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New Learning Approach

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New Learning Approach



By: Leah Ashwill

Thang Le, Phuong Vu, and Greg Capillo live in a house on East Eleventh Street.

In this house, once riddled by criminal activity, the three students seek to turn the renovations of a house into a central location for students to communicate with neighbors, develop projects, and in turn, use their interests and knowledge to make a difference in the area.

Thang Le, Phuong Vu, and Greg Capillo serve as the first students to take part in the Community Engagement House, which will provide four graduate students each year with the opportunity to complete projects in a local neighborhood bordering Western Kentucky University's campus.

"This work brings me a great opportunity to live in an America practical life, as well as bring my academic knowledge out to apply into real life. Also, I realize that I'm gradually becoming a part of this community," Thang Le said.

Le, an MBA student, assesses the housing, real estate market, and rental properties for the neighborhood. However, all three students are mapping the
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Service-Learning Workshop Helps Initiate New Approach

In September WKU faculty and staff participated in the ALIVE Center's bi-annual service-learning workshop, designed not only to educate folks about the who, what, where, when and why's of service-learning, but also to gather from them their ideas for a "dream" service-learning project and/or partnership. Ideas ranged from a course that could help international students learn the rules-of-the-road, to an adult literacy program, and even a radio program for the Hispanic community promoting education. Almost all the "dreams" have been fulfilled, but work continues in meeting all the "dreams."

Do you have a project in mind for your class? Does your interest in a project lie outside the classroom but still involve students? Our job at the ALIVE Center is to meet your wishes to the best of our abilities, in addition to helping you find information and resources about ways to place service-learning into your course curriculum. Some dreams take a little longer to realize, but you can count on the staff at the Center to do our best to make it come true.

If you would like more information about service-learning, or if you would like to form a partnership with a nonprofit community member, please feel free to contact Cheryl Kirby-Stokes at cheryl.kirby-stokes@wku.edu or at 270-782-0653.

WKU Student Promotes Water Conservation in Kenya

Ms. Lindsey Filiatreau, a WKU Biology and Honors student, is not the first to participate in the Leadership Studies Program, but she is the first to initiate a project with an international focus. She has been living in Rukanga, Kenya since July 2009, a rural village in the Kasigau area of Kenya. Kenya has only recently come out of a four year drought, and during that time, Rukanga did not have the resources to implement an area-wide water conservation program. Ms. Filiatreau's task has been to identify a low-cost, effective means to store rain water in preparation for future droughts.

Her first task was to map the community to see who did or did not have gutter systems in place,



a necessity for the plan she had in mind. She also wanted to identify community members interested in participating in the project.

After family participants were chosen, Ms. Filiatreau, with funding from the Leadership Studies Program and the Honors College, was able to buy supplies to either install or repair existing gutter systems. She also purchased water storage tanks, which have been placed into hand-dug holes in the ground. Rain water run-off is now diverted through the gutter system into the underground storage tanks.

If the program is successful, which it has been so far, Ms. Filiatreau hopes to showcase these homes at "open houses," which will encourage community members from other villages to invest in the low-cost benefits of water storage.

Having worked directly with Ms. Filiatreau, I am more than proud of her and know that her Leadership Studies project has brought some essential capacity building skills to Rukanga.

Check out Cheryl's Service-Learning Blog

<http://cheryl-lostintranslation.blogspot.com>

which provides information about service-learning books and resource materials.

Students Engage in \$100 Solutions

By: Cheryl Kirby-Stokes

The ALIVE Center, in partnership with the Kentucky Prospect/Goshen Rotary Club, will soon be making a major push to promote and educate the community about the \$100 Solution. The brainchild of Dr. Bernie Strenecky and Mr. Bill Sherman of the Prospect/Goshen Club, the \$100 Solution is currently a program teaching college students that change can happen, even if you only have \$100. Its original focus was recipients of International Rotary Scholarships, but has expanded to include students here at WKU and also students participating in the Semester At Sea program.



