



newsletter

Gannon's President: Putting Faith Into Action Through Erie-GAINS

By Dominick Sisinni
English 211

When Gannon University President Keith Taylor, Ph.D., discusses Erie-GAINS, he beams with excitement and optimism, saying, "There are four pillars to our University's vision going forward, and Erie-GAINS is a crucial one of them." At its core, Erie-GAINS is a series of strategic initiatives between the University and Erie's non-profits that will improve the viability of the downtown community. Erie-GAINS responds to two critical questions: "What are the needs of our community?" and, "How can we, as a University, meet them?"

Erie-GAINS positively impacts Erie by stimulating business, improving the community, aiding the education systems, helping the environment and increasing the city's overall quality of life. The University's response, according to President Taylor, is as simple as bringing the University's resources to where they are needed.

While Erie-GAINS will certainly stimulate new programs from Gannon, in many instances, it is a matter of focusing the University's strengths on existing needs in the focus area. For example, with a vibrant education program, Gannon naturally has an army of students who are



required to complete their practicums and student-teach. Through Erie-GAINS, these students have been strategically placed in the community to respond to its unique challenges and demands. In another example, Gannon has many students studying in the health sciences. By placing these students in hospitals like Hamot and HealthSouth, the university participates in Erie-GAINS.

President Taylor notes that as a Catholic, Diocesan university, a huge focus must be on the Gospels and implementing them through service to the Diocesan community. Very clearly, President Taylor views Erie-GAINS as the vehicle through which Gannon will act on such a mandate. President Taylor states, "As a school, this past year, we did over 79,000 hours of community service.

continued on page 13...

Inside this Issue

December 2011

Gannon's President: Putting Faith Into Action Through Erie-GAINS.....	1
What is Erie-GAINS?.....	3
Erie-GAINS Fast Facts.....	3
City of Erie and Gannon Collaborate on Multiple Projects.....	4
Community-Focused Partners.....	5
The Martin Luther King Center Partners with Gannon.....	6
Grant to Fund Green Website for Erie.....	7
Be Part of Something Good: the Emerson-Gridley Playground.....	8
GO College Helps High School Students Dream Big.....	10
Gannon Draws Inspiration from Tulane University.....	11
Erie-GAINS: Engaging in Partnership Through Service Forum.....	12
Mapping Erie-GAINS.....	13
One Green World Cafe: An Asset for Gannon, Erie Community.....	14
Nutrition and Community: A Partnership for Healthy Eating.....	16



Believe in the possibilities.

> This newsletter is an example of a collaboration among various constituencies in the Erie-GAINS neighborhood. We are fortunate to have

- a column by **Laura Schaaf, assistant to Erie's Mayor**
- a column by **Executive Director Bayfront NATO/Martin Luther King Center James Sherrod.**

Emerson-Gridley Principal Malinda Bostick and many other people were generous in giving their time to be interviewed.

Some participants at the Erie-GAINS stakeholders meeting "tweeted" their reactions. Here Director of Community Development Shay Meinzer shows Director of Social Concerns Arlene Montevicchio how to tweet and follow the Twitter discussion via her phone. To see what people tweeted, see the Twitter account #eriegains .



Most articles in the newsletter are written by Gannon students as part of their English 211 Advanced Composition course. They developed more complex understandings of the challenges of writing for a "real world" audience, interviewing skills, and a more sophisticated understanding of the subtleties of word choice. Another piece was written for the Erie-GAINS Inaugural Celebration poster session by members of Gannon's Sports and Exercise Science Club.

Ann Bomberger, the professor of the Advanced Composition course, organized and edited the newsletter with significant input from Director of Community Development Shay Meinzer. To contact Dr. Bomberger, email her at bomberge001@gannon.edu or call at 814-871-5366.

To find out more about Erie-GAINS, contact Gannon's Director of Community Development Shay Meinzer (814) 871-5584 | meinzer001@gannon.edu or take a look at our website www.eriegains.org.

To obtain additional copies of this newsletter, contact Prof. Bomberger or Ms. Meinzer or find an electronic copy at www.eriegains.org .

Thank you to Catrina Spano for the graphic design of this publication, the Office of Communications and Office of Community Development for photos, and Pat Bywater for proofreading this document.

Professional Photographer Tim Rohrbach (www.rohrbachphoto.com/) took the photos from the Erie-GAINS inauguration events.

We hope once you are done reading this publication, you pass it on to a friend or put it in the recycling bin ♻️

Picture from left to right: Lauren Ropelwski, Mark Jaskowak, Aaron Kulczyk, Andrew Boyd, Joseph Caulfield, Dominick Sisinni, Ian McElrath, Prossor Ann Bomberger, James Erdman, and Ryan Ravis

What is Erie-GAINS?

