"Doing Justice at the Clock Tower"

A highpoint of our fifth annual Global and Local Social Justice Student Conference on 27 February 2015 was the student plenary on Occupy SLU. Student activists Adekemi Sodamade, Emily Cunningham, Briana Moody, and Brittany Kendrick, offered reflections on their participation in the student and community protest that occurred on SLU’s campus following the Ferguson October Interfaith Rally. The protesters at Occupy SLU offered opportunities for dialogue around issues related to race, inequality and police brutality. What followed were the Clocktower Accords that lay out opportunities for changes on campus to address issues of diversity and community engagement. In their remarks the panelists discussed the importance of activism as a pathway for change and the difficulties one may face as an activist. Several indicated that they often were faced with resistance and hostility from their peers. The panel agreed that standing up for injustice is a central part of the Jesuit Mission and SLU and that students should engage in activism in their community and on campus. - Dr. Chyrl Laird, Political Science and African American Studies

The Global and Local Social Justice Program is sponsored by American Studies, Political Science, Public Health, Social Work, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies. Though open to all students it draws predominantly from these units. This year's conference was supported by the Office of Research and College of Arts and Sciences. It is directed by Dr. Robert Strikwerda, Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies
Conference

Poster Session

To the left: Lizzie Cocoran and Tommy English present a poster titled, "The Overground Railroad to Literacy.

To the right: Caroline Swift displays statistics and analysis on "Measuring Service and Community Engagement at Saint Louis University".

Nicole Summers and Peter Marle explain research titled, "Once Upon a Time: The Third Year Report of Reads 2 Leaders Program".

Cami Kasmerchak talks to listeners about her poster titled, "Reflections on Loyiso Pre-Primary School".
When I was first asked if I would like to present a paper I wrote for Dr. Wynne Moskop’s seminar on Contemporary Political Ideologies I was hesitant to say yes. Like many students standing in front of a group of my professors and peers, while opening up my study for criticism, was a daunting proposition. This trepidation was increased by the topic of my paper, which was an audacious attempt to examine the prospects for liberal democratic ideology formation in China. However, I had been told by several former classmates about the many benefits that come from presenting in this type of forum, so I chose to present and I couldn’t be happier that I did.

In the end it wasn’t nearly as nerve-wracking as I thought that it would be. Having the opportunity to explain the interesting things that I learned from my study, and their possible implications, made me more comfortable with my academic work. It also served a very important purpose by providing experience in presenting at a conference but in a small and focused forum. This made it easier to present, and since the presenters were separated by the topics of their studies, I was able to receive very worthwhile questions and critiques. Another great aspect of the conference was having a moderator that was so helpful and encouraging, who knew exactly what we first-time presenters were going through.

The Global and Local Social Justice Conference provides a unique opportunity for students at SLU to gain valuable and marketable experience. Besides looking good on a résumé, it prepares you for the professional world where you will be expected to present in much more intimidating formats. For these many reasons I highly recommend all students, especially graduate students, take advantage of this excellent chance to improve your skillset and prepare yourselves for the world outside of SLU.
Two Global and Local Social Justice seniors present research at the Senior Legacy Symposium:

Cami Kasmerchak, Economics

Faculty Sponsor: Heather Bednarek

The Rationing of Healthcare

Healthcare is a limited resource with high demand. Therefore, healthcare is rationed in different ways throughout the world. Each approach has welfare implications resulting from the use of these different forms of rationing. While the major focus of this research is on the United States, methodologies from other countries are considered for comparative analysis purposes. Part of this research consists of a theoretical economic analysis through the lens of public finance and health economics. This includes consideration of the differences between medical effectiveness and cost effectiveness as a basis for rationing.

Ellie Cash, Education

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Lauren Arend

The Voices of Belize: The Effects of Belizean History of the Education System

This presentation will break down and explain some of the major aspects of Belizean culture and how they have developed to what they are today. These themes will then be analyzed alongside Belizean education standards and results in order to develop insight as to why the education system is failing so many students every year. The hope is to gain a better understanding for the way the system is set up as it is and how educated individual can help this country move forward, keeping its culture intact while advancing its literacy.

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Newsletter Editor:
Jeffrey Seib
Faculty Editor:
Dr. Robert Strikwerda

http://www.slu.edu/global-and-local-justice-initiative

McGannon Hall 134

Global and Local Social Justice Program co-sponsors campus event

Douglas J. Flowe received his doctorate in American History from the University of Rochester and is currently the Postdoctoral Fellow of Inequality and Identity at Washington University in St. Louis. His work is primarily concerned with themes of criminality, vice, leisure, and masculinity, and how they converge with issues of race, class, and space in American cities. His dissertation, entitled ‘‘Tell the Whole White World,’ Crime, Violence, and Black Men in Early Migration New York City, 1890-1917,” analyzes illegality and offensive violence in the lives of black migrant men in the urban North, and how criminality formed one of many responses to the broken expectations of migration and the brutalities of the nadir period.

Social justice is not about working in the soup kitchen, but about why you need a soup kitchen. Who is in line? Where is it located? What do these things tell you about oppression and history?- Marilyn Sanders Mobley, VP for inclusion, diversity, and opportunity at Case Western Reserve University