A Note from the Director

As I continue my 6th year in AS-L the stories weave into each other. Need drives projects. Funding drives the work. We define and redefine messages and models, adapting to fit into the existing trend (dual enrollment, entrepreneurship, career pathways, etc.). But the stories never end—they just begin with new people and energies and visions. The Office of AS-L’s newest vision is Art Around Town, a social enterprise to ensure art and art supplies remain and thrive in our local schools was conceptualized by Darlene Leifson, is managed by the B.Side with student Samantha Baldwin its operational head. It is our newest story. This newsletter will also highlight our recurring stories of CPV, CrossTown, AS-L courses, CAS-L Grants, the Carnegie & B.Side & Digital Inclusion. The stories and the events that accompany them keep this office of 7 student staff (not including the DI store), faculty associates, program directors moving, and working to create possibility between and with the community. Jessica ‘Decky’ Alexander

“The story never really begins nor ends even though there is a beginning and an end to every story.”-Trinh T. Minh-Ha

Highlighting AS-L Course: CTAR 427/527

Grant Writing in the Arts is taken by both Arts & Entertainment Management Majors and Arts Administration master’s candidates. This course moves students through a series of assignments in preparation for completing a Michigan Common Grant Application. The process can feel a bit theoretical, so students are asked to partner with a local cultural organization. In the end these “mock” applications can be used by the partner organizations and moved from purely theoretical documents into actual grant applications. Cultural Organizations involved in this semesters class include:

Table of Contents

pg 1 Note From the Director
pg 1 Highlighting AS-L Course
pg 2 CAS-L
pg 2 MCC
pg 3 Art Around Town
pg 3-4 Project Shift
pg 5 Carnegie Get Engaged
pg 5-6 The B.Side
pg 6 CTT

AS-L Staff

Director- Decky Alexander
B.Side Director Jack Bidlack
GA- Katie B. Jarvis
GA- Shavonne Coleman

Student Workers:
Jermaine Dickerson
Xavier Kimbrough
Payton Steele

Arts Alliance of Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor Art Center, Artrain, University Musical Society, FLY Art Center, Michigan Theatre, Two Twelve Art Center, Planet Ant, Peppermint Creek Theatre, Bichini Bia Congo Dance, Partnership for Arts & Humanities, the Ark and the Chelsea Ballet.
CAS-L Grants- Supporting AS-L Projects

“Community Awareness and Marketing Campaign”

This year’s CAS-L Grant funds have been utilized for a “Community Awareness and Marketing Campaign” for Helpy Hour & Helpy Class...ESLN 319: Current Events and Community II. There is an ongoing need for funds to supplement materials and consumable supplies, equipment, services, and other expenses in order to enhance the community-based learning opportunities for English as a second language students and the domestic students involved in two TESOL programs at EMU. The funds help students learn about community and culture specifically centered around community service and reflection. This year we began a multimedia contest to promote the wearing of the t-shirts created by the students. Prizes such as gift cards are also being purchased for the contest. These activities coincide with students having multiple opportunities to reflect on their experiences with hardcopy printed material publications (Helpy News and a Helpy Brochure) and a strong internet presence (Helpy Web). Both components integrate evaluation mechanisms to facilitate audience awareness in students through authentic dialogue. Funds are needed for this part of the marketing campaign to augment the brand presence of Helpy Hour with customized ‘Helpy banners’ as well as clothing accessories that can be worn by students, faculty and staff on and off the EMU campus. We have been providing the community with gift t-shirts when we interact with community partners on various service activities. We plan to continue that marketing campaign with the use of caps, and gloves. To date, well-over four hundred students (international and domestic) and ten separate community partner organizations have participated in Helpy Hour activities in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Detroit. –James Perren, Associate Professor World Languages.

