



### Service-Learning...

- Integrates classroom theory with practical experience
- Enhances leadership skills
- Encourages active community commitment
- Increases awareness of social justice issues

### In this issue:

Student Highlight 2

Community Partner Highlight 2

Free At Last 3

Academic Coordinator 4

# SERVICE-LEARNING

## ENGAGE REFLECT CHANGE

Spring 2011

Volume 3, Issue 1

## 2011 Jackson Fellows

In 2008, the College of Saint Benedict received an anonymous gift to establish the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellows Program. This program allows nine students with varying majors, interests, and experiences to serve a community site for the summer, based on selection through an application process.

All nine fellowships must involve civic engagement and work devoted to improving community life through political or non-political service activities, and each recipient brings their own unique perspective on where they would like to perform their service.

The 2011 Jackson Fellows include: Adia Zeman, Thu-Trang Tran, Jennifer Stevenson, Evan Lowder, Tiffany Vang, Isaac Meyer, Colin Frederick, Kathryn Hauff, John Godfrey, and Steven Dahlke. If you would like to become involved with this program, watch for application materials to be emailed in the fall. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the co-directors, Marah Jacobson-Schulte,

[mjacobsonsc@csbsju.edu](mailto:mjacobsonsc@csbsju.edu) 320-363-51117 or Matt Lindstrom,  
[mlindstrom@csbsju.edu](mailto:mlindstrom@csbsju.edu) 320-363-3364.

Galen Himrich  
*Service-Learning Academic Coordinator*

### JACKSON FELLOWS

Civic Engagement Project



Developing Leaders.

*Enhancing Communities.*

COLLEGE OF  
Saint Benedict  
Saint John's  
UNIVERSITY

## Tips For Riding The Service-Learning Mini-Bus!

Introducing our three Service-Learning mini-bus drivers: Kevin Wick, Jordon Przybilla & Michelle Kennedy. These student workers are responsible for getting our Service-Learning students to their project sites in the St. Cloud area. Here's some tips for riding the Service-Learning Mini-bus:

- Be sure to make a reservation for the bus the day before your site visit by emailing [djohnstone@csbsju.edu](mailto:djohnstone@csbsju.edu)
- Don't be late. Though the bus drivers wait for all the students on their list, the longer they wait the later all the riders will be able to get to their sites.
- Let the bus drivers know as soon as you board the bus if you will not be returning on our bus. The bus drivers are responsible for you the instant you step foot inside the mini-bus. If you don't show up to be picked up, it sends everything into chaos and they will have to call security to find you. (Not fun)
- Take a few minutes on the way to your site to prepare yourself for the service you will perform.
- Reflect on the bus ride back to school about your service experience and try swapping stories with others who ride the bus.
- Don't expect the bus drivers to be there at the exact time they said, traffic can be crazy.
- Thank the bus driver, it may not seem like much but they appreciate it!

Photo & Article by Jackie Carlson,  
Academic Coordinator



Kevin Wick, Jordon Przybilla and Michelle Kennedy

## Service-Learning Student Highlight: Kirsten Fasching

Kirsten Fasching is a senior who took THEO 339: Christian Discernment. She spent her semester working with Hands Across the World, a program that provides support and education for refugees and immigrants in the St. Cloud area. We asked Kirsten to share her service-learning experience with us:

*1. Why did you choose to serve at Hands Across the World?*

I chose Hands Across the World because it gave me the opportunity to work with a people from different cultures and backgrounds, which was something I did not have much experience in.

*2. On a typical day, what do you do at HAW?*

Typically, I went to HAW right

away in the morning, so I assisted with Math and English class. There were different levels of each and I had the opportunity to assist in most of them. Because I worked in every classroom, I got to meet and interact with a variety of students. Occasionally I helped in the children's room.

*3. What has been the most rewarding part of your experience?*

The most rewarding part of my experience was being able to see the "light bulb" go on when the students understood a concept and to see them progress as time went on. I am glad that I got to be a part of their learning experience!

*4. What has been the most difficult part of your experience?*

The most difficult part of my

experience at HAW was the language barrier. I found that it was sometimes hard to explain a concept to a student in terms that they understood.

*5. Have you been able to make connections with your service and what you are learning in THEO 339?*

In class we have talked about how important it is to help those in need. HAW helps these new immigrants learn everyday skills that they will need to have in America and I feel that my experience at HAW as allowed me to do that.

*6. What will you take away from your service-learning experience?*

Volunteering at HAW was an eye-opening experience. I realized during my experience how much I take my education and other opportunities for granted. Seeing

how much the students enjoyed going to class everyday and how much they enjoyed learning made me realize that not everyone gets the opportunity to get an education like the one I am fortunate enough to receive. I realized that I should be more thankful and appreciative for these opportunities.

**Adia Zeman**

*Service-Learning Academic Coordinator*



## Community Partner Highlight: Southside Boys & Girls Club

Southside Boys & Girl's Club has been a wonderful community partner to the CSB/SJU service-learning program for many years. Its mission is to

*enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.*

Southside Boys & Girls Club is open five days a week for children ages 5-18. There are about 900

students registered within the program, and it is a diverse site with a large Somali population.

This year alone, 29 service-learning students have been placed at Southside. They come from many departments at CSB/SJU, such as: education, peace studies, psychology, economics, and theology. These students assist the club members with their homework, play basketball, lead arts and crafts, organize various activities, help with career and leadership skills, and act as

mentors. The St. Bens and St. Johns students have very positive experiences at Southside and learn a lot from the club members they work with.

The director of Southside Boys & Girls Club is a CSB/SJU alumna, Christine Kustelski. She has helped create the strong connection between the colleges and her site. Christine understands the vision of the CSB/SJU community and uses it to help meet the needs of the Boys and Girls Club. Thanks to her,

the relationship is as strong as it is today!

