Joslyn Art: Building Curriculum
By Sara Green-Blodgett

UNO students in Dr. Amy Morris’ Survey of Western Art History class and Mrs. Ann Pratt’s Intro to Education class from Central High School worked together with the guidance of Laura Huntimer, Assistant Curator of Education at the Joslyn Art Museum, to develop lesson plans focusing on Greek and Roman art.

Each group of Central High School students was paired with a student from UNO who conducted research on a topic chosen by the high school students. Topics included: the first Olympics, architecture, and everyday life in ancient Greece and Rome. UNO and CHS students worked together, through email correspondence, to learn about their topics and to construct a lesson plan for a hands-on project that teachers could use in their classrooms. Students created a pop-up book, ceramic tiles, a model of the face of an ancient building, various “Olympic Games,” along with quizzes and outlines of their lessons. These resources are now available for classrooms in the community to check out from educational trunks at the Joslyn Art Museum.

The student teams presented their curriculum to teachers attending Joslyn Art Museum’s Thursdays for Teachers on April 18. At this ongoing program, open to all Omaha Metro area and western Iowa schools, teachers regularly engage in special training and receive teaching posters as well as materials to interpret art across the disciplines.
Program Award; Sacred Circle was honored with the Outstanding School Volunteer Service Awards. RedBird 108 was honored with Two P-16 service learning projects at the luncheon in Kearney, Nebraska, hosted by First Lady Sally Ganem for the recognition of outstanding community service. Norris Middle School students transformed a classroom into their own space for completing homework, meeting with mentors and providing family resources, such as clothing. Students have worked nearly 600 hours of community service and continue to inspire school-wide participation.

Sacred Circle
Dr. Eduardo Zendejas and Cindy Krafta, both of UNO, Michaela Smith, of South High School and Monica Zendejas, a community member, accepted the award on behalf of Sacred Circle.

Sacred Circle brings together students from Dr. Zendejas’ Native Studies course and South High Native American students. Each Tuesday for the past three years, UNO and South High students share a meal and conversation, serve the community and participate in structured activities to foster pride in the Native American culture. These weekly meetings have shaped significant and lasting mentoring relationships between the UNO and South High students. Moreover, this spring, five Sacred Circle participants will graduate from South High and have applied to college.

I always wanted to go to UNO but was only able to see how it looks like on the Internet. With this project, I was able to visit the UNO library, STEM and IDEAS rooms, and now I surely want to study at UNO,” ESL student.

Lewis & Clark Prairie
Lewis & Clark Prairie
By Olga Zeisler
UNO students from Dr. Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo’s Applying Reading and Writing in Content Areas course and Mrs. Barbara Brimmeman’s Lewis & Clark Middle School ESL students worked together to raise awareness about Nebraska’s Prairies through their service learning project “Tallgrasses and Wild Flowers of Nebraska.”

Their 12-week collaborative research explored a variety of prairie topics that were showcased in presentations on April 10th at Lewis & Clark Middle School with parents and peers. During this event, Kymi Johnson Rutledge, a UNO student remarked: “The way the project was designed allowed for free communication, laughing, and observing the learning process. I hope this project will expand in the future, improving every time.”

In the final stage, this service learning project was enriched by the students’ visit to Glacier Creek Preserve, formerly Allwine Prairie, offering the community meaningful resources and help in prairie analysis and care.

“Tallgrasses and Wild Flowers of Nebraska”
Sacred Circle.

Community and Identity
By Tiffany Kelly
Maytha, from the Middle Eastern country of Oman, studies engineering at UNO. However, upon arrival in Omaha she spent several months improving her English in UNO’s Intensive English Program (ILUNO). Maytha is one of more than 110 international students, under the direction of UNO’s Kelli Westphal, who participated in a year-long partnership between ILUNO and Melissa Kandido’s eighth-grade Beveridge Magnet Middle School International Studies students to explore culture, geography, and language in the context of ongoing conversations and collaborative service. El Museo Latino and The Union for Contemporary Arts provided opportunities for conversation and service along with an understanding of Omaha’s rich cultural heritage.

