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College of Arts & Sciences
Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement
Campbell County Public Library

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We’re all Connected

We are very excited to introduce a new version of Connected, which not only recognizes the winners of the Book Connection Art, Essay, and Research Contest but also highlights the various people, events, and initiatives who collaborated to make the Book Connection program a success this year! As you may know, Book Connection has a 17 year legacy of providing an opportunity for first-year students to engage in a shared reading of one book during the summer before they arrive on campus for their first year at NKU. Each year, the book is selected by a committee, the author is invited to participate in conversations with first-year students, and many other events are planned around the book or topics contained with in it. Additionally, faculty from disciplines and courses across campus assign readings and projects related to the book and encourage their students to attend events.

This year’s book was Wine to Water: How One Man Saved Himself While Trying to Save the World by Doc Hendley. This memoir is a heroic story of the author’s journey to Darfur, Sudan to assist a non-profit organization in its mission to provide clean drinking water to the many men, women, and children attempting to maintain their safety in spite of a catastrophic genocide being enacted upon them. Doc works with local villagers to repair wells and provide untainted water bladders for those whose water has been contaminated. Upon returning home from Darfur, Doc decides to start his own non-profit in an effort to continue providing life-saving water to individuals around the world.

Doc Hendley is a dynamic speaker, with a Southern accent and boyish charm, and because of his numerous speaking events at and around NKU this year, nearly 4,000 individuals were given the chance to hear him tell his story first-hand. Many faculty utilized aspects of Wine to Water in their courses, including English, Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Integrative Studies, Physics, Math, and University 101. And various departments on campus utilized the book in their programming, including those associated with civic engagement, service learning, sustainability practices, and education abroad.

Book Connection exists as a collaboration between many different people, departments, disciplines, and organizations across campus and the community. It is only because of this collaboration that first-year students have the chance to connect with their peers and faculty through the shared experience of reading a common text. First-Year Programs would like to thank everyone who has participated in Book Connection in the past year and we look forward to working with you in the future!

Sincerely,

Sarah Maguire
Assistant Director, First-Year Programs
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Northern Exposure: Registration Days
June - August, 2015

Summary

First-year students were introduced to the 2015-2016 Book Connection book, Wine to Water: How One Man Saved Himself While Trying to Save the World by Doc Hendley, during their designated Registration Day in June, July, or August of 2015. During the afternoon of the day students visited campus, the Office of First-Year Programs hosted a Book Connection Open House in the Student Union Multipurpose & Game Rooms. This Open House was designed to give first-year students some context for what they would be reading and the various topics that would be discussed in the book.

With the help of the Orientation Leaders, the Office of First-Year Programs distributed 2,135 books to students at the Book Connection Open House and were given a chance to interact with all incoming first-year students in the following ways:

• Presentation about the Book Connection program, the book, the author (including a short video), the short writing assignment (see page 6), and upcoming fall events that were designed to get students involved with topics in the book
• Demonstration of the FilterPure water filter that the author described in the book, including how the filter is made and how it works. Students were given the opportunity to taste the filtered water if they so chose!
• Short video about the world water crisis to learn more about how lack of access to clean water affects many people around the globe, especially women and children
• Students also took a survey about their own daily water use to gain an understanding of how water issues directly affect each of us

First-year students watching introductory video about Book Connection author, Doc Hendley
“I liked reading Wine to Water and attending the presentations to go along with it... I am extremely interested in volunteering and making a difference in the lives of others... So, I can understand where Doc is coming from when he describes the passion and drive to help the people of Darfur despite the risks involved. I would recommend this book to lots of people and I think it was a good choice for ‘Book Connection’!”  - Adeline Syring, fall 2015 freshmen student
Summary

The Office of First-Year Programs collaborated with Dr. Jen Cellio, Director of the Writing Instruction Program, to create a short writing assignment (2-3 paragraphs) on the Book Connection text for incoming freshmen. Students were asked to complete the assignments before arriving for their three-day Orientation in August and, most importantly, before hearing the author of the book speak at their Convocation ceremony. The prompt asked students to use a major concept in ENG 101 courses, types of arguments, to engage with the Wine to Water text and think about how the author’s memoir provided an argument for why readers should help solve the global water crisis. Forms of argument to choose from included photographs, email communications, and evidence/data. Students were asked to choose which type of argument was the most effective and why they believed this to be true.

