



Reflections Reflections

The Center for Service Learning's Semesterly Newsletter

keeping faculty and staff connected to
academic and co-curricular community service

Upcoming Service-Learning Events

The coming year brings a number of quality conferences, both in the Missouri region and beyond, on service-learning, civic engagement, and experiential learning. Whether you want to share lessons learned from your own experiences or just hear what others have done, consider attending one of the following:

September 25th - 5th Annual Missouri Campus Compact Civic Engagement Conference; held in Jefferson City, MO. [Click here for more info.](#) **Laura Salem** (Biology) will be presenting at this conference, congratulations!

October 9th-12th - 9th International Research Conference on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement; held in Ottawa, Canada. [Click here for more info.](#)

February 19th-20th - 5th Annual Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education; held in St. Joseph, MO. [Click here for more info.](#)

March 24th-27th - 21st Annual National Service-Learning Conference; held in San Jose, CA. [Click here for more info.](#)

On campus the Center for Service Learning will continue to hold **brown bag lunch sessions** on various topics in service-learning. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other faculty members engaging in service-learning and share best practices. The lunch series is organized through CETL, so keep an eye out for announcement e-mails from Ellen Spake.

Share your Service Plans

Faculty and staff planning service-learning or community service projects: please help us keep our records up to date by sharing the **community organization** you are working with, a brief **description of the project**, the **course or on-campus organization** that the service is happening through, and if possible a list of **student participants** and the number of **hours volunteered**. Please [e-mail Julia Vargas](#) with the information. We appreciate your assistance!

Welcome (Back) to Marisa

With the new academic year, the Center for Service Learning is welcoming **Marisa Hamm** back to campus as the **2009-10 AmeriCorps*VISTA** volunteer. Marisa graduated this past May after majoring in Political Science and French. Over her four years at Rockhurst she also worked in the Residential Life office and the Student Development office as well as holding leadership positions in several student organizations and representing students on university committees. Marisa is excited to return to her alma mater and work to strengthen service-learning and student volunteerism on campus after taking several service-learning classes herself. Marisa will be on campus starting August 31st, after completing a week-long AmeriCorps training in Albuquerque. Stop by VA 210 and say hi!

Rockhurst-Hogan Summer Institute 2009

This summer faculty members **Zdenka Guadarrama, Annie Lee, Laura Salem, Rob Vigliotti, and Mindy Walker** ran a two-week summer program for high school students in partnership with Hogan Preparatory Academy. Having secured a grant from the **State Farm Youth Advisory Board**, the program grew on last year's pilot program, which was one week long. This year participants stayed in Rockhurst dorms and took part in planned afternoon and evening activities to provide a more immersive pre-college experience. Eighteen Hogan students took classes in math, chemistry, biology, and philosophy and all had perfect attendance for the entire two-week program! The themes for this year's institute were greening and environmental sustainability and, as part of the academic program, Hogan students, along with Rockhurst student facilitators, developed a recycling program and implemented it at the Hogan facilities. The project continues over the next academic year as Hogan students carry through the greening project and share what they learned with their peers.

McMeel Institute Spring 2009

At the end of May, after grades were due and much of the campus left for the summer, six faculty members stayed on and attended the 2009 **McMeel Family Faculty Institute on Service-Learning**. Over the three day workshop, faculty members discussed best practices of service-learning and worked to integrate a new service project into one of their current courses, with the assistance of Center for Service-Learning staff and faculty facilitator Jennifer Oliver (Psychology). This year's participants were:

- **Katie Fischer-Clune**, Communication & Fine Arts
- **Zdenka Guadarrama**, Math
- **John Kerrigan**, English
- **Cecilia Samonte**, History
- **Mandy Sonnenberg**, Education
- **Chris Wills**, Biology

Thanks to all the participants for making this year's institute a great learning experience. Everyone was very invested in the discussions and brought creative visions for their courses. Of course the institute is just the beginning; over the next year these faculty members will be teaching their revised service-learning classes! Representatives from **Cristo Rey Kansas City, Mattie Rhodes Center, and Truman Medical Center** hosted a session to introduce faculty to their organizations and volunteer needs and we appreciate the time they took to do so. A special thanks as well to **Annie Lee, Dan Martin and Rob Vigliotti** for sharing their experiences with service-learning and to **Jennifer Oliver** for her help in running the workshop.

Recap on Service

This last semester, our office recorded nearly **1,275 student volunteers** giving approximately **10,450 hours in service** to community organizations and charitable causes in Kansas City and students' home communities. Calculated at the past spring's Missouri minimum wage (\$7.05), that constitutes over **\$73,500** worth of donated labor to non-profit agencies. As usual, projects ranged far and wide, from students in **Nancy Donaldson's** physics 1750 class putting on a Wacky Science Night at Children's Mercy Hospital, to **VOICES** students and **Bill Kriege** planting saplings in neighbors' yards north of campus.

Sixteen Rockhurst students were recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award, with **Anna Hall, Meghan Morris, and Kelsey Weigel** receiving gold awards, the highest level, for spending over 250 hours volunteering over the past year. **David LeFebvre** was also recognized by the Rockhurst Regents and bestowed the Regents Community Service Award for his dedication to a variety of agencies and issues over his four years at Rockhurst. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

Call on the Center for Service Learning

The Center for Service Learning is your on-campus resource for academic and co-curricular service. Every semester the Center works with faculty and staff across the university to promote and coordinate service-learning and community service.

Are you looking for community organization partners eager to take student volunteers as part of a course? Do you encounter students who want to be involved in real-world issues or are passionate about improving their community? Would you like to publish articles or present in a service-learning forum? Are you interested in integrating service-learning into your syllabi? Do you want to get involved in community service yourself? We would love to hear from you! Call x4545 or stop by Van Ackeren 208/210.



Hogan College Prep students, along with Rockhurst student facilitators and Prof. Rob Vigliotti, at the Linda Hall Library. The Rockhurst-Hogan Summer Institute planned and executed a greening project at Hogan, installing recycling bins and creating a promotion campaign after taking two weeks of college-level classes on campus.

"Students in service-learning engage more passionately with social issues, perform research more seriously, and take greater ownership of their own learning."
Dr. Dan Martin, Associate Professor, English.



Students participated in Global Youth Service Day in April. Above, volunteers helped clear the Troostwood Garden (at 52nd & Paseo) for spring planting. Over the summer the garden has grown bountiful and green!

Keep up-to-date with current volunteer needs:
[Click here to access the "Of Service" bulletin.](#)

Help us keep track of students' volunteering:
[Click here to print a Service Transcript form.](#) (.pdf)

Questions about volunteering or Service-Learning?

Contact Us:
Julia Vargas, Director
Van Ackeren 208
816-501-4545
julia.vargas@rockhurst.edu

Marisa Hamm, VISTA 09-10
Van Ackeren 210
816-501-4642
hammm@hawks.rockhurst.edu

Davis Parker, VISTA 08-09
Van Ackeren 210
816-501-4642
davis.parker@rockhurst.edu

Or check out the Center's Website:
[Center for Service Learning](#)