SERVE 2 LEARN
A UMKC DATABASE THAT SUPPORTS SERVICE LEARNING
By: Alexis Petri, Research Associate, UMKC Institute for Human Development


Serve 2 Learn is UMKC’s budding resource to connect campus and community for service and learning. Originally designed and built as a service-learning project of a small group of students at John Carroll University, a Jesuit university in Ohio, the project went so well, some of the students formed a business called thunder::tech. Currently several years in operation, thunder::tech offers its service-learning project management resource to universities. It is a great product because the developers know students, universities, and service-learning.

Using a web-based interface, Serve 2 Learn provides a forum for faculty, staff, students, and alumni to view opportunities and needs posted by community-based organizations post. They can also enroll in an activity and track their service over time. It is open to the entire UMKC community whether participating in service or civic engagement, whether organizing service-learning, community service, or other outreach projects.

The idea behind Serve 2 Learn started in a FaCET workshop where, because a speaker had to cancel at the last minute, the faculty in attendance discussed the multiple ways students learn in an applied or community-based setting. At a large, urban-serving university, these ways are myriad: sometimes unique to disciplines and sometimes a general approach to teaching. What they all have in common is a meaningful connection between student and community for the purposes of teaching and learning. Finding these opportunities can be challenging. Orchestrating dozens of students tackling community-based learning experiences can be daunting. The FaCET workshop ended with a need: a database of community organizations and their opportunities for student learning and service.

FaCET connected with UMKC’s Institute for Human Development (which houses UMKC Service-Learning) about a database of experiential education opportunities: does one exist? What would it take to update it? An avoidable challenge of databases is that they quickly become out of date. Even if the old Excel spreadsheet were dusted off and given a new coating of information, it would become obsolete before the year is over. The second challenge is the nature of quality service-learning: it is dependent upon the intersection of authentic community need and academic learning outcomes. The best community partners want to know more about the courses and

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LETTER FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR
By: Deborah Smith
Acting Director, FaCET
Associate Professor, Sociology

Greetings!

I am excited to be serving as Acting Director for the 2009-2010 academic year. The directorship came open when Steve Dilks stepped down after several years in the position. The first order of business for me, therefore, is to thank Steve Dilks, FaCET’s founding director, for the amazing job he has done in establishing the center and working to keep it faculty-focused and faculty-led.

I feel much honored to serve in this position and intend to continue to strongly support the faculty development mission of FaCET. Indeed, I am glad FaCET exists as I have often attended FaCET presentations so I know from first-hand experience it is a great resource. In addition to learning many ways to improve my teaching, I also found attending FaCET programs has been the best way for me to meet faculty beyond the College of Arts and Sciences. It is easy to engage with other faculty at FaCET programs because we are all focused on the same desire--to reach excellence in teaching. I hope FaCET will continue to serve these two functions in the coming years.

We have made a few additions to the FaCET programming already this year. Whenever possible we are scheduling each seminar to be held twice: once on the Volker Campus and then again on the Health Sciences Campus to accommodate as many faculty as possible who would like to attend. So if you see a seminar topic you are interested in, check to see how many times it is offered. But if you are not able to attend seminars due to scheduling conflicts, we have created a Blackboard website where we are posting Tegrity podcasts of

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Disciplines that routinely send their students into the city. The real advantage of a database is to be more interactive than a static spreadsheet and more dynamic than a database, even if it is updated once each year. The opportunity emerged for the group to consider how to use web-based technology that would give each part of the service-learning equation access to current information.

In the service-learning arena, such applications are typically developed by each university and can be expensive. By chance, UMKC Service-Learning had a connection with John Carroll University’s service-learning and community service program which used a decentralized, web-based system for project management. A small group of recent graduates had formed a marketing and software applications company called thunder::tech. The small band of UMKC faculty and staff contacted thunder::tech regarding the application they designed for John Carroll University.

Initially designed as a service-learning project, the founders of the small start-up company had recently expanded the web-based system as one of their first projects. With UMKC as their second service application client (although not their second client – their business is growing), the product added several features that make it truly a project management system. Serve 2 Learn shifts the focus from tracking students to touch with the current needs of Kansas City’s nonprofits, schools, and local governments.

