

## **MBS Corps Creates Leadership Team To Facilitate Volunteer Opportunities**

MBS Corps has made it easier for students to find volunteer opportunities both on and off campus.

The Maine Business School's community outreach organization has developed a First Class calendar which lists the group's partner organizations along with the name of a student liaison for that particular agency. Students just need to look for the MBS Corps calendar inside the Maine Business School folder on their desktops.

"This way, prospective student volunteers can easily find the organization they want to assist, as well as the contact person to facilitate their involvement," said business Professor Nory Jones, advisor for the group.

"This new calendar will really help all of us find information on upcoming events."

Click here for the calendar: <http://tinyurl.com/y8g7e5b>

During an MBS kickoff meeting Jan. 20, student volunteers had the opportunity to meet each other and greet new partner organizations including the Hammond Street Senior Center in Bangor.

"I am so pleased to be here," said Kathryn Bernier, executive director of the senior center which provides opportunities for members to learn, keep fit, and make friends.

"We are always looking for volunteers," said Bernier, adding that students' duties would include answering phones, greeting members and visitors, monitoring parking, and working on the center's data base, among other things.

"When young people come to the senior center, they're pretty amazed to find that it's not a nursing home setting, but a senior learning center," she said. "Students benefit from cross generational relationships and come to realize that growing old doesn't have to be a bad thing."

Danielle Coutu, volunteer and events coordinator for the Bangor Humane Society, attended the kickoff to alert students to the volunteer opportunities at the society which has been involved with MBS Corps for a couple of years.

"It's been a really pleasant, positive experience," she said. Students do a number of things at the humane society, including caring for the animals and cleaning the cages.

Representatives from partner organizations told students they would be happy to offer both individual and group volunteer opportunities.

"Many of our successful collaborations have come through group involvement," said a representative from Spruce Run which provides information and support to people affected by abuse and domestic violence.

Students were enthusiastic about the volunteer opportunities provided by MBS Corps. Marcus Desveaux, '13, philanthropy chair at Phi Kappa Sigma, attended the kickoff because his fraternity "is always looking for ways to help out.

"I'm here to get ideas which I'll bring up at our next meeting," he said.

MBA students offered to develop an efficient organizational structure to make volunteer opportunities easy and seamless. Creating a leadership team, this group of MBA students will act as the liaisons to the partner organizations and help develop a well run infrastructure.

John Mahon, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, and director of the Maine Business School, thanked students for participating in MBS Corps.

"I'm in awe of you," he said. "You're giving an amazing gift. There's no replacement for giving your time and effort. The need is so great out there. It's the things you do on the side that give you such great enjoyment."