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WINTER '10 Newsletter

CCY 2010

by: Tyler J. McCall
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HAPPY NEW YEAR! Can you believe that 2009 has come and gone? I feel like the year flew by! Well, while I am sad to see 2009 go, I am even more excited to see what 2010 has in store for the Coalition of Campus YMCAs and for each and every one of you! In the coming weeks I ask you be on the lookout for the registration packet we have put together for CCY 2010. The packet contains a lot of valuable information that will help you gain a better understanding of what CCY 2010 is all about and what you need to do to secure your spot for this year's amazing conference.

I have exciting news to announce about this year's conference and that is that we will, once again, have scholarships available to help offset your cost of attending the conference, AND, for something new this year, we will be offering fee subsidies to individuals who submit a workshop proposal and have their workshop chosen to present at the conference. These subsidies will also help offset your conference fee. Be sure to check out the registration packet for more information on these two

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opportunities we are giving you to make CCY 2010 more affordable!

At the beginning of this New Year, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the hard work you are doing in your communities and on your campuses and for your dedication to service and leadership. It is truly inspiring to be a part of this influential and dynamic national

organization and I look

forward to all 2010 has to offer us as a coalition. Best of luck to

Tyler

CCY 2010 Day of Service in Ivanhoe

by: Sandy Wirt
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Ivanhoe, Virginia is a rural Appalachian town of about 1235 people that has long been living with poverty and isolation. The local zinc mine employed many residents there until the 1980's when it closed down and residents had to begin traveling outside of the community for employment. Since then, those who have been able to find work must drive up to an hour for employment in Dublin or Radford. Maxine Waller, a long time resident of Ivanhoe, decided she could not just sit by and watch her beloved community struggle and wither away. In 1987, Maxine organized the first college group of Ivanhoe volunteers for an alternative service break trip. The week long immersion program had volunteers assisting with various home repair and community needs and was such a success with the students and community that Maxine has continued her work and her commitment to the community through her organization called Volunteers for Community.

Throughout the years, the YMCA at Virginia Tech has sent students to Ivanhoe for service breaks and is currently re-establishing its connection to the community. This year, we are thrilled



Our generous hosts for our 2010 CCY Day of Service! Clockwise: Danny, Maxine, Phyllis and Kim.

to share the community of Ivanhoe with CCY participants. We will carry out a morning of service, working directly to meet the needs of local residents with a variety of hands on projects. Our afternoon will be filled with an assortment of activities that will include community participants, local food, history and culture. Prior to arriving to CCY, each of you will be receive pre-reading materials and information so you can become more familiar with Ivanhoe and Appalachian culture in general before we immerse, inspire and innovate together for the week. Get ready to put on your dancin' shoes and have some fun!

social innovation spotlight

Expansion and Innovation @ Virginia Tech

by: Sarit Cliffer
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The YMCA at Virginia Tech is expanding its horizons! Within the past year, the YMCA has undergone incredible expansion both physically, and innovatively. Here are a few things that we have been working on.

Starting January 1st 2010, the YMCA at Virginia Tech began operating the Waldron Family YMCA located in Shawsville, Virginia into its programs. Shawsville, which is about a 25 minute drive from the Blacksburg community, provides space for working out, as well as a Child Watch Center, gathering space and more for families in the New River Valley. Not only does the addition of a facility broaden our programming opportunities, but it also helps to more fully serve the community near Virginia Tech! This opens new doors for the YMCA at VT, and we are all excited to see what it has to offer.

Last spring was the first time the YMCA at Virginia Tech expanded the Ytoss? recycling program to Radford University and the addition was met with success. Volunteers helped out with collection and drop off at Radford's campus, and the opportunity to host Ytoss? at two campuses resulted in dramatic collection results and items being kept out of the local landfills. Our newly developing Community Gardens are providing a hands-on and real life approach to showing the different types of sustainable agriculture that can work in our community's environment. With the opening of the Y's solar greenhouse in the fall and raised bed construction soon to begin, the Y's gardens are literally "growing." Additionally, the YMCA at Virginia Tech is also partnering with Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences this spring for a new Field Study Class on "Raised Bed Organic Production"!

