



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

202 Brownson Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 10
Notre Dame, IN



SPRING 2018

SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Paulette G. Curtis
Faculty Director of the AnBryce
Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Patrick Clauss

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Karla Burgos Morón '19
Raphael Banuelos '21
Odalis Gonzalez '21
Leesa Greenwood '20

IRELAND

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPRING 2018

SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Paulette G. Curtis
Faculty Director of the AnBryce
Scholars Initiative at Notre Dame

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Patrick Clauss

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Karla Burgos Morón '19
Raphael Banuelos '21
Odalis Gonzalez '21
Leesa Greenwood '20

IRELAND

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

Global Immersion Program in Dublin and
Connemara, Ireland and Washington, D.C.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



GLOBAL IMMERSION PROGRAM:

The AnBryce Scholars Initiative at the University of Notre Dame

DR. PAULETTE G. CURTIS, Faculty Director

Greetings to everyone from South Bend, Indiana, which like much of the rest of the country, refuses to fully throw off the shackles of winter. As I write this, my office is knee-deep, waist-high, or however the expression best goes, in selecting students for our next cohort of AnBryce Scholars at Notre Dame. In the midst of that work, I am constantly reminded about the importance of what we do. Our candidates are lovely, driven young people who seek a community of like-minded - and like-experienced, if I might create a term for my own selfish purposes - with whom they can share the college journey. They come from a variety of places and backgrounds, and yet like our present students, share a drive to succeed that has been forged from the most difficult of circumstances. Their resilience and determination is inspiring, and we feel lucky to be engaged in this important work. The “we” here is our wonderful selection committee, which includes Mrs. Beatrice Welters, Mr. Bryant Welters, Mr. Andrew Welters, Ms. Rachelle Barrs, VP and Associate Provost Hugh Page, Professor Philippe Collon, Professor Stuart Greene, Professor Maria McKenna, Professor Dianne Pinderhughes, Ms. Mary Nucciarone, Mr. Bob Mundy, Mr. LeShane Saddler, Ms. Amanda Hammond and myself. “We” make an awesome team, and I could not be prouder of the work we do together.

In a somewhat inelegant transition to the next topic, let me offer one point of connection to the preceding paragraph. In our selection interviews, candidates often ask us about our one-week Global

Immersion experience, essentially “What is it?” This is a good question, and one with multiple answers. From our perspective, the Global Immersion program is an opportunity for us to offer the world to our students, very few of whom have traveled far from their homes or places of birth; this year, our travels took us to the Fair Isle and to our Nation’s Capital, where we interrogated a set of interesting questions involving colonialism, slavery, power and authority. Our students certainly reflect thoughtfully on these issues, as you will no doubt observe in their written statements here, but they also comment upon the esoteric and the unexpected. For a student from an urban center, Ireland’s green was really green. For another, D.C.’s multiculturalism gave her a kind of freedom to speak her native language consistently and without apology.

There were, of course, many other things drawn from our time together in these places, small and even silly things that helped define our travel as something special. If you have the good fortune to run into any of our students who went to DC, say “Segway,” “stately” or “holes in bread” and see what happens. I would love to say more, but will be disciplined enough to not give away the punchline. I will end by offering a profound thanks to our partners in these ventures, particularly Rosie McDowell, Patrick Clauss, our new friends at the Ireland Centers in Dublin and Kylemore, and our AnBryce Foundation partners. A special “shout out” goes to Rachelle Barrs, Director of Programs at the AnBryce Foundation,

who treated our group to a tour of the Welters’ farm and camp in Virginia.

In other news, and per the usual, we have featured several of our wonderful students, and we have also shined a light on one of our beloved affiliates, Dr. Patrick Clauss, who teaches the Writing and Rhetoric course that first years take in preparation for their experiences abroad and in DC. A committed advocate of what we do, Patrick is a well-respected teacher who brings out the best in our students.

I believe that is nearly all the room I have. I could say a lot more; if you have not picked up the fact that I am verbose, I will say it again (and again, and perhaps a third time, too). So, I will say one last thing, and it is that when we next speak to you, we will have graduated our second cohort of AnBryce Scholars. What a privilege, what an honor, what a testament to the collective venture that is the AnBryce program at Notre Dame.

