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Center for Service and Social Action

Vol. 6, Issue 1

Remembering Danielle Rose

By Kristen Gittinger '15

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Fair Trade at JCU

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Pause for a moment. How was your favorite scarf from Forever 21 made? In some Chinese sweatshop with poor working conditions and unfair wages? How often do we really take the time to ask ourselves this question? As Americans, we are immersed in a society focused on materialism, superficiality and appearance. Any thought of where products come from is often thrown by the wayside.

The widespread mentality of consumerism has fed the growth of sweatshops globally. Yet, on a smaller level, progress is being made one step at a time.

Fair trade initiatives can be traced back as early as the 1940s in the south. In the late 1950s, the concept was brought to Europe, eventually becoming a global work in progress.

Although fair trade has been in the works for years, general awareness about the concept is minimal. The goal of fair trade encompasses much more than creating products in conditions fit for the benefit of the worker— it focuses on the equity of people at an international level, creating a sense of respect for the laborer. By supporting fair trade initiatives, we develop a relationship with those who are miles and miles away.

At John Carroll University, progress has been made. With the help of passionate students, faculty and staff,
mean to be an Arrupe Scholar. As one fellow scholar commented, “She was an angel in disguise.” Danie took every possible opportunity to serve others whether it was offering fellowship with the homeless in the Labre program or volunteering at Fieldstone Farms Therapeutic Riding Center. Last May, she traveled to Ecuador as part of the JCU Immersion Program, bringing her energetic, positive and comforting presence to the community in Duran. Unlike those who may boast about their service accomplishments, Danie remained humble as a true woman for others. She will forever continue to serve as she has provided the John Carroll community with a perfect example of how God intends us to live and love. To honor Danie, the Arrupe Scholars Program, in partnership with Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the Upside of Downs organization, will sponsor the first annual Danie’s Day (formerly known as Project H.O.P.E.) on Saturday, April 13, 2013. We will welcome children and teens with Down syndrome along with their families for a day of fun and games on JCU’s campus.

Alumni Column

By Molly Gradowski ’11

In August of 2011, just two short months after graduating from John Carroll, I left the comforts and privileges of my life in the United States to volunteer with a program called Rostro de Cristo (Face of Christ) in Ecuador. Rostro de Cristo is a post-graduate volunteer program that challenges young volunteers to recognize the face of Christ while working and living among the poor. Since returning in August 2012, I have been asked the infamous question from friends, family, and neighbors, “How was your trip?” This daunting question, with about 30 seconds or 30 minutes, is almost impossible to respond to. What do I tell them? I think, How do I adequately express to them that I have been transformed, heart and soul? Where do I even begin? The questions that race through my head are endless. Because in a way, I know that I will never be able to adequately portray to people how the poor have completely captivated me and changed me forever.

Second, in the afternoons I returned back to my home neighborhood, Arbolito, where two other Rostro volunteers and I ran an afterschool program, Semillas de Mostaza, for about 60 kids every afternoon. Semillas was like a jolt of energy. Working with loving and joy-filled kids was the thing that got me through every day. While Semillas became a safe haven where kids could let out their emotion and pent-up energy, their gentle hugs and contagious laughter overcame my heart and lead me to question everyday how are we so lucky? Their smiling faces are forever ingrained in my memory.

When I think back on my own journey of how I came to Ecuador, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratefulness for my experience at JCU. Service through CSSA also helped put a name, a face and to many of the complicated issues of social justice that I had been wrestling with. This community wanted to see me succeed by discovering my deepest passions and desires, and the ultimate freedom of truly searching for what I love and what I am passionate about was the support I needed in my journey of trying to discover who God was calling me to be.

This is an excerpt of the full article, which can be found on the Arrupe Scholars website at www.jcu.edu/arrupe.

Revive Project

This semester, students in Dr. Jenna Drenten’s advertising classes at JCU participated in a project with Revive, a fair trade retailer in Cleveland, to create advertising campaigns to be used by the store. Teams of students worked together to create promotional ideas geared around the holiday shopping season. Winners and sample promotional pieces are shown below.

