

AN Bryce
SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

SPRING 2016

IMMERSION EXPERIENCES

London, England
Washington, D.C.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Stuart Greene
Associate Professor of English
and Africana Studies

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OUTREACH

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Jinelfry Rodriguez '19
Erick Tapia '18
Emily Medina '18
Nat Thomas '17



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

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Dr. Paulette G. Curtis
Faculty Director of the AnBryce
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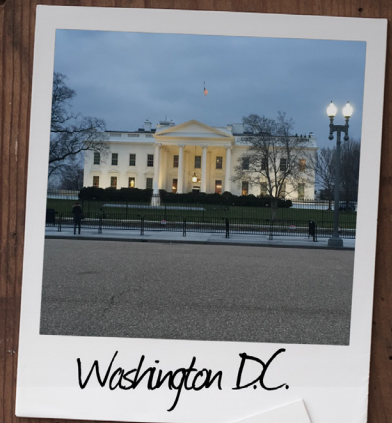
OUTREACH

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IMMERSION EXPERIENCES

Student adventures in London, England and Washington, D.C.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to offer our third AnBryce newsletter. You'll find several pieces dedicated to the most recent Study Abroad and DC "adventures" of our students, highlights of the activities of several AnBryce Scholars, and information pertaining to the Spring and upcoming Fall term. You will also find a short column authored by our new outreach coordinator, Sarah Kubinski, who'll speak to you in her own words in this and future newsletters. A Duke U. grad, former assistant to the Duke President, and mother of two, Sarah has had lots of experience managing the affairs of others. Amanda and I couldn't be more pleased that she's joined us.

By the time we speak to you again, our fourth AnBryce cohort will have been admitted to Notre Dame. Amazing how time passes! We will be sure to properly introduce this fascinating group of young people in our next newsletter.

Enjoy what we have assembled here, taking especial note of the ways our students discuss and document their travel experiences. As we believed would be the case – and is borne out by their descriptions and reflections – the experience of travel was broadening, even humbling. We couldn't be more delighted to have played a part in facilitating that.

Enjoy!

Dr. Paulette G. Curtis
Faculty Director of the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



STUART GREENE

Associate Professor of English and Africana Studies

An associate professor of English and Africana Studies, I have been teaching at Notre Dame since fall 1997 when I served as director of what was then called the University Writing Program. I also started the University's Writing Center within a year after arriving at the university and then served as the founding co-director of the minor, "Education, Schooling, and Society," which I initiated in 2000. After serving as Associate Dean for undergraduate studies in Arts and Letters for 5 years, I accepted a 3-year joint appointment as a faculty member with the Center for Social Concerns. During the past fifteen years, I published in the areas of race and education, but I have also co-authored a textbook book on writing that is now in its third edition.

To help my students understand the intersections of race, poverty, and educational achievement, I typically include an experiential component in my classes to give students first-hand experience of the issues we discuss. My classes include "Literacy as a Civil Right," "Lives Pursued on the Margin": Women and the Civil Rights Movement," and "Youth Empowerment, Literacies, and Youth Voices" are cross-listed with American Studies, Africana Studies, and Education, Schooling, and Society, but they are open to all interested students.

I am excited about the AnBryce Scholars Initiative because it is a program that offers so many wonderful opportunities

