

# THE HIGH ROAD RECORD



**The High Road Runs Through the City**  
Cornell University ILR Summer Fellowships  
Buffalo, NY ♦ 2011



Cornell University  
ILR School





**Derya Akbaba '13**

- Arranged the first meeting for the Refugee Gardens Partnership, a hopeful collaboration of seven Buffalo grassroots organizations and the Cornell High Road Fellowship.
- Linked the local enthusiasm for a refugee gardens program to the national Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP).
- Lived in the Net Zero House built by PUSH Buffalo and awarded winner of the International Sustainable Urban Housing Competition by HUD and American Planning Association.
- Recorded the history of the foundation of Urban Roots by interviewing one of the founding members.
- Became an active West Side Buffalo community member: teaching neighborhood children, exploring Buffalo, and attending local summer events.
- Assisted with daily operation of Urban Roots gardening and customer service, gaining experience and knowledge of working within a different business model, a cooperative.

Derya is interested in international and domestic grassroots community development. Fluent in Turkish, she also enjoys photography. She is from Westford, MA.



*With Derya, in came bright fresh air. She is super, and the High Road fellows have just adopted this community.*

*...Patti Jablonski, Urban Roots*



*I am loving Buffalo. I think I liked it the second I got off the plane on Sunday morning. It's flat (totally bikable), there's always a lovely breeze, aaaaaannnddd the food is AMAZING. Oh, and there is Canada too. . . One thing that Buffalo has confirmed is my belief in the good hard work of people who care for other people.  
... from Derya's Journal*



## Urban Roots Community Garden Center

428 Rhode Island Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.362.8982

[www.urbanroots.org](http://www.urbanroots.org)

Urban Roots is a cooperatively owned retail garden center on Buffalo's West Side, owned by more than 550 members of the community. In addition to providing a convenient and welcoming location for Buffalo residents to shop for garden materials and supplies, they rejuvenate and improve their neighborhood as well as the quality of life throughout Buffalo with workshops, outreach, and partnerships.



*This fellowship has been life changing. It has changed my perspective on many aspects of life and I hope I can find work like it in the future. . . Week in Reviews were awesome to hear what all of the other Fellows were doing and to see how all of our work was linked under a common goal.*

*. . . from Jeff's program evaluation*



*I give Jeff two thumbs up! A bright, self-starting, and personable student, he accomplished a great deal in his summer here, including a superb fact sheet on triple-bottom-line businesses in Buffalo, which we presented at a public forum. In two months, Jeff really contributed to PPG and to the community.*

*. . . Sam Magavern, PPG*



## Partnership for the Public Good

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.852.4191  
[www.ppgbuffalo.org](http://www.ppgbuffalo.org)

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**Jeffrey Baker '14**

- Created a fact sheet on triple bottom line businesses in the city of Buffalo. Analyzed five local businesses as case studies. Provided a summary of the benefit corporation legislation that passed in NYS and the advantages that it can provide to people, planet, and profit.
- Formulated a Donor Data Base for the Partnership for the Public Good's Annual Fundraiser that raised \$5,000 dollars in profit.
- Expanded, revised, and updated the PPG website. Created a "News and Events" page that lets viewers see PPG's upcoming forums, radio shows, and events. Incorporated PPG's twitter and Facebook into the website to increase awareness among younger audiences.
- Created a Partnership for the Public Good Twitter account as part of a Social Media Initiative.
- Took pictures of 14 local businesses receiving subsidies from Industrial Development Agencies and incorporated them into a PowerPoint that was used at PPG's "Subsidy Reform" forum.
- Attended multiple local government hearings.

Jeff is interested in business development and public policy. He is active in his community and enjoys sports and working with children. Jeff is from Orchard Park, NY.