With the closing of one of our Y's After School Programs, – a new door opened as the program leaders launched a pilot program this past fall called StaY Fit. This program visits each of our existing After School Programs in an effort to instill the importance of a healthy diet and regular exercise in the minds of the participants. Program Leaders facilitate mini-lessons on health, and fun activities to show that being healthy can also be fun!

With each of these innovative expansions, the YMCA at Virginia Tech continues to grow in mind, body, and spirit. We can't wait to share it with you when you arrive in May!

Want YOUR Campus Y feature in the Spring Newsletter?

Contact Secretary

Kristen Yeager (secretary@ccyusa.org) for details!

Springfield College's YMCA Reaches out to Rising Stars

by: Erin Friedmen
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The 5th Annual Leadership Summit is a three-day experiential, skill building-based training for students that will be held at the YMCA Silver Bay of the Adirondacks (NY), March 26-28, 2010. Sponsored by the YMCA Club, a team of 10-12 student leaders are selected to design, develop, and delivery the leadership training to a group of 50 students, in their first and second years at Springfield College. The Leadership Summit participants are nominated and selected from across campus, with the goal that these 'rising stars' will return to campus and begin making positive leadership contributions to their student organizations, residence halls, athletic teams, and academic communities.

Leadership development is core focus for the YMCA Club. For participants and student leaders alike, involvement with in the Leadership Summit training, offers a significant opportunity to move forward on their personal leadership development journey.

social innovation in singapore

Durian? What the *&\$% is that?!?!

by: Tyler J. McCall
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Last July I found myself on the greatest adventure of my life thus far. I was in Chicago, interning at YMCA of the USA, and getting ready to depart for a life changing experience. It was Sunday morning; I was up at 4:30 am, so excited I couldn't even sleep. By noon I was in a taxi with YMCA of the USA's Campus YMCA Specialist, Deb Salls, on our way to O'Hare to fly to Minneapolis. By 6 pm that evening we were on a plane to Tokyo.

26 hours (yes, 26), three different airports, three different airplanes, two layovers, goodness knows how may time zones, and a trip across the International Date Line, we found ourselves in a car riding to the YMCA of Singapore for a weeklong young adult conference focused on social enterprise and entrepreneurship.

I had never left the U.S., I had actually never been in a plane until my freshman year of college when I went to CCY for the first time. Those of you who know me know that the YMCA has actually provided many of the amazing opportunities I have had for travel, education, and growth. This trip was no exception. Deb and I would spend the next week meeting students in University YMCAs from all across Asia representing Japan, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Malaysia, Korea, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia, and the host country, Singapore.

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The conference focus, as mentioned earlier, was social enterprise. We heard speakers who were experts on the topic from across Singapore. A wide range of professionals, professors, social entrepreneurs, and motivational speakers shared with us during the week. We also had a amazing opportunity to work in small groups of ten to research, develop, and present our own design for a social enterprise. Another part of the conference was focusing on experiencing the Singaporean culture and the cultures of those individuals at the conference. We were able to participate in a "Tour of Singapore" challenge, which my group won, where we went all over the city touring different sights, taking photos, and eating local foods. We also had a fashion/talent show where each country presented a skit or traditional dance or song in a traditional cultural outfit.

The conference proved incredible enlightening and helped me gain a better understanding of how YMCAs are different around the world, yet we still have a same mission and idea about what we wish to accomplish. We want to help others and make the world a better place.

Oh yeah, by the way, in reference to the title, durian is a fruit found in South East Asia. I ate it while I was in Singapore...it is pretty gross. Google it to learn more.



CCY 2010...UPDATE

Registration Packets are HERE!!

CCY 2010 Registration Packets have reached every Campus YMCA!

Make sure you get all the required forms in as early as possible if you wish to receive financial aid or apply for a workshop presenter subsidy!

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS ARE

DUE to VT by MARCH 12

Check www.ccyusa.org for Registration Info.