

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT )

# Forming Future Leaders



(Clockwise from top) Carol Verish '99 (second from left) with her HOBY group; Verish with Hugh O'Brian at a luncheon in York County; HOBY volunteers and participants during the annual seminar at Shippensburg University.



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Verish was recruited to be a facilitator for the HOBY seminar in 2004, and has volunteered for the group in some capacity ever since.

“I continue to volunteer for HOBY because it is one of the most worthwhile organizations that I have ever been involved with,” she said. “During the four-day seminar each year, nearly 250 high school sophomores become empowered to make a difference in the world. It inspires me to see these students’ attitudes and lives change over the course of the seminar.”

As vice chair of operations, Verish organizes and oversees the logistics of the annual seminar. She manages a team of volunteers who prepare facilities, create bus schedules for off-campus visits, work with dining services, and organize student groups.

For the past two years, the program has been held at Ship, and it will be held here again in 2015. “The facilities at Ship work well for us, and the conference staff is outstanding,” she said.

Ship also provides an ideal place for students to learn about group leadership. The university and its H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center are two of the seven locations that students visit to learn more about local businesses. As part of the seminar, students also must commit to perform 100 hours of community service over the following year. The Shippensburg University Farm is one of about seven locations where students kick off their volunteer hours.

**BY THOMAS ZIMMERMAN '01-'09M**

Carol Verish '99 credits her student involvement at Shippensburg as the driving force behind her desire to volunteer. It only makes sense that the former student leader now paves the way for new youth leaders as vice chair of operations with the Central Pennsylvania Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar Board.

Verish holds a demanding position as an associate attorney practicing corporate/business and real estate law for the Harrisburg-based firm of Serratelli, Schiffman & Brown, P.C. Yet she dedicates her spare time to serving a worthy organization with a connection to her alma mater.

According to its website, HOBY was founded in 1958 with a mission “to inspire and develop our global community of

youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation.” The national organization runs programs annually that offer selected local and international high school students the opportunity to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning, and motivation-building experiences.

Each spring, Central Pennsylvania HOBY holds a four-day seminar that offers students a full schedule of activities, including speakers, service projects, site visits to local businesses, and a trip to the state capitol. Activities focus on personal leadership, group leadership, and global leadership.

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Students who participate in the event leave with a sense of accomplishment. Verish said they feel empowered to do more.

“Over the four days, you watch them come out of their shells. They discover that they have a voice, and people will listen to them.”

The university nurtured student leaders long before hosting the HOBY seminar. Verish said her time at Ship helped prepare her for her future.

“I chose Ship because of the academic reputation and the cost of tuition,” said Verish, who was a geoenvironmental studies major. “When I visited Ship during my senior year of high school, the minute I stepped on the campus, I felt like it was where I was supposed to be... like I was home.”

Verish was involved in Student Senate, serving as a senator for two years and as treasurer for two years. She also volunteered with the Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographic Honor Society. Last year, Central Pennsylvania HOBY awarded her the David H. Baker Jr. Volunteer of the Year Award.

“I’ve always been drawn to volunteering,” she said.

“The students at HOBY take this experience back to their schools and inspire other people to volunteer in their communities. My (service) hours are multiplied exponentially. When 250 of them give 100 hours of service, that’s something I could never do by myself.”

Thomas Zimmerman '01-'09M works for the US Army War College Public Affairs Office.



Carol Verish '99 with another HOBY volunteer.