

## Service-Learning Program

Volume 3, Issue 1

September, 2008

Information for the Service-Learning Community!

### A Note from the Coordinator

Greetings!

It is great to back at CSB/SJU for another semester in the Service-Learning Program. Just this past weekend, I had the opportunity to drive out to St. John's. It was impossible not to be distracted by the vibrant colors of the changing leaves. What a sight! This certainly is a season of change, not only at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, but in the St. Cloud community, throughout Minnesota, and in fact the nation. One cannot turn on any media device without being made aware of the impending change in our lives.

Change. We have seen a change in numbers in the Service-Learning Program. Last year, our students completed over 10,000 hours of service - our highest number ever! We have nearly 300 students completing service-learning projects in our communities this semester.

Change. Check out the highlight on one of our Summer Jackson Fellows, truly a student dedicated to making a change in her community. Don't miss *Going Green*, I encourage to change one practice in your daily life to become more environmentally conscious. See what change our alumna, Megan Pahl, is making as she serves as an AmeriCorps member this year. Take the time to peruse this newsletter and reflect upon the change occurring around you. Be a part of it!

I would like to personally invite you to take part in one of the numerous upcoming events in our community. Create-CommUNITY will hold its annual conversation on *Race and Economic Opportunities* on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. CSB/SJU Jackson Fellows will hold a poster session at CSB on October 28<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with Minnesota Campus Compact, St. Cloud State University and St. Cloud Technical College, we are hosting a regional Civic Engagement Forum on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the St. Cloud Public Library. Please feel free to contact me for more information regarding these events.

Give yourself permission to be changed!

In the spirit of service,  
 Marah

### Service-Learning Requests for Spring 2009 Semester

Attention Faculty:

If you are interested in incorporating Service-Learning into your spring semester course, it is not too soon to notify the Service-Learning Office. As of right now, courses that have a Service-Learning component are:

- Developmental Psychology
- Advanced Ceramics
- Strategic Communications
- Teaching in a Diverse World
- Developmental Disabilities

Please feel free to contact Marah Jacobson-Schulte at [mjacobsonsc@csbsju.edu](mailto:mjacobsonsc@csbsju.edu) or 363-5117 if you are interested or have any questions about Service-Learning.



#### Service-Learning...

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

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## Going Green

Did you know 1 trillion bags are thrown away each year? The CSB/SJU campus has been finding new ways to go green. The Link is a great example of how CSB/SJU is going green; instead of driving separate cars to each campus, The Link provides free transportation. The bookstore sells reusable cloth totes that can be purchased for a low price; using a reusable tote decreases the number of plastic bags being used. In some dorms, the use of high-efficiency washers and dryers enables students to use less water and energy to wash their clothes. The Heritage Day meal was made entirely of food from local producers; buying from local markets cuts down on travel and gas. Being part of CSB/SJU enables you to be part of a group effort toward going green.

### Here are a few more ideas on ways to go green:

1. Lower the thermostat - By lowering it a few degrees, it reduces the amount of energy being used.
2. Avoid dryers; air dry clothes - air drying your clothes is a great way to reduce your energy consumption.
3. Walk or bike - It is a great way to exercise and it reduces gas intake.
4. Public transportation - If walking or biking isn't an option, try to carpool or catch a bus.
5. Use a reusable water bottle.
6. Recycle old cell phones.
7. Borrow from libraries
8. Shop at thrift stores, ebay, or craigslist.
9. Buy locally-grown products.
10. Buy in bulk.

10 Ways to Go Green and Save Green." 10 Ways to Go Green and Save Green. WorldWatch Institute. 29 Sept. 2008 <[http://www.worldwatch.org/resources/go\\_green\\_save\\_green](http://www.worldwatch.org/resources/go_green_save_green)>.



## CSB/SJU Service-Learning Welcomes Professor Hequet

Professor Suzanne Hequet is new to CSB/SJU this year. Professor Hequet comes to us from Concordia Moorhead. Prior to Concordia Moorhead, she worked at Gustavus Adolphus and Concordia University in St. Paul. Professor Hequet teaches Theology 111 this semester; she decided to incorporate service-learning in her theology course. "Service-Learning is very important for a liberal arts education," says Hequet, "I think it is important to incorporate knowledge with service." Professor Hequet said it was a "no brainer" to incorporate service-learning with her curriculum.

Service-Learning isn't new to Professor Hequet, she incorporated Service-Learning while at Concordia Moorhead and Concordia University. In the past, students have come up to her after the semester was finished and told her she had a good class, but service-learning really made a difference.

Service-Learning is not required for Hequet's Theology course. "The classic liberal arts student is involved with many things," Hequet says. She understands that many of her students are involved with a variety activities, and for those that cannot participate in service-learning, she allows them to pick from a selection of books to read and write a critical analysis paper regarding the book they selected. "Critical reflection is important to Theology 111," Hequet says, "whether [the student] picks a book or service-learning, the reflection paper is key... It asks the question: *What does it mean to be Christian?*"

When asked how incorporating service-learning to her class was going this semester, she replied, "I am very impressed with my students and have had a great experience with service-learning, thus far."

