There is something in the air….or the government. Service, often viewed as some missionary or obligatory act, is being transformed into an opportunity or a privilege to greater connect or reconnect with community, foster a sense of civic pride and ‘animate’ democracy. Last month, AmeriCorps, a service organization that focuses building some of the country’s most neglected and underserved communities, saw $6 billion pumped into its program thus allowing the organization’s participant capacity to increase from 75,000 to 250,000. The bill named for Senator Edward M. Kennedy provides for the largest expansion of national service in 50 years. (Michigan Daily 4/6/2009)

Perhaps this generation may be called Generation S as in serve...

A Note from the Director

AS-L & AH End of Year Celebration & Awards

The Office of AS-L is partnering with EMU American Humanics to celebrate another year rich with innovative and sustained programming. This celebration will be held 11:30-1:30 April 17 at the EMU Lake House. The Office of AS-L will honor exemplary work in AS-L classes, projects, community connections, trips, presentation and partnerships. This is the inaugural year for the Dale Rice Awards, named for founder of the EMU Office of AS-L, and the AS-L Research and Scholarship Award. The award winners are as follows:


In addition to honoring the awardees, thanking our partners and recognizing this year’s AS-L Faculty Fellows, we will celebrate the work of the first class of MSS Student Teacher Scholars.

MSS Student Teachers implemented a service-learning unit in their teaching curriculum. Our MSS scholars include: Jennifer Lammers, Heather Havilland, Ashley Collins, Kelly McGowan, Julie Betscher and Valeria Ruffin.

Dr. Dale Rice

As a professor of special education for over 30 years, Dale Rice has always believed in the importance of community service and engaged his students in such activities long before the concept of service-learning gained national attention. Dr. Rice established the Office of Academic Service-Learning at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in September 1994. Dale retired from EMU in 2002 and continues to be a consultant and friend of the Office of Academic Service-Learning.

One act of beneficence, one act of real usefulness, is worth all the abstract sentiment in the world.

~ Ann Radcliffe
Winter 2009 AS-L Faculty Fellows

The Winter 2009 Faculty Fellows brought with them experience in service-learning and community programming. Situated in world languages, journalism and rhetoric, social foundations, history education and geography—the Winter 2009 Fellows were exceptional as they sought ways to initiate service-learning projects and courses while simultaneously asking questions of its use and place within academia. Below is a list of the 2009 Fellows and summaries of their upcoming AS-L courses.

Robert “Bob” Duke joined EMU in the Fall of 2008 as an Assistant Professor of history with a focus on secondary education. He joins us after years as an educator and superintendent in western Michigan schools. His dissertation, “Bilingual Education, Federalism, and the Political Culture of American Public Education, 1964-1980,” explored how issues of race and ethnicity intersect with the longtime quest of classroom teachers to have a meaningful voice in the operation of their schools. This fall, Dr. Duke will be integrating Academic Service-Learning into his History 481-Teaching of Social Studies where students will be focus on how to incorporate service-learning into a unit plan. In Spring/Summer of 2010 Dr. Duke will launch a special topic course: HIST 479 Growing Your Own: From Pioneer Farms to Victory Gardens where students will have direct experience with community gardening in modern rural and urban settings as well as being able to incorporate as-l concepts into an environmental history or Michigan agricultural unit plan.

Thomas Kovacs is an Assistant Professor in geography and geology with a focus on meteorology. His research involves satellite remote sensing of the atmosphere with weather and climate applications. As a work disaster volunteer for the American Red Cross logging at a minimum of 1000 hours of volunteer time, Dr. Kovacs will be partnering with the American Red Cross for his Fall 2009 ESSC 311 Weather and Climate for Elementary Teachers course. In this course students will learn and present a weather-related safety lesson plan from the American Red Cross ‘Masters of Disaster’ program in an area elementary classroom.

James Perren is an Assistant Professor in the ESL/TESOL program where his focus is in the use of service-learning in applied linguistics, intercultural communications, ESL teaching methodology, technology in language education, and second language acquisition. In Summer 2009, Dr. Perren will pilot the course Nation Abroad: World Languages Service Learning as part of an exchange with Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. This course will provide students with authentic language experiences in world languages (English, Spanish and regional dialects) as they are used outside the classroom and university and through community based projects.

Paul “Joe” Ramsey is an Assistant Professor of Social Foundations in the Department of Teacher Education. Dr. Ramsey’s forthcoming book Bilingual Public School in the United States: A History of America’s “Polyglot Boardinghouse,” will soon be published by Palgrave Macmillan. Beginning in the Fall 2009 semester, Dr. Ramsey will include an AS-L component in his SOFD 328W course, “Schools for a Diverse and Democratic Society.” The students in the course will work with the Bright Futures program in Willow Run and Wayne Westland Schools.