Til we speak next time,
Paulette



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: DR. PATRICK CLAUSS



Dr. Patrick Clauss with students in Connemara, Ireland. From left: Raphael Banuelos, Christina Dulal, Dr. Patrick Clauss, Tia Wilson, Teayanna Leytham, Shamar Cousin

FOUR QUESTIONS WITH DR. CLAUSS

WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO ANBRYCE?

For the past three years, I have had the pleasure of teaching the First Year Writing and Rhetoric class embedded in AnBryce’s Global Immersion Program. Not only do I incorporate academic writing principles, I also frame our lessons around sites, experiences and people from the cities we visit (Washington, D.C.; London, England and Dublin, Ireland).

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT?

Without a doubt, the most rewarding aspect is getting to know the students inside and outside of the classroom. I feel privileged to accompany them overseas—most for the first time. This vulnerability and self-awareness leads to amazing nightly discussions and a real breakthrough in their writing and confidence. My favorite exercise is to have them find one thing that really makes them feel like they are in a different place and write about it. They never disappoint.

WHAT'S MOST SURPRISING ABOUT WORKING

WITH THE STUDENTS?

How busy they all are! They are not content to go to class, study a bit, and then sit around playing video games or chatting with friends. The students are involved in an impressive number of extra-curricular activities, including social and academic clubs, internships, and part-time jobs. When I think back to my undergraduate years and compare myself to the AnBryce students, I feel like a real slacker.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES?

When the students and I traveled to London, we visited Speakers’ Corner in Hyde Park. Each Sunday afternoon, amateur speakers orate and engage in debate with interested passers-by. Because my teaching and research interests involve argumentation and persuasion, I was eager to expose the students to this unique opportunity. Thus, my favorite memory involves watching the AnBryce Scholars not only listen carefully to the speakers but also interact with them respectfully and ethically. The students asked insightful questions and offered smart counterarguments, too. I beamed with pride as I watched my students practice what I teach.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Karla Burgos Morón '19



When Karla Burgos Morón '19 left Michigan to come to Notre Dame, she was intrigued by the professional development opportunities AnBryce offered. "I was drawn to that aspect because I had no idea of what networking should be like or how to navigate the college or post-college worlds." She has taken advantage of AnBryce's connections in Washington, D.C. "I was in D.C. for a semester last fall, but it was not the same as when I went [with the Global Immersion trip this Spring]. You really get to know the other scholars and we were able to do things that I wouldn't have been able to do by myself like going on segways, which I highly recommend, or visit the chambers of Justice Clarence Thomas."

Karla will return to D.C. this summer and jokes "D.C. is my second home because I spend more time there than Michigan." She will intern at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migrant and Refugee Services focusing on anti-trafficking. "Sometimes service is simply acknowledging the humanity of a person. One of the women I met [last summer] told me that service is giving honor to people and I think about that a lot because sometimes it feels like there's not enough you can do."

Karla was also just named a Lou Holtz Leadership Scholar. "It was a shock and an honor to find out I won because although I know I am involved in a lot of things, it sometimes doesn't feel like enough compared to other Notre Dame students. However, I feel like my involvement on campus can have meaningful impacts for current and future Notre Dame students."



Odalis Gonzalez '21



Yes, Odalis Gonzalez '21 has opinions on potatoes. She frequently gets asked about them as one of the campus's handful of students from Idaho. Not being from a "feeder" state or city has its advantages when you meet someone else from Idaho and you both are genuinely excited to see each other. Such was the case at AnBryce's biennial forum this past fall, when she met Eric Love, Director of Staff Diversity and Inclusion. "I don't ever meet anyone here who knows Idaho, much less is from there. We hugged and immediately started talking about all of the places we knew."

Odalis first thought AnBryce was a simple advising program, but quickly realized there was much more to offer. "It's a family you can count on to help you with anything—whether academic, professional, or personal. AnBryce is here if you need a place to study, need to talk to someone about class problems, under a lot of stress, or even if you just want a place to have a nice conversation over coffee and snacks".

Her parents instilled a strong work ethic and a gratitude for opportunities, so she continually seeks out ways to make them proud and continue to give back. "Never stop fighting. Yes, sometimes life is on your side and presents you with amazing opportunities like AnBryce, but if you don't fight for it, then others who are willing to work for it will get it. No matter how your experience is going, never stop pushing yourself, never settle." She has challenged herself to learn as much as she can about life. "I want to learn about other religions, other cultures and customs. I want to learn what it means to believe, I want to learn what it means to be a citizen of the world. I want to learn so I can be a better person."