Photo by Clinton Lewis

The program has students approach a community partner with the question, "What can we do to help promote positive change in your community?" After a need is identified, the students' task is then to decide how that need can be met, fill out an application form requesting funds from the Prospect/Goshen Club, and then, if approved, meet that need with the \$100 provided to them.

Past and current \$100 Solution Projects include buying goats for a village in India, providing ceiling fans for a school in Ghana, teaching the families of Hispanic students from Cumberland Trace Elementary School English, and conducting a financial education program for children and adults at the Housing Authority, just to name a few.

The Prospect/Goshen Club wants to expand the program and felt that housing information and education programs about the \$100 Solution at the ALIVE Center was a natural fit due to its central location for donations and the current Honors Colloquium implementing the \$100 Solution.

HON 300-Community Approach to Service

The Honors Colloquium this semester has been working hard on their \$100 Solution Service-Learning projects and will be wrapping up their endeavors the first week of December. Below is a synopsis of this semester's projects:

PawPals - They are working with A Voice for Animals

to develop a video that will be used in elementary schools about proper pet care. The video will also be housed on A Voice for Animals' website.

Arete - They are working with HOTEL, Inc. and Broadway United Methodist Church on establishing a transitional housing program in Bowling Green. This group will be doing all the research about transitional housing projects across the country and will then bring back that report to HOTEL, Inc.'s Board. We already have an agreement with both these organizations that this project will continue each semester with at least one of the groups in upcoming service-learning courses.

Tops and Tots - This group is working with the Housing Authority of Bowling Green in establishing a yearly event that brings together parents and kids around a particular issue. The issue they've chosen this semester is nutrition. They will be partnering with the WKU Dietetics Department in order to provide educational and entertaining information to the evening's participants, as well as a nutritional meal.

If you or your organization are interested in developing your own \$100 Solution project, please contact Cheryl Kirby-Stokes at cheryl.kirby-stokes@wku.edu or at 270-782-0653 for more information.

Transforming Lives Through Dance

By: Aurelia Spaulding

Nadia De Leon believes dance, as a form of social activism, can be used to transform the lives of youth, as well as adults.

A few summers ago, De Leon began working with a program called Raices - Identity in Motion. Raices, meaning roots, taught the youth about Hispanic arts and cultures. They discussed music, dance, and leadership topics. Older students talked about immigration, being bi-lingual, and topics unique to them.

De Leon's work with Raices expanded as she traveled to Miami, Florida to teach at different afterschool centers in low socio-economic areas. She included a physical education aspect, then dance and education, and finishing with yoga.

"You don't always have to be the one teaching. You can even work with things you don't know about, and pull it out from the kids themselves," De Leon said regarding her work with youth and what other teachers discussed at the American Dance Therapy Association Conference in the spring.

As De Leon finishes up her Master's Degree in Folk Studies, she reflects on previous accounts of social activism with dance and looks forward to upcoming efforts produced through Kali Collective.

"For a lot of girls, dance is something they can be proud of. For girls that do ballet specifically, they develop a lot of discipline and self-confidence. Getting up on stage, a lot of teenage girls, I think, really have issues with self-confidence, and getting up on stage can really change that."

With self-confidence building in mind, Nadia works through Kali Collective "to generate dance/movement educational programming that serve our communities."

According to their website, De Leon, along with Crystal Kaya, started Kali Collective to address body-image and emotional wellbeing; fitness; community building; and empowerment for girls and women.



Photo by Benjamin Severance

Growing up dancing, De Leon started teaching dance at age 12. "That (dancing) is what I have done all my life. So, when I think of what I can do in any situation, to help, or to teach, or anything, dance is what I do."

De Leon teaches Latin dances such as Zumba, Salsa, Tango, Latin Dances, Belly Dance, and Yogalates, a mix of yoga, ballet, and palates.

In the last year, she has worked with youth at Cumberland Trace Elementary as part of their MultiCultural Enhancement Program, as well as a few sessions of dance for the youth in Kaleidoscope Youth in Arts Program.

As De Leon finishes up her Master's, she looks forward to working more with youth through Kali Collective to address social issues.

