



Service-Learning Projects Focused on Sustainability

SPRING 2009

HLT 210 Health in Appalachia (Active Learning Experience or ALE)

Professor: Kris Wright

Community Partner Organization and Contact: Kentucky Environmental Foundation (KEF) - *Elizabeth Crowe, Executive Director*; Berea College Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) - *Judith Weckman, Director*

Service-Learning Project: Students partnered with KEF and Berea College OIRA to create and administer a survey for health professionals in Madison County about their knowledge of the health impacts of coal-fired power plants. After the conclusion of the survey, students invited participants to a forum to discuss the results. This project supports the work that KEF and a coalition of other groups in the region are doing to propose alternatives to a new coal-fired power plant in Clark County, Kentucky.

JANUARY SHORT TERM 2009

ENG 227 Grant-Writing (ALE)

Professor: Kate Egerton

Community Partner Organizations and Contacts: Madison County Home Energy Improvement Program - *Gina Chamberlain*; Sustainable Berea - *Cheyenne Olson*

Service-Learning Project: Students in the course worked with the community organizations to research funding sources and to write portions of grant proposals.

FALL 2008

AFR 486B/APS 486A/PSJ 486A/SENS 460/WST 458 Interdisciplinary Capstone Seminar

Professor: Richard Olson

Community Partner Organizations: Sustainable Berea

Service-Learning Project: Senior students in five different academic majors enrolled in this interdisciplinary capstone seminar. The students partnered with Sustainable Berea to help develop a Transition Town plan for Berea, a plan to facilitate the city of Berea in transitioning to a post-peak oil economy. Students helped facilitate community meetings, compile community members' feedback and ideas, and compose a Transition Town plan.

GSTR 110 Sections M and X Creative Writing Seminar 1: Critical Thinking about NEAT Tourism

Professor: Peter Hackbert

Community Partner Organizations and Contacts: City of Hyden Mayor's Office - *Mayor Lonnie Hendrix*; *Leslie County Judge*; *Rhonda Brashear, President of the Hyden Chamber of Commerce*; and *Fred Brashear Leslie County Economic Development Council*. *Knott County Chamber of Commerce - Larry Park, Acting Director, Chamber of Commerce*; *Bernice E.H. Amburgey, founder of Saddle Up Elk Tours and member of the Knott County Tourism Commission*; and *Bryan Moore*.

Service-Learning Project: These projects continue conversations among multiple community, governmental and private organizations, advancing a multi-county trail system and adventure tourism programs that integrate the interests of environmentalists, public and private property owners, sportsmen and economic development advocates, to promote sustainable tourism.

SUMMER 2008

Independent Study

Professor: Richard Olson

Community Partner Organization: HomeGrown HideAways – *Jessa Turner*

Service-Learning Project: Berea College Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) Independent Studies Majors Erin Finsel, 11, and Hawn, 09, worked with HomeGrown HideAways to research natural building techniques and the code approval process. This research led to their participation in the design and construction of the first code-approved Earthbag home in Kentucky and a code-approved Strawbale/Cob art studio.

Independent Study

Professor: Meta Mendel-Reyes

Community Partner Organization: Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) – *Lisa Abbott and Carissa Lenfert*

Service-Learning Project: Beth Bissmeyer, 09, an English Major and Appalachian Studies Minor, worked with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) to develop and administer a survey about energy in Madison County. Beth and KFTC staff and volunteers conducted 259 surveys in Berea and Richmond and created a report compiling the information. The survey looked at the impact of rising electricity costs, conservation efforts, and energy literacy. The report reveals that most participants were impacted by rising energy costs, are interested in learning more ways to save energy, and are unaware that coal provides the majority of electricity in Kentucky.

SPRING 2007

APS 229 Contemporary Issues in Appalachia: Buried Sunshine: Appalachia and Mountain Top Removal (ALE)

Professor: Tammy Horn

Community Partner Organization: Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)

Community Partner Contact: Michael Aldridge and Lora Smith

Students transcribed oral narratives of citizens affected by MTR. These narratives were recorded by Bob Edwards as part of the 3rd Writers MTR tour in May 2006. The transcriptions are the only written documents we have of citizens' responses to this environmental event.

SENS 386 Agroforestry

Professor: Paul Smithson

Community Partner Organization: Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest (A-SPI)

Community Partner Contact: Deb Bledsoe

Students developed a management plan for a forested site of over 100 acres in Rockcastle County, using agroforestry techniques of forest farming. Projects within this plan include: producing a geographic information system (GIS) map of the site; marking crowded or lower quality, mostly smaller trees to cut for shiitake mushroom production; and recommending native nut and fruit-producing trees to be planted on a narrow strip of fertile, moist land.

