



Chaining Experiential Learning in Bucknell's Freeman College of Management
Virtual PRME 2020 - Neil Boyd & Eric Martin

BUCKNELL-MOUNT CARMEL FIELD STATION INITIATIVE
Shaunna Barnhart, Jake Betz, Neil Boyd, Eric Martin, Carl Milofsky

Coal Region Snapshot

	Pennsylvania	Mount Carmel Pop: 5893 (2010)	Shamokin Pop: 7374 (2010)
Poverty rate (2015)	12.9%	18.1%	24%
Poverty rate for families with children (2015)	15.9%	20.1%	24.2%
Median household income (2015)	\$53599	\$32025	\$31088
Free and reduced lunch in respective school districts (2016)	51.4%	65.2%	100%

Living Wage Calculator: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/42097>

Coal Region Field Station: Mission & Vision



This evolving university-community collaboration engages Bucknell students, faculty, and staff with communities in the Anthracite Coal Region by linking together and building upon collaborative projects targeting community-identified needs.

By the **NUMBERS** (through Spring 2019)

300+ Students involved through coursework

70+ Media stories in local, regional and international news

50+ Faculty and staff on Coal Region Working Group listserv

55 Projects through classes

39 Courses in Art and Art History, Comparative Humanities, Engineering, English, Environmental Studies, Geography, Management, Math and Sociology

25+ Student interns and research assistants

22 Offices and Departments involved

17+ Community partners

9+ Faculty research projects

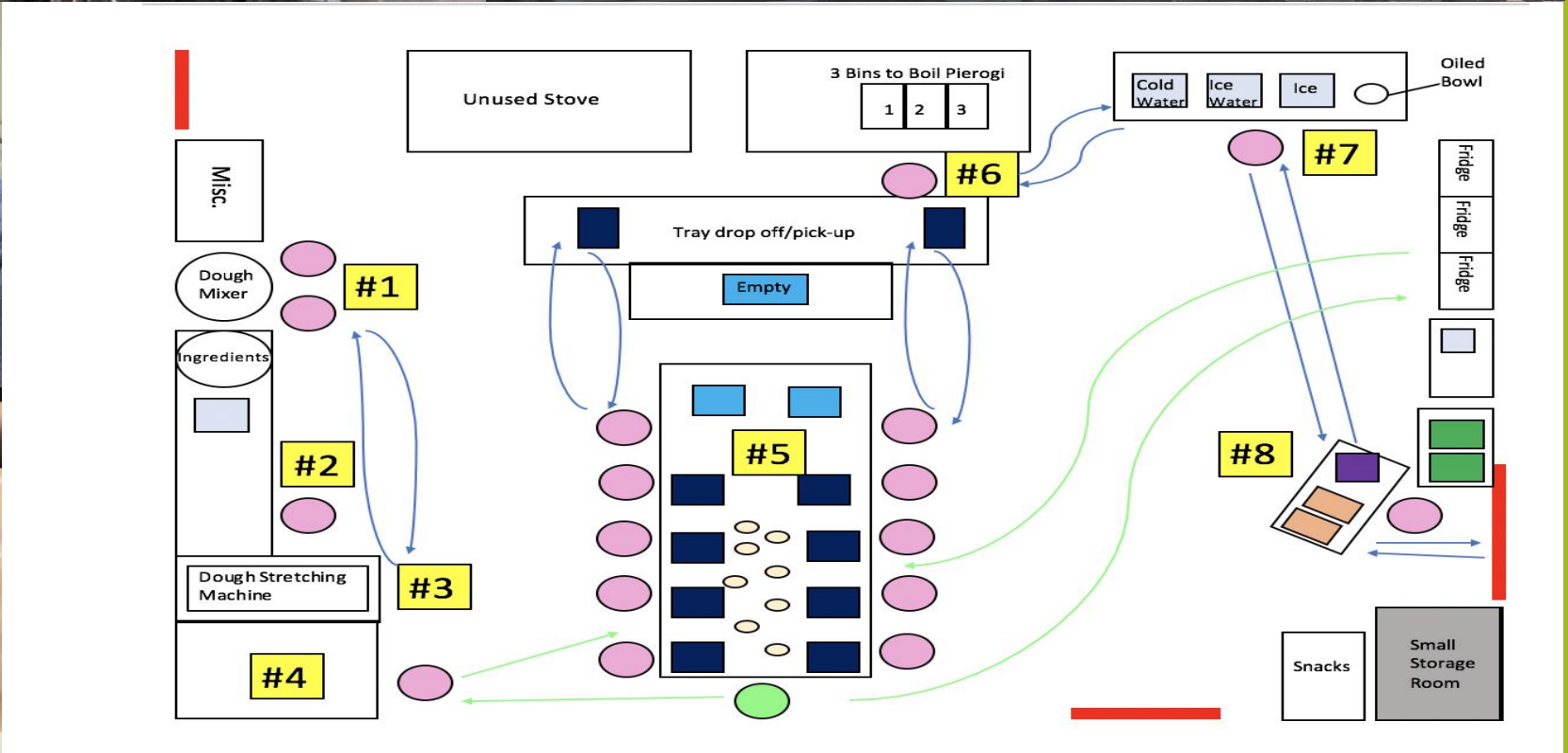
4 Years and counting . . .



