

ADP Newsletter

Kansas governor speaks to students about civic engagement

Fort Hays State University has come a long way in the effort to promote civic engagement among FHSU students as well as in the community. As part of the American Democracy Project, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius spoke at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan., on Sept. 8. The audience of almost 1000, included FHSU students, faculty and staff; high school students; community members; and seventh graders from Felten Middle School. Governor Sebelius' speech, titled "Making Your Voice Heard: Why You Matter to America," focused on becoming civically engaged citizens and making a difference in our community as well as our country.

The governor spoke about how citizens of all ages, including youth, can become involved in public service, from volunteering in the community or for a political campaign to registering to vote and becoming educated about the issues facing our nation and the world. Governor Sebelius tied community service to service-learning, which is currently incorporated into a number of courses at FHSU.

The governor stressed the fact that civic engagement has continued to decrease in our country through the decades, which is evidenced by the fact that less than 50 percent of voting age citizens voted in the 2000 presidential election, and only 36 percent of 18 to 24 year olds voted.

She stated that the youth are the future leaders of our country and have the ability to make a difference simply by becoming civically engaged citizens and getting involved. Encouraging students to become civically engaged, Sebelius said, "The state belongs to you."



Governor Kathleen Sebelius speaks to students at Fort Hays State University.

What is the American Democracy Project (ADP)?

"The goal of the multi-campus initiative is to develop informed university graduates who are committed to lives of engagement as citizens in our democracy."

"The American Democracy Project helps almost 200 AASCU member colleges and universities and their more than 1.8 million students find ways to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement in the United States."

**(American Democracy Project:
American Association of State
Colleges and Universities)**

Campus-Community Service Fair

The Service-Learning Committee, Tigers In Service and Pi Sigma Alpha sponsored the second annual Campus-Community Service Fair, Sept. 9. The event showcased more than 40 community organizations from the surrounding area. Three hundred and fifty-eight people attended the event in comparison to the 257 that attended the fair last spring. Of those, 234 were FHSU students. The goals of the fair included matching real community needs with FHSU volunteers as well as making campus-community service-learning connections between faculty and community agencies.

New York Times Readership Program

In conjunction with *The New York Times* and the *Hays Daily News*, Fort Hays State University began a readership program through which papers are distributed across campus daily. The Readership Program began Sept. 7, and 350 papers are divided among the Memorial Union, Rarick Hall, McCartney Hall, Cunningham Hall, Wiest Hall, Agnew Hall, and McMIndes Hall.

On Oct. 20, representatives from *The New York Times* presented ideas to faculty members about how to incorporate *The Times* into their curricula. Many faculty members have already begun to implement *The New York Times* into their courses,

Other ADP-Related Events: Fall 2004

- Sept. 28: **Speaker Dr. Deanna D. Winn**
(College of Education & Technology)
- Oct. 7: **ADP Retreat** (American Democracy Project)
- Oct. 11: **FHSU Debate: US Foreign Policy**
(FHSU Debate Team)
- Oct. 11: **Speaker John Allen, Vatican Correspondant**
(Office of the Provost & College of Arts & Sciences)
- Oct. 17: **Capitol Steps, a musical, political satire**
(Encore Series)
- Oct. 26: **FHSU Public Debate-Senators Lee & Salmans**
- Oct. 28: **Speaker Frank Steindl, Regents Professor of Economics** (Department of Economics & Finance)
- Nov. 16: **Speaker Coach Ken Carter:**
"Average is just not good enough"
 (University Activities Board)



Students explore Big Brothers Big Sisters booth

Times Talk

Following the start of *The New York Times* Readership Program on campus, Dr. Paul Faber, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Dr. Chapman Rackaway, Assistant Professor of Political Science, started Times Talk, a weekly discussion about issues featured in *The New York Times*. These discussions occur during the lunch hour, and *The New York Times* provides free pizza and pop to those who attend. The discussions are led by various faculty, students, and staff members, and have included topics such as Election 2004, multicultural education, the war in Iraq, and ethical considerations and leadership.



