Community Lunch Thursdays:
Every Thursday throughout October and February, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., HWS students, staff and faculty took over the Community Lunch Program at First United Methodist Church on Main Street to support those in need in the Geneva community.

Since 1983, the Community Lunch Program has offered a hot meal each weekday to those in need, serving approximately 70 individuals each day and more than 20,000 meals per year. The Colleges’ Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning has for a long time collaborated with the program and members of the HWS community take responsibility for staffing, preparing, serving and cleaning up lunches each Thursday in October and February.

“The longstanding partnership between the Colleges and the Community Lunch Program has been beneficial for both parties,” explains Celeste Smith ’12, last year’s group organizer. “This collaboration provides HWS students the opportunity not only to help with the huge undertaking of providing five hot meals a week, but also to be a part of the larger community we live in, while gaining insight about various social issues and food systems.”

Habitat/POAP:
As part of the Pre-Orientation Adventure Program, 16 students spent their final week of summer building a Habitat for Humanity home for a family in Geneva. Three student guides, Stephen Wolff ’12, Taylor Mockler ’12 and William Smith students volunteer at the Community Lunch Program
Community Service

Every Thursday throughout October and February, HWS students, staff and faculty took over the Community Lunch Program at First United Methodist Church on Main Street to support those in need in the Geneva community.

During this year’s Community Barn Sale, $5,500 was raised bringing the total contributed to the United Way to more than $33,000, with countless tons of household items and clothing finding a second use.

Faith James ’13 lead the program, which the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning organized in partnership with the Ontario County Habitat chapter.

The four-day program sought to introduce a group of civically-engaged, first-year students to the City of Geneva and each other. “This program is a great opportunity for the incoming, first-year students to get to know each other in a small, welcoming group setting, as well as give back to the community where they will be spending their next four years. We hope to expand this program in future years so that we can have multiple trips across the City of Geneva and other parts of the Finger Lakes region,” said Jeremy Wattles, assistant director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning.

Kaboom/Orientation:
When KaBOOM! CEO and founder Darell Hammond opened a copy of the Washington Post one morning 16 summers ago, he had little idea his whole life was about to change. An article about two local children caught his attention. Looking for a place to play, the children climbed into a car in the midst of a heat-wave and, unable to escape, suffocated. When Hammond learned that the nearest playground was three miles from where the children lived, he was compelled to act.

This story ignited a passion within Hammond, kindling an idea into KaBOOM!, an organization that builds playgrounds across the country. From that one idea, Hammond has created a significant national effort, raised millions of dollars and inspired an army of citizen activists.

During Orientation 2011, more than 200 students in the incoming classes worked with Geneva community members to construct benches, slides and play sets at the Geneva Community Center, the Geneva Middle School and West Street School. We were honored to have Hammond speak at Convocation.

Fall Day of Service:
More than 300 volunteers from the HWS community fanned out to contribute their time, effort and sweat equity at 23 sites throughout Geneva as part of Day of Service on Saturday, Oct. 29. The campus-wide community service project was in its 19th year and had the greatest participation of any HWS service activity.

As the students assembled on the Quad at the start of the day, President Mark D. Gearan thanked the volunteers, as well as the Day of Service Committee and its leaders, Caitlin Hughes ’12 and Celeste Smith ’12, for their efforts.

Anna Dorman ’14 was with the group who worked at the Agri-Business Child Development Center, which is attached to the Geneva Boys and Girls Club. “We helped rake and prepare for the winter and learned a lot about the preschool itself. It was a really great opportunity to learn about a program that is important to a lot of people in the community,” she said.

Students also worked at American Legion Winnek Post 396, Happiness House, Geneva Business Improvement District, Geneva Community Center, Granger Homestead, Phelps Art Center and Sonnenberg Gardens, among other sites.

Celeste Smith/MLK Jr.
Drum Major for Service:
During the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, held on Saturday, Jan. 21, Celeste Smith ’12 was awarded the MLK Drum Major for Service award, which recognized volunteers who performed extraordinary everyday acts of service with reliability and commitment, but who seldom receive recognition.

Smith more than met this test to harness her “Drum-Major Instinct” for the betterment of the HWS and Geneva communities. At the forefront of community service at the Colleges, Smith was an active participant in a variety of community service endeavors, including her four-year service in the EMS student group and her commitment to Day of Service, which she planned the past two years. Additionally, during her junior year, she completed a Community-Based Research Project with the Ovid Food Pantry, which transferred all records to a computer database that would more easily enable the pantry to apply for grants, make periodic reports and evaluate its efficiency in meeting the needs of its clients.

