



Service-Learning News



Dallas Baptist University Students are embracing their education and passion and putting them to use in service, as developing Servant Leaders.

Enhance Student Learning • Foster Civic Responsibility • Develop Servant Leaders

DBU Students Share Knowledge and Hope in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, more than 40 percent of the population is under-employed, with many people working only a few hours a week at low wages. With so many living in hard conditions, there is a great need for help. Thirteen students from Dallas Baptist University, accompanied by



three faculty members, had the opportunity to travel to this impoverished country over winter break and to provide aid through principles they learned

in the classroom.

The DBU team partnered with Humanitarian Aid for Rural Development (HARD), a non-governmental organization established by alumni, Drs. Abraham and Amie Sarker. The trip combined a biology class taught by Dr. Deanna Noyes and a business course taught by Dr. Ross O'Brien. Each class contained a service-learning component, which allowed students to engage in ministry service as a means of applying classroom knowledge in the real world.

"God moved mightily and was glorified through the team in many different ways," said Dr. Amie Sarker, assistant professor of education and program administrator for the M.Ed. in Reading and ESL Program and ESL Certification Program. "The biology and business students and faculty provided wonderful servant leadership that helped to advance the work in Bangladesh in practical, strategic ways."

On the trip, DBU biology students conducted tests on the soil for nitrogen levels as well as potassium and phosphates. Farmers in Bangladesh typically grow rice for three seasons each year, which has caused the soil to become severely depleted in nitrogen. Through testing, the students determined the soil texture and advised farmers on the best ways to cultivate their land. Using their research, they explained to the farmers how much and what type of fertilizer would be best to use and when to apply it for maximum benefit, saving the farmers both time and money. They also encouraged farmers to consider planting a companion crop for one of the growing seasons to add nitrogen back into the soil and produce stronger rice crops the next season.

Dr. Deanna Noyes, professor of natural sciences, shared, "Every student who came on the trip was hand-picked by God. Each one of them was sensitive to the needs of their fellow workers, serving each other, especially those who were suffering from physical limitations. They all had fabulous attitudes and did their assigned tasks willingly and well."

For the business students, time was spent meeting with individuals who received microloans from HARD to begin new businesses. The students examined how the individuals were using the money and the best ways to make their businesses profitable.

One family they met with were basket weavers. The father and mother used the money

from their microloan to buy the supplies necessary to make and sell handmade baskets. The parents were having great success selling all of the baskets they were able to make, but recently had been shouldering the added costs of their grown daughter, who was forced to return to live at home.

The DBU students met with them and analyzed their business model. "We encouraged them to train their daughter in the business so that she could contribute financially, as well as gain independence and provide for her own family," said junior Ally Stryker. "This conversation turned into a time of encouragement for this young woman and showing her that she had so much worth."

After their meeting, the students prayed with the family, and each walked away from the experience changed.

"I think often we separate missions from development or aid," Ally continued. "When we are going on a mission trip we prepare our hearts and when we are going on a business trip or study project, we prepare our minds. It was incredible to see God work holistically. The Gospel was shared not only through our words, but through training businesspeople, testing soil, and holding babies. God moved so powerfully."



Students Serve at Feast of Sharing

For the fourth consecutive year, the Dallas Baptist University Athletic Department took part in the annual Feast of Sharing, hosted by H-E-B/Central Market. The sixth annual event was provided to thousands of people at Fair Park, many of whom were bused in from different area shelters and community centers.

All in all, Thursday's feast featured approximately 2,500 pounds of sliced turkey, 350 gallons of mashed potatoes, 1,800 pounds of cornbread dressing, 9,000 rolls and 900 pumpkin pies. The goal of the event was to feed over 13,000 people.

With over 175 DBU student-athletes, coaches, and staff from all 21 of the Patriot Athletic teams,

joined hundreds of other volunteers at Fair Park to offer their services throughout the afternoon and evening. Student-athletes served food, bused tables, took out trash, and visited with thousands of homeless and less fortunate people from all over the Dallas area.

"Feast of sharing is always a wonderful experience and definitely puts things in perspective on how blessed we really are," commented junior Cheerleader and Diamond Belles, Stevie Shirley. "It was a fantastic experience to serve with other athletes from DBU. I enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the children and to be able to share the joy of Christ with others."

Visitors were treated with Thanksgiving plates along with

pumpkin pie, ice cream, and drinks. Aside from a traditional holiday meal, the event also offered various health services, a Kids-Zone with a bounce house, and several crafts, along with music concerts performed by various artists.

"The DBU student-athletes had the unique privilege to serve at the Feast of Sharing for the fourth straight year. This event is a great opportunity for our student-athletes to show Christ's love in action," said DBU Director of Athletics Ryan Erwin. "H-E-B and Central Market always do a great job in organizing the event, and it was a blessing and truly amazing to watch these young men and women serve as "Champions for Christ" in the community."

Blake Brody, Brandon Kock, Kelsey Erwin, and Megan Bullis share their time and love through serving with Feast of Sharing, as part of the regular community service by DBU student-athletes.





CAMPUS INTEGRATES SERVICE-LEARNING

Service to others has been a central theme of Dallas Baptist University since Dr. Cook's arrival as president in 1988. In his first chapel address, Dr. Cook quoted medical missionary Dr. Albert Schweitzer's words, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." Using the ultimate model of Christ as a servant, the young president called upon the DBU family to commit their lives in service to others for the glory of God.

During the past 25 years, the University community has continued to holistically adopt the principles of servant leadership. In many regards, service-learning has been an unofficial guide to learning, both inside and outside of the classroom,

throughout Dr. Cook's administration. But six years ago, during the development of DBU's Quality Enhancement Plan for the institution's accrediting agency, SACS, the thought of officially instituting campus-wide service-learning at DBU was just an idea on paper.

Through the leadership of Dr. Cook, Provost Dr. Gail Linam, and countless others, service-learning has become an integral part of the DBU curriculum, community, and culture.

The concepts of service-learning have expanded, in many ways, beyond what any faculty or staff imagined. Take, for example, a routine science experiment in the Roberts Science Building that has transformed into an on-going missional



DR. COOK DELIVERS FIRST CHAPEL ADDRESS, EMPHASIZING SERVICE.

1988

SACS* REAFFIRMATION VISITING COMMITTEE CONFIRMS INTEGRATION OF MISSION STATEMENT.

1998

SUMMER FACULTY INSTITUTE ON S-L* CONDUCTED.

2004

A FOCUS TO PRODUCE SERVANT LEADERS IS WOVEN INTO NEW MISSION STATEMENT.

1993

STUDENT AFFAIRS INCORPORATES SERVICE THROUGH CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP AND FOUNDATIONS COURSES.

2000

S-L FAIR HELD FOR ENTIRE CAMPUS, PROMOTING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR ALL ACADEMIC DIVISIONS.

2005

*DENOTES DBU'S ACCREDITATION AGENCY: THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS / *SERVICE-LEARNING / *QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN REQUIRED FOR SACS ACCREDITATION

ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING. FOSTER CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY. DEVELOP SERVANT LEADERS.



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and educational commitment. Several years ago, students began testing soil that was sent to DBU from coffee farms in Laos as a part of the ecology class that is the service-learning component for natural science and biology majors. For this experiment, DBU's College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics became a USDA certified soil-testing facility.

As a result of this training, the door opened for DBU biology students to use their already acquired knowledge and skills halfway across the world. A team of biology students traveled to Bangladesh in the fall of 2010 to assist rural farmers in testing soil and developing treatment plans that would improve their crops (and in turn, livelihoods). The need in Bangladesh was realized through DBU alumni Drs. Abraham and Amie Sarker's non-governmental organiza-



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tion, Humanitarian Aid for Rural Development (HARD), which provides assistance to people in Abraham's native country.

Three years later, another team of biology students were able to go back to aid those in Bangladesh (pictured on page 8); this time, they were also accompanied by business students, who offered management principles for HARD micro-loan recipients running their own businesses.

"When we are going on a mission trip, we prepare our hearts; and when we are going on a business trip or study project, we prepare our minds," one of the students on the trip commented. "It was incredible to see God work holistically. The Gospel was shared not only through our words, but also through training

business people, testing soil, and holding babies. God moved so powerfully."

Only through such an all-encompassing and life-changing methodology as service-learning could a routine science lesson turn into a cross-cultural ministry opportunity. More than just the scientific principles found in a textbook, students learned that opportunities for helping others are available in all facets of life.

