the trip has another tale to tell of their experience and the people they met. A similar tale of unfortunate circumstances, complete strangers working together to help others, hope for a better future, and the realization of that hope.

The OCE Career Corner Graduate Programs in Philanthropy

Life after graduation from Ripon College is indeed a daunting concept to consider.

The choices available sometimes seem limitless; and no one ever seems to be able to give you a straight answer on how to make the right decision or get along in the real world. This article is designed to demonstrate that sometimes if you make the decision to help and serve others, you just might be making a decision that will help yourself!

Graduate degrees in social justice and philanthropy are a growing trend across the nation. Even prestigious schools such as Yale and Harvard, both typically associated with corporate big business and cutthroat legal prodigies, are realizing the growing need for professionals in the non-profit and socially conscious

corporate world. For instance, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, students can earn a Master’s degree in Public Policy, Urban Planning, or Public Administration “designed to prepare its graduates for positions of significant responsibility in the public, non profit, and private sectors.” Graduate programs in psychology, business degrees, leadership studies, and even health programs all across the US are offering their students training and education specifically designed to address social justice issues.

The Office of Community Engagement has a growing list of graduate schools that currently offer programs in philanthropy. If graduate school is in your future, consider the advantages of a degree with its emphasis on philan-

Dedicate your life to making a difference... choose a career for the greater good!

thropy and social change. If business is your interest, consider a graduate degree in non-profit management from the Center of Philanthropy at Indiana University. Or, if you’ve always dreamed of a career in the field of health services, check out the M.S. in international health policy and management at Brandeis University in the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. The University of Wisconsin-Madison even has graduate programs in social welfare and social work.

Remember, a job in the non-profit sector does not mean you won’t get paid! You’ll be paid for your time and professional services just like your colleagues in the for-profit world. But you’ll have the added feel-good benefit of giving something back to the community and making a real difference in the world!

Partner Portrait: Easter Seals of Wisconsin

Finding the perfect service opportunity is easy with the Office of Community Engagement. We have over seventy partnerships with local organizations where you can do service work. The newest addition to our list of partners is the Easter Seals organization. By working with Easter Seals, students will have the ability to provide assistance to children and adults with disabilities while participating in outdoor activities, such as boating, hiking, and playing sports.

The Easter Seals organization was founded in 1919 by a father whose son was tragically injured in a streetcar accident. In an attempt to increase the medical services available to individuals with disabilities, the Easter Seals began to raise money. After people donated to the organization, they placed a seal on the envelopes that

they returned with their thanks. In 1952, this seal became the identifying logo of the non-profit organization. The seal is a lily which is a symbol for new life.



Today, the Easter Seals helps over one million children and adults with disabilities. One way that this is done is through weekend respite camps. These opportunities are available several times a month throughout the entire school year. After receiving orientation and training, workers will be paired with one individual with whom they will spend each day with, doing everything from eating and sleeping to sports, field trips, and outdoor activities. Also, each "counselor" will be responsible for the personal care of their camper. The OCE will provide transportation to and from the camp if enough people are interested

in any weekend respite. It's also a great way to get a lot of volunteer hours in if you need them for a program you're a part of—you can earn over 50 volunteer hours in one weekend!

Upcoming respite weekends include April 13-15, April 20-22, and May 4-6. If you are interested in volunteering at the Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek and Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp, stop by the Office of Community Engagement to get more information.

Easter Seals is also seeking students to fill paid positions for summer-long camp counselors. Applications are available in the OCE.

Ripon Colleges partnership with the Easter Seals gives students the opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of others!

Cancer Charitable Cause of April

According to the American Cancer Society, over 500,000 Americans will die of cancer this year alone, and another 1.44 million will be diagnosed. Cancer is something that has affected almost every American, whether it was through personal affliction or that of a family member or friend. For the past ten years April has been the month to celebrate survivors and raise money for research, education, and patient services through the community-wide American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Ripon. This year's event will take place April 20-21st in the Ripon High School Gymnasium. This year 29 teams are on-board and already, the

relay has raised over \$1,000 dollars in online donations. The real measure of this event however, will come after a long night of walking, and the committee hopes it will be near last year's \$12,000 dollar total. If you would like to get involved in the relay you can still join a team, or sign-up to help with one of the many volunteer opportunities that night. Just contact the OCE for further information.

If you're looking for another way to get involved or will be out of town the weekend of Relay, don't despair. Ripon College's Sigma Chi and the Student Media and Activities Committee have



teamed up with Rita's Restaurant to host a dinner

and comedy hour that will benefit the Huntsman Cancer Foundation on April 17th. Attendees will receive a three-course meal, a chance to bid on great silent auction items, and enjoy a hilarious performance by professional comedian Bengt Washburn. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at the Ripon Drug pharmacy desk, Rita's Restaurant, or from any brother of Sigma Chi. There will be two sittings—held at 5:30 and 7:30 pm. Get your ticket today before they run out!

TV Turn Off Week

Turn Off Your TV and Turn On Your Life! April 22-29 is national TV Turn Off Week. Did you know that the average American watches four hours of television a day? Why not spend that

time with friends, walking in the prairie, or volunteering to help others? All week long the Literacy and Education teams have organized events for children in the area who will be saying NO

to TV and YES to LIFE. Contact Amanda at hoefnera@ripon.edu or Ashley at skoczynskia@ripon.edu to get involved and encourage kids to take advantage of their surroundings.

RIPON COLLEGE
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ENGAGEMENT

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Send us your comments! If you would like to see something in this newsletter let us know! Send your comments through the US mail or email: heckmanm@ripon.edu

Check out our Website!

www.ripon.edu/OCE

Upcoming Events With The OCE

**Blood Drive
April 19
Great Hall**

Come support the Community Blood Center and help save lives. Call the OCE at x 153 to sign-up.

**Relay for Life
April 20-21
Ripon H.S.**

Have you signed up to volunteer at Ripon's largest community event yet? If not, call the OCE today!

Cleve Jones April 11 7 p.m. Great Hall

Come hear speaker Cleve Jones, creator of the AIDS Quilt and NAMES project, talk about his experiences and what it takes to be an advocate for social justice .

Interfaith Days of Service April 13-16

Did you know that all the world's major religions share a value of service? Join others in the community and on campus in a variety of service projects throughout the weekend, and open an interfaith dialogue while working towards a common goal. For more information contact Ian at hilli@ripon.edu

"Breakfast at Tiffany's" April 26 6 p.m.

Don't miss this classic movie on the big screen or the silent auction that precedes it! Enjoy a night on the town right here in Ripon and know that all proceeds will help children here and abroad escape abuse and neglect.

Creative Care Options Bowling

April 16 12-2 p.m.

Join the caring companions team and spend an afternoon at Plaza Bowl with disabled individuals. Cost is \$5. (to cover bowling expenses) To sign-up or for more information contact Sierra at busseys@ripon.edu

**R.I.S.E. Up WI
April 24
UW-Oshkosh**

Want to network with other student leaders? Consider attending this great training and be part of the statewide effort to promote service! Register today at www.riseupwisc.org The OCE will provide transportation to the event, plus you get a free meal and T-shirt!

If you have any questions about upcoming events, please contact the Office of Community Engagement at 748-8153 or x153.