The mission of the Embrey Human Rights Program at SMU is to educate students and other members of the global community to understand, promote, and defend human rights as responsible citizens of the world.

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With the launch of a new strategic plan in 2014, the Embrey Human Rights Program embarked upon an exciting year of growth.

The past year saw EHRP refresh existing strengths and cultivate new capacities. In this time, the landscape of higher education continued to undergo dramatic changes. Human rights played an increasingly important role in shaping the changes, both as an academic field and as a call to community action. With the visionary and steadfast partnership of the Embrey Family Foundation, EHRP gained global recognition as a model of inclusive, practical, and creative leadership. This leadership was asserted through four main initiatives.

Education
Three new course offerings, taught by previously unaffiliated faculty members, were added to the undergraduate curriculum. 22 human rights majors, the most in the program’s history, graduated in May. Several joint efforts with SMU admissions and high school presentations encouraged strong interest in human rights within SMU’s incoming freshman class. The academic framework for the human rights doctoral degree was completed, and was affirmed soon thereafter by a verbal commitment for the first fundraising dollars. Research funding supported the development of two undergraduate research projects in Peru.

Advocacy
The Community Outreach Fellowship enabled 5 promising students to develop real world leadership through 800 combined hours of project work with human rights organizations. Numerous high profile community education events addressed topics ranging from midwifery in refugee camps to the denial of the Armenian Genocide. A series of human rights organizing classes situated EHRP at the center of a new solidarity movement among local marginalized groups and social justice organizations. The Student Leadership Initiative was granted probationary status as a chartered organization, giving it access to Student Senate recognition and resources.
Connection
Human rights trips to Poland, Costa Rica, Hungary, and Cambodia/Vietnam garnered significant participation and forged global relationships. An alumni contact database and communication strategy was created under the leadership of the first two human rights minor graduates. The program’s social media presence was significantly enhanced, with 334 new Twitter followers gained since efforts began in November 2014. The EHRP website relaunched in March with expanded information and a new navigation structure. Relationships were strengthened with old partners like the Dallas Holocaust Museum, and new friends like Minga Peru. Likewise, EHRP was proud to participate in the 2014 Facing Race National Conference and Dallas Faces Race initiative.

Branding
The inaugural Triumph of the Spirit Award ceremony drew close to 300 attendees to campus in celebration of human rights. At this ceremony, the program debuted a new promotional video featuring student and faculty reflections about the transformational nature of the SMU human rights experience. In partnership with the Latino Center for Leadership Development, the Dallas Latino community, and the family of Santos Rodriguez, EHRP launched a new scholarship for human rights students.
In the past year, EHRP graduated its largest undergraduate class yet, encouraged the development of new knowledge, and laid the foundation for a pioneering doctoral degree.

Accomplishments

22 undergraduate human rights majors graduated in 2015. This total compares to 13 in 2014 and 6 in 2013. 6 additional students graduated in 2015 with a human rights minor. The resumes of our graduates marked them as some of the highest achieving students at SMU (for more information, see Appendix A). EHRP students continued to be more diverse, more active, and more accomplished than the broader SMU population by a significant margin.

3 new courses were added to the undergraduate curriculum. These courses, each of which was developed with support from an EHRP Course Development Grant, included: Human Rights and Modern China, taught by Sze-kar Wan; Persecution to Affirmation: Sexual Minorities and Human Rights, taught by Maxime Foerster and David Doyle; and War, Looting, and the Collecting of Art in/of the Ancient World, taught by Stephanie Langin-Hooper. With the addition of these courses, the program curriculum boasted 102 different offerings.
An academic plan and fundraising strategy was finalized for the doctoral degree in human rights. A flexible, interdisciplinary, and personalized curriculum was created to prepare students for career paths in higher education, government and nonprofit work, or the corporate world. The curriculum was designed by a committee of leading minds across the university, who worked under the leadership of Dean Thomas DiPiero. A verbal commitment for operating funds was secured in the spring semester.

The Human Rights Research Fund enabled two emerging scholar-activists to conduct field research in Peru. In its first full year of operation, the research fund provided support to two promising proposals from undergraduates. Sorsha Huff traveled to Lima to measure the oppression of persons identifying (or identified) as LGBTIQ through ethnographic interviewing and content analysis. Ketetha Olengue traveled to Lima and Iquitos in coordination with the organization Minga Peru, in order to document the lives of indigenous women and children through ethnographic interviewing and photography. A third research project on refugee services in the Dallas region, undertaken by two graduate students, received initial grant approval but was postponed due to complications with the SMU Institutional Review Board process.