Students, faculty, and staff participate in Times Talk: A Look Back at Election 2004 in the Teal Room of the

Voter Registration/Education Drive

On Oct. 13 the American Democracy Project, with the help of the Center for Civic Leadership, the College of Business and Leadership, Student Affairs and the Student Government Association, hosted its second Voter Registration/Education Drive. The first drive was held in April of 2004. More than 400 new voters were registered. The last drive took place in the lobby of McCartney Hall, and local political figures attended to get students excited about becoming involved in our democracy.

Following the Voter Registration/Education Drive a Vote Slam party took place in the Bijou. Vote Slam began with a debate watch of the third and final presidential debates. After the debate watch a deejay and the band Slicker this Year pumped up students, faculty and staff, and an open mic allowed attendees to freely voice their opinions about the presidential candidates and upcoming election. More than 90 people attended the Vote Slam event.

White House Party: Election

On Nov. 2 students, faculty, and staff gathered once again at the Bijou for the White House Party: Election Night. More than 160 people attended. Four televisions were set up in various corners of the Bijou, allowing attendees to tune into the election results. Along with the election watch, the band Slicker this Year provided musical entertainment amid the frenzied election returns. The event would not have been as successful without the sponsorship of The New York Times. Other sponsors included the American Democracy Project, the Political Science and Justice Studies Department, the Student Government Association, the Office of Civic Engagement, and the Department of Leadership Studies.



Election night at the Bijou



Kids cast ballots in mock election.

Kids Voting

Coinciding with Election 2004, Tigers in Service worked with the Youth Voting Committee led by Robba Moran to implement Kids Voting on Nov. 2. Kids' polling sites were set up throughout Ellis County at the sites of real polling locations. Approximately 1200 K-12 students participated with 46 students from Fort Hays State University volunteering for the event. The K-12 students were able to fill out a ballot, and the results were tallied and posted the next day in the *Hays Daily News*.

Service-learning Spotlight



This semester, Dr. Mary Martin, assistant professor of marketing, implemented a service-learning component into her Strategic Electronic Marketing course. Her class of 18 students has partnered with the Arts and Inspiration Center of Ellis County for a service-learning project. Dr.

Martin's courses have always involved doing projects with clients, but she had not incorporated the service-learning component until this semester.

Dr. Martin attended a service-learning conference at Kansas State University this past summer, and learned how to tie service-learning into her course and the benefits for both clients and students.

"I felt like it (service-learning) would make the client projects better for both the students and participating organizations," Martin said.

For a portion of the service-learning project, Martin's class spent a day volunteering at the Arts and Inspiration Center of Ellis County. The Center is a program for individuals in the earlier stages of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and "extends the opportunity for those with memory loss to share thoughts, philosophy, creations and enjoyment through the avenue of the arts." Half of Martin's class spent the morning singing songs, doing exercise, and painting still life with the participants while the other half spent the afternoon doing a puppet show. Martin said that her students were "pleasantly surprised" by the experience.



Stacey Schartz and Blaine Gabel putting on a puppet show for Arts and Inspiration Center participants.

"Service-learning is a teaching method which combines community service with academic instruction as it focuses on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Service-learning programs involve students in organized community service that addresses local needs, while developing their academic skills, sense of civic responsibility, and commitment to the community."

**-Community College National Center
for
Community Engagement**



DeMarcus Rhodes, Jackie Leiker & Chelsea Hunt exercising with Arts & Inspiration Center participants

"They were nervous as to what would happen, but when they got there they had a lot of fun," Martin said. "They really connected with the participants."

The other part of her service-learning project involves putting together a Web marketing plan for the Center. The target audience of the Web site includes participants, volunteers, prospective donors, and persons who make referrals, such as doctors. The students are to recommend a design and layout for the site and strategies to drive people to it.

Martin says that she wants to continue to implement service-learning into her courses when it is appropriate.

"A lot of nonprofits need help with marketing, and I hope to continue that," Martin said.

For more information on the American Democracy Project at FHSU, check out the ADP Web site at <http://www.fhsu.edu/adp/>.