We had another successful semester journeying alongside our ten student interns placed at seven of our community partners.

» Lynn Housing Authority – College Bound
» Community Minority Cultural Center – E. S. L.
» Ford School – E. S. L.
» New American Center

In addition, nearly 300 students came into Lynn, mostly through their CCC service-learning requirement. Others engaged through Barton Hall, a practicum, an internship or simply voluntarily. Overall, the semester seemed to increase in the quality of reflection and learning for our interns, their SALTeams and others experiencing our diverse environment.

**GIL FACTS**

» Nearly 300 students were involved in Lynn; students served over 6600 hours in Lynn.

» 4 A. J. Gordon Scholar CCC classes worked directly with GIL as students completed their service-learning in Lynn.

» 3 students did their practicum in Lynn (2 Social Work; 1 Communications)

» 10 education students did their student-teaching in Lynn and 1 graduate education student did her teaching here. 41 Introduction to Education students did observation hours in Lynn. Also, 1 continuing education class on the Philosophy of Education was taught here by Professor Ian Deweese-Boyd with public school teachers from the area.

» 19 students lived in Barton Hall, our living/learning community giving over 2700 hours of service in Lynn.

» 7 courses and 8 faculty participated in academically based service learning: COM325 (J. Kadlecek), EDU 112, 113, 114, 115 (J. Flint Ferguson and S. Pierce), MAT142 (K Dieter-Krisman), MUS335 (S. Doneski), NPO205 (C. Cooper), PSY271 (P. Brink), SOC/SWK3111 (J. Trent)

» 81% percent of students felt they made a significant contribution to the organization with which they worked.

» 84% percent of the students felt they had a significant learning experience in Lynn.

Nearly 300 students were involved in Lynn; students served over 6600 hours in Lynn.
GIL STORIES

Each year, Gordon College collaborates with the Community Minority Cultural Center and North Shore Community College to present the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance, an event which attracts nearly 400 people from North Shore area. This year’s program “Through the Eyes of Our Youth” celebrated the legacy of Dr. King, the inauguration of President Obama and the promise of the children of Lynn. Area youth participated in an essay contest expounding on their hopes, dreams and concerns and three award winners were chosen to read their winning essays during the breakfast. The essays were then used as the prompts for table discussions on racial justice, equality and inspiration. Special music, multi-media and a pastoral prayer spoken in several languages rounded out the morning festivities.

—Beth Wright, GIL Program Assistant

This spring, Gordon SALTeam members assisting with ESOL teaching at the Community Minority Cultural Center hosted a Gordon/CMCC Winter Concert in the A. J. Gordon Memorial Chapel. The event, attended by approximately 100 people from around the world, provided an opportunity for sharing the international language of music. CMCC graduate Olga Mirktechen, an accomplished pianist and music teacher from Tashkent, Uzbekistan invited her piano students to play. The CMCC adult ESOL students sang “Cielito Lindo” a favorite of the Spanish-speaking students and “Rainy Day” a favorite of the Russian-speaking students. Gordon students Brian Gilkes, Danielle Gehman, Erica Roark and Ian Good shared their talents through organ, piano and song. With American flags waving, everyone in the chapel joined in a rousing rendition of “This Land is Your Land.” This event is hopefully the first of many musical events between the college and community partners in Lynn.

—Beth Wright, GIL Program Assistant

As a member of the Lynn Nonprofit Business Association (LNBA), Gordon in Lynn invited Professors Ted Wood and Casey Cooper to a meeting to introduce the Nonprofit minor and ask if members had any research questions for their Introduction to Nonprofit students. This led to their students creating a data base with better comprehensive information about the non profits in Lynn. The students identified the size of nonprofits by recording each organization’s assets, revenues and expenditures. They also indicated the various populations each organization serves. This research enables the LNBA to connect with non-profits in Lynn in a more meaningful way as well as to see the valuable impact that the non profits are having in Lynn. The research also gave students an important opportunity to work with real world data rather than case studies, and to explore the importance of some of the comparisons of the data within the Lynn context.

—Jennifer Brink, Coordinator of Academically-Based Programs
GIL HIGHLIGHTS

» Gordon in Lynn hosted a chapel on March 31st which included a multi-media dramatic presentation by Building Bridges Through Music program on the Civil Rights Movement in America presented by five Lynn youth and accompanied by a local professional jazz group.

» Gordon in Lynn hosted a documentary film night in Lynn to watch and discuss The House We Live In on the institutionalization of racism in America with local pastor Rev. William Hill and five ALANA students from Gordon.

» Our intern program enjoyed listening to several guest speakers including Mother Beth Maynard on spiritual disciplines and social action and Dr. Greg Carmer on vocation and calling. We also were inspired by Shane Claiborne speaking in Boston at an event called The Gratitute Economy.

» Two interns at Girls Inc (Yolanda Darlington, Social Work and Hannah Schundler, Gordon in Lynn) helped organize an Arts Night at Girls Inc for teen girls where several Gordon students came to Lynn sharing their poetry, music and personal stories of growing up.

» LaVida YES intern Katie Tong coordinated a Gordon campus visit for the LaVida Scholars – an intensive college preparation program. After a college tour with admissions and dinner in Lane, Katie organized a panel of Gordon students (several of them Clarendon Scholars with similar backgrounds) to field questions on life in college and specifically at Gordon. Several LaVida Scholars said this was their favorite campus visit!

» In partnership with North Shore Christian School, 16 students from Jim Trent’s Research Methods in Sociology and Social Work class completed a survey measuring parent motivation and involvement. Students successfully collected surveys and were able to provide useful data to the school to be used for grant applications and to better communicate with parents.

GIL REFLECTIONS

“One of the most significant experiences working as a part of College Bound this semester has been the wonder and value of witnessing the kids’ hope, energy, and joy in life, and striving to be a part of preserving that.”
—Liz Ronca, Intern

“This semester at the New American Center I was constantly reminded that half the battle is showing up, being there—physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually—and being ready to engage. The rest is easy.”
—Becky Jones, Intern

“Tutoring refugee kids in Lynn changed my perspective on a global scale, and I’m quite surprised something so simple could do so.”
—Thomas Pease, SALTeam member

“The friendships I have made with the girls there are so unique and special—I have friends from all over the world, including Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Cambodia, Puerto Rico, and so many other places!”
—Hannah Schundler, Intern

“I think Gordon in Lynn has challenged me to expand my understanding of social issues and how they affect the individual. I have appreciated the hands-on practical aspect as well as the discussions and critical reflections.”
—Katie Tong, Intern

“Working in Lynn has been both humbling and empowering: humbling because it’s awakened me to the reality that I am just one of MANY individuals working to affect positive change in the world, and empowering because Mayelin’s smile lets me know that guiding a friend through her geometry assignment lifts her heart.”
—Joanna Gallagher, SALTeam member

“If we as a group realize that this time here at College Bound is more for the students of Lynn than for us as tutors, than we will be able to truly give ourselves to these students and become influential examples in their academic and personal lives.”
—Jason Webster, Intern