

Incoming Freshmen Embrace Civic Engagement

With an emphasis on civic engagement, several ANAC members kicked off the academic year with service projects. In local communities, incoming freshmen rolled up their sleeves and got to work – no books required. Below are a few of those endeavors.

-- Michelle Apuzzio

Belmont's Welcome Week 2008 Provides Nashville 1,000+ Volunteers for Service Projects

The largest incoming class in **Belmont University** history made its mark on their new hometown this morning with the annual SERVE project, which stands for Students Engaging and Restoring through Volunteer Experiences. More than 1,000 new students, including members of the School of Pharmacy's inaugural class, left campus at 9 a.m. to volunteer their time at 32 different ministry and charity organizations in the Nashville community.



An annual "Welcome Week" tradition for more than a decade, SERVE provides a perfect tie-in to Belmont's ongoing commitment to engage students in their community and encourage the values of service on both a local and global level.

The organizations participating in this year's SERVE project included Safe Haven Family Shelter, Campus for Human Development, Monroe Harding Children's Home, Dismas House, Music City Mission, Radnor Lake, American Red Cross, Agape Animal Shelter,

New Hope Academy and ThriftSmart. In addition, students starting Belmont's graduate School of Pharmacy pitched in their time to assist at Feed the Children.

First-Year Students to Serve Community Before Semester Begins

Before they even hit the books, approximately 900 entering first-year undergraduate students will volunteer community service from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 23.

Students will work on projects in the Drake neighborhood including picking up trash, weeding and maintaining flowerbeds and painting in the following areas:

- 24th to 34th streets and Kingman Boulevard to Clark Street
- Drake Park, 24th and Drake Park Avenue
- The Michael Garden, 25th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue

In addition, students will distribute flyers in the area south of University Avenue from 35th Street to 42nd Street.

Other service projects will include creating literacy kits for



children entering kindergarten and awards for Des Moines Public School teachers to give their students.

The community service opportunity is part of Drake's Welcome Weekend, which runs from Wednesday, Aug. 20, through Sunday, Aug. 24.

Ithaca College Freshmen Will 'Jumpstart' Their College Careers By Serving Their New Community

Nearly 250 first-year Ithaca College students and 65 upper class team leaders will be arriving on campus early this week to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the Ithaca-area community.

Among the activities scheduled for the new students will be the Community Plunge program, now in its 12th year. Taking place Friday, Aug. 22, and Saturday, Aug. 23, Community Plunge 2008 will involve the students in service projects at 25 local agencies, including

- Building a playground at the Head Start program located at Longview, 1 Bella Vista Drive
- Landscaping and gardening at Hospicare of Tompkins County, 172 E. King Road
- Labeling books for the Family Readership Partnership at 54 Gunderman Road
- Painting road signs for the AIDS Ride for Life at the Southern Tier AIDS Program, 501 S. Meadow, and
- Painting the interior at the Community School of Music and Arts, 330 E. State St.

The Community Plunge is one of four components of the college's Jumpstart program, which also includes

- **SCC (Sustainable Community Challenge)** — 35 first year students and 5 upper class team leaders will learn about being a part of a connected community and understand the impact they have on a local, regional, and global level. On Friday, participants will tour the area, visiting the Bolton Point Water System, Galton Dairy Farm, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and Eco-Village. On Saturday, participants will explore the local community through an interactive community scavenger hunt that will also teach them how to utilize the public bus system.
- **E.C.H.O. (Experiencing Connections by Heading Outdoors)** — **60 to 70 participants will get to know each other by hiking the Finger Lakes Trail and camping** overnight in tents.
- **Lead-In** —50 participants will take part in a challenge course and other activities that explore leadership topics.

“These students are highly motivated, have gone through an application process to participate, and have experience in community service activities,” said Deborah Mohlenhoff, assistant director of community service and leadership development. “They are choosing to take part in these programs through their altruistic character, not as a mandatory requirement.”

Jumpstart is sponsored by the Center for Student Leadership & Involvement and the Office for New Student Programs.