Wish there was a website which posted service learning and volunteer opportunities? (Page 2)

We know it can be intimidating, but here are just a few steps to create your own Service Learning course! (Page 3)

Tell us about your current Service Learning course! We are collecting data about the impact you have made on communities! (Page 3)

Learn and Serve is awarding more grants for faculty! (Page 4)

UML students volunteer throughout the year. See what they did and what they plan to do. (Page 5)

National Volunteer Week is coming up! Do you have an idea for a community service project? (Page 6)

See what’s happening this semester! Get informed! Be involved! (Page 6)

Do you know where your water comes from? (Page 6)
Service Learning Course “Diversity in the Classroom”
(Continued from Page 1)

The response from parents, students and community partners was very positive. Thanks to a Service Learning Grant from UMass Lowell, and a State Farm Service Learning Grant, the pool of students who will benefit from the project has been broadened to include 1st through 12th graders in the spring semester. Activities will culminate April 15-17th (Global Youth Service Week), with a celebration of learning that brings together UMass Lowell students, tutees, parents and community leaders. We hope to mobilize and engage the Lowell community to broaden awareness of the various opportunities that exist for service and social action in the community.

“The academic service learning project was a chance for students in UMass Lowell’s Graduate School of Education to gain firsthand experience teaching students and to apply what we have learned in the classroom to facilitate learning. These lessons proved to be extremely beneficial for both the graduate student and adolescent student. This academic service learning project helped teach young students content and process skills, provided aspiring teachers with valuable experience, and fostered positive relationships between the two.” – Justin Morelli, GSE Student

“There are several things I learned from this service learning project. First, and foremost, it helped to establish the importance of giving back to the community. My tutee’s enjoyment shows that students are eager for extra help in their studies. This tutoring experience also helped me learn about a new culture and helped me utilize a new technology as a way to teach reading. Thus, the project was a two-way street, as both my student and I gained skills and appreciations from our new relationship.” – Tim Hirsch, GSE Student

The Service Clearinghouse is ready to go!

The goal of the Clearinghouse is to provide faculty and community organizations easy access to a list of available opportunities for collaboration.

Both faculty and community organizations are encouraged to post their service learning and/or volunteering opportunities on the website. Simply visit the website and click on “Add an Opportunity!”

CHECK IT OUT!
http://www.uml.edu/clearinghouse
Are you doing Service Learning at UMass Lowell?

One challenge we are facing is getting an accurate number of instructors involved in service learning each semester. If you are currently teaching a service learning course, or are planning to in the future, please send us your information by emailing Clearinghouse@uml.edu!

Thank you!

Half-Dozen Steps ON CREATING A SERVICE LEARNING COURSE

We understand that it can be daunting to create a Service Learning Course! You may wonder… Where do I begin? What counts as SL? Who will support me? What am I forgetting? Here are some simple, yet useful tips to help you get started!

- Assess the need in the community in relation to your field of study
  - Gather data about the community – where are the gaps?
  - Conduct focus groups, public forums, surveys
- Form a partnership with a community organization
  - Set roles and responsibilities of all parties involved (professor, student, and community organizations)
  - Exchange guidelines and goals of the students
- Plan the Project!
  - Set timelines, schedules, goals, budgets, tasks
  - Find ways to measure and assess the goals
- Create a syllabus
  - Set curriculum/academic goals. Check out the Campus Compact website for example syllabi http://www.compact.org/initiatives/syllabi/
- Reflect, Assess, Evaluate
  - Create reflection activities for your students
  - Help them reflect upon the course; This will allow for you to see how much students get out of it
  - Use an assessment method that looks at impact on students, community, and organization
  - Be sure to document the results of your course, and share with your peers and partnering organization
- Celebrate your efforts!

For additional resources, visit http://www.uml.edu/clearinghouse

“This service learning project was a valuable experience for me as a pre-service history teacher….it provided a snapshot of what teaching, learning, planning, and building relationships is like with middle school students.”

Julie Mangan – GSE student in Pat Fontaine’s Curriculum and Instruction course.
Michael Jones  
*Legal Issues in Cyberspace*

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to introduce undergraduate students to the principal legal and ethical issues confronting the virtual world of cyberspace. Students help artists and museums to identify in advance the intellectual property and contract issues that may arise from exhibiting, lending, or selling works of fine art. This course builds on last semester, but students will expand their work to the Western Avenue arts community!  
**Community Partner:** Whistler Museum, Western Avenue Studios

Mignon Duffy and Adrian Cruz  
*Work, Labor and Society*

**Course Description:** The Work, Labor and Society course provides students with a perspective on work and the labor movement that integrates historical, economic, sociological, and political analysis. The course’s service learning projects will enhance student understanding by exposing them to real-world examples of workplaces, worker education and training programs, and labor unions and organizing.  
**Community Partner:** Merrimack Valley Labor Council, Lowell Transitional Living Center, Lowell Career Center, United Teachers of Lowell, Bread and Roses Celebration Committee, SEIU Local 615 Janitors Union ESOL Program, One Lowell

Craig Slatin  
*Politics of Health*

**Course Description:** Students in the Politics of Health course must complete a multi-phase project designed to help them learn how state public health budgets effect the scale and delivery of public health services at the local and/or regional level. In addition, they will provide a service to a local public health agency/organization through mechanisms intended to increase public awareness of the organization’s work, the needs of the population that the organization serves, and how state budget restrictions create challenges for the organization’s ability to meet the community needs.  
**Community Partner:** Community Organizations will be selected by the students

