

Fisher Students Chronicle and Celebrate the Lives of St. John's Home Residents



This semester, English Senior Seminar students in Dr. James Bowman's class at St. John Fisher College partnered with elders at St. John's Home in a community-based service-learning LifeBio Project.

Each participating elder was paired with two Fisher students whose charge was to conduct one-on-one interviews to capture the elder's life history. The elder's

story was then made into a mini-biography of the individual, which was given to the elder, his/her family and the staff at St. John's Home. The Fisher students used their expertise and skills in rhetoric to create questions, focus the interviews on important aspects of the elder's life and turn these into meaningful written documents. The elders were provided with companionship,

an opportunity to let their voices and personal memoirs be told and a living history to be passed down to their families. The Fisher students presented these stories to the elder residents at a celebratory reception at St. John's Home on Thursday, April 8, 2010.

This project is in keeping with the Eden philosophy that St. John's Home embraces. The Eden Alternative mission strives to "nurture life with vibrant, caring, life-affirming relationships and to create a resident-centered community."

Part of Fisher's Community-Based Service-Learning Program, the LifeBio Project strives to support the health care, youth and housing needs of our community, specifically those located in the Southeast sector of Rochester. St. John's Home is located on Highland Avenue in Rochester. ■