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Learning, Serving

10.16.2008 | Service and Giving, International, Students

Under the tutelage of a project-based learning expert, juniors in UD's Berry Scholars program are putting their systems design skills to work for a Marianist mission in Nairobi, Kenya.

With the guidance of teacher education professor Jim Rowley, the new leader of the Berry program's systems design course, the students have helped design an online professional development program for teachers at Our Lady of Nazareth School in Nairobi.

It was one of several needs that the Kenyan primary school's leader, Father Marty Solma, S.M., expressed to Rowley, who visited the mission in September; the systems design course's applied nature made it a perfect venue for addressing some of those needs.

Working with the faculty of the School of Education and Allied Professions, the students began working to design not only the system for delivering the professional training, but also its academic and practical content. Rowley will use the system to administer the training online.

Other mission projects under way by the Berry scholars include hands-on math and science lesson plans and fund-raising initiatives for mosquito nets, electronic library media and secondary-school scholarships. They also are proposing programs for the school's

Rowley, who is the James F. Leary, M.D., Professor in Education and executive director of UD's Institute for Technology-Enhanced Learning, visited Nairobi in late September to determine the best ways to implement the new systems.

On Friday, Nov. 7, an art auction will raise funds for the nets and scholarships. See related story on the Campus Report (url: <http://campusreport.udayton.edu/>) Web site.