A Walk in Your Shoes
By Marcia Ghali Bergren
Fourth grade students at Washington Elementary learned the difference between a “need” and a “want,” explored the tents issued to individuals at refugee camps around the world and reached out to the community during their year-long service learning project. Under the leadership of Mrs. Jennifer Magnuson-Stessman, the Washington students interviewed individuals from the Omaha community who came to the United States as refugees.

Following the interviews, the students further researched the facts about refugee experiences and partnered with Mary Umberger at local nonprofit organization Hike to Help Refugees to present a series of learning stations, called A Walk in Your Shoes, to community members and the other students at Washington Elementary.

In conjunction with the UNO student organizers of Global Youth Service Day, the Washington students brought their displays and presentations to the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The elementary students skillfully educated several groups of UNO college students through their learning stations. Additionally, the event on UNO’s campus attracted recruits to participate in Global Youth Service Day.

One UNO student commented: “The fourth graders had interesting discussion with us about the difference between a want and a need. If you can survive without it, then it’s a want. That means a toothbrush and modern plumbing are actually wants, not needs.”

Global Voices
By Sandra Espinosa
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No Place for Hate
By Jasmine Perdue

Students in Professor Jacqueline Reiser’s Social Work and Civic Engagement class and Northwest High School Student Council members lead by John Nguyen and Alyssa Gudenkauf worked in collaboration to make Northwest High School a “No Place for Hate” school. “No Place for Hate” is a program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) under the direction of Jessica Gall. With the prevalence of bullying increasing among students in school, Northwest High School Students felt it was important to take a stand and become a “No Place for Hate” school.

UNO students and the Northwest student council members worked together to gain 50% of the study body’s signatures on the Resolution of Respect document. In addition, UNO students helped council members work together to stand and become a “No Place for Hate” school.

Students felt it was important to take a stand and become a “No Place for Hate” school in school, Northwest High School has completed all aspects required to become a “No Place for Hate” school and was presented with a banner to hang proudly in their school.

The university students then created a video of these interviews for airing on Northwest’s television station, Husky Vision. Most importantly, Northwest High School has completed all aspects required to become a “No Place for Hate” school and was presented with a banner to hang proudly in their school.

The Strategic Air and Space Museum
By Erika Jacobson

A museum is a place where history is frozen and retold over and over again through the preservation of artifacts from the past. The Strategic Air and Space Museum (SASM) in Ashland, NE, seeks to do just that through the preservation of military and space aircrafts and related artifacts. Burke High School Focus students and the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s Aviation Department assisted SASM with its mission of preserving history by creating aircraft and artifact displays for the museum.

UNO students in Mr. Scott Vlasek’s Introduction to Aviation class partnered with Mr. Randal Howard’s Burke High School students to create displays for various artifacts at SASM.

The students traveled to SASM and spent the day learning about various historical aircraft and interviewing war veterans who flew some of the planes in the museum. Students successfully built displays for many artifacts, including one of the museum’s historical aircraft: the C54 airplane.

“I think hearing the veteran’s stories built a strong connection for my students.” Mr. Scott Vlasek, UNO Aviation

The students not only met together at SASM, but the Burke students also traveled to UNO to learn about what the Aviation students were doing in their class and work on their displays and research. The students unveiled each of their displays at SASM to the public. The event included members from the community as well as museum donors.

Girls Inc. & Science After School
By Anastasia Ott

Girls Inc. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) students and Dr. Karen Murch-Schaefer’s UNO biology students spent the semester diving into science. With young Girls Inc. participants to the world of science and biology, in hopes of igniting their interest and inquiry in the field.

The students examined and applied biological principles in a variety of real world settings. Together, they used their new learning to collaborate with Heron Haven Sanctuary, a local wetlands preservation site.