Learn more about Kali Collective
www.movewithnadia.com

Center Settles Soon in Owensboro

By: Leah Ashwill



International Center, reported that "The International Center has one of the best records in the nation in the resettlement of refugees, especially when it comes to employment and self-sufficiency, which is the goal of the resettlement program. The national average for each of the aforementioned has lingered around 30-40%. However, the results for BG IC are between 85% and 95% on any given day. When the Department of State sees the success, they encourage sites like Bowling Green to expand."

The International Center in Bowling Green is at full capacity with the forecast for the next year or so remaining around 500 new refugees a year. In order to serve more refugees, BG IC had to look for other alternatives. Robinson

remembers, "Around two years ago, folks from the Owensboro community contacted me about the possibility of a site in Owensboro, and things just came together. Everything has fallen into place."

Robinson also feels like the setting in Owensboro is extremely ideal for a satellite office. This is a community with amazing public transportation; all vital social and medical services are within a few miles of each other; and entry level jobs are available. As time allows, the International Center in Owensboro will also set up immigration offices, have a translation and interpreting program, and all the other programs offered in Bowling Green will eventually be offered in Owensboro.

If you would like more information about the International Center refugee services or volunteer opportunities, contact the International Center in Bowling Green at 270-781-8336.

The International Center in Bowling Green, a nonprofit refugee resettlement center, has been granted federal approval to open a satellite office in Owensboro, KY. The International Center will begin relocating refugees to Owensboro as early as January of next year. A site for the office has not yet been confirmed.

The first refugees to relocate in Owensboro are primarily Iraqi and Burmese, and volunteers in Owensboro are learning about the cultures of those countries. Volunteers will work with the International Center to help refugees find housing, furniture, jobs, and assist with enrolling children in local schools. Needless to say, there will be ample opportunities for Owensboro residents, students, faculty, and staff from WKU Owensboro Campus (and other educational institutions in the area) to connect with these populations and help them settle into the community.

When asked why Owensboro was chosen as a new refugee resettlement city, James Robinson, Executive Director of the Bowling Green

The Salvation Army Serves the Community

By: Aurelia Spaulding

On Friday afternoon, fifty individuals began eating their lunch at the Salvation Army, as a few more picked up their meal, and others looked for parking outside.

"It helps out a whole lot," Ivey Pendleton said before she and her husband began partaking in the free meal offered by the Salvation Army.

Pendleton and her husband, Hubert Pendleton, have been coming to the Salvation Army for lunch every weekday since the early 1990s. The couple says that \$300 each month goes towards healthcare before anything else, and with Hubert being a diabetic, coming to the Salvation Army helps them with affording the other two meals each day.

"I appreciate places like this. Every little bit helps," Ivey Pendleton said. The Salvation Army's soup kitchen opens to the public Monday-Friday at 11:30am, providing a free meal and bread to take home to all who come.

Major Ed Binnix, Salvation Army Corps Officer/Pastor, says about 85 people utilize the soup kitchen services each day. "Due in part to the economy, but also because the food is good," Binnix said.

Lunch is free with no requirements, but breakfast and dinner are provided only to those staying at the Salvation Army Center of Hope.

The Center of Hope holds 60 beds for men and women and four apartments for families to stay for temporary shelter.

Binnix says the shelter stays about half full with individuals and families in need of temporary shelter.

"They can stay up to ten days for free. We will help them find work. They will see our counselor within the first 24 hours."

Within the first day, Salvation Army counselor, Cardine Harrison, will discuss with individuals "How Can You Get Out of Being Homeless" as well provide information on housing and employment options.

After finding work, individuals can stay 30 days at a rate of \$5.00 per day, and some utilize the "honors program" staying up to a year.

In addition to the shelter and soup kitchen, the Salvation Army Thrift Store provides low-cost gently used clothing and household items, as well as limited utility bill assistance provided through Atmos Energy.

Many may not know that the Salvation Army is a church. Binnix serves as the Corps Officer, a role similar to an Executive Director, but he also serves as the Pastor for the Salvation Army.

Binnix says they hold Sunday and Thursday services. There are children's activities on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm. The Salvation Army also offers a Men's Club and Women's Club.