Goals

In 2015-2016, EHRP will seek to:

- Continue growing the number of human rights majors and minors.
- Better publicize Human Rights Research Fund opportunities.
- Develop a more robust mentorship structure and better resources sharing (academic, emotional, vocational) for undergraduate majors and minors.
- Add additional undergraduate courses and faculty affiliations in the fields of business and the sciences (especially data analysis and engineering).
- Prepare the official doctoral program proposal for submission to the SMU Educational Programs Committee.
- Build funding relationships for the first endowed faculty positions in the doctoral program.
On campus and in the community, EHRP cultivated awareness through dozens of events and sponsorships, and encouraged action through student engagement and outreach efforts.

Accomplishments

The first cohort of 5 Community Outreach Fellows contributed 800 hours of service to human rights initiatives. The fellowship program garnered significant interest in the student body and strong reviews from placement organizations. Fellows received a fair wage while providing vital services to organizations. Likewise, they were closely guided by mentors at EHRP and at their placements. The fellowship projects focused on diverse issues, including refugee services, the rights of indigenous women and children, aquaponics and food justice, and educational equity. For more information on the fellowship projects for the past and next years, see Appendix B. In addition, students in Rick Halperin’s courses contributed more than 2500 hours of volunteer service to a range of local organizations.
The program hosted or sponsored 49 community education events between June 2014 and May 2015. One highlight was the inaugural Triumph of the Spirit Award ceremony, which drew close to 300 students, faculty, community leaders, artists, business executives, philanthropists, and human rights professionals to campus. Another was the Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Camps, which saw more than 150 attendees become enraptured by the stories of a Liberator (Bernhard Storch) and a Survivor (Rosa Blum). The International Conference on Education as a Human Right, organized with ConnecTeach and the World Affairs Council of DFW, gathered 20 expert panelists and 250 attendees. For a full list of community education events, see Appendix C.

Community outreach delivered action and attention to critical human rights issues, particularly around immigration. In the past year, EHRP facilitated: 15 “Know Your Rights” workshops (with 12 to 55 attendees and 3 to 10 volunteers per session); 10 human rights community organizing classes (with 26 registered students and an average attendance of 20 students); 18 day laborer visits (with 10 to 35 workers present per session and a total of 35 volunteers participating); a Thanksgiving meal for day laborers (with 80 workers served); 2 “Wage Theft Prevention” workshops and 2 “Leadership Training” workshops for day laborers; 56 art project classes (with a total of 89 students and 4 teachers); and hundreds of action planning phone calls with over 50 organizations. In addition, Roberto Corona represented the program in: 75 community actions; 47 speaking appearances; and 356 action planning meetings.

A reorganized Student Leadership Initiative (SLI) spearheaded initiatives to build a more vibrant human rights community on campus. For the first time, the organization was overseen by a student Board of Directors elected by their peers. These young leaders gathered every other week, under the guidance of EHRP Assistant Director Brad Klein, to discuss organizing tactics, assess needs and opportunities, and plan events. In response to student feedback, SLI promoted a series of Human Rights Hangouts to provide human rights majors and minors (as well as other interested students) with chances to grow in relationship. The organization achieved probationary status as an official chartered organization in April. This designation will give Board of Directors more autonomy in reserving rooms, sending communications, and requesting funding.
Goals

In 2015-2016, EHRP will seek to:

• Involve a higher number of students and prioritize student interests in community outreach efforts.

• Expand outreach actions beyond traditional areas of emphasis (such as immigration, death penalty, etc.).

• Continue to emphasize professionally executed and highly impactful community education events with appropriate organizational partners.

• Develop logistics for planned events on sports and human rights, human rights careers, human trafficking, and the racial integration of universities.

• Tweak the effectiveness of the Community Outreach Fellowship based on feedback from the first cohort of students and their placements.

• Provide close guidance to the Student Leadership Initiative Board of Directors as they cultivate a stronger human rights community on campus.
Human rights trips across the globe built bridges of awareness, while an emphasis on effective communications sparked meaningful interactions.

Accomplishments

Trips to France, Poland, Costa Rica, Hungary, and Cambodia/Vietnam introduced 93 participants (exclusive of staff) to global human rights issues and diverse peoples. Student, faculty, and community member involvement remained strong, exceeding the numbers of previous years in some cases, despite rising travel costs. Although the scheduled trip to Israel in August 2014 (with 15 registered participants) was cancelled due to security concerns, this experience allowed EHRP to affect improvements in the university’s risk assessment procedures. As this report was being written, EHRP was finalizing preparations to engage Native American communities and issues throughout the American West from June 2-12.

