Barry University

CCSI | Center for Community Service Initiatives

Annual Report 2016

Deepening the Culture of Community Engagement
Mission Statement

The mission of Barry University's Center for Community Service Initiatives is to foster civic engagement among students, faculty, and staff in the pursuit of social justice. By providing programs, services, and resources, the Center supports community-engaged teaching and learning, research, and service. The Center functions as both a catalyst and the coordinating unit for reciprocal partnerships between the University and the wider community, designed to create long-term, self-sustaining solutions to human, social, economic, and environmental problems.
Community engagement is a defining feature of higher education institutions that are genuinely committed to the community. These institutions make engagement prominent in their mission statements and strategic plans. They give it visibility through executive leadership statements, organizational structures, programs and curricula, promotion and tenure policies, hiring guidelines, external communications, and capital campaigns.

Barry University has a strong, unwavering commitment to the community and has made engagement an institutional priority. As such, community engagement is articulated in the university’s mission statement and emphasized in its core commitments of collaborative service and social justice. Engagement also is exemplified in academic programs through service-learning, community-based research, and community-focused capstone projects and internships.

Since June 2013, for example, nearly 50 sections of courses have been designated as service-learning. Those course sections demonstrate deep integration of thoughtfully organized community service into the curriculum and high standards of service-learning practice. They require applied learning, student engagement with the community, and critical reflection.

Among the hallmarks of quality community engagement at Barry are reciprocal, mutually beneficial partnerships with organizations and agencies in the nonprofit, public, and small-business sectors. Some partnerships stretch across the state and across the nation, with a growing number extending into the global community. Taken together, the partnerships provide a fulcrum for university initiatives that address social, economic, and environmental issues in and with the community.

In addition to a significant increase in the number of partnerships created over the years, there has been a remarkable enhancement of partnerships that explicitly deal with social justice issues. Some of those partnerships have galvanized students into action, ultimately giving voice and visibility to marginalized people in underserved communities.

In this report, we draw attention to community engagement activities and outcomes during the 2015-2016 administrative year of the Center for Community Service Initiatives. It was the year in which the CCSI began to observe its fifth anniversary, marking a milestone in the deepening of Barry’s culture of community engagement. Established in 2010, the CCSI created and implemented its first set of programs during the 2011-2012 academic year and is celebrating its fifth anniversary throughout 2016.

When she spoke at the third annual Community Engagement Awards in March, our university’s president commented, in glowing terms, on the CCSI’s work and achievements. As Sister Linda remarked, the CCSI has come a long way in a relatively short time. She highlighted five major achievements in community engagement during the CCSI’s first five years. These include the university’s attainment of the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification in 2015.

The CCSI embodies a sturdy infrastructure for community engagement – for promoting and supporting community-engaged teaching and learning, research, and service. We in the CCSI are grateful to students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and community partners for their productive participation over the years.

As the CCSI prepares for the second half of its first decade, there is a strong resolve to build on the successes achieved so far – to develop innovative approaches to community improvement, to make community-engaged pedagogies more robust, and to intensify activities focused on social justice. Undoubtedly and deservedly, the university will maintain its standing as a responsible and responsive institutional citizen contributing to positive social change while further deepening its culture of community engagement.

Glenn A. Bowen, PhD
Associate Professor and Director
Center for Community Service Initiatives
July 2016
Annual Report | Highlights

CCSI Celebrates Five Years of Significant Achievements
Symposium Puts Spotlight on Partnerships Contributing to Student Success
Barry President Signs Campus Compact Anniversary Action Statement
Campus and Community Participants Honored for Community Engagement
Students and Employees Render 75 Acts of Service to Mark Barry Anniversary

| By the Numbers |

62,000: Hours of community service logged by students
3,500: Pounds of clothes and household items donated in Move-Out Drive
63: Students participate in Federal Work-Study Community Service
19: Community agencies registered as new partners
18: Major awards presented at community engagement event
The Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI) is celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2016. Although the center was established in 2010, its first full year of operation began in 2011.

Barry University President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, spoke about the CCSI’s role and achievements in her remarks at the third annual Community Engagement Awards on March 30.

“This year, the CCSI is marking its fifth anniversary; and you will all agree that the Center has come a long way in a relatively short time,” Sister Linda said. “The work of the CCSI is woven fully into the fabric of university life – from faculty development to student civic-leadership training; from staff members’ volunteer service to alumni participation in the Deliberative Dialogue Series; from community partnership building to the coordination of the Community Engagement Management System.”

Sister Linda highlighted five of Barry’s community engagement achievements over the five-year period.

First, the number of community partners recruited and registered by the CCSI has reached 180.

Second, there has been a significant increase in both course-based and voluntary community service – from approximately 26,000 hours of service in 2011 to nearly 60,000 hours this year. (By the end of the academic year, the actual number rose to 62,000 hours.)

Third, service-learning has become institutionalized, with 46 course sections currently carrying the service-learning designation.

Fourth, the productivity of faculty in community-engaged scholarship also has increased. Since 2011, faculty members have made more than 60 scholarly presentations and published more than 25 articles, many in peer-reviewed journals.

Fifth, the university has received national recognition for community engagement. Barry has made the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll every year since 2012, and attained the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification last year.

Sister Linda said the university’s achievements were attributed largely to the work of the CCSI. In thanking the CCSI staff members for their service and accomplishments, she added that the department had lived up to its motto, “Connecting Campus and Community – Transforming Learning and Lives.”
Symposium Puts Spotlight on Partnerships Contributing to Student Success

Barry University’s third annual Community Engagement Symposium on March 30 highlighted collaborative activities between campus and community partners that have contributed to the achievements of students in their academic work and civic involvement. The theme was “Promoting Productive Partnerships for Student Success,” with the main features of the program being a seminar and a workshop by a nationally recognized community engagement expert, concurrent presentations by faculty members and students, and a poster session.

Dr. Dwight E. Giles, Jr., professor of higher education at the University of Massachusetts Boston, was the lead presenter at the symposium. A well-known service-learning and civic engagement scholar, Giles also is a senior associate at the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) and was a founding member of the National Peer Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement.

Following an introduction by Dr. Nickesia Gordon, a member of the symposium committee, Giles conducted a morning workshop on the topic, “Deepening Partnerships to Achieve Community Engagement Goals.” He also made an afternoon seminar presentation titled “The Role of Community Engagement in Increasing College Access and Success.”

The five other sessions of the symposium included two sets of 60-minute concurrent sessions. During the first set, presentations included “Community-Based Research: A Model for Engaged Scholarship”; “Bridging Group Differences Through Intergroup Dialogues: The TRACKS Project”; and “Encouraging Students to Look in the Mirror: Using Reflective Practice to Increase Student Engagement, Growth, and Success.”

Among the topics for the second set of concurrent sessions were “Going Beyond Internships: How University-Community Partnerships Can Be Mutually Beneficial” and “The Development of a University Partnership with a Local LGBT Center.” A third presentation focused on the development and implementation of a service-learning initiative at two inner-city high schools while an additional presentation, titled “Community Partners Speak Up and Speak Out,” examined the results of a focus group research project.

Eighteen students, including 15 Barry Service Corps fellows, participated in the poster session, presenting 13 posters. A faculty member in the Department of Fine Arts and two of her graphic design students presented one of the posters. Titled “Kids in Design Work with Kids in Distress,” that poster reflected outcomes of a service-learning course. The other participating students listed their majors as applied sport and exercise sciences, biochemistry, biology, computer science, English, general studies, international studies, nursing, pre-law, pre-nursing, psychology, public relations, social work, and sport management.
Posters covered a variety of subjects – from producing a documentary and promoting mental-health support for refugees to authoring a law-enforcement body-cameras bill and supporting foster/adopted youth. Below is the complete list of posters and presenters.

- Producing Promotional and Documentary Films for a Faith-Based Coalition” – Taleah Becton (Public Relations)
- “Kids in Design Work with Kids In Distress” – Nicole Beltran, assistant professor, Department of Fine Arts; Gabriela Jimenez and Raquel Morrison (Graphic Design)
- “Building Infrastructure for a Grassroots Organization by Developing a Member Database” – Mickaelle Celigny (Computer Science)
- “Creating an On-Campus, Student-Based Chapter of an International Christian Relief Agency” – Kevin Dalia (Pre-Law)
- “Engaging At-Risk Youth in Dialogues on Civic Engagement” – Seretse Davis (Sport Management) and Rajon Wright (Computer Science)
- “Promoting Better Dietary Choices among College Students Through a Campus Food-Additive Advocacy Campaign” – Gilberte Jean-Francois (Nursing) and Alejandro Tobon (Biology)
- “Examining the Effects of Tree Canopy Coverage on Air Quality in Miami-Dade County Communities” – Alberto Liriano (Biochemistry) and Paola Montenegro (International Studies)
- “Building Awareness About a Lack of Mental-Health Support Available to Refugees” – Presler Maxius (Psychology)
- “Furthereing Campus Sustainability Initiatives Through an Education and Advocacy Campaign” – Christian Mesa (General Studies)
- “Ex-Felons Looking for Work” – Margaret Reid (Pre-Nursing)
- “Bill for Body-Worn Cameras for Florida Police” – Christopher Riker (English and Public Relations)
- “Promoting Health and Wellness at aField Day for Florida Foster and Adopted Youth” – Donté Roberts (Sport Management)
- “Unite for Change March: Bringing Awareness to Police Brutality in Miami and Uniting the Community” – Quayneshia Smith (Social Work) and Asha Starks (Applied Sport and Exercise Sciences)
The symposium also included a Community Engagement Showcase featuring exhibits by the Campus Democracy Project, Carnival Arts, Chemistry Club, College Brides Walk, College Reach-Out Program (CROP), Community Learning Partnership of Greater Miami Shores, Neighborhood Technical Assistance Program, School of Podiatric Medicine Clinical Outreach Programs, School of Social Work Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, and Student Management Investment Fund (SMIF).

Dr. Christopher “Kit” Starratt, Barry’s interim provost and vice president of mission and institutional effectiveness, opened the symposium and Dr. Karen Callaghan, associate vice president for undergraduate studies, gave remarks during the closing session.

CCSI Director Dr. Glenn Bowen was chair of the Community Engagement Symposium Committee. Other committee members were Dr. Nickesia Gordon, proposal review chair; Valerie Scott, poster session coordinator; Dr. Rosa Borgen; Dr. M. Leigh Broxton Bragg; Dr. Priva Fischweicher; and Sambra Zaoui.

Barry students, supported by faculty and staff members, again racked up an impressive record of community service as they gave their time, talents, and energies to a wide range of community-based programs and projects. Their 62,000 hours of service this year reflect a 17 percent increase in service hours in comparison with the previous year’s 53,000 hours. Both course-based service (service-learning) and volunteer service hours are included in the tally.

Providing service at home and abroad, students engaged mainly in educational assistance (25%) and environmental sustainability projects (20%), supported youth development and hunger-alleviation efforts (15%), and contributed to health-related projects (13%).

In the educational assistance category, projects involved mainly teaching assistance by students in the School of Education and volunteer tutoring in regular and after-school programs. Environmental sustainability projects included service that supported the programs of community partners involved in sustainable agricultural practices, work in community gardens, litter pickup and landscaping in public parks, cleanup of school premises, and the promotion of recycling.

Data culled from the Community Engagement Management System (CEMS) indicated that a large number of students were involved in advocacy activities addressing a variety of social issues. Many students also participated in youth development activities at various community locations.

In addition to schools, popular community sites for students included the service and campaign locations of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Student/Farmworker Alliance; community gardens and food banks; homeless shelters and public parks; and a nursing home near campus.
Barry University President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, signed Campus Compact’s Thirtieth Anniversary Statement, expressing institutional commitment to developing a Campus Civic Action Plan.

The plan will include specific actions that the university will take to prepare students for democratic citizenship, build partnerships for change, and reinvigorate higher education for the public good. The impacts that the university expects to achieve also will be specified in the plan.

Barry’s Civic Action Plan is expected to be ready before the start of the 2017–2018 academic year.

The Campus Compact Thirtieth Anniversary Action Statement of Presidents and Chancellors includes five commitments (see box).

Sister Linda is one of 400-plus Campus Compact members who have become signatories to the Action Statement.

Campus Compact was founded in 1985, when a small group of higher education leaders came together based on a shared concern about the future of American democracy. They made a commitment to one another to work together to advance the public purposes of higher education on their campuses, in their communities, and across the country.

That occasion “also signified a commitment to honor the longstanding compact between higher education and the public,” according to the Campus Compact Action Statement. “That initial commitment catalyzed a movement that has changed the landscape of higher education. Nearly 1100 institutions now belong to Campus Compact, which has grown to include a network of state and regional Compacts and has become a key element of a global movement for the public purposes of higher education.”

Sister Linda serves on the Florida Campus Compact Executive Committee.

**Barry President Signs Campus Compact Anniversary Action Statement**

**Commitments**

- “We empower our students, faculty, staff, and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearer and around the world.”

- “We prepare our students for lives of engaged citizenship, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.”

- “We embrace our responsibilities as place based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities—economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.”

- “We harness the capacity of our institutions—through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice—to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future.”

- “We foster an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education by setting high expectations for members of the campus community to contribute to their achievement.”
Four students and four student organizations, four faculty members, and two departments received awards for community engagement at Barry University on March 30. Four community partners received awards as well.

The CCSI organized and hosted the third annual Community Engagement Awards on Barry’s main campus in Miami Shores. In all, 18 major awards in six categories were presented at the event.

Undergraduates Bethany Dill, Laura Gagliardi, Christopher Riker, and Asha Starks were honored for creating community impact. Dr. Scott Smith, vice president for student affairs, presented each with a plaque.

Dill was completing her education degree requirements as she prepared for a career in global advocacy for education of at-risk students. She had developed a keen interest in addressing refugee issues, interned in the Refugee Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, and planned to research educational challenges faced by Syrian refugees. She also had interned with International Justice Mission, where she analyzed data for 18 international field offices.

A Stamps scholar, Dill supported development programs at Inca Link International in Trujillo, Peru, and volunteered in Hyderabad, India, with Advocates for Babies in Crisis.

Gagliardi participated in the MLK Day of Service, Make a Difference Day, College Brides Walk, and other community service events; and she was a volunteer with Ayuda, Inc. In 2015 she was a campaign assistant for a village council candidate and the eventual appointee as mayor of Miami Shores Village. She also was a member of the North Dade Regional Chamber of Commerce delegation to Tallahassee in March 2015.

Riker is a student activist who endeavored to hold officials accountable by working directly with law-enforcement officials, legislators, and community organizations. Taking on the issue of police brutality, he authored a bill to promote the use of body cameras in law-enforcement agencies. His extensive research to document instances of questionable or unwarranted police actions was shared with lawmakers and community organizations locally and across Florida.
As the president of Florida’s College Democrats, Riker organized fellow students to support “progressive policy and progressive candidates” throughout the state. As a Barry Service Corps fellow, he organized university students to attend PACT’s annual Nehemiah Action, a community organizing assembly that promoted fair juvenile justice policies and affordable housing this year.

Starks is a civil rights activist and youth mentor who has “tangibly impacted the welfare of Miami’s communities of color” while promoting Barry University’s core commitment of social justice. As a member of the grassroots organization Dream Defenders, she staged civil disobedience demonstrations and helped to organize residents of Overtown to oppose police brutality and development projects that would have displaced low-income residents.

Also a Barry Service Corps fellow, Starks facilitated weekly service trips to Gang Alternative and the Little Haiti Optimist Club.

The Barry U Softball Team, the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS), the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) at the Barry School of Law are the four student organizations that received the Community Impact Award.

The award to the Barry U Softball Team was “in recognition of nearly 400 hours of community service and engagement, reflective of passion and dedication.” Team members supported the Miami Health and Family Expo, Miami Shores Street Fair, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk, Light the Night Walk, Society of St. Andrew Cleaning Project, a clothing drive, and a Thanksgiving food drive. They also volunteered for a Make a Difference Day project, FAPA (Foster and Adoptive Parents Association) Field Day, and service in the Camillus House soup kitchen. And they contributed to the Make a Wish fund-raising drive, which raised $30,000 in the past two years.

MAPS was honored for addressing health and social issues affecting underserved population groups while preparing its members for their chosen profession.

“From organizing Diversity Dialogues on healthcare practices in different cultures, to serving as language translators at health fairs, to raising funds for disease-related research – this multicultural student organization is involved meaningfully in the community,” said Vice President for Business and Finance Susan Rosenthal, who presented the award. “Some of its executive board members serve as science mentors at a local elementary school; the organization’s Box Tops for Education Drive benefits schools in Miami-Dade and Broward; proceeds from its kickball tournament go to the American Heart Association.”

SMIF is a student-funded and student-run organization that invests allocations from Barry’s endowment fund. Under the guidance of three School of Business faculty members, SMIF played an important role in the implementation of a social entrepreneurship project under the direction of the Community Learning Partnership of Greater Miami Shores.

“Supported by the Mark and Greta Walker Foundation, the students have instituted a process that takes a kinder, gentler approach as compared with the TV reality show...
“Shark Tank,” said Rosenthal as she presented the award. “They call it the ‘Dolphin Tank’, and it benefits middle- and high-school students in the local community.”

SMIF is perhaps best known for its innovative financial literacy program embedded in Finance 356, a service-learning-designated course. Since August 2012, approximately 100 Barry students involved in SMIF have delivered the program to about 140 students at Turner Technical High.

Barry Law’s VITA involves free tax-preparation services for low- to moderate-income individuals. Students gain valuable skills in tax preparation, build client-relations skills, and support the community.

The Barry site in Orlando, launched in 2006, previously received the VITA Rookie Site Award from the American Bar Association Law Student Division. Every year since then, the program has won the National Achievement Award from the same ABA division.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) at the Barry School of Law was among four student organizations that received the Community Impact Award.

Since its inception, more than 250 Barry Law students have volunteered for this program, assisting an estimated 1,000 income-tax payers in Central Florida.

Dr. Jill Farrell, dean of the Adrian Dominican School of Education, presented the Community Engagement Educator Award to Dr. Ricardo “Rick” Jimenez, assistant professor of computer science. Ferrell told guests at the awards luncheon that Jimenez’s engagement with the community started before the CCSI was created.

“Since 2009, he has devoted himself to supporting information technology projects that benefit community agencies and residents,” Farrell said. “Together with his service-learning students and volunteers, he has refurbished more than 150 donated computers. He has also assisted with onsite installations and support in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods such as Liberty City. Through his devoted service, he has contributed to bridging the digital divide in the community.”

Farrell also pointed out that Jimenez’s students admired his work ethic; his faculty colleagues praised his civic-mindedness; and community partners called him “an empowering collaborator.”

Dr. Pamela Hall, associate professor of psychology, received the Engaged Scholarship Award from Dr. Victor Romano, chair of Barry’s Faculty Senate.

Hall employs service-learning as an approach to teaching; she does community-focused participatory research; and she regularly serves alongside her students in the community. Furthermore, she had effectively interconnected her teaching, research, and service to exemplify what Ernest Boyer called “the scholarship of engagement.” She has disseminated her scholarship through peer-reviewed presentations and publications, most with students and faculty colleagues.

During the summers of 2012–2015, Hall implemented a literacy and empowerment program, funded by The Children’s Trust to the tune of $296,000. The program benefited more than 400 Haitian adolescents and their families in Miami-Dade County. She was a member of the second cohort of service-learning faculty fellows and was about to complete a two-year term as facilitator of the Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship.

Dr. Kevin Kemerer, associate professor of accounting, and Dr. Mitchell Rosenwald, associate professor of social work, won the Service-Learning Faculty Award. Each taught a service-learning-designated course.

Through his service-learning course – ACC 362-01: Federal Income Tax – Kemerer supervised his students as they provided tax-preparation service to low- to moderate-income members of the community. The students
did so as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA), sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS senior tax consultant had praised the effective and accurate tax-return preparations made by Kemerer and his students.

According to Dr. Karen Callaghan, associate vice president for undergraduate studies, Kemerer has done “exceptional work as a service-learning course instructor and the Barry VITA site coordinator.”

Rosenwald co-developed and taught Service-Learning and Social Work Practice (SW 323), a three-credit course in the undergraduate social work program. Each student is required to provide at least 45 hours of service that addresses a specific community need or social issue. The community partners for the course have included Feeding South Florida, Food for the Poor, Gratigny Elementary School, and Special Olympics Florida.

Students taking this course supported efforts to relieve hunger, attend to children with special needs, and assisted with organizing events for persons with intellectual disabilities. The students documented their experiences in journals and reflection papers and made group presentations at an end-of-semester symposium.

Callaghan presented the Service-Learning Faculty Award to Rosenwald “for his exemplary work in developing this service-learning-designated course and serving as the instructor.”

The Department of Physical Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences in the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences were honored with the Engaged Department Award. Dr. Christopher Starratt, Barry’s interim provost and vice president of mission and institutional effectiveness, presented a plaque to each department. The award is emblematic of achievements in advancing the community engagement goals of the university, educating students for civic and social responsibility, and improving community life.

In Physical Sciences, a faculty member developed Barry’s first service-learning-designated course, which was highlighted in the university’s successful application for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. There are several other community-engaged course offerings in this department.

“Students learn not only in classrooms and laboratories but also in the community, where they share their knowledge and love of science,” Starratt said. “Notable initiatives include the annual Chemistry and Physics Tournament for high schools, the Chemistry Club’s Magic Shows for elementary schools, and the COACH Program. These initiatives have benefited underrepresented population groups, and they exemplify a deep commitment to the community.”