Raphael "Rafa" Banuelos '21

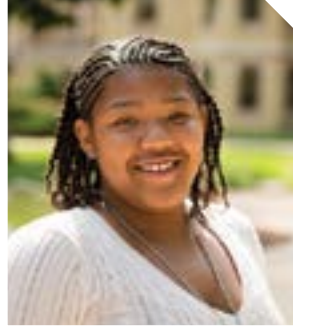


Raphael Banuelos '21 admits his first emails with Program Manager, Amanda Hammond, made him really nervous. Very close to his family in Arizona, he was not sure what his experience with Notre Dame and AnBryce would include. He quickly saw one of the biggest benefits of AnBryce. "In my first two days on campus, I formed strong friendships with the other scholars. Family plays a huge role in my life, and being thousands of miles away from my family, it is comforting to know that I have my AnBryce fam there for me. Monthly meetings, where I get to see all the scholars together in one place just doing our thing, always excites me."

Rafa is an intended mechanical engineering major who will be back in Arizona over the summer doing an internship with the Salt River Project Generating Station. "I am driven by my goal of taking a proactive approach to helping our environment." When he returns he hopes to integrate his new skills into undergraduate sustainability research. He also hopes to include study abroad in his future. "Getting muddy in Ireland, trekking beautiful mountains with greenery one rarely sees in Arizona, gave me a strong connection to the land and at some points I felt Irish. I learned that though places may be completely different, we are all connected much more than we think."

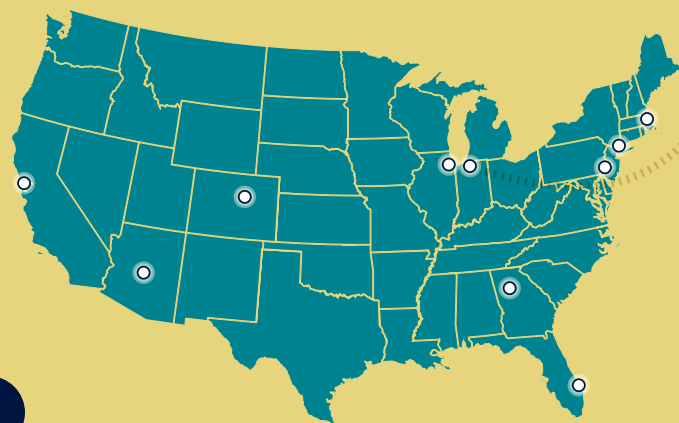


Leesa Greenwood '20



Chicago native, Lisa Greenwood '20 wasn't sure, initially, why there were just 9 scholars in her cohort. "I thought it was really weird this scholars program found me and only 8 others." However, meeting scholars from the older cohorts showed her "they keep the numbers small so we can be a close-knit family. The older cohorts really wanted to be helpful and they seemed like concerned older siblings." Leesa and her close-knit cohort traveled to London last year as part of their Global Immersion Experience. "I loved riding the 'chube' with my cohort. We had some of our best moments riding underground." Joking aside, she shares, "Going to London wasn't even a dream come true because I never dreamt of having the funds to travel that far."

Following a Civil Engineering track has been "challenging". "I have found myself staying up later, waking up earlier, and spending a bunch of flex points on late night snacks and drinks. My classes push me to find information beyond the book which is something that I have never had to do. In all of my classes, my professors do not just give us information, they give us hints and wait for us to chime in, which helps me learn more efficiently. Growing through my classes has made me become a better leader and role model." This summer Leesa will intern with Barton Malow Construction. "New things can be scary, but sometimes you have to put yourself out there."



ON THE MOVE

Each year, our students spread across the country—and abroad—researching, interning, and studying. This summer, our students will broaden their horizons throughout the United State in Washington D.C., New York City, San Francisco, Boston, Pittsburgh, South Bend, Denver, Atlanta, Palm Beach, Chicago, Phoenix. We also have students traveling abroad to Japan, Jerusalem, Rome, London.