Christine M. Tracy is a rhetorician, media ecologist and communications scholar. She teaches journalism as an Assistant Professor in EMU’s English Department. She is currently working on a book project for Hampton Press: Into the Newssphere: An Exploration of News and Information Delivery as an EcoSystem. In Fall of 2009, Dr. Tracey will include an academic service-learning component in her Journalism (JRNL) 310 Digital Journalism course. Student will be assigned specific Ypsilanti neighborhoods to research and report about as teams. This reporting will be conducted in collaboration with existing neighborhood associations and faculty in EMU sociality Department. Stories will be suitable for publication in the Ypsilanti Citizen, a digital newspaper published by EMU graduates.
The B. Side Young Moguls Club

The B. Side’s Young Moguls Club provides support, service and resources that help youth develop their own businesses. Membership in Young Moguls Club (YMC) is free. Youth involved in YMC must first complete the 8-week B. Side Basics curriculum. Young Moguls are required to attend at least one of two monthly meetings in addition to a monthly consultation with program staff. There are currently 20 active Young Moguls who have been attending monthly meetings since the program orientation on January 17. Young Moguls have delved into topic areas covering Understanding and Identifying Your Market, Marketing and Advertising, Public Speaking/ Elevator Pitch, Legal Structure, Business and Personal Finances, Customer Service and Leadership. The youth are placed on one of three tracks for success. The first track is additional development through one on one consultation, the second is internship/apprenticeship and the third is mentorship. Youth will be placed on the track corresponding with their assessment to continue their journey as entrepreneurs.

Visit us at www.bsideofyouth.com for more!

Community Performance with EMU

YYEA’s Crosstown Theatre Troupe has been working with Graduate and undergraduate students from EMU’s Communication, Media and Theatre Arts Department, to create a Community Performance entitled Anywhere You Want To Go about Ypsilanti and for the people of Ypsilanti. Persons interviewed in creation of the project include residents from across Ypsilanti including Parkridge Community Center, Willow Run High School, West Willow neighborhood, Ypsilanti’s South and North Side, Downtown Ypsilanti and EMU, community stakeholders, local business owners, Ypsilanti youth, students who commute to EMU’s campus, and many more.

Two performances will be held at the Parkridge Community Center (591 Armstrong, Ypsilanti, MI) at 5:00 and 7:00pm Tuesday, April 21. This event is free and no reservations are required.

Visit our blog at:ypsiciti.wordpress.com

Need more information? Contact msage@emich.edu, 734-487-6570.

YYEA Youth Voice Video Project

The mission of Ypsilanti Youth Empowered to Act (YYEA) is to renew, excite and help the Ypsilanti community through the empowerment of its youth.

This spring, YYEA has developed the Youth Voice Video Project open to all Ypsilanti area youth. The theme of the video must articulate something that the youth creator feels needs to be shared to a larger, non-youth community. All video entries must be 4-10 minutes in length and must be newly created original work. Permission to tape any person must be granted by the person being filmed. Forms can be obtained at www.asl.emich.edu. Entries are due: 5pm April 30 to 219 Rackham Hall, youthvoice1@gmail.com. The YYEA Office has Flip video cameras that can be loaned out three days at a time on a first come, first serve basis. The winner will receive a cash prize of $100. The top videos will be presented at a evening screening titled “Through the Eyes of Youth” 7pm on May 14th at EMU’s Student Center. The event is free and open to the public.

If you know of a youth ages 13-19 who may be interested in joining YYEA or participating in the Youth Voice Video Project, please contact Nicole Brown at 487-6570 or nbrown25@emich.edu

Visit YYEA on Facebook!
Nation Abroad: EMU & Rollins College Exchange

This summer we aim to pilot a Nation Abroad program with Rollins College. Nation Abroad resituates a university course (and its faculty members and students) to another university’s campus. Housed at another university for approximately one week faculty and students in conjunction with that university’s community engagement and/or academic service-learning director are partnered with community agencies, programs, and projects within that geographic area. At such sites, students will engage in meaningful service while simultaneously meeting course outcomes and goals. Additionally, faculty whose expertise or focus is that of the visiting course will provide at least one lesson, lecture or experience adding to the students overall learning experience.

In this pilot, Professor James Perren, a professor in World Languages, has developed a (three credit hour) course entitled: Nation Abroad: World Languages Service Learning set from June 26th – July 6, 2009. In this course, both undergraduate and graduate students in ESL (English as a Second Language); International Students who are required to take ESL courses as part of their study, and foreign language students in Spanish, Japanese, German and French students will travel to Rollins College in Orlando, FL. There the students will engage in authentic language experiences in world languages (English, Spanish, and regional dialects) as they are used outside the classroom and university through community projects with several of Rollins’ community partners and collaborators: Immokalee Seminole Reservation, Apopka Farming and Winter Park, FL. For more information contact us at 487-6570.

AS-L and AH Intersection

On March 20, 2009, faculty, students and community members convened to discuss how to improve AS-L experiences, and courses creating more respectful, sustained and reciprocal programs and projects.

Join us in continuing the conversation at www.communityintersection.blogspot.com.

Community AS-L Grants

Our Community Academic Service-Learning (CAS-L) Grant Program supports programming expenses related to an innovative AS-L class program/project at EMU. We recognized that in order to implement an AS-L course or experience materials and/or travel expenses are necessary. This program is intended to ease a barrier of initiating and implementing AS-L courses and projects. Funds are still available for Fall 2009. Please visit www.emich.edu/asl for more information and applications.

Special Thanks

Community Partners who have donated their time, insight and resources to AS-L programs and initiatives:

Jewish Family Services, Washtenaw Land Trust, COPE, SPARK
GEAR UP, Upward Bound