Department faculty members served regularly as judges at science fairs in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

“Internally, participation on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee, on the Service-Learning Course Review Committee, and in the Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship also distinguishes this department as highly engaged,” Starratt noted before he presented the coveted award to Dr. Zuzana Zajickova, professor of chemistry and department chair.
distress. Furthermore, a faculty member of this department has been working on the prevention of non-communicable diseases in underserved African communities through physical activity and education. On campus, a faculty member served on Barry’s Carnegie Community Engagement Task Force; another chaired the CCSI’s Community-Based Research Mini-Grant Committee for two years; and a third has been serving on the University’s QEP Committee.

The Community Partnership Award went to Church World Service, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers & Student/Farmworker Alliance, the Collaborative Family Law Group of Central Florida, and Special Olympics Florida. Rev. Cristóbal Torres, OP, the university chaplain, presented plaques to the organizations.

Prior to the Community Engagement Awards Ceremony, the CCSI presented its Service Award to three Barry staff members. Sandra Acevedo, the coordinator of local and global outreach for the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences, was recognized for her handling of administrative arrangements for various successful community engagement projects over the years. In particular, she was praised for her current coordination of outreach efforts as Barry University prepares to host the 2017 World Congress of the International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women.
Kerri-Quaan Stewart, director of software solutions in the Division of Information Technology, and Grace Ralfelt, solutions architect, received recognition for their work in developing Barry’s Community Engagement Management System (CEMS). Considered essential to the CCSI’s role as the institutional clearinghouse for community engagement, CEMS allows users to access a variety of pertinent resources.

The CCSI also presented certificates to three Community Impact Award finalists – nursing students Angela Greggs and Jill Williams and social work student Anthony Torres. Liz James, experiential learning coordinator, was the presenter.

Dr. Dwight E. Giles, Jr., professor of higher education at the University of Massachusetts Boston, was the guest speaker at the Community Engagement Awards, which coincided with the third annual Community Engagement Symposium. A former faculty member at Vanderbilt University, Giles was a co-recipient (with Janet Eyler) of Campus Compact’s Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service-Learning in 2003. He also won the Distinguished Research Award from the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement in 2009 and was the 2014 recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Society for Experiential Education.

Giles emphasized the importance of giving awards for outstanding service and achievements. He gave a special acknowledgement to the four community partner organizations that won awards. He said: “I have a warm spot on my heart for community partners because I started in this work as a community partner. You rise to the challenge of working with universities who live in a different universe with such constructions as semesters and summer breaks, and who have evaluation requirements that you don’t have in your agencies and organizations.”

Dr. Celeste Fraser Delgado, professor of English and humanities in the School of Professional and Career Education and former facilitator of the Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship, introduced the guest speaker at the event.

The Community Engagement Awards Committee was composed of Dr. Carter Winkle, chair; Dr. Adam Dean, Dr. Tisa McGhee, Dr. Jeffrey Ritter, Karen Stalnaker, and Dr. David Wolf.

At the awards ceremony, Barry University President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, publicly recognized the work of the task force charged with developing and proposing recommendations for the design of the CCSI. She presented a CCSI “5 Years of Achievements” memento to each task force member in attendance: Dr. Karen Callaghan, Dr. Gloria Schaab, and Cesar Odio.
Barry Student Leader
Named a Newman Civic Fellow

Campus Compact named Barry Service Corps Fellow Christian Mesa a Newman Civic Fellow. He is one of 218 college student leaders – 19 from Florida – selected for the 2016 Newman Civic Fellows Award.

This award honors “inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country,” according to Campus Compact. “Through service, research, and advocacy, Newman Civic Fellows are making the most of their college experiences to better understand themselves, the root causes of social issues, and effective mechanisms for creating lasting change.”

A cardiovascular perfusion/general studies major, Mesa has been participating in the Barry Service Corps Fellows Program since August 2015. This civic learning and leadership program is designed to foster civic-mindedness and to prepare students for social change roles.

Barry University President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, said Mesa has demonstrated that he can make a difference in the community and can inspire others to get involved. Sister Linda nominated Mesa for Campus Compact’s Newman Civic Fellows Award on the CCSI’s recommendation.

“Given his leadership ability and motivation, Christian Mesa will undoubtedly contribute to public problem solving and to the long-term improvement of community life,” Sister Linda added.

Mesa supported the work of three community partners – EcoTech Visions, Urban GreenWorks, and La Paloma Neighborhood Association. In his service with EcoTech Visions, Mesa focused on increasing awareness of the business incubator’s support for the development of “green” manufacturing start-ups (which use recycled materials in production processes) in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, such as Liberty City in Miami.

Mesa led semi-monthly service trips to Urban GreenWorks, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore the environmental and economic health of underserved communities. He provided orientations for Barry students who helped to maintain two community gardens, and he conducted reflection activities that encouraged volunteers to make long-term commitments to supporting sustainable agriculture. He also has facilitated a
beautification project in La Paloma. Project volunteers from Barry’s main campus contributed not only to the physical improvement of the neighborhood but also to social improvement through the strengthening of relationships among residents.

Dr. Frank Newman, for whom the award is named, co-founded Campus Compact with the presidents of Stanford University, Brown University, and Georgetown University in 1985 to foster students’ involvement in public service and as democratic change agents. Campus Compact has grown to represent more than 1,100 college and university presidents committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education.

The KPMG Foundation and Newman’s Own Foundation are sponsors of Campus Compact’s Newman Civic Fellows Award.

University Gets National Recognition for Commitment to Diversity

Minority Access, Inc. presented a certificate to Barry University in recognition of the institution’s commitment to diversity. The presentation was made during a special luncheon at the organization’s 16th National Role Models Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in late September.

Dr. Glenn Bowen, director of Barry's Center for Community Service Initiatives, accepted the certificate from Andrea D. Mickle, president of Minority Access.

Barry’s student population consists of 32 percent Black non-Hispanic; 29 percent Hispanic; 20 percent White non-Hispanic; 9 percent unknown/unreported; 8 percent nonresident alien; and 1 percent Asian, with the remainder being students of other races, or of two or more races. The university promotes and celebrates diversity through programs and events such as the Africana Studies Program, the Institute for Hispanic/Latino Theology and Ministry, the Office of International and Multicultural Programs, and the Festival of Nations.

“Barry University offers a living and learning community that ... encourages a diversity of perspectives and life experiences,” said Dr. Scott F. Smith, vice president for student affairs, who submitted the university’s diversity profile to Minority Access.

Dr. Smith cited Barry’s core commitment of “inclusive community,” which states in part: “Embracing a global world view, the University nurtures and values cultural, social and intellectual diversity, and welcomes faculty, staff, and students of all faith traditions.”

Barry is one of 43 colleges and universities that Minority Access recognized in 2015 for their commitment to diversity. The luncheon at which they received national recognition featured Congressman Elijah E. Cummings as the keynote speaker and recipient of the organization’s Humanitarian Award.

Minority Access is a national nonprofit organization whose work is focused on increasing diversity, decreasing disparities, and reducing environmental injustice in higher education, government, and the business sector.

Rosenwald Receives South Florida Service-Learning Award

Dr. Mitchell Rosenwald, associate professor of social work, was a recipient of the 2015 Spirit of Service Learning Award sponsored by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida, the Armando Alejandre Jr. Memorial Foundation, and the Miami-Dade Teacher of the Year Coalition.

Selected as a joint first-place winner in the college/university category, Rosenwald was presented with the award at an event at the New World Center in Miami Beach on October 2.

Rosenwald was a Service-Learning Faculty Fellow (2012-2013) with the Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI) and has been the instructor for SW 323: Service-Learning and Social Work Practice.

SW 323 is a three-credit, spring-semester course required for social work majors. Each student provides at
least 45 hours of service that addresses a specific community need or social issue.

“Last year, students supported efforts to relieve hunger, attended to children with special needs, and assisted with organizing events for persons with intellectual disabilities,” noted CCSI Director Dr. Glenn Bowen, who nominated Rosenwald for the award. “Students documented their experiences in journals and reflection papers and made group presentations at an end-of-semester symposium. The three service-learning projects facilitated the practical application of course content while meeting needs in the community.”

The event at which the award was presented was billed as “What You Can Do for Your Country.” Organizers Virginia Emmons McNaught and Brett McNaught, founders of Educate Tomorrow, described the event as “an evening that highlights the experiences of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and other community leaders’ impact on their global communities.” Emmons McNaught also is the president of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida.

Associate Athletic Director Honored by Make-A-Wish

Barry University Associate Athletic Director James “Jamie” Carrig was honored on October 6 with Make-A-Wish Southern Florida’s Young Philanthropist Innovation Award. He received the award at the organization’s Annual Donor Celebration held at Jungle Island in Miami.

With Carrig as the lead organizer, Barry University Athletics and other departments in the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences have been at the forefront of the university’s fundraising efforts for Make-A-Wish. They raised more than $20,200 during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Over the past decade, Barry has been one of the top NCAA Division II schools in the country to support the fundraising initiative.

“Barry University Athletics, and specifically the student-athletes, have consistently raised a significant amount of money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida,” Carrig said. “I love to see our student-athletes get excited and how they get involved with Make-A-Wish, particularly the relationships they build with the Wish kids. It’s a lot of work, but the nice thing about it is when you have hundreds of student-athletes and a university that is involved, the amount of work pales in comparison of what you get in return for helping out the young kids.”

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions “to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy,” noted Norman Wedderburn, the organization’s president and chief executive officer. He said the organization has granted more than 500 wishes to kids in the region this past fiscal year.

According to Wedderburn, the Young Philanthropist Innovation Award was in recognition of the university’s dedication to Make-A-Wish. Barry’s support “is truly remarkable,” he said.

Following the organization’s award announcement, Director of Athletics Michael Covone thanked Carrig “for making wishes come true.” Sara Herald, vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs, added her congratulations.

In response, Carrig said: “This is truly a Barry University award and I am proud to be a part of an incredible group of students, faculty, and staff that continue to put the lives of others ahead of their own.”

The CCSI honored Carrig with an award in March 2015 for his service in support of Make-A-Wish.

CCSI Associate Director Gets Honorary Membership

CCSI Associate Director Courtney Berrien was named an honorary member of the Barry University Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success: Sigma Alpha Pi. The chapter held its member induction and awards ceremony on April 28 in the R. Kirk Landon Student Union.

Rebecca Leppert, the Sigma Alpha Pi chapter president, reported that she had asked members to nominate a staff member who exemplified leadership, mentorship, and had demonstrated commitment to bettering the lives of students.” She said Berrien was recommended as “meeting this distinction.”
Graduating senior Peter Nwokoye and sophomore Paola Montenegro were awarded the 2016 St. Catherine Medal for outstanding leadership and service. Barry’s president, Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, conferred the honor on both students at the Honors Convocation on May 6 in Cor Jesu Chapel. Sister Sara Fairbanks, OP, PhD, an associate professor of theology, summarized the students’ achievements.

Sister Sara noted that Nwokoye served as president of the Chemistry Honor Society and was actively involved in the project known as COACH (Chemistry Outreach: Approaching Chemistry Hands On), which benefits local under-resourced elementary and high schools. He also participated in the 2015 Alternative Spring Break trip to Immokalee, Fla., to learn, reflect, and serve in response to issues affecting migrant farm workers.

“Peter puts his scholastic gifts at the service of others in countless ways,” Sister Sara said.

Sister Sara described Montenegro’s record of service as “impressive.” Montenegro has worked closely with the Center for Community Service Initiatives as a Barry Service Corps Fellow and an Alternative Breaks leader, helping to organize service trips to Immokalee and Port-de-Paix, Haiti. She also was a fellow with the Millennium Campus Network this year.

Each year, Kappa Gamma Pi Honor Society makes the St. Catherine Medal available for outstanding student leadership and service to the university and the wider community. The Honors Committee uses a nomination and selection process to award the medal.
The CCSI registered 19 organizations as community partners this year. They include CODeLLA; Farm Share; the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida; and the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department. The same number was registered the previous year.

CODeLLA’s main goal is to empower the next generation of Latinas by building an invaluable skill set and giving them the confidence to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Providing a technology-based entrepreneurship and coding immersion program for under-represented Latina girls aged 9–12, CODeLLA offers “a safe, girls-only environment built for learning and exploring the fundamentals of computer science, digital literacy, and interpersonal development.”

Established in 1991, Farm Share is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to recovering, sorting, packing, and distributing nutritious food for people in need. It administers a combination of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodity programs and produce-recovery operations. Operating the only charitable produce packinghouse in the eastern United States, the organization distributes food, free of charge, through various agencies in the community. Its Homestead facility is located in the heart of South Florida’s agricultural area.

The Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, Inc. is the preeminent local organization dedicated solely to all girls. It is where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build courage, confidence, and character. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives, such as leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

The Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department manages a world-class park system focused on place-making, health and fitness, and conservation and stewardship. Miami-Dade County Parks is the third largest county park system in the United States, consisting of 270 parks and 13,573 acres of land.

The other newly registered community partners are AMIkids Miami-Dade (North), Amor en Acción, the Arthritis Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, DIBIA Dream, and the Prosperity Social Community Development Group.

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Community Partner Appointed to QEP Committee

Rev. Richard Clements, Jr., director of music and ministries at the Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, was appointed to the Implementation Committee for Barry’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in December.

Clements replaced Sibyl Brown, former volunteer coordinator at Feeding South Florida.

Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church currently provides community-based service-learning opportunities for Barry’s sociology and theology students. The church was a recipient of a Barry Community Partnership Award in 2014.

Two community partners serve on the committee, which is charged with planning, coordinating, and monitoring the implementation of the QEP entitled “Fostering Personal and Social Responsibility Through Experiential Learning.” The pilot phase of the QEP implementation is underway.

Saliha Nelson, vice president of URGENT, Inc., is the other community partner appointed to the committee.
Community Partners Attend Workshop at Community Engagement Fair

The CCSI hosted a two-hour workshop on “Effective Partnerships for Community-University Engagement” as part of the Community Engagement Fair on September 30.

CCSI Director Dr. Glenn Bowen made an introductory presentation titled “Creating and Maintaining Partnerships for Community Engagement,” after which Experiential Learning Coordinator Liz James conducted a workshop activity in which participants identified elements of effective partnerships.

The workshop activity was followed by a presentation focused on partnerships for community engagement in Barry University’s School of Social Work. Dr. Sharron Singleton, director of field education, referred to the Office of the Public Guardian, the Service-Learning and Social Work course, and the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Project as exemplars of community engagement. She also highlighted the work of the Student Social Work Association and faculty leadership in community-based projects.

Dr. Roxanne Davies, associate vice president for mission and institutional effectiveness, delivered opening remarks in which she drew attention to Barry’s 75th anniversary. She said the anniversary “offers us the perfect opportunity to reflect upon our heritage and what this means for today’s world, especially in terms of our community engagement and outreach.”

Davies said: “As we explore the transformational power of working together to effect positive change at the community level, we are mindful that Barry’s Dominican heritage has always called us to go forth into the communities we serve to challenge systems of inequity. This call to action inspires us to look for new opportunities to engage with the community, particularly those groups that are traditionally underserved.”

She added: “Catholic, Dominican colleges and universities express their unique and distinctive culture through the education of their students to serve others. In true Dominican fashion, building community ... means furthering Barry’s institutional mission toward serving the common good, creating greater opportunities for community service, and supporting diversity initiatives.”

Associate Director Courtney Berrien, who coordinated the fair, gave an overview of the CCSI’s co-curricular programs and events. She thanked community partners for their collaboration with Barry staff, faculty, and students.

Twenty-seven community members and four Barry Service Corps fellows represented 23 community partners at the fall fair, which took place in the R. Kirk Landon Student Union on Barry’s main campus. The workshop preceded the displays-and-discussion segment of the event.

Community partners provided information on agency programs and services. They also shared volunteer and course-based service opportunities available to students.

The spring Community Engagement Fair was held on January 28. Community partners discussed direct service, mentoring, employment, and leadership opportunities with students, faculty, and staff attending the semiannual event. The community partners offered opportunities in such areas as youth development, environmental preservation, human rights, public health, and animal welfare.

Diana Young, the community outreach and resource manager for Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, spoke with students about opportunities to contribute to environmental preservation and health and wellness programs.

“I’ve really enjoyed talking with students and looking for potential ways to collaborate in the future,” Young said.
Nursing Home Becomes a Friend of the Barry Library

Sinai Plaza Rehabilitation and Nursing Center became a patron of the Monsignor William Barry Memorial Library. The nonprofit nursing home received a “Friend of the Library” card for residents to use for checking out books, DVDs, and other items.

Sinai Plaza’s new activities director, Nelson Ramirez, expressed appreciation for the university’s prompt and positive response to his request for residents of the nursing home to have access to the library collection.

The CCSI had conveyed his request to the library administration, and then-interim Library Director Rodrigo Castro approved the creation of a “Friend of the Library” category of patrons. Now, Sinai Plaza residents can check out up to five items at a time, with a regular lending period of two weeks.

On August 21, Ramirez accompanied the first library patron from Sinai Plaza to peruse and borrow items from the library collection. The delighted resident told Ramirez: “This is a miracle; I am so grateful to be here.”

The 150-bed Sinai Plaza provides short-term rehabilitation and long-term nursing home services. As a community partner and one of the university’s nearest neighbors in North Miami-Dade, the nursing home has welcomed Barry students over the years. Students from such disciplines as social work, sociology, nursing, and theology have engaged with staff members and residents of the nursing home as part of experiential learning assignments.

Community Partners Express Appreciation to University

Chapman Partnership and The Salvation Army expressed appreciation to Barry University for support provided by students, staff, and faculty members.

On April 19, the university received a certificate of appreciation from Chapman Partnership for “dedication and contribution to the least, the last and the lost of Miami-Dade County.”

Chapman Partnership aims to “empower homeless men, women and children to build a positive future by providing the resources and assistance critical to growth and independence.” The nonprofit organization provides a comprehensive support program that includes emergency housing, meals, health care, and job training for homeless persons.

Barry was represented at The Salvation Army Miami Area Command’s 2016 Appreciation Luncheon, where individuals and organizations received recognition for their contributions to the organization and for making a difference in the lives of community members in need.

Representing Barry at the event, held at the Coral Gables Country Club on May 20, were CCSI Program Coordinator Andres Quevedo and Barry Service Corps Fellow Presler Maxius as well as the International and Multicultural Program’s Associate Director Freddie Frage and Coordinator Daisy Santiago.

With a commitment to “Doing the Most Good,” The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs without discrimination. The Salvation Army Miami Area Command offers ongoing assistance to people with limited resources in Miami-Dade County through shelters, rehabilitation centers, church activities, community centers, and emergency food programs and services.

Earlier in the year, William H. Turner Technical Arts High School thanked the university for supporting the school’s Academy of Business and Finance. Dr. Eugenie Anim, Turner Tech’s academy leader for the Academy of Finance and the Academy of Information Technology and Entrepreneurship, said the school particularly appreciated the support of “the outstanding students” of Barry’s Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF).

In an email to Dr. Tomislav Mandakovic, dean of the Andreas School of Business, Amin described the benefits of the partnership between Barry and Turner Tech as “immeasurable.” She said the school looked forward to the continued success of the partnership.

The Turner Tech administrator also thanked Dr. Stephen Morrell, professor of economics and finance, for “his leadership and support in forging this relationship and to the outstanding students of SMIF.”

Amin attended the university’s Core Commitments Luncheon on November 13. The event featured presentations by the School of Business.

“We appreciated the invitation to join in the celebration,” she said. “I especially enjoyed learning about all of the wonderful programs supported by the faculty and students at Barry University.”
Students Take Part in Miami Bridge’s Anniversary Event

Four Barry students helped Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Tiliah Miles, Andres Quevedo, Christopher Riker, and Asha Starks took part in an anniversary fair in Miami, where they interacted with youth served by the organization. The fair featured arts and crafts, music, face painting, water sports, a talent show, open-microphone performances, and games.

The students took the opportunity to promote programs and events organized by the CCSI.

Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services is a not-for-profit organization that provides refuge, protection, counseling, and specialized care to youth and families in crisis. It is Miami-Dade County’s 24-hour emergency shelter for youth.

Founded in 1985, the organization has two campuses, one in Miami and the other in Homestead.

City of Hollywood Council Hosts Barry-Organized Workshops

The City of Hollywood’s African American Advisory Council hosted two workshops on civic involvement, organized by Barry University’s Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI), in February.


Dr. Walter Pierce, an associate professor of social work, led the February 23 workshop, the topic of which was “Civic Involvement for Community Improvement.” He referred to the African American tradition of self-help, addressed the question of civic duty versus civic responsibility, and facilitated a discussion of how to get involved productively in the community.

CCSI Director Dr. Glenn Bowen coordinated the workshop series in consultation with Anthony Grisby, the city’s community development administrator and liaison with the African American Advisory Council. The workshops, which were free and open to the public, were held in the City of Hollywood Commission Chambers.

MIAMI BRIDGE ANNIVERSARY: At the Miami Bridge Anniversary Fair, Barry students Asha Starks and Tiliah Miles take the opportunity to promote CCSI programs and events.
Sections of Five Courses Approved for Service-Learning Designation

Sections of five courses were approved for the service-learning designation this year. The courses include Introduction to Communication, an internship course in the Department of English and Foreign Languages, and a graduate course in the counseling program. In addition, the designation was renewed for a course in the School of Business.

