

**Co-Curricular Civic Engagement  
Southwestern University  
2008-09 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

***Civic engagement*** encompasses both curricular and co-curricular work done by students as ***community-based learners, activists, and volunteer participants in community service***. This document gives a glimpse into the **28,514.1 hours** students served while doing co-curricular, non-academic credit bearing civic engagement during the fall semester.

**Allies**

- Held a “Transgender Day of Remembrance Forum and Night Vigil” in observance and honor of those who lost their lives due to intolerance and prejudice;
- Hosted a “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Vigil” during the spring semester to bring attention to a continuing need in America for healthcare and recognition of HIV/AIDS presence.

**Best Buddies**

- Organized a “Disabilities Awareness Training”;
- Painted spirit signs with their Buddies which they took to a Southwestern vs. Trinity sports game;
- Sponsored “End the R-Word Day” with 40 other college campuses to raise awareness about the hurtful and derogatory nature of the word “retard(ed)”;
- Hosted the annual Midnight Madness, a fundraising scavenger hunt benefitting Best Buddies International. Over \$2,300 was raised.

**Collegiate Percussive Arts Society**

- Hosted a public Master Class conducted by Nancy Zeltsman.

**Ebony**

- Shopped for Christmas gifts for those staying at WF State Hospital;
- Sold and delivered “Crush” sodas to loved ones on Valentine’s Day and hosted the “House Party, Pajama Jam” party to support an organization fighting HIV/AIDS in Lesotho, Africa;
- Recognized National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day with information in the McCombs Concourse;
- Members volunteered at organizations and events such as Destination: Service, Georgetown High School Track and Field Meet, Habitat for Humanity, and at a local nursing home.

**Food Advisory Committee and Student Congress**

- These two organizations teamed up to host the first ever “Trayless Week” in an effort to save water, food, and educate the campus community on how we can easily conserve our environment’s resources.

**Feminist Voices**

- Hosted the annual production of *Vagina Monologues*;
- Marched to the Capital to protest for more funding to end sexual and family violence.

**O.A.S.I.S.**

- Led the “Fine By Me T-Shirt Campaign”, which hoped to spread awareness of and show support for the LGBT community on campus. The “Fine By Me Campaign” proceeds went towards workshops and other educational materials to fight LGBT bullying sentiments in schools and communities across the country.

### **Habitat for Humanity: SU Chapter**

- Volunteered their time to assist the building of houses in the area;
- Raised funds through a campus bake sale for the SU Habitat Home going to the William-Sedwick family, of whom the father works Southwestern University.

### **Colleges Against Cancer (CAC)**

- Observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month by passing out Breast Cancer Awareness ribbons and selling t-shirts to benefit cancer research;
- Members served on the Relay for Life Georgetown Committee and signed up the campus community and other organizations to join the event;
- Hosted "Paint the Campus Pink" where students had the opportunity to write letters to women in their life as a reminder to get their yearly mammograms, and the community was also challenged to wear pink for an entire month;
- Sold and delivered carnations and chocolate to loved ones on Valentine's Day as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society;
- Participated in "Paint the Town Purple", a special date set aside for cancer awareness and promotion of Relay For Life of Georgetown;
- Joined with Taco Cabana in raising funds from purchased meals for the American Cancer Society.

### **Mathematical Association of America (at Southwestern)**

- Hosted "Pi+1 Day" where they had a bake sale and sold T-shirts in order to raise funds for GirlStart, an Austin-based organization developed to help provide programs that encourage girls to pursue their interests math, science, and technology.

### **Students Ending Sexual Assault (SESA)**

- Hosted "Feast for a Cause", a campus wide dinner focused on bringing the community together to support the prevention and end of sexual violence. T-shirt proceeds went to support Hope Alliance, and goods such as food and toiletries were also donated;
- Organized a campus health fair, featuring organizations from around the community that deal with all aspects of health such as Hope Alliance, Safe Place, SANE nurse, Planned Parenthood, Cancer Awareness, and Organic Lifestyles;
- Constructed an Assault Memorial where ribbons were placed on the Southwestern Mall to represent the statistical amount of assault survivors on the campus;
- Co-sponsored "Take Back the Night" rally with the Kappa Sigmas and Tri Deltas. The march focused on uniting the Southwestern community to actively work on ending sexual violence.

### **Students for Activism at Southwestern (SAS)**

- Threw a Halloween Party where attendees were encouraged to bring canned food to donate to those in need;
- Organized a campus protest to raise awareness for gender neutral housing.

### **Student Peace Alliance**

- Organized a "Call In" in which the campus community was asked to call their representative, sent post cards to (at the time) President-elect Barack Obama, and presented valentines with statistics of violence to government representatives on Valentine's Day to advocate for the establishment of a U.S. Department of Peace;
- Members lobbied against the decriminalization of carrying concealed handguns on campus and set up a community-wide petition.

