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Read more at [anbryce.nd.edu](http://anbryce.nd.edu)

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# AN Bryce SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

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Dr. Paulette G. Curtis: Planting Seeds for The Future



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



## PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE: THE ANBRYCE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

**DR. PAULETTE G. CURTIS**

**As the Faculty Director of the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at the University of Notre Dame, I am delighted to be able to address you in our inaugural newsletter.**

As this goes to press, the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at the University of Notre Dame has selected its third AnBryce cohort. It is hard to believe that we've come so far since 2013, when the program began. Building on the program established for undergraduates and Law School students at New York University (NYU), and supported by the vision and donations of Anthony and Beatrice Welters, the University of Notre Dame AnBryce Scholars Initiative set out to select students who were not only among the first in their families to attend college, but whose personal trajectories—often punctuated by significant financial hardship and other struggles—forged them into determined and gritty young men and women who were committed to reversing their life circumstances and that of their families, communities, and our world. It is the Welters' belief—and one I now firmly share—that those who've faced the most struggles, often have the most to contribute. Certainly our students are good investments.

Selecting students who embody these characteristics has not been an easy task, but along with a dedicated group of administrators and faculty at Notre Dame, we have managed to do just that. Our first cohort, consisting of nine truly wonderful students, has been joined by a second cohort of six students and now, a third cohort of a record ten-strong, who

will begin their Notre Dame journey this coming fall. Our students come from across the United States and represent the multi-ethnic and multi-national fabric that is America. You will get to meet several of these wonderful students in the pages of this newsletter and newsletters to come. They are the heart of our program, and we couldn't be more pleased with who they are becoming and the positive impact they have had at Notre Dame.

As for what we offer them, well, we are ambitious in what we've tried to do. We seek to develop their talents and to give them the resources they need to be successful in college and in life. Dedicated advising, sessions regarding professional and personal growth, and opportunities to build and sustain community are the heart of the program. In addition to these components, we've added what we feel is an increasingly important opportunity, a study-abroad immersion experience. In March of this year, our senior cohort, along with myself and the Director of International Community-Based Outreach Programs at the Center for Social Concerns, traveled to London for eight wonderful days. That "bespoke" experience, to use a very British term, is touched upon in a column here (AnBryce in London, March 2015).

It is our hope that all these components of the program will add up to an enriching experience that will prepare our students to succeed at Notre Dame, to be informed world citizens, and to live successfully in the world beyond our gates, where they will go on to be leaders that exhibit integrity, compassion and wisdom.

I could go on and on about AnBryce, about our students, about what we do. I'll save some of that discussion for future newsletters. Ending, I'll offer my thanks to all of you who've contributed to our efforts or who have become part of our unique community over the past three years. I offer especial thanks to the Welters, who have gifted their vision to Notre Dame; to Amanda Hammond, who has worked by my side since the beginning and has recently been promoted

to Program Manager; and to Stephen Smith, Regional Development Program Director whose fundraising efforts have made our hopes for this program a reality. Thanks is also due to the Rev. Dr. Hugh Page Jr., Dean of First Year of Studies, Associate Professor of Theology and Africana Studies, who has supported these efforts from the beginning of its inception and continues to do so.

Thank you for reading what we offer here and, and in doing so, becoming part of our community all the same.

**We seek to develop our students' talents and to give them a platform from which they can survey what they need to be successful in college and in life.**

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT: TONY AND BEA WELTERS



My husband and I are proud of the AnBryce Scholars at Notre Dame and their many accomplishments. Our scholars, who will number 25 by this coming fall, are a great source of joy and pride to our family.

We feel particularly fortunate to have Dr. Paulette Curtis' leadership, and Amanda Hammond's full-time support. Their dedication and commitment to this program are limitless. They each personify the spirit with which this program was conceived, and their hard work has attracted the generosity of others. We thank them both, and we thank the donors for helping to build a program that will give many young people the opportunity to realize their dream of a successful university experience.

As we look to the coming academic year, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of our 10 newest AnBryce Scholars. To these first-year students, we ask that you be patient with yourselves as you transition to campus life. And we ask our other scholars to please assist your new friends in whatever way you are able.

See you all in the fall!

