

**The Slay Fund for Social Justice at Drake University
Report on Grants Awarded and Completed, Academic Year 2013/14
Submitted by Professor Renee Ann Cramer, July 2014**

The Slay Fund 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*.

Student Research and Internships Funded, 13/14

Riley Willman was awarded a grant to help defray costs associated with his semester abroad in Bologna, Italy. In spring 2014, Riley studied at Spring Hill College in Bologna; Spring Hill is committed to offering students direct opportunities to impact social justice in Bologna, and surrounding areas. Riley undertook two projects this spring, supported by Slay Funds – he taught English as a Second Language to children as a part of his semester-long internship with the organization Cestas; and, he traveled to Puglia, Italy, and Casablanca, Morocco, to complete a video documentary about migration into Italy, meeting with and interviewing migrants and potential migrants in both locales.

Annika Grassl received a grant to defray the costs of her summer 2014 internship with Senator Tom Harkin's office, in Washington DC. Annika's internship placed her in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, where she hoped to continue her already strong advocacy in the realm of physical and learning disability policymaking.

School of Education student, **Sarah Lauer**, was awarded a grant to purchase materials and subscriptions related to teaching English as a Second Language to a member of the South Sudanese refugee community, as part of her ESL endorsement. Lauer donated the materials to the School of Education, so others undertaking similar projects would have access to them.

Pedagogy for Social Justice, 13/14

Professor Carlyn Crowe received a grant from the Slay Fund to support the work her First Year Seminar students undertook, in partnership with the Des Moines Area Religious Council's (DMARC) *Move The Food* Initiative. Students in her course, "The Real Hunger Games," provided food pantry clients with \$10 gift cards upon the clients' completion of a survey that the students designed, in close consultation with DMARC leadership, regarding what types of food clients most hoped to receive, how they prepared certain foods, and barriers to healthy eating. DMARC uses the data from these surveys to improve client service, and also to apply for extra-mural funding from large granting organizations, to help improve service and access to fresh fruits and vegetables for food pantry clients.

Associate Professor of English Jennifer Perrine was awarded costs associated with her attendance at the "Split This Rock Poetry Festival" in Washington, DC in March 2014. Professor Perrine's experiences at the conference will help deepen her ability to teach social justice through poetry, and enable her connections with other scholar-activists-poets.

Associate Professor of English Carol Spaulding-Kruse was awarded funding to host an Alternative to Violence Project facilitator in her First Year Seminar in spring 2014. Students in that class learned nonviolent communication as a building block to social justice, and become trained peacemakers and nonviolent facilitators.

Campus-Wide Events and Speakers Funded, 13/14

Professor of Journalism Kathleen Richardson has been awarded a grant to defray costs associated with bringing journalist and public intellectual Leonard Pitts to campus on November 10, 2014. Much as Michele Norris did in fall 2013, Pitts will visit classrooms, meet with our students (with a particular invitation extended to our Crew Scholars and other students of color organizations), and give a public talk.

Student members of the **Working Group to Infuse Global and Multicultural Understandings**, in conjunction with student leaders of the **Coalition of Black Students, El Ritmo Latino, and Crew Scholars**, were awarded a grant to host a Welcome Weekend BBQ in August 2014, for our incoming students of color.

Library Professors Priya Shinoy and Claudia Frazier have been awarded funding for a fall 2014 series to be hosted by the library on the issues of food insecurity, poverty, and global public health. Working closely with several faculty teaching related courses, Professors Shinoy and Frazier plan a series of events to coincide with Cowles Library's hosting of a traveling exhibition from the National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health. The events focus on international, national, and local contexts and include a speaker from the World Food Prize, the screening of the documentary film "A Place at the Table," with post-screening discussion, and a panel of local leaders from five area food agencies.

Long-Term Programs with Community Partners

The Slay Fund continued its financial support of the **Violence Intervention Partner (VIP) Advocacy Team**, directed by the Coordinator for Sexual Violence Response and Healthy Relationship Promotion, **Alysa Mozak**. VIPs are trained to respond compassionately and effectively to sexualized and intimate partner violence, and to help students in need access support and counsel in the wider community.

The Slay Fund provided start-up funding to a **Spanish-language community-based publishing initiative** located in Des Moines. The press is a collaboration of Associate Professor of English Carol Spaulding-Kruse, and Jan Mitchell, the co-founder of Latinas/os al Exito, as well as students from Professor of Sociology Darcie Vandegriff's courses, and several English and Design majors. It serves the Spanish-speaking community of central Iowa, and engages students in direct service learning opportunities.

The Slay Fund continued its support of the **Summer of Social Justice Internships** directed by Mandi McReynolds, Director of Community Engagement and Service-Learning.

The Slay Fund also continued its support of the **Working Group to Infuse Global and Multi-Cultural Understandings**, hiring four students who are at work on various projects relating to

social justice on campus, including a visible diversity campaign “Dare to be Diverse,” and a social justice themed living and learning community, to be launched in 2015.