### **Pi Kappa Alpha**

- Organized a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and Pancake Breakfast to benefit Ride on Center for Kids (R.O.C.K.), a non profit provider of therapeutic horseback riding and Hippotherapy for individuals with cognitive and physical challenges;
- Sponsored their annual Crawfish Boil benefiting Ride On Center for Kids.

### **SU Native**

- For 3 weeks, member Rob Atkinson stayed on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in St. Francis, South Dakota to help tribal members get ready for their annual ceremony;
- The Nava Family did a presentation at Village ESE, an after-school program, for local elementary students;
- Volunteered at Liberty Junior High School for the 2nd Annual Winter's Moon Gathering Powwow's Grand Ceremony;
- Hosted a Dreamcatcher and Beading Workshop.

### **Alpha Delta Pi**

- Several members volunteered at local schools such as Casey Grier who taught art classes at Forbes Middle School, Teryl Henderson who assisted teachers in a middle school after-school program called ASAP, Ursula James who mentored at Williams Elementary, and Lindsey Knapton who served as a regular volunteer at Northampton Elementary School;
- Hosted the "Kickin' It for Ronald McDonald House" Lion's Share Challenge Soccer Tournament to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House;
- Volunteered at local organizations and events such as the Georgetown Animal Shelter, Poppy Bike Ride, and Earth Day.

### **Delta Delta Delta**

- Hosted "Delta Desserts", a night of sugar and sweets, to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital;
- Joined Sigma Tau Delta in sponsoring a volleyball tournament to raise money for a friend with lymphoma;
- Wrote letters to family and friends on behalf of St. Jude's Children's Hospital asking for donations.

### **Kappa Upsilon Chi**

- Hosted the annual "Kappa Chi Turkey Fry" in November and sent all proceeds to The Caring Place;
- Sang Christmas Carols at the Sterling House, an Assisted Living Community in Texas;
- During fall Mission Trip, members picked up trash and cleared brush at a local individuals land in Fredericksburg;
- Assisted Ride On Center for Kids with one of their major fundraisers.

### **Phi Delta Theta**

- Participated in the local ALS Walk which helps to fund amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) research, also known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease";
- Organized a blood drive for "Baby Eli", a young child connected to the organization who needed an immediate supply of blood;
- Participated in Operation Achievement, Relay for Life, and Chemistry Outreach programs which aim to teach young students the concepts of biology and chemistry;
- Volunteered to help local victims of a house fire clean the wreckage from their house.

### **Art Association**

- Raised \$675 for the Caring Place through the Empty Bowls Project;
- Painted a mural for Community Montessori Elementary School.

### **University Programming Council (UPC)**

- Hosted a clothing and food drive for a local organization.

### **Sigma Phi Lambda**

- Spent a Saturday volunteering at The Caring Place and working on a Habitat for Humanity house;
- Volunteered at Ride on Center for Kids (R.O.C.K.) in Williamson County filing office paper and cleaning horse stalls;
- “Angel Tree” continued this year as Phi Lamb’s philanthropy, and with the help of the campus community they were able to provide holiday gifts to almost 200 Austin area children whose parent(s) are incarcerated;
- Hosted “College Day” at the Boys & Girls Club which involved sharing their stories about higher education with students and also spending time playing games;
- Collected “Coins for Cancer” to benefit the Georgetown Relay for Life.

### **Omicron Delta Kappa**

- Raised funds for "Operation Honor Our Heroes" to go towards a wounded veteran in the Central Texas area.

### **Equestrian Club**

- Members spent hundreds of hours volunteering at Ride on Center for Kids (R.O.C.K.);
- One member regularly volunteered at an Elgin, Texas vet clinic.

### **Zeta Tau Alpha**

- Organized several events during Breast Cancer Awareness month such as “Paint the Town Pink”, “Pink Out”, “Save Lids to Save Lives” with Yoplait, and Race for the Cure;
- Participated in Sigma Phi Lambda’s “Angel Tree”;
- Hosted the annual “Crown Classic” dodge ball tournament which benefits breast cancer awareness and education organizations;
- Created Boo-Boo Bunnies (washcloths folded up into bunnies) for the Children’s Ward at local hospitals;
- Sponsored a bake sale and raffle at the “Pink Out” baseball game to bring awareness and support to the Susan G. Koman Foundation;
- Hosted “Buddy Pack Drive”, a donation program for children in the Williamson County area who do not have enough food on the weekends when they go home;
- Sold lollipops on Valentine’s Day to support the Susan G. Koman Foundation.
- Volunteered at various events and organizations such as Race for the Cure, Ride on Center for Kid’s Barn Dance, Georgetown Animal Shelter, Crown Classic Dodgeball Tournament, Tri Delta Strike Out Cancer Kickball Tournament, and the Alpha Delta Pi philanthropy event.