**Daniel Cooper '13**

- Met important decision makers and learned about what it's like to be in their shoes with many people depending on you to make the right decisions.
- Published 8 articles ranging from benefit corporations to promoting local events.
- Obtained consent forms from prominent local business owners to be included in a book written by Buffalo First!'s founder, Amy Kedron. To get their signatures, met and talked with business leaders about their businesses, learning more about Buffalo.
- Reached out to the community regarding pending benefit corporation legislation in NYS, which then passed both houses of the Legislature June 17, 2011.
- Attended county legislature meetings and a panel discussion about local businesses and benefit corporations.
- Developed 10 pages of detailed marketing plans to grow Buffalo First!, including strategies to best utilize social media, team with the Buffalo Sabres, create new, more effective posters, and a proposed campus rep program with colleges in Buffalo..
- Implemented my marketing plan, starting with social media and a comprehensive calendar for Buffalo First! and its member businesses.

Dan is interested in entrepreneurship and leadership. A youth lacrosse coach, he is active in a variety of community services. Dan is from Amherst, NY.

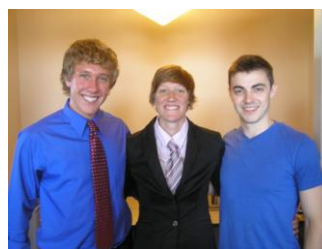
*I learned about the part that grassroots organizations like Buffalo First! play in public policy. Our big push to get benefit corporations passed and our success in doing so really showed me that while small organizations have an uphill battle when trying to make a difference, they can indeed win those battles. This gave me a better understanding of politics and civic participation because I was really able to see individuals make a difference – being one, myself.*

... from Dan's program evaluation



*Dan really belonged at Buffalo First. We were able to understand his career goals and tailor a project to match those goals. He was effective, diligent, and his work quality was superb.*

... Sarah Bishop, Buffalo First!



### **Buffalo First!**

910 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.725.6100

[www.buffalofirst.org/](http://www.buffalofirst.org/)

Buffalo First! is a growing non-profit organization focused on building a fair, green and local economy in the Buffalo-Niagara region. They encourage shopping locally, help independent businesses access local goods and services, and give local businesses a united voice for better policies for local businesses. The goal is to root more dollars in the local economy, preserve community, and create a healthier environment.



*One of the things that you immediately see is the community that people feel, and how many people are trying to make things better, and to work with the community to do the things that they want and need. It seems like it's really hard work, but at the same time there is so much hope, and belief that what they are doing will work and that things will improve.*

*... from Susanne's journal*



*Susanne has really impressed us with her knowledge, independence, responsibility, and positive commitment.*

*... Cheryl Bird, Daemen CSCCE*



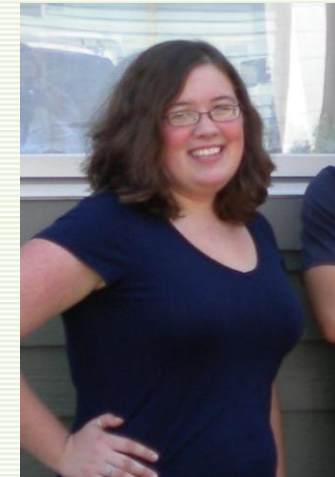
## Daemen College

### Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement

4380 Main Street  
Amherst, NY 14226  
716.839.8489

<http://www.daemen.edu/academics/centersinitiatives/CSCCE/Pages/default.aspx>

The CSCCE at Daemen College provides education and resources to the Daemen community and the community-at-large, about issues of sustainability. The Center partners students and faculty with local underserved communities to promote a lifetime commitment to civic responsibility, with a focus on building assets for generations to come.



**Susanne Donovan '13**

- Researched the relationship between the expansion of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and the Fruit Belt neighborhood.
- Conducted economic development research for the Center in collaboration with the Seneca Street Community Development Corporation to identify potential incubator businesses that could locate in the Seneca Babcock neighborhood.
- Helped with the Western New York Earth Day event at the Buffalo Zoo.
- Attended the quarterly meeting of the Western New York Environmental Alliance.
- Worked at two Reading Camps for neighborhood youths, one located in the Seneca Babcock District and the other in the Fruit Belt.
- Studied the use of Community Benefit Agreements as a tool for accountable economic development practices.

Susanne is interested in public policy and human and labor rights. She is active in Cornell Organization for Labor Action and Students Against Sweatshops. Susanne is from Aurora, NY.



