Dear Friend of Civic House,

It has been a whirlwind of a year at Civic House! From another successful National Public Health Week to the expansion of the Civic House Philadelphia Non-profit Internship Program, our students have been extremely active forming connections in the community and on our own campus.

We have just celebrated our seniors commencement. They are going on to do great things and we wish them the best of luck with all future endeavors!

Civic House Public Interest Internship Programs

Civic House is excited by the continued growth of its Public Interest Internship Funds and Internship Programs. Over 110 students applied for the 22 positions we had available this summer. These include 10 awards from the Public Interest Internship Funds, 11 internships through the Civic House Philadelphia Nonprofit Internship Program (CHPNIP), and one internship through the MARAB-Civic House DC Internship Program. We are thankful for the generosity of the Office of the President, The Corporation for National and Community Service, alumni, parents, and other friends which allowed us to continue the two new programs we started last summer (CHPNIP & MARAB) and to expand our CHPNIP partnerships to include additional placements at the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, LIFT Philadelphia, Maternity Care Coalition, the Partnership CDC, and The SCRUB Foundation.

In the Civic House public interest career blog- a brand new venture this summer- Estee Katcoff, a CHPNIP intern at The Caring People Alliance, writes: "My friends had also had their fair share of nonprofit experience, but had never actually had a say in the decision-making process...I realized how fabulous it is that my opinions are respected in my organization. My superiors often ask me for advice on substantial matters and listen to my own ideas." To follow the blog and check out the latest entries, please visit "A Summer of Civic Engagement".

The New Generation of Activists

On Thursday, April 25th Civic House alumni returned to campus to talk with current students about their participation in the February 2000 Anti-Sweatshop sit-in, and their engagement since leaving Penn. The alumni's efforts at that time led to a number of important changes in the University's practices, including our joining both the Worker Rights Consortium and the Fair Labor Association and the establishment of the Committee on Manufacturer Responsibility, whose work continues today.

Penn alumni Melissa Byrne, Matt and Annie Wadsworth-Grove, and Miriam Joffe-Block returned to Civic House and met with current students who represented groups on campus including MEChA, the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP) and Penn Haven, among others. The alumni and current students exchanged ideas on how to encourage more student engagement on campus, shared stories of their respective efforts here, and discussed how to maintain one's commitments to social justice after graduation.

Civic House is always eager to help civically engaged alumni connect with current students on- and off-campus. If you interested, please contact us at civic@dolphin.upenn.edu.
Civic House has initiated a new model for training its students and providing them with opportunities to share best practices through the newly created Civic Engagement Leadership Training Series (CELTS). A collaboration of Civic House, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships and the Fox Leadership Program, CELTS brings together student leaders involved in civic engagement for a series of weekly trainings focused on community involvement and leadership development. In this pilot year, CELTS successfully trained 30 student leaders involved in civic engagement on campus through a series of five weekly workshops run in both the fall and spring semesters.

Katie McCabe (C’12) summed up students’ sentiments about the series, writing: “Participating in the Civic Engagement training series was a really great way for me to interact and get to know other students engaged in community service in other hubs on Penn’s campus.”

CELTS has also established a foundation for additional collaborative efforts between these three centers of community engagement. The centers also worked together this year to host a civic engagement open house for prospective students during Penn Previews Days and are currently planning a combined event during New Student Orientation. As this collaboration continues to grow and solidify, staff are also seeking other opportunities to work together to combine efforts and expand the culture of civic engagement on Penn’s campus.

**Civic House Seniors: Oh The Places They’ll Go!**

Brianne Blakey (W’10) will be working for the Boston Consulting Group in Chicago.

Julia Luscombe (C’10, W’10) will be researching local currencies in Ecuador on a Fulbright.

Ian Slack (C’10) is doing the MATCH Corps, a one-year Urban Education fellowship, in Boston.