### **Kappa Sigma**

- Organized “Darfur Awareness Week” on campus in conjunction with Student Peace Alliance where they sold t-shirts for the Save Darfur Campaign;
- Observed International Day of Peace on September 21 by walking from Austin’s Capital Building to City Hall;
- Hosted a voter registration drive on Fraternity Row to promote political engagement among the Greek Life students, and later held another drive during their Presidential Debate Viewing Party;
- Extended help to the Hurricane Gustaf Red Cross Relief efforts;
- Joined Delta Delta Delta in sponsoring a volleyball tournament to raise money for a friend Dylan with lymphoma;

- Joined with Southwestern University's Police Department to promote National Alcohol Abuse Awareness Day;
- Organized members to participate in a Southwestern sponsored blood drive;
- Delivered Thanksgiving boxes of food on behalf of The Caring Place;
- Hosted a film viewing regarding victims of drug trafficking in an attempt to raise awareness on campus, and held a clothing drive for the underprivileged and victims of drug trafficking;
- Sold t-shirts to benefit underprivileged families on the Texas boarder;
- Participated in Sigma Phi Lambda's "Angel Tree";
- Organized a food drive during their "Valloween" festivities where they were able to collect over 300 canned goods for The Caring Place;
- Volunteered at Ride on Center for Kids.

### **Rotaract**

- Worked with Project Linus by creating handmade fleece tie-blankets for traumatized, ill, or in-need children at Williamson County Crisis Center, Williamson County Advocacy Center, Williamson County Sheriff's Dept - Victims Services, Georgetown Hospital, Georgetown Police Department, Round Rock Police Department, Round Rock Counseling (foster children), Round Rock Health Clinic, Texas Baptist Children's Home in Round Rock, and Victim Services in Cedar Park;
- Raised \$331 for PolioPlus, Rotary International's global effort eradicate Polio, at the Downtown Georgetown Association's Annual Christmas Stroll;
- Through partnership with the local Rotary Club, member Lindsay Loocke traveled to Norway to work with "Handicamp" where she was partnered with a fellow Texan with cerebral palsy and assisted him with various activities such as water skiing and horseback riding.

### **Alpha Phi Omega**

- Sorted coats at The Caring Place in preparation for winter, and also participated in "Coats for Kids";
- Parked and helped with general needs at the "Transition Fair", an informational event held for persons with disabilities and their families;
- Assisted a local mother in creating educational enrichment booklets for Georgetown students with special needs;
- Created holiday cards for Lighthouse Hospice during their National Week of Service;
- Participated in a Children's Festival, Georgetown's "Uncorked", Race for the Cure, Southwestern's "Jameson 5K", and Cupid's Chase;
- Volunteered their time at local organizations and events such as the Georgetown Animal Shelter, Georgetown Arts Festival, GISD Community Forum, GISD Middle School Dance, MLK Georgetown Project, Ride on Center for Kids, Seaton Williamson Gala, and Special Olympics.

### **SU Dancers**

- Threw a campus-wide party and donated t-shirt sale proceeds to The Caring Place.

### **Canterbury**

- Built a garden for a local church;
- Sponsored a food drive for hurricane relief.

### **Catholic Student Association**

- Volunteered at H-E-B's Feast of Sharing, a free traditional Thanksgiving meal provided to over 12,000 individuals;

- Joined with Methodist Student Movement and sang Christmas Carols at a local nursing home;
- Served as volunteers at the St. Helen Parish Festival as facilitators for the children's game booths.

### **College Republicans**

- Members assisted with the Bryan Daniel, Dan Gattis, John Carter, and John McCain campaigns;
- Organized and hosted the State Representative Debate for House District 52;
- One member severed as a GOP Representative in McNeil High School's political debate.

### **Circle K**

- Participated in "Coats for Kids";
- Hosted "Piratas Para Mathuala" Christmas Drive throughout campus to collect donations and deliver them to Mexico;
- Members tutored Upward Bound students one hour a week over the course of the semester and have since then adopted Upward Bound as their after school program;
- Volunteered at "Texas Mission of Mercy", a free dental program which comes to Central Texas every 2 years;
- Cleaned up Hornsby Conservatory at the "Hill Country Division Fall Rally";
- Worked with Texas Association of Down Syndrome;
- Collected gently used backpacks, left over school supplies, and money to help provide backpacks and supplies for the kids at the Boys and Girls Club of Georgetown;

### **Delta Omicron**

- Hosted the second annual "Arts Festival" for local children in conjunction with the Southwestern Art Association. Events included the Delta Omicron Instrument Petting Zoo, Delta Omicron/Paideia Raffle in support of the Georgetown Boys and Girls Club, Chamber Music, Composers Collective's Compose-While-You-Wait Station, calligraphy with the ASIA Club, recycled wind chime making with SEAK, SU Jazz Quartet sponsored by Paideia, mask making and face painting with Mask and Wig, yoga, and alumna Natalie Goodnow's production of *Muntu*.

### **SU Cheerleaders**

- Volunteered at Ride On Center for Kids for their annual Open House.

### **Alpha Xi Delta**

- Sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt for the children at the Boys & Girls Club.

### **Mask & Wig**

- Created "Haunted Hospital", a campus haunted house which gave half of all proceeds to Second Youth Theatre in Austin;
- Sold concessions at several fine art events to benefit Second Youth Theatre.