**Abhishek Gupta MILR '12**

- Contributed to marketing and outreach plan for IIB to asylees and special visa holders from Iraq to resettle and find employment in Buffalo, helping these New Americans become self sufficient without utilizing public services assistance.
- Assisted refugees with their settlement in the U.S. before they arrive by helping with setting up homes, shopping for food, etc.
- Post arrival assistance including refugee intake to explain their rights and responsibilities, scheduling and helping with medical appointments, use of public transportation, etc.
- Helped resettle a refugee family from Burma who speaks some Hindi.
- Attended meetings with NYS DOL in conjunction with United Way to promote better labor and employment plans for the growing immigrant and refugee population in Buffalo.
- Helped with the "job club"; one of the employment programs run by IIB.
- Brain-stormed ideas for a small business grant for refugee population through JOLII program.

Abhi is interested in applying his international experiences to conflict resolution and human resource management. Before coming to ILR, he studied fashion in NYC. Abhi is from India.

*The Fridays were a great way to connect with fellow High Roaders and to receive updates on various aspects of Buffalo, which makes this program very unique and exciting. I very much enjoyed discussions and learning more about access to arts and contemporary artists in Buffalo. The tours to Burchfield Penney and Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House were my absolute favorites.*

*... from Abhi's program evaluation*



*Abhi contributed to our programs as a peer. He was able to do projects that volunteers couldn't do.*

*...Denise Beehag, International Institute*



**International Institute of Buffalo**  
*Western New Yorkers Embracing the World*

### **International Institute of Buffalo**

864 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716.883.1900  
[www.iibuff.org](http://www.iibuff.org)

Since 1918, the International Institute of Buffalo has assisted immigrants, refugees, and others who face linguistic and cultural barriers to become self-sufficient, active members of our community. Today, the Institute serves as a dynamic international center, providing critical services to refugees and immigrants and promoting global understanding and connections in Western New York.



### Buffalo's Top 10

10. **Parks** – The sunset over Hoyt Lake. Enough said.
  9. **Waterfront** – There is something “Erie”ly peaceful about a big tall highway bisecting a tourist destination with grain elevators on one side and HSBC tower on the other. Oh, and free concerts.
  8. **Basketball** – I love basketball. I like social justice. I happen to be in Buffalo. People in Buffalo who work in social justice play basketball every Tuesday night. Perfect.
  7. **Friday lunches** – Food for the whole weekend. Those brownies never get old
  6. **Cooking** – I went from putting 2 cans in a pot to stir-frying vegetables and chicken and making fried rice. Can you say progress?
  5. **Canada** – Down the street, literally. I turned 19 the first week of the fellowship. Perfect.
  4. **Niagara Falls** – There is nothing more calming than seeing millions of gallons of water fall on rocks.
  3. **Biking** – My best friend in Buffalo. I spent countless hours on that thing. We shared some good memories.
  2. **People** – This family from a church that I went to invited me back to their waterfront condo for lunch five minutes after they met me. Lots of love in Buffalo.
  1. **NetZero house** – Zero Utility Bills!
- Thanks for a great summer, Buffalo!
- ...from David's journal



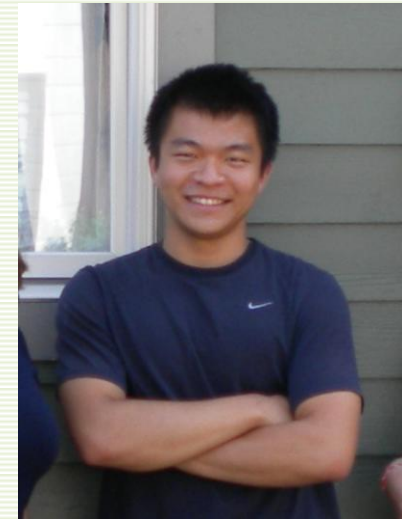
### Coalition for Economic Justice

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.892.5877  
[www.buffalocej.org](http://www.buffalocej.org)

The Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ) is an ongoing coalition of labor, faith, community, academic and student activists and organizations which engages in collective action to promote strong, sustainable communities and economic justice for all. CEJ is the Buffalo affiliate of the NYS Labor-Religion Coalition and Jobs with Justice.

