

Semesterly: Regional Newsletter

# The Rusty Messenger: News from Team **RUST**.

Spring 2011

**A message from your loyal, rusty leaders.**

Hello Team Rust,

It has been almost 4 months since we met for 2010 Bonner Congress at Washburn University. We would like to thank the wonderful members of the Washburn Bonner Community for making this year's congress meeting so wonderful! We hope Bonner Congress created a positive buzz around your Big Idea projects and got everyone excited to amp up our rusty region! This new newsletter is a result of the great brainstorming sessions we had during the regional track meeting at Bonner Congress. Due to the size of our region, stretching from Ohio to Kansas, we decided that a newsletter would be an excellent way for the 10 schools of Team Rust to stay connected. The Congress Representatives from DePauw, Emporia, Macalester, and Oberlin have submitted articles about their experiences at congress, Big Idea updates, and Bonner program developments. We hope this newsletter will help improve communication within Team Rust and become a resource for schools both in and outside of our region. Hopefully the next issue will be full of articles from every school in the region.

We hope you enjoy this new newsletter.

Bonner Love,  
Tim and Nic



# A message from the students of Washburn.

## Running Congress 2010

By Amber Rufener, Washburn University

This fall, around two hundred individuals ventured to Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas for Bonner Congress 2010. Although hosting Bonner congress was stressful it was a blast and rewarding.

During the first Bonner meeting Bonner meeting of the year, Dr. Ellis announced we would be holding Congress at our school. Although everyone was excited, we didn't they realized the amount of work it would take to provide housing, food, transportation, and much more. After Bonner staff, Kelly and Michael, paid a visit to Washburn to begin planning Congress, our Bonners hit the ground running. Many of our Bonners jumped on board and began to help with different committees including housing, transportation, and social events.

We were excited for the opportunity to host Congress 2010. Honestly, who would travel to Topeka Kansas just to visit? It isn't exactly a tourist town but there are several things here that are often overlooked. One example, which many were able to visit, is the Brown V. Board museum. This historic site is significant and helps us remember how far we have come since the Brown V. Board case.

Our Bonners loved having all the congress reps come to campus. We built new relationships, learned some great tools, shared our homes, and most importantly spread the Bonner love!!! Let's get Rusty!!!



# Reflections from Congress 2011



## Macalester's Impression of Congress

By: Emily Schorr Lesnick, Senior Intern

After an invigorating introduction to Bonner at the Summer Leadership Institute at Berea College in June, I did not know if I would ever be able to find such a positive space. At SLI, national and global issues as diverse as immigration reform, arts for social change, and human trafficking motivated me. I also learned about the specific logistics of my position as Senior Intern and met my counterparts from colleges and universities across the country. So when I arrived in Topeka, KS, I was unsure about the potential of Bonner Congress. Would it be one big costume party? At Washburn University, we focused the scale to mobilizing Bonner scholars and volunteer retention. SLI provided me with political motivation, and Bonner Congress gave me tools to create buzz around an idea. Congress was also a wonderful space for skill and resource sharing, particularly by region. Getting to know our neighbors at Augsburg and St. Ben's was a positive experience that will lead to more cross-campus interaction. Suzanne, Tsesa and I shared our experiences with forming the Bonner Leadership Team and told people about newly instituted Bonner Families, and we learned from schools that had established similar models. While Bonner Congress was exhausting and in many ways only scratched the surface of the collective and individual work to create social change, I returned to Macalester excited to collaborate and get to work.

## Congress Reflections from Emporia



There is much to be said about the value of Bonner Congress, but something that must be mentioned is how significant an impact it had on first-year Bonners at Emporia State University. Because the Bonner Leader Program is only in its second year at ESU, the idea that so many schools had the same program was somewhat abstract and did not have much of an effect on students; one of the common sentiments expressed after the first day of Congress was that no one had realized the size of the Bonner tahini movement. It was encouraging to hear from other schools about experiencing similar resistance and obstacles; also, being able to share commonalities was beneficial to the overall feeling of Bonner love and bonding.

