



SERVICE-LEARNING
Growing In Service • Grounded In Learning

Service-Learning Connections

Fall 2006

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Volunteerism on the Rise!

By: Mark Helms

How about a little good news? According to recent survey data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 3.3 million college students participated in volunteer activities in 2005. This reflects a 20% increase in volunteerism among college students since 2002. Nationwide, the Millennial Generation is stepping up to serve. And that is good news for all of us!

The research findings also show that college students are twice as likely to volunteer as individuals of the same age who are not enrolled in college; that tutoring and mentoring are the most common volunteer activities among students who volunteer; and that students who work 10 hours or less per week are more likely to volunteer than those who do not work, while students who work over 30 hours per week are less likely to volunteer. These findings were

released in a report called "College Students Helping America", drawing on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, and published by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Those involved in analyzing the data point to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina as

tragic events that have served as catalysts for increasing civic engagement among young Americans. Robert Grimm, Director of Research for the Corporation for National and Community Service, is optimistic about the findings. He writes: "Just as the Greatest Generation was shaped by WWII and the Great Depression, the tragic events of the last few years coupled with growing university and K-12 support for volunteering and service-learning have translated into more college students mentoring, tutoring, and engaging in their community in ways that could produce a lifetime habit."

Research on the Millennial Generation also suggests that young Americans value service to their communities to a significantly greater degree than the previous several generations. Data collected by Dr. Terry Manning, Director of CPCC's Center for Applied Technology, show that the Millennial Generation is one that values meaning over money, is civic-minded, and is collectively optimistic. They are "a generation interested in a life with value and meaning, and we are looking to them to provide us with a new definition of citizenship" (*The Millennial Generation: The Next Generation in College Enrollment*).

The Service-Learning Center at CPCC supports opportunities for our students to serve their community. Many instructors at the college are embracing the value of service and reflection as activities that enhance academic learning, and we now have over 40 instructors who have implemented service-learning in one or more courses. Last

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By the Numbers

**Total CPCC Service
Hours**

2005-2006

20,179

**Total CPCC Service
Participants**

2005-2006

1,828

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*Corina Garcia works in the garden at
Historic Rosedale Plantation*

Service in Action! Discover. Develop. Grow.

By: Brandon Lewis

One of the Service-Learning Center's goals during 2006 has been to provide more service projects for students. The Service in Action! (SiA!) series is one way we've addressed this goal. Fall semester 2006 marked the second semester of SiA! This semester's projects addressed three issue areas: Environment, Hunger and Homelessness, and Animals. Over sixty students have already participated in an event and by the end of the semester, we expect that nearly 100 students will have served in the community through this program.



Dan Herrin and Lee Gonzalez at Historic Rosedale Plantation

responsibility. This mission aligns CPCC with the other members of Campus Compact across the nation who have made a commitment to encourage campus engagement in the community.

We were also able to begin a partnership with Campus Ministries this semester. This partnership will allow SiA! to continue to operate in our community despite the temporary nature of the VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) position that has provided major support to the program so far.



LaJoia Coleman at Squirrel Lake Park during Big Sweep 2006

A Service in Action!

event incorporates service and learning, which is consistent with the Service-Learning Center's mission.

When our students first arrive at the service site, we learn about our host site's issue area and their mission in addition to learning about the day's project.

After our project is finished, it's time to reflect about our work. Reflection is an opportunity to consider the impact we've made with our project and discuss civic engagement. Often, we think of our students' experiences at CPCC as their time to learn the skills needed to make a transition to the workplace or further education. However, a student's college experience should also be a time to learn the skills of citizenship and civic



William Mitro and Matt Formanek assist at Carolina Raptor Center

Project VOTE a Success!

By: Aimee Brunton

This election year, CPCC partnered with the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections to host voter registration drives on all six campuses. With an increasing emphasis being placed on the upcoming elections, citizens realize the importance of exercising their right to vote. Young voters recognize that this is their chance to have a voice and elect a candidate who will best represent them.

The CPCC Project VOTE events generated great student, staff, and faculty turnout and participation. The Service-Learning Center collected 144 completed voter registration forms and handed out a total of 220 forms.

On Central Campus, the Service-Learning and Student Life staff, along with SGA, hosted two voter registration drives. The first event was held during Student Resources Day and the larger second drive was held on September 28 on the Central Campus Green. Volunteers assisted potential voters to fill out the registration forms, update or change their information, find their voting

precinct, and test the new touch-screen voting machines. The Board of Elections loaned the voting machine in order for voters to familiarize themselves with the new voting process. The new machine was introduced in May for the primaries, and utilizes both a touch screen and a simultaneous paper printout to verify selections.

CPCC's five area campuses hosted eight more Project VOTE events to promote voter registration.

Project VOTE at CPCC

Total Voter Registrations : 144



Star Student: Elizabeth Davies

The majority of students involved with Service in Action! attend the events their instructors require. Service in Action! could not achieve the results we have without these students and they are greatly appreciated. However, just like a community agency, Service in Action! relies on those students who make a commitment beyond their class requirement. Elizabeth Davies is one of these students.

