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The University of Dayton

News Release

March 15, 1993
Contact: Rosemary Harty

UD PROFS MIX SOCIAL WORK WITH CLASSWORK TO GIVE STUDENTS REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES

DAYTON, Ohio -- Students in Monalisa Mullins' social philosophy class are required to do more than write papers and take examinations to earn a grade.

Mullins, a philosophy instructor at the University of Dayton, teaches one of 17 classes in which professors combine volunteer service with academics. Mullins' course lets students match their concerns on issues such as urban education or homelessness with projects like tutoring or volunteering at shelters.

"They think they'll help someone else, but they leave helping themselves. They realize building their knowledge is not just gathering facts," she said.

More importantly, Mullins says, volunteering exposes students to "real world" problems and shows them "the ways in which we're all connected as human beings."

At UD, service crosses all disciplines:

- Students in a social work class on aging volunteer in a nursing home.
- A mechanical design class involves students designing and building components to help individuals with disabilities.
- A sociology professor who teaches a class in racial and ethnic minorities requires students to do a service project in an interracial setting.

Service integrated into academics is becoming more commonplace on college campuses. The Ohio Campus Compact, an organization which promotes linking classroom

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experience with community service, recognized a UD service program earlier this year by providing a \$5,000 grant to continue a student tutoring service for GED' students.

Alan Hueth, a lecturer in UD's communication department, brings service into the studio by having his broadcasting and television production students write and produce stories profiling social service issues or organizations. One student wrote about a battered women's shelter, others are producing documentaries on volunteers including a man who collects leftover food from restaurants to bring to homeless shelters.

"I want them to have a sense of social responsibility. A lot of media is hype and entertainment," he said.

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For interviews contact **Monalisa Mullins**, philosophy instructor, at (513) 229-2752; **Alan Hueth**, communication lecturer, at (513) 229-3945; or **Nick Cardilino**, coordinator of the Campus Leadership and Service Program, at (513) 229-2524.