The Community Barn Sale:
The 7th annual Community Barn Sale was held on Thursday, May 17, from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Barn, located off of St. Clair St.
More than 300 volunteers from the HWS community fanned out to contribute their time, effort and sweat equity at 23 sites throughout Geneva as part of Day of Service on Saturday, Oct. 29.

During Orientation 2011, more than 200 students in the incoming classes worked with Geneva community members to construct benches, slides and play sets at the Geneva Community Center, the Geneva Middle School and West Street School.

As part of the Pre-Orientation Adventure Program, 16 students spent their final week of summer building a Habitat for Humanity home for a family in Geneva.

The annual sale benefited Ontario County United Way. $5,500 was raised bringing the total contributed to the United Way to more than $33,000, with countless tons of household items and clothing finding a second use.

The sale contained a wide variety of various household items ranging from furniture, to appliances, kitchen items and rugs. The items were donated by members of the HWS staff, faculty and student body as well as Geneva community members. The Barn Sale also included an E-Waste collection where old and broken electronic items, including televisions. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, Residential Education, and Student Affairs.

Copies of Kaboom! were distributed to all First-Year students at Convocation.

The 7th annual Community Barn Sale

More than 300 volunteers from the HWS community fanned out to contribute their time, effort and sweat equity at 23 sites throughout Geneva as part of Day of Service on Saturday, Oct. 29.
Compass Step 2
Civic Engagement

Eleven HWS students, led by Assistant Professor of Psychology Brien K. Ashdown, served as tutors during spring break at both the Galloway Early Childhood Institution and the Coke’s View Primary School in Petersfied, Jamaica.

Alternative Spring Breaks:
Eleven HWS students, led by Assistant Professor of Psychology Brien K. Ashdown, served as tutors during spring break at both the Galloway Early Childhood Institution and the Coke’s View Primary School in Petersfied, Jamaica.

In addition to serving the community of Jamaica, the students lived in homestays for the duration of the service and also participated in cultural events that helped them to learn more about the country and culture in which they were volunteering. Cultural events included a tour of a local sugar cane factory and visits to both a tourist beach and a beach for locals in order to see the contrasts between the two.

“Working with a local community organization gives volunteers a chance to contribute their skills while absorbing the stories and strength of people working to build a better future for their community,” said Assistant Director of CCESL Jeremy Wattles, noting that the program is coordinated through Amizade, an organization committed to empowering individuals and communities through service and learning. “We chose to work with Amizade because we felt that their unique model of long-term service and commitment to just a few communities around the world really emulated the Colleges’ own dedication to meaningful service.”

The Jamaica program was one of four spring break trips that were organized by HWS this year. Others include the Rural & Migrant Ministry in Lyons, N.Y.; Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield, Va.; and Mariam Boyd Elementary School in Warrenton, N.C.

In Chesterfield, 10 students spent the week at Pocahontas State Park, where they cleared land for an educational nature trail, installed drain pipes, built bridges and rebuilt fishing piers. The group was led by IT Senior Technician Support Specialist Chad Goulette.

In Warrenton, N.C., 11 students, led by German Fulbright Teaching Assistant Tanja Bruxmeier, spent the week tutoring students at the Mariam Boyd Elementary School. They provided one-on-one tutoring, group reading and math help, and general classroom assistance. Students also prepared crafts and activities for children to participate in during the after-school program run by the Norlina Methodist Church.

Geneva Heroes:
Hobart and William Smith students and their Geneva high school and middle school mentees through the Geneva Heroes program took part in TeamWorks! at Keuka College as part of the group’s leadership skills development program. Geneva Heroes provided Hobart and William Smith students the unique combination of mentoring local school students in Geneva while participating in a number of community service activities together.

The group’s participation in TeamWorks! kicked off its spring semester activities. TeamWorks! is a team-building program that utilizes a challenge course with both high and low elements as well as ground-based activities. It is meant to strengthen team members’ bonds, develop leadership and creative thinking skills, strengthen communication and help establish trust between peers. The program helped both sets of students in their growing roles as leaders and mentors.

“One of the great aspects of this program is the fact that high school students are able to take on some of the leadership roles within the program to mentor middle school students,” said Geneva Heroes leader Raphael Durand ’13. To adequately prepare them for this role “leaders’ meetings” are held over lunch on campus for high school students.

