



## Center for Community Engagement

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

### Welcome From the Center Faculty Director

Welcome back, everyone!

As the new semester gets underway, I am sure many of you feel like I do--excited by the prospects of new challenges and opportunities, but already a little anxious about the workload we all carry. Hopefully we can continue to partner and pool resources to make our work a bit easier and the lives of our students even richer.

With the Center for Community Engagement (CCE), we continue to work with you so that we can together achieve our mission: To foster a learning community that facilitates learning for civic engagement in our local and global communities and addresses societal challenges through long-term sustainable partnerships.

Pilar and I hope that those of you who would like to continue teaching service learning courses will take advantage of the groundwork the CCE has done and can do for you. For those of you who are interested in the development of SL courses, we have a large number of resources to assist you on our website: <http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/>

Beyond service learning, as our mission states, we will continue this year to provide opportunities to the campus community to be more engaged in our local, state, national, and global communities. A few events we have planned include the Bracero Exhibit, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution, and the annual Hunger Banquet, which attempts to educate about the issue of global hunger and maldistribution of food resources.

On September 17, something new that we are very excited about is a performance by students, faculty, and staff of the late Howard Zinn's "Voices of the People," as our unique way of celebrating Constitution Day. Working with Greg Sawyer in Student Affairs, we are planning an evening of dinner, theatre, music, and celebration of the meaning of our country's Constitution. Stay tuned for more details, and we hope to see you all there.

Here's to a great year!

Andrea Grove, Faculty Director, CCE

### President's Community Service Honor Roll

CSU Channel Islands (CI) was named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This university-wide distinction is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

Seven hundred institutions of higher learning were named to the Honor Roll for exemplary service to America's communities. The award recipients were announced by the Corporation for National and Community Service, in collaboration with the Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.

Since its inception 6 years ago, CI has been committed to making service learning and civic engagement an integral part of its curriculum and student life. The university has reached out to the community to form reciprocal partnerships that have provided real benefits to the community and the campus.

CI partners with many community-based organizations who play an integral role in our student's education. In 2009 these partnerships resulted in CI students completing 14,000 service hours, volunteering, and/or participating in service-learning or civic engagement projects. Using California's calculated rate of \$22.00 for each volunteer hour, CI students gave \$319,060 of economic benefit to the community in 2009.

## Service Learning Student Survey Results

In AY 09-10 students were surveyed on various aspects of their service learning experiences and community contributions. A total of 275 students completed this survey. Following are combined results (Fall/Spring):

- ◆ **45** freshmen, **39** sophomores, **56** juniors, and **120** seniors participated in a course with a service learning component.
- ◆ **6,766** hours were served by these students.
- ◆ **\$154,197** of economic benefit was contributed to Ventura County (based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics value of volunteer time \$22.79/hour for California times the number of hours).
- ◆ **23** faculty members offered a course with a service learning component.
- ◆ **9** programs offered a course with a service learning component. Many of the courses are a requirement of the major.
- ◆ **40** course sections with a service learning component were offered. Courses included: Art, Business, Chicana/o Studies, Communication, Early Childhood Studies, Education, English, Environmental Science and Resource Management, Liberal Studies, Management, Sociology, and Spanish.
- ◆ **98%** of students would like to see more service learning courses offered.
- ◆ **97%** of students reported they learn course content better when connections to real-life situations are made.
- ◆ **95%** of students strongly agreed or agreed that service learning showed them how to become more involved in the community.
- ◆ **90%** reported the agency contributed to their course learning.

A full version of this report can be downloaded at: [www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/](http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/)

### Model United Nations

As part of the CCE's effort to promote engagement in the global community, the Center co-sponsors with the Political Science program a Model United Nations (UN) team. By learning about global issues, students have a raised awareness about the challenges we face as a community.

The CSU Channel Islands Model UN team formed in Spring 2008 and has competed in four events each year since. Thus far, our students have won six awards for Distinguished Delegate, Outstanding Delegate, and the Research Award. These events have been funded by Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) funds.

Model UN is a simulation of the UN's committees. Students step into the shoes of ambassadors from UN member states to research and debate current issues on the organization's agenda. While playing their roles

as ambassadors, student "delegates" make speeches, prepare draft resolutions, negotiate with allies and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate the Model UN conference rules of procedure - all in the interest of mobilizing "international cooperation" to resolve problems that affect countries all over the world.

In fall 09, students competed at the American Pacific Model UN conference in Anaheim and the America West Model UN in Las Vegas. This past spring, they competed at West Model UN in Santa Barbara and Far West Model UN in San Francisco.

We have been awarded IRA funds for fall 2010, and will attend Northwest Model UN in Seattle, November 12-14. Each spring semester, students on the team receive credit for a course on the Model UN, POLS 490.



