

# UAA Center for Community Engagement & Learning

## Fall 2008 Community Service Learning Advocates

### Project Summaries

**Candace Blas** will be assisting Professor Susan Kalina in the implementation of the service learning component in the Russian II course. Working with community partners in the Russian programs at Turnagain Elementary and West High, and with the shared Beringia Heritage Program of the National Park Service, Candace will serve as a liaison between these community partners and the RUSS 301 students. In order to ensure a positive outcome for both students and community partners, Candace will assist students in determining which community partner successfully matches their own interest. Candace is constantly looking for ways to improve her leadership skills and believes this experience will encourage her and the students involved to reflect on the impact they have on their community.

**Mary Sullivan**, graduate student in the MSW Program, will assist Professor Kathi Trawver as a research assistant for Project Homeless Connect (PHC), a national model that utilizes cross-community collaborations to create a one day event designed to provide multiple service in a convenient one-stop venue for people experiencing homelessness. Mary will assist the PHC planning committee as well as help with data collection. She will also work with BSW students on their service learning food distribution activity. Through this work, Mary will gain more research experience and have the opportunity to work directly with community leaders in order to create change.

The following students will work on a group service learning assignment with Professor Dorn Van Dommelen. The students will raise community awareness around the works of Heifer International. This will be done through peer education, community advocacy and giving presentations on the Heifer Project.

**Savannah Hamilton** is a returning Service Learning Advocate. She strongly believes in the opportunity for her peers to make a difference in the world. Savannah wants to find more creative and effective ways to uplift the community.

**Sara Swimeley** aspires to help several groups of students form plans to complete a service-learning project that has already been proven effective. She will advise the students on their projects and have them reflect on the value of community service-learning. Sara hopes to encourage other students to be service-minded individuals.

**Rosalyn Thompson** hopes to be a helpful, encouraging and thought provoking advocate for Heifer International. Rosalyn intends to develop a greater understanding about community participation through service as well as increase her personal awareness of motivation, passions and commitments as they relate to community service leadership, democracy and social justice. She believes that being a service learning advocate will help her develop the skills needed to be an effective community builder.