Two sections of COM 201: Introduction to Communication were approved for the service-learning designation. The course instructors are Drs. Margaret (Maggie) Chojnacki, Nickesia Gordon, Katherine Nelson, and Pawena (Winnie) Sirimangkala, all associate professors of communication.

Students will explore the concept of public advocacy through coursework and in partnership with local community organizations. As explained in the syllabus, “Students will participate in a structured advocacy project to address an identified social issue using communication skills and competencies they are learning in the course. The assignment has an embedded reflection component which prompts students to think about their roles as citizens and how they can use their education to help create social change.”

Students will be required to use social media as the primary communication tool for their social change-focused advocacy project.

SPA 499–01: Internship is the first course in the Department of English and Foreign Languages to be designated as service-learning. This semester-long, supervised, career-related educational experience combines elements of service-learning with a traditional internship in order to produce the best outcomes of both forms of experiential education. Through this course, students will undertake a significant experiential learning opportunity with a governmental or community-based organization.

Dr. Beatriz Calvo Peña, assistant professor of Spanish, said students would teach Spanish to minor and adult residents during eight classes (a total of 16 hours). Students also would write a personal report narrating their experience and reflecting on how this collaboration fosters social change.

The graduate course approved for the service-learning designation is CSL 629: Social and Cultural Issues in Counseling. Its service-learning component requires that students select a community agency where they will provide service that will support the agency in advancing its mission and particularly in achieving its social justice or advocacy goals. Students are required to initiate a relationship with agency personnel, provide 10 to 15 hours of service, engage regularly in reflection on their experience, and share the results of the entire service-learning experience in a professional presentation.

Counseling is an academic program of the Adrian Dominican School of Education. Dr. Raul Machuca, an assistant professor, is the course instructor.

Also added to the list of courses designated as service-learning this year was a mathematics course and a research course in biology.

In MAT 213–01: Calculus III, the purpose of service-learning is to get young students excited about math, to broaden their vision of the usage and importance of mathematics, and to help them overcome difficulties they encounter in class.

Dr. Sanja Zivanovic, assistant professor of mathematics, is the course instructor. Her students are expected to will serve as tutors in an off-campus program.

The goal of the service-learning component of BIO 295/395/495–06: Research is to apply lessons learned through research to the broader context of fostering a love of learning and discovery, and encouraging engagement in and excitement for science. Students are expected to assist with science homework and science-fair projects at an elementary school. The course also calls for each research student to prepare a presentation of his or her research for 5th graders with related hands-on activities.

Dr. Stephanie Bingham, associate professor of biology, is the course instructor.

Courses that carry the service-learning designation reflect the thoughtful integration of service into the curriculum. They demonstrate the value of applied learning, student engagement with the community, and critical reflection.

The designation of ACC 362–01: Federal Income Taxation as a service-learning course was renewed this year. The course received the designation in February 2014. ACC 362–01 is part of the undergraduate curriculum in the School of Business.

Dr. Kevin Kemener, associate professor of accounting, is the course instructor. Kemener was one of two faculty members who received this year’s Service-Learning Faculty Award. Dr. Pamela Hall was the other recipient.

Dr. Carmen McCrink, associate professor, Adrian Dominican School of Education, is chair of the Service-Learning Course Review Committee. Other committee members are Dr. Tamara Hamilton, associate professor of chemistry, Department of Physical Sciences; Dr. Kevin Kemener, associate professor of accounting, School of Business; and Dr. Glenn Bowen, associate professor and director, Center for Community Service Initiatives.
Two Faculty Members Complete Service-Learning Fellowships

Dr. Ligia Mihut, assistant professor of English and multilingual language coordinator in the Department of English and Foreign Languages (College of Arts and Sciences), and Dr. Raul Machuca, assistant professor of counseling in the Adrian Dominican School of Education, completed their service-learning faculty fellowships in May.

The Faculty Fellows Program provides faculty support for the coordination and promotion of service-learning. The main purpose of the program is to increase the number and quality of service-learning courses and faculty who use the pedagogy effectively. The service-learning fellows’ role is part of a strategy by the CCSI to provide Barry faculty with pedagogical, administrative, and technical support. Faculty fellows are mentors and role models who share experience, knowledge, and skills with their colleagues. By promoting collaboration and innovation, the fellows make an important contribution to the intellectual life of the university as a community of scholars.

The director of the CCSI covered the following topics during the program’s orientation session on August 25: Faculty Fellows’ Experiences in Service-Learning and Community Engagement; Mission, Programs, and Services of the CCSI; Integrating Service-Learning into the Curriculum; Criteria for Designating Courses as Service-Learning; Promoting Service-Learning across the University; and the Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship.

CCSI Administrative Assistant Alicia Santos made a brief presentation on Service-Learning Resources and the Community Engagement Management System (CEMS).

The fellows participated in monthly faculty development seminars scheduled for September through April. Topics discussed during the eight seminars are as follows:

- Seminar I: Integrating Service-Learning into the Curriculum: Importance of Partnerships
- Seminar II: Assessment of Service-Learning: An Overview; Relationship Between Service-Learning and Community Engagement
- Seminar III: Service-Learning’s Relevance and Benefits to Faculty; Factors that Motivate and Deter Faculty Use of Service-Learning
- Seminar IV: Service-Learning and Social Justice
- Seminar V: Service-Learning in Online Courses
- Seminar VI: Assessment of Service-Learning: Using Reflection to Assess and Improve Student Learning
- Seminar VII: Interdisciplinary Service-Learning
- Seminar VIII: International Service-Learning

The faculty fellows worked collaboratively to develop and facilitate three service-learning workshops. The first workshop was held in the fall semester and the two others in the spring:

- Service-Learning 101: Fundamentals of the Pedagogy
- Critical Reflection as Assessment in Service-Learning
- Community-Based Research as Service-Learning

The fellows also made a number of presentations and provided consultations on campus. Each fellow fulfilled the requirement to submit a syllabus for a service-learning-enhanced course and applied for the service-learning designation. One of those courses, ENG 112 (with Mihut and Dr. Paige Banaji as instructors) served as a Barry Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) pilot course. The focus of the course was on the “community engagement and collaboration” outcome of the QEP, demonstrated as students “apply and explore the impact of the concepts, theories, and skills learned in class on issues affecting local and global communities.”

In addition, the service-learning fellows developed a survey to determine the level and extent of professional development support currently needed by faculty for the implementation of service-learning. Conducted in the fall semester, the university-wide survey generated responses to questions regarding workshop topics, delivery format, scheduling, and related issues.

Further, Mihut and Machuca assisted with initiating the birth of a service-learning curriculum project conceived by the CCSI. A comprehensive service-learning curriculum for faculty will be developed over the next two years to serve as a resource for faculty members interested in expanding their knowledge of service-learning and in gaining expertise in this high-impact pedagogical practice.

As required, the faculty fellows took part in seminars and other activities of the Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship (FLC) throughout the academic year.

Drs. Raul Machuca and Ligia Mihut were the service-learning faculty fellows for 2015-2016 academic year.
Reflecting on the Faculty Fellows Program, Mihut stated: “The Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program has granted me a unique opportunity to learn about service-learning; to develop and facilitate workshops; to collaborate and interact with colleagues across campus about their community engagement; and to reflect on and reconfigure my own teaching practices. All these engaged activities – from scholarship and teaching to administration and service in the community - in the course of nine months equip faculty in a wide range of academic work in a short period of time.”

Meanwhile, Machuca reported that he “gained a tremendous amount of knowledge in the area of service-learning and community-engaged scholarship.” He added: “I also had the opportunity of applying this knowledge to specific real situations such as the establishment of community partnerships, community-based research, and to multiple educational opportunities in the university and the community.”

Two Faculty Members Awarded Service-Learning Fellowships

The CCSI awarded service-learning fellowships to two faculty members for the 2016-2017 academic year. Dr. Adam Dean, associate professor of communication, and Dr. Tisa McGhee, assistant professor of social work, will be the faculty fellows.

Dean (PhD in Media, Art and Text, Virginia Commonwealth University) is a member of the Barry University Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship and the Community Engagement Awards Committee. He has been serving as the CCSI’s video director and editor.

He also is a member of the International Communication Association, the Arts in Society Knowledge Community, and the National Association of Broadcasters.

As a faculty member, Dean says his goal is “to teach our students how to make and use socially conscious media to serve the educational, creative, and cultural needs of their community.” As part of his fellowship, he will coordinate the production of a series of videos focused on community engagement and social change.

McGhee (PhD in Social Work, University of Southern California) served on the 2016 Community Engagement Awards Committee and has been a presenter at the annual Community Engagement Symposium. She was a winner of the Engaged Scholarship Award in 2015.

McGhee was awarded a $30,000 State of Florida grant to support the 2014-2015 program evaluation of the Miami Children’s Initiative. Since 2013, she has been involved in the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition, and, since 2014, in the Liberty City Community Collaborative For Change. In addition, she has been an advisory committee member of the City of Miami Gardens Health Foundation’s Healthy Community Partnership for the past two years.

As part of her fellowship, McGhee will promote community partner participation in service-learning course development and delivery.

Faculty fellows support the coordination and promotion of service-learning at Barry. Their roles include serving as faculty mentors while pursuing community-engaged scholarship.

CCSI Assists School of Education with Planning Capstone Project

The CCSI assisted Barry’s Adrian Dominican School of Education (ADSOE) with planning a capstone for the Doctorate of Education (EdD) program in organizational learning and leadership. Also, the CCSI invited community partners to participate in the capstone – a field-based, action-learning project.

Through this project, the doctoral students are expected to work closely with community organizations to develop and implement high-priority projects designed to analyze problems of practice and offer meaningful solutions. The students will serve as consultants, utilizing their analytical abilities, contextual knowledge, conceptual tools, and professional judgment to solve problems and address issues identified within the organization.

ADSOE introduced its EdD in organizational learning and leadership with a specialization in human resource development (HRD) in the spring of 2012. The program advances lifelong learning for students who want to further their knowledge in human resource development as well as develop their competitive advantage as vision-driven leaders.
Theology Students Provide 4,937 Hours of Service to the Community

Students taking theology courses provided 4,937 hours of service to the community this year – 2,471 hours in the fall and 2,466 hours in the spring.

During the fall 2015 semester, more than 280 theology students engaged in a variety of service-learning projects at 69 community sites. They provided 2,471 hours of service at community centers, nursing homes, food banks, nature preserves, and other community sites.

Experiential Learning Coordinator Liz James reported that the students assisted with projects that addressed such issues as community justice, human trafficking, refugee resettlement, farm workers’ rights, youth mentorship, long-term care, and food insecurity.

In all, 286 students were enrolled in 15 sections of three courses – THE 201: Theology: Faiths, Beliefs, and Traditions; THE 306: Dynamics of Faith, Beliefs, and Theology; and THE 327: Peace and Justice. All sections of THE 201 carry the service-learning designation, and both THE 306 and THE 327 had a service-learning component this year.

The course instructors were Sister Sara Fairbanks, Sister Mary Frances Fleischaker, Rev. Deborah Geweke, Dr. Deena Grant, Dr. Marc Lavallee, Dr. Alicia Marill, Dr. James Nickoloff, Fr. Jose David Padilla, Fr. Jorge Presmanes, Dr. Gloria Schaab, and Fr. Mark Wedig.

The sections taught by Wedig and Geweke served as a pilot for a new model of service-learning uniquely designed as part of Barry’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Both created a single partnership with an off-campus church that carried out specific faith-based outreach in the South Florida area.

Wedig’s class partnered with Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church. Students engaged the church’s ministry groups of HIV prevention; “Keeping It Real,” a weekly youth dynamics session; and a Saturday feeding ministry. At the end of the semester, Rev. Richard Clements from Mount Tabor and Liz James from the CCSI joined the students and instructor for reflection on experiential learning and community impact.

Geweke’s class partnered with Christ Lutheran Church near the Wilton Manors section of Fort Lauderdale, where they assisted with the church’s community outreach and welcome to the gay and lesbian communities.

Other community partners involved in THE 201 in the fall semester were Church World Service, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Gang Alternative, the Little Haiti Optimist Club, Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, PACT (People Acting for Community Together), Pass It On Ministries of South Florida, and Urban Paradise Guild.
During the spring 2016 semester, theology students provided 2,466 hours of service to the community as they completed the service-learning requirements of three courses. The service provided by the 274 students benefited 94 community-based organizations and projects.

The students were enrolled in 14 service-learning sections of three theology courses. The courses were THE 201: Theology – Faiths, Beliefs, and Traditions (11 sections); THE 306: Dynamics of Faith, Beliefs, and Theology (one section); and THE 311: Sexuality, Sex, and Morality (two sections).

The Faiths, Beliefs, and Traditions course instructors were Sister Mary Frances Fleischaker, Dr. Deena Grant, Dr. Christopher Jones, Dr. Marc Lavallee, Fr. José David Padilla, Fr. Jorge Presmanes, Dr. James Nickoloff, Dr. Gloria Schaab, and Fr. Mark Wedig. Dr. Alicia Marill taught THE 306 and Dr. Christopher Jones was the instructor for THE 311.

Service sites included local nature preserves, food-distribution venues, community centers, nursing homes, and targeted advocacy locales in Miami-Dade County. The community partners and projects included Amnesty International, Carnival Arts, the College Brides Walk, EcoTech Visions, Feeding South Florida, Gang Alternative, Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa, Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, and PACT (People Acting for Community Together).

Projects addressed such issues as police-citizen relations, dating and domestic violence, farm-workers’ rights, youth mentorship, long-term care, and food insecurity.

Students Support Farm Share Projects as Part of Service-Learning Courses

Barry students lent a hand in support of projects organized by Farm Share, Inc., a Homestead-based organization whose mission is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by recovering and distributing fresh and nutritious food to people who need it most.

The students assisted Farm Share as a service-learning assignment in social work and theology courses throughout the spring semester. The theology students concentrated on supporting the organization’s food distribution events.

Not long after rolling out the welcome mat for the students, Farm Share called them “an amazing group of volunteers.”

“Farm Share is so excited to welcome an amazing group of volunteers from Barry University to our organization,” the organization said in its newsletter, The Farm Press. “Social Work and Theology students from Barry will be volunteering with Farm Share throughout their spring semester. Students will learn about poverty in Miami-Dade County and learn about the issue of food waste. Students will be helping with distribution events and assisting us with various projects.”

Social work students participated in various aspects of Farm Share’s Local Food Distribution and Education Program, reported Liz James, experiential learning coordinator in the CCSI. They were expected to draft testimonials based on interviews with food recipients, summarize monthly program results, score surveys, and assist on food distribution days. The surveys gauged Farm Share’s success in establishing food security, improving nutrition, and increasing awareness of Florida’s local food system.

Kristen King Jaiven, Farm Share’s director of communications and development (third from left), prepares social work students Rosa Gordon and Bridget Andres for the administration of a survey in Opa-Locka.
A three-member team of social work students administered and scored a survey of 30 food recipients in Opa-Locka as part of a research project that Farm Share was conducting. Bridget Andres, Lourdy Cesar, and Rosa Gordon were enrolled in SW 323: Service-Learning and Social Work Practice. Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church Ministries partnered with Farm Share to facilitate the Opa-Locka survey and food distribution site.

“Just knowing how we are helping get food on the table, instead of the dump, gives me a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment,” Gordon said. “This is a great opportunity for anyone to experience and see first-hand hunger in America and one organization responding to the need.”

To prepare for their service-learning assignment, Gordon and her classmates were trained in using a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) food security survey tool. Kristen King Jaiven, Farm Share’s then director of communications and development, was the trainer.

Farm Share had received a USDA Local Food Promotion Program grant to support food distribution and education in Opa-Locka and Pahokee, Fla.

Preeti Charania was the course instructor for SW 323, which includes a 45-hour community service component.

Social Work Students Reflect on Service-Learning Experiences

Social work students reflected on their service-learning experiences during an end-of-spring-semester symposium. The 16 students had logged more than 720 hours of community service as part of SW 323: Service-Learning and Social Work Practice.

For one student, the experience was “enlightening.” For another, it was “mind-altering.”

Lourdy Cesar said his experience at Farm Share enhanced his “sense of civic engagement.” Rosa Gordon, who was assigned to the same community organization, said the service-learning project opened her eyes to food waste. As a result, she added, she was “making a commitment to be less wasteful and to consider the impact of waste on natural resources.”

Each student who took the service-learning course was required to provide at least 45 hours of service to one of three community organizations – Farm Share, Sinai Plaza Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, or Special Olympics Florida.

Farm Share’s mission is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition by recovering and distributing fresh and nutritious food to people who need it. The students assigned to that organization had lleana Abreu as their site supervisor. Abreu, the director of communication and development, said 3 in 10 Florida children experienced food insecurity. Speaking at the symposium, she mentioned that Farm Share concentrated its food distribution on communities deprived of fresh produce, which included “food deserts” such as Opa-Locka.

Students addressed food-insecurity and food-waste issues. They took part in food-distribution events and assisted with administering a survey in Opa-Locka, in Miami-Dade County, and tallying survey responses from Pahokee, in Palm Beach County.

Farm Share had asked Cesar, Gordon, and their teammates Bridget Andres and Shykera Coats to watch the documentary “Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story.” The students also read a report titled “Income & Poverty in Miami-Dade County: 2013.”

Sinai Plaza is one of seven centers operated by the Plaza Health Network. Located across the street from the main entrance to Barry’s Miami Shores campus, the 150-bed facility is a convenient service site for students. Seven students who took SW 323 formed “Team Sinai” for their service-learning project, which included conversations, games, and other social activities with residents of the nursing home.

Caroline Flores, King Guerrero, Alexis Prada, Luis Quinones, Johanna Rodriguez, Jennifer Sanhou, and Benedetie Sylvain all found the Sinai Plaza experience valuable because it “heightened our awareness of such a vulnerable population.” It was members of that group who called the experience “enlightening” and “mind-altering.”

Sinai Plaza Activities Director Nelson Ramirez and one of the nursing home residents attended the symposium. Ramirez told the students that they had made a positive impact on the lives of the residents.

Special Olympics Florida’s volunteer manager Amanda Spies joined students Bridget Andres (who split her service between that organization and Farm Share), Caitlin Connor,
Decsiree Gonzalez, Cynthia Salazar, Marvin Fremont, and Efrem Scott for their reflection. Group members shared their experience supporting the organization’s work of providing year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

The students supported the organization’s Camp Shriver and its Jack in the Park precursor as well as the Special Olympics 5K Run and R-Word Campaign. They fulfilled leadership and counseling roles at the camp, Spies noted.

Miami’s Moore Park was the venue for the 2016 Camp Shriver. The camp is named for Eunice Kennedy Shriver, President John F. Kennedy’s sister, who started the event on her Maryland farm in 1962. Camp Shriver led to the founding of Special Olympics.

The national R-Word Campaign seeks to “spread the word to end the word.” The goal is to create more accepting attitudes and communities for all people by bringing attention to the power of language. The organizers of Barry’s participation in the campaign invited students to take the R-word pledge – to eliminate exclusive, offensive, and derogatory language from their conversations with family and friends and on social media.

Preeti Charania, LCSW, was the SW 323 course instructor for the spring 2016 semester. She described her students as passionate and engaging.

The Ellen Whiteside McDonnell School of Social Work held its third annual Service-Learning Symposium in its Riley Center on April 28. The symposium provided an opportunity for the students and faculty to thank community partners for facilitating the service-learning projects.

Participants included the Bachelor of Social Work Program Director Dr. Jennifer Williams; Master of Social Work Program Director Maria Teahan; Dr. Mitchell Rosenwald, associate professor and former SW 323 instructor; and Yvonne Alonso, administrative assistant for student services. CCSI staff members Dr. Glenn Bowen and Liz James attended the symposium.

Nursing Students Provide Health Screenings

Students participating in the NUR 422: Community/Public Health Nursing course provided 18 health screenings and made 15 teaching/learning presentations in the fall semester. The health screenings were done at the Miami Beach Community Church.

NUR 422 is a service-learning-designated course. There were 10 clinical coordinators, with eight to 10 students in each group. The students provided a total of 247 hours of service to the community.

Physician Assistant Students Provide Medical Aid in the Dominican Republic

A dozen Barry physician assistant (PA) students traveled to La Victoria, Dominican Republic to provide medical aid and volunteer their services.

Students from all three Barry PA locations – Miami, St. Petersburg, and St. Croix – treated more than 700 patients this year. Nicole Schtupak, Lian Castillo-Olivera, Theresa Moscato, Gabriela Lopez, Liana Suero, Daniel Berluti, Nikita Green, Andrea Blaine, Tiffany Defiore, Tamara Collins, Christine Welker, and Amanda Rodriguez joined other physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and child life specialists in the Caribbean nation.

While on their mission trip, the group received a large number of donations from the community. Donations included food, toys, clothing, medications, vitamins, and wound-care items as well as other basic necessities. The students had raised more than $2,000 to buy “Ready Relief Boxes,” which contained antibiotics, anti-fungal, and pain medications to take to the community hospital.

Every day of the week, from early morning to late in the evening, the group opened a clinic to provide care and counseling. Some students even made house visits to see those patients and families who otherwise would not have had access to medical care. They provided extensive wound care, I&D’s, medical management, routine physicals – for both the adult and pediatric patients – treating a variety of viral, bacteria, protozoal, and fungal infections.
Barry Volunteers Perform Surgeries During Medical Mission Trip to Guyana

A group of volunteers from Barry’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences and School of Podiatric Medicine joined Dr. Eric J. Stelnicki and his father, Barry trustee Dr. James Stelnicki, on a medical mission trip to Georgetown, Guyana.

During the weeklong trip to the South American country, the team saw more than 100 patients and the doctors performed 35 surgeries. One case involved a woman who had an injured foot and was not able to stand for three years. The doctors performed surgery on her foot so she would be able to walk again. In addition, the volunteers provided medical and nursing education.

The trip was funded in part by Children’s Health and Rehabilitative Missions (CHARM), a nonprofit organization established by Dr. Eric J. Stelnicki, a Fort Lauderdale-based pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgeon.
Barry University students and employees rendered 75 acts of service during the 2015–2016 academic year to mark as Barry’s 75th Anniversary. The acts ranged from painting and landscaping as part of school beautification projects to collecting and sorting donations as part of the eighth annual Move-Out Drive.

Sponsored by Bank of America, 75 Acts of Service spanned the fall and spring semesters, from August 22 through May 9, with the official launch on October 24, Make a Difference Day. The university kicked off 75 Acts by reaffirming its commitment to building partnerships primarily with nonprofit organizations and selectively with businesses to meet social and economic needs in underserved communities.

Sara Herald, vice president for institutional advancement and external affairs, emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships to achieve institutional goals. She thanked Bank of America for its support of Barry’s 75th Anniversary.

Herald also stressed Barry’s commitment to collaborative service. She urged all Barry employees and students to participate in at least one act of service.

In her remarks, Maria Alonso, Bank of America’s senior vice president and market manager for enterprise business and community engagement, congratulated the university on its “rich history of accomplishments.”

Noting that Barry and Bank of America have enjoyed a longstanding relationship, Alonso pointed to several similarities between both institutions. For example, “Barry believes in collaborative service, fostering and creating engaged citizens and enriching the educational experience through community service.” At Bank of America, she said, the commitment to corporate social responsibility “cuts across our entire company and is at the core of who we are as an organization.” She then explained that Bank of America’s corporate social responsibility was demonstrated through philanthropy, sponsorships, investments in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, and volunteerism.

Alonso noted that Barry students were encouraged to reach their full potential and make a difference in the world. At Bank of America, she said, “we believe that our success is inextricably linked to the success of our communities and that making a difference in the communities we call home – where we live, work, and play – is an important part of our overall commitment to the communities we serve. As a result, we have one of the most generous volunteer policies in the U.S., allowing employees to take up to two hours of paid time off each week to volunteer.”
Alonso added: “Faithful to the mission and values upon which Barry University was established, your service portfolio reflects a commitment to a diverse and inclusive community, upholds social justice and strives to create positive change in this arena and helps address environmental issues, among other pressing needs in our community. Similarly, our employee volunteer program is tasked with providing the resources to inspire, support, and encourage our employees to make an impact on meaningful issues, with a particular focus on extending our company’s work to address priority issues such as basic human needs, workforce development and education, community development and revitalization, as well as the environment.”

For the purposes of this initiative, an act of service is a community service project or event, or a community service activity as part of a larger project or event.

CCSI Director Dr. Glenn Bowen thanked students for contributing their time, talents, and energies to community engagement projects. He told the students that they were making a considerable difference in the community.

CCSI Associate Director Courtney Berrien was assigned primary responsibility for coordinating the 75 Acts initiative.

75 Acts of Service

Freshmen Experience Day: School Beautification Projects
1. Painting and landscaping at Brownsville Middle School
2. Landscaping, gardening, and providing teacher assistance at Doctors Charter School
3. Designing bulletin boards, landscaping, and providing teacher assistance at Gratigny Elementary School
4. Painting at Jesse J. McCravy Elementary School
5. Landscaping, gardening, and providing teacher assistance at Miami Park Elementary School
6. Painting and providing teacher assistance at North Miami Middle School
7. Cleaning and providing teacher assistance at Poinciana Elementary School
8. Landscaping and providing teacher assistance at Sibley K-8 Center
9. Designing and decorating bulletin boards at Jose De Diego Middle School

September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance & Feeding South Florida’s 3rd Annual Sort-A-Thon
10. Sorting and packing food items at Feeding South Florida

International Coastal Clean-Up Project
11. Removing trash and pollutants from Virginia Key Beach

Saturday of Service: Women’s Breast & Heart Initiative
12. Providing public education about breast cancer prevention and heart health in Cutler Ridge

School of Social Work Volunteer Days: Lotus House
13. Supporting Lotus House Women’s Shelter

Make a Difference Day and 75 Acts of Service Kick-Off
14-29. Various acts of service that address hunger, environmental sustainability, and human rights (See page 34)

People Acting for Community Together (PACT) Annual Meeting and Mini Action
30. Supporting affordable housing and juvenile detention advocacy efforts with a North Miami congregation

School of Social Work Volunteer Days: Purdue Medical Center
31. Assisting staff at Purdue Medical Center

Saturday of Service: Church World Service Youth and Family Day
32. Facilitating sports and recreational activities for children of refugee families

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Light the Night Walk
(Sponsored by the School of Social Work)
33. Bringing awareness to leukemia and lymphoma

Barry Founders Week – Arbor Day: Plant the Campus Green
(Sponsored by the Office of Mission Engagement)
34. Improving the campus environment for the benefit of students, employees, and visitors

School of Social Work Volunteer Days: Lotus House Modeling Class
35. Addressing self-esteem issues

Uniting for Fair Food National Day of Action – Miami
36. Supporting the work of the Alliance for Fair Food

Barry Special Christmas
(Sponsored by the Division of Institutional Advancement)
37. Facilitating activities with local youth at this holiday celebration on campus

Saturday of Service: FAPA (Foster and Adoptive Parents Association)
Field Day (Cosponsored by the Department of Athletics and the CCSI)
38. Coaching and mentoring youth in sports, fitness skills, and other activities

School of Social Work Presents: Lotus House Fashion Show
39. Supporting an event that benefits the women’s shelter

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
40-54. Various acts of service that promote and support civil rights (See page 35)

Stand for Hope Concert (Sponsored by the School of Social Work)
55. Building awareness of human trafficking in Miami and internationally

School of Social Work Volunteer Days: Feed My Starving Children
56. Assembling food packages for communities overseas

Saturday of Service
57. Providing locally sourced produce to low-income communities

College Brides Walk
(Sponsored by Department of Sociology and Criminology)
58. Bringing awareness to dating and domestic violence

Saturday of Service: Life of Freedom Center
59. Building awareness for human trafficking victims

School of Social Work Volunteer Days: Perdue Medical Center
60. Interacting with residents by facilitating games and arts and crafts

People Acting for Community Together (PACT) North Rally
61. Preparing for the Nehemiah Action with a congregation in North Miami

Alternative Spring Break
62-67. Supporting community organizations in New Orleans and Northwest Haiti

People Acting for Community Together (PACT) Nehemiah Action
68. Holding public officials accountable in addressing juvenile justice and affordable housing issues

Saturday of Service: Unite for Change March
69. Building solidarity in opposition to police violence

School of Social Work Volunteer Days: Lotus House
70. Providing arts and crafts classes to residents

Saturday of Service: Historic Virginia Key Beach Park
71. Preserving a coastal ecosystem

Honors Program Service Project: East Greynolds Park
72. Supporting park clean-up efforts

School of Social Work Volunteer Days: Perdue Medical Center
73. Providing fun with arts and crafts

Stamnos Scholars Day of Service: Breeseswest Park
(Sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement)
74. Painting and planting at a park near Barry’s campus

Annual Move-Out Drive
75. Collecting, sorting, and donating household items to community partners
Students Advocate on Behalf of Human Trafficking Victims

As one of Barry’s 75 acts of service, a group of students supported the Life of Freedom Center’s efforts to prevent human trafficking and support human trafficking victims in South Florida. Together with three staff members, the nine students gathered at the Miami Tattoo Company in South Beach.

Jorge Veitia, executive director of the Life of Freedom Center, led an orientation, providing statistics on missing youth and sex trafficking. A Miami-based community organization, the Life of Freedom Center offers free support and restorative programs for female survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The Barry volunteers distributed flyers highlighting warning signs of sex trafficking to businesses around the Washington Avenue area of South Beach. They also showed business owners and hotel managers pictures of missing children.

Saturdays of Service Added to Traditional Service Days on Community Engagement Calendar

The community engagement calendar for the academic year included not only the traditional Days of Service but also specific Saturdays of Service. On the calendar were four major Days of Service – September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, International Coastal Cleanup Day, Make a Difference Day, and the MLK Day of Service – and seven Saturdays of Service.

9/11 DAY OF SERVICE

To mark the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, Barry volunteers participated in Feeding South Florida’s third annual Sort-A-Thon in Pembroke Park, Broward County, on September 12.

Together with other volunteers assigned to one of the three-hour shifts, 16 Barry volunteers inspected, sorted, and packed more than 36,000 lbs. of food items in the organization’s warehouse. Nine members of Barry’s Minority Association of Pre-health Students (MAPS) and the Gamma Xi Chapter of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. were assigned to an earlier shift during the 24-hour service event.

Barry alumna Jazzmyne Holnes (class of 2011, public relations), was one of the volunteers at Sort-A-Thon.

The CCSI donated tags with hunger and food insecurity facts to Feeding South Florida, a Barry community partner. Feeding South Florida distributed the tags to nearly 100 Sort-A-Thon volunteers.

“Barry showed an excellent way that our community partners can support this initiative and spread awareness about the issues,” said Sibyl Brown, Feeding South Florida’s volunteer coordinator.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

A group of Barry students participated in the International Coastal Cleanup project at the Historic Virginia Key Beach in Key Biscayne on September 19.

Javelle Campbell, Wills Compere, Justin Hoyte, Sydney Ingram, Marrissa Jones, Alberto Liriano, Donté Roberts, Jarvis Washington, and Merrynka Webster removed discarded items such as plastic bottles, shoes and clothes, toys, and fishing lines from both the beach and the dunes. As part of their three-hour service assignment, the students also documented information on the sources of those items for VolunteerCleanup.org, to be used in its education and policy-change efforts.

Ocean Conservancy sponsors International Coastal Cleanup, which draws attention to ocean trash as “a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife and local economies.” The organization publishes data collected each year in the Ocean Trash Index.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

On October 24, dozens of Barry students took part in Make a Difference Day service projects in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. After attending the launch of 75 Acts of Service and participating in a service project orientation on campus, they engaged in projects addressing food insecurity/hunger, environmental issues, and human rights.

Some students painted hallways and staircases at the Miami Beach Community Church, which houses a soup kitchen. Others supported Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services by painting bathrooms inside its shelter for teens and spreading soil on the premises. Barry volunteers also created garden beds at Urban GreenWorks’ Caressee Farms in Liberty City, prepared soil at a Dania Beach PATCH (People’s Access to Community Horticulture) site, and planted vegetables on the Little Haiti Optimist Club’s property in Soar Park.
Deepening the Culture of Community Engagement

At the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, project participants discussed the problem of sea-level rise and removed refuse from the beach and mangroves. A separate group picked up trash in La Paloma, a small neighborhood northwest of campus.

In collaboration with Church World Service and the Life of Freedom Center, some students served as human rights advocates. Those assigned to Church World Service wrote members of Congress urging them to support an increase in the number of Syrian refugees in the United States.

Barry Service Corps fellows supervised the Make a Difference Day service projects. They also facilitated orientation and reflection activities.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Barry University celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 16 with a day of service at sites in two counties. In total, 158 volunteers logged 553 hours of service at 13 sites in Miami-Dade and Broward, contributing to projects that support food access, environmental preservation, juvenile justice, youth development, and care for military veterans.

Forty high-school youth and staff members from Gang Alternative were among the volunteers. Based in Little Haiti, Gang Alternative is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting positive alternatives to youth violence and delinquency.

In addition to Gang Alternative, the community partners that hosted service projects were Doctors Charter School, EcoTech Visions, E-SToPP (Eradicating the School-to-Prison Pipeline), Farm Share, the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Trust, La Paloma Neighborhood Association, Miami Beach Community Church, the Miami VA Healthcare System, PATCH (People’s Access to Community Horticulture) of Dania Beach, Red Kangaroo, Urban GreenWorks, and the Villa Maria Nursing Center.

Barry’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Committee was composed of representatives of departments in three
divisions: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Mission and Institutional Effectiveness. Courtney Berrien and Ashton Spangler of the Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI) co-chaired the committee. Other members were Yvonne Alonso, Fabio Naranjo, Dr. Mitchell Rosenwald, and Carolina Rios (School of Social Work); Shernee Bellamy (Office of Mission Engagement); Dr. Laura Finley (Department of Sociology and Criminology); Frederique Frage and Daisy Santiago (International and Multicultural Programs, Center for Student Involvement); Liz James and Andres Quevedo (CCSI); Amanda Knight (Intercollegiate Athletics); Alberto Lorenzo (Housing and Residence Life); Dr. M. Eileen McDonough (Division of Student Affairs); Sandra Rampersad (School of Podiatric Medicine); and Karen Stalnaker (Campus Ministry).
SATURDAYS OF SERVICE

The Saturdays of Service were October 3, November 7, December 5, January 30, February 20, March 19, and April 9.

On October 3, five Barry University students participated in an outreach event organized by the Women’s Breast & Heart Initiative (WBHI). Mickaelle Celigny, Andres Quevedo, Alexus Sergeant, Mernyka Webster, and Ky’era Williams joined volunteers from Miami Dade College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and two business organizations in Cutler Ridge, where they visited 476 homes to educate women about the importance of breast health and heart health.

The volunteers went from door to door, creating awareness about proper nutrition, exercise, and breast self-examinations. They also told the women about the free mammograms being offered by WBHI.

Each year, according to WBHI, one in three women dies from heart disease and one in eight is diagnosed with breast cancer.

“As a future healthcare provider,” Quevedo reported, “I openly shared with the community guidelines for breast cancer and heart disease, which can be prevented and treated successfully when diagnosed in time.”

On November 7, Barry volunteers facilitated sports and recreational activities for children of refugee families as part of the Church World Service Youth and Family Day. The December 5 service project was the coordination and implementation of the FAPA (Foster and Adoptive Parents Association) Field Day, which included the coaching and mentoring of youth in sports, fitness skills, and other activities.

Two groups of Barry volunteers participated in Feed My Starving Children’s South Florida Community MobilePack on January 30. One group represented the School of Social Work; the other consisted of service-learning students, Barry Service Corps fellows, and CCSI staff.

The Barry students, faculty, and staff were among approximately 30,000 volunteers who helped to prepare more than five million meals for distribution in communities abroad. Volunteering for two-and-a-half-hour shifts, the Barry groups assisted with packing meals, preparing boxes of meals for shipment, and producing expiration-date labels to be affixed to packed meals.

“During our volunteer shift, along with several hundred other community volunteers, we helped to prepare more than 500,000 meals to be shipped overseas,” reported Ashton Spangler, a CCSI staff member.

Feed My Starving Children organizes MobilePack as an opportunity for the public to learn about hunger-related issues, raise funds to cover the cost of meals, and pack nutritious meals for hungry children. The South Florida MobilePack was a four-day event at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition Center.

A nonprofit Christian organization committed to feeding hungry children, Feed My Starving Children ships hand-packed meals for distribution especially to malnourished children. Over the years, children in nearly 70 countries have received meals from the organization.

On February 20, a group of students took part in a Saturday of Service with the Life of Freedom Center. They distributed flyers with information on missing minors and possible human trafficking victims in Miami-Dade County.

The Saturday of Service project on March 19 involved the provision of arts and crafts classes to residents of Lotus House. The School of Social Work sponsored this project.

Two groups of students participated in the April 9 Saturday of Service at two public parks in Miami-Dade County. The environmental stewardship service projects were a complement to Barry’s Earth Conference, which took place on April 5.

One of the groups consisted of 30 students in Barry’s Honors Program. The honors students served at the Northeast Regional Dog Park (part of East Greynolds Park) in North Miami Beach, where they did pea-gravel and mulch landscaping. The project was planned under the supervision of the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.

Student Presler Maxius said the project was designed to improve the drainage of the park during heavy rains in order to prevent dogs from drinking contaminated water and to stop the spread of mosquitoes.

Barry student Ky’era Williams (right) teams up with Carmen Revelo of Mercantil Commerce Bank to offer resources, “one knock at a time,” to help women beat breast and heart diseases. Each year, one in three women dies from heart disease and one in eight is diagnosed with breast cancer.

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Student Presler Maxius said the project was designed to improve the drainage of the park during heavy rains in order to prevent dogs from drinking contaminated water and to stop the spread of mosquitoes.
Dr. Pawena “Winnie” Sirimangkala, associate professor of communication and director of the honors program, participated alongside the students.

The second group of volunteers served at the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park in Miami. The 10 students and staff members took part in a three-hour ecological restoration project under the guidance of the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Trust and TREEmendous Miami, Inc. They assisted with restoring the park’s native maritime hammock by mulching the grounds and planting native trees.

“It will be interesting for my future kids and grandkids when they come to this historic park and appreciate the beauty of it,” said Ricardo Burford, Jr., one of the student volunteers. “I believe this is an excellent environmental initiative for now and for our future.”

Reya Lamsam, another Barry student, remarked: “It is a beautiful park. I feel like it is very hard to find parks like this in the middle of the city. Back at home in Thailand, we used to have a lot of parks that were shut down to construct apartments. I really do not want that to happen to Miami.”

Barry Students Provide a Day of Activity for Foster Children

While their adoptive parents and caregivers participated in a symposium, scores of children were treated to a day of fun-filled activities at Barry on December 5.

It was FAPA Field Day, a major event of the Miami-Dade County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. Nearly 200 children and youths came to campus with caregivers and program administrators.

Barry student-athletes, a group of science students, and Barry Service Corps (BSC) fellows facilitated art projects, sports and games, and other activities organized by the Center for Community Service Initiatives and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics in the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences. More than 150 Barry volunteers, including students enrolled in service-learning courses, lent a hand throughout the day.

The 139 participating athletes – including members of the men’s baseball, soccer, and tennis teams and the women’s golf, rowing, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball teams – led sports activities for children 7 years old through high-school age. Forced inside by the wet weather, the participants enjoyed indoor games such as table tennis, jump rope, basketball, and an obstacle course.

Dr. Bridget Lyons, senior associate director of athletics, and Amanda Knight, assistant director of athletics for compliance and special events, coordinated the sports activities. Andy Havens, intramural coordinator for the Department of Campus Recreation and Wellness, assisted with the games.
As part of a science experiment, children of elementary- and middle-school ages learned about the DNA of strawberries. Dr. Leticia Vega, associate professor of biology, and Barry students who are members of the STEM Learning Community showed the children how to extract, isolate, and observe the DNA of a strawberry in a matter of minutes.

There was a college-readiness session for youth in high-school age group and a science activity for children of elementary- and middle-school ages. Younger children were supervised in a play area.

Barry University hosted FAPA Field Day in partnership with Miami-Dade FAPA; Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe, Inc.; and the Florida Department of Children and Families. Caregivers attended workshops on human trafficking, home safety, and post-adoption services. Lauren Schwal, an instructor in Barry’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences, provided training in first aid and CPR.

According to Marcel Rivas, Our Kids director of program operations, caregiver support can be crucial to the well-being and happiness of foster families.

Barry senior Donté Roberts conceived the event as part of his required project for the BSC Fellows Program. A sports management major, Roberts wanted to provide children who had been neglected or abused with a day of fun and meaningful activities.

“Everyone needs help,” Roberts said. “That's why I do community service. But these kids need us the most.”

Students Participate in Federal Work-Study Community Service

A total of 63 students participated in the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Community Service Program during the 2015–2016 academic year. Eighteen of them played civic leadership roles as Barry Service Corps (BSC) fellows.

The students served mainly as tutors, program assistants, and community service trip leaders, Program Coordinator Valerie Scott reported in June. They were assigned to various community agencies, with nine of them serving as tutors with Breakthrough Miami and five with the Little Haiti Optimist Club. Others serving as tutors were placed at Doctors Charter School, Florida International Academy, Gratigny Elementary, Hubert O. Sibley K-8 Academy, and W. J. Bryan Elementary School.

Twelve students were given community-based program assistant roles. They served at Camillus House, Chapman Partnership, Easter Seals South Florida, E-SToPP (Eradicating the School-to-Prison Pipeline), Miami Dade County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA), Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, and Special Olympics Florida.
Three students were activity assistants in the Miami Shores Village Recreation Department, and one student supported the Gang Alternative program as an office assistant.

All students participating in FWS Community Service are automatically enrolled in the Barry Service Corps (BSC).

The CCSI manages FWS Community Service in collaboration with the Office of Financial Aid and the Division of Human Resources.

CCSI Selects 19 Students as Barry Service Corps Fellows

Just before the start of the academic year, the CCSI selected 19 students as Barry Service Corps (BSC) fellows. The students took part in a yearlong civic learning and leadership program designed to foster civic-mindedness and promote social justice.

The group included four students who had participated in the program since its inception during the 2013–2014 academic year: Sophomore Akil Andrews, an English professional writing major; junior Seretse Davis and senior Donté Roberts, sport management majors; and senior Alejandro Tobon, a biology major.

The CCSI congratulated Tobon on being selected for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ (HACU) KIA Motors America Scholarship. Each year, HACU awards $4,000 scholarships to “some of the best and brightest minds in higher education.”

