

Great Kids, Great Stories

Debate Delivers Dreams

August 2009 - Vol. 5 Issue 5

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Dear William,

in this job, I get to have lunch with some pretty cool people. Here are two recent examples that you might find interesting. I

had the honor and privilege of sitting down with former Pitney Bowes CEO Michael Critelli. I've always been a fan of Pitney Bowes as a corporation that cares. They placed high in worker satisfaction under his regime and also provided a great newsletter about their products. Mr. Critelli was obviously smart and accomplished. It was equally apparent how formative his time in debate had been. He spoke about how hard it was for him to be successful in debate initially and how he received some helpful advice from someone who saw something greater inside of him.



About two weeks ago, I sat down for Indian food with Maribel Vasquez. The NY Urban Debate League alum who just secured a Fulbright scholarship based on an essay she wrote about how debate had shaped her life. She spoke about her recent trip to Europe and her work on international human rights as we sat and enjoyed naan, chicken tikka and lamb vindaloo. During the lunches with Mike and Maribel, I was acutely aware at how much these two had in common. You could see the determination in their eyes. Watch as they thought deeply about questions and spoke with excitement about the future. Most notably, their expressions lit up when the topic turned to debate. If get my way, the two of them will be in the same room at some point but until then, it's great to see the bridges that debate can cross.

CELEBRATE MOZILLA VOLUNTEER WEEK



ADULT VOLUNTEERS CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHILD DEBATING OR BEING LEFT HOME FOR THE WEEKEND. IF YOU HAVE TIME ON YOUR HANDS, CONSULT WITH SOMEONE FROM IMPACT ABOUT HOW TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN HELPING CHILDREN During the week of September 14-21, 2009 Mozilla (creator of the web browser Firefox) is asking

individuals to step up and make a difference by using the Web to better their community. Some examples of ways you can get involved during Mozilla Service Week include: · Showing a non-profit how to use social networking to grow its base of supporters. · Installing a wireless network at a school. · Creating Web how-to materials for a library's computer cluster. · Refurbishing hardware for a local computer center. · Updating a non-profit organization's website.

START VOLUNTEERING WITH CITI 2009 If you are in between jobs and have

debate expertise or always wanted to become a qualified judge for your son or daughter, this may be the perfect opportunity for you to give back. The Coalition's goal is to engage 50 new volunteers this year as judges, tournament administrators and technical advisors on IMPACT projects. For every four students, IMPACT is required to provide one judge in order for them to attend a debate tournament. With 500 new debaters participating each year on average, we need 125 judges which is a tall order. Identifying volunteer judges not only helps the students who are debating right now but it will have a multiplier effect as others in the Big Apple learn about what you've done. Your decision to become a judge might determine how many students can go away on the weekends and participate in travel tournaments. Each summer, the IMPACT Coalition provides a series of workshops for students, teachers and parents to discover the transformative power of debate. The Coalition Institute and Training Initiative (CITI 2009) will begin on August 10th and run through August 22nd. CITI 2009 will take place at Hunter College. To sign up to volunteer at CITI 2009 or become a debate trainee, send an email to IMPACT's Chief Management Officer Tess Gilman at tess.impact@gmail.com. If you have debate experience and wish to participate as a lab leader, let Tess know that as well.

Become a volunteer today!

INCREDIBLE INTERNS HAVE AN IMPACT

IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD MORE CAPACITY THE IMPACT COALITION HAS PARTNERED WITH A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE INTERNSHIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. THE RESULT HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE EXPANSION OF IMPACT'S OUTREACH EFFORTS AND GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS. Not one, not two, but seven interns paved the way for IMPACT's return to glory this summer. The diverse mix of talented young people have rejuvenated the office, centralized and updated records, and restored the ability of staff to be fully responsive to a wide range of constituencies. The Department of Youth & Community Development administers the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The program employs youth between the ages of 16-22 with nonprofits, for-profits and government agencies through the city. IMPACT was fortunate enough to secure a subcontract for the summer of 2009 and has 3 SYEP participants working in our office. Ariam Fregzhi, Cindy Lau and Saima Khan are involved with prospect research, database management, website development and student communication initiatives across an array of IMPACT programs. They are joined by Ryan Mitchell and Anthony Gabon who are both members of the 1199 National Benefits Fund Workforce 2000 program. The program allows children of union members to intern with nonprofit partners across the city. Beyond these five impressive high school students, IMPACT also renewed its partnership with University of Dreams and had the full-time services of Vui Ung. Vui focused her energies on teacher communications and the initial intake of applicants to the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute (BALI) track at CITI.

