The scholarship of engagement means connecting the rich resources of the University to our most pressing social, civic and ethical problems, to our children, to our schools, to our teachers and to our cities" - Ernest Boyer

The Office of Academic Service-Learning is now in its 20th year, and continues to create, identify and support community engagement activity and scholarship in dynamic and relevant ways.

Some of the programs of the last 20 years include:

- Community Youth Mapping
- YYEA –Ypsilanti Youth Empower To Act
- Business Side of Youth and its social enterprises: Digital Inclusion & Art Around Town
- CrossTown Theatre Troupe

AS-L courses have for years, merged academic outcomes and community need and/or service. One course for example is SPSI 622: Augmentative/Alternative Communication

The longevity is due to continued institutional support and belief in cultivating opportunities between the University and community through curriculum, courses and engaged scholarship and to the malleability of the Office of AS-L. Initially an office to exclusively support faculty in integrating academic service-learning into courses and curriculum, the Office AS-L has (as most AS-L programs nationally have) evolved. In its history, the Office of AS-L has served as a front door to the University’s community engagement activity and other times it has been at the forefront of local community youth development launching programs such as the Business Side of Youth (B.Side), Digital Inclusion (DI) and Ypsilanti Youth Empowered to Act (YYEA).

Critical to the Office of AS-L and specifically its programs’ longevity and sustainability is in its ability to create revenue generating programs and/or cultivate partnerships which ensure staying power. Many funders (federal, state, local and private) support start-up programs, but do not provide frameworks for sustainability beyond the course of the grant or funds. To survive and thrive in the University culture, offices and centers such as AS-L need to create revenue based arm; service is not free. We welcome this 20th year, highlighting courses, programs and people that innovate, initiate and work to sustain collaborations between the University and the community.

-Decky Alexander, Director of AS-L

Note From The Director

Course Highlight
Fall 2014 Courses
Bright Impact
B.SIDE/Gear-Up
Digital Inclusion
CrossTown
Rides to the Polls
College Coaching
Art Around Town
Meet the New Staff
Project Shift
Upcoming Events
Course Highlight - Dr. Zuzana Tomas

Good Work: The Peace Corps International Master’s Program at EMU

By Darlene Leifson

In the fall of 2011, Eastern Michigan University partnered with Peace Corps International to bring the Peace Corps International Master’s Program to EMU. The program allows a select group of students the opportunity to earn a Master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) while simultaneously serving in the Peace Corps. Students earn six elective credits, as well as gain valuable international professional experience, for their service. The Peace Corps International Master’s Program (PCMI-TESOL) is particularly suited to EMU’s tradition of excellence in academic service-learning and its commitment to strengthening communities at home and abroad.

Rutgers University founded the Peace Corps International Master’s Program in 1987. Since then, more than 80 additional institutions nationwide have partnered with the Peace Corps to provide the International Master’s degree, including EMU. To be accepted into the program interested students must first be accepted into the MA TESOL program and then gain acceptance into the Peace Corps. In addition to completing all required courses and cognates for the MA in TESOL, students serve for 27 months in their Peace Corps assignment. For additional information about EMU’s PCMI-TESOL program, please visit https://www.emich.edu/worldlanguages/tesol/pcmi_matesol_emu.php.

It was my privilege to discuss the Peace Corps International Master’s degree with Daniel Hayes (pictured above), an MA candidate in EMU’s PCMI-TESOL program, and Dr. Zuzana Tomas, Assistant Professor of ESL/TESOL. Daniel’s experience and education make him a natural fit for the program: his undergraduate degree is in secondary integrated science and, after graduating, he was awarded a two-year Fulbright scholarship in Korea to teach English at an all-boys school. As an MA candidate in EMU’s PCMI-TESOL program, Daniel was offered an opportunity to serve his Peace Corps assignment in China. Daniel is now taking classes to be a university TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) instructor there. The work is intense, but rewarding. Daniel would like to receive an English Language Fellowship to teach English in various universities abroad. His ultimate goal is to be a Regional English Language Officer: a position which would allow him to travel the world, establish English programs, take part in cultural exchanges, and support current English programs working in collaboration with the United States Embassy. Daniel believes his PCMI-TESOL Master’s degree will be excellent preparation for this work.

Daniel has high praise for the coursework portion of the PCMI-TESOL program as well. As a student in Dr. Zuzana Tomas’s TSLN 532 class (TESOL Methods: Speaking, Listening, and Pronunciation) Daniel had an opportunity to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) students in an academic service-learning component of the course—something that is new to the TESOL program. “Before we couldn’t [teach actual students] until our practicum. This is very beneficial because, before, you had to think of an imaginary classroom. If you know your students you can serve them better than if they are imaginary people.”