By Ryan Ravis
English 211

Erie-GAINS is a “call to action, a commitment by Gannon University to partner with non-profits and government to make Erie the best place to play, work and worship,” says Shay Meinzer, Gannon’s Director of Community Development.

Gannon University has a long history of providing service, having recorded more than 79,000 hours of community service per year over the past two years. Erie-Gannon Alliances to Improve Neighborhood Sustainability (Erie-GAINS) helps further develop strategic partnerships among various community agencies and university departments with the common goal of improving the sustainability of our neighborhood.

The purpose of Erie-GAINS is

- “To intentionally coordinate Gannon’s community interactions so that they are productive, proactive, more meaningful and increasingly focused on the Erie-GAINS Neighborhood;
- To focus social and civic engagement efforts and community partnerships to support the Erie-GAINS neighborhood, neighbors, schools, centers of worship and other organizations; and
- To align the planning of the University with the challenges of the neighborhood through the concentration of University efforts (service-learning, faculty and student research, internships, course curriculum and targeted academic program development) in the neighborhood.” (Erie-GAINS website)

The Erie-GAINS primary focus areas are education, health & wellness, business & economy, quality of life and environmental sustainability. In addition to its programmatic focus, it also has a geographic focus centered around Erie’s downtown.

Each area of focus has many programs, some of them long established and others that are new. The following is not the full extent of programs but a quick observation of some of the ways Gannon is collaborating with the community.

EDUCATION: Gannon University students aid local children through tutoring and mentoring.

HEALTH & WELLNESS: Programs address issues of obesity, nutrition and therapy projects, enabling individuals to see the importance of living stable and healthy lives.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY: The Small Business Development Center and Erie Technology Incubator allow Gannon University students and outside companies to gain assistance to better small businesses through consultation and strategic planning. This not only helps small businesses but allows Gannon students to have a hands-on learning experience for their college major.

Environmental Sustainability: The Sustainability committee aims to increase recycling and reduce greenhouse gasses.

Quality of Life: The Quality of Life Committee aims to showcase the strengths that already exist within the community and to combat those things that detract from quality of life.

Meinzer says, “Learn what the people want and what they want it to be.”

For example, through discussions with various constituencies, Meinzer learned that a grocery store in downtown Erie is needed to promote sustainability and livability. She is collaborating with the City of Erie, the Redevelopment Authority, Erie Downtown Partnership, local business and non-profits to get one there.

“All it takes is partnerships where people give it a try and work together, inviting new people in the community to be involved. Erie-GAINS is a great program for the entire community to be involved, including Gannon University, which enables students to not only learn from hands-on experience, but to shape the community for years to come,” says Meinzer.

Erie-GAINS is a program in which students are able to use their skills and become involved with the community, creating projects based on their passions and guiding them to a place where they can be involved.



Erie-GAINS Fast Facts

Erie-Gannon Alliances to Improve Neighborhood Sustainability

Want to learn more about Erie-GAINS? Check out our website, www.eriegains.org or contact Shay Meinzer, Gannon’s Director of Community Development: (814) 871-5584 meinzer001@gannon.edu.

- Erie-GAINS was launched in the summer of 2010.
- The Erie-GAINS target area comprises approximately 200 city blocks.
- There are more than 170 non-profits and organized community groups in the Erie-GAINS target area.
- In the spring of 2011, Gannon’s Day of Caring placed emphasis on environmental sustainability, one of Erie-GAINS focus areas, and on organizations in the Erie-GAINS target area.
- During the 2010-2011 academic year:
 - 88 non-profits benefited from the service of Gannon students, faculty and staff,
 - Tutoring and mentoring increased by more than 1,000 hours and
 - Gannon provided non-profits cash donations in excess of \$72,000.

The City and Gannon collaborate on projects regularly. Here, Councilman Curtis Jones raises a point at a stakeholders meeting that brought together more than 150 community members, staff, faculty, and staff.



City of Erie and Gannon Collaborate on Multiple Projects

By Laura Schaaf
Assistant to the Mayor of Erie

For many, September brings the “New Year” that matters most. The start of a new school year generates anticipation of new people, new opportunities and new beginnings. This September is no different as the Mayor’s Office welcomes Dr. Keith Taylor to his role as University President.

Already, Dr. Taylor has extended his hand across Peach Street, working with Mayor Sinnott on a number of initiatives. The new 5-story residence hall in the 100 block of West 4th brought with it the issue of where to put the cars that would come along with all those students. Mindful of both the residents in the area and the students, Gannon and the City were able to agree upon a surface lot between 4th and 5th on Peach Street to accommodate student parking. The Mayor’s Office will work with Dr. Taylor and his staff as the University continues to grow while still keeping the needs of the residents and businesses in the downtown area in mind.

