

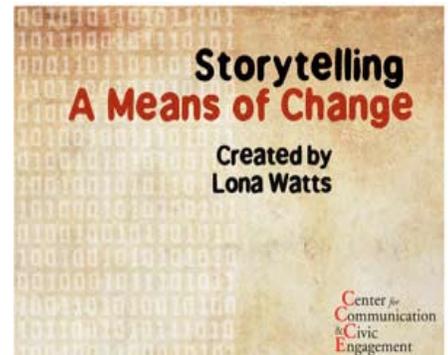
Learning Communities Prosper at CCCE

CCCE is abuzz with meetings and projects as students, faculty and staff create new pathways for citizen engagement on important issues. Combining research and community involvement, these projects enable students to work together with faculty to build new knowledge. CCCE director Lance Bennett observes that "hands on, peer to peer learning is the best way to empower and motivate students, and connect our research center to the teaching mission of the university." Three of these communities have been particularly active this year.

Becoming Citizens has just wrapped up its third year! The program, which seeks to connect undergraduate interns at the UW with Seattle area youth, continues to have phenomenal results. In addition to learning the most recent

perspectives on how citizenship and participation are changing, this year's interns applied this knowledge working in teams creating curriculum modules to stimulate various forms of youth engagement. Produced for the digital world, these power point slides and flash videos will soon be found on our new youth commons Puget Sound Off, and distributed nationally through a practitioner network. The Becoming Citizens program is also bringing students into the process of marketing these civic engagement products to young people.

The program, supervised by Lance Bennett, has been administered by graduate students Chris Wells and Amanda Ballentyne, and has attracted some 45 undergraduate interns during the 2007-2008



A Digital Storytelling Curriculum by BC student Lona Watts

academic year. Ballentyne teaches her students youth advocacy skills and is helping them design campaigns that combine theory taught in class with real life practice. She describes this cohort as "an incredible group of undergrads that I am so happy to be working with." Their battery of civic engagement skills and curriculum packages will not only benefit future interns, but high schools students, youth workers and teachers both locally and across the nation.



Members of the Puget Sound Off and Becoming Citizens teams meet with Russian civic engagement delegates. Clockwise from Lance Bennett (in blue, back row): Amanda Ballentyne, Tyler Goulet, Savannah Peterson, and Chris Wells.

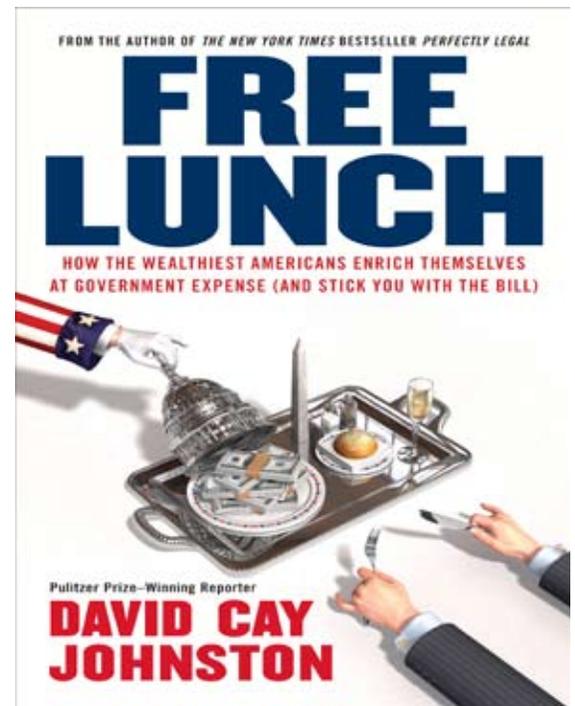
What's the Economy for, Anyway? is celebrating its first birthday. This learning community began at a CCCE Citizen Roundtable lecture delivered by well-known local filmmaker, author, and activist John de Graaf. The goal of the project is to promote an on-going dialogue about the question, "What's the economy for, anyway?" that helps Americans to see how the U.S. compares with other countries around the world when it comes to

trends in quality of life, social justice and sustainability. In the last year, under the coordination of UW political science graduate student Tim Jones, the WTEFA team has created and compiled on its website (www.citizeneconomy.org) an impressive array of educational resources related to the economy, including: lesson plans, suggested readings, and links to useful statistical databases. This summer a team of undergraduates will be

creating a series of multimedia presentations to add to the site related to issues of overconsumption, social inequality, environmental sustainability, and the like. The first such presentation is already available online: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaIOXiHCKPA>. Tune in later in the summer to see more of the students' work. Please contact Tim Jones (taojones@u.washington.edu) if you have comments or suggestions about the project.



