



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

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FALL 2018

SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Tom McDonough

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

- Teayanna Leytham '21
- Tia Wilson '21
- Maria Munoz-Robles '19
- Dayeel Dauphine '20

ORIENTATION



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ANBRYCE ORIENTATION

AnBryce Orientation gives scholars
a welcoming head start on 2018.



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NOTRE DAME

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

DR. PAULETTE G. CURTIS, Faculty Director

Greetings from the offices of the AnBryce Scholars Initiative in lovely, albeit eclectic, Brownson Hall, on the campus of Notre Dame. Campus is experiencing the highs of a Notre Dame Football season, which has thus far seen ND undefeated nationally, while students simultaneously brace themselves for the remainder of the Fall term. Put another way, as I pen this communication to you, midterms have descended upon campus.

Even midterms have a rosy glow for the students in our newest cohort. After a rigorous selection process in April, we selected five young women and four young men (shown below) to join us in the AnBryce program. They hail from states all over the country, including Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia. In addition to infusing a dose of optimism into our now tried

and tested student community, they have the important distinction of being our sixth cohort. We still marvel at having reached such an important milestone. We also re-introduce you to several AnBryce upperclassmen who are moving the needle on their academic lives and careers.

Other sections of our newsletter highlight our student-led pre-term retreat, which is in its second year; our annual tailgate, a fun event captured on camera by our own Sarah Kubinski; and Q&A with new supporter and friend, Tom McDonough, who shared hard-earned wisdom about careers and job networks with several AnBryce students during their recent day trip to Chicago. As always, we are very proud of the community we have created in the course of the work we do to serve our talented, special group of students.

The next time we speak to you, in our Spring newsletter, we will have a lot more to talk about. In our quest to expand our collective cultural horizons, we will host a traditional Irish dance or céilí, pronounced “kay-lee” to celebrate our immersion experience in Ireland; and we will also be given a special preview of art in the Giuffrida-Joyner collection at the Snite Museum on campus, offered by Mrs. Joyner herself in audience with our students.

But I get ahead of myself. For now, I hope that you savor this term’s newsletter while enjoying all things the Fall season promises to the optimistic, as well as the tried and true. Til’ next time,

Paulette Curtis



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: TOM MCDONOUGH

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH TOM MCDONOUGH

Tom McDonough, a Northwestern grad (we do not hold it against him), joined our program as a supporter this year. Our students had a chance to meet him in Chicago, when we visited to buy professional clothing. Over a delicious lunch, he shared his career path (private equity, by way of operating management and investment banking) and his obvious passion for helping students develop networks and life skills.

WHAT INTRIGUED YOU ABOUT THE ANBRYCE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE?

Having been a first-generation college student, who came from extremely difficult economic circumstances, I feel very passionately about helping students from similar backgrounds, both through financial support and, more importantly, giving my time to help them succeed and thrive.

HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCES HELPING ANBRYCE SCHOLARS NAVIGATE POST-COLLEGE LIFE?

The program is such a wonderful way to make sure the Scholars successfully make it through college! The challenge, then, is to help them navigate post-college life by providing the advice, counsel and networking advantages that many students from more affluent backgrounds naturally have. A lot of students with my background and the background of the scholars choose early careers that have a very defined route to early monetary success (engineering, computer sciences, accounting, medicine). That's exactly what I did! However, their true calling may be in an area like finance, business or an entrepreneurial pursuit. I can help make those very potentially rewarding, but less clear, paths much more straightforward and attractive. That way the Scholars can pursue their true passions!

WHAT TOOLS SHOULD ANBRYCE SCHOLARS HONE WHILE IN COLLEGE TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF LIFE?

I would encourage the Scholars to do everything they can to 1) expand their network of friends and people they know, 2) start to figure out how to leverage their network and 3) put themselves in challenging situations that initially make them uncomfortable, but where they can really expand their skill set. The temptation is to play it safe, but the rewards are in taking those intelligent risks! While those situations may sometimes involve feelings of failure and being set back if they do not work out as expected, they will always build the individual Scholar's skill set and experience base. Overcoming discomfort is a key differentiator for success going forward.

Getting to know the individual scholars is the true reward for supporting such a wonderful program! By helping just one scholar succeed, both at Notre Dame and in post-college life, the network of people who overcame very challenging backgrounds expands. If I can help 1 or 10 or 100+ scholars succeed and then help to influence them to give back with the benefit of their experiences, we can all make a major difference in improving lives!



