



Ursinus College

The Joseph H. Melrose Center for Global Civic Engagement

Volume 1, Issue 1
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Established in spring 2016, the **Melrose Center for Global Civic Engagement** is named in honor of the late Ambassador Joseph H. Melrose, Jr., a 1966 Ursinus graduate who spent over thirty years with the Foreign Service before returning to the college as Ambassador in Residence from 2003-2014. The Melrose Center seeks to continue his legacy by emphasizing transformative education that links academic study, practical experiences and meaningful engagement in the broader community. In doing so, the Center aims to foster socially responsible, global citizens ready to work to build a more peaceful, just, sustainable world.

WELCOME FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Welcome to the first issue of our Melrose Center newsletter! We hope you enjoy this new way to keep you informed about our activities and the accomplishments of students and alumni with a connection to Ambassador Melrose and the Melrose Center. With this issue, we provide a brief review of this year's activities and introduce you to our new Bonner Leaders and Melrose Fellows. Please enjoy this inaugural newsletter and stay tuned for news of upcoming activities and events, including an international film festival, a 10-year Bonner at UC celebration, and a Spring 2018 conference exploring the intersection of religion, justice, and peace-building.

Rebecca Evans, Department of Politics & International Relations

Matt Mizenko, Department of Modern Languages

Christian Rice, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

WE'RE CREATING A MELROSE CENTER COMMUNITY

The Melrose Center is working to mentor students with an interest in community engagement and global learning. To be successful, we need your help. Some of you receiving this newsletter are former friends, colleagues and students of Joe's and will recognize the importance of continuing his legacy. Others may not have known Ambassador Melrose but share a strong interest in global studies, service learning and community involvement at Ursinus and beyond. Your help will be critical in the ongoing development of the Melrose Center. You can provide valuable advice and contacts for our current students, connecting them to volunteer opportunities, internships and jobs in your network. You can also provide suggestions for future programming and activities. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at melrosecenter@ursinus.edu.

MELROSE CENTER EVENTS, 2016-2017

In November, the Melrose Center hosted an **inaugural conference**, “Building Peace in Post-Conflict Societies: Looking Back in Order to Look Forward,” featuring a panel of government officials, scholars and policy advocates. Students had an opportunity to talk with each of the panelists about careers in the U.S. Foreign Service, Peace Corps, international law and NGO work. The award-winning documentary *Sierra Leone: Journey from War to Peace* was screened after the panel, followed by a discussion with the film maker, Terry Leary.



Maria Brewer is Deputy Director at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Human Resources. Mrs. Brewer was Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria from 2013-2016 and has worked as a foreign service officer in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.



Sasha Lezhnev focuses on peace, conflict and corporate accountability in central Africa. He is Senior Policy Analyst at the Enough Project to End Genocide & Crimes Against Humanity and Executive Director and Co-Founder, Grassroots Reconciliation Group, which works with former child soldiers in Uganda.



Chris Mahony is Visiting Research Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center and adviser to the World Bank and United Nations. He worked with the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Special Court and has advised the International Criminal Court and national governments on transitional justice and justice sector reform.



Terry Leary is a global relief worker and director of an award-winning documentary film on reconciliation in Sierra Leone. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone and has worked for governments and NGOs in Serbia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Chad and Lebanon.



In December, the Melrose Center hosted a speaker from DESGUA (Sustainable Development for Guatemala), a non-governmental organization that aims to eliminate the need for Guatemalans to emigrate to the United States by expanding economic opportunity in Guatemala. DESGUA also works to help Guatemalans living in the US find dignified work and reconnect with their cultural roots. Following a study abroad semester in Costa Rica, Roseangela Hartford (Class of 2018) volunteered at DESGUA's main office in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.





In February, the Melrose Center hosted an information session for students interested in the Peace Corps and other international service organizations. Our new **Peace Corps Prep Program** prepares students through a certificate program that ensures that they acquire the skills, experience and academic training to make them competitive applicants and successful volunteers.