*David brought a youthful spirit and openness for learning to CEJ that helped us improve our social media practices and launch a broad-based coalition effort to hold local public officials accountable this election season.*

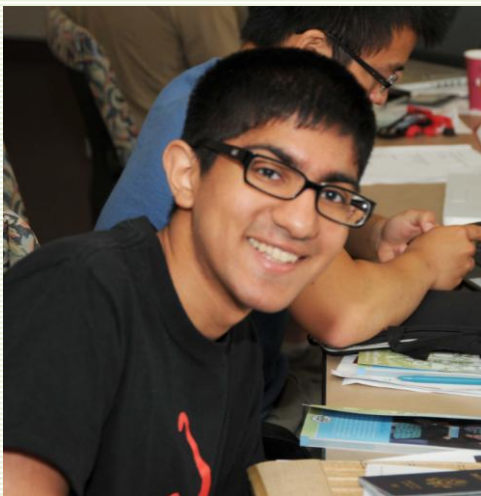
... Allison Duwe, CEJ



David Huang '13

- Created a questionnaire for a comprehensive voter guide for Erie County and City of Buffalo elections in the fall of 2011, including researching CEJ issues and organizing collaborative efforts with 10 plus community partners.
- Participated in a statewide lobbying action in Albany advocating for a good jobs plan and for accountable, transparent, performance-based operation of the new Regional Economic Development Councils.
- Attended "Justice Works—A Conference for Progressive New York" conference in Albany.
- Participated in, filmed, and edited a video on a local press action for economic development and job creation.
- Participated in two campaigns: to end the lockout of 400 Blue Cross/Blue Shield employees, and Don't Bypass Verizon Campaign. Interacted with local press through phone calls, press releases, and media advisories. Filmed and participated in press conferences, public hearings and weekly prayer vigils involving prominent local clergy.
- Researched subsidies to businesses granted by the New York Power Authority, compiling a spreadsheet of all the WNY NYPA subsidies.
- Improved CEJ social media practices of CEJ. Wrote two Op-Eds to Buffalo News and ArtVoice regarding the new regional economic development councils.

David has wide academic interests and is considering a legal career. He is a member of the Cornell Glee Club. David grew up in Taiwan, is fluent in Mandarin Chinese, and is now from Davis, CA.



**Sahil Jain '14**

- Created a policy brief aimed at educating the community on the abuse and poor conditions of the Erie County Holding Center.
- Attended the monthly meetings of the Community Advisory Board on Erie County Correctional Facilities.
- Attended and spoke at the National Fuel Public Hearing held by Public Service Commission.
- Attended City Council Legislative session.
- Protested weekly with Erie County Prisoners Rights Coalition to raise awareness of conditions.
- Created an excel spreadsheet documenting all Prisoners are People Too events since 2005.
- Revamped [PRP2.org](http://PRP2.org), making Prisoners are People Too's website functional and running.
- Created [www.ECPRC.weebly.com](http://www.ECPRC.weebly.com), website for Erie County Prisoners Rights Coalition.
- Guest Speaker at PRP2 monthly meeting.
- Created a list of nonprofits and organizations for PPG's list-serve, compiled emails and board members of PPG's 95 partners, and helped with the PPG's Annual Fundraiser.

Sahil is interested broadly in human rights and applied economics. He is conversational in Hindi and enjoys philosophy and music. Born in Buffalo, Sahil is from Batavia, NY.