Geneva Heroes met every Saturday. They planned trips to the Smith Opera House, Geneva Free Library, Wayne County Humane Society, and the Geneva Red Wings. In addition, the group took part in a President’s Reception on campus as part of the Colleges’ Day of Service, on Saturday April 14.
Boys & Girls Club:

Volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club of Geneva was one of the many ways HWS students worked to give back to the Geneva community. For two hours a day, every Monday through Friday afternoon, HWS students traveled to the Boys and Girls Club at Goodman Street, where Bob Ritter ’78 is the program director.

The HWS students worked with children in grades 1-5, helping them with their homework, providing assistance with reading skills and, during recreational time, playing basketball, pool, or a board game. Kelsey Lee ’12, a student coordinator at Goodman Street, said that her experience as a volunteer was extremely rewarding. “The Boys and Girls Club tends to be an incredibly vibrant place – it takes a lot of energy to keep up with the kids, but it’s so totally fulfilling. Kids are really responsive to volunteers and they love to share the whole Boys and Girls Club experience.”

The Boys and Girls Club is a safe place for Geneva’s children to develop interactive capabilities without pressure. They interact with children from other school districts in the area, and the program incorporates many who live in families of different economic backgrounds.

(To learn more, visit http://www.hws.edu/alumni/pssurvey/summer12/lee.aspx)
Compass Step 3
Civic Leadership

3,000 hours of service was offered in partnership with NY Campus Compact and AmeriCorps and HWS Colleges are just one of 113 colleges across the country that matches a part of the AmeriCorps Education Award.


Honorary Board Program:
Each semester, members of the Hobart and William Smith community have dedicated their free time to helping the Geneva community – volunteering at schools, clubs and organizations across the city. However, some students have gone above and beyond normal volunteering duties, and each year, students from the Colleges have been invited to serve as honorary members on many local boards.

“Our Compass model strives to promote the ideals of engaged citizenship, and we believe that this honorary board leadership program provides a very tangible way for our students to feel what it truly means to be an engaged citizen,” said Director of Community Engagement and Service Learning Katie Flowers. “Our Compass model strives to promote the ideals of engaged citizenship, and we believe that this honorary board leadership program provides a very tangible way for our students to feel what it truly means to be an engaged citizen.”

Emily Hamburger ’13, an arts and education major, served as a member of the Geneva Theatre Guild board, which she has been involved with since her sophomore year at the Colleges. Following her work as stage manager for “The Laramie Project,” William Smith Associate Dean Lisa Kaenzig invited Kerber to share her perspective on theater with guild members.

Hannah Hood ’12, a comparative literature major who is currently enrolled in the teacher certification program and will return to the Colleges next year as an MAT student, served as an honorary member on the Geneva Reads board. Her term was part of her role as Civic Leader for Literacy overseeing the America Reads program.

Juliana Freier ’12, a biology and environmental studies double major, spent this past academic year sitting as an honorary member of the Geneva Rotary Club Board. Because of her role as the president of the HWS Rotaract Club last semester – and now as the club’s co-president – Freier was asked to provide her perspective on the organization. Each meeting, Freier shared Rotaract’s activities and events, and worked with board members on potential collaborations between the two clubs.

3,000 Hours of Service to Geneva:
As part of a collaborative effort between Hobart and William Smith Colleges, AmeriCorps and local organizations, HWS students provided a historic 3,000 hours of service to non-profit agencies in Geneva this past summer. Ten students, each of whom worked 300 hours this summer, served at a variety of local agencies such as the Rural Migrant Ministries, Boys and Girls Club of Geneva, Happiness House and the Smith Opera House.

“This opportunity was mutually beneficial to students and the community. It was an opportunity which allowed students to start or build upon relationships they’ve built during the academic year with local non-profit agency leaders. They also furthered the capacity and outreach abilities of those agencies,” explained Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning Katie Flowers.

Participants this year include: Jarrid Blades ’12, Michael Brown ’12, Katherine Burgos ’12, Karah Charrette ’14, Chelsea Encababian ’14, Rachel Hinnenkamp ’13, Jessica Lynn ’14, Christian Martinez ’13, Allauna Overstreet-Gibson ’14 and Megan Soule ’15.

Engaged Scholarship Forum:
The efforts of committed community members were recently acknowledged at the annual Community Engaged Scholarship Forum held in the Vandervort Room of the Scandling Campus Center. During the forum, which invited members of Geneva and the HWS campus to share and explore community-based research projects via posters, video and demonstrations, the
Community Partner of the Year Award, the Engaged Student Scholar Award and the Civically Engaged Faculty Award were presented, honoring those who have worked tirelessly to serve Geneva and the surrounding communities.