In March, the first-year Bonner Leaders, Bonner Interns and advisers Christian Rice and Katie Turek went on the 8th annual spring break **service trip to Beeston Spring, Jamaica**, where they assisted with community projects, building two homes, painting two churches and a home, and revitalizing a community center. Bonner Leaders engage in 10 hours of community service each week of the semester and their experience in Jamaica helped them gain an international perspective on many of the same social issues they encounter domestically in their community service throughout the year.



This spring we also selected **ten new Bonner Leaders**, who will be working alongside Melrose Fellows next year. They are: Nathaniel Dorfman, Athena Gainey (also a Melrose Fellow), Jamir Mallory, Noel Campbell, Marcus Mattis, Jordan Orange (also a Melrose Fellow), Wilbert Pichardo (also a Melrose Fellow), Emily Shiplett, Jasmine Soriano, and Cody Yhap.



Also in March, the Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility, and Engagement (UCARE) sponsored an **immigration panel** in which UC students, faculty and staff who are immigrants shared their personal stories, including the experiences and challenges of being an immigrant. The panel was prompted by the fact that the label "immigrant" can spark prejudicial opinions and attitudes toward people who are perceived as being different from other US citizens. UCARE provides students the opportunity to lead projects and events on campus, while getting guidance from the center itself.



In April, 22 Ursinus students traveled to New York City with faculty advisor Johannes Karreth for the **National Model United Nations conference**. In their role as Norwegian diplomats, the Ursinus delegation negotiated solutions to real-world issues such as international security, global trade and finance, sustainable use of natural resources, global health, human rights and women in science. They were briefed on Norway's humanitarian and human rights policies by Counsellor Martin Torbergson at the Norwegian Mission to the United Nations and met with Ursinus alumna Carolyn Smith Strainic (Class of '11), Advisor, U.S. Department of State, who works at the U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations.



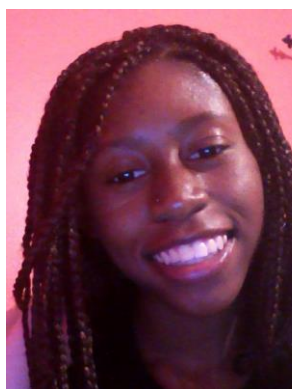
In May, the Melrose Center launched its inaugural **Melrose Fellows Program** designed for students with a demonstrated passion for global studies and civic engagement. Fellows will work together to become experts on a particular topic and will apply their learning in a short-term study abroad program following spring commencement. During their junior year, Fellows will continue studying their topic individually during a study abroad

semester. As seniors, they will participate alongside scholars, policymakers and other experts in a conference focused on their chosen topic.

Do you have ideas for the Melrose Center? We are looking for volunteers who are interested in mentoring Bonner Leaders and Melrose Fellows, helping plan Melrose Center-sponsored events on campus, and serving on an advisory board which will provide advice about Melrose Center plans and programs.

Let us know if you have comments and feel free to share this newsletter with family and friends. If you prefer not to receive mailings about the Melrose Center, contact us at melrosecenter@ursinus.edu and we will remove you from the mailing list.

2019 Melrose Fellows



Shelby Carmichael

Hometown:
Columbia,
South Carolina
Major: Neuroscience
and English
Minor: African-
American & Africana
Studies
Activities: Gospel
Choir, HipHopInc,



Katie Gereda

Hometown:
Kingston, PA
Majors: Health &
Exercise Physiology,
Spanish
Activities: Bonner
Leader, Resident
Advisor, Tour Guide,
Students Today
Alumni Tomorrow



Meg Koeller

Hometown:
Hopkinton, MA
Majors: History,
Spanish
Minors: Politics, Latin
Studies,
American Studies,
Activities: Kappa
Delta Kappa, Library
assistant



