



ENGAGING ISSUES



EDUCATING LEADERS



BUILDING NETWORKS



CREATING DIALOGUE



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KLAU CENTER
FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

KEOUGH SCHOOL OF
GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Friends,

In a year that brought loss and upheaval to so many across the globe, I am grateful that the work of the Klau Center provided an opportunity to focus on dignity, justice, and hope. Our students inspire our best efforts to educate a new generation of leaders focused on civil and human rights. The rapid growth of our student affiliate community — now 140 students from almost every discipline on campus — is a testament to students' hunger for justice-oriented education.

During this pandemic year, the Klau Center pivoted principally to the world of Zoom. This virtual format allowed us to bring new voices to Notre Dame, to reach new audiences, and to build a truly global community of learners. Our Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary initiative highlights the many ways in which the Center capitalized on virtual learning. The quality and diversity of our 30 speakers was unparalleled. The 2,000 students, staff, faculty, and alumni we served tuned in from across the country and the world. And the ease of engagement allowed 180 students from across the university to add our courses to their busy schedules.

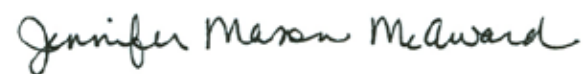
Even more important than the numbers is the impact we have had on the lives of our students and colleagues. Through our academic programs, summer fellowships, and research and leadership opportunities, we helped to support students' education, career formation and orientation towards justice. We reached beyond the Notre Dame classroom to partner with the Vatican and the UN on educational initiatives. And Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary has put the Klau Center on the map as a provider of thoughtful, innovative content for the entire Notre Dame community, on and off campus.

I can't say it any better than did one of our students:

"I don't think it's an overstatement to say that Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary was a life-changing course for me. It was impossible to leave the class and not be inspired to go into our community and work for change."

Please know how grateful we are for your support of the Klau Center.

In Notre Dame,



Jennifer Mason McAward
Director, Klau Center for Civil and Human Rights





INITIATIVES

ENGAGING CRITICAL ISSUES

**Engaging problems on a structural level
requires a broad scope and sustained effort.**

Klau Center initiatives for 2020-21 focused on encouraging lasting, broad-based participation in core issues of domestic and global justice. From anti-racism to the fundamental right to clean water, initiatives were designed to create communities of engaged partners across campus and beyond.

at a glance

Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary

**Policing and Race in America:
Tracking a Genealogy of Violence**

With Voices True

Water Rights Training

Vatican Compact on Education





building an anti-racist vocabulary

The stark reality of institutional racism, brought clearly into view in 2020, demands deep understanding and long-term engagement.

Consistent with our educational mission, the Klau Center introduced Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary in August 2020 as a way to help provide an intellectual grounding for the transformative work of anti-racism at Notre Dame.

Reaching a wide community

Centered on a year-long weekly lecture series and three associated academic courses, the initiative engaged both students and the broader Notre Dame faculty, staff, and alumni communities. The overwhelming response to the series evidenced a genuine hunger for knowledge and action.

The numbers speak for themselves:

2,000+
members of the Notre Dame community enrolled in the series

11,500+
unique views

2,600+
video plays

300+
live attendees on a weekly basis

180
students enrolled in the course



Illuminating core concepts

Each week, a prominent guest expert led the community through a close examination of one topic and responded to student questions. From broad concepts such as implicit bias and racial resentment to specific historical moments such as Tulsa and Ferguson, 30 speakers representing a variety of disciplines helped illuminate topics necessary to an understanding of systemic racism and racial justice.



