



Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative

The Collaborative Link

Winter, 2008

The mission of the Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative (MSAHC) is to prepare college students for the nonprofit workforce. The MSAHC is made up of local nonprofit and academic partners committed to this mission.

MSAHC Nonprofit Partners

Boys and Girls Clubs of Memphis
Chickasaw Council, Boy Scouts of America
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
Exchange Club Family Center
Junior Achievement
Leadership Memphis
Memphis Child Advocacy Center
Memphis and Shelby County CASA
Memphis Zoo
Porter-Leath
Shelby Residential Vocational Services
United Housing
United Way of the Mid-South
Volunteer Memphis
Youth Villages
YMCA
YWCA

MSAHC Academic Partners

LeMoyne-Owen College
University of Memphis, Division of Public & Nonprofit Administration

Inside this edition . . .

- AHMI Highlights
- Spring Awards Save the Date
- New partner spotlight

The MSAHC publishes *The Collaborative Link* three times a year to keep partners and students informed of the work of the Collaborative. Send your ideas and information to be included in future editions to: ahumanics@memphis.edu.

Fall Workshop a Huge Success

Skirting Scandal: The Responsibilities of Nonprofit Leaders and Professionals



Our Annual Fall Workshop, held November 14th, 2008 at Jason's Deli, brought together American Humanics students and alumni with our community partner executive leaders.

Keith Johnson from the YMCA began the morning with an overview of the Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative, as well as American Humanics in general.

Mike Warr from Porter-Leath gave the first speech of the morning, discussing ethical policies within a nonprofit organization.

Five MSAHC executives led small group vignette discussions regarding potential ethical dilemmas for students and leaders to work together. Several students also won door prizes for attending the event.



To end the morning, Ann Langston from the Church Health Center spoke and gave the group her guidelines for ethical procedures to utilize as nonprofit professionals.



Over fifty people attended this professional development opportunity.

Partner Spotlight:

Welcome to MSAHC's Newest Members!

United Housing

United Way was founded in 1994 as an affiliate of United Way of the Mid-South, and was funded through Hope III awards from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. They became formally incorporated in 2000, joining the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation's NeighborWorks Network.

United Housing works throughout Shelby County to provide homebuyer education counseling, affordable housing, and low interest rate loan products to low-income residents and first time homebuyers. Since the organization began, they have assisted over 5000 first time homebuyers, helped with the sales of over 1300 homes, and lent over \$6 million in down payment and rehabilitation assistance.

- Housing Development
- Lending Services
- Homeownership Training
- Bilingual Services

To learn more about volunteer and other opportunities available through United Housing, visit their web site at www.uhinc.org.

Memphis and Shelby County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates was started in Memphis in 1986 by Kenneth A. Taylor, Judge of Juvenile Court for Memphis and Shelby County. CASA uses community volunteers to speak for abused and neglected children in court. Using over 200 volunteers yearly, CASA aids hundreds of children throughout Memphis and Shelby County.

CASA's mission is to be the leader in child advocacy through dedicated, trained volunteers and staff who, by providing an unbiased voice in court, assure safe permanent homes for abused, abandoned and neglected children. There are currently over 900 CASA programs throughout the United States.

CASA volunteers have small caseloads that allow them to truly focus on the child as an individual. They research the child's history, records, family life, and school to provide crucial background information in the courtroom. CASA staff strives to assign a volunteer to each individual child. These volunteers are ordinary citizens, most of whom are employed with regular fulltime jobs. They go through training sessions lasting about 30 hours, and spend about 15-20 hours per month in their volunteer work.

To learn more about volunteer and other opportunities available through CASA, visit their web site at www.memphiscasa.org

Thank you for your support of the Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative!

The Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative is currently expanding its membership. Nina Blockman, MSAHC Director, is building a prospective member list. If you have contacts with the executive leadership of a local nonprofit organization that may be interested in joining our network, please email her at ahmemphis@bellsouth.net.

American Humanics Competency Highlight

The national American Humanics program is centered on developing eleven competencies essential for all successful nonprofit leaders. AH programs use academic and co-curricular components to develop the framework for teaching the competencies. At certification, all AH graduates will have the skills and knowledge to meet these competencies.

Competency: Community Outreach/Development and Public Relations

- Explain the role of community outreach and community development activities in building public awareness of the mission and messages of nonprofit organizations
- Demonstrate an understanding of public relations and marketing functions in a nonprofit organization
- Describe the process for creating and implementing an effective marketing plan

American Humanics Management Institute

January 4-7, 2009 - Indianapolis, Indiana

The AHMI conference is a capstone experience for students to learn and practice competencies, as well as better understand the nonprofit sector. Students receive training in fundraising, teambuilding, and networking. For nonprofit professionals, the conference provides continuing studies in the field, workshops, and networking opportunities.

This year's AHMI conference theme is 'The Power of Stories: Passion from the inside-out'. The focus will be on stories of nonprofit leaders, why they entered the nonprofit sector, and how their stories can impassion future nonprofit professionals.

Eleven students and two faculty members are scheduled to attend AHMI from Memphis campus programs.

Leaders in the Memphis Community: NextGen Leaders Program



The Next Generation (NextGen) Nonprofit Leaders Program provides a competitive internship stipend to all eligible American Humanics students, particularly a racially and ethnically diverse group of students. The internship stipend of \$4,500 is designed to assist students and organizations in making meaningful internship experiences.

Recently, three American Humanics students from University of Memphis were named as NextGen Leaders. April Messing, a senior in Social Work, Katie Foster, a graduate student in Nonprofit Administration, and Tristan Wilkerson, a senior in Communications, were awarded these scholarships. They must complete an internship at a 501(c)(3) organization in Spring or Summer of 2009.

For more information on the NextGen Leaders program, visit the national American Humanics Alliance web site (www.humanics.org) or contact Ben Nemenoff with the national AH office at bnemenoff@humanics.org.

Annual Spring Awards Date Set

Don't forget! The MSAHC Annual Spring Awards will be held Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Wilson Holiday Inn on the University of Memphis Campus. During the ceremony, graduating seniors, certifying members, and Next Gen leaders will be recognized. All American Humanics students, alumni, and Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative members are invited to attend.

Keep Saving your Junk!

American Humanics students at University of Memphis will be hosting their Spring garage sale at the end of next semester. Please continue to keep them in mind when getting rid of your old clutter. All of the proceeds from this fundraiser go to aid students in attending AHMI the upcoming year.