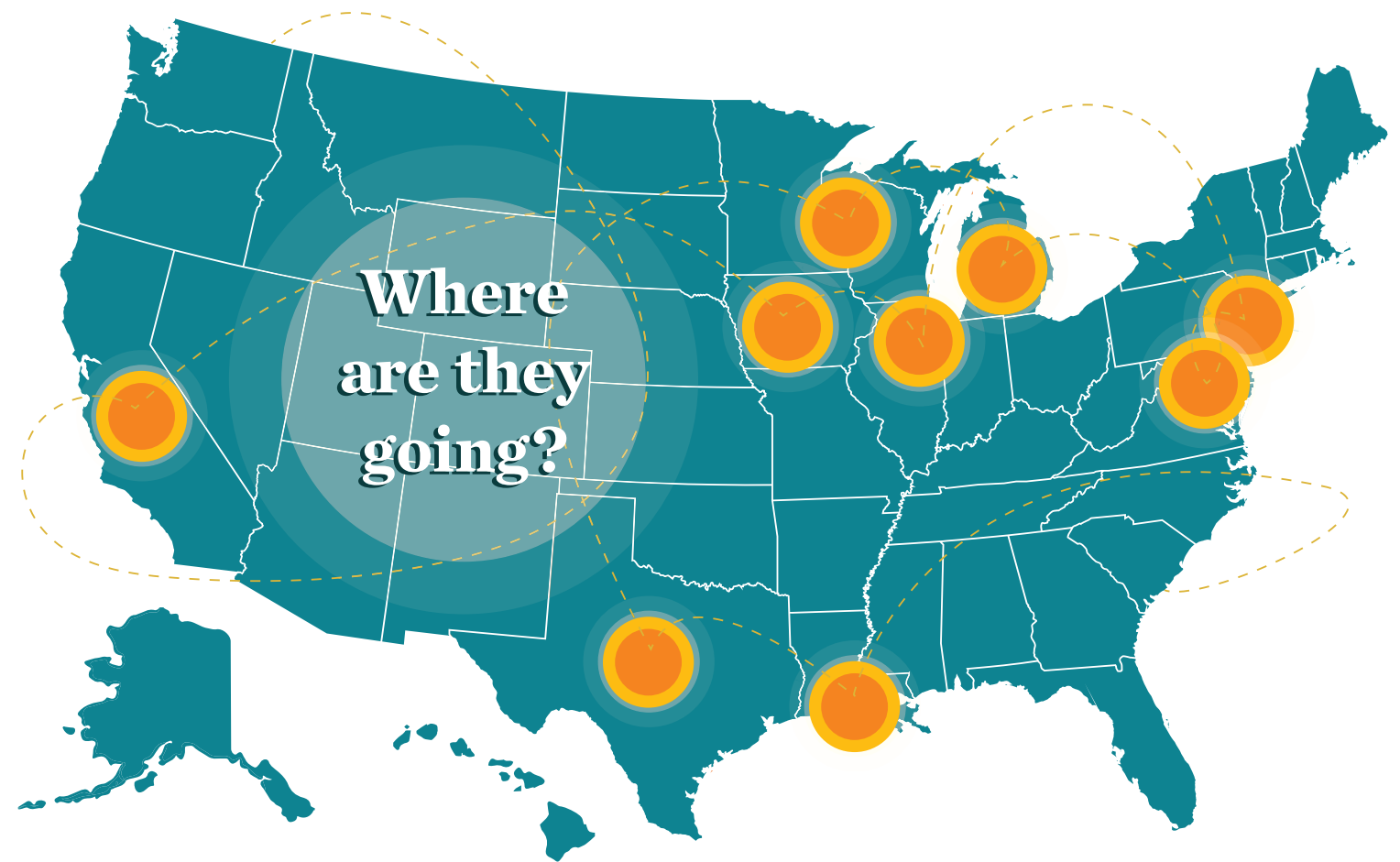
for students to do research, meet scholars and other public figures, organize forums on important issues, study abroad, and participate in a wide range of service programs. It has been especially meaningful to me to work with students in the AnBryce Scholars Initiative who are so intellectually curious and motivated to use what they are learning to create equity at a time when many others do not have access to the material resources they need to flourish. I love the ethic that makes building community so intentional and the sense of collective care that influences everyone's efforts to ensure the health and well-being of that community.

PROGRAM NOTES

We are excited to be wrapping up the '15-'16 school year. Our students will be spread across the country – some abroad – researching, interning, and studying. We could not be more proud of their achievements this year and cannot wait to hear all about their respective summers upon their return to campus in August. We are also pleased to announce that two of our students, Travis Gayle and Erick Tapia will be spending their fall semester abroad in London. We will miss them dearly and look forward to their return to campus in January.

