

Parent News

A Quarterly Publication of Hamline University Parents Council

Office of Service Learning and Volunteerism

A few years ago, some Hamline students noticed that many other colleges have alternative spring break programs focusing on service learning. Why couldn't Hamline do this too? The students did more than talk -- they organized and acted. With the strong advocacy of past Vice President and Dean of Students, Marilyn Deppe, the Hamline University Student Congress and faculty successfully lobbied for the creation of the Office of Service Learning and Volunteerism (OSLV).

Hamline has United Methodist affiliated sister schools that are historically black, including Dillard University in Louisiana and Rust College in Mississippi. Hamline formed partnerships with these schools so that our students could do service learning about social justice in an unfamiliar environment in a different part of the country during spring break.

Young people are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents to service organizations. Sharon Jaffe, Coordinator of Service Learning at Hamline, said that about 60% of students in grades K-12 do service learning, and that number increases to around 80% for young adults between the ages of 18-30.

The Office of Service Learning looks at a whole range of service and asks the following questions. How do you learn from that? How do the theories you learn in the classroom compare to your experiences as a volunteer? How does Hamline act as an institution? A goal of the College of Liberal Arts is to

prepare compassionate citizens of the world -- how can you accomplish that? OSLV mentors students who are trying to find answers to these kinds of questions.

A student's first exposure to OSLV is at Orientation when new students spend a half day doing service learning in the community at one of 13 sites. The program is called City Serve. Later in September, community service groups come to campus to recruit students as volunteers. Throughout the year there are Community Service Saturdays when students volunteer with community groups.

The faculty participates in a program called Leadership Education and Development (LEAD). This program helps faculty introduce students to community work. The faculty workshops focus on how to teach service learning, how to use service learning as a tool, how to develop a service-learning curriculum, and how to connect with community sites.

A good example of this effort is the Hancock Elementary/Hamline University Collaboration. About 120 Hamline students, staff, and faculty go to Hancock Elementary School to teach, volunteer, or work. Hamline students learn about what is happening in the school system. This is a place where they begin thinking about social and economic justice. They look around and wonder why 87% of the students at Hancock live below the poverty line. They wonder

What is service learning?

Service learning promotes participation and involvement in the community.

Why is it important?

It helps our students learn how to take personal and collective action for social and economic justice.

Are we there yet?

Every time a faculty member integrates service learning into the curriculum, we come one step closer to having a collaborative learning community.

why so many students of color need help.

Classes from Hancock come to Hamline for special events. Hamline also has a joint service learning project with Hancock. The elementary school children were asked to choose the topic they wanted to study, and they chose homelessness. Children in grades 4-6 were paired with classes at Hamline to learn about homelessness. Hamline faculty members and teachers at Hancock are also working on a curriculum that focuses on empathy, stereotypes, and citizen skills. The children at Hancock are very concerned about their world and want to know what the adults are doing.



Sharon Jaffe, Coordinator of Service Learning and Volunteerism

CSI: Community Service Investigations, Spring Challenge

This is the seventh year of spring break service-learning trips, now called CSI. The trips are initiated and led by students. Students will use service-learning to investigate questions of justice and community. This year OSLV will be sending six teams of students and an advisor to four different sites:

White Earth Land Recovery Project, White Earth, Minnesota: *Sustainable Communities and Environmental Justice*

Chicago, Illinois: *City Art*

Memphis, Tennessee: *M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence*

Gulf Coast: *Homelessness*

Gulf Coast: *Environmental Studies for Hurricane Relief Work*

These trips are open to all Hamline students. The student pays \$125 for the trip, and helps raise money to cover the additional expenses. OSLV strives for a heterogeneous mix of students in terms of year in school, gender, race, level of service and knowledge.

This year 60 students applied for the CSI trips. Only five trips had been planned, but OSLV scrambled to find additional money for a sixth group.

Last year some of the groups went well beyond the requirement of presenting information about their trip at Honors Day. Some of the groups presented floor programs in the dorms. Students who had gone to White Earth went to a powwow. The group that went to Atlanta to study homelessness collaborated with the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless and brought the issue of homelessness home to Hamline. They proposed that the University move part of its endowment to a community bank where it could be used as loans for affordable housing. This was done. They also asked that a course on homelessness be created. This resulted in two new courses: Shelter for All and a First Year Seminar on homelessness. They also asked that the leftover food in Sorin Dining Hall be given to homeless shelters (still under negotiation). Over 30 students also participated in a 30 hour famine to raise money for hungry children in other countries. There are 12 students working on this year's February 24 famine. The students hope to get 60 participants.

Is it too late to sign up for a CSI trip for this spring break?

The application deadline was November 4. However, it isn't too late to encourage your student to attend the Honors Day presentations on May 4 to hear about the experiences of students on this year's trips. Interested students are encouraged to get involved in planning trips for next year.

Community Service Investigation Questions

Here are just a few of the questions that Hamline students will be asking themselves during their CSI Challenge.