Students were first introduced to the short writing assignment at the Book Connection Open House during their Registration Day (see page 4) and the due date for the assignment was Monday, August 10. Between the first day of Registration and the due date, 1,482 individual students (63% of eligible first-year students) submitted their responses online via Blackboard.

Assignment:
For this paper we would like you to choose one of the following types of argument (or identify your own form of argument). In two or three paragraphs, first give an example or two of where the argument is used in the text, and then explain why you think this particular type of argument is the most successful.

- Vivid description (of a person, scene, or setting)
- Evidence/data
- Doc’s memories of his past
- Email communications (with family, employers, other aid workers)
- Visual images/photographs
- Personal accounts of events
- Testimonials from other readers
- Dialogue or conversation between Doc and friends, family, aid workers

As you evaluate the types of argument in the book, consider these questions: What components of this book would you consider to be types of arguments? How did this argument impact how you felt about what was happening in the text?

After you have finished writing your essay, you will submit it online via Blackboard:
1. Go to learnonline.nku.edu and login with your NKU email and password
2. Under My Courses choose NORSE101-2016-010: Northern Exposure N.O.R.S.E. 101 (Summer 2015)
3. Click on the Book Connection link in the left-hand menu
4. Click on the Book Connection Short Writing Assignment - you can either copy and paste your text into the text form or attach a Word document
5. Click Submit!
"A powerful impact is made when reality is faced. Realities such as war, poverty, and thirst seem a world away in the eyes of first world countries. These pictures force readers to see what is going on out there as well as educating them about the world. Ignorance is not an excuse for inaction anymore. A story or a personal account cannot hold a candle to what is felt when the horror of third-world life is exposed in open light."

Type of Argument: Visual Images/Photographs

"Doc’s depiction of fear and anxiety not only allows the reader to understand how Doc’s team felt but also makes the reader feel anxious as each line is read. The suspense of what will happen next captures the moment exceptionally as Hamid has a gun to his head and everyone is screaming at each other. This second vivid description is also an excellent argument because the reader feels the same way Doc and his team does. In life we are often held back by fear and anxiety, we aren’t one hundred percent sure we are capable."

Type of Argument: Vivid description (of a person, scene, or setting)

"In Doc Hendley’s “Wine To Water” his most successful argument was the photographs that he included in the book for his readers. Looking at the photos, everyone is going to have different thoughts on them, some might even skip over them because they want to pretend that everything is fine and that they can’t do anything to help. As the famous quote goes “a picture is worth a thousand words”, and it’s true but a picture is also worth a thousand emotions."

Type of Argument: Visual Images/Photographs

“I know the frustration [Doc] feels about people not doing more for a bigger cause, making them a ‘failure’. There are too many issues in the world today that people don’t pay very much attention to, and it deserves so much more. Issues such as the equal rights for women both of color and not of color, for equality of people of color, racism and sexism, government spending and unfair politics, the list goes on... . I also know that within those lives you can be making a difference in your community by standing up for what’s right, and you can get others in that community to follow your lead, and it just might grab the attention of the right person.”

Type of Argument: Email Communications (with family, employers, other aid workers)
Northern Exposure: Convocation
August 13, 2015

Summary

New Student Convocation, the formal celebration to welcome first-year students to Northern Kentucky University, was held at 5pm on Thursday, August 13. Book Connection author, Doc Hendley, was the keynote speaker and spoke to around 3,000 students, parents and families, faculty, and staff for about thirty minutes. Doc told an inspiring story of his travels to Darfur, Sudan to bring clean water to those in need. Attendees were engaged with Doc’s story and over 100 people spoke with him one-on-one at the book signing after his talk.