The upcoming fall promises to be a busy one with a brand new AnBryce student retreat, the AnBryce orientation where we'll welcome our fourth cohort of nine new students, our annual tailgate, and guest speaker event. We are eager to begin planning this summer and look forward to sharing the details of the events above over the next several months.

Amanda Hammond
Program Manager of the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame



OUTREACH

We are excitedly planning our fall tailgate and speaker events, and look forward to sharing these dates with you. As soon as these dates are set, we will let you know! In the meantime, we wanted to reach out to our AnBryce community and create a network for our students, as they make decisions for their future. Our students are majoring in classes throughout science, engineering and liberal arts. If you, a spouse or other family member is interested in mentoring a student, please let us know! Our students often have questions about graduate school, medical school, internships, the business world and other areas they are just now encountering. We know the power of shared information—thank you!

Sarah Kubinski
Outreach Coordinator of the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame

INTRODUCING THE ANBRYCE SCHOLARS



Jinny's eclectic music experiences mirror her varied interests in college

Music has always been a part of Jinelfry Rodriguez's '19 life. Growing up in the Dominican Republic, Jinny spent most of her time with her uncles and their band, surrounded by the music of her native country. When she came to the United States when she was 6, music became a learning tool. "I used music, television and reading to learn English". Now, music is her outlet. "Next semester, I plan to audition for an a cappella group and perform at Acoustic Café." Even when her performing was put aside while she acclimated to college life, she still wrote poetry and songs to express herself.

Jinny credits the AnBryce Scholars Program for broadening her horizons and introducing her to other cultures. London "was such an amazing trip that allowed me to grasp a different culture and lifestyle than from the United States or the Dominican Republic." Jinny also says the trip was a wonderful bonding experience for all of the students.

This summer Jinny will be interning in Boston with State Street, a global investment office. "I am a psychology and romance languages and literature double major with a business/econ minor, but I wanted to experience the business world to see if this would be a career I would like to go into." She feels she has great support from her peers and the mentors and staff of the program. "They completely changed this whole experience for me."



Jinelfry Rodriguez '19



In and out of hospitals, Emily looks forward to bringing her perspective to medicine

Emily Medina '18 feels like she spent most of her childhood sick and in hospitals. "I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't had talented and dedicated doctors and pharmacists." Always interested in science, she majors in biochemistry at Notre Dame. Initially, she thought she would follow up her undergraduate studies with medical school, but now, after some college and a job at a local pharmacy, she is looking at a career in pharmacy. Unclear whether she will track towards industry or research, she knows that there are a lot of options for her.

AnBryce has helped Emily with these ever-refining goals by being her steadfast support system. "I have met the most amazing people through AnBryce." She admits her rigorous course and lab schedule does not allow much time for making connections outside her major. AnBryce helps unite her with others similar to her in some ways and quite different in others. On her immersion trip to Washington DC, her favorite memory was doing a 360-degree flight simulator with fellow 2018 scholar, Salonee Secharan. "We flipped over so many times. The pictures were perfect."

When Emily is not in class or participating in AnBryce activities, she is often performing with Notre Dame's bagpipe band. In charge of the drumline "I somehow convinced Felix (Mayorga Alvarez '19) to join and play the bass drum for us." No one is more surprised than Emily that she does occasionally find time to sleep!



Emily Medina '18



Erick finds support and guidance for college and beyond

Erick Tapia '18 admits to not knowing much about college life before arriving at Notre Dame. Being a first-generation student meant he needed extra guidance to navigate his four years away from home. "AnBryce played a huge role in easing the way into college life by eliminating any fears or discomforts one could have". He credits the very first orientation week to starting him off excited about his options.

Recently returning from AnBryce's Immersion Program in London, he says the experience was "eye-opening". He not only learned more about "a global city with such rich history and cultural diversity", he really feels he now better understands his fellow classmates and the broader mission of AnBryce: to build global citizens and leaders in the 21st century. He will be returning to London in the fall for Notre Dame's London Undergraduate Program. He attributes his recent trip to being key in insuring a successful fall, where he will feel connected to home, school and his new city—knowing everything from using the public transportation to having a sense of "London's customs, cultures, foods, and fashion."