Previously called Barry Service Corps Leaders, the group also included five students who were members in 2014–2015. They were Mickaelle Celigny (senior, computer information science); Kevin Dalaj (junior, pre-law); Gilberthe Jean-Francois (junior, nursing); Quaynescia Smith (junior, social work); and Rajon Wright (junior, computer information science).

The newcomers were Taleah Becton (senior, public relations); Emmanuela Carriere (senior, pre-law); Alberto Liriano and Nylisha Matos (sophomore, biochemistry); Presler Maxius (junior, psychology); Christian Mesa (sophomore, general studies); Paola Montenegro (junior, international studies); Christopher Riker (senior, English and public relations); Matenin Sheriff (sophomore, social work); and Asha Starks (senior, SESA – applied sport and exercise sciences coaching).

The Barry Service Corps is composed mainly of students registered for the current year’s Federal Work-Study Community Service Program.

During a five-day program orientation in mid-August, the BSC fellows received diversity training, visited community agencies, practiced professional and civic engagement skills, and explored pathways to social change. They attended sessions with guest presenters, who covered community organizing, solidarity in Catholic social teaching, and voting as a civic engagement practice.

The guest presenters were three Barry faculty members: Dr. Sean Foreman, associate professor of political science; Dr. Marc Lavallee, assistant professor of practical theology; and Fabio Naranjo, an instructor in the School of Social Work. Fr. Cristóbal Torres, OP, university chaplain, and Karen Stalnaker, director of Campus Ministry, also assisted with the orientation.

During their visit to Church World Service, the BSC fellows got an overview of refugee issues in Miami from the organization’s resource developer, Phillip Rincon, a Barry alumnus. Afterwards, they helped to prepare clothing donations for refugee families from the Congo and Cuba.

At EcoTech Visions, they learned about market-driven solutions to environmental challenges and job creation in low-income communities.

After the orientation, the BSC fellows served as community service trip leaders for Freshmen Experience Day.

Throughout the academic year, the student leaders assisted the CCSI with recruiting students for community engagement activities, facilitating service trips, and working directly with community partners on social justice initiatives. In addition, each fellow designed and implemented a project that addressed a local community need or issue.

Each participating student was assigned to one of four social justice teams: Community Justice, Global Citizenship, Urban Health, and Youth Development. Each team worked collaboratively with community partners to address specific issues.

The group included four students who had participated in the program since its inception during the 2013–2014 academic year: Sophomore Akil Andrews, an English professional writing major; junior Seretse Davis and senior Donté Roberts, sport management majors; and senior Alejandro Tobon, a biology major.

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The Community Justice team worked with PACT (People Acting for Community Together) on juvenile justice and affordable housing issues. Andrews, Becton, Celigny, Dalia, and Riker were the team members.

The Global Citizenship team focused on consumer behavior and the related issue of globalization, as well as immigration and refugee concerns. Team members Carriere, Maxius, Montenegro, Smith, and Tobon collaborated with Church World Service, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), and the Student/Farmworker Alliance.

Montenegro, Smith, and Tobon – all elected Alternative Breaks executive officers – coordinated Alternative Spring Break as part of their responsibilities.

The Urban Health team dealt with food access, air quality, sustainability, green jobs, and neighborhood development issues. Liriano, Matos, Mesa, and Roberts provided program and marketing support to EcoTech Visions and Urban GreenWorks and also supported Barry’s partnership with the neighborhood association of La Paloma.

Fellows on the Youth Development team led community service trips to Little Haiti on Wednesday afternoons in support of the work of the local Optimist Club, and to Gang Alternative on Thursday afternoons. Davis, Jean-Francois, Sheriff, Starks, and Wright, the BSC fellows, also assisted in implementing the community partners’ health curricula.

In related news, BSC Fellows Mickaelle Celigny and Emmanuella Carriere attended a luncheon with Sister Attracta Kelly, OP, JD, the Adrian Dominican prioress, on October 20. Sister Attracta was the keynote speaker at Barry’s Immigration Justice Mini Conference.

Two Student Leaders Complete Global Development Leadership Program

Two Barry student leaders completed a leadership program focused on global development. Paola Montenegro, a political science major, and Kevin Dalia, a pre-law major, participated alongside other college students who had received fellowships from the Millennium Campus Network. Called Millennium Fellows, the student leaders took part in an eight-month program designed to improve student organizations, partnerships, and community impact while preparing them for roles in advancing global development.

The 11 Miami area Millennium Fellows gathered for 12 sessions at Miami Dade College North Campus. They attended leadership-coaching workshops, networking, and other activities designed to improve their organizational leadership and civic engagement skills.

“The fellowship was definitely valuable and worthwhile,” Montenegro, a rising junior, said. “It has opened doors for my career by allowing me to meet people who are pursuing careers that are quite admirable. The fellowship made me question what I want to do career-wise.”

One of the persons she met was a local representative of Human Rights Watch, an organization whose work she admires and would like to support. Human Rights Watch is an international nongovernmental organization that conducts research and advocacy on human rights. Carine Chehab, Human Rights Watch associate director (Miami), was a guest during one of the fellowship’s networking sessions.

As Millennium Fellows, Paola Montenegro and Kevin Dalia prepared for roles in advancing global development.

Montenegro (left) during an end-of-year social event with Stephanie Nolasco, Liz Rebecca Alarcon, Judith Marev, and Laura Becht. Alarcon is the Millennium Campus Network’s Miami site director.

As the fellowship drew to a close, the Millennium Fellows participated in a pitching competition on behalf of campus-based student organizations in front of a panel of donors. Dalia pitched on behalf of Barry’s Students for the Poor.

Montenegro led a three-member Barry student team who represented Alternative Breaks, the student organization on whose executive board she serves. Joining her for the presentation were Marissa Herrod and Luis Diaz Quilotte, two Barry students who took the 2016 Alternative Spring Break trip to northwestern Haiti. The Barry team won the $250 third prize.

The pitching competition coincided with the Millennium Fellows graduation soirée on April 14. The other competitors...
Montenegro and Dalia are Barry Service Corps fellows participating in a civic learning and leadership development program organized by the Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI). In addition, Montenegro is a Barry student ambassador and Dalia has been active in the Student Government Association.

The Millennium Campus Network is a nonprofit organization based in Boston, Mass. In addition to coordinating the Millennium Fellowship, the organization hosts an annual conference.

Dalia attended the 2014 Millennium Campus Conference in Boca Raton, Fla. and Montenegro the 2015 conference in New York.

Reporting on the 2015 conference, held at The New School and the United Nations Headquarters, Montenegro noted that it featured discussion teams, campaign-action groups, best-practice workshops, plenary sessions, and social activities.

“The conference was an incredible experience,” she said. “We learned about the global goals for sustainable development (which were to be presented at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, September 25–27). We met in teams and discussed different topics such as learning before serving, people vs. objects, partnerships vs. paternalism, and helping vs. helpfulness.”

Montenegro also participated in workshops, contributing her own ideas about social entrepreneurship, fundraising, and partnerships for social change. For her, the most inspiring part of the conference was the plenary sessions with keynote speakers whom she described as “very accomplished individuals who have done extraordinary work in their field.”

Among the keynote speakers were Annie Griffiths, a photographer for National Geographic and founder/executive director of Ripple Effect Images; Dr. Vanessa Kerry, founder and CEO of Seed Global Health; Lakshmi Puri, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations and deputy executive director of UN Women; Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and special advisor to the UN secretary-general on the Millennium Development Goals; and Dr. Sakina Yacoobi, founder and executive director of the Afghan Institute of Learning.

Actor, TV game show host, and author Terry Crews joined speakers at the conference. He told delegates about “his transformation into becoming interested in gender equality,” Montenegro reported.

“Throughout the conference I met inspiring students who have the passion to make a difference in the field of their interest. To see over 400 students from over 50 countries united because they have the desire to seek change in their communities and in the world was beyond exciting,” Montenegro reported. “It gives me hope that our generation will make incredible changes in the years to come.”

Barry Contributes to Victory in Affordable Housing Policy

Following two years of pressure from PACT (People Acting for Community Together), the Miami-Dade County Commission finally passed a resolution to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to the tune of at least $10 million a year. Barry students, faculty, and staff contributed to the efforts by participating in PACT assemblies and community meetings and by providing program support through the Barry Service Corps (BSC).

In the fall of 2014, PACT selected homelessness as a new focus issue. After research teams identified a lack of affordable housing as a key factor that leads to homelessness, PACT leaders worked with public officials to establish the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Commissioners Daniella Levine Cava and Xavier Suarez, the primary cosponsors of the resolution that established the trust fund, crafted the legislation in response to PACT’s request. Commissioners Barbara Jordan and Jean Monestime, cosponsors of the legislation, also met with PACT representatives, who encouraged their support of the legislation.

PACT is a coalition of 39 Miami-Dade churches, synagogues, mosques, and universities. Its members work cooperatively to identify pressing community issues and follow a direct-action community-organizing strategy to effect social change.
Deepening the Culture of Community Engagement

“The strategy begins with a consensus process in which members select two or three issues of focus each year,” explained Courtney Berrien, CCSI associate director. “Research teams then investigate best practices and public policies that can be implemented locally. After reaching consensus, the coalition’s members work directly with politicians and public servants to gain their support for enacting the identified policies. In the final step of the process, PACT members hold the officials accountable by asking them in front of more than 1,000 voters at the annual PACT Nehemiah Action Assembly to follow through with their commitments.”

Throughout this process, Barry students, faculty, and staff supported PACT’s efforts by taking part in meetings, rallies, and assemblies. The Barry participants included theology and sociology students taking service-learning courses, social work graduate students, and BSC fellows.

BSC Fellows Taleah Becton, Mickaelle Celigny, Christopher Riker, and Kevin Dalia worked directly with PACT as a weekly assignment throughout the 2015–2016 academic year. Working closely with Megan O’Brien, PACT lead organizer, and other staff members, the students facilitated community engagement opportunities for students enrolled in service-learning courses, contributed to research on public officials, completed data-entry projects, translated assembly documents, and provided event support.

Accompanied by CCSI staff members Andres Quevedo and Ashton Spangler, those four students as well as Akil Andrews, Emmanuella Carriere, Kiara Jackson, Gilberete Jean-Francois, Matenin Sheriff, and Rajon Wright attended PACT’s Research to Action kickoff meeting at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Miami on November 16. The meeting reviewed the work of the organization’s research committees, focusing on issues pertaining to affordable housing and juvenile justice in Miami-Dade County.

Becton, Dalia, and Riker, together with CCSI Program Coordinator Andres Quevedo, took part in the North Justice Ministry Team Assembly at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Opa-Locka in April. Justice-ministry leaders provided updates on progress made by PACT’s Affordable Housing Committee as well as the Juvenile Justice Committee.

Through the Juvenile Justice Ministry, PACT has worked with the State Attorney’s office and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to enact policies that provide nonviolent, juvenile offenders with alternatives to incarceration, such as in-school suspension and peer-mediation programs for restorative justice.

Dalia, who has been serving with PACT for two years through the BSC Fellows Program, said he appreciated the opportunities for learning and leadership development.

“...This leadership opportunity has allowed me to understand how community organizing works,” Dalia said. “You have to appeal to a person’s self-interest without making them feel selfish and, in a way, that will hold them accountable and invested.”

Celigny and Becton supported PACT by completing infrastructure projects. One of the projects was a member database, which Celigny, a computer science major, developed for the organization. The database facilitates PACT’s record-keeping and communication with participating congregants.

Becton, with support from Brandon Parker, a BSC member and film major, produced two short films about PACT’s work. They completed the first film in March and used it to recruit congregants for the Nehemiah Action Assembly. For the second film, Becton interviewed PACT board members about the organization’s nearly 20 years of work to support social-justice initiatives in Miami-Dade County. The film will be posted on the organization’s website. Dr. Adam Dean, an associate professor of communication, provided technical support to the film project.

More than 30 persons from Barry participated in the Nehemiah Action Assembly. They were among hundreds of citizens representing 38 local congregations and three universities participating in the event at the New Birth Baptist Church in Opa-Locka. The assembly was the culmination of a year of grassroots efforts to address public concerns by working directly with local officials.
At the assembly, law-enforcement officials committed to continue supporting the expansion of civil citation programs for youth and building allies at the local and state levels for the next Florida legislative session. Representatives of Miami-Dade County Public Schools agreed to work with PACT to develop restorative justice programs as an alternative to punitive methods of dealing with behavior management, such as out-of-school suspensions.

According to its website, PACT is the largest grassroots organization in South Florida, representing more than 50,000 people. Since the organization’s founding in 1998, PACT has worked successfully with local officials on initiatives related to neighborhood safety, public transportation, employment, affordable housing, education, and crime prevention.

Students Support Programs at Church World Service

Barry students supported cultural assimilation and recreational programs at Church World Service (CWS) Miami throughout the year. For example, during the fall semester, senior Emmanuella Carriere, juniors Gilberte Jean-Francois and Presler Maxius, and sophomore Matenin Sheriff facilitated youth activities as part of their roles as BSC fellows.

The BSC fellows also led a Barry group at the CWS 8th Annual Refugee Children's Thanksgiving Celebration on November 14, when CWS provided Thanksgiving meals to recent arrivals in the United States.

Phillip Rincon, CWS resource developer and Barry alumnus, said the annual event was designed to provide refugee families with needed food and clothing and also to make them feel welcome in their new South Florida communities.

Carriere and Maxius also supported advocacy efforts at CWS and helped facilitate a project to create presentations about American culture. The PowerPoint presentations addressed public transportation, grocery shopping, and similar topics.

Students enrolled in theology service-learning courses translated the presentations into Arabic, Creole, and French. Service-learning students also tutored children who had recently arrived in the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Congolese refugee families were relocated to the city of North Miami, and their children now attend area schools.

The participating students from the theology service-learning courses were Abdulwahab Algarni, Ahmed Algarni, Skylor Galipeau, Vickie Francoeur, Esther Garcia, Gaetan Brice Nana Nourmi, Aruna Ragbir, and Destiny Ricks.

Founded in 1946, CWS is a cooperative relief, refugee, and development agency. This nonprofit organization and its partners are seeking to eradicate hunger and poverty while promoting peace and justice.

Students Lead “Unite for Change” Demonstration in Miami

Barry students took to the streets of Miami’s Wynwood neighborhood on March 19 to demand justice for civilians considered unjustly killed by law-enforcement officers. The peaceful “Unite for Change” demonstration drew attention to current and historic concerns about deaths at the hands of police officers in South Florida while emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Miami’s ethnic groups.

Student leaders Christopher Riker, Asha Starks, and Quayneshia Smith planned and coordinated the demonstration as part of their participation in the Barry Service Corps (BSC) Fellows Program. They worked with Wynwood businesses and the Miami-Dade Police Department to ensure that the event met safety requirements.

Through their support of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Dream Defenders, Smith and Starks previously led peaceful demonstrations for human rights. According to CCSI Associate Director Courtney Berrien, “Unite for Change” marked the first time they planned and led a demonstration without the assistance of professional community organizers.

“Unite for Change” brought together students representing Barry’s African American, Hispanic, European American, and Caribbean populations. Smith said it was important to generate awareness and build unity within ethnic communities, for both short-term and long-term social gains.

Riker, who chairs the Progressive Caucus of the Florida College Democrats, deplored the large number of deaths at the hands of law-enforcement officers. He said many citizens have been killed without any significant punishment of the officers involved.
"In 2015 alone, exactly 1200 citizens were killed by police officers around the country, 78 of them right here in the Sunshine State," said Christopher Riker. "The issue is that every year, police officers in this country are breaking their own record numbers of citizens they kill in the line of duty. … The names behind these deaths are more than just names; more than mistakes; more than excuses of a scared officer or flawed protocol. These are lost human lives at the end of the gun of the state."

Riker called for more accountability among law-enforcement officers and continued vigilance by citizens so their civil rights would be protected. He announced that he had authored a bill to require body cameras on all police officers in Florida. He said the bill was "the natural next step in accountability and protection for citizens and officers alike."

Eleven Community Organizations Receive Donations from Move-Out Drive

Barry students donated more than 3500 pounds of clothes and household items as part of the 8th Annual Move-Out Drive. Eleven community organizations received the donations.

In addition to 96 formal dresses and other clothing items weighing 2361 pounds, the collection from students included dozens of footwear, 194 bed sheets, 107 blankets and comforters, and 265 towels. Also on the list were 15 mini-refrigerators, 10 microwaves, 318 pounds of food, and 181 books.

The organizations that received donations were Becca’s Closet, Chapman Partnership, Church World Service, the Little Haiti Optimist Club, Lotus House, Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Miami Rescue Mission, Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, Pass It On Ministries, Reduce Reuse Recycle, and Urban GreenWorks.

Move-Out Drive took place in May. Student volunteers assisted staff members who coordinated the project by collecting, sorting, and cleaning the donated items.

Formerly known as Dorm Drive, the initiative began as a project developed by community member Margaret Grizzle to divert students’ unwanted items from landfills and give resources to local organizations in support of underserved community residents.
Students Learn and Practice Story-Telling for Social Change

Nine Barry students participated in a diversity-training session aimed at promoting social change.

MCCJ (formerly the Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews) conducted the eight-hour training session as part of a community engagement project designed by Barry Service Corps (BSC) Fellows Seretse Davis and Rajon Wright.

Wright explained that the goal of the training was to prepare college students to connect with youth around common experiences, and through that connection, to demonstrate that violence is not a solution to social problems.

MCCJ Program Director Lutze Segu was the training facilitator. A Barry alumna, she guided the students through a story-telling process, which included identifying their own experiences with prejudice and discrimination and preparing stories about those experiences to be shared with a middle- and high-school audience.

Several of the Barry students who participated in the training presented their stories as part of an interactive panel at Gang Alternative's BLOC (Building Leaders of Character) program. BLOC utilizes an evidence-based approach to teach adolescents moral reasoning, anger control, and social problem-solving skills, explained Ezra Dieuveille, Gang Alternative's senior youth prevention specialist.

Davis and Wright facilitated weekly service trips to the BLOC program site this academic year as part of their role on the BSC Fellows Program's Youth Development team.

The other students who participated in the diversity-training session were Taleah Becton, Jacob Ceasar, King Guerrero, Ajahni Johnston, Alberto Liriano, Trevor Singleton, and Asha Starks. They are expected to facilitate story-telling panels in schools and youth-serving community organizations during the 2016–2017 academic year.

Student Leaders Sort Items at Food Bank

A group of Barry student leaders inspected and sorted food items in Feeding South Florida's Pembroke Park warehouse. The group included eight Barry Service Corps fellows as well as students participating in programs coordinated by the Center for Student Involvement and other departments in the Division of Student Affairs.

Over a three-hour period, the group inspected and sorted 7,820 pounds of food, the equivalent of 6,200 meals. CCSI staff members Caitlin Geis and Andres Quevedo accompanied the volunteers.

Feeding South Florida is a food bank and the region's member of the Feeding America network.

Resident Assistants Lend a Hand in Little Haiti

Resident assistants (RAs) partnered with the Little Haiti Optimist Club to beautify the club's Soar Park site. Together with five Residence Life staff members and a CCSI staff member, the 28 RAs worked for three hours, organizing storage areas, painting the building, facilitating recreational activities with community youth, and doing maintenance work in the community garden.

A nonprofit organization affiliated with Optimist International, the Little Haiti Optimist Club prepares the community's youth for "academic and life excellence through education, mentorship, athletics, arts and cultural programming." The organization manages a Community Tech and Youth Center at Soar Park, located at 100 NW 83rd Street in Miami.

Barry's Freshmen Experience Day Featured in NASPA Blog

Barry University’s Freshmen Experience Day was featured in a NASPA blog titled “Live A Barry Life!”

According to the blog, Freshmen Experience Day provides an introduction to Barry’s core commitments of collaborative service and social justice. The Division of Student Affairs and the CCSI co-sponsor the day’s activities each year.

“Through this partnership, we offer our incoming first-year students a chance to learn about our inclusive philosophy, strong traditions, and the significant experiences that form the true meaning of ‘a Barry Life,’” the blog said.

Dr. Scott F. Smith, vice president for student affairs; John Moriarty, director of career development; and LaKima Garnett, associate director of the Center for Student Involvement, wrote the blog.
Barry Groups Take Trips to Underserved Communities

Alternative Breaks – a student-led, CCSI-supervised program – provides students with community-based immersion experiences designed to build awareness of social, political, and environmental issues through learning, reflection, and service that benefits diverse populations.

According to CCSI Associate Director Courtney Berrien, “participants are encouraged to develop empathy, understanding, and motivation towards action for social justice in local, regional, national, and global contexts.”

Students develop leadership skills such as effective communication, intercultural knowledge, and critical thinking as well as a long-term commitment to civic engagement. Students also form friendships with one another, build beneficial relationships with faculty and staff advisors, and collaborate with community leaders to address issues in a meaningful way.

As part of Alternative Breaks, a group of 26 students and six faculty/staff members took a fall break trip to Immokalee to learn about the work of organizations promoting fair wages and working conditions for farm workers. The trip also served as a social justice immersion for theology students and a leadership retreat for Barry Service Corps (BSC) fellows. The theology students visited Guadalupe Social Services while the BSC fellows participated in a leadership workshop on exemplary leadership practices.

The entire group heard presentations and had discussions with Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) members Leonel Perez, Julia De la Cruz, and Lupe Gonzalo and Student/Farmworker Alliance (SFA) coordinators Natali Rodriguez and Yeissy Solis. Perez explained that, in its work, the CIW uses “popular education” (a concept grounded in class, political struggle, and social transformation) and a community radio station, Radio Conciencia, giving farm workers a voice in matters that affect their lives.

