



A Service-Learning Excursion!

MCC Service-Learning travels to The Big Easy for community development, post-natural disaster, during intersession.

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During this upcoming intersession, MCC's Center for Service-Learning is offering a unique and exciting trip to New Orleans, Louisiana. With the destructive aftermath of numerous hurricanes, including Katrina and Rita, lingering in the neighborhoods of New Orleans, there has been a national call to service to rebuild affordable housing and strengthen neighborhood communities.

MCC's Service-Learning program will answer that call. For one week in January 2010, a group of nine service-learners will travel to the bayou state and join in the effort to help rebuild New Orleans, by building one housing unit. In order to fulfill

the academic piece to this service project, the nine service-learners are required to participate in the course SVL-106: Topics in Service-Learning Habitat New Orleans. Beginning in November, this seven-and-a-half-week course will cover everything the project New Orleans students need to know about community development in a post-natural disaster environment. Then, come January, this dedicated team of

service-learners will take to the skies and head down to New Orleans to begin their service. The project requires 45 hours of on-site, hands-on service. MCC service-learners will build a simple, family-style home for a Katrina victim. MCC Service-Learning has partnered with the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity in order to make this project possible. This trip is funded in part by Rochester Help to New Orleans (R-H2NO).



The President's Voluntary Service Award

It's Official: MCC's Center for Service-Learning becomes a certifying organization, bringing with it the offering of a new service award.



With the president of our country settling into his position, and the president of our college just settling into her own, there is a lot of buzz going around about service and citizenship. President Obama has initiated an award for voluntary service, to recognize those Americans who are committed to service. MCC

Service-Learning has become a certifying organization able to bestow this award to ambitious service-learners. The criteria for the award vary for different levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum), but the first level requires only 100 hours of service. Recipients of the award will receive a lapel pin, a personalized certificate of

achievement, and a congratulatory letter from President Obama. For more information on this new, prestigious award, visit the official website at: www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.

**THERE'S MORE TO YOU.
THERE'S MORE TO MCC.**

Enhancing Educational Tools with PathStone, Inc.

PathStone's online financial education program, "Seeds of Success," is updated and enhanced by MCC service-learners.

PathStone, Inc. is a not-for-profit community development and human service organization that strives to empower individuals, families and communities to attain economic and social resources for building better lives. PathStone (formerly Rural Opportunities, Inc.) strengthens farm worker, rural, and urban communities and promotes social justice. Sharing not only a passion for service, but also a notable historic landlord, MCC Service-Learning has had a strong partnership with PathStone for several years. This time around, PathStone is

partnering with ECO 103 and BUS 110, professors Robert Spinelli and Richard Petite, to update their online financial education program. *Seeds of Success* is a web-based learning tool for youths ages 12 and older (and adults) that promotes financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Through a series of interactive lessons and activities students are able to acquire information, pursue individual interests and generate personal plans for action. There are two main learning tracks: Mastering Money (personal management) and Learning to Earn (career-focused decision

making).

Service-Learners in ECO 103 and BUS 110 will work in groups and go through each lesson to examine how current and accurate it is, by fact-checking information and reporting dead links. Service-Learners will then develop suggestions for new activities, information, and related links to be added to the curriculum.

Each lesson is mirrored in Spanish and will be reviewed and updated accordingly. The

newly refurbished *Seeds of Success* curriculum will be of great benefit to PathStone and the people who use it as a platform for advancement. To learn more about PathStone (currently celebrating its 40th anniversary) and *Seeds of Success*, visit its official website at: www.PathStone.org



Law and Criminal Justice Becomes a Medium for Art



This fall, Kathy Farrell's art class will create an artistic mural to be painted on the front wall of the Law and Criminal Justice Department

Suite at the Damon City Campus. The mural will stylishly incorporate themes of justice, community, and education. To the left you can view some of the primary sketches that have been developed by Farrell's students, to be presented for the approval of the CRJ department. Following approval, the service-learning artists will work together to actualize the mural by the end of the semester. Be sure to check it out when it's finished!



Original artwork by service-learners in Kathy Farrell's ART 205 class.

Making Nutrition Count!

For many, it is difficult to think back to a time when there were no Wegmans or Wal-Marts. Universal access to the produce marketplace continues to grow and expand all over the world, along with individual access to nutritional information. Yet, with all this information at our fingertips, we are still encountering major issues with communal awareness and malnutrition. Why? Because there is an important difference between making information available and actually putting it to good use.

This year, Professor Chris Inya is partnering with the North East Area Development to help increase nutritional awareness in the Rochester community. Students in his microeconomics course will perform detailed evaluations of local grocery stores and supermarkets using the N-EMS instrument.

N-EMS stands for Nutrition Environment Measures Survey. It is a tool developed by the University of Rochester to rate the nutrition environments of

grocery selling establishments. "It is a very empowering tool," says Inya, adding that the tool is designed "to inform people, and help them make choices of the better food to buy." Based on a detailed scoring system, the N-EMS instrument compares a variety of different factors to assess the most accurate nutritional information in foods that people buy. This tool looks at brand, availability, shelf-life, price, fat-content and quality of a variety of items all across the traditional food pyramid. The scores are then tallied and each store is graded on a scale of 0-50, with 50 being a perfect score.

