

CAMPUS CORPS CONNECTIONS

A Montana Campus Corps publication



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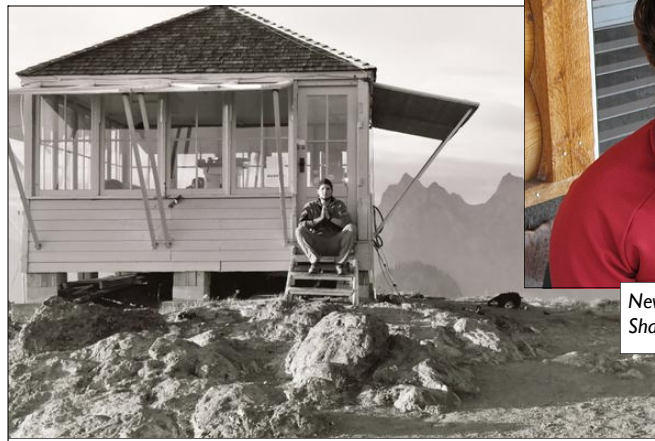
December 2006

New Leadership for Campus Corps

After six years with MTCC, long-standing Campus Corps Program Manager **Molly Collins** has moved on to other ventures. She will be continuing work toward her graduate degree in Public Administration at The University of Montana. **Shannon Stober**, former statewide Training Officer with the Montana Governor's Office of Community Service, replaced Molly earlier this month. Shannon graduated from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, with a degree in Sociology. She served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA and VISTA Leader with the Prevention Resource Center in Helena, prior to her employment with the Governor's Office. Campus Corps would like to publicly thank Molly for all her hard work over the years, and welcome Shannon to her new position as Campus Corps Program Manager. We are fortunate to have her enthusiasm, impressive skill-set, and vast network of state and national contacts put to use for the benefit of Campus Corps!



New Campus Corps Program Manager
Shannon Stober.



Adam York sits on the steps of the fire lookout on Desolation Peak in the North Cascades. Jack Kerouac spent the summer of 1956 manning this lookout.

Debbie Saylor, 2005/2006 Campus Corps Team Leader in the network office, wrapped up her term in August and accepted the MTCC VISTA Leader position, solidifying her presence in the MTCC office for another year. **Adam York** has filled Debbie's shoes with the Campus Corps Program. This is Adam's third AmeriCorps term, as he previously served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA in Washington state and as a crew member with the Montana Conservation Corps in 2005. He has also worked as a public relations practitioner for several nonprofit organizations. Adam graduated from Louisiana State University in 2001 and brings many skills to his current position; we're glad to have him!

Participating Campuses:

- Blackfoot Community College
- Carroll College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- Fort Peck Community College
- MSU-Billings
- MSU-Bozeman
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech
- Rocky Mountain College
- Salish Kootenai College
- UM-Missoula

Objectives:

- Academic Mentoring
- Mentoring
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Volunteer Generation
- Member Development

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Articles in this issue written by Team Leader Adam York. Layout by Administrative Associate Gini Aten Erving. Many thanks to members who contributed photos or great stories that appear in this issue!

Members Help with Gulf Coast Rebuilding Efforts During Summer Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi

Team Leaders **Debbie Saylor** (MTCC) and **Sandy Derry** (MSU-Northern) organized a service trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, during June 2006. Biloxi suffered damage from both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and has been slowly rebuilding from the devastation. Debbie and Sandy were joined by five other Montana AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA members, including Campus Corps members **Paige Payton** (MSU-Billings) and **Denise Pankratz** (MSU-Northern). The group stayed at the Hands On Network in Biloxi, helping with such projects as the de-molding of low-income housing units and building a playground. (See related story, page 4.) On their drive back to Montana, the group stopped in New Orleans to donate drinking water and see the current state of the city.



Amy O'Neal, Stacy Miller, Paige Payton, Kat Hurzeler, Sandy Derry, Debbie Saylor and Denise Pankratz pose after their first day of de-molding housing units in Biloxi

The opportunity to travel to the Gulf Coast provided these members with the chance to give back to their national community and to reassess the importance of service. All four of the Cam-

pus Corps members involved in the trip highlighted this experience as the pinnacle of their service term. Denise Pankratz described the trip as "a great experience." She admitted that the destruction and devastation from Katrina and Rita opened her eyes to the critical needs her fellow countrymen, and changed her perspective on community service forever. "I saw people who lost a lot helping others who'd lost more," she said. "This trip made my commitment to volunteering much stronger."

Mission Accomplished: Member Exit Polls Reveal Feelings of Increased Citizenship

Campus Corps Citizenship Development Surveys tallied during the third and fourth quarters reveal that **97%** of Campus Corps members feel like better citizens with a broader understanding of their community resources because of their term of service with Montana Campus Corps. This is excellent news, as one of the important objectives of Campus Corps is to prepare students to be active, committed, informed citizen leaders in their communities.

"I have developed in many ways, both socially and personally, from my AmeriCorps experience," said Jefferson Kiser, part-time member at the University of Great Falls. "I have grown through all of the service I have done."

