



UNCG

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Make Your Mark

Office of Leadership & Service-Learning

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OLSL STAFF:

Cathy Hamilton, Ph.D.
Director

Lynn Sametz, Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Community Engagement

Preston Yarborough, M.S., NCC
Assistant Director of Leadership

Emily Janke, Ph.D.
Assistant Director of Service-Learning

Lauren Smalley
NC Campus Compact
AmeriCorps*VISTA

Amanda Keith, Editor
Graduate Assistant

Office: 214 EUC
Telephone: (336) 256-0538
Fax: (336) 334-3823
<http://olsl.uncg.edu/>



Through these Eyes: Stories of Homelessness in Greensboro

By Lauren Smalley

On November 6, The OLSL welcomed six special guests to campus. Two were familiar faces—students Kissy Gomes and Jade Batstone—the rest were new. As more than 50 students, faculty and staff filed into the Multicultural Resource Center, a slideshow of family photos played on the screen. Each image represented a homeless family, all residents of Pathways family shelter. That evening, students heard the story of one of these families and the people who had touched their lives.

Reverend Ronnie Chrisp, Assistant Director for Emergency Assistance at Greensboro Urban Ministry, spoke about his own commitment to homelessness issues and the potential he sees in students to make a difference.

Amber, a mother of three who has lived at Pathways for several months, told the story of how her family came to live in the shelter. Her husband had changed jobs, taking a pay cut to switch from 3rd shift to 1st in order to spend more time with his kids. As the new man on the shift, he was the first to be let go when budget cuts came along, and the tough economic times hit even harder when their house was foreclosed. Amber spoke about the joy of moving into their first home and then the shock of learning that their landlord's financial troubles could put them out on the street. Brooklyn, Amber's ten-year-old daughter, also spoke about how the time and attention of a



Photo by Alyssa Frady

UNCG student had become her favorite part of her new life at the shelter.

That UNCG student, senior social work major Batstone, spoke next. Volunteering doesn't just help others, she explained, it fundamentally changes your worldview and helps you think in new ways. Gomes, Information Systems and Operations Management major and Peer Council Site Coordinator, noted that she'd gone to Urban Ministry a few years ago thinking she'd just help out for a summer. Now she volunteers each week.

Stacy Ivany, a local photographer who took the photos shown at the opening of the event, spoke last. Since taking the photos, she has become deeply involved with

the families she photographed: collecting donated items, organizing trips to the Natural Science Center, and raising money for the shelter. The program wrapped up with an informal discussion, giving the attendees a chance to meet and chat with the speakers.

Want to make a positive impact on homelessness in Greensboro and beyond?

Empty Bowls
maf.dept.uncg.edu/emptybowls

Winter Walk for Aids
triadhealthproject.com

Fall 2008 Student Award Winners

Silver Medal, Leadership Challenge

Janine Camara

Nikki Edwards

Krycya Flores

Anthony Hardy

Brandi Johnson

Jennifer Kempin

Paper Presentation, Campus Compact Student Conference

Jenice Ramirez & Yesenia Mota

Bolin Zhang

GoldenChain Honor Society

Janine Camara

Johanna Cochran

Sonja Makitan

Kiya Ward

Community Impact Award, North Carolina Campus Compact

Yesenia Mota

Congratulations to all of you! We are so proud of what you do!

Community-Based Research Grants Awarded!

Dr. Channelle James, Business Administration

Project Title: "WELL: Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning"

Dr. Lauren Haldeman, Nutrition

Project Title: "Evaluation of Food Security, Nutritional Outcomes and Program Satisfaction Among Food Assistance, Inc. Participants"

Dr. Sharon Morrison, Public Health Education

Project Title: "Assessing HIV-Related Stigma in French-Speaking African Immigrant and Refugee Communities"

Dr. Roy Schwartzman, Communication Studies

Project Title: "The AfterWords Project: Preserving and Analyzing North Carolina's Holocaust Survivor Resettlement Narratives"

Chef Joseph Brown, Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality Management

Project Title: "Sanitation, Food Safety and Hazard Prevention for Community Food Initiatives"

Dr. Benjamin Filene, History

Project Title: "'Placing' Greensboro's Mill Villages"

Dr. A. Keith Mobley, Counseling and Educational Development

Dr. Christine E. Murray, Counseling and Educational Development

Project Title: "Assessing the Needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Through Survey Focus Groups"



Community-Based Research involves faculty and students working collaboratively with community partners to research issues of common concern. Ideal partnerships increase understanding and give insight to the complexity of social issues and identify strategies for addressing them. Research, in partnership with communities, serves to identify appropriate questions, design studies and conduct investigation that will be mutually enhancing to all through shared learning. Community-based research uses the information gathered and the relationships established to bring about transformational change.

Funding and Award Opportunities

William E. Simon Fellowship for Nobel Purpose

(Deadline: January 16, 2009)

The Simon Fellowship is a \$40,000 unrestricted grant awarded by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute to those graduating college seniors who have demonstrated passion, dedication, a high capacity for self-direction, and originality in pursuit of a goal that will strengthen civil society. In addition, two \$5,000 awards are made to two other outstanding students. For more information on how to apply go to: <http://www.isi.org/programs/fellowships/simon.html>.