Located in Collier County, Fla., Immokalee is an agricultural community and home to a large number of migrant farm workers. The Barry group toured sections of the community.

Taking the trip were 10 theology students and a theology course instructor, Dr. Marc Lavallee; 16 BSC fellows and their advisor, Courtney Berrien; Karen Stalnaker, director of Campus Ministry; and Dr. Glenn Bowen, Caitlin Geis, and Andres Quevedo, staff members of the Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI).


- BSC fellows: Akil Andrews, Emmanuel Carriere, Mickaelle Celigny, Kevin Dalia, Seretse Davis, Gilberte Jean-Francois, Alberto Liriano, Nylisha Matos, Presler Maxius, Christian Mesa, Paola Montenegrero, Christopher Riker, Donté Roberts, Materin Sheriff, Quaynesia Smith, and Alejandro Tobon.

For spring break, a nine-member group of Barry students and faculty visited Haiti’s Northwest Department with Amor en Acción, a lay missionary organization of the Archdiocese of Miami. There, as part of the Alternative Breaks, they began building a partnership between Barry University and the Diocese of Port-de-Paix.

Founded by Dr. Alicia Marill, associate professor of theology and director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Barry, Amor en Acción has been working with local bishops of Haiti and the Dominican Republic since 1976.

The ASB participants visited schools, a hospital, and nonprofit organizations to learn from local leaders about social issues facing rural communities in Haiti’s Northwest Department. They also facilitated activities at Nan Palan and Menvyel, much to the delight of the village children.

Dr. Mureen Shaw, assistant professor of nursing, and Dr. Sean Buckreis, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, were there specifically to explore avenues for the Schools of Nursing and Education to forge partnerships and develop community engagement opportunities in the region.
The students who chose the poverty-stricken Haitian villages over the sun-drenched beaches and other hot spots for spring break were Marissa Herod, Verronika Laguerre, Ana Miranda, Paola Montenegro, Luis Diaz Quilotte, Quayneshia Smith, and Courtney Webb. Montenegro and Smith are Alternative Breaks executive board members at Barry.

Miranda, an MSW student, and Smith, a BSW student, received sponsorship through the School of Social Work Student Fellowship Fund. Both students reported that they gained global perspectives and cultural enrichment. During their visit to the hospital, they realized there was an immense need for social workers and counseling for family members.

“The counselors are only there to aid patients; so anyone else in the region that needs counseling or someone to talk doesn’t have much of a choice,” Miranda said. “There was no other person available for them.”

Smith added: “As a social worker, having the opportunity to do these trips confirms the importance of working with the community. I see how you can sit behind a desk, write policies, and advocate all you want; but unless you go to these communities and see and talk to these people, see what they need, what they’re going through and actually have that one-on-one rapport, I don’t think you’re going to be as passionate as you could be. You have to be with the people; commune with them, eat with them, talk to them to really get a full understanding to all the aspects of them. It makes you more driven and helps you advocate for their needs.”

Before taking the trip to Haiti, the students met regularly with CCSI staff and faculty members to discuss issues that the population was facing. They also received cultural sensitivity training.

A second Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip took students and staff to New Orleans, Louisiana, where they explored community issues and did volunteer work related to Hurricane Katrina.

Wills Compere, Cassandra Denning, Jennifer Thomas, Alejandro Tobon, and Giscar Ternelus took part in ASB NOLA, as did staff members Karen Stalnaker and Rev. Richard Clements. Stalnaker is director of Barry’s Campus Ministry and Clements is coordinator of retreats and faith formation.

While visiting and supporting the work of local community organizations, the Barry group explored such issues as food access, redevelopment, and neighborhood leadership. They learned how the organizations were addressing generational poverty issues and the distribution of public resources.

The ASB group admired the “innovative approach to education” shown by Liberty’s Kitchen, a social enterprise dedicated to transforming the lives of vulnerable New Orleans youth through programs that build employability and self-sufficiency. The group learned about the School Nutrition Program and enjoyed lunch prepared by youth honing their culinary skills at Liberty’s Kitchen.

A walking tour of neighborhoods in NOLA’s Ninth Ward gave the ASB group insights into the challenges faced by the community since the devastating hurricane of 2005.

“It was shocking to see areas that still do not have roads or sidewalks, while other areas have received many more resources,” said Tobon, an ASB leader. “We learned that the redevelopment has taken so long that some people never moved back.”

Tobon pointed out that the neighborhood’s high school had been rebuilt and looked beautiful. However, he reported, the school remained vacant because there were not enough students living in the Ninth Ward.

The Barry volunteers helped to rebuild a laundry center in the Lower Ninth Ward, a predominantly African-American neighborhood.

Camp Restore, a nonprofit Christian organization “restoring faith, hope and community in New Orleans since 2006,” provided a home away from home for the Barry ASB group. The organization provided service-project coordination as well.

The ASB NOLA group took advantage of the opportunity for Barry students to learn about the Adrian Dominican sisters’ commitment to justice and mercy. Sisters working in New Orleans hosted dinner one evening for the ASB groups from Barry and the Adrian, Michigan-based Siena Heights University. Together they reflected on neighborhood conditions in the city and the service they were able to provide.

Barry and Community Partners Host Hendrix College for Week of Service

Ten students and two staff members from Hendrix College, located in Conway, Ark., came to Miami in May for a week of service, experiential learning, and relationship building. The group worked alongside Barry Service Corps (BSC) fellows to perform service with several community organizations and learn about issues facing Miami’s Haitian community.

Hendrix and Barry students learn about the fair-trade coffee production process at Panther Coffee in Miami's Wynwood neighborhood.
The participating community partners provided historical information about the Haitian community in Miami as well as an overview of current social issues faced by community members. Participating organizations included Fanm Ayisyen nan Miyami (Haitian Women of Miami), Gang Alternative, Urban Greenworks, the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Trust, and the Little Haiti Optimist Club.

After canceling a mission trip to Haiti because of uncertainty about the country’s political situation, Hendrix staff contacted the CCSI to inquire about community service options in the Miami area. Courtney Berrien, CCSI associate director and Alternative Breaks advisor, coordinated the arrangements involving community partners, the BSC fellows, and the St. Thomas University Center for Community Engagement (CCE).

“ar weeklong service program was designed to build awareness about issues faced by Miami’s Haitian community,” Berrien noted. “The service and learning activities included urban gardening, mentoring, marine ecosystem restoration, and support of international development projects.”

The Hendrix group learned about Miami-based international organizations that provide economic development support to Haiti. Group members heard a presentation from Anthony Vinciguerra, CCE coordinator, about St. Thomas University’s fair-trade partnership with the Café Cocano Cooperative. The group then helped to transport green coffee beans to Panther Coffee, a Miami artisan coffee roaster. Vinciguerra and Panther staff explained ways international trade practices can benefit or hurt farmers in developing countries.

The BSC fellows co-facilitated the program by serving as tour guides and campus–community liaisons as well as by contributing to discussions throughout the week. A few fellows also served on a Haitian student panel. Mickaelle Celigny, Gilberte Jean-Francois, and Presler Maxius informed Hendrix students about complicated issues of identity- and poverty-related challenges faced by the Haitian community.

Hendrix College’s Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics and Calling coordinated the trip. Rev. J. J. Whitney, chaplain and trip leader, expressed appreciation for the Barry student leaders’ contributions.

“The service fellows certainly inspired our students to be more active, more curious, and more engaged in the community,” Whitney said.

Barry Athletics Finishes Fifth in Community Service Participation

Barry University Athletics finished fifth in NCAA Division II in community service participation in the fall semester.

The Buccaneers were 17th overall in the country. George Washington University was the top-ranked school and Academy of Art University in San Francisco was the top Division II school. The Barry men’s basketball team was fourth in the nation and third in Division II in total community service hours. Xavier was the top men’s basketball team in the country and Dominican University of California was the top team in Division II.

The community service initiative is part of a plan between the NCAA and Helper Helper, which encouraged student-athletes from more than 100 schools nationwide to make a contribution to their communities. Helper Helper is the student-athlete community service app.

Dr. Darlene Kluka, dean of the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences, congratulated and thanked the student-athletes for their community service achievement.

“This is a phenomenal accomplishment for BarryU!” she told them. “To also be 17th out of 100 in the nation for community service is quite distinguishing.”

Kluka urged the student-athletes to continue serving the communities in which they live and work.

Box Tops for Education Drive Becomes Year-Round Project

The Box Tops for Education Drive sponsored by Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS) and the CCSI became a year-round project, and Sheridan Hills joined North Miami as the beneficiaries of the project.

Dr. Stephanie Bingham, associate professor of biology and MAPS advisor, announced that Box Tops donations would alternate between the two elementary schools each donation cycle. Each school would receive 10 cents for every Box Top label donated.

The project was seen as particularly beneficial to Sheridan Hills Elementary, located in Hollywood, Broward County.

“This is a Title I school, so every 10-cent label is significant,” said Dr. Jalane Meloun, a former Sheridan Hills PTO president and professor of administration in Barry’s School of Professional and Career Education. “About 518 kids at the school will benefit.”

According to Meloun, the money raised goes to “excellent causes.” Last year, the PTO spent nearly $6,000 on educational rugs for several classrooms. “These are the alphabet-covered rugs that the kids sit on several times a day for learning calendar math, phonics, and reading strategies,” she explained. “The PTO also funded teacher grants for reading and music curricula which focus on diverse, international cultures.”
CCSI Organizes Four Forums in Deliberative Dialogue Series

The CCSI organized and hosted four forums in its Deliberative Dialogue Series during the 2015-2016 academic year. The 90-minute forums brought together campus and community stakeholders to explore social issues and seek solutions.

The first forum, on September 21, focused on police-community relations. Participants discussed the distrust that existed between some communities of color and the officers charged with protecting them.

Titled “The Police and the Community: Who is Protected and Served?,” the forum generated several ideas for improving police-community relations. Participants recommended civil rights education for youth, diversity training for law enforcement, mandatory body cameras for police officers, opportunities for youth and law enforcement to interact in positive settings, mentoring opportunities for young Black men, and improved research on violent acts committed by police officers. They also recommended the establishment of Neighborhood Resource Offices to support community policing.

Dr. Victor Romano, an associate professor of sociology at Barry and the chairperson of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Human Rights, facilitated the forum. A five-member panel offered perspectives that helped to guide the dialogue and deliberation among nearly 100 attendees. Among the panelists were John Buhrmaster and Dr. Michael J. Alicea, veteran law-enforcement officers. A former deputy chief and interim chief of the Criminal Investigations Division of the City of Miami Beach Police Department, Buhrmaster, is the director of public safety and emergency management at Barry.

Alicea, who worked with the Miami and Coral Gables Police Departments, is an adjunct faculty member in Barry’s School of Social Work. He subsequently provided the list of recommendations from the forum to the advisory board of the School of Social Work’s new Center for Human Rights and Social Justice.
Also on the panel were Ajahni Johnston, a Barry student who took part in protests last year after his relative Michael Brown was killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri; Cassandra Jiles, a member of PACT (People Acting for Community Together), who spoke about her involvement in initiating the Miami Gardens Neighborhood Resource Offices; and Ezra Dieuveille, the senior youth violence prevention specialist at Gang Alternative.

Gang Alternative is a community-based organization that focuses its program on adolescents in Little Haiti. Youth from high schools enrolled in Gang Alternative’s Building Leaders of Character (BLOC) program also took part in the forum. To prepare for the deliberative dialogue, they had taken part in small-group discussions with Barry Service Corps fellows about their own experiences interacting with law-enforcement officers.

The second forum for the academic year, held on November 18, addressed the plight of unaccompanied children migrating to the United States. They have been coming mostly from Mexico and Central America, where crime and violence are often rampant. After making the treacherous journey, they are usually rounded up and warehoused by the authorities. Mexican children are often sent back.

“Coming to America: Unaccompanied Minors on a Perilous Journey” drew a large number of participants from the campus and the community.

Panelists were Julio Enrique Calderón, access to higher education organizer at the Florida Immigrant Coalition; Dr. Jose R. Cruz, executive director of the Peter Pan Border Operation; Fabio A. Naranjo, a faculty member in Barry’s School of Social Work; Phillip Rincon, resource developer at Church World Service; Elizabeth Ringler-Jayanthan, a Barry student; and Elizabeth Sanchez-Kennedy, Esq., supervising attorney for the minors program at the Archdiocese of Miami’s Catholic Legal Services. Cruz and Rincon are Barry alumni.

Calderón came to the United States as an unaccompanied minor to escape violence and poverty in Honduras. Although as an adult he remains undocumented, Calderón has been an activist for human rights.

Courtney Berrien, associate director of the CCSI, facilitated the forum. Berrien holds a certificate in refugee law from the American University in Cairo, Egypt. While living in there as well as in Beirut, Lebanon and Prague, Czech Republic, Berrien developed community engagement programs for refugees from Palestine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and the former Soviet Republics.

Participants considered several follow-up actions. These included viewing Children on the Run, a documentary about the exodus of the children and family members from Syria and other countries, and writing letters to newspaper editors in support of programs to benefit unaccompanied migrant children. Participants also considered expressing support for the Central American Minors (CAM) Refugee/Parole Program and promoting the work of the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras. CAM provides qualified children in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras with a safe, legal, and orderly alternative to the dangerous journey to the United States, which some children are currently undertaking.

“Sexual Violence on Campus: Are We Propagating a Rape Culture?” was the topic of the third forum in the Deliberative Dialogue Series, held on February 11. The forum featured the contribution of a panel of lead participants including Dr. Simona Sharoni, founder of Faculty Against Rape (FAR).

FAR’s mission is to get more faculty involved in sexual assault issues on campus and to protect faculty members who experience retaliation for doing so. To fulfill its mission, FAR provides resources for faculty to support survivors inside and outside the classroom, tools for faculty who want to get more involved in reform efforts on their campus, and support for faculty who are facing retaliation for fighting sexual violence on their campus.

Joining Sharoni on the panel were Dr. Maria L. Alvarez, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students; and Hector Pizarro, a Barry alumnus and the outreach specialist for homeless and runaway youth at Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services. Dr. Laura Finley, associate professor of sociology and criminology and an organizer of the College Brides Walk, facilitated the forum.
There was a lively discussion about the causes and effects of sexual assault on college campuses. The forum drew attention to the national conversation about high rates of rape and other forms of sexual assault taking place on campuses throughout the country. Participants also explored various avenues for decreasing and preventing sexual violence on campus.

The CCSI has adapted deliberative dialogue as a method of civic learning and engagement. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members work toward a shared understanding of social issues, practical solutions to those issues, and recommendations for workable public policy.

The year’s final forum focused on the economic, environmental, political, and human costs of rising sea levels in South Florida. Complementing the university’s Earth Justice Mini Conference, the forum brought students, faculty, staff, and community experts together to consider the causes and consequences of that climate-change phenomenon.

Leading the discussion were Dr. Keren Prize Bolter, South Florida Regional Planning Council’s policy and geospatial analyst; Mitchell A. Chester, director of The CLEO Institute and a civil trial lawyer; and Dr. Jeremy R. Montague, professor of biology and president of the Florida Academy of Sciences. Dr. Sean Foreman, associate professor of political science, facilitated the forum.

In addition to exploring the science behind sea-level rise and the resulting impact on infrastructure, the economy, public health, and physical spaces, participants considered how communities could prepare themselves for that phenomenon.

Bolter spoke about the effects of a changing climate such as the rising of sea levels off the coast of South Florida by about eight inches in the 20th century, saltwater intrusion into aquifers, and health risks caused by sewage in severe storm surges.

Suggestions offered during the deliberative dialogue included burning fewer fossil fuels and reducing the emission of pollutants such as carbon; enacting legislation to use alternative energy sources; making innovative engineering and architectural design changes, including drainage improvements; and pursuing community-based environmental education.

Among university administrators in attendance at the forum were President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD; Leticia Diaz, dean of the Barry School of Law; and Dr. Jill Farrell, dean of the Adrian Dominican School of Education.


The Office of Mission Engagement organized the mini conference with support from the Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, the CCSI, and Whole Foods Market.


Dr. Charles Zelden, professor of history, law and politics at Nova Southeastern University, delivered the keynote address at the forum. An expert in Florida voter registration laws, he spoke about long-standing barriers to voter access in Florida.
“Limiting the right to vote undermines the concept of democracy,” Zelden said. He told students, faculty, and staff that they could promote democracy and demonstrate good citizenship by helping to increase voter turnout.

The forum panelists were Christopher Riker, a Barry Service Corps (BSC) fellow and president of the College Democrats; Rebecca Leppert, a political science major and Stamps scholar; and Jesse Orshan, a graduate student. Dr. Sean Foreman, associate professor of political science and co-chair of the Campus Democracy Project (CDP), was the moderator.

The Constitution trivia included questions about the three branches of government. Each winner received a pocket-sized U.S. Constitution, the American flag, or a similar prize.

Nearly 40 students gathered in Dominican Hall to watch *Selma*, the 2014 historical drama that depicts the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, to secure equal voting rights. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and John Lewis, currently a U.S. Congressman, were leaders of the march.

Donté Roberts, a BSC fellow, introduced *Selma* by speaking about his experience, in the summer of 2013, interviewing Congressman John Lewis about the 1963 March on Washington. Roberts was then an intern with the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.

In the discussion that followed the film screening, the participants identified contemporary civil rights and social issues that contribute to low rates of voter participation among minority groups. Issues include negative stereotypes and racial profiling, systemic racism and institutionalized oppression, and lack of civic education.

Constitution Day commemorates the September 17, 1787 signing of the United States Constitution. Barry University’s Constitution Day program was organized as a Campus Democracy Project (CDP) event supported by the Student Government Association, the Department of History and Political Science, and the CCSI.

During the spring semester, the CDP Committee encouraged students to register to vote.

“Decisions are made by those who show up,” Foreman reminded students. “Don’t miss the election and lose the chance to have your voice heard and your vote count!”

Barry used the TurboVote system for voter registration.

The CDP promotes civic engagement through political education and participation in the electoral process. CDP Committee members included Foreman (Political Science) and Courtney Berrien (CCSI), the co-chairs; Elizabeth Besade (External and Government Affairs); Marissa Dorsett, president of College Republicans; Lavelle Dunn, president of the Student Government Association; Dr. Laura Finley (Sociology and Criminology); Alberto Lorenzo (Housing and Residence Life); Dr. Jalane Meloun (School of Professional and Career Education – PACE); Dr. Walter Pierce (School of Social Work); Steven Ramos (Center for Student Involvement); Chris Riker, president of the College Democrats; and Dr. Manuel Tejeda (School of Business).

University Observes Peace Month, Hunger Action Month, and 40 Days of Peace

The university observed Peace Month, Hunger Action Month, and 40 Days of Peace this year. September was both Peace Month and Hunger Action Month; 40 Days of Peace began on January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and ended on February 26.

The deliberative dialogue that focused on police-community relations was scheduled as part of the Peace Month program and was also a post Peace-In event. Peace-In is an annual event organized by the Department of Sociology and Criminology to mark the International Day of Peace and to advance Barry University’s commitment to fostering peace and nonviolence.

In a Peace Month statement, Barry’s Office of Mission Engagement said the university’s commitment to social justice called our community “to foster peace and non-violence, to strive for equality, to recognize the sacredness of Earth, and to engage in meaningful efforts toward social change.”

Part of a nationwide initiative of Feeding America, Hunger Action Month was aimed at raising awareness of the issue of hunger in the United States and at mobilizing the public to take appropriate action. Students, employees, and alumni lent their support in various ways.

Some responded enthusiastically to the call to “Go Orange” on Hunger Action Day, the first Thursday of September. The CCSI had encouraged students, faculty, and
staff to wear orange that day, September 3. Barry Service Corps fellows distributed orange ribbons with “quick facts” about hunger in South Florida.

Some contributed to a campus-wide food drive, which took place September 3–30. Food donations on Barry’s main campus totaled more than 200 items. Staff, faculty, and students placed mainly canned foods in the collection boxes. The collection box with the most items came from Kelley House, home to the Division of Enrollment Management.

Doubling as a community service project for Peace Month, the food drive was seen as timely. In South Florida, nearly 800,000 people are “food insecure,” according to Feeding South Florida, the regional affiliate of Feeding America. That number includes more than 280,000 children.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had emphasized that food security contributes to a peaceful world. And the International Commission on Peace and Food had declared, “Hunger anywhere threatens peace everywhere.”

CCSI staff member Liz James, the project coordinator, delivered the collection of 209 food items to Feeding South Florida’s main warehouse in Pembroke Park on October 6.

Some Barry volunteers worked a three-hour afternoon shift at Feeding South Florida’s third annual Sort-A-Thon in Pembroke Park on September 12. That community service project also marked Barry’s participation in the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance.

The Corporation for National and Community Service noted that the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance was an occasion to honor the lives lost and “commemorate the spirit of compassion and generosity” demonstrated after the tragic events of that day in 2001.

The CCSI organized events for 40 Days of Peace as thematic weeks designed to draw attention to specific social issues. The themes were Human Trafficking, Poverty and Food Access, Military Veterans, Domestic Violence, Refugees in America, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

The issue of human trafficking was highlighted during an awareness concert and a service project with the Life of Refugees in America, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

“commemorate the spirit of compassion and generosity” demonstrated after the tragic events of that day in 2001.
juvenile and criminal justice systems. A group of Barry students and staff members attended PACT’s (People Acting for Community Together) North Rally on February 22 at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Miami Gardens. The purposes of the rally were to build support for legislation that would keep youth from unfair incarceration and to promote efforts to fund housing for homeless people in Miami-Dade County.