*This fellowship was quite simply amazing. I've learned so much and gained a much more professional and educated perspective. The opportunity to be such an essential part of an organization can never be replaced or forgotten; I never thought I would be able to do such satisfying work!*

... from Sahil's program evaluation



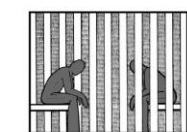
### Partnership for the Public Good

237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716.852.4191  
[www.ppgbuffalo.org](http://www.ppgbuffalo.org)

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*Sahil meant having someone help our organization to do things we never could before. He took initiative, was thoughtful and he grew as the organization did.*

... Karima Amin, PRP2



**PRISONERS  
ARE PEOPLE TOO!**  
To deny their humanity,  
is to deny our own.

### Prisoners are People Too

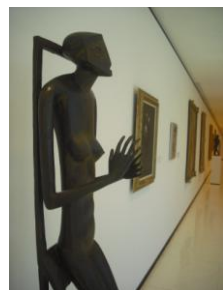
237 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.852.4191 ext 110  
[www.prp2.org](http://www.prp2.org)

Prisoners are People Too (PRP2) is a grassroots community advocacy organization for prisoners and their families. The organization also seeks to educate the public about the prison system and promote an equitable, just community. Much of the organization's current work is focused on reform of the Erie County Holding Center.



The fellowship was an intensive training in working with grassroots organizations. Since we have training in so many areas of study, we have a variety of choices, and nonprofits and grassroots have become one of those potential fields for me to consider. My experience with the organization and with the program has been great. My favorite activity would be the many tours of local historical sites.

... from Liz's program evaluation



*Liz has done a great job with her research, very thorough, accomplishing much more than we planned for. She cheerfully takes on any project.*

... Erin Heaney, Clean Air Coalition

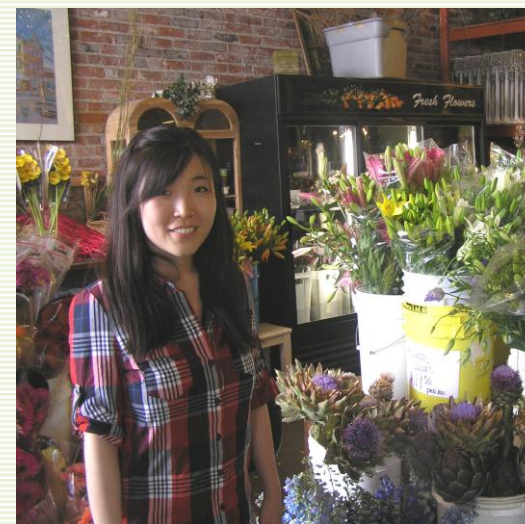


### Clean Air Coalition of Western New York

341 Delaware, Upper  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.852.3813

[www.cacwny.org](http://www.cacwny.org)

The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York is a community-based organization that informs and organizes residents to prevent and reduce pollution. They envision a WNY where residents have the information, skills and desire to make their communities healthy, sustainable and green. CAC is creating a constituency of citizens who hold leaders accountable for the community's health.



Elizabeth Li '13

- Conducted research on the damage of toxins from heavy industries on residents' health.
- Researched environmental agencies' standards and guidelines on air pollutant emissions.
- Performed turn-out calls to members for Clean Air Coalition community meetings.
- Entered canvassing results into database to allow for an improved system of efficient communication with members and interested contacts.
- Attended community meetings where local residents voiced their concerns and action plans were improvised.
- Participated in taking air samples for use in testing for pollutants in the air, including after two major industrial fires in the city this summer.
- Miscellaneous administrative assistance tasks.

Liz is exploring a variety of career interests, especially those related to human resources. She is fluent in Chinese and has a strong record of seeking out community service opportunities. Liz is from Doylestown, PA.



**Alyssa Murrett '13**

- Created a tax report on WNY's largest publically traded corporations, showing the actual tax rate corporations pay compared to the statutory rate mandated by the federal government.
- Conducted research on subsidies awarded to local businesses by the Amherst, Erie County and Niagara County Industrial Development Agencies and the New York Power Authority.
- Examined Buffalo's Waterfront, chronicling recent attempts for economic development in the area.
- Researched the corporate and government stakeholders and the position that each has taken with regards to waterfront development.
- Surveyed areas designated for community waterfront access and its accessibility to the surrounding communities, specifically the Commodore Perry Community.
- Compiled lists of board of directors for waterfront development stakeholders, the IDAs, and NYPA.
- Documented the recent phone hacking scandal by News of the World and the potential side-effects the scandal may have on the U.S.

