

**WHEELING  
JESUIT  
UNIVERSITY**  
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WHEELING, WV  
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**A Word from the  
Director:**

**“Welcome to all our freshmen and new transfer students! We extend a special welcome to the 10 freshmen Arrupe scholar-leaders who have already begun to serve with and among our Wheeling neighbors.”**

*Dr. Jill Kriesky,*  
**Director, SSAC**

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# Service for Social Action Center Newsletter

**Volume 2**

**Summer/Fall 2005**

## Jesuit Call to Service for Justice: The Appalachian Experience

This past June, Wheeling Jesuit University gathered teams of students, faculty, administrators, and staff from all five Jesuit colleges and universities in the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus to consider how and why we encourage service and service learning on our campuses. The five schools—Georgetown University, Loyola College of Maryland, St. Joseph’s University, University of Scranton, and Wheeling Jesuit University—focused specifically on ways to improve and coordinate the programs we offer in Appalachia. Provincial Timothy Brown, S.J., chose Wheeling Jesuit to host this conference based on our unique location in and relationship with the Appalachian region.

The conference included overviews by institutions of the local, regional, and international service and service learning activities in which their students, faculty, and staff are involved. In addition, two presenters— Fr. Rick Malloy, SJ and Dr. Kathleen Mass-Weigert— provided participants with suggestions on how to enrich these experiences with theological reflection based on Ignatian and Catholic Social Teaching principles.

Wheeling Jesuit University’s unique contribution to the program was the first presentation of the Appalachian Orientation. Fr. Brian O’Donnell, S.J., the Re-

search Director for the Appalachian Institute at WJU, developed this 20-minute PowerPoint show describing the economic, social, environmental, (Contd. Page 2)



## The Service for Social Action Center’s New Website!

On July 6th, 2005 the SSAC website made its cyberspace debut. The site can be accessed at [www.wju.edu/ssac](http://www.wju.edu/ssac) or through the main Wheeling Jesuit website ([www.wju.edu](http://www.wju.edu)) and clicking on *services*.

The site features service-learning information, a list of

local community partners, SSAC staff bios, our newsletter archives, and much more. The website is a wonderful resource for students, staff, or faculty thanks to the help of two Wheeling Jesuit graduates Sara Budacki and Cathy Feeney. Both students put a great deal of

work into the early stages of our SSAC website!

We invite you to check out the new site and encourage you to become involved with one of our local community partners! For additional information please contact the SSAC office at x8728.

**Make a  
Difference Day  
2005**

**This year's Make a  
Difference Day is  
scheduled for  
Thursday October  
20th. All freshmen  
that have not  
previously  
participated in  
their class service  
project are  
expected to  
attend.**

## A Jesuit Call to Service (Cont'd from pg 1)

and cultural history and current events that make the region what it is today. Partnering with the Service for Social Action Center (SSAC), the Appalachian Institute will offer this program to "alternative break" groups from our sister Jesuit institutions, other colleges and universities, high school and other work camp groups who come to serve the region. "Visitors who come here need to understand its context. If

we familiarize them with our historic and current challenges and responses, they will better understand why so many Appalachians are economically disadvantaged and what the most effective ways to assist them in improving their conditions are," comments Dr. Jill Kriesky, Executive Director

of the Appalachian Institute. "By spring, we hope to orient three to five groups on conditions in Appalachia before they embark on their service experiences. We will provide them with a follow-up reflection exercise in which participants can use to incorporate their experiences into their understanding of the Appalachian region."



## What is the Service for Social Action Center?

We encourage you to stop by the Service for Social Action Center (SSAC), located on the Acker Science Center Bridge. The SSAC is a new addition to Wheeling Jesuit's campus. Established in August 2004, the SSAC coordinates, tracks, and organizes service opportunities off campus for students, faculty, staff, and others. The SSAC coordi-

nates the Arrupe Scholarship program, Make a Difference Day, Freshman Year Seminar service, the Mother Jones House, the Gloriam Award, and assists faculty with developing course-based service learning. It oversees placements in community-based work study positions for students who want to work with non-profit organizations.

The Service office also tracks club service activities and recruits for local agencies that need student help. The director of the Service for Social Action Center is: Dr. Jill Kriesky (jkriesky@wju.edu). The Assistant Director is: Erin McDonald emcdonald@wju.edu



**Scenic West Virginia View—Shot taken from Oglebay Hill.**

## New Vista Volunteer Joins the Service Office!

On Monday August 29th, 2005, Wheeling Jesuit's Service for Social Action Center welcomed VISTA Volunteer, Lauren Coil to its staff. Lauren is a native of wild and wonderful West Virginia having grown up in Glen Dale, WV.

After high school, Lauren attended West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. As a student, Coil participated in a service trip to El Carmen, Guatemala where she and fellow

volunteers helped build a new health and dental clinic. They also organized the El Carmen Olympics for the local children. During her college career, Coil was on the Dean's List. She received a BA in Sociology in December of 2004. After graduating Coil worked in Colorado with Outward Bound for about six months. Coil is a talented musician who sings and plays the guitar.

Lauren will assist the SSAC in developing a database of service activities and hours completed by Wheeling Jesuit service organizations, clubs, sports teams, and staff; and service learning resources for faculty. We hope that you will help us in welcoming Lauren Coil to Wheeling Jesuit University! Her campus phone number: 243-4361, office: SSAC, 112C ASC, and email: lcoil@wju.edu.

## This is the story of six WJU students picked to live in a house...

Nope, its not the Real World. It's the Mother Jones House.

