

Service Learning Legends

What is Service Learning?

By Martina Perry

Hands-on experience, networking opportunities, and enhanced learning...these are just a few of the many benefits associated with students' participation in service learning courses and projects. A service learning course involves a structured service activity or project that relates directly to the course objectives, and some type of in-class reflection on the activities. Service learning is mutually beneficial to the agencies, as well as, the student. Partnerships with community-based agencies are fostered in order to:

- Enhance student learning and development
- Encourage student civic participation
- Foster community-based research opportunities
- Provide for student leadership development
- Facilitate students contributing to identified community problems and social issues

Service learning courses are offered in a wide range of departments at FSU. Students and faculty can use the Course Lookup System to obtain a complete listing of the hundreds of service learning classes offered at FSU each semester by selecting "Service Learning" under Additional Search Criteria at

<http://registrar.fsu.edu/>

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Zenia Schlenoff

By Martina Perry

During the Fall 2006 semester students in Dr. Zenia Schlenoff's Arabic classes have provided interactive educational presentations on various Middle Eastern countries in after school programs at local Middle and Elementary schools. According to Schlenoff, the presentations "offer young children an opportunity to learn about an area that has become of vital interest to the US, yet absent from the curriculum. They provide a cultural perspective that help one to understand a very complex, yet ancient, collection of societies."

The presentations cover the history, geography, government, and culture of the Middle East. As a result of their participation, the service learning students in Dr. Schlenoff's Arabic classes are able to share their knowledge and develop their leadership and public speaking skills.

According to Kathleen Johnson, an

assistant with the FSU Middle East Center, the two schools that have had the presentations this semester are Fairview Middle School and Gilchrist Elementary School. The staff and students alike have received the presentations very enthusiastically. Kathleen stated, "It is almost as though the country becomes real to the student and is no longer a shaded region on a map. That's the primary reason I'm involved with this program -- it brings the Middle East to life."

As a result of their exposure to the culture of Middle Eastern countries, many positive effects have been noticed amongst the students. "By the end of the first presentation at Fairview, the students were asking about 'the Saudi Arabians' or 'the bedouin' and not saying 'them' or 'those people'. Their status seemed to move from that of the "other" to one that was slightly more familiar," said Kathleen.



School of Nursing students providing health education to the residents of Providence Neighborhood in 2005

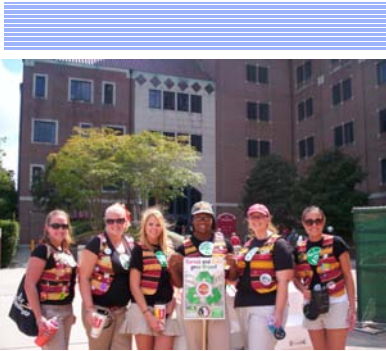
"It is almost as though the country becomes real to the student and is no longer a shaded region on a map."



Service Learning students presenting at Gilchrist Elementary

Recycling Continues at FSU Football Games

By Melissa Plotkin



Lady Spirithunters encourage fans to recycle at the Rice home game

The "Garnet and Gold goes Green!" Recycling Program has proven to be extremely successful! In the Fall 2005 football season, seven tons of recyclable materials (plastic, glass, and aluminum) were collected, and that number is expected to increase this season due to the addition of five six-pack recycling stations in key tailgating lots.

The Program's past and current successes would not have been possible without our amazing participants. Serving as "the friendly faces" of recycling at each home game, participants informed and reminded Seminole fans as they entered Doak Campbell Stadium that they had the option to dispose of their recyclable waste in a sustainable manner. As for the Falls 2006 football season thus far, there have been over 100 participants representing student organizations such as the Environmental Service Program, Caribbean Student Association, Lady

Spirithunters, and Silver Wings.

A new addition to this year's program is the Student Recognition and Award Program. To be eligible, five or more members of an FSU student organization must first participate in GGGG recycling projects (football or baseball). Participating student organizations then have the opportunity to submit a sustainable campus project proposal that puts them in the running to win either \$1000 or \$500 toward the implementation of the project.

The "Garnet and Gold goes Green!" Recycling Program has been a great start to bettering FSU's recycling infrastructure! If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact recycling@fsu.edu.

Melissa Plotkin is a senior from Naples, FL interning with the "Garnet and Gold goes Green!" Recycling Program.

Service Learning Student Stars: Paula Reynolds and James Winderem

By Jill Cusack

For almost 30 years, Florida Impact has been facilitating community outreach and advocating for public policies to reduce hunger and poverty throughout the state of Florida. This fall, the agency has provided two students from Florida State with the opportunity to learn more about issue framing and politicking, while also gaining and refining their research, communication, and statistical analysis skills.

Paula Reynolds, sophomore Biology major from Wakulla, FL, is working with the Universal Breakfast Program compiling data and developing a conclusive report on the pilot program. Paula said the skills required for this project are very similar to those needed when writing a research paper, and that she has had to rely on her past experiences of writing lab reports in her Biology and Chemistry courses.

James Windrem, second year Public Health graduate student from Miami Springs, FL, is collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing data for the 2007 edition of Florida Impact's biennial report, Feeding Florida: Responses to Hunger in the Sunshine State. According to James, past public policy and health economics classes have given him "a leg up on understanding the cyclical nature of non-profit fundraising and the counter-cyclical nature of many state administered food aid programs".

One of the main missions of service learning is to help students make the connection between course work and real life experiences, and this is just one of the many examples that occurs each semester. While each student has different career aspirations, both have expressed interest in continuing to participate in their community and attribute that goal to their time spent with Florida Impact.



Did You Know?

Since 1979, Florida Impact has been dedicated to reducing hunger and poverty in Florida.

One of their major accomplishments was the passage of the Willie Ann Glenn Act, a law to ensure federal summer food sites near all elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods.

Source: <http://www.flimpact.org/>

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Learn to Serve.

Integrating Service Learning Into a Course Syllabus

1. Include a definition of service learning.
2. Link the objectives of the service learning components to course learning objectives.
3. Establish partnerships and projects that will facilitate those learning objectives.
4. Analyze the kinds of service such partnerships/projects would provide to the larger community -is it needed? Does a community assessment need to be done? Is the data already available from another source?
5. Set the best format for the service component:
 - required or optional for students taking service learning course
 - 3 hours per week for 13 weeks is optimal for student and agency
 - service may be direct service, indirect service, research service, or advocacy
 - service may address a variety of Community Need Areas, a few, or just one
6. Consider adjustments you might want to make to the course's traditional workload (less reading or fewer problem sets, fewer tests, or cases, etc.). Ask: What kinds of learning can the service related activities facilitate that are currently being covered in another way or that are currently being assessed in another way?

Source: *Essential Service Learning Resources for Faculty*

Fall 2006 Program Statistics

Total Classes: 211	Total Courses: 86
Undergraduate Classes: 172	Undergraduate Courses: 71
Graduate Classes: 39	Graduate Courses: 15



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