

# The Ellacuría Initiative

Education for Justice

The Ellacuría Initiative

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## 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 limited financial resources available to sponsor fall and spring events, especially those closely related to our biennial theme. Contact us for more information.

## Education for Justice is now The Ellacuría Initiative



Dr. Yamile Silva on Colombia's peace process

After a decade under the Provost's Office, Education for Justice moved to the Jesuit Center in 2016. We did so because of our shared commitment to working with faculty and staff to promote justice-related initiatives on campus. Now, in 2017, Education for Justice has been renamed The Ellacuría Initiative.

Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J., was rector of the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) in El Salvador. Fr. Ellacuría was a tireless advocate for justice in the midst of a brutal twelve-year civil war in his adopted country. He transformed the UCA into a

model of Jesuit education praised throughout the world. He argued that the university's purpose was "that of contributing to social change in the country. It does this in a university manner and with a Christian inspiration." Fr. Ellacuría, five fellow Jesuits, and a woman and her daughter were brutally murdered by a U.S.-trained Salvadoran military battalion on November 16, 1989.

The work we do will not change. We will continue to work in three areas: our biennial theme (see below); issues of importance to Northeastern Pennsylvania (such as the Living Wage Report); and other justice-related programming that emerges because of opportunity or unfolding circumstances.

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, we would be happy to support you. Contact me or any member of the Advisory Board.

Mike Allison  
Coordinator

## 2017-2019 Biennial Theme: Health

We are proud to announce our next biennial theme: Health. The issue was selected after having been proposed by Peter C. Olden (PhD, MHA, Professor) of the Health Administration and Human Resources Department.

Health matters to everyone throughout their lives and throughout the world. Health is foundational to many other aspects of people's lives because it greatly affects how

people live, work, play, rest, socialize, eat, travel, and exist. When health suffers, so do many other aspects of living. Thus, health is important to everyone.

According to the WHO's frequently cited definition (1946), health is "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Some writers also include emotional health and spiritual

## Fall 2017 Events

**September 25th:** Co-President of Pax Christi International Marie Dennis will deliver a lunchtime lecture on Catholic nonviolence. Co-sponsored by Campus Ministries' Center for Service & Social Justice. 12pm in TDC 405.

**October 2nd:** Film and discussion of the life and death of 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. 7pm in Brennan 228.

**November 16th:** Elijah Anderson, William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology and Professor of African American Studies at Yale University, will present "White Space & The Iconic Ghetto" from 4-5:15 PM in the Brennan 228.

**November 16th:** Film and discussion of the lives of six Jesuit priests and two female companions from the University of Central America in San Salvador martyred on this date in 1989. 7pm in Brennan 228.



Natalia Serna  
March 2017

## State of Scranton Seminar Series

In collaboration with Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice and the Office of Community and Government Relations, we co-sponsored two State of Scranton Series seminars led by University of Scranton alumni in spring 2017.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne discussed challenges and opportunities provided by the state's demographic profile at a March 2nd luncheon. State Senator

John Blake (D-Archbald) then shared his thoughts on Scranton's economic revitalization on April 27.

In fall 2017, we are supporting a special "State of Scranton Seminar – On The Road" that will involve visits to local community agencies to hear and experience their work firsthand.

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



Senator John Blake

## Health (continued from page 1)

health. Health differs widely among populations, subpopulations, communities, and groups. Differences in health are due to four general factors, people's 1) environments, 2) lifestyles, 3) genetics, and 4) health care. Environment is sometimes divided into physical environment (e.g., land, buildings, air) and social environment (e.g., peer groups, employment rates, schools); then there are five general factors that create differences in health. Injustice among these 4-5 factors creates unjust

differences in health among populations, communities, and groups. Consider how groups who face unjust environments to live in, unjust influences on lifestyles, and unjust barriers to health care are likely to unjustly have worse health than other groups.

How can the pursuit of justice in society lead to more justice in health? What can be done to promote justice with respect to environments, lifestyles, genetics, and health care services in order to achieve health justice for all groups and

populations? Educational methods could include seminars, workshops, service projects, guest lectures, blogs and columns, scholarship, readings, class discussions, assignments, and case studies. Justice for health fits with the University's mission and values, and explaining them can further educate others about how justice can support health.

By involving multiple stakeholders and methods, Education for Justice seeks to help educate the University's stakeholders about the theme of justice for health.

## Recap of the Spring 2016 Semester

**February 23rd:** In response to some of the hatred espoused during the 2016 presidential campaign, Dr. Jamie Trnka (World Languages and Cultures and Department of Latin American and Women's Studies) facilitated a discussion on "Recognizing and Responding to Antisemitism." Participants explored the origins of antisemitism, examined common antisemitic attitudes, and discussed historical and contemporary examples of antisemitic stereotyping.

**March 7th:** Li Adorno (DACA recipient), Dr. Jennifer Ayala (Director of the Center for Undocumented Students at St. Peter's University) 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 program.

**March 27th:** Natalia Serna (La Muna) presented her musical album, *Corazon Norte*. La Muna is a Colombian-American musician and sociologist who moved to the US-Mexico border city of Nogales as a volunteer at the Kino Border Initiative (KBI) Soup Kitchen. Her record, *Corazón Norte*, offered the audience a richer understanding of migration by exploring the individual stories that embody its complexity, its horrors, and the depth of its humanity. We also screened "El Deportado," a film which explores the dehumanizing effects of the immigration process and the response of the KBI to restore dignity and hope.

