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XAVIER UNIVERSITY
EIGEL CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING



Community Engaged/Service Fellows Newsletter - Fall 2020

Welcome Community Engaged/Service Fellow Alums to our inaugural newsletter! In honor of Alumni Weekend (November 12-14), we are sharing a few updates from campus since we can't welcome you back.

The picture above captures our first gathering of the new year (a "pop up picnic" outdoors) and demonstrates just some of the new rules that guide our close community now. As you can imagine, getting



dialogue within our Fellowship and our external community to evolve our service during this pandemic. We're mindful of our charge and commitment to communities, to one another, and of course our legacy: you.

I hope you enjoy these inspiring highlights from our campus and they spark memories of your time in our program, your classmates, and Xavier. We look forward to sharing more about our current and past Fellows this winter, and of course, always look forward to hearing from you. I encourage you to stay connected on our Facebook and Instagram pages linked below.

Wishing you and your families good health and happiness.

Sean L. Rhiney, JD

Director, the Eigel Center for Community-Engaged Learning

Updates from Campus

Even in a pandemic, Fellows have found safe and innovative ways to engage the broader community and one another

For the 10th straight year, Fellows participated in the annual [Warrior Run](#), a 5k honoring former Xavier staffer, Jim Miller started by his widow Nancy Eigel Miller to promote education and

awareness of mental health challenges. This year's group ran "virtually" on the new Wasson Way. Past and current Fellows **Karena Cash**, **Danielle Stone**, and **Vaughn Robinson** have also committed their service to working with [1N5](#), the host organization Miller created to provide suicide prevention training in schools.



Mariana Salazar, Junior, Computer Science: Marina was selected this summer to attend the Hispanic Scholarship Fund's (HSF) extremely competitive National Leadership Conference (NLC). The NLC focuses on Hispanic students studying STEM subjects. She was one of 100 selected to attend the Conference and is a finalist for a scholarship. You can read more about Marina [here](#).

[Engaged Scholar's](#) program, Ciara spent her summer and fall as a research fellow with Dr. Carol Winkleman on her research related to Human Trafficking, Sex Work and COVID-19. Ciara presented her abstract on the research at the OSCLG Undergraduate Honors Conference held October 1-3, 2020.

For perhaps the first time, this year's elected student Government Executive Officers include two Fellows, **Micky Townsend (PPP)**, and **Mariana Salazar (Computer Science)**, and to round things out **MaKayala Conners (PPP)**, who supports the Eigel Center's strategic communications. Congrats!



In September, CEF **sophomores and First years** visited the Cincinnati Art Museum to view [Hank Willis Thomas: All Things Being Equal...](#) featuring artwork that asks us to challenge systems of inequality woven into the fabric of contemporary life.

Sarah Ray, Junior, Biology/Pre-Med. Last year in collaboration with her service placement, Crossroads Health Center, Sarah wrote a \$5,000 grant to support children and families with asthma. Impressively she continued the grant based work she started last semester through Covid, delivering supplies (bedsheets and more) to asthmatic patients.

Jamie Misky (Junior) serves on the board of [Woven Oak](#), a community led nonprofit in Norwood that advances quality of life initiatives for families.

Annabella Collins (Sophomore) and Tessa Doan (Junior):

Last spring when the campus shut down, and courses had to pivot to online, one of our service learning classes got an extra boost from Annabella and Tessa, who helped Professor Stacey Raj deliver 400 books to 100 students from the Academy of World Languages. Some books were delivered with supportive meals provided by the Freestore



Community Engaged Scholars Connect Service to Research for the Greater Good

In 2019, we had an idea: How could we explore different effective aspects of service outside of our weekly, direct engagement? And how might we leverage the assets of an academic institution -like research and scholarship - for the Greater Good?



Thanks to the generosity of former Service Fellow, Dr. John Wakelin ('96), the Eigel Center launched the [Community Engaged Scholars \(CES\)](#) program, a mini-grant program for faculty and our [Community Engaged Fellows](#) that integrates service with academic research benefiting communities.