Binnix has been an officer in the Salvation Army for 15 years but began serving the Bowling Green Salvation Army in June. He recognizes, "We could not operate without volunteers."

The Salvation Army motto, "Doing the Most Good," resonates as volunteers solely run the soup kitchens. Volunteers also work in the thrift store, with the angel tree, and as bell ringers.

The Salvation Army Angel Tree provide Christmas gifts for 7,000 children in their service area. Volunteers are used to sign up individuals for the Angel Tree, as well as purchase items for the Angel Tree.

"Bell Ringing determines what kind of year we will have," Binnix said. The collections from Bell Ringing provide a substantial portion of the Salvation Army budgets. Individuals are needed to volunteer as bell ringers now through December 24th.

The Salvation Army is a United Way Agency. In addition to community volunteers, WKU students in the Social Work department volunteer at the Salvation Army and student organizations often volunteer in the soup kitchen or holding food drives.

If you would like
to volunteer at the Salvation Army
or with the Angel Tree and Bell Ringing,
contact Kathy at 270-843-3485.



Photos by: Aurelia Spaulding

New Learning Approach

(continues from the cover page)

needs and assets of the neighborhood, in addition to developing a list of project ideas and concerns that they can match with community and university resources. For example, one primary concern of many neighbors is the speed of traffic in the area. Students are working to partner with the Bowling Green Police Department to conduct a speed study to determine if measures should be taken to address this traffic issue.

Greg Capillo, a Philosophy and Mass Communication major, brings experience in community organizing to this project. Greg states, "In addition to working with Thang and Phuong on our neighborhood mapping efforts, I am also making progress organizing around fair housing in Bowling Green in partnership with groups like Habitat for Humanity and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth."

Just as the students work to create partnerships within the community to develop and meet needs, the creation of the house stemmed from a partnership as well. The Community Engagement House began as a partnership between a local homeowner, neighborhood professionals and residents, the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, and the ALIVE Center to promote sustainable community development efforts in underserved neighborhoods.

Students work not only within their home; they literally work for it. They are not doing service, so



much as taking responsibility for making a better community to live in. This has the potential to not only transform the neighborhood, but also the students themselves, rendering them "citizen professionals" with the capacity to work together to address issues, utilize assets, and create change in whatever communities they encounter after leaving WKU.

As students create and execute their projects, they draw upon knowledge gained from their graduate coursework. Students maintain activity journals, the CE House blog, and a neighborhood email exchange to stay in communication with their neighbors.

"This is a very challenging job, but when you get into it, your great passion will lead you through," Vu said, also a graduate student in the house.

On November 30, 2009, the students were awarded the "Groundbreakers" Neighborhood Builders Award through the City of Bowling Green's Neighborhood Action Office. They were recognized for creating a unique and innovative neighborhood improvement project.

If you would like more information about the CE House, visit <http://cehouse.blogspot.com/>.



Engaged to be Educated

WKU faculty have a long-standing tradition of engaging their students in activities that allow them to address real world issues while drawing on their academic experience.

Students at WKU not only get an affordable, high quality education in the classroom, they also graduate with skills that will benefit them in whatever setting they find themselves post graduation.

Experiential learning and engagement activities at WKU provide students with the opportunity to practice skills imperative to any setting, such as working in multi-disciplinary teams, communicating effectively, problem-solving, and thinking critically to address issues. The added bonus? This type of learning provides the opportunity to demonstrate to students across any discipline how they can use the knowledge they gained at WKU to impact the greater good. It's a win-win!

Just to name a few of the hundreds of noteworthy engagement activities going on across our campus:

Dr. Susan Jones, Nursing

Provides dental care, immunizations, and health promotion alongside her students to the Mennonite communities of Southcentral Kentucky.

Dr. Steve Spencer, Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport heads his students in the development of a Blueways Trail System that maps the rivers of Warren and surrounding counties to improve quality of life, river access, economic development, and awareness (bringing the rivers back to the people of our region).

