Dr. Taimi Olsen’s SVLN 354 Class focused on poverty, housing, and community service in Greenville. Students worked on several Habitat for Humanity houses and worked with an ARCH crew to redo the interior of a house which will bed "Transition House" for families who are homeless. This Transition House is a project collaboration between Habitat and ARCH, and the opening celebration is April 18th. Students finished their service work at Plaza Towers, replacing light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs donated by Wal-Mart. Students studied current data and explored visions for the future of Greenville with class speaker Randy Harrell, President of Greene County Partnership, and through interviews with community leaders. The class presentation on community, leadership, service, and efficacy in Greenville will be held on Wednesday, April 8th, at 12:30 in Library Room 105. The public is invited!

Robin Fife’s SVLN 356 Class traveled to Belize where they assisted with a malaria workaround being clean-up by hosting a community-wide garbage day. They helped conduct health screenings for the local people in a market one day and at the hospital another. They also spent a day with school children involved in an exchange with Tusculum View School. In addition to a highly impactful week serving the needs of the people of Belize, the group also made time to visit a Mayan Temple and a small island off the coast, take a cooling dip in a river and feed a jaguar at the zoo.

**SERVICE LEARNING:**

Dr. Olsen’s SVLN 354 focuses on poverty, housing, and community service in Greenville. Students worked on Habitat for Humanity houses and conducted interviews with community leaders. The class presentation on community, leadership, service, and efficacy will be held on Wednesday, April 8th, at 12:30 in Library Room 105. The public is invited.

Robin Fife’s SVLN 356 Class traveled to Belize where they assisted with a malaria clean-up by hosting a community-wide garbage day. They helped conduct health screenings for the local people in a market one day and at the hospital another. They also spent a day with school children involved in an exchange with Tusculum View School. In addition to a highly impactful week serving the needs of the people of Belize, the group also made time to visit a Mayan Temple and a small island off the coast, take a cooling dip in a river and feed a jaguar at the zoo.

**IMPACT CONFERENCE PROGRAM:**

Eight Bonner Leaders along with Bonner Director, Robin Fife, attended the Bonner IMPACT Conference in Washington D.C. April 6-9. Along with networking with other Bonner students and various non-profit service organizations from all over the country, the students presented a workshop at the conference. The workshop was on how to start and run a student-led service program using our own Service on Saturday program as their model.

The students also received training in how to lobby the government for change. They met with senators and their staff with whom they discussed various global issues.

**HOBBIE CENTER:** The Hobbie Center recently hosted a student retreat similar to the faculty/staff retreat held this past January. The theme of the retreat was "Communication: The Role of Myth and Storytelling." To explore this theme, students selected a book, *Gods Behaving Badly* by Marie Phillips, and a film, *Timothy’s Buron’s Big Fish.* Using these materials, students discussed the role that myths and stories play in terms of personal development, teamwork, and understanding various aspects of our social and cultural experiences. The six students in attendance also engaged in several hands-on activities that explored new skills useful for communication and teambuilding. Hobbie Center Director, Angela Keaton was the faculty leader for the student retreat. The retreat was a pilot and based on students’ positive reviews Dr. Keaton is confident that more will follow.

**VISIT:**

Bonner Foundation Director, Wayne Meisel, was on campus for a two day visit. During his stay he sat in on the Bonner weekly meeting and spoke at Chapel followed by lunch with Bonner and Witherspoon Society members at the Religious Life Center hosted by Dr. Weiss. At the close of his visit, the Bonners hosted a dinner for him in the Bonner House where he spoke on the need to broaden a culture of service on campus.

This month’s SOS will be April 25th from 2 to 4pm at Rural Resources. We will be helping out on the farm by putting up fencing, doing a little gardening, and inventorying and organizing activity supplies.

2nd Annual Habitat for Humanity Fashion Show
April 30th
6:30 pm at the General Morgan Inn
All Proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity
Info: amber.leaun.sharpi@gmail.com

**CONFERENCE:**

The Teaching and Learning Initiative held its first annual banquet on Thursday, April 27th in the Chalmers Conference Center of Newcomer Commons. The banquet was planned to celebrate the achievements of the faculty who participated in teaching and learning circles throughout the year. These circles, led by six faculty members, met approximately four times during the academic year, giving time to faculty members to discuss a common reading and how its concepts might apply to their classes. All six groups presented the main themes from the common readings their groups discussed as well as specific ways their discussions had contributed to their classroom instruction.

Faculty members who attended the banquet were given the opportunity to hear from the other groups and gather ideas for their own classes. A buffet meal was served to all attendees as well as thank-you gifts given for participating throughout the year. Michelle Freeman, Director of the Teaching and Learning Initiative, would like to give a special thank-you to this year’s leaders, including Barth Cox, Delores Greene, Polly Johnson, Brian Pope, Toni McCalmon, and Nicolas. These faculty members did an outstanding job of organizing the circles and leading the banquet presentations.

**SOMETIMES SPRING BREAK:**

Students Alicea Dembna, Ashley Bradford and Kristy Crawley, along with Tusculum College staff members Wanda Rahm and Kathy Cuff spent part of Spring Break (March 6-8) in Nashville working at the Center for Student Missions. They participated in activities for the three-day trip included serving and working with clients at two homeless soup kitchens, as well as helping to set up for meal serving and cleaning up after meal service. The students also participated in a Home- less Immersion experience and shared breakfast and conversation with three homeless men at McDonald’s. In addition, the group was introduced to Ethiopian Cuisine one night for dinner which was a new experience for all.

**Thank You!** To all that donated...

...supplies to send to the African village of Atorkor. Your response was so tremendous we filled one room to overflowing with items to send. We will be shipping all donations to the Atorkor Development Foundation (ADF) in May.

...food to the Community of Promise red wagon. The donated items will be dispersed to area needy families through the Adventist Community Services Center.

**Questions or comments? Email us at info@tusculum.edu or call 423-834-7300 Ext. 1279**