Each winter up to eight Fellows are invited to be paid summer research assistants and paired with Xavier faculty that are leading projects addressing an identified community need or examine the broader impact of community engaged teaching and learning. This fall, our Fellows were able to allocate their service hours towards finalizing these projects.

Since 2019, 12 Fellows have participated in this program, supporting 14 faculty members from seven academic departments with their community engaged research.

Congratulations to current fellows who have completed this program: **Tessa Doan, Tom Grandon, Ben Foley, Ciara Lambert, Clarence Lyles, Natalie Loux, Jamie Misky, Sarah Ray, Danielle Stone, and Mercy Torres**, and previous grads **Kendall King, and Andrea Solis Canto**. You can watch our current CES Fellows present their research updates and view a list of faculty projects [here](#).

Checking in With Our Most Recent Alums

The CEF Class of 2020 can likely stake a claim for most unusual end to a Senior Year, including a virtual graduation that didn't happen until August. We reached out to see how their post-University life is going. Here are some updates and reflections they shared:



as the Volunteer Intern Program Coordinator and Referral Specialist at Crossroad Health Center. She is currently applying to medical schools to continue her vocational calling.

“One thing I both miss and value the most about the Fellowship is the genuine and strong friendships that I formed with the other fellows throughout the years. I feel so proud to have such close connections with individuals that will continue to serve and passionately make a difference in their communities and the world.”

Natalie Solorio is teaching Spanish at her alma mater, Pattonville High School, in St. Louis where she getting to explore her old city and get involved in new organizations.

“The entire fellow community; and my larger Cincinnati communities in Evanston and Lower Price Hill have forever had an impact on me as a person, but equally so in my future profession.”

Andrea Solis Canto serves as a paralegal advocate with the Immigration and Income, Work, and Health team at Legal Aid Society of SW Ohio. She plans to apply to law school next year.

“One of the things I value most about the fellowship after graduating is the approach it taught me to have towards the work I do and what I envision for my future. I thank the fellowship for teaching me to be critical of how I advocate for our clients alongside my team. I am also grateful to have learned how to be comfortable asking the difficult questions and engaging in difficult conversations particularly during this time of racial injustice and the pandemic.”

Karena Cash is currently the Advocacy Coordinator at Feeding KY, where she supports food insecure Kentuckian's. Karena has actively been involved in federal COVID relief work. She is also currently pursuing a Masters in Public Affairs from UK.

“In the fellowship, I was connected to so many passionate people who cared about various issues and communities across Cincinnati. I definitely miss being out in community and interacting with people.”

Youth Worker with Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, Syracuse, New York. Last May she noted:

"As I reflect back upon my four years at Xavier, I am astonished by how much the fellowship has shaped me into who I am. It has brought me my closest friends, incredible learning opportunities, leadership skills, a place of great discussions and conversation and building a home for me at Xavier."

Kendall King was recently admitted to the Master of Science in Social Entrepreneurship degree program at the University of Southern California.

Making a Difference One Community at a Time

As part of their scholarship requirements, our Community Engaged Fellows invested over 8,000 hours in 34 surrounding neighborhoods in 2019-20. Here are some of the nonprofit and community partners that we call home:

Academy of World Languages - Imagination Foundation

Moriah Pie

Friars Club

Bethany House Services

Multicultural Families Org

Episcopal Retirement Services

Women Helping Women

Ladies of Awesomeness

Children's Creative Corner

Girls on the Run

Cincinnati Squash Academy

Good Samaritan Hospital

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Marjorie P Lee Retirement Community

Vonnya's Kitchen

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Lydia's House

Crossroad Health Center

The Christ Hospital

Crossroad Health Center Tobacco Treatment Group

Dater High School Cares
DePaul Cristo Rey High School
Education Matters
Talbert House
Bhutanese Community of Cincinnati
Nativity of Our Lord 6th Grade Volleyball
Maslow's Army
DePaul Cristo Rey High School



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