

CARLETON COLLEGE

2010-2011 MCAN

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MCAN Newsletter



Eight Carleton Students to Receive MCAN Scholars Funding this Summer

Thanks to the generosity of Carleton alumni, eight students of color will receive funding to support their summer internships this year. Student work will range from conducting tobacco prevention research in indigenous New Zealand communities, to archival work at The Smithsonian Institution, to learning about international bonds at a financial services company.

The MCAN Scholars Program, now in its third year, provides multicultural students with the opportunity to take advantage of summer internships and other programs that advance their studies and career aspirations. Many summer internships offer little or no compensation, other than the meaningful experience they provide.

On top of that, they can involve travel, high rent in large cities, and other living costs that make these opportunities prohibitive to some students. Scholars funding can also help to replace lost income that students need to earn over the summer to fund their return to Carleton in the fall.

You can help MCAN continue to make these opportunities available by contributing to the MCAN Scholars Program. Please make a gift online at www.go.carleton.edu/mcangift (be sure to designate MCAN Scholars in the Additional Instructions field) or by calling 800-745-2275.

MCAN Survey Results

The MCAN Board sends a thank you shout out to all the alumni that responded to our recent questionnaire. We had 111 responses! Even better, we found out that many of you are interested in participating in our Carleton community activities.

Some highlights from the survey:

- 72% of responders are interested in mentoring Carleton students or alumni.
- 72% are also interested in hearing more about the 2012 Gathering, a reunion for multicultural alumni.
- 53% raised a hand to volunteer for the MCAN Board.
- 64% are interested in volunteering for Carleton Club Chapters.

These responses are helping to shape the programs we focus on in the coming year. The MCAN Board met in April, and among the items we discussed was the implementation of mentoring program, working in collaboration with the Career Center. We are reaching out to people interested in volunteering for the MCAN Board to fill vacant seats for the coming year. We will also reach out in the fall to people interested in helping plan the 2012 MCAN Gathering. In addition, we met with Carleton Club organizers while on campus and will follow up with them to share your interest in volunteering for their events.

Nominations

MCAN wants you! The Multicultural Alumni Network at Carleton (MCAN) engages in several activities designed to enrich the experiences of students and alumni of color. MCAN Board serves as one of the forums for alumni and current students to come together and ensure Carleton remains an exciting place for the multicultural community to learn, play, and “remember”. We would like to invite you to formally apply for participation on the Board. The attached application will contain more information, as well as contact details if you have any questions. You can also find additional information related to MCAN and the Alumni Affairs Office here: <http://apps.carleton.edu/alumni/mcan/>. Will you join us?

Career Center Volunteer Opportunities

Alumni of color have many opportunities to contribute to MCAN’s mission of supporting current Carleton students of color. You just have to know about them! MCAN is teaming up with the Career Center to make these opportunities more visible to alumni of color. Some options include:

- Mentor Externships, a program that connects students with alumni for one-to-four-week short internships and includes a home-stay.
- Sign up to receive Engagement Wanted ads. Each week an email will come to your inbox with several randomly selected “ads” from seniors looking for advice, internships, and jobs.
- Firesides, an online mentoring opportunity, will likely have a pilot start in the coming year. The Career Center will match juniors with alumni for a yearlong coaching and mentoring experience. Alumni who sign up to be a mentor for a student will stay in touch with the student as a rising senior via email, phone, and/or personal contact. This is a great way to facilitate an active relationship between Carleton and alumni of color.

To learn more about these and other initiatives, please head over to the Career Center’s website: <http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/career/> and be sure to fill out a volunteer enrollment form.

Posse Program Continues At Carleton

Carleton College recently made the decision to renew its contract with the Posse Foundation to maintain the Posse program at Carleton for another five years. Since 2001, Posse students have been coming to Carleton, part of the Posse Foundation’s effort to connect promising high school students with important educational opportunities.

The Posse Foundation originated in New York City in 1989 with the idea that a group or a “Posse” would benefit students in a college setting by acting as a support system for one another. Posses are composed of public high school students with strong academic and leadership backgrounds and potential that may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. The Posse is a group of 10 students who support each other and work together throughout their college experience. Posse Scholars receive four-year full-tuition leadership scholarships from partner colleges and universities, like Carleton. Posse students bring a vital diversity to their campus partners, along with leadership skills and a desire to be actively engaged in their communities. The Posse program has now spread throughout the U.S., including a program in Chicago, which is Carleton’s Posse partner city.