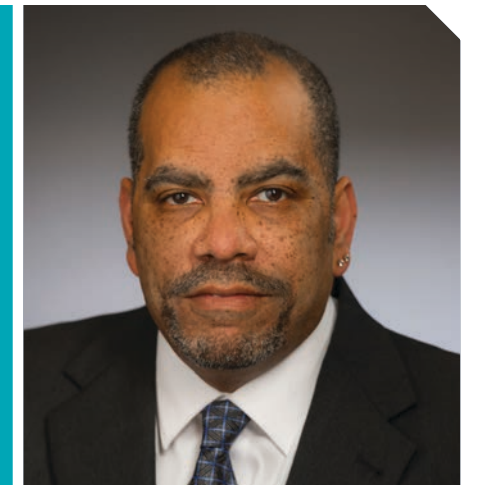
*Beatrice and Anthony Welters*



From the Office of the Provost

## CREATING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

**Rev. Dr. Hugh R. Page, Jr.,  
Dean of First Year of Studies,  
Associate Professor of Theology and Africana Studies**



Rev. Dr. Hugh R. Page, Jr., Dean of First Year of Studies, Associate Professor of Theology and Africana Studies, was part of the initial team of Notre Dame faculty, staff, and administrators who developed a proposal to bring the AnBryce Scholars Initiative to the University. Since then, he's been actively involved in the selection of AnBryce Scholars and in ensuring that the Welters' vision for AnBryce is realized at Notre Dame.

Rev. Page views the relationship between Notre Dame, the AnBryce Foundation, and the AnBryce Scholars as one that is transformative for all those involved. "AnBryce and Notre Dame become transformational agents in the lives of students, and the students themselves become transformational agents in the institutions that are helping shape them."

Rev. Page hopes that by increasing awareness of AnBryce throughout the campus community—and by articulating the ways in which the program embodies Notre Dame's mission and vision—the University can secure resources that will enable them to expand AnBryce's programmatic scope. "When you look at the story of AnBryce and the story of Notre Dame, and you consider the enduring virtues and values that animate both, there is a natural connection between the two in terms of long-term goals and a common commitment to make the world more just, more loving, and more human," Page notes. "An opportunity to grow AnBryce is an opportunity to create what Dr. King has so eloquently described as the 'beloved community'—one person at a time."

# INTRODUCING THE ANBRYCE SCHOLARS

A few years ago, the AnBryce Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame was merely a vision. We had no students and were in the beginning stages of planning how our community of scholars might take shape.

Two years later, we've established a community of 25 incredibly talented scholars on campus who support one another and enrich the Notre Dame family with their fantastically diverse set of experiences and worldviews. Every year I am amazed by our Scholars. I think you will be too.

That's why I'd like to devote a significant portion of this newsletter to introducing you to the AnBryce Scholars and the wonderful work they're doing on campus in and their communities.

And even though the students were only away for the summer for a few months, they were sorely missed. We've already

begun planning for their return—and for new additions to the AnBryce family.

We have an exciting fall ahead of us! In August, we will welcome 10 new students to the program, in September we will host our annual AnBryce Tailgate and in October we will host our first professional speaker for the year.



If you're interested in attending one of the events mentioned above, please contact me at [ahammond@nd.edu](mailto:ahammond@nd.edu).

Enjoy getting to know our scholars. I know I have.

Amanda Hammond  
*Program Manager, AnBryce Scholars Initiative*



## Exploring new horizons, finding sustainable solutions



Angela Dunsmoor-Connor's father was an organic farmer in Lihue, Hawaii—an upbringing that brought to her attention the ways in which humans impact the environment—and vice versa. The junior environmental engineering major hopes to one day design sustainable windmills and alternative energy technologies.

In Spring 2016, Angela will pursue her passion by traveling to Singapore to study environmental design at the National University of Singapore. "I've been passionate about the environment for a long time," Angela says. "Hopefully I'll have the opportunity to conduct research in Singapore—in a different environment with different challenges."

Angela's Singapore trip is one of many experiences she and her fellow AnBryce Scholars are seizing at Notre Dame. "We have great passion and drive because we're the first in our families going to college," Angela says of the AnBryce Scholars. "This experience is opening a new horizon for us and we'll definitely fight to be successful. For a lot of us, this is our last saving grace—our chance to explore our passion and really put our heart into it. And that's what I'm doing."