Alyssa is interested in public policy, law and public administration. The recipient of numerous leadership awards, she is also a member of Cornell Women's Club Ice Hockey Team. Alyssa is from Buffalo, NY.



*With this experience, I understand how important public policy is for the success and advancement of communities. I will look more closely at careers involving public policy and social justice.  
... from Alyssa's program evaluation*

*Having Alyssa as a Summer Fellow this year made PPG a better organization. She was an enthusiastic presence and her efforts allowed us to exceed our summer goals. We continue to reap benefits of her work.*

... Megan Connelly, PPG

### Public Accountability Initiative

45 Park Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
718.916.0925

[www.public-accountability.org](http://www.public-accountability.org)

The Public Accountability Initiative (PAI) is a nonprofit, non-partisan research and educational organization focused on corporate and government accountability. Its mission is to facilitate and produce investigative research that empowers citizens to hold their leaders accountable. Research and analysis by PAI has been cited in major media outlets.

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*The experience was absolutely wonderful. Lou Jean did an amazing job exposing us to interesting and influential people all over Buffalo. And it was an honor working with PUSH; they are really doing a wonderful job empowering folks on the West Side. The program was wonderful and I can honestly say that my expectations were exceeded.*

... from John's program evaluation



*John was integral in turning a vacant lot into an intentional and organic community space for youth in the community. He was able to embed this space in the minds of the people and it rings true today. He showed great skills as an organizer*

...Eric Walker, PUSH Buffalo

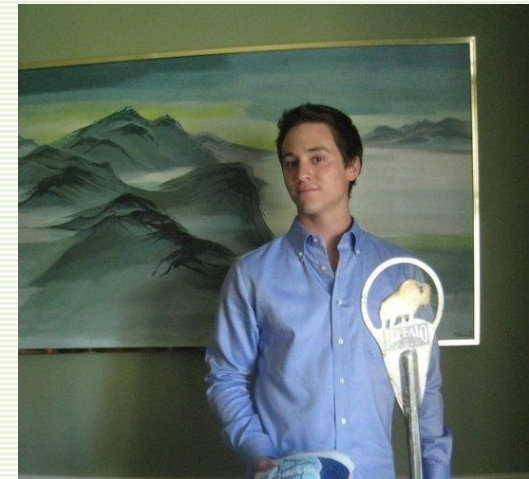


## **PUSH Buffalo**

271 Grant Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
716.796.5008

[www.pushbuffalo.org](http://www.pushbuffalo.org)

People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo is a grassroots, non-profit community organizations working to rebuild the West Side of Buffalo. PUSH organizes residents to confront institutions that perpetuate poverty on the West Side and to create and implement an action plan for improving the neighborhood. Their mission is to build a democratic, action-oriented organization capable of addressing the lack of living wage jobs and poor housing conditions.



**John Parker '12**

- Drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for a maintenance agreement between PUSH and the City of Buffalo.
- Drafted a grant application, for PUSH, to the United States Soccer Federation for funds to construct a soccer field on a derelict city park.
- Developed a prototype community garden program for students of the Frank A. Sedita Academy (P.S. 30), coordinating with the school to continue a summer program in which 5 to 15 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students maintain the garden on a daily basis.
- Assisted in organizing and running the community gardening program for West Side youths.
- Organized youth members of the West Side immigrant community to attend a soccer clinic.
- Canvassed throughout the West Side to convince residents to come to a hearing hosted by the Public Service Commission on National Fuel's Conservation Incentive Program.

John is interested in globalization, social inequity and organizational behavior. He has studied in Ireland, worked as a carpenter and as a wilderness camp counselor. John is from Brooklyn, NY.