Program staff conducted more than two dozen media interviews and participated in several press conferences. Rick Halperin was featured as an expert in the New York Times, Huffington Post, USA Today, Chronicle of Higher Education, and numerous other print, radio, television, and online sources. He also spoke by invitation at the United Nations in April. Roberto Corona was featured on Telemundo and Univision, and was the subject of a wonderful profile piece in the Dallas Morning News. EHRP figured prominently in a television commercial for SMU that aired nationally for several months during university sporting events. In fact, the voiceover for this commercial was provided by Karly Zrake, an undergraduate human rights major and work study student in the EHRP office.
The program’s online presence was enhanced through a new social media strategy and revamped program website. All news and events were posted to Twitter and Facebook, yielding 334 new Twitter followers, many new Facebook friends, and scores of retweets and reposts. Every page on the program website was updated with new images and information. The navigation structure for the website was reorganized, making it easier for visitors to locate relevant content. The @SMUEHRP Twitter feed was also placed as a sidebar on the front page of the website, connecting these two key features of the program’s online presence. Email communications were sent with greater precision in response to changing engagement patterns.

Relationships with alumni and partners were reinforced through dedicated initiatives. The beginnings of a formal alumni association were created through coordinated efforts of the first two human rights minor graduates: Katharine Clark and Mora Namdar. This work will be joined over the next year by one of the newest human rights major graduates: Colton Donica. EHRP cemented its role as a hub of regional activity by cooperating on projects with many like minded organizations. Some of these organizations included: ConnecTeach; the Dallas Holocaust Museum; Ignite Arts Dallas; Minga Peru; Pueblo Sin Fronteras; and the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth.

Goals

In 2015-2016, EHRP will seek to:

• Create a database of all organizations pursuing human rights activities in Dallas, with the ultimate goal of hosting a summit at SMU.

• Bring greater attention to the expertise of program staff and increase exposure of media engagements.

• Continue refining the pedagogical approach and publicity strategy for human rights trips.

• Refine remaining rough edges on the program website and monitor social media use for effectiveness.

• Think critically about the development of new partnerships and sponsorships in underrepresented areas.

• Engage a higher percentage of former students with alumni association communications and events.
Recognition as a premier brand in human rights education was enlarged through savvy moves that highlighted the program’s vision and integrity.

Accomplishments

The first ever Triumph of the Spirit Award ceremony was celebrated in November 2014. The Triumph of the Spirit Award was made possible through the generous support of an anonymous donor. Two recipients were honored: Eliana Elias, Founder and Executive Director of Minga Peru was selected as the Global recipient; and Bhavani Parpia, Founder and President of ConnecTeach was selected as the Dallas recipient. The ceremony drew close to 300 students, faculty, community leaders, artists, business executives, philanthropists, and human rights professionals to campus. This award marked a watershed moment in the history of EHRP by verifying its status as an influencer in the global human rights arena.

EHRP’s drive to establish a clear and captivating identity was advanced by a new promotional video. The video was created by Quin Mathews Films, an innovative and well respected local production company, and featured interviews with staff, students, and administrators. With a running time of under 6 minutes, it was shown to a variety of audiences over the past year in order to encourage involvement with the program. The film was designed to be used for years to come, and will remain a centerpiece of marketing efforts.
The launch of the Santos Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship opened doors for more students to study at SMU. Like the existing Agha Faran Khan Memorial Scholarship, this scholarship was initiated to promote human rights education for emerging leaders from underrepresented communities, and to honor the memory of a young person whose life was ended through racism and brutality. Its funding campaign reached more than half of the $300,000 goal within just 5 months, and will be expanded in the months ahead. Notable among the donors was Mike Rawlings, Mayor of the City of Dallas, who pledged $10,000 in support. Established in close coordination between EHRP and the Latino Center for Leadership Development, the scholarship will see its first recipient receive benefits for the upcoming fall semester.

Goals

In 2015-2016, EHRP will seek to:

- Secure full funding for the Santos Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship and begin pursuing additional scholarships.

- Begin the planning and nomination process for the next Triumph of the Spirit Award ceremony, to be held in the fall of 2016.

- Better utilize its collection of student human rights artwork – the largest such collection in the world – as a promotional tool.

