

On The Wing

EaglesConnect

Florida Gulf Coast
University

Volume 1, Issue 1
September / October 2010

Welcome Eagles! Meet our new Interim Director—Jessica J. Rhea

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

I am thrilled to have recently been named FGCU's Interim Director for the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. Although I am new to this position, I am not new to FGCU. In 1999, I began instructing the once-required First-Year course as an adjunct professor. As the university grew, I guess you could say I grew with it. In 2004, I became a full-time employee in the College of Arts and Sciences and have been plugged into Service-Learning from the moment I signed my contract, incorporating it into every section of every class I've taught!

My commitment to service-learning and civic engagement is also evident in my scholarship and service as well. I have been a facilitator for the IDS 3300 Training Workshops, an active member of the FGCU Service-Learning Team, and on the task-force that wrote the application for the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, which FGCU was awarded in 2008. This past year, I was accepted into the Campus Compact Emerging Scholars Program, allowing me to establish our first mentor/mentee program for institutionalizing service-learning at FGCU. Some of you may also recognize me from my leadership role at last year's "Livin' La Vida Local" civic engagement institute on campus. This event brought a diverse group of faculty, students, staff, and community partners together in an educational forum for the discussion and dissemination of best practices in

service-learning. It was a powerful experience.

As you read this, you may be wondering "why this commitment to service-learning and civic engagement?" Well, the answer is "It's in our DNA," as President Bradshaw once explained it.

"Florida Gulf Coast University continuously pursues academic excellence, practices and promotes environmental sustainability, embraces diversity, nurtures community partnerships, values public service, encourages civic responsibility, cultivates habits of lifelong learning, and keeps the advancement of knowledge and pursuit of truth as noble ideals at the heart of the University's purpose." (Source: an excerpt from FGCU's Mission Statement)

"Informed and engaged citizens are essential to the creation of a civil and sustainable society. The University values the development of the responsible self grounded in honesty, courage, and compassion, and committed to advancing democratic ideals. Through service-learning requirements, the University engages students in community involvement with time for formal reflection on their experiences." (Source: an excerpt from FGCU's Guiding Principles)

In this newsletter, we would like to spotlight dedicated faculty, students, and community agencies who embody these ideals and who are collaborating to create and complete amazing service-learning and



civic engagement projects. Please contact Lisa Paige or me about any and all service projects or events you are planning and completing throughout the year. We would love to post events in our monthly calendar and/or feature you and your project in our newsletter.

I, along with my amazing staff, am looking forward to an energized year of service at FGCU! Please look at our calendar of events and join us!

Yours in Service,

Jessica J. Rhea

Rhea of Inspiration

"In every community, there is work to be done.

In every nation, there are wounds to heal.

In every heart, there is the power to do it."

Marianne Williamson

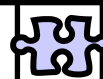
Inside this issue:

Meet Jessica Rhea	1
PACE	2-3
Passport to Fashion	3
Love That Dress!	3
Student Project	4
Honors ECHO Tour	4
Circle of Friends	5
New Around the Office	5
Faculty Spotlight	6
Faculty Corner	6
Team S-L	7
Check the Boards	7
Tell Us!	7
November Calendar	8
Contact Information	8

Upcoming October Events

- 10/10: 350.org / Plant trees at the Library lake
- 10/16: Calusa Nature Center / Rocky Horror Picture Show (over 18 years)
- 10/23: Make a Difference Day / Pajama & Book Drive
- 10/23: Calusa Nature Center / Haunted Walk
- 10/27: Rookery Bay / Kayak Assistant Training
- 10/30: Alzheimer's / Memory Walk

[Click for online Calendar](#)



Agency Profile

PACE Center for Girls



Nancy Eckert's Interview with Melissa Simontis, Development Director at PACE

How long have you worked for PACE and how did you hear about this nonprofit organization?

One year I was introduced to PACE by a Board Member who invited me to several special events. Then, I became a volunteer on the *Love That Dress!* committee. While I was volunteering, the position for Director of Development became available.

How did you get started in fundraising?

After completing my undergraduate studies at Florida Southern College, I accepted a job as Director of Development for the Island Coast AIDS Network. I held that job for nearly four years.

What qualities and skill sets does an aspiring development director need?

Oral and written communication skills, internal and external customer service, fast-paced work environment, strategic thinking, project/event management, teamwork, passion, creativity, leadership, resourcefulness, sensitivity and principled judgment.

Describe the mission of PACE.

