Snowed In

Mellon College of Science Associate Dean Eric Grotzinger found himself “snowed in” last month thanks to the Mortarboard’s fund raiser for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The senior honor society asked the university community to donate money to the food bank in the name of a faculty member or administrator. For attracting the most donations, Grotzinger and Mark Stehlik, assistant dean of the School of Computer Science, wore a snowman costume for a day. The Mortarboard donated about $200 to the food bank.

Students Donate Nearly $1 Million Worth of Expertise to Area Nonprofits

Students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences’ Information Systems program spent the fall semester donating about $1 million of their expertise to help nonprofit agencies create computer systems that will enable them to provide needed programs and services.

The students’ help, time and effort would have cost the participating nonprofit organizations nearly $1 million, said Cletilde Gonzalez, assistant professor of information and decision sciences.

Twelve teams of seniors served as technology consultants for organizations such as the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium, the Pittsburgh Community Storehouse, the North Hills Community Outreach Center, Operation Safety Net, Light of Life Ministries and Fallingwater.

Gonzalez said the focus of the Information Systems Applications course is “developing solutions to business problems.”

The course costs the nonprofits nothing—they only have to make time to meet with the students. The course has served community needs for the past 10 years and a number of corporate affiliates of the Information Systems program help to support the outreach effort.

Students are asked to select, design, implement and test the technological underpinnings of their informa-

continued on page 3
Associate Dean Harry Faulk says he never intended to stay at the Heinz School for so long. "I was fortunate that circumstances extended my time at the school, providing me with so many gratifying relationships and experiences," he says.

Faulk has also spearheaded efforts that have led to major grants from organizations to support new initiatives. He was instrumental in gaining support from the Booth Ferris Foundation for the Educational Leadership program and from the Mellon Program, "No doubt, any student who interacts with Harry comes away with a sense of personal recognition and satisfaction. For all of us who have worked with him, he has been, and will continue to be, a mentor."

Faulk said he never intended to stay at the Heinz School for so long.

"Looking back, when I started working at the Heinz School I never anticipated staying here for over 20 years, as I had already spent 37 years working in the public school system," Faulk said. "I was fortunate that circumstances extended my time at the school, providing me with so many gratifying relationships and experiences."

"However, now fate beckons me to derive pleasure in my remaining years by reminiscing about my Camelot, the Heinz School."

Faulk joined the Heinz School in 1977 after serving as a superintendent for the Elizabeth-Forward, McKeesport and Keystone Oaks school districts. Before becoming a superintendent, he was the principal at Trafford High School and a teacher at Norwin and Brownsville high schools.

He earned his bachelor's degree in education from California University of Pennsylvania and his master's and doctor's degrees in education from the University of Pittsburgh.

—Irene Hurwitz Schwartz

Students Donate $1 Million Worth of Expertise to Area Nonprofits

continued from page 1

Students working with Light of Life Ministries, an agency that provides support for the staff and the agency's limited budget. Eventually, the prototype may be rolled out nationally.

An educational program for the KidScience project at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium will enable Pittsburgh school children to easily understand wildlife conservation efforts.

"The database program designed by the Carnegie Mellon students will increase the administrative efficiency of the KidScience program," said project coordinator Mark Reardon. "It will make lesson planning easier and help with organizational functionality. In addition, the simplicity of the program will help in teaching computer skills to the KidScience students."

The students were able to update the shelter's computer system in ways that made sense for the staff and the agency's limited budget. Eventually, the prototype may be rolled out nationally.

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Nonprofit groups interested in participating in future Information Systems Applications classes should contact Carnegie Mellon's Center for University Outreach at 268-7801.

—Teresa Sokol Thomas