



**Partnering Academics and
Community Engagement**

Newsletter

Spring 2016 edition

Biology 1108: Dr. Stephen Burnett partners with W.H. Reynolds Nature Preserve

BIOL 1108 is the second Principles of Biology course for biology majors, which is also taken by students majoring in other STEM fields as well as post-baccalaureate students preparing for applying to medical school, dental school, etc. This course covers evolutionary biology and organisms and their interactions. A major component of this is ecology, where we study how the interactions between different groups of organisms.



This semester we worked with Reynolds Nature Preserve as a way to inform students about the existence of the preserve (a significant proportion of the students had no idea that Reynolds existed), the work it does in the community, and to tie into the ecology theme of the course.

Class discussion focused on the problem of invasive species, which is major problem at Reynolds. Dr. Burnett up a series of work days at Reynolds where students had the chance to take part in maintenance of the preserve in various ways. To tie into the invasive species theme, some students took part in events to remove invasive plant species in conjunction with another PACE course (BIOL 2500) and the Reynolds Preserve Board of Directors.

According to the director of Reynolds, these students have been extremely helpful, providing numerous benefits to the preserve, including removal of invasive plants, cleaning up seven miles of road litter, clearing up drainage ditches to divert debris from the ponds in the preserve, helping with maintaining the preserve's vegetable garden and native tree identification field, and hosting a table at the Wild Azalea festival on April 9 where they talked about their PACE activities and PACE in general to several hundred visitors to the festival.



And what did the students think of the experience?

"At first, I was a bit skeptical to taking a PACE course but decided it was best because it's benefiting the community as well as my resume. I think the PACE program is an amazing way to get college students involved with the community.



I feel this way because as a student that has to do community service every year to keep scholarships, this is a great way instead of searching for places to go."

"I enjoy the PACE program and I think it is a great way to get the students interacting and making a difference in the community. I also think BIOL 1108 is a good class to be doing the PACE program in since it ties in very well with what we are doing in class, such as invasive species."

Want to learn more about PACE and what our students are doing? Visit www.clayton.edu/pace or contact PACE Director Dr. Antoinette Miller at antoinettemiller@clayton.edu.