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College Activities  
Barnard College

# The Role of Campus Activities

**Theory of involvement contends that the amount of energy—both physical and psychological—that students expend at their institution positively affects their development during college.** Students who are involved in campus life also devote considerable energy to their academic programs, spend considerable time on campus, participate actively in student organizations, and interact frequently with other students. Campus activities is one of the vehicles for involving students with the institution.

One of the first noted formal campus organizations established for the purpose of bringing students together (primarily for debating important issues of the day) was the Oxford Union, founded in 1823. The Union's clubs also provided educational opportunities beyond the classroom, through such group activities as discussions of literature and poetry and involvement in hobbies and recreational activities. Today, numerous clubs and organizations offer students opportunities to become involved in campus life. There is little debate now that the collegiate experience involves what occurs outside the classroom and that a college education includes more than what goes on in the classroom.

Campus Activities is the combined efforts of clubs and organizations established for and/or by students, including governance, leadership, social, cultural, diversity, recreational, artistic, political and religious activities. Many of these efforts focus on programs that serve to educate, develop, or entertain club, organization, or group members, their guests, and the campus community.

*Taken from The Book of Professional Standards for Higher Education, Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education.*

## **Benefits of Involvement in Co-Curricular Activities**

- Development of leadership skills
- Provides an outlet for constructive use of energy and recreational time
- Gives an opportunity for planning, managing and making decisions related to program development and implementation
- Development and clarification of personal values
- Offers a practical outlet for experimentation and application of creative thought
- Provides for practical experience in cooperation, teamwork and being an effective member of a group
- Provides an opportunity for development of interpersonal skills
- Offers an opportunity to experience cultural sharing and exchange
- Promotes self-initiative, discipline, independence and responsibility
- Provides practical experience that can be used to enhance your resume

*Adapted from the University of California at Los Angeles Student Programming Center.*

The **COLLEGE ACTIVITIES OFFICE** *welcomes* you! We hope that your student leadership experience to this point has been successful and empowering—we only seek to further this experience with you. The next few pages will explicate a sampling of the resources we have to offer...

### **Student Organization Advising**

The College Activities Office Staff serves as advisors for all clubs and organizations and can direct you to additional resources on campus.

### **Programming**

The College Activities Office advises many of the programs that student organizations produce. In addition to these programs, we also sponsor programs like Acappellooza, the Lunchtime Music Series, Mini Courses, Senior Week, Stress Free Zone, Urban New York, World AIDS Day, and the New Student Orientation Program.

### **TORCHES Leadership Program**

TORCHES—or Targeting Opportunities for Reflection, Change, Honor, Empowerment, and Service—seeks to better prepare you to be active participants in your communities, both at Barnard and beyond. Programs like the Peer Leadership Council, Emerging Leaders Program, Summer Leaders Program, Multicultural Leadership Seminar, Women in Leadership Alumnae Dinners, and various retreats can greatly aid in your quest for more personal and organizational leadership development.

### **Clay Collective & Grace Gold Darkroom**

These two student-managed resources are maintained by the College Activities Office. Sign up early to become a member. Interested in management opportunities? See Doris Miller for more information.

### **Ticket Booth**

The College Activities Office sells discounted tickets to many events in New York City—Broadway, theatre, movies, ballet, symphonies, opera, comedy, and even the occasional circus! If you're looking to purchase a block of tickets for a group outing, see Doris Miller who can head you in the right direction!

### **HAPPENINGS!**

Each month, the College Activities Office publishes a listing of student-centered events on and around the Barnard campus. In addition, the calendar lists any office announcements and opportunities that exist and highlights specific programs that might be of interest. If you would like your events listed in HAPPENINGS!, please contact us at [activities@barnard.edu](mailto:activities@barnard.edu) by the 15th of each month preceding.

### **Mini Courses**

Mini Courses provide a unique way for students, faculty, and staff of Barnard College and Columbia University to learn skills that are not traditionally offered through the academic curriculum: American Sign Language, jewelry-making, dance, photography, pottery, and more! If you're interested in leading a mini course or just signing up for one, stop by the College Activities Office early each semester!

### **Banner Space**

Have a banner? Want it hung on Barnard Hall or in McIntosh? Well, stop by the College Activities Office early each semester to grab some time. These spaces are reserved early, so don't wait around!

# Millicent McIntosh Student Center

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## **Hours of Operation (Fall, 2003):**

Monday—Thursday	8am to 12 midnight
Friday	8am to 8pm
Saturday	11am to 8pm
Sunday	5pm to 12 midnight

## **Bulletin Board Reservations**

There are many reserveable bulletin boards both in Upper Level and Lower Level McIntosh Student Center. Stop by the College Activities Office to sign up for these boards!

## **McIntosh Activities Resource Space (MARS)**

Room 212 McIntosh is open during the academic term as a space that clubs and organizations can reserve for meetings, workspace, use our bulletin board letter cutter, or to work on several computer work-stations. MARS is open during regular McIntosh hours and is reserveable in the College Activities Office.

## **CAO Conference Room**

Located in 112 McIntosh, the Conference Room seats 15 comfortably and is reserveable in the College Activities Office.

