WEISSBERG PROGRAM IN HUMAN RIGHTS

The mission of the Weissberg Program in Human Rights is to prepare Beloit College students to engage critically with human rights and develop effective and responsible strategies that promote and defend human dignity.

Here we report on:

- Fall Forum
- Weissberg Chair
- Weissberg Scholars
- Job Shadowing
- Faculty Development

Fall Forum
The Weissberg Program Fall Forum helps students develop an imagination for how their studies and other activities might equip them to pursue careers related to human rights. The Forum includes a career panel with recent alumni as well as the annual Weissberg Lecture. The Forum is held in September to set the stage for engagement with human rights over the academic year.

Pre-Forum Workshop: Social Entrepreneurship & Human Rights
Aggregating information on human rights in supply chains for corporations as a profit-driven human rights initiative. Facilitators: Samir Goswami’98 & Brian Morelo’85, Director, CELEB

Career Panelists
- Corey Barber’07, global health advocate and coordinator, Stop-TB Forum
- Elsbeth Pollack’09, educator and program facilitator, BorderLinks
- Colin O’Neil’08, regulatory policy analyst, Center for Food Safety
- Samir Goswami’98, consultant and former director of Corporate Responsibility for LexisNexis

Weissberg Lecture

Weissberg Chair
The Weissberg Chair is an annual appointment of a prominent individual active in addressing human rights on the international stage. It is a signature program of Beloit College.

2013 Theme: Human Rights in Latin America
Weissberg Chair: Diego Garcia-Sayan, President, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in residence April 7-13, 2013
Keynote address: “Current Challenges to Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America”
Conference: “Rule of Law, Transitional Justice, and Transition to Peace”

Preparatory events
- *Yuyanapaq. To Remember*, Photo Exhibit commissioned by the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Accompanied by a lecture by Peruvian photo-journalist, Nancy Chappell, February 2013
- Human Rights Film Festival, with funding from the United States Institute for Peace. Organizer: Hana Vackova’15, February-March 2013
- Student Reading Group

**Weissberg Scholars**
Scholars are selected on the basis of their potential to fulfill the mission of the Weissberg Program, as evidenced by their studies and other experiences and their plans for future engagement. Scholars are eligible for grants to support hands-on engagement in human rights over winter and summer semester breaks, and since 2011/12, have generally been named scholars as second semester sophomores.

Scholars beginning degree studies in August 2011
- Hana Vackova, Czech Republic
- Namoonga Mantina, Zambia

Scholars named in spring 2012
- Kidan Araya’13
- Amanda Lawnicki’14
- Alen Keric’14

Scholars named in spring 2013
- Matej Jungwirth’15
- Allison Smith’15

**Weissberg Fellows**
Graduating seniors are eligible to become Weissberg Fellows and receive funding to support post-graduation activities that will help pursue careers related to human rights.

- Kidan Araya’13: environmental justice, food policy and access, community resource management
- Diana Gutierrez-Meza’13: health-based approaches to protecting and promoting minority women’s rights
- Emily Johnson’13: people-centered conservation; participatory research and development
- Kyle Dallman’13: the implications of South Africa’s racial politics for human rights
- Kun (Cleo) Zhang’13: HIV/AIDS in China
Weissberg Student Project Grants

Grants support independent, hands-on experiences with human rights during winter and summer semester breaks and are awarded on a competitive basis.

Winter
- Megan Slavish’14: to attend the American Public Health Association Conference in San Francisco
- Kun (Cleo) Zhang’13: to intern with Asia Catalyst in New York

Summer
- Yoon Cho ’13: To study Myanmar’s Road to Democratization in Yangon, Myanmar
- Dongping Jing ’15: to intern with the U.S. fund for UNICEF in New York
- Karen Jones ’15: to serve as a fellow for Unite for Sight Global Impact, Accra, Ghana
- Matej Jungwirth ’15: to intern with Project Hope, Israel
- Yixuan Ping’15: to study village ecology and the reproduction of labor in Hunan, Yunan, Gansu and Henan Provinces, China

Job Shadowing

Four students engaged in job-shadowing in San Francisco over the 2013 spring break to better understand the variety of ways human rights can be addressed professionally. Part of a larger group of Beloit job-shadowers, they stayed with and shadowed Beloit alumni. Job shadowing will take place in Minneapolis/St. Paul in March 2014.

- Yasmin Rodriguez’15
- Tatiana Rosario’15
- Geyuan Tian’14
- Rhiannon Decker’15

Faculty Development

The Weissberg Program supports opportunities for faculty members’ professional development. In 2012/13, a competition was held and three awards made. In 2013/14, the Weissberg Program will support a faculty seminar on Contemporary Cuba: Human Rights, U.S.-Cuba Relations and Exchange, and Beyond.

2012/13 grants:
- Land Tenure and Land Conflict in Vietnam: Case Study Development. Rachel Ellett (Political Science/International Relations), Chris Fink (Creative Writing), Diep Phan (Economics)
- Roma Children’s Rights. Bill New (Education and Youth Studies)
- Dance as an agent of social change – women and power structures in America and the Czech Republic. Chris Johnson (Theater, Dance, and Media Studies)
- 21st Century Indian Megacities and Villages: CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar. Natalie Gummer (Religious Studies)