

AN *Bryce*

SPRING 2019

SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Fred Giuffrida '73
and Pamela Joyner

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Erin Williams '19
Lester Polty, Jr. '20
Jordan Theriault '22
Rachel Dinh '22

SAN FRANCISCO

CALIFORNIA CONNECTIONS

Bay Area Entrepreneurship and Innovation trip
provides valuable networking opportunities.



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

DR. PAULETTE G. CURTIS, Faculty Director

Greetings from Columbus, Ohio. It is odd for me to say that, since just a little over a month ago, I was in South Bend, at the University of Notre Dame, and firmly ensconced in my office in Brownson Hall. Trust me, it took me a while to dislodge myself, having been anchored at Notre Dame for six productive, happy years as the Director of the AnBryce program. Saying goodbye to our students, to Amanda, my long-term collaborator in this venture from the beginning, to Sarah, our Outreach Coordinator, and to faculty and colleagues was very difficult, and I think often about the work we did together.

I could go on about what AnBryce meant to me, but I will only say the

following. I feel privileged to have held the job as inaugural Director, privileged to have played a role in the lives of our wonderful students, and blessed to have met and worked with so many of you. Our program is what it is because of all the ways in which care and love animated our relationships with one another. My deepest thanks to the administrators who graciously supported me in this role, including Don Pope-Davis and Hugh Page, and to the Welters, for the depth of their care and concern for our program's life and well-being.

I will take many of the lessons I learned about perseverance in the face of real odds into my new role at the Ohio State University, but always with the knowledge that



being AnBryce Director will remain one of the best jobs I will ever have. Thank you for letting me serve you and God Bless.

Paulette Curtis

CH-CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

Cue David Bowie because it's the season for change at AnBryce. As you just read, we have said "adieu" to our inaugural director, Dr. Paulette Curtis. We also said "arrivederci" to our 3rd cohort. And we will soon say "farewell" to our digs in Brownson Hall (and to Brownson Hall itself, when it makes way for the new Institute for Educational Initiatives). In the fall, you will find us in Hagggar Hall—we will be in 118—on North Quad. We will welcome our 7th cohort to our new space and cannot wait to introduce them to you! In the meantime, we started a Professional Mentorship Program and saw our pilot program take off—so many puns so little time (page 2). We returned to San Francisco for our Exploring Entrepreneurship trip (pages 5-6) and profile donors who brought the exhibition Solidary and Solidary to campus and hosted us in San Francisco (page 2). As always, we introduce you to four scholars who are challenging themselves to see the world differently (pages 3-4). In a new twist, donor Nylce Myers wrote the Scholar Profiles for us after conversations with our students. Join us in looking back and looking forward to another fabulous year of AnBryce Scholars Initiative happenings.

-Sarah Kubinski and Amanda Hammond

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

FRED GIUFFRIDA '73 AND PAMELA JOYNER

Two years ago, when we met Fred Giuffrida and Pamela Joyner at their home in San Francisco, we were first excited by their incredible art collection. Collectors of art from the African Diaspora, the two have amassed works that give the viewer many access points into art awareness and appreciation. At the end of the evening, we were thoroughly struck by their warmth and humor and their obvious commitment to the underserved and overlooked populations in art, as well as in our university community. Living on the west coast, their ties to our lady's university were limited before Jessica Rizzo '07, reached out to talk about scholarship opportunities. The two requests they had were for scholarships benefitting first-generation students and diverse students—Jessica could deliver both with the AnBryce Scholars Initiative—with the added bonus of a community of students who would thoroughly benefit from access to their art and to their experiences in law, marketing and advocacy (among other things).

After our first visit, we connected again when the exhibit Solidary and Solidary came to campus in the fall. All of our students partook of the opening weekend festivities and looked forward with great anticipation to our return to San Francisco and dinner with Giuffrida and Joyner. What struck the scholars most was how deeply Giuffrida and Joyner go into their collections—not just in works but into the stories of the artists themselves. They can tell you about the piece, its artist, the origins of that work and other similar works, where it has travelled and how it fits in with their whole collection. Their main desire with their collection is to get it out into the world and to support the art as fully as possible.