The Community Partner of the Year Award was presented to Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes. A part of the Geneva community for nearly three decades, the organization has partnered with the Colleges on countless occasions to serve the community.

Each year, this award is bestowed on the person or agency who has consistently contributed to the civic development and leadership of Hobart and William Smith Colleges students. Recognizing the value as well as the amount of time, energy and interest that go into community collaborations, recipients are nominated by students, staff and faculty of the Colleges.

Two years ago, the relationship between HWS and Catholic Charities was further strengthened by the collaboration between Catholic Charities and the HWS Office of Intercultural Affairs, and in 2010, the offices worked together to present the Conference on Poverty.

The Geneva Just Neighbors Initiative, led by Catholic Charities Justice and Peace Coordinator Ruth Marchetti, saw nearly 100 HWS students exploring and addressing equitable access to affordable and safe housing in Geneva through interactive workshops. As a follow up to the Just Neighbors initiative, a team of researchers in Professor of Sociology Jack Harris’ Senior Sociology Seminar worked closely with Executive Director Ellen Wayne on a Community Based Research project regarding substandard housing in Geneva, which was featured on May 31 at a regional summit on housing at the Ramada Inn. The team erupted with cheers when it was announced that Catholic Charities was the recipient of the award.

Other significant community contributions made by Catholic Charities include the Community Lunch Program, coordinated by Connie Sullivan, which has been a vital resource for the city and those in need.

“It is important to note that the students that we have worked with are going to leave here, and there is a great potential for them to make an impact where they will ultimately live,” commented Wayne. “This meets the greater goals of Catholic Charities Mission of Catholic Charities: to provide programs and services for individuals in need, especially children and families and to advocate for social justice.”

The ceremony also commended the service of Gideon Porter ’12, who received the Engaged Student Scholar Award. Nominated by Associate Professor of English Laurence Erussard, Porter played an integral role in creating the Educational Second Chances Prison Program. Knowing the transformative power of education in the lives of those incarcerated, Porter combined his work for social justice and his background in political science to study post-secondary prison education.

Porter’s research revealed that such education initiatives are the most cost-effective method of preventing crime by reducing recidivism rates. Using this knowledge, Porter sought the guidance of Mary Katzenstein, Jim Schechter and Max Kenner from the Cornell and Bard Prison Education Programs and worked to develop the Educational Second Chances Prison Program, which will allow prisoners at Five Points Correctional Facility to take college courses. The program is expected to launch in the fall 2012.

The Civically Engaged Faculty Award was presented to Professor of Education Charlie Temple for his exemplary scholarship, community partnerships and commitment to service-learning. As a literacy instructor and advocate, Temple was celebrated for the work he has done to help children locally and internationally. A former Fulbright Scholar and co-author of 13 books, Temple instructs courses in literacy, children’s literature, storytelling and peace studies. He has been an essential supporter of the America Reads Program and has trained undergraduate tutors to assist countless local students. In addition to his work at the Colleges, Temple works with psychologists and teachers from Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia to develop teaching approaches to help children. Temple’s commitment also encompasses his work as the co-founder and director of the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Project, which functions on the idea that democratic practices in school play an important role in the transition toward more open societies.

The program was recently selected by UNESCO’s International Bureau of Education as a promising practice in peace building.

Through this program and all other outlets of his incredible outreach efforts, Temple’s work to tirelessly promote and teach his love of reading, writing and learning to marginalized children in El Salvador, Ecuador, Argentina, Liberia and Sierra Leone was acknowledged with this prestigious award.
Dr. Helen Caldicott spoke as part of the conference on Global Citizenship: Social and Environmental Justice.

Edgar S. Cahn, the creator of Time Dollars and co-founder of the National Legal Services Program, shared his perspective with students, faculty, staff, and community members.

14 HWS seniors landed seats with AmeriCorps’ Teach for America and City Year and 4 were accepted into the Peace Corps.

Helen Caldicott:
President of The Helen Caldicott Foundation and anti-nuclear war activist Dr. Helen Caldicott spoke as part of the conference on Global Citizenship: Social and Environmental Justice on Wednesday, Oct. 12, in the Warren Hunting Smith Library. Caldicott presented a talk titled “Global Citizenship Reconsidered: The Social and Environmental Justice Path.” For nearly 40 years, Caldicott has worked to educate people across the globe on the medical hazards of living in a nuclear age. Her work has extended to examining the effects of human behavior on the destruction of the environment, and has worked to encourage those she addresses to alter their actions for the sake of the earth - and humankind.

