Engaging Gen Y

Ana Ruis, Bec Forrester and Leanne Cameron
Generation Y & Technology

• Shaped by the rise of communication technologies; internet, email, texting, Youtube, social networking sites.
• Peer oriented and seeking instant gratification
• Technology: 97% own a computer
• 76% use social networking sites
• 34% use websites as their primary source of news

Information found on wikipedia

Engaging Gen Y through GLP, volunteering & LAMS
Global Leadership Program

- Unique to Macquarie
- A movement of over 1700 students on campus
- 3 requirements to complete:
  a. Colloquium Series
  b. Distinguished Speaker Series
  c. Experiential Credit
- Recognition on academic transcript
Macquarie Volunteer Programs enable students to:

- appreciate global issues from a different perspective
- get actively involved and be socially responsible
- build on their leadership skills
- learn about development issues
- meet friends from different nationalities and degrees
- participate in an experience that changes them for life
Programs and Gen Y

- GLP started in 2005 as a way to foster international and cross cultural learning, theoretical and professional experience to produce ‘global graduates’ (the need for more to set individuals apart…)
- Volunteering programs launched in 2006 as another way to offer an engaging experience where the effects of work are felt to be immediate.
- Both programs offer structure to students who have a sea of opportunities in front of them.
- Appeal of work that will make a difference.
Program Components

Volunteer Project

Academic Component

Briefings by NGOs and int’l orgs

Cultural Activities/ Tours

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Full Learning Cycle

**PRE-DEPARTURE**
3 pre-departure sessions

**DURING**
Keeping a journal
Discussion cafes

**RE-ENTRY**
Program Evaluation
Individual Project
Re-entry session
Welcome back function
Media/Press Releases

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The challenge:

We wanted students to have a basic knowledge of the country, culture and people they were visiting,

AND

We wanted to create a sense of community BEFORE they arrived.

however,

the students were in different locations with different schedules and time commitments
LAMS: A solution utilising the features we know these students enjoy:

- Flexibility
- Connectivity
- Interactivity
- Collaboration
- Authentic experiences
- Extension opportunities
- Resource production
DPF

While in Thailand you will meet with several NGOs, the Australian Embassy and UN agencies. These visits will provide you with the opportunity to hear about leading development projects and reflect on how central challenges such as poverty and conservation issues are being tackled.

Before you meet these organisations, it is important to know a bit about them.

DPF

You will Volunteer with the DPF, a non-profit organisation that works with children and their families living in the slums of Bangkok. In most cases they have no drainage system, no rubbish collection and no clean water supply. There are also no places for the children to play and no schools to teach them life’s essentials. DPF works to change this, helping the children to thrive through education and outreach.

Words from DPF’s founder

“DPF grew out of the efforts of slum people to address the problems that confronted them - problems that have their roots in poverty and deprivation. The name ‘Doung Prateep’ means ‘flame of hope’ and this flame is the Foundation’s symbol. It offers a promise that we try hard to live up to.”

Mrs Prateep Umsongtham Heta, DPF Founder and Director

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Millennium Developing Goals and UNDP

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in the year 2000, world leaders agreed to form a set of goals that aim to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.

Set for the year 2015, the MDGs are an agreed set of measurable targets that can be achieved if all participants work together and actively contribute their part.

In order to achieve these goals, developing countries have pledged to employ improved governing strategies such as investing in better health care and education and in conjunction, developed countries have pledged to support the implementation of new strategies through aid, contributing to debt relief, and working towards fairer trade.

Millennium Developing Goals

The world is making progress towards achieving the MDGs but it is an uneven and slow process. Urgent action is needed to get the global plan back on track.

What suggestions would you give to the UNDP to achieve the MDGs by 2015? Think short and long terms solutions.

For example: Should the UN reform its structure to have more authority? Should the UNDP change its current strategies towards the development in Vietnam?
Why LAMS worked

Students are in control of their learning experience and the progression is immediate – there is not an instructor or team leader guiding this – all students are progressing through the class together....

Any member of staff with little tuition can create or edit a LAMS sequence
What our students say:

- “By far, the GLP was the most rewarding part of my university degree. It opened my eyes to a world of opportunity out there, it transformed me into a different person.”

- "The MQ Volunteer Program was a fantastic experience. I initially saw it as a chance to supplement my university studies with some hands on practical experience, but it became so much more than that. This was an experience I will treasure forever".
Students’ Comments

“Thank you for giving me a voice. It is so great to have my thoughts heard. I am usually the quiet one sitting at the back of the class. By the time I have thought about what I want to say, someone else has already said it, or the conversation has moved on. Thanks again for giving the silent majority a go.”

Macquarie TEP Student

“I do not speak English well. I learnt English from a book. But in this class I can write what I think without worrying about how I sound.”

Macquarie TESOL Student

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Further online applications

- Both GLP and MQ Volunteers Abroad use Facebook as a tool for maintaining contact with their students, creating groups for returned student groups, etc.
- SurveyMonkey – online evaluation tool
- Email newsletters – weekly and fortnightly, opportunities and updates.