

**The Slay Fund for Social Justice at Drake University
Report on Grants Awarded and Completed, Academic Year 2016/17
Submitted by Professor Renee Ann Cramer, August 2017**

In academic year 2016/2017, 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

The Slay Fund supported students from the **Drake Environmental Action League (DEAL)** in bringing social justice activist and scholar **Dr. Vandana Shiva** to campus in fall 2016.

The Slay Fund provided partial support of **Grace Boatman's Honors Thesis** on implicit bias and immigration in the United States. She used the stipend to help fund her purchase of Project Implicit IAT software, which she used for data analysis in the thesis, advised by Professor Jill Allen (Psychology).

Drake Student **Kenia Calderon**, and several additional members of **La Fuerza Latina**, used a grant to support their attendance at the 35th annual U.S. Hispanic Leadership Conference, in Chicago.

The Slay Fund supported travel by members of the **Coalition of Black Students** to attend the 40th annual Big XII Conference on Black Student Government.

The Slay Fund continued to support the work of the **Drake Community Press**, in conjunction with the Comparison Project, by funding student wages for **Anna Steenson** to complete the documentary, *A Spectrum of Faith*.

Student Activists for Gender Equality (SAGE) and students from **Voice of Choice (VOC)** coordinated in a proposal to send several of their joint members to the National Young Women's Feminist Leadership Conference in Washington DC in March 2017.

The Slay Fund for Social Justice awarded \$1378 to support a grant written by **Amanda Martin** (Drake staff member in the **Office of Service Learning**) to take students, faculty, and staff to St. Louis for the IMPACT conference on student learning and civic engagement, in February 2017.

Pedagogy for Social Justice

Law Professor Brent Pattison collaborated with #ArtForcelowa to develop immigrant rights programming for middle school students in impacted communities in Des Moines.

Campus-Wide Events and Speakers

Psychology **Professor Jill Allen** was awarded a grant to fund partial travel expenses and honoraria of Professor Bettina Cassad and two of her graduate students. Professor Cassad (University of Missouri) is an expert on **stereotype threat and the way that it impacts learning in STEM fields**.

The Slay Fund contributed to the honoraria paid to **Kathleen Cleaver** by **Coalition of Black Students**, to be the featured speaker during Black History Month.

La Fuerza Latina brought the film **No Mas Bebés** to campus with funding from the Slay Fund to cover licensing fees. The film is a documentary account of forced sterilization projects in the United States, as they impacted Latinas.

The Slay Fund supported the visit to campus of **Professor Jamie Longazel**. Professor Longazel (City University of New York). Professor Longazel gave a public talk on his book, *Undocumented Fears* which examines anti-immigrant laws in Hazelton, PA. He also had a well-attended lunch with first generation college students at Drake, to talk about his own experiences in higher ed, as a FirstGen student.

The Comparison Project was awarded a grant to fund costs related to the April event: Iowa Interfaith Exchange, featuring a keynote address by **Eboo Patel** and a series of workshops held by the Interfaith Alliance.

Mara Strassberg, a member of the Law Faculty, was awarded a grant to bring speaker **Ellie Krug** to campus. Krug is a transgender activist, author and lawyer who shared generously of her time at Drake – giving a public talk, meeting with students about public interest lawyering for social change, and have conversations with several classes as well as a group of LGBTQ students.

SJMC Dean Kathleen Richardson, organized a breakfast for our Crew Scholars with **Luis Clemens**, senior editor for diversity at **NPR**, during his visit to campus.

The Slay Fund for Social Justice awarded the student group **Hillel** funding to bring Holocaust survivor **Magda Brown** to campus to give a public talk.

Professor Nate Holdren (Law, Politics, and Society) brought **Professor Kevin Gannon** to campus to screen the documentary **13th**. A historian of the 13th Amendment and an anti-racism activist and scholar, Professor Gannon is featured in the documentary and dialogued with Drake students after the screening. The Slay Fund paid his honorarium and travel expenses.

Drake Student **Matt Becke** was awarded a grant to provide hospitality at an event he organized on **felony voter disenfranchisement**.

Programs with Community Partners 16/17

The Slay Fund purchased two tables at the **Chrysalis Foundation** annual fundraiser, enabling 10 Drake students to attend the keynote by Professor Angela Davis, while supporting the work of Chrysalis in Iowa. The Slay Fund continued its prior commitments to community partners – many of which are detailed above, and below – via the Social Justice Living and Learning Community, and the Drake Community Press as it worked on the book *A Spectrum of Faith* as part of the Comparison Project. The Fund also began partnerships with The Solidarity Foundation and the Young Women’s Resource Center that will come to fruition in the academic year, 17/18.

Totals Allocated by Category

29% of Slay funds allocated to student research and travel

15% of Slay funds allocated for pedagogy for social justice

44% of Slay funds allocated for campus-wide events

12% of Slay funds allocated to community partners