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT: FRESHMAN CLASS

Front row l-r: Tarik Brown, Marilyn Zizumbo, Jordan Theriault, Karla Luquin, Carlos Flores

Back row l-r: Pamela Alvarado Alfaro, Jacqueline Lomeli, Helton Rodriguez, Rachel Dinh

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Traveling the World with Engineering

Sophomore Teayanna Leytham '21 spent most of this past summer in Europe, as part of the Rome Summer Engineering Program and as a Fulbright Summer Institute Scholar. When combined with her trip to Ireland with AnBryce's Global Immersion Program, she has had a jet set 2018--remarkable as she had never left the US prior to coming to Notre Dame!

Teayanna started her summer in Rome, which she calls "one of the most beautiful and ideal cities I have ever seen or imagined". The program traveled extensively within Italy, "where I witnessed the most breathtaking views created by nature and artists like Michelangelo." However, Teayanna was dismayed by the race and gender separations she saw. "This helped me to realize that while the countries within Europe are very progressive in many ways, they too have their own issues." In Scotland, Teayanna learned its role as an innovative nation. "Each place I visited, I found people dedicated to finding the solutions to worldly issues. For example at the Technology and Innovation Center, researchers were developing a way to cure blindness."

Profoundly grateful to all of the people and organizations that made her travel possible, she is quick to thank the Engineering Department, Financial Aid, the Society of Women Engineers (particularly Kerry Meyers), CUSE, the Glasgow School of Art (including Shona Paul), the University of Strathclyde and the Fulbright Commission.



Teayanna Leytham



In her own words

Dr. Maria McKenna is the only reason I took Professor Stuart Greene's Literacy as a Civil Rights class. She told me he was one of her best friends and he was retiring so this would be the last chance for a class of his. It ended up being one of the best decisions I ever made. Stuart Greene channeled his knowledge of educational inequities and formulated a discussion-based class where we examined documents, all written by women of color, and discussed the societal impacts of their words. For my project in his class, I choose to focus on how a lack of cultural representation in children's literature could affect the psyche of not only a minority child but white children as well. I went to the South Bend public library and interviewed one of the children section's head librarians. I asked her questions about how intentional she was about displaying multicultural children's literature in the library and how she navigated making sure children read a variety of books. She explained that she isn't really intentional about displaying multicultural books. I personally love books but I know a lot of people who do not because they never really found a book they could connect with. If we start children out early looking at books that they can connect with and looking at books that may challenge the beliefs around them, we could see a growing appreciation and positive attitude towards something that was previously viewed as a chore.

Next semester, I plan on taking a class taught by Dr. Jodene Morrell which focuses half the class sessions in a classroom setting and the other half is spent in the South Bend library. I am hoping, through this class and my connection with the library, that I will be able to facilitate the growth of a section of the library dedicated to multicultural children's books. I am hoping my intentions will transform into tangible evidence of my love for helping those who are unable to help themselves.

It's personal. Being Black on campus sucks sometimes. Being poor on campus sucks a lot of the time. Being a woman on campus even has its moments. With all of this piled on me in addition to the challenging academic rigor, being at Notre Dame is extremely hard. But what's so interesting about my story is, I've been through worse. I can still remember the hunger pains from the nights where the only dinner I had was sleep. I can still remember growing up in the slums of St. Louis where I was constantly surrounded by violence and unimaginable love. I still struggle with the cognitive dissonance that came from living in the hood but going to a school 2 hours away, in the more affluent part of my city, that demonized the very place I laid my head at night. Coming from this, Notre Dame is metaphorically a walk in the park. When students complain about the food, the showers, or the beds in our dorms, I know they have never experienced true hunger, they have never had to go years without hot water, and they haven't had to spend the majority of their lives sleeping on air mattresses like I have. So it is because of this that I am extremely grateful to the University of Notre Dame and I am extremely grateful to the AnBryce Scholars Initiative for giving me the opportunity to experience a life better than the one I was born into.