Pictured Above: 1) Andrew Briscoe, DBU's director of Service-Learning, along with his wife, Amy, and their children, Emory and Trice. 2) Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU's executive vice president (right) along with Tyler Knox (left), assistant director of athletics, on a Habitat for Humanity trip to Louisiana.

**DEPARTMENT
MISSION STATEMENT**
SERVICE-LEARNING AT DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY IS A TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY THAT INTEGRATES ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND GUIDED REFLECTION FROM A CHRIST-CENTERED, FAITH-BASED PERSPECTIVE IN ORDER TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING, TO FOSTER CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY, AND TO DEVELOP SERVANT LEADERS.

2006 SACS AFFIRMS S-L AS DBU'S QEP. DBU CREATES S-L DEPARTMENT AND NAMES S-L DIRECTOR. COUNCIL FOR S-L (COMPRISED OF FACULTY AND STAFF) ESTABLISHED.

2006

2008

2008 STATEMENT ABOUT S-L EMPHASIS ADDED TO EVERY SYLLABUS FOR EVERY COURSE ON EVERY DEGREE LEVEL.

2010

2010 DBU RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL AWARD FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT TIME. DBU STUDENTS LOG 153,000 COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS.

2012

2007

2007 FACULTY MEMBERS INVITED TO JOIN 400 FRESHMAN/TRANSFER STUDENTS FOR SWAT SERVICE DAY.

2009

2009 PARTNER WITH AREA UNIVERSITIES TO ADVANCE CONCEPT OF S-L THROUGHOUT METROPLEX. FIRST INTERNATIONAL S-L TRIP.

2011

2011 DBU BEGINS HOSTING SERVANT U SUMMER CAMP, WHICH INCORPORATES S-L FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTENDING.

DBU Honors Community Partners



FBC West students share a photo with DBU Students at DNow

Dallas Baptist University presented awards to the First Baptist Church of West and Gospel for Muslims during the annual Community Partners Appreciation Luncheon on July 9. Both were recognized for their significant contributions to the service-learning program at DBU. First Baptist West was named the Co-Curricular Partner of the Year, and Gospel for Muslims was named Curricular Partner of the Year.

DBU partners with many community ministries each year to provide service opportunities for students. This annual luncheon is held to recognize the ministries that work diligently with students to provide meaningful learning experiences. Faculty members attend the luncheon, along with the community partners, to provide opportunities for collaboration for future projects.

DBU has partnered with Gospel for Muslims for several years, providing students with a hands-on approach to apply the learning they have received from the classroom into current ministries. The mission of the organization, according to founders Drs. Abraham and Amie Sarker, DBU alumni, is to “help Muslims follow Christ through sustainable solutions.”

DBU has been fortunate enough to take students on several mission trips with Gospel for Muslims. Through these trips, biology students at DBU have tested soil for sustainability and provided guidance to Middle Eastern farmers on the best ways to produce good crops. Business students have also participated on trips to provide business and marketing plans to individuals in countries with high poverty rates to help them provide for their families. This partnership has provided service-learning experience for DBU students within their fields of study, all the while sharing the love of Christ with those they encounter.

Following the tragic fertilizer plant explosion in April in West, Texas, DBU desired to reach out and help those hurting in the town. After speaking with Phil Immicke, associate pastor and youth minister at FBC West, the spiritual life staff at DBU partnered with the church to provide a Disciple Now weekend for the youth from FBC West. A busload of 54 junior high and high school students traveled to the DBU campus for a weekend retreat of spiritual renewal, small group interaction, recreational games, and an outpouring of love from college students.

DBU recognized FBC West with this award as a way of showing the partnership the University has made with the church to help them recover from this devastation. Plans are underway to host a Disciple Now weekend for the youth again next year, and the DBU grounds crew is also traveling to West in the fall to help with the town’s clean-up efforts.

When receiving the award, Immicke shared, “it is hard to accept recognition when we are just doing what God has called us to do – love God and serve people.” He also expressed thanks for the DBU students that gave of their time to pour into the lives of the youth. His students still talk about the weekend and the impact that it had in strengthening their faith and helping them to look outside their own circumstances and find ways to reach out to others that were hurting.

