

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

**Men and Women with Others: Learning Occupational Justice and Service in
Guatemala**

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Mentor: Cecile Walsh

**“Xavier University is dedicated to engaging and forming students
intellectually, morally and spiritually, with rigor and compassion,
toward lives of solidarity, service and success.”**

**Fr. Graham, SJ
President,
Xavier University**

<http://www.xavier.edu/about/Leadership.cfm>

Overview

- I. Occupational Justice (HOCS 405) and Service Learning
- II. Ignatian Mentoring Program
- III. Inspiration – Transformation
Four pillars: self-awareness, ingenuity, love and heroism
- IV. Supporting the future

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In a country where many poor and oppressed scavenge the city dump for their livelihood, being disabled usually leaves you abandoned; orphaned.



For more information about the Guatemala City dump, see <http://research.unc.edu/endeavors/win2008/guatemala.php>

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Service Learning : Connection to the Occupational Therapy Course of Study

The Occupational Justice courses (HOCS 323 and HOCS 405) are designed to promote the understanding of occupational justice through study and service.



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Occupational Justice? Orphans in Guatemala



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Occupational Justice II: HOCS 405 Course Description - Summer/Fall 2008

- Students will build an understanding for issues of **justice** and occupational patterns in the construction of **life meaning** through **participation in service learning** hours
- In-depth **study of occupational justice** theory in relationship to local or international communities is supported
- Learning via self-generated objectives, discussion, and personal/group **reflection**


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Life meaning




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Study



Participation



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Why Service Learning?

Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. stated, “Students, in the course of their formation, must let the gritty reality of this world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering, and engage it constructively. They should learn to perceive, think, judge, choose, and act for the rights of others, especially the disadvantaged and the oppressed.”¹

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Engage constructively



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Jesuit modo de proceder: be mobile, open to new ideas, blind to national borders, mutually supportive, and restlessly disposed to continuous improvement.²








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- ## Ignatian Mentoring Program
1. Monthly meetings to reflect with Cecile Walsh
 2. Reading *Heroic Leadership* by Chris Lowney
 3. Support student participation in service learning to Guatemala
 4. Facilitate student reflection on the impact of service learning on living the motto, “men and women with others”
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Jesuit “Fieldwork”



Study

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1. Monthly mentoring meetings

- Dedicated time with Cecile Walsh to share and reflect
- Discerning how to connect Guatemala with Ignatian Mentoring Program
- Begin with increasing my self awareness

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Time to Reflect



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2. *Heroic Leadership* by Chris Lowney

- Leadership springs from within
- Leadership is not an act. It is about who I am as much as what I do.
- 4 pillars of success
 - Self awareness
 - Ingenuity
 - Love
 - Heroism



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Steve: Our “leader” in Guatemala



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3. Support student participation

I modeled Ignatian beliefs through:

- Sharing my perspective of the impact the participation in the Service Learning Project to Guatemala in 2008 had on me
- Application of the Ignatian Mentoring Program stipend to financially support one student toward his/her airfare
- A prayer of discernment prior to the drawing of a student as the recipient of the financial support

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Air travel to Guatemala, part of the anticipation for the International Service Learning Project



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4. Facilitate Student Reflection: “Men and Women with Others”

- Initial example provided through a self reflection by Joan Tunningley, spring 2009
- In the pre-trip reflection from the student recipient of stipend support for her airfare
- In class, Fall 2009, students will be asked to share how their service learning experiences reflected “Men and women with others”

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“Men and Women with Others”



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Inspiration - Transformation

- Inspiration from *Heroic Leadership* by Chris Lowney; four pillars of success
 - Self-awareness
 - Ingenuity
 - Love
 - Heroism
- Transformation seen in students and clinicians who participated in Guatemala in 2008.
- Supporting this transformation for future students was my aspiration.

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Pillar 1: Self-awareness



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“First look at yourself; then regard others. No one perceives others accurately without first achieving healthy self regard.”³



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“*Self-awareness*, self understanding: Ignatius was able to pinpoint his flaws with greater maturity and accuracy than ever before, yet at the same time able to appreciate himself as a uniquely dignified and gifted person.”⁴



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“Key to attaining *self-awareness* is identifying motivating core values and beliefs.”⁵



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“*Self-awareness* roots and nourishes the other leadership virtues.”⁶



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Knowledge and technical skills are less critical to leadership success than is mature *self-awareness*.⁷



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Pillar 2: Ingenuity



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“*Ingenuity* blossoms when the personal freedom to pursue opportunities is linked to a profound trust and optimism”⁸



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“Jesuits prize personal agility: quick, flexible, open to ideas, imagination, creativity, adaptability, and rapid response.”⁹



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“But *ingenuity* encourages the embrace of new approaches, strategies, ideas and cultures.”¹⁰



BEFORE

AFTER

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“*Ingenuity* disposes people not just to think outside the box but to live outside the box ... explore tactics and strategies that transcend the narrow mindset”¹¹



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Pillar 3: Love



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“The Jesuit company mission to help souls remained a sterile abstraction until *love* made it personal.”¹²



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“Work with compassion and courage.”¹³



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“*Love* is the passion to see team members excel, “to run at full speed toward perfection.” And love is the glue that binds individuals into loyal, supportive teams...”¹⁴



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“*Love* lends purpose and passion to ingenuity and heroism.”¹⁵



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Pillar 4: Heroism



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“*Heroic* leadership invites people to assess their daily impact, to refocus if necessary, and to articulate the leadership mark they want to make. It invites them too to replace accidental leadership with purposeful leadership, of self and others.”¹⁶



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“Magis-driven *heroes* bring energy, imagination, ambition and motivation to their work; the results take care of themselves.”¹⁷



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“Magis-driven *heroism* encourages people to aim high and keep them restlessly pointed toward something more, something greater.”¹⁸



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“*Heroism* lies in the nobility of committing to a way of life that focuses on goals that are greater than oneself.”¹⁹



Above: Nannies feed babies at orphanage in Guatemala
Top right: People as scavengers at the dump
Bottom right: wheelchair repairs

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Transformation 2008



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Transforming souls for 2009

The student recipient of the stipend from Ignatian Mentoring Program to support her flight to Guatemala in 2009 wrote, *"My gratitude for other peoples' selflessness and charity has spurred me to seek out service opportunities at Xavier. I chose this specific service opportunity, because the Hispanic community has always been near and dear to my heart I am beyond excited to continue my family's tradition of service in Hispanic communities....to help the children of Guatemala."*²⁰

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Supporting the future



1. Street in Antigua
2. Wheelchairs at Hermonos Pedro Hospital
3. Exploring volcano
4. Student working with child

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Supporting the future - Plans

- Summer 2009 return to Guatemala with new students for Service Learning Project
- Summer 2009 after service learning in Guatemala, student stipend recipient will write reflection of transformation
- Fall 2009, class activity to reflect on transformations from service learning experiences toward becoming "Men and women with others"

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In what we do in the world there must always be...a strong sense of the sacred inseparably joined to involvement in the world. Our deep love of God and our passion for his world should set us on fire—a fire that starts other fires!²¹



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Thanks to Carol Scheerer, department chair, for organizing the service learning to Guatemala; to Cecile Walsh for being a wonderful mentor and to the Ignatian Mentoring Program for making my dream to help a student go on the Service Learning Trip to Guatemala a reality.



A wall at Anini, one of the orphanages we visit in Guatemala, says, "Make your dreams a reality" (Spanish).

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