Volunteers Spend Day in Service

More than 150 students, staff and faculty performed volunteer work on Jan. 17, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and Cal U’s eighth annual Day of Service.

In all, volunteers took part in 12 service projects. In the Performance Center, they made Valentine’s Day cards for patients at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, created handtherapy dolls and fleece blankets for hospital patients, and prepared for the annual American Cancer Society Daffodil Days event.

Off campus, students served meals at the Center in the Woods or did chores downtown at Liberty Towers, a 104-unit high-rise for senior citizens. Others distributed American Red Cross fire-safety materials or assembled care packages for Smithsonian American Legion Post 790’s “Support our Troops” campaign.

Coordinator for the Day of Service were LaMont Coleman, associate dean for multicultural student programs, and Diane Williams, director of Cal U’s new Center for Civic Engagement.

This was the first time the event was held on the actual date of the holiday, one day before the start of spring.

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MLK Speaker: Show ‘Sense of Caring’

The keynote speaker at Cal U’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day luncheon urged his audience to honor the famed civil rights leader by dedicating themselves to community service and showing appreciation for the help others provide.

“We must exhibit a sense of caring for our fellow citizens every day,” said Robert G. Stanton, a senior adviser to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. “That is the obligation we have, if we are to honor Dr. King’s legacy.”

Stanton is the former director of the National Park Service and the first African-American to hold that post. He led the Park Service from 1997 through the end of the Clinton administration.

Today, Stanton advises the Interior Secretary on a wide range of environmental, organizational and management issues and provides executive leadership for the Interior Museum, Historic Art Collection and the congressionally authorized Indian Arts and Crafts Board.

Stanton began his visit to Cal U by speaking at a breakfast meeting with Dr. Harrison Pinckney and students from the Parks and Recreation Management program. Pinckney earned his doctorate at Texas A&M University, where Stanton served as executive professor in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences before returning to federal service in 2009.

In his luncheon address, Stanton made note of Cal U’s commitment to building both character and careers.

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Scholarship Sends Intern to Argentina

Just before Christmas, senior Emily Hutzayluk, of Pottstown, Pa., received the perfect gift.

Hutzayluk learned in December that she had received the first Rutledge Internship Award, which will allow her to spend three months beginning Feb. 7 working at Rivadavia Hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The internship award was established by Tom ‘75 and Karen Rutledge. It provides scholarships to juniors and seniors with a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher who have unpaid or low-paying internships that are geographically and professionally diverse.

The amount and number of awards will be determined by a committee and will vary by semester, but the minimum award is $1,000.

Hutzayluk, who graduated in 2008 from Cal U’s physical therapist assistant program, needs just three credits to graduate in May with a degree in Spanish. She will earn those by taking a four-week and an eight-week course in the language at the University of Belgrano.

“My career goal is to be a physical therapist for people who speak Spanish as a first language,” Hutzayluk said. “So I found this unpaid internship at a hospital in Buenos Aires that will have me working in the physical therapy department of the hospital with amputees — helping them prepare for their surgeries, watching their surgeries and then helping them ambulate with the new legs and arms. I’m very excited.”

She says she “couldn’t do the internship part at all” without the Rutledge Internship Award.

“The internship itself costs $2,000 to do, and the fact that there is a fund to pay those expenses and allow me to do this is incredible,” Hutzayluk said.

Emily Hutzayluk

Hutzayluk credits Dr. Andrade Marak, interim director of the Honors Program and associate professor in the Department of History and Political Science, and Karen Pettin, director of the Internship Center, with helping her find funding. And she credits Andrea Crencich, who teaches in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, with helping her meet an important deadline in the application process.

“Every student needs to study abroad, because they’ll never be the same person when they come back,” Marak said.

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Volunteers Spend Holiday in Service

"We always preach about giving back, so I thought I would practice it. We need to do our part, and this is certainly worthwhile."

— Senior Josh Gillen, orientation leader and peer mentor

University’s Strategic Plan by fostering civic engagement. Student volunteers who registered with their CalCards also will receive credit on their Activities Transcript. "This is an ideal way for students to continue Dr. King’s legacy by giving of their time and talent," Williams said. "While the program did not start until noon, many students showed up during the morning hours ready to go."

Josh Gillen, a senior sport management major who is also a Cal U for Life orientation leader and a peer mentor, helped for the first time. "Well, we always preach about giving back, so I thought I would practice it," he said. "We need to do our part, and this is certainly worthwhile."

Participating in the Day of Service for the fourth consecutive year was Christina Kenney, a senior psychology major and member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. "Our sorority is here to help and serve as much as we can," she said while making a fleece blanket. "This ‘day off’ is an opportunity to give back and also enjoy and meet other students."

"It was a day off, but we got up and helped because there’s always more that you can do."
Kellar Returns to Coach Vulcans

After serving two successful years as the head coach at Concord University in West Virginia, Mike Kellar has returned to the Cal U football coaching staff.

The Vulcans’ offensive coordinator from 2004-2008, Kellar is now the program’s new associate head coach for offense.

“Mike is known for his sophisticated and high-powered offenses, and he helped me into a national power during his first coaching stint with us,” said 10th-year head football coach John Luckhardt.

“He turned the Concord program around in only two years and had it contending for a conference championship this past season.”

Concord had managed just one victory in two years before Kellar arrived. He guided the Mountain Lions to a 14-8 cumulative record during the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

In 2010, Kellar coached Concord to an 8-3 overall record to mark the first eight-win season for the program since it joined NCAA Division II in 1991. The Mountain Cats ranked second in passing and total offense and third in scoring and average yards per game.

During his first coaching tenure with Cal U, Kellar helped the Vulcans win four-consecutive PSAC-West titles, a PSAC championship, two NCAA Regional championships and a pair of Eastern College Athletic Conference Lambert Trophies.

Cal U’s 2007 and 2008 teams posted school-best records of 13-1 and 12-2 respectively.

“At Concord I didn’t update my resume once, but after Coach Luckhardt — someone I consider to be a mentor and a friend — asked me to come back, there’s no way I could say no,” Kellar said.

Intern to Work in Argentina Hospital

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“It’s something I really harp on with students. Emily first wanted just to study abroad and take classes, but I said, ‘Let’s work with Karen and see if we can find you an internship.’”

Primm says the new Rutledge Internship Award is the first to focus on those internships that are outside the area and present students with unique opportunities.

“We have a fund for smaller needs closer to home,” she said, “but we’re in a great position now because we can do ‘extraordinary’ ones, too.”

Hatzajulik says she cannot thank the Rutledges enough.

“If I hadn’t found out there was a scholarship, I never would have thought to apply for an internship,” she said. “This whole process has taken almost a year, and I am also so thankful to my family and my boyfriend, Sam, for their unfailing enthusiasm and patience.

“The fact that I’m going to be doing exactly what I want to do for the rest of my life as an internship … I kind of still can’t believe that it’s happening!”
In accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the Eberly College of Science and Technology, the Faculty Senate has established the Scholarship and Grant Committee's website. Self-nominations are currently serving as faculty members. The four members who are eligible to vote. A plurality of votes cast will be necessary to win election. Details of the application nomination and election process will be available at the California Times. Each Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC) Subcommittee — Research, Teaching and Grants.