Recently, President Obama donated \$125,000 of his Nobel Prize award to the Posse Foundation, a statement of the success and impact of Posse on students and the colleges they attend.

Graduating Student: David Zumba '10



One Posse Scholar about to head out into the world is David Zumba, a political science/international relations major who will graduate from Carleton in June. David graduated from Chicago's Mather High School in 2006 and received a four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship through the Posse Foundation. In addition to being a Posse Scholar, David is an alumnus of the Collegiate Scholars Program at the University of Chicago, co-chair of the Latin American Student Organization, a member of the Coalition of Hmong Students, a MCAN Board student representative, and a member of Men of Color.

As a young Latino, David's personal experiences have led him to the fight for social justice and equality. He hopes young people today will continue to deal with the past's problems that still prevail by trying to achieve a better and equal social atmosphere. During the winter of 2010, David studied in Washington, D.C. He interned with the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs where he worked and advocated for prisoners rights and followed civil claims on their behalf.

After graduation, David is planning to head back to Chicago and work for a couple of years. Simultaneously, he

plans to study for his LSAT in preparation for applying to law school. David's future goals include graduating from law school, becoming a criminal public defender, and hopefully sitting on the Supreme Court of the United States. Of his time at Carleton, David says, "I am lucky to have been able to attend Carleton. It has been an experience that has helped to further shape my mind and one that has allowed me to make life connections with some of the greatest people this world offers."

Carleton's Community, Equity and Diversity Initiative

Following the campus climate survey in 2008, the College restructured the Diversity Initiative Group to better position it to support and promote community, inclusion, equity and diversity at Carleton. The new group, the Community, Equity and Diversity Initiative (CEDI), began its work in March 2009, co-chaired initially by Director of Alumni Affairs Becky Zrimsek '89 and Professor of Physics and Astronomy Cindy Blaha. CEDI focuses on four major areas through associated task forces: Learning Environment Inside the Classroom, Learning Environment Outside the Classroom, Sexual Harassment and Assault, and Workplace Equity. The CEDI leadership board includes students, faculty and staff. A few highlights from the past year include:

- CEDI leaders facilitated 10 breakout sessions at the annual faculty retreat, focused on case studies highlighting difficult classroom situations cho-

sen for relevance to climate survey results.

- New Student Week included a two-day joint training exercise for all student peer leaders to promote a more inclusive atmosphere for first-year students. The Intergroup Dialogue pilot project, launching fall 2010, will help students learn how to facilitate and participate in conversations around topics of class, race, and gender. The Intergroup Dialogue project will benefit from a grant by Google of \$20,000 to support Carleton's work on diversity and inclusion.
- Student town hall meetings on "documents that guide us," including the College's statement on diversity. Regular *Chili@Noon* discussions for faculty and staff around issues of diversity. Development of a draft "classroom rights and responsibilities" document.
- In July 2009 Assoc. Prof. of Religion Michael McNally '85 took over the faculty co-chair role, and in July 2010 Andrea Nixon, Director of Curricular

and Research Support, will take over the staff co-chair role.

Please visit the CEDI web site, <http://apps.carleton.edu/governance/diversity/> for updates, climate survey data and other statistics, and more. Contact Becky Zrimsek '89 in the Alumni Affairs Office at rzrimsek@carleton.edu if you have questions, or to suggest additions for the web site.

Alumni Spotlight: Margaret Simms '67 Spends Time on Campus as Headley Distinguished Visitor-in-Residence



Margaret Simms spent two weeks in May on the Carleton campus as a distinguished Headley Visitor-in-Residence, giving students and faculty a chance to engage in conversation about her work in policy and economics. Currently, she is a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute, directing the Low-Income Working Families Project. She has spent her career focused on issues faced by African Americans and other minorities, including participation in business and government. After graduating from Carleton with a degree in Economics, Simms received a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.

The Headley House program provides the opportunity for numerous conversations with the Visitor-in-Residence, ranging from large presentations to informal gatherings. The Economics Department is hosting Simms' visit, which is supported by the Helen Andrus Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor Fund.

Carleton College

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