Gordon in Lynn Newsletter | Fall 2008

It’s been another exciting semester partnering Gordon students and faculty with the city of Lynn. This past semester we saw nearly 300 students engaged with our community partners in many different ways. Most of the students came in through their CCC service-learning requirement by joining a SALTeam—Serve And Learn Team—led by one of our 12 GIL interns or a site coordinator. We started a new tradition by holding an on-campus GIL Orientation and GIL Celebration to bookend our semester and help generate community, understanding and reflection among the students and faculty engaged in Lynn throughout the semester. Below are some facts, highlights and reflections of our fall 2008 semester. And, as always, our website contains more detailed photo-journals, reflections and resources—www.gordoninlynn.com.

GIL FACTS

» Nearly 300 students were involved in Lynn.
» Students gave approximately 5000 total hours in Lynn.
» 11 sections of CCC worked directly with GIL as students completed their service-learning in Lynn.
» 2 students did their practicum or student teaching in Lynn.
» 17 community partners hosted students.
» 19 students lived in Barton Hall, our living/learning community.
» 200 daffodil, tulip and garlic bulbs were planted with elementary students from North Shore Christian School.
» 87 percent of the students felt they made a significant contribution to the organization with which they worked.
» 75 percent of the students felt they had a significant learning experience in Lynn.

GIL HIGHLIGHTS

» Freshman A. J. Gordon Scholars came to Lynn for a discussion, walking tour, meal and service project on the Day of Prayer.
» Gordon College’s Wind Ensemble presented a concert and workshop at the Harrington Elementary school.
» Harrington’s fourth-graders made a college visit to Gordon through the new En Camino partnership.
» Dr. Nathan Corbitt, professor of Cross Cultural Studies at Eastern University and founder of BuildaBridge, a non-profit using the arts as personal and community transformation, was GIL’s guest convocation speaker.
» Tanja Butler’s Introduction to Painting class created a permanent show reflecting the history and character of the Community Minority Cultural Center.
» Gordon College faculty and staff donated generously to our annual Christmas gift card drive which benefited Lynn community partners.

GIL REFLECTIONS

I have been wholly impressed by the professionalism of the Gordon interns who have coordinated the volunteers, providing orientations, checking in with everyone on site, and helping people process their experience.
— Spanish Professor Jennifer Beatson Martin