Since 2000, a group of students from WJU has resided in a house in East Wheeling and spent the year living in intentional Christian community serving the poor and neglected in Wheeling.

My name is Susan Haarman, and I am the new house mentor. I call Louisville,

Kentucky home. I graduated from Marquette University in 2004. Last year I volunteered with the Jesuit Volunteer Corp in Houston.

Students who live in the Mother Jones House do 10 hours of service each week at local non-profits like the Laughlin Chapel, Catholic Neighborhood Center, Hopeful City, and Hopeful Housing. By doing so, they are eligible for a \$1,000

scholarship through Ameri-corps. Living in the Mother Jones House is slightly less expensive than living on campus. But the unique aspect of the house is that it is an intentional Christian community. We pray together once a week, have house meetings and try to be more patient and compassionate to our roommates, knowing they are doing the same for us.  
(cont'd pg 4)

## Hurricane Katrina Relief—What Can We do?

In response to Hurricane Katrina Wheeling Jesuit has opened its doors to Loyola of New Orleans students, collected donations, bought water bottles, and food, and sent students to help the local American Red Cross to support the Hurricane Katrina victims.

Wheeling Jesuit is also looking at the possibility of putting together a team of students, staff, and faculty to go south

during spring break to help with recovery efforts. The SSAC is collecting supplies for rescue workers. Some of those supplies include batteries, rubber gloves, bleach, bug repellent, sunscreen, and flashlights. You can donate these supplies at the SSAC office, 112C Acker Science Center.

The local Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help answer phones, complete computer data entry, and assist with

many of the local blood drives. If you are interested in donating blood or volunteering with the American Red Cross please contact the SSAC at x8728. If you are interested in participating in any of the listed Hurricane relief efforts or if you have family in the affected areas that are in need of supplies please contact the SSAC and we will see what we can do to help!

## Fall Service Opportunities!

As classes begin so do requests for WJU students to support local service projects for non-profit organizations of all types. Now that students are back, the SSAC buzzes with activity — placing some students in Federal Community-based Work Study positions, matching Arrupe Scholars with service sites, and setting up Circle K soup kitchen service, Some drop in to snack on the SSAC candy supply!

If you're interested in getting involved, if you are passionate

about advocating for the poor and marginalized, and if you are interested in making a difference in the lives of others than we have a variety of opportunities for you! Just a few examples of community needs are:  
\*Hill and Dale's School in Woodsdale is looking for students to read to their pre-K children, \*Wheeling Hospital's Women's Health Center is in need of a student to help with their women's health library and to assist with education sessions, \*Catholic Neighborhood Center

is looking for students to help with bread runs as well as their *meals on wheels* program, \*Easter Seals, Appalachian Outreach and Faith in Action Caregivers also have requested student help for short-term projects. Service options are not limited to those listed. We get calls for volunteers daily. So stop by the SSAC and get involved!

Be the change you wish to see in the world!

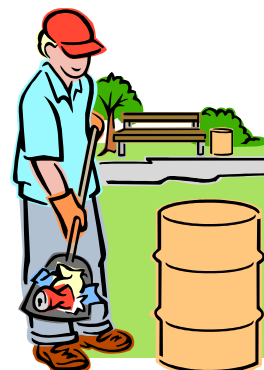
## “Culture of Service Day”

2005

*The SSAC announces its campus-wide appeal for ALL students, staff and faculty to get involved!*

*On Oct. 8th at 10am, the Wheeling Jesuit community will join its East Wheeling neighbors in a cleanup project.*

*Contact the SSAC sign up or to learn how you can participate!*



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Wheeling Jesuit  
University

## Service for Social Action Center

### The SSAC Mission Statement

The Service for Social Action Center (SSAC) coordinates the extra curricular activities and core-based service activities of members of the Wheeling Jesuit University community. It provides students, staff, administrators, and faculty with opportunities to truly become “men and women in service with and among others” in Wheeling, Appalachia and the world.

Through out the year, the SSAC in partnership with Campus Ministry, works to identify projects, track participation, and provide support with spiritual reflection and skill development for student clubs and programs including Arrupe Scholars, EXCEL, the Mother Jones House, service floors in the residence halls and First Year Seminar.

The SSAC also offers training and assistance for faculty who want in incorporate a service—learning component in their courses, applying the skills and theories learned in the classroom to “real world” projects.



### Six People Picked to Live in a House...

Every Thursday we have a community dinner where we invite people from Wheeling, WJU and our work sites. These dinners are a wonderful opportunity to get to know the community of East Wheeling and make new friends.

There are six students living in the house this year.  
Asher Zaccagnini, a junior Psychology major with a sweet jump shot;  
Bethany Beppler, a senior International Studies and Psychology Major who has an unhealthy obsession with ducks and bellybuttons;  
Daniel Ucheatu, a junior Nuclear Medicine major who plays a mean conga drum;  
Eric Roe, a senior History major, who claims to



know more Simpsons trivia that Matt Groening himself;  
Jason Tuite, a senior Criminal Justice and

International Studies major who is a volunteer firefighter and owns a bear suit; and Patrick Gallagher, a senior Political Science major who's musical collection features almost as much The Cure and Depeche Mode as it does Jay-Z and Blackalicious.

If you have any questions about the Mother Jones House, or if you are interested in coming over for dinner or our upcoming movie night please contact Susan Haarman at: [susanhaarman@hotmail.com](mailto:susanhaarman@hotmail.com).

**“Pray for the dead,  
Fight like hell for  
the living.”**

Mother Jones  
Article by: Susan Haarman