Before he leaves, he will spend the summer interning at Williams International (a turbine engine company), just outside of Detroit. This is a great match for Erick as he has worked with turbine engines since high school. Erick feels the support of his friends and mentors as he embarks on his next adventures. "I never expected to see such a large group of supporters commit to the AnBryce mission and receive so much support and motivation from them."



Erick Tapia '18



Using time in college to delve into poverty, past and future

In the first cohort of students, she has been making the most of her time at Notre Dame and with the AnBryce Scholars Initiative. "As a first-generation student, you often don't have a precedent for college navigation, and you often lack social and cultural capital." AnBryce provides structure and guidelines to help from the start. Natalie's requirement to attend a college fair yielded a summer internship offer. Her meetings with director, Paulette Curtis, help her "concretely reflect" on her interests and plans. And her mentorship with Professor Maria McKenna helps her "grow as an academic and a person".

One way she is growing, is with an upcoming Shepherd Internship. Notre Dame is part of the Shepherd Internship Program, which places students from member institutions in service agencies in disadvantaged areas. Professor Jennifer Warlick, the director of Poverty Studies at Notre Dame, recommended the program last year, however, the deadline to apply had passed; undaunted, Natalie made plans to apply this year. She will be in New Jersey doing community engagement and outreach for a school district. She has a good academic, political and practical perspective about her upcoming work, thanks to her sociology and poverty studies work, and is "very excited" about the match.

As Natalie discusses her upcoming plans and her time with AnBryce it is readily apparent how grateful she is for everything. She speaks of the support and encouragement the students give to each other, the guidance from faculty and staff and the enlightening programming, all "crucial during these formative years".



Nat Thomas '17



IMMERSION EXPERIENCE: LONDON, ENGLAND

I loved getting to be around my fellow AnBryce members. I feel like I got so close to some people I never thought I would. I felt honored that people would open up to me and we could share our stories and be there for one another. I'm grateful to have been present for some very important moments during that week. ~ Erin Williams, '19

When we began planning our trip last August, we decided to embed the Immersion Programs into an AnBryce course. With the help of Ms. Rosie McDowell from the University's Center for Social Concerns and Dr. Patrick Clauss, Director, First Year Writing and Rhetoric we were able to design a first year writing and rhetoric course for AnBryce students only. Not only were Ms. McDowell and Dr. Clauss instrumental in preparing our students for their immersion, they also accompanied us on



This is our very first outing when we arrived in London. In this picture we are steps away from the underground tube station. We could hardly believe after months of planning that we were finally here and right in the middle of it all in Trafalgar Square.

the London trip. What we hoped for this trip – allowing our students the opportunity to travel and learn from a global city – was exceeded by miles.

London became our classroom for eight full days. We met professors, many from our Notre Dame London Centre, and took nearly all-access tours of Oxford, the Royal Courts of Justice and Temple Church, the East End, and the National Gallery to name a few. When we were not touring, our students

Amanda Hammond
Program Manager of the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame



This is a photo of the Old Vic where we saw the Master Builder.