NYUDL ALUMNI GIVING BACK Finally, Spelman College attendee and NYUDL alum Bianca Alston graced us with her presence as part of the College's community service program. Bianca, a graduate of the High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology, has been involved in grant research, office administration, alumni development and assisted with special projects as needed. Her efforts have brought many alumni back into the fold and laid the groundwork for expanded contact in the future. Alston's work this summer follows on the heels of Amanda Wilson's stint last summer as NYUDL graduates demonstrate the power of giving back.

See a video created by an IMPACT alum

IMPACT JOINS THE HEALTHCARE DEBATE



WHILE CONGRESS RECESSES, IMPACT'S DEBATERS TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF DEBATING HEALTHCARE THE COALITION IS TRAINING NEARLY 80 HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS HOW TO DEBATE USING REAL WORLD EXAMPLES FROM THE NATIONAL DEBATE ON HEALTHCARE REFORM. THE PROGRAM IS PART OF THE 1199 CHILDCARE FUND SUMMER YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

For the past five years, the IMPACT Coalition and the 1199/SEIU Childcare Fund have

partnered on different initiatives to open debate to children of 1199 members. Their latest venture brings "the mountain to Mohammed" as students who are interning at hospitals around the city augment their experience by debating about how to reform healthcare across the country.

"If our country is going to seriously reform health care, its citizens need to understand the issues from an early age," said General Manager Emmanuel Villanueva. "That's why I'm especially pleased that these kids are studying and debating health care now, when they are healthy and in an environment that is free from political pressure. Hopefully, when they are adults, they will be in a better position to deal with the challenges that our current leaders are so reluctant to substantively address." The final debates will pit representatives from a hospital in each borough against each other on August 13th in midtown Manhattan. For details, send an email to debateleaders@gmail.com.

See Artwork by Students for HealthCare Reform

BIG NEWS, BIG CHANGES



As we say goodbye to Amber Kelsie who heads off to grad school at the University of Pittsburgh and to Beth Fitzgerald, our office manager, and her new baby, Aiden, there are some exciting changes afoot. We have already secured the services of Bridgette DeFelice to serve as office manager and continue as webmaster for IMPACT. Bridgette received her law degree from NYU, is a former NYC Teaching Fellow and has spent years working on debate projects in and outside the classroom. Her email address is bridgette.impact@gmail.com if you have questions or need to contact the office.

WELCOME BACK, TESS The IMPACT Coalition is pleased to announce the hiring of Tess Gilman as our new Chief Management Officer. Tess holds her MS in management of social services from Columbia University School of Social Work, and her BA in philosophy and math from St. John's College. Tess is a returning member of the IMPACT staff; she served one year as an Americorps VISTA volunteer in 2006.

For complete staff bios, [click here](#)

BRONX DEBATERS KICK OFF YOUTH TV PROJECT



IS 216 AND THE BRONX SCHOOL FOR LAW, GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE HELD A PUBLIC DEBATE TO CELEBRATE BRONX WEEK SPONSORED BY BRONX NET TV. STUDENTS DEBATED IDEAS PUT FORTH BY GENIUS AWARD WINNER MAJORA CARTER If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then MacArthur Genius Award winner Marjora Carter, should feel very flattered. When BronxNet invited IMPACT to provide two schools to debate for Bronx Week, the pair quickly decided on an environmental topic and a focus on Ms. Carter's work.

Bronx Law coach Erik Fogel explained, "Majora Carter who runs Sustainable South Bronx proposed an Electranet idea and our team has been using it as part of our affirmative arguments during the debate season." The public debate lasted eight minutes in front of a large audience. CEO Will Baker offered, "I haven't had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Carter but from what I know, I'm certain she'd be excited about middle schoolers from the South Bronx discussing these issues as scholars. We can't solve any issue until people discover their voices, especially the young people." IMPACT's ability to serve as a vehicle to build community awareness is a powerful offshoot of its community debate program. Organizations including Local 1199, Bank of America, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute have used debaters to bring attention to important issues facing our communities.

Don't Miss Events, Become a Facebook Fan Today

CRAIGSLIST SERVES AS A GATEWAY TO GREAT TALENT



In the past few months, a huge number of talented and capable individuals have been laid off, fired or otherwise separated from their jobs through no fault of their own. Many of them are professionals like teachers, lawyers, and investment bankers. While others are corporate execs with talents in marketing, digital media strategy and website design.