Ms. Vicki Bagwell, Journalism & Broadcasting
Student teams develop public information awareness campaigns for defined populations on various topics such as "Options for Financing College" for parents and middle school children and "Awareness on the Census" for campus students and community residents.

Ms. Judy Woodring, Forensics
Organizing a Rural Debate League for poverty-stricken school districts in Kentucky, as well as a Warren County Home Schooled Forensics Team. WKU Forensics students will coach these students and prepare them for competition.

Dr. Paul Hondorp, Music
Developed an "Adopt-A-Student" program that pairs community members up with interested students for the campus chorus. The Campus Chorus is "a campus/community partnership dedicated to the choral art."



WKU Office of Sustainability

The WKU Office of Sustainability promotes a culture of sustainability at WKU, integrating principles of ecological integrity and social equity into academics, practices, and partnerships.

In the 2009 Sustainability Report, the office highlighted a variety of topics. In October 2009, Allied Alternative Energy Bowling Green Tour stopped in Bowling Green. Participants visited 'green' spots in Bowling Green, such as the WKU Farm Biofuels Facility, Service One Credit Union, and WKU ALIVE Center.

Also highlighted in the sustainability report, WKU students, Nick Asher and Hannah Morris, started an on-campus farmer's market called WKU G.R.O.W.S. (Growing Revolution of Our Well-Being and Sustenance).

GreenTopper's Big Red's Bikes program was also featured in the publication. Their free bicycle lending program allowed anyone to borrow a bike for an hour or day. Volunteers helped work on bikes, and members of the community learned bike mechanical skills.

www.wku.edu/sustainability

Holiday Opportunities

Office of the Registrar

The Office of the Registrar will be collecting "needed" items for the Center for Courageous Kids. A complete list of "needed" items can be viewed at: <http://www.courageouskids.org/>. The deadline to submit items is December 18.

University Bookstore

On Monday, Dec. 7th from 7:30am - 7pm, the University Bookstore will be hosting their annual Holiday Open House, benefiting Toys for Tots. Each year we set up Toys for Tots collection boxes in our store, but during this particular event, if someone donates a new toy or book, they will also receive 30% off WKU apparel, gift items, trade books (non-textbooks) and clearance items.

WKU FINISH & WKU REAL

WKU FINISH & WKU REAL is having an Adult Learner Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 9th at the KY Library and Museum from 4:30-6:30pm. All WKU Adult Learners and their family members are invited. Our invitation is on our website (www.wku.edu/real).

Holiday Hope Seminar

As the holidays approach, many of us will gather with family and friends as a time of remembrance. The holiday season often makes it difficult for those who have lost a loved one. Join us in learning about holiday grief and techniques to help you make it through the difficult time of year.

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Place: Greenwood Park Church of Christ
1818 Campbell Lane

Speaker: Dr. Saundra Starks, Associate Professor
Western Kentucky University

This even is open to the public and free-of-charge. Refreshments will be served. Please call if you plan on attending so that we can plan accordingly. Please contact Nikki Dadisman at (270)782-3402 or 800-344-9479.

Bowling Green/Warren County NAACP

The Bowling Green/Warren County NAACP will be collecting canned goods until December 8th for our drive to benefit State Street Baptist Church's food pantry. Anyone wishing to donate, please drop them by the ALIVE Center or bring them to our Christmas Pot Luck on December 8th at the ALIVE Center at

5:30p.m. Any questions can be emailed to aurelia.spaulding@naacpbgwc.org.

Rich Pond Baptist Church's Christmas Musical

A Time for Christmas is an imaginative adventure through 2,000 Christmases of hope and changed lives. This Broadway-style musical carries you through an incredible journey of wonder and awe. From the image of heavenly hosts appearing before frightened shepherds, to a mysterious star above a stable, to medieval masques and madrigals, to heavenly messengers sent to bring Scrooge to repentance ... through the ages, no other time of year stirs our imaginations like Christmas. You are invited to a fun evening of music, drama and pageantry as you travel through this incredible journey at the speed of light.

A Time for Christmas will be performed nightly on Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5, at 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 pm at Rich Pond Baptist Church.

