A Note from the Director-

"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 in “The Scholarship of Engagement”

In this Newsletter you will find updates on our year-round office community engaged programs The B.Side & CrossTown (CTT) as well as highlights from some CAS-L (Community and Academic Service-Learning) grantees who are both engaged in course based service-learning as well as engaged scholarship.

As an office we are working to provide resources, opportunities and dialogue on the burgeoning area of engaged scholarship. Many of us, myself included have long been involved in community-engaged scholarship defined as, “Scholarship that involves the faculty member in a mutually beneficial partnership with the community. Community-engaged scholarship can be transdisciplinary and often integrates some combination of multiple forms of scholarship.” Commission on Community Engaged Scholarship in the Health Professions, with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The community as subject and object for many faculty is a place of discomfort or simply distance. However, as our communities resources continue (even more rapidly than our universities) to decline its worth considering whether through faculty initiative or through University coordination more deliberate scholarly/creative community/university collaborations. I believe that such a move will only provide greater benefit to both ‘communities’ building bridges rather than walls. -Jessica “Decky” Alexander

Nation Abroad & Day of Ypsilanti Activism– June 2010

In late June, students and faculty from Rollins College, our AS-L partner in Florida and two EMU students assisted by Professor Brooke Dagnan, spent 10 days in Detroit to attend and document the US Social Forum. Over 75 people, programs and rallies were captured in video and written text. The Rollins/EMU contingent was the US Social Forum’s primary journalists. Their stories on the USSF were directed to other media outlets, such as Free TV. Check out the website: rollinsussf2010.com/ to view all the stories captured during this forum.

From 9 days in Detroit to a day in Ypsilanti. EMU and Rollins’ students engaged in a day of Ypsilanti Activism documenting and capturing the following local organizations and initiatives dedicated to community transformation: Bike Ypsi, Growing Hope, Transition Town Ypsilanti Honeybee Project, SPARK East, and SOS Community Services.

This collaboration was funded in part by the RNR foundation.
CAS-L Grants

Congratulations to the following Fall 2010 Grant recipients: Susan Badger Booth (Associate Professor of CMTA) was awarded funds to support Amplifying the Arts festival, an event run by students in Badger Booth’s Arts Management class. In August, 2010, Associate Professor Robert Duke traveled to Cambridge, UK to present a paper: “Integrating Academic Service-Learning into Social Studies Teacher Preparation: A Report on the First Year at Eastern Michigan University.” Finally, Pamela Walsh (Associate Professor of Health Services) attended the Association of University Programs in Health Administration’s conference where she gave a poster presentation comparing student perceptions from 2007 to 2009 regarding ASL experiences in the Health Services Personnel Management Course.

The Office of Academic Service-Learning implemented the Community Academic Service-Learning (CAS-L) grants for the first time last fall 2009. The CAS-L grant program supports programming expenses related to innovative AS-L class programs/projects at EMU. This program is intended to ease a barrier of initiating and implementing AS-L courses and projects.

CAS-L Grant funds are available for Winter 2011. Please visit www.emich.edu/asl or email epatton1@emich.edu.

James Perren– World Language Service-Learning

As a recipient of the Winter 2010 CAS-L Grant from the EMU Office of Academic Service-Learning James Perren (Assistant Professor of World Languages) was able to use the funds to complete two professional opportunities. The first prospect involved taking a trip to Rollins College for “The Language of Service and Community Symposium.” Perren submitted a conference presentation proposal and it was accepted at the event. It was also an opportunity to touch base with like-minded individuals in order to begin planning a course that would be implemented at EMU in the summer of 2009.

The second main activity was the International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities at the University of California, Los Angeles. He submitted a virtual presentation about the partnership course titled, “Nation Abroad: World Language Service Learning” partnered with Rollins College. This led to a subsequent publication as an article in the affiliated peer-reviewed International Journal of the Humanities.

Both of these activities allowed Perren to become more involved in the academic community connected with service learning and applied linguistics.

Ethan Lowenstein– Presents in Madrid, Spain

Ethan Lowenstein (Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction) was awarded the Winter 2010 CAS-L grant to support his service-learning partnership between EMU and University Preparatory Academy (UPA) in Detroit. Professor Lowenstein presented the work he had been doing using AS-L to promote teacher development within the context of school-university partnerships at the Complutense University in Madrid, Spain. The presentation was conducted entirely in Spanish and was attended by 50 participants including professors, graduate students, and teacher candidates. At the presentation copies of Lowenstein’s paper “Navigating Teaching Tensions for Civic Learning” were distributed. The paper describes how he uses AS-L at EMU.

Ethan Lowenstein describes his experience: “While in Spain, I had the opportunity to solidify connections with Spanish scholars and practitioners who are interested in AS-L and civic learning and I am currently exploring opportunities for future collaboration.”
Concepts of Life Youth Magazine

Concepts of Life (COL) is a young adult magazine focusing on older teens and people in their early twenties with the goals of inspiring, educating, and maintaining awareness, growth, and fun within our community as well as providing a positive sense of mental and social stability.

