Year at-a-Glance

September 2014
- Fall Human Rights Forum

November 2014
- Human Rights Films Series (Nov.—April)*

January 2015
- Faculty Workshop on Teaching Human Rights

February 2015
- #BlackLivesMatterBeloit Panel 1: “Hashtag Activism and the New Normal”**
- Panel: Indigenous Cultural Heritage Preservation and Repatriation

March 2015
- Art Exhibit: Re-Riding History: From the Southern Plains to the Matanzas Bay
- Job shadowing in Washington, DC
- Student trip to US/Mexico border*
- #BlackLivesMatterBeloit Panel 2: “Institutional Racism and the Black Body”**
- #BlackLivesMatterBeloit Art Exhibit*

April 2015
- Poetry Reading: Kim Blaeser, Wisconsin Poet Laureate 2015-16
- Weissberg Chair Residency with James Anaya
- Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

April 2015 (cont.)
- #BlackLivesMatterBeloit Panel 3: “Policing in Post-9/11 America”**

May 2015
- #BlackLivesMatterBeloit Die-In Event*

Summer 2015
- Six Weissberg Scholars named
- Five Weissberg Fellows named
- Seven Summer Project Grants awarded
- Two curriculum development grants awarded to faculty members

What’s New in 2014/15?

Programming Grants. To further cultivate cross-campus ownership of the Weissberg Program, grants were made to students, staff and faculty to organize events and activities around human rights issues. See asterisks above.

Weissberg Chair Book & Archive. Planning began on a retrospective book and archival project capturing the impact of the Weissberg Chair program at Beloit College, to be completed in the fall of 2015.

Teaching Human Rights. A survey of Beloit College faculty showed that 20 incorporate human rights into their teaching. A workshop and syllabi archive were provided in response.

* Funded through Programming Grant
Fall Human Rights Forum

Pathways to Careers in Human Rights

This year’s fall forum featured a panel of four alumni working and studying in a range of social-justice fields. Alumni visited classes in addition to the afternoon panel discussion, moderated by Prof. Rongal Nikora. The panel, pictured below from left to right, included:

- **Anna Wolf’11**, MSW candidate in clinical mental health, University of Maryland; worked in India with Prajwala, an anti-trafficking organization

- **Glen Burnett’99**, Director of US Operations, Practical Action, a UK-based development NGO using technology for poverty alleviation

- **Kazuyoshi Hirohata’06**, MA Candidate, Impact Evaluation and Local Governance, Georgetown University; worked for Japan’s development assistance program on sustainable waste management

- **Sydney Kopp-Richardson’04**, Outreach and Public Education, The New York City Anti-Violence Project

Alumni panel, September 29, 2014
As Russia's annexation of the Crimea and aggression in Ukraine captured headlines, Anna Sevortian, executive director of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum, delivered a talk on "Russian Civil Society in 2014: The Challenge, Call and Promise." In four visits to international relations and Russian language classes, a lunch with students, and her lecture, Ms. Sevortian gave insight into the mounting challenges facing the media, rights advocates, and nongovernmental organizations inside Russia.

Anna Sevortian has worked for over 15 years on civil society and human rights issues in the former Soviet Union, and is former Russia director for Human Rights Watch. She is past Galina Starovoitova Fellow at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC, and Deputy Director of the Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights in Moscow.

September 29, 2014
This film series was proposed and coordinated by Beloit College’s Amnesty International Club. A Programming Grant from the Weissberg Program funded the screening rights, speaker honorarium, and catering. Film themes were tied to course topics in several disciplines.

November

“15 to Life: Kenneth’s Story.” At age 15, Kenneth Young received four consecutive life sentences for a series of armed robberies. This film follows his story and explores the youth justice system.

“Good Fortune.” The gripping stories of two Kenyans battling to save their homes from large-scale development present a unique opportunity see foreign aid through eyes of the people it is intended to help.

February

“No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka.” This film follows the final months of the 26-year long Sri Lankan civil war as told by the people who lived through it. The film includes some of the most dramatic and disturbing video evidence ever seen.

Keynote address: Jim McDonald, Amnesty International’s expert on the Sri Lanka conflict, February 19.

April

“Reportero.” This film follows a veteran reporter and his colleagues at Zeta, a Tijuana-based independent newsweekly, as they stubbornly ply their trade in one of the deadliest places in the world for members of the media.
Teaching Human Rights
Across the Curriculum

The Weissberg Program conducted a survey of faculty in Fall of 2014 to learn to what extent human rights issues are being taught in courses at Beloit College.

Of the 25 responses, 20 faculty members reported including some form of human rights in their courses, across 14 disciplines, including philosophy, history, economics, health & society, theater, and religious studies.