**Brian Long**  
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator



Professor Suzanne Hequet

## Service-Learning at the CSB/SJU Involvement Fair

On September 2, 2008, Service-Learning attended the CSB/SJU Involvement Fair. The Involvement Fair was held in the HCC and provided students with the opportunity to meet with representatives from different organizations to learn more about ways to get involved on campus.

This was the first year that the Service-Learning team participated in the Involvement Fair. "We had a great turn-out," Brian Long, Academic Coordinator said, "There were many people interested in what service-learning was all about."

Students who stopped at the service-learning booth were able to learn more about Service-Learning's community partners, as well as different courses offering Service-Learning this year.

**Adia Zeman**  
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator



## Jackson Fellows Program

This summer, I participated in the Jackson Fellows Program. It was one of the many student projects showcased at the College of St. Benedict Capital Campaign on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A lot of conversation was generated amongst CSB donors over our work this summer. It was a great opportunity to get the word out there on this new program offered at CSB/SJU.

With an anonymous donation given to the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, CSB/SJU launched a pilot program this past summer centered on civic engagement: the Jackson Fellows Program, named after Marie and Robert Jackson. Ten selected participants were able to choose a site within a two hour radius of CSB/SJU. This allowed for bi-monthly group meetings with the Fellows and the directors of the program, Marah Jacobson-Schulte, Service-Learning Coordinator, and Matt Lindstrom, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Eugene McCarthy Center. All 10 fellowships involved civic engagement and work devoted to improving community life and the common good through political or non-political service activities.

With diversity in majors and site placements amongst the Jackson Fellows, we were all able to create a rigorous learning environment each time we came together. The leadership trainings and frequent discussions on the meaning of civic engagement provided essential reflection and a means for growth in each one of us.

As a junior Humanities major I completed my fellowship at Reuben Lindh Family Services (RLFS) in North Minneapolis. Reuben Lindh Family Services is an organization that strives to "preserve and nurture families in the con-



text of their culture." With 10 different programs in place to serve a poor and culturally diverse population, RLFS offers a unique service that helps each individual within a family. The programs include helping families as a whole through in-home services, a multi-cultural pre-school to aid developmentally delayed children in getting ready for kindergarten, support groups, occupational, physical, speech and music therapy, supervised visitation for parents fighting to regain custody of their children and many more.

I have always loved children and being able to make an impact in people's lives through direct service. However, I never thought I could emotionally handle being a Family Worker. Through this experience, though, I have found this job to be much more fulfilling and rewarding than it is emotionally draining. This oppor-

tunity has not only challenged me and pushed me to do things I never thought I was capable of, but it also opened my eyes to what I really want to do for the rest of my life.

This was an opportunity of a lifetime for me. I am so grateful for being selected to be a Jackson Scholar this past summer.

**Lindsey Cermak**  
Jackson Fellow

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

## Focus On: Megan Pahl, CSB/SJU & Service-Learning Alumna

This semester, The Service-Learning Program would like to acknowledge a recent graduate of the program to illustrate the impact that service can have on one's life. Even though Megan Pahl was only with the Service-Learning program for one and a half years, it has made a large impact on her life. Before her junior year, Megan researched jobs on-campus and, after reading about the positive benefits and experience for students that participated in Service-Learning, she knew that Service-Learning would be a worthwhile program to be a part of. "My first year [with Service-Learning] was a huge learning experience for me," Megan says.

Her background in Service-Learning has greatly helped her after college. She is currently serving for a year with City of Lakes AmeriCorps where Megan is placed at Andersen Elementary and Andersen Open (two public schools in Minneapolis). "If it hadn't been for the great experience I had at the CSB/SJU Service-Learning Program, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to be working where I am now," Megan says. "Currently, Andersen works with the fifth grade teachers offering an optional Public Achievement program for the students... five or six students come up with an issue that is important to them." Megan is the Service-Learning Coach Coordinator at Andersen.

As a coach, Megan acts as a facilitator in this process. She is also the Volunteer Coordinator and is starting both schools' first student councils for the elementary-aged students.

For Megan, the past few years have been greatly influenced and impacted by Service-Learning in a positive way. "I now know the power of people [and] community [with] the desire to change. I feel that, with Service-Learning, anything is possible."

**Brian Long**

Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

## Service-Learning Program

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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.

### Engage, Reflect, Change.

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.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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

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### Meet the Service-Learning Staff:

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**Marah Jacobson-Schulte**  
*Service-Learning Coordinator*



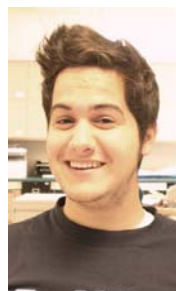
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**Inspired Learning. *Inspiring Lives.***