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10th ANNUAL academic excellence SERIES

venango college
NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

APRIL 20, 2015
6 P.M.
CHARLES L. SUHR LIBRARY
Welcome .................................................................................................................Dr. Colleen McAleer  
Interim Venango College Executive Dean

Introduction of Venango College  
Honor Student and Mentor .................................................................................Dr. Jessica Crespo  
Professor Beth Jackson  
Co-coordinators, Venango College Honors Program

Refreshments will be served in Robert W. Rhoades Student Lounge.

ALYSSA BROAD

This is my second, and last year here at Venango College. On May 9, I will graduate with an Associate Degree in paralegal studies. During my time here, I have become involved in many extracurricular activities. I am currently a member and vice president of the Venango honor society known as Phi Theta Kappa, treasurer of the Venango College Student Senate and secretary of the newly reorganized Law Club. I am so thankful for these opportunities and for the time I have spent here in Oil City. I have learned much more than I ever expected to; each lesson learned is only a stepping stone in my future and I cannot wait to see what that future holds.

My honors project this semester is one of the largest projects I have taken on yet. I am a member and one of the many vice presidents of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Every year, to keep our standing as an internationally recognized honor society, we must do research on a particular topic and turn that research into an event called our Honors-in-Action project. Our research this semester was based on stress and healthy ways to manage it.

I turned our research into a five page paper and can honestly say that I learned a lot. I am one of the students leading our Honors-in-Action project that will correspond with our research on stress. I planned for our guidance counselor and our learning support coordinator to lead six sessions on de-stressing and test-taking strategies that took place from March 30th to April 8th. The bulk of our project will take place the week before finals with an entire week of de-stressing activities and teachings. I am in the process of planning this event for the entire student body and am excited to show you my work.
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

S.E.E.D. Club Missions

S.E.E.D. Club does a multitude of community service throughout the year. They have been assisting Venango County Mustard Seed Missions in renovating, cleaning and preparing a transition house for homeless in the county. In February, the first family was placed in the facility. They also collected donations for PPC Violence Free Shelters and Network, Mustard Seed Missions, UPMC Behavioral Health Center and the ABC Pregnancy Center.

In addition to their local mission work, seven S.E.E.D. Club members and their advisor went to Moss Point, Miss., and Mobile, Ala., for spring break in 2015 in coordination with the organization World Changers. They rebuilt a roof at Mission of Hope in Mobile, a recovery retreat center for men who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction. Additionally, they participated in daily bible studies and devotions, worship gathering, prayer and training sessions and heard from a variety of speakers. The following students participated in the mission trip: Amanda Cameron of Mercer; Nathan Hannah of Seneca; Elizabeth Haughey of Butler; Raymond Marino of Boyers; club advisor Casey McVay of Franklin; Savannah Mona of Meadville; club president Emily Quaill of Emlenton; and Rhonni Seth of New Castle.

PSY III Students

Students planned an elaborate Halloween party for the elderly at a local nursing home, The Caring Place. They decorated, created bags of candy for the residents of the home, provided music and dressed in Halloween costumes. The student group included Keasha Daniels and Jennifer Gregory who are presenting this evening, in addition to Jamie Carson, Carole Phares-Crim, Amberlyn DeLuca and Brandee Bragg.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT RHOADES CENTER

MGMT 120 Students

Projects were designed to introduce students to professional standards in business through experiential learning opportunities. First, a HIP (High Impact Practices) component of the course introduced students to professional standards in business including relationship building, cooperation, teamwork and civic responsibility and engagement. Members of FLEX (Future Leaders & Entrepreneurs Exchange) of the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce acted as mentors and provided networking opportunities for the students.

The FLEX Annual Meeting provided an opportunity for students to network with the FLEX group and create a working relationship. In addition, it gave students first-hand experience with etiquette and professional standards in business. Many FLEX members are Venango alumni and are now young professionals in the local community.

Students were also charged with facilitating a philanthropic project that would meet a critical need in the local community and complete the civic engagement objective in the course. Students chose to sponsor a fundraising campaign for Together We Rise – Sweet Cases, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization comprised of motivated young adults and former foster youth whose purpose is to
support our local foster children by helping to increase their self-image and self-worth. The fundraiser ended Dec. 1, 2014. The students raised a total of $1,175. Together We Rise sent 60 cases, the materials to decorate the cases, and items to fill the cases (stuffed bear, throw blanket, coloring book, pack of crayons and tooth care hygiene kit). MGMT 120 students decorated and stuffed the cases on Dec. 10, 2014, during finals week. The local foster care agency distributed the cases to local foster children during the holiday season.

**MGMT 320 Students**

A HIP (High Impact Practices) component of the course related specifically to planning, organizing, controlling, and work groups. The students partnered with the Venango Area Chamber’s FLEX (Future Leaders & Entrepreneurs Exchange) group to plan a training event to help Oil City High School students prepare for their high school Career Fair.