IRELAND



After taking four cohorts to London, we decided to try something new—an approach we often encourage with our students—and headed overseas to Ireland! There was a lot of planning involved for this brand new location for AnBryce and we are so grateful to our partners in Writing and Rhetoric, the Center for Social Concerns and Notre Dame International—Dublin and Kylemore!

We spent the first half of our stay in Ireland at Kylemore. We were in awe of the beautiful landscape. Kylemore felt so foreign to many of us yet so much like home. Lisa Caulfield, Director of the Notre Dame Global Gateway at Kylemore Abbey, emanated this homey feeling through her excitement for our visit, her hospitality and outstanding planning for our activities.

We spent our first day getting to know the Notre Dame Kylemore Global Gateway, toured the Gothic Church and Walled Gardens, and visited Sister Genevieve and her chocolate production facility. We ended our day with one of many outstanding meals prepared by Chef Derek, Bangers and Mash and Salmon Cakes. The following day we attended mass with the Benedictine nuns in Letterfrack, the nearest town to Kylemore. Later in the afternoon we met Archaeologist Michael Gibbons for a hiking history and archaeology lecture where we walked through history. Along the trek, students saw burial sites that are 5,700 years old and remnants of famine houses. On our last full day in Kylemore, we ate a full breakfast and departed for Killary Adventure Centre. Here, the students (and staff) participated in several challenges that involved brains, brawn and teamwork. We then visited the Connemara Smokehouse which is situated on the Atlantic Ocean. For many of us, this was our first visit to the Atlantic and even though the weather was cold (no more than 40 degrees) the students took off their shoes and ran into the water. We ended the evening in Clifden where we were able to explore the town and have a lovely dinner at the Clifden Boat Club.

Eimear Clowry, Assistant Director of the Notre Dame Dublin Gateway, welcomed us to the Dublin Gateway with a fast pace tour of Dublin. The students quickly learned that while Dublin is not a huge city, there is a tremendous number of things to do and see. We then joined the Notre Dame students who are currently abroad in Dublin for a lecture in Irish Music at the O'Connell House (Notre Dame's Gateway

Building). After our lecture we had an evening out at O'Neil's Pub where we were able to enjoy some live music. The following day we met with Kevin Whelan, Director of the Notre Dame Global Gateway, and learned about Irish colonial history and the connection between Frederick Douglass and Daniel O'Connell. I think I can speak for the entire group when I say that we could have spent the entire day with Professor Whelan—we learned more about Irish history in a two-hour period than many of us had in our lives! We ended our day at St. Enda's Primary School where we shared a little bit about ourselves, where we come from, and some photos from home. The following days we spent touring Dublin; Trinity College, Howth (just outside Dublin), the National Gallery, and the National Museum of Ireland—Archaeology Museum (inspired by our hike with Michael Gibbons). We even took ourselves out of our comfort zones and saw the silent film "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" at St. Patrick's Cathedral. To end our week as well as our time in Ireland we attended the Centre's Celtic Twilight Event with the entire Notre Dame Dublin community for dinner and performances. Again both Professor Whelan and Eimear made us feel at home, just like we had been a part of the group since the beginning of the spring term. Our scholars were even invited to perform themselves at Celtic Twilight, and prepared a skit about the relationship between Daniel O'Connell and Frederick Douglass. Finally, we spent our last day in Dublin over St. Patrick's Day where we saw a new (and busier) side to Dublin.

I hope you enjoyed hearing a little bit about our first trip to Ireland. We could not have done this without the help and support of our AnBryce Family and my partners in crime, Ms. Rosie McDowell and Dr. Patrick Clauss who helped us develop the curriculum and learning experiences for our scholars and our student's Writing and Rhetoric course as well as serve as chaperones. I would also like to thank all of the Notre Dame Staff at Kylemore and Dublin for welcoming us to Ireland and making this trip a truly amazing experience and for promoting travel to our students. Finally, a huge thank you to the Latham Family who supports the Global Immersion Experience for both the Ireland and Washington, D.C. trips.

