

St. Anselm team gets an eye-opener at exposition

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MANCHESTER – As first-timers at the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) National Exposition in Dallas, Texas, earlier this month, the St. Anselm College SIFE team expected to face some tough competition.

But they weren't prepared to see some of their competitors making a difference globally.

"They were building villages in Africa for refugees," said graduating senior Katie Douglas, 22, of Rochester.

Teammate Regina Silva, 21, of Bow, noted another SIFE group wrote a book about running your own business, translated it into Spanish and sent it to Guatemala.

Still, the St. Anselm team ended up being pretty impressive itself.

The four-member team came home from the May 6 Dallas exposition with "Rookie of the Year" honors.

Douglas and Silva were joined by St. Anselm senior Nick Anzalone, of Jackson, N.J., and junior Brittany Gorman, of Clovis, Calif., in presenting the St. Anselm chapter's first-year projects to a panel of six judges, competing against 165 SIFE teams.

The St. Anselm team completed five projects this year. Among them were:

- Teaching Merrimack High School freshmen the value of business ethics and a free market through Junior Achievement's Titan program.
- Donating money to Coffee Kids, a non-profit organization established to improve the quality of life for children and families who live in coffee-producing regions in Central and South America.
- Sponsoring a symposium on corporate social responsibility which included speakers from Green Mountain Coffee and Turner Construction.
- Putting out a bimonthly SIFE newsletter on campus.

The St. Anselm SIFE team hopes to open a school store in the business department as a source of revenue.

"Their presentation was very well-received, and they had numerous compliments from judges and other SIFE Fellows for all they had accomplished in less than a year," said Tom Fitzpatrick, chapter advisor and professor of business and economics.

Junior Silva said, "Everyone who saw us congratulated us. It was a really nice experience, a great experience really."

"We met tons of people, had a lot of fun and got to talk to a lot of business people," she said.

The team advanced to the Dallas competition after taking top honors at the Boston SIFE USA Regional Competition in March.

"Everyone starts out small like we're doing," said Douglas, who is a business major. "It just amazed us what students can do."

Junior Silva, who will be returning to St. Anselm's SIFE team in the fall, said, "I think what we should do for next year is plan to go bigger.

"We have planned a micro-lending project with Coffee Kids. I'm not really sure what it's going to be yet, but we're really excited for that," she said.

Silva said the team this year took part in the Earth Day festivities in Manchester on Elm Street, collecting trash and cleaning up the city.

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