

The Ellacuría Initiative

Education for Justice

The Ellacuría Initiative

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2017-2019 Biennial Theme: Health



Co-President of Pax Christi International



Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice

We hope and pray that your spring semester has gotten off to a terrific start. During the fall semester, we were privileged to work with so many of you to deliver quality educational opportunities for our students, staff and faculty. From campus speakers to films, from learning about our Scranton community to learning about the work of the Jesuit network, we are awed by all the good in the world. Thank you for making the fall semester so successful.

At the same time, we are not blind to the

ways in which we as a society continue to struggle with protecting the most vulnerable among us. If you are interested in designing your own programs to explore how people of faith are called to engage with the most controversial political issues of our day, especially those related to health, we would be happy to support you. Contact me or any member of the Advisory Board.

Mike Allison
Coordinator

Ways to get involved:

- ◆ Encourage your students to attend Ellacuría Initiative-sponsored events.
- ◆ Incorporate our biennial theme of “Health” into your academic courses. Do you have your students write essays, create videos or posters, draw, paint, or take photos? Why not use “Health” as the focus of their creative pursuits?
- ◆ We have financial resources available to sponsor spring events, especially those closely related to our biennial theme. Contact us for more information.

University of Scranton to host JUHAN 2019

The University of Scranton will host the next Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) Student Leadership Conference in June 2019. JUHAN was established to increase the effectiveness of efforts by Jesuit universities to respond to humanitarian crises in the United States and throughout the world.

The principal focus of JUHAN is undergraduate education that seeks to advance humanitarian study and

professional practice in the field of humanitarian action. The 2019 Conference will be the sixth conference designed to address humanitarian concerns. The 2019 conference’s theme is “Health and Humanitarianism.”

Contact Mike Allison or Cathy Lovecchio for more information and stay tuned for further updates. The conference presents opportunities for student, staff, and faculty participation.

Spring 2018 Events

February 13: "But You're Black: The Overlooked Community of Scranton, Pennsylvania" with Glynis Johns. Co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Political Science.

February 15: "Staying in the Struggle: Examining Social Justice Movements in America" with Dr. Cona Marshall. Co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Political Science.

February 21: Book discussion by poet Martha Serpas. Co-sponsored by The Department of English and Theatre with support from the Jesuit Center, and the Department of Theology. Wednesday

at 5:00pm in the Kane Forum (ELH 235).

March 8: "How will Scranton be the Healthiest Place in the Country?" State of Scranton Seminar led by Brian Ebersole, Senior Director of Springboard Health, Geisinger. Thursday, March 8 at 11:30am in the Rose Room.

March/April: Co-sponsor of "Bursting our Political Bubbles: A Dialogue Across Differences." 6-8pm on:

- Monday, March 29 in the Loyola Science Center 133.
- Monday, April 9 in the Kane Forum, Leahy Hall.

March 27: Presentation on criminal justice reform by Matt Cuff, senior policy advisor of the Office of Justice and Ecology of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. Wednesday at 7pm in LSC 133.

April 5: 23rd Annual Healthcare Symposium on "Population Health Management: Justice, Access, and Financial Implications." Thursday from 5:00-8:00pm in The DeNaples Center Ballroom.

April 26: Teach-in on Catholic Social Teaching and NEPA in LSC 133.

State of Scranton Seminar Series

The State of Scranton Seminar Series went "On The Road" in November for an experiential tour of several key Scranton service agencies to learn about their work firsthand. Co-sponsored by the Ellacuria Initiative, Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice, and the Office of Community and Government Relations, this unique bus tour provided participants with an opportunity to visit and interact with key neighborhood organizations to

better understand the needs of the community.

In spring 2018, we are supporting a March 8 talk by Brian Ebersole, Senior Director of Springboard Health, Geisinger, on "How will Scranton be the Healthiest Place in the Country?"

Contact Jessica Durkin (Jessica.durkin@scranton.edu) for more information.



Monsignor Joseph Kelly

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Li Adorno (St. Peter's University student), Dr. Jennifer Ayala (Director of the Center for Undocumented Students at St. Peter's) and Nick Napolitano (Assistant for Social Ministries Maryland and USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus) shared their insights on immigration and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program at the University of Scranton in March.

DACA is a program established by President Barack Obama in 2012 to provide legal status for hundreds of thousands of young people to live and

work in the US. Previously they did not have legal status because they had been brought to the US as youth without authorization by their parents.

Li is a DACA recipient. Several months after speaking here, Li was arrested for protesting President Donald Trump's decision to terminate the DACA program in March 2018. Li called on members of congress to provide a legal fix for DACA. Please continue to support a legislative fix for DACA by visiting the [Advocacy Corner](#).



Table sit in support of DACA

Fall 2017 Semester Recap

September 25: Pax Christi International Co-President Marie Dennis delivered a lunchtime lecture on Catholic nonviolence and met with faculty and staff in the afternoon. Co-sponsored by Campus Ministries' Center for Service & Social Justice.