COL was created by the youth who participated in the B. Side of A. program as a limited work experience through Michigan Works!. COL was the product they were charged with creating. The youth had creative freedom and developed the name, the colors, their mission, and the layout of the online magazine.

Currently, four youth staff members are working to continue this online magazine and transform it into a viable youth-run enterprise. Youth are working to finalize their layout, articles and videos, and seek outside advertisers.

For more information and to check out the magazine, go to www.conceptsoflife.com, and “Like” our Concepts of Life facebook page.

Center for Entrepreneurship Business Plan Workshop

The third Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) Business Plan Workshop was held on October 22, 2010 at EMU’s Student Center. The seminar was designed to help business students create or improve their business plans and featured the faculty that support the CFE, last year’s second place winner of the Skandalaris Business Plan Competition, Heather Charles (a B. Side Young Mogul) and break-out sessions by The B. Side. There were 80 students that took advantage of getting a head start on forming their idea for a business, which could later be developed for their business plan.

The B. Side has been a participating partner in the CFE Business Plan Workshop since the very beginning. “Because of The B. Side’s expertise and knowledge of working with high school students, and our strong local connections to the schools, we were a welcomed partner for the workshops,” said The B. Side Program Director Jack Bidlack. This year The B. Side created two break-out sessions to compliment the workshop: Generating Business Ideas and Where to Get Good Market Research.

All participants in the workshop are encouraged to enter their plans in the 2011 Skandalaris Business Plan Competition, to be held in conjunction with the Sesi Conference on Feb. 11, 2011 at EMU. The B. Side has had a second place winner for the last two years and is looking to score the top place this year with one of its B. Side Basics students from this fall.

B-Side Accepted into the Pepsi Refresh Project

The B. Side has submitted a project for the B. Side of A. (Business Side of Art), a program where youth are introduced to fields such as graphic design, fashion design, music production, digital animation, and culinary arts. The B. Side of A. takes a youth’s passion, improves his/her skills and presents business opportunity.

Pepsi Refresh project is like the “American Idol of grants” as we competed for a $50,000 grant and the main determining factor for receiving the grant was votes. Hundreds of emails, facebook messages, and handouts have been distributed to encourage friends of the B. Side to vote everyday in October. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to text and vote online.

Check out the website: www.refresheverything.com /bsideofyouth.
CrossTown Theatre Troupe

CTT partnered with Bright Future's 2010 summer camp at the EMU Student Center in July-August 2010. 3 CTT teaching artists (Big Fire/ Tae Hoon Yoo, Venus Strong-Smith, and Jenny Anne Koppera) worked with over 20 students over the 2 week period. Students ranged from CTT founding members to students completely new to CTT and included students from Ypsilanti High, Willow Run, Wayne Memorial, and Early College Alliance.

The CTT production was based on the script “After Juliet” by Sharmon Mac-Donald which picks up where Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet leaves off. Characters exist in a world where prejudice and fear still reign and the hope of peace is a slim opportunity. Students joined the teaching artists in experimenting with the heightened language, fight choreography, intense themes, and the creation of original music. The performance took place at the camp’s family night and was an exciting conclusion to the evening.

With a new school year in full swing CrossTown Theatre Troupe is busy preparing for our next production! On Monday, October 18th, 2010 CrossTown performers from Wayne Memorial, Ypsilanti and Willow Run High Schools gathered together at Willow Run to kick off the new year, get to know one another and introduce the upcoming production of ‘The Eye of the Storm’, a modernized adaptation of ‘The Tempest’ for young audiences. This January, at EMU’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in the student center, CrossTown students will be performing ‘The Eye of the Storm’.

Crosstown Theatre Troupe has grown this year to approximately 50 high school youth at four different CrossTown sites. EMU graduate students Divin Huff, Ariel Jones, Jenny Koppera, Emily Patton, Kristala Pouncy, Tommy Simon, Tae Hoon “Big Fire” Yoo and CrossTown Theatre director, Erin McDonald serve as teaching artists for the program.

CrossTown Theatre Troupe works to create and engage youth voice through theatre. This program is made possible by the Bright Futures/21st Century Program, GearUp and the Office of Academic Service-Learning at EMU. Please check out our new website: www.crosstowntheatre.com.

The mission of EMU’s Office of Academic Service-Learning is to build the infrastructure which will support students, faculty, administrators and community members in their efforts to implement academic service-learning and community practice.

November 5, 2010 Faculty Fellows Roundtable
November 15, 2010 Faculty Fellows Application due
December 1, 2010 CAS-L Grant Application due
Oct– Dec, 2010 Apply to become a Winter 2011 ASL Faculty Fellow
January 17, 2011 Crosstown performs “Eye of the Storm”
February 11, 2011 Business Plan Conference

A scholar who cherishes the love of comfort is not fit to be deemed a scholar.
-Lao Tzu