Tia Wilson

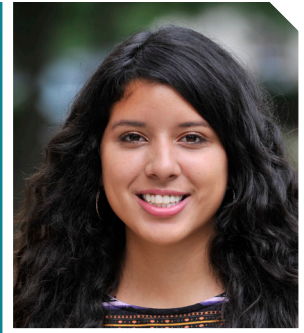


Identity and Security

Maria Munoz-Robles '19 has not had a low-key college experience. Before she and her sister arrived on campus, they were profiled by several news outlets for being twin valedictorians in Nevada. Something that was left out of the pieces was their immigration status. Once on campus, they rocketed into the public's awareness after a Notre Dame story and a Washington Post piece they wrote. "Immigration reform has been an ongoing political issue at the federal level for years, and people often forget about the real people behind the headlines. In Mexico, we lived in a house with 14 people, and we often had very little to eat. Our parents wanted us to have a better life and education." After publicly identifying as a DREAMer, Maria says she and her sister benefited greatly from the support of AnBryce and other groups on campus. The emotional support was key, but also the realization that there were many ways to create a wonderful college experience while being a DREAMer--like the immersion experience she took to DC with the Program Director, in lieu of the overseas trip her AnBryce peers took.

As college progressed, Maria encountered some serious and unexpected health challenges. She realized she would need an additional year to complete her degree in Chemical Engineering, with a Minor in Engineering Corporate Practice. "It was difficult watching my friends graduate, but I am thankful I get to spend one more year at Notre Dame. AnBryce gave me emotional support which helped me get through some difficult times. I've realized how fortunate I am to be able to graduate from ND, regardless of all of the hardships I've faced."

After graduation, Maria will work with Dow Chemical as a production engineer. "My advice for current freshmen is to use AnBryce as a resource for help. If AnBryce can't directly help out, they will guide you to different people who can."



Maria Munoz Robles



Project Based Learning in College

Industrial Design and Theology double major, Dayeel Dauphine '20, spent this past summer on campus in the Schmiedler Robotics Lab. Previously studying Aerospace Engineering, Dayeel was interested in expanding his knowledge about the various applications of robotics at Notre Dame. His first test was to make a Flock of Birds system operational after a 7-year stint in a Psychology lab on campus. "I honestly thought it might take the whole summer," Dayeel admits. Dr. James Schmiedler describes him as "tenacious in solving the hardware problems" associated with the program. Dayeel adds, "I really never stopped working on it. After 2 weeks, the system was up and running."

Up for a new challenge, he took the Flock of Birds system and two other motion capture systems (Xsens and DARD) and used them with Notre Dame athletes to compare their data output abilities. When he wasn't in the lab, he was across town working with a local physical therapist, who had conceived of an experiment that would better diagnose individuals with stroke. Together they developed both an eye tracker and a light tracker, which Dayeel built and assembled, that would more ably diagnose stroke and hopefully avoid misdiagnosis that sent patients home too soon.

Dr. Schmiedler shares, "Dayeel jumped into experimental research projects in my lab with both feet. He's always open to helping other students in the lab when they need it, and he's become a valued member of my group."



Dayeel Dauphine

SCHOLAR ACCOLADES

- Teayanna Leytham '21 became the University's tenth participant in the US-UK Fulbright Commission Summer Institutes since 2012.
- Jahlecia Gregory '20 and Armando Sanchez '20 were two of three Notre Dame students to receive Gilman Scholarships for study abroad experiences. Jahlecia is in Mexico and Armando is in London.
- Odalis Gonzalez was awarded a merit scholarship as part of the Latino Studies Scholars Program through the Institute for Latino Studies.
- Luigi Ribera '19, Uriel Oropeza-Perez '20, Teayanna Leytham '21, Odalis Gonzalez '21, and Helton Rodriguez '22 are Cohort Marshalls for the Fall Semester. As such, they will lead scholar brunches, help with event planning and represent AnBryce at Notre Dame functions.



DESTINATION: ORIENTATION

SARAH KUBINSKI, Outreach Coordinator



Welcome!

As AnBryce program administrators, we are nothing if not tenacious in our quest for programming, which meets many criteria: relate to as many students as possible, address a need or concern, and be accompanied by food,

which is key! Over the years we have developed and refined our Orientation Program to ensure it educates, strengthens bonds and connects our students to the mission of AnBryce.

Amanda Hammond, our Program Manager, fought hard to get our freshman scholars on campus as early as possible during move in week. Our freshmen come to South Bend by plane, bus and car the Tuesday before classes begin and stay in a hotel next to campus. Everyone (including any family in tow) meets at Legends on Tuesday night for a great meal and a welcome to the program. Parents meet each other and students head back for a good night's sleep and a little homework—in their welcome packet are essays from the book *A Letter to My Freshman Self*, chosen for their insight and connection to our scholars.