“I’m so glad Doc Hendley was the speaker at the convocation back in August, he’s a very honest, down-to-earth guy, I’m so glad he’s taken the time twice to talk to us at NKU.” - first-year student
Northern Exposure: Orientation
August 13-15, 2015

Summary

During Northern Exposure: Orientation (the two days following Convocation), the Office of First-Year Programs presented in ten sessions to incoming first-year students. The first part of the presentation focused on classroom expectations, non-verbal communication, and effective ways to communicate with professors. The second part was designed to encourage students to connect the short writing assignments they submitted for Book Connection to the experiences they had with looking for a college and making the decision to come to NKU. Since the writing assignment was composed of the ways that the author of Wine to Water, Doc Hendley, used various types of argument in the book to make a case for getting involved with the humanitarian effort to solve global water issues, students were asked to think about the ways in which they were presented with various types of arguments to convince them to choose NKU as their higher education institution. Students in the audience were asked to provide different examples for the types of arguments and were then shown examples of what these types of arguments looked like in their search for a college.

Visual images argument in Wine to Water

Student response to visual images argument

Creating a connection for students

Visual images argument to come to NKU
Three-Mile Creek Clean-Up
September 16, 2015

Summary

Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger, Associate Professor and Director of the Environmental Science Program, and her ENV 220L: Protecting Water Resources class partnered with Sanitation District-1 (SD-1) to organize a clean-up of the section of Three-Mile Creek behind Lowe’s off of US 27 in Highland Heights, KY. A total of about 35 NKU students, staff, and SD-1 employees came together to collect trash from the creek bed and transfer trash bags and large items to a nearby dumpster. Students who attended this event not only assisted with the beautification and restoration of a local river tributary but also learned first-hand the impact our local waterways have on NKU’s surrounding area.
Campus Sustainability Day: Water Tasting
October 21, 2015

Summary

NKU’s Sustainability Manager, Tess Phinney, used Campus Sustainability Day as a chance to get student feedback on their taste preferences for bottled or tap water, and to raise awareness about the large number of water bottles that make their way into garbage dumps due to the amount of bottled water consumed. With the help of student members of ECOS (Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students) and Alpha Phi Omega (the national service fraternity), Tess ran a table in the Student Union and asked people to taste two different samples of water - one from purchased bottles of water and one taken from the tap – and state which water taste they preferred. Students were also asked to make a pledge to “Know Your H2O” and place their thumbprint on a water droplet outline on a poster indicating their commitment to thinking about where their water is coming from.

“It was really amazing to be able to tie the topic of the book back to initiatives we’re doing here at NKU and communicating this connection to students, faculty, and staff allowed me to connect with them in a way that I hadn’t before.”

- Tess Phinney, Sustainability Manager
Lisa Ballantine
October 28-29, 2015

Summary

On the recommendation of Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Katherine Frank, the Office of First-Year Programs invited Lisa Ballantine, creator and founder of FilterPure, to campus. FilterPure is the water filter organization in the Dominican Republic that Doc Hendley worked with to provide water filters to those in need in post-earthquake Haiti at the end of Wine to Water. Not only did Lisa come up with the technology for the ceramic water filter but after working with Doc in Haiti, she sold her company to Doc’s organization, Wine to Water, so they could continue water filter work in the Dominican Republic after Lisa and her husband decided to leave the country in 2015.

Lisa spent two full days at NKU and the surrounding area, meeting with many different students, staff, faculty, and community members. Lisa visited two different ceramics classes, Ana England’s Advanced Spatial Arts and Colin Klimesh’s Ceramics I, and engaged with over 30 students interested in her work combining the love of ceramics and humanitarian efforts. Lisa was also a featured guest at the School of the Arts Open House where she demonstrated the FilterPure water filter in the Ceramics & Sculpture building. About 18 students and staff attended Lisa’s Democracy Square Live! discussion about how FilterPure water filters can change lives and about 12 students who were interested in going on the Alternative Spring Break trip to Wine to Water in the Dominican Republic (see page 20) met with Lisa to talk about her experiences in the Dominican and ask questions about the work she has done. Finally, over 20 people attended a community event hosted by the Baker Hunt Arts & Cultural Center entitled Wine to Water: An Evening With Lisa Ballantine where Lisa discussed the role of art in development and innovation in the world around us, including her experiences in the Dominican Republic.
Walk For Water
November 4, 2015

Summary

Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger, Associate Professor and Director of the Environmental Science Program, organized a Walk for Water event with her ENV 220L: Protecting Water Resources class to simulate the distance that some individuals, especially women and children in some developing nations, are required to walk each day in order to obtain water for their families. A few faculty and staff members and a group of over 40 students, some from ENV 220L and others from Rees Storm’s UNV 101 class, carried gallon jugs of water and held signs to explain the purpose of the Walk for Water event. The 2.5 mile route for the walk started in the lawn by the Science Center and circled the edge of campus on Kenton Drive, Johns Hill Road, Martha Layne Collins Boulevard, Alexandria Pike/US 27, and Nunn Drive.

