

## **The Slay Fund for Social Justice at Drake University**

Report on Grants Awarded and Completed, Academic Year 2018/19

Submitted by Professor Renee Ann Cramer, November 2019

In academic year 2018/2019, the Slay Fund for Social Justice made grants to projects in four broad categories: student research and internships, pedagogy for social justice, campus-wide events and speakers, and long-term programs with community partners. These funding categories coincide with the three strategic priorities of the Slay Fund, which allocate funding for: speakers and events related to social justice; capacity building and institutional support programming; student-proposed and student-focused initiatives. These categories and priorities overlap to a great extent, but we have identified primary activities in the following ways:

### **Student Activism, Research, and Internships**

Student **Ale Diaz** organized a large group of student leaders to access Slay Funds in support of their attendance at **NCORE** – the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity.

International Relations student **Alyson Miller** received a grant to travel to South Bend, Indiana to present their paper on women’s experience of health care provision in Central America, at the **Student Peace Conference at Notre Dame University**.

The **School of Journalism and Mass Communication** was awarded a grant to hire students to develop a **website for social justice**, including a Slay Fund webpage and a community hub.

### **Pedagogy for Social Justice**

Law Professor **Brent Pattison** continued the Drake Legal Clinic’s collaboration with **#ArtForceIowa** to develop educational programming for middle school students in Des Moines. The Slay Fund provided funding for supplies and hospitality.

The **Social Justice Living and Learning Community** enables an entire cohort of second- and third-year Drake students to find purpose in social justice, and community on campus. The Slay Fund supports the SJLLC by providing a stipend for both faculty and student mentors of that community, funding for travel to training sessions for the student co-facilitators, and small grants for hospitality and materials throughout the year.

**Renee Sedlacek**, and the **Office of Community Engaged Learning**, were granted funding to spend over 3 years in the development and maintenance of a **Faculty Fellow in Engaged Learning**. The funding goes towards a stipend, travel, and research support for the faculty fellow. Funding will enable the development of our community’s capacity for engaged learning, maximize student engagement in community-based programs, and expand our presence as a leader in the field of community engagement.

Law professor **Susie Pritchett**, and LPS visiting professor **Erika Iverson** developed an **Applied Immigration Law and Policy** class that provided twenty Law and A&S students with opportunity to learn about immigration law while serving community needs. The students hosted naturalization clinics with established community partners is directly related to the Slay Fund's mission for social justice. The grant supported lunch and refreshments for clients and students at the naturalization clinics, rental of a passenger van and mileage reimbursement for travel to the Omaha Immigration Court, and costs associated with document production and client paperwork.

### **Events and Speakers**

Professor **Melisa Klimaszewski** (English) was awarded funding to bring speaker **Sarah McBride** to campus. McBride writes and speaks on issues of transgender identity and life, as well as the ways that cis gendered women can be allies of transwomen.

Professor **Renée Cramer** (LPS) brought two speakers to campus for public talks and class visits on the theme: **Disaster and Environmental Justice**. The grant went to supporting honoraria and travel expenses for two speakers: Michael Deibert and Laura Hatcher. Professor Hatcher is an expert consultant on flood plain engineering and Takings as they relate to rivers and flooding. Deibert is a long-form independent investigative journalist with a new book on US government response in Puerto Rico, after the (then) most recent hurricane.

Adjunct Instructor (FYS, SCS, and LPS) **Christopher Baum** brought the documentary, **Deej** to campus, along with the filmmaker. Deej looks at the lives of those who live with autism in higher education. The Fund provided the honorarium and screening fee provided.

Professor **Mary McCarthy** (International Relations) brought Jennifer Pacanowski to campus for a presentation on **the experiences of female combat veterans**. The Fund provided a grant to cover her honorarium and travel expenses.

**Marisa DeVito**, the student leader of Drake PanHellenic, wrote a successful proposal to receive a grant from the Slay Fund, in order to bring **Lawrence Ross** to Drake, in support of Drake University's Panhellenic Council's efforts to raise awareness about **race and social justice on campus**.

Professor **Carol Spaulding-Kruse** (English) brought Cheryl Sutton, a leader with Alternatives to Violence, to campus as part of her First Year Seminar, "Talking with the Enemy." For a small fee, Ms Sutton facilitated a 4-session workshop with the FYS, training them in **non-violent communication**.

The Slay Fund provided modest support for an **Ice Cream Social for FirstGen Students** hosted by **Director of Student Leadership Programs, Marina Verlengia**.

Professor **Will Garriott** (LPS) brought Dr. Stacey Vanderhurst to campus to speak about migration and human trafficking. Her expertise on **anti-trafficking programs in Nigeria** will offered a challenging and important perspective for our students and community members. She gave a public talk, and had significant time in classes across the several disciplines in Arts and Sciences. The Fund granted support for her travel and honorarium.

The Slay Fund supported **Drake's Environmental Action League (DEAL)** in bringing **Dr. A. Breeze Harper** to campus as part of her visit to Des Moines for VeganFest. Harper offered a black womanist vegan perspective on food justice. The Slay Fund supported their hotel, and hospitality for a student meal.

Professor **Yasmina Madden** (English) received a Slay Fund award to bring speakers Kelly Schall and Seann Rose to present with Drake students Steven Peralta Cornejo and Helen Trisko, in a program brought light to **caregiving and cancer survivorship as social justice issues**, using narrative to get at the intersections of race, class, and immigration status in these issues.

Professor **Matthew Canfield** (LPS) hosted **Tim Wise** on campus to speak about food sovereignty. Wise, a representative of **The Small Planet Fund** brought a large crowd to campus for his book launch and public talk, including students and community members interested in farming, hunger, food, and sovereignty. Dr. Wise also spent significant time with students across a range of disciplines and courses. The Fund awarded travel, support, and honorarium.

### **Programs with Community Partners 18/19**

Professor **Darcie Vandegrift** was awarded a grant to engage students to work with community partner **Latinx Youth Leadership**.

Professor **Tim Knepper** (Religion) was awarded two grants in association with the work of the **Comparison Project** and the **Interfaith Youth Corps** – funding student involvement in digital storytelling, Interfaith camp counseling, and hospitality.

18% of Slay funds awarded to student research and travel

33% of Slay funds awarded for pedagogy for social justice

21% of Slay funds awarded for campus-wide events

27% of Slay funds awarded to community and campus partnerships

