

Important Dates

October 30

If you are graduating in May and have not given Becky your final Faculty Colleague Plan of Study for hand audit, along with the signature cover sheet, please do so before the end of October.

November 2

Community Service Fair, Circus Room, 3-5 p.m. is for anyone who has not yet completed their Service Learning requirement. Have you met with Anita? Do you know where you might do your project? Come to the Fair to visit with representatives from various organizations and schools to begin to make plans.

ISU Honors Program

PS Press

October 9, 2009

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PS Coordinator's Corner

Becky Mentzer

The best thing about coordinating the Presidential Scholars Program is working with such talented and fun students!

Reviving this newsletter and making it almost entirely student-written is just one example of how creative and multi-talented you are!

Even though the first issue is being done by just

three students, we are looking for others to add to the "staff" of PS Press.

Please let me know if you are interested by emailing me at rementz@ilstu.edu.

For now, I thank Jessica Wozniak, Hannah Waibel and Kristen Farmer for their wonderful enthusiasm and excellent work in bringing this issue to you. Enjoy!



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PS Themed Colloquia Classes Offered for Spring 2010

1st nine weeks: IDS 102.81

THE WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS IN OUR CULTURE (T/R 1:00-1:50)

This course is designed to provide an opportunity to look at how the world of sports has become infused in our culture. There are a variety of topics that cross disciplines, including psychology, communication, sociology, marketing, and economics. We will examine topics and pursue discussions that broaden our views of sports beyond the games themselves.

2nd nine weeks: IDS 102.75

ENVIROMENT (T/R 1:00-1:50)

This course is designed to provide you with a look at the topic of environment and environmental issues through various disciplinary perspectives including health sciences, biology, sociology, politics and government, economics, geology, psychology and literature.

2nd nine weeks: IDS 102.82

SLEEP, DREAMS, AND THE UNCONSCIOUS (M/W 10-10:50)

This colloquium will be a broadly interdisciplinary approach to the notion of sleep, dreams and the unconscious. Some of the topics that may be covered include: sleep disorders; medieval dream visions; dreams, visions, and reality; day dreams; psychoanalytic approaches to the unconscious; sleep aids; prophecy, divination, and dreams; Native American "dream catcher" traditions; Mythology and dreams.

Please email Becky if you are interested in taking a themed course during three weeks in May. She would like to offer one that will include field trips because it makes it so much more fun to get out of the classroom and this is made possible when we have 90 minutes per class period. Last year we met from 11-12:30 Tues., Wed., Thurs. for three weeks.

PS Club Volunteers at Home Sweet Home Mission

PS Club Dates

Meeting Schedule:

October 12 – social (bowling)

October 26 – meeting

November 9 – social

November 30 – meeting (elections)

*Meetings will take place in the Atkin-Colby basement at 8pm

Home Sweet Home:

October 21

November 18

December TBA

Service Learning Panel

October 19 - 8pm

STV 401

We will be getting t-shirts soon.

For more information about PS Club, contact Kayleigh McGann (kamcgan@ilstu.edu) or Alisa Schwemin (arschwe.ilstu.edu)

Kristen Farmer

As Gandhi once said, “the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Home Sweet Home Mission, located in Bloomington, is a homeless shelter that provides not only food, clothing, and protection, but also extras such as hot showers, budgeting classes, and other necessities for people from the community who have nowhere else to go and no one to turn to.

Senior Lauren Vickroy, the Presidential Scholars Club volunteer chair, will be coordinating the club’s fourth semester volunteering at this site. After hearing from fellow board members about how amazing Home Sweet Home’s goal of providing a quality place for the homeless was, Lauren spear-headed efforts in 2008 to get involved with the shelter.

At the mission, PS Club works specifically with the children once a month. Past activities have included pumpkin painting, Mother’s Day cards, and coloring crafts.

Also, each year around finals time, PS Club stuffs



Danica Taylor (sophomore), Kayleigh McGann (senior), Lauren Vickroy (senior), and Maria Endsley (sophomore) volunteer at Home Sweet Home Mission in Bloomington.

Christmas stockings full of gifts and brings them to the shelter for the children. Even this simple gesture is greatly appreciated, and the kids cannot wait to see what presents are inside.

Next month, PS Club hopes to go camping by building tents out of sheets, telling ghost stories, and making s’mores in the microwave.

When asked what her favorite part is about HSH visits, Lauren commented, “I

love how excited the kids get about the activities we do with them. Their smiles and excitement light up the whole shelter.”

There is never a dull moment with the kids, as they have so much energy and enjoy having college students come spend time with them.