Kaitlyn Lawrence

Hometown:
Frazer, PA
Majors:
Environmental
Studies,
Anthropology
Activities: Sustainable
Food Fellow



Reed Meakim

Hometown:
Sewell, NJ
Majors: Biology,
Spanish
Activities: Volunteer at
Parkhouse Nursing
Home, English as a
Second Language
Volunteer



Charlotte Rohrer

Hometown:
Villingen-
Schwenningen,
Germany
Major: International
Relations & Politics
Minor: French
Activities: President,
UC Democrats,
Omega Chi, Outdoors



Greg Stryker

Hometown:
Chalfont, PA
Majors: International
Relations, History
Minor: French,
Politics
Activities: Mock Trial,
Model UN, IR Club,
Students Today,
Alumni Tomorrow



Rose Tailassane

Hometown:
Philadelphia, PA
Majors: International
Relations, Applied
Economics
Minor: Middle
Eastern Studies
Activities: IR Club,
Student Activities
Intern



Chelsey Thomas

Hometown:
Morristown, NJ
Majors: Human
Development,
International
Relations
Minor: Applied
Economics
Activities: Tour
Guide, IR Club



Susie Zulaya-Rivera

Hometown:
Washington, DC
Majors: Environmental
Studies, Spanish
Minor: Latin American
Studies
Activities: Center for
Science & the Common
Good Fellow, SUN, ESL
Volunteer

2020 Melrose Fellows



Garrett Bullock

Hometown:

Doylestown, PA

Majors: History, Politics,
and International Relations

Activities: Student

Government President,
Resident Advisor, Writing
Fellow, CIE Fellow



Jake Detweiler

Hometown:

Phoenixville, PA

Majors: Politics,
International Relations

Activities:

Writing Fellow, Model
United Nations



Athena Gainey

Hometown: Philadelphia,
PA

Major: Media &
Communication Studies

Minors: Japanese, Applied
Ethics, Gender, Sexuality &
Women's Studies

Activities: Lantern Literary
Magazine



Sophia King

Hometown:

Bethesda, MD

Majors: Spanish, Politics

Activities: Rhapsody Show
Choir, Scholars in Service,
UNICEF Club, Best
Buddies Club, Outdoors



Jordan Orange

Home Town:

New York City

Major: International
Relations

Minors: Management
Studies and Spanish

Activities: Bonner, Tour
Guide, Overnight Host,
SUN



Wilbert Pichardo

Hometown:

Camden, NJ

Majors: Applied
Economics and
International Relations

Minor: Spanish

Activities: America
Reads Tutor, Intramural
Basketball, SUN club



Min Son

Hometown: Newtown, PA

Major: Biology

Minor: Applied Ethics

Activities: Minority
Association of Pre-Medical
Students, UCARE Service
Fellow, Center for Science
and the Common Good
Fellow, Writing Fellow,
Mock Trial, Japan Club



Gabe Tenaglia

Hometown:

Langhorne, PA

Major: English

Minor: Japanese

Activities on Campus:
Ursinus Budo Taijutsu
Club, Wismer on Wheels

ALUMNI & FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: REMEMBERING '17



Ross Doughty (Class of '68), Professor and Chair of History, is currently researching the lives and experiences of Ursinus students and alumni during World War I. During the twenty months that America was involved in the "Great War" (April 1917-November 1918), 170 Ursinus men served in the U.S. armed forces and nine died in battle or from disease and are memorialized in the Berman Art Museum and in a Protestant chapel in Chateau-Thierry, France. Meanwhile in Collegetown, faculty, students and alumni bought war bonds and grew "Victory" gardens; Ursinus shortened its school year and cancelled sports seasons; and heating was reduced in classrooms and dorms owing to shortages

of coal. "Over There" and over here, Bears made history.