[PACE Center for Girls, Inc.](http://www.pacecenter.org), a Florida based 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is a non-residential delinquency prevention program targeting the unique needs of girls facing challenges such as foster care, domestic violence and drug problems. Many girls also experience abuse and neglect, death of a parent, substance abuse, and/or family history of incarceration. PACE's mission is "to provide girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy." Since the Lee County PACE opened its doors in February 2007, more than 250 girls have started on their path toward a brighter future. For more information, visit www.pacecenter.org.

Who created the *Love That Dress!* fundraiser and why?

Christin Collins, PACE Board Member, created *Love That Dress!* for SWFL social butterflies and networking divas on a budget. The concept revolved around a commonly shared dilemma: what are you to do when you just can't afford another "never been pictured in" dress? The answer to fashionista prayers was *Love That Dress!*, an event to collect donations of gently worn dresses and resell them at nominal prices. It is best described as the ultimate feel-good shopping spree of the year!

How much was raised in 2009?

Approx. \$31,500

What are your goals for 2010?

\$50,000+ (Editor's Note: After the event, more than \$70,000 and 2,000 dresses had been collected).

I hear that *Love That Dress!* is now trademarked. What are the benefits of a trademark?

Trademarking *Love That Dress!* will enable all 17 PACE Centers in the state of Florida to use this signature concept to fundraise and bring together their communities in a fun and exciting celebration each year.

What kind of volunteer opportunities are available at PACE for an FGCU student who would like to acquire service-learning hours?

There are a variety of opportunities:

- Tutoring (especially in math)
- Clerical Assistance (phone, copying, filing, office work)
- Donation Sorting (point store/clothing)
- Decorating the Center for the Season/Holiday
- Grounds Beautification (garden)
- Special Events and Fundraising
- Guest Speaker/Facilitator (based on availability and relevance)
- Breakfast/Lunch Assistant
- Database Entry
- Proctoring Tests
- Laundry
- Facility Maintenance
- Mentoring



Melissa Simontis



Jessica Rhea and
Dr. Alice Brunner



Jessica Rhea



Christin Collins

What is the approval process to become a PACE volunteer?

Volunteers who work directly with the PACE girls are required to complete a background screening process. Guest speakers or other visiting volunteers who interact with the girls on an occasional basis will not be background-screened if they are under the constant and direct supervision of staff. Volunteers who assist off-property and do not interact with the girls on a regular basis may not be required to be background-screened.

Tell us about your personal and professional experiences with FGCU.

Personally, I have my Masters in Business Administration with a Marketing concentration through FGCU. Professionally, I have enjoyed participating in events, conferences and workshops hosted at FGCU and listening to speakers at other professional networking groups. Through my non-profit work, I have partnered with several students to complete their service-learning requirements. I also hold a leadership position at the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business, which we have an FGCU Foundation scholarship fund for non-traditional female students.

Are any PACE girls interested in FGCU? If so, could you let us know their story...how they arrived at PACE, their experience at PACE, and their career aspirations?

YES! We have many girls facing a variety of challenging life situations. Education is their ticket to a better future. The interest of our girls ranges from nursing to criminology to public relations to music to human services. **We would love to partner with FGCU in providing tours and other opportunities to prepare our for girls college. Please contact our Transition Services Counselor, Pam Carnahan, at 239-425-2366 ext. 40 or pamela.carnahan@pacecenter.org if you are interested in partnering with PACE for a life changing experience.**



Kamla McKenzie

Passport to Fashion

More than just a fashion show. Bell Tower Shops hosted the PACE fundraiser, which was held at Robb & Stucky Interiors. The admission price? A new or gently worn dress donated for the main event, *Love That Dress!*

You may recognize FGCU alumni and model, Kamla McKenzie in the lovely blue dress. She graduated with a Bachelor of Marketing with Minor in Advertising, and holds an MBA in Business Administration. Kamla started a modeling troupe on campus called I.D.E.A.L. and was president. In her senior year, Kamla received the student of the year award. Service-learning never stops for Kamla!



On the left, Janet Wilson, Public Relations Specialist at Robb & Stucky, with FGCU's Nancy Eckert



Love That Dress! Collection Party

It takes a lot of work to make an event successful and Barb Harrington, Events & Marketing for The Royal Shell Companies, did just that. She organized the first "Love That Dress!" Collection Party on Sanibel on Aug. 10 to

fundraise and collect donated dresses for the main event.

"I can't believe how loyal the PACE followers are, coming out to the island in that torrential rain," said Barb.

See the exciting photos from FGCU alumni Max Soto. Visit

Sanibel-Captiva Daily.com.



