

GWminute

IN AND OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MAY 2007

ISCOPEs: La Clinica del Pueblo

GW students are helping La Clinica del Pueblo, located in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Northwest D.C., achieve its goal of providing free, culturally appropriate health services in the Latino community.

Through the Interdisciplinary Student Community-Oriented Prevention Enhancement Service (ISCOPEs), GW students have been working with La Clinica del Pueblo for 11 years. Their work has benefited residents of Ward 1, represented by Council-member **Jim Graham**, in the Columbia Heights, Mount Pleasant, and Adams Morgan neighborhoods, and has focused on improving communication with non-English speakers seeking medical care.

The team has worked on a number of initiatives. It created "I Speak" cards in the major languages spoken in the District. The cards inform patients of their eligibility for interpreter services. Additionally, a brownbag luncheon for health services students was arranged to raise awareness of existing language issues. Furthermore, the ISCOPEs students have created a public service announcement, which will run for a year on four local media outlets and is expected to reach 300,000 area residents.

The team's work on language assistance will be presented at two upcoming regional conferences.

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GW Fact

The Stop Global Warming Tour's final performance was at GW on Earth Day, April 22. The concert featured **Sheryl Crow, Laurie David, Faith Hill, Tim McGraw**, and **Larry David**.

Women's Leadership Conference Gathering Together 'Agents of Change'



Chris Brinlee

Mary Cheh, Ward 3 City Councilmember and GW Law School faculty member, spoke at the Women's Leadership Conference on March 30.

More than a hundred people gathered at GW's Mount Vernon Campus for the annual Women's Leadership Conference on March 30. The theme, "Agents of Change," drew speakers such as Ward 3 City Councilmember and GW Law School faculty member **Mary Cheh**. She spoke about discovering her own political voice and urged the audience to take initiative and provided examples of ways in which to seize opportunities.

Rachelle S. Heller, associate dean for academic affairs, Mount Vernon Campus, describes the day as a "vehicle to explore issues related to women leaders, while doing professional development. It is a sorely needed opportunity."

Francine Zorn Trachtenberg, president of the Washington, D.C., Jewish Community Center and former senior vice president of WETA, Washington's public broadcasting station, delivered a keynote speech reflecting on her career, titled "What I Did with my

Liberal Arts Education." Trachtenberg candidly discussed her life journey, emphasizing the importance of taking advantage of opportunities.

The conference luncheon featured keynote speaker Judy Norsigian, co-author of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, the groundbreaking book that helped to launch the women's health movement in the United States, and executive director of the Boston-based organization *Our Bodies, Ourselves*

Dorothy Gilliam, GW's School of Media and Public Affairs's Maurice C. Shapiro professor and director of the Prime Movers program, discussed the program's efforts to bring experienced journalists, particularly women and people of color, into high school classrooms to help students launch or reinvigorate their school's media program.

The audience included students in the GW Elizabeth Somers Women's Leadership Program, faculty, staff, alumni of GW and the Mount Vernon College, and community members.

"The Women's Leadership Conference is a great opportunity for alumni, faculty, and students to interact with and learn from women who have addressed leadership challenges and forged their own paths in the social, professional, and political arenas," says Heller.



Master in public health student Bridget Reutener is taping a public service announcement on interpreter services.

Michelle Steenwyk, a physician assistant/master in public health (M.P.H.) student, came away from the project “with a better understanding of non-English speaking patients and how to accommodate them.” Bridget Reutener and Michelle Yau, both M.P.H. students, also felt more aware of how as future health professionals, cultural competency will be essential in effectively caring for a rapidly growing U.S. immigrant population.

The “I Speak” cards and interpretive resources are available from the Interpreter page of the La Clinica Web site (www.lcdp.org/English/Interpretation.html), which was designed by GW students.

GW Partners for Creative Aging

Two leaders in the field of arts and aging, GW’s Center on Aging, Health & Humanities (CAHH) and the National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA) in New York City, are merging in Washington, D.C.

Gene D. Cohen, M.D., is director of CAHH and a nationally recognized author in the growing field of creative aging. He advocates greater access to arts and cultural programming for older adults, citing his research showing its physical, social, and psychological benefits for older people. Cohen’s ground-breaking research and the NCCA’s outreach capabilities promise to change the way the world thinks about aging.

“CAHH’s efforts have already benefited D.C. residents,” says Cohen. “With NCAA, our planning and development of programs to help D.C. residents will be expanded.” CAHH’s Creativity Discovery Corps, which has a mission of preserving and publicizing the creative accomplishments of older adults, has worked with community-based organizations, such as the IONA Senior Services in Washington, D.C., on programs such as art therapy and oral history.

CAHH and NCCA hope to create an ideal setting for conducting research and evaluating the effectiveness of various methods for

promoting creativity in aging. The research will be used to generate a landmark “best practices” in arts and aging that can be used nationwide.

Susan Perlstein, executive director of NCCA, says, “Both professionals in the field who wish to enhance their understanding and skills in creativity and aging and older people who wish to engage in arts workshops would benefit from training and conferences.”

The GW CAHH/NCCA partnership will bring together organizations and professional artists to explore the obstacles that keep older adults from participating in cultural programming and how they can be overcome. It will also advocate public policy on creativity and aging.

GW’s CAHH gained national recognition for directing the first national multisite longitudinal study of the effectiveness of cultural programming on the well-being of older people. Every variable tested—including morale, depression, doctor visits, medication usage, social and recreational activities, and even vision—demonstrated improvement. These remarkable findings are the core message of the partnership.

“The relation between CAHH and NCAA will enormously expand the dialogue between researchers and practitioners in the area of creative engagement and aging,” says Cohen.

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