- Explore possibilities for other funding needs, especially building and gallery space.
2015 Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights Graduates

Alexandra Masri

Alexandra has been a student athlete tutor and a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority. After graduation, she will be attending Tulane Law School with the goal of becoming a civil rights attorney.

Describing her SMU human rights experience, Alexandra states, “I very much appreciate how much the human rights program forced me to get out of my comfort zone. The major allowed me to explore many different academic fields (policy, gender, anthropology) that I would not have had the opportunity to complete otherwise. The Civil Rights Pilgrimage was also very eye opening, and completely altered my occupational course. From then, I decided to become a civil rights attorney.”

Alyssa Parrish

Alyssa has been an SMU Distinguished Scholar, Cornelia Chambers Nelson Scholar, Headliners Foundation Scholar, and Sheri Mooney Memorial Scholarship Award winner, as well as part of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and SMU Orientation. After graduation, she will spend a year working with a nonprofit in India before returning to the US to work as a reporter.

Alyssa cites the human rights trip to Poland as one of her most memorable SMU experiences. She leaves the following advice for future human rights students: “You’ll get out what you put into the program. Give it your all and it will change your life and the way you think about the world around you.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Amanda Steinke

Amanda has been a Community Outreach Fellow, president of the Theta Tau professional engineering fraternity, and project manager for the Lyle Engineering in the City project. After graduation she plans to work in a role combining human rights and environmental engineering, with the goal of starting her own business.

Amanda recalls her attendance at the 2014 Triumph of the Spirit Award ceremony as a particularly memorable experience. She states, “Every person I talked to that night had a great story about how they are working to advance human rights for all. Hearing the stories of the award recipients and all of all the attendees was inspiring and got me started on thinking about future career opportunities.”

Anthony BlueJacket

Anthony has been part of Mortar Board honor society, Tau Sigma honor society, Lambda Alpha, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He will be attending the University of Amsterdam to pursue a graduate degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology.

Anthony explains, “I majored in human rights to make a difference. For me, this is a birthright, and something I have been doing my entire life. I cannot quite describe it, but this is where I belong. This is my ‘right place at the right time.’”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Asia Rodgers

Asia Rodgers has been involved with Sisters Supporting Sisters, the SMU Women and LGBT Center, Engaged Learning, New Friends New Life, and the Clinton Global Initiative. After graduation, she plans to work with a nonprofit in Texas for two years, expand her Art Healing project, and go to graduate school for nonprofit management.

As part of her work with the Clinton Global Initiative, Asia fondly remembers having lunch with Chelsea Clinton and taking a photo with former President Bill Clinton. She encourages future students to “live with passion, meet as many people as possible, develop a good character and virtues, and be warm around people.”

Aymen Osmani

Aymen Osmani has been involved with Circle K International, Alternative Breaks, Global Medical Brigades, and ISA. After graduation, Aymen plans to work with a health and wealth management company in a leadership program. She plans to build a career around social justice advocacy.

Calling her human rights experience “the academic highlight of my college career,” Aymen relates, “The most important skill I have gained is to always keep a human rights perspective in everything I do. In all subjects and issues of the world, a human rights perspective can always be applied.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Caitlin Burke

Caitlin has been involved with Alpha Chi Omega and the Dedman College Ambassadors. She will be pursuing an internship with the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History in the repatriation department, before heading to graduate school for museum studies.

Caitlin reminds future students of the challenges inherent to human rights. She states, “Pace yourself on the number of human rights classes you take each semester. Too many will stress you out and make you hate the world.” However, she also reminds us all of why this work is so important, explaining, “I majored in human rights because I deeply believe that ‘There is no such thing as a lesser person.’”

Cassidy Curtis

Cassidy has been a Nancy Ann and Ray L. Hunt Leadership Scholar, a member of Delta Gamma, and a volunteer with Alley’s House, a local organization that provides services to teen mothers. She intends to build a career around making a difference for victims of sex trafficking.

Cassidy offers the following powerful words as a challenge to all people interested in human rights: “Always keep an open mind when it comes to others’ views. Hear everyone out. Even though learning about human rights offenses can be very depressing, don’t shut yourself off from it. Blindness and ignorance are not options.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Christine Freeman

Christine has been involved with SMU Women’s Rowing, the Daily Campus newspaper, and the Daily Update on SMU TV. She plans work in journalism or public policy as her career develops.

