On a cold January day, some students, staff, and bank employees were enjoying the national holiday to recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. However, others were up with the sun to enjoy a fun, fulfilling, and proactive day in honor of the late Dr. King.

The day began early when over 100 people from the CPCC community registered to be apart of one of the seven teams. Students were then split up apart from friends, and sent to various parts of Mecklenburg county to complete a service project.

One particular group of students was sent to Latin America Coalition where they were given the task of remodeling and repainting old classrooms and stairwells to freshen up the place. However, the catch is that students were given no tools or supplies to complete the assignment. So they went into the community to solicit donations to buy paint, brushes, and tape (using only $110 seed money). They also only had 5 hours to complete the task, and were asked to come back to Central Campus by 4pm to reflect on the day.

Apart from the big jobs ahead of them, all seven teams completed their assignments for the day and made it back just in time to reflect on the true meaning of the Dr. King holiday—not a day off for CPCC students, but a day on.

Above: Students work together to repaint the walls of a classroom at Latin America Coalition

Service-Learning receives national recognition

The CPCC Service-Learning Center is proud to announce the honorable distinction of being named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor roll for the ’06-’07 academic year.

CPCC is only 1 of 19 colleges in North Carolina recognized as a member of the national honor roll, including Wake Forest, UNC-Charlotte, and Davidson. This honor roll is one of the highest federal recognitions a college can receive for its service-learning program.

CPCC’s Service-Learning has grown from only a handful of classes to a full blown program that runs complementary to all sorts of disciplines. With projects, programs, and one-day events, we strive to make a meaningful impact to the Charlotte area and its surrounding communities.
When most students think of spring break, the typical thoughts that come to mind are along the lines of partying, relaxing, traveling to an exotic place or spending time with your family. For nine CPCC students, those thoughts were the furthest thing from their mind.

The CPCC Service Club spent their spring break in Sumter, SC, working on two homes for Habitat for Humanity. The average yearly income in Sumter is $31,000, and the poverty rate is high.

Habitat for Humanity-Sumter’s (HFH-S) goal is to build simple, decent, and affordable homes which are sold to qualified families with a 20 year, no-interest mortgage that is paid back to HFH-S. As the homeowners make their mortgage payments, they are recycled back into building additional homes right in Sumter!

Students worked 8 hours a day and installed windows, sheathed roofs, slept in sleeping bags on a hard church floor and still had the energy to stay up all night talking, laughing and reflecting on the day that they just experienced.

As one of the trip advisors it was very inspiring to witness such devotion to service, compassion for others and friendship among college students.

Welding the way to a clean & safe environment!

College students from CPCC’s Welding Technology program practiced their skills at Evergreen Nature Preserve here in Charlotte.

Steve Gore, Program Chair for CPCC’s Welding Technology Division, and I partnered up in a win-win Service-Learning project that not only helps the environment, but enables students to get hands-on training in an outdoor setting.

Students removed metal from an old dump site of Mecklenburg County while mastering their newly learned welding skills.

At the same time, the welding team did something great for the community and the adjacent bird habitat because the old dangerous metal would no longer be a safety concern or an eye sore for human and creature visitors alike!

In order to recycle the metal, the welding team is in the process of creating sculptures of native animals, including a red tailed hawk. These sculptures will be on display for the public to view at a future date.

The removal of metal will be an ongoing project throughout the months, so look for more developments soon!
Service Spotlight—CPCC clubs in the community

For years, our students, faculty, and staff have been doing service that benefits our community and the world beyond! This is just a small spotlight of what our CPCC clubs have been doing this year:

~Hollis Adkins and the Dental Assisting Student Association at CPCC have been raising money every year to sponsor a child through the Smile Train organization for free cleft lip and cleft palate surgery. Normally they only sponsor one child, but this year’s class wanted to do more. As their advisor, Hollis was “truly amazed at the amount of money they were able to raise…a total of $3,600 and were able to sponsor 12 children for the surgery.” The 36 students were able to do this over a period of two weeks during their free time away from school.

~Another club is making it’s mark on the community. The CPCC Culinary Department & Club, has hosted “Soup on Sunday” to benefit Hospice for the last seven years. All of the faculty and staff, along with 14 students, helped make this year’s event a huge success.