For complimentary tickets, you may either submit an email request below or call the church office at 270.842.2593

Directions: Rich Pond Baptist Church is located at 200 Brad Avenue in Bowling Green, Kentucky, three miles South of the Natcher Parkway off Highway 31-W/Nashville Road.

Bulter County Education Preservation Society presents their **Festival of Trees**. It began on November 28th, and it will continue through Dec 12th. Call 270-934-2373 for more information.



For more information on holiday opportunities, please visit our website at www.wku.edu/alive/specialevents.html.

Local Community Events

The Symphony 2009-2010 presents
A Season of FAVORITES
Holiday Pops

Thursday, December 10
First Baptist Church, Bowling Green at 7:30 p.m.
 Nothing will get you in the Holiday Spirit like this Bowling Green family tradition featuring soloist Santa Claus!

Order Tickets...
 online at www.thesymphonyatwku.org
 by phone at 270-745-7681

Save by ordering tickets in advance!
 Tickets are sold at the door before concerts.
 Adults \$20.00/Students \$5.00
 Group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more!

Symphony
 Co-Sponsored by English Lucas Priest & Owsley and USBank.

Interfaith Dialogue on Earth Care Feb. 19 & 20, 2010

Speakers Feb. 19
 Dr. Matthew Sleeth, "Serve God, Save the Planet!"
 What Made Christianity? Bill and Susan, with
 Rev. Peter May, 10
 7:00pm
 Free Admission to the public

Conference Feb. 20
 "Christianity, Eastern Religions,
 Islam, Judaism, and Earth Care"
 Christ Episcopal Church, 1115 New Street
 Bowling Green, KY 42101, 7:00am-8:00pm
 Led by Matthew Sleeth, 2010, 2009, and 2008
 National Religion, Spirituality & Ethics Award recipient
 Religious and Earth Care

Registration Deadline: **January 30, 2010**
 Registration Fee: \$20, \$155 before tax
 Registration Form: www.kisw.edu/earthcare/
 On-site Registration \$25

For information contact: Matt@jesusandearthcare.org or Matt@jesusandearthcare.org
 Dr. Matthew Sleeth web site: www.kisw.edu/earthcare/

Nonprofit Community Calendar December-February

- 12/01 Warren County Public Library *Thelma Green Exhibit*
- 12/01 Kentucky Library & Museum *Side by Side Statewide Art Exhibit*
- 12/01 WKU Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity *monthly meeting*
- 12/01 Kentucky Library & Museum *Holiday Trees (runs through 01/10)*
- 12/03 Riverview at Hobson Grove *Victorian Christmas Tea*
- 12/05 Landmark Association *Christmas Tour of Homes*
- 12/05 American Red Cross *Pancake Breakfast*
- 12/08 NAACP *Christmas Pot Luck and monthly meeting*
- 12/09 Grace Baptist Church *Walk Through Bethlehem (run through 12/13)*
- 12/11 Riverview at Hobson Grove *Candlelight Tours*
- 12/12 Warren County Public Library *Mitten Tree*
- 12/12 Public Theatre of Kentucky *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
- 12/18 VISION multi-agency council *meeting*
- 01/09 American Red Cross *Blood Drive*
- 01/21 Kentuckiana Girl Scouts *Desserts First*
- 02/20 Family Enrichment Center *Funniest Kids Around*
- 02/21 Hospice of Southern Kentucky *Chocolate Festival and Silent Auction*
- 02/23 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Kentucky *College Bowl for Kids' Sake*
- 02/27 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Kentucky *Bowl for Kids' Sake (runs through 02/28)*

For more upcoming events, please visit
www.wku.edu/alive

Volunteer this holiday season for The Salvation Army

Bell Ringers needed at various locations:

10:00am-3:00pm shift

3:00-8:00pm shift

10:00am-8:00pm full day shift

Angel Tree volunteers needed:

10:00am-3:00pm shift

3:00-8:00pm shift

10:00am-8:00pm full day shift

Please be sure to stop by Greenwood Mall to sign up to provide gifts for a child through the Angel Tree program.

To volunteer, contact Kathy Walker at 843-3485.



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