—Amanda Hammond, Program Manager



SCHOLAR PERSPECTIVES: IRELAND, 2018

Coming from a big city, I am not well versed in the ways of nature. Hiking, swimming in creeks, and fishing are not activities I normally engaged in growing up. Apprehension consumed me as our group walked towards the base of the mountain and our guide, Michael Gibbons certainly did not help assuage my fears by constantly saying, "Follow me. Thousands wouldn't!" I soon realized I had no reason to fear. Gibbons expertly led us up the mountain and a second did not go by without him yelling, "Hands out of pockets!" or "Zig-Zag!" Instead of just pointing out various artifacts and landmarks, Gibbons would pick random people out of the group to illustrate the history. When the hike first started, Gibbons pulled me aside and told me to go stand in this random pile of rocks only to yell at me that I was standing in a 5,700 year old tomb! I never thought I would ever be able to physically touch an artifact that old let alone stand in it! Who knew a rising Black woman could feel so connected to a place like rural Ireland?

—Tia

The Global Immersion Program truly fostered my understanding of diversity and human relations both within my cohort and through observing the people around me in Ireland. I came to realize both the sheer number of people I have yet to meet and was reminded of the reason I strive to make the world a better place through obtaining an education. Overall, it reminded me that I am only one small piece of a big picture generation that will improve the world, beginning with my cohort an extending internationally.

—Christina

Upon returning to campus from Dublin, I leaned to Shamar and told him, "not much has changed at ND in the past week, but we return changed men." Nearly every part of the trip was a lesson opening me up to new perspectives. The part of the trip that struck me the most was volunteering at a diverse inner-city school in Dublin. I learned a lot from the 7th grade class we taught, where nearly every student was of a different nationality. We were also able to give them a taste of the America we know, and I am glad that our AnBryce cohort left a positive example of America on the kids. I didn't know Dublin before the trip, and in meeting Ireland I have met a new inspired side of myself.

—Rafa

My mountaintop moment came while literally hiking up a mountain in Kylemore. Hiking that mountain while receiving an archaeological and historical analysis of the landscape made me realize the true beauty of nature. I'm from Philadelphia, PA, where the grass is scarce and the buildings are plentiful; in fact, there is exactly one tree on my home's street. I'm not accustomed to seeing greenery, let alone mountain ranges, so I was in awe to say the least.

—Shamar

SCHOLAR PERSPECTIVES: WASHINGTON, D.C., 2018

Being in DC with my fellow AnBryce scholars in 2016 was a distinct privilege. As a sophomore in college, now exploring the world outside of New York City Streets, being in the heart of the United States was awe-inducing. Paying witness to the stronghold of the most powerful individual in the free world neighboring the turmoil of gentrification and economic hardship a few minutes away was a most informative experience.

Returning in 2018 has been characterized by nothing short of this sentiment, a most fulfilling and rewarding experience. The opportunity to engage with a different group of my peers was, of course, the most rewarding aspect. Together, we explored more contemporary complexities this nation faces. A large part of the trip was the ongoing discussion of the reconstruction of history, from UVA's research into its past and founding, to the shift in how we are considering the legacies of our founders. Our experiences allowed us to intimately grasp with the internal workings of the capitol, and how it captures what we came to understand as a pivotal turning point in American history.

—Salonee '18

Everybody knows about slavery, but what we are taught in schools only scratches the surface. I, and my other fellow D.C. companions, had the opportunity to tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture and I left knowing and understanding more about slavery in the nation that I otherwise would have learned. Our tour guide, Ms. Fayne, did an excellent job taking us through the museum. The stories she told us: slavery in Africa, the riots, the harsh treatment, Ashley's Bag, etc. made me squirm and I admit, there were tears. Tears because it's astonishing to believe people had to go through that and society just stood by and believed it was okay. These aren't just stories; it's real life and people had to go through it. It was really an eye-opening experience and it only further allowed me to reflect on my life now and the lives of African Americans in the United States, then and now.

—Isel

I never would have imagined I would be spending a spring break in Washington D.C. When I first saw the Capitol from the plane, it felt surreal. I was hoping to see people of various ethnicities and races, and hear a variety of language; and, since almost everyone that went on the D.C. trip spoke or understood Spanish, I found myself speaking my native tongue more often than I probably did in my whole time at Notre Dame. Because I was in a more diverse city, I felt free to dance with the language which my heart had been craving for a long time. It was as if I didn't feel a pressure to only speak English, anymore—a pressure I didn't even know was there until then. I felt safe to be myself.

—Odalis