As reported from Nancy Cole, manager of Special Events at Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region, 34 restaurants and three culinary schools served 37 varieties of soup to 635 soup lovers who chose from more than 300 pottery bowls, raising more than $37,000, “making this a ‘Soup-er Bowl’ Sunday!”

~The Service Club, which is rooted in service, bloomed this year! The club has grown to 12 active members who have already done a total of 539 service hours during the academic year, and contributed $1,300 in building supplies to Habitat for Humanity. These enthusiastic students are working hard, but they’re having a blast!

Good Job, everyone!

Early Childhood students learn importance of art in early education

By: Christine Sargeant, Early Childhood Education Instructor

During the spring 2008 semester, 12 students from my Creative Activities for Young Children class, took advantage of a Service Learning opportunity at Community School of the Arts’ Preschool Arts Lab.

Founded in 1969 to make the arts available to everyone, regardless of age, ability or financial resources, Community School of the Arts (CSA) offers a variety of programs and more than two dozen locations to help bring the joy of the arts to the entire Charlotte community.

CSA meets a critical need in the community and relies on the participation of volunteers to ensure the success of its various music and visual arts programs.

One of CSA’s programs for young children, Preschool Arts Lab (PAL), exists to facilitate children’s creativity by providing developmentally appropriate, process-oriented, literature-based art experiences for preschool children.

Early Childhood students assisted PAL with lab setup and cleanup, replenishing of supplies and appropriate interactions with children. As an instructor, I feel PAL’s program is a model for early education in the visual arts because it provides the kind of experiences that facilitate children’s creative development as well as their development in other domains.

Students witness the “best practices” they learn about in the class, in a real world setting with diverse groups of children.

PAL’s lead teacher is an experienced preschool teacher who happens to be a student in our program, so this has been an ideal partnership. PAL teachers model best practices and the students provide a valuable service.

According to PAL lead teacher, Christi Milledge, “The Service Learning opportunity for PAL has been a win-win situation. For the CPCC students, it is an invaluable learning tool…best learned through hands-on experience. The partnership has given…potential [to] CPCC to bring their preschool classes to us in the future.”

CPCC Early Childhood student, Gladys Mclean, says, “Volunteering at PAL is the best way to gain hands-on experience in how to stimulate children to be creative in the arts. Volunteering at PAL should be a must for classroom teachers.”
Growing up, I had always wanted to help people. My first career ambition was to be a nurse, but after dealing with my dad’s death, being his nurse for such a long and painful time made me realize nursing was not for me. However, I was still eager to try to improve people’s lives. As time went on, I started to think being a teacher could be the change in other’s lives I was striving for.

Flash-forward to 2008 spring semester: I was given a Service-Learning assignment which I was less than enthusiastic to begin. However, I see now the program as a way to get my foot in the door for a great career opportunity, and I am making a difference to 25 first graders at Matthews Elementary School. Every Friday afternoon I go, and I’m beginning to see the difference I have made to others and myself.

On one particular Friday, I walked in Mrs. Williams’ class but not to my normal surroundings: Mrs. Williams was nowhere to be found, and there was a substitute looking just as confused as I did on my first day. Suddenly, I noticed the kids were acting wild, and the substitute was helpless. However, the kids saw me and knew it was time for business. No more play time! I instantly got control of the classroom and put the rules down. I was now in charge of the 25 first graders.

As I was basking in my new found authority (yet was clueless as to what my next move was to be!) I decided to think like Mrs. Williams. I divided the class into their appropriate learning centers. Once everyone was in their right place, I walked around the room answering the children’s questions and helping them with their work. Not surprisingly, the children’s silence did not last, so I was forced to raise my voice to quiet their roars. Afterwards, I heard one of the kids say, “Man, Ms. Morgoch is really mean today.” At first I was surprised by this, but then I knew the children also had respect for me and knew I was in control.

As story time approached, I played teacher again since the substitute was unfamiliar with the classroom schedule. I jumped into the teacher’s rocking chair to signal story time. This really made me feel like a teacher, and I thought to myself, “Wow, I can do this! I am making a difference!”

Soon enough it was time for the kids to go home. Excited, the children began to erupt in anticipation, so I asked “Would you behave like this if Mrs. Williams was in the room?” The children then realized they were out of line and promptly settled down. As a part of the end-of-day routine, I took the bus riders, walkers, and after-school children to each one of their destinations. I will say that this was the hardest part of the day! The kids were running around and continued to get hyper. My anxiety was at a high, for I knew that the kids were my responsibility. I suddenly realized that this teaching stuff was hard. But a sense of peace came over me when all students were at their appropriate after-school destinations.