### **Beta Beta Beta**

- Members volunteered with local organizations and projects such as the San Gabriel Park Cleanup, 5th Grade Science Fair, Lone Star Circle of Care, Ride on Center for Kids, Autism Awareness, Georgetown Boys & Girls Club, Georgetown Community Center, and at local public schools.

### **SU Athletics**

- The Volleyball Team sponsored “Dig Pink” where proceeds from “digs”, t-shirts, cupcakes, and additional donations went to benefit the Side-Out Foundation and Breast Cancer Awareness;
- Women’s Basketball joined over 1250 other basketball teams across the nation to support the WBCA PinkZone’s fight against breast cancer and volunteered at the Round Rock Senior Center for Daffodil Days;
- Men’s Basketball tutored and mentored students at Annie Purl Elementary;
- The Cross Country Team volunteered at Paws for Mardi Gras and at the Georgetown High School Track and Field Meet;
- Women and Men’s Soccer sponsored “Storm the Field for Hurricane Relief” where donations were collected for hurricane relief in and around the Houston area;
- Softball Team members volunteered with various local programs and organizations such as Partners in Education, Eagle Wings Day Care, Georgetown Animal Shelter, Georgetown Public Library, the Florence High School Softball Team, the Georgetown Bus Project, and Austin Music Foundation to name a few.

### **Theatre for Social Justice**

- Partnered with SEAK to perform “I am Sam”, a play about environmentalism and ways students can be more environmentally friendly in their daily lives, at a local elementary school and Southwestern;
- Led a discussion and performed “First-Year Show” for incoming university students to educate them on issues such as sexual assault, alcohol and drug safety, diversity, and safe sex;
- Performed “Got Money”, a short play discussing socio-economics on campus, and donated proceeds to Georgetown homeless youth organizations;
- Created and performed “Body Dialogues”, an annual organic production focusing on educating others about bodies’ perceptions and behaviors which may be similar and/or different from their own, and what one can learn such an awareness;
- Member Jessica Espinoza wrote the play “Riverview Ghosts” to educate students about the maltreatment of the mentally disabled in state schools, and asked the audience to think about where we as a culture should draw the line when denying people the right to a life free from abuse and neglect.

### **Students for Environmental Activism and Knowledge (SEAK)**

- Their Community Outreach Committee presented at the Youth Environmental Summit (Y.E.S.) over varying topics, one being “How to Start an Environmental Club at Your School”;
- Built and began gardening in the on-campus community garden;
- Gardened with Georgetown elementary school and Operation Achievement students;
- Attended City Council meetings and Bus System Task Force meetings to discuss the start of a local bus system;
- Canvassed for Patty Eason, candidate for re-election to Georgetown City Council;
- Campaigned to remove Styrofoam from the Commons;
- Members attended Powershift 2009 Conference in Washington, ReEnergize Texas Conference in Austin, and a training at ReEnergize Texas Conference in Austin;
- Hosted a movie series on campus to bring awareness of environmentally themed films;
- Organized Earth Day Festival, a gathering of various organizations to celebrate nature and advance environmental awareness;
- Sponsored “Campus Energy Challenge”, a competition to challenge students to decrease water and energy consumption.

*Southwestern students participate in civic engagement through their on-campus organizations, but a large percentage also volunteer as **individuals** during their own time.*

**Paige Ammons**

- Volunteered at NARAL ProChoice, the nation's leading advocate for privacy and a woman's right to choose.

**Gillian Graham**

- Developed and implemented "Rainbow Foods", an after school nutrition program which reaches over 200 second graders in Taylor ISD.

**Sarah Gould**

- Developed and implemented "Society for Young Women Leaders", an organization matching high school and college women to explore civic engagement, career, and educational opportunities.

**Amy Litzinger**

- Has presented or volunteered at over 20 events surrounding issues on politics, disabilities, and/or human services.

**Carol King, Vanessa Reynolds, Nicole Powell, Jamie Falconnier, and Carolyn Acker**

- Participated in "NAMIWALKS" to raise money and awareness about the United States' need for a world-class treatment and recovery system for people with mental illness.

**Kimberly Griffin and Rachel Baker**

- Walked in "March 4 Peace".

**Anna Frankel**

- Served as a Science Fair Judge at Williams Elementary School and Day Coordinator for SMaRT.

**Carolyn Acker and Nicole Powell**

- Participated in "AIDS Walk", which enables AIDS Foundations to continue their critical work and provide services to more than 100,000 men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

**Lindsey Smith, Rachel Hampton, and Nicole Powell**

- Volunteer on the crisis hotline, in the shelter, and with clerical work at Hope Alliance, a Williamson County organization dedicated to empowering victims of family violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes through support and advocacy, while promoting community awareness, compassion, and responsibility for creating a safer community.

**Braden Ackley**

- Drove to Missouri to campaign for Barack Obama;
- Canvassed for Diana Maldonado for the State Representative of District 52 seat.