## It's all about building relationships



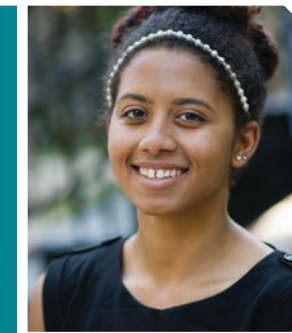
Travis Gayle '18, a computer science major from Jamaica, Queens, NY, spent the summer of 2015 learning as much as he could about business—first in Rome during an integrated business/engineering study abroad program, and then in New York City for six weeks, where he interned with a hedge fund. His experiences confirmed what he always knew to be true: strong relationships form the heart of business.

"One of the biggest things AnBryce has done is help me establish many connections," Travis says. "Because I value relationships so much, this has been key for me."

In addition to his new business contacts in Rome and New York, Travis is grateful for the opportunity to meet with the guest speakers who address the AnBryce Scholars at their monthly dinner gatherings. "I've networked with each of the speakers—having the extra contact goes a long way," Travis says. "Also, to see individuals who were in positions similar to my own, and who were in perhaps a tougher time period, is just inspiring."



## An object in motion tends to stay in motion



To say that Amber Bryan '17 likes to stay busy would be an understatement. This summer, the accountancy major and Memphis, TN, native interned with Deloitte for six weeks before traveling to Ireland with her fellow Notre Dame students for eight days. And all of this on the heels of a Spring semester during which she visited California, Washington, D.C., and New York.

It should come as no surprise, then, that Amber's favorite AnBryce memory thus far has been traveling to London with her fellow Scholars. "The trip was amazing and it was my first time abroad," Amber says. "The agenda was filled with a variety of activities like a theatre show, lectures with Notre Dame professors, and time to explore the city. The trip was a great way to bond as AnBryce Scholars."

Amber's plans for the next academic year will keep her in perpetual motion. She hopes to apply and receive funding to conduct research in Brazil, lead the Black Student Association as its vice president, and map out a plan for graduate school (she's choosing between a JD, MSA, and Public Policy masters programs). "I'd like to learn from my failures, mistakes, and peers," Amber says. "And be proud and happy at the end of each course...no regrets."



## "We can do some earth-shattering things."



So says Natalie Jackson '17, a triple major in psychology, pre-med, and studio art from Mishawaka, Indiana. "When you have the support system telling you that you can do something, you believe it and you take off with it."

Natalie has found that support system in the AnBryce Scholars community. "At a place like Notre Dame, where academics are rigorous, it's really nice to have a group of people who understand your background and believe that you belong there," Natalie says. "Every time I'm with my scholars, I'm reminded that I belong here. We lift each other up."

Natalie decided to spend the summer of 2015 creating the same support system for others, serving as a counselor at Camp Dogwood, a camp for underprivileged kids established by AnBryce Foundation co-founder Beatrice Welters. "I thought it would be a good opportunity to give back to the Foundation."

With ambitions to participate in medical missions trips to South America in Natalie's future, her work at Camp Dogwood is just the beginning of what promises to be a lifetime of paying it forward.



## Catalino found his calling at Notre Dame



Before Catalino Espino '18 came to Notre Dame, he hoped he would have an opportunity to explore his faith and help others do the same. "I wanted to get involved in some sort of service or ministry to help cast the light of God for people who haven't seen it yet," Catalino says, "and in the process, I wanted to grow myself."

As a small-group leader in the Notre Dame Vision program, he found the perfect opportunity to do both. This summer as part of Notre Dame Vision, Catalino and approximately 60 other Notre Dame students helped more than 1,000 high school students examine and express their faith. "We're in charge of helping students discover themselves in their faith and to develop a sense of what they're being called to do," Catalino says. "It's been very rewarding."

The experience has also inspired the Neuroscience major to pursue a minor in theology. "I took my first theology class here and it opened up a new world about how I think about this faith."