# Big Idea Updates

As you may or may not remember, Macalester's Big Idea this year was creating a Bonner Leadership Team, and since Bonner Congress we have developed it a lot. We got the team together, and have already done a few great things. For one, we had a BWBRS Beverage Bonanza. We reserved a computer lab and provided cookies and drinks so Bonners could come join us and fill out their BWBRS and get help if they needed it. We were happy by its success. We have also worked on allocating the Bonner Community Fund money that Macalester offers students to helping fund Campus Camp Wellstone at Mac and a day project in which three Bonners toured a unique soup kitchen and interviewed homeless to learn more about their struggles. We look forward to doing even more next semester!

Emporia State  
University

## Macalester

By: Tsesa Monaghan



To refresh everyone's memory, our Big Idea is to have a summit for faculty and department heads in order to raise awareness and increase involvement in community service in both ESU and within the Emporia community. Our Big Idea is not yet in full swing because we intend to have our summit this semester, but we are currently working on developing the most effective plan for the event. The main focus is to make community service something important to every student, faculty member as well as the administration.

# ... more Big Idea updates



## Oberlin College

By: Tim Krumreig

This year, Oberlin chose to create a Big Idea project around enhancing our regional support network. Oberlin is geographically isolated due to the lack of Bonner schools in Ohio. We decided that in order to strengthen our regional support network, schools within our regional community should visit one another to learn about our Bonner Programs, communities, and the unique ways we address issues within our local communities. During Fall Congress Meeting at Washburn, Beth Campbell and I received a great deal of feedback from our fellow Bonners. After Congress, I decided to use Oberlin's Winter Term to plan and organize our Big Idea project. Before any further planning, I traveled to New Jersey to meet with the wonderful staff at the Bonner Foundation. They helped me focus our project and created a few new elements. We hope to create a basic format for campus visits that can be shared throughout the Bonner network. We would also like to develop long distance video visit format, where Bonner Schools can Skype or make videos to share information with one another. Since visiting the foundation, I have reworked our big idea proposal and created a rough draft of the visit format. I am now waiting for feedback from the foundation staff and the interim Bonner Director at Oberlin before stepping forward.



