

John Carroll University – Mandel Grant Fund Report, 2015-16 Academic Year

This year, 12 campus projects were made possible by grants from the Mandel Fund for Conversation and Inclusion. These grants were chosen from among 13 total requests that were considered during this academic year. Grants ranged in size from \$490 to \$4,000 and represented requests from four separate university divisions (see figure 1). The majority of grants this year were made to the Academic Affairs division for projects that included a curricular component, many of which were designed to build upon our strategic emphasis on engaged and integrated learning as part of the new Integrative Curriculum.

This year's 12 completed projects were proposed in equal measure by staff (4), faculty (4), and students (4). Half of this year's funded projects were campus cultural programs (figure 2) intended to develop cultural knowledge and competency among the campus community, particularly students. These cultural programs emphasized the global nature of religious and ethnic diversity, as seen in figure 3.

The 2014-15 grant review committee members were:

- Donna Byrnes, M.A., Associate Dean of Students
- Danielle Carter, M.A., Director, Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion
- David Kleinberg, Ph.D., Director, Center for Global Education
- Terry Mills, Ph.D., Assistant Provost for Diversity & Inclusion (committee chair)
- Julie Myers, M.A., Office of Campus Ministry
- Dwight Venson, JCU Class of 2017
- Megan Wilson-Reitz, M.A., Assistant, Office for Institutional Diversity & Inclusion

The following is a brief summary of each of the grant-funded projects.

1. Sukkah Project, September 2015

This grant funded the purchase of a large new Sukkah for the annual on-campus celebration of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. The Department of Theology and Religious Studies, the Tuohy Chair in Interreligious Dialogue, and the Hillel Jewish Student Organization collaborated to present a series of cultural, academic and social programs in the Sukkah during the 8-day festival to help promote a wider understanding of Jewish culture on campus.

Fig. 1: Mandel funds granted, by division, 2015-16

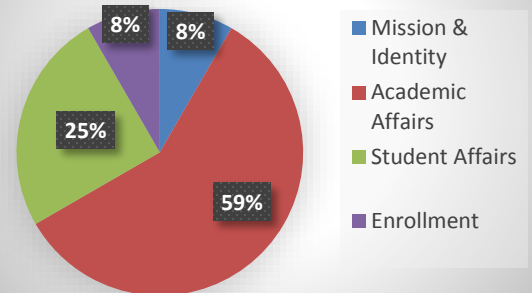


Fig. 2: Types of Programming Funded by Mandel Grants, 2015-16

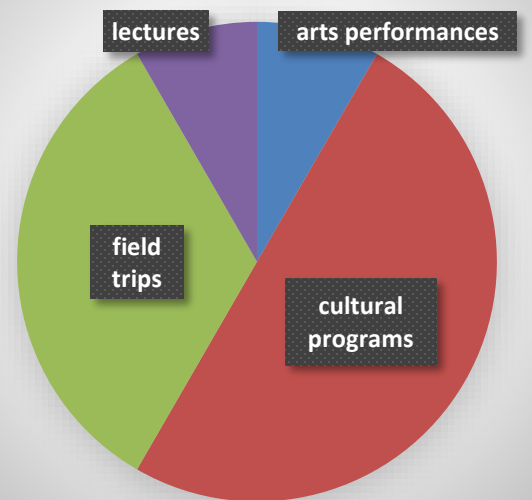
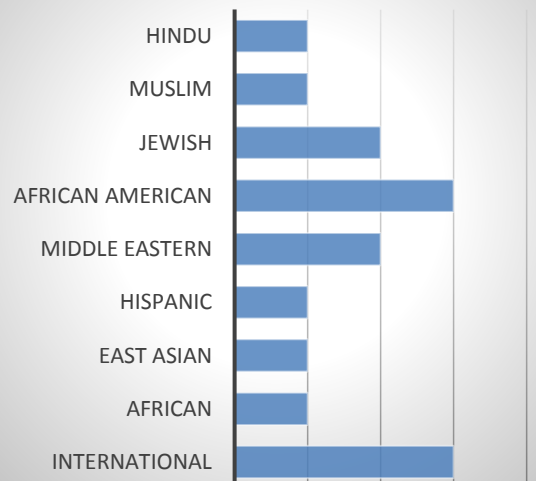


Fig. 3: Cultures Represented in Mandel Grant Projects, 2015-16



2. Hispanic Heritage Month, October 2015

This grant funded a series of programs presented by the Latin American Student Association, including a piñata-making party, panel presentation and motivational speaker from Cuba.