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8

November timesheets due

December 8

2006/2007 1st Quarter

Progress Reports due

December 15

Team Leader Conference

Call, 10 am

January

National Mentor Month

January 5

December timesheets due

January 15

MLK Jr. Day of Service

January 18

Supervisor Conference Call,

1 pm

January 19

Team Leader Conference

Call, 10 am

February 2

January timesheets due

February 12-18

Random Acts of Kindness

Week

February 16

Team Leader Conference

Call, 10 am

February 19

All-Member Gathering,

Helena

February 20-21

Team Leader Winter

Retreat, Helena



Campus Corps Expansion into Tribal Communities Highly Successful

During the spring and summer of 2006 (3rd and 4th quarters of the program year), Campus Corps successfully expanded programming into tribal communities by increasing the number of members serving from tribal colleges. The program placed 13 new quarter-time AmeriCorps members, who started their service at Blackfeet Community College, Fort Peck Community College, and Salish Kootenai College in February 2006. Three of the members were not able to complete their terms due to illness or injury and a compelling alternative job offer. Of the remaining **10 members, 100% completed** their terms successfully. Campus Corps is very proud of this year's improved retention rate and of the outstanding service with which these members provided their communities. Highly-committed members and supervisors and the newly available quarter-time positions were all deemed factors in the success.

Completing members were **Rainey Azure** (FPCC), **Charlene Burns** (BCC), **Elva Dorsey** (BCC), **Mignon Harris** (SKC), **Lana Jackson** (FPCC), **Thomas Kipp** (BCC), **Aaron Little Eagle** (FPCC), **Shawna Savage** (SKC), **Randie Shields** (FPCC), and **Jason Smith** (SKC). Congratulations to all of them for the hard work they put in to meeting their communities' critical needs.

Here is an example of the service they engaged in: While most college students spent the summer months enjoying the outdoor recreation opportunities of Montana, SKC student Mignon Harris focused her time and energy on working with elders in her community, taking native youth to sacred landmarks, and spearheading the creation of a computer lab at a school in her community.

Members Recruit Volunteers to Benefit Montana Communities

During the final reporting quarter of the 2005/2006 program year, Campus Corps members recruited **136 non-AmeriCorps volunteers, who donated 664 hours** to a variety of projects across the state.

During the entire 2005/2006 program year, 65 Campus Corps members placed **3,120 non-AmeriCorps volunteers** on **47 community-benefiting service projects** across the state which **benefited 6,832 people**. These generous **volunteers donated 19,421 hours of service** to the state, and **88%** of volunteers surveyed indicated that the service project they worked on was a worthwhile opportunity to address community needs and **80%** expressed a desire to serve again. One of the greatest strengths of Campus Corps is recruiting volunteers for projects that make a difference in the community!



Upward Bound participants build birdhouses to beautify Butte walking trails.

MT Tech Summer Members Collaborate To "Get Things Done"

Campus Corps summer members at Montana Tech involved themselves in a number of collaborations with other service organizations during the fourth quarter. They worked with Upward Bound on building bird and butterfly houses for the walking trails behind the Big Butte. (Montana Conservation Corps was building the walking trails during the summer months.) Thirty-two houses were donated

to the project. Another great project that the members participated in was an Upward Bound float for the Butte Fourth of July parade. The float took third place. In addition, members worked with the Kids' College, keeping the students on their toes; there were an average of 30 students in each Kids' College session.

Biloxi Trip Participants Help to Build New Playground

While they were in Biloxi assisting with post-hurricane reconstruction efforts (see story, page 2), Campus Corps members helped to build a playground in one day, a project which generated a great deal of excitement in the local press and community. The article below was written about the first day that children were able to enjoy the new play space; the photos were taken by the Campus Corps members who participated in the building project.

Students Enjoy First Day on Kaboom! Playground

Tuesday, August 08, 2006

By **NIKKI WITTNER**

The Mississippi Press

MOSS POINT - Physical education teacher Kevin Fant yelled over a herd of second-graders as they raced to the playground Monday at East Park Elementary School. "Take care of the new playground and take care of each other," he yelled.

The children made a mad dash to the playground equipment, which was constructed through Kaboom!, a national organization

that strives to provide a playground within walking distance of every child in America. Kaboom! and Foresters, an international fraternal and financial organization committed to helping communities better themselves, combined over 250 volunteers to construct the playground on June 15. The organization and volunteers, which included children, the elderly and people from as far away as England, built the playground in one day.

Second-grader Derrick Mendenhall was the first in his class to reach the swings. "I just love to go high," he said in mid-air. "The slides are too cool. I love it (the playground)." Children took turns pushing one another around a small standing

merry-go-round. "They have really enjoyed the playground today," Fant said, looking on as the children climb on the new equipment. "They don't really seem to like any one area of the playground. They are just getting a feel for everything, moving from the swings to the slides to the drums. It has been exciting."

Fant said before each class hit the yard for play time, he gave them a speech on the new playground. Safety and maintenance were the main topics, he said. "I want the kids to respect the playground so that it will last a long time," he said. Principal Marie Henderson said the first day of school went well, and the big hit of the day was definitely the playground. "The look on those children's faces was priceless," she said. "The kids are so excited and so grateful for the equipment."



Slide being assembled by a team of volunteer builders.



Campus Corps member Denise Pankratz (MSU-Northern) moving mulch at the playground with another volunteer.



Slide in upright position at the newly created Kaboom! playground.