Greetings and Happy Spring!

We are excited to share our final issue of the Service-Learning Newsletter for the 2008-2009 academic year with you. We are gearing up for the end of the semester. Community Partners: watch for an email with a link to complete student evaluations and our new Community Partner Evaluation of Service-Learning. We appreciate the time you take to provide feedback so that we can better meet your needs in the future. Faculty Members: watch for a link to complete a survey on service-learning. We will use this feedback to plan for future partnerships. Students: remember to post your final hours to us for your projects and make plans for summer and fall service opportunities!

Thank you to all of our community partners who made this semester a huge success. We would also like to thank our committed faculty members and over 600 students who made a difference inside the classroom and out in our community!

Check out the update on our new Bonner Program, the Empty Bowls Event, and Family Fun Day. We invite you all to join us as we celebrate Scholarship & Creativity Day on April 22nd. Be sure to stop by the Service-Learning poster session and see what our students have been up to, we know you will be impressed!

In the Spirit of Service,

Marah Jacobson-Schulte
Service-Learning Coordinator
Director, Bonner Leaders Program
Co-Director, Jackson Fellows Program

A Note from Marah Jacobson-Schulte

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

Inside this issue:

Jackson Fellowship — Summer 2009

After competitive application and interview processes, Marah Jacobson-Schulte and Dr. Matt Lindstrom are excited to introduce the 2009 Jackson Fellows. Congratulations to Brian Long, Christen Beckstrand, Catherine Hansen, Laura Huiras, Ashley VerBurg, Yesenia Murillo, Jackie Duchsche, Michael Johnson and Emily Bina. In response to an anonymous gift to the College of St. Benedict, the Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement is pleased to offer up to nine student fellowships for full-time summer civic engagement projects. The fellowships will relate to public policy and/or community service and will be hosted by off-campus organizations throughout Minnesota. All fellowships will involve civic engagement or work devoted to improving community life or the common good through political or non political activities.

Marah Jacobson-Schulte
Service-Learning Coordinator
Director, Bonner Leaders Program
Co-Director, Jackson Fellows Program
What’s Your IMPACT?

Over spring break, three members of the CSB/SJU Service-Learning Program and Bonner team, Marah Jacobson-Schulte and students Brian Long and Adia Zeman, attended the IMPACT conference at the University of Maryland University College located just outside Washington DC. Historically the largest gathering of college students involved in service, activism, politics, advocacy, and socially responsible behavior, the IMPACT conference provides attendees with the opportunities to attend workshops, forums, and a variety of other events related to service. Some of the workshops attended by the trio included Students Training Students: Approaches to Prepare Volunteers for Service and Harnessing the Power of Media to Build Awareness for Your Cause. The CSB/SJU team also participated in a hunger banquet sponsored by Oxfam America, an organization that aims to create solutions to global poverty, hunger, and social injustice, as well as a Bonner gathering where they were able to meet other Bonners from across the nation. In addition, Jacobson-Schulte, Long, and Zeman took advantage of the conference’s location and were able to do some sight-seeing in the nation’s capitol. Next year’s conference takes place in Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information, visit www.impactconference.org.

Adia Zeman
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Family Fun Day!

On March 21, 2009, a group of students from Karyl Daughters’ Family Communication course held an event on-campus for families from Reach Up, Inc. Family Fun Day was held in the HCC and brought families together from the St. Cloud area for a few hours of fun. Fifty-one families from Reach Up, Inc (22 adults and 29 children) and ten student volunteers attended Family Fun Day.

The group of students who participated in creating Family Fun Day learned a lot about marketing and communication; what they could improve upon and what worked well. They also learned a lot about families, Maggie Berg said, “The family communication class has opened my eyes to the wide variety of families that exist. This service-learning experience has taken what we have learned in class and applied it to the real world.” Mindy Schmidt, junior, said, “Working with Lois and ReachUp, Inc. was a great experience. We had the opportunity to give back to the community... It was fun watching the kids have fun with their family.”

At the event, the families were able to participate in a cake walk, BINGO, playing blocks, family photos, dancing, basketball, and free snacks and drinks. “Family Fun Day was a success and we hope to have a similar event for many years to come,” Schmidt said.

