

SAVE THE DATE

**6th Annual
Celebration of
Service**

**April 10,
1– 4:00 pm
The Blue Lounge**

Tracking Service and Engagement

In 2010, the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement in 2010 began a tracking instrument for the Worcester State University community. In the first year of comprehensive reporting, 2009-2010, WSU students provided 85,653 hours of service learning and community engagement. WSU students and faculty visited 265 sites, placed 869 students with community partners, and, again, completing 85,653 hours of service. Over 40 WSU faculty are involved in service-learning or community based research.

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to include your activities in our data collection. We want to chart service learning, internships, practicums, clinicals, volunteerism, and all that qualifies as civic engagement. You can enter the data by going to the Center for Service Learning webpage (<http://www.worcester.edu/CSLCE>). On the right hand column, you will find *Links of Interest: 2011-12 Service Projects*. Your help in this meaningful assessment process *is critical and appreciated*.

Like Water on Parched Ground: An Institute Grows in Guyana

For the past two summers, Dr. Ray Lewis, Department Chair of Education, has been traveling to Mackenzie – Linden, Guyana to conduct professional development workshops for elementary teachers. While Guyana society has been faced with a brain drain and limited resources, Dr. Lewis sees his LIRA Summer Institute growing toward the goal of a year-round school for teachers.

Higher Education in Guyana begins in 1963, with the founding of The University of Guyana, still the only university in the nation. At present, there are 3 colleges of Higher Education, and, according to a 2004 report, roughly 14% of the population in the country has enrolled. Dr. Lewis sees numerous structural obstacles to Higher Ed. as fermenting an elitist system, with limited access for most. So in 2009, Dr. Lewis began to put together a partnership to address the needs of elementary teachers.

The network of partners responsible for the LIRA Summer Institute includes Linden International Reunion Association, a U.S. based philanthropy made up of the people of the diaspora. Dr. Lewis reports that LIRA has a major conference every two years, and out of that has come planning, reflection, and fund raising that Dr. Lewis sees as crucial for year-round teachers' school in Linden.

Closer to home, and with the help of Provost Charlie Cullum and Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education Bill White, WSU has begun to sponsor a Certificate of Professional Development to the teachers who participate in the summer institutes. WSU

will continue to award certificates this coming summer when Dr. Lewis returns. The network of partners also includes the Mayor of Linden, who provides space, and Dr. Lewis sees developing connections with the country's one university in Georgetown. He also sees a growing interest from others in the diaspora who wish to return to address the country's current social problems.

Where Guyana's economy once flourished, at present unemployment is high, jobs are exported, and, for the past 30 years, the best and brightest have left to seek their fortune and fate – and education -- in other lands. WSU's Dr. Lewis himself is part of the diaspora, leaving first to Jamaica and then in the U.S. He received a Masters in Mathematics Education from WSU, and earned his doctorate at Illinois State University. Returning to the country of his birth in '09, Dr. Lewis has been accompanied by an expert in literacy from Oakwood University in Huntsville Alabama, and they brought not only teaching techniques, but teaching tools provided by Massgame, a Massachusetts organization intent on helping the

Guyanese people. Massgame also finances the trip and provides stipends for the teachers in Guyana.

Dr. Lewis suggests the teachers participating in his institute 'feel the impact' of the techniques and tools provided "like water on parched ground!" He offers, "The (Guyanese) teachers are so thankful! They are eating this program up." In this way, the LIRA Summer Institute is a microcosm of what U.S. college and universities can give: engaged scholarship and outreach aimed at improving the lives of others.



Dr. Lewis with the teachers of LIRA Summer Institute

Charlie Rose Kicks off Scholarship Fund

The Center kicked off a scholarship fund on December 9, 2011, with a Holiday Gift and Art Auction featuring Charlie Rose, the Co-founder and Dean of City Year. Dean Rose's entertaining talk turned on what he called a brief course in leadership:

- ◆ The six most Important words - I admit I made a mistake
- ◆ The five most Important words - I am proud of you
- ◆ The four most Important words - What is your opinion?
- ◆ The three most Important words - If you please. . .
- ◆ The two most important words: Thank you.
- ◆ The one most important word: We
- ◆ The one least important word: I

The evening also featured musicians Julius Jones, Lauren Monroe, and Joe Aziz Ameur who took the audience from The Beatles to Radiohead. And the

skill of Richard Merrill, our auctioneer, was instrumental in raising \$2700 for scholarships for our students.