David Cay Johnston (Left) and the cover of his latest book *Free Lunch* (Right)



The CCCE and Citizen Roundtable were honored to host David Cay Johnston on May 1, 2008. 30 guests enjoyed an entertaining lecture on big money, taxes, and how much of what we pay to the government goes to corporations and moguls. The Pulitzer Prize winner discussed topics from his

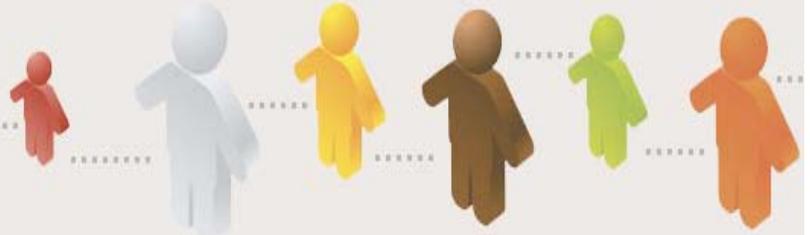
books, with an emphasis on the latest work *Free Lunch*. The lively session examined the handouts that business figures such as Warren Buffet and Donald Trump receive from the government. Johnston emphasized that change will come only if Americans decide to be less passive. The talk was followed by

engaging questions by the Citizen Roundtable regarding immigration, tax reform and student loans. Johnston has set new standards with his investigative reporting for the New York Times, which he is now leaving to devote more time to his own writing.

Research Funding for Projects on Digital Media and Youth Engagement

ENGAGED YOUTH

Civic Learning Online



CCCE has received grants from the MacArthur Foundation and Surdna Foundation for work on understanding how digital media can facilitate youth civic learning and engagement. The grant from the MacArthur Digital Media and Learning initiative addresses the question of what kinds of civic skills young people may be learning in online environments, and what standards may be developed to

make online communities better at facilitating effective participation. The Surdna grant dovetails nicely with this initiative by enabling CCCE to build standards based civic media and advocacy skills training modules for delivery online and in face-to-face settings. CCCE Director Lance Bennett was pleased to announce these grants, saying "it is rare when separate grants complement each other so perfectly. One

grant builds new research knowledge in the under-explored area of what civic skills can be learned in online environments, while the other puts that knowledge immediately into practice to improve the online civic experiences of young people." The progress of these projects can be followed on the website www.engagedyouth.org.



Puget Sound Off's Beta testing site- To check it out, visit: dev.pugetsoundoff.org

Seattle Youth Commons Is Nearing Launch

after months of Beta testing, the Seattle youth commons, Puget Sound Off, is on schedule to launch in September, 2008. PSO is a digital media environment for youth organizations, schools and individual teens to use in sharing issues, ideas and taking action. CCCE staff Lance Bennett, Toby Campbell, Adriana Gil Miner, Deen Freelon, Savannah Peterson, Jon Hickey, Tyler Goulet, Amanda

Ballantyne, and Chris Wells are working hard with developers and local partners to get the site ready and help area teens learn to use it. The early signs point to making public participation both fun and effective, as early adopters have already generated videos, music and blogs to address issues and topics of community concern. Partnering closely with the YMCA and the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhood Technology, the CCCE team

is involved in testing, media skills development, and making sure PSO is 'cool' and up to date. Cooperative efforts with Seattle Public Schools and youth organizations in the area are crucial to the upcoming launch. We are also partnering with the Seattle Times to do a citywide kick off competition in the autumn. It is the hope that PSO will serve as the example to additional collegiate groups and organizations elsewhere in the nation.

Lance Bennett Receives National Communication Association and University of Washington Awards

Lance Bennett, Director of the Center for Communication and Civic Engagement received the highest award given out by the National Communication Association, earning the Distinguished Scholar Award for a lifetime of scholarly achievement in the study

of human communication. In addition, Bennett received the UW James D. Clowes Award for the Advancement of Learning Communities. Among the learning communities recognized by this honor are: Becoming Citizens, The CCCE Citizen Roundtable, and What's the

Economy for, Anyway? He wishes to acknowledge the work of the many students, community members and university administrators who made these communities successful.



Lance Bennett, CCCE
Director.