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Newsletter: Community Connections

Fitz Center for Leadership in Community

5-2023

Community Connections, May 2023

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FCLC May 2023 Newsletter

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University of Dayton
Fitz Center for Leadership
in Community

Dayton Civic Scholars Senior Send-Off



2023 DCS Cohort:

- Hannah E Bair
- Patrick Scott Hoody
- Elizabeth Therese Kolb
- Sophia Lucille Locker
- Elizabeth Louise Worpenberg
- Riley Erin Cranin
- Claire M Pawlecki
- Anna Elizabeth Luepke
- Simone A Schuller
- Sarah Behnke

2023 Senior Capstone Project

Representing Dayton Civic Scholars as the 2023 cohort, we are presenting our senior capstone project focused around social media as a community organizing tool. We are an interdisciplinary group of students following a three year framework, creating an intentional pathway from classroom to community through servant leadership and community engagement. Our cohort is honored to be working with City Wide and the Edgemont community to present two workshops focused around using email and Facebook for community organizing. Our poster outlines our three year experience together as well as our project implementation steps during our final semester.



River Stewards Senior Send-Off



- 2023 RS Cohort:
- Emma Allington
 - Isabel Bartram
 - Lyuba Benin
 - Kathleen Dawson
 - Kerry Howard
 - Grace Jackson
 - Christopher Pirovanac
 - Lauren Sapienza
 - Kelsey Saylor
 - Kyle Torbic
 - Elizabeth Vear
 - Sarah Yaroma
 - Natalie Yersavich
 - Sean Zegarski
 - Victoria Jacobs

2023 Senior Capstone Project

The 2023 cohort of the University of Dayton River Stewards, the flagship program of the Rivers Institute, partnered with Dakota Center, a community partner located in West Dayton. Capitalizing on an established relationship with the Dakota Center, the River Stewards began work towards revitalizing outdoor space at the Dakota Center, an under-utilized asset of the organization that could better serve both the afterschool and the senior programs there. The cohort developed a sustainability curriculum for the center's afterschool program. The River Stewards hope that this project strengthens their partnership with the Dakota Center, that the curriculum enhances young people's understanding and practice of sustainability, and that the garden days improve a space that inspires the joy of the outdoors in the greater Dayton community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



2023 Emily M. Klein Student Community Leadership Award

The "Emily" is awarded annually to a University of Dayton graduating student in a Fitz Center leadership program who best exemplifies passion for Dayton; commitment to strengthening University student connections to the city; openness to learning and making a lasting impact on the urban community; and leadership excellence demonstrated by Emily M. Klein in her five year student career with the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community.

Patrick Hoody- Dayton Civic Scholar
Cohort of 2023

2023 Monalisa Mullins Commitment to Community Award

The Monalisa Mullins Commitment to Community Award recognizes a second year student who demonstrates excellent commitment to the Dayton community and exceptional leadership in partnership with community leaders.

John Rosch - River Steward
Cohort of 2025



Newman Civic Fellow

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a year-long program that recognizes and supports student public problem solvers at Campus Compact member institutions. Fellows are nominated by their president or chancellor based on their potential for public leadership and their work with communities. Throughout the fellowship year, Campus Compact provides students with opportunities to nurture their assets and help them develop strategies for social change—creating a network of connected and engaged student leaders who can support one another in making positive change.

James Hardy- River Steward
Cohort of 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outstanding Community Engagement Award recipient Kateri Dillion!



Kateri Dillion was awarded the Graduate Student Award for Community Engagement!! Kateri is the Graduate Assistant for the Dayton Civic Scholars program and was awarded for her incredible work as a member of the Fitz Center.

Congratulations Kateri!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Launch May 17th

St. Mary
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

University of Dayton
Fitz Center for
Leadership in
Community

JOIN US FOR
THE RELEASE OF
hope!

Anna Luepke

**BOOK
LAUNCH**

Wednesday, May 17 - 3:30 PM
Fitz Center for Leadership in Community,
1401 S. Main St. Dayton, OH 45409

CLICK BELOW TO
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SCAN QR CODE

RECENT EVENTS

One Dayton, One Day 2023 Dean's Showcase Fitz Center Programs

Students showcased their faculty-mentored research and innovative programming, Pecha Kucha style.



University of Dayton RiverMobile exhibit Ribbon Cutting at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton.

RiverMobile Finds New Home at Boonshoft Museum

University of Dayton RiverMobile exhibit has found a permanent home at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton. The RiverMobile was a 53-foot-long tractor-trailer with four "classrooms" exploring the history and preservation of the Great Miami's watershed. As a traveling exhibit, the RiverMobile served around 3,500 children, but at its new home at the Boonshoft, it will help educate over 200,000 children every year, according to Leslie King, director of the Rivers Institute.



Partner Feature

Interviewed by Anita Armstead

Can you tell me a little about yourself and your role at CityWide?

I am a Project Manager in the Community Development Department at CityWide. My colleagues and I work on long-term, comprehensive community development projects in neighborhoods throughout Dayton; my focus is in Southwest and Northwest Dayton. My work emphasizes engaging collaboratively with residents and stakeholders to plan and implement change in communities and strives to bring together community and economic development strategies in an effort to build strong, vibrant, inclusive neighborhoods.

