Learning by serving

Students develop community, personal knowledge through service learning

By Gena Checki
Staff Writer

Are you interested in exploring what you can do with your major before you graduate? If you are, then service learning might be for you. What is service learning? Through active learning, meaningful service and reflection, students develop a deeper awareness of the diverse communities in which they live and the value of civic engagement among community members. Different sections of Gateway’s service learning class focus on different projects and are open to all Gateway students, regardless of majors. The functions and tasks vary, but the experience and education the students receive is invaluable.

One section, called Service to Learn Locally, is offered in partnership with Advancing Family Assets and is funded and operated by the United Way of Racine County. Service to Learn Locally focuses on parenting and family education. This semester, each Service to Learn Locally student helped develop workshops involving topics such as child abuse and resiliency. According to Gateway psychology instructor Dr. Sohelia Brouk, AFA is a “program that provides coaches for families interested in advancing employability, education and physical and mental health.”

Students enrolled in Service to Learn Locally for the Spring 2013 semester were: Megan Devictoria (Nursing), Sarah Joas (Human Services), Maya Jordan (Nursing), Rachel Haase (Criminal Justice) and Dakota Roberts (Early Childhood Education). Many families attended the workshops the students developed and presented at AFA.

Service to Learn Locally can expose students to diverse ideas and experiences, help students understand themselves in relationship to their communities and might even be able to pinpoint possible career paths.

Celebrating Earth Day

Environmentally friendly ideas spring up from annual event

Birds were chirping and flowers were blooming at Gateway’s Celebrate Earth Day event—and that was inside one of the Elkhorn Campus buildings. The wonders of the earth were highlighted at all three campuses April 20 with demonstrations, vendors, music, activities and more.

Lis Feucht of East Troy said she brought her children to the Elkhorn event to teach them about respecting the Earth. Feucht said she hopes her children and others will take time to learn how regular household items can be reused to create something new. Her children and others put the concept into practice by making bird feeders from the cardboard tubes of paper towel and toilet paper rolls.

“The volunteers have been phenomenal,” Feucht said.

Kids and parents alike had fun at Gateway’s Celebrate Earth Day event.

Graphic Communication students Heather Hezlett and Gregory Kirstein were among those volunteers. They happily helped each child cover a cardboard tube with peanut butter before rolling the tube in bird seed.

“We’re just spreading ourselves around, trying to help everywhere,” Hezlett said.

In addition to volunteering their time, the two helped build a graphic design recycling project—a large wooden bench made from recycled pallets.

Sustainable craftsmanship also was on display at Belinda Abendschein’s vendor booth. Abendschein is an independent party consultant for Olina Faire, a company that offers fair trade items at home parties and on the internet.

Fair trade practices help ensure workers are paid a living wage and that they work in decent conditions, Abendschein said.

“Fair trade is really starting to pick up steam,” she said. “We work with artisans from all over the world.”

Some of the products include handbags made from old inner tubes, jewelry made from old zippers and even paper made from elephant waste.
Student leaders shine on campus, in community

Gateway serves more than 23,000 students every year. Each of you adds great value to our student life on campus and in our community. Throughout the year, numerous students have taken on additional responsibilities. They lead our United Student Government, serve as student ambassadors, become members in student professional organizations and go the extra mile by participating in individual class competitions and projects.

Serving in a leadership role provides additional experiences that can round out your education. Each year I observe these proactive students continue to gain confidence and leadership skills. They learn more about how to get things done and how to communicate effectively. Upon graduation, their confidence and accomplishments impress employers and their fellow community.

I encourage all Gateway students to become active in our community—both our internal Gateway community and the community in which you live—and share your Gateway leadership skills in all that you do. I am proud of the extra effort our students provide in strengthening our college.

Respectfully,
Bryan D. Albrecht, Ed.D., President and CEO, Gateway Technical College

Calendar of events

Thursday, May 2  
• Sumo Bot Competition; SC Johnson IMET Center, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday, May 4  
• Last day of Spring Semester  
Thursday, May 9  
• Financial aid appeals close for Summer 2013  
Tuesday, May 14  
• Graduation. Commencement at UW–Parkside’s Sports & Activity Center  
Monday, May 27  
• Memorial Day, college closed

Gateway partners with MSOE, Alverno

Gateway now has articulation agreements with the Milwaukee School of Engineering and Alverno College to help qualifying graduates from key programs to transition to the four-year college. Providing them with more educational and career options. Students can transfer their credits to the four-year college to earn a degree in the following areas:

• Qualifying Gateway graduates in Accounting, Administrative Professional, Business Management, IT Computer Support Specialist, Business to Business Marketing, IT Network Specialist, IT Programmer/Analyst, IT Web Developer, Marketing Communications and Marketing and Supervisory Management will have the opportunity to transfer their credits to MSOE’s Rader School of Business and will be enrolled as a junior.

• Qualifying Gateway associate degree graduates will have the opportunity to transfer their credits into Alverno’s intense, 18-month bachelor of arts degree program. Thirty-six credits are earned through nine, eight-week course blocks.

