Spring 2006 was a definitely a success-filled semester. With approximately 40 volunteers and about 60 work study tutors, we continued to show a strong CUA presence in the DC community.

We added a new site this semester, bringing our total to 9 sites. We are grateful for our partnerships with: Brookland Elementary, CentroNia, Heads Up (at Plummer Elementary), La Salle Elementary, Beacon House, St. Anthony Catholic School, Higher Achievement (Ward 4 center), Our Children, Inc. (at Hart Middle School), and For Love of Children (at Garrison Elementary).

We also wish to extend our gratitude to the 9 Team Leaders who arranged van/metro transportation, collected attendance, and provided vital communication support between the Campus Ministry office and the Site Supervisors at each DC Reads site. These students did all of this in addition to tutoring!

This semester would not have been possible without the work of the Team Leaders: Tom Christian, Liz Goggin, Brittany Bordonaro, Emily White, Lissette Casas, Jessie Metz, Andee Fisher, and Jillian Abecasis. We are also indebted to 4th (and final) year tutor, Jamie Crockett, for his weekly office support.

As we enter the most stressful weeks of the Semester, we hope that you finish your tutoring on a positive note. Thanks for you hard work; we hope to see you in Fall 2006!

-Saleem Hue Penny and Emmjolee Mendoza
CUA DC Reads Program Coordinators
This past semester I worked at a newly re-established site, Brookland Elementary. It was a different environment, because of the arrangement of the school (what they call an “open space” school), the administration, and the method of tutoring children while school was in session. It was difficult to tutor children under such time constraints; because many of the children were being removed from their daily schedule, they had to remain entertained as if they were in class with their teacher. The administration, being overworked and over-stretched were at times helpful, but sometimes unavailable.

I, myself, had to make sure that I was on point at all times. I had to make sure I knew ahead of time what I was going to do with my students; asking questions whenever I had an opportunity and making sure I got them answered. The staff was very helpful, and I soon learned that in order to make sure that my children were getting the most out of the time we spent together, I had to step up my game. I had to make sure that I was organized and never come to work with the children unprepared.

Chris Rennalls
Higher Achievement

I think the toughest part was at the beginning of the semester when I was still trying to get to know the scholars and the best way to teach the lessons so that all of the scholars in the group could enjoy the lesson.

I dealt with this challenge by relating the lessons to the scholars’ lives and how the different aspects of each lesson could start to help in their school work now, as well as later in their lives.

Bridget Gannon
FLOC

The most difficult thing I experienced in DC Reads was when I went to pick up my student one day and was informed, by her teacher, that she had transferred schools. I had not even seen this scenario coming. We had made so much progress together and I knew great things were on the way. It was very hard to stop dead in my tracks and within the next ten minutes get acquainted with my new student.

To deal with this situation I decided that I needed to focus solely on my new student and apply those same techniques that had helped my previous student get on the road to success. Instead of impacting just one student’s life this year, through my challenging situation, I was able to help two.

...Words from some of our STAR TUTORS!

* * *

Mischa Hadaway
Brookland Elementary

These are some of the tutors who have shown the most consistency and creativity this semester. When asked what has been their biggest DC Reads challenge and what strategy they’ve used in their work they responded...
Announcements

Last Day of DC Reads this Semester is: April 29th

* * *

Work Study students: your final paycheck for the semester will be available May 10th. If you haven’t yet, you can still sign-up for Direct Deposit! Just stop by the Payroll Office in Leahy Hall.

Volunteer students: If you need a letter documenting your hours (i.e.- class credit), please contact Saleem Hue Penny at: PennyS@cua.edu by Monday, April 24

Please remember, your Spring Semester Evaluation is due to your Team Leader by Friday, April 28th. Thanks.

Our DC Reads Brunch is Sunday, April 23 from 11:00-1:00 in the Foyer of McMahon Hall.

The Brunch will be catered by St. Germaine Catering. Please come and celebrate with us!

Congratulations for an excellent year, especially to our graduating Seniors!! We hope to see the rest of you next Fall.

Communiversity Day is also on Sunday, April 23rd. This fun-filled event is similar to last semester’s Kids On Campus Day. Please distribute the permission slip to your student when you see them this week!

Alpha Phi Omega is hosting the activities from 12-4pm. Please contact Julia Zemnick at 202-238-1920 or 05zemnick@cua.edu if you are interested in volunteering.

HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY, RELAXING, & INSPIRING SUMMER!