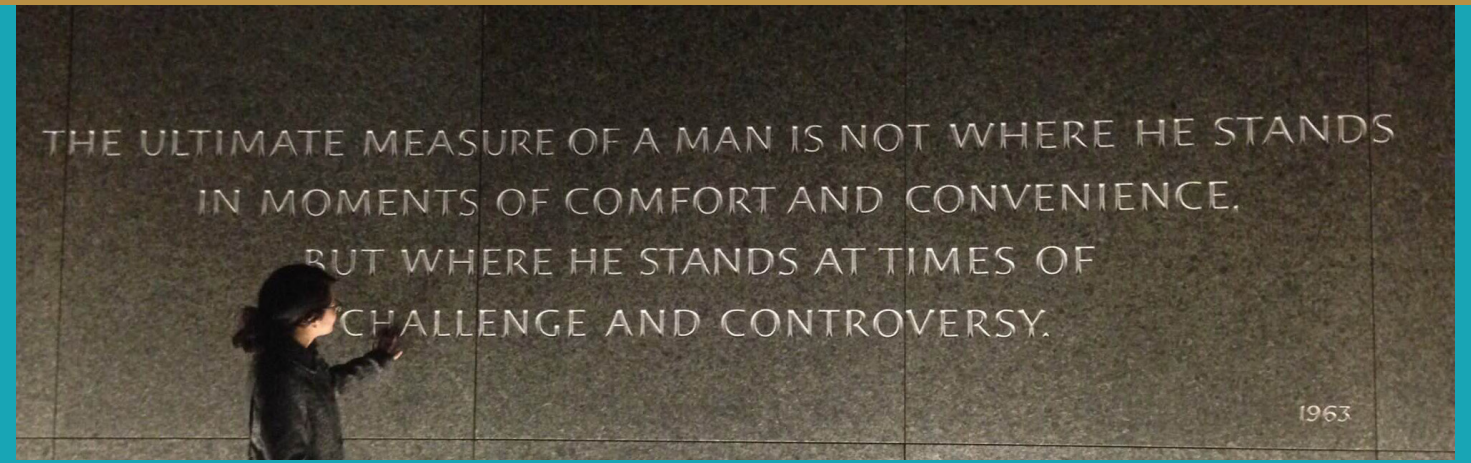
engaged with Londoners whether it be at a friendly debate at speakers corner, getting to know students from the Sutton Trust: (high school students in the UK who have been placed in American Universities), learning about the people we encountered on a day to day basis throughout our stay, and most importantly getting to know each other. For me, it was an incredible experience to witness our students relationships with each other flourish –also, admittedly, the second row seats at the Old Vic's "the Master Builder" were pretty amazing too!

My favorite activity was the Sutton Trust reception because it was a great chance to meet kids that did not grow up in a typical American fashion. Also it really felt nice to inform them about American universities because I could tell that they were taking it in and some of the things we said were going to benefit them when they came to school here.

~ Zoe Usowski '19



One of our last nights in London.



IMMERSION EXPERIENCE: WASHINGTON, D.C.

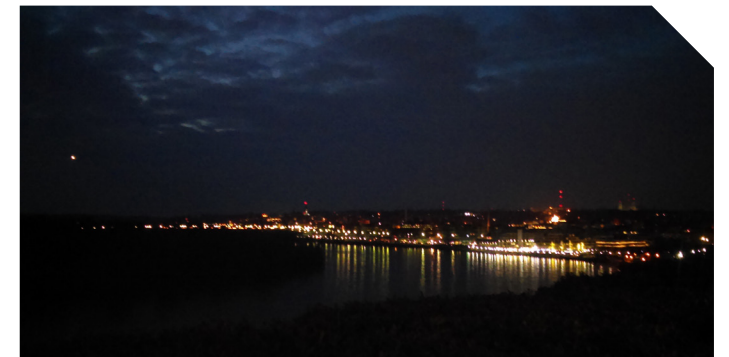
A Week of Contrasts: The 2016 DC Experience

Uncharacteristically, I will offer just a few words about the DC travel experience that I and four AnBryce scholars (Karla, Maria, Emily and Salonee) embarked upon in March. As a global city, we hoped that DC would provide interesting points of contrast to London, as well as serve as a fascinating experience in its own right. Given DC's deep history, wonderful monuments and architecture, and socioeconomic disparities, DC provided a really important experience in the ways that global cities function. Included in our week were personalized tours of some of DC's most iconic structures (e.g. The Capitol), as well as lectures on the development of neighborhoods (e.g. Georgetown) and the gentrification (or "swagger jacking" process, our lecturer preferred to say) of the formerly (predominantly) African-American "U" Street area. We also managed to visit the AnBryce Foundation offices in McLean, Virginia, a treat for all of us.

The week was wonderful, stimulating and exhausting, but ultimately worth it.



Mural, Bohemian Caverns, 11th St and Union Street.



View of city at night.



United States Supreme Court.



Karla Burgos-Morón, Maria Munoz Robles, Salonee Secharan, Emily Medina.

Dr. Paulette G. Curtis
Faculty Director of the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame