The College of St. Benedict Marie & Robert Jackson Fellows Program introduces its 2012 cohort. Serving at various sites for the upcoming summer, fellows include: Mary Baumgard, Lindsey Gideon, Stephen Gross, Wenyu Heng, Galen Himrich, Molly Kalina, Kristen Lundberg, Collin Motschke, Margaret Peyton, and Ann Rogosheske. Each fellowship involves civic engagement and work dedicated to bettering the community, through political and nonpolitical service activities.

Galen Himrich
On March 25th, Bonner Leaders hopped onto the mini bus and made their way to Calvary Community Church in St. Cloud to attend the 10th Annual Empty Bowls event. Empty Bowls is a community collaboration project that helps to raise awareness for hunger and homelessness.

Bonners were given the opportunity to learn about hunger and homelessness in the St. Cloud community, enjoy a bowl of soup with the community, and choose a bowl to keep from a large selection that was donated by various individuals in the local community, including our own CSB/SJU Ceramics Service-Learning students from Mel Griffin’s Art 319 course! The bowl serves as a reminder that someone’s bowl is always empty. The proceeds from the Empty Bowls events go to support services at Crisis Nursery, a 24-hour family support service that includes a crisis line, emergency daycare and overnight care, and Place of Hope, which has multiple programs that minister to the poor and underserved throughout Central MN.

Leah Ranta, a first year Bonner Leader states, “I really enjoyed empty bowls! It’s a beautiful way to support hunger-related causes and bring a community together. Everyone shares a meal and receives a locally made bowl. My bowl was painted by kids in the St. Cloud area; it is my favorite bowl to have cereal in and constantly reminds me of how blessed I am to have food!” The Bonner Leader Program hopes to assist Crisis Nursery and Place of Hope in the planning of the Empty Bowls event for next year.
MEET YOUR FIRST-YEAR BONNER LEADER

What year are you and what is your major and your site?
I am a first year, nursing major, and my site is at Southside Boys & Girls Club.

How did you hear about the Bonner Leader Program?
My mom came across the Bonner Leader Program while we were looking for more scholarships I could apply to.

Why did you want to join the program?
As soon as I heard the program was centered around service activities and activating for social justice issues, I had to join! To get paid to do something you love is everyone's dream.

Do you feel being a Bonner Leader has led you to make more of a difference on campus and in the community?
Yes! It has definitely gotten me more involved. It's great to be a part of all the campaigns, events and awareness projects in the community. Even if I'm not directly involved, but another Bonner is, I am still informed and excited for them!

What is one thing you hope to do in the Bonner Leader program before you graduate?
I would like to bring my skills from Bonner abroad. I have learned a lot through workshops, stories, and my site at Southside. I would like to use what I have learned and apply it to working in third world countries or in a large non-profit organization. That is my goal as of now! Who knows what it might be in a year or two from now!

Alicia Renstrom
Academic Coordinator

Human Trafficking Awareness week was held during the week of March 19th—23rd and was sponsored by the Bonner Leader Program, CSB Campus Ministry and the IWL. The week was a great success and featured many events including a speaker, Joy Friedman from Breaking Free, the Real Men Campaign, and a showing of the documentary Sex & Money: A National Search for Human Worth. Cherry Berry in St. Cloud also worked with us on the Saturday of that week, and donated a portion of their sales from the hours of 4:00pm to 8:00pm to Breaking Free. The total amount donated was $185.54! This marked the first Human Trafficking Awareness week for the CSB/SJU campuses and the groups involved are excited to make it an annual occurrence for our community!

Galen Himrich
Academic Coordinator
Scholarship and Creativity Day

On April 25, 2012 the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University hosted their 12th annual year of Scholarship and Creativity Day. Scholarship and Creativity day is a day in which students, faculty and the community can learn about student’s research and creative projects. Among the 700 students who presented, 20 of the students presented on their experiential learning projects. Among these 20 students were Jackson Fellows, Bonner Leaders, and Service–Learning students. A project presented by Melissa Pinkowski was on a mural completed at a library in Waite Park. They painted a mural based off the suggestions of the librarians from a selection of researched designs. Some of the other students presented on Comedy for a Cure, Human Trafficking, Kidstops, Kids Pack, WDYDWYD (Why Do You Do What You Do?), Hunger Banquet, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Ramsey County Mental Health Court, 2011-2012 Bonner Leader Program, Lyrics Arts Theatre, Service-Learning, and Solar Power in the Sundarbans, India. These students have gained a great deal of knowledge through their experiences and have brought what they have learned back to the CSB/SJU community. Scholarship and Creativity Day gives these students an opportunity to teach and inform others about what they have learned and their own personal growth through their projects.

President’s Student Leadership Award

The CSB/SJU Bonner Leader Program is being recognized as a premiere student leadership group by the College of St. Benedict and Minnesota Campus compact.

Each year, Minnesota Campus Compact asks college presidents to nominate a student or student group on campus to be the recipient of the Presidents’ Student Leadership Award. Recipients demonstrate “outstanding contributions and commitment to collaborative action that produces positive change in the world.”

“It’s an honor to be nominated for this prestigious award,” said Co-Senior Bonner Intern Jackie Carlson, “It shows the significant impact that Bonner Leaders are having in the CSB/SJU campus community.”

Along with recipients from various other schools in Minnesota, the CSB/SJU Bonner Leader program will be honored at the annual Summit and Awards Ceremony held at Macalester College on June 5th.
In March, 15 CSB/SJU students attended the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. The conference promotes undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study. Students could come together, share their research and also learn about other research. The conference hosted more than 2,000 students, including the CSB/SJU students, who were selected by the conference’s steering committee. Thousands of national and international students submitted proposals. Evan Lowder, a CSB Senior was one of the 15 students who attended the conference. At the conference she presented on her research which involves an empirical evaluation of the Ramsey County Mental Health Court’s effectiveness in decreasing recidivism for participants of the program. When asked what the greatest thing was that she learned about her research, Lowder states, “I learned that research, through exhausting at times, can be incredibly rewarding.” Through her experience at the conference she says, “I developed an increased appreciation for the scholarship that students produce on the CSB/SJU campus. It was very rewarding to see CSB/SJU students represent their institution and present their scholarly work on the national stage.” Richard White, Director of Undergraduate Research at CSB/SJU was one of the faculty advisors who attended the conference. Through his experience with the students and the conference he shared, “Our students are extraordinary and presented much higher quality research than other students who presented at the conference.”


Youa Yang
Academic Coordinator

Highlight: Kelsey Torchia’s Internship in India

Kelsey Torchia, CSB Junior Environmental Studies major, is currently interning for the ASED, The Association for Social and Environmental Development, in the Sundarbans, India. Through this program she has been able to assist many Indian children, who do not have access to electricity, with solar powered innovation. Since April 2011, ASED and Global Giving have donated over 150 solar lamps so that children can further their educational endeavors. They are finally able to study after dark in an environmentally friendly manner. One recipient of a solar lamp described the impact the solar lamps have had on his life. He stated, “I have benefitted immensely from the lamp...the lamp is harmless as it does not give off carbon like a kerosene lamp. Kerosene is expensive. The light from the lamp I get free of cost. I can charge it during the day and use it during the night.” Kelsey’s internship through the ASED program has benefited many villagers of the Sundarbans. Keep up the great work Kelsey, CSB/SJU is so proud of the contributions you are making!

View the documentary Kelsey has created about her internship opportunity: http://youtu.be/GulOGkNdb5k

Alicia Renstrom
Academic Coordinator