

The Equinox



Students seek out service programs

By Stuart Ross
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Three representatives of community service groups presented to students offering alternatives to regular pre and post graduation plans. Mike Maher, the campus recruiting manager for the Student Conservation Association said the group has seen an increase in applicants.

“We have had more applications last year and this year than ever before. These are students looking for a bridge to a better economy,” Maher said. Allyson Snell a Peace Corps representative said the increase is due to more than just the economy. “I think it’s a combo of the bad economy and more people graduating college. We see more people thinking about other alternatives to a traditional nine to five job. A lot more people are concerned about what’s going on in the world,” Snell said.

The three groups provide diverse service opportunities for college students and graduates. “We offer 2,000 conservation-related internships, including traditional conservations work like trail work and desert restoration,” Maher said.

City Year recruitment project leader, Ryan McMahon, said its service gives students different opportunities rather than going into the private sector. “I think the big thing is we give people a chance to give back to their communities. No other job provides the experience and responsibility at an entry level job,” McMahon said.

McMahon said AmeriCorps, which City Year is part of, provides scholarships depending on the amount of time put into service. McMahon said this can be applied to previously loans or to law school payments. McMahon added that City Year affords an opportunity to work in the nonprofit system. There are more incentives to give back after graduation. “All internships include paid transportation and housing. A living stipend is also provided.

Participants are also eligible for scholarships,” McMahon said. The scholarships, according to Maher, are given out depending on how long an internship is. The Peace Corps gives individuals a chance to travel worldwide while giving back. “The Peace Corps has been around for 50 years.

It requires a 26 month commitment and will take you to one of 76 countries,” Snell said. Maher said the SCA provides a better resume as well when completed. “Our internships provide real world hands on experience. They are good resume builders and help you meet personal references for job applications.” Maher said.

Nick Marx, a sophomore said the Peace Corps is a good opportunity because of the travel.

“I’ve been out of the country for a few times and I kind of want to do it again, but I don’t want to study abroad per say. I would



Emerald Anderson, Recruitment Project Leader with City Year New Hampshire, speaks about her experience with the program. Photo taken by Equinox staff.

prefer to get to travel and do hand work that book work,” Marx said.

Junior Molly Slavin said she is interested applying for either the AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps to give her time to decide what she wants to do. “I know I’m going to be an elementary and special education teacher, but I don’t want to do grad school right away,” Slavin said. Junior Erin O’Neill said she is interested to give back. “I’m looking into Americorps, I’m really interested in going to New Orleans to do Hurricane Relief,” O’Neil Said. O’Neill said she is interested in the financial support such a service can provide. “It will help a lot if loans can be deferred or I can get an academic award. Even a stipend would help me a lot,” O’Neill said.

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