UnitedHealth Heroes Service-Learning Grants

(Deadline: January 15, 2009)

UnitedHealthcare and Youth Service America are excited to offer the UnitedHealth HEROES service-learning grant program for youth-led community education projects in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee, and in the following specific areas: Florida-selected counties, Illinois-Chicagoland and Peoria, and New York-Long Island, New York City and Syracuse.

These grants of up to \$1,000 support teachers, service-learning coordinators and students in the health professions to implement service-learning projects around childhood obesity and engage children and youth ages 5 to 25 as volunteers. We encourage semester-long projects that launch in February, and celebrate Global Youth Service Day, April 24-26, 2009. For application materials, visit <http://tinyurl.com/UHHeroesGrant>.

Questions?

E-mail: healthheroes@ysa.org.

UNCG plans MLK Day activities for kids

By Katie Tanzy

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan. 19, 2009, UNCG will join other campuses in Guilford County in hosting a "Read-On" for children ages 0-9. The event will be held in the Multicultural Resource Center in the EUC from 1-3 p.m.

UNCG students from various student organizations will be reading books to children and leading them in art activities. The event will also feature an African storyteller, a MLK documentary and refreshments.

The OLSL is sponsoring a book drive through the end of the semester to collect books for this event. Every participating child will receive at least one book to take home with them.

The event is being supported by the Office of Leadership and Service-

Learning, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and North Carolina Campus Compact. To date, the student organizations that will be involved include the wrestling team, Make A Difference House, Circle K, the Minority Association of Pre-med Students, and Students of Action.



Want to help?

- Donate new or gently used books for children ages 0-9. Donation boxes are located in the Cafeteria, the Rec Center, the Curry Building, and the Office of Leadership and Service-Learning (EUC 214).
- Help the Day of the Event: Student volunteers are needed to read to children, set-up, supervise activities, serve food, check-in visitors, take pictures, and help with cleanup.

If you are interested in being involved, please sign up! Contact Amanda Keith in the OLSL at alkeith@uncg.edu or 256-0538.

We sincerely appreciate your support!

Wright to speak at Leadership Challenge Fall Forum

By Keira Wilson

Joel Wright, with the Center for Creative Leadership, has been chosen as the keynote speaker for Leadership Challenge's Fall Forum on Dec. 3rd. Wright is a mission-driven professional who seeks to enhance the capacity and capabilities of individuals, corporations, and non-profits for the purpose of building communities of peace. His blend of corporate and non-profit/NGO experience and a cross-cultural/international perspective enhances the programs he develops and the conferences he leads.

Currently Wright is working as an external consultant for Olympic University. His main responsibilities include program design, development, and implementation. In addition to his involvement with Olympic University, he is working with the Center for Creative Leadership on a project entitled

"Leadership Beyond Boundaries" which analyzes and prototypes new leadership products and programs for underserved populations. Wright's primary focus with this project has been young professional leadership development in India and youth development around the world.

Prior to this, Wright worked for six years with the YMCA, including one year living and working in Sri Lanka for the National Council of YMCAs. His initiatives there included designing and conducting an island-wide YMCA director's training program and coordinating a YMCA volunteer initiative in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. Wright spent the other five years with the Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks, a conference and training center in upstate New York. He was part of the senior leadership team and held various conferencing positions. He was

involved in designing and developing leadership and team building programs for youth, college students, corporations and non-profits as well as designing new conferences, and maintaining past conference relationships.

Wright has been successful in various other business positions with companies such as Bombardier Capital and Forrest W. Wright Equipment Company. He is a 1995 graduate of Wittenberg University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History.

The Fall Forum was created to recognize student leaders who are proactive in their development and are contributing to their communities. The goal of this year's forum is to promote a greater understanding of how leadership and service-learning are closely tied. Organizers of the forum hope to generate a collaborative atmosphere where both elements play strong roles.



From “Me” to “We” in Democracy



By Cathy Hamilton

The energy surrounding student discussion and participation in the recent election was a highlight of my semester as I felt a part of a thriving democracy. However, we are all faced with the question, “What’s next?” One response I have is to consider ways in which we might intentionally develop what I will call a “democratic perspective” on all of our activities, and in particular, “service.” Service as Democratic Citizenship (Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy) is only one possible kind of service, but performed with intention, serves as a powerful educational tool as well as contributes to the common good.

Well-crafted service can help people understand the responsibilities that are required of citizens of a free society. Service based in democratic principles renews in everyone the sense that we have obligations to our fellow citizens and thus, recreates the bonds necessary for healthy social interaction. This model stresses that everyone, from the wealthy to the most destitute, have resources and talents that can contribute to a functioning democracy. By working together on common projects, we build a stronger nation where differences are respected and individuals can learn to relate to one another as people of shared interests – in short, a better society.