3. Global Family Dinner, November 2015

The Global Family Dinner is an annual event sponsored by the Office of International Student Services which encourages awareness of the international diversity and cultures represented on campus. International students submit traditional recipes from their home countries, and the food service staff use these recipes to create an international menu served in the campus dining hall. The Mandel grant covered the cost of decorations and raffle prizes designed to encourage people to linger longer in the dining hall and to spend more time interacting with the international students. Approximately 2,500 students, faculty and staff were served in the dining hall during the Global Family Dinner.

4. Recipe for Success, November 2015

This grant funded a reception and lecture presentation on campus by Brandon Chrostowski, the founder of EDWINS Culinary and Leadership Institute, which provides culinary arts training to formerly incarcerated people. This program was sponsored by the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and was organized and presented by students enrolled in the course CO 340: Events Planning. Chrostowski's presentation emphasized the need for acceptance and inclusion of those who have completed a prison sentence and wish to reintegrate wholly into society by providing a network of support services as well as access to dignified work.

5. MESA's Hafle, December 2015

This grant provided food and entertainment for the Middle Eastern Student Association's annual Hafle ("party"), a campus social event designed to raise awareness of Middle Eastern cultures, food, music and languages.

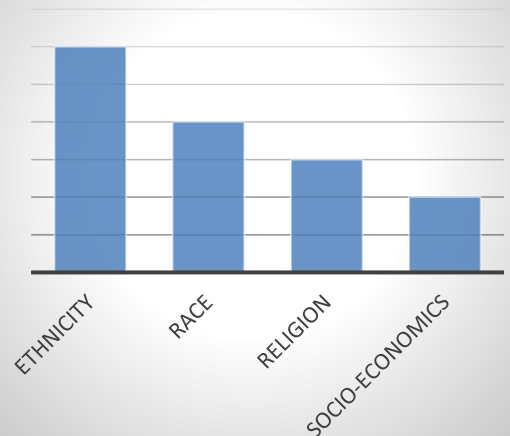
6. Frontiers of Justice tour, January 2016

The Center for Service and Social Action (CSSA) presented this day-long event in order to give CSSA Student Liaisons a deeper understanding about the city of Cleveland, the history of the neighborhoods in which they serve, and the cultural and ethnic heritage of the people they encounter. These student leaders, in turn, were expected to educate and inform the wider student body involved in service (approximately 550 students per semester). This day-long bus tour engaged experts, community partners, politicians, community leaders and residents in the neighborhoods of Hough and Fairfax to help deepen students' awareness and appreciation of history, current realities and signs of hope that are essential elements to the communities they serve.

7. Black History Month events, February 2016

This grant supported a series of events on campus sponsored by the JCU African-American Alliance in order to celebrate Black History month. These included Black History Trivia Night, a "Meet the Greeks" event to educate students on Black Greek Life, panels on civil rights and policing and on sexual assault in the black community, a fashion show showcasing the evolution of black fashion trends, and a formal dance celebrating the impact of black accomplishments in the community.

Fig. 4: Types of Inclusion Promoted by 2015-16 Mandel Grant Projects



8. Lunar New Year celebrations, February 2016

The Center for Global Education, Office of the Provost & Academic Vice President, and the East Asian Studies Program collaborated on a series of academic and cultural programs around the East Asian celebrations of the Lunar New Year. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* attended these events and published an article about them (see Appendix).