Dr. Tomas is passionate about the academic service-learning component of the course, and sees it as a natural fit with the overall goals and objectives of the PCMI-TESOL Master’s program. The course’s as-l requirement is community based and occurs in partnership with Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. Because JFS offers ESL courses year round, graduate students taking TSLN 532 during the summer months provide a valuable service for JFS by extending their curriculum beyond the traditional academic calendar. As Dr. Tomas sees it, the benefits generated by this partnership are reciprocal: participants in the JFS program are presented with a highly effective, student-centered, and innovative way to learn English, and students taking the course learn and practice effective TESOL methods in a real-world setting. In Dr. Tomas’s view, teaching actual ESL students goes beyond the microteaching education students often experience by teaching one another in their classes. The as-l component of the course provides students with a more authentic experience; they “learn to empathize . . . and see immediately if [learners] are not getting something.” Teaching ESL in a real-world setting also allows students to experience first-hand the cultural challenges inherent in the discipline. Daniel readily agrees: “Reading a book is abstract. Academic service-learning is tangible and you remember [what you have learned] so much better.”

Dr. Tomas sums up what might be described as the overall benefit of both academic service-learning and professional teaching experience gained by serving abroad in the Peace Corps: “My main goal [as an educator] is to prepare my students as best as I can for real world job market. Students will be able to say that they developed themselves professionally through the course in a tangible and experiential way.” She adds, “Just seeing the positive impact on our students, on the students in the community and on the community partner, really invigorates me as a teacher educator. I found so much professional growth for myself in developing the course.”

Both the required coursework and Peace Corps service in the PCMI-TESOL program reflect EMU’s commitment to meaningful and impactful work in the community, whether that community is local or abroad. For both Daniel and Dr. Tomas, this has meant stepping out of their comfort zones. They each concur, however, that stepping out of those comfort zones has been nothing if not a rewarding experience.

Continued on next panel ➔
AS-L Winter 2015 Courses

CHL 451 – Writing about Controversy in Literature for the Young
CTAC 495 – Communication Capstone
CTAR 522 – Applied Theater
CTAR 479 – Applied Theater
CTAT 434 – Documentary Production
ESLN 319 – Community and Current Events II
ESLN 039 – Community and Current Events II
MKTG 470 – Marketing Research
OCTH 201 – Exploring Therapy Occupational Performance in Communication
RECR 100L – Introduction to Recreation & Leisure
RECR 280 – Camping
RECR 282L - Backpacking
SPSI 622 – Augmentative/Alternative Communication
SPCI 350 – Intro to Cognitive Impairment
SWRK 350L - Generalist Social Work Practice: Organizations and Communities
TSLN 530 – TESOL Methods: Reading, Writing, & Grammar

To learn more about how to integrate your class into an Academic Service-Learning course, where students can receive LBC credits, contact the AS-L office at aa_asl@emich.edu.

EMU is making a Bright Impact
By Micala Evans

We are excited to bring a new software to EMU to help manage and track the community engagement projects across campus, called Bright Impact! As you may or may not know, part of Eastern Michigan University’s mission is to “...provide a student-focused learning environment that enhances the lives of students and positively impacts the community.” Bright Impact is an innovation platform that allows universities to measure both the quantitative and qualitative impact made through service-learning. School administrators, faculty, and students can all participate on Bright Impact and not only see the total impact that their project is making, but the impact that the university as a whole is making on the community.

EMU is a Carnegie classified institution which requires annual data reporting on the community impact that the university conducts. In addition to an excellent data tracking software, Bright Impact allows faculty to monitor student projects by always being able to see time stamps and updates, and connect with community partners that they may not have known existed! The software only costs students $10 to set up their account (cheaper than a textbook), and allows full engagement into your Academic Service-Learning course individually, as a group, a class, an institution, and a community. Call now to schedule a faculty training today! For more information, contact Micala Evans at 487-6570 or mevans31@emich.edu to find out how you can use Bright Impact in your AS-L course!