MOUNT CARMEL AREA FOOD PANTRY

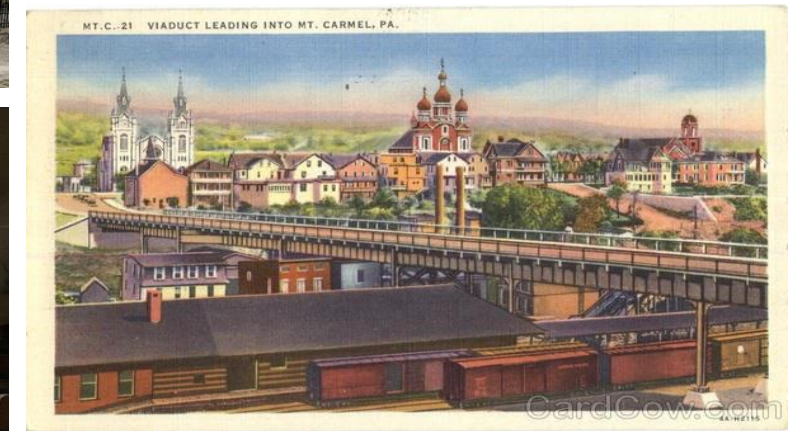
MANAGEMENT 101





Mount Carmel Area Community Center

Management Consulting MSUS 400

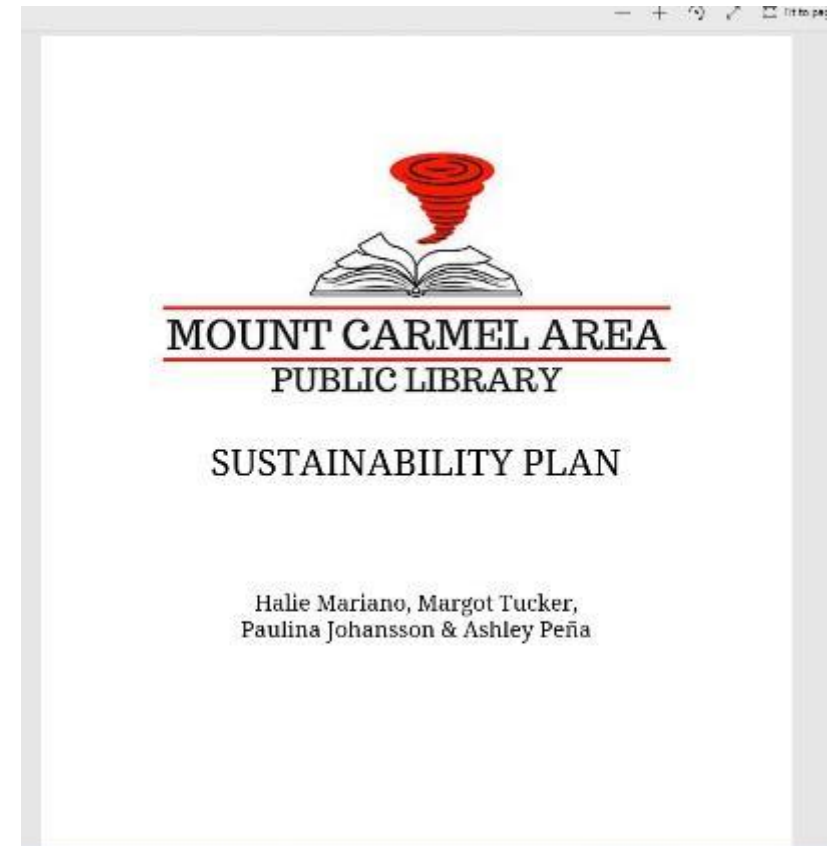


PUBLIC LIBRARY

MSUS 400 – Management Consulting & ILTM



ILTM



MOUNT CARMEL DOWNTOWN INC.