**The Service-Learning Center
Thanks the 2006 Faculty
Institute Attendees:**

- Joan Brandt**
- Patricia Brown**
- Teresa Hall**
- Pam Morris**
- Charlotte Pfeifer**
- Robert Shoffner**
- Chad Ray**
- Jim Stewart**
- Tana Wolfe-Mason**
- Mona Yektaparast**

New member of the CPCC family



The Service-Learning Center congratulates Dena and Christian Shonts on the birth of their daughter, Katelyn Elizabeth Shonts.

Katelyn was born on Friday, October 6 and weighed nine pounds.

Dena will return from maternity leave on December 12th. We cannot wait to have her back!

How did you learn of the Service in Action! program?

Elizabeth: I first heard of Service-Learning in my ACA 111 class. Ms. Ardella Blandford contacted Brandon Lewis and he spoke about what they do at the service sites, I signed up to participate, and the next Saturday I began something that would change my life forever.

In which ways did Service-Learning change your life?

Elizabeth: I learned how to work more effectively with other people. It also helped me to feel more a part of my community. I've become more responsible and better at planning because I have to make it to events on-time without having a car.

What motivated you to give part of your Saturday to service?

Elizabeth: At first it was for extra credit and to boost my resume, but now it is more about helping the community. It feels so good to know that I can contribute physically at various agencies if I do not have money to donate.

In which ways do you benefit from your participation?

Elizabeth: I learned new things everyday from working with different agencies and students, whether it is their histories or missions. The fun thing about working for other people is that it makes me feel good. Service is on my "To Do List" and it is something I plan to do for the rest of my life.

“At first (Service in Action!) was for extra credit and to boost my résumé, but now it is more about helping the community.”

Volunteerism on the Rise

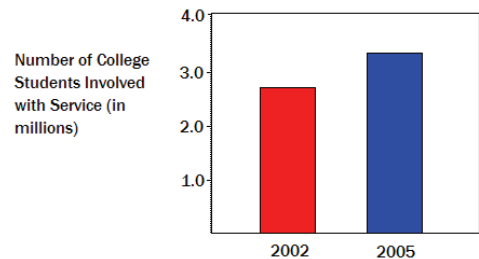
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year, we had over 500 students who served more than 10,000 hours related to their coursework. And, when we compiled all the service activities conducted last year by the College community, we learned that over 1800 students, faculty, and staff served more than 20,000 hours to make our community better.

centers. At CPCC, and across the country, young people are working to make a difference. That's the kind of news we'd like to hear more often!

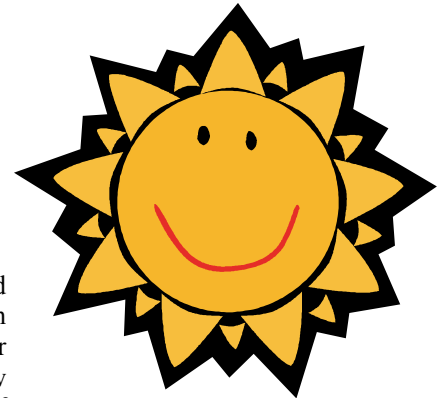
(If you'd like to find a way to get involved in our community, visit the CPCC Service-Learning website at www1.cpcc.edu/service-learning, or phone our office at 704.330.6445.)

America has witnessed a long period of declining volunteerism, civic involvement, and community advocacy. Today, a growing number of young people are stepping up to help solve problems in their communities, and a growing number of college faculty members are incorporating service into the curriculum. They are working to help make people's lives better: fighting poverty, homelessness, and environmental degradation; and serving in schools, children's programs, and senior citizens



Service-Learning Goes Sky High

Sometimes service-learning presents an opportunity right in your own backyard. Jim Stewart and his astronomy students took part in "The Geek Fest," an annual technology event held at Levine campus. Students accomplished the "service" by involving and informing the public with their awesome telescope display: they satisfied the "learning" portion by taking part in an outside the classroom activity, setting up, and preparing for the event. The following is Stewart's account of the event:



The Geek Fest at Central Piedmont Community College, Levine campus, was my first experience with service-learning. My physics and astronomy students learned about the sun and solar energy in class in preparation for the event. I made arrangements with Barry Gilmore and Adam Brooks for tables, a tent, and a nice spot in the Sun. The Solar Research Institute in Coca Beach, Florida mailed solar cells and brochure material. Everything was set on 'go.' I needed a little help from the weatherman, a clear and sunny day.

At 8:00am on Wednesday, September 7, 2006, I met several of my students at the Levine campus. We set up the telescopes, the electrolysis column, solar cells, and all of the brochure information. Chris, a student in both my astronomy class and physics 1 class, was instrumental in the set-up. He directed several other students on how and where all of our peripherals should be set-up.