As a part of their scientific discovery, the Girls Inc. and UNO students took a variety of field trips. They traveled to the Henry Doorly Zoo, looking at the different components that constitute living systems. The students examined and tested different elements that make up the food humans eat and observed the diets of the different zoo animals. The students also took a behind the scenes tour of the aquarium.

The Girls Inc. students spent a day on the UNO campus, specifically in the biology laboratories, learning about cells, the basic structural and functional unit of all known living organisms.

In service to Heron Haven, the Girls Inc. and UNO students drilled holes into logs to plant mushroom spores and planted flowers around the preservation site.

“I think hearing the veteran’s stories built a strong connection for my students.” Mr. Scott Vlasek, UNO Aviation

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RavelUnravel at UNO and Central High School
By Daniel Walsh

One of Mr. Gary Groff’s aims for Central High School students is to have a better appreciation and understanding of the various spiritualities that they will encounter in their lives. “I feel that the more we know about something, the less we fear it. This project was intended to give the students an opportunity to put a face with a faith and thereby personalize the religious diversity of our community,” Mr. Groff said.

This spring, students from Mr. Groff’s social studies classes at Central High School contributed video interviews to Project Interfaith’s Ravel/Unravel program, a multimedia exploration of the tapestry of spiritual and religious identities that make up our communities and world. Two UNO Religious Studies courses partnered with the project: Dr. Paul Williams’: Senior Seminar in Religion, and Dr. Curtis Hutt’s:

Special Topic in Religion-Jerusalem course.

Throughout the semester, Central student and Dr. William’s students collected over 35 interviews of both UNO and Central students. The videos are a contribution to Ravel/Unravel’s website, which now serves the Omaha community with over 840 videos that foster education about topics often considered taboo in our society: identity, religion, spirituality and stereotypes.

As a final reflection event, Dr. Hutt’s students participated in mock Ravel/Unravel interviews at Central, answering as Jerusalemites from different religious and ethnic identities.

“Ravel/Unravel provided me with the chance to further my knowledge about the diverse religious communities in the Metro area.”

Sam M. – OHS student
This edition of the Service Learning Academy P-16 Initiative newsletter showcases the most recent of three academic years of UNO and P-12 students learning and serving together with nonprofit community partners. Reflection is an essential practice to connect learning and experience, so I will take this opportunity to reflect on the past three years:

- Over 9,000 students from K-12 schools and UNO have engaged in service learning together
- 191 P-12 educators, after school program facilitators, and UNO faculty members have completed Seminar training
- The first Service Learning Seminar Alumni Showcase was held in February 2013
- Three P-16 Service Learning projects have won ServeNebraska Outstanding Community Service Awards
- P-16 teams have showcased their service learning collaborations at professional conferences across the globe

As we look into the next three years, the P-16 Initiative in the Service Learning Academy continues to assess and refine the Seminars and provide the best possible foundation on which P-16 teams can build their curriculum. We are hiring and training graduate assistants to provide the best support for projects. We are working hard to tell your story of how Omaha instructors are engaging students in their communities, one classroom at a time. The collective impact of service learning on student learning and community needs is being explored through quantitative and qualitative measures. November 6-8, 2013, UNO will host the International Association for Research in Service Learning and Community Engagement Conference (www.researchslce.org). Presenters from across the globe will share their research in service learning and community engagement. We are pleased to be able to showcase the community values articulated through engaged teaching, research and scholarship in Omaha.

Throughout the past three years one thing remains true: Service Learning Seminars provide an engaging opportunity for faculty members to learn about quality service learning. Our next Service Learning Seminar will be held July 15-19, 2013. Participants receive a $400 stipend for participation as well as graduate assistant support for project implementation. Please encourage faculty members to participate as a way to meet standards and course objectives while engaging students in their learning and community. We are excited to learn and serve with you in the next academic year!

Julie Dierberger, P-16 Coordinator
University of Nebraska Omaha
Service Learning Academy