Christine proclaims, “I am extremely proud every time I say that I am majoring in human rights at SMU. It is such a rare major, and people are very impressed by it.” Likewise, she remembers Rick Halperin’s required course titled America’s Dilemma: The Struggle for Human Rights,” as a life changing experience. She states, “It was the most depressing, challenging, but also fascinating class I have ever taken. It opened my eyes to the important implications of human rights for the entire world, and how this country has both made great strides in promoting human rights, but also failed miserably.”

Colton Donica

Colton has been involved with the Student Leadership Initiative Board of Directors, Alternative Breaks, Spectrum, Engaged Learning, Mock Trial, the McNair Scholars Program, the Hilltop Scholars Program, the Scholars’ Den Council, Innocence Project of Texas, SMU Conversation Buddies, Phi Alpha Delta and College Democrats. He has served as president of Human Rights and Art (H&ART), a research assistant in the Department of Psychology, an assistant with the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, and an intern with the Law Offices of Ben C. Martin. After graduation, Colton plans to attend law school to fight for indigenous persons, refugees, and other marginalized groups.

Colton offers the following compelling witness: “I was going to transfer universities my sophomore year because the culture and student body at SMU did not
fit who I am as a person. The human rights major had just stared around that time and I just so happened to enroll in two human rights classes for what I thought was going to be my last semester at SMU. The human rights program is 100% without a doubt what kept me at SMU. The professors and students in my human rights courses are unlike any others that I have interacted with at SMU. After majoring in human rights, I am blessed to call the SMU Embrey Human Rights Program my home and will always remember the family and friends I have in the program.”

Devon Walter

Devon has been involved with Alpha Chi Omega, Phi Alpha Delta, SMU TelePony, and has worked with the International Rescue Committee and Resolana. After graduation, she will move to Washington DC to work with the Urban Teacher Center as a teacher in training, while working on a master’s degree in education.

Devon recalls the Civil Rights Pilgrimage as a particularly memorable experience. She states, “We had the opportunity to be in Selma on the 50th anniversary of the March from Selma to Montgomery. It was amazing. Although it was hot and tiring, being there was one of the most moving experiences I have been a part of. There was this sense of unity during that weekend where all of us, despite our differences, came together and enjoyed the moment.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Karma Orfaly

Karma has been a Nancy Ann and Ray L. Hunt Leadership Scholar, a Community Outreach Fellow, president of SMU Amnesty International, and involved with the Hyer Society, Honors Program, and Muslim Student Association. She will attend law school with a focus on human rights, civil rights, and public policy.

Karma states, “I came to SMU wanting to expand my understanding of human rights issues. I’m originally Syrian, and I witnessed a country I used to visit on a regular basis collapse due to a brutal dictator. I wanted to understand what I could do to make a difference in this world. I came in knowing about one issue, and left knowing so much more than I could have ever expected. I was also particularly interested in human rights because I want to go to law school, and I want to be aware of what the issues are, that way I can one day influence policymaking decisions.”

Katie Bandera

Katie has been involved with Phi Beta Kappa, the Hyer Society, the Honors Program, and Dedman Scholars. She has received the Gustave Bromberg Award for Outstanding Work in Humanities and the Ann Early Award for Women’s and Gender Studies. Next year, Katie will be attending Harvard Divinity School for a master’s degree in Theological Studies.

Katie explains, “I wanted my education to include activism and action along with academics. The human rights major allows you to become well versed in the human rights issues facing the world today, but it also immerses you in the subject matter in a way that other majors do not.” Katie offers this advice: “Human rights is an intense major, but it will change your life if you let it. Don’t let the tragedy of the things you learn discourage you from trying to make a difference in the world.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Madeleine Chard

Madeleine has been a member of the Student Leadership Initiative Board of Directors, and worked in the Cox MBA Career Management Center. She has traveled on the human rights trip to Poland and on the Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Madeleine will be pursuing a degree in nursing with the goal of working for an international aid organization as a health worker.

Madeleine states that her proudest achievement as human rights major involved building a stronger human rights student community through her position on the Student Leadership Initiative Board of Directors. She explains, “Studying human rights at SMU has allowed me to explore my passion for helping others, and let me meet people who share this drive. It has been so incredibly rewarding because I know that I am helping to make the world a better place.”

Marcella Lupski

Marcella has served as social chair for Delta Gamma, as president of SMU Mock Trial, and as an AARO leader. After graduation she will attend Tulane University Law School with the goal of becoming a prosecutor.