## **Organization Offices**

Several organizations maintain offices in McIntosh: The Student Government Association, McIntosh Activities Council, Skip-Stop Commuter Organization, The Barnard Bulletin, WBAR, and the Mortarboard.

## **Tabling in McIntosh Student Center**

Selling tickets? Want to get the info out on an upcoming event? Is there some educational or student activism opportunity you want to share with your peers? A table in McIntosh is a great way to reach many students at one time. Stop by the College Activities Office to reserve a table this year!



Targeting Opportunities for Reflection, Change,  
Honor, Empowerment, and Service

**TORCHES** is a reflective leadership development program geared toward enhancing skills and preparing students to contribute to their community at Barnard College and beyond.

**TORCHES** is the College Activities Office's leadership development program. Each leadership program that is run through TORCHES is carefully crafted to meet individual students' needs as well as to challenge participants. Different opportunities are run concurrently so as to serve many leaders at various places in their own development.

**TORCHES** values the ideas of reflection, change, honor, empowerment, and service. We view each of these as integral pieces of the leadership puzzle—when seen together, leadership is at its most effective.

#### **Peer Leadership Council**

The Peer Leadership Council is open to students with proven leadership experience who come together during the fall semester to discuss complex issues such as power, social change, and community development. This group will interact with various campus change agents, deans, and members of the campus community to broaden their horizons and create connections with like-minded individuals. The Peer Leadership Council will create an action plan that will directly contribute to the Barnard Community.

**Emerging Leaders Program**

The Emerging Leaders Program brings new student leaders together during the Spring semester to explore various leadership skills and different ways of leading. Through interaction with each other, more seasoned student leaders, and other campus advocates for change, these emerging leaders will shape their own vision for themselves and their communities! Emerging Leaders will gain skills for leading and working successfully in teams through group activities and interaction with Barnard deans and other campus change agents, and will be prepared to participate effectively in the myriad of leadership opportunities on campus and off.

**Multicultural Leadership Seminar**

This seminar will explore facets of multicultural leadership through readings, reflection, and dialogue. Multicultural leadership consists of welcoming the whole person, welcoming multiple realities, recognizing contradictions within our various communities, coming to voice, critical thought, and consensus decision making. This seminar relies on participation and dialogue; therefore students are expected to attend all sessions. Students will be asked to read articles and write short reflective pieces that serve as a basis for discussions in the seminar. Students should be willing to take risks, learn from others in the seminar, and come with an open mind.

**Women in Leadership Alumnae Dinners**

These dinners will give a group of students the opportunity to have dinner and talk with a distinguished Barnard Alumna about issues relevant to women in positions of leadership. Past discussions have included issues of work/family balance and breaking the glass ceiling.

“Never doubt that a small group of committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead BC’23

## Leadership Retreats and Conferences

*Whether you're looking for an opportunity to learn more about yourself and others like you, or to come together with other students around your favorite social justice cause, or building community with other Barnard women, we have an opportunity for you! TORCHES and the College Activities Office offer several leadership retreats and conferences throughout the academic term that will both support and challenge your desire to leave a mark on the world around you.*

The **Students of Color Leadership Retreat** is an intensive weekend of self-empowerment and coalition building among diverse communities of color on the Barnard/Columbia Campus.

The **Queer Leadership Conference** seeks to bring members of the Barnard Queer community together to discuss common issues of leadership and change on campus. The 2003 Retreat welcomed leaders from Columbia University, New York University, Princeton University, and Rutgers: The State University of New Jersey.

The **Multicultural Leadership Retreat**, a collaborative effort between the College Activities Office, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Furman Counseling Center, is open to all students interested in exploring issues of identity, community, and leadership.

The **New Student Orientation Program Committee** positions are some of the premier leadership positions on our campus. The NSOP Retreat focuses not only on developing the orientation program, but is an intensive weekend of team-building and personal leadership development.

## Workshops and Seminars

TORCHES and the College Activities Office will offer several skill-based workshops throughout the coming academic term. So if you're looking for information on publicity and posting, or to get to know other student organization leaders, stop by the College Activities Office for more information on these exciting ways to build your resource repertoire.

## **Leadership Opportunities for Student Organization Leaders**

Each year, the College Activities Office through the TORCHES program, sponsors programs aimed at supporting our student organizations while offering student leaders in these groups leadership development opportunities to refine their skills.

### **FUEL: Forging Unlimited Energy and Leadership**

This annual student organization leaders retreat is an opportunity to meet other student organization leaders, network with other clubs, and find out about great resources that the College offers while building your leadership potential.



### **Student Organization Leadership Roundtables**

Roundtables bring together leaders from various student organizations for dinner and conversations around issues such as officer transition, meeting facilitation, common student organization issues, and more. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to meet your peers!

### **Summer Leaders Program**

The Summer Leaders Program offers ten leaders of Barnard Student Government Association-recognized student organizations the opportunity to spend their summer on campus in a Barnard residence hall. They are required to participate in a weekly leadership seminar lead by a member of the College Activities Office staff or other deans and administrators. They must also document through a reflective journal at least 6-8 additional hours of work per week dedicated to their student organization. Past projects have included first year resource books, preparing for a large event, putting organization records in order, and making contacts with outside persons to prepare for the upcoming semester. If you are interested in this program, look for application materials to come out in February or March during the academic year.