The survey asked respondents what supports would help them to further incorporate human rights issues into their teaching. The top responses were as follows:

- Workshop on teaching human rights (60%)
- Sample assignments (60%)
- A list of resources for teaching human rights (55%)
- A list of suggested readings for courses on human rights (55%)

In response to this data, the Weissberg Program hosted a six-hour workshop on teaching human rights in January, 2015, attended by 17 faculty members. Furthermore, a repository of sample syllabi for courses on human rights has been initiated by Prof. Beth Dougherty.
Joining the national discussion in response to the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police officers, Beloit College staff, faculty, and students organized the #BlackLivesMatterBeloit series. The series of panel discussions, lectures, and activities spurred substantial conversations, activism, and structural change on the Beloit College campus around racial justice issues. Added together, events attracted an estimated 800 students, faculty, staff, and community members. The majority of funding for the series came from the Weissberg Program in Human Rights.

Pictured: Dr. Nicole Truesdell (left), senior director of academic diversity and inclusiveness, moderating panel 2 on “Institutional Racism and the Black Body,” March 20, 2015, attended by over 300 people.

Series Events

**January 30** — Kick-off and Discussion Forum

**February 20th** — Panel 1: “Hashtag Activism and the New Normal” (pictured on cover page of this report)

**March 20th** — Panel 2: “Institutional Racism and the Black Body”

**April 17th** — Panel 3: “Policing in Post-9/11 America”

**April 23rd** — “Caught: the Prison State and the Lockdown of American Politics,” lecture by Marie Gottschalk

**May 2nd** — Die-in Event on the Steps of Middle College
Art Exhibit

Artists in the Beloit community contributed artwork to an exhibit illustrating reactions to the #BlackLivesMatterBeloit themes. The exhibit was held in the Wright Art Museum and had strong attendance.

The painting at right, “War Veteran,” by Chicago artist Jesse Howard, was displayed in the exhibit and was acquired by the Wright Museum with help from the Weissberg Program in Human Rights. Mr. Howard also delivered an address at Beloit College on April 10th, 2015.
On my first day shadowing Hillary Mellinger at the Tahirih Justice Center, I sat in on screenings that were conducted over the phone with immigrant women currently residing in the U.S. that are looking for legal representation. I heard from two women who had fled their home countries due to gender-based violence... Such women are citizens of the world and yet of nowhere, their human rights wavering and in no way universal... I learned that justice is conditional.”

— Lola Davis’17, health & society major
This panel explored the legal, ethical and logistical issues related to museum collections of indigenous artifacts, and was organized by the Museum Studies program with funding from the Weissberg Program. This was the first in a series of events on the rights of indigenous peoples, culminating in the Weissberg Chair residency of James Anaya. The panel included:

- Dr. Patty Gerstenblith, DePaul University
- Dr. Larry Zimmerman, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
- Mr. Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Ho-Chunk Nation
- Jennifer Kolb '79, Native American Liaison, Wisconsin Historical Society

Beloit graduate Jennifer Kolb '79, spoke on the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 in the state of Wisconsin.
Spring Series on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Art Exhibit: “Re-Riding History: From the Southern Plains to Matanzas Bay”

March 27—April 5, 2015

Wright Museum of Art

About the Exhibit

This exhibit put an artistic spin on indigenous rights issues. Curators Emily Arthur, Marwin Begaye and John Hitchcock presented a lecture on the project at the exhibit opening on March 27. The exhibit is described as “a curatorial project which metaphorically retraces the history of seventy-two American Indian peoples who were forcibly taken from their homes in Salt Fork, OK, and transported by train to St. Augustine, Florida. The United States war department imprisoned Cheyenne, Kiowa, Comanche, Arapaho, and Caddo leaders under Lieutenant Richard Henry Pratt from 1875-1878.” (from exhibit website)
Prof. Blaeser is the author of several acclaimed collections of poetry, including *Absentee Indians & Other Poems*, *Trailing You*, and *Apprenticed to Justice*.

The Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission noted Blaeser’s “passion for the arts and her ability to reach broad audiences through poems that explore her Native culture, poems of place and community, poems of witness, family poems, poems centered in women’s experience, and poems with a sly sense of humor.”
James Anaya served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from May 2008 to June 2014, and is currently the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law. Professor Anaya teaches and writes in the areas of international human rights, constitutional law, and issues concerning indigenous peoples. Among his numerous publications are his acclaimed book, *Indigenous Peoples in International Law*.

15 class visits
6 meals with students
3 meals with faculty
150 attended keynote lecture

**Weissberg Chair Residency**
**James Anaya, April 6—11, 2015**
**Focus topic: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Prof. James Anaya
Seven scholars and practitioners from the US and Canada formed two panels that took an in-depth look at issues affecting the rights of indigenous peoples in North America.

Panel 1: Identity and the Law. Panelists explored the legal issues of claiming “real” Indian ancestry, legal gaps in protecting women from violence on reservations, the politics of casino gaming, and the constructed image of “rich Indians.”

Panel 2: Environment & Natural Resources. Panelists examined the legal battles to protect Native land from mining corporations in Wisconsin and Guatemala, the impact of climate change on the health of Inuit of the Arctic, and the struggle for self-determination in land use among Native groups.
Weissberg Scholars 2015-17

Six rising juniors were selected to receive the two-year Weissberg Scholarship, which underwrites their financial aid and provides an experiential learning stipend of up to $3,300 for summer research and internships.

