Page 1 of 3 Laura Stivers, Dominican University of California



Laura Stivers is associate professor of ethics and Chair of the philosophy and religion programs at Dominican University of California. She developed the teaching strategy outlined below at her previous position at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, where she taught for ten years. Stivers has authored Disrupting Homelessness: From Charity to Community (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011); coedited

Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2006); and published several articles in the areas of economic, environmental, and feminist ethics. She holds degrees from Saint Olaf College, Pacific School of Religion, and the Graduate Theological Union. Her writing, teaching, and community involvements address issues of economic and environmental justice. In addition to academic pursuits, Stivers spends summers searching for fields of wildflowers and kayaking around river rocks and winters gliding on skis and camping at the beach.

Seeing is Believing

Miles of torn-up mountain, dump trucks with car-sized wheels, coal dust-covered windowsills, torrential mudslides, and intimidation from coal companies — we experience the devastation of Kayford Mountain in West Virginia as we participate in a walking prayer vigil/protest. Wanting to learn more about the environmental and economic injustices happening within a few hours of where I live and seeking a way to engage students on a deeper level in my "Environmental Philosophy and Ethics" course at Pfeiffer University, I contacted groups organizing against mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining. Put in contact with a former Presbyterian pastor-turned-organizer and the environmental nonprofit organization Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW), I planned a three-day service-learning trip for my students (and my children).