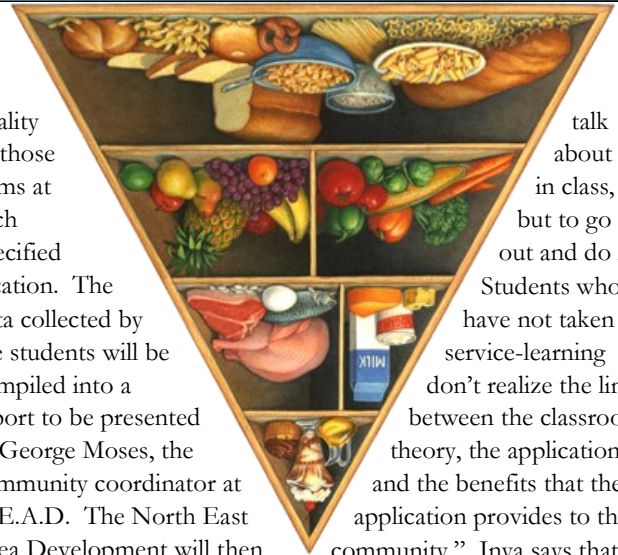
Inya's students will spend 20 hours, of service, investigating the nutrition environment of the Northeast area of Rochester. They will explore local corner stores, Goodman Plaza, and the Public Market. The service-learners will choose approximately four items each, from a list arranged by University of Rochester doctors, and will examine the

quality of those items at each specified location. The data collected by the students will be compiled into a report to be presented to George Moses, the community coordinator at N.E.A.D. The North East Area Development will then use this information to explore the benefits of the Public Market, both nutritionally and economically. The results will also be used for neighborhood development, planning, and as a resource for grant writing.

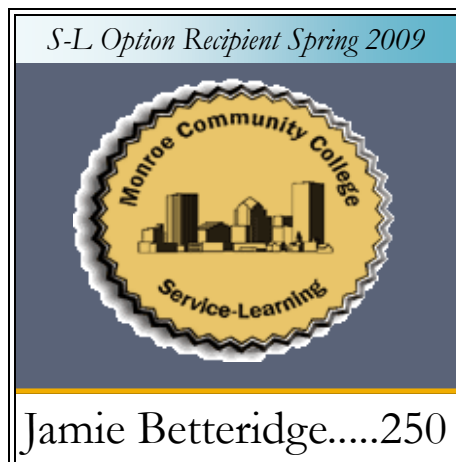
Inya said that at first his students were hesitant to embrace this project, but after entering the community and applying their knowledge, "now their eyes are open! They were impressed!" Inya had many reasons for giving his students the chance to participate in such an exciting project. "It's not enough to

talk about it in class, but to go out and do it. Students who have not taken service-learning don't realize the link between the classroom theory, the application, and the benefits that the application provides to the community." Inya says that those students who do complete a service-learning course "don't question the connection anymore."

According to Inya, "the ultimate direction of this project is to assess the nutritional information in foods people buy and use the results to change eating habits and reduce the high incidence of obesity" and if his students can at least "help you make informed nutritional choices, well that's a good start!"



Congratulations Corner SPRING 2009




For the Spring semester of 2009, the Center for Service-Learning would like to recognize Jamie Betteridge for his outstanding service. Betteridge acquired 250 hours of service-learning during his academic career here at MCC. Betteridge received

the Service-Learning Option, a diploma distinction that denotes his important achievement. Those 250 hours will also appear on his official academic transcript, and a gold seal will appear on his diploma.

Please join us in congratulating Betteridge, for his outstanding service to the community of greater Rochester and to our own college community.

Free Tax Return Assistance



C.A.S.H.
Creating Assets, Savings & Hope
An Empire Justice and United Way-led Coalition

**Financial independence doesn't
have to be a dream.**

C.A.S.H. RETURNS!!

As spring approaches, so does the imminent return of the C.A.S.H. program! The Empire Justice and United Way-led coalition that helps low-income families, Create Assets, Savings & Hope, is back in the heart of Rochester for its seventh season. In past years, hundreds of MCC service-learners have joined the effort to help Rochester's working families achieve a greater sense of financial stability and independence. MCC service-learners have served the C.A.S.H. program in many different ways, as tax

preparers and as C.A.S.H. advisers, working one on one with families, and individuals, seeking financial assistance. Numerous courses, within the various departments, embed this project into their curriculum and allow their students the chance to dive into the community and engage in meaningful service that helps working families solidify their finances and focus on their dreams. This tax season, check out the C.A.S.H. program. They promise you won't be disappointed . . . financially.



It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Harry Hygiene!

Professor Tracy Wyant of the Education Department is pioneering a newly developed service-learning project in her course *EDU 150: Performance and Presentation Skills for Educators*. Wyant is instructing two sections of EDU 150 at the Damon City Campus this fall. Her students are participating in a service project in which they create original stories that focus on helping to develop childhood skills in literacy, positive social behavior and healthy lifestyles

through the use of motivational role models and inspirational thematic content. Wyant's service-learners can either perform their story as a short play, in a small group, or individually read their story to their audience. Originally, this course partnered with the Golisano Children's Hospital, as a performance venue. Unfortunately, due to the current H1N1 crisis, the Golisano partnership has been put on hold to be revisited next semester. The students

will be bringing their stories to life for the children of MCC's Richard M. Guon Child Care Center and the Jefferson Avenue Childhood Development Center. This project is emblematic of the Education Department's focus on enhancing the levels of literacy in Rochester through academic-based service. But don't take our word for it, join the "Healthy Hands Heroes and Heroines Club" and ask Harry Hygiene!

The Center for Service-Learning would like to thank all those who made this newsletter possible, and continue to show support for MCC's Service-Learning program. Thank you.

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MCC

"Your own story and the American story are not separate - they are shared. And they will both be enriched if we stand up together, and answer a new call to service to meet the challenges of our new century..." - President Barack Obama