Colette Trout, former Peace Corps volunteer (Chile 69-71) and retired professor of French, collaborated on the preparation of a critical edition of the letters of Jeanne de Flandreysy during World War I to be published later this year. This first volume, 1914-1915, contains 616 letters addressed by Flandreysy, an important figure in the cultural life of Provence, to her once lover, the Marquis Folco de Baroncelli, who was denounced for anti-militarist comments and threatened with court-martial. Flandreysy's mission is to free her friend from imprisonment and rehabilitate his honor, inextricably linked to the unjustly sullied reputation of Southern French soldiers. The letters give us insight into the everyday life of civilians from a woman's perspective, as well as the political and military situation of the time, as Flandreysy was well connected with important

government leaders. It is also an incredible story of courage and devotion as Flandreysy, among other things, travelled several times to the front to plead the innocence of her lover with Generals.



Megan Helzner (Class of '08) is Associate Director of Development at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. NMAJH and the American Jewish Historical Society co-organized the Museum's current special exhibition, *1917: How One Year Changed the World*. This special exhibition looks back 100 years to explore America's entry into World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the issuing of the Balfour Declaration, in which the British government expressed its support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. *1917* is on view at NMAJH through July 16. It will be on view at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, September 1 – December 29.

We would love to hear from you!

If you have news you would like to share with other alumni or want to engage with current students, please let us know. Also let us know if you're planning a trip back to Collegetown and stay tuned for news of our upcoming events!

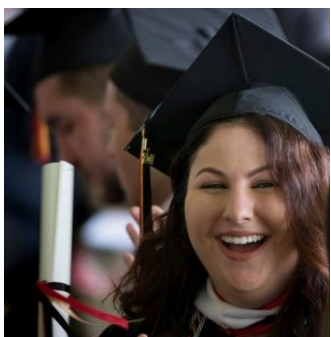


Angela Upright, Class of '17, was this year's Student Commencement Speaker. As a Bonner Leader, Angela volunteered at Parkhouse nursing home, worked with Spanish-speaking adults in an ESL literacy program, and tutored elementary school students at ACLAMO (Acción Comunal Latinoamericana de Montgomery County), which provides educational programs, social services and health access to Latino and other low income residents by empowering them to succeed and become productive members of society. Angela majored in Health and Exercise Physiology, minored in Spanish and worked as a Writing Fellow. She served as the President of Chapel, a Resident Advisor, and a Senior Admission Fellow.

Kelly Johnson, Class of '17, graduated as a double major in Spanish and Peace & Social Justice Studies. Her experience tutoring migrant adolescents from Guatemala and studying in Argentina contributed to her



honors research which compared immigration laws and sweatshop labor conditions for migrants working in Argentina and the United States. As a Bonner Leader, Kelly reinstated and coordinated the Ursinus ESL Program, which brings together Ursinus students and the Ursinus cleaning staff each week to learn English and participate in cross-cultural exchange and understanding. In addition to volunteer work in Norristown and Pottstown, Kelly's participated in two service trips to Jamaica with the Bonner Leaders and to San Ramón, Costa Rica, with the Chapel program. This coming year, Kelly will participate in a year of service with Border Servant Corps in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Aside from living by the program's tenets of social justice, spirituality, simplicity, and community while working for justice with those living in the border region, she will work at La Casa, Inc., a domestic violence shelter, in their Transitional Housing program.



Bridget Winters, Class of '17, was this year's winner of the Joseph H. Melrose Prize. Bridget spent the Summer and Fall 2016 in Dublin, where she worked as an intern with Wells for Zoë, an organization that works to alleviate rural poverty in Malawi with a special focus on girls' education and women's health. Bridget also interned with Pavee Point, a non-governmental organization that works to address the needs of Travellers and Roma living in Ireland who experience marginalization, exclusion and discrimination. Bridget will be working toward a Master of Science in Human Rights at University College Dublin beginning this fall.

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🌐 www.ursinus.edu/academics/melrose-center-for-global-civic-engagement/