Marcella is particularly passionate about education as a human right, and cites critical reading as one of the most important skills she gained from the program. She encourages future students to “be open to new experiences.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Melinda Kirk

Melinda has been involved with the Costa Rica Research and Action trip and Civil Rights Pilgrimage. She plans to work, travel, and intern after graduation. In the longer term, Melinda is considering law school or moving to Central America to develop age appropriate sex education materials for young people.

Thinking back on her SMU experience, Melinda states, “My proudest achievement has not been a quantifiable one. The personal growth I have had as a result of my education in the Embrey Human Rights Program at SMU is immeasurable. The connections I can now make in every aspect of life to human rights issues will not only make me a better advocate, but a better global citizen.”

Michael Wilburn

Michael has been involved with College Democrats and the SMU Environmental Society. After graduation, he plans to prepare for graduate school and build a career as a professor, policy analyst, or government advisor.

Michael declares that while the path of human rights may not be easy, “it is the most fulfilling one.” He explains, “I majored in human rights because I came into SMU with a desire to use politics to make the world a better place. Once I found out about the human rights major, I knew I had found just what I was looking for.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Michelle Anderson

Michelle has been involved with Alpha Chi Omega, Lambda Alpha, the Student Leadership Initiative Board of Directors, Engaged learning. She has worked as a student researcher for the Department of Anthropology, interned with Human Rights Watch in San Francisco, and served as a student leader for the Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Michelle will be attending graduate school in Scotland to study restorative justice, with the goal of developing programs for prison reform.

Michelle identifies her participation on the program’s trip to Rwanda as her most memorable experience. She offers these words of wisdom: “Even though human rights can be discouraging at times, just because we cannot fix every problem does not mean that we should ever give up. To impact even one person’s life for the better is worth it.”

Mollie Williams

Mollie has been involved with Phi Beta Kappa, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and the Chinese Club, and has volunteered at the Dallas County Jail with Resolana. She will be entering law school at the University of Texas and then aiming for a career in international law or politics.

Mollie notes that her SMU human rights experience has helped her learn how to think and write professionally, and has introduced her to a side of the world that she would never have otherwise known. She encourages future human rights students as follows: “Seek out those that are different from you. Take as many courses as you can, don’t let your major confine you to one area. Find a professor you can connect with and build that relationship.”
APPENDIX A: GRADUATES

Paige BlueJacket

Paige has been involved with the Student Leadership Initiative Board of Directors, Engaged Learning, and Sigma Tau Honor Society. She has also served as president of Mortar Board and editor in chief of the Human Writes publication. Paige will be continuing her human rights activism in Europe, with a goal of attaining a PhD and producing human rights minded world citizens.

Paige explains that she decided to major in human rights because “I am going to change the world!” She is proud of her time working in the Dallas County Jail, and fondly recalls her journeys on the El Salvador and Costa Rica trips. She states that her human rights courses taught her more about what it means to be a human in this world. She offers a challenge to future human rights graduates: “Absorb every second of it! Don’t take it for granted. You cannot get this experience anywhere else in the world, so enjoy it.”

Sarah Day

Sarah has been involved with the Dallas Holocaust Museum and Genesis Women’s Shelter. She has served on the executive leadership board for Alternative Breaks, and as president and cofounder of Sigma Phi Lambda. After graduation, Sarah will work with a consulting firm in downtown Dallas, and plans to get involved with the nonprofit world down the road.

Sarah states, “I knew that I wanted to do something meaningful to help others with my college degree. It is a privilege to get an education and I want to spend my education focused on making the world more just for others. I think the most meaningful thing I have been able to do is make others advocates for human rights. I really love being able to tell others about the classes and really encourage them to try it out.”
Shelbi Smith

Shelbi has been involved with Phi Beta Kappa, the Hyer Society, the Student Leadership Initiative Board of Directors, and Mortar Board. She has served as president of Spectrum, chair of the Vagina Monologues, and a member of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program Council. She has served as president of Spectrum, chair of the Vagina Monologues, and a member of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program Council. She has won many awards for excellence in academics and activism, including: the Betty Maynard Award for Excellence in Women’s and Gender Studies, the Mortar Board Top Ten Sophomore Award, the Criteria Award for Excellence in Academic Writing, the Women’s Interest Network Activism Award, the Emmie V. Baine Legacy Award, and the Prudential Award of Excellence for Scholarship and Volunteering. In the fall she will enter law school at the University of Chicago with the ultimate goal of working in the International Criminal Court at the Hague.