The B. Side GEARs UP the Year with Collaboration
By Micala Evans

The Business Side of Youth (The B. Side) and the Department Academic Success Partnerships’ GEAR UP program have joined forces to bring area high schools a unique opportunity this year! The B. Side facilitates Entrepreneurship Training to youth ages 14-21 in multiple community programs, and has even been implemented into some K-8 class curriculums. GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), works with tenth graders in low-income districts to better prepare them to enter and succeed in college. With a joint goal in mind, The B. Side and GEAR UP “tag team” student class-rooms at Romulus and River Rouge high schools advocating for personal and academic development. With on-site support services: such as tutoring, mentoring, and financial aid education, students who participate in The B. Side / GEAR UP collaborative program are not only exposed to effective learning strategies, they are also engaged in coming up with creative solutions to challenges they see within their community. GEAR UP Program Coordinator Samantha Aaron commented on this year’s collaboration saying “I enjoy being able to offer this to students to supplement the college readiness curriculum that we have developed through GEAR UP. The things that they can do given the right tools are limitless. To bring something like The B. Side to them gives us an opportunity to make them better students and better people.” With the help of The B. Side, students will complete the course with a unique business plan, a personal budget, and a wealth of job and college readiness to take on the “real world” ahead of them.

Continued on next panel ➔
DI Pops Up Downtown Ypsilanti
By Jack Bidlack

Digital Inclusion (DI) is a social enterprise of The Business Side of Youth (The B. Side) working to increase basic computer knowledge, technology and digital literacy in the Ypsilanti and greater Washtenaw County communities. Currently located in Sill Hall on Eastern Michigan University’s campus, DI offers affordable technology for low-income residents in an effort to reduce the technology gap. With the interest in reaching more residents, DI has “popped up” in downtown Ypsilanti with help from an initiative created by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Ypsilanti Planning Commission, and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Kory Scheiber, Intake Consultant SBDC-Michigan Greater Washtenaw Region, has been a driving force behind the pop up efforts in downtown Ypsilanti. Scheiber said, “Pop ups can provide a significant boost to the local economy, especially during the critical retail months of October through December. This can bring jobs and additional foot traffic to the downtown area businesses.”

Digital Inclusion has refurbished laptops and desktop computers available for sale at cheaper rates than most technology stores, along with other computer accessories such as keyboards, mice, and LCD monitors. DI is also a Microsoft Registered Refurbisher and installs licensed Windows 7 Professional on all of its refurbished PC’s. Qualified low-income or disabled residents can receive $225 worth of Microsoft software for FREE with the appropriate documentation.

In addition to affordably priced technology, DI trains youth aged 14-21 in technical and business skill development, computer refurbishment, and real-world entrepreneurship, while promoting outreach and technical support to the Ypsilanti community. The youth learn everything from hardware and software troubleshooting to installing drivers and rebuilding systems.

DI’s hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The pop-up store will operate from November 21 through December 17, 2014.

Digital Inclusion is hopeful that being downtown will allow customers easier access. If successful, DI will consider a long-term store within the Ypsilanti community. DI’s primary location is still on the campus of EMU in Sill Hall and reachable by phone, Facebook, Twitter, and on the web.

Facebook - Digital Inclusion
Twitter - @direcycle
Website - www.direcycle.com Phone: 734.487.8070

Cross Town Theater Kicks off Fall Season at Romulus
by Xavier Kimbrough

Crosstown Theater Troupe is serving local communities a lot of good. Crosstown students simply love having a place where they have the opportunity to express themselves through the form of improvisational acting in different roles. Being a crosstown teaching artist is a huge honor because I am able to facilitate something so positive and creative for students who may not have that creative outlet elsewhere proves to be very rewarding. Many of the crosstown teaching artists that have taught for a longer period of time, and have noted that they are seeing the students grow older, move from Middle School to High School, and are meeting their younger siblings. The fact that this program is continuously expanding into new schools in Southeast Michigan proves its effectiveness in each community that it serves. During the next quarter, Crosstown will be expanding into: the Washtenaw International Middle Academy in Ypsilanti, Adams Upper in Westland, and Willow Run Middle School in Ypsilanti. Every school addition that Crosstown gets is rejoiced within the program, but is especially celebrated when we are able to serve the community surrounding Eastern Michigan University directly! Another community that has proven the success of Crosstown Theater is the city of Romulus, where it’s housed in both the Middle and High School. Since the beginning of programming there, Bright Futures site coordinators Amanda McVety and Lauren Richardson have done an amazing job with student recruitment and attendance. This partnership creates an ideal environment for Teacher Artists because they know exactly what to plan for and how many students to expect. Teacher Artists also plan accordingly to ensure that all of the activities in each school are the right fit for the students and their interests. We’re really excited that Crosstown Theater Troupe is gaining popularity in multiple schools, and hope that this trend continues for years to come.
Did you know that there are four different polling locations where locally registered EMU students must travel to vote? While located only a mile from campus, new EMU students still have challenges getting to the polls simply because they do not have transportation or know the community routes of Ypsilanti. Lest that stop them from voting! Started in 2008 by Jessica "Decky" Alexander in the AS-L office, Rides to the Polls has become a necessary tool to engage and inform students in the voting process, and help remove that transportation barrier on election day so they can voice their vote. This year, AS-L partnered with the offices of: Multicultural Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion, Student Government, and VISION, to once again bring this opportunity to campus to help politically engage EMU students. Some students voted for the first time, and many of the riders were freshman who lived on campus. Even in the cold windy rain on November 4th, volunteers came out to drive and students came out to vote! We would like to thank all of the students who voted, the offices who coordinated the event, and all of the volunteer drivers who made this event a success!

