

# The Catalyst

Volume 1: Issue 1

November 2002

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Catalyst*! The goal of this publication is to promote community service and activism opportunities on campus and throughout the community. Please find descriptions of several campus organizations that are involved in provoking social and political change in addition to an article about the University's central means of facilitating this involvement, The Civic Education Project, as well as a review of this month's spotlight project, the Make it Count: Vote 2002 Campaign all in this issue. Also, note that on the back cover is a Calendar of Civic Engagement Opportunities and ways to contact people who can help you become more involved.

Each month the ASUI Civic Engagement Leadership Committee will publish an issue of *The Catalyst*. Our hope is that one of the many opportunities explored in the following pages will interest you and that you will make the choice to engage in our

community. From spending an hour a week mentoring a child to coordinating a voter registration drive to organizing a group of people to plant 800 trees along the Chipman trail, the opportunities for you to make a significant difference are truly limitless.

If you are already involved in an activity aimed at improving our community, please let us know! We would like to include your efforts in an issue of *The Catalyst*. Similarly, if you are looking for volunteers to help you, we will advertise your projects in our calendar of Civic Engagement Opportunities. By working together, the students of the University of Idaho will not only be able to more effectively affect change, but we will also have voice. A voice that announces that we are not ignorant of the social injustices occurring around us, a voice that defies apathy, a voice that is committed to positive change, a voice that is strong.

---

## CONTENTS

Civic Ed. Project, 2

RHA Community Service, 2

Alternative Breaks Association, 3

Mortar Board, 3

Sigma Alpha Iota & Phi Mu Alpha, 3

UI Athletics, 3

Spotlight on Service, 4

Civic Engagement Opportunities, 4

---

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASUI CIVIC ENGAGEMENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ~An Association of Student Organizations Committed to Strengthening Society~

### Bimonthly Meetings

Each Committee member has an opportunity to discuss their respective organization's projects during this meeting and solicit ideas, help, and support from other members.

### Online Discussion Forum

Students can discuss ideas, projects, and social issues at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/civic\\_uidaho/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/civic_uidaho/).

### Civic Engagement Roundtable Discussions

The Committee will host several roundtable discussions each semester. These exist to inform members of the University community about important issues as well as to facilitate discussion on campus. The first roundtable will be held during November and will explore the situation in Iraq.

### Semester of Service Challenge

The Committee challenges students, faculty, and staff to become involved in their community through volunteer direct service, servant leadership, activism leadership, or philanthropic leadership for a minimum of 30 hours each semester.

---

## SPOTLIGHT!

Make it Count:  
Vote 2002  
Campaign

---

The Civic Education Project fosters a partnership of mutual respect, joining students, faculty, staff, and the community. The project seeks to assist in the identification and coordination of service opportunities with the purpose of meeting community needs, cultivating social opportunities, and promoting life-long learning, thereby inspiring generations of leaders committed to positive social change.

A collaboration of the ASUI Volunteer Center and the Office of Academic Service Learning, the Project has filled an important need at the University of Idaho since its creation in the spring of 2001. Through partnerships with over 30 local agencies, service-oriented campus organizations, and national service programs such as Washington Campus Compact, the Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL), and the Bonner Service Leaders Program, the Project has connected members of the University community with numerous and diverse opportunities to serve.

At the foundation of Project is not only the desire to enable students to become more involved with their community, but also a firm belief in social responsibility, cooperation, human dignity, and empowerment. Considering the nature of democracy, the Project recognizes the importance of students becoming aware of the complex social problems that plague our nation. Furthermore, students must realize their responsibility as members of a participatory democratic system to help solve these problems. The Project also holds that by working together, individuals can serve their communities much more efficiently and effectively. The partnerships between the Project and various entities exist not only in a spirit of cooperation, but also in one of respect; the value of each individual working toward improving society is appreciated. At the same time, the Project affirms the notion that every individual has the ability to contribute significantly to the betterment of society. By educating and connecting people, the Project empowers students to make these social and political

contributions.

Additionally, the Project embraces goals that support the University of Idaho's vision. By organizing several days of service and issue awareness events, including Make a Difference Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Saturday of Service, which all require collaboration from students, faculty, staff, and community partners, the Project supports the University's goal of connecting the campus and the community as learning partners supporting innovative teaching and learning strategies.

