

Service-Learning Course Highlights

INTEGRATING COMMUNITY IN THE CLASSROOM

LAS 290: Learning and Serving in the Local Mexican Community

Professor Margarita Elorriaga, Spanish, Latin American Studies

Students partner with Mexican families, exchanging English-as-a-Second-Language services with Spanish language skills.

FYS 198-2: Tryin' to Find a Way Back Home: Introduction to the Literature and Legacy of Homelessness in America

Professor Christopher Fee, English

For the fourth year, this first-year seminar combines service in the community, intensive class discussion, reflective writing and immersion in Washington DC.



Elizabeth Petersen '10 and Catelynn, Homework Buddies at Wee Care Learning Center

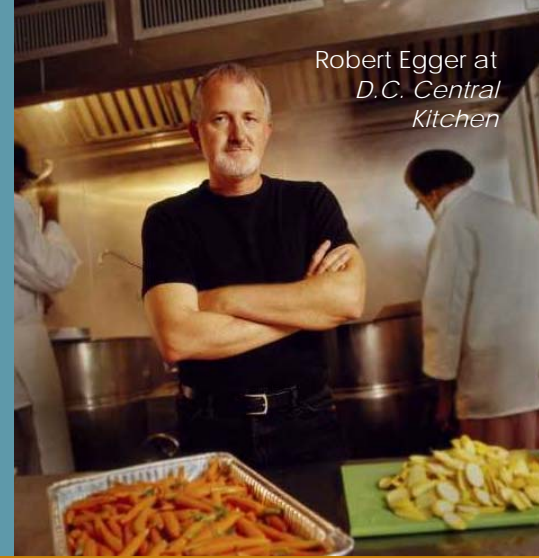
MGT 439: Senior Seminar: Leadership in Action

Professor Jennifer Leigh, Management

Students designed and implemented a community-based research project, culminating in an analysis of stated needs for training and development for Healthy Adams County.

MAKING CHANGE YOUR MISSION

Robert L.E. Egger, CEO of D.C. Central Kitchen and author of *Begging for Change* spoke at this year's Fall Convocation. As a hunger and homelessness activist, he challenged students to think innovatively and critically about the role of nonprofit organization and students' responsibility to create change. Reflecting on the day, Egger noted "Gettysburg College is our longest serving collegiate partner, and their students are truly top drawer thinkers and doers. I so admire what they do and I was beyond honored to be able to address a packed house."



Robert Egger at D.C. Central Kitchen

Fall Convocation

Co-Curricular Learning

This year 22 Program Coordinators and Assistants comprised our student staff. All were dedicated to being leaders for social justice and embedding student-community work in the culture of our campus.

Through fall training, staff meetings, a retreat and working group meetings, the student staff explored crucial social issues, developing the skills to articulate opinions and finding ways to partner with the community agencies for viable solutions and the deliverance of enhanced programming. They also focused on educating, challenging and encouraging their peers to continually explore community work, advocacy and change.

Recognizing that by understanding dynamics of power, privilege and oppression we can create healthier and more meaningful relationships that value reciprocity, students explored their personal identities and racial justice throughout the second semester.

CPS is where everything comes together. It's not just a job -- it's an experience. As a member of the staff, I have become heavily involved in social justice issues... My work at CPS has truly enhanced my experience at Gettysburg and provided me with the knowledge and connections to build a strong foundation for my future.

- Sara Harenchar '09



Kristen races during Ladies Leaping Into Life, a Lincoln Elem. After-School Program

Student-Implemented Initiatives

STUDENTS FOR NICARAGUA

Students for Nicaragua was launched, formalizing a peer community for returning Nicaragua Immersion Project participants. The group actively supports sustainable community development by raising awareness, collaborating with student and global organizations that advocate similar objectives, and supporting *Project Gettysburg/León*.

ERACE: GETTYSBURG DIALOGUE FOR CAMPUS UNITY

With students from the Inter-cultural Resource Center, CPS student leaders have created a new movement. Through weekly meetings, honesty and laughter, they created a space to dialogue about racial justice and challenge the cultural climate on campus, finding ways to affect social change around an issue that people often perceive as exhausted, controversial or irrelevant.

APPALACHIA PROJECT

Kaitlin Berger '08, designed, organized and led the first student-led Immersion Project, traveling to West Virginia to explore rural poverty in Appalachia. The group of 10 students partnered with the *Mullens Opportunity Center* to repair a roof for a family of four, learn about life and culture, and participate in an effective community partnership.

EXPLORING CAMPUS KITCHENS

Inspired by Robert Egger and a long-time partnership with D.C. Central Kitchen, the campus is exploring the possibility of implementing a Campus Kitchens Project, which aims to recycle food into nourishing meals and then deliver them (along with a friendly visit) to those who need it most in our community. This project also aims to strengthen the relationship between students and the community.

Participating in an Immersion Project was a way for me to find personal identity within service, and connect the social issue of hunger with the spiritual hunger I crave each day. I saw connections that inspired my thesis, my own philosophy, and my faith.

- Jennifer Baron, '07

A particular event which stands out in my mind is our meeting with the director of the United Nations AIDS program. This briefing for me underscored the importance and overwhelming scale of the ongoing work to better understand and prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and ideally, eradicate it in the future.

-Mark Leno, '08 (NYC)



Cassandra Cochran '07 plays with Naty at Los Ositos, Fundeci, León, Nicaragua

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

Community Development
León, Nicaragua

Native American Living
San Carlos Reservation, AZ

Living with HIV/AIDS
New York City, NY

Gulf Coast Rebuilding
Violet, LA

Poverty and Public Policy
Washington D.C.

Civil Rights Movement
Alabama

Urban Health Care
Baltimore, MD

The goal of each Immersion Project is to foster a dialogue between the College community and the host community around issues of social justice. By working alongside people and sharing their stories, students learn about themselves and the world. This year, participants challenged themselves and brought home those stories and experiences by engaging in similar work in the Adams County region, providing education about relevant issues to their peers and raising funds for partner agencies.

Immersion Projects

The Center for Public Service engages students, community members, faculty and staff to facilitate partnerships, education, critical thinking and informed action. Through these alliances, we aim to foster social justice by promoting personal, institutional and community change.