
**Future meetings** will be 3/13, 4/17, 5/8, 5/22, and 6/5 -- HSS 301 (Dr. Tsang's conference room) **11:00-12:30**

3/27 and 4/24 in the library conference room (upstairs, next to Mona Martin's office).

The subject of the next meeting (on 3/13) will be international students.

**Service Learning and Study Abroad** Guido distributed a summary of several articles, one of which advanced eight key elements to an alternative, service-learning (spring) break. These elements were:

- Strong direct service
- Orientation
- Education
- Training
- Reflection
- Reorientation
- Diversity
- Alcohol and other drug free

(More information is available at [www.alternativebreaks.com](http://www.alternativebreaks.com))

**Program to South Africa, Winter 2008:** Frank Dawson and Nancy Grass Hemmert believed that what made their program especially successful was its service learning components combined with teaching the Intercultural Communication class which provided students a frame of reference and tools for processing the experience. They brought 28 students, all of whom enrolled in one class taught by Nancy (Speech 7: Intercultural Communication) and one taught by Frank (Comm 1: Mass Media). Students received financial support from a variety of sources, including the Associated Students, the Global Citizenship fund, the Foundation, and the Gilman Federal Scholarship Program. One student sold his car to fund his trip. Two students had never been on a plane.

This program included all of the eight elements previously presented by Guido:

- Direct service through the work with NextAid and Hope Worldwide (discussed below)
- Orientation sessions before and at the start of each leg of the trip
- Education that was location specific
- Training in communication skills and volunteerism
- Reflection through student journals and presentations, culminating in a final paper on global citizenship
- Reorientation through a debriefing session and a social gathering two days and two weeks, respectively, after return
- Diversity of students made possible through scholarships, and
- Safety, alcohol and awareness program that eliminated problems with drugs or alcohol during the trip.

The direct service involved a day-long project building two sitting walls, digging out a driveway, and painting a computer room. The entire group, including Frank and Nancy, worked in 100+ degree heat to move a good deal of earth to accomplish this project. The other project involved working with Hope Worldwide to assist the support and outreach workers in the Township of Kayalitsha for seven days. Each afternoon after classes, the students were bussed to the Hope offices where they divided up into groups that alternately worked with the health care workers, the preschool children, the rape crisis center, and the men’s outreach group.

The project's success was due in large part to the personal knowledge of Luke Angel and African Angel Tour, and Hope Worldwide. Although the initial contact with both groups was serendipitous, it put students into activities that they otherwise would not have had access to and that subsequently changed their lives profoundly.

**Latin American Education Program** For over a decade Brandon Lewis has conducted study abroad programs to Latin America. Dr. Tsang supports the concept of a unified Latin American Education Program that would be based on one site but allow for linked programs throughout Latin America. Further, this program can serve as a model for future centers SMC may want to establish in other places around the world. To engage as many students as possible, these Latin American Education offerings could be of varying lengths—one week, service learning programs in spring break; four-week, six-week and eight-week programs, and full-semester programs, possibly in alliance with a local university (to insure that courses articulate).

The Work Group could help guide course offerings and scheduling. Brandon and Gordon encouraged the group to review ideas and provide feedback in response to an email Brandon sent out.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, March 13 HSS 301 11-12:30