## Spotlight on Service: Just a little effort can make a difference in a child's life

By Linda Huddle, Regional Coordinator  
School on Wheels

The mortgage/foreclosure crisis has contributed to the increase in homeless families in Ventura County. Many families have found themselves homeless and the resulting impact on their children's education is vast. The capacity to learn when a child's family has lost their home is difficult.

In AY 09-10, with the efforts of the Sociology program, over 40 CI students tutored with School on Wheels, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide academic support to homeless children. CI students were paired with a homeless student, met with their students at several public libraries and two Boys and Girls Clubs in Ventura County, and provided over 350 hours of academic support. Twelve CI students have continued working with their students after their service learning project ended.

Because of their complex living situation, it is challenging to quantify the changes made by the children and youth who are tutored. Many tutors communicate with their students' teachers which is helpful in gathering information about a student's progress.

One CI student heard from her eighth grade student's teacher who has known the student since sixth grade and

has observed several changes this year since he began being tutored.

To quote his teacher, "Although the work is challenging for the student, he made the only 100% on a social studies test in class this week (February 2010). The student has dramatically turned himself around, is taking class notes, and pays attention in class.



It is this type of impact that makes School on Wheels personally grateful to have the opportunity to work with CI faculty and students, and the service learning program and staff. This partnership has created an opportunity to observe the university students grow as they in turn nurture a positive learning experience for school aged children who are experiencing homelessness.

To read about more service learning and civic engagement projects go to our website at <http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/index.htm> and click on Spotlight on Service.

## Name in the News

Congratulations to our 2009-2010 Center for Community Engagement Faculty and Community Partner Awardees!

**Dr. Dennis Downey** has an enduring commitment to engaged scholarship and a strong record for serving the public through his academic activities, particularly in his research on Human Relations Councils. Dennis spearheaded CI's initiative to create a Center for Social Business. Working closely with Dr. Muhammad Yunus, President Richard Rush, and many other people, Dennis continues to explain to students, colleagues, and local entrepreneurs how the revolutionary social business model contributes to the most vital interests of mankind. Finally, due to Dennis' dedication to service learning, many of his students have been able to assist community members and organizations who serve our region in valuable ways. Dennis was nominated by Daniel Lee, Sociology Program

**School on Wheels**, is a non-profit organization that provides one-on-one tutoring for hundreds of homeless children living in hotels, motels, group foster or on the streets. This is all done without government funding but with the generous donations of many of their volunteers. CI's partnership with this organization has provided an opportunity for students to contribute to a very real need in our community, providing academic and tutoring support to homeless children throughout Ventura County. This partnership has allowed students to make a difference and give hope, and provide educational assistance and support to homeless children in Ventura County. School on Wheels was nominated by Andrea Grove, Political Science Program and Center Faculty Director.

## Community Engagement With Seniors

The CCE Faculty Director partners with Osher director Marty Kaplan to organize two speakers series in which CSU Channel Islands faculty discuss their research with senior citizens in Camarillo (Town meets Gown) and Thousand Oaks (Professors and Pastries).

Various faculty speak to the seniors twice a month; the talks have been very successful especially in Thousand Oaks, with audiences of over 30.

This fall, the Camarillo series is open to all ages. The schedule is as follows (with the exception of November, the sessions are the first and third Tuesdays, 7-9 pm, Camarillo Senior Center on Burnley Drive (near the intersection of Carmen and Burnley).

We hope to see you there!

**September 7: Nitika Parmar**  
**Stem Cells- Boon or Bane?**

**September 21: Stephen Clark**  
**A Virtual Tour of Ecuador: Contemporary Culture, History, Politics, Art, and Flora/Fauna**

**October 5: Mary Kay Rummel**  
**Mythmaking and Our Lives**

**October 19: Bob Koster**  
**History of Media from 1875 to the Present.**

**November 9: Tracylee Clarke**  
**Native Americans and Nuclear Waste: Environmental Policy Conflict**

**November 16: Ron Rieger**  
**Games, Robotics and the Intelligent Home**

**December 7: Robert Piccioni**  
**Can Life Be Merely An Accident?**

## About Us

The CCE serves as a resource and support center for faculty, community partners and students engaged in service learning. Our mission is: *to foster a learning community that facilitates learning for civic engagement in our local and global communities and addresses societal challenges through long-term sustainable partnerships.*

Center Staff:

Andrea Grove, Faculty Director

Pilar Pacheco, Assistant Director

We can be found:

- ♦ on campus in Lindero Hall, Room 1809 or (805) 437.8851
- ♦ on facebook
- ♦ on our website at <http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/index.htm>

We welcome and encourage faculty and community partners to submit service stories, recent accomplishments, and/or information about upcoming events and opportunities. If you would like to be included in future newsletters, please submit your information to [pilar.pacheco@csuci.edu](mailto:pilar.pacheco@csuci.edu) or call Pilar Pacheco at (805) 437.8851.

*"We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world. Even when we don't "win," there is fun and fulfillment in the fact that we have been involved, with other good people, in something worthwhile."* Howard Zinn