Research that Reaches Out
Faculty and Staff Newsletter - November 2017

Go Baby Go
On October 28, Dr. Phil McCreanor (College of Engineering), Dr. Sybil Keesbury (College of Education), and Dr. Bob Watson (College of Engineering) hosted their third Mercer build for Go Baby Go. This initiative, which is part of the Engineering Honors Program, is a national, community-based research, design and outreach program started in 2012 at the University of Delaware. Integrating assistive technology, families, clinicians and industry partners, the program helps provide children with disabilities the opportunity for movement, mobility and socialization.

The fourth faculty collaborator to join this initiative, Dr. Alyssa Fiss (College of Health Professions) traveled to Macon with her physical therapy students to lend their expertise to the faculty and undergraduate engineering and education students at the build. While they provided one-on-one coaching to the kids and their families, Mercer’s student athletes braved the cold and threat of rain to direct traffic and usher in families to the build location. Dr. Jeff Hugdahl, College of Liberal Arts and Faculty Athletic Representative, donated gifts to the families and worked with baseball player Carter Varga to recruit and coordinate over 20 student athlete volunteers.

Go Baby Go is an excellent example of how multiple colleges can work together on service-research projects. Great job to all those involved. We can’t wait for the next build!

Recap: Development Summit
The October 26 summit, organized by Dr. Lisa Vu (College of Liberal Arts) was a great success. With over 100 students, faculty, and community members in attendance, the event featured faculty, students, and alumni who shared their best practices in community development work at both the local and global levels. The event theme, “Transforming Good Intentions into Good Practices,” allowed for a range of topics from understanding the narratives of place to lessons learned from travels abroad. The program was sponsored by the INT 301 program, International and Global Studies, and Research that Reaches Out with support from the Mercer On Mission program.

We Love Assessment! Yes We Do! We Love Assessment! How About You?
In this month of giving thanks, we want to say thank you to all of our faculty who so generously share student work with us for our Expose, Explore, and Express assessment. If you are one of the lucky chosen, you should have already received emails with information about submitting student work. For those of you who have already shared work or made plans to do so, thank you.

If you haven’t been contacted for assessment and would like to be included in the Explore or Express counts, please contact Hannah Vann or Dr. Kathy Kloepper.

Japan Study Abroad Scholarships
Mercer has been invited to participate in the Kakehashi Project by the Ministry of Education in Japan. Up to 23 Mercer students will visit Japan on an all-expenses-paid Spring Break study abroad experience that is organized by Japanese officials. Students can apply here. The application deadline is December 1.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Strecker.

Additional Funding
- Semester Project Support Round 2 (due December 1)
- Conference Funding (rolling application)

To discuss project ideas and/or applications, contact Dr. Kathy Kloepper.
Eight Student Projects Awarded Funding for Visionary Student Panel Proposals

Veronica Enchautegui and Mary Melissa Roland are implementing a Teen Maze simulation to help Macon-Bibb teens understand the consequences of engaging in risky behaviors.

Alfred Troy is growing awareness and decreasing the stigma of depression and anxiety with a skateboard/run/walk/dance/bike-a-thon.

Laura Ann Harrell, Mary Martinez, and Shruthi Vikraman are bringing the Campus Couches initiative to Mercer to create a space for students to engage with peers outside their social circles.

Johna Wright is establishing a program to help high school students with disabilities develop the skills necessary for living on a residential college campus.

Sophie Leveille is designing a music curriculum for use in afterschool programs that serve refugee populations.

John Williams and Catherine Crowe are hosting a series of facilitated dialogues called Daring Discussions where students can talk about social issues.

Daniel Pham and Joseph Land are mapping recycling bins on campus and incorporating it into a “Bear Essentials” map that helps students find essential services on campus.

Maddie Zgonc is creating a curriculum for Macon-Bibb public school students to introduce them to current events and popular culture in the Middle East.