



### COMMUNITY EDUCATION LECTURES

This semester the Office of Service-Learning launched a new series of **Community Education Lectures**, inviting experts from our local community partners to share their knowledge and experience with our campus community. Education and awareness-raising play a central role in the mission of many of our community partners; the introduction of the lecture series was aimed at supporting this mission by creating opportunities to share their message and expertise with students, staff, faculty, and the wider community.

The inaugural lecture was given by Jeff Dauber, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association Greater PA Chapter. A certified Master Trainer for the Alzheimer's Association, Jeff's lecture focused on understanding Alzheimer's and dementia, risk factors, stages of the disease, and current research and treatments.

The second lecture was given by Susan Koomar, Regional Community Relations Coordinator for the Gift of Life Donor Program. Susan's lecture, entitled 'Myths, Miracles, and Everyday Heroes: How Organ Donation Saves Lives in our Community', spoke of the urgent need for organ and tissue donations and the impact it can have in saving and healing lives. Susan was joined by Caroline Azzarelli, MU Alumna and kidney transplant recipient. Caroline relayed her experiences of kidney disease, dialysis, and her search for a kidney donor, much of it taking place during her time as a social work student at MU and the years following her graduation in 2013.

Over 110 students, faculty, staff, Sisters of Mercy, and local community members attended the lecture series. The Office of Service-Learning would like to thank Jeff, Susan, Caroline, and everyone involved in its success. Special thanks also goes to COM 251 students who created a survey and designed the Gift of Life lecture flyers as part of their service-learning class.

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Susan Koomar from Gift of Life speaks to a packed audience about organ donation



## 2018 SERVICE FAIR

Thank you to everyone that attended our annual service fair during Mercy Week in September. Ten local agencies attended to showcase their volunteering opportunities and were thrilled with the positive response from our students!



## NEW FACULTY RESOURCES

Two new community engagement resources were created for faculty this semester. The first is a new **'guest speakers list'** detailing local organizations willing to offer their expertise as guest speakers for classes on campus. The list provides an outline of the presentations available and contact details for each guest speaker. The second is a **professional development resource** detailing local conferences, presentations, trainings, and networking opportunities hosted by local community organizations. **Both resources are regularly updated and available to faculty on MyMU under the 'Service-Learning Resources' section of Faculty Information.**

## NEW OPPORTUNITY ALERTS!

Faculty and staff can now sign up to receive e-mail alerts when a **new community-based opportunity** is entered into the community partner database! Receive alerts for local service projects, internships, potential clinical/fieldwork sites, and community-based research opportunities via e-mail. **To sign up for alerts log on the community partner database via MyMU.**

## THANK YOU!



Thank you to student volunteers from Pi Theta Epsilon and Circle K for putting together 200 training packs and ribbon cards for the Domestic Violence Service Center!

## SPRING 2018 SERVICE-LEARNING SURVEY RESULTS

**100%** of students strongly agreed or agreed that they learn course content best when connections to real-life situations are made.

**84%** of community partners strongly agreed or agreed that the service-learning project improved their ability to meet community needs.

**99%** of students strongly agreed or agreed that they have a better understanding of the needs and problems facing the community they live in.

**92%** of community partners strongly agreed or agreed they were able to establish new connections and networks through the service-learning project.

## PA STUDENTS ENCOURAGE SAM'S CLUB SHOPPERS TO GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

PA students partnered with Gift of Life Donor Program this summer to raise awareness of the need for organ donors in our local community. Instructed by Amy Wierbowski, the class held an information table outside Sam's Club in Wilkes-Barre. Students handed out information and goodies to shoppers, cheering those that proudly waved their 'registered donor' designated license and encouraging others to consider becoming registered.





**FALL & SUMMER 2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

**TED 191 TUTORING**

Students travelled weekly to provide tutoring and mentoring at Dan Flood elementary school.

**HCM 403 ORG ANALYSIS**

HCM students conducted analyses and developed strategic plans for Wyoming Valley Alcohol & Drug Services and The Hope Center.