MCC Faculty Award Winner: Jenny Kindred

Jeannette Kindred, a professor at Eastern Michigan University, has been honored by the Michigan Campus Compact for her dedication and commitment to her community and for her efforts with the Academic Service-Learning program at EMU. The award recognizes Kindred’s influence on students and their level of engagement in community service and service learning through their various academic service-learning projects at EMU. Academic Service-Learning projects are intended to teach students about meaningful community service and help students gain a deeper understanding of the community they live in. Kindred currently oversees more than 65 service-learning projects annually. Kindred, a professor of communication, has worked with students to develop strategies to ensure student success in their academic service-learning projects. Through Kindred’s capstone course “Communication Capstone,” students have provided more than 1600 hours of service to the local Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw County Community in the past year.
Art Around Town: A New Social Enterprise

Art Around Town is a social enterprise that provides art supplies to local schools for students to produce pieces of art. These works are then sold through exhibitions to area businesses and members of the community. Art students in middle and high schools create art as part of their regular art education curriculum; EMU’s Office of Academic Service-Learning—through its youth social entrepreneurship program, The B.Side—coordinates exhibitions around town and invites business leaders and other interested community members to purchase student art. Proceeds from the marketing and selling of student art work are then returned to local schools to enhance curricular art objectives. Art Around Town’s mission is to create a sustainable and vibrant arts program in collaboration with local schools. By working with community partners and Eastern Michigan University, we provide opportunities for local middle and high school students to create, market, and sell their art work within the community. Through this collaboration, Art Around Town generates a source of sustainable revenue used to fund art programs and provides meaningful opportunities for students and community members to work together in supporting arts education. What makes AAT innovative is its unique collaboration with other social enterprises and the education system. Middle and high school students will not only learn how to create a variety of art genres, but that learning is enhanced by exposure to art marketing concepts and skills. Local businesses and community members benefit from being provided with meaningful opportunities to support vital arts education experiences for youth, assist AAT in providing the necessary skills for artists to market their work, as well as display the talent of their youth community.

For more information contact the Art Around Town coordinator at aate@gmail.com

Project Shift

Project Shift’s objective is to use drama/communication strategies in conjunction with Gear Up’s Quantum Learning Curriculum as a means to increase learning comprehension and retention in the lives of the 9th graders in the GearUp Program while motivating and strengthening their desire to learn in the classroom and beyond. Current Gear Up participants are in high school, thus most of Project Shift’s programming work to cultivate an attitudinal shift in post-secondary attainment and opportunities.

On a weekly basis Project Shift staff meet to coordinate, adapt, and implement workshops associated with the Quantum curriculum provided by Gear Up, to generate collegiate conversation among the ninth graders at River Rouge, Kennedy, Truman, and Romulus High School. In the last few months the Project Shift staff in conjunction with Gear Up, have given several campus tours to high school students in the Detroit area and facilitated various workshops that cover topics such as: budgeting for college, effective note taking skills, and mind-mapping to over 1,000 students in the
Project Shift (cont.)

Taylor and Romulus communities. We have seven Eastern Michigan University students on staff including two graduate students in the Applied Drama Theatre for the Young program here at Eastern: Keith James, Alysia Greig, Rachel Dick, Jacqueline Jones, Xavier Kimbrough, Chartonay ‘Cece’ Sumpter, and Shavonne Coleman.

Project Shift’s next order of business is to provide a series of drama based workshops in May that are driven by the College Core Conversations project an initiative designed to initiate college conversation around these five questions:

3) Do you have a map?
2) Choose a destination
3) Draw a path or many paths
4) What's in your backpack?
5) Pack your bags and Make your move (are you ready)?

These general questions give the feel that applying to college is not a chore but journey; and in order to be successful one should have a map (a plan), know where they’re going (destination), determine how to go about getting there (paths), gather their tools (backpack), and now are ready to go.