**April 10th:** We co-hosted a presentation and conversation on the opioid epidemic in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Teri Ooms, the Director of the Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, delivered the findings and recommendations from her office's "An Examination of Opioid Drug Challenges and Resources in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties." University of Scranton faculty and community leaders then commented on the report and shared their perspectives and insights on how we as a community might be better able to address the challenges of drug addiction.

**April 20th:** Over 200 faculty, staff, and students attended our daylong teach-in on Literacy. E. Springs Steele (Theology Department) started the day off with a discussion on "What is Religious Literacy and Why Is It Important?" Mark R. Murphy (Director of Sustainability) discussed several initiatives that have made the campus more environmentally friendly in "Learning About Campus Sustainability." Jessica Nolan (Psychology Department and Environmental Studies) challenged students' knowledge of "Environmental Literacy: The importance of getting to know Mother Earth." Darlene Miller-Lanning (Hope Horn Gallery) and Cyrus Olsen (Theology Department) organized a collaborative student art exhibition on the "Feminist art of Judy Chicago." Finally, Patricia Harrington (Nursing Department, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs) and Michael Sulzinski (Biology) explained the importance of health literacy with "HIV/AIDS in the World ~ What We all Need to Know."

## Living Wage Report Snapshots

We are thankful for the continued participation of students, staff, and faculty in our Living Wage initiative. During the spring semester, we shared reflections from three University of Scranton students (Class of 2017) who had completed assignments related to our project in Psychology of Diversity (PSYC 364), taught by Dr. Jessica Nolan, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology.

- [The Poor are Uneducated?](#) by Shelby Karboski
- [The Poor are Depressed Alcoholics?](#) by Christie Civil
- [The Poor are Lazy?](#) by Melissa Lopez

In a Scranton Times-Tribune op-ed entitled "[Kernels of truth yield bushels of stereotypes](#)," Dr. Nolan argues that "The Living Wage Report challenges our stereotype of 'the poor' and

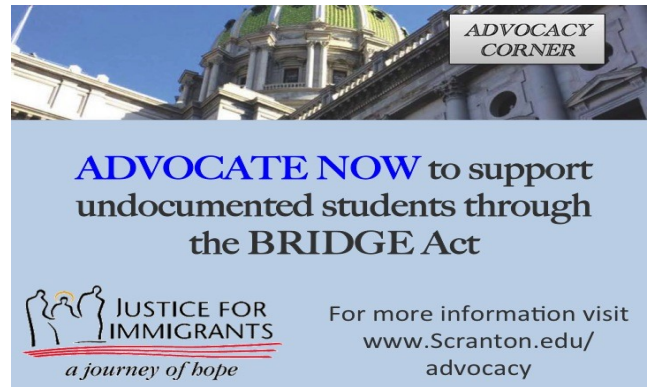
forces us to consider how we can work together to address the gap between the minimum wage and a living wage. "

Dr. Meghan Ashlin Rich, Associate Professor in the Sociology, Criminal Justice And Criminology Department, published "[Living wage critical to city's revitalization](#)." Dr. Rich reflects that "As we revitalize our urban cores, in part to the tastes of the so-called 'creative class,' we must also be mindful of how low wages will keep some citizens from being able to afford all the new amenities." Finally, Dr. Will Cohen, Associate Professor of Theology / Religious Studies reflected on the "[Living wage as matter of basic human dignity](#)."

## Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN)



University of Scranton at JUHAN Holy Cross



The University of Scranton celebrated its first year of being part of the Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN). Our mission was to make people aware of JUHAN's presence on Scranton's campus and to educate students on the importance of humanitarian responses. One of the main goals of the spring 2017 semester was to promote JUHAN as a club and to recruit members to continue our message in the upcoming year. To accomplish these objectives, we often collaborated with various clubs and organizations, such as Education for Justice and Campus Ministries, in which our fellow attended monthly meetings with these organizations and often assisted in planning and promoting events.

Through this partnership, Scranton's JUHAN chapter was able to assist in a variety of events that would promote JUHAN and its message. On April 15, JUHAN supported a Teach-In on Scranton's campus in which students, faculty and community members attended workshops that covered a variety of topics, such as religious literacy, sustainability, environmental literacy, feminism and more. JUHAN was present at these workshops and handed out flyers informing students about the organization and encouraged people to support the BRIDGE ACT.

We also had the privilege of hosting Natalia Serna, a Colombian-American musician and sociologist who moved to the US-Mexico border city of Nogales as a volunteer at the Kino Border Initiative Soup Kitchen. Serna played numerous songs that she wrote, which tell the stories of the migrants that she met and honor their journeys. During this event, we also screened "El Deportado," a film which explores the dehumanizing effects of the immigration process and the response of the KBI to restore dignity and hope.

We also participated in a workshop on Human Trafficking organized by Catholic Relief Services Student Ambassadors club and Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice.

Scranton students and faculty members had the pleasure of attending the JUHAN Student Leadership Conference at the College of the Holy Cross. This was an amazing event to interact with other JUHAN members and learn how others are continuing JUHAN's mission.

Jessica Wenke  
JUHAN Fellow  
Class of 2017

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:michael.allison@scranton.edu)).



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## 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.