The Project similarly prepares graduates for life-long learning, a commitment to civic engagement, and responsiveness to community needs. Not only does the Project connect students with opportunities to serve through an on-line database and staff-run center on

campus, but it also provides students with

opportunities to organize and lead

community service

projects and issue

awareness events. One

major program designed

to engage students in an effort to

strengthen their community as well as to

encourage other students to become aware of and involved in social issues is the ASUI Civic Engagement Leadership Committee, which connects students from various organizations in order to share resources and ideas so that students can more effectively meet the needs within the community and work together toward solving significant social problems. In addition to holding bimonthly meetings and regularly publishing a newsletter, the Committee aims to foster an ethic of civic engagement among students by coordinating the Semester of Service Challenge as well as civic engagement roundtable discussions.

Please visit the Civic Engagement Project in Room 302 of the Idaho Commons to learn how you can take advantage of the many resources it offers. Also, if you are interested in representing your campus organization or living group on the ASUI Civic Engagement Leadership Committee, please send an email to [Jessical@sub.uidaho.edu](mailto:Jessical@sub.uidaho.edu).

~Jessica Lipschultz

### **RHA Community Service**

The Residence Hall Association Community Service Committee is involved with helping not only our residents, but those in our community as well. We recently finished our annual Penny Wars competition where halls compete against each other using pennies for positive points and other change for negative points. We raised over \$2400 dollars this year. The money will go toward our Adopt a Family Program. We are putting together baskets of household items and gifts for at least five families in need in the Palouse region. We are also in the process of putting together a food exchange/ food drive program for the students living in the residence halls. Another project in the works is a reduced cost CPR training clinic. The RHA Community Service Committee has representatives from each hall. Anyone wishing to be involved is also welcome. We are working to expand our programs to further include campus and community wide events.



### Alternative Breaks Association

The Alternative Breaks Association plans community service trips to Las Vegas, San Francisco, and many other locations to allow students to impact and experience different regions of the western United States during winter and spring breaks. Participants build houses, work at soup kitchens, restore trails, plant trees, assist at food banks, and volunteer at various non-profit organizations.

The goal of the Alternative Breaks Association is to promote volunteerism and foster civic activism. *To get involved, email [uiaalternativebreak@hotmail.com](mailto:uiaalternativebreak@hotmail.com) to find out how you can apply to go on the next trip!*

### Mortar Board


The University of Idaho's Gold Chapter of Mortar Board plans several events throughout the year to benefit the campus and the community. The Mortar Board Book Exchange is located in the Cedar Grove Room of the Idaho Commons and is a year-long reading opportunity for everyone. The UI chapter also organizes a yearly street clean-up in addition to many other service projects.

Mortar Board, Inc. is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service. It focuses on making a direct impact on the community and advancing the status of women. *For more information, email [mortarboard83843@hotmail.com](mailto:mortarboard83843@hotmail.com).*

### University of Idaho Athletics

Although student athletes here at the University have little spare time on their hands, they do what they can to get to know members of the community. Each week the students at St. Mary's Elementary School receive a letter from their UI penpal. These penpals are members of the athletic teams and staff here at the University. The athlete's involvement does not stop there, though. The athletes attend lunches, school functions, and other activities that their corresponding

penpals are involved in. Each year the athletic department hosts a field day for the kids where they can challenge the athletes to a day of friendly competition.

Along with being involved with youth in the community, the athletes will be  escorting Mrs. Kempthorne and breast cancer survivors from the area at the Pink Tea Benefit. The purpose of this function is to raise awareness and funds for the ongoing battle with

### Sigma Alpha Iota & Phi Mu Alpha

The Sigma Zeta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) and the newly reinstated chapter of Phi Mu Alpha are planning a Haunted House for November 2nd in Ridenbaugh Hall. This event will be held for grade school children. An entrance fee of one can of food will be requested for donation to the local food bank.

Sigma Alpha Iota is a fraternity for women in music, and Phi Mu Alpha is its male counterpart. Anyone who is interested in music is welcome to join. *For more information, email [joyce@sub.uidaho.edu](mailto:joyce@sub.uidaho.edu).*

### Alpha Phi Omega

The Gamma Nu Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega (APO) works year-round to provide the campus, community, and nation with volunteer support. Activities include APO's National Service Week, sectional and national conferences, as well as various programs planned by the members themselves.