# ANBRYCE IN LONDON, MARCH 2015: GLOBAL CITY 101

As Amanda knows, I've struggled to write this piece. The reason is simple. I wasn't sure how and where to begin a short narrative about an eight-day trip packed with lectures, site visits, boat and train rides, restaurant stops, and meet and greets. Perhaps the most typical way to begin would be to

describe what led up to London: the proposal we crafted, the meetings, the research, the back-and-forth with Rachel Tomas Morgan, the Associate Director of International Engagement and Rosie McDowell, Director of International Community-Based Outreach at the Center for Social

## DAY 2, SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>

### War Horse

Rosie and I agreed that we should take our students to a show. How could we go to London and not experience "the theatre?" We chose War Horse, which was being staged at the New London Theatre on Drury Lane in London's theatre district. Based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, War Horse tells the story of Albert, a farmboy in rural England whose horse, Joey, is sold to the British cavalry during World War I. The play is largely told from the horse's perspective, which is amazing enough, but the most awe-inspiring moments come from the production, which depicts Joey and the other horses as larger than life-sized puppets that are directed by human actors. Students were awed by the production—as were Rosie and I—and many of them told us as we walked back towards Daawat, the Indian restaurant where we'd had dinner that it was the best play they'd ever seen. While I'm sure that they will add other theatrical experiences to their favorites list, it was really nice to introduce them to something this unique and to an era that continues to be so defining to the European experience.



a recommendation Rosie received from Alice Tyrell, we chose Bea's of Bloomsbury for high tea. The food at Bea's was scrumptious! The staff at Bea's brought us the "full tea" on lovely silver trays, which included sandwiches, cupcakes and cookies, with a pot of tea for each of us (though one of our number—Areli, I'm calling you out here—ordered a hot chocolate). Given that we had vegetarians and a vegan among us, and that the staff accommodated each of our special requests, it was really impressive that everything was as good and perfect as it was. I don't think one of us would say that we didn't enjoy the experience. And we each got a "doggie bag" of macarons to boot.

## DAY 4, MONDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>

### Holbein's The Ambassadors, the National Gallery

Monday, March 9, was the first lecture day. Our first instructor was Dr. Lois Oliver, who after a brief set of remarks at the ND Centre, walked us to the National Gallery to view several iconic paintings in the National Gallery's extensive collection (the National Gallery is steps, quite literally, from the ND Centre). Because we were among the first to enter the museum that morning, and because Dr. Oliver immediately directed us to where we needed to be, we got

prime seats in front of the painting by Hans Holbein the Younger. Dr. Oliver led our students through a dissection of this very important painting, including its historical and religious symbolism. Dr. Oliver was adept at encouraging discussion among our eager students, which was a pleasure to witness. That morning set a high bar for the lectures for the rest of the week, which included walking tours of the area stretching from Parliament to Buckingham Palace and the East End.

## DAY 4, MONDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>

### Meeting the Sutton Trust students, Notre Dame London Centre



The Sutton Trust is a UK organization that partners with the Fulbright Commission to assist smart, low-income and first-generation UK students in the application process for US universities. I met their Program Coordinator and Educational Advisor, Jillian Moskowitz, two years ago, and reached out to her before our trip to coordinate a meet-and-greet with some of their students. Four students met us at the Centre. Jess and Amber offered some introductory remarks, and Jillian, Rosie, and I lightly moderated the open-ended conversation that followed. Without exaggeration, I can say that this meeting was spectacular, with students sharing their experiences effortlessly, deeply, humorously. This was such a great meeting, that we invited all the students who came to our closing dinner (they all came).

## DAY 3, SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>

### Bea's of Bloomsbury

After a boat ride on the Thames, sightseeing in Greenwich, and the Evensong service at St. Paul's Cathedral, it was time for a great meal. Based on

Concerns at Notre Dame and my accompanying colleague in this venture, concerning teaching commitments and various aspects of our itinerary, the finalizing of the itinerary, the communications with the ND Staff at the London gateway, the purchasing of tickets, and so on. There would be too much to say if I began that way, and not all of it would be mind-blowing, though the amount of work this kind of venture entails certainly is. Perhaps the most important thing to say about what led up to London is simply what we most hoped to achieve: to offer our students an experience that would introduce them to the knowledge, communication skills, and perspectives they will need to succeed in a global, interconnected world. A number of people helped us in getting this venture up and running, most notably Dr. Warren von Eschenbach, Director of the London Global Gateway and London Undergraduate Programs, Assistant Provost for Europe, and Ms. Alice Tyrell, the Assistant Director for Academic Programs and the ND London Centre's librarian.