Over 400 volunteers converged on Gridley Park this summer for the construction of a playground in conjunction with the Pennsylvania League of Cities Annual Convention. Gannon played a critical role in supplying manpower, tools and funding to assist the City of Erie in providing a safe play-space for young people in the neighborhood. Led by Interim President, Dr. Phil Kelly, countless Gannon staff and students worked alongside elected officials from across the state, completing a beautiful playground in only one day.

In addition, the City continues its relationship with Gannon through the Small Business Development Center which provides valuable training and support for budding entrepreneurs in our community. City funding allows the SBDC to house a Downtown Retail Development Specialist who works with downtown businesses in a multitude of ways helping them to establish and grow their business. The City was fortunate to help facilitate the development of the Technology Incubator at Gannon University. This partnership provides innovation for businesses of the future. The City stays closely engaged with the Incubator through its work with the Lead Economic Development Team, taking a regional approach to assisting these start up businesses.

Whether it’s helping the city maintain its public safety fleet through annual financial contributions, caring for a flower garden in Perry Square or adopting a critical region of the City through Erie-GAINS (Erie-Gannon Alliances to Improve Neighborhood Sustainability), Gannon plays an important role in enhancing the downtown experience. The City of Erie and Gannon University are bound together as neighbors; as such, the success and growth of Gannon plays a major role in downtown development. We continue to work together to ensure a vibrant, safe and productive environment for the residents of Erie and the Gannon family.

Community-Focused Partners

By Mark Jaskowak
English 211

Since the founding of Gannon College in 1925, the institution has worked in collaboration with the neighborhood surrounding campus to develop a holistic community, city and student body. This engagement of time and energy from Gannon personnel continues to address various needs for the community in inner city Erie, Pennsylvania.

The partnerships between the University and its various community partners are outlined by focus areas; each area of concentration offers several opportunities for neighborhood involvement and advancement, outlined in the thorough completion of the Community Partners booklet.

“Through this focused community effort [Erie-GAINS] we envision a future where Gannon is a primary partner in the renewal of the downtown area; the campus community is externally engaged in multiple collaborations; academic programs are more community-focused; and faculty, staff and students desire to live close to campus,” writes Gannon President Keith Taylor, Ph.D., on the inside cover of the Community Partners booklet.

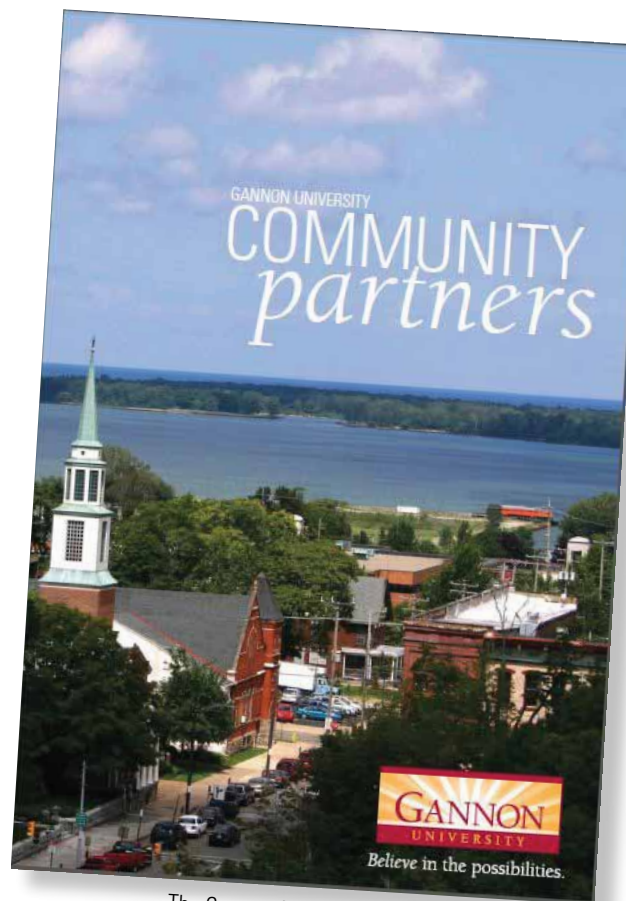
From diligent studies to a concern with environmental sustainability, Gannon’s diverse student population has consistently answered the call to service. As President Taylor points out, the University’s resources suggest the immense impact Gannon has had on the Erie region. Now, with the implementation and emphasis on the University’s commitment to service by the 2008-2013 Gannon University Strategic Plan, Gannon and Erie are in a blessed position. More so than ever before, they are “community-focused” partners.

Hence, the University created the Community Partners booklet. This short, easy-to-follow guide consolidates the great number of service opportunities offered in support of Erie-GAINS. The booklet is organized by the five focus areas of the program’s initiatives (education, health and wellness, business and economy, quality of life and environmental sustainability). Each opportunity, especially the relationship between Gannon and its respective community partner, is succinctly explained. If the reader has questions or is interested in any of the service opportunities, each description is accompanied by contact information.

Evidenced by the many pictures of past service projects included within Community Partners, the booklet should immediately attract University students, staff and administration by its menu-like presentation of services, but it may also function as an advertisement agent for the new Erie-GAINS initiatives.

Indeed, the guide was “put together specifically as means to communicate externally to the community. Not only does the booklet allow the University to recognize the tremendous work of our many community agencies collaborators, it also lets those we don’t currently work with know about potential collaborative opportunities,” says Director of Community Development Shay Meinzer.

Certainly, the booklet reaches all who have an interest in serving the needs of the Erie community and aids them in properly discerning the opportunities tailored to their talents, cares and concerns. Most importantly, it highlights an outstanding partnership between downtown Erie and Gannon University—a tradition of service.



The Community Partners booklet can be found online at www.gannon.edu/communitypartners

The Martin Luther King Center Partners with Gannon

By James Sherrod

Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Center

While many non-profits in the Erie region continue to find ways to re-invent themselves to address the ever growing need for services, the Bayfront NATO Inc. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, otherwise known as the Martin Luther King Center, maintains the commitment to the mission “to improve the conditions of work, play, study, health and living conditions of the people of the City of Erie, in particular, those residents of the Bayfront area through an expert and effective program of social service and actions.”

Under the leadership of our founder and first Director, Alexander W. Thompson, and those who came after him, our Organization has achieved many successes in the years since our inception in 1966. Today, under my leadership the Martin Luther King Center maintains a distribution of services that allows us to reach out into the community by partnering, collaborating and providing support to organizations with similar and/or same service values.

Most recently, the Martin Luther King Center has had the distinct opportunity to re-engage with Gannon University through the Erie-GAINS Project. The Erie-GAINS initiative which contains five focus areas — business and education, health and wellness, education, environmental

sustainability and quality of life-- has provided our agency with key support to continue our leadership role in the Bayfront community while receiving analysis assessment and foundational service assistance.

The Martin Luther King Center has worked with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), GIVE Day, Day of Caring, AmeriCorps VISTA Children and Youth Project of NWP, and Dr. Martin Luther King Day. We have also been the recipient of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week funds raised through Box City.

Our relationship with Gannon University strengthens the commitment we each share to impact and change our community. Aside from the work within the Erie-GAINS Project, Gannon's Family Support is evident through various volunteer opportunities, their students, (Social Work Club, football team, basketball team and many others) and staff (Shay Meinzer, Dr. Parris Baker — MLK Board of Director's Members) have been a part of and continue to this day.

Gannon University answers the words of Dr. Martin Luther King “... what are you doing for others?” We at the Martin Luther King Center are committed to continuing our relationship with Gannon in order to continue to bring forth opportunities to our community.



Children from the Martin Luther King Center marched with Gannon students during the Homecoming parade.



James Sherrod (right), the Executive Director of Bayfront NATO/Martin Luther King Center, speaks with Executive Director of Catholic Charities Joe Haas (left) and Michael Gaines, the Executive Director of the Bradley H. Foulk Children's Advocacy Center at the Erie-GAINS stakeholders meeting held as part of Inauguration week.

Grant to Fund Creation of Green Website for Erie

By Lauren Ropelewski
English 211

Have you gone green yet? The Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee of the Erie-GAINS initiative is now making it much easier with the addition of a "Greening Guide to Erie" website to be launched in November of next year.

The construction of this website was made possible by the recent acquisition of a grant of \$7,300 from the Erie Community Foundation. The interactive site will be aimed at promoting simple, innovative ways to be environmentally friendly every day, will provide information and raise awareness on the benefits of being green and recycling and will make it easier to find local businesses that offer green products and services.

The idea for the site came from similar sites already existing in other major cities of Pennsylvania. Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering Michelle Homan, Ph.D. says with the

creation of this site, the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee is "aiming to fill a need in our area of western Pennsylvania." With a more localized site focused on Erie County, the most optimal and efficient results for this area can be accomplished.

The site will allow users to easily find local green products and services in order to promote green business in the area. It will also inform on the location of environmentally friendly activities and businesses, such as the location of biking trails and farmers markets. The creation of this online "Greening Guide" will help the subcommittee promote overall energy efficiency and environmental friendliness in the Erie area.

A team of graduate students, staff and faculty of Gannon University will create, maintain and promote the site. In order to evaluate the site's success, the committee plans on evaluating information on the city of Erie's level of recycling and tonnage of trash collected a year after the launch date. This evaluation of the city's overall waste and recycling will ensure the site is maintained and promoted long after its launch.

Although one of the major endeavors of the Environmental Sustainability

Subcommittee is the creation of this site, it is also involved in many other activities promoting environmental friendliness in the Erie area. Since its creation just last year, this committee has already begun efforts to increase recycling throughout the city, plant trees and connect environmental efforts among major downtown employers (Gannon University, UPMC/Hamot Medical Center, and Erie Insurance).