**Molly Kalina**

*Service-Learning Academic Coordinator*



## FREE AT LAST

### Engage. Reflect. Change.

The Liemandt Family Service-Learning Program is dedicated to comprehensive learning by integrating classroom and community into the learning experience. This collaboration forges an intentional and meaningful service experiences based in academics and social justice. The students of Rachel Melis Art of the Printed Book course embodied these ideals and produced work to raise awareness pertaining to human trafficking.

As part of their Service-Learning commitment, Rachel's class forged a partnership with Brianda Cediel, the co-founder and Executive Director for Hands Across the World, an organization founded to be the first contact for refugees and immigrants seeking to make Central Minnesota their new home.

*I'm so proud for you the students because you researched, you worked, you felt the passion... and you said we really need to support our women.*

**-Brianda Cediel**

Art is a form of expression which can cross multiple divides and communicate a powerful message.

The posters produced are part of a long-term campaign to raise awareness about human in an attempt to make our community a safe zone for women and children.

*We don't design our art for designer art sake... we make it to support something going on in our community.*

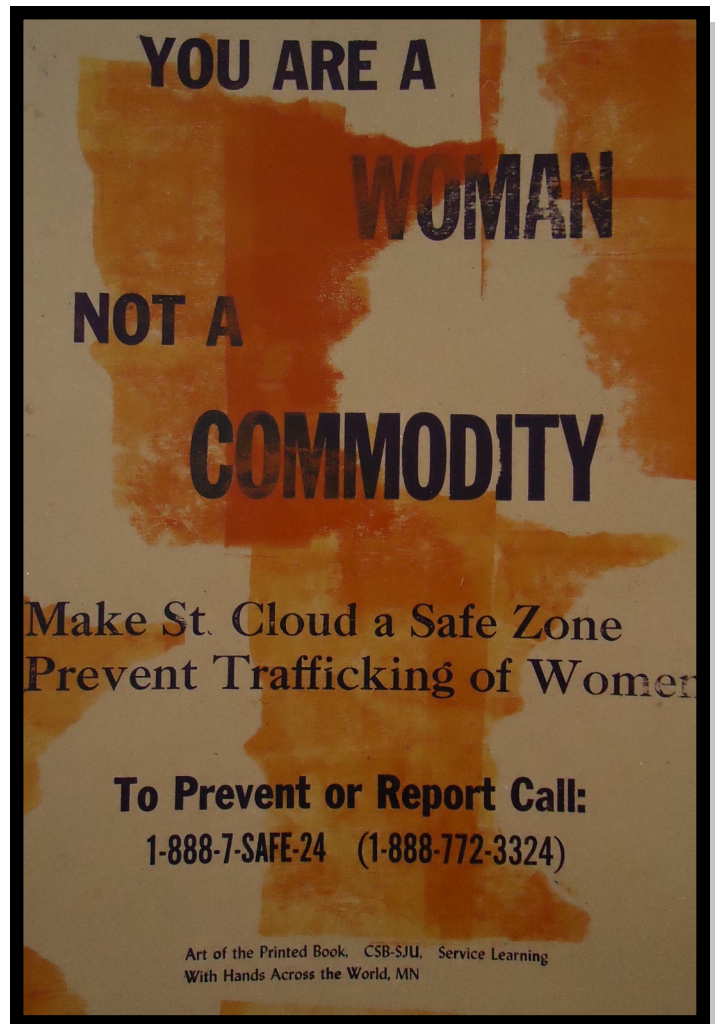
**-Rachel Melis**

Stewardship, one of our Benedictine values meaning to integrate a commitment to the common good and respect for the individual. Brianda reiterated this value and reminded the students present at the reception that it was in their hands to continue this work and promote social justice.

*You are the generation...you are the ones that need to carry on in the community; you have the social responsibility to keep working on these issues.*

**-Brianda Cediel**

**Sergio Aguilera**  
*Service-Learning Academic Coordinator*



## Get To Know Your Academic Coordinator



As many know, there is a whole staff behind this whole Service-Learning program. Many don't know the different academic-coordinators that are all behind the great services of service-learning. This interview took place with Jackie Carlson, here are some of her answers:

*What is your year and your major?*  
"I'm a junior Peace Studies major with minors in environmental studies and management."

*When did you become an Academic Service-Learning Coordinator?*  
"I started working at Service-Learning mid fall semester of my freshman

year."

*What is your favorite part of being one of the Service-Learning staff?*  
"I like that my work study job involves doing meaningful work with the CSB-SJU community as well as the greater St. Cloud community. I have grown so much working these past three years from learning about the growing Somali population in St. Cloud to being able to conduct myself professionally to my peers."

*I heard you are a Phillips Scholar as well, could you please tell us more about that and your accomplishments?*  
"This summer I will be serving at

Southside Boys & Girls club fulfilling my scholarship by bringing high school aged students into the community and doing service based off the social change wheel."

*How about a random fact that not many people know about you?*  
"I'm a big kid at heart who eats too much candy and is in love with the magical world of Harry Potter!"

So, this is the first articles of many to come, of getting to know each of your Service-Learning academic coordinators.

Alicia Renstrom

*Service-Learning Academic Coordinator*

## SERVICE-LEARNING ENGAGE REFLECT CHANGE

College of Saint Benedict/Saint

John's University

37 S. College Ave.

St. Joseph, MN 56374

Phone: 363-5256

E-mail:

[servlearn@csbsju.edu](mailto:servlearn@csbsju.edu)

Located in Lower Level

ASB

---

WE'RE ON THE WEB

[WWW.CSBSJU.EDU/SERVICLEARNING](http://WWW.CSBSJU.EDU/SERVICLEARNING)

---