**Braden Ackley, Janet Del Real and Caitlyn Carnes**

- Attended the National Protest against California's Proposition 8, a proposition that changed California's Constitution to restrict the definition of marriage to opposite-sex couples and eliminated same-sex couples' right to marry.

**Kimberly Griffin, Connor Hanrahan, Paige Menking, Leah Jones, Lindsey Knapton, Carissa Nash, Kate Castles, Alexis Kropf, and Vanessa Toro**

- Drove to New Mexico to campaign for Barack Obama.

**Paige Ammons**

- Canvassed for Diana Maldonado for the State Representative of District 52 seat.

**Sarah Reesor**

- Continuously volunteered at SafePlace.

**Nicole Powell**

- Volunteered extensively at Hope Alliance including taking hotline calls, assisting with Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Red Poppy Festival booth, and working with interested volunteers;
- Helped in a variety of ways at OutYouth such as raising funds, setting up a tutor program, and assisting in their spring clean;
- Campaigned at the Capitol to ask representatives to continue supporting Tuition Equalization Grants.

**Ted Wilson, Grant Cain, Jen Penland, and Ben Sloan**

- Fostered dogs monthly to relieve strain at the local shelter.

**D'Art Bebel, Charles Prince, and William Thomas**

- Attended the Inauguration of President Barack Obama.

**Kimberly Griffin**

- Organized the second annual Youth Environmental Summit (Y.E.S.), a conference for high school aged students who are interested in learning more about environmental issues and finding a community with common interests.

**Rachel Baker and Ursula James**

- Helped construct the campus Compost Pile which recycles or "downcycles" organic household and yard waste and manures into an extremely useful humus-like, soil end-product called compost.

**Evan Firth**

- Volunteered his time as a piano teacher for a student involved with Upward Bound.

**Tyler King**

- Spearheaded Taylor Academy, a program through which Southwestern students taught fine arts activities to elementary and middle school students at Duck University, an after-school program in Taylor, TX.

**Student Activities** held an extensive **voter's registration drive**, and helped register and/or provide **transportation** to over **252 young voters**. On Election Day, Student Activities provided a shuttle every 20 minutes to the polls.

**Science and Math Achiever Teams (SMaRT)** connects Southwestern students with local 3rd-5th graders for 9 weeks to explore a project of scientific inquiry together. **24 Southwestern students** served as mentors this year.

Over **50 students** participated in various **blood drives** at the University; some of which were sponsored by "Well Fest" and the Central Texas Blood & Tissue Center.

"**Activists Speak**" was hosted by the **Office of Civic Engagement** for the second consecutive year to highlight and further support activists on campus, including students, staff, and faculty.

The **Office of Civic Engagement** organized “**First-Year Road Trip**”, a day of service designed so incoming students could familiarize themselves with community needs and local social services.

In preparation for the November elections, the **Office of Civic Engagement** joined with **Dr. Andy Ross, SU Libertarians, College Republicans, and Young Democrats** in hosting Constitution Day’s “**Presidential Election Q&A**”, a public forum discussing the presidential candidate’s positions on hot topics.

**55 students** mentored students in Georgetown ISD this year through Partners In Education’s (PIE) **Project Mentor** program. **6 students** tutored in PIE’s **Helping Hand Tutoring** program.

**13 students** served as **Community Interaction Partnership interns** for The Georgetown Project. Through this unique program, students with Federal Work Study stipends are placed at different sites throughout the community. Examples of work include mentoring at the Boys & Girls Club, tutoring at the Georgetown Public Library and the After-School Action Program, and serving as a teacher’s aide at Williams Elementary School.

**166 students** participated in Southwestern’s **Operation Achievement**, an after-school mentorship and enrichment program that assists selected sixth through eighth grade students in the Georgetown Independent School District.

In addition to this report, the **Office of Student Activities** reported student organizations supporting **16 local charities** and **raising over \$2,750**.

- **Alpha Phi Omega** Race for the Cure, Relay for Life (3 fundraising events, \$700 donated)
- **Alpha Xi Delta** Texas Children’s Hospital (\$450 donated)
- **Circle K International** Boys and Girls Club (back packs/school supplies drive), Rejoice Charities (\$200 donated), Dell Children’s Hospital (goods collected/donated)
- **Student Peace Alliance** National Peace Alliance/Rob Atkinson Memorial Fund (donation amount not reported)
- **Delta Omicron** Boys and Girls Club (\$300 donated)
- **Alpha Delta Pi** Ronald McDonald House Charities (\$300 donated)
- **Colleges Against Cancer** American Cancer Society/Relay for Life (various fundraising projects, exact donation amount not reported)
- **Kappa Delta Pi** Boys and Girls Club (book drive)
- **Paideia** Computers for Honduran Children (\$220 donated)
- **EBONY LINKS** Foundation/A Time to Heal (2 fundraising events, \$400 donated)
- **Sigma Tau Delta** Better World Books/Books for Africa (200 books donated)
- **Pi Kappa Alpha** Muscular Dystrophy Association (donation amount not reported)
- **Kappa Alpha** Hurricane Ike Disaster Relief (goods collected/donated)

**CURRICULAR/Community-based Learning  
Civic Engagement at Southwestern University  
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## **ART**

*ART69-763 Design II, Patrick Veerkamp.* Students worked with Georgetown Parks & Recreation to design a landscaped seating area overlooking the San Gabriel River. Plans were presented to Parks & Recreation staff, and students collected and submitted landscaping quotes for creating this space.

