
Computer Class Gives Back

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by ASHLEY STUDLEY Editor-in-Chief

The students of Technology Studies 105 Computers for Human Empowerment class have spent their semester a little different from other computer courses: by teaching modern day technology to those who might not otherwise learn it.

Taught by Dr. Jean Coppola, the class teamed up with Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW), a non-profit organization aimed to educate and rehabilitate children and adults with the condition, and taught the consumers computer basics.

Each week, eight CPW consumers were bused to Pace where they were taught Microsoft applications. They graduated on April 13 with the new set of skills, and enjoyed their time spent with the Pace students.

They "were delighted and thrilled to come to a college campus," explained Coppola. "They were immediately made comfortable by our warm and caring Pace students."

Victoria Oppenheimer, the vocational program director for CPW, appreciates the dedication of the TS students.

"They [the Pace students] were very serious about the work with the consumers. Each week they were prepared for what they were doing and worked so nicely with the consumers," she said. "My guys all said that they learned a lot and totally enjoyed it. The fact that these young people actually re-worked their schedule so they could work with my guys is a testimonial to the effort and concern they put into their work."

Although this is not the first service learning computer course Coppola has taught, it is the first time her class has teamed up with CPW and My Second Home, an adult care center based in Mount Kisco.

According to junior Stephanie Imperato, the students also enjoyed the experience just as much.

"The people at Cerebral Palsy said they loved the experience they had at Pace and would love to come back next semester to continue learning how to use computers," she said. "We also loved

the experience we had working with these people."

Oppenheimer is touched by the experience, and hopes to continue the service learning in the future.

"I hope this is the first of several semesters of us getting CPW consumers there with it, getting more and more fine tuned each time," she said. "I've been at this job 20 years now and seeing this happen is one of the greatest highlights of those 20 years."