WSU school's leadership -- President Barry Maloney, Provost Charlie Cullum, and Vice President of Academic Affairs Maureen Shamgochian -- attended, and the community was also represented by Karen Sharpe, Lea Ann Scales, and Christina Petruzzi in Institutional Advancement, and donors such as Joyce Bubon, and Professors Don Bullens, Amy Ebbesson, and Suzanne Gainer. The Center has an active and supportive advisory board that includes Katey Palumbo, Adrian Gage, Guillermina Ellisandro, Lisa Wark, and Matt Johnsen, all of whom helped make Friday's event (as the Black Eyed Peas would say) 'a good night.' We also thank our lucky stars for Rich Perna and his talented staff at Chartwells, and Monica Eleferion, whose connections and networks through the Central Massachusetts Convention and Visitors Bureau were crucial for Friday's event.

The Center's fund for scholarships stands close to \$3600, and we will begin to give awards to civically



engaged students this coming fall. The scholarship is given in honor of McCarthy Coyle Wagner. An award winning playwright and Journalism Fellow at Stanford, McCarthy founded *The Borrowed Times* newspaper in Missoula, Montana and was also instrumental in founding MQTV (Montanans for Quality Television), which established public and cable access television in Montana. A veteran of the Coast Guard, he helped establish the first VA medical clinic for veterans in Montana. McCarthy believed in free speech and freedom of association, and our award will be given annually to a student active who best represents this legacy of activism.

Students Lend a Hand in the Community for "Make a Difference Day"

On Saturday, October 22, 2011 Worcester State students took part in Make a Difference Day, a national day of service. Sponsored by The Office of Residence Life and The Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement, four crews of students took part in one of four civic actions with some of Worcester State's community partners. The four crews were led by group leaders, **Carleigh**

Murphy (Business), **Princela Boahene** (Communication Sciences & Disorders), and first-year students **Melissa Edberg** and **Margarita Ponciano**.

The crews engaged in actions such as cleaning up the yard of a battered women's shelter, painting a room for a low-income family,



putting in some hours at Habitat for Humanity, and gathering at Food Day with the Regional Environmental Council, where students painted faces, conducted surveys, and, even dressed up as vegetables.

The Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement was formed in

2006 and has continued to develop field-based experiential learning with community partners as an instructional strategy. A key element in these programs is the opportunity students have to apply the communication, social, and intellectual skills they are learning in real-world settings. These high-impact learning models can be seen as good

preparation for citizenship, work, and life, both in the local community and in the emerging global, interconnected world. Along the way, these types of actions also have a positive effect on a community, and some fun might happen as well.

Summary: Service Learning at Worcester State in comparison to area universities

In what follows is a brief comparison with both Clark and WPI. Clark visited 348 sites, placing 842 students, completing 180,870 hours of community work. Here are some other numbers from the consortium: In the whole consortium, approximately 17,000 placements of undergraduate and graduate students in some type of experiential learning in 2009-10. (Some students were placed more than once.) These students spent some 1.6 million hours in the community.

More than 1,065 organizations welcomed students for a semester or full year.

Some 784 placements provided more than 114,000 hours at 34 Worcester Public Schools.

These numbers tell only part of the story. As noted, the demand for experiential learning opportunities is on the rise. With more students en-

School	WSU	WPI	Clark
Approx. Enrolment	UG: 4703 G: 1000	UG: 3537 G: 1354	UG: 2217 G: 866
Reported Cases of Service Learning	265	404	348
Student Placements	869	2075	842
Hours Contributed	85,653	184,386	180,870

gaged in volunteer work and service learning at the high school level, the demand at the college level is growing.

