



# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE LEARNING





2022-23

# NEWSLETTER

## My Virtual Immersion Experience 2022

Grace Campbell



**This past semester**, I had the pleasure of taking part in the IDS 305 course: Immersion Service Learning. Our class partnered with a non-profit civil association, Nexos Comunitarios, who work with communities to combat the poverty faced by so many in Peru.

Maricarmen Valdivieso, the founder and general director of Nexos, joined classes via zoom to introduce us to Peru, many different guest speakers, and community members. In class, we had an amazing ability to connect to people on a personal level through workshops and keynote presentations.

**Learning service** seems like it must be a hands-on experience, however, through the virtual immersion sessions, I feel as if I learned just as much – If not more – than I would if I had physically been in Peru. While I expanded my knowledge surrounding global issues, I learned the most about myself and my position within my own community. In focusing on global citizenship and what it means to be an active member of my community, I realized the small impacts and how important they are. Things like exercising my right to vote, or understanding and discussing global and communal issues, These are things that integrate me into my community. This course taught me a lot about the idea that being a global citizen can be as simple as being active in your community, and the idea of “Act local, think global”.


Our final presentations in this course focused on Peru and its environment. The class chose to talk about topics that are enacted by climate change: Things like agricultural and mining industries, deforestation, desertification, and water availability. Maricarmen and the Service-Learning program collaborated to connect our class to keynote speakers on various topics, broadening our knowledge and comprehension of **social justice issues in Peru, learning service, reflection, human rights, and culture.**

Getting to know the community members in Peru through mutual photovoice presentations was a wonderful experience. It made me aware of the privilege we have in Canada with our government and country’s organization. Peru has had a neo-liberal government since the 1990s, one of our keynote speakers referred to it as a “mafia”, focused on money and power rather than its citizens.


Nexos is an amazing community initiative that is helping reduce poverty in Peru and connects with university programs like Service Learning at StFX, to raise awareness and work towards improving conditions in these rural communities. This ISL course helped me understand the importance of my position in other people’s lives, whether that is as a mentor, a friend, a partner, or a support system. To anyone considering Interdisciplinary Studies or Service-Learning courses, I highly recommend them, as they can help you in following any career path.



## IMMERSION SERVICE LEARNING



**IDS 305**  
Virtual Immersive Learning Experience  
Winter term 3 credit  
can be used as a DEVS or CLEN requirement or an elective in any program



### Interdisciplinary Studies Winter 3 credit

Want to take an exciting **elective** in winter semester? Looking for a CLEN or DEVS class to fulfill your degree requirements? Need an arts class to complete a pair in your health program? Looking to develop your reflection, research, writing, and presentation skills?

**IDS 305** offers the unique opportunity to gain insight into an international community through multidisciplinary perspectives. Students will explore a topic of their choice related to the Peruvian virtual Immersion component of this course, and will work closely with the community partner and their instructor to create a reflection on the integrated immersion experience. The goal of this course is to develop critical thinking and understanding surrounding global social justice issues and to support a Peruvian community facing discrimination, poverty, isolation, poor nutrition, lack of services, and food security issues.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR 2023-24 TRAVEL INFORMATION**



Applications open September 2023

## SERVICE LEARNING AWARD WINNERS



Jami Horne BAScHLTH Honours

### Community Engaged Scholar Award Spring Convocation 2021

This prize recognizes a student who has completed one or more Service Learning experiences and has demonstrated a personal commitment to community development.

**Jami** is from Three Mile Plains, Nova Scotia. She has been actively involved in community outreach during her time at StFX.

Jami participated in placements with a number of agencies including: **L'Arche Antigonish, Keppoch Mountain, Health PEI, Red Apple Children's Place, StFX Radio, and Nexos Comunitarios (Peru).**

### Jami had this to say about experiencing Service Learning:

“My Service Learning experiences have taught me that the word community symbolizes a sense of togetherness and collectivity while simultaneously symbolizing diversity and variety. Ideally, a community is a space where the uniqueness of each member is valued, and everyone is provided with equitable opportunities to reach their fullest potential.

Through personal community involvement and Service Learning experiences, I grew to realize the importance of amplifying voices of community members who are marginalized and under-represented.

Saint Francis Xavier University and Service Learning have provided me with an abundance of tangible experiences that complimented my course work and allowed me to make use of my knowledge to empower not only myself, but also the people within my community.”



## SERVICE LEARNING AWARD WINNERS



Chloe Walker PGOV Honours

### Community Based Research Award March 2022

This Service Learning prize is awarded annually to the best community engaged project presented at Student Research Day.

**Pem Alsumsimkewey- Building Independence:  
Legitimizing Urban Self-Governance at the Mi'kmaw  
Native Friendship Centre through Frameworks of  
Reconciliation**

Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (MNFC) in Halifax

### Chloe had this to say about her Research Project:

“International law stipulates that Indigenous people worldwide have rights to self-determination. Despite the current dialogue emphasizing the importance of nation-to-nation relationship building, Canada fails to uphold these rights. Urban Indigenous communities are faced with unique challenges when it comes to rights recognition.