Throughout the 40 days, Alana Hardy, Selena Pierre Jacques, and Sha’novia Warren went out of their way to be kind to others on campus and in the wider community. They had taken the Peace Pledge. Each wanted to be “a model of ethical behavior, integrity, and good citizenship.”

At the start of the 40-day observance, each student had pledged “to treat others with the respect with which I wish to be treated … and to contribute in any way I can to create the ‘beloved community’ envisioned by Dr. King,” the late civil rights leader.

Among the students who signed the Peace Pledge, six stood out. That’s because they each performed an act of peace every day for 40 days, documenting what they did and how they felt. Besides Hardy, Jacques, and Warren, there were two other Barry students – Paola Montenegro and Quayneshia Smith – and a St. Thomas student named Jessica Darring. A psychology major at the Miami Gardens-based university, Darring got involved after Christian Mesa, a Barry Service Corps fellow, shared the opportunity with her.

All six students received certificates and souvenirs from the CCSI during the closing ceremony for 40 Days of Peace, held at the Peace Pole in front of the Cor Jesu Chapel on Barry’s main campus. Those in attendance heard event organizer Andres Quevedo thank the students for living up to the pledge. He also urged the students to maintain their commitment to peace and to remain good role models even after they graduate.

Service for Peace, a national organization that has played a leadership role in promoting King’s vision of the “beloved community,” recommended the daily acts of peace. On the list were the following acts: “Cease all negative words about or towards other people”; “Honestly and genuinely compliment two strangers”; “Say thank you to at least two people”; and “Take a deep breath if you’re angry, and wait to speak more peacefully.” Also on the list were these three suggestions: “Perform one random act of kindness”; “Help a stranger in need”; and “Let go of a grudge.”

The CCSI coordinated Barry’s 40 Days of Peace observance, which included events sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement and the Department of Campus Ministry in the Division of Student Affairs, the School of Social Work and its Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, and the Department of Sociology and Criminology in the College of Arts and Sciences. Service for Peace provided a grant toward the events at Barry.
Barry University participated in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 14–22) by supporting efforts to end food and housing insecurity. Students, staff, and faculty members took part in two public events as well as a letter-writing campaign and a food- and hygiene-supply drive.

The first public event was PACT’s (People Acting for Community Together) Research to Action kickoff event on November 16, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Miami. Affordable housing was one of the issues on PACT’s agenda.

The second public event was the Alliance for Fair Food’s “Uniting for Fair Food” public demonstration on November 21. Barry representatives joined others assembled to draw attention to the needs of migrant farm workers. They also called on Publix and Wendy’s to become participating buyers in the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ (CIW) Fair Food Program.

Throughout the week, students participated in a letter-writing campaign, urging legislators to strengthen food-aid programs and support affordable housing.

Donations of nonperishable foods and toiletries were solicited as part of the food- and hygiene-supply drive. Coordinated by Campus Ministry, that project benefited people served by Chapman Partnership and Camillus House.

Sponsored annually by the National Coalition for the Homeless, National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is the week before Thanksgiving.

Barry Students at Forefront of Public Action in Support

Barry students were at the forefront of a public demonstration in Miami on November 21 as part of the Uniting for Fair Food National Day of Action. The placard-carrying demonstrators drew public attention to the “poverty wages,” human rights violations, and dangerous working conditions experienced by many workers in the industrial agriculture system.

Quaynesha Smith, Paola Montenegro, Alejandro Tobon, and Asha Starks rallied other students and the public to support the Alliance for Fair Food in agitating for fair wages.
and safe working conditions for farm workers. They took to the streets of downtown Miami, calling on Publix, the supermarket chain, and Wendy’s, the fast-food company, to join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ (CIW) Fair Food Program.

The nearly 30 Barry students and a few staff members were among those braving heat and rain, wending their way through the congested streets of the Brickell neighborhood and stopping by three Publix supermarkets and a Wendy’s restaurant.

Tobon, a junior who participates in the Barry Service Corps (BSC) Fellows Program, was a member of a delegation of students and farm workers who spoke directly with the Wendy’s management, urging the company to support the Fair Food Program. According to Tobon, it is important for consumers to understand how their purchasing power can positively or negatively affect those who produce the nation’s food.

Since March 2015, the SFA had been rallying support for a boycott of Wendy’s. The SFA is a national network of students and young people organizing with the CIW to eliminate sweatshop conditions in the fields and build a food system based on justice and dignity for farm workers. As a CIW ally, the SFA had asked the public to keep the pressure on Wendy’s until the corporation joins the Fair Food Program.

Smith is a member of the SFA Steering Committee. She was instrumental in planning and coordinating several Miami-area demonstrations in support of the Fair Food Program this academic year.

Prior to the National Day of Action, Smith and Montenegro were leaders of a “Fair Food” demonstration in North Miami. That demonstration was part of the SFA’s National Week of Action (September 27–October 4) called “Schooling Wendy’s.” Demonstrators gathered in front of a Wendy’s restaurant to agitate for the fast-food chain’s participation in the Fair Food Program.

“Schooling Wendy’s” called attention to the chain’s “failure to make the grade.” Participation in the Fair Food Program, or “making the grade,” requires the signing of an agreement with the CIW to support a living wage for Florida farm workers who harvest tomatoes that Wendy’s buys.

The subsequent Uniting for Fair Food National Day of Action in Miami was one of several similar demonstrations that took place in Florida and other states in support of the Alliance for Fair Food, a national network partnering with the CIW in support of farm-worker justice. That was the fifth time within the 12 months that Barry students have participated in a Fair Food action.

Students from St. Thomas, Florida Atlantic, and Florida International University took part in the Day of Action. Joining them were farm workers and family members, who traveled from Immokalee; members of the Miami Dream Defenders, an organization that addresses contemporary civil rights issues; and the Homestead-based immigrant rights group named WeCount!

Smith and Montenegro – who like Tobon and Starks, are BSC fellows – planned and promoted the pre-Thanksgiving demonstration among students at Barry and other Miami area universities. Two months earlier, they shared their plans at the SFA’s Encuentro, an annual strategic planning session for student leaders from across the United States.
The 11th annual Encuentro took place in Immokalee, Fla., in September. Smith and Montenegro were among scores of students and youth who gathered for a weekend primarily to make plans for the SFA’s Campaign for Fair Food. They took part in workshops and campaign planning, which focused on the Fair Food Program and the worker-driven social responsibility model that the CIW promotes.

The energized Encuentro participants traveled to Naples, where they took to the streets for a dual Publix-Wendy’s protest. Publix and Wendy’s are among major food retailers that do not support the Fair Food Program.

Throughout the 2015–2016 academic year, Barry students urged Publix and Wendy’s to join the program. BSC fellows and service-learning students in theology and sociology classes staged two demonstrations along Biscayne Boulevard in Miami Shores. At the first demonstration, the group directed chants such as “Farm workers have families too!” to the Publix supermarket at NE 91st Street and U.S. 1. A student delegation also spoke with the grocery-store manager and asked that the corporation participate in the program.

The second demonstration took place in front of the Wendy’s fast-food restaurant on the corner of NE 79th Street and U.S. 1. Members of the CIW, the SFA, and the Alliance for Fair Food joined the Barry students for that demonstration.

The CIW’s Fair Food Program has been described as “a unique partnership among farmers, farm workers, and retail food companies that ensures humane wages and working conditions for the workers who pick fruits and vegetables on participating farms.” The value of the program stems from both the standards outlined in the Fair Food Code of Conduct – backed by binding agreements between CIW and some of the world’s large buyers of tomatoes – and the multilayered approach to monitoring and enforcing compliance with those standards.

Acclaimed as the most comprehensive and sustainable social responsibility program in U.S. agriculture, the Fair Food Program provides for legally binding Fair Food Agreements. Participating buyers in the program commit to paying the Fair Food Premium on top of the regular price they pay for tomatoes. The small premium has helped to alleviate the economic hardship faced by farm workers for decades.

Barry students took part in previous successful campaigns that resulted in Taco Bell’s and Burger King’s participation in the Fair Food Program. CIW member Lupe Gonzalo said it was small but regular demonstrations like the ones Barry student leaders organized that led to previous Fair Food victories and have made the biggest impact for long-term, systemic change.

Fourteen major food retailers, including Burger King, McDonald’s and Subway, are participating in the program. The CIW reported that the retailers together have made penny-per-pound payments of $16 million to increase the income of Florida’s tomato pickers.

Barry Student’s Commitment to Social Justice Highlighted in Publication

Ask her about her most memorable college experience and Bethany Dill would emphasize her social justice-focused internship. Ask her what she’s passionate about and she’d mention service.

“Service is immensely important to me,” Dill declared. “The power people have to affect each other’s lives is staggering, and it’s beautiful when people harness that power for good. I think that all people have a deep need to live a life that is bigger than themselves.”

Stamps Scholar Bethany Dill is passionate about service.

Bethany Dill’s commitment to social justice through service was the focus of a feature article in the January 2016 issue of ASPIRE, a publication for Stamps scholars. Just over a year ago, Dill interned with International Justice Mission (IJM), a Washington, D.C.-based organization whose mission is to protect the poor from violence in developing countries. While there, she attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on efforts to end modern-day slavery.

According to Dill, “It was special to witness that event and beautiful to hear the plight of the enslaved shared with those who can (effect) such systemic change.”

A 2016 Barry graduate, Dill was a Stamps scholar, participating in a program that “recognizes the best and brightest students and the most promising future leaders.”

“During my time at Barry, I’ve been a reading tutor in the community, volunteered as a Resident Assistant, and have been a part of Habitat for Humanity, Barry’s Honors Program Student Advisory Board, a Christian student organization called Pinky Promise, the Education Association of Barry, and other organizations,” she noted. “During my freshman year, I visited the Coalition of
Immokalee Workers in Immoaklee, Florida to support its Anti-Slavery Campaign, which seeks to eliminate forced labor in supply chains.”

An education major, Dill said she “found Barry’s deep commitment to social justice, which was evident from the start, compelling.” She knew she “could thrive in a place that cares so earnestly about the role of a university in seeking justice in the world.”

And how she thrived! Thanks to the enrichment funds received as part of her full-ride scholarship, Dill garnered successful experiences at home and abroad.

As an intern last summer with Human Rights Watch, she drafted advocacy letters to governments, press releases, and articles for the organization’s website. For the future human rights lawyer, this and similar enrichment experiences were “striking illustrations ... of the power of advocacy.”

As a volunteer in Hyderabad, India, the previous summer, she supported the work of Advocates for Babies in Crisis. She cared for infants and tutored older children in math and English.

Student Leaders Host Youth at College Readiness Fair

Local high-school youth learned how to navigate the college admissions process and how to become successful college students at a College Readiness Fair on February 27. The event, which took place on Barry’s Miami Shores campus, provided an opportunity for economically disadvantaged youth to visit a college campus and ask questions about the admissions process as well as college life.

Representatives of the Offices of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid and members of Barry’s Student Organizations Council (SOC), Student Government Association (SGA), Barry Service Corps Fellows Program, and the REACH-UP for Nursing Program made presentations at the fair.

The REACH-UP for Nursing Program is designed to increase recruitment, retention, and graduation opportunities for minority and disadvantaged students in the nursing profession. This includes a long-term goal to increase workforce diversity, reduce health disparities, and achieve population health equity.

Student Government Association President Lavelle Dunn and Barry Service Corps Fellows Gilberte Jean-Francois and Kevin Dalia shared their experiences as highly involved college students.

Participating youth and their parents learned about completing an application to college, the different forms of financial aid available to undergraduates, and the options available to college students to become actively engaged on campus and in the community. Activities included a campus tour led by Barry Student Ambassadors and a student-leader panel discussion.

The CCSI organized the event with support from the College Reach-Out Program (CROP) in the School of Education.

Barry Students Spread the Word to End the “R” Word

Barry social work and education students and officers of the university’s Disability Services Student Advisory Board partnered with Special Olympics Florida to create awareness about the damaging effects that words like “retard” have on people with intellectual disabilities. The March 2 campaign was an event for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

The R-Word Campaign, a national initiative promoted by Special Olympics, seeks to “spread the word to end the word.” The goal is to create more accepting attitudes and communities for all people by bringing attention to the power of language.

Among those who spread the word to end the “R” word were Brittany Jacobs, Barry public guardian social worker; Desiree Gonzalez, social work service-learning student; Deni Ordonez, graduate student in the School of Education and member of the Office of Disability Services Student Advisory Board; Caitlin Connor, social work service-learning student; Eddie Maldonado, Special Olympics athlete; Efrem Scott, social work service-learning student; and Rochelle Rivera, graduate student in the School of Education and president of the Office of Disability Services’ Student Advisory Board.

Barry’s campaign organizers invited students to take the R-Word Pledge – to eliminate exclusive, offensive, and derogatory language from their conversations with family and friends and on social media.

Allison Kowlessar, disability services coordinator, hoped that the content shared during the event, including the purpose of the campaign and significance of making the pledge, would help to “create an inclusive culture that is welcoming to Barry students with seen and unseen disabilities.”

Kowlessar coordinated the event in collaboration with Special Olympics, the CSI, the School of Social Work, and the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences (HPLS).

President Ronald Regan proclaimed Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 1987.
University Staff Members Support Hunger Relief

(Left to right) Arlene Taylor, Dr. Jennie Ricketts-Duncan, Sandra Mancuso, and Liz James sorted food items in Feeding South Florida’s main warehouse on September 12.

Staff and faculty members joined students to represent Barry at Feeding South Florida’s third annual Sort-A-Thon in Pembroke Park on September 12.

The 25 representatives included Sandra Mancuso, director of grants and sponsored programs in the Division of Institutional Advancement; Arlene Taylor, an administrative assistant in the Adrian Dominican School of Education; and Liz James, experiential learning coordinator in the CCSI.

Dr. Jennie L. Ricketts-Duncan, an assistant professor of education, also assisted during a volunteer shift at the 24-hour project that began the evening of September 11.

A member of the Feeding America network, Feeding South Florida is the leading domestic-hunger relief organization serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties.

According to a Feeding South Florida report, 79 percent of the region’s food-insecure population qualify, based on income, for SNAP (Food Stamps) and other federal nutrition programs. The 21 percent who do not qualify “often must rely on emergency food-assistance programs and need better wages and employment opportunities to help them meet their basic needs,” the organization reported as part of Feeding America’s 2015 Map the Meal Gap analysis of food insecurity in the United States.

Recruitment and Admissions Events

The director of the CCSI participated in two Recruitment and Admissions events on Barry’s main campus this year. He gave the invocation at the first event, the Sunshine Tour Luncheon, on February 6.

Undergraduate Admissions Directors Betsy Thomas and Sarah Riley thanked the CCSI administrator for giving up part of his weekend “to help make Barry shine” and for “giving our guests a glimpse into what makes Barry such a unique institution of higher education.”

Thirty-four school counselors from nine countries and 18 U.S. states were on the Sunshine Tour.

The second Recruitment and Admissions event was the 2016 Autopista Tour Luncheon on June 10, involving 24 high-school guidance counselors from Puerto Rico. The CCSI director joined other Barry administrators and faculty at the luncheon to share information on Barry programs and services.

Dr. Dave Fletcher, senior director of graduate admissions, gave the invocation.

In addition, Liz James, a CCSI staff member, served on the committee that reviewed applications for Stamps Scholarships at Barry. Stamps scholars benefit from funds provided by the Atlanta-based Stamps Family Charity Foundation.
Institutional Advancement
Staff Member Promotes Women’s Health

Institutional Advancement staff member Victoria Lindsey Champion continued to support the door-to-door outreach campaigns of the Women’s Breast & Heart Initiative (WBHI).

Lindsey Champion, a senior development officer for major gifts in the Division of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs, has been a WBHI volunteer for more than six years. On September 19, she joined other WBHI Florida Affiliate volunteers and staff members involved in the current campaign, providing breast- and heart-health education packages and making appointments for mammograms and heart screenings.

WBHI’s mission is to save lives by connecting at-risk women with the prevention and early detection necessary to fight breast cancer and heart disease.

Staff Members Among Volunteers for Fundraising Event Benefiting Babies

Barry volunteers supported the March for Babies at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. CCSI staff members lent a hand at the event.

Students Liza Avila, Destiny Correa, Asiana Dunn, Leslie Lee, Aruna Ragbir, and Alexus Sergeant joined Liz James, CCSI experiential learning coordinator, at the fundraising event hosted by the March of Dimes Broward County division. Their main assignment was to capture images of various activities and participants throughout the day.

The previous day, James and her CCSI colleagues Courtney Berrien, Dr. Glenn Bowen, Alicia Santos, and Ashton Spangler helped organizers with set-up for the event.

Approximately 5,000 walkers helped to put the March of Dimes Broward County division within reach of its $889,000 fundraising goal. The March for Babies raised more than $850,000. The organization disclosed that it would spend 76 percent of the money raised from the event on research and support programs for premature babies and their mothers.
Barry Law Students Participate in 70 Community Service Events

Student organizations at Barry University’s Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law participated in some 70 community service events this year, continuing the school’s tradition of raising thousands of dollars annually for local and national charities. Community service events included a local lake and beach cleanup, a feed-the-homeless event, and a clothing drive.

Brian Sites, the CCSI’s community engagement liaison in Orlando, wrote a comprehensive report of the semester’s activities.

Rotaract, the Rotary-sponsored service club, logged more than 50 hours of community service. Angela Meador, president of the club, completed an additional 150 hours of service to the community, including more than 40 hours of pro bono service as a guardian ad litem.

The Veteran Legal Society raised $1,849.31 through its annual “Kiss the Pig” event to benefit injured veterans, and the Women Lawyers Association raised $842.89 to support the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides initiative. Additionally, the Student Bar Association donated $500 to Santa’s Peacekeepers, the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund raised $1,410 for the Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando, and Students Against Sexual Assault contributed $81.64 to Harbor House of Central Florida.

Those clinics are the Juvenile Defense Clinic, the Immigration Clinic, the Environmental and Earth Law Clinic, and the Collaborative Family Law Clinic. Students participating in these clinics and the law school’s externships and other programs play a vital role in serving our community.”

Several other community service events are scheduled for later this semester. For example, the School of Law is gearing up again for the VITA program, Sites said. Through this program, students assist local community members with preparing tax forms.

The school supported the Women Lawyers Association’s Seventeenth Annual Silent Auction, an event that had raised almost $7,000 in 2015 and approximately $100,000 over the years, benefiting Harbor House of Central Florida.

During the fall, the school also made early preparations for its mission trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, scheduled for May.

Leticia M. Diaz is dean of the School of Law. Sites and other community engagement liaisons assist the CCSI with planning, monitoring, assessing, and reporting community engagement activities. CCSI Associate Director Courtney Berrien coordinates the work of the liaisons.

Barry law students have supported the American Cancer Society, Harbor House, Second Harvest Food Bank, Clean the World, and other organizations.
Barry’s podiatry students have been maintaining the tradition of community engagement established by the School of Podiatric Medicine. Participation in the Special Olympics Fit Feet project is a prime example of the school’s engagement with the community.

Each fall and spring semester, podiatry students take part in Fit Feet, performing foot screenings for Special Olympics athletes. This academic year, the students have logged 440 hours on the Fit Feet project, reported Community Engagement Liaison Sandra Rampersad.

The Fit Feet Fall Classic, last November, saw 20 Barry participants traveling to Orlando, where they clocked 320 hours, over a two-day period, providing foot examinations for Special Olympics athletes. Student Sarah Shipley served as the volunteer coordinator.

For Fit Feet Spring, on April 2, a 15-member team of podiatry volunteers rendered 120 hours of service. Students Kelly Brennan and Stephanie Kane were the volunteer coordinators and Dr. Jon Houseworth, assistant professor, the clinical director.

Special Olympics describes itself as “a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability.” Through its Fit Feet project, the organization offers podiatric screenings to evaluate ankles, feet, lower extremity biomechanics, and proper shoe-and-sock gear of participating athletes. “Many athletes suffer from foot and ankle pain, or deformities that impair their performance,” the organization has explained. “In fact, up to 50 percent of Special Olympics athletes experience one or more preventable or treatable foot conditions that can affect their sports participation. Often, these individuals are not fitted with the best shoes and socks for their particular sport.”

Special Olympics developed Fit Feet in collaboration with the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and the Federation of International Podiatrists.

Rampersad, the administrative assistant for research operations in the School of Podiatric Medicine, said podiatry students also regularly provide voluntary service at public events, such as health fairs, and at community shelters. On Good Friday (March 25), for example, podiatry students supported Miami Rescue Mission’s “Help the Homeless, Feed the Hungry” event at three sites — in Miami, Pompano Beach, and Hollywood. They performed foot exams, nail debridements, callus removals, and vascular screenings for members of the public who attended the event.

Students Najwah Hayman and Aasin Tareen coordinated volunteer involvement on behalf of the American Academy of Women Podiatrist Club. Dean Albert Armstrong and Dr. Jacqueline Brill, assistant professor, were the supervisors. The 60 participants provided 420 hours of service, Rampersad reported.