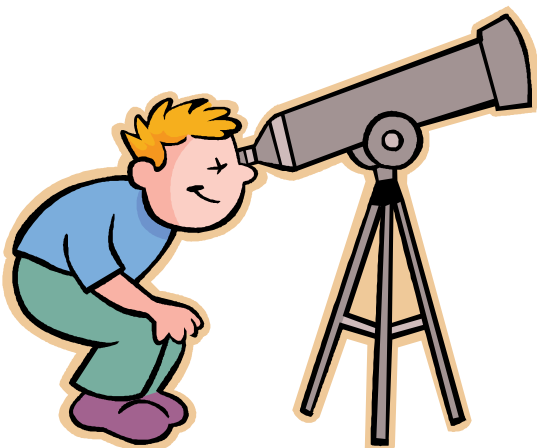
As the start of The Geek Fest drew closer, more of my astronomy and physics students showed up to work in the booth and take part in the event. Christian, a second semester physics student, inserted platinum probes connected to an electrical current to set up the electrolysis column, which produces hydrogen and oxygen gases from water. Chris along with Albula directed the two telescopes' set-up. These telescopes, with solar filters attached, were directed at the only star in our galaxy, the sun. They set one telescope for a lower magnification which would allow a view of the entire sun. To their surprise, the sun sported two sunspots.

Sunspots are dark, plant-sized regions that appear on the "surface" of the Sun. Sunspots are "dark" because they are cooler than the surrounding

surface. The second telescope was then set-up at a higher magnification to view the smaller section of the sun where the sunspots were located.

People started to inquire about the telescopes, and Chris took charge of the situation with confidence. He was knowledgeable about the sun and answered all of their questions. Christian followed Chris with an explanation and demonstration of how we could use solar energy. He used an electrolysis column to show hydrogen being separated from water. The hydrogen could then be used as a fuel for automobiles. All of the students participated in some way, and I watched them demonstrate what they had learned. It was interesting for me to hear what facts each student retained from our previous studies. We had only several weeks to prepare so I was concerned about our overall knowledge of solar energy, electrolysis, the sun, and astronomy in general.

“My physics and astronomy students responded to teach the community while enhancing their own learning.” - Jim Stewart



Adam Brooks and Barry Gilmore know how to throw an educational party. The Geek Fest was a collaborative campus and community partnership in which my physics and astronomy students responded to teach the community while enhancing their own learning. We were out of the classroom, but still in a learning environment, and having a great time. These participating students gained a closer bond to me as their instructor and to Central Piedmont Community College. They showed me what service-learning is all about. Adam and Barry deserve a lot of thanks for this wonderful event.

Charlotte Presbytery and CPCC Team Up

By Terry McMicking

For many years, the Presbytery of Charlotte has worked to help people recover from natural disasters. While teams of relief workers delivered truckloads of supplies to the Gulf Coast area, they realized a need for daily bathing and grooming facilities. The Charlotte Presbytery's Community Disaster

Response Team, a sub-committee of the Mission and Justice Committee, decided that a Disaster Relief Trailer would be a logical answer to their needs.

During construction, the Harper campus housed the trailer. CPCC provided security as well as water and electricity for testing purposes. Phil Briggs, HVAC Program Chair, was instrumental to arranging for those testing needs to be met. Steve Gore, and seven of his welding students, designed, fabricated, installed and welded brackets to hold both the generator and propane tank storage units. The propane-fired generator is used when electricity is not available. The "always ready to help" welders contributed approximately forty hours of assistance with the building process. Another of CPCC's instructors, Roger McDow, repaired a leaky drinking fountain that had been donated.



Group Photo, Disaster Relief Trailer

Dick Henderson, one of those committee members, has been an instructor with CPCC's Applied Technologies Division for many years. He put together plans and drawings of a trailer that would provide showers, toilets, a washer/dryer, refrigerator, sinks, gas furnace, air conditioner, water heater, drinking fountain, and cooking appliances. Jay Potter, Dean of the Harper Campus, said he has known Dick for several years and is aware of his dedication to service-learning. When Dick came to him with the idea, he could easily see the synergy that would be

The self-contained Disaster Relief Trailer is now completed and ready for duty. When not being used in disaster areas, Dick says it will be made available to "small Charlotte Presbytery churches hosting relief missions, such as Room In The Inn – churches who may not have the amenities the trailer provides. It may also be used by churches hosting work groups."

Dick Henderson contributed countless hours of planning and physical labor to what has become a mission near and dear to his heart. He proudly conducted



CPCC Welding Technology students designed and installed brackets to hold the generator and propane tanks

walkthroughs at the Levine Campus during The Geek Fest. Brett Fansler, the Division Director of the Applied Technologies Division, said, "We are very appreciative that Dick Henderson and the Presbytery allowed us to host and assist with such an awesome project!"

Service-Learning Staff

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Service-Learning Work-Study

"We are very appreciative that Dick Henderson and the Presbytery allowed us to host and assist with such an awesome project!" -Brett Fansler, Applied Technologies Division Director