Department Showcase
Vincentian Institute for Social Action
March 7, 2012
University Vision Statement

St. John’s University will empower diverse learners with quality education for life. Through innovative teaching, research and service we will foster rational, spirited inquiry and intelligent reflection. Our student-centered approach will be shaped by a caring, energized, nimble culture. Enlivened by our distinctive mission, our graduates will excel in the competencies and values required for leadership and service in a rapidly evolving global community. **As a Catholic and Vincentian university, we will be known worldwide for addressing issues of poverty and social justice.** (November 1, 2000)
In January 2008, the Vincentian Institute for Social Action (VISA) was created to provide a framework for a unique mission based, educational experience.

**Goal:** Provide an academic platform for students and faculty to address issues of poverty and social injustice.

**Institute Themes:**
- Action with Impact
- Measurement of Outcomes
- Service and Research Formed and Sustained
- Connect Partners’ Needs with University Resources
VISA Engagement Framework

Co-Curricular Service Learning

AS-L Level 1
- General Student
- First Year: DNY
- Service / Credit / Learning

AS-L Level 2
- Target: 1st Yr Ozanam
- Primary is AS-L Discipline Based but may be Interdisciplinary.
- Service / Credit / Learning / Social Benefit

AS-L Level 3
- Target: 2nd/3rd Yr Ozanam
- Primary is Interdisciplinary Based but may be AS-L Discipline Based.
- Service / Credit / Learning / Social Benefit / Action Based Research

CBR:
- Target: 3rd/4th Yr Ozanam
- Interdisciplinary
- Service: Multiple Intervention / Social Benefit / Action Based Reach and Measuring the Impact on the Community

Maher, 2010
The Vincentian Institute for Social Action

- Faculty Research Consortium (Faculty Roles)
- Community Partnerships
- Academic Service-Learning
- Ozanam Scholars Program
- Impact and Research
- Question and Answer
FACULTY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC)

Faculty Advisors serve as academic consultants, responsible for sustaining an environment of academic excellence within the Coulam Scholars Program.

Responsibilities:

- Liaison between the academic departments and the Coulam Scholars
- Ensure program compliance with University policy
- Collaborate in the development of all academic programs (e.g., conferences, workshops, retreats and Tuesday Colloquiums)
- Participate in the recruitment process of the program
- Assist in the development of the Independent Study requirements for senior and senior scholars
Goal: The Consortium is responsible for the academic integrity of the Institute. Guided by a Chair, the group provides leadership for all academic and research initiatives.

Faculty Groups/Roles:
- Faculty Advisory Committee
- Faculty Advisory Board
- Staten Island Committee for Campus-Community Partnerships
- Community Research Mentors
- Student Research Mentors
- Faculty for Program Courses
The selection criteria for this group is based on teaching, research, and scholarly expertise in areas related to community service, civic engagement and social responsibility.

Dr. Richard Sinatra, Chair
- School of Education

Dr. Elissa Brown
- St. John’s College

Dr. John Conry
- College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions

Pending
- College of Professional Studies

Pending
- Peter J. Tobin College of Business
Institute Research Distribution

Student
- Independent Study
- Capstone Project
- Community Partnerships

Faculty
- Community Partnerships
- Student Research

Community Partners
- Student Research
- Faculty Research
15 Community Partnerships

NYC Department of Homeless Services
Cross Road Foundation

CITY HARVEST
Rescuing Food for New York’s Hungry

Children need roots and wings

St. John’s bread & life
Feeding body, mind, and spirit

Semper’s Society for Children and Families

Island Harvest

Homes for the Homeless

The Summit School

Lifestyles for the Disabled

LSA Family Health Service

NYGEAR UP

Grameen America
Banking for the Unbanked

PARTNERS Program

St. John’s University
Research Example
Students, Faculty and Community Partnerships

Students: Ozanam Scholars
Service: Project Identity
Mentors: Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi, School of Education
Dr. Ming-hui Li, School of Education
Research: Impact of identification on the lives of the clients
Research Example
Faculty Research

**Topic:** Assessing positive psychological outcomes and well-being associated with services at Bread and Life

**Faculty:** William Chaplin, Ph.D
Scyatta Wallace, Ph.D

**Topic:** Analysis of a client-based opinion survey of the St. John’s Bread & Life Digital Choices Food Pantry: Creating a model of sustainable development for enhancing food security and nutritional well-being while decreasing health disparities

**Faculty:** Barrett P. Brenton, Ph.D
Next Steps

Program Expansion
- Expand and enhance community partnerships
- Expand faculty relationships to support student and community research
- Explore the expansion of Academic Service-Learning projects

Projected Research/Projects
- Longitudinal comparative analysis to track the development of traditional students with the Ozanam Scholars
- Research the impact of the Advantage Academy on the children of the students
- Collaborate with the Law School’s Immigration Clinic and the School of Education to develop literacy workshops for clients taking the naturalization test
- Develop an adult program for Homes for the Homeless clients focused on career readiness
ADVANTAGE ACADEMY
In 2009, the Advantage Academy was established through a partnership between St. John’s University and the New York City Department of Homeless Service (DHS).