Barb Harrington



Student Service Projects Taking WING

By: Jinger DeMent



left to right: FGCU students Maxwell Couture, Kiera Crawford and Jinger DeMent

The Children's Hospital at HealthPark is sponsoring an exciting new service-learning opportunity but only for the committed. Service-learning hours spent at the Children's Hospital not only benefit young patients, they can have a career and résumé enhancing effect on the student volunteer. At least two potential avenues of service and personal growth are available.

The first is for education majors, and it involves working with the hospital's own resident school teacher, Tom Mango. Children who become seriously ill run the risk of falling far behind in their studies, making it harder to catch up with their peers. This can

greatly increase the possibility that a young person will simply give up on his education even when he recovers. Tom's job is to help young patients keep on top of studies, even while they are sick. Tom's patients range from the very young up to 18-year-olds. As one can imagine, that presents a widely diverse set of needs.

Tom would like to work with select FGCU students in accomplishing this mission. He will provide the necessary training and instruction. This can provide a worthwhile opportunity for personal and professional growth, while supplying concrete assistance to the young people who really

need that leg up. A successful college student is in a perfect position to offer educational mentorship to a struggling child or teen in need.

The second opportunity is offered through the Department of Child Life. These are the people who concern themselves with their patients' social, emotional and recreational needs while they are in the hospital. This opportunity can be extended to any qualified FGCU student but also requires commitment. A qualified student must be willing to undergo training in infection control and basic procedural protocols and be willing to spend several weeks or months in service to the children or teen patients.

After completing this brief orientation, a student volunteer can help in a number of fun-time projects sponsored by the Child Life Department, or with a little imagination, he may even create one of his own. Kelley Cowan, Director of Child Life, currently oversees a bedtime story program sponsored by local on-air personalities, a weekly bingo game, a monthly Camp-out Night in the hospital's high domed atrium and many other activities designed to help children de-stress and cope with their illness. Student volunteers may participate in something as

simple as having a "tea party" with young children, or playing Wii or air hockey with older ones. How about a hospital "jam session" put on by music majors and patients? (Wholesome music only please). The hospital is seeking a guitarist to play campfire favorites for the monthly Camp-out.

The hospital has beautiful facilities for use by patients and volunteers, including a large, fully equipped, and sound-proofed music room (with guitars, drums, keyboards, amplifiers, speakers and a large screen television display); a well-equipped children's library; two play rooms for young children; and a play room for kids over 12.

Interested students can find the link on the Service-learning website or contact Kiera Crawford at craw-fokc@eagle.fgcu.edu.

Are you a faculty member looking for a community partner?

Or a student looking for an agency to work with?

Visit the Service-Learning Website for ideas:
<http://fgcu.edu/connect>



Service-learning Tip
Submit the original form only and keep a copy for yourself. Mail the forms to us at the address on the back of this newsletter or drop it off at LIB 458G or 458I. Put the form in the folder outside the office if staff is unavailable.

Honors Tour ECHO

The Honors Program freshmen got a head-start in their service-learning at FGCU on August 20th. Three teams headed out on buses to serve at three worthy organizations: Harry Chapin Food Bank, Gulf Coast Humane Society and ECHO.

These teams will continue to serve multiple agencies throughout the semester.

Way to go Honors Program Freshmen!

(pictured left to right Jacqueline Storer and Emmalea Bozone)



Have You Heard about Circle of Friends?

Have you heard the story of the boy destined to be a lonely man? When the woman he silently longed for pressed a magnolia-scented letter in his hands, he didn't open it and rejoice in their shared longing, he fled. In all his boyhood years, he'd never learned to read.

Dear reader, you are fortunate. His story isn't your destiny.

As hard as it may seem to believe, today, in our country, children grow up to become illiterate adults. Join FGCU's community tutoring partnership, Circle of Friends. You'll be placed, according to your scheduling needs, in a local classroom where you'll give one hour each week for a semester to a child struggling to read. Don't worry if you're inexperienced,

you'll receive ongoing training.

Join Circle of Friends. Help a child write his own story.

Karyn Everham
Coordinator
circleoffriends@fgcu.edu
239-590-7031



Circle of Friends tutor Tamara Santos-Shanaman with a few Bonita Springs Elementary Kindergarteners.

There's a New Face in the Office



Nancy says, "When you volunteer with your heart, you're giving the best gift. You start off learning about other people and end up learning more about yourself."

Nancy Eckert is the service-learning program assistant and began at FGCU in August 2010. She hails from Erie, Pennsylvania, and moved here with her husband Dave in 1999. Nancy connected with the community through her job at The Bonita Bay Group while in charge of tracking charitable donations. Encouraged by the abundant volunteer opportunities, Nancy became a computer tutor with the South County Regional Library.