Our Project’s goal is to diligently work with students on college attainment and creating a shift that says not “Are you going to college”, but “where you are going and how can I help you get there”?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 11: End of the Year Celebration
April 18: CASL-Grant Deadline
April 1- June 15: Undergraduate Journal of Service Learning and Community-Based Research Article Deadline www.bk.psu.edu/academics/journalism
April 11: Faculty Fellow Application
April 14: Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) 2014 Conference
Carnegie Get Engaged

The Carnegie (re)Classification in Community Engagement documentation process is almost completed and in time for the April 14th deadline. Lead writer and faculty member, Darlene Leifson says about the Carnegie process, "The process of working on the Carnegie really raised my awareness about how much our faculty and students contribute beyond the walls of our classrooms. We are an example of how integral a part of the community a campus can be. Our story is a powerful reminder that universities can and should be impactful citizens. EMU is living proof that universities do not have to be ivory towers—we are making a significant difference precisely because we embrace a different view about our role in the community."

The 13 page (re)classification document works to capture EMU’s Community Engagement story by focusing on everything from curriculum, to promotion and tenure, to mission and vision and outreach and partnerships. It asks us where we have been and where we are going. A more comprehensive report on the Carnegie including a Partnership Grid, Charts on AS-L course and Curriculum will be available via the AS-L and Engage website in the next month.

What is most remarkable about this process is the affirmation of EMU’s dedication to community engagement. From scholarly efforts by Professor Kennedy Saldanha of Social work: Reducing Drop-out rates in Ypsilanti by Providing Tutoring and Pathways to College: Tracking the Impact of Upper Bound Program to a project spanning schools, communities and the development of an EcoJustice Place-Based curricula for community place based education through Ethan Lowenstein’s SEMIS (Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition) - http://semiscoalition.org/ or the 13,000 patrons that the Legal Resource Center (LRC)-a center for paralegal students in our Legal Assistance program- has assisted since its inception in 2004 and or launching of a family empowerment program in Hamilton Crossing for 70 families.

EMU’s Community Engagement story is strong. For the latest information on the Carnegie Classification please go to: www.emich.edu/asl/carnegieclassification

The B-Side

In January The B. Side wrapped up entrepreneurship classes at New Tech High School after teaching 45 students in its B. Side Basics entrepreneurship curriculum. One team of students entered their business plan in the EMU Skandalaris Business Plan Competition.

One of the most recent developments for The B. Side is a new partnership with Washtenaw Community College. The B. Side will have a total of four courses at WCC over the summer. There will be two sections of Digital Inclusion for teens and two sections of B. Side Basics.

Digital Inclusion (DI) is a computer refurbishment and technical training program for teens ages 13-18. Through a complete hands-on learning experience youth learn about computer hardware and its purpose, how to troubleshoot hardware issues and install hardware components. Next, teens will dive into software learning about operating systems, updates and drivers, security and troubleshooting. The program focuses primarily on PC systems, but provides exposure for teens to Mac systems.

Continued on next page
CrossTown Theatre Troupe

CrossTown Theatre Troupe (CTT) is an after-school theatre club through 21st Century Bright Futures and the Office of Academic Service-Learning. We work to create awareness for youth voice in the Washtenaw and Wayne Areas. Participants from Romulus Middle and High School, John Glenn High School, Ypsilanti Community Middle School, and Ypsilanti Tech have an opportunity to learn improvisational skills, interactive theatre, and gain an understanding of theatre for social change. CTT’s performances seek to increase community engagement, access to youth perspective and generate community dialogue. CTT strives to recognize what issues the youth community deems most important, provide a safe place for teens and young adults to share their experiences, highlight the diverse nature of our neighborhood and help establish a greater sense of accomplishment for the youth community. CrossTown Theatre Troupe is where young people cultivate performances based on social justice issues, personal narrative, and youth voice.

This year at the MLK Day Celebration CTT hosted a workshop entitled CrossTown Theatre Troupe Interactive Theatre Experience: A Dream Realized. In this session, students from three different communities were invited to collaborate with the EMU community and create Interactive theatre pieces. Students, Staff, professors, and community members were invited to partake in the interactive theatre techniques often used in CTT after school classes to create purposeful performance pieces. The workshop was well received and enjoyed by community members as well and the students who attended loved being involved and sharing their love of theatre.

http://crosstowntheatre.weebly.com/
https://www.facebook.com/CTTEMU