Brian Long
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Celebrating Scholarship & Creativity Day

The CSB/SJU Service-Learning program will interactively celebrate the accomplishments of the past year with a reception and poster session at Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity Day. Friends of Service-Learning are invited to join us from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2009 in Gorecki 204A at the College of Saint Benedict. Students from various courses will prepare posters and speak about their experiences in Service-Learning. Also presenting will be Jackson Fellows who completed civic engagement internships over the Summer of 2008. This is the ninth annual Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity Day, which is held to recognize and honor the achievement of student scholars engaged in significant academic learning projects at CSB/SJU. All events are free and open to the public, including the keynote speakers at 1:00 p.m.: educator and philosopher Nell Noddings at the Gorecki Family Theatre, CSB and poet David Wagoner at the Stephen B. Humphrey, SJU.

Rebecca Peichel
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator
Empty Bowls

On March 22nd 2009, Empty Bowls took place in St. Cloud, Minnesota. This event was focused on addressing the issues of hunger and homelessness in the St. Cloud community. The price of admission included a hand-made bowl along with a meal. Over 500 people attended Empty Bowls and over $10,000 was raised to benefit Place of Hope and Crisis Nursery. The CSB/SJU Art course, Advanced Ceramics, participated by creating over 600 to donate for the benefit. When asked if the St. Cloud community had benefited from the students who helped in Empty Bowls, Joel Cherrico, junior Art major enrolled in Ceramics II-II stated, “Definitely. Our bowls [were] really popular; they [were] the first ones to go.” Kelly Berg’s Strategic Communication Campaign course also participated in the event by creating a communications campaign. After several months of collaborative group work, the class presented their ideas to Conni Orth from Crisis Nursery. Empty Bowls plans to implement these campaigns next year. The Empty Bowls event proved to be an enjoyable time for all who attended, as well as a beneficial learning opportunity for many CSB/SIU students.

Jackie Carlson
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Serve–Learn… To-go!

On March 16th, the Service-Learning Program teamed up with many of the Education 111 community partners in St. Cloud and spent the day visiting several sites to see where students complete their service. The event was called “Serve-Learn… To-Go!” and it included service-learning staff members, as well as the chair of the Education department and the Education 111 professors. They talked with the Fast Forward Youth Program staff, and visited the St. Joseph Lab School, Kennedy Elementary School, Discovery Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School, Southside Boys & Girls Club, LaCruz, and the Eastside Boys & Girls Club. The Service-Learning Program, along with Marge Gruenes, Lynn Schnettler, Sr. Anne-Marie Biermaier, and Allison Spenader had a chance to see firsthand the service opportunities available for students. Two academic coordinators from the office, Adia Zeman and Andrew Kleinendorst, accompanied the Education department staff and Marah Jacobson-Schulte for nearly six hours of site visiting. In addition to “putting a face” on the community sites, the event allowed for beneficial discussion regarding the role of the student in service-learning, as well as discussion of the program itself. Although the service-learning staff has done site visits in the past, none have included so many sites at once.

Spreading the bLove!

Anathoth Farm

While many students at the College of Saint Benedict/ Saint John’s University celebrated their spring break on the beach, a few students participated in a very different way. Five Bonners from the Bonner program took part in an Alternative Break Experience to the Anathoth Farm in Luck, Wisconsin. The trip was focused on sustainability, community, and social justice. The Bonners learned about different subjects such as nuclear weapons, non-violence, and feminism, and were able to connect more deeply in their relationship with one other.

A Bonner Foundation Event

On April 23rd, the first team of Bonners is hosting an event for the CSB/SJU campuses to promote The Bonner Program as well as to provide an opportunity for the student body to join in service with the Bonners. The Bonner program is asking students to bring a donated item of toilet paper or paper towels, which will be donated to Place of Hope in St. Cloud. Throughout the evening, there will be performances by two on-campus groups: Becky Schneider, who will grace the audience with her extraordinary musical talent, and Attention Starved Children, an improvisational group who will be bringing out the laughs! It will be a night full of free entertainment, BONNER Bingo, root beer floats, and cool prizes, including a Bonner Leader sweatshirt! The Bonners are excited to spread the bLove!

Jackie Carlson & Lindsey Cermak
Service-Learning Academic Coordinators
The Liemandt Family Service-Learning Program is committed to holistic learning by incorporating the classroom and community into the learning experience. It develops intentional and meaningful service experiences based in social justice and academic learning.

We encourage, support and appreciate diversity in all of its forms. We strive to meet the specific needs of the community. We encourage students to engage in their community, reflect on their experience, and allow it to change their lives.

**Engage, Reflect, Change.**

**We’re on the Web**

[www.csbsju.edu/servicelearning](http://www.csbsju.edu/servicelearning)