Free Rides to the Polls for EMU Students November 4th
By Micala Evans

College Coaching Corps
By Sina Webster

College Coaching Corps is a partnership program between EMU, the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) and two local school districts: Milan High School and Ypsilanti Community Schools. The College Coaching Corps was created to give graduating high school seniors and juniors around Washtenaw County both guidance and support in applying to colleges, and exploring post-secondary options. Many high schools do not have the resources to direct their school counselors to provide college and post-secondary support, and thus the College Coaching Corps meets a critical advising and student support need. The College Coaches are current graduate students enrolled in relevant master’s programs: higher education/student affairs or counseling. A College Coach is a full-time 20 hour-a-week Graduate Assistant housed in the actual high school. By helping the high school students, the College Coaches are also assisting the counselors in the high schools by giving them more of an opportunity to focus on the emotional aspect of getting ready for college that some students may be troubled by. The coaches also provide the students with someone to talk to that is still in college, giving them a more authentic connection to college and its personal and professional possibilities.

The 2014 College Coaching Corps team consists of graduate students: Amber Hawkins, William Horton-Anderson (both at Milan HS), and Jessica Hendricks housed at Ypsilanti New Tech. A very hardworking and enthusiastic team, they have organized college fairs, provided financial aid and FAFSA workshops for students and parents, launched college application week in collaboration with the Michigan College Access Network and facilitated college visits for their juniors and seniors. When speaking to the three coaches, the common goal amongst them was that they wanted to ensure that every student knew that there was “more” for them after they graduated.

College Coaching Corps
By Sina Webster

Art Around Town Update
By Darlene Leifson

Art Around Town began working with its second cohort of students this September. We are pleased to continue working with Kathy Fisk’s art integration classes at New Tech High School, and Lynne Settles’ and Katie Awood’s studio art classes at YCHS. Kathy’s studio art class will also be participating in our program this semester. We were able to return a substantial percentage of the proceeds earned at our auction last May to these classrooms to purchase more art supplies for students. We are also thrilled to report that one of our students, Terrell Jones, earned enough money selling his art work at our May auction to purchase his own t-shirt making equipment! He is now running his own small arts business.

Similar to last May, Art Around Town will be hosting a youth art auction on Saturday, December 13th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Chin-Azzaro Studios on 9 S. Washington St. in Ypsilanti. We invite you to come and see the amazing work our students are doing, and to purchase youth-created art for your home or office space. We are excited to offer additional purchase options including framed reprints of previous works and 2015 calendars featuring our students’ pieces. Please contact Art Around Town in the Office of AS-L (734.487.6570) for more information about these new purchase options.

Finally, we would like to thank our student volunteers for their terrific work this semester: Emily Kindred, Sina Webster, Xavier Kimbrough, Megan Walker, and Aysia Johnson. As always, we appreciate the hard work of our program coordinator, Samantha Baldwin. We couldn’t market, exhibit, auction, and sell student art without you!
New Office Staff Bio's

AS-L would like to welcome our new staff members to the office!

Adrianna Drake
Adrianna Drake is a senior in the Interdisciplinary Childrens Literature and Applied Theater For the Young Department, with a minor in Social Work. She hails from Pontiac, Michigan, where she has a younger brother, her mom, and her church family to welcome her! She also works part time with Bright Futures and plans to successfully give back and inspire children in schools and local communities.

Sina Webster
Sina Webster hails from our community neighbor Ann Arbor, and is the youngest child of six siblings. She is currently a sophomore majoring in Biology, however Sina wants a career where she can “help people”. As a side job, she also works as a College Positive Volunteer motivating youth to go to college!

