

Provost's Newsletter Submission
Fall 2009
Professor Earl Mulderink
Faculty Coordinator of Civic Engagement

Service-Learning and Civic Engagement at SUU

Please see our revamped web site for information about our committee, teaching resources, and unique SUU programs at <http://suu.edu/serve&learn/>. Please direct questions and comments about service-learning and civic engagement to Dr. Earl Mulderink or to other committee members.

2009 Service-Learning Fellows Named

In April 2009, for the third successive year, the Faculty Service-Learning Committee announced a new group of *Service-Learning Fellows*. These awards recognize “engaged educators who practice service-learning in an effective manner,” and each recipient received an honorarium of \$750 and a handsome commemorative plaque. More detailed information and relevant syllabi are located at our website. In alphabetical order, the *2009 Service-Learning Fellows* are:

- Dr. John Ault, Professor of Psychology, recognized for developing service-learning components in PSYC 3800, *Professional Roles, Ethics, and Clinical Practices*. Since 1991, John has developed an intensive program of clinical practicum courses whose students have performed an estimated 900,000 hours of critically-needed community service.
- Rita Osborn, Associate Director of the Utah Center for Rural Health, honored for her effective use of service-learning in two courses: *Service-Learning for Pre-Nursing and Pre-Allied Health Students* (SCI 2120) and *Biology Co-op Education* (BIO 4840). Five years ago, she established the Rural Health Scholars Program, a multifaceted enhancement program for undergraduate students aspiring to careers in the health professions in which community service is central.
- Dr. David Shwalb, Associate Professor of Psychology, is recognized for developing a service-learning component within an upper-level class, *Adult Development and Aging* (PSYC 3230). A new addition to SUU's faculty, David is a Past President of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research and plans to implement service-learning in other courses that span the spectrum of human development.

Utah Campus Compact Honorees

For more than a decade, the Utah Campus Compact has encouraged higher education institutions to name outstanding teachers, students, community partners, and, recently, staff members. At a statewide recognition event on April 7, 2009, SUU's 2009 award winners were announced: Civically Engaged Scholar: Dr. Briget Eastep, Assistant Professor of Outdoor Recreation, Physical Education and Human Performance; Civically Engaged Staff Member: Pam Branin, Coordinator of the Service & Learning Center; Civically Engaged Student: Lacie Jo Robinson; and Committed Community Partner: Paul Roelandt, Superintendent of the Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Service-Learning Scholars Program

In Spring 2009, five undergraduate students were honored for completing this rigorous program. Lacie Jo Robinson, a Psychology major, and Layne Oyler, also from Psychology, worked with Professor Jeff Elison to develop a more systematic assessment of service-learning at SUU as their Capstone Community Project. Working with Communication faculty members Stan Gwin and Suzanne Larson, Karleen Watson, a Communication major, submitted a capstone project that focused on her service with Habitat for Humanity. Joshua Snow Hansen, also a Communication major, organized a “Drug Awareness Week” program as his capstone project. In the School of Business, Tanya Lamb developed an after-school program under the direction of Denise Woodbury. These students were honored at graduation ceremonies with a cord, recognition in the Commencement program and at their College Convocation programs, and a transcript notation.

These new *Service-Learning Scholars* met stringent requirements: 12 semester credit hours of service-learning coursework; overall GPA of 3.0; 400 hours of community service; and a Capstone Service Project (CSP). The CSP’s service portion is expected to be a minimum of 40 hours and relate to the student’s academic major. Following review and approval by a committee that included their faculty advisor, the completed CSP reports are deposited in the Sherratt Library. More details are found at <http://suu.edu/serve&learn/scholar-program.html>.

Service-Learning Course Approval

The Service-Learning Committee considered several classes for official designation as “service-learning” courses. Full details about the criteria and application process are found online at <http://suu.edu/serve&learn/course-designation-app.html>. As of Spring 2009, the following courses were added to the list of a “service-learning” courses:

- HRHM 3600, Guest Services, Dr. Lisa Assante
- PSYC 3800, Psychology Practicum, Dr. John Ault

Courses given “provisional” approval to revise and resubmit included NURS 4335, PE 4030 and PE 4040, PSYC 3230, and UNIV 1020.

Service-Learning Enhancement Grants

To promote service-learning across campus, the committee oversees a mini-grant program for requests of up to \$500 per instructor per fiscal year. Online application materials are available through our web site. The following grants were approved in 2008-2009:

- Professor Ben Davidson, “Athletic Training Majors Service-Learning Project at Huntsman World Senior Games”; \$336 awarded for work in October 2008
- Dr. Cynthia Wright, “Testing and Treating Household Drinking Water in Guaymas, Mexico”; \$500 awarded for 2008 Alternative Winter Break
- Dr. Lisa Assante, “Providing Food and Educational Materials to Canyon Creek Women’s Crisis Center”; \$500 awarded in Spring 2009
- Dr. Steve Barney, “Qualitative Assessment of International Service-Learning in Home Construction”; \$500 awarded for ASB program in Guaymas, Mexico
- Professor Boyd Fife, “ASB Mexico House Construction,” \$250 awarded to defray project costs