During the spring semester (on March 19), a 25-member team of students and faculty performed foot exams at the Missionaries of Charity Mother Teresa Home for Women in Distress, in Miami. The Florida Podiatric Medical Student Association (FPMSA), led by Stephanie Kane, the president, coordinated student participation. Dr. Luis Rodriguez Anaya, assistant professor and interim clinical education director, supervised the students.

During the fall semester (on November 8), FPMSA provided foot assessments, vascular exams, and basic treatment at a health fair hosted by St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Miami Beach. Stephanie Kane and Jason Spector were the student coordinators and Dr. Houseworth the faculty supervisor.
Sociology and Criminology
Also Maintains Tradition

The Department of Sociology and Criminology also has been maintaining a tradition of community engagement.

Dr. Laura Finley, community engagement liaison, reported: “The department is continuing its relationship with the Order of Malta. We previously assisted with the creation of an Ex-Offender Resource Guide that is being used around the state and are now working on creating a guide with employment resources. We also again assisted with the Peace-In, which included community and campus speakers about peace and nonviolence.”

Finley, an associate professor of sociology and criminology, reported further that the department has been educating the campus and community on restorative justice and, in particular, the death penalty. Pax Christi and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty have supported the department’s efforts.

The department also has expanded its relationship with Amnesty International. Sociology and criminology students have been participating in the organization’s Write for Rights initiative.

Finley coordinated Barry’s participation in Amnesty International’s annual general meeting in Miami and served as a host committee member. An educational exhibit on Barry’s College Brides Walk was mounted in “Action Alley,” the AGM’s exhibition area featuring human rights efforts.

The department also has expanded its relationship with Amnesty International. Sociology and criminology students have been participating in the organization’s Write for Rights initiative.

The AGM provided a forum to create awareness about local and international human rights violations and to seek solutions. Barry group members attended different sessions and, during a post-AGM reflection activity, shared what they learned from each session.

Starks said she and the other students appreciated the opportunity to learn from professionals and local citizens committed to working for human rights. Finley said the conference organizers were impressed with Barry’s participation.

For the past three years, Amnesty International USA, through its Special Initiative Fund, has supported the College Brides Walk, an annual event that brings attention to domestic and dating violence.

The Department of Sociology and Criminology was the first recipient of Barry’s Engaged Department Award. Dr. Gary Grizzle, an associate professor of sociology, is chair of the department.

University Donates Books for Reuse and Recycling

Over the past five years, Barry University has donated more than 18,600 books for reuse and recycling. The donations have saved unwanted books from landfills.

Between December 2010 and 2015, the university donated 18,682 books to Better World Books, reported Merlene Nembhard, electronic resources coordinator and reference librarian. Of that total, 7,036 books were reused and 11,646 were recycled.

Better World Books, in turn, reported that the Barry-donated books have saved 300 trees and 40 cubic yards of landfill space while also reducing greenhouse gases by 39,737 pounds.

The Monsignor William Barry Memorial Library organizes and manages the book donation drive on the university’s main campus in Miami Shores. The library is part of a network of more than 3,000 libraries supporting Better World Books.

Since 2002, when it was founded by three friends from the University of Notre Dame, Better World Books has converted approximately 117 million books into more than $15 million in funding for literacy and education. In the process, the company has also diverted more than 73,000 tons of books from landfills.

The library collects unwanted books, including books on CDs, and DVDs for shipment to Better World Books. Among the books being accepted are college textbooks published within the past 10 years, dictionaries, children’s books, and travel books published within the past 3 years. CDs, DVDs, and selected video games will be accepted as well.

The books and DVDs are sold, with the library receiving 15 percent of the net sale price and Books for Africa, a Better World Books literacy partner, receiving 5 percent. Unsold books are donated to Books for Africa or recycled.

A group of Barry students and faculty members attended Amnesty International’s annual general meeting.
Social Work Group Goes to Tallahassee for Legislative Education and Advocacy Day

Nearly 50 Barry students, faculty, and staff participated in the Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD) in Tallahassee in February. Participants were drawn from the School of Social Work – from the main campus in Miami Shores and satellite campuses in Palm Beach Gardens and Fort Myers.

The Barry University School of Social Work participates in LEAD annually at the Florida State Capitol. Organized by the National Association of Social Workers–Florida Chapter (NASW-FL), the event takes place during the Florida Legislature’s regular spring session.

NASW-FL’s legislative and policy-advocacy agenda for 2016 includes the promotion of “criminal justice laws and sentencing guidelines that are reasonable, equitable, free of bias, flexible to the situation, and protect the public.” It also includes support of “programs that reduce homelessness or assist those experiencing homelessness, and that enhance affordable housing options.”

Fabio A. Naranjo, community engagement liaison, reported that this year’s LEAD took place on February 1 and 2, with nearly 900 students representing the state’s 14 accredited schools of social work participating. On the first day, all participants attended a training session during which NASW-FL provided a summary of all relevant bills and those identified for lobbying. On the second day, the social work students met face-to-face with legislators, attended Senate and House Committee Hearings, and visited the Florida Supreme Court.

The School of Social Work was the second recipient of Barry University’s Engaged Department Award. Dr. Phyllis Scott is dean of the school.

CCSI Reviews Efforts to Help Prevent Youth Violence

In March, the CCSI reviewed segments of its programs and projects aimed at assisting the local community with preventing and combating violence among youth. Through partnerships with Gang Alternative, the Little Haiti Optimist Club, and PACT (People Acting for Community Together), the CCSI has been contributing to ongoing anti-violence efforts.

At Gang Alternative, emphasis is placed on providing a safe, positive environment for young men and women to learn new skills and develop socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Based in Little Haiti, the organization serves youth primarily from that neighborhood and the adjacent Liberty City.

Barry Service Corps fellows on the Youth Development Team have been working with Gang Alternative staff to plan and implement a curriculum focused on violence prevention and social justice. The CCSI invited youngsters enrolled in Gang Alternative’s Building Leaders of Character (BLOC) program to the deliberative dialogue on “The Police and the Community: Who is Protected and Served?” and to the College Readiness Fair on campus. The youngsters also worked side by side with Barry students on MLK Day of Service projects.

Under the aegis of the Little Haiti Optimist Club, parents and elementary-school youth participated in Make a Difference Day service projects alongside college students. Barry students have been serving as tutors and mentors to the Little Haiti youth, and BSC fellows on the Urban Health Team work have assisted Optimist Club staff with preparing a curriculum designed to foster health and well-being.

PACT’s efforts include working with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools to initiate restorative justice and other violence prevention programs that are alternatives to out-of-school suspensions. The organization also has been working with Florida lawmakers to pass a civil citation bill (SB 408) in the Children, Families and Elder Care Committee and the Judiciary Committee of the Florida Senate. The bill provides alternative and prevention programs to youth who are first- or second-time nonviolent offenders, rather than mandatory prison sentences.

Barry students have been making their contributions to PACT’s efforts through service-learning and co-curricular programs. For example, theology students have supported the Keeping It Real program at Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church in North Miami. Program participants meet regularly, taking advantage of a safe space to address concerns and share experiences. Additional efforts to help prevent youth violence include Days of Service activities involving at-risk youth from high-crime neighborhoods. The CCSI also has been collaborating with Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services to promote positive youth development and productive community involvement, and with E-SToPP (Eradicating the School-to-Prison Pipeline) to address related challenges.
Barry University participated in Campus Compact’s 2015 Annual Member Survey. The CCSI completed the survey on behalf of the university.

The survey found that higher education institutions across the United States use a variety of approaches to foster community engagement. Campus Compact member institutions foster curricular and co-curricular community engagement by using approaches ranging from offering student awards for community engagement (80%) to providing physical space and communication mechanisms for peaceful student protest (62%).

According to Campus Compact, the use of Federal Work-Study funds to support engagement “remains pervasive” among its member institutions. On average, 15 percent of Federal Work-Study funds were dedicated to community service positions in 2015.

In its 2015 Annual Member Survey report titled “Preparing to Accelerate Change: Understanding our Starting Line,” Campus Compact noted that colleges and universities have identified specific student outcomes for community engagement. More than half of those responding to the survey (53%) indicated that they have done so. Those respondents further indicated that they track student outcomes in the following areas: critical thinking (82%); civic or democratic learning (81%); engagement across differences (76%); social justice orientation (64%); global learning (64%); policy knowledge (25%); and media literacy (21%).

Across institutions, there is a wide variety of vehicles for both curricular and co-curricular student engagement. Campus Compact has reported that those vehicles range from residence hall-based service (91%) and international service opportunities (71%) to disciplinary community-based learning courses (78%) and capstone service courses (57%).

Campus Compact advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. A Campus Compact member institution, Barry University participated in the survey.

The organization conducted an online member survey for 12 weeks, beginning in October 2015, to capture student and faculty involvement in communities; assess institutional support and culture; and gather information on community-campus partnerships, tracking mechanisms, and the like. Of 1,079 Campus Compact member institutions, 400 responded to the survey, with a national response rate of 37 percent.
Barry’s Collaborative Approaches to Service Emphasized in Blog

Barry University’s collaborative approaches to service were emphasized in a blog at the NASPA website. The blog was a summary of a presentation at the 2015 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Conference organized jointly by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ American Democracy Project, The Democracy Commitment, and NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

The team of presenters from Barry was composed of Courtney Berrien, CCSI associate director; Derek Bley, coordinator for leadership development and student organizations in the Center for Student Involvement; Lavelle Dunn, the Student Government Association president; Donté Roberts, a Barry Service Corps fellow; and Dr. Sean Foreman, associate professor of political science.

Barry’s Campus Democracy Project, U.S. Constitution Day activities, and Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) were mentioned in the blog.

Nursing Students Join North Miami Community for 9/11 Event

On September 11, nine Barry nursing students joined the North Miami community to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and to remember the lives lost.

Accompanied by Dr. Mureen Shaw, assistant professor of nursing, the students attended the 9/11 observance at the North Miami Police Headquarters. City of North Miami officials, fire and police personnel, and community members participated. After the event, City of North Miami Mayor Dr. Smith Joseph thanked the students for attending.

The students in attendance were Tenishe Adejo, Alisson Blandino, Virginie Chavannes, Pat Cooper, Chavelly Cordoves, Blanca Crespo, Alexa De la Cruz, Lizeht Flores, and Danielle Forde.

CCSI Administrators Coordinate Cultural Sensitivity Component of Podiatry Course

CCSI administrators Courtney Berrien and Glenn Bowen coordinated the Cultural Sensitivity component of an introductory course in the School of Podiatric Medicine the fall 2015 semester.

The four-session component of SPM 525: Introduction to Podiatric Medicine took into consideration pertinent professional standards and goals established by the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM).

The course component was designed to help students develop awareness and appreciation for aspects of diversity and cultural sensitivity; self-awareness and consideration of how aspects of their own identity may influence their professional interactions with others, especially future patients; an understanding of the connections between cultural competency and professional standards.

The session topics were “Perspective and Identity,” “Intersectionality,” “Privilege and Power,” and “Cultural Competency.”

Students practiced effective communication; considered the role perspective plays in communication, decision-making, and relationships with individuals from different groups; and developed empathy for others by learning the backgrounds, perspectives, experiences. They also applied the concepts of privilege and power to the experiences of various social groups in American society and considered how issues of privilege and power can influence doctor-patient interactions.

In addition, the students discussed “best practice” methods of diversity dialogue, considering how such methods can be used when working in the community.
Bowen Elected to International Association Board

CCSI Director Dr. Glenn Bowen was elected to the board of directors of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE). He will serve a three-year term beginning in September 2016.

IARSLCE has more than 900 members. The association’s mission is “to promote the development and dissemination of research on service-learning and community engagement internationally and across all levels of the education system.”

Bowen has served as a proposal reviewer for the annual IARSLCE Conference and co-chaired the conference’s social justice track in 2015. In his board role, he will engage in planning strategies and programs to spur the growth of the association.

At Barry, Bowen provides strategic leadership for community engagement, encompassing faculty development programs, community-engaged scholarship, and university-community partnerships. Holding the faculty rank of associate professor, he piloted the institutionalization of service-learning and created the Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship. His work has resulted in the annual recognition of the university on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and Barry’s attainment of the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

Previously, Bowen was director of the award-winning Center for Service Learning at Western Carolina University. He is credited with expanding, enhancing, and bringing national recognition to civic engagement at that North Carolina public university.

The author of Reflection Methods and Activities for Service Learning, Bowen also has published several book chapters on service-learning pedagogy and civic engagement practice. His peer-reviewed articles have appeared in such publications as the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement, Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship, and Journal on Excellence in College Teaching.

A former journalist and public relations manager, Bowen was a two-term president of the Public Relations Society of Jamaica and was appointed by the nation’s prime minister to the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO. In addition, he was elected to a five-year term on the executive committee of the Geneva-based World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Faculty Fellows Facilitate CBR Workshop

Service-Learning Fellows Ligia Migut and Raul Machuca facilitated a faculty workshop on “Community-Based Research as Service-Learning” on March 2.

Workshop participants discussed the guiding principles of community-based research and the steps to completing a CBR project. They also explored how service-learning students can benefit from CBR and how CBR can become part of the scholarship of engagement.

Nursing Students Urged to Conduct Research to Benefit Marginalized Communities

Dr. Glenn Bowen, director of the CCSI, urged nursing students to begin engaging in research that will significantly benefit underserved populations in marginalized communities.

“Nursing students can play an important role in advancing global health by engaging in community-based research in local communities and abroad,” Bowen said. “Global-health research focuses on underserved populations in low- and middle-income countries as well as foreign-born populations, such as immigrants and refugees, in the United States through a holistic lens.”

Giving the welcome at the International Research Conference of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing’s (STTI) Lambda Chi Chapter on February 24, Bowen said the focus of research should be not only on the safety and efficacy of treatments and modalities but also on health policy directions and especially on public health impacts. The emphasis should be on addressing community-identified concerns and multiple determinants of health, he added.
This year’s agenda of the Faculty Learning Community for Engaged Scholarship (FLC) included engaged-scholarship seminars, guest presentations, and regular meetings.

The FLC is an interdisciplinary group of faculty members who engage in a collaborative program focused on community-engaged scholarship, which integrates work in the areas of teaching, research, and service. Community-engaged scholarship supports collaboration between the university and its larger communities – local, regional/state, national, global – for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

Community-based research, Bowen noted, is a collaborative process that involves students, faculty, and community partners. It can help to speed the adoption, implementation, and evaluation of policies and practices to improve health in communities with unmet needs, he said.

More than 500 nurses attended the conference at the Signature Grand in Davie. The theme of the conference was “Empowering Nurses to Advance Global Health through Research and Evidence-Based Practice.”

Dr. Edward Briggs, immediate past president of the Florida Nurses Association, gave the keynote address on “The Future of Nursing is the Future of Healthcare.” There were nine breakout-session presentations. In addition, the poster session included 16 presentations. During the closing session, doctoral student Gaone Abbate shared her perspective on the conference theme.

The STTI Lambda Chi Chapter’s board of directors is composed of Dr. Claudette Chin, president; Dr. Mureen Shaw, vice president; Jamelah Morton, counselor/governance chair; Dr. Lolita McCarthy, treasurer; and Dr. Ronica Subramoney, secretary and newsletter editor. Committee members include Dr. Jacquie Marshall, leadership succession and community service chair; Roselle Sampson-Mojares, leadership intern; Onidis Lopez, archivist/webmaster; Dr. Corvette Yacoob, awards committee chair; and Dr. Indra Hershorn, research committee chair.

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Faculty members attending the engaged-scholarship seminar on September 23 shared their community engagement experiences linked to teaching, program administration, and research.

On October 28, Elaine H. Black, president and CEO of the Liberty City Community Revitalization Trust, made a presentation as part of the seminar. And Dr. Adam Dean, associate professor of communication, gave a review of a journal article on interdisciplinary faculty collaboration.

Dr. Sabrina Des Rosiers, assistant professor of psychology, led the seminar on February 10, which focused on experimental and survey research design for community-engaged scholarship.
Sister Michelle Fernandez, SCTJM, principal of St. Mary’s Cathedral School, was the guest presenter at the March 16 FLC meeting. She asked Barry faculty to support programs, including teacher training, at that Miami inner-city school, which has a high turnover of teachers.

More than 300 of the 400 students enrolled at St. Mary’s Cathedral School benefit from the Step-Up scholarship program. Sr. Michelle said many of them were lagging behind by two grades, and those enrolled in special education would benefit from additional tutoring.

Lorna Owens, founder and chief executive officer of Footprints Foundation, was the guest presenter at the final FLC meeting for the academic year, on April 20. Her topic was “Footprints Foundation: Building Community Partnerships Locally and Abroad.”

Footprints Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Coral Gables, Fla. The organization’s mission is to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and to stop female genital mutilation and child marriages.

FLC members published a few scholarly articles in journals this year and made several presentations at national, state-level, and local conferences. Four FLC members were among the contributors to a new book, *Peace and Social Justice Education on Campus: Faculty and Student Perspectives*. Also, the FLC discussed a proposed self-study of community-engaged professional practice, and some members embarked on a research project employing a community service attitudes scale.

In her remarks at this year’s Community Engagement Awards, Barry President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, PhD, identified an increase in the productivity of faculty in community-engaged scholarship as one of Barry University’s major achievements over the past five years.

The CCSI published *Engaged Scholarship Update*, the FLC newsletter, monthly throughout the academic year.

Dr. Pamela Hall, associate professor of psychology and a former service-learning fellow, facilitated the FLC this year. Dr. Laura Finley, associate professor of sociology and criminology, will be the FLC facilitator next year. Finley is a prolific scholar who has edited several books and book chapters, authored a large number of journal articles, and made numerous conference presentations.

**Publications and Presentations by Barry Faculty, Administrators, and Students**


**Dr. Laura L. Finley**, associate professor of sociology and criminology, co-edited (with Dr. Kelly Concannon) a book, *Peace and Social Justice Education on Campus: Faculty and Student Perspectives*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015. She also coauthored several chapters in that book: (with Dr. Kelly Concannon, Nadine Grifoni, Stephanie Wong, and Brittnay Bartlett) “Feminist Interruptions: Creating Care-ful and Collaborative Community-Based Research with Students”; (with Christian Schlaerth, Dr. Pamela Hall, Dr. Celeste Fraser-Delgado, Tamedrea Mason, Karla Rivera-Torres, Eugenia Carioni, and David Zaret)
“Service-Learning for Peace and Social Justice: Reflections from Faculty and Students.” In addition, she authored an article, “Service-Learning for Peace and Justice: The College Brides Walk Campus-Community Collaboration,” in the *Journal for Peace & Justice Studies*, 25(1), article 3, 2015.

**Dr. Rosa Borgen**, assistant professor in the School of Education, co-presented (with Dr. Priva Fischweicher and Derrick Moore) “How a Service-Learning Initiative at Two Inner-City High Schools was Developed and Implemented” at Barry University’s Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium, Miami, Fla., March 2016.

**Dr. Celeste Fraser Delgado**, then associate professor of English and humanities, coauthored (with Dr. Laura L. Finley, Christian Schlaerth, Dr. Pamela Hall, Tamedrea Mason, Karla Rivera-Torres, Eugenia Carioni, and David Zaret) a book chapter, “Service-Learning for Peace and Social Justice: Reflections from Faculty and Students,” in *Peace and Social Justice Education on Campus: Faculty and Student Perspectives*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015; and co-presented (with Dr. Pamela Hall) “Community Partners Speak Up and Speak Out,” at Barry University’s Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium, Miami, Fla., March 2016.

**Dr. Nickesia S. Gordon, Dr. Adam Dean, Dr. Margaret Chojnacki, Mahen Saverimuttu, and Dr. Rise Samra**, faculty members in the Department of Communication, presented a workshop, “Social Advocacy as Praxis in the Communication Curriculum,” at the 85th Annual Convention of the Florida Communication Association, Orlando, Fla., October 2015.


**Dr. Tisa McGhee**, assistant professor of social work, and students Stephen Ferrante and Philip Giarraffa presented “Going Beyond Internships: How University-Community Partnerships Can be Mutually Beneficial” at Barry University’s Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium, Miami, Fla., March 2016.

**Dr. Mitchell Rosenwald**, associate professor of social work, and students Christine Anderson and Devin Plaskett presented “Bridging Group Differences through Intergroup Dialogues: The TRACKS Project” at Barry University’s Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium, Miami, Fla., March 2016.

**Dr. Lauren Shure and Raul Machuca**, assistant professors of counseling in the School of Education, presented “The Development of a University Partnership with a local LGBT Center” at Barry University’s Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium, Miami, Fla., March 2016.


**Dr. Gerene K. Strarratt**, an associate professor in the School of Education, with PhD candidate Ivana Fredotovic, Barry alumna Sashay A. Goodletty, and PhD candidate Stephanie Auguste Shaw presented “Community-Based Research: A Model for Engaged Scholarship” at Barry University’s Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium, Miami, Fla., March 2016.

**Dr. Lauren S. Tashman**, an assistant professor in the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences, presented “Encouraging Students to Look in the Mirror: Using Reflective Practice to Increase Student Engagement, Growth, and Success” at Barry University’s Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium, Miami, Fla., March 2016.

**Deepening the Culture of Community Engagement** includes chapters by several Barry faculty and staff members along with students. Co-edited by Dr. Laura L. Finley, the book provides important reflections by and for peace and social justice educators working on college campuses. It also integrates the voices of students. More than a feel-good compilation of success stories, however, it illustrates the complexities inherent in teaching and learning about and for peace and social justice.
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