**Lauren Schwarzenholzer '13**

- Created a policy brief aimed at educating politicians and constituents on how to reform the city of Buffalo's recycling program.
- Updated the Partnership for the Public Good's Buffalo Briefs, which are statistical snapshots of Buffalo. The topics include but are not limited to: poverty, education, health, housing, racial composition.
- Helped with the Partnership for the Public Good's Annual Fundraiser.
- Attended several WNY Apollo Alliance Meetings as well as various public hearings including the redistricting of Erie County and the City Council hearing on Erie Community College's proposed plan to build a medical center in Amherst rather than the City.
- Attended a meeting at the Community Foundation aimed at forming a coalition around people who are passionate about improving Buffalo's recycling.
- Worked on different publicity initiatives: sharing about the High Road Runs Through the City Summer Fellowship in the East Aurora Bee and East Aurora Advertiser.

Lauren is interested in government, law and policy, both global and local. She loves adventure and sports, including playing and coaching lacrosse. Lauren is from East Aurora, NY.



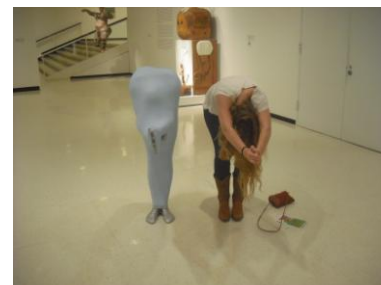
*Lauren was a High Road leader this summer. She's as productive as she is creative, serious as she is fun-loving, and her contributions to the program and to PPG are lasting.*

... Lou Jean Fleron, Cornell ILR



*Coming into the program I was hoping to get my hands dirty in some policy research. I loved the way that my supervisors picked out projects and made a work plan for each student. . I will forever be thankful to ILR as well as the PPG for providing me with this opportunity.*

... from Lauren's program evaluation



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*This has been such a great experience. I really felt like I fit very well with the Everywoman Opportunity Center and I have learned so much from all the High Roaders and those in the PPG office. I have met so many great people here and seen some truly inspiring work. I have learned so much and will truly miss it and all of you!*

*...from Elizabeth's program evaluation*



*Professionally, Elizabeth was an extra set of enthusiastic hands to guide our job seekers toward their goal of employment. Personally, she was a joy to have with us—a perfect match.*

*...Ivy Diggs-Washington, EWOC*



## Everywoman Opportunity Center

237 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
716.796.5008

[www.everywoman.org](http://www.everywoman.org)

Everywoman Opportunity Center, Inc. is a non-profit corporation committed to helping women in Greater Western New York achieve economic and personal self-sufficiency. Throughout its history, Everywoman has reached out to diverse communities to provide comprehensive employment-related services. All programs and services are designed to be holistic and address all the barriers a woman may face in seeking economic and personal self-sufficiency.



**Elizabeth Spivak '13**

- Conducted research on facts/statistics on women and the displaced homemaker program.
- Worked with and shadowed career counselor.
- Reviewed and assisted Everywoman participants with: Cover letters, Resumes, Computer skills, Interviewing techniques, Job searches, Job applications, Professional image.
- Taught basic computer skills to Everywoman participants.
- Sorted professional clothes closet and took Everywoman participants to professional clothes closet.
- Attended Western New York Women's Fund's "What She's Made Of" event, featuring Jennifer Buffett of the NoVo Foundation.
- Assisted participants at Greater Buffalo Works program.
- Conducted research on facts/statistics on women and the displaced homemaker program.
- Attended meeting with company doing a clothing drive for the Everywoman Opportunity Center.

Elizabeth is especially interested in women's rights and women in the workforce; she is active in the ILR Women's Caucus and related campus organizations. She is also a member of the Cornell University Chorale. Elizabeth is from Vestal, NY.



**Andrea Thomas '12**

- Organized an M/WBE (Minority and Women Business Enterprise) development forum for contractors, developers, elected officials and community leaders from the greater Buffalo area.
- Created a 25-page report that analyzed the M/WBE programs of New York State and Erie County. This report provided legislative history, program logistics for contractors, and an explanation of developer compliance regulations. It highlighted the issues and challenges facing the M/WBE system as well as suggestions for future growth.
- Created contracting-related documents including:
  - A booklet to assist current and potential M/WBEs with the process of applying for certification, finding bids, building a network, and creating sustainable business practices,
  - A brochure outlining the financial resources available to M/WBEs in Erie County,
  - A guide for developers and prime contractors to navigate the M/WBE system, and meet government compliance laws.
- Conducted interviews of local prime contractors, subcontractors, and development groups in order to obtain a background for the analysis.
- Attended various meetings with the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, specifically focused on workforce development and healthy home initiatives.
- Assessed the conditions of homes on Buffalo's Lower West Side for HOCN's Housing Conditions Survey.