**BUS 340 ADVERTISING**

BUS students provided service and created advertising materials for Blue Chip Animal Rescue and the FARMU program.

**SLP 515 HEARING CLINIC**

SLP students provided vital screenings for hearing loss for members of the local community.

**NSG 403C HEALTHY LIVING**

Students conducted a needs assessment and developed community nursing intervention programs at various local agencies.

**PHY 145 NIGHT OBSERVATION**

Astronomy students gave children from local schools a look at the night sky, deep sky objects, constellations, and planets.

**RLS 118 CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**

Students provided service at Mercy Center and the McGlynn Learning Centers for underprivileged children in Wilkes-Barre.

**COM 251 PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Students conducted a PR survey to understand student perceptions of organ donation. The results were used to create flyers to promote the Gift of Life Donor Program lecture to students.

**OT 220 HUMAN PERFORMANCE**

OT students created fun activities centered on healthy nutrition and anti-bullying for students from Rock Solid Academy.

**DPT 869 PRO BONO CLINIC**

DPT students provided much needed physical therapy for adults and children lacking adequate insurance, along with wellness and prevention education.

**SWK 466 ADVOCACY**

Based on research into policy issues, students wrote op-eds to advocate for causes and issues in social work.

**PA 370 PUBLIC HEALTH**

PA students partnered with Gift of Life to hold a donor drive at Sam's Club in Wilkes-Barre.

**SWK 232 RESEARCH**

Students partnered with Dinners for Kids to begin collating measurement tools for future research.

**BUS 269 BLOOD DRIVE**

Students promoted and held another successful blood drive on campus for the American Red Cross.

**NSG 524 MIGRANT WORKERS**

Nursing students offered healthcare support for migrant farm workers.

**SWK 366 DINNERS FOR KIDS**

Social work students began planning another fundraiser on campus to support the Dinners for Kids program. Students also collected money for hats and mittens.

**OT 360 HOMELESSNESS**

OT students travelled to City Mission in New York and to Ruth's Place Shelter for Homeless Women and Manna House youth transitional housing to provide much needed OT group interventions.



**Caroline Azzarelli**  
MU Alumna, Gift of Life

**OT Mentors at**  
Rock Solid Academy

**Jeff Dauber**  
Alzheimer's Association



**SERVICE-LEARNING HOSTS  
PA CYBER SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL**



PA Cyber Charter School, Wilkes-Barre location, hosted their first annual Fall Festival on campus on Friday, Oct 26th. Approximately 30 K-12 students with their families came and took part in pumpkin painting, fall crafts, apple and corn tosses, and relay race challenges. MU students, including a group from Teacher Education, kindly volunteered to run the activities and cheer on the cyber students.



Two of the MU students offered to do face painting, while others demonstrated the ‘eyeball and spoon’ race, candy corn race, pumpkin balancing race, and sack races for the children. By the end of the afternoon the hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies were almost all gone and the apples from the apple toss were well and truly destroyed.



PA Cyber is one of the largest, most successful cyber schools in the nation, serving students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The school is opening a new physical location in Wilkes-Barre and will be hosting workshops, events, and other activities for their students throughout the year. PA Cyber are keen to partner with MU to offer fun and educational sessions for their students. This is an excellent opportunity for service-learning and other community-based experiential learning projects. More information and contact details for its regional representative can be found in the **Service-Learning Community Partner Database**.

**JULIANNA NORRIS RECEIVES AICUP  
GOOD CITIZEN SCHOLARSHIP**

OT student Julianna Norris was awarded the 2018 Commonwealth Good Citizen scholarship in recognition of her dedication and commitment to developing a mentoring program at Rock Solid Academy. The \$2,500 scholarship recognizes students that have shown an extraordinary commitment to community service and who have demonstrated creativity in shaping their volunteer activities.



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**EMBEDDING SERVICE-  
LEARNING INTO YOUR  
COURSE**

If you are considering embedding service-learning into your course and would like more information and support, please reach out to the Office of Service-Learning. We are always happy to meet with any faculty member considering service-learning to discuss your course requirements, service ideas, and to help you put together a quality service-learning experience for your students.