Management Consulting & Graphic Design



MSUS 400
Graphic Arts
MSUS Indep. Study



RECREATION / SWIMMING POOL

MSUS 400 – Project chained over 3 academic years

SURVEY
REC COMMITTEE
BUSINESS PLAN
CAMP



AND MANY MORE:

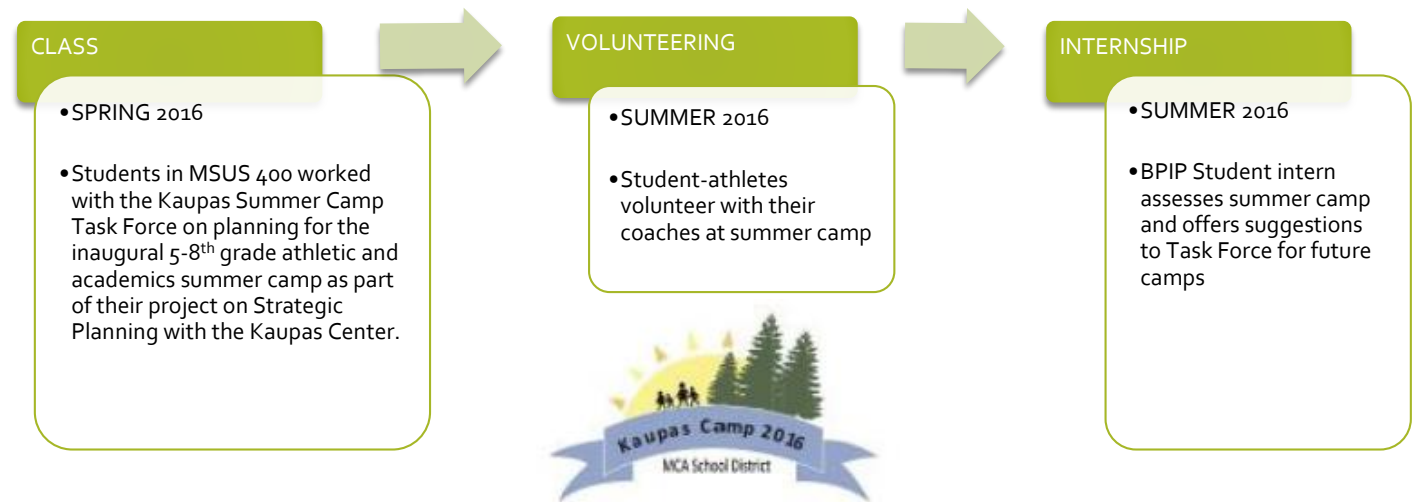
- Documenting blight
- Celebrating heritage
- Developing walking trail
- Study of church architecture
- Addiction & Opioid crisis
- Historic walk – app & fitness
- After-school program
- Food security
- School greenhouse
- Community Center
- Summer camp
- Firefighter Museum & Archive
- Videos and documentaries
- Solar project, Food pantry
- Strategic Plans
- Student Mentoring



Chaining –Classes, Volunteering & Internships

- 1) Over time – same class (POOL, MCACC)
- 2) Across classes – Different Disciplines (MCDI, MOTHER CABRINI)
- 3) Across types of Engagement (KAUPAS CAMP, LIBRARY)
- 4) 1+2+3 = (NSF Broadband Grant)

Instead of anchoring to an assignment and finding new places each semester to do it.



We anchor to place, and assignments/activities change/evolve each semester.

So what was our impact?

(n = 25)

- Community
- Students
- Faculty
- University



Community

- **Direct Impacts** - Pool, greenhouse, logo, website,
- **Spin-Offs and Externalities** - Trickle-down, local purchasing, donations
- **Skepticism into Optimism & Hope** - Morale, energy, confidence, agency
- **Image of Students & Bucknell** - Positive, refreshing, legitimacy
 - Moved local projects forward – incremental steps
 - Improve Bucknell's local reputation
- **You Need Local Partners** –
 - Many, willing; Jake – Central Figure
 - Understanding Projects / Chaining



“This experience will help me become a more understanding person and gain a more diverse perspective to real issues in our nation.”

“This project helped me learn about a different type of town I would otherwise never spent time in.”

