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# NEWS

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#### Cornell curriculum adds games design

Monday, May 03, 2004

Designing computer games has moved out of the experimental stage and into a formal spot on Cornell University's curriculum.

This year, faculty members in computer science, music and art collaborated to offer a course in which students worked in teams to come up with games with snazzy special effects.

About 80 Cornell students, along with local high school students, worked on the projects. Those and previously designed games are available free for download at [www.cs.cornell.edu/projects/game/](http://www.cs.cornell.edu/projects/game/).

Computer design, which is popping up as a formal course of study around the country, began as an independent study option three years ago at Cornell. This first official course will be in Computing and Information Science, CIS 300: Introduction to Game Design.

#### Charity cleans up

Students at the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry tried a different approach to raise money for charity - they vacuumed.

"There's nothing that's ever been done quite like that," said John Turbeville, an ESF student life associate. "I was skeptical at first, I've got to be honest."

The Freshman Planning Committee and first-year class raised \$1,425.26 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation by vacuuming dorm rooms and having a soccer tournament.

Some students said their rooms didn't need vacuuming, but they donated money anyway.

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Seven teams - at \$5 per person - participated in the soccer tournament April 24 at Syracuse University's Archbold Gymnasium. Players, a mix of ESF and SU students, also solicited donations.

"I think our kids really rally when they get behind a cause," Turbeville said.

### **Environmental awareness**

Fifteen first-year students in the "Saving the Planet: What You Can Do and Why It Will Work" class at Wells College, in Aurora, are taking environmental awareness and social responsibility to a new level.

Led by professor Niamh O'Leary, the students are learning to reduce their impact on the environment and improve society with small lifestyle changes. Each student is in the midst of an eight-week project, choosing 10 actions to take from a list of 200.

Many have selected small, personal actions, such as buying organic food or reusable materials. Some plan to explore local hiking trails and enjoy the scenery of Cayuga Lake. Others are growing plants in their room to improve air quality.

More ambitious activities include boycotting socially irresponsible companies and volunteering at soup kitchens. The goal is for the students to better understand how they can affect the environment and society.

"I really feel the planet, in its current state, needs our help," said student Nicki Blum, of Rochester.

### **Le Moyne to honor four**

Le Moyne College plans to hand out four honorary doctor of humane letters degrees at its commencement ceremony May 16 at the Onondaga County War Memorial.

The recipients are commencement speaker E.J. Dionne, a syndicated columnist for The Washington Post; Robert L. Errico Sr., a 1957 Le Moyne graduate; Daniel Hege, music director of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra since 1999; and Joanne Sadowski Ingwall, a 1963 Le Moyne graduate.

Dionne often writes about religion and politics. Before joining The Washington Post, he spent 14 years at The New York Times, reporting on state and local government and national politics. He also serves as a regular political analyst on CNN and National Public Radio.

Errico's career has been in the brokerage and investment industry. He is chief operating officer of Locust Wood Capital Advisers, in Manhattan. Errico has served on Le Moyne's Board of Regents and Board of Trustees and is a trustee associate.

Hege has had guest-conducting appearances with symphonies in a number of cities, including Baltimore, Detroit, Phoenix and Seattle. He has also conducted overseas, including the Auckland (New Zealand) Philharmonia and the Symphony Orchestra of Lima, Peru.

Ingwall is a professor of physiology at Harvard Medical School and serves on the staff and faculty of Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston. She has been recognized in her field for her studies of normal and diseased hearts. - Staff writers Nancy Buczek, Rebecca James and David L. Shaw compiled this notebook.

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