According to Assistant Professor of English Ann Bomberger, Ph.D., the subcommittee's next big move toward implementing the site "will be meeting with Environment Erie, green business representatives and government officials to solicit input for the shape of the site." With this meeting, the subcommittee will be able to make the site as user-friendly as possible and mold the site to the needs of the community.

The determination and ambition of the subcommittee make the success of the addition of the "Greening Guide to Erie" website look very promising. In November 2012, a major launch event to promote the site and raise awareness to the area's environmental organizations, schools, businesses, the media and the general public will be held to guarantee recognition of the site in the community.



Assistant Professor of English Ann Bomberger, on behalf of Erie-GAINS' Sustainability Committee, accepts a check from Erie Community Foundation President Michael Batchelor.



Be Part of Something Good: The Emerson-Gridley Playground

By James Erdman
English 211

Emerson-Gridley had wanted a playground for some time, but with little room for parking and funds in short supply, the chances of building one were slim to none.

Then the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) decided to hold its annual convention in Erie. They contacted the city of Erie and offered to donate/sponsor a playground to a local park in need. Gridley Park was chosen by the city in the fall of 2010, and the planning phase was soon underway.

I recently met up with Malinda Bostick, principal of Emerson-Gridley School, to talk more about her involvement with this project.

"The most amazing thing for me is how well so many different organizations successfully came together in such a short amount of time."

Through a year of weekly conference calls, Bostick served as the liaison between the city of Erie, PLCM, the Erie School District, Gannon and Kaboom, a company specializing in one-day playground builds.

"It was a lot of hard work, planning and organization," she said. "I worked closely with the PTA and school district to enlist the help of our food services for the build day. We also enlisted the help of Gannon volunteers through the Erie-GAINS project and hosted a day for the kids to help with the playground design."

Then came June 21st - build day. In true "Extreme Home Makeover" fashion, over 400 volunteers, including 70 from Gannon, swarmed into Gridley Park and assembled the \$70,000+ playground in less than 6

hours. Also included were new flower beds, trash can stalls and an outdoor classroom. The ribbon cutting made it official, and a moment of grace was forever etched into the heart of a principal.

"There's an Eagles song that says, 'Be part of something good.' 'I love that,'" said Bostick, as she smiled out her window. "Every morning when I come to school and see the kids playing on the playground, I am filled with so much gratitude and joy. It's simply amazing to be part of something so good."

A happy heart isn't the only positive outcome of this project. Since the building of the new playground, school discipline has drastically improved. "The kids have become more respectful and are playing better together. They have something to take pride in now, and that's a great thing."

For a principal like Bostick, the future is also much brighter. Through the Erie-GAINS initiative, athletes from Gannon University have been volunteering at Emerson-Gridley's before and after school programs and the Emerson-Gridley students are invited to attend Gannon games for free. "It's a great thing because the kids need hope and a realistic vision for the future and college-age students are great, inspirational role models for them."

With all this positive energy floating in the air, it's no wonder President Keith Taylor puts so much stock in the Erie-GAINS initiative. And be sure to keep an eye out for more good things to come.







Gannon staff took GO College students on a trip to Niagara Falls. On the same trip they went to Niagara University for a college visit.



the gaining options
for College Collaborative » Erie
A data-driven initiative for
the success of Erie students

GO College Helps High School Students Dream Big

By Ian McElrath
English 211

In a rapidly moving, hi-tech, multi-cultural world, education is the name of the game when it comes to getting ahead. The City of Erie School District, Gannon University through Erie-GAINS and General Electric have teamed up to give students from the Erie public schools more opportunities for higher education through GO College (Gaining Options for College Collaborative).

A program orchestrated by the Council for Opportunity in Education based out of Washington, D.C., GO College is a multi-dimensional educational program aimed at academic enrichment, college exposure and service-learning at Strong Vincent High School on Erie's west side.

"We're much more than a tutoring program," said Michael Cifelli, M.S., Gannon's High School Outreach Coordinator and program director of

GO College. Cifelli, along with Assistant Director Amy James, M.S., work from the Guidance Office at Strong Vincent full time during the school year. While the high school's guidance counselors work primarily with academic scheduling and testing, the GO College staff work with what Cifelli called "the more basic nuts and bolts," helping students make a plan for further education and learn practical skills to succeed. Seven Gannon students currently are on the GO College staff.

The relationship between Gannon and Strong Vincent began in 2008 with the Gannon University Mentoring Services (GUMS). GUMS sent eight Gannon students to the high school every day throughout the academic year to serve as tutors and mentors in order to encourage students to take pride in their academic achievement and strive to succeed in life. Part of the 2008 College Access

Program of the Council for Opportunity in Education, GUMS was so successful that the program's size was increased to make it GO College.

Today, the College-Bound Academy, as the GO College Program is known at Strong Vincent, includes high school students from all grade levels who take advantage of tutoring services, college application help, college visits, educational field trips and service projects. Students enter the program at faculty recommendation, GO College staff recommendation, or even their own request. Cifelli and his staff turn no student away from tutoring services and general academic help, but students looking to take advantage of the full spectrum of GO College activities are expected to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA, have a good school attendance record, and consistently participate in the program.

Gannon Draws Inspiration from Tulane University

By Aaron Kulczyk
English 211



Community development initiatives like Erie-GAINS have succeeded at other universities, including George Washington University, University of Pennsylvania but most especially at Tulane University. Tulane University has become one of the most prominent schools for students' contributions to their community. Drawing on research from these programs, Erie-GAINS can become a vital part, not only of Gannon University, but the Erie community as a whole.

Tulane University, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, became one of the first schools to integrate community interaction and public service into its curriculum through a program called Tulane Empowers. This program was created in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in order to help rebuild the university and the community itself. Tulane president Scott Cowen stated, "Katrina could have destroyed Tulane. Instead it empowered us to take up the banner of community engagement and to set an ambitious and unprecedented agenda: Tulane University intends to set the standard for public service for the next generation of universities." Tulane University achieved its goal by becoming the first national research institution to incorporate public service into its undergraduate core curriculum. Tulane Empowers focuses on five categories: public education, public service, urban renewal, disaster response and community health. Nine of the university's majors have incorporated the program into their core curriculum.

Since the creation of Tulane Empowers, the program has not only become part of the university but a focal point of it. The results are seen by many members of the Tulane community. Carol Whelan, a professor at Tulane University, describes one example of how the Empowers program is helping not only the community but also the students. "Infusing social innovation into the curriculum has really changed the way our students think about learning." This is what makes Tulane Empowers so valuable to the university. With the program, students learn valuable experience within their future profession. With the enrollment at Tulane continuing to increase, we can be assured the Empowers program will continue to grow.

Through its faculty scholarship, service-learning and co-curricular activities, Gannon students, faculty and staff are already doing much to benefit the greater Erie community. As the University embraces and rallies around Erie-GAINS, we will see increased concentration in the geographic and programmatic focus areas, which like Tulane Empowers will have a positive effect and lead to the increased sustainability of Erie's downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

Members of the College-Bound Academy have, in recent years, visited West Virginia University, the University of Pittsburgh, Gettysburg College, Niagara University, Cleveland State University and Gannon University in order to broaden students' horizons. "It's an exciting way [for students] to get experience out of the classroom," Cifelli said. For the spring of 2012, Cifelli and his staff are preparing an overnight excursion to the nation's capital.

In addition to their academic work, GO College students also participate in community oriented service-learning through numerous programs such as GIVE (Gannon's Invitation to Volunteer Everywhere) Day and Pink Zone. GO College students work around the city alongside Gannon students on GIVE Day, performing a variety of charitable services. Students from the program help with

Pink Zone, Gannon's annual breast cancer awareness event, run in conjunction with the women's basketball team. GO College students clad in pink work the concourse, collect donations and pass out information during the event in February.

The Strong Vincent High School Class of 2011 was the first senior class to go through the GO College program. Of the 46 seniors enrolled in the program, 43 went on to attend college with an additional one student entering the military. While some students did choose to attend Gannon, Cifelli stressed that the program is not a recruiting tool, but a way for the University and city to work together to increase the opportunities youth have to succeed and achieve the American Dream. Regardless of college choices, many of the program's graduates have kept in touch via the Go College

Alumni Facebook page for friendly conversation and encouragement.

With the new academic year well underway, the GO College Staff look to a bright future with new members and opportunities at every turn. As many as 60 freshmen from Strong Vincent have entered the program this year, and the GO College staff have started a new program to teach business responsibility and basic accounting.

At the end of the day, GO College is not a program to bolster the reputation of Gannon University. It is not a program to help foster a relationship between Gannon and the Erie School District. Cifelli sums it up best when he says, "It's all about the kids."

Erie-GAINS: Engaging in Partnership Through Service Forum

President Keith Taylor has made Erie-GAINS one of his top four priorities. Inauguration week, held this November, included many community-based events, among them a 5K Walk through the Erie-GAINS neighborhood, community development speakers and discussions amongst Erie-GAINS stakeholders.



Pamela Reynolds describes the Be Fit, Get Healthy Program to Jennifer Pontzer from Congressman Kelly's office.



During the roundtable discussions, members of the Erie and Gannon community discuss the most pressing community needs that the community and University can address together.



Student Government Association Vice President of Academic Affairs Alexa Maestro poses a question to guest speaker Richard Knopf.