By serving the community and acting as role models, Lauren and the rest of PS Club help make Home Sweet Home Mission truly a home full of love.

Out of all the activities at ISU, the best thing I got involved with is...

Compiled by Jessica Wozniak

Gamma Phi Circus

“I’ve met life-long friends, represented the United States in Germany, worked with kids at an Indian Reservation, and have been a part of multiple performances “

-Danica Taylor

Big Red Marching Machine

“The BRMM is a tight knit band with a huge collegiate sound - perfect for freshman looking to get involved and for anyone who wants to continue with band in college. It’s one of the voices of ISU’s school spirit.”

-Jamie Kennet

ISU Wesley Foundation

“It has become my home away from home, where I have met many of my best friends. “

- Kirsten Keener

Student Designs Spaceship as Service Learning Project

Hannah Waibel

David Cermak is accustomed to building things. He has been involved in the technical aspects of theatre for many years and is preparing to graduate with a Theatre degree in May.

His service learning project at the Challenger Learning Center, however, allowed him to experience what he called “a completely different use for the skills I’m being taught in theatre.”

As he approached his service learning, David explained that he wanted to do something to help others and utilize his strengths. His joint project with Stephanie White allowed him to do just that.

The idea for their project came from the Service Learning Fair. They met Janet from the Challenger Learning Center, who explained that they were looking for someone to build a spaceship simulation that

both kids and adults could take part in, to complete missions and learn about life in space.

For David, the project sounded very similar to building theatre sets – something that he’s been doing all his life. Between him and Stephanie, they have more than 25 years of theatre experience!

So for the next year the two of them spent more than 220 hours and entire weekends in a small garage designing, budgeting, planning, and building the “Extravehicular Experience” at the Learning Center.

Participants can go on “missions” by stepping into the 8’ by 6’ spaceship, donning a headset, and solving problems and completing tasks by twisting and turning the appropriate buttons.

David explained that not only is the entire spaceship transportable, but everything is also modular, so each part can be taken out



and replaced by another type of panel for a different mission.

Furthermore, the spaceship is wired with lighting, so that as participants step in, they really do have to prepare the ship for takeoff!

The project was a huge success. According to David, the spaceship has been featured at several conferences and there is a lot of interest in using the plans to replicate the experience for other Challenger Learning Centers.

Current Service Learning Projects

- **Trent Ford**
- Miller Park Zoo
- *“My project at Miller Park Zoo not only allows me to work hands on with the animals, but also strengthens my organization and planning skills.”*
- **Val Melrose**
- Julia Visor Center Tutor
- *“My Service Learning project as an accounting tutor has taught me a lot about how I can use my skills to help others in the community and develop myself for my career at the same time.”*

Making Music Becomes Summer Service Experience

Hannah Waibel

Jodi Slagel, like all music majors, is busy. Still, it certainly didn’t stop her from pouring her summer into a unique group of high school students, the U-High marching band!

For her service learning project, Jodi helped with pre-band camp preparation and was on staff for band camp as a saxophone specialist.

She explained that it was very eye-opening to learn about all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into band camp.

Jodi also had her first experience writing lesson plans. “All of my plans were too long,” she said, “so I had to learn how to be concise

and efficient in my delivery”.

The advantage, though, is that she now has four half-hour long lesson plans that she can use in the future.

As her special project, Jodi taught saxophone master classes – a sectional in which she taught 15 students about tone and how to get a better sound on their instrument and then later about techniques unique to the saxophone.

From the whole experience, Jodi learned that “it’s not just about waving a baton in front of an ensemble.”

Instead, it’s about preparing, teaching, and developing a relationship with

the students. That was one of her favorite parts – getting to know the students and the instructor, Jason Landes.

Of Mr. Landes, Jodi explained, “[He] was phenomenal – he would give you a task and then trust you with it. I would definitely recommend this service learning project to others.”

Jodi enjoyed her whole project so much that she still goes back on Tuesday nights, even though she has completed her hours. She said that going back to work with them and watch their progress is “helping them to be better players but also helping me learn to be a better teacher.”

Through the project, Jodi learned things she will take with her in the future.

- **Tim Norman**
- Normal West High School
- *“I really like my project because I get to work with a lot of different students and it’s helped me in my career as a math teacher.”*
- **Kristen Atkins**
- University High School
- *“I really enjoy tutoring at U-High because it provides me with a more personal experience with the students and gives me insight into their struggles as learners and their perceptions of teachers.”*
- **Compiled by Jessica Wozniak**