Edgar Cahn:
Edgar S. Cahn, the creator of Time Dollars and co-founder of the National Legal Services Program, was on campus to share his experience and perspective on Engaged Citizenship on Tuesday, March 27. Regarded as the father of poverty law, Cahn is the creator of Time Dollars, the world’s only tax-exempt currency, in which community members “bank” the time they have committed to helping others in exchange for the services they need (such as home repair, child care, tutoring, etc.). In 1980, after suffering a massive heart attack that nearly claimed his life, Cahn created Time Dollars to provide a solution to massive cuts in government spending on social welfare. Now there are TimeBanks in 40 states and 32 nations and Cahn has extended the idea to juvenile justice with the creation of Time Dollar Youth Court and to elder care with CareBanks.

City Year Placements:
Seven HWS seniors landed seats with AmeriCorps’ City Year, an education-focused, nonprofit organization which partners with public schools to provide intervention for students who are most at risk of dropping out. Hired to complete a one-year post are Mary Jameson ’12, Jessica McCue ’12, Jordann Myers ’12, Elizabeth Perry ’12, Amaury Ramirez ’12, Lauren Schwarzenberg ’12 and Chad Zimmerman ’12.

The students were placed in schools across the country in Baton Rouge, La., Los Angeles, Calif., Boston, Mass., New York, N.Y., San Jose, Calif., and King Wood, W.Va. “Hobart and William Smith Colleges are an integral contributor to City Year,” said Regional Admissions Coordinator for City Year Elana Cockburn. “Together, we are finding our country’s future leaders and agents for social change.”

In the photo above, (Front, l-r): Jordann Myers ’12, Lauren Schwarzenberg ’12, Mary Jameson ’12, Jessica McCue ’12; (Back row, l-r): Chad Zimmerman ’12, Elizabeth Perry ’12, Amaury Ramirez ’12.
Notable Moments/ Collaborations:

Hydrofracking Panel: (right)

Departure of AmeriCorps VISTA:
AmeriCorps VISTA Kelsey Lagana ’10 joined children in the Boys and Girls Club at the Geneva Community Center on her last day in Geneva before heading to Houston, Texas, where she will work as a Teach for America volunteer. Kelsey contributed more than 3400 hours of service during her two years as an AmeriCorps VISTA in CCESL.

Honor Roll:
Hobart and William Smith Colleges were named to the 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Hobart and William Smith are among only eight institutions in New York named to the Honor Roll with Distinction.

Launched in 2006 by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Honor Roll recognizes colleges and universities that support innovative, effective and exemplary community service programs, achieving meaningful outcomes for their communities. Honorees were selected based on a series of factors, including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers service-learning courses.

“This honor acknowledges the hard work and dedication of every student, staff and faculty member who, through their commitment to civic engagement, makes a positive impact in our community,” said President Mark D. Gearan.

Hobart and William Smith Colleges are committed to providing students with academic and co-curricular service learning opportunities in Geneva, across the nation and at many study abroad sites. Through such opportunities, students meet identified community needs and engage in service as part of their academic courses and programs. The HWS Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, through a program called Compass, helps students become civically engaged, leading to graduates who have a lifelong commitment to justice, social consciousness, and the promotion of continuous, effective change. Each year, HWS students, faculty and staff contribute 190,000 hours of service and engagement to local, national and international communities. A number of HWS graduates have moved on to assignments with Teach for America, AmeriCorps, City Year VISTA and the Peace Corps.

Butin:
Dan Butin, author of “Service-Learning in Theory and Practice: The Future of Community Engagement in Higher Education,” joined the Colleges on Wednesday, Nov. 9, to speak about his book as well as his research on service-learning. The talk was held at 3 p.m. in the Sanford Room of the Warren Hunting Smith Library.
“As the former CFO of Teach for America, Butin has given much consideration to this important pedagogy and how we can collaboratively and strategically approach the issue of service learning,” said Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning Katie Flowers.

Throughout the semester, members of HWS faculty and staff met as a small reading group to discuss Butin’s book, which was funded by the Teagle Community Based Learning Consortium of which HWS is a member. While on the HWS campus, Butin met with these groups as well as with faculty who developed the Social Justice Studies minors, and members of the Service Learning Advisory Council.

“The intent of the conversations was to learn from Butin’s experience as national leader in the field, and to welcome critique of current service-learning efforts so that HWS can maximize the potential of this innovative and impactful practice,” says Flowers.

