Alternative Spring Breaks: Opportunities at UNCA Growing

This Spring Break, a number of UNC Asheville students will be going to various parts of Appalachia and North Carolina to participate in service-learning trips. Mountaintop removal, Appalachian poverty, and food security are featured issues in three trips.

The Mountain Justice Alternative Spring Break, organized by Asheville Students for a Healthy Environment (ASHE), will be headed to Appalachia, Virginia, to work with citizens to learn how to become more effective organizers around mountaintop removal strip-mining, and participating in service projects that help build community in this region. These students will also participate in workshops on topics ranging from Appalachian community economics to the science of mountaintop removal to what it means to be a movement ally.

The Food Justice trip, sponsored by the Wesley Fellowship at UNC-Asheville, will work at Redbud Farm, an organic farm in Burlington, NC, and spend time learning about food security issues in North Carolina.
Student participants will also travel to Durham to meet with staff of the Duke University Divinity School, who study issues of food security and food sovereignty.

The Appalachian Poverty and Social Justice Trip, sponsored by the Key Center for Community Citizenship and Service Learning and the Student Government Association, will be headed to Chavies, Kentucky to work with Appalachia Service Project. Flannery Pearson-Clarke, the student organizer, has been meeting weekly with the participants to facilitate discussions around the history of rural Appalachian Kentucky. The service will focus on home repair and weatherization projects, and participants will reflect on what they are learning about social justice and combating poverty.

To read the complete article, click here.

---

**How can I sign up to go on an Alternative Break?**

The Appalachian Poverty and Social Justice Alternative Break trip is full, but you can still sign up for one of the other two trips:

For the Mountain Justice Alternative Spring Break, register at [http://mjsb2012.wordpress.com/register/](http://mjsb2012.wordpress.com/register/). Please make sure to fill out the application thoroughly. Contact Active Students for a Healthy Environment (ASHE) if you decide you’d like to sign up (ashe@unca.edu). The cost of the trip is on a sliding scale, and transportation will be organized through ASHE.

For the Food Security Spring Break, please contact Clarissa at cfuentes@unca.edu or 828.707.0730. The trip will depart Friday, March 2nd and return mid-week. The total cost for the week is $100.

If you are a student who would be interested in continuing to help build a student-led Alternative Break Program next year at UNCA, contact bvolz@unca.edu.

---

**MLK Day of Service: “A Day On, not a Day Off”**

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, “Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve”. At UNCA on MLK Day, 50 students answered this call to service. At 11 AM on January 16th, students from Alpha Sigma Phi, ADVANCE, the Black Student Association (BSA), the Appalachian Poverty & Social Justice Alternative Spring Break, the Residence Hall Association (RHA), and many others gathered in the Intercultural Center to participate in the MLK Peace Rally and March and community service projects.

The Day of Service was organized primarily by the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and the Office of Special Programs. The Key Center for Community Citizenship and Service Learning and Alpha Sigma Phi helped recruit students for the various projects. The MLK Day of Service has become a tradition at UNCA, and hopes to attract even greater student participation next year.

To read the complete article, click here.
Ways to Get Involved in February

Community Engagement through Service: Opportunities in February

**Outdoors:** This Saturday, Feb 4th, from 1-4, *Campus Recreation* is running their semester outdoors service trip. They will be picking up trash at a climbing area up the road in Pisgah National Forest.

To sign up: [https://docs.google.com/a/unca.edu/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dDd4OTQtSFk0UjlDQj0wcEpwQWRVeGc6MA&pli=1#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/a/unca.edu/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dDd4OTQtSFk0UjlDQj0wcEpwQWRVeGc6MA&pli=1#gid=0)

**Social Media:** Molly Must of the *Asheville Design Center* ([molly@ashevilledesigncenter.org](mailto:molly@ashevilledesigncenter.org)) is looking for a student volunteer to help with media work and managing a tumblr account. Ideally, the student will have some audio/video expertise.

**Graphic Design:** *Blue Ridge Biofuels* is looking for a student to work on a service-learning project involving graphic design. The student would need to be familiar with Adobe Creative Suite and HTML. Contact Thomas Ransom at (828) 253-1034 if you are interested.

**Event Assistance:** On Feb. 18, volunteers will be needed as greeters, parking assistance, runners between classrooms, manning the information table, room set-up and graphics assistance for a Skill Share event with *Transition Asheville*. Shifts vary, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. For more information or to sign up, contact [ashe@unca.edu](mailto:ashe@unca.edu).

**Community Gardening:** The *YMCA Community Garden* has a Volunteer Day on February 12th, from 11 AM to 3 PM. This is a great opportunity for student organizations to get community service hours! Contact Mary McWay to sign up: [mcmcway@gmail.com](mailto:mcmcway@gmail.com). And the *Asheville ROOTS Project* always needs volunteers, and is just a stone’s throw from campus. Contact student Blake Everhart at [bneverha@unca.edu](mailto:bneverha@unca.edu) to get involved.

