

11-2014

Intentional Learning: The Faith-Justice Institute Newsletter, Fall 2014

Saint Joseph's University

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Citation

Saint Joseph's University, "Intentional Learning: The Faith-Justice Institute Newsletter, Fall 2014" (2014). *Faith-Justice Institute Newsletters*. 3.

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The Director's Report

It is my pleasure to wish you autumnal greetings as you begin examining this newest volume of Intentional Learning, the newsletter of the Faith-Justice Institute at Saint Joseph's University. Since 1977 the FJI has served the university and the wider community through its various programming efforts; Service-Learning, Faith-Justice studies, outreach lectures and special events.

This fall is no exception as we have so many SJU students involved in building relationships in the community, speaking out against injustice and educating themselves to be true world citizens. For the coming months students are

preparing events to combat youth homelessness, to eliminate poverty and to create peaceful, just communities.

Each fall term does bring new people and new events to the Institute. We are happy to welcome a new Placement Coordinator, Ella Guimond and new student staff to the Institute. Hopefully you will get a chance to meet and work with them in the coming months.

New programming events include: The month of November to Ending Youth Homelessness (collaboration with the Department of Sociology), many collaborations for the 25th Anniversary of the martyrs of the UCA (Universidad Centroamericana)

in El Salvador, support for campus-wide justice programming and our own poverty awareness initiative.

All of the Institutes' programming would not be possible without the support of many affiliated faculty and mission-focused staff. We are thankful for all of them.

May you enjoy the beauty of nature this fall.

-Virginia Goulding

Johnson, Ph.D



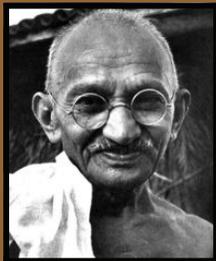
"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty."

- Mother Teresa



“POVERTY IS
THE WORST
FORM OF
VIOLENCE.”

-MAHATMA
GANDHI



POVERTY AWARENESS INITIATIVE

One of the most important goals of the poverty awareness initiative at SJU is to raise awareness of the causes of poverty and food insecurity nationally and globally. Did you know....

- Hunger is the world’s #1 health risk. It kills more people than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.
- Over 300 million children go to bed hungry every day.
- One out of every five children in the United States is now living in poverty.
- The cost of eradicating world poverty is estimated at 1 percent of global income.

It is only through examining, questioning and facing these issues do we have any hope of making a change.

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Poverty awareness initiative

- Fair Trade Market 11:00-1:00
Campion fishbowl corridor
- Please come sign a petition to raise the minimum wage
- “Ending Hunger in the Delaware Valley”
7:00 p.m. Campion Forum Theater,
Joe Sperlunto, Development Coordinator of
Philabundance



It's More than Just Bowling

As a resident of Philadelphia, Inglis House was always a mystery to me. I'd pass the castle-like building on my way to the highway or hear my friends in high school talk about serving there, but somehow never made it inside myself. The legend continued in college, and serving there became one of the "bucket list" goals for my senior year.

That goal was realized on Saturday, Sept. 15 at Inglis House's annual Keene Games, a field day of games and fun for the residents to take part in. The excitement of several residents showed me just how seriously field games, like beanbag tosses and bowling, were taken. Some residents train year-round, and many came home with chests full of metals for first, second and

third place. I was overwhelmed with how many family members came to support their loved ones and cheered the loudest when their resident won an award.

Volunteers are either paired with a resident (and act as their cheerleader through each of the day's events) or are asked to run the games. I was asked to run the beanbag toss, two huge bull's eyes with colored lines on the ground, showing where each resident was to stand, depending on their level of mobility. It was little details like these special lines that showed just how committed the staff is to meeting the residents where they are and to best assuring they enjoy themselves. During the closing ceremony, our SJU group sat

with an older resident named Richard. A rather quiet man, he sat calmly and kept to himself as each award was announced. Yet, when his name was called once... twice... and a third time, he looked at me with such surprise, as if nothing so exciting could come from such a quiet man. When the ceremony ended, a staff member came over to congratulate Richard, who smiled and said, "I gotta add these to my collection!" The Keene Games, I realized, are more than just field games; they're just a little part of this joyous everyday community at Inglis House!