Many students are advised to take advantage of community placement opportunities as a means of testing

a career field or industry and, as important, to enhance their resumes and maintain a competitive edge when applying for their first job or graduate school. In addition, employers consider internship programs among the most effective methods for helping them hire new college graduates. According to one National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) study, employers extended job offers to more than 70 percent of their interns. Even when students don't receive, or accept, job offers from organizations where they've interned, their internship experiences prove valuable when pursuing jobs. These findings were reaffirmed by The Research Bureau which found that **"Employers are seeking recent college graduates with prior experience, either through employment, internships or volunteer or community service."**

Source: **2010-11 Community Placements Survey** Colleges of Worcester Consortium

International Health Care Outreach Project in Belize

the past 6 years Professor Kate Baldor and the Nursing students in International Health Care Outreach Project have traveled to Belize as an Alternative Spring Break Project. Working through the elementary schools in places like Maya Center and Silk Grass Village, they have delivered health care, supplies, and educational books that have, in Professor Baldor's words, "a huge impact on the health of the community." In 2011, Nursing students visited 4 schools: Silk Grass Village School, where they saw 319 children; San Isidro School (130), Maya Centre School (103), and Hope Creek Primary (171). The students do a needs assessment, working closely with the Belize Ministry of Health. The WSU students get temporary nursing licenses, and even create an appropriate coloring book that is distributed to the kids when they get there. Of the 723 school-aged children seen in 2011, Nurse Baldor and her crews identify Problem #1 and Response #1. If a child demonstrate additional needs, they identify and respond to other concerns.

In addition to support from the faculty and staff at WSU, and from the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement, The Belize trip has been supported in powerful ways by a great benefactor -- Bill Fredericks -- who runs All-Care Medical Supply in Millbury. As is often the case with great connections, Bill discovered Nurse Baldor's program through a bake sale.

"We were doing a bake sale fundraiser at Garrity's Supermarket,

and Bill Fredericks offered to help out. His help has provided the children of Belize with glucometers, blood pressures cuffs hand soaps, and last year Mr. Fredericks even sent a someone to help with the data collection, Jill Martin, to attend the nursing students in Belize.

Kate Baldor sees this kind of grass roots support, along with the support of faculty and staff at WSU, as not only priceless, but the way in which the International

Health Care Outreach Project reaches the goal of relating to the people of the world through their health. If the overt goals are to relate to people through their health care, and to prepare students for citizenships, work and life, we might say the covert goals are a peaceful world community. While there's more work to be done there, the faculty and students at WSU are making some way.



Spring Calendar: CLSCE

- Tuesday, January 31: Advisory Board meeting 3:00—4:00
- Wednesday, February 1: MACC: Carnegie Foundation's classification Meeting.
- Monday, Feb. 6th 2—4:30: AVID Tutor Training
- Thursday, February 9th, 2—4:30: AVID Tutor Training
- Wednesday, February 22nd. 3:00—4:00 Advisory Board Meeting
- March 17-26: ASB: Managua Nicaragua
- March 17-26: ASB, Silk Grass City, Belize
- March 19—21: ASB, Global Gateways: Overlook Farm, Heifer International, Rutland, MA
- Tuesday, March 27th: Advisory Board Meeting
- Tuesday, April 10th, 1:00 — 4:00 Celebration of Service, C101, Keynote: Barbara Canyes, MA Campus Compact
- Tuesday April 17th: Advisory Board Meeting
- Thursday, April 18th — Celebration of Student and Faculty Scholarship and Creativity

Local Alternative Spring Break Global Gateways: March 19-21



The Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement is sponsoring an alternative, two night program with Heifer International in Rutland, MA. The program, called Global Gateways, will take place March 19 - 21, and will be located at Overlook Farm in Rutland, approximately 20 minutes from WSU. The cost, including room and board, would be approximately \$140, and there are a limited number of spots. During the course of the program, participants experience an educational program about the interconnectedness of the global food chain, gain a deeper understanding of sustainable agriculture and life on Overlook Farm by participating in farm chores and touring all of the farm facilities at Heifer International in Rutland. By living the lessons of poverty first-hand, participants will come see their connection in creating change that brings possibility and hope to millions around the world.

If you have an interest in this program, please contact Dr. Mark Wagner at mwagner2@worchester.edu or call 508-929-8635. Deadline is February 24th, cost is approximately \$140.

2011-2012

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Join Us! 6th Annual Celebration of Service

*April 10, 1- 4:00
The Blue Lounge*

Keynote Speaker:
*Barbara Canyes,
Executive Director of
MA Campus Compact*

Mission: The mission of the Center is to challenge students and faculty to investigate social problems by examining their root causes in the classroom while simultaneously addressing them in the community. To accomplish this successfully, we encourage students and faculty to work collaboratively with community partners to design effective research and service projects. Go on our website to find out more: WWW.worchester.edu/CLSCE

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