

# Service Learning Legends

## A Chat with the Service Learning Program Director: Dr. Marsha Turner

By Elizabeth Swiman



Dr. Marsha Turner

*“Service Learning provides a blend of skill building from the theoretical to the practical and enhances student learning.”*

Dr. Marsha Turner came to FSU five years ago to lead the newly formed Service Learning Program. Recently she talked with us about service learning and her beginnings at FSU.

**Q. What was the path that led you to FSU?**

**A.** I attended FSU as a Ph.D. student and always had it in the back of my mind that I would like to work here. I really enjoyed living in Tallahassee, and after teaching at the University of South Carolina for some time, I wanted to come back.

**Q. What is the importance of Service Learning to you?**

**A.** Students will be able to gain experience, references, and networks that

will serve them in all of their future endeavors. For faculty, it provides a means of professional development and a new way to connect with their students.

**Q. What is your motivation for Service Learning?**

**A.** I believe in Service Learning as a pedagogy. Any of us may be trained to do something, but until we go out into the world and practice, we do not “know” how to do it. Service Learning provides a blend of skill building from the theoretical to the practical and enhances student learning. Seeing projects and products that help someone really motivates me as well.

**Q. Where do you see the FSU Service Learning**

**Program going?**

**A.** Growing of course! However, it’s not the quantity of classes or projects but the quality of what we are helping to produce. I would like to pursue enhancing the quality of the Service Learning experience for all students, agencies, and faculty involved. We are also exploring how to utilize technology more effectively to help manage our projects.

**Q. What are you most proud of in regards to the Service Learning Program?**

**A.** The relationships and partnerships among the students, faculty, and agencies that are being formed as well as the learning outcomes that are achieved.

## Service Learning Program Highlights

By Elizabeth Swiman

### New Partnerships and Projects:

The Interdisciplinary Service Learning Advisory Council is making plans to launch a Wellness Program at Fairview Middle School. The goal of this initiative is to provide support with health education, counseling, and health services, while supporting the research endeavors of several FSU faculty members. The projected opening for the Wellness Program is Fall 2007.

### Accomplishments:

FSU Sustainable Campus & Community Committee is moving forward with helping make FSU a greener campus. For the first time the Committee is able to offer monetary awards for student-led sustainability projects. In Spring 2007 the Environmental Service Program was awarded funding for their project proposal.

### Did you know?

*The Interdisciplinary Service Learning Advisory Council is made up of faculty and students from the College of Medicine, School of Nursing, College of Information, College of Education, College of Human Sciences, and College of Communication, as well as local community agencies. This Council develops service learning projects in Southside Neighborhoods and Communities.*

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Lynn Panton

By Martina Perry

Dr. Lynn Panton, Assistant Professor in Exercise Science, has offered service learning opportunities to her students since Fall 2005. Students in her Exercise Testing and Prescription course are given the option to sign up for an additional Directed Individual Study credit, wherein they would participate in service learning activities with local organizations such as the Tallahassee Senior Center, Westminster Oaks, the Tallahassee Developmental Center, and the YMCA just to name a few. With these agencies, students have been able to develop exercise programs for seniors, compile exercise test scores, work with clients to develop fitness goals, and provide

clients with fitness evaluations consisting of cardiovascular fitness, percent body fat, girth measurements, and flexibility assessment.

According to Dr. Panton, after completing this Exercise Testing and Prescription course students should be able to work in a health/fitness club or a rehabilitation program providing exercise assessment and prescription to their clientele. She decided to develop experiential learning opportunities for her students because she recognized a need for students to have hands-on experience that would complement the in-class instruction. In regards to these service learning internships, Dr. Panton

stated that they “give the student the opportunity to work with patient populations and individuals afflicted with chronic diseases.” Dr. Panton also said, “The biggest benefit for the students is the networking and meeting individuals in the community that can help them find job positions after they graduate.” As a result of participating in service learning, some of Dr. Panton’s students have gone on to work full time for the organizations.

With her dedication to creating experiential learning opportunities for her students, Dr. Panton is a model service learning faculty member.



Dr. Lynn Panton

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## FSU Students to Assist in Bridging the Technology Gap

By Jill Cusack



This Spring semester, the Service Learning Program was excited to begin laying the foundation for a partnership between the Computer Recycling and Technical Assistance Program (CRTA) with Lutheran Social Services of North Florida, Inc. and students from the Department of Computer Science and various registered student organizations.

The goal of this program is to increase the level of technology available to non-profit agencies by providing refur-

bished computer systems and technical assistance, while reducing the number of computer systems that enter our solid waste system. Participating students will have the opportunity to serve as technology specialists, usability engineers, or web developers for the CRTA Program while taking what they have learned in their computer science classes and applying them to their service to the non-profit organizations.

The Service Learning Pro-

gram looks forward to sustaining this partnership, and believes that many community organizations will benefit from the generous service provided by Lutheran Social Services of North Florida, Inc.