-Katie Smith '15



Welcome Ella

This August, FJI welcomed Ella Guimond as the new Service-Learning Placement Coordinator. Ella is a graduate of the University of San Diego (USD) with a degree in Ethnic Studies with minors in Spanish and Peace and Justice Studies. As an undergraduate Ella received the 2012 Woman of Impact Award, conducted research on the USD

Women's shelter and its effectiveness in addressing issues of race, gender, and privilege and pioneered the way for USD students to study abroad at Santa Clara University's Casa de Solidaridad Program in El Salvador. Upon graduation, Ella returned to El Salvador and worked with the Casa Program as their Community Coordinator, facilitating the community relationships and praxis placements for study

Abroad students. In addition to her commitment to justice, Ella brings with her a generosity of spirit, a strong work ethic, and a wonderful sense of humor!



Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.

-Pope Francis



A Word From One of Our Minors

"The Faith-Justice Studies minor has allowed me to critically engage in justice issues that plague our world today inside and outside of the classroom. The inter-disciplinary nature of the Faith-Justice Studies minor has allowed me to engage justice issues from an abundance of lenses: Philosophy, English, Sociology, and Business Management. As a business major, I have come to realize that all of these justice issues will affect the workplace and how we engage society, employees, and clients in business practices. The Faith-Justice Studies minor has created a forum that allows me to question and engage in justice issues with the workplace, but has also grounded the curriculum in Jesuit teachings and values. Specifically, the teaching of *cura personalis* reaffirms that our society is human-centric – when we care for the whole person, justice issues are directly engaged in everyday lives."

-Rosanna DeFilippo '15



DEDICATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER TO ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

During the month of November the Faith-Justice Institute along with the Sociology Department are standing in solidarity with the homeless youth of Philadelphia-literally. Starting on November 1st a group of SJU students will dedicate the month to learning more about youth homelessness and ways they can advocate for justice. They will also be sleeping out one night as an act of solidarity. On November 20, they will join the residents of Covenant House for a candlelight vigil honor runaway, homes and trafficked youth.

We as a society need to examine the causes of youth homelessness and the problems it creates. It is only then that we can hope to eradicate it. Youth homelessness is the result of many issues; mental illness, abuse, poverty at home, wages so low that youth can not pay for rent and aging out of the foster care system just to name a few. These youth need help with everything from healthcare to protection from human trafficking.

Youth homelessness is a social injustice that encompasses many issues our society must address to ever hope to provide every child a home.

-Elizabeth Norberg

TALENT IS UNIVERSAL, OPPORTUNITY IS NOT.

-Nicholas Kristof

Half the Sky

Fostering the Relational Aspect of Jesuit Education

The most influential professor is the one who fosters new relationships. For a student, these relationships can be found in and out of the classroom and can be made with fellow classmates or strangers. For Dr. Raquel Kennedy Bergen, professor of Sociology and Criminology her goal in the classroom is just that: incorporating the relational aspect of Jesuit education into her curriculum.

As the seventh recipient of the Ed Brady Award, her academic work on marginalized women and domestic violence reflects her commitment to stressing the fundamental significance of relationships. "I'm in really good company in terms of looking at the previous award winners," she says, "It really is an honor, and I was totally surprised when I was awarded."

Beyond her field of expertise and outside of the classroom, Dr. Bergen has had the opportunity to travel with the Faith Justice Institute's faculty-staff immersion program to Bolivia for two summers. Within the University's own community, she is a faculty moderator for the Rape Prevention Program and

helps facilitate the Take Back the Night Vigil.

Her exemplary leadership is by no means coincidentally interrelated with her teaching a class that she calls a hybrid, year-long course. Her passion for mentoring freshmen service-learning students is easily noticeable as she smiles to explain her side of that formational experience.

"Some students have never done service and then you tell them that they are going to play where there are alcohol and drug addicted people. You see their eyes and they look terrified! But then you watch the students' progression throughout the year."

Dr. Bergen has gone above and beyond answering the call to both actively and effectively foster Jesuit ideals to freshmen. In her service-learning course, she has instilled a true sense of community through solidified relationships as she anticipates coming together with seniors from her class three years earlier. "Through these year long service-learning courses, students become really tight with one another.

One of my students is trying to organize a rock-climbing event for the graduating seniors that they completed as a part of their freshmen year service-learning course. So there is something about going to sites together the entire year that I think changes you as a student here at St. Joseph's."

Dr. Bergen's wide array of involvement is a standard for the University's undergraduates as she herself was a graduate from St. Joseph's before pursuing both a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her recent publication *Understanding Diversity* (January 2014) investigates the marginalization of specific populations and solidarity. With her next project underway, which is focusing on violence against women, it is clear that her commitment to understanding the impacts of relationships is unceasing.

-Jack Viere '15



Dr. Raquel Bergen