Social Studies Service-Learning Projects implemented by college students with K-12 classes.

Project Title: Living History
Community Issue: Intergenerational Partnerships
Grades Level: 11
Number of Visits: 4

Students from a Junior US History class partnered with students from a local University to document the life of a senior citizen from a nearby senior center. The students worked together to conduct formal and informal interviews and researched events that coincided with their seniors’ lives, such as: the Great Depression, World War II and the Holocaust. The interviews were then compiled into students essays and bound into a text and donated to the senior center, public and school libraries. In addition, each student group produced a short PowerPoint presentation including scanned pictures that helped tell their story.

Project Title: Teen Talk Show
Community Issue: Changing the Impression of Teenagers
Grade Level: 9-12
Number of Visits: 3-5

In response to negative impressions among local residents, high school students, with the help of university students, launched their own “radio talk show” to address teen issues in a positive way. The students interviewed local residents to plan their topics to be addressed during the talk show. Using skills from civics and social studies, the students researched their topics and applied forensics skills to convey messages on the on-air forum. The radio-talk show was broadcast over the PA system at the high school and a recording of the program was later broadcast on a local AM radio station.

Project Title: Historic Graveyard Preservation Project
Community Issue: Restoring Cemetery Headstones
Grade Level: 9-12
Number of Visits: 4

While assessing community needs, university students noticed that a local historic graveyard was in a state of decay and decided to do something about it. They developed by age and weathering. The students decided to work with high school History students to photograph the headstones in order to identify and assign replacement values. Then the students wrote letters to area businesses, churches and civic organizations requesting that they adopt a headstone. Students also researched and placed a marker at the grace of the city’s first African-American physician.

Project Title: SLAM!
Community Issue: Bringing Poetry to Life
Grade Level: 10
Number of Visits: 3

SLAM! encourages high school juniors to bring their own words to life by introducing performance art through videos, guest speakers, and CD’s. Taking their road on the show, area university English students share mini poetry lessons with 10th grade students. They also include their own poems and other favorites in an anthology that they present to the school library. The culminating school wide poetry SLAM! is all about respect for everyone’s creations. The audience-including students, family, professional writers, teachers, and the principal-steps up to the mike and shares words. SLAM! Proves that rehearsed and performed in the right school setting, poetry is alive and well.