service
THAT GOES BEYOND TRADITIONAL

Defiance College introduces the pioneering Project 701, a completely student-run nonprofit

by Debbie Richard, '02, '04, Assistant Director of Marketing

Defiance College is taking its focus on service a step further with the introduction of a student-run nonprofit organization, exposing students to a more sophisticated practice of academic service learning.

To launch the project, a new class was offered in the fall of 2009 to help students learn about entrepreneurship. The class has now evolved into a nonprofit, student-run organization called Project 701.

Project 701 was officially incorporated by Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, who met personally with the students earlier this year to discuss the nonprofit's aspirations and activities and to present the group with its Articles of Incorporation.

Bruner stated, "The students and faculty of Project 701 are to be commended for the work they do to enrich the lives of the students at Defiance College as well as people in the global community. I was honored to host representatives of their organization in my office on April 21, and am inspired by their commitment to the cause."

Project 701 will be housed within the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity which already serves as the home for a range of service programs at Defiance College and is a pioneer in numerous areas. And, starting this fall, the college's Service Leaders will participate in Project 701 in addition to other students from across the campus.

Dr. Buck Buchanan, associate professor of business administration, taught the nonprofit course. "With Project 701, students will not just be the worker bees, but also the project managers. They will learn how to run an organization," he said. "They will also

Meeting with Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner (seated) were, standing from left: Former McMaster dean Dr. Laurie Worrall, students Steven Switz and Shanna Chuenyane, and faculty member Dr. Buck Buchanan.

have to think through business strategies and be in a position of figuring out which projects are worthy of support and which are not."

The new organization has a list of projects to begin, while a few have already been started.

Students have begun the process of looking at opportunities to micro-lend in Jamaica and are considering partnering with an organization that already has a relationship with the country to provide this service. The plan is for the students to travel to Jamaica and interview business owners to help determine if those businesses are able to meet the requirements of the program. If they decide to move forward, they would be loaning funds, ranging from $100 to $2,000 to small business owners that will enable them to expand their business and reach the next level of success in their local economies.

Project 701 will also be starting several other initiatives. These include developing a wide range of student "businesses" to provide services to different parts of the community as well as working with community-based organizations. One project will partner with high school students to record area veterans' personal stories and provide them

with additional services. Another project under consideration would create a student "business" to provide various computer services. To do all of these projects, the students will be hard at work recruiting

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additional students, working on campus awareness, and raising operational funds. Many of the projects will help them to raise funds as there is a potential cost for the service performed or potential income from other projects.

Project 701, as a newly formed nonprofit, will have a board consisting of students, faculty, staff and alumni to help guide the

organization. The board will be in place for the fall semester as the students regroup and begin working on their projects.

Buchanan said that Project 701 will incorporate the strengths of each major to accomplish goals that enrich the lives of people in the global community. It will engage in philanthropic projects locally, regionally and internationally to serve communities and help them meet their own needs while providing impactful experiential learning opportunities to DC students. Buchanan said it is a goal to ultimately have every student involved in some manner with various projects that meet the mission of Project 701.

Mary Ann Studer, interim dean of the McMaster School, noted that students in Project 701 will participate in professional workshops to prepare them for the entrepreneurial skills they will need to be successful in their endeavors. ◆

McMASTER SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

"Democracy and Education in the Face of Rural Change" was the theme of the 2010 McMaster Symposium held earlier this year on the DC campus. Students and faculty from three learning communities as well as other programs gave presentations over the two-day event.

Guest speakers were Adam Renner, associate professor of education at Bellamine University, and Patrick Carr, associate professor of sociology at Rutgers. Carr co-authored the book, *Hollowing Out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain and What It Means for America*, with his partner Maria Kefala. Renner focuses his research on issues of pedagogy, social difference, and service learning.

McMaster faculty fellows and student scholars from the Cambodia, Belize and New Orleans learning communities gave in-depth presentations on their work with their partners over the past year. Students in the Citizen Leader Program gave a presentation on their service trip to Jamaica.

Students, faculty and staff who have taken part in alternative spring break trips also gave presentations on their experiences which included a Civil Rights Tour and a Habitat for Humanity building project.

McMaster Symposium guest speaker Adam Renner, associate professor of education at Bellamine University