Later, the MGMT 320 students, working with community partners FLEX and PA CareerLink, identified another need in the community. The students were introduced to the Executive Director of Youth Alternatives of Oil City. The Youth Alternatives mission is to provide support, encourage and empower youth in the private, social, academic, economic and other dimensions of their lives and to augment and/or complement existing services in Venango County for youth. Students decided that the objective of their project was to focus on increasing self-esteem and empathy in their interactions with the youth. Students led discussions and planned activities about self-esteem and positive attitudes designed to get the students thinking positively about themselves and each other.

**PSY III Students**

Project Playground included students Dylan Lawrie, Caleb Grams and Kennedy Barish. The students went to three playgrounds and parks in Oil City and cleared them of debris. Their poster displays pictures of their work and includes information about the percentage of various items that people typically dispose of in public places and items that are the most harmful to people, animals and the environment.

**NURSING Students**

During the fall semester, second-year nursing students did community teaching projects (some individually and some in a small group). The students attended health fairs, provided “hands on” with giving flu shots (under instructor supervision), blood pressure screenings and educational moments on hand hygiene, eating right and made educational posters and games as visuals.

**RESP 206 Students**

Students enrolled in RESP 206 engaged in a community service project during the fall semester. The students participated in the first community-wide health fair at Golden Living Center in Oil City educating and screening residents, workers and community attendees on areas specific to smoking cessation, breathing exercises for COPD patients and correct administration of breathing medications. While preparing for this, students solicited respiratory vendors for donations of spacers (a device critical to correct administration of respiratory meds) and distributed them to those at the fair. Spacers that were left over were donated to the Golden Living Center for future resident needs. Additionally, students created and completed surveys of all participants.
Club Projects and the United Way of Venango County

In fall 2014, a Venango College Campus to Community Connection program was started which partnered with United Way of Venango County using Get Connected. Get Connected is an easy-to-use, web-based platform that matches the right donors, advocates and volunteers with the right opportunities in our neighborhoods.

Campus clubs picked community service project(s) to place on the club activity board for the semester and members in any club could participate in any club projects and get points. Every member of any club could attend any registered community event on the schedule and get one point for their club. If an advisor went to an event, the club got three points. If faculty or staff members signed in at any event under their club name, the club got five points.

United Way’s Get Connected program was utilized to catapult the Campus to Community program. Twenty-four clubs participated in the campaign. The club with the most points at the end of the fall semester received $500 for their budget. The club that is the overall winner for the year will receive 1000 points towards their next year’s budget. The Veterans Club won for the fall semester with the “Flags of the Fallen” getting the most faculty/staff points.

S.E.E.D. Club Missions

S.E.E.D. (Studying, Engaging, Exploring, Discipleship) Club does a multitude of community service throughout the year as well as campus programming. To kick this year off, S.E.E.D. Club held the “That’s How We Roll” project providing toilet paper and information tags to all the student apartment bathrooms. They raised $100 during their Ice Bucket Challenge at the Resource Fair and they took six students to UPRISE Festival in Shippensburg, Pa. This year, they completed the study “Not a Fan” by Kyle Idleman. In February, they held a community prayer session on campus to seek God for college students and kicked off a collection for the PPC Violence Free Shelter and Network, Mustard Seed Missions and UPMC Behavioral Health Center. Throughout the spring semester they’ve been collecting change during their Baby Bottle Boomerang to support the ABC Pregnancy Center. In April, they host a campus Block Party giving students the opportunity to make lasting memories before the end of the semester. Several times this year they have worked at the Venango County Mustard Seed house doing renovations, cleaning and organizing and it’s now being used as a transition house for homeless in the community. Lastly, seven students from S.E.E.D. Club went on a national mission trip to Mississippi and Alabama where they rebuilt a roof at Mission of Hope in Mobile.

Venango College Allies Club with PPC Violence Free Network

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Venango College Allies Club members joined with PPC Violence Free Network, a program of Family Service and Children’s Aid Society, to create and display shirts offering messages of hope to domestic violence survivors as part of the Clothesline Project. The purpose of this project is to bear witness to survivors, help with the healing process for people who have lost a loved one or are survivors themselves and to educate, document and raise awareness of the extent of the problem of domestic violence. Allies Club members held an event on campus inviting students to decorate shirts of their own to put on display in Rhoades Center throughout the month. PPC also held displays throughout the community at Cranberry Mall and several local libraries.
Students in BIOL 252: Anatomy and Physiology II have researched diseases associated with the organ systems covered throughout the semester. Groups will be presenting their findings, showcasing their understanding of the normal physiological processes and the mechanisms by which the diseases alter normal function.

In Appreciation

In preparing for this event recognizing our students’ academic achievements, we are thankful for the support of Venango College faculty, staff and administration, and our audience.

With our students, we thank their families, friends, and classmates who also support our campus community’s efforts to seek academic excellence.

Thank you for joining us for this evening’s celebration.
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