Featured Course

Becoming a Smart Healthcare Consumer

Stimulates Learning Through In-Class and On-Site Interaction

by, Dr. George Sillup

The new first-year, freshmen seminar service-learning course, Becoming a Smart Healthcare Consumer (PMK150 FY2), helps students understand what having healthcare means to them as patients as well as how healthcare delivery works from the perspectives of healthcare delivery’s “P” stakeholders – Patients, Products, Payers, Providers, Policymakers/Regulators. To accomplish this, ethical theory undergirding healthcare delivery, such as whether access to healthcare is a “right” or benefit, will be discussed. The course primarily focuses on the U.S., although a brief overview of healthcare in other countries will be presented so students can compare their healthcare to others who have access different than the students have. Because ‘Smart Healthcare Consumer’ is a service-learning course, students have the opportunity to gain insights through their direct involvement with clients at The ARC of Philadelphia and Bethesda Project service-learning sites. They also gain insights about themselves through service-learning exercises conducted by the courses two Service Scholars, Ms. Megan Gorzkowski and Ms. Sarah Jordan. To reinforce the in-class instruction and on-site interaction, students are also given instruction on scholarly research techniques Beyond “Googling” by the Drexel Library Business Reference Librarian, Ms. Cynthia Slater and are using those techniques to refine their research topics. Combing students of 10 different majors from the Haub School of Business and the College of Arts & Sciences, the course is proving to be a stimulating learning experience that enables students to become savvy healthcare consumers.

Welcome!

The cooler temperatures and soon to be falling leaves remind us that this time of year clearly shows the passing of time. It also gives us many opportunities for new: new staffs to meet, new community partners to collaborate with and new students-first year as well as upperclass-entering into a commitment to service-learning and faith-justice studies.

The Faith-Justice Institute staff feels invigorated by these new relationships and looks forward to helping them grow. Never wanting to rest on our “historically significant” laurels we invite all our colleagues to join us in making this year the best ever.

Hopefully this newsletter will keep you apprised of all our programming. Feel free to let us know what you think!

Our staff looks forward to working with you,

Virginia Goulding Johnson, Ph.D
Director, The Faith-Justice Institute

Reminder:

-The Outreach Lecture entitled Identity, Diversity & Inculturation in America and the Church is Thursday, October 28th 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Forum Theater. Speaker: Reverend Stephen Thorne
Executive Director, Office for Black Catholics
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
ALL ARE INVITED

Continuing the Reciprocal Relationship: ALMAS Community & Youth at Covenant House by, Jill Armitrani- Welsh

In the Fall of 2000, the partnership between Covenant House of Pennsylvania, an organization that serves homeless, runaway and at-risk youth, and The Faith-Justice Institute began in an effort to promote educational opportunities for the youth. One of the most integral components of this partnership is the relationship between Saint Joseph’s University students, known as the ALMAS Community, and the youth at Covenant House. Each week, the 7 Saint Joseph’s University students in the ALMAS Community go to Covenant House to facilitate activities such as discussion groups, creative writing sessions and college preparation workshops. The youth and the ALMAS work collaboratively to plan activities relevant to their interests and current events. The ALMAS Community and the youth also do service and attend lectures at Saint Joseph’s University together. It is in the conversations during and after these events that the youth and ALMAS Community build a greater sense of kinship and perspective on issues of social justice.
It is with pleasure that The Faith-Justice Institute welcomes Ms. Carrie Hutnick to the position of Service-Learning Placement Coordinator. Carrie began this August and comes to SJU from the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Community Engagement Program. In addition to her work with UMass’s Community Engagement Program, Carrie has worked with Lift Communities in Baltimore where she provided direct service to clients accessing social services and community resources, coordinated community partnerships and created a network of resource support for community members. Carrie received her BA in Public and Community Service from Providence College and her MEd in Higher Education Administration: Service-Learning from University of Massachusetts Amherst. While at SJU Carrie’s focus will be to strengthen the partnerships with Service-Learning community agencies and schools and foster greater resource sharing. Carrie brings her infectious zeal, keen intellect and commitment to social justice to her work at SJU – we are delighted to have her working in the Faith-Justice Institute!

Community Partner Spotlight

The DePaul School

by Carrie Hutnick, Placement Coordinator and Michael O’Connor, Assistant Director ACESJU

In the Fall of 2010, the Faith-Justice Institute’s Service-Learning Program began work with a new community partner, the DePaul Catholic School. The DePaul Catholic School, located in the historic Germantown section of Philadelphia, serves 345 students from pre-k to eighth grade. Since 2001, DePaul has seen a 40% increase in enrollment, while remaining committed to increasing student achievement and working closely with families. Students at DePaul come from diverse backgrounds, religious and otherwise, while the school remains committed to educating in the spirit of the Catholic faith and the tradition of St. Vincent de Paul.

SJU Service-Learning volunteers working at DePaul are taking Dr. Paul Patterson’s Freshman Seminar course, Craft of Language. They volunteer with sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in Mr. Steven Clark’s writing class. Service-Learning students learn the power of words and the skill of composing written essays while working with DePaul students to improve their own writing and composition skills. Mr. Clark has worked intentionally with the Faith-Justice Institute and Dr. Patterson to ensure that the SJU volunteers in his classroom are both adequately prepared to best help his writing students, and equipped to process their experience and use it to enhance their learning in Dr. Patterson’s course.

The DePaul Catholic School also began this semester partnering with the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACESJU) placing two ACESJU teaching fellows. Ms. Amanda DeLessio in third grade and SJU graduate Ms. Valerie Luckey in fourth grade. DePaul’s talented principal Sr. Cheryl Ann Hillig DC, the enthusiastic assistant principal Mr. Stephen Janczewski, the engaging Campus Minister Patrick McKenzie, and the rest of the young and vibrant DePaul Catholic School staff have worked closely with Faith-Justice staff and faculty to facilitate meaningful contributions to the DePaul Catholic School and challenging learning opportunities for SJU students.

The Alliance for Catholic Education at Saint Joseph’s University

by Dr. Virginia Goulding Johnson

This past summer The Faith-Justice Institute welcomed a new pilot program to its collection of services and events. The Alliance for Catholic Education at Saint Joseph’s University teaching fellows program is presently housed within the Institute’s structure. ACE S JU is a replication of the highly successful Service through Teaching program in existence at the University of Notre Dame since 1995. Fifteen Teaching Fellows recruited from Saint Joseph’s University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, Indiana and Villanova Universities and Ursinus and Messiah Colleges began their studies in late June. These studies will culminate with Pennsylvania elementary certification, and a Master of Science degree in elementary education from Saint Joseph’s University and a leadership certificate from the University of Pennsylvania’s Fox Leadership Program.

In September the fifteen Teaching Fellows began the first of their two years of classroom teaching at nine different Archdiocesan urban elementary schools. They are supported in this important work by Elizabeth Kane Gallagher (SJU,1991, 1994M), Associate Director of Academics and Michael O’Connor (University of Notre Dame 2008,2010M), Assistant Director of ACESJU, as well as Virginia G Johnson, Ph.D (Senior Program Director). The Reverend Dan Joyce, SJ (Office of Mission and Identity) and Jeanne Brady, PhD (Associate Dean of Education ) serve as Executive Directors of the ACESJU pilot. More information on ACESJU will be available soon on their website at www.sju.edu/acesju.

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