## DePauw University

By: Isaiah Holmes

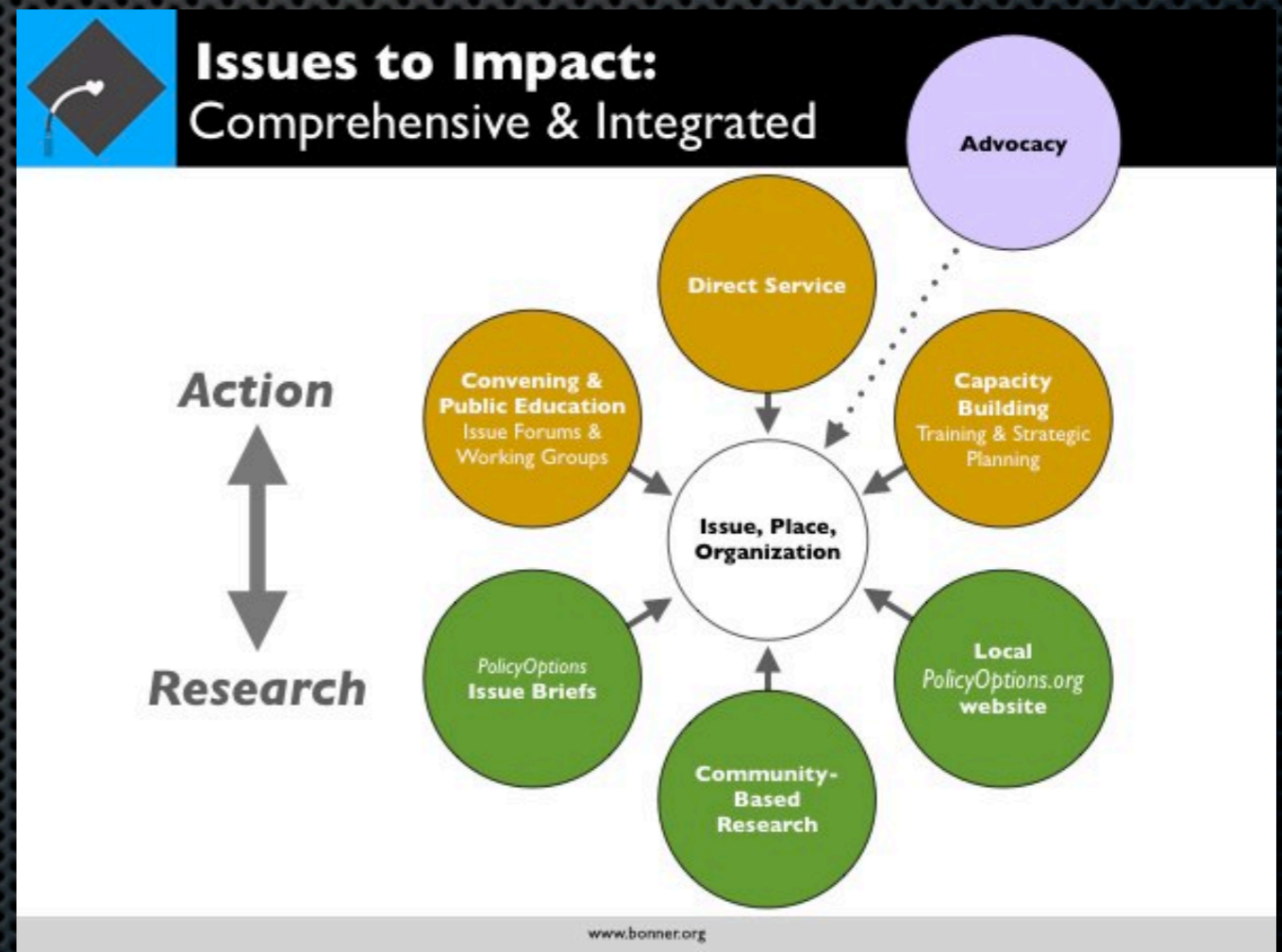
Generally speaking, there has always been a connection gap between the Greencastle community and DePauw University, resulting in fewer opportunities for the school to engage in service projects, partners and other mutual beneficial relations between the community and the school. Bonners here at DePauw University have been engaging in service projects with partners in, and surrounding the Greencastle community. As we attempt to maintain the established relations with our service partners, we have also been working to reach out to the community and accomplish more projects. We also have been working to show the students of DePauw what it means to be part of service and the importance of the connections that will improve this small town as a whole.

The Bonner students in each class have worked at their own small project, each focusing on a topic. The sophomore class has recently started to work on our Big Idea: "Bonner Buddy." We are beginning to choose Bonner Buddies and work out a system that will evaluate the success, or improvements of this new system. Our next step is to start our Buddy System within each service project and hopefully include DePauw students to share these service experiences throughout the community.

# Issues to Action

By: Nic Flores  
DePauw University

There may be many times during your Bonner career when you begin to reflect on the different elements of your service, in whatever capacity, and how your particular service plays into the broader picture. I use the term service loosely, as to not restrict the positive efforts and strides all Bonners are making across the nation. If you find reflection as essential, then you also probably find it difficult and daunting to begin to wrap your mind around the underlying social issues we face today. From environmental and energy issues to human rights and education to immigration, it seems each of these issues are isolated and distinct. I would argue against claims compartmentalizing obviously connected and interwoven aspects of our global society. Instead, I would encourage all Bonners to investigate the numerous ways you can extend on your already excellent service. Creating change comes from individuals interested in changing a social conscience. As Bonners, we are given many opportunities to be catalyst for this very change. Now, all we need to do is act.