This narrative could also more properly begin in London itself. But at which point? Perhaps on the journey from Heathrow into the city, when students heard their first "Mind the Gap" warning from the voice on the Tube

(referring to the gap between the train and the platform). There were lots of comments from AnBrycers about that, the accents and the phrasing itself being one of the first indicators that we were not in the States anymore. Or our walk from the lowest levels of the Tube, cross Earl's Court Road to our simple, very English hotel on a street in tony Kensington, which took us past the saturated, commercial hodge-podge that is the global city and London in particular: Pret-a-Manger, Wagamama, Boots Pharmacy, and other ubiquitous London restaurant and store chains, several attractive looking pubs (of course), a Post Office, a Chinese restaurant, and many other storefronts. There are other beginnings. One might be the walk we took from Trafalgar Square to the London Eye along the Embankment, on our first, magical evening in London, a walk replete with skateboarders, handholding couples, families, and selfie-stick wielding tourists.

Yes, there are many places I could begin this short narrative, and many things that I could say about our time in London, but there really isn't space here to do that. Instead, I've decided to briefly touch upon some unique, novel experiences that helped define our trip. I hope you walk away with a sense of the breadth and ambitiousness of our trip.

## DAY 5, TUESDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

### The Connection

Located in the basement of St. Martin's in the Fields, the Connection serves the homeless—which the British call those who "sleep rough"—with a variety of services, from the residential to the skills-based. We were given a tour of this very extensive facility by two directors, who shared their knowledge of this large-scale problem in London. Rosie and I believed it was important to broaden the students' experiences of this complex city in a variety of ways, so a visit here was a must. What I believe we learned (and I'm referring to Rosie and I) was that we simply needed more time here. That would be a bit of a refrain for several other events we organized (like Oxford, see below).

## DAY 5, TUESDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

### MTV London

Once she heard we were travelling to London, our Spring Professional Network speaker, Christina Glorioso, put is in touch with Liana Linderberg, who is a Senior Account Manager for BeViacom (which owns MTV). Liana offered to give us a tour of the MTV studios in the cool Camden neighborhood. She also talked to us about contemporary TV in London and youth culture. It was a fun and fascinating tour, punctuated by a picture with Spongebob Squarepants and followed by a dinner with Liana at the enormous, popular



"Asian fusion" restaurant, Gilgamesh. While nearly every meal up to this point had been awesome (see Bea's of Bloomsbury), Gilgamesh left something to be desired (ask Christina about the delay in getting her food, or Natalie's sushi "mishap"). Still, Liana's company more than made up for all that!

## DAY 6, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>

### The East End

Our lecturer for this day, Clive Bloom, met us at the Liverpool Street Station for our walking tour of London's East End. Mr. Bloom's sense of history and sense of humor guided us on our tour of this fascinating neighborhood, which is now considered one of the hippest in London. History does exist beside the contemporary in really interesting ways, we discovered, as we passed the site of the Bethlehem Hospital (for the insane in the 17th C), Kindertransport of German Jewish children in the 1930's (now the site of the Liverpool Station), Bishop's Gate (with its remains of the Roman Wall), the Jewish Quarter, the Freedom Bookshop (frequented by Stalin and Lenin), and the spot at which Jack the Ripper was said to have killed one of his victims. We did even more that day, including examining graffiti and discussing the co-existence of Muslim communities and alternative Londoners. It's also worth mentioning our lunch stop at the Pakistani restaurant Tyyab's, with lamb chops and great curries.



## DAY 7, THURSDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>

### Oxford

Ah, Oxford. Before leaving for London, Chair and Professor of History, Patrick Griffin, put us in touch with Andrew Beaumont, the bursar for Hertford College at Oxford and an historian. Beau, as he prefers to be called, met us at Oxford station for

our walking tour. He graciously led the students around campus, allowing them to peek in at the fantastic dining hall at Hertford and many other places. At least, everyone but two of us did this. One of the Scholars lost her wallet on our train into the city, and she and I stayed behind to wait for it to be returned (it was at Lost and Found in London, if you can believe that). We had chai at a local Indian restaurant before joining the group at a fabulous pub in the heart of town. The tour was part of an afternoon and a whirlwind, but Beau was a gracious host.

## DAY 8, FRIDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

### The Free Day

This is one for the students to fill in for you, as they each custom-designed what they wanted to do, whether bike-riding around the city, popping into markets or the Military History Museum or shopping. If you want to know what they did—and they did a lot before we all met for the Closing Dinner that evening with Sutton Trust Students and Alice Tyrell of the ND Centre—ask them!