- * Who am I in the context of community?
- * How do I take personal and collective action for justice?
- * How do I challenge stereotypes and assumptions within myself and in my communities?
 - * What am I giving?
- * How do I enter a community that is new to me?
 - * How do I participate in community?
 - * How do I bring the justice work home?

Student Athletes

Student athletes not only have to be good at their sport, they must excel at time management in order to be successful. During their season, athletes spend about 20 hours per week on their sport. Many also have part time jobs, and they have to carry a full-time course load (12-20 credits). When their sport is out of season, they don't get to kick back and relax. They still have to spend 8-10 hours a week toward their sport. This includes strength training and conditioning three times a week at either 6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, or 8:45 AM plus an occasional captain's practice. Despite this demanding schedule, approximately 25% of our undergraduate students participate in a competitive sport during any semester.

The athletic code of conduct emphasizes that an athlete's first priority is to pursue an academic degree. Athletes are expected to attend classes regularly and complete all assignments. Absences because of games are not excused. Athletes are expected to discuss their travel schedule with their professors during the first week of classes. It is vital that athletes communicate with their professors so that there are no misunderstandings about requirements or arrangements for making up missed work.

Academic progress is closely monitored for all first year students, transfer students, and students with a GPA less than 2.75. These students are required to have progress report forms filled out by their professors periodically. If a student is not doing at least C level work, the athletic staff finds out what resources are needed to help the student improve. A student who is doing poorly academically will not be allowed to play or train for their sport until their academic performance improves. Only two or three students a year are dropped from a sport for poor academic performance which is really pretty amazing given the large number of athletes.

How well do our athletes perform academically? For Spring 2005, the average grade point average (GPA) for male athletes was 3.03. The women athletes came out ahead with an average GPA of 3.27. The overall average GPA for student athletes was 3.13. Dan O'Brien said that the student athletes have a higher GPA during their sports season than out. He thinks this is because they do better with time management when they have less free time.

Dan O'Brien, Director of Athletics

Dan O'Brien has been Hamline's Athletics Director since June 2002. He provides leadership for 19 competitive intercollegiate sports, 6 intramural sports, club sports, and the physical fitness program.

O'Brien, a native of Winthrop, Minnesota, is a 1987 graduate of the University of Saint Thomas where he played football for three seasons. He has coached football at Lakeville High School, Bemidji High School, and Concordia-Saint Paul University. Subsequently, he served as the Athletic Director at Concordia for four years before coming to Hamline.



Things to Know

Ask the Dean

Parents are encouraged to send their questions to the Dean of Students, Alan Sickbert, at parentscouncil@hamline.edu

Oracle Online

The Oracle is the Hamline University College of Liberal Arts weekly student newspaper, published on Tuesdays. You can read this online at www.hamline.edu/oracle

WOW?! - What's On the Weekend?

To find out what's happening on campus on the weekend, go to the following website:

www.hamline.edu/hamline_info/offices_services/student_relations/studentaffairs?sald/events/wow.html

Parents Calendar

PARENTS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursday, February 9, 2006

6 - 8:30 p.m. in Sorin Hall, Rooms A&B

6 - 6:30 pm

Open Invitation for Social Time

6:30 - 7 p.m. *Dinner*

7 - 8 p.m.

Program: Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco Staff from Counseling & Health Services

Nominations for Parents Council Leadership

8 - 8:30 p.m. *Question & Answer Session*

Join the Student Affairs Staff in discussing an important issue in society and on college campuses today - drug, alcohol and tobacco use by college students. Counseling and Health Services Staff will share data from a recent survey of students on 17 Minnesota colleges detailing student use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

6 - 8:30 p.m. in Sorin Hall, Rooms A&B

Program: Career Development

By Career Services

Leadership Elections of Parents Council

RSVP to 651-523-2421

SPRING PARENTS WEEKEND

Tentatively in March of 2006

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

April 24, 2006, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Graduation

Saturday, May 20, 2006

Room Selection — Residence Halls

- Each spring current students have the opportunity to choose a roommate and the room they would like to live in for the 2006-2007 school year. Some residents, depending on the building and room they live in can hold their rooms, but most students will participate in Room Selection which will take place in March.
- Students who will be juniors or seniors next year are eligible to live in the Hamline Apartments. Room selection for the Hamline Apartments will take place on March 8. Room selection for residence hall rooms will take place on March 28 and 29.
- Room Selection Guides will be available on February 20. Residents should watch for this publication as it will explain the selection process in detail. Our Resident Assistants will be distributing this guide the week of February 20th. Please encourage your son or daughter to read this guide carefully and attend their floor meetings.
- Commuter students who are interested in living on campus next year should pick up a guide in the Residential Life Office, Manor 26. If you have any questions about this process please call the Residential Life Office at (651) 523-2061.

Hamline University Theatre

More Fun Than Bowling

March 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 2006

Steven Dietz' *More Fun than Bowling* will be directed by faculty member Carolyn Levy. An eccentric philosophical comedy about life, death and bowling in a small Midwestern town, Dietz presents a tale of a buffoonish, bowling alley proprietor, Jake, who communes at the grave sites of two former wives. Moving between the past and present, Jake contemplates former choices and roads not taken while also interacting with his daughter, Molly, and a mysterious stranger lurking in the shadows.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER TICKETS

Contact the Hamline University Theatre Box Office
Phone: 651-523-2905
Fax - 651-523-3066
E-mail - tickets@gw.hamline.edu

Parents Calling Parents

Every fall, several members of the Parents Council go to campus to call parents of first year students to ask how their student is adjusting to college life.

In November the callers successfully reached 47% of the parents. Most of these parents think that their student is doing well academically and feels safe, connected, and involved on campus.

The Dean of Students Office is following up on any concerns that were raised by parents. A detailed summary of comments and statistics from this year's program will be posted on the Parents website soon: www.hamline.edu/parents

Thanks to all who participated!

Icons of Perfection: Figurative Sculpture from Africa

African Art Exhibit here through February 11, 2006

Location: Drew Fine Arts Galleries at Hamline University

Hours: Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM and on Saturday from 1 to 5 PM.

Icons of Perfection: Figurative Sculpture from Africa, an exhibition of traditional African sculptures from national private and public collections, opened December 2 at Hamline University in the Drew Fine Arts Galleries. It is curated by Frank Herreman, Hamline visiting professor and internationally known art historian.

The exhibition includes forty-one works of art that explore the beauty and function of sculptures that represent the human figure in West and Central African art. The works selected for this exhibition are exquisite examples of formal representation and cultural significance from across sub-Saharan Africa; many are recognized worldwide as icons of African art. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts has lent a number of their masterworks for this exhibition. Private collections in the Twin Cities are also represented, most notably Curtis Galleries in Minneapolis, as well as private collections from New York and Detroit.

Leonardo Lasansky, chair of the studio arts and art history department at Hamline and director of exhibitions, invited Herreman to join the Hamline faculty as a visiting professor to assist with a collaboration between The Minneapolis Institute of Arts' Department of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas and Hamline's museum studies offerings.

While being introduced to the history of African art, Herreman's students have also been exposed to a variety of issues in museum studies, such as installation, didactic writing, and research. Students have examined milestone exhibitions in the field of African art, visited public and private collections, and have become familiar with the behind-the-scenes workings of mounting a major exhibition and publication.

Herreman, who makes his home in Brussels, has published extensively in the field of African art and has curated numerous exhibitions in the United States and Europe, most recently *Resonance from the Past: African Sculpture* from the New Orleans Museum of Art. Herreman is the former director of exhibitions and publications at the Museum for African Art, New York City, and his exhibitions have traveled internationally to museums including the Ethnographic Museum, Antwerp, Belgium; the National Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.; the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, and Hamline University, which hosted *Material Differences* as part of *Africa: A Legacy in Memory* during its 150th anniversary celebration in 2004.



Parent News is published four times a year:

September 1
November 15
February 1
April 15

This newsletter may be found on the Parents
Web site listed below:
www.hamline.edu/parents

Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Requests may be made for the mailing of
hard copies by contacting the Dean of Stu-
dents Office by telephone, mail, or e-mail.

Address:
Dean of Students Office, MS-C1901
Hamline University
1536 Hewitt Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104
Telephone: 651-523-2421

E-mail: parentscouncil@hamline.edu

Practice Interview Volunteers Needed!

The Career Development Center is seeking
volunteers from all career fields to conduct
practice interviews for CLA students. You
need not be in human resources to partici-
pate.

Practice Interviews give our students an
opportunity to develop confidence in their
interviewing skills and to develop the abil-
ity to connect their experiences and their
liberal arts degrees to the job and graduate
program descriptions they choose.

Spring Practice Interview Week is April 10-
12. Interviews will be held in 3-hour time
blocks: 9 a.m.- Noon, 1-4 p.m., and 5-8
p.m. (no evening session on April 12th). If
you are interested in volunteering, please
contact Monita Mohammadian at 651-523-
2064 or by email:

mmohammadian01@hamline.edu

Academic Calendar

Winter Term

Final Grades Due from Faculty 2/6

Spring Semester 2006

New Student Orientation 1/30
Spring Semester Classes Begin 2/1
Registration for Summer 2006 begins 2/20
Senior Day 3/3
Midterm Break (no classes) 3/20 – 3/24
Midterm Grades Due from Faculty 3/27
Advising Weeks 4/3 - 4/13
University Holiday (Good Friday) 4/14
Registration for Fall 2006 Semester 4/17 - 4/28
Honors Day 5/4
Spring Semester Classes End 5/12
Final Exams 5/15 – 5/18
Commencement 5/20

Summer Term I, 2006

Classes begin 6/5
Classes end 6/29

Summer Term II, 2006

Classes begin 7/10
Classes end 8/3

Summer Term III, 2006

Classes begin 6/5
Holiday (no classes) 7/4
Classes end 8/11

Fall Semester, 2006

New Student Orientation 9/3 - 9/5
Classes begin 9/6