

# Read here, read there, read Dr. Seuss everywhere

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

ST. CLOUD, Minn. - Community volunteers will help more than 900 children celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading the beloved author's stories at local elementary schools, Reach-Up Head Start locations, and Boys & Girls Clubs. Members of the SCSU-based AmeriCorps program are coordinating the readings, which will be held on Friday, March 5.



Born March 2, 1904, Theodor Seuss Geisel wrote and illustrated more than 40 children's books. He won numerous awards for his work, including a 1984 Pulitzer Prize.

"Dr. Seuss captures the imagination and interest of both young and old," said Nina Bregel, AmeriCorps member and SCSU alumna ('03). "We're hoping students get energized about reading and learning. Having community volunteers come into classrooms is exciting for students and shows them that other adults, besides their teachers and parents, care about them."

Over 100 individuals—many of them SCSU students—have signed up to read books and help with related follow-up activities. Thirty volunteers belong to the American Marketing Association (AMA), one of SCSU's largest student organizations. "We feel this is a great way to reach out to the community," said Trevor Wellen, AMA community service chair. Others learned of the event through United Way's "Volunteer Central MN," an [online](#) resource that links individuals with local volunteer opportunities.

Bregel believes the event will draw more attention to the need for volunteerism in educational settings. "Many people don't realize the positive impact they can have in the community by simply volunteering their time and energy."

At several locations, AmeriCorps members will also present readers theatre—the performance of a book where individuals rely primarily on voice inflections and facial expressions rather than props, costumes, or sets to tell the story. "Readers theatre really brings a book to life by encouraging kids to use their imaginations," said Bregel.

Financial support from the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls, Minn., will enable the AmeriCorps program to donate a free Dr. Seuss book to every participating classroom and club.

A national service program often referred to as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps provides an opportunity for adults of all ages and from any background to help meet pressing local needs. In addition to serving at local non-profit agencies, members of the SCSU-based AmeriCorps program organize a service project each month to benefit the community.

In addition to Bregel, who serves at United Way of Central Minnesota, two other AmeriCorps members helped coordinate the Dr. Seuss event. Loren Johnson serves at Catholic Charities; Charlie Gallagher at Stearns County Emergency Management.

Media: Nina Bregel may be reached by phone at 320-252-0227 (United Way) or by [e-mail](#). Photos may be taken at Lincoln Elementary from 1:00-2:30 p.m. or at the Southside Boys & Girls Club from 10:30-12:00 p.m.