

### Greetings from the CSL!

Welcome to the new academic year and its many possibilities. Each year we are fortunate to continue the valuable work of service-learning in partnership with faculty, university administration, students and community organizations. It is a privilege to work

**McCall Kosareff**, Sociology senior: *The biggest thing I took from service-learning was that it goes both ways. For the learning to truly happen, both parties have to be completely present. Service-learning means coming into a situation with an open heart.*

with so many people who share the common goal of building healthier equitable communities, while providing experiential learning for students. Our students apply concepts from their academic areas of interest, build community, and gain valuable life experience. Better yet, we often hear from students after they graduate that a service-learning course was a formative educational experience and helped them focus their learning, or set them on a new career path. Teachers find new inspiration in the classroom when they assimilate service-learning pedagogy, and our community partner organizations meet their goals with the support of Western service learning students and faculty. Have a great year of short and long term possibilities!

*Tim Costello, Director*

### Service-Learning Attribute Added to Classfinder

Faculty are now able to designate a course with the attribute "SL" to represent courses that include a service-learning component. For details on the new attribute visit [our website](#).

If you would like to identify a course you teach as including a service component, please complete the CSL's [2011 Fall Faculty Survey](#) by Thursday, November 10. Faculty who already identified their courses through the survey will receive a follow-up email to ensure they would like the attribute added. Many thanks to the Catalog and Registrar's Offices for making this new attribute possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Alex at [alex.allyne@wwu.edu](mailto:alex.allyne@wwu.edu) or x7518.

Below is an example of how courses with the attribute will look in Classfinder:

COMM 224	Small Group Processes	41621
BCOM SL	TR 12:00-01:50 pm	CF 231
	ov	
	Course includes service-learning component	

### Service Updates

**Viking Launch**—On September 17, 85 WWU freshmen participated in the second annual Viking Launch day of service with eight local nonprofit organizations. Their service projects included harvesting vegetables at the Food Bank Farm, helping at a salmon barbecue fundraiser for the Bellingham Boys and Girls Club, and more. The Viking Launch program provides students an opportunity to move in early and earn two credits by participating in activities that orient them to the Western and Bellingham communities.



Eight organizations partnered with WWU for Viking Launch: the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, Habitat for Humanity, Common Threads Farm, Sean Humphrey House, the Bellingham Boys and Girls Club, the Food Bank Farm, the Volunteer Chore Program, and Bellingham Parks and Recreation.

**Faculty Fellows Retreat**—We have overhauled the Faculty Fellows program this year and would like to encourage faculty who have used service-learning in the past, are using it now, or are interested in incorporating service-learning in their courses to join us for a working retreat November 10-12. Instead of asking for a commitment of monthly meetings, we are concentrating the program in a two-and-a-half day working retreat over the Veterans Day holiday. Join us for great conversation around inspiring topics and plenty of food and beverage! For details see the Faculty Fellows [application](#) or call x7518.

**Students in Service:** The AmeriCorps [Students in Service](#) (SIS) program has entered a new grant year and currently has 300, 450, and 900 hour terms of service available for WWU students. If you know a student who is participating in regular, committed volunteer or service-learning activities please send them to the CSL office in Wilson Library 481. They may qualify to participate and receive an SIS educational award or scholarship of up to \$2775. Email [wwusis@wwu.edu](mailto:wwusis@wwu.edu) for details.

*This poem was written by Molly Mendelsohn, junior in Speech Pathology, during her time in Kenya.*

**I Want to Know**  
I want to know about a day in your life  
You didn't think you'd live through  
A time you didn't realize  
The power of your own hands

Let me know when you were broken  
And had to redefine "love"  
What does love mean to you?  
Tell me in a way I'll picture it with passion  
For the very first time.

I want to know what you think  
When you find your face in the mirror  
And who first told you,  
Of beauty  
What does beauty mean to you?

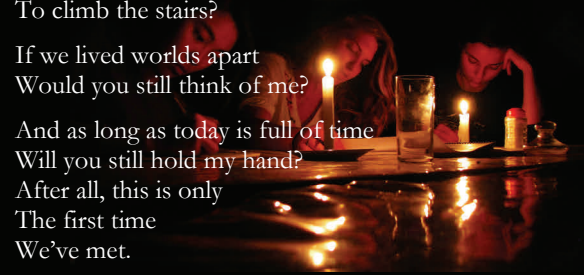
If you don't feel the world thinks  
Very much of you  
Are you one to think the world  
Of yourself?

Let me know if you believe in god  
Or no god, or many gods  
And if you've ever been denied?  
By who?

If you could get to the top  
Of the world  
Would you use an elevator  
Or take the time  
To climb the stairs?

If we lived worlds apart  
Would you still think of me?

And as long as today is full of time  
Will you still hold my hand?  
After all, this is only  
The first time  
We've met.



## Student Reflections from Summer Kenya Program

This summer 12 Western students traveled to Kenya for a field course in collaborative international service-learning. During the six weeks they were in Kenya they participated in many learning and service activities with the local community school. Below are written reflections of a few students who went on the trip.

**Celeste Lordan**, senior in Sociology: *I learned countless lessons on endless subjects by choosing to be both observant and contemplative. I learned to sing in Kiswahili, and to wash blankets in a bucket. I learned that education is a huge gift and that 13 year olds wake up at three in the morning to study physics for the sake of that gift. I learned problems run much deeper than we typically see...there is no magic pill to give to a country in order to deliver solutions.*



**Kristen Morley**, summer graduate, Anthropology: *As I move on to the next chapter of my life, I think that this trip will continue to have an effect on me. This newfound awareness will impact the way I view my culture and my behavior. It has given me a new lens with which to view the world. I can also feel a newfound motivation for continuing the career path that I am on.*

**Riley McCorkle**, summer graduate, Kinesiology: *It's not about what we did. It is about what we learned. Although we handed out bed nets, planted trees, and went on a safari, these "experiences" don't hold a candle to the knowledge we gained from the locals, community-based organization members, bus and car drivers, Honorable Okundi, village elders, children, and the bright students at Ombogo Girls' Academy.*

PHOTOS: *Left*; Nicole Kim, Molly Mendelsohn, and McCall Kosareff finish their homework by candlelight. Photo credit: Celeste Lordan, WWU senior, Sociology. *Above, right*; Celeste Lordan with friends at the Ombogo Girls' Academy

## Community Partner Highlight:



Young Writers Studio (YWS) supports and encourages young writers ages 8-18 as they explore their personal points of view and grow through self-expression in both creative and expository writing. YWS connects community volunteers from all careers and backgrounds with young people in a variety of one-on-one and group settings, both in and out of our local public schools, to provide young people opportunities to develop as writers.

Young Writers Studio is currently partnering with Dr. Karen Stout's Communication 416: Conference and Event Planning course on YWS's first on-campus event. The organization will be hosting a **Bananagrams Tournament in Wilson Library 270**

**on Thursday, November 17.** This lively game night will begin at 6:00pm with prizes, a raffle and snacks and is open to students, staff and the general public ages 10 and up. Information will be available for those interested in volunteering and/or participating in Young Writers Studio and donations will be accepted. New to Bananagrams? The rules are easy and will be explained prior to the start of each round. Stephanie Dethlefs, Founder and Executive Director of YWS, "The service-learning students have been working really hard to coordinate this event, and I really appreciate their efforts in spreading the word about Young Writers Studio. What an amazing partnership WWU offers community organizations!"

YWS is a volunteer-driven organization and has a [multitude of volunteer opportunities](#) for those with a little bit of spare time or lots of it! Visit the [Young Writers Studio website](#) or contact [Stephanie](#) for more details.