The IMPACT Coalition has offered people in these circumstances the chance to relieve the frustrations of their job search by helping kids. Two individuals have already taken advantage of this special opportunity to the delight of all parties involved. While some of you have heard about IMPACT's Social Marketing Officer Andrew Todd (see the volunteer spotlight from the previous edition), we've also added Jeff Fryer, a marketing executive with years of experience in building brands, identifying channels and maximizing the visibility of client organizations. Both of Jeff's parents were educators so he gravitated towards IMPACT's mission naturally. After a brief interview, Jeff put together a 3-part proposal that included some elaborate plans to help IMPACT complete its marketing makeover. Tess and Will were excited and immediately put the plan into action. Both Andrew and Jeff found IMPACT on Craigslist and we are not done searching for new friends. We are building a team with incredible capacity and talent to make sure that debate delivers dreams for as many young people as possible. We look forward to reporting back to you on the results in December.
Shop at Igive and Earn Cash for IMPACT for free

AWARDS AND A FEAST FIT FOR A KING



OVER 150 PEOPLE CELEBRATED IMPACT'S 2008-09 RECORD-SETTING NYUDL SEASON. PARENTS AND TEACHERS DONATED FOOD AND DRINKS CREATING A FANTASTIC POT LUCK MEAL WHILE SLAM POETS AND SPECIAL AWARDS MADE IT A NIGHT TO REMEMBER "I challenge anyone to a Mac & Cheese cook-off!" exclaimed

Ben Honoroff, president of the NYUDL Coaches Association. While there were no immediate takers, several observers commented on the glint in the

eyes of General Manager Emmanuel Villanueva as the proverbial culinary gauntlet had been thrown down. The evening had turned out incredibly but earlier in the day, plans did not seem as promising. The odds were 50-50 at best on the safe arrival of the CEO even though he lived mere blocks from the location. There was a large Mac truck coming from one direction and a B71 bus coming from the other. In the middle pushing an upright cart piled high with awards, paper goods and banquet programs stood IMPACT's CEO Will Baker. In retelling the incident later to the debaters, coaches and their families, Baker remarked, "I knew I wasn't going to die because my life didn't flash before my eyes. Instead, I saw the thousands of miles our debaters traveled and the hundreds of awards they had captured competing at the highest level of competition. Welcome to the 2009 NYUDL Final Awards Ceremony!!" International High School in Prospect Heights was the host for this year's annual awards celebration. Organized by Mike Incze (coach at International) and Erik Fogel (coach at the Bronx School for Law, Government & Justice), parents, teachers and debaters from around the city brought an array of home-cooked and store-bought dishes that created a sumptuous banquet with incredible options for all. "It was amazing how responsive people are if you ask them to be involved," said Fogel.

DEBATE ALUM SETS THE STAGE WITH MOVING SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE The evening began with a series of moving slam poetry readings by NYUDL alumnus Comoghne Felix. Touching on a range of themes, the award-winning poet received a standing ovation and calls for encore upon finishing. Students from Bronx Law and International hung balloons, made posters and created an atmosphere of community and love that resonated with many throughout the entire event. "I liked this even better than the Crowne Plaza!" said Alex Jones, secretary of the NYUDL Coaches Association and debate coach at Metropolitan Corporate Academy--a comment echoed by several coaches. The Coalition will definitely take up the question of alternating between a ballroom event and a school-based event as economic realities force tough choices. For a day though, everyone felt like champions and no one went hungry. There was enough left to feed security and custodial staff, visiting teachers and others who were attending separate events in International HS and we still had a ton of food to donate to an area shelter. Let the battle for Mac & Cheese supremacy commence!! Our kids will surely be the ultimate winners.

Click here for details on award winners

Here are five ways that you can make an enormous difference:

1. **Make a generous personal tax deductible contribution.** Encourage friends and family to support IMPACT's debaters in your honor. Visit our website at www.impactcoalition.org and click Donate.
2. **Connect IMPACT to those in your network who care about young people.** Host a house party to help spread the word about our work and connect us to new potential supporters.
3. **Aid us with your time and talent.** Find out if your company provides loaned executives, volunteer programs, in kind services, and other contributions.
4. **Join the Debate Champions Society** by calling our office or visiting us on the web
5. **Offset your stock losses by making a gift of appreciated securities to the IMPACT Coalition.**

If you're a parent, please make sure you're getting our Awards & Opportunities newsletters with thousands of dollars in college scholarships inside. IMPACT would like to help as many kids go as many places as possible but we need YOUR help. If you shop online for presents, try using Igive or GoodShop which both have discounts for you at quality stores and earn IMPACT extra savings. If you have frequent flier miles you can donate for upcoming debate trips including summer scholarship travel, let me know ASAP.

Peace & Justice,



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