Fall Semester Guest Experts



Anti-Racism as a Moral Imperative
Cardinal Wilton Gregory
Archdiocese of Washington



The 1619 Project
Nikole Hannah-Jones
The New York Times Magazine



Tulsa
James Goodwin
The Oklahoma Eagle



Islamophobia
Dalia Mogahed
Institute for Social Policy and Understanding



Racial Wealth Gap
Mehrsa Baradaran
University of California Irvine



Flint
Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha
Michigan State University



Monuments
Erika Doss
University of Notre Dame



Housing Segregation
Richard Rothstein
Economic Policy Institute



Allyship
Austin Channing Brown
Author



Health Inequity
Dr. Rhea Boyd
California Children's Trust



Voting Rights
The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
82nd Attorney General of the United States



COVID Racial Data Tracking
Rachel Lee
Center for Antiracist Research

Featured Expert: Nikole Hannah-Jones

New York Times journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones spoke about the foundations of her Pulitzer Prize-winning initiative, The 1619 Project, and the current movement for racial justice on August 30, 2020, for the Klau Center’s Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary series.

Asked about the start of the 1619 Project and how the year came to be so important to her and her work, Hannah-Jones recalled an elective Black studies course she took in high school, and the effect it had on her. “[I] was angered by how much we had not been taught,” Hannah-Jones said. “In that one semester, I learned more about the history of Black Americans and Black people in the world than I learned in my entire K-12 education up until that point. And I understood, even then, that that erasure was intentional.”

One of her teachers gave her a book entitled “Before the Mayflower,” which discusses the arrival, in 1619, of the first enslaved Africans to America. From that moment in high school, Hannah-Jones said, she became obsessed with that date and the lack of awareness in the United States about its implications for society today. “Nothing about our country has been left untouched by the legacy of slavery, even though we don’t know it,” Hannah-Jones said. “I really wanted us to do a project that would show that slavery is not in the past, that we are still living with that legacy.”

“[Black Americans are seen as] a problem for our democracy . . . I’m trying to really use history and the truth of history to turn that narrative on its head,” she said. “Through Black resistance: resistance to their enslavement, resistance to discrimination, resistance to racial apartheid, resistance to a country that was not a democracy that increased democracy abroad, that we ought to force [our founding ideals] to apply to all people; and that really has been the legacy of Black Americans.”

Near the end of her lecture, Hannah-Jones discussed the significance of George Floyd’s murder and the resulting wave of support for the Black Lives Matter movement. “Will this moment just feel different or will it actually be different?” Hannah-Jones asked. “I think where my lack of hope comes from is that in our 401st year of being on this land, why should we still have to be marking progress towards equality?”

She said her first semester at Notre Dame was a challenging one, and encouraged students to be there for their peers. “What’s so important is not presuming, not letting your own assumptions about people’s backgrounds and what people are capable of guide you,” Hannah-Jones offered. “If you really want to be a resource you have to be able to listen and have to be able to ask the questions.”



Originally published August 31, 2020
by Layton Hall in *The Observer*

Spring Semester Guest Experts



Racism and the Catholic Church
Fr. Bryan Massingale
Fordham University



The Black Lives Matter Syllabus
Frank Leon Roberts
New York University



Implicit Bias
Dolly Chugh
New York University



Misuse of Civil Rights History
Jeanne Theoharis
Brooklyn College



Politics of Racial Resentment
Jonathan Metzl
Vanderbilt University



Citizenship and Suffrage
Christina Wolbrecht
University of Notre Dame



Ferguson
Wesley Lowery
CBS News



Christianity and White Supremacy
Damon Berry
Saint Lawrence University



Identity
Sunny Hostin
ABC News



Charlottesville
Amy Spitalnick
Integrity First for America



Jessica Phillips
Paul, Weiss



Michael Bloch
Kaplan Heckler and Fink LLP



Beyond Policing
DeRay Mckesson
Civil Rights Activist

Student Roundtable



Matthew Aubourg '21



Miranda Cuozzo '23



Frankie Tran '21



Mikayla Vaughn '21



Malik Zaire '17

Featured Expert: Fr. Bryan Massingale

Fr. Bryan Massingale, a professor of theology and social ethics at Fordham University and a leader in the field of theological ethics, spoke on the role the Catholic Church plays in battling racial injustice during the Klau Center for Civil and Human Rights' lecture series Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary.