As part of Inauguration week, Richard Knopf, Ph.D., the Director of the Partnership for Community Development at Arizona State University, delivered the keynote address of the Erie-GAINS community building session. He encouraged listeners to embrace five community development principles:

1. "Relationships are everything": In order to build "reciprocity and trust" amongst various community stakeholders, it's important to "convene, connect, communicate and celebrate."
2. "Build communities from the inside out": Insights and ideas lie in the community. Talk with members of the community and find out "what is close to their hearts." The collaboration should help weave together different parts of the community, connecting up various constituents with others who share common interests. Empower community members to take ownership of projects.
3. "Frame the big picture": Poverty is a complicated problem that requires structural change. Encourage hope, strong families, and strong communities. "It takes a whole community to make a community whole."
4. "Focus on outcomes not activities": What are the results of various initiatives? Do not just do activities to do activities.
5. "Celebrate, always celebrate": All people want to be valued, feel like they are part of the solution to the problem. It's important to take time to acknowledge the many contributions of people and to celebrate accomplishments.

If you want to learn more about Community Development, read *The Community Leadership Handbook: Framing Ideas, Building Relationships and Mobilizing Resources* by Richard Krile.



Find the map online by going to eriegains.org and clicking on Events.

Mapping Erie-GAINS

By Andrew M. Boyd
English 211

How many times in a week are you confronted with the decision of what to do? We all get that moment of free time that we want to use to find something to do, but what can we do? The Erie-GAINS Community Events Board is here to help you with that.

In downtown Erie, there are many events happening without anyone knowing, and the goal of the Community Events Board is to eliminate just this problem. The Event Board is an online interactive service with many different activities posted. "The goal is to have different services post all different kinds of events," says Dr. Stephen T. Frezza, Associate Professor of Software Engineering, co-creator of the Events Board. Dr. Mei-Huei Tang, Associate Professor of Computer & Information Science and Dr. Frezza, along with their classes in the Spring Semesters of 2010 and 2011, created the Community Events Board that you see today. This site contains a map and a list of events that are occurring now or in the future in the area. This allows for the ability of community organizations as well as organizations from Gannon to create events that are then publically viewable. These events can include things such as Prayer Services, Otters Games, service opportunities or community arts programs.

The Community Events Board is a Google Map with events in the Erie-GAINS neighborhood. The point of this site is to show what's going on without duplicate entries in many different locations.

The Community Events Board is up and running and beginning to gain momentum. If your organization's events are not currently listed, contact Shay Meinzer, the Director of Community Development for the Erie-GAINS project. She can be reached in her office either by telephone (814) 871-5584

1. **The Haunted Mansion**
(Fri, Oct 28, 2011 6:00 PM)

2. **Erie Legends**
Planetarium Show
(Fri, Oct 28, 2011 7:00 PM)

3. **Queensryche in Concert**
(Fri, Oct 28, 2011 8:00 PM)

4. **Dysfunctional at The Erie**
Art Museum
(Sat, Oct 29, 2011 10:00 AM)

5. **Mass of Remembrance**
(Thu, Nov 3, 2011 11:00 AM)

6. **Erie-GAINS**
Poster/Interaction Session
(Thu, Nov 3, 2011 12:00 PM)

7. **Erie-GAINS: Engaging in**
Partnerships through
Service
(Thu, Nov 3, 2011 1:00 PM)

Continued from page 1

Gannon's President:

Who's better for it? Obviously many are, but with Erie-GAINS, we will be able to show exactly what group is better off because of Gannon's efforts. Without a concentration, we just do good things and hope we make a difference."

For his part, President Taylor has pledged his support and the University's resources to Erie-GAINS realizing that for Gannon to be healthy, the city which it draws life from must also be healthy. While Erie-GAINS itself is relatively new, the University already has strong partnerships in the community through programs such as GO College and the Erie Technology Incubator. It is also developing new partnerships like the Nutrition and Community recipe card project which engages students in the Sports and Exercise Science program with the food pantry.

In the long-term, President Taylor hopes that through Erie-GAINS, Gannon will become an even more integral part of the Erie community. To achieve this, however, he recognizes that "the faculty and students must buy-in, get involved, take the initiative and decide that they want to drive Erie-GAINS forward." Such a commitment, he believes, will come from the realization that "community development and supporting our neighborhood is essential to what makes us Gannon University."



One Green World Café
A Gannon Student Venture
162 West 4th Street

One Green World Café: An Asset for Gannon, Erie Community

by Joseph Caulfield
English 211

Life is about relationships. As social creatures, we humans are constantly acting and interacting with other people. We cannot live without others, and often the most successful people and organizations are the ones who understand this reality. The interaction between two young entities, One Green World Café and Catering on Parade, is an excellent example of our social symbiosis. They both had a need and filled it for each other.