Andrea is planning a career in public service for which she has a global experiential background, studying in Quebec and in Senegal. She is active in many campus organizations including Cornell's Recreational Fencing Team. Andrea is from Detroit, MI.



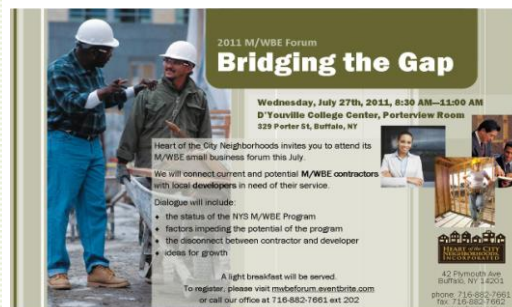
*So here's to Buffalo, to my final journal entry, to my final night in the NetZero house, to a crazy work project that was crazy successful, to all the support from Lou Jean and Megan, to my elderly swimming ladies at the JCC, to eating cinnamon rolls at Five Points. Here's to Buffalo, the little (big) city that has captured my life and my heart this summer.*

*...from Andrea's journal*



*Andrea's work with HOCN this summer was truly an extraordinary professional accomplishment, as she researched, wrote, designed and produced a report and guidebook on minority and women business enterprise contracting, while organizing a successful forum for MWBE contractors. . . She did some fine cooking at the NetZero house too!*

*. . .Lou Jean Fleron, Cornell ILR*



## Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc.

42 Plymouth Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
716.882.7661  
[www.hocn.org](http://www.hocn.org)

Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc. (HOCN) is a not-for-profit Community Development Corporation that creates, facilitates and supports housing and neighborhood development in the Lower West Side. This is accomplished by creating programs to improve the quality of residential housing, and by developing sustainable projects to improve the Lower West Side.



*My experience exceeded my expectations. I found out a lot about the hidden gems of Buffalo. There are so many historical places and so many other cool places to go and cool things to do. Growing up in the suburbs I never really ventured out into Buffalo for anything other than a Sabres game or concert. There's so much more to do.*

... from Tom's program evaluation



*Tom is awesome. In our service-based organization, he is doing a bit of everything we do every day.*

... Creighton Randall, Buffalo CarShare



### Buffalo CarShare

14 Allen Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.898.0850

[www.buffalocarshare.org](http://www.buffalocarshare.org)

Buffalo CarShare provides affordable, community-based car sharing services that benefit the environment through practical innovation. A nonprofit initiative of green options in Buffalo, CarShare provides fuel-efficient vehicles to its members from ten hub locations.



**Tom Wasko '14**

- Worked in conjunction with Canisius College to develop a new plan for reaching out to students living on campus. Part of this task involved designing and printing a large ten foot banner to hang outside our Canisius car's location. Created mini advertisements that will be inside student's dorm room key envelopes on move-in day.
- Created a geographic information systems (GIS) database of all CarShare members, hub locations, and business, churches and other organizations to reach out to for expanding services.
- Performed general car maintenance.
- Created a member satisfaction survey, compiled and helped analyze results and correlations for a formal presentation at a Buffalo CarShare staff meeting.
- Helped organize the New York State Transportation Equity Alliance Transportation Justice Town Hall meeting hosted by Buffalo CarShare.

Tom is interested in entrepreneurship and business development. Active in sports and community service, he also owns his own business. Tom is from Clarence, NY.



**Service Learning and Action Research Fellowships for Cornell University ILR Students**

**Cornell University ILR School ♦ Dean Harry C. Katz**

**Contact: Lou Jean Fleron ♦ [lj.fleron@cornell.edu](mailto:lj.fleron@cornell.edu) ♦ 716.852.4191 ♦ 237 Main Street, Suite 1200, Buffalo NY 14203**