

FROM THE GROUND UP

a publication of STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

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"The internships' effects on me have been dramatic. My eyes have opened to conditions of poverty in my own state. I've developed a thirst for learning more about the lives of the people who immigrate to the U.S. and those of Mexican or other descent whose families have already been established here. That sent me to Mexico to see "the other side" of the journey . . . which opened a world to me I hadn't known was out there. So farmworkers have taught me a lot, but there are still many things I have to learn from them. I'm looking forward to working more with farmworkers in the future."
Vanessa Davis, Duke '94.

What happens to interns who have participated in SAF or other internship programs working with farmworkers? What impact can one summer have on their future careers and world views? To find out, turn to page 6!

JOB OPENING: OUTREACH WORKER

The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry in Newton Grove, NC is seeking a staffperson to coordinate various outreach activities, community service programs and advocacy. Fluency in Spanish is required, some experience working with farmworkers is preferred. For more information, contact Amy Trester at 910-567-6917 or send a cover letter and resume to EFM, PO Box 1514, Dunn, NC 28335.

ITF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS PREPARE FOR SUMMER INTERNS

Over twenty representatives from organizations interested in hosting 1994 SAF interns attended a training in Durham designed to familiarize them with SAF's Into the Fields: Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program. The agenda for the March 25 meeting focused on learning from the experiences of previous SAF students and sponsoring organization staff along with reviewing the summer timeline and SAF's expectations for the upcoming season's interns and sponsoring agencies. Highlights of the day included a thoughtful exchange of ideas on avoiding and handling workplace difficulties and the creation of a few interagency plans to share interns in the same geographic area. Into the Fields Project Coordinator Debbie Rosenstein commented that, "We met all of our objectives for the training. The interns' supervisors left more informed and prepared and the SAF staff left with a better understanding of the needs and concerns of the people who are the very foundation of our program."



SAF sponsors Jean Schaeffer, Susan Brock and Carolina Cardona share some ideas that work with their colleagues.

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The SAF Mission:

To bring students and farmworkers together to learn about each other's lives, share resources and skills, improve conditions for farmworkers, and build diverse coalitions working for social change.

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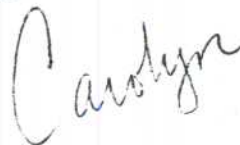
Editor: Felice Anaïs James

We're just three weeks away from SAF ITF Orientation Week '94, and as usual it's crazy in the SAF office—finalizing housing and organization placements, finding speakers and readings for orientation, and fielding a dozen calls a day from students who are finally realizing they are about to embark on a great adventure. "What's the weather like in North Carolina in July? Do I have to dress up for work? Do I need to bring a bed? Can someone pick me up at the airport at midnight on May 27th?" Their enthusiasm is infectious: Debbie and I are wishing that we too can forget all these organizing details and move to Newton Grove or Charleston for the summer. But we're excited about hopping into our cars and visiting everyone on-site.

The final tally is in: 52 interns will convene at the Franklinton Center in Enfield, NC on May 28th for a week of orientation, and on June 7th will begin their work at one of 30 SAF sponsoring organizations. Altogether, over 70 student applications were received in our office. We are very excited about the response this year and have many people to share credit with: all the funders who made it possible to provide participation grants to cover living expenses, post-service scholarships and housing for students who could not otherwise afford to participate; all the Program Directors and Campus Coordinators at the ITF schools who did a fantastic job publicizing the program; and all the CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) directors and other staff at six CAMP schools who made it possible for 15 students from farmworker families to be a part of SAF this summer. THANK YOU!

In our next issue we'll share with you more details about the '94 interns and their work this summer.

Gotta run, telephone's ringing . . .



For more information or to submit articles, contact us at: PO Box 90803, Durham, NC 27708. 919-660-3652.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

AN INSPIRATIONAL INTERNSHIP

Migrant farmworkers are very special Americans who keep the market shelves laden with the foods that adorn our dinner tables.

These words motivate Director Robert Lynch and the rest of the Geneseo Migrant Center Staff in assisting migrant farmworkers in Western New York State. The staff realizes what a difficult lifestyle migrant farmworkers must endure, yet appreciate the crucial contributions that they make to everyday American life. The center offers a variety of programs to provide services to migrant farmworkers both locally and nationally (See "Geneseo Migrant Center").