Micala Evans
Meet our new Graduate Assistant Micala Evans: who is a native of the Historically Black Northern Michigan community, Idlewild. She is pursuing her Doctorate degree in Educational Studies; Urban Education within EMU's Teacher Education Department. Landing in the office of AS-L in the second year of her studies, she is excited to take on the challenge of engaging faculty and students in the community and wearing some of the many hats in the AS-L office. Micala has worked in a variety of educational, non-profit, and corporate settings exploring her many talents, and brings a database of knowledge and enthusiasm to the AS-L department. In addition to her strong interest in research and teaching, Micala is also an entrepreneur in the summer season, and works with Jack Bidlack on the B-Side projects – teaching entrepreneurship to youth in the local area high schools. Micala serves on the executive board for the Michigan Sociological Association, and is a board member of the Idlewild African American Chamber of Commerce. Being very active in community education projects in her home community, she seeks to not only become a professor when she graduates, but to establish a community education center in Idlewild for citizens to have greater access to informational channels. In the little spare time she gets, Micala performs spoken word poetry and is teaching herself to play the acoustic guitar.

Project Shift, EMU's CPV and GearUp Initiative, ad housed in EMU's Office of Academic Service Learning.
by Chartonay Sumpter

Project Shift’s objective is to use drama/communication strategies in conjunction with the Gear Up curriculum to increase learning comprehension and retention in the lives of the 10th graders in the GearUp Program. Through our collaboration we strive to motivate and strengthen students’ desire to learn in the classroom and beyond. Current GearUp participants are in high school, thus most of Project Shift’s programming work to cultivate an attitudinal shift in post-secondary attainment and opportunities.

Project Shift has made a dynamic shift of its own this year; as we have teamed up with both GearUp at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan! On the Eastern Michigan front, CPV’s utilize and correlate the B-Side’s entrepreneurial concept of creating and implementing a business to foster college readiness at two of the four GearUp High Schools. At The University of Michigan, student leaders facilitate campus visits every Friday with their cohort of students they call “Futurez”. We eat lunch, take the futurez on a tour of U of M (Central Campus) and facilitate a Monopoly style game entitled “College Knowledge: The Financial Aid Edition”. Futurez pick a card with a 10th grade scenario (and move forwards or backwards) based on the decision made on that card, and travel around a game board solely comprised of colleges, universities, and three-four F.Y.I. spaces.

As students land on the spaces they are given information about that particular university or organization and if they land on an F.Y.I the student leader gives them an interesting fact about college. This collaboration is unique in the fact that our students have the opportunity to meet and work with two different cohorts, that are implementing two different academic approaches, with one cohesive ultimate goal; college readiness. Since the start of our academic year Project Shift has trained seven EMU student leaders and four U of M staff members, along with U of M staff and their student leaders facilitated campus visits to over 200 students, and introduced the B-Side approach to half of our EMU cohort of close to 900 students. Currently on staff we have nine Eastern Michigan University Students including one graduate student in the Applied Drama, Theatre for the Young program and one doctoral candidate in the Educational Studies program here at Eastern: Daryl Holman Jr., Keisha Jones, Khalid Wooten, Sina Webster, Meaghan Bidlack, Samantha Baldwin, Micala Evans, and Chartonay ‘Cece’ Sumpter.

In the winter semester we are looking forward to enhancing our curriculum and hiring more outstanding College Positive Volunteers!
Upcoming Events

December 10, 2014

826michigan will host a Book Celebration at 608 Pray Harrold from 12:30 - 1:45. The event highlights the completed AS-L course taught by Ramona Caponegro, CHL 208, Multicultural Children’s Literature, and will highlight books the children have selected and enable them to obtain their library cards for 826.

December 18, 2014

Professor Chiron Graves’ Fall AS-L course are presenting their results of their academic service-learning experience entitled “BIOT 403 AS-L Project Presentations: Investigations into the Secondary School Learner.” The presentations will take place in the Mark Jefferson building, Room 113 from 8:30 am - 10:30 am.

Upcoming Courses

Applied Theatre

CTAR 479
CTAR 522

Applied Theatre is the perfect class to study, explore, and practice the use of theater as a medium to educate, engage, empower, and transform people, places, and communities.

Thursday 5:30 - 8:20
Register for Applied Theater TODAY!
Instructor Deaky Alexander

Documentary Production

CTAT 434 is seeking students to register to learn about the basic processes and content of documentary film production. Students will complete a short documentary film for a non-profit organization while participating in a mutual beneficial relationship between EMU and the community.

Register NOW for CTAC 434! For more questions contact Brooke Dagnan at hdagnan@emich.edu