Wanting to enhance her tutoring skills, Nancy attended the Liter-

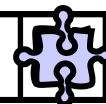
acy Volunteers ESOL six-week course. With the changing job market in Florida, Nancy found strength in volunteering. "My friend invited me to *Love That Dress!* in 2009 and, until then, I had never heard of PACE Center for Girls. I met a board member who gave me insight about the agency. A few months later, I became a committee member for the Gifts of Grace fundraiser benefitting PACE, and after that I worked in the office assisting Melissa Simontis, the development director, and then Dr. Alice Brunner, executive director."

A portion of Nancy's duties include processing the Agreement and Verification Forms and entering student hours in Banner.

If you have questions for her, she can be reached at 239-590-7019 or via email neckert@fgcu.edu



Service-learning Tip - Are you job hunting? Applying to a graduate program? Be sure to include your service-learning experience on your résumé and your grad school application!



Spotlight on Dr. Mari DeWees

By: Jessica J. Rhea

Dr. Mari DeWees came to FGCU in the fall of 2008 with her doctoral degree in Sociology from the University of Florida. I met Mari that fall and learned that we share a passion for service-learning and civic engagement. I chose to "spotlight" Dr. DeWees for this inaugural issue to showcase her ability to create service-learning experiences and community partnerships throughout her various courses each semester.

For example, in her course entitled Sociology of Crime, Dr. DeWees partners with [Lee County Cell Dogs](#), a program that places homeless shelter dogs to be obedience trained by carefully selected inmates. Not only does the Cell Dog Program give a second chance to these animals, it also provides job skills to inmates in the areas of dog training, dog grooming and veterinary assistant skills. The students in Dr. DeWees' course conduct interviews and re-

search to help determine the impact of this program on inmates when they are released from the Lee County Sherriff's Office.

In Dr. DeWees' Sociology of Community course, her students partner with [St. Matthew's House](#), who for over 20 years has been the ONLY place in Naples to offer food, a home, spiritual support and a structured environment with life-changing programs to assist neighbors in need. Students again conducted interviews with homeless individuals being served by St. Matthews and completed an outcome study to evaluate the success of various programs offered by this agency.

The type of service-learning detailed above is called **Community Based Participatory Research**, which is "a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the

unique strengths that each brings". --W.K. Kellogg Foundation (2001) This type of research responds to community demands for research addressing locally identified needs and has an explicit community/social change focus.

Dr. DeWees has also recently added **Foundations of Civic Engagement** to her list of courses and she taught her first section this past summer. I had the honor of attending her students' Poster Presentations at the end of the semester. I was extremely impressed with the variety of projects and the clear partnerships that were formed between students and local community agencies. The projects ranged from collecting goods or money for worthy organizations through toy and diaper drives to a benefit concert for Harry Chapin Food Bank. Students also planned events for the Children's Hospital at HealthPark and encouraged communities to come together

to learn about human trafficking in Southwest Florida. Some students even got extremely hands-on in the environment by working on projects to preserve land for gopher tortoises, removing exotic and invasive plant species, and designing a fish farm for the Calusa Nature Center.

When asked why she incorporates service-learning into her coursework, Dr. DeWees eloquently states: "It adds a dimension of learning that cannot be gained through simply sitting in a classroom."

Well said and well done, Dr. DeWees.

For questions, Dr. DeWees can be contacted at:
mdeweese@fgcu.edu
(239) 590-1468

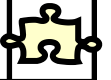
FACULTY CORNER

What can we do for you?

Foster relationships between professors and community agencies
 Provide professional development opportunities in the field of service-learning and civic engagement
 Offer assistance on how to best integrate service-learning into a course
 Coordinate a Campus Engagement Day
 Search out grant opportunities
 Document service-learning hours
 Visit classes to make presentations about service-learning
 Approve service-learning courses
 Connect you with experienced S-L faculty
 Support, support, support!

What can you expect from us in the future?

Increased visibility
 Service-Learning Newsletter
 Team S-L
 Cross Campus Survey on how best to grow service-learning and civic engagement at FGCU
 ADP sponsored events
 Growth in Service-Learning Mentor Program



Calling ALL Eagles!!!

Students, Faculty, and Staff:
Get ready to join the newest organization on campus:

Team S-L!

Connect with each other!

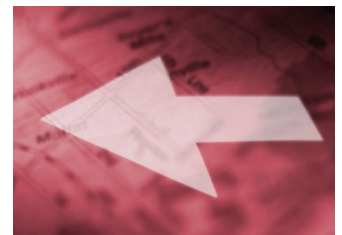
Connect with the community!