## **BIOLOGY**

*BIO50-434 Ecology, Romi Burks.* Students analyzed the overall health of the San Gabriel River by running a variety of tests on three distinct parts of the river: the North Fork, the South Fork, and the convergence of the two streams in the center of San Gabriel Park. Their processes and knowledge gained was shared with middle school students in the After-School Action Program, and their findings were presented in public forums, including the Student Works Symposium at Southwestern and a special presentation at the Parks & Recreation Department. Students also created three unique brochures documenting their findings to be shared with the general public and to be used as a teaching tool for K-12 students.

## **CHEMISTRY**

*CHE51-214 Quantitative Methods of Analysis, Emily Niemeyer.* This course focuses on the basic principles of analytical chemistry and how these principles apply to chemical problems. Students illustrated such principles in elementary school classrooms in Hutto ISD by leading classes and experiments dealing with acids, bases and pH balance, and harnessing electricity for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

*COM75-403 Communication, Culture, & Social Justice, Julia Johnson.* This course introduces the foundational, historical, and theoretical issues for the critical study of communication as social justice. Students are required to investigate a social justice issue and develop an appropriate, discipline-specific project addressing that issue. Examples of projects include implementing a survey assessing campus and community awareness of affordable housing, leading sessions with middle-school students to explore assertive and effective communication with adults and peers, researching the ways in which standardized testing has negatively impacted public education, and exploring/raising awareness about the struggles of single motherhood.

## **ECONOMICS**

*Research Study: "Tobacco Cessation: Cost-Effective Employer-Based Programs," Mary Young, in collaboration with Williamson County & Cities Health District (WCCHD), Ed Kain in Sociology, and students in Economics and Sociology.*

- Dr. Young worked with several economics students to submit forms to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval to expand the research and collect data on tobacco cessation programs. They started with the draft IRB form developed by Sociology Research Methods students, and updated it to apply to the Southwestern University campus and reflect changes made in the survey based upon the pre-test at the WCCHD. Data was collected during the University's open enrollment period, and economics students entered data for analysis.
- Students and faculty members working on the project have examined past research conducted by other organizations and developed a survey for target groups. The WCCHD and the Williamson County Human Resources divisions distributed the survey, contributed human and financial resources, and provided logistical support to the project. As a result of these collaborative efforts, 2,000 people have received the survey and the team plans to survey another 1,600 more. The survey asks questions about tobacco use, knowledge of tobacco-related health problems, and the awareness, use, and efficacy of tobacco cessation programs. The Health District hopes to use the results of the survey to create policy recommendations about cost-effective nicotine cessation programs for the county's health plan.

## EDUCATION

*EDU40-553 Schools, Society, and Diversity, Alicia Moore.* This course requires students to volunteer with agencies that connect to children with special needs and/or to programs that elucidate gaps in services to public school students.

*EDU42-553 Social Studies Methods in Elementary/Middle School, Stephen Marble.* Students partnered with 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at Village Elementary School to create social studies web quests to assist with student research. Web quests subject matter included Lewis & Clark, women in the West, and Manifest Destiny.

*EDU43-403 Survey of Exceptionalities, Sherry Adrian (Fall) and Alicia Moore (Spring).* This course requires students to volunteer with agencies that connect to children with special needs and/or to programs that elucidate gaps in services to public school students.

*EDU40-593 Action Research, Sherry Adrian.* Students worked in five research teams, four in schools and one with Georgetown Parks & Recreation. The four school teams were assigned to a volunteering teacher who agreed to let students assist him/her in conducting research on his/her teaching practices for the purpose of improving student achievement. The following topics were the focus of these 4 projects:

- Cooperative learning
- Use of the classroom environment to facilitate learning
- Impact of teacher feedback during art instruction
- Teacher response to two students' undesired behavior

The Parks & Recreation project researched the level of accessibility of the San Gabriel Trail System as determined by three actions: (1) community awareness of accessibility (2) review of the information options [signage at the park, website, and brochure] for communicating accessibility of the trail system, and (3) on-site evaluation of accessibility issues using two community members who have physical disabilities.

Members of the **Education Department faculty** hosted a viewing and discussion of "Education and the Next President," the debate between Obama and McCain advisors on October 21, 2008.