Geneva 2020:
More than 180 ninth-graders from Geneva High School visited campus to take part in mini-classes led by Hobart and William Smith faculty, learned about admissions and financial aid, and saw college through the eyes of Hobart and William Smith students.

This was the second group of students from the Geneva City School District to participate in a program offered through the Geneva 2020 initiative. The ninth-graders visited on Friday, March 16. In February, sixth-grade students visited campus for tours and panel discussions about college. HWS students again volunteered to provide tours of campus to the students and address questions. HWS students who are graduates of Geneva High School met with the visiting students throughout the day.

“The Colleges are thrilled to be able to provide Geneva students a firsthand view of the opportunities a college education offers as well as information on accessibility,” explained Katie Flowers, director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning. “We are in a unique position to share insights and advice with the students of Geneva that will help demystify higher education for them and hopefully at the same time provide inspiration.”

During the spring and summer of 2011, Hobart and William Smith Colleges and the Geneva City School District held a series of meetings with community leaders from both the nonprofit and for profit sectors in an effort to align the greater Geneva community around the strategic priorities of the school system. Calling its efforts Geneva 2020, the group seeks to harness the resources of the Colleges and the Geneva community to provide assistance in four key areas identified by the Geneva City School District as being critical to the future of Geneva’s children: graduation rate, career and college preparedness, literacy, and communications.

Geneva Reads:
Paul Fleischman’s award-winning book, “Seedfolks,” was selected by Geneva Reads for the fourth annual Community Read in March. During the month-long celebration, Geneva Reads hosted a series of film screenings, lectures and discussions to address the topics of food, labor issues and community.

The month-long celebration kicked off during the Annual Book Fest, which offered kids the chance to “Dig Into a Good Book” from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 at the Geneva Community Center. While there, children stopped by the Community Read booth to “Plant a Seed for the Community Read!”

Another highlight of the celebration included: a Books n’ Brunch event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, at the College Store on St. Clair Street. Participants enjoyed a discussion of the book and a 25 percent discount on the purchase of “Seedfolks.” Refreshments were served and 20 percent store wide discount was offered.

Over the course of the month, the Community Read presented three films, including “Food, Inc.” on Thursday, March 8; a recorded interview with renowned New York Times food columnist Mark Bittman on Sunday, March 11; and the “The Garden” on Thursday, March 22. All films were shown at the Smith Opera House.

Additionally, the series hosted several Coffee & Conversation events, which gave participants the opportunity to interact with speakers and discuss issues in a more informal, relaxed atmosphere. The first event, on Friday, March 9, invited community members to weigh in on the risks and benefits of agricultural biotechnology with Cornell University professors who work at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (NYSAES) in the Geneva Public Library. On Thursday, March 15, participants heard published poets Lori Nolasco, Patricia Roth Schwartz and Roberta Panek read from their own works about gardening, growing
things and the bounty of the earth in the Geneva Public Library. During the third event on Wednesday, March 21, participants discussed the many health benefits of gardening with retired FLCC horticulture professor Jana Lamboy at 7 p.m. at the Geneva Community Center. Providing participants with an opportunity to see agriculture in action, the final event took place on March 24 at NYSAES, where Susan Brown and Kevin Maloney presented information about the Cornell apple breeding program.

Rounding out the community discussions, Hobart and William Smith Colleges hosted Dr. Edgar S. Cahn on Tuesday, March 27. Regarded as the father of poverty law, Cahn is the founder of TimeBanks USA - a banking system founded on the principal of Time Dollars, the world’s only tax-exempt currency, in which community members “bank” the time they have committed to helping others in exchange for the services they need (such as home repair, child care, tutoring, etc.). During his day-long presence in Geneva, Cahn interacted with the community during three events.

Students in William Smith Dean Susanne McNally’s Food Systems class gleaned 26,000 lbs. of cabbage from Bejo Seed’s experimental fields, all for distribution to regional food pantries and soup kitchens. Of the 81,000 hours of service, 30,600 were part of an academic program.
Through HWS Compass students are encouraged to explore the many facets of service to society. A four-step program, Compass provides experiences in Community Service, Civic Engagement, and Civic Leadership that chart the course to a life of Engaged Citizenship. Students are connected with service and engagement opportunities on-campus, in the area surrounding Geneva, outside the local region and even internationally. These experiences are meant to help students develop citizenship skills such as leadership, self-awareness, and recognizing societal needs while making a material change that will help meet identified community needs.