

JANUARY 2008

Spring Cleaning Comes Early in Foggy Bottom

On Nov. 17, 2007, a group of more than 100 students, staff, faculty, and neighbors participated in the Foggy Bottom Clean-Up, an annual event sponsored by GW's Student Association. This year's clean-up was part of the activities celebrating the University's inauguration of its 16th president, **Steven Knapp**.

Participants assisted with a number of projects, including the removal of debris and garbage from various locations near the University's Foggy Bottom Campus. The corps of volunteers, which included President Knapp, as well as his son and daughter, was split into groups. One team worked to beautify the 26th Street park in the Foggy Bottom Historic District. Another team removed garbage from the triangle at Eye and 24th streets at New Hampshire Avenue.

Corey Barenbrugge, Student Association vice president for community affairs, organized this year's event. "Foggy Bottom isn't just a place where we go to school, it's also our home," says Barenbrugge. "We are grateful to our neighbors, and the clean-up is one way for us to come together and show that appreciation. The University's success is inextricably tied to the community."

GW Fact

The George Washington University, in partnership with DuPont, will host the 2008 Science Olympiad National Tournament on its Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses May 30-31. More than 5,000 middle and high school students, teachers, and parents from across the country will gather at GW to take part in the rigorous academic interscholastic competition.

Casey Trees and GW Work Toward a Greener City



Jessica McConnell

GW and Casey Trees celebrate a new partnership during the Nov. 1, 2007, tree planting event on GW's Mount Vernon Campus. Pictured from left to right are Executive Vice President and Treasurer Louis Katz, Executive Director of Casey Trees Mark Buscaino, President Steven Knapp, Diane Robinson Knapp, junior Kathryn Davis, junior Ivey Wohfeld, senior Erynne Jones, and junior Sophia Cahill.

More than 150 students, faculty, staff, and neighbors joined Casey Trees—an organization that restores, enhances, and protects the tree canopy of the nation's capital—to plant 28 trees on GW's Mount Vernon Campus on Nov. 1, 2007. The new trees at Mount Vernon will improve air quality and aesthetic value while reducing storm water runoff and energy usage in the campus community.

Casey Trees helps plant trees in Washington through a number of programs, including community tree-planting events, Citizen Forester training, and education sessions in D.C. area schools. The organization also conducts research on city planning and design and provides internships for students. Its Web site, www.caseytrees.org, enables visitors to calculate the benefits of a tree on their property, as measured by energy savings, air quality, storm water runoff retention, and property value.

"Casey Trees was honored to be asked by GW to help the University with its streetscape and campus plan," says **Lewis Rumford III**, president of Casey Trees' board of directors. "Both sides stand to benefit by working together. At Casey Trees, we are eager to engage with large D.C. institutions that can have a big impact on the District's tree canopy."

Casey Trees will work with GW to create and enhance green space as a part of the Foggy Bottom Campus Plan. The University's 20-year development commitments include a comprehensive streetscape plan, which calls for the planting of several new trees in Foggy Bottom. Casey Trees will assist with future plantings, as well as development of new urban tree box designs.

"Casey Trees looks forward to helping GW explore ways to enhance the environmental impact of its campuses in D.C., and we appreciate the opportunity to experiment with GW in developing practices that can benefit the rest of the city, as well as other urban campus environments," says Rumford.

ISCOPEs: D.C. Healthy Start

D.C. Healthy Start and GW's Interdisciplinary Student Community-Oriented Prevention Enhancement Service (ISCOPEs), a service-learning program comprising graduate health professional students working with a community organization, developed a partnership in fall 2006 to address health concerns in Southeast Washington. D.C. Healthy Start is a federally funded program that focuses on the needs of pregnant and postpartum women and parents with infants. The goal of these efforts is to reduce infant mortality in **Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8** in the District of Columbia.

Building on last year's partnership and responding to the needs expressed by D.C. Healthy Start, the 2007-08 ISCOPEs team has split into two smaller groups to address infant mental health and family health advocacy.

The group focusing on infant mental health plans to look at how the environment affects the mental health of the developing fetus in utero, and assess the impact of poverty on infant mental health. As part of this project, the team will attend community health education classes and a monthly infant mortality conference in preparation for their own infant mental health presentation to be delivered in the community. The goal of the project is to inform women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant in Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8 of behaviors or aspects of the environment that may affect the mental health of their baby.

The other ISCOPEs group is working with the Family Advocacy Consortium to develop curriculum and assessment tools for family health advocates. The consortium consists of residents from Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8 who serve as advocates and recruiters for the D.C. Healthy Start program. The curriculum will have components on advocacy, literacy, education, and employment training. To ensure its success, the advocates will be asked to provide feedback throughout the process. The advocates play an essential part in D.C. Healthy Start; several



GW student Craig Casella leads a focus group on depression for community members as part of the ISCOPEs-D.C. Healthy Start partnership.

have already spoken with members of Congress on behalf of the D.C. Healthy Start federally funded project.

Andreea Balan, a first-year medical student at GW, says, as part of ISCOPEs, "We each took some time to understand the community we are serving and also the enormous disparities and class separation that we are confronted with as future health care providers."

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