Shelbi cites the program’s Poland trip as a particularly powerful experience. She is also proud to have been part of the effort to raise awareness of LGBT struggles and install a permanent LGBT seat in SMU Student Senate. She explains, “When I got to SMU, I knew I wanted to do something to impact change in the world. The human rights program seemed like the right place to learn how to do that. I learned how to communicate with people who hold different opinions, I have developed strong written and verbal communication skills, and I have a broad knowledge base of various human rights issues and varying approaches to them because of the interdisciplinary nature of the major.”
2014-2015 Community Outreach Fellows

Anna Norkett

Anna was a junior in 2014-2015 with majors in Economics and Public Policy and a minor in Business Administration. She worked with College Bound Dallas to administer a tutoring and mentoring program for underprivileged high school students and raise awareness of education inequality in the United States.

Amanda Steinke

Amanda was a senior in 2014-2015 with majors in Environmental Engineering and Human Rights. In conjunction with the Lyle Engineering in the City program, she facilitated a 1200 square foot aquaponics project at St. Philip's School and Community Center in south Dallas, an area identified as a food desert.

Karma Orfaly

Karma was a senior in 2014-2015 with majors in Human Rights and Political Science and a minor in Law and Legal Reasoning. She worked with Ma’Ruf Dallas, a Muslim social justice organization, to serve as a translator, educator, and service provider with Syrian refugee families.

Ketetha Olengue

Ketetha was a senior in 2014-2015 with majors in Computer Science and Chemistry and a minor in Mathematics. She worked to strengthen grassroots campaigns and international relationships as a Social Media, Communications, and Development specialist with Minga Peru.

Shelbi Smith

Shelbi was a senior in 2014-2015 with a major in Human Rights and minors in Women’s and Gender Studies and History. Before resigning the fellowship for medical reasons, she worked with Human Rights Initiative of North Texas to provide legal assistance to refugees and immigrants who were victims of human rights abuses.
2015-2016 Community Outreach Fellows

**Daryl Parker**

Daryl will be a graduate student in 2015-2016 studying Human Rights and Social Justice as well as Creative Writing. He plans to work with the Innocence Project of Texas to focus on earlier engagement of problematic cases and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the case vetting process.

**Liliana Garcia**

Liliana will be a junior in 2015-2016 with a major in International Studies and a minor in Human Rights. She plans to focus on educational equity for at risk youth and global education advocacy by working with the organization ConnecTeach.

**Samantha Butz**

Samantha will be a junior in 2015-2016 with a major in Fashion Media and Advertising and minors in Graphic Design and Photography. She plans to work with the organization Alta Gracia to catalog SMU purchasing practices (apparel, technology, etc.) and seek university affiliation with the Worker Rights Consortium.

**Sandra Ostad**

Sandra will be a graduate student in 2015-2016 studying Human Rights and Social Justice as well as Global Studies. She plans to work with the International Rescue Committee to review refugee service policies and tweak development efforts.

**Vanna Ngo**

Vanna will be a graduate student in 2015-2016 studying Human Rights and Social Justice. She plans to focus on peace education and advocacy by revitalizing youth outreach and planning events for the Dallas Peace Center.
2014-2015 Community Education Events

June/July 2014


August 2014

Lecture on Home Free: An American Road Trip and Alive and Well in Pakistan, featuring author Ethan Casey.

Peace and Prayer Rally for Israel and Palestine, featuring Rick Halperin, Donald Dillard, Hadi Jawad, and Pastor “Mike D,” and sponsored with Dallas Peace Center and Grace Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

Lecture on “The Global Status of Human Rights,” featuring Rick Halperin and held at the College of Complexes.


Mustang Corral Presentations, featuring Rick Halperin.

SMU Engaged Learning Expo, sponsored with Office of Engaged Learning, Office of the Provost, and Office of Community Engagement and Leadership.

September 2014

Discussion of The Darkest Hour, featuring author Betty Gilmore and sponsored with the Meadows School of the Arts.
APPENDIX C: EVENTS


Prisoner’s Civil Rights Clinic, sponsored with North Texas Civil Rights Project, Friends of the MLK Library, Dallas Peace Center, Council of American Islamic Relations, and HOPE for Peace and Justice, and held at the MLK Center Library.

Screening of The Day My God Died, sponsored with Gendercide Awareness Project, World Affairs Council of DFW, University of Texas at Dallas Asia Center and Women’s Center, India Association of North Texas, League of Women Voters, South Asia Democracy Watch, and Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation.