For a list of opportunities to get involved in service or service-learning, visit our website: [http://keycenter.unca.edu/service-learning-opportunities](http://keycenter.unca.edu/service-learning-opportunities). We are happy to meet with students one-on-one at the Key Center to discuss what kind of work with community organizations interests you.

If you prefer to operate in cyberspace, fill out our Find a *Service Learning Opportunity Form* on our website. You can also let us know about the work you are doing in our community by logging your *service hours* with us. If you know of a great organization or if you are doing work with a local organization, come tell us about it.

**Community Action**

*Asheville/Buncombe Food Policy Council:* Sign up to be a part of one of the Food Policy Council Clusters! ([Click here](http://keycenter.unca.edu/service-learning-opportunities) and scroll down to see a list of all the clusters and sign up). Choose from the *Public Health, Wellness, and Education* cluster, the *Local Food Flow* Cluster, the *Access* Cluster, the Food Policy Council *Communications* Cluster, the *Asset Mapping* Cluster led by student Madeline Long, and more!
Students are encouraged to get involved! If you'd like, you can be an intern with a cluster (contact gordonsmithasheville@gmail.com), or just get involved as an interested citizen. There is a place for all talents and interests, and this is a great way to get real world experience organizing around policy change and community action. To find out more about how you can get involved in creating an Asheville where everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food, click here.

**Community Dialogues**

**February is Black History Month**

**On-Campus Events:** The Office of Multicultural Student Programs and the Black Student Association have organized a “State of the Black Student” Panel, a screening of Hotel Rwanda, Soul Café and more. Click here for more info.

**Community events:** Ethical Society of Asheville - Recognizing Black History Month: 2:00-3:30 PM, Sunday, February 19th at the YMI Cultural Center, 39 South Market Street in the Ray Auditorium. "Another History: Asheville Through the Ages" will be presented by a panel of native Western North Carolinians and long time residents including Oralene Simmons, Johnnie Grant and Renee White. There will be a discussion period following the presentation. Following the meeting, there will be time for informal conversation. All are welcome! For more information: asheville@aeu.org, www.aeu.org, or 828 687-7759.

**Diversity Dialogues:** Beginning Spring, 2012, the Intercultural Center will host a new initiative entitled "Diversity Dialogue Series". Each semester, a series of discussions on a topic related to diversity and/or multiculturalism will be facilitated. Participation in the series is open to all UNC Asheville faculty, staff, and students. The information for the Diversity Dialogue happening in the spring is as follows:

"What is Diversity at UNC Asheville?"

Facilitated by: Deborah Miles, Executive Director of the Center for Diversity Education

**Session #2 - Conversation about the dimensions of diversity**

Thursday, February 23, 2012

**Session #3 - Conversation about the context of diversity on the campus of UNC Asheville**

Thursday, March 22, 2012

**Session #4 - Conversation about practical steps to increase equity and inclusion that every person and department can begin.**

Thursday, April 26, 2012

All sessions are held in the Intercultural Center (Highsmith 114). If you are interested in participating in one or more of the sessions, please email Lamar Hylton at lhyilton@unca.edu.
Asheville Green Drinks: Are you interested in participating in facilitated dialogues around important sustainability issues in Asheville? Asheville Green Drinks is a networking party and part of the self-organizing global grassroots movement that connects local communities with environmental ideas, media and action. Upcoming topics this semester include: Building Sustainable Communities through Sharing (February 8th), United Nations Panel (February 15th), Global Water Realities (March 21st), and the Farm to School Program (March 28th). They meet weekly at the Posana Café at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays. More info: http://www.ashevillegreendrinks.com/

The Last Word: What exactly is Community Citizenship?

The Key Center is the office for “Community Citizenship and Service Learning.” But what exactly is meant by the ‘community citizenship’ part? It sounds vague, as though it could mean everything from attending community events, to taking political action, to helping someone cross the street (the old cliché), to paying attention to the news. Community citizenship starts by getting to know your community, and the issues that affect how people live and work together. It means building relationships with other students, community members, staff, and faculty. It means actively seeking out and listening to perspectives that are different from your own, and valuing different forms of knowledge, including community-based knowledge. Becoming a community citizen requires becoming engaged in ways that move beyond volunteerism and service to the community, and involve creating genuine reciprocal relationships with community actors in working on collaborative projects.

Community citizenship also means a willingness to take action. Sometimes to make lasting change, it's necessary to try to affect policy or work to engender social change. That is why collaborative, policy-based groups like the Asheville-Buncombe County Food Policy Council (see above under Community Action) are so important; it is imperative to be engaged on multiple fronts to effect change. It is toward these goals of democratic, multidimensional university-community partnerships that the Key Center for Community Citizenship and Service Learning works to support faculty and students, with a focus on service-learning that engages community members, students, and faculty in collaborative work. Service-learning is at its best when those strong relationships between the faculty member, the community partner, and the student exist, and when the parties involved are willing to really listen to each other—especially the voice and experience of the community partner—and understand themselves as community citizens working toward common goals.

248 Highsmith Union
Email keyctr@unca.edu
Phone (828) 251-6400
http://keycenter.unca.edu/
Follow us! Facebook and Twitter