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Picture this: getting to know area farmers through photography, writing

Summary:

(November 5, 2004)-By Jackie Thrasher '05, UMM News Service -- Professor Therese Buchmiller's Introduction to Photography class is one of many courses offered at the University of Minnesota, Morris that incorporates service learning. Students in Buchmiller's course, in collaboration with students in Professor Argie Manolis' Fundamentals of Writing course, interviewed local farmers in order to gain a better perspective of farming in the community. The resulting stories, accompanied by photographs of the farm sites, were displayed at the fourth annual Pride of the Prairie Local Foods Fall Feast, held at UMM November 4.

The idea behind the project is to help reduce students' stereotypes of farmers, and to help them gain a better perspective of what farming involves. "It is as valuable for students as it is for farmers," said Buchmiller, noting that the farmers will use the photos for their own promotional purposes.

Another event at which the stories and photos will be displayed is during a reception at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at Common Cup Coffeehouse in Morris. Common Cup will also prepare local foods and the writing students will read their compositions. This event is open to the public.

Service Learning is a program of the Faculty Center for Learning and Teaching at UMM. The program supports course-based projects that meet both community needs and course goals. Last year more than 700 students, community members, and faculty participated in the program, which is funded in part by a federal grant from Learn and Serve America. For further information, contact Argie Manolis, Service Learning coordinator, at 589-6257 or at manolis@mrs.umn.edu.

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