

WILMINGTON

# Student projects help local nonprofits

By Jeffrey Brudney  
Contributed article

In addition to their normal school activities, this semester a number of students at the University of North Carolina Wilmington have been busy working on projects for local nonprofit organizations. As part of a unique course, Nonprofit Leadership Experience, students have completed projects benefiting nonprofit organizations in our region.

Taught by Dr. Christopher R. Prentice and myself, the course first provides intensive classroom instruction on nonprofit leadership and management, and then puts students to work on projects in the nonprofit community.

I designed the course with QENO Director, Natasha Davis, last summer to help bring resources to the nonprofit sector and to cultivate future community leaders. Prentice and I continue work with QENO - Quality Enhancement for Nonprofit Organizations - to solicit projects from local nonprofits.

QENO serves as a bridge between UNCW and the nonprofit community.

The class was offered previously in Summer 2013. Students completed a variety of projects for local nonprofits including developing volunteer recruitment plans, building websites, creating a public service announcement video, and

## GO

Students in the Nonprofit Leadership Experience will present their projects benefiting nonprofit organizations at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 1, at a Poster Session and Gala Reception in the Computer Information Systems Building at UNCW. The public is invited. For parking or additional information, contact Vanessa Lacer at: vjl7955@uncw.edu or 910-962-7778.

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View an online photo gallery of the students' posters at [StarNewsOnline.com/](http://StarNewsOnline.com/)

managing fundraising and marketing campaigns.

Students in the Spring 2014 class have also helped a variety of organizations with their projects. The list includes Communities in Schools, Coastal Horizons, Habitat for Humanity, Pender County Christian Services, American Red Cross, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Make-A-Wish, the Cape Fear Museum, historic preservation and more.

The students provided more than 300 hours of expert assistance to local nonprofits. They will present their projects on May 1 in a public unveiling. The poster session encourages dialogue between UNCW and the nonprofit community.

One student completed a project for Pender County Christian Services. Sandy Harris, president of the organization, said, "These



Students in the Nonprofit Leadership Experience class at the University of North Carolina Wilmington will present posters about their work on behalf of various nonprofits during a public unveiling Thursday. This poster was done by Samantha Taylor to help the Cape Fear Museum. **Contributed artwork**

students at UNCW, taught by Dr. Brudney, are by far the greatest asset to nonprofits in the community. The expertise the students bring is immeasurable."

"QENO is invaluable to our nonprofit sector to offer quality programming to make our nonprofit community much stronger and better," Harris said.

"These students have exceeded our expectations during these classes, and several students have received job offers as a result of their work in this course," said Davis, the QENO director.

The class Nonprofit Leadership Experience will be offered again in Summer 2014. Students typically devote 20 to 40 hours to the projects. Each nonprofit makes arrangements with the student regarding

scheduling and the results to be attained.

Nonprofit organizations that are interested in student projects should contact QENO at 910-962-2878.

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