Giuffrida sees a parallel between the artists and our students—both often overlooked, less privileged and who overcome much. The two see a need to support younger artists, much as AnBryce begins supporting our students before they arrive on campus. Giuffrida notes, “You can't just make point interventions. It is important to sustain them over a longer period of time and provide a broader number of points of intervention.” Our students know they have a point of support in Giuffrida and Joyner at Notre Dame and beyond.

-Sarah Kubinski



PROFESSIONAL MENTOR PROGRAM

The Faculty Mentor piece has always been a part of AnBryce. Junior year students are matched with a Faculty Mentor to help navigate their major and plan for graduation. In the case of Luigi Ribera '19, who had plans to enter the world of commercial aviation, Dr. Curtis realized he needed more professional guidance than scholastic guidance. Lucky for the program, Curtis Rood, a University pilot, had an office next door to Dr. Curtis. Curt became a source of information, a font of wisdom and a sounding board for all things aviation. This was especially helpful as Luigi began filling out application for cadet pilot programs. We are happy to report that Luigi was accepted into American Airlines cadet pilot program and begins this summer. In the fall we will formalize a half dozen more professional mentor relationships for students planning on careers in Private Equity, Venture Capital, Medicine, Law and Engineering.

-Sarah Kubinski



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Seizing the Freedom to Grow into Herself

On the cusp of graduation, Erin Williams '19, looks back at her high school self, a girl eager to launch into a world bigger than she had known growing up in Columbus, GA, and laughs. "It's been a long four years. I didn't know anything at all then....I just saw ND as a sort of stepping stone that would unlock everything."

She'd thought she would study psychology, perhaps work at a non-profit, do something to make a difference and help others whose lives had not been easy. Nervous about succeeding, she now regrets spending too much time her first two years studying. "I was very reclusive and felt like I needed my own space."

But that reserve didn't stop her from exploring. She got involved with culturally relevant student groups and shifted her major toward sociology, thinking it resonated with her own experiences. She spent summers participating in scholarly research on poverty, advocating for people affected by domestic violence, and interning with Indiana Legal Services. It was studying in Greece for a semester, though, which freed her. "I got to be my own self, set my own expectations."

Back on campus, the young woman who had initially held back moved forward toward leadership, becoming President of the Black Cultural Arts Council and Executive Producer of Dome-ish, a web series which explores life at ND for students of color. Says Erin, "I like to do things that push people to think. I want diverse students to feel seen and empowered."

She will stay in South Bend next year to produce stories for the Grotto Network at the University of Notre Dame.

-Nylce Prada Myers



Erin Williams



Maximizing Opportunities

Need someone to analyze financial models? Construct an investment strategy? Corral rowdy youngsters into a cohesive team? Lead a group in prayer? Raise funds for charity? Increase productivity at your fast-food franchise? Rally your basketball team to a defining win? Serve as your personal stylist? Lester Polty, Jr. '20, can do all of those and more.

An IT management major, with a concentration in finance and financial accounting, as well as a minor in anthropology, Lester will spend the first part of his last undergraduate summer conducting research on the intersection of politics and sports in South Africa and the second half interning with KPMG in Dallas.

A humble Renaissance Man, Lester doesn't impose limits upon himself. Even when life has imposed roadblocks, Lester has found a way to rise above. Reflecting on his life growing up in Fort Worth, Lester says, "I was seven when my father was incarcerated, leaving my mother as the primary caretaker. Soon after, my family fell under hard times, and I knew that I had to make a difference. I had to be the difference."

He has committed himself to being a difference maker, not just in his own life and that of his family, but on campus as well. Recently elected treasurer for ND's Black Student Association, and reflecting on how he'll manage that commitment along with many other activities, Lester says, "I don't want to waste opportunities. I have to be proactive." He credits AnBryce for providing resources for him to dream big.

Eventually, he sees himself channeling his interests in private equity and venture capital into a finance career that gives back to his roots, maybe investing in Dallas real estate and giving opportunities to others.

-Nylce Prada Myers



Lester Polty, Jr.



Embracing Leadership and Service

Getting used to life at Notre Dame involves many challenges, some more difficult than others. Many freshmen complain about sharing minuscule dorm rooms, but not Jordan Theriault '22. The youngest of 10 siblings, all of them adopted from Guatemala by a single mom in Chicago, Jordan grew up sharing a room with 3 older brothers. By comparison, his double in Siegfried Hall felt spacious and maybe too quiet.