“Being a part of the Book Connection was a great way to relate course content to the student’s lives... Students in my class participated in a stream clean-up with a local non-profit and Sanitation District 1, and they experienced what it is like for 1 billion people daily to walk for access to water. I know these experiences were rewarding not only for the freshmen reading the book, but for the class as a whole. I look forward to future partnerships with the Book Connection.”

- Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger, Associate Professor & Director of Environmental Science Program
Conversations with Doc Hendley
November 12, 2015

Summary

Doc Hendley returned to campus for a day of events on Thursday, November 12. Over 418 students, many of them in UNV 101, and 27 faculty and staff attended Doc’s first speaking event of the day, held in the Student Union Ballroom at 1:45pm. During this talk, Doc gave a brief description of his adventures but wanted to provide ample opportunity for those in attendance, especially students, to ask questions and share their thoughts with him. After the talk, many students waited in line to speak with Doc personally and get their copy of Wine to Water signed.

As in the past, a dinner was arranged to give selected students, staff, and faculty the chance to share a meal with the Book Connection author. About 25 people attended this dinner, including the student winners of the Book Connection Art, Essay, & Research Contest, Kyndra Howard and Christina Soto (see page 18); student workers in the Office of First-Year Programs who assisted with many of the logistics involved with Doc’s visit; members of the Book Connection Committee, who were instrumental in the selection of Wine to Water for the 2015-2016 academic year; and other faculty and staff who worked to implement the book in their courses and programming.

Doc’s evening speaking event at 7pm was well attended by about 250 students, 13 NKU faculty and staff, and 19 community members. Doc’s talk at this event focused on the dynamic telling of his adventures in hosting fundraisers at local bars, traveling to Darfur to provide water aid, and returning to the U.S. to start his non-profit, Wine to Water. The talk was followed by a fifteen minute Q&A session and a book signing.
“It touched me that Doc and I share a similar passion, a passion for mission work. Going to other countries or even places in America that are less fortunate or in need is something that I love to do and knowing that there are people in the world who enjoy bringing that same joy to others warms my heart.” - first-year student
Book Connection Contest
Fall Semester, 2015

Summary

As in past years, the Office of First-Year Programs organized the Book Connection Contest and asked students to submit essays, stories, poetry, artwork, and any other type of work that focused on the Book Connection text, Wine to Water, or topics within the book. This year, the range of accepted work was expanded to include a research component to the Contest in an effort to attract students in science, math, or other fields that may be using water in their coursework. While no research-oriented entries were received, there was some interest from science-based programs and there will hopefully be entries in future Book Connection Contests.

This year, the following types and numbers of entries were submitted for consideration: one drawing, one poem, one discussion guide for education, and five essays.

Two winners were chosen this year, Kyndra Howard (poem) and Christina Soto (drawing). Kyndra and Christina both attended the dinner with Doc Hendley on November 12th and their work was framed and featured at the Celebration of the First-Year Experience event held on March 16, 2016.

Christina Soto’s winning drawing submission
Scraps of Innocence
Kyndra Howard

The sound of rushing water sleeps in the mind of a child’s weeps.

Yet Ishmael stayed awake tonight, not knowing of his future plight, ’til the day he found a posted ad to assist some American lad in fixing water infrastructures to quench the thirst of people-clusters.

He was hired as a hungry, working man and soon became Doc’s right hand.

Then the feared Janjaweed, galloping in on their daunting steads, enforced fury into their hearts by tearing their priceless efforts apart, and beating the men Doc dearly loved until one expired to the heavens above.