Lutheran Social Services of North Florida is a local non-profit that administers programs to address unmet social service needs in North Florida. To learn more about this organization visit their website at [www.lssnf.org/](http://www.lssnf.org/)

## Earth Day 2007

### Building a Community: Think Globally, Act Locally

BY Mariel Gonick

"Building a CommUNITY: Think Globally, Act Locally" was the theme of this year's Earth Day and Unity Day Fair held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the FSU Oglesby Union Green. Hosted by FSU Sustainable Campus and Community Committee, FSUnited, Environmental Service Program, and the Service Learning Program, Center for Civic Education and Service, the event sought to emphasize the importance of protecting the environment while unifying the FSU community.

Community organizations such as New Leaf Market, St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, Yoga Unlimited, Environment Flor-

ida, and Native Nurseries provided information about their services while encouraging students to explore ways to develop more earth friendly lifestyles.

Numerous registered student organizations also came together to showcase their organizations achievements throughout the year while recruiting perspective members. Highlighted by the Pan-Hellenic Appreciation Week, many of the groups took a philanthropic approach to the event and provided activities where students could make arts and crafts for the groups' respective charities.

Earth Day Fair 2007 attracted a huge turnout from beginning to end. Community booths and student organizations kept busy informing students of their agency or organization while enjoying entertainment provided by a DJ and various student performance groups such as the Martial Arts Group and the Cosa Meara Company of Irish Dance. "I have never seen such a big turnout on the Union Green," said event coordinator, Jill Cusack. The Earth Day and Unity Day committee would like to thank everyone who made the event a huge success.



Event Planning Committee

## An Amazing Agency: The Pregnancy Help and Information Center

By Martina Perry

The Pregnancy Help and Information Center, a value based (pro-life, Christian) agency serving women who are pregnant, has partnered with several FSU service learning instructors since Fall 2003 to provide service learning opportunities for students. Some of these courses have included Family Problems and Social Change classes taught by Ms. Noreen LeGare, Dr. Kathryn Tillman, and Ms. Carolyn Sawtell; as well as Child Development classes taught by Dr. Steve Mills.

The students who work with the PHI Center have the opportunity to assist in the PHI Center Stork Room, which is their in-house thrift store. Some of the duties involved are organizing and managing donated items for distribution through Earn While You Learn Program, working with clients in determining needs in preparation for birth of new baby and existing family needs, and coordinating the efforts of volunteer staff.

Ms. Barbara Bist, Co-Manager of the PHI Center, said of the service learning partnership, "The students meet class requirements but also find the unexpected benefits of reaching out to the community. Our center relies on the dedication and energy of FSU students." Ms. Bist also expressed that the PHI Center gains current information about university life, and their clients enjoy the personal connection with the FSU students.

The PHI Center's continued partnership with FSU Service Learning classes has resulted in valuable learning opportunities for students.

For more information about the Pregnancy help Information Center, please visit <http://www.phicenter.org/>



*"Our center relies on the dedication and energy of FSU students"*

## Spring 2007 Program Statistics

Service Learning Program  
 FSU Center for Civic Education and Service  
 930 West Park Avenue  
 Tallahassee, Fl. 32306  
 Phone: 850-644-3174  
 Fax: 850-644-4139

Total Classes: 207	Total Courses: 81
Undergraduate Classes: 163	Undergraduate Courses: 62
Graduate Classes: 44	Graduate Courses: 19

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### Service Learning Staff Changes

The Service Learning Program would like to welcome Elizabeth Swiman, the newest addition to the Center for Civic Education and Service family! Elizabeth serves as the full-time Program Assistant with the Service Learning Program.

Elizabeth is a graduate of the University of Florida, where she obtained a Master's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Her knowledge of environmental and sustainable issues makes her a valuable asset to the Service Learning Program and FSU Sustainable Campus and Community Committee.

In addition to this staff addition, the Service Learning Program is also experiencing a staff change. Martina Perry and Jill Cusack, both Gradu-

ate Assistants with the Service Learning Program are graduating this current Spring semester. Both are obtaining Master's degrees in Higher Education.

"Martina and Jill were both essential assets to this program. Both were extremely dedicated and hard-working, and they accomplished much. I am sure that Elizabeth will carry on this tradition of excellence and enthusiastic commitment," said Jessica Driemeier, an intern at the Service Learning Program.

The Service Learning Program will miss these two outstanding Graduate Assistants. Their work throughout the past two years has been invaluable to the program. We wish them well in their future endeavors!

### Service Learning Faculty Advisory Board

promotes a wider understanding of the concept of service learning within the University community and fosters community-based scholarship for service learning classes and projects.

#### 2006-2007 Board Members

Penny Gilmer	Chemistry
Laura Arpan	Communication
Jill Pable	Interior Design
Barbara Palmer	Education Theory and Practice
Dennis Moore	English
Steve Mills	Family and Child Sciences
Chiang Shih	Mechanical Engineering
Daniel VanDurme	Medicine
Laurie Grubbs	Nursing
James Hinterlong	Social Work
Rebecca Miles	Urban and Regional Planning
Helen Burke	Honors Program
Mia Lustria	Information