Jason Steinberg, Associate Director of the International Student Office, recognized the vital importance of interaction. He helped facilitate the new One Green World Café (OGWC) to bring International and American students together. It is staffed and run by students, always with one American and one

International student present. With its location in the heart of campus, it is an ideal place for the student body to meet and mingle with people from other cultures. Its title could very well be its mission statement; in essence, it is selling coffee in a green space to promote awareness that the world is now connected.

Steinberg often stressed the impact of a global market and the necessity of making connections with the people around us. OGWC has certainly accomplished this. Resulting from the hard work of groups such as the International Student Organization, the Small Business Development Center, the Student Government Association, and many individual students and staff, OGWC has pooled the resources of Gannon University to

One Green World Café

- One. A symbol of unity, the first numeral represents not only global connectivity but also how the café has worked to bring the community together.
- Green initiatives are an important part of the café. Much of the furniture is up-cycled, and the building where it is housed was renovated. The point: take what you have, and make it better.
- Worldwide communication has shown us our similarities as humans, but the café also celebrates the unique qualities of each culture. The café serves ethnic foods not only to promote our understanding of how diverse our world is, but because they're delicious!
- Cafés have always brought people together. Humans relate well in business and in eating, and OGWC is an exciting blend of both. Stop in today for a tasty treat, and a chance to meet somebody new!



create this business venture.

If all that Steinberg's brainchild had accomplished was a project that brought several parts of the University together, that would be impressive enough. But the project has branched out to support even more members of the community who, appropriately enough, are part of Erie's international community.

The Café obtains some of its food from "Catering on Parade" sponsored by St. Martin's Center. This organization teaches immigrants culinary skills and then helps to place them in jobs when they have completed the program. At the suggestion of Erie-GAINS, OGWC now sells some of the international cuisine created by staff and students. "Catering on Parade" enjoys the

benefits of a steady consumer, and OGWC is able to offer a wider, more authentically ethnic menu.

This "symbiosis" is a perfect example of what the Erie-GAINS initiative is all about. As Director of Community Development Shay Meinzer put it, "My job is all about creating communication." While Gannon University becomes more integrated with the Erie community, relationships that are beneficial to both sides are bound to grow.

"The café started this small, and has gotten to here," Steinberg told me, moving his fingers from close together to wide apart. Throwing his arms wide open, he continued, "I foresee it growing until it's here!"

The OGWC File

- Initiated by Jason Steinberg, the project was taken on by three freshmen in 2010; Xingcan Wan from China Fedaa Alsadeq, from Saudi Arabia, and Kelsie Bunce from Rochester.
- The café was initially just a few pots of free coffee on the first floor of the science building. It now has its own building, offers a wide variety of food and drinks, and has a large paid staff of students.
- The former Antlers building on the corner of 4th and Sassafras was purchased by Gannon for the café's use in May 2011.
- The café is still very much a student run business, although it has faculty and staff advisors.
- In a special outreach, all of the tips received at the café are donated to local charitable efforts.

RECIPE CARDS TIMELINE

Spring 2011:
10 recipe cards
made, designed and
printed

August –
December 2011:
Distributed to public

December 2011:
6 more recipe cards
made and printed

October –
November 2011:
Pound for Pound
Challenge (collecting
pasta and rice for the
Erie Community Food
Bank)

January 2012:
Last 10 recipe cards
made and printed

January –
March 2012:
Distribute final
recipe cards



Want to try one of these tasty, easy recipes?
They're online at www.gannon.edu/recipecards

Nutrition and Community: A Partnership for Healthy Eating

By Jamie Markwell, Brittany Potensky, and Suzanne
Kitts, M. Ed., ATC

*Sport and Exercise Science Department and
Exercise Science Club*

By showing Erie residents that eating healthy can be inexpensive and time-efficient, the Exercise Science Club hopes to make a small step in lessening obesity in our community. We are creating and distributing recipe cards to low-income families who use the Erie Second Harvest Food Bank for assistance with their meals.

Low income families are the focus of the project because obesity and poor eating habits highly correlate with low socioeconomic status.

This project, supported by the Gannon Sport and Exercise Science Program, is working with the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW Pennsylvania. Funding for printing of the recipes and food samples was provided by Metz and Associates.

The student team is working with faculty advisors to decide on the final recipes based on nutrient value, cost, and preparation time. Faculty advisers include a registered dietician, Dawna Mughal, Associate Professor in the Sport and Exercise Science Department and Suzanne Kitts, an instructor in the Exercise Science Department and the advisor of the Exercise Science Club. Shay Meinzer, Gannon's Director of Community Development, also plays an important role in the project.

In the end a total of 26 healthy recipes will be available at food pantries and corner stores in the Erie-GAINS target area.

Evaluation of the success of this project is multi-faceted. Representatives will monitor the sites where recipe cards have been placed to see how many have been used. Feedback will be requested from the pantries' personnel and volunteers. Also, households benefiting from the food pantries will be asked about any experience with the recipe cards.