Yet, it is flexible enough for faculty, students, and their community partners to customize their information and connections.

Come join us where student and faculty innovation meets community opportunity – Serve 2 Learn. Set up your profile today: www.umkc.edu/servicelearning. Meet with UMKC Service-Learning to discuss how Serve 2 Learn will meet your needs.

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(The next FaCET seminar on “Serve 2 Learn” will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, from 2 pm to 3:30 pm, at the Health Sciences Campus, room to be announced.)

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All seminars for viewing at your leisure. All members of the FaCET listserv have access to the Blackboard site, so if you have received this newsletter directly, you have access so check it out.

My main task this year as Acting Director is to “complete an evaluation and strategic plan for the program. This plan will be developed in relationship to the University strategic plan and in collaboration with UMKC faculty and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs”. Therefore I plan to evaluate FaCET’s impacts on the UMKC campus since its inception and to provide direction for the next 5 years. To this end, we will be gathering data from seminar participants throughout the year. We will also host focus groups with faculty around campus to learn about their experiences of FaCET and gather ideas for the future. Of course, I also welcome your ideas on how FaCET should grow in the next 5 years, so feel free to contact me to tell me your thoughts on the matter.

In reviewing UMKC’s self-study created for the reaccreditation process, I noted that the creation of FaCET was held up as a major accomplishment in the last 5 years. I take my temporary stewardship of this wonderful faculty resource very seriously and plan to keep it going strong to hand over to the permanent director when s/he comes on board.

I look forward to an exciting year!

MEET THE NEW FACET FACULTY FELLOW:

Jennifer Friend, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Program Coordinator, pK-12 Educational Administration
Urban Leadership & Policy Studies in Education
School of Education at UMKC

Q & A
What are some of the educational and professional experiences that led you to become a FaCET Faculty Fellow at UMKC?

I joined the educational administration faculty at UMKC in 2005, one year after completing an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. with dissertation research focused on single-gender grouping in middle grades science classrooms. My professional experiences prior to the transition to higher education included language arts teaching with young adolescents and working as a middle school administrator for nine years in Kansas. I participated in the New Faculty Teaching Scholars program during my second year at UMKC, and I continued involvement with FaCET through facilitating seminars and presenting at the UMKC New Faculty Orientation. I am excited to be a Faculty Fellow this semester, and my responsibilities include serving as chair of the Teaching Enhancement Grants Committee and facilitating the Teaching Circles program.

What is your philosophy of teaching and learning?

I believe that my responsibility as an instructor and advisor is to promote intellectual and personal growth in a positive environment for learning that is respectful and inclusive of all learners. As a community of learners, I expect students to contribute to this goal through their supportive interaction with colleagues. It is my goal to facilitate positive growth for every student enrolled in my classes, engaging learners in meaningful educational experiences designed to promote attainment of course objectives. As a faculty member in the School of Education, these course objectives are in alignment with state and national standards for educational professionals, in order to prepare candidates for their roles as highly qualified and certified educators and leaders.

What are some of your accomplishments related to the scholarship of teaching and learning?

My research agenda focuses on issues of equity in education, specifically educational administra-
FACENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS
OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2009

All sessions in Miller Nichols Library, Room 122 and from Noon to 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. This schedule is subject to change; please check the FaCET web-site, http://go.umkc.edu/facet for the most up to date schedule and event details. For questions, contact Bob Schubert, schubertr@umkc.edu.