9. Soul Food/Food for the Soul Classroom Field Trip, March 2016

This grant funded a class field trip for students co-enrolled in a pair of linked courses in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Cultures entitled “Soul Food and Food for the Soul,” taught by Dr. Cory Wilson (TRS) and Dr. Mártha Pereszlényi-Pintér (CMLC). The field trip, to Cleveland landmark Empress Taytu, gave the students an experience of Ethiopian food and culture. JCU students not enrolled in the course were also invited to attend as guests. One student wrote, “I learned a lot about how important food and community are to so many people. I also learned that there are many ways to serve food. I assumed the ‘American’ way was the only way.” Another said, “I am so happy I tried this food and went out of my comfort zone!”

10. In It Together, April 2016

This grant provided partial support to bring Los Angeles- based social justice theatre troupe *Will & Co.* to campus to present their one-act original play, *In It Together*, which traces the history of social justice and civil rights movements in the United States, teaching the history of the multi-ethnic leaders of those movements. The play was attended by approximately 100 students, faculty and staff and was followed by a faculty panel discussion on the role of race in biology, culture, and anthropology.

11. Wrestling Jerusalem, May 2016

This grant funded a class field trip for the students enrolled in Dr. Phil Metres’ course “Israeli and Palestinian Literatures” to attend the play *Wrestling Jerusalem* at the Cleveland Playhouse. “I thought it was a really awesome experience,” wrote one student. “It seemed as though it really brought everything that we learned in class together. The struggle between opposing views, the struggle to understand more, the struggle to express feelings about the conflict.” Another wrote, “There is so much more going on in Israel and Palestine than what we can read in a textbook, and I think that seeing a demonstration of that is certainly a way to change a chapter from a book into a conversation.”

12. “Explore” program, September 2015-May 2016

The Office of Campus Ministry received this grant to fund student group outings to diverse places of worship around the Cleveland area to offer students the opportunity to experience a worship experience different from their own tradition. Students visited Byzantine Catholic, Russian Orthodox, Baptist, and Lutheran churches, in addition to attending services at the Green Road Synagogue and the Parma Hindu Temple.

Chinese Lunar New Year



By **Lisa DeJong, The Plain Dealer**

on February 08, 2016 at 6:07 PM, updated February 08, 2016 at 6:49 PM

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, Ohio - Unsuspecting John Carroll University students, quietly eating lunch, received a loud invitation to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year on Monday.

The students first heard the Lion Drum, followed by the Kwan Family Lion Dance Team floating underneath a colorful costume performing the Lion Dance to ring in the Year of the Monkey. The Lion Drum plays at the same pace as a human heart, according to George Kwan, while two or three family members bring the Lion to life with traditional dance movements.

George Kwan, 50, leader of the family dance troupe, has been performing traditional Lion dances for 35 years. Kwan said he learned the dances as a child in Old Chinatown on Rockwell Avenue in downtown Cleveland.

According to Chinese astrology, persons born in the Year of the Monkey - 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004 and 2016, are ambitious, smart, mischievous and adventurous.

David Wong, Executive Director of Academic Finance at John Carroll, has put a program together to celebrate the Lunar New Year for the past 8 years. Today, Wong taught Chinese words while students helped read poetry. Tomorrow, Wong will translate student names into Chinese calligraphy at noon in the atrium of the D.J. Lombardo Student Center.

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THE PLAIN DEAL

Cavaliers 120, Kings 100: Irving's 32 points help lead Cavs to easy victory. **SPORTS, B1**

Tuesday, February 9, 2014

Lunar New Year enters with a lion's roar



LISA DEJONG | THE PLAIN DEALER

George Kwan, wearing a Chinese lion costume, entertains students in the dining hall at John Carroll University on Monday. The Kwan Family Lion Dance Team came to the university to celebrate Lunar New Year. Kwan has been performing the traditional dances for 35 years and learned them as a child in Old Chinatown on Rockwell Avenue.

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