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Upcoming Events:
- September 17, 2013, 8:30 AM-10 AM: “Coffee, Conversation, & Connecting” Series, Information Technology for Nonprofits
  Professor Evan Katsamakas, PhD
- October 4, 2013, 8:00 AM—9:15 AM: “Coffee, Conversation, & Connecting” Series, The Nonprofit World from the Business Perspective
  Dean of GBA, David Gautschi

Dean Vaughan’s Talk on Future of Nonprofits

On Wednesday May 1, 2013, The Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders presented outgoing Dean Peter Vaughan as part of the “Coffee, Conversation and Connecting” Series. More details about the event in the “In The News” Section.

“Life is a Process not an Event”

By: Joe Montano, LMSW
Spring 2010 NPL Graduate, Director, University Community Social Services, Inc.

“Life is a process not an event.” Those words, from a Fordham faculty member years ago, have resonated in my mind since graduation from GSSS.

As a social worker, I have come to observe the element of time and process in all of my work. It is clear to me that time is intrinsic to the interventions that we do as we set out to be agents of change for others. Yet, time does not stand alone as the sole arbiter of our work as the social work process depends on where we are, the circumstances in which we find ourselves, the people we encounter and the opportunities marked not by time but by place.

The place in which I currently find myself is at University Community Social Services, meatloafkitchen.org, a 31 year old, all-volunteer emergency food and social service program located on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. Nicknamed “The Meatloaf Kitchen” by our guests, it is where we serve 400 people every Saturday a home-style meatloaf dinner and where social services are offered by licensed professionals who volunteer their time.

Being truly present to our guests means journeying with them through their own history as they encounter the challenges of the place in which they find themselves at that moment. Their place may be a spiritual, psychological or physical challenge in addition to their lack of food, clothing or shelter.

While being present to our guests is foremost, the organization could not survive without the financial support of New York City. The support of the Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders made it possible for us to continue to serve our guests.

I have found The Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders a great forum for honing the skills I need to effectively continue the mission of our co-founders…”

Story continued on P.2
In The News: Dean Vaughan’s Talk

The Following article, was posted on the Fordham University Blog: Fordham notes.blogspot.com

By: Patrick Verel, Fordham Notes

Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders is a joint venture between the Graduate School of Business Administration (GBA) and the Graduate School of Social Service (GSS), honored GSS Dean Peter Vaughan for his vision and leadership at a conference on Wednesday, May 1.

The gathering, which was held at the Lincoln Center campus, attracted over 100 attendees.

In the speech, Vaughan, who is retiring at the end of the year, explored the eight skills of nonprofit leaders coined by Dennis Young, Ph.D., They are:
- Developing a Sense of Mission;
- Problem Solving;
- Applying Creativity and Ingenuity;
- Identifying Opportunities and Good Timing;
- Analyzing Risks;
- Consensus and Team Building;
- Mobilization of Resources, Persistence

Since 2010, over 400 students from the fields of business, social work, law, education, and public administration have graduated from the center’s intensive certificate program. Allan Luks is the Director of the Center, and the Graduate Schools are represented by Elaine Congress, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Social Service, and Francis Petit, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Business Administration.

The Center’s certificate program is offered three times a year — two times at the Lincoln Center campus and once a year at the Westchester campus.

A new initiative is a one-year, 30-credit Masters Degree in Nonprofit Leadership. Courses will be taught in the evening by both GBA and GSSS professors.

The program is projected to start in the Fall of 2014. To stay up-to-date with the latest information, please check our website: www.fordham.edu/nonprofits.

“Life is a Process…” (Continued)

...vive without direction and a mission. Leadership provides that direction and mission and is incumbent on the ability to manage time and manage place so as to lead our volunteers with a sense of vision and purpose.

I have found The Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders a great forum for honing the skills I need to effectively continue the mission of our co-founders in providing meals and social services to many of our neediest fellow New Yorkers. Invaluable lessons on organizational management, organizational budgeting, program development, fundraising, proposal writing and staff management have all been scholarly, thought provoking and eye opening. The opportunities to interface with colleagues in the field of social work, as well as to experience the participation by those in the field of business administration within the same classroom, creates a unique learning environment resulting in an amalgam of sharpened social service skills and heightened business acumen.

The Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders is instrumental in forming me in the Jesuit tradition of Magis [to do more] to become a better leader for my organization while empowering me to build greater transparency, capacity and sustainability. But most of all it imbued in me a sense of wholeness, a sense of time and place as I guide University Community Social Services through the early 21st century in service to our guests and in the spirit of Cura Personalis [care for the entire person].
Interview with Program Graduate: Margarette Tropnas

Q: What have you done after completing our program?
A: My colleague and I, Kara Lightburn, met at the Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders and started Social Tap, Inc. Kara is the Founder and Executive Director and I am the Board President. Social Tap, Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated in New York State in 2012. Social Tap, Inc. provides programs and services through grassroots partnerships to address the identified needs of at-risk, vulnerable, and exploited populations; including those displaced either by natural and/or man-made disasters in developing countries around the world.

