

MAIN LINE SCHOOLS

Haverford College creates community action

By DAVID ROBINSON

In the past, Haverford had seven academic dimensions. The Eighth dimension was added for life experience. As Mary Louise Allen, director of the Eighth Dimension programs, says, "The students needed an outside learning experience to balance the books and classroom environment. The programs are non-credit, but some of the practical situations are now built into a few of the syllabi. By graduation, two-thirds of the seniors have participated in some form of service."

The role of the Eighth Dimension program is to enable students to find an area of interest and assist them. The three levels of programs begin with student run projects, which are conceived, organized and managed by students with Eighth Dimension support.

Some projects are long-standing, yet new ideas and projects begin each year to meet current needs. Some of these projects include: AIDS Service Network covering safe sex education and volunteering to help individuals living with AIDS; Amigos, One-to-One Tutoring, Heston Tutoring, Project Learn, and Project Pierce, which are tutoring programs in the city, community and on campus for specific groups in need; and the Hunger Project and Street Outreach, which deal with hunger and homelessness.

For students who are looking to assist an outside agency, the Eighth Dimension office matches a student's interest, abilities and schedules with community, regional and international agencies. Just a few of these agencies include: Calcutta House, Philadelphia Fight, Afro-American Museum, Franklin Institute, Chinatown Learning Center, Pa. School for the Deaf, Eldernet, Lower Merion Conservancy, MANNA, Oxfam, Women of Hope, Victim and Witness Services, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, American Red Cross, Inglis House, Philadelphia Black Women's Health Project, and Women's Way.



Mary Louise Allen, director of the Eighth Dimension programs, in her Haverford College office.

Allen, who has been with the program since 1981, has helped it grow. "I have a community service fair once a year, and 40 or 50 agencies come to recruit the Haverford students. Some of the

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CRAWFORD
Haverford graduate

students sign up directly and don't go through our office at all."

The third project involves campus-wide workdays. On these days, students can sign up to assist and learn about the work of agencies as diverse as the United Way's Day of Caring or Books through Bars, which provides books and reading material for prison inmates across the coun-

try. There are also local days, where students join the community in local events, such as the Children's Fair and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mary Kathryn Crawford works in the Eighth Dimension office and graduated from Haverford this past spring. As an undergraduate, she went on a HOAP (Housing Outreach Action Project), which is the Spring Break Project in Statesville, N.C. She followed this by becoming a co-leader of a HIP work trip to Pipestown, W. Va., and has worked in the Eighth Dimension office for two years. "The surprising fact is how many of the students do a lot of their community service in such a quiet way," she says. "They participate in programs five to six hours a week, on top of the academic load, and they barely mention it."

How the experience with Mary Louise Allen and the Eighth Dimension affects students' lives after they leave Haverford is unknown. But if Crawford is an example of even a few of her fellow graduates, the experience is significant. Crawford will soon join City Year, for a full year of community service in Columbus, Ohio. City Year is a national service organization that combines community service with leadership development and civic engagement.

LM residents mentors for Philadelphia Futures



Keith Brinks of Haverford, at right, is a mentor in the Philadelphia Futures Sponsor-A-Scholar program. Brinks was recently at the graduation of his mentee, Andy Vu Cao, who graduated from Drexel University, where he studied information systems. Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church sponsored Vu Cao in the Futures SAS program.



Mimi Lurio of Merion, at right, is also a mentor in the Futures SAS program. She is shown with mentee Sharitia Patterson, who graduated from William Penn High School. Patterson is one of more than a dozen SAS students who will attend Gettysburg College on full scholarship. Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church also sponsored Patterson in the SAS program.

Notre Dame French Club



At the formation of the new French Club this past spring, from left, were Deidre Duffy, Kate Hall, Amanda Whittemore, Regina Lyons, Lindsay Gosnell, Allison Falco, Jen Mason and Maureen Malloy. Club moderators are the seated faculty members, from left, Melanie Gaspari, Natalie Smith and JoAnne Alexander.

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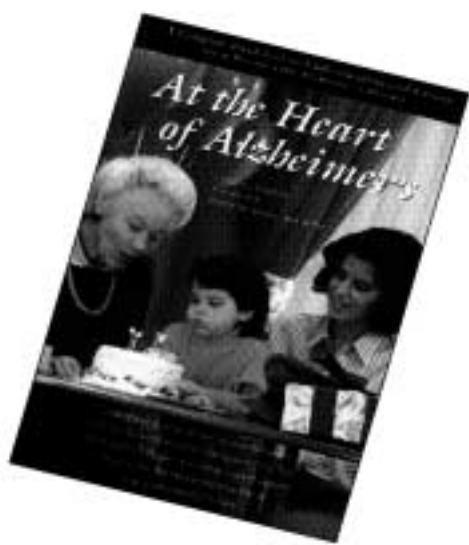
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