**Goal:** The Academy provides eligible students with the opportunity to obtain an Associate’s Degree in Business through the College of Professional Studies at no cost.

**Program Themes:**
- Academic Achievement
- Personal Development
- Employment Success
Application Requirements

- GED or High School diploma
- History of homelessness as identified by DHS
- Income at or below the poverty level
- Documented work history
- Program application, interview and acuplacer test
Program Degree

- 60 credit hours with a minimum index of 2.0

-The curriculum includes required courses and elective requirements in the liberal arts and sciences, managerial accounting and business administration
Employment Success

Advantage Academy students are provided with career counseling and professional development services focused on:

- Job readiness/career assessment
- Job searches
- Communication skills
- Business etiquette
- Goal setting
- Job placement activities to assist the students secure and maintain post graduate employment
Personal Development

- Student development retreats
- Speaker’s Bureau
- Leadership workshops
- Academic and cultural excursions
ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING
Academic Service-Learning is a classroom-based program that involves students in community service that benefits the common good.

**Goals:**

- Use service as a means of understanding course concepts and meets course objectives
- Utilize student reflections to examine issues pertaining to social justice and civic responsibility
Program Description

-Freshmen through graduate courses
-Includes all disciplines and academic colleges
-3 to 100 hours of service per student
-Local and international service opportunities
## Faculty Advisory Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College / Dept.</th>
<th>Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Barrett Brenton</td>
<td>St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. John Conry</td>
<td>College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions</td>
<td>Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Theresa DiBartolo</td>
<td>College of Professional Studies</td>
<td>Q</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Robert Fanuzzi</td>
<td>St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>SI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Regina Mistretta</td>
<td>The School of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Robert Pecorella</td>
<td>Institute for Core Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Richard Sinatra</td>
<td>VISA Faculty Consortium</td>
<td>Q</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Igor Tomic</td>
<td>The Peter J. Tobin College of Business</td>
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<td>Charisse Willis</td>
<td>The School of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Stravino</td>
<td>Academic Service-Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Cook</td>
<td>Academic Service-Learning</td>
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New York City Service Locations
Example of Nassau County Service

Tuesday’s Children: Manhasset, Long Island

- Assists victims and families of 9/11 including first responders
- Provides mentoring and family services

Course: Principles of Marketing
Service: Created a marketing plan, which was presented to representatives from Tuesday’s Children

Faculty: Dr. A Licari
Example of Queens Service

Briarwood Family Residence:  Briarwood, Queens

-Provides temporary housing for over 90 homeless families

Course:  Discover New York course

Service:  Assist with childcare programs, after-school programs, and art and music programs

Faculty:  Dr. H. Upton
Example of Brooklyn Service

St. John’s Bread and Life: Bedford –Stuyvesant, Brooklyn
- Provides meals and social services for the Brooklyn community

Course: Accounting courses
Service: Voluntary Income Tax Assistant program (VITA)
Faculty: Dr. Nina Dorata
Example of Manhattan Service

Aid for Aids International: Downtown Manhattan
- Improve lives of those affected by HIV and AIDS in developing countries and the U.S.

Course: HIV elective course
Faculty: Dr. John Conry
Service: Medication recycling program to Latin America

The Robert Mapplethorpe Residential Treatment
- Provides full medical and social services for people living with HIV/AIDS who cannot live on their own

Course: HIV elective course
Faculty: Dr. John Conry
Service: Students paired with HIV-infected patient who they medically follow throughout the semester
Staten Island Service
Example of Staten Island Service

City Harvest: Staten Island
- Distributes food to 600 community food programs in NYC
- Improves access to healthy food in communities most in need

Course: Principles of Marketing course

Service: Marketing plan for Grow NYC Youth Market

Faculty: Prof. Joan Ball
Example of International Academic Service-Learning

Obra Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro

- Orphanage/ hospital for children with special needs

Course: Pediatric Dysphagia in developing countries

Faculty: Dr. N. Colodny

Service: Feeding babies and young children with swallowing disorders
OZANAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Ozanam Scholars Program

**Goal:** To identify students with a strong academic record and a passion for service. Through travel, service, and course work, Ozanam Scholars acquire the tools to address issues of poverty and injustice.