## FEMINIST STUDIES

*FST04-464 Feminist & Queer Activism, Alison Kafer.* In this course, students are challenged to define activism, to explore what makes an activist or activist site “feminist” or “queer,” and to understand how feminist and/or queer theorists engage in activism, both as a practice and as an area of research. In so doing, students put their working definitions of activism to practice. Examples of projects include facilitating a partnership between a teen parent day care and a local food pantry, researching resources and proposing collaborations to provide health care for survivors at a local domestic and family violence shelter, providing logistical support for a local LGBTQ organization as they prepared for events and rallies, and researching and writing a grant for a local non-profit agency.

*FST04-103 Introduction to Feminist Studies, Alison Kafer.* In this class, students explored activism by researching an individual or group that works to create social change, or by joining/creating a group that does activist work. These projects were designed to get students thinking about how individuals bring about social change, what kinds of activist work is being done throughout the world, and what can be learned from activists who have done or are doing grassroots work.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

*INS38-301 Intercultural Learning Seminar, Sue Mennicke.* Students returning from an intercultural learning experience abroad found ways to integrate their experiential learning into a civic engagement project. Students connected their work abroad with local public transportation and education, and supported the work of an Austin-based agency committed to Tibetan literacy.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

*PSC32-343 Texas Politics Internships, Tim O'Neill.* Students compare political theory and practical politics in a work environment in either the state capital or Williamson County government.

## PSYCHOLOGY

*PSY33-233 Developmental Psychology, Jacquie Muir-Broaddus.* This course encourages students to volunteer at appropriate community-based programs that allow them to observe the psychological concepts they are learning in real-life contexts. Students earn extra credit for their involvement in pre-approved civic engagement activities, and must also write a reflection piece about their experiences.

*PSY33-333 Educational Psychology, Jacquie Muir Broaddus.* This course encourages students to volunteer at appropriate community-based programs that allow them to observe the psychological concepts they are learning in real-life contexts. Students earn extra credit for their involvement in pre-approved civic engagement activities, and must also write a reflection piece about their experiences.

## SOCIOLOGY

*SOC34-964 Sociology Capstone, Maria Lowe.* Students are required to demonstrate their research and ethnographic skills by working with and researching an activist organization. Examples of topics included: “Little Gay Gandhis:’ Providing a Safe Space and Empowering Sexual Minorities”; “Stand Up Straight: The Significance of Networks, Framing, and Collective

Identity in Building a Straight-Gay Coalition”; and “From Bra Burning to Bible Study: Motivation for Political Activism and Polarization Among Local Women Activists”.

*SOC34-274 Childhood & Youth, Sandi Nenga.* In this course, students observed peer interactions among children and youth from ages 4 to 17 while volunteering for the Extended School Enrichment program, the After-School Action Program, and the Clement Boys & Girls Club in Georgetown. This work elucidates the ways in which historical and social construction of childhood and youth intersect with social institutions.

*SOC34-202 Sociology Research Methods, Ed Kain.* A set of students worked with Economics Professor Mary Young over the summer to develop a draft of the survey that would be used for the project, “Tobacco Cessation: Cost Effective Employer-based Programs”. Students in the Sociology Research Methods course completed several labs that were directly related to the project. Early in the semester they critiqued and made suggestions for changes on an early draft of the survey. When the survey had been finalized, they developed a codebook to be used in data entry and analysis. They also created a draft form for the on-campus Institutional Review Board (IRB). After employees of the Williamson County and Cities Health District filled out the survey as a pre-test, they verified and cleaned the data, then wrote a brief preliminary report based on the findings from that pre-test of the survey. A draft of this report has been shared with the WCCHD

## SPANISH

*SPA15-213 Intermediate Oral & Written Expression, Abby Dings.* Students were required to spend a minimum of 10 hours in the community using their verbal and written Spanish skills for an agency or program that needs bilingual volunteers.

## THEATRE

Through its **Theatre for Young Audiences** program, the **Theatre Department** provided free tickets and held special performances for ***This is Not A Pipe Dream*** to local elementary school students in November 2008. This production was one foci of the Department’s technical and performance courses.

## FIRST YEAR SEMINARS

*UST05-012 You Are What You Eat: Religious Conceptions of Food, Elaine Craddock.* First year students brought their final projects to life before an audience of over 90 5th grade students at Cooper Elementary School in Georgetown. Dividing into “cultural centers,” students shared traditions and rituals practiced by Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, and Christians with their younger counterparts.

*UST05-012 Politics by Other Means: The Demons of War, Daniel Castro.* Dr. Castro, the Office of Civic Engagement, and the Georgetown Public Library held a free, public showing and discussion of *Paradise Now*, a film that chronicles the story of two Palestinian young men who are chosen to be suicide bombers for an operation targeting downtown Tel Aviv. The event informed the class’ ongoing dialogue about different expressions of war and artists’ interpretations thereof, opening this conversation to the greater community.

*UST05-012 A River Runs Through It, Ben Pierce.* This seminar explores the human-nature relationship as illuminated by rivers in general and the San Gabriel River in particular. Students examines the science of water, the ecology of the San Gabriel River, and how the San Gabriel River has shaped the history of Williamson County experiencing the San Gabriel River firsthand as they hiked its banks, canoed its waters, and visited nearby historical sites.