Gregarious by nature and used to his bustling family, Jordan resolved to meet as many of his fellow freshman as possible by getting involved in student government, an activity he hadn't explored as a busy scholar athlete in high school. He became his dorm's rep to freshman class council, was elected president, and will continue his leadership as Sophomore Class President. His goal is to shift class government's focus from the usual camaraderie and fundraising to widening student engagement with each other. "I want diversity students to get more involved and feel included."

Seeking inclusion seems instinctual to Jordan, who plans to major in English, perhaps doubling with economics, and minor in theology and education. He feels a passion for addressing the "root causes of educational and socioeconomic inequality" and can see himself working in public policy and education.

He'll get a head start on such work this summer, having earned a coveted internship in his birth country with an International Summer Service Project. It will be his first time back in Guatemala since leaving as an infant, and Jordan will work with Social Entrepreneur Corps in the Maya Highlands. The project's goals are to help people help themselves. "I want to serve the people who helped give me life... (and) empower them."

-Nylce Prada Myers



Jordan Theriault



Living as a Citizen of the World

Though she grew up in AZ, Rachel Dinh '22 has roots in Vietnam, where her mother had to abandon her own education after primary school to work in the rice fields. On childhood visits to family in Vietnam, Rachel admired those fields, "beautiful in the morning sun," and marveled at the rural markets, so different from most U.S. grocery stores. But she also resolved to take her education as far as possible, to make up for her mother's sacrifices, and someday make it possible for her mom to go back to school. "I've seen how hard my mom had to work. I know how important education is."

Rachel has thus dedicated her first year at Notre Dame to "embracing the challenges and trying to develop mature study habits." It's not easy to excel in organic chemistry and calculus while also staying abreast of other classes and leading a balanced life, but Rachel pushes herself because she aspires to study medicine. "I want to be a compassionate physician who can help the most vulnerable."

Spending spring break in Ireland with her first year cohort was a welcome reprieve from academic pressure. "Not only did we get to see amazing things, such as the rolling hills in Connemara and the bustling city of Dublin, but we were able to get to know each other in a way that our schedules hadn't permitted before."

Studying abroad isn't new to Rachel. She spent a summer in India under the auspices of the U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship Program. She also longs to spend a semester abroad in a Francophone country, practicing the French she loved studying in high school.

The whole world is her campus.

-Nylce Prada Myers



Rachel Dinh



CALIFORNIA CONNECTIONS

SARAH KUBINSKI, Outreach Coordinator

Spring Break 2019 meant a new cohort of freshmen headed to Ireland and an eclectic group of upperclassmen took off for San Francisco. This was the second visit to the Bay Area (the first was in 2017) and firmly cemented in AnBryce's programming the idea of a network-building trip as part of the 4 year AnBryce Scholars Initiative experience. Much like Global Immersion has shown our students that they can stretch and grow overseas, the San Francisco Entrepreneurship and Innovation trip shows students there is much outside of the traditional Notre Dame hubs of Chicago and New York.

As a quick refresher for those who have joined the program since our last trip, the idea for a Bay Area trip grew out of discussions between Stephen Smith and supporters the AnBryce Scholars Initiative. Stephen was hearing from contacts in California that they wished more Notre Dame students considered the Bay Area after college. He was also hearing that companies were looking for graduates who had diverse backgrounds and non-traditional views of the world. Stephen worked with Dr. Paulette Curtis on blending a trip with site visits and cultural excursions that gave a wider view of the Bay Area. We had a fabulous week in 2017, staying with the Little family, making connections at various companies and seeing a sneak peek of the exhibit Solidary and Solidary, which came to campus last fall. We made plans to return in two years and looked forward to introducing new students to the vibrancy and complexity of the Bay Area.

Fast forward to planning for this trip, we knew we wanted to be very purposeful in site visits and students going on the trip. The focus would still be Entrepreneurship, like before, but we added the element of Innovation. We picked companies and activities that we hoped would spark some recognition of self in our students; and, we borrowed a lesson from our freshmen's Writing and Rhetoric class and asked students to each research a different activity or person we would meet. This made the week all the more richer for the preparation. Another change from the past trip came in the form of the truly lovely Nycle Prada Myers, a long time supporter and donor of the program who joined Sarah Kubinski, our Outreach Coordinator, as chaperone for

10 students. To say we couldn't have done it without her is not an overstatement.