Teaching with Technology
♦ Oct 15 — Office 2007 Orientation (Health Sciences Campus)
♦ Oct 21 — Using Excel Effectively
♦ Nov 3 — Using Word Effectively (Health Sciences Campus)
♦ Nov 4 — Using PowerPoint Effectively
♦ Nov 5 — Web 2.0—Next Generation
♦ Nov 11 — Using Outlook Effectively (Health Sciences Campus)
♦ Nov 16 — What Technology Resources Are Available @ UMKC
♦ Nov 19 — Using Excel Effectively (Health Sciences Campus)
♦ Dec 3 — Using PowerPoint Effectively (Health Sciences Campus)

Contact Cindy Amyot, amyotc@umkc.edu

Service Learning
♦ Nov 3 — Serve 2 Learn, 2-3:30 p.m. (Health Sciences Campus)

Contact Bob Schubert, schubertr@umkc.edu

Oral History
♦ Nov 12 — What Oral Historians Need to Know about Human Subject Research
♦ Dec 10 — Ethnography and the SSIRB

Contact Drew Bergerson, bergersona@umkc.edu

Assessment For Learning
♦ Oct 22 — Formative Assessment
♦ Nov 17 — Assessment Plans for Program Improvement

Contact Michael Strait, straitmj@umkc.edu

Global Conversations (every third Wednesday)
♦ Oct 14—When America is the Foreign Country
♦ Nov 18—Global Medicine

Contact Linna Place, placel@umkc.edu

Library Sessions
♦ Oct 28 — New Library Databases
♦ Oct 29—New Library Databases for Education Study and Research (School of Education, Room 34)
♦ Feb 17 — “Can I Put That on Blackboard?” (Health Sciences Campus)
♦ Feb 18 — “Can I Put That on Blackboard?”

Contact Fu Zhuo, zhuof@umkc.edu

FaCET
Teaching Enhancement Grants
Contact Jennifer Friend, friendji@umkc.edu

UMKC Faculty Writing Group
School of Education, Room 307
♦ Oct 20 — 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
♦ Nov 18 — 9:00 a.m. to Noon
♦ Dec 9 — 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact Jennifer Friend, friendji@umkc.edu

TEACHING CIRCLES
Fall 2009
Informal, self-governing groups to share ideas, syllabi, suggestions. Contact Jennifer Friend, friendji@umkc.edu, for more information.

Library Sessions
♦ Oct 28 — New Library Databases
♦ Oct 29—New Library Databases for Education Study and Research (School of Education, Room 34)
♦ Feb 17 — “Can I Put That on Blackboard?” (Health Sciences Campus)
♦ Feb 18 — “Can I Put That on Blackboard?”

Contact Fu Zhuo, zhuof@umkc.edu

Save the date!
Saturday, May 1, 2010
9am-4pm
Fourth Annual Greater Kansas City Symposium on Teaching and Learning
Location: UMKC Conference Center

Connect—

Browse to: http://www.umkc.edu/provost/initiatives/FaCET/FacultyResources.asp for information on conferences, sample syllabi, teaching ideas, and links to teaching-centered sites.
Michael Wesch from Kansas State University to Speak at 2010 FaCET Symposium
by Cynthia C. Gadbury-Amyot, UMKC School of Dentistry

FaCET is excited to announce that the keynote speaker for the 2010 FaCET Symposium will be Dr. Michael Wesch from Kansas State University. Michael is a cultural anthropologist who explores the effects of social media and digital technology on society through his teaching and learning. Wesch contends that a culture transformed by digital media will likely require fundamental changes in the way that we teach. With the Web as one of the most powerful connecting forces ever he believes anthropology can play a key role in informing educators and others. He has developed several videos and posted them on YouTube, a popular video sharing website. His video titled “Web 2.0 – The Machine is Us/ing Us” has been viewed by billions of individuals around the world. This video can be accessed at: (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gmP4nk0EOE). Dr. Wesch has received numerous awards including the 2008 CASE/Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year for Doctoral and Research Universities. He was recently named an Emerging Explorer by National Geographic, a program that recognizes and supports uniquely gifted and inspiring young adventurers, scientists, photographers, and storytellers – explorers who are already making a difference early in their careers.

Come join us and hear how Dr. Wesch is changing the way that education looks at technology, at the 2010 Annual FaCET Symposium to be held at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Road, Friday, April 9, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thank you: The work at FaCET would not be possible without the support of the Provost’s office, the Deans’ council, the Teaching Enhancement Grant committee, and Faculty across campus.