I still go to Matthews Elementary on Fridays, even though I was apprehensive to the Service Learning assignment at first. I really got a feel for teaching and I realize I do mean a lot to Mrs. Williams’ class! Next year, I plan on working with a 2nd grade classes and higher to determine which grade would be best for my career. I might not be making the sick feel better, but I will be making young grow wiser!

Our office would like to formally welcome Wendy Coley as the new Administrative Assistant for Student Life! Wendy comes to us from Raleigh, and she is very active with horses and writing. Wendy has a Bachelor’s from Southeastern College at Wake Forest and is an avid animal lover!

Welcome Wendy!
Nearly 100 people came out to help the Sierra Club plant trees in an effort to combat tree-canopy loss in Charlotte at Torrence Creek Greenway in Huntersville.

This stream habitat restoration project came about as a result of a long-running GIS analysis of the 22% tree canopy loss in Mecklenburg County (aerial pictures of Charlotte showing loss of tree canopy through the 1985-2001), done by the Charlotte Tree Commission in collaboration with American Forests.

Louisiana Public TV was on site to film the planting as a segment in a program on Charlotte’s urban sprawl, land use, loss of tree canopy, and the environmental implications throughout 2007.

Many students came on Feb. 9th to plant over 500 trees! By far the largest group represented were students from CPCC, with UNCC and Davidson showing support as well. Chris Paynter, S-L faculty, also invited many past and present GIS students to help.

Many thanks to Rick Roti, Steve Copulsky, Lisa Cox, Mark Helms & Cassie Moore for making this event a great success! Look for upcoming plantings in the fall!

Levine Campus awarded ‘College of the Year’ for blood drives

The next time you run out of luck and find yourself in the Emergency Room, take a look around. If there are six other people waiting with you, at least one will need the aid of donated blood. This one person will be the recipient of the 43,000 pints of blood needed each day in the U.S and Canada alone.

Pretty scary numbers. However, Student Life at the Levine Campus is doing its best to meet the need of local hospitals. On February 28th, the campus was presented with the College of the Year Award by the Community Blood Center of the Carolinas (CBCC) for its outstanding contributions made.

Barry Gilmore, Student Life Coordinator at Levine, owes “much of our success to the hard work of our Levine Student Government, especially Blood Drive Committee Chairs, Stephanie Nuhfer and Jack Neef.” Barry comments that the themes of the blood drives also help attract attention. On Halloween, Student Life hosts an annual “Blood Harvest” in which some students dress up as their favorite character to sit in the donation chair. On Valentine’s day, donors are asked to share their “bleeding hearts.”

The next Levine Campus blood drive will be on April 17th. If you would like more information or would like to sign up, please contact Barry at 704-330-4252.
Mark your calendars!

Springfest        April 23rd
Skyline Run      April 26th
Blood Drive      April 30th
New VISTA starts July 21
Community Partner/Faculty Breakfast August 12
Volunteer Fair   Sept. 4

Check us out on the web!
www1.cpcc.edu/service-learning

Growing in Service~Grounded in Learning

Service-Learning Staff

Mark Helms
Associate Dean for Student Life and Service-Learning

Dena Shonts
Service-Learning Coordinator

Terry McMicking
Senior Administrative Secretary

Cassie Moore
Assistant Service-Learning Coordinator, NC Campus Compact VISTA

Things happening around us...

- The Service Learning Center is proud to announce new community partners: Latin America Coalition, Elizabeth Traditional Elem., Hinds Feet Farm, Birthday Blessings, Allegro Foundation, GUILTY, Inc., National MS Society Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Citizen’s School, & Catawba Valley Scottish Society.

- CPCC has been approved for another Americorps VISTA for the 2008-2009 year! Currently, we are interviewing applicants and he or she will be starting around mid-July!

- Cassie Moore, current Americorps VISTA for CPCC, will be hired as a part-time Service-Learning coordinator immediately following the end of her service year.

- April is Volunteer Month! Recognize the volunteers around you with a simple ‘thank-you’ today or congratulate yourself on a year well done!

- A new electronic database for Service-Learning has been purchased and will be implemented over the summer months in hopes to make our program paperless. Look for more information soon!