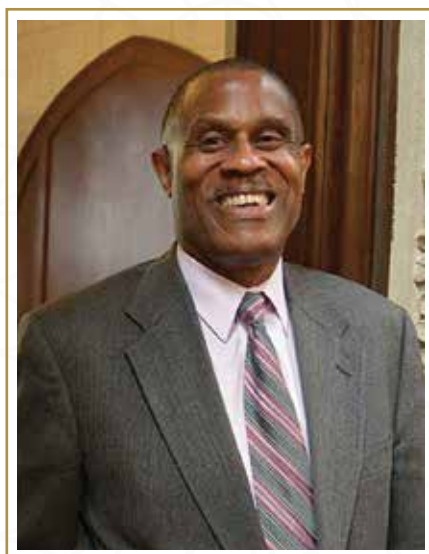
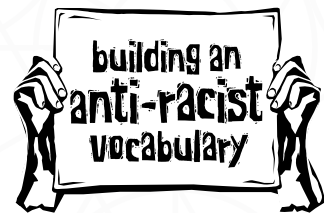
Massingale discussed issues surrounding race that have been brought to light in the past few months, specifically referencing the death of George Floyd and the flying of confederate flags during the attack on the Capitol in January.

"These are the signs of the times and it calls for a response from the light of the gospel," Massingale said. "We cannot talk about our Catholic faith unless we own the ambivalence of the Catholic witness to racial justice."

He referenced a quote from Fr. Cyprian Davis: "In another decade or so U.S. Catholics will learn that our Church is more black, brown and in-between than Caucasian and more catholic than they dreamed. Will we be prepared for what that will mean?" "The answer, sadly, is no," Massingale said.

"I want unborn Black children to live in a world where they eat nutritious food," Massingale said. "Breathe fresh air. Drink clean water. Where they can breathe and not have their breath crushed from them. Where they can live without fear. Where they can sit in a park, go jogging, sleep in their homes and not be killed."

Ask about the challenge of confronting racism on a personal level, Massingale explained that "race touches us viscerally in ways that other justice issues don't. Racism is a cultural formation system. It forms our identities. So when I ask people to be anti-racist, I'm asking them to go against their own sense of self. Another way of putting is, they have to take a stance against the behaviors of people whom they love."



Originally published February 15, 2021
by John Salem in *The Observer*

Creating learning resources

A core element of Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary was the creation of a set of resources for long-term engagement. Most lectures are now available in a video library available to the public. In addition, each guest speaker was asked to provide recommendations for further study – a book, film, or other resource that could help deepen understanding of a given topic. Thanks to a partnership with the Hesburgh Libraries, links to these supplemental materials are also available via a web portal.

Inspiring deeper conversations

The project also spurred engagement across campus in the form of independent discussions, focused on guest expert lectures or recommended readings. For example, after each Klau event, over 300 members of the University Relations community were invited to participate in a 40-60 minute long discussion regarding the speaker they just heard. Conversations would focus on things they learned that were surprising to them, offering a devil's advocate's perspective on some of the things said, and discussing questions that still remained.



Student Highlight: Caroline Capili

Caroline Capili just completed her second year at Notre Dame Law School, and is the teaching assistant for the Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary series.

As a first-generation Filipina American, I grew up in a society where my story seemed unheard in the conversation of race. I experienced everything from microaggressions to overt racism, and constantly found myself being considered as the "model minority." Recently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of hate crimes against the AAPI community, the media has given us a platform to express these injustices and to move the needle in the right direction.

My experience as a teaching assistant for Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary has been very unique. As law students, we seldom have opportunities to impact the larger Notre Dame community. My role was to research overarching themes in the fight against racism through the lens of various experts on the subject.

Through this research, I recognized the intersectionality of identity in the United States. While we primarily focused on the issues that surround race, we also touched on religion, socioeconomic status, and recent events that arose as a result of legislation and access to healthcare.





Policing and Race in America: Tracking a Genealogy of Violence

This innovative graduate-level initiative led students in a focused, in-depth study of the history of policing and race in the United States.

