

Service-Learning E-News

Parkland College's Bimonthly E-Newsletter on All Things Service-Learning

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"He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own."

--Confucius

Online Resources

[S-L Clearinghouse](#)

[CU Volunteer Database](#)

[Parkland College Service-Learning Website](#)

Share Your S-L Stories

Register for the Garden Hills Homework Club

For close to three years, students and faculty of Parkland College have been working with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at our afterschool program at Garden Hills Elementary, the "Homework Club." The Club, a partnership between Parkland College and Champaign School District 4, currently meets two days a week, (Mondays and Wednesdays), from 3:00-4:00, while many of our Parkland students have volunteered one day a week since the start of the fall semester, providing not only academic support to the Garden Hills kids, but also serving as important role models. As a result of our successes this semester, our primary goal in the spring semester is to expand the "Homework Club," with more Parkland students and faculty working with more Garden Hills students. For information about potentially connecting your class or club with the Garden Hills/Parkland College "Homework Club" next semester, please contact Brian Nudelman @ 351-2534.

Service-Learning and Volunteerism Panel

On Friday, November 13, Parkland hosted representatives from local non-profit agencies who came to talk about their programs, their organizations' needs, and to see how Parkland could help them address those needs. Faculty, administration, and staff from throughout the college attended the panel, and were able to meet with representatives from the United Way of Champaign County, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We are happy to say that the session was well-received and informative, and each agency left behind material with information on their organizations. If you are interested in getting yourself or your course/group involved with any of these organizations, or if you are looking for a specific volunteer opportunity in general, please contact Marsha Reardon @ 353-3302.

Update on Parkland's Service-Learning Programs

Several Service-Learning courses and programs at Parkland have been doing outstanding work lately, and we would like to recognize them here in each newsletter. If you have a story that you would like to include in the next edition, please contact Marsha Reardon.

If you are involved in service-learning with Parkland students, please share your stories with the Parkland community by contacting Marsha Reardon

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Dental Hygiene Students on the Road

Last Spring, a group of 26 Parkland faculty, staff, and students, (as well as 11 other dental professionals from the community), traveled to rural Tennessee to do free dental work for patients in need. The students and faculty provided a variety of services: assistance with patients' needs, oral hygiene instruction to those waiting in long lines, sterilization, assisted the 45 dentists that were there volunteering, and set up their own dental hygiene stations where they cleaned patients' teeth.

The student's raised money to pay for the bus, hotel and food. They also collected supplies, such as toothbrushes, floss, clinician gowns, and oral hygiene instruction materials. The group has taken several trips such as this one, and is hoping to take another one this February, as well. Collection jars for the trip are located throughout various campus offices and the two food service areas, so feel free to donate towards this worthy cause!

Teaching Computer Skills to Hispanic Women

Montserrat Oliveras and her Advanced Spanish students are teaching basic computer skills to Latino women in Champaign. The program takes place in the Shadowood Community, and Montserrat and her students spend Wednesday evenings teaching the women there basic word-processing and trouble-shooting skills. For more information on this program and the great work they are doing, please contact Montserrat at MOliveras@parkland.edu.

Alas Blancas Group does Work in South America

Francesca Antonaci of the Natural Sciences department is looking for volunteers to travel with her group, Alas Blancas, to Ecuador this winter and in the summer of 2010. The Alas Blancas Ecuador Foundation is a non-profit organization with the goal of providing Ecuadorians with five basic human needs: clean water, modernized medical care, an improved education system, a well-funded public safety program, and rights for children and families. If you are interested in joining this program, would like more information on how to volunteer, or would like to see pictures of previous trips, see the Alas Blancas website: <http://www.alasblancas.org/>.

Check Out the Service-Learning Website!

Once again, we encourage you to take a look at the Service-Learning Website. On it, you can look at upcoming events, read news about service learning on campus, and find current opportunities to work with community partners. A new portion of the site makes it simple to search for current opportunities in the area. You can [view the Service Learning Website here!](#)