Professor Lise Kloeppel selected to lead Key Center

Lise Kloeppel has been selected as the new Key Center Professor, beginning in Fall 2012. Kloeppel has been a faculty member in the UNCA Drama department since 2008, and brings a wealth of experience in service-learning and community engagement to the position.

As someone with a deep interest in theater and community arts (particularly the philosophy and practices of the “theater of the oppressed”), Kloeppel has worked with numerous education programs, performance groups, and other community organizations. Some of her work in Asheville includes work with Veterans Restoration Quarters and Transitional Housing and the Just Home in the Mountains Community Performance Project, sponsored by Homeward Bound. In addition to her experience with service learning and civic engagement work, Kloeppel has a background in a variety of educational and community settings as a public school teacher, teaching artist, administrator, and community-based artist.

In her new role at the Key Center, Kloeppel looks forward to continuing the current effort to foster student leadership in service-learning, expanding community partnerships, and building on the
Community Engaged Scholars Program through supporting diverse opportunities for community-based projects and research.

**WNCAP recognizes BSA for outstanding service**

Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) recently awarded the UNCA Black Student Association the *i need u2 know* Community Service Award for their work in raising awareness about HIV and AIDS. BSA and Alliance co-sponsored an HIV/AIDS Awareness event in partnership with WNCAP on October 21st, 2011. BSA also mobilized students to participate in the Novembers 5th AIDS walk in Asheville, and are working on creating more events this upcoming semester.

To read the rest of this story, click [here](#).

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**Interested in doing service or community events with your student organization?** See “Tips for doing Community Service with your Student Organization” in the Last Word section below or [here](#).

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**More Ways to Get Involved in January**

**MLK Week Events**

**Saturday 1/14:** **MLK Breakfast (@ the Grove Park Inn)**

Excellent community event with great food and a renowned speaker. Sign up with Lamar Hylton in the Intercultural Center for FREE tickets (worth $25) and more info.

**Tuesday 1/17 12:30 PM (Free Period): Panel Discussion with Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Members (Highsmith 224)**

Come hear from these local activists from the Civil Rights movement. Not to be missed.

**Tuesday 1/17 8 PM: “Iron Women of Liberia” Movie Showing (Highsmith Grotto)**

The film follows the Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the extraordinary women surrounding her as they develop and implement policies to rebuild their ravaged country and prevent a descent back into civil war. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of her work for women.
**Thursday 1/19 12:30 PM (Free Period): “Whatever it Takes” Movie Showing (Highsmith Grotto)**

This film chronicles the struggles and triumphs of this innovative public high school. While the learning environment is a safe haven compared to many of the students’ former schools, principal Tom’s ideals run up against reality midway through the school year. More than half of his students are failing, detention hall is overflowing, and gang members start recruiting at the school. Even some teachers harbor doubts, exhausted from 16-hour workdays and disillusioned with Tom’s inconsistent discipline policy. Whatever it Takes is a deeply emotional story of dedicated teachers and cutting-edge ideas, united in their vision to restore hope to a community.

**Thursday 1/19 7 PM damali ayo (Lipinsky)**

Change starts with people, relationships, and courage. Become empowered as damali ayo—activist, speaker, and artist—uses her humorous stories and award-winning art to provide practical tools for building better communities. Audience members will receive a copy of ayo’s I Can Fix Racism guide.

All MLK week events are free for students and open to the public. For more info, go to [http://msp.unca.edu/](http://msp.unca.edu/).

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**And make sure to check out this ON-CAMPUS two-night cultural event on Friday, January 20th and Saturday, January 21st starting at 6:30PM in the Carol Belk Theatre:**

**Come Together & Create**

An MLK Celebration of Arts & Community showcases local artists from a variety of genres, including spoken word poetry, African dance and percussion, hip hop dance theatre, and traditional and contemporary gospel singing. In addition to providing an exciting night of entertainment, the event aims to strengthen campus connections with the broader Asheville community and also provide a platform for further civic engagement through the East of The Riverway Sustainable Communities Initiative.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH (FREE Admission)

6:30PM
UNCA Percussion Ensemble
La’Ney West African Dance Ensemble
DeWayne Barton aka B-Love
Santos

8:00PM
Urban Arts Institute original play "I Hope You Dance"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST
"Asheville’s Sunday Best" Gospel Singing Competition (second round)
$6 advanced tickets or $8 at the door
(Tickets can be purchased at Venus Beauty Salon off Patton Ave. or I will have some for sale as well.)
Proceeds benefit the non-profit A Bridge to Independence, Inc, whose mission is "to bridge the gap between dependency and self-sufficiency for homeless youth and young adults 16-21 who lack the skills to function independently in the community by providing secure (safe) non-institutional homes where they can get the guidance they need to transition to adulthood."