Students began Orientation bright and early mid-week. This year senior Erin Williams took students on a tour of campus before Dr. Curtis, Amanda and I did an overview of our Program's goals and expectations. Once we were sure their brains were full and their bellies were empty, we broke for lunch and welcome upperclassmen to hold an intimate ABSI Student Panel. ABSI students give freshmen wonderful advice about navigating Notre Dame as a first generation scholar. Advisers from the First Year Studies office continued the advice, including Dr. Phil Sakimoto, who shared an

introductory view of the Guaranteed 4.0 program he runs at the beginning of each semester (which focused on time management).

Before we released them (and their possessions from the vans), we introduced them to counselors from Notre Dame's First Year Studies program. We welcomed Ms. Michelle Smith Ware and Dr. Cecilia Lucero, who combined warmth and realness to the coming year. Students discussed classes, social life, jobs and a whole host of other questions and concerns they had. They also started to pick up on some refrains from all of the presentations: school is a job, give yourself some love and grace, use your words.

Once free from meetings, the students were matched with an upperclassman in their dorm and headed off to meet parents or walk to their new room. Amanda and Sarah followed with their luggage (and sometimes the random fridge or musical instrument) and students were free to try out their nearest dining hall for dinner. Students refer to this early move in as one of the best things about freshman year. The ability to claim a bunk, get their feet under them and have a relaxing day while the rest of their peers moved in was unmeasurable in their happiness quotient.



While the freshmen enjoyed a night off, our upperclassmen headed up north to Michigan to Camp Friedenswald. This retreat began three years ago at the behest of our inaugural class, who wished to reconnect and goal-set before the school year. The students hike, take a pontoon ride, make s'mores and spend time being really honest with each other. We love how the students take so much ownership in planning the retreat and developing it each year.

Our freshmen began their next day with a session on the Spring term Writing and Rhetoric course, which is tied into our Global Immersion program to Ireland. Dr. Patrick Clauss, the professor for Writing and

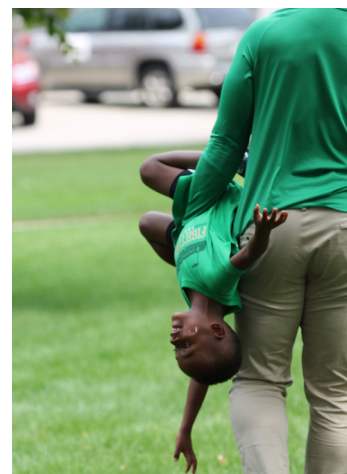


Rhetoric, and Ms. Rosie McDowell, the International Community Based Learning Coordinator, from the Center for Social Concerns, walked students through their Spring semester course, whetting their appetite for the trip. We then visited the Writing Center with Dr. Clauss in Coleman Morse, where they also met Nahid Erfan from the Learning Resources Center, ending their visits that day with a trip to Hesburgh Library, where they met librarian Leslie Morgan to hear about how best to use the library and other cool research resources at Notre Dame. Then it was back to the lounge for lunch and a meeting with Financial Aid Director Mary Nucciarone and Student Accounts Director Gene Pilawski, who reviewed financial statements and how to best utilize their offices. All of these meetings make many oblique parts of college clearer and more accessible to our freshmen students.

Thursday night, we brought freshmen together with our upperclassmen and supporters of AnBryce for a wonderful dinner and welcome. Professors and program partners use this time to introduce themselves and show themselves as allies to the students and often recount their own days as a first-generation college student. This is followed by a prayer service, led by Fr. Joe Corpora, which includes any families still in town. Thursday night is a wonderful time to reconnect with the program goals and friends.

Friday all scholars participated in a half-day orientation, which always includes stories from the summer and goals for the new year. We shared the semester's calendar and announce travel opportunities and activities program staff spent the summer developing. This year, that includes a professional attire trip to Chicago for our freshmen, an Irish Set Dance led by Larry and Shaina Lynch, a discussion with Pamela Joyner about the art exhibit *Solidary & Solitary* at the Snite Art Museum (which she and her husband Fred Giuffrida shared with our students in California in 2017) and a return networking/entrepreneurship trip to San Francisco in the spring.

By the time we send students off to help greet incoming freshmen or start Notre Dame Orientation activities, they already feel a part of the school and member of the AnBryce community, ready to start the year off right!



TAILGATING 2018