If you would like to know if your organization’s service is promoting (or hampering) democracy, request that we come with a fun interactive activity for your group. For more information check out the Walt Whitman Center at: http://staging.servicelearning.org/resources/online_documents/

Community Advisory Board Update

The Community Engagement Advisory Board supports partnerships between community agencies and the University. The Board provides an opportunity for community members to shape OLSL’s commitment to the community. It is a place for UNCG, through the OLSL, to hear about community concerns and programs that suggest ways for the UNCG to interface with our community.

The first meeting was held in October. Board members represent a broad base of community agencies, UNCG students and OLSL staff and faculty. The Board is currently shaping our mission and vision statements and determining projects for the upcoming year. Part of the role of the Board will be to foster mutual learning experiences and collaborations that enhance agency staff, student volunteerism, faculty development, service-learning, community based research and the role of the community partner as co-educator.

Some activities that will the Board will be involved in include:

- Community Partner Recognition Lunch in the Spring
- Coordination with Service-Learning Advisory Board
- Studying the possibility of creating a “community partner fellow” with the OLSL
- Furthering the role of the community partner as co-educator.


We would welcome additional UNCG involvement in this committee!



Service-Learning Advisory Board Update

The Service-Learning Advisory Board meets monthly to advise the Office of Leadership and Service-Learning. Membership is drawn from departments and programs across the UNCG campus to provide diverse opinions and timely expertise on the topics of public scholarship. Our major initiatives include the development and support of service-learning courses throughout the university (domestic and international), promotion and tenure guidelines that include engaged scholarship, service-learning and community-based scholarship workshops for instructors, a minor in community engagement, and a community-based research network.

At the November meeting, the Board discussed the development of a minor in community/civic engagement and leadership. Discussion was led by Dr. Stephanie Kurtts, Dr. Cathy Hamilton, and Dr. Emily Janke and was informed by existing models and research on minors, majors and certificate programs for service-learning and leadership. Several members felt that a minor in community engagement and leadership will build on the synergies that exist, but are often disconnected, for students. Rather than a cafeteria style approach to general education courses, the minor will guide students in developing a thematic approach wherein they select courses that are coherent and connected and which require them to apply their classroom-based knowledge to real world issues. The proposed minor is likely to have one required course that covers the foundations of community engagement and leadership and will culminate in a community-engaged capstone project in students’ selected majors. Please send questions and comments to Dr. Kurtts (sakurtts@uncg.edu) or Dr. Janke (emjanke@uncg.edu).



Engaged Scholarship: Focus on the Faculty

Dr. Roy Schwartzman

By Amanda Keith

“Today’s students, not to mention their families and our neighbors in the community, yearn to see knowledge applied to actual challenges that people confront,” says Dr. Roy Schwartzman. As a professor in the communication studies department, his teaching philosophy centers around helping students apply the skills they are learning to their everyday lives. He involves students in his own research by doing collaborative projects, the most recent of which is the AfterWords Project, a recipient of a 2008 Community-Based Research Grant from the OLSL and the Office of Undergraduate Research. Schwartzman involves his students this way because he recognizes the opportunities that unveil themselves for students, such as making presentations at conferences, as well as the benefit for faculty members. “Students. . . enable us stodgy faculty to gain fresh perspectives on the research. Often students will see things, such as ways of posing research questions or unusual findings, in ways that illuminate the entire project,” Schwartzman says.



Schwartzman’s work is a prime example of how teaching, research and practice can complement each other in helpful ways. Schwartzman does independent contract work as a communication consultant for organizations and individuals. Through this practice, he is passing on the same knowledge he imparts in a classroom to professionals already in the field. In this way, he stays aware of the current challenges involved with communication. “It’s a lot like service-learning: you get to see how the things you teach and research actually work in practical settings,” Schwartzman says.

After teaching service-learning courses for many years, Dr. Schwartzman now focuses his energy on researching and promoting service-learning. Having seen the benefits himself, he mentors others on how to incorporate service into the classroom. “I try to understand the ways that service-learning fits into the ideals of liberal arts education and what we can learn from implementing this kind of applied pedagogy,” Schwartzman says. He has published research on service-learning in the *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching* and the *Journal of Public Affairs*. His scholarship, teaching and service have earned him many awards including the Top Paper Award in the Experiential Learning Division at the 2007 National Communication Association Convention and the Tower Service Award for Faculty which Northwest Missouri State University awarded him for his work on their service-learning program.

As the founder of the Communication Studies Service-Learning program at Northwest Missouri State University, he understands the challenges of selling faculty on the idea of incorporating service into their curriculum. He worked hard on his own to find community partners for his classes, help discover projects for his students, and find ways to assess and reflect on the service they were doing. He had to help people understand and recognize the difference between service-learning and just plain service. At UNCG, he continues to laud the merits of service-learning. “I think service-learning at UNCG has an excellent natural interface with the emerging emphasis on entrepreneurship, and service-learning clearly enhances our traditional strength in community activism,” Schwartzman says.

Interested in making announcements, advertising, or getting publicity for your volunteer, service, or leadership organization in the “Make Your Mark” newsletter?

Make Your Mark

Office of Leadership & Service-Learning

Contact Amanda Keith at alkeith@uncg.edu or (336) 256-0538