Led by Klau Center graduate assistant Silas Altheimer, an interdisciplinary group of students from across the university met throughout the academic year to discuss core texts that offered historical perspective and theoretical context, with additional readings leading the group through more specific issues. In all, 24 students from disciplines as diverse as law, theology, global affairs, political science, sociology, psychology, Italian Studies, and English took part in the program. Core texts included:

- *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*, Douglas A. Blackmon
- *Invisible No More: Policing Violence against Black Women and Women of Color*, Andrea J. Ritchie
- *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*, Keenga-Yamahtta Taylor

Demonstrating the power of in-depth study to create connections between disciplines, a participating student changed her dissertation topic to explore representations of Blackness in Italian Media, crediting the reading group with influencing her decision. Another student, defending his dissertation during the course of the reading group, chose to begin his defense by talking about racial disparities in disaster relief.

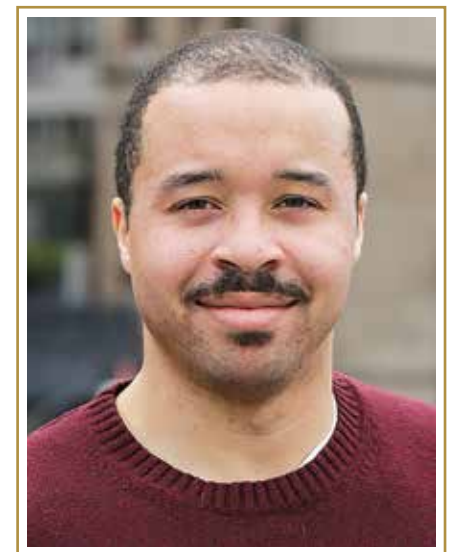
Student Highlight: Silas Altheimer

Silas Altheimer just completed his second year at Notre Dame Law School, and is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the Klau Center's advanced study program on race, justice, and policing.

Throughout history, religion has motivated people to dissent against oppressive governments. This pushes me to think about the different ways that violence appears in my country and in other nations.

Conflicts, recessions, natural disasters, and other related events continuously bring discrimination into the light. Therefore, I have to understand more ways in which people continue to fight for their civil rights. As a law student, I'm constantly keeping up with classes. Leading the graduate reading group for this academic year has pushed me to think about the real-life implications of what I learn in class.

Is democracy in the West possible with populism? Is religious pluralism possible within the scope of "religious freedom?" Regardless of ideology or political leaning, colleges and universities are finally willing to wrestle with these questions. That's what gives me hope. There are tough discussions ahead and we will need to answer them honestly to make sure that people in Western democracies learn how to combat hate and discrimination.





WITH VOICES TRUE

THE KLAU CENTER ARCHIVE ON RACE

In its second year, our project to collect stories of race from the Notre Dame community grew to encompass a broader range of narratives. Undergraduates were joined in 2020-21 by graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni, offering a rich, diverse set of viewpoints.

The With Voices True archive was incorporated into the syllabus of the university's Moreau First Year Experience seminar, providing critical reflection on race and identity as a foundational part of incoming students' formation.



With Voices True: Featured Story

Keri Kei Shibata

Chief of Police, Notre Dame Police Department

As a law enforcement leader, wanting to have a diverse police force, I definitely see how representation helps people recognize that there might be a path. And if you don't see that, and if all the accounts that you hear are of police brutality or bias, then that impacts your thinking about the police and how you might interact with them, and also about whether or not you want to even consider being a police officer, whether that's a possibility.

I think that certainly there is blame to go around, but focusing on that doesn't, I don't think, help. Trying to be more diverse intentionally, and sharing our experiences and having open conversations and listening to how people experience different interactions, may help. It is easy for me to think about because when I interact with someone as a police officer, it always impacts them, even if it's just a passing conversation and I'm just saying hello. And so being really thoughtful and intentional and learning from people's experiences, and trying to help them understand where I'