Students

- **Exposure to Difference**
 - Awareness, Humility, Emotional Intelligence
- **Real Projects**
 - Working with real players / people
 - Community Interactions & Confidence
 - Working on Real meaningful projects
 - Experience / Resumes – Deloitte / Accenture
- **Awareness of Pedagogy**
 - Experiential / Service Learning/Chaining
 - Interacting with Professors Differently
 - Built into Curriculum (101 → 400)
- **Interdisciplinarity**
 - Team and Group Issues
 - Learning from Each Other
- **Skill Development**
 - Learning – Management; Groups, Teams
 - Perception, Emotion, Child’s Eye
 - Communication
 - *Mgmt 101 as preparation*
- **Procrastination**
 - Getting Started
 - Cold Calls and Landlines

Faculty

- **Community Engaged Learning**
 - On Mission
 - Exposing Students to Other
 - Risks / Benefits
 - Credibility in Town and on Campus
- **Getting Started**
 - Kindred Spirits on Campus
 - Benchmarking
 - Pre-Work and Communication
 - What is a “project”
 - Either Know project or Know Area
 - One or the other new and different if replicating

- **Pedagogy**
 - Effective, Structuring, Immersion
 - Student Interaction, Advice
 - Varying Student Capacity
 - Across Disciplines
 - Kolb
 - Experience, reflect, conceptualize, experiment
- **Structure**
 - Chaining
 - Field Station, Institutional Support
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Easier over time



University

- **Engaged Learning**
 - On Mission
 - Curricular Building Blocks
 - Freeman College - MGMT 101 to 400
- **Embracing Place**
 - 40 Miles
 - Going All-In
 - Real Change
- **Movement Evolution**
 - FRTL / AR / CRFS / SLTF – New Plan
 - Benchmarking (Cornell; Trinity; Ashoka)

- **Administrative Support**
 - Central Office Point Person
 - Media, Storage
- **Public Relations**
 - Telling Good Stories
 - Admissions, Communications
 - Easy to Embrace & Support
 - Reputation in Local Media



STOKING HOPE IN A COAL TOWN

Bucknellians help rejuvenate an economically depressed community 40 miles from campus



RESEARCH ILLUMINATES LIVES OF IMMIGRANTS IN PA. COAL TOWN

IN THIS SECTION

An interdisciplinary student-faculty research project unearths Mahanoy City's Slavic and literary past.

Photo by Brett Simpson, Division of Communications



Creating Optimism in Coal Country

IN THIS SECTION

MAY 02, 2016, BY MATTHEW BELTZ

SHARE THIS STORY



“A conservative coal town and one of America’s most respected liberal arts universities may seem far apart on many levels, but the Bucknell-Mount Carmel relationship is proving that, as the world gets smaller, we can all learn from each other, and grow with each other.”

— Editorial from *The News-Item*

Bucknell work in Mt. Carmel a 40-mile ‘miracle’

BY SARAH DESANTIS
THE NEWS-ITEM
sarah_d@newsitem.com

LEWISBURG — Students and faculty members shared their unique experiences of the work they’ve done because of the partnership between the Mother Maria Kaupas Center in Mount Carmel and Bucknell University



MORAN

during a presentation Thursday afternoon. About 40 people turned up at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts for the noon-time talk, which was part of a yearlong series on the coal industry that is a collabo-

ration between the Weis Center and Bucknell University’s Place Studies program.

The speakers included a handful of students who have completed or are currently engaged in internships in the borough, several faculty members who have been instrumental in bringing the field station to fruition and two leaders of the Kaupas Center.

The Rev. Martin Moran, pastor of Divine Redeemer Parish, which houses the Kaupas Center, said he felt as though the project is divine intervention because of the number of pieces that have perfectly aligned.

Moran served as executive director of Bucknell’s campus Catholic ministry before he was appointed to Divine Redeemer.

When he arrived at the church, he spent the first year asking parishioners what his top priorities should be.

“Ninety-eight percent said, ‘You’re here to help us die and to help the town die,’” he said. He recalled realizing that the youth in the church decided at around 10th grade, “‘We’re going to move
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So what do you need?

- **Interested Faculty** (more than a few)
 - Understand / comfort with experiential pedagogy
 - Ability to focus on experience, not content
 - Patient and flexible
 - Related research interests help
- **Flexible Teaching**
 - Scheduling blocks
 - Course in curriculum that can evolve over time
- **University Center Point**
 - Communications, Civic Engagement, Provost, Dean, Chair
 - Co-Teach; Travel \$; Misc \$ (Reports & Swag); Funding for center (\$5K)
 - Place Studies (Part-time staff)
- **Community Center Point**
 - Key Player / knows community / legitimacy