One winning team was “Hoo That” comprised of students Alana Bryan, Kelly Buck, Taylor Horen, Jon Orr and Alysse Viggiano for their “You See Fabric, We See People” campaign. The second winner was the “Expreso” team, which included Julia Adams, Elizabeth Blackley, Megan Lowes, James McElroy, Sara Needham and Kate Pioch who won for their “Joy to you... joy to the world” campaign. All of the groups did a great job!
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While I was in Ecuador, I was privileged to work in two incredible ministries. First, in the mornings I worked as a post-educator/social worker/mentor/friend in a shelter and trade school for boys who have formerly lived and worked on the streets, or were at high risk of doing so. Working with loving and joy-filled kids was the thing that got me through every day. While Semillas became a safe haven where kids could let out their energy and pent-up energy, their gentle hugs and contagious laughter overcame my heart and lead me to question everyday how am I so lucky? Their smiling faces are forever ingrained in my memory.

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(Danie Rose, from page 1)

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Every other Friday, outside of the Center for Service and Social Action, the Arrupe Scholars and others interested in the initiative, sell products such as coffee, tea, chocolate, jewelry, scarves and other items.

To promote fair trade during the Christmas season, the annual Gifts that Give Twice sale also creates awareness on campus and gives members of the University an opportunity to purchase fair trade items.

Around campus, fair trade products are beginning to appear. The Cubby, a popular coffee shop and social spot for students, proudly sells fair trade. Schott Dining Hall and Einstein’s Bagels offer students their daily dose of caffeine with fair trade coffee.

As the year progresses, the Fair Trade Committee, in conjunction with the Center for Service and Social Action and Campus Ministry, will provide opportunities for students to purchase fair trade and become more aware of the movement.

One winning team was “Hoo That” comprised of students Alana Bryan, Kelly Buck, Taylor Horen, Jon Orr and Alysse Viggiano for their “You See Fabric, We See People” campaign. The second winner was the “Expresso” team, which included Julia Adams, Elizabeth Blackley, Megan Lowes, James McElroy, Sara Needham and Kate Pioch who won for their “Joy to you...joy to the world” campaign. All of the groups did a great job!

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Announcing JCU’s Clothes Closet

Maggie Hutchison '14 has always been interested in sustainability. This led to the idea of a free clothing exchange for JCU students. After working with Dr. Peggy Finucane to find space on campus, the newly created Clothes Closet opened in early December in room 127 of Grasselli Library. The Clothes Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 - 10:00 pm while classes are in session.

In order to take from the closet, you must first donate time or items of similar value. The Center for Service and Social Action is currently accepting donations of new and gently used clothing, coats, shoes, and accessories to build the inventory. Items can be dropped off at the CSSA office, Room AD-32. If you have any questions, please contact Maggie Hutchison or the CSSA office at clothescloset@jcu.edu.
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CSSA Fall Highlights

- August 23rd, Cleveland Neighborhood Project: held annually at the Fatima Family Center as part of Living the Mission Day.
- August 31st, “Where and With Whom is Your Heart” Service Fair: held on campus for students to learn more about JCU’s community partners.
- October 6th, Footprints for Fatima: a 5k run and 1 mile walk. Proceeds benefit the Fatima Food Drive.
- October 22nd - November 9th, Fatima Food Drive: Thanksgiving meal and groceries for a week for over 100 families at the Fatima Family Center.
- November 11th - 14th, The Cleveland Urban Plunge: a poverty immersion held over Fall Break.
- November 12th - December 7th, Gifts that Give Twice: a fair trade holiday sale.
- November 14th, OGT field trip: area high school students working with JCU tutors visited campus.
- December 1st - 6th, “Where and With Whom is Your Heart” Service Fair: see article on left.
- December 1st - 6th, AIDS Awareness Week: various activities on campus including the 150 person living ribbon during halftime at the JCU men’s basketball game.

This fall, nearly 600 students participated in weekly service at 75 community partners! Another 260 students participated in course-based service projects. Thank you to our partners for providing such a rich learning experience for the JCU students.

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