Complete service projects together!

For information or to join, contact Jessica Rhea at jrhea@fgcu.edu or call 590-7016.

Catch the spirit!

Check Out Our Bulletin Boards



Service-learning Tip

Hours are rounded to the nearest whole or half

12.0 = 12 hours
12.5 = 12 1/2 hours
12.25 = 12 hours
12.75 = 13 hours

Where are they? On the 4th Floor of the Library to start with!

When you go to your class, check in with Supplemental Instruction or drop off your service-learning forms at 458G or 458I be sure to read the writing on the walls.

We now have bulletin boards chock full of local agency information, photos from previous service events, listings of environmental activities that meet Colloquium requirements, and service-learning news to help give students and faculty ideas about ways to serve.

Let us know what you think about them!

“There is nothing that harvests more of a feeling of empowerment than being of service to someone in need.”

Actress Gillian Anderson

What's Your Service Idea or Project?

It's been a long road to get *On the Wing*, out to our readers. Long, but the journey's been lots of fun too!

This is our premier issue but already we're planning the next one. We need your help. We want to hear from you. Whether you're faculty, staff or student, we'd love to know your service-learning story.

Send us stories of the things you've taught, and the things you've learned while doing service. What are you doing for service? Let us know. It's okay to brag just a little.

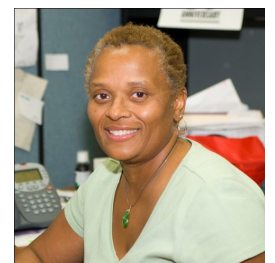
A photo can sometimes say what mere words can't, so if you have a service event photo that tells a story, we'd love to see it and share it with others. (Don't forget to ask permission and get names.)

If there is a community partner or agency, faculty member, class project, student or student group that you think needs a bit of the spotlight, let us know.

Last but not least, we welcome **gentle** but constructive criticism of *On the Wing*. As the environment and the world around us

change and grow, so, too, is the hope for this publication. We welcome your contributions and feedback and look forward to soaring high *On the Wing* with you.

Lisa Paige
Office Manager
Service-Learning
lpaige@fgcu.edu
239-590-7015



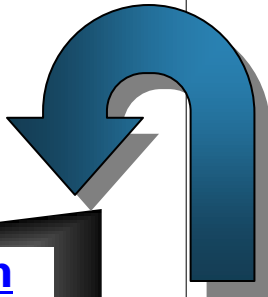


Florida Gulf Coast University

Office of Service-Learning
Center for Civic Engagement
10501 FGCU Boulevard South
Fort Myers, Florida 33965-6565

Phone: 239-590-7015
<http://fgcu.edu/connect/>

EaglesConnect



**We're on
Facebook!**



What is Service-Learning?

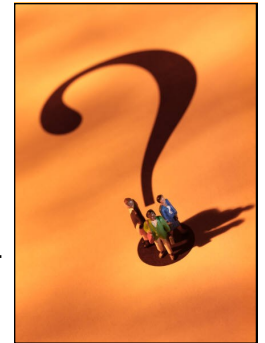
“Service-learning experiences put abstract classroom concepts into concrete form and provide meaningful opportunities to test and refine theories while helping to meet basic community needs.”

(Source: The National and Community Service Act of 1990)

Got a Story for this Newsletter?

For submission guidelines for stories, photos, and ideas email Lisa Paige:

lp Paige@fgcu.edu



Mark Your Calendar!

November Events

- 11/5: Burroughs Home / Docent (must attend training)
- 11/6: American Heart Assn / Walk (Collier County)
- 11/6: FGCU / Trail Clean-Up
- 11/6: Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary / Resource Management of Exotics
- 11/11: Ronald McDonald House Charities/ World Wine Tour
- 11/13: CREW / Clean-Up Day
- 11/13: Alzheimer's / Memory Walk
- 11/20: Alliance for the Arts / Art Royale
- 11/21: C.R.O.W. / Taste of the Islands
- 11/26: Goodwill / Festival of the Trees

[Click for online Calendar](#)

Service-Learning Suggestion

*Doing a service project?
Why not wear your
FGCU t-shirt or hat?*

*Let people know you're
GettingConnected.*



Attention Graduating Seniors

November 12 is the deadline to turn in your service-learning hours.

Service-learning Tip

Need to know which agency is an environmental agency?

Use the advanced search feature on [EaglesConnect](#) for “types of work and locations”.