

AUGUST 2007

ISCOPEs Team Examines Pharmacy Needs in Ward 1

The 2006-07 academic year was especially rewarding for the ISCOPEs team working with Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care in **Ward 1**. Given the large number of Mary's Center patients, who are recent immigrants with limited English proficiency and knowledge of the pharmacy system, Mary's Center staff felt there was a need for more services that help patients navigate the pharmacy system and obtain and use properly the appropriate medications.

In consultation with the Mary's Center site adviser, the ISCOPEs team designed a survey to determine which pharmacy issues are patients' top priorities. Over the course of one month, students visited the waiting room of Mary's Center and offered the survey to patients, who were given the option of completing the survey on their own or in a face-to-face interview. Surveys were available in both Spanish and English.

A majority of respondents felt their pharmacy experiences could be improved by an increase in bilingual staff, and almost one in four respondents avoided using the pharmacy because of problems related to language. The ISCOPEs student team hopes to publish these findings to encourage further study.

GW Fact

A group of GW students came in second place in the finals of the World Geography Bowl in San Francisco on April 18. Elliott School of International Affairs graduate student **Wesley Reisser** received Most Valuable Player honors.

GW Students Create a 'Green Move Out'



GW students recycled batteries and donated food, books, and school supplies during "Green Move Out" on May 12.

This past spring, as students departed from their GW residence halls, they left behind a valuable demonstration of their widespread commitment to the environment. **Sarah Zubair**, a leader of the large recycling effort, explained that their goal was "to reduce waste while benefiting the greater Foggy Bottom and D.C. community."

Envisioned by GW's chapter of the national student-run think tank the Roosevelt Institution, "Green Move Out" was an opportunity "to raise environmental awareness on campus by actively encouraging people to reduce, reuse, and recycle by donating their used items as they move out," says Zubair.

Most of the events for Green Move Out occurred at the end of the spring semester. On May 12, volunteers from organizations such as Goodwill of America, Foggy Bottom Food Bank, Jumpstart, and Books for Africa set up tables on the University Yard for "Green Carnival." Students brought unwanted books, school supplies, food, electronic waste, batteries, cleaning supplies, and other trash. A similar collection was held on the Mount Vernon Campus.

In the lobby of any dorm one could see evidence of the Salvation Army clothing drive, which ran for most of May. Boxes were filled with clothing that otherwise would have been discarded. Local residents were encouraged to drop off items for donation. More than 100 paper bags filled with canned and dried goods and boxes of school supplies and books were also among the donations received.

Green Move Out is one of GW's many successful environmental efforts. The University has reduced its oil consumption by 20 percent in the past five years, replaced thousands of light bulbs with more energy efficient models, offered a Campus Plan with strong sustainability components, and invested in highly ranked programs in the law and business schools concerning environmental issues.

Top Democrats Discuss Faith at Lisner Auditorium



Jessica McConnell

Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, and Barack Obama participated in a forum on faith, values, and poverty held at GW on June 4. They are pictured here with Rev. Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners.

Democratic presidential candidates **Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.)**, **Sen. Hillary Clinton (N.Y.)**, and former **Sen. John Edwards (N.C.)** met on GW's campus to participate in a forum on faith in politics on June 4. The event, moderated by **Soledad O'Brien**, was a special edition of CNN's "The Situation Room" broadcast live before an audience of 1,500 at Lisner Auditorium.

Each candidate was given 15 minutes to answer questions from the moderator, religious leaders, and members of the audience. The forum was presented in part by Sojourners, a Christian evangelical organization headquartered in the **Ward 1** Columbia Heights neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The founder of Sojourners, **Rev. Jim Wallis**, asked questions of each of the candidates during their speaking time. Sojourners is affiliated with more than 25 organizations throughout Washington and hundreds more around the world.

Appearing first, Edwards explained that despite rejecting the values of his Southern Baptist upbringing as a teen, he later learned to appreciate his

roots. It was his faith that helped him through the death of his son and his wife's battle with cancer. Edwards also discussed his lifelong crusade against poverty, which he described as "one of the great moral issues of our time." Edwards declared, "Whatever happens in this presidential campaign, as long as I am alive and breathing, I will be out there fighting [poverty] with everything I have."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.3 percent of Washington residents have an income below the poverty line, as compared with the national average of 12.7 percent.

Obama discussed the role of faith as a means of uniting the American people behind political progress. He said, "Faith can say that regardless of what's happened in the past, there's a brighter future ahead." Obama emphasized the importance of raising the minimum wage and increasing funding for education, not only as needed reforms but as means to restore confidence in the U.S. government.

Clinton described the significance of her Methodist beliefs throughout the trials she has faced in life. In response to a question about her husband's infidelity, Clinton explained that faith was more important than ever. "I am very grateful that I had a grounding in faith that gave me the courage and the strength to do what I thought was right, regardless of what the world thought," Clinton said.

The forum allowed GW faculty, students, and staff, as well as community members in Foggy Bottom and the greater District of Columbia, the chance to participate in the presidential race. Alumna **Sara Neumann**, a graduate of GW's political communication program, explained that such forums "give community members a chance to have their voices heard." The U.S. Census Bureau reported that in the 2000 elections, the District of Columbia had a 70 percent voter participation rate.

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