



"A different world cannot be built by indifferent people."

-Horace Mann, American education reformer

Upcoming Events

March 24th @ 9:30 p.m. in Nassau Hall -
Political Jeopardy

Join the CCE as they quiz you on political know-how and open up a night of dialogue.

April 20th-22nd -

Earth Day: Focus the Nation
Three-day series of events about energy policy, environmental sustainability, climate justice, and more!

April 29th -

Human Rights Summit
A list of prominent guest speakers will talk about the situation and crisis of human rights today.

Did you know Hofstra has a living learning community for students who want to be civically engaged? It was started this year by a group of determined sophomores. These communities can be found on the sixth floor of Nassau Hall and it is quickly becoming Hofstra's hub for community gathering and political activity.

If you're living on campus next year and want to live with other students who are also interested in getting engaged at Hofstra and in your local community, stop by the Office of Residential Programs in Room 244 in the Student Center as soon as you can.

With tuition and housing deposits out of the way, maybe it's time you started thinking about the Civic Engagement LLC as a place to live and become more involved.

Students dance for diversity at CCE's Multicultural Mixer bash

By Andrew Calderaro

The Center for Civic Engagement held its third Multicultural Mixer last week. The CCE aimed to create an entertaining social atmosphere for members of the Hofstra community, and facilitate openness towards cultural diversity.

Intern Jessica Mendoza brought the entertaining vibes of the Middle East to the event. She invited Yael Becker, president of the Shake It! bellydance group to perform. Becker brought to life the traditional Middle Eastern dance while clad in a sequined top and gold, layered full-length skirt.

Hofstra's Gospel Ensemble warmed the crowd with a number of hymns, accompanied by the guitar played Peter Singh, a *(Continued on Page 2)*

When two worlds collide: CCE maps out project with Roosevelt and Togolese kids

By Kelly Goldberg

For the past three years, the Center for Civic Engagement has been involved in a cultural exchange project with the African country of Togo. With the framework of civic engagement in mind, Hofstra students, including CCE interns, and some interested faculty members traveled to Togo set out on building a joint initiative with students from the United States and Togo last summer.

The group met with Plan International, a non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the lives of children in developing countries. Plan representatives took the Hofstra visitors on a tour through the countryside. This helped the CCE *(Continued on Page 3)*

CCE addresses the big problems of human trafficking

By Christina Martin

It is not difficult to buy a person. You can purchase an able-bodied man or woman for as little as \$90. You can buy children as young as eight-years-old and as old as 24. They can be used for cooking, cleaning, manual labor, business work, sex. There are no regulations on how you can treat your person. After all, you own them. They are your property, your slave.

Welcome to the world of modern day slavery. Contemporary slavery is a by-product of human trafficking, which is currently the second-largest criminal industry in the world. According *(Continued on Page 2)*



Photo by Joshua Gwin

The greenhouse below the Student Center was filled with students who came to listen and dance to the rhythms of salsa.

MULTICULTURAL MIXER

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freshman legal studies and business major.

Additionally, students were able to view artwork by the creative arts club, The Groove. Many pieces included natural scenes and others captured people in basic movement. The mix of colors and variety of artwork showed how differences can still convey harmony in one unified exhibit.

The CCE invited the dynamic quartet, Ensalada De Pulpo, to perform for their second time at the multicultural mixer. The salsa band is led by pianist Gilberto "Pulpo" Colon, Jr. He toured internationally for nearly two decades with salsa icon Hector Lavoe.

The band's vivacious Latin rhythms brought scores of students to the dance floor. For some, it was their first time dancing to the salsa beat. Others danced like pros.

Students were also drawn to the infusion of cultural experience by a variety of international foods. Mexican tacos, Jamaican beef patties, Moroccan cigars, Greek hummus and pita bread, Middle Eastern falafel, and Chinese dumplings lined the dining table.

Sarah Santos received an iPod Nano through the CCE's raffle, courtesy of the Provost Office's Diversity Task Force. Santos, a freshman political science major, said, "[The mixer was] a great way to experience something different." She added that she learned you could also have fun while doing it.

Cynthia Bogard, who heads the CCE, was excited by the turnout. She said she truly enjoyed seeing students present their talents and embrace their curiosity for the sake of cultural sharing.

Combating human trafficking

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to writer Kevin Bales, there are approximately 27 million people enslaved today. Bales is author of *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*.

Each year, between 14,000 and 17,000 people are trafficked into the United States from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Africa. Today, there are more slaves in the world than at any other time in history.

The explosion in the human population and the today's view of human labor as disposable inputs of production has contributed to the widespread problem of human trafficking. The most common reason that people fall prey to human trafficking is poverty since it means that there is a large pool of people who are willing to work to earn money and the victims are thus used for labor.

Often families are approached by traffickers who offer to take their children to larger cities where they can earn an income for the family and the children can still stay in school. Families generally consent with the notion that their children will have a better life. However, children are then taken, stripped of their documents and belongings and brought across the country or across borders to go into servitude.

This is a common case in Togo, where the Center for Civic Engagement has a close relationship with the non-governmental organization, Plan International, which works on combating human trafficking in the country.

I became interested in the topic of human trafficking when I started an internship last Spring with Vital Voices Global Partnership, an organization at the forefront of combat in international human trafficking. I found that the statistics and data surrounding the industry were overwhelming. Unlike other human rights violations, human trafficking is a \$32 billion industry per year which makes the problem even more complex.

I will be working alongside the CCE to host several prominent speakers to talk about the issues of human trafficking in a summit discussion on April 29th.



Photo by Joshua Gwin

CCE Interns and iPod raffle winner, Sarah Santos, stop dancing for a pose.

Roosevelt and Togo project

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and their partners develop ideas of how to bring about civic engagement in Togo.

Plan already had various projects in educational and recreational programs for children and adults helped lay the groundwork and inspiration for CCE's own projects with the Togo communities.

The Hofstra group was accompanied by students and professors from the University of Lomé, one of only two colleges in the country. Hofstra and the Lomé students had several collaborative meetings throughout the trip to find the best ways to continue the developmental efforts already seen from organizations like Plan, and start some of their own.

To make the program a full exchange program, a few Togo students and two professors from the University of Lomé came to Hofstra this past fall. Their stay fell in conjunction with the presidential debate at Hofstra and they participated in a variety of debate-related activities hosted by the CCE.

The CCE interns and some interested Hofstra students also took the Togolese group to an on-going archaeological field site in Lloyd Neck Harbor. The site brought to light one of the profound stories of slavery in New York. They also viewed a re-greening project in the Bronx, a telling tale of an effort to attain clean water and air for a poverty-stricken community.

By incorporating all that they had learned and seen in each other's countries, the Hofstra and Togo students decided that they will work with middle school students on prevalent issues that impacted their communities, unifying their efforts with the emphasis of children's rights. For the Lomé students, this issue was educational rights for girls; for the Hofstra students, it was the right of children to a healthy, clean environment.

The CCE is collaborating with the nearby Roosevelt Middle School on a re-greening project in an abandoned area near the middle school. The Roosevelt students will learn about Togo students through a penpal program. At the same time, they will devote some time afterschool to cleaning up an area around the school. The work has just kicked off the ground, but the CCE hopes to create a lasting program and a lasting link with the Roosevelt Middle School and the Togolese students.

Look out for more initiatives with students from Togo and Roosevelt.



Photo by Kelly Goldberg

Students and two professors from Togo visited Hofstra in the Fall for a cultural exchange.



Photo by Kelly Goldberg

Hofstra students visited this day care in Togo last summer to develop ideas for a joint project.

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