We once again stayed with hosts extraordinaire, Rob and Renee Little. Their residence in LaFayette was just the place to start our trip and build camaraderie among the students. Our first night, they hosted a great dinner with new and old friends of the program. Monday we were up bright and early for a trip to Apple to talk with Filemaker CEO and ND parent, Brad Freitag. Brad engaged in a wonderful discussion about best practices for preparing for the professional world and introduced the students to 3 Apple and Filemaker members who had similar backgrounds and interesting entries into the tech industry. Lesson: Never underestimate the power of a great LinkedIn profile! From there we headed to Palo Alto and the ND Center where Dierre Upshaw shared details of the Silicon Valley Spring Semester program before we went to Stanford to meet with fellow



FLI (First-gen, Low Income) students. This was another addition to this year's week and one we will continue, for sure. The Stanford scholars were so honest and welcoming (we expected nothing less knowing their program administrators from our First Generation Program Working Group). There was no rest for the weary, as we shuttled into San Francisco for a delicious dinner at Quince. Hosted by AnBryce Founders, Tony



and Beatrice Welters, Mr. Welters had gathered several friends of his to further grow the students' networks—including an Academy Award winner, an NYU AnBryce law graduate, a social justice venture capitalist and one of the most connected couples in San Francisco, all who readily offered their connections, homes and advice to our students. Chaperones were ready for bed, but the students fit in a swim before retiring. Youth!

Tuesday saw us return to Essai, founded by ND parent Nasser Barabi and one of the most innovative engineering companies in the world, a place that saw one of our students almost faint from the possibilities of next-generation technology. Jed York hosted students for lunch and a frank and fascinating discussion of family, investment and the importance of taking care of yourself. Students took a tour of Chinatown and explored themes of racism, city management and cultural pride. Dinner followed a BART ride back to

LaFayette—complete with a line stoppage. Bryan Ritchie and Karen Deak from the IDEA Center at Notre Dame shared opportunities available back in South Bend to our energized students. Sometimes you have to travel halfway across the US to meet people who work across the street!



Wednesday we left the loveliest Littles and headed to our hotel in the city. We had appointments at Bleacher Report, Golden Gate Capital and Jones Day before an evening off. These visits were much anticipated, as all three hosts have had wonderful outreach into our



program. Dave Finocchio gave another wonderful presentation to our students, this time framed around documentaries he had recently seen and which resonated with him as he transitions out of Bleacher Report and into other opportunities. In particular, he spoke of the ideas of achievement and personal happiness and how those ideals will ebb and flow over your career and how that is okay. Rob Little gave a

masterclass in understanding Private Equity—much appreciated as not all of our students were business students (something we were intentional about in planning). Peggy Ward hosted several students at Jones Day for an introduction into law and a spectacular view of the Bay. Students loved the insights into the different paths into law and the work that is possible after graduation.

Thursday was our last full day and a chance to head to Santa Rosa to explore the work of the Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa. We knew we wanted to explore homelessness and social justice on our trip and thanks to a contact through donor, Toni Zepponi, we engaged with Rebecca Kendall. Rebecca developed a truly fabulous itinerary for us that included a tour of the current and future home of the Caritas Village—and innovative network of permanent and transitional housing and resources all in one city block. They also saw some of the work Catholic Charities is doing for immigrants and seniors, as well as the advocacy for all who need help with financial and bureaucratic issues. The last visit was to a hotel converted into housing for the most vulnerable homeless and veterans. It was incredible to be at ground zero of such great work.

Dinner was at the home of Fred Giuffrida and Pam Joyner, who shared new art and stories of the artists they support. Scholars Tia Wilson and Rafa Banuelos spoke of themselves and AnBryce and brought awareness to the many ways the program impacts students.

As we reviewed the trip with students, several things stood out. Most were blown away by the support shown over the week and afterwards—help with resumes and emails, connections to employment and internships. More than the support, though, they were touched by the genuine interest and enthusiasm people brought to communication. As Teayanna Leytham said of Rob Little, “He has the the kind of energy I want to surround myself with”. This is true of many of our supporters. They genuinely care about the students they meet and seek out ways to make sure they are prepared for the next steps after college.