Star Faculty Award winners announced

Tamia Wiley (Burlington/Elkhorn, Community Pharmacy Tech), Ursula Wendt (adjunct, Information Technology), Suzanne Sublette (Racine, social science) and Geri Strifling (Kenosha, math) were recently recognized with the Star Faculty Award. The faculty members were nominated for the award by students.

The winners were notified by Gateway Executive Vice President/Provost Zina Haywood in Publishers Clearing House fashion—by being surprised at work in front of their students and peers.

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SHOw OF TALENT

Graphic Design students display creativity, skills at annual event

By Michael Sosinski
Staff Writer

The 2013 Student Design Show was an opportunity for Graphic Design students at the Racine and Elkhorn campuses to showcase their creativity through various modes of expression, including traditional and computer illustration, web design, package design and photography. Student work was arranged and displayed by category, allowing for attendees to vote on their favorite pieces.

A Design Show awards ceremony was held April 18 at the Elkhorn Campus, part of the weeklong celebration of artistic and commercial talent.

Complemented by a live band and an array of refreshments, the ceremony was packed with Gateway faculty, students and their friends and families. Graphic Design instructors Laura Laznicka and Michelle Quinn presented awards in various categories.

“The Design Show at Gateway is a great opportunity to get our name out there and show what we can really do when it comes to graphics,” said award-winner Jason Lopez.

Students also had an opportunity to design a cutout display presenting their skills and promoting their services as a “life-sized portfolio” in the adjacent hallways.

The Design Show ran April 15 through April 22, bringing attention to the talents of the Graphics Communications students and their faculty, which includes Laznicka, Quinn and Racine instructors Susan LaCanne, John Mizer and Peter Pham. Winners include Gregory Cheatham, Poster; Sharon Marie, Layout; Bo Atkins, Logo; Cheryl Kuczerepa, Package Design; Cyrene Olson, Photoshop; J. Conner Boucher, Photography; Nancy Barthuly, Traditional Illustration; Chris Uran, Digital Illustration; Mario Gonzales, 3-D Illustration; Kasey Knudson and Nicole Rugen, Web Design; and Jason Lopez, Multimedia/DVD.

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**Reaching out to students**

Community groups, colleges come to campus for awareness day

By Gena Checki
Staff Writer

When Gateway Human Services/Nursing student Charlotte Brown Miller decided she wanted to learn new skills and find volunteer opportunities to supplement her education, Gateway’s annual Community Awareness Day provided the information she needed.

Community Awareness Day is an annual event organized by Gateway’s Human Services Club in which various outside agencies are brought in for a community fair on the Racine Campus. This year’s event was held April 9 and included a free lunch.

Sonjii Tolliver, president of the Human Services Club, said she enjoyed helping organize this year’s event because “events like these help me to transfer what I learn in the classroom to the real world by learning who these different agencies are, what resources they offer in our community and how they can help me help the clients that I have/will work with.”

Society’s Assets, United Way and Head Start were among the agencies represented. Representatives from several colleges and universities, such as Carthage College and Concordia University, were also on hand to answer questions and distribute literature.

The special day is aimed at giving students a better understanding of what is available in the community, said Dennis Markus, Human Services instructor. For example, Gateway students might learn about colleges that are recruiting, or internships that are available. The event also serves as an opportunity for students to network and learn about jobs in their career field.

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For students who are pursuing a program at Gateway, we evaluate prior coursework and learning experiences for the purposes of awarding credit for prior learning. When a program student nears the end of his or her program and applies for graduation, we perform that final audit to make sure that you have completed all the requirements and to make sure that everything is recorded properly. The registrar’s office is the guardian of your academic record, or transcript, so even after graduation, we will be happy to serve you when you request that your transcripts be sent to potential employers, or to other institutions.

We would like to remind you that information regarding your academic record is available to you through our online services on WebAdvisor. Here you may access your student schedule, your midterm grades, your degree audit and your unofficial transcript. You may add a class that has a seat available until the day before the class starts, and may drop a class through its refund period. We are constantly seeking to improve our services to students, and this year we will be bringing online the processes of withdrawing from class and applying for graduation.

For those of you who are graduating this year, we extend our congratulations on your achievements. We are proud of you.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Gov. Walker lauds iMET Center training**

Gov. Scott Walker spoke on the importance of skilled workers in Wisconsin and the ability of colleges such as Gateway to train them during a recent address at the SC Johnson iMET Center. Walker said the center represented a great example of integrated manufacturing technology, needed training and the public-private partnership that contributes to its success.

“What better spot to be at than the SC Johnson iMET Center to talk about integrated manufacturing and engineering technology?” said Walker. “Not only in terms of what it means for Racine, Kenosha and southeastern Wisconsin, but what it means for the entire state.”

Walker told the audience that manufacturing was alive and well in Wisconsin—noting it makes up about 20 percent of the state’s economy—and the need for qualified workers continues to play an important role for workers and employers. He pointed to the SC Johnson iMET Center as a hub for needed training in the area of advanced manufacturing and technology.

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