In a whole dug so deep, the mind of Ishmael finally sleeps to the sound of rushing water and the blessing of his holy father.
During fall semester of 2015, Collette Thompson, Coordinator in the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement, organized five separate Democracy Square Live! Events focusing on the topic of water. These hour-long sessions were led by faculty, staff, and guests from across varied disciplines and included a short talk on the topic to provide context with the remaining time devoted to questions and comments from those in attendance. Students were able to engage with these facilitators in an intimate setting (around 15 attendees at each event) on the topics being presented. The following is the complete list of sessions and facilitators:

October 7, 2015
What's in YOUR Water?
Dr. Danielle McDonald
Department of Political Science

October 22, 2015
The Future of Clean Water
Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger
Department of Environmental Science

“When teaching gen ed science courses, I’m always looking for ways to keep non-science majors interested in the material being covered—bringing attention to the Book Connection reading in class related course content to freshmen, but also brought awareness to the other students of the book and the author’s campus visits. Our class had a wonderful time collaborating with community members to bring the assigned book to life.”

- Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger, Associate Professor and Director of the Environmental Science Program
“The topic of safe drinking water is very applicable to such a wide variety of people and academic subjects, which made it really exciting to attend and host events that so many people found interesting.”

- Tess Phinney, Sustainability Manager
Alternative Spring Break: Wine to Water
March 5-12, 2015

Summary

During spring break of the 2015-2016 academic year, Rees Storm (Director of Advising and Manager of Internships & Co-Ops in the College of Informatics Advising department), Dr. Charlisa Daniels (Assistant Professor of Chemistry), and Sarah Maguire (Assistant Director of First-Year Programs) led a group of nine students to one of the locations of Doc Hendley’s non-profit organization, Wine to Water, in the Dominican Republic. This trip was envisioned and developed by Michelle Melish, Assistant Director in the Office of Education Abroad.

The week-long Alternative Spring Break trip included experiencing every step of the process for making ceramic water filters at the Wine to Water factory, going into local communities to educate residents on their water and hygiene behaviors, distributing water filters to those who demonstrated interest, and following up with those residents who had received filters to see if they were being used, properly cared for, and benefiting the household. Each night the group would gather to reflect on the events of the day and discuss the impacts of what was seen and experienced. The shared reflections were facilitated by Wine to Water leaders and were a great way for all involved to reflect on the experiences of each day.

Each student on the trip was required to participate in the Celebration of Student Research & Creativity in April by creating a poster or doing a presentation about a topic that they focused on while in the Dominican. On the Friday after returning from the trip, students presented their topics to Doc Hendley, founder of Wine to Water, and received feedback about their projects. Students were allowed to work in pairs or groups. Two groups and one individual presented posters and one group presented their research on water quality and quality of life during the presentation session.
“Being able to engage my classes through lecture, text, and real-life experiences is something I strive to do as an educator. Participating in the Book Connection and the Alternative Spring Break allowed me make that a true possibility. I could offer my students a way to see, feel, and experience a facet of their curriculum. That can be a very powerful and inspiring tool, especially in the physical sciences.”

- Dr. Charlisa Daniels, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Doc Hendley Spring Visit
March 18, 2015

Summary

Working in joint sponsorship with Campbell County Public Library, College of Arts & Sciences, and Office of Education Abroad, Doc Hendley returned to the northern Kentucky area for a third time in spring 2016.

Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Judy Voelker, organized an afternoon session of several social sciences and humanities classes to hear Doc share his experiences doing water aid work and building a non-profit organization. Over 100 students and several faculty and staff attended this session and topics ranged from managing employees in a global organization to the ways water impacts all other facets of our lives.

Doc also met with the 10 students who were involved with the Alternative Spring Break trip to Wine to Water in the Dominican Republic (see page 22) to discuss their experiences and present their projects that had been created for the Celebration of Student Research & Creativity.

In order to raise some money for Doc’s organization, Wine to Water, the Office of First-Year Programs planned a happy hour fundraiser at the local German bar and restaurant, Hofbrauhaus, in Newport, KY. Around 30 people, including students, staff, faculty, and community members, attended the event to talk with Doc, share a drink, and donate to a worthy cause.

Doc’s final event on his return visit was a speaking event at the Newport Branch of Campbell County Public Library. Janet Arno, Adult Programming Coordinator for CCPL, organized the event and over 200 attendees, including community members, students, staff, and faculty, gathered to hear Doc’s engaging stories told in real life.
Book Connection selection for 2016...

Learn more at bookconnection.nku.edu.