Located in the context of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (MNFC), Kj'puktuk/Halifax, this research assesses the landscape of urban Indigenous governance and examines how the Friendship Centre as an urban Indigenous institution is legitimating recognition as a self-governing entity.

By peeling back, the various jurisdictional layers unique to urban Indigenous political identities, this thesis explores where the Friendship Centre fits in the debates on Indigenous nationhood in Mi'kma'ki and what constitutes reconciliation from the perspectives of the MNFC.”



## SERVICE LEARNING STUDENT LEADERS



**Connor Laskoski** is a 4th year Health student from Calgary, Alberta. He began his Service Learning journey with a placement at St. Martha's Regional Hospital working in the Emergency department. He has continued there throughout his time here at StFX. Connor is a member of the Antigonish Community Health Board, working with a variety of volunteers across the county to improve health by focusing on issues like poverty, child development and food security. Connor is majoring in biomedicine at StFX. He is passionate about health education and loves learning about individual and community health here at StFX, and plans on pursuing medical school.



**Emma Grube** is a 2nd-year Health student from Barrie, Ontario. She has been with Service Learning since the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Emma also is involved with the stfx pool and teaches swimming lessons to children in the community of all ages. She loves volunteering and being a part of the Antigonish community!



**Victoria Adams** is a 4th year Honours student majoring in Biology with a psychology minor. She is from Cornwall, Ontario but spent last summer in Antigonish doing research in the field of molecular Biology. She volunteers at St. Martha's regional hospital working in the emergency department, and for the peer support program on campus. She has also participated in the Xavierian Leader's program through the McKenna Center for Leadership and TA'd Biology courses. She is passionate about health care and research and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

## Find us on Social Media



## Who was involved in Service Learning in 2021-22?



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>606</b> Student Experiences</li> <li>• <b>36</b> Community Partners</li> <li>• <b>19</b> Professors</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7%</b> Dip Engr</li> <li>• <b>13%</b> BBA</li> <li>• <b>18%</b> BSc</li> <li>• <b>25%</b> BA</li> <li>• <b>37%</b> BAScHealth</li> </ul>                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>31</b> Courses</li> <li>• <b>9</b> Disciplines</li> </ul>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>54%</b> 1st year students</li> <li>• <b>10%</b> 2nd year students</li> <li>• <b>6%</b> 3rd year students</li> <li>• <b>30%</b> 4th year students</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>68%</b> Mandatory participation</li> <li>• <b>32%</b> Optional participation</li> <li>• <b>46%</b> Group Experiences</li> <li>• <b>54%</b> Individual Experiences</li> </ul> |

## Why do Faculty choose Service Learning?



**Service Learning** is an Innovative teaching practice that enriches the teaching and learning process for both faculty and students.



**Service Learning** promotes active learning engagement and supports student interest in a range of learning options and settings.



**Service Learning** facilitates development of university-community relations and research partnerships.



**Faculty who offer Service Learning opportunities in their courses integrate academic knowledge with real-world situations, setting learning in an applied context that supports students' intellectual and personal growth.**

## How can you get involved in Service Learning ?

### FACULTY

- Contact Service Learning by August 1st for fall semester, or November 1st for winter, to discuss projects or placement opportunities you would like to offer in your class.

### STUDENTS

- Service Learning is offered in many classes across most disciplines. If your professor is offering a Service Learning option, details will be provided in class.
- Enroll in IDS 305.
- Participate in an Immersion Service Learning program.

## What does a Service Learning placement require?

### FACULTY

- must clearly define student learning goals, assignments and expected outcomes for a SL component.
- must provide student guidance and reflective space to connect theory to practice.

### STUDENTS

- must complete all assigned placement hours, and placement tasks/project to the best of their ability.
- must conduct themselves in a professional and responsible manner at placements.
- must complete all course assignments related to their placement.



For more information, visit our website,

<https://www.mystfx.ca/service-learning/>

find us on social media, or,



## CONTACT US

**Mary Oxner**  
Faculty  
Coordinator  
902-867-5373  
[mmoxner@stfx.ca](mailto:mmoxner@stfx.ca)

**Megan Turner**  
Service Learning  
Program Manager  
902-867-2563  
[mpturner@stfx.ca](mailto:mpturner@stfx.ca)

**Arlynne McGrath**  
Service Learning  
Community  
Engagement Lead  
902-867-3757  
[amcgrath@stfx.ca](mailto:amcgrath@stfx.ca)

**Jodi van Dompsele**  
Immersion  
Program Assistant  
902-867-2583  
[jvandomp@stfx.ca](mailto:jvandomp@stfx.ca)

**Caley Chisholm**  
Service Learning  
Program Assistant  
902-867-5049  
[cjchisho@stfx.ca](mailto:cjchisho@stfx.ca)



Visit us Here : 3rd floor Coady building, Room 374