The Center's motivation and dedication to migrant farmworkers were inspirational. This facet of the Migrant Center was intriguing and as a student intern from the State University of New York at Geneseo I wished to find the source of this energy and dedication. Through my involvement with the center I found my answer: I realized that the source of this motivation was the farmworkers themselves with their dedication to family, to their work, and to improving their lives.

The Mexican migrant farmworkers with whom I worked were an extended family unit from
(See "Inspiring", page 5)

THE BOCES GENESEO MIGRANT CENTER:

WHERE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS MEET MANY NEEDS

The Boces Geneseo Migrant Center, currently celebrating twenty-five years of service to migrant farmworkers, is located on the Geneseo State University of New York campus. The Center provides a variety of services to migrant farmworkers residing in the immediate service area of the Center as well as coordinating programs benefiting migrant workers on a regional, statewide and national level.

I. IMMEDIATE SERVICE PROGRAMS

In-camp ABE/ESL/GED Instruction

Teams of teacher, literacy and community volunteers and aides provide in-camp adult basic education instruction two to three evenings per week throughout the migrant season in approximately 10 camps. Instruction stresses the improvement of reading levels or English as a Second Language through the use of survival skills or other relevant learning activities.

Migrant Dental/Health Program

The program provides medical and dental services to migrant farmworkers in Livingston, Steuben and Wyoming counties. A health team provides health screenings and care in the migrant camps. A dental component is operated in Perkinsville, New York.

Creative Artists Migrant Program Services (CAMPS)

CAMPS was developed to provide activities in different areas of the arts to a population not otherwise served, taking into account the varying ages, learning levels, interests, skills and ethnic backgrounds of the participants. Activities include music, arts and crafts, drawing and painting, photography, mime and juggling, poetry, and philosophy. Field trips to various arts activities and events take place throughout the season. Artists also work with the migrant farmworkers to elicit art that reflects folk art forms and tradition. The project attempts to preserve and display the traditional arts and practices of migrant farmworkers through various art exhibits.

Migrant Literature Project

Poets and fiction writers present readings of their own work and/or the work of other writers in the genre or ethnic group. They may also

(See "Migrant Center", page 4)

Boces Geneseo Migrant Center

(continued from page 3)

conduct writing workshops. Work by migrant writers is typed and duplicated for the workers.

II.REGIONAL,STATEWIDE AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Movin' On Up: Enabling Farmworkers to Achieve Self Sufficiency

Through an outreach and advocacy approach the project addresses pressing needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers for direct services in job skills and training, health and social services referral and assistance and crisis nutritional relief in a six-county area of western New York.

National Program for Secondary Credit Exchange and Accrual (NPSCEA)

The center serves as the Eastern Satellite Site for NPSCEA, which seeks to increase the graduation rate of secondary migrant students by developing a national model for secondary credit exchange and accrual.

Migrant Farmworker Students: Decisions Involved in Post-Secondary Participation and Success

Due to frequent school interruptions, low economic status, overage grade placement, language and cultural barriers, the number of migrant students successfully completing high school and entering post-secondary programs is minimal and even lower than for other minority students. This research project investigates factors influencing migrant youth's participation and success in post-secondary education through a three-phase approach involving survey, analysis and dissemination.

Women Options and Work(WOW)

WOW provides migrant girls and women ages 14-22 in western New York with a variety of activities to explore career options, sex equity issues and the conflict of pursuing an education while meeting traditional family expectations. Activities include a career retreat, mentoring opportunities, mother-daughter discussions and a newsletter.

Geneseo Migrant Center National Clearinghouse

The center has assembled a unique and comprehensive collection of materials on migrant farmworker issues including the many materials that the Center has developed particularly for migrant farmworkers and the reports that the Center staff have prepared on migrant farmworker issues. Staff fill numerous requests for information from this collection. The Center operates a toll-free hotline and publishes a bilingual newsletter, *Real Talk*, designed to provide migrant dropout youth with information on careers and jobs, program opportunities, financial aid, health, role models, and other related topics.

In addition the Center administers the following special funds supported solely by private donations:

Gloria and Joseph Mattera National Fund for Migrant Children

The Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to migrant youth across the country to continue their secondary or post-secondary education.

Emily Mattera Memorial Fund for Migrant Farmworkers

The Fund, at the discretion of the Center Director, provides emergency assistance to migrant workers.

For more information about the Boces Geneseo Migrant Center and its programs contact Pat Edwards at 1-800-245-5681.