Citywide's mission is to strengthen Dayton through strategic economic and community development. What is a current project that you are excited about?

One project we have been supporting for years now is the development of the Healthy Family Market on Germantown St. The Healthy Family Market, founded by Sunlight Village, is a pharmacy-style food market that will focus on meeting the nutritional needs of young mothers and children in an area devoid of healthy food options. It also will bring investment and an attractive new amenity to a major corridor in an area with a lot of blight.

CityWide has been working in the neighborhoods surrounding this project since 2016, and we have repeatedly heard from residents that they need access to amenities that support health and wellness. Sunlight Village, the nonprofit behind the market, is a mental health organization with deep roots in the community. It has been exciting to support their work, which is grounded in strong

**Caitlin Jacob-
Project Manager
CityWide Development
Corporation**



relationships and an authentic understanding of what residents in the area truly need, and to see the project move forward.

Citywide is currently collaborating with UD's faculty fellow Molly Malayn Sayre on connecting students with various community-led projects involving public housing. Can you elaborate a bit about that and what impact you hope this will have on Citywide's goal to move Dayton forward?

CityWide believes that moving Dayton forward requires strong and engaged neighborhoods, which means that all residents feel engaged and supported, including our most vulnerable residents, like those living in public housing communities. Part of our work in Desoto Bass and Hilltop public housing communities has focused on getting to know families, building resident capacity to advocate for themselves, and bringing resources or programs to the community.

One of the pieces we have focused on, which Molly's students have been very helpful in supporting, is trying to remove barriers for residents who may want to access a housing choice voucher or other housing opportunity.

This has included engaging residents to understand where the biggest needs are and then providing resources to address those needs; for example, last year we worked with a range of partners to offer a legal clinic for residents who may have a background in criminal justice system and want to seal their record.

How do you envision future partnerships with the University of Dayton?

CityWide has a long history of engaging with students at the University of Dayton, and has had some exciting partnership recently, including the work with Molly's class, our partnership on the Greater West Dayton Incubator microloan program, and collaborating with the Dayton Civic Scholars to build capacity in neighborhoods. We look forward to continuing these types of partnerships, which (we hope) can provide students with opportunities to engage in community in meaningful ways while advancing real work in neighborhoods.

Faculty Feature

Interviewed by Anita Armstead

Tell me a little about yourself and your work with UD and in the community.

I'm an Assistant Professor of Social Work at UD. In my teaching, service, and research, I focus on health and social inequality. Since arriving at UD in 2017, I have worked on local issues including infant mortality, neighborhood change, and voting access.

Can you talk about your work surrounding public housing and why that project is important to you?

We know that housing — stability, quality, and location — affects health. Housing is one of many social factors that affect one's health-related quality of life, life expectancy, and autonomy. Public housing programs are one of the primary ways that our society tries to address housing needs for people with low incomes, many of whom are part of marginalized racial and ethnic groups. If we're serious about improving health equity for people in Dayton who are vulnerable, then housing, including public housing, needs to be part of the strategy.

Effective community engagement requires commitment, what inspires you to keep going?

Community engagement is the best way for my students to learn about community change. They remember what they learn in the community longer than what they learn through more traditional methods because emotion is involved — they might feel a little uncomfortable, surprised, sad, or angry. They also learn things through community engagement that

**Molly Malany Sayre-
Faculty Fellow;
Assistant Professor of
Social Work
University of Dayton**



I, as a white cisgender straight person, cannot teach them, such as about the lived experience of resilience in the face of racist housing practices and community disinvestment. When paired with reflection, community engagement is the best pedagogy for students to understand the social world and their roles in it...

What is the most important takeaway you want your students to understand before completing their educational program at UD?

...which is what I want them to gain from their time in my classes and on this campus.

Student Highlight

Destiny O'Neal Class of 2023

Interviewed by Anita Armstead

Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and your time here at University of Dayton?

My name is Destiny O'Neal. I am a graduating senior majoring in Psychology. During my time at UD, I have been a part of the Multi-Ethnic Education and Engagement Center (MEC) community (since my freshman year) and also participated in two Equity Education programs.

You are currently a UD-Sinclair Academy student. Can you tell me about that experience?

My experience as a Neighborhood School Centers tutor has truly been amazing. I've been working as a Neighborhood School Centers (NSC) tutor since I was a sophomore where I worked in an Equity learning environment. This most recent academic year, I worked for Ashley Wright as one of her Education Impact Partners: NSC tutor, where I was placed at an elementary school in the Dayton area with the intent to provide equity learning for students in need. Essentially, I would help students that needed extra help with material they were learning in school so they would not fall behind. I enjoyed making a difference in the Dayton community while also being able to learn more about the importance of Equity education.



In what ways do you see yourself continuing to contribute to the work being done to strengthen and support our community?

Over the summer, I plan to continue working in the Dayton community as a camp counselor in a Summer Impact Program. This program is a non-profit program that allows kids in the Dayton area to have a good summer in a controlled environment.

**Do you know a community partner,
faculty or staff member, or student that
should be recognized for their
community engagement in our next
newsletter?**

**Please submit your
recommendations to
aarmstead1@udayton.edu**

**Don't forget to follow
The Fitz Center
on Instagram, LinkedIn, and
like and follow us on Facebook!**

(See links below)



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