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### Service Learning connects courses to community

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**Service Learning connects courses to community**

*Summary:*

(March 2, 2005)-UMM's Service Learning Program continues to connect UMM courses to community projects and needs. During spring semester 2005, 10 classes, more than 200 students, and 20-plus partnering agencies are involved in projects that meet needs requested by the agencies and provide students with opportunities to apply what they are learning in class to real life situations.

Students in Parena Lawrence's econometrics class are conducting a survey to assist the Regional Fitness Center staff in better meeting the needs of their clients.

Students in Barbara Burke's Social Uses of the Media course will create promotional materials for non-profits and government entities in the Morris area.

Argie Manolis' Introduction to Creative Writing students continue to plan weekly activities with residents at West Wind Village and record their words in found poems, which are given to the residents and their families.

In his Creative Dramatics for Children course, Ray Schultz will lead students in planning and implementing a series of creative lesson plans for elementary school students in the area.

In Introduction to Analytic Feminism, Pieranna Garavaso's students are working on an argumentative paper with girls living at the Heartland Girls' Ranch in Benson, so both college students and girls can practice critical thinking skills and writing skills. The college students and girls will meet several times to craft the paper and participate in other educational activities.

Students in Stacey Aronson's Advanced Spanish course are teaching elementary school students the Spanish language, tutoring Spanish-speaking adults in English, and translating documents into Spanish for area agencies.

Statistics students in Engin Sungur's courses will analyze community data and present their results to the staff of the West Central Regional Development Partnership for consideration in future programming.

Through a directed study in history under the direction of Steve Gross, students assist elementary and high school students at five school districts with their History Day projects.

Photography (Therese Buchmiller, professor) and sociology (Jennifer Rothchild, professor) students will team up to interview and photograph local farmers who use sustainable practices and contribute to the Morris-area economy by producing fresh, locally grown foods. Photos and writing by students from previous semesters involved in this ongoing project can be viewed at the Pomme De Terre Food Co-op. Photos and writing from this semester will be shown at the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Center in late April.

Rothchild's students will also be involved in several other projects, including assisting with planning and promoting UMM's Local Foods Meal on March 3, interviewing Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance artists about their work and presenting the interviews in a format useful to the artists and the community for the promotion of the organization, conducting focus groups for the West Central Research and Outreach Center about future programming directions for the children's gardens, participating in the TREC (Tutoring, Reading, and Enabling Children) program, planning and conducting intergenerational activities for Morris Area Child Care children and West Wind Village residents, and creating outreach materials requested by staff at Someplace Safe.

For more information about UMM's service learning program, contact Argie Manolis, service learning coordinator, at (320) 589-6257 or [manolis@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:manolis@mrs.umn.edu).

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