Human Rights Students Fall Kickoff, with Student Leadership Initiative.

October 2014

Panel on “Midwives: Leaders in Global Health,” sponsored with Department of English, American College of Nurse-Midwives, and Doctors Without Borders.

Panel on “Human Rights and the Construction of Peace in Colombia,” sponsored with Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute and Department of World Languages and Literatures.

November 2014

Triumph of the Spirit Award Ceremony, featuring Eliana Elias, Bhavani Parpia, S.M. Wright II, and Rick Halperin.

Lecture on “Introduction to Human Rights,” featuring Rick Halperin, and sponsored with Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD.


SMU Study Abroad Fair, sponsored with SMU Education Abroad.
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Presentation on “Studying Human Rights at SMU,” featuring Rick Halperin and Brad Klein, sponsored with SMU Mustang Days.

Facing Race: A National Conference and Dallas Faces Race.

December 2014

Human Rights Winter Party, sponsored with the Student Leadership Initiative.

Human Rights Study Break, sponsored with the Student Leadership Initiative.

International Career Day, featuring Rick Halperin, sponsored with the World Affairs Council of DFW.

January 2015

Exhibition of “Helen Suzman: Fighter for Human Rights,” sponsored with Austin College, Paul Quinn College, and Meadows School of the Arts.

Hurst-Euless-Bedford Career Day, featuring Rick Halperin, held at Barack Obama Leadership Academy.

SMU “Join the Club” Involvement Fair, sponsored with the Student Leadership Initiative.


February 2015

Humanities Day Presentation on “Studying Human Rights at SMU,” featuring Rick Halperin, sponsored with and held at Ursuline Academy.


Screening of To Light a Candle and Discussion of “Education is Not a Crime” Campaign, featuring Maziar Bahari and sponsored with the Baha’i Institute of Higher Education.
# APPENDIX C: EVENTS

## March 2015

**Plenary Address on “There Is No Such Thing As A Lesser Person”** featuring Rick Halperin, sponsored with and held at Richland College Honors Academy.

**Presentation on “Studying Human Rights at SMU,”** featuring Brad Klein, sponsored with and held at Richland College Honors Academy.

**Panel on “SMU Women of the Peace Corps,”** sponsored with Hegi Family Career Development Center, Peace Corps, and Gender Studies Program.

**Lecture on “Raphael Lemkin, Cultural Destruction, and the Armenian Genocide,”** featuring Peter Balakian and sponsored with the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of DFW.

**Lecture on “Human Rights, Civil War, and Building a Culture of Peace in El Salvador,”** with Medardo Gomez, sponsored with Henry Luce Foundation, SMU Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, and L@s Seminaristas at Perkins School of Theology.

**Lecture on Made in the USA: The Sex Trafficking of America’s Children,** with author Alisa Jordheim, sponsored with Justice Society.

**International Conference on Education as a Human Right,** sponsored with ConnecTeach and World Affairs Council of DFW.

## April 2015

**Lecture on “Challenges and Opportunities of Peacebuilding in Today’s World,”** featuring Nancy Lindborg, sponsored with Peacemakers, Dallas Peace Center, and United National Association Dallas Chapter

**Discussion of The Birth of a Nation,** featuring Rick Halperin, Mary Pat Higgins, and Christopher Dowdy, sponsored with Dallas Holocaust Museum, Dallas Faces Race, and Embrey Family Foundation.

**Lecture on “International Law and Israel,”** featuring Edwin Black.

**Lecture on “Human Rights in the Middle East,** featuring Robert Ashmore, sponsored with Dallas Area Progressive Christian Alliance.

**Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Camps,** featuring Bernhard Storch and Rosa Blum, sponsored with the Dallas Holocaust Museum.
Candlelight Vigil for the Armenian Genocide Centennial, featuring Rick Halperin, sponsored with the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of DFW.

Costa Rica Research in Action Trip Presentations, featuring EHRP students.

Presentation on “Studying Human Rights at SMU,” featuring Rick Halperin, sponsored with and held at Newman Smith High School.

Panel on “Women as Agents of Change,” featuring Rick Halperin, sponsored with the SMU Hunter and Stephanie Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity.

May 2015

Human Rights Diploma Ceremony, featuring the 2015 BA graduates and their families and friends.

Presentation on “Studying Human Rights at SMU,” featuring Rick Halperin, sponsored with and held at Lewisville High School.