FALL 2006

SENS 100 Introduction to Sustainability and Environmental Studies

Professor: Jim Dontje

Community Partner: Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest (A-SPI)

Berea College Students served as volunteers at the 2006 Bluegrass Energy and Green Living Expo. The students provided the labor for setting up and operating educational exhibits at the Expo.

SPRING 2006

SENS 386/WST 386 Ecofeminism: Principles and Practices

Instructor: Tammy Clemons

Community Partner: MERJ Market

Each student partnered with a member of the MERJ Board of Directors to develop and carry out a project related to the on-going work and goals of MERJ. Projects included a creek cleanup and water-testing day and research on the possibility of the MERJ farmer's market accepting WIC and food stamps.

FALL 2005

Local Food Initiative Project

Instructor: Tammy Clemons

Community Partner: Madison County Action Team (MCAT)/MERJ Market, Berea, KY

Students partnered with MCAT/MERJ Market and other regional organizations to begin compiling a guide to procuring locally produced food.

REL 126 Poverty and Justice

Instructor: Michelle Tooley

Community Partner: Berea Community Middle School, Berea, KY

Berea College students taught a six-week course on global trade and poverty issues to sixth grade students at Berea Community Middle School. The curriculum was recently developed by Heifer Project International.

SPRING 2005

GST 229 Appalachian Problems and Institutions

Instructor: Gordon McKinney

Community Partner: Estill Development Alliance (EDA), Irvine, KY

At the request of the EDA in Estill County, students researched topics related to land management in rural communities. The students then presented their findings at a community forum attended by representatives of the Estill County government and residents of Estill County.

SENS/GST 210 Sustainable Appalachian Communities

Instructor: Lori Briscoe

Community Partner: Clearfork Community Institute (CCI), Clearfork, TN

Students partnered with the CCI to plan a community fundraiser in conjunction with CCI's annual Earth Day celebration. Money raised will go toward the purchase of a geothermal heating system for the CCI's community building.

JANUARY SHORT TERM 2005

REL 237 Trade, Globalization and Poverty in Nicaragua

Instructor: Jeff Pool and Michelle Tooley

Community Partner: Witness for Peace/Nicaragua

Students traveled to Nicaragua where they learned about Nicaraguan economic conditions. They then traveled to Washington, DC, where they lobbied congress people about the issues they studied and observed in Nicaragua.

FALL 2004

ANR 340 Soil Science

Instructor: Sean Clark

Community Partner: Madison County Action Team (MCAT)/MERJ Market, Berea, KY

Students partnered with MCAT/MERJ Market to conduct soil testing and to offer recommendations on how the soil at the farm and farmer's market site can be improved for organic food production.

Agriculture Service-Learning Project

Instructor: Dianne Hellwig

Community Partner: Clearfork Community Institute (CCI), Clearfork, TN

The faculty member and a student worked with the Farm and Forestry Group of CCI to help put on a goat field day, designed to share information with community members about goat production.

CFS 221 Fundamentals of Nutrition

Instructor: Janice Blythe

Community Partner: Berea Community Food Bank, Berea, KY

Students studied hunger on local and global levels, while addressing hunger issues in the Berea community. Students participated in the annual Hunger Hurts food drive, which collects food for the Berea Community Food Bank. Students also helped produce the Oxfam Hunger Banquet, which educated participants about global hunger, its causes and its effects.

SENS 100 Introduction to Sustainability and Environmental Studies

Instructor: Jim Dontje

Community Partner: Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest (A-SPI), Mt. Vernon, KY

Students partnered with A-SPI to help coordinate a sustainable Energy Expo.

SUMMER 2004

Entrepreneurship for the Public Good (EPG) Summer Institute

Instructor: Debbi Brock/Lori Briscoe/Jeanne Hibberd

Community Partner: Clearfork Community Institute (CCI), Clearfork, TN

Student groups worked with the CCI to develop a resources book for potential goat farmers and to develop a business plan for the community learning center. Other student groups worked with community partners in Owsley County, KY and Estill County, KY.

SPRING 2004

GSTR 203 US Traditions

Instructor: Meta Mendel-Reyes

Community Partner: Clearfork Community Institute (CCI), Clearfork, TN

In order to further their learning in the Appalachian unit of the course, students traveled to the Clearfork community, where they helped local students prepare community garden beds.

Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) Project

Instructor: Richard Olson

Community Partner: Egret's Cove, Madison County, KY

Students and members of Egret's Cove, an intentional community focused on sustainable living, led workshops on straw bale construction and permaculture food forests. The workshops were open to students and community members.

JANUARY SHORT TERM 2004

ANR 308 Support for Limited-Resource Agricultural Producers

Instructor: Dianne Hellwig

Community Partner: Clearfork Community Institute (CCI), Clearfork, TN

Students spent a week with the Clearfork community to learn about the Woodland Community Land Trust and to explore the possibility of sustainable livestock production in the community. Students and community members worked together to develop recommendations for land and livestock use.