Karen Roehr  
*Tolerance/Anti-bullying Public Service Advertising Campaign*

**Course Description:** National concerns about bullying and intolerance are at an all time high. This community-based project teams an advertising class with two area high schools to create a multi-level public service ad campaign about tolerance and against bullying. The campaign will consist of print ads, posters, billboards, internet, video and radio all to be posted at these schools and in the greater Lowell area. This project gives students an opportunity to see how their work can have an impact beyond the campus and address an important subject.  
**Community Partner:** Lowell High School and Chelmsford High School

Patricia Fontaine and Michaela Colombo  
*Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary History*

**Course Description:** Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary History is the foundation methods course at the Graduate School of Education for all pre-service teachers who are preparing for licensure to teach secondary history. Through course instruction, guidance from experts from LCHC and in collaboration with Bartlett Community Partnership middle school students, pre-service teachers will learn about Cambodian history and culture.  
**Community Partner:** Bartlett Community Partnership, Lowell Public Schools, Lowell Community Health Center

Elizabeth Bifuh-Ambe  
*Teaching Reading in the Content Areas*

**Course Description:** Teaching Reading in the Content Areas a course designed to familiarize pre and in-service teachers with the theories that promote language use in classrooms as a tool for learning. This is one of the few courses that brings together students from all specializations (Science, Math, Social studies, English, Literature, etc) in the Graduate School of Education. Through tutoring students we can bridge the gap between classroom content (theory) and the practical application of that content within the context of the community.  
**Community Partner:** Christ Jubilee International Ministries

### Learn and Serve Grant

Learn and Serve is a federally funded initiative helping more students and faculty become involved in our local communities. All five UMass campuses are collaborating on this Learn and Serve Grant for a more community-engaged university system statewide. Over the past 18 months, Learn and Serve has been supporting service learning courses, organizing service events, strengthening partnerships with community organizations, issuing mini-grants to UMass Lowell faculty and local nonprofits, connecting students to volunteer opportunities in the Merrimack Valley, supporting Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and initiating “Lowell Immersion” – an annual local service-focused spring break week for UMass students.

For more information, please contact Elaine Donnelly, Elaine_Donnelly@uml.edu, or 978-934-4674
Volunteering at UMass Lowell!

2nd Annual Fall Food Drive

180 UMass Lowell Volunteers

194 families received a Thanksgiving meal!

Special thanks to: Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities, United Way, Greater Boston Food Bank, Hanscom Air Force Base, Brox Farm and St. Irene’s Parish!

On November 22nd students gathered at the Inn and Conference Center to volunteer their time at the 2nd Annual Fall Food Drive.

Psychology Graduate Student Organization

In November, PGSO organized a food drive, placing donation boxes around campus. At the end of the drive, 6 large boxes of food were donated to Living Waters. Living Waters acts as an outreach center for the homeless of Lowell, MA.

In the spring, PGSO will run a personal hygiene and medical supplies drive, which includes hand sanitizers, toothbrushes, toothpastes, soaps, etc. All of the donations received from that drive will be donated to an organization in Peru. PGSO will also be holding a variety of forums related to community outreach and potential service learning projects.

Lowell Immersion: Local Alternative Spring Break

This alternative spring break offers a unique opportunity for students to learn, experience, and participate in the community through hands-on service projects. Our hope is to create opportunities for students to explore, reflect, and become immersed into the culture of the local community.

This year, Lowell Immersion will run from March 14-17, 2011. Students will stay overnight at a local church, and will participate in a range of volunteer projects. These projects will focus on arts & media, homelessness, youth, and rebuilding Lowell.

Interested in joining? Contact Laura_Edelman@uml.edu, or 978-934-4771
National Volunteer Week

The Office of Student Activities and Leadership, and the Center for Family, Work and Community will participate in this year’s National Volunteer Week, from April 11th-15th.

During this week, we are offering an opportunity for students to construct their own service projects! Service projects will be organized and planned in the months preceding the event, and will be designed to encourage student involvement. Students interested in creating a service project must submit a proposal to Elaine_Donnelly@uml.edu, by February 11th. To learn more about student proposals visit: http://tinyurl.com/student-proposal.

For more information on the events occurring during NVW, please contact Laura Edelman, Laura_Edelman@uml.edu, or 978-934-4771.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

UMass Lowell student volunteers began preparing taxes for Lowell residents on Saturday, February 5th. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers prepare tax returns for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals for free. Last tax season, UMass Lowell students helped Lowell residents recapture $300,000. This year VITA is hoping to raise that number, as well as provide translation for non-English speaking residents and host one or two days of free on-campus tax returns for students. 22 student volunteers will be preparing tax returns from now until April 18th.

We would love to have more volunteers to help with:
- Translation for clients (Spanish, Portuguese, French, Khmer)
- On-site child care (CORI check required).

Interested in volunteering?
Contact: Emily Vidrine, Emily_Vidrine@student.uml.edu, or 978-934-4576

River Clean Up – April 30th

It has been a long time coming! UMass Lowell will be hosting its’ 1st Annual Day of Service on Saturday, April 30th! This year, the project will focus on cleaning the Merrimack River. Did you know that this is our water supply?

UMass Lowell will be partnering with Clean River Project, who has thus far extracted 32 vehicles from the river!

MLK Volunteer Fair

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Learn and Serve Grant will host a Volunteer Fair at the beginning of the Spring Semester.

On February 22nd, 12 community organizations will gather at the Fox Hall Dining Hall and South Dining Hall, setting up tables displaying available volunteer opportunities!

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 14-17</td>
<td>Lowell Immersion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11-16</td>
<td>National Volunteer Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Community Engagement Showcase and Research Symposium</td>
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