Sponsors include Arts & Ideas Program, Key Center for Community Citizenship & Service-Learning, Africana Studies, and the Drama Department.

RSVP and check out more info about this exciting event on facebook.

Advocacy

Asheville/Buncombe Food Policy Council: Next meeting is January 23rd 4-6 PM, with a start time of 3:30 for new participants. The Food Policy Council needs support from anyone who has time to get involved in gathering information, synthesizing data, doing outreach, writing press releases, creating promotional materials, etc. Furthermore, the Food Policy Council is interested in having student interns or service-learners work with each cluster of the council, which will each focus on a variety of topics around Food Security, such as land use policy, food access in public housing communities, or getting more local food into schools. If you have time on your hands next semester to get involved in a meaningful project, any potentially relevant skills, and/or are interested in being more involved with the Food Policy Council, contact bvolz@unca.edu. This would be a great experience to put on your resume, and is serving the community by working to effectively and comprehensively address Food Security issues. If you would like to help in other ways, child care will also be needed on the January 23rd meeting. Email bvolz@unca.edu to sign up to volunteer for childcare.
Building Awareness and Student Engagement

Food Security on-campus initiatives:

**MSA:** The Muslim Student Association is interested in working with other student organizations this coming semester to start a Food Security Project at UNCA to benefit the local community, possibly through collaborating with the SEC’s Asheville ROOTS Project, and/or starting a **Campus Kitchen.** Campus Kitchens salvage good food from University cafeteria(s) and redistribute it to local people in need. **This type of project will need a few dedicated student leaders to get involved and a lot of student support.** Please contact Amarra (aghani@unca.edu) or Britta (bvolz@unca.edu) if you would like to get involved in creating and sustaining a campus movement to address local Food Security issues.

**ASHE:** Active Students for a Healthy Environment has also started a Food Working Group to “promote local, sustainable food on campus and beyond, while working with the SEC and others on campus gardens and edible landscapes”. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Macon (dmfoscue@unca.edu) or Britta (bvolz@unca.edu).

Engagement through Service

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.
The Last Word

Tips for doing community service with your student organization:

1. **Think about your organization’s mission.** What kinds of service – and the knowledge and experiences that come with it – would fit with your organization’s purpose or goals? Your service will be more meaningful if it is a good match for your organization.

2. **Meet a Community-Identified Need.** Take time to find out what organizations in the community need. Listening is important. You may feel that you have a great idea for a creative way to serve in the community, but it may be something that is really not meeting a need in the community.

3. **Build on Existing Relationships.** What kinds of relationships with community organizations do members of your group already have? Ask members of your student organization about these connections and if there are ways your organization can build on that relationship.

4. **Work to Build Sustainable Relationships.** Think in terms of relationship building, rather than just finding hours. What is a way you can work in collaboration with a community organization over the long term? Collaborate with the organization about plans for next semester and next year. This makes less work down the road for both your organization and the community organization, which prefer to have long-term multiple interactions with students, rather than one-time volunteers or events. A lot of one-day projects with different organizations are more difficult to coordinate and generally make for a less impactful experience for students.

5. **Reflection is Important.** Thinking deeply about the work you’re doing adds a new dimension of meaning to it. So talk as a group about the work, before and after. Often students have different perspectives on the work and this is an opportunity to learn from each other, and be sure your work meshes well with your organization’s purpose and goals. Schedule time to talk about service activities at weekly meetings or after a service event.

6. **Depth is Better than Breadth.** It may be better to focus in on one or two issues or community organizations and really expand your work with them. In this way, those organizations benefit from being able to count on the students from your organization, and the students will get more out of the service experience.
7. Feel free to talk to Key Center staff about what kinds of work you think you or your organization wants to do and how to connect with community organizations doing that work. We can also help with ideas for reflecting, or anything else you’re interested in exploring. We’re at 251-6400 or keyctr@unca.edu. Or stop by our office in Highsmith Union, room 248 (right past the main level front desk on the left).

For a printable version on how to build great relationships with community organizations and do impactful service, you can click here.

Here are some more resources for service opportunities:

- SALL’s service opportunities
- Key Center’s Service Opportunities

248 Highsmith Union
Email keyctr@unca.edu
Phone (828) 251-6400
http://keycenter.unca.edu/
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