At UI, Gamma Nu focuses on environmental and elderly issues. From planting trees to making Valentines with the residents of Aspen Park, members stay active making a difference.

APO is an international co-ed service organization that has been on the UI campus since 1941. APO is committed to developing leadership, promoting friendship, and providing service to humanity. *For more information, email [arissmay@hotmail.com](mailto:arissmay@hotmail.com).*

breast cancer.

The athletes will also be volunteering their time and services to the Special Olympics in the spring. This gives athletes from the University the opportunity to draw inspiration from those who are disadvantaged while also giving the special Olympians the chance to demonstrate their strengths and compete.

The athletic department is just one variable to connecting different groups in the community to make great things happen.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE



This semester ASUI's largest service project is the Make it Count: Vote 2002 Campaign. The goal is to dramatically improve the issue awareness and student turnout in the State and national elections. The balcony on the second floor of the Idaho Commons has been decorated with posters of information about the candidates for each district in Idaho as well as those in states with at least one hundred University of Idaho students, addresses to the election homepages for all states, descriptions of the initiatives and referendums that will appear on the ballot in Idaho, political party philosophies and contacts, and directions for students who would like to register to vote and vote absentee. ASUI invites student organizations to endorse candidates or particular issues by creating posters that we will also display in the Commons. In addition to providing interested students with this information, ASUI student leaders facilitated a candidate forum on October 16th, which allowed members of the University community to meet the men and women running for local, state, and national positions. Efforts are currently underway to provide transportation to the polls on Election Day, November 5th.

~Kelsey Nunez

# Civic Engagement Opportunities

November 2, 2002 7:00-10:00 pm	<b>Alpha Phi Omega</b> Open Pledge Meeting Email <a href="mailto:pete5808@uidaho.edu">pete5808@uidaho.edu</a> for details
November 4-6, 2002	<b>Take Back the Night</b> Contact the Women's Center at 885-6616 for details
November 5, 2002	<b>Election Day!!!</b>
November 6, 2002 6:30-8:00 pm	<b>Take back the Night</b> Rally and March (meet in front of library)
November 4, 18, 2002 7:30-9:00 pm	<b>Moscow City Council Meetings</b> City Hall
November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002 7:00-9:00 pm	<b>ASUI Senate Meetings</b> Clearwater Room Idaho Commons
November 19, 2002 6:00-8:00 pm	<b>Oxfam Hunger Banquet</b> Horizon Room Idaho Commons



Are you up to the Challenge?

Sign up to take the  
**ASUI Semester of Service Challenge!**

- ◆ Register at the Civic Education Project offices
- ◆ Complete 30 hours or more of approved community service volunteer activities
- ◆ Receive a certificate and award at an end-of-the-year recognition event

Contact the:

Civic Education Project

Idaho Commons, Rm 302  
208/885-9442  
[Civic\\_Ed@sub.uidaho.edu](mailto:Civic_Ed@sub.uidaho.edu)  
<http://uidaho.edu/volunteer>

◆ Spend quality time meeting new people, and feel great about contributing to those who need your help



## Meet the ASUI Civic Engagement Leadership Committee

Jessica Lipschultz  
*Committee Chair*

Peter Stegner  
*Newsletter Editor*

Kamian Fox  
*Newsletter Assist. Editor*

Michael Gilge  
*Newsletter Layout*

Cassandra Byington

Nick Caylor  
Niraj Chitraker

Tandra Geska  
Scott Gilliam

Crystal Jones  
Amy Leen

Josh Miller  
Kelsey Nunez

Marissa Peterson

Fauna Samuel  
Nia Shepherd

Leah Marie Suddarth  
Katie Swajkoski

Megan Thompson  
Debbie Thoreson

Janell Vogel  
Lisa White

Dimetri Wilker

COLLECTIVELY CREATING  
CHANGE

ASUI Civic Engagement  
Leadership Committee  
Idaho Commons, Room 302  
(208) 882-9442  
[JessicaL@sub.uidaho.edu](mailto:JessicaL@sub.uidaho.edu)