# Program Updates

## Leadership at Oberlin College

Oberlin's Bonner program experienced a shift in leadership this fall when our director, Donna Russell, stepped down. Before the end of her time with the Bonner program, Donna wanted to ensure the transition be as smooth as possible. In order to maintain the strength of our program, Donna created two new committees and a sophomore leadership team. Oberlin now has a recruitment committee, who will strategize and assist with the selection of future Bonner Scholars of Oberlin College and a 20th anniversary committee, which be responsible for planning and organizing the 20th anniversary celebration for the Bonner Program at Oberlin. These two committees supplement the three other student led committees we have at Oberlin: activities, reflection, and community fund. The students spearheading these committees are all passionate, dedicated, and responsible sophomore Bonners. We are happy to have these sophomores as part of our leadership team; they have definitely helped strengthen our leadership team and helped to better the overall Bonner community at Oberlin.



The Oberlin College Bonner Scholars program would like to recognize the wonderful work and dedication that Donna Russell put in while serving as the director of our program. The Bonner Network will miss you, but we know you will do amazing things in the Oberlin College Office of Career Services.

# Regional Goals

- During the Fall Congress meeting this year, Team Rust had three track sessions to meet and begin forming connections within our region. The awesome Congress Reps in our region came up with a few regional goals to ensure communication across Team Rust.
  - Utilize and maintain the Team Rust facebook group for communication, updates, and RUSTY spirit.
  - Create a Team Rust fanpage for all of the Bonners in our region.
  - Create clusters within our region, pairs or groups of school within close proximity. Provide these schools with each others contact information so they can begin to coordinate activities between one another.
  - Start a region newsletter. Each school would get one page to talk about their big idea, school/program updates, cool things going on around service on their campus, pictures and more!

• These goals and other notes from the congress meeting can be found on the [Team Rust wiki](#) page.



# Check out the web resources

Since Congress we have created and updated a few web resources for the members of Team Rust to use.

-The [Team Rust Wiki](#) page:

-We have updated and organized this page to serve as a resource for individual schools and the region. Each school now has their own page that both the BAB members and Congress Reps should update. You will also find links to Big Idea resources, updates from meetings and conference calls, and more.

-The Facebook Group: [Team Rust: Bonner Scholars/Leaders Region](#)

-We hope this Facebook group will become a space for active communication between the BAB members and Congress Reps. Congress Reps should post program updates, Big Idea updates, cool program ideas, photos, videos, and more! The BAB members will post questions, meeting updates, and resources.

-The Facebook Fan Page: [Team Rust: Let's Get Rusty](#)

-The fan page is for all Team rust past and present. This is just a place for Bonners to show their regional pride. Post pictures, videos, and anything RUSTY! Please invite all the members of your Bonner community.

# Last Bits

## Team Rust Clusters

During Bonner Congress 2011, the Congress Reps of Team Rust requested that the BAB reps create cluster schools. By creating clusters, schools will know which Bonner schools are within a reasonable distance and will have each school's contact information. This will hopefully facilitate further collaboration between the schools within our region.

Cluster 1: Oxidation: DePauw University Indiana, Earlham College Indiana, Oberlin College Ohio, University of Illinois Illinois

Cluster 2 Corrosion: Augsburg College Minnesota, College of St. Benedict Minnesota, Edgewood College Wisconsin, Macalester College Minnesota, University of Illinois Illinois

Cluster 2: Tarnish: Emporia State University Kansas, Washburn University Kansas, University of Illinois Illinois

The Team Rust wiki page as a link to the regional [clusters](#). You will find the names and contact information from each school in your cluster.

## Remember!

Nic and Tim would like each school to send an update on their Big Idea Project. How is your project going? What developments have you made since congress? Do you need any further assistance from your BAB members or the Foundation?

Please e-mail Nic or Tim at  
[timothy.krumreig@oberlin.edu](mailto:timothy.krumreig@oberlin.edu)  
Or  
[nicholasflores\\_2012@depuw.edu](mailto:nicholasflores_2012@depuw.edu)

## Suggestion, Comments, Concerns?

This is the first edition of the Team Rust newsletter. We would love to hear your suggestions and comments on the content, format, and style of the newsletter. Please send them to  
[timothy.krumreig@oberlin.edu](mailto:timothy.krumreig@oberlin.edu)

## Future Submissions

We would like all schools to submit articles to the newsletter. Please start thinking about what your school can contribute to the fall edition of the Team Rust newsletter.