

Introducing the CIDD Student Ambassadors 2017-18

Frank Vafier '74 Ambassador in Leadership



Samantha Martin (Senior) *Ni Una Menos-A New Movement Against Gender Violence in Chile.* This ethnographic research project will be carried out principally in Valparaíso, Chile. It seeks to capture the goals, methods, and effectiveness of *Ni Una Menos*, a new movement against gender violence and femicide in Latin America. Participant observation will supplement interviews with feminist activists, university professors, and leaders of organizations against sexual abuse. A key objective of the project is to understand how the movement fits in the sociocultural context of a traditionally *machista* society.

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Sofia Villalón (Senior) *Credo Kitchen: Refugee Chefs Sharing a Taste of Home and Resettlement One Meal at a Time.* Credo Kitchen is an initiative to make food and storytelling the new way of educating others on global issues. Credo Kitchen will be a dinner series at Food Studio North hosted by refugees and immigrants who've resettled in Upstate New York and own a restaurant. The chefs will host a VIP tasting and serve an origin-specific dish where students have the opportunity to understand global issues on a smaller, more intimate way as told by refugees and immigrants themselves. These chefs will be able to tell their stories by *sharing a taste of home*.

James Houston '80 Ambassador in Innovation



Patrick Buckley (Junior) *Building Trust Between Science and Society in Geneseo and Beyond.* Using the successful Science Café model, I will facilitate events allowing researchers to connect with members of the surrounding community through casual and engaging conversations. These events will provide an environment that allows for trust-building between researchers and the general public. Additionally, I will host workshops and interdisciplinary panels on campus to further promote the need for increased trust between these two groups.

Community Advocates Ambassador in Community Engagement



Sarah Jane Phillips (Senior) *From Mentors to Main Street: The Freshman Integration Initiative.* I am creating a peer-mentoring program for struggling first year students. The program will connect a student with an upper classman on the Geneseo campus, as well as a faculty member and a Geneseo community member. They will serve as a mentor for new students and help make their transition into college life smoother by offering advice and guidance during a time that can be extremely challenging.

Ambassador in Diversity



Jenna Lawson (Senior) *The ToKnight Show.* My project will stage, record, and publish six unique performances of a late night comedy show running from late September to early December on Friday nights. The show will be performed and filmed in front of a live studio audience and written by and for historically marginalized individuals. The show will combine staples of late night comedy television including monologues, sketches, and musical performances with a type of open-forum approach that leaves space for improvisation and interaction with our audiences.

John A. '87 and MaryGrace '84 Gleason Ambassador in Student Affairs



Kitrick McCoy (Junior) *Tunneling Through Barriers*. My project seeks to bring learning disability to the center stage in higher education. I will be surveying faculty, students, and various colleges around the Northeast to discover what works and what is ineffective when it comes to “leveling the playing field” for students with disability. I plan to formalize my findings in a written report, while also constructing a gallery installation, that community members can physically interact with, thus promoting accessibility. The project ultimately will propose solutions to better maximize the potential of 10% or more of our learning disabled counterparts, who maintain unique and exemplary approaches that differ from the norm.

Edward Pettinella '73 Ambassador in Business



Samuel Randall (Senior) *Prolivio: Feel Better Today, Know Better Tomorrow*. This summer I will be working with BZDesign, an industrial design company in Rochester, to bring a concept product that addresses migraine pain into reality. Along with multiple rounds of prototyping that will be taking place in the weeks to come, I will be starting a Kickstarter campaign, finding academic research for product validation, acquiring mentors in the medical field to help guide the product's development, and creating a critical analysis of competition on the market.

CAS Ambassador in Entrepreneurship



Colleen Steward (Junior) *StandUp Leadership Marketing Expansion*. StandUp Leadership is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to facilitating personal development events on college campuses for qualified, but underserved high school students. Events empower students by exposing them to a college campus environment and help them develop key leadership skills, while colleges are given the opportunity to recruit students they may not otherwise reach. Three successful events have been held in Geneseo and now through the CAS Ambassadorship in Entrepreneurship, StandUp Leadership is looking forward to a marketing expansion in order inspire more students.

Gérard Gouvernet Ambassador in French Language and Culture



Trevis Lipnick (Senior) *Perceptions of American Transnational Corporations in Dakar, Senegal*. Dakar, Senegal hosts a multitude of large international corporations that shape the lives of countless inhabitants of West Africa. Corporations like Microsoft, IBM, Hertz and Coca-Cola all persist as massive economic powerhouses in the region. Through interviews with representatives of these powerful corporations, regional political representatives, and the local population, this research project will analyze the complex political and economic relationships between transnational corporations and the people of the Francophone developing world.

Eddie Lee '76 First Generation Ambassador



Arlenis Santana (Senior) *Malnutrition and Educational Setbacks in School-aged Children in Nicaragua: How is Kinship a Resilient Factor of Malnourishment*. My research project will be focused on Jiquilite, a rural village of about one hundred people in the hills, just outside of El Sauce, Nicaragua. A project that connects to my interest in developmental psychology and address the issue of malnutrition. When a child is malnourished, he or she is tired, sleep deprived and studies have shown academic performance is negatively affected. This project will collect and store data on cognitive/language and socioemotional development with Jiquilite community members in support of advocacy for childhood nutrition programs.