**Program Themes:**

- Academic Scholarship
- Vincentian Leadership
- Global Citizenship
Ozanam Scholars Geographical Distribution

- 1st year students: 17 US States, 6 Countries
- 2nd year students: 1
- 3rd year students: 4
- 4th year students: 19

4th year students: 6 Countries
3rd year students: 17 US States
2nd year students: 1
1st year students: 17 US States, 6 Countries
# Program Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>• Introduction to Social Justice, Research Techniques and the Catholic and Vincentian Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>• Focused Service, Vincentian Mission, Research Techniques and Global Exploration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>• Strategic Service and Independent Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>• Strategic Service and Capstone Research</td>
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Academic Scholarship

- Social Justice Minor
- Required Courses
- Journals
- Service Updates
- Academic Conferences
- Independent Study (junior year)
- Capstone Project (senior year)
## Faculty Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Stephen Rzonca, Chair</td>
<td>St. John’s University</td>
<td>Q</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Joan Tropnas</td>
<td>College of Professional Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Christopher Vogt</td>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Roseanne Gatto</td>
<td>Institute for Writing Studies</td>
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<td>Dr. Sandra Abrams</td>
<td>The School of Education</td>
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<td>Dr. Kathleen Marks</td>
<td>College of Professional Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Scyatta Wallace</td>
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<td>Prof. Ellen Boegel</td>
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<td>Dr. David Farley</td>
<td>Institute for Writing Studies</td>
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<td>Dr. Phyllis Conn</td>
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<td>Dr. Manouchkathe Cassagnol</td>
<td>College of Pharmacy and Allied Health and Professions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter</td>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
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## Example of the Independent Studies – QU and SI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Taru Thompson</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Dr. Judith McVarish</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Impact of Minimum wage on daily life</td>
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<td>Kimberly Sweeney</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>Dr. Miguel Roig &amp; Dr. Elissa Brown</td>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>A Correlation Study between Spirituality and Happiness</td>
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Example of a Capstone Project

Team Leads: Caitlin Conklin
            Victoria Gander

Topics: Poverty and Malnutrition:
        Investigating Federal Aid
        Policies and Food Assistance
        Programs in NYC

Mentor: Dr. Barrett Brenton

Team: Sean DeBiase
      Karolina May
      Joanna Smykowski
Vincentian Leadership

- Weekly Service
- Tuesday Conference
- Service Journals
- Vincentian Heritage Tour
- Ozanam Society
Global Citizenship

-National and International Travel

-Required Study Abroad to Rome

-Service Assignments
  Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Staten Island
Example of a Global Project

Title: Monachina Project

Location: Rome, Italy

Mentor: Prof. Ferro Trabalzi

Service: Literacy program for the children of the Roma Community
Impact and Research
Faculty Engagement: 320

Faculty Research Projects: 6

Student Research: 65 Independent Studies
19 Capstone Projects
Impact and Research
Academic Service-Learning

132 Community Partners
115 NYC & 17 Global Partners

AS-L Faculty Participation by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>05'-06'</th>
<th>06'-07'</th>
<th>07'-08'</th>
<th>08'-09'</th>
<th>09'-10'</th>
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<td>109</td>
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AS-L Student Participation by Year

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>06'-07'</th>
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<td>2366</td>
<td>2719</td>
<td>4649</td>
<td>5124</td>
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|      | 132 Community Partners
|      | 115 NYC & 17 Global Partners

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### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program 2009-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<td>Students</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locations</td>
<td>St. John’s Bread and Life, Brooklyn</td>
<td>St. John’s Bread and Life, Brooklyn AME Zion Church, Jackson Heights</td>
<td>St. John’s Bread and Life, Brooklyn AME Zion Church, Jackson Heights Banco Popular Building, Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Refunds</td>
<td>$1.1M (approx)</td>
<td>$3M (approx)</td>
<td>$2M (approx)</td>
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Impact and Research
Ozanam Scholars Program

Qualitative feedback from the program graduates:

“I got an internship earlier this month… I got this internship mainly because of my experiences with Ozanam. I am really grateful that I am able to continue working with non-profit organizations and helping to serve the community. Ozanam is a huge reason for that.”

“My work ethic definitely improved along with my time management skills. I also realized the importance of research and the wealth of resources available to conduct research.”

“[The research] helped me explore my field of study more in depth and helped me realize even more my desire and love for service and that I hope to continue on after I graduate.”
Impact and Research
Advantage Academy

Academic Achievement
10 students successfully graduated in May 2011 and 20 are positioned to graduate in May 2012.

Employment Success
Five students from the first cohort are currently employed and four are pursuing four-year degrees at St. John’s, York, Baurch and Lehman.
Q and A