*UST05-012 Going to the Dogs, Laura Hobgood-Oster and Jimmy Smith.* This first year seminar explores the complex relationship between dogs and humans, and required students to volunteer at a local animal shelter to better understand our society's policies toward these animals.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

*UST05-301 Civic Engagement Seminar, Suzy Pukys.* This course addressed meanings of "community" in contemporary democratic culture, particularly exploring the role of citizen in the U.S. By examining citizenship and practicing civic engagement, students deconstructed the expectations of democracy and connected these expectations to present realities that point directly to inequity among the populace. As active learners, students were required to critique their civic engagement projects with respect to charity and social justice modeling, evaluate the consequences of their work at a particular organization, and identify its degree of impact. Projects included working on the campaign of a local politician, researching an historical figure for a museum exhibit, developing a sustained nutrition program for children through an after-school program, and providing volunteer assistance/advocacy for a domestic violence shelter and LGBTQ organization.

*UST05-001 SMARt (Science & Math Achiever Teams) Seminar, Romi Burks and Suzy Pukys.* Dr. Romi Burks, the Office of Civic Engagement, and a student volunteer coordinator paired 12 Southwestern students with 3rd-5th graders in an after-school program for ten weeks during the Fall to work on a project of scientific inquiry. Each team explored an area of interest driven by the younger student. This question became a springboard for exploratory observation, investigation, experimentation, and reflection that led students to scientifically based answers, and new questions. Students' work was presented and celebrated at poster presentations held at Cooper Elementary and Southwestern University. Southwestern students who volunteered in the program were given the opportunity to enroll in a one-hour course connected to SMARt taught by Romi Burks and Suzy Pukys that delved deeper into the subtext of the SMARt program to explore issues related to inquiry-based learning, civic engagement, the role of after-school programs in public education, and more.

## **PAIDEIA**

***The Paideia Program synthesizes both curricular and co-curricular civic engagement, as students craft a service or activist project to satisfy the requirements of the one-hour seminar.***

- **Dr. Daniel Castro's cohort, ITS student workers**, along with **David Gaines** and **ITS staff members David Williamson and Neil Mann**, spent a transformational week in La Esperanza, Honduras in June 2008, installing over 100 computers in local schools. This group, with help from the **Office of Civic Engagement** and **Stephen Marble's cohort**, have continued to collect funding and hardware for a second trip to Honduras in Summer 2009.
- **Dr. Don Park's junior cohort** has continued to explore the implementation of a micro-lending program at **The Caring Place**, a local agency dedicated to addressing basic needs. They met with The Caring Place's Executive Director to discuss the project, researched other micro-lending programs in the U.S., and created a survey for The Caring Place case managers to distribute to clients to assess the feasibility of such a program.

- **Erica Berroth's cohort** surveyed the campus about Styrofoam use and recycling around campus. They provided Student Congress with a follow-up evaluation on Trayless Week, and researched partnerships with elementary schools to share information about environmental awareness.
- **Traci Giuliano's cohort** worked closely with the **Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown** to provide a brief series of interactive courses on teambuilding, conflict resolution and peer mediation, and gymnastics and yoga.
- **Michael Cooper's cohort** supported senior **Natalie Moore** and **Delta Omicron**, the honors society for music, in hosting the SU Fine Arts Festival in February. In addition to providing general support for the event, they raffled t-shirts to decorate that raised funds for the **Boys & Girls Club**. These funds were used for the purchase of a stereo and sound system for the Club.
- **Stephen Marble's cohort** traveled to Galveston to help with **Hurricane Ike recovery efforts**. They also have committed to a partnership with **Daniel Castro's cohort** in sustaining the Computers for Honduras project.
- **Sergio Costola's cohort** got involved in a citizen-run grassroots effort to push the issue of public transportation in Georgetown. They went door-to-door on a support campaign for a bus system prior to City Council's vote to fund the first phase of a permanent bus route in this community.
- **Elisabeth Piedmont-Marton's junior cohort** has continued to tutor high school students involved in our Southwestern-based **Upward Bound** program.
- **Julia Johnson's cohort** identified animal rights and intimate violence as issue areas on which they wanted to focus. Students received training and volunteered for **Hope Alliance** and the **Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter**.
- **Glenda Carl's cohort** identified animals and senior adults as being the two primary target populations on which they wished to focus. In order to learn more about these populations and the ways in which they could connect to them, they heard presentations from the Executive Director of the **Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter** and the Vice-President of **Wesleyan Homes**.
- **Jim Kilfoyle's cohort** created and delivered a presentation about college to **Stony Point High School juniors and seniors** involved in the college-readiness program **College Forward**.

In addition, several sophomore cohorts set aside time to explore definitions of civic engagement, its implications, and its relevance to their themes. Several cohorts read and discussed "To Hell With Good Intentions," and the introduction to *The New Student Politics: The Wingspread Statement on Civic Engagement in Higher Education*.