Lola Davis’17, health & society
Lola is co-president of the Women’s Center on campus and volunteers with multiple organization working for gender and racial equity in education and opportunity. Interested in maternal health, she participated in a Doula certification course in summer, 2015.

Tessa Sebastian’17, health & society, CRIS
Tessa is co-president of the Women’s Center on campus and is interested in how oppression affects the health of the oppressed. She is particularly interested in women’s health and completed a Doula certification training in summer, 2015.

Hannah Devereux’17, IR, Russian
Interested in the dynamics between Russia and former Soviet states, Hannah has been studying the Russia-Ukraine conflict. She has been placed in an internship in the US embassy in Kiev in summer, 2015. She also plans to study abroad in Russia during her senior year to further explore Russian foreign policy.

Meredith Shimek’17, IR, psychology
Meredith’s interests lie at the intersection of human rights and psychology. She is particularly interested in the welfare of people with intellectual disabilities in the international context. She has interned in the Palestinian Territories and completed an internship in Belgium in summer, 2015.

Koont Thet Htar’17, IR, economics
Koont is an international student from Myanmar, interested in the intersection of development and human rights. During the summer of 2015, she interned with the US Peace Corps central office in Washington, DC, and will also work with the USPC training center in Myanmar.

Macy Tran’17, health & society, education
Macy is engaged in the intersection of human rights and education. She is co-president of the Amnesty International club on campus and coordinated this year’s Human Rights Film Series. She carried out a teaching internship in Tanzania in summer, 2015.
Weissberg Post-Graduate Fellows 2015

Five students were selected to receive grants after graduation to support their next career steps.

Reine Lucas’15, anthropology, sociology

Reine has been a leader within the Sustained Dialogue program on campus and will complete an honors term in fall 2015 dedicated to refining the program. She is passionate about issues of race and social justice.

Allison Smith’15, IR, Russian

Allison spent two semesters in Russia and interned with a democracy monitoring agency in Poland. As recipient of the prestigious Boren Award for study abroad, Allison has obtained a position with the Department of Homeland Security, where she will work with Russian-speaking refugees.

Devin Mandell’15, anthropology

Devin’s studies have been driven by an interest in race, gender, and class. Two semesters abroad in Nepal and Turkey, she says, sharpened her interest in inequalities in the US. She will be an AmeriCorps Fellow next year, working with at-risk youth in Minneapolis.

Osha Waterdu’15, education

Osha is passionate about education for health, sustainability, development and literacy. She interned with a development NGO in Ecuador’s Amazon basin, and will volunteer with a forest conservation group in Guatemala in 2015.

Namaonga Mantina’15, health & society

Namaonga is an international student from Zambia and recipient of the four-year Weissberg Scholarship. She excelled as a campus leader and student. She is spending the summer of 2015 exploring the healthcare system in Zambia.

New this year

Flexible funding. This year, Fellowship and Summer Grant budget lines were combined to allow fluctuations in applications. Fellowship awards totaled $19,406, and the average award was $3,881.

Application process. Starting in 2016, students will be allowed to self-nominate for the Weissberg Fellowship. This change is meant to ensure that all qualified applicants are brought to the attention of the selection committee.
Summer Project Grants

$8,900 was approved to support summer internships for seven students, most of whom received additional funding from other sources internal to Beloit College through the Common Grant Application process.

Guadalupe Angeles’16, Internship with Casa Hogar, Ayahuasca, Peru
Maria Bagnoli’17, Internship with Community Action, Inc., Beloit, WI
Selene Castrucci’17, Internship with Unite for Sight, Chennai, India
Hannah Devereux’17, Internship with US State Department, Kiev, Ukraine
Madeleine Hallberg’16, Internship with International Institute of MN, St. Paul, MN
Sabrina Sanchez’17, Medical Volunteer, Xela, Guatemala
Yuri Wada’18, Educational Support Internship, Sale, Morocco

Osha Waterdu’15 (top, third from left) during her summer project in 2014. Osha worked with the development NGO Pachaysana, learning about community empowerment in development processes.
Curriculum Development Grants to Faculty

Two grants were awarded to faculty members in anthropology and education to support curricular innovations around human rights.

**Prof. William New, education and youth studies**

*Scientific Racism, Anti-Gypsyism, and the Roma Holocaust.* Prof. New and student Kristin McNeill’16, will travel to Holocaust Remembrance Day at Auschwitz, Poland, in summer of 2015. This visit will be part of the development of a summer course to be offered in 2016 titled Civil Rights in Uncivil Societies.

**Prof. Jennifer Esperanza, anthropology**

*Engaging Beloit College Alumni in the Study of Migrants in Anthropology Courses.* Prof. Esperanza visited recent alumni in Washington, DC, and New York City who are working in various capacities with immigrant communities. The visits to the workplaces and engagement with the alumni will enrich her teaching of immigration issues in her Ethnographic Methods and Senior Capstone courses.

Pictured at right, Nikki Tourigny’10 at the Hot Bread Kitchen, which trains undocumented immigrants in baking skills. Below, from left, Jessica Slattery’12, Mark Frekker’12, Prof. Esperanza, and Nikki Tourigny’10.