October 2: Film and discussion on the first US-born martyr. Oklahoman Fr. Stanley Rother was murdered in Guatemala in 1982. Co-sponsored by Campus Ministries' Center for Service & Social Justice and Latin American Studies.

October 18-19: In campaign with AJCU's Protect Dreamers Higher Education Week, table sits were held during lunchtime to educate and urge students to sign up for action alerts in support of DACA.

October 19-21: In support of our biennial theme, we supported student attendance at the 13th annual International Street Medicine Symposium in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

October 26: Screening of *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* (2017) followed by live webcast question and answer session with former vice president Al Gore in a continued effort to raise public awareness of the dangers of climate change and call for continued immediate action to reduce its destructive effects.

November 3-4: Students and faculty attended the annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. to join together in the context of social justice and solidarity through keynote speakers, break-out sessions, and advocacy on Capitol Hill.

November 7: State of Scranton series "On the Road" engaged participants in a tour around the city to St. Francis Commons, United Neighborhood Centers, and Valley View Housing Development to further explore key issues from community leaders.

November 16: Screening of *Food Evolution*, a film that attempts to separate hype from the science in terms of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to unravel the highly polarized debate around food.

November 16: Film screening and discussion of *Question of Conscience*, a documentary honoring the lives of six Jesuit priests and two female companions from the University of Central America in San Salvador martyred in 1989.

November 16: Elijah Anderson, William K. Lamman Jr. Professor of Sociology and Professor of African American Studies at Yale University presented on "White Space & The Iconic Ghetto."

April 26 Teach-in on Catholic Social Teaching and NEPA

Northeastern Pennsylvania presents a number of emerging and longstanding areas of concern, including high levels of poverty and inequality, substance abuse epidemics, lack of resources for healthcare and mental illness, and increasingly diverse immigration and refugee populations.

These issues present opportunities for our institutional resources to be applied in a matter which allows for further acquired insight and investigation into regional concerns to produce educated and culturally sensitive students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Consistent with the values of traditional Catholic social teaching and the AJCU, the University will come together again this semester for a Spring teach-in on "Catholic Social Teaching and Northeast Pennsylvania."

Session 1 (8:30 – 9:45 AM)

Will Cohen, Theology and Religious Studies

Session 2 (10:00 – 11:15 AM)

Jean Harris, Political Science

Session 3 (11:30 – 12:45 PM)

Patrick Clark, Theology and Religious Studies

Cathy Seymour, Center for Service and Social Justice

Session 4 (1:00 – 2:15 PM)

Matthew Meyer, Philosophy

Session 5 (2:30 – 3:45 PM)

Teresa Grettano, English and Theatre

Fr. Rick Malloy, University Chaplain

Advisory Board

Mike Allison (Coordinator) - Political Science

Will Cohen - Theology / Religious Studies

David Dzurec - History

Ann Feeney - Nursing

Anthony Ferzola - Math

Teresa Grettano - English & Theatre

Ashley Hill—Graduate Assistant

Tata Mbugua - Education

Cathy Seymour - Campus Ministries' Center for
Service & Social Justice

Jessica Nolan - Psychology

Katherine Stumpo - Chemistry

Current theme:

Health (2017-2019)

Previous annual themes:

Literacy (2015-2017)

Torture (2014)

Sustainable Memory (2013)

Inequality (2012)

Finding Justice after 9/11 (2011)

Peace and Reconciliation (2010)

Food (2009)

Immigration (2008)

Announcements:

Faculty who teach a course that fulfills the program outcomes of Peace and Justice Studies are invited to apply to have their courses listed for the concentration. For more information, contact Dr. Will Cohen (will.cohen@scranton.edu).

If you would like to participate in our spring teach-in related to Catholic Social Teaching and NEPA, please contact us. We would be happy to flesh out some ideas or find a partner for you to work with. Contact Dr. Mike Allison (michael.allison@scranton.edu).



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Facebook www.facebook.com/ScrantonEducationforJustice and
www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/education-justice/



Our Story



A delegation of University of Scranton administrators, faculty and professional staff attended the Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education conference at Santa Clara University in 2000. At that conference, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach challenged all Jesuit colleges and universities in the US to be characterized more and more by “the service of faith and the promotion of justice...in who our students become, in what our faculty does, and how our universities proceed.”

This meeting spawned a number of gatherings at the University, leading to the creation of a Task Force on

Education for Justice to examine, publicize and promote campus initiatives; to research and propose new ones; and to propose a permanent structure to guarantee that such initiatives would continue to be effective. The Task Force issued its report and made its recommendations at the end of the 2004/05 academic year, and a Coordinator of Education for Justice was named in fall 2007. In 2016, Education for Justice moved under The Jesuit Center and in 2017 it was renamed The Ellacuría Initiative.