Each academic program at DBU has a service-learning component that allows students to apply their learning in practical ways through the ministry partners



Gospel for Muslims founders Abraham and Amie Sarker take a moment to capture a memory during a DBU mission trip to Bangladesh

DBU Encourages West Students to Stand with Hope

ROMANS 5:2

Stand with Hope

FBC WEST
DNOW 2013

On Friday, April 26, a busload of 54 junior high and high school students from West, Texas, traveled to the Dallas Baptist University campus in southeast Dallas for a Disciple Now (DNow) weekend of spiritual renewal, small group interaction, recreational games, and an outpouring of love from college students.

"It was a great opportunity to bring the students away from all that was happening in West and provide a weekend to have fun and remind them that through it all, God is there beside them," said Chase Thomson, a DBU junior from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The DNow was originally going to be held at the First Baptist Church of West, with DBU students coming to serve as leaders for the weekend through the University's Encounter ministry. The fertilizer plant explosion that occurred in West on Wednesday, April 17, devastated the entire community and soon prevented the church from being able to host the event for area students. When the Associate Pastor and Youth Minister from First Baptist West, Phil Immicke, called DBU to share that they would not be able to host the youth discipleship weekend, DBU President Dr. Gary Cook prayed about how the University could reach out and help. He soon called the associate pastor back and told him if they were willing, DBU would like to host the weekend on the DBU campus instead. As DBU staff quickly began planning the DNow, many around the Metroplex willingly pitched in with donations and discounts to make the weekend possible. Discounts on hotel rooms for the students were provided, a bus company gave a reduced rate for the weekend for transportation, and a merchandise company donated t-shirts for all the students.

"I was amazed by how generous so many people were to respond in love to the community of West and in partnership for the work of God," said Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president. Additionally, faculty, staff, and students donated gift cards for each student, along with care packages for them to take back home. The DBU community and surrounding area rallied together to make the weekend a reality for the junior high and high school students who had been through so much.



DBU Junior Will Raies leads worship for FBC West TX D-Now

"It was absolutely incredible to see how the Lord provided this weekend," Chris Holloway, director of global missions, expressed. "From the various donations to the outpouring of love from the community and DBU, I was blown away to witness these awesome kids have a great time away from all the chaos back home. To see them worship was such a blessing, and it warmed my heart to know that the anthem of this youth group in regards to the explosion is 'God is bigger than this!'"

The weekend's theme, "Stand with Hope," soon resounded with all involved, and the theme verse from Romans 5:2 rang true: "through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

Jay Harley, Dean of Students and Spiritual Life, served as the speaker for the weekend and challenged students to live standing confidently in their hope in Christ. During his talk, Harley sought to help students become aware of cultural idols that may be in their lives. Due to the recent tragedy, many realized how fleeting possessions can be and how precious life is.

Small group discussions were led by DBU students throughout the weekend, who found themselves greatly inspired by the strength and stamina of the West students. A goal during the weekend was to help the students realize the depth of God's love and faithfulness to them.

"While an explosion is what brought these students to DBU, this weekend was about the Lord and the hope we have in Him," said DBU sophomore Kristen Hendrix, of McKinney. "In every song we sang and every small group conversation we had, we prayed to the Lord to thank Him for His faithfulness in our lives."

As the weekend came to a close, West students grew excited to return back home and share with their friends and family about all that they had learned. Many expressed how they felt rejuvenated and ready to assist with the recovery work that was still left to be done in West.

When the bus returned home, the DBU staff and West students were greeted by members of the church. Pastor Crowder expressed his deep-felt gratitude for all of the time, energy and resources donated to make the weekend possible. With tears in his eyes, he shared, "You really cannot understand what you have done for us, what you have done for our community."

The DBU representatives pledged to the pastor that the help would not end there, with promises of continued prayer support and plans already underway to help lead next year's DNow weekend. Even in the midst of ongoing trial and tragedy, those involved were reminded of the Lord's faithfulness regardless of circumstance and will not soon forget the blessings that the Lord bestowed during the time of worship and learning.

"Our hope and prayer at Dallas Baptist University is that people will come to know the Lord as their Savior and to trust Him as their hope and strength through this life changing experience," Dr. Blackburn concluded.



DBU Encounter Ministries stops to pose for a fun photo with students from First Baptist Church of West, Texas outside of Horner Ballpark on the DBU Campus. Part of a weekend of ministry for the student of West and those from DBU alike.

Story by: Kalie Lowrie