The agency seeks to provide a comprehensive Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, utilizing social capital to fill the gaps and provide support, through networks encouraging transparency, effective communication, evaluation, and collaboration, to create and reinforce sustainable communities.

Social Tap’s first initiative is The Haiti Initiative (THI), located in Jacmel which was established in the wake of the January 12, 2010 Earthquake. In fulfillment of Social Tap, Inc.’s mission, THI has established seven (7) Core Areas of Focus: Agriculture & the Environment; Community Capacity Building, Development & Mapping; Health & Hygiene; Human Rights; an IDP Camp in Jacmel, Haiti; School Development; Youth development & Education; which have emerged from the ground since 2010 and have expanded. We have hosted a great deal of volunteers from various schools including Fordham Social Service students came with their Professor, Marciana Popescu.

Q: Which topic/class did you find most impactful to your work?
A: I have benefited from most aspects of the core curriculum especially of the organizational management, budgeting, proposal writing, fund-raising, board development, public relations and marketing; as well as enhancing my personal communications skill.

Q: Did you have a mentor?
A: Yes, my mentor, Prof. Phil Coltoff, is the epitome of what a mentor should be. He was a great source of support on many levels whether involving giving advice, referrals to various resources and providing necessary recommendations as needed. An added value of The Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders is the mentoring component and the joint collaborative efforts with the Graduate Schools of Social Service and Business Administration. This combination is priceless with the ongoing professional and personal support that the Center offers.

Q: Is there any advice you would like to share with fellow Nonprofit Leaders?
A: It is very important to tap into each other’s resources and to work collaboratively to strengthen skills; which will enhance the work we do.

Presentation at the “Network for Social Work Management” Conference

At the “Network for Social Work Management” conference, the Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders gave a workshop presentation on “Mentoring of Emerging Nonprofit Leaders.” This presentation was given by our program evaluator, Dr. Keneca Boyce.

The presentation tackled the question, “How can senior leaders be used to mentor emerging leaders?” Using information gathered from our surveys, we uncovered the findings on the unique needs and benefits of mentoring for emerging leaders.

The findings from the study concluded that most of our graduates found their mentors to be helpful in several core areas, including organizational management and fundraising. Mentoring, overall, was found to be beneficial.

As we collect more surveys from our students we will gather richer data; which will hopefully enrich our programs.

Study Results: Mentor Most Helpful With:
- Organizational Management: 25%
- Fundraising: 25%
- Governance: 13%
- Board Development: 13%
- Program Development: 12%
- Proposal Writing: 12%
Keisha Allsop, spring 2012 graduate, started our certificate program wanting to share her story of the struggles of a parent with an autistic child. She wanted to start a nonprofit to educate her neighborhood, especially parents like herself, about autism awareness, early detection and advocacy. She achieved her goal!

Since completing our training, she started her own organization: United Communities Autism Network (U-CAN). Her agency is now incorporated and is waiting for its 501(c3) status. She is also a director at United Cerebral Palsy of New York and has joined the advisory board of Queens County Parents Autism Coalition.

Keisha credits our program for her success. She says, “the skills I have learned in the training allowed me to form an organization and better market my skills and abilities.” Keisha is also in the second quarter of her doctoral program in Public Health and Leadership Advocacy. You can visit her website: http://www.unitedcan.org/ or follow the organization on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/UnitedCommunitiesAutismNetwork.

The “Coffee, Conversation & Connecting” series was created to bring together nonprofit staff from all agencies for customized presentation and discussions on issues of concern. The kickoff was on March 6, 2013, with Guest Speaker, Professor Harry Barrett, PhD, MPH. Professor Barrett, former President and CEO of New York Medical College, spoke on how to begin a health nonprofit and different challenges that may be faced.

He explained that starting a health nonprofit is similar to starting a business:

Goals and promises made to funders must be met. You need to know how much money you will need to get off the ground; do you have enough funds? Who are the people interested in this cause? Could they help fund you? Is someone doing something similar? Can you collaborate with them?

He said to take good notice of the people working with you and make sure they have good judgment (know your limitations) and know the issues. Together with these people, sit down and create a tier of your priorities. If you have a lot of programs in mind, focus on the two or three most important programs.

Keep in mind that even a little success gets your name out; don’t get discouraged.

“roadblocks will always happen, keep looking and eventually you will land somewhere; there is no magic door.” He pointed out that one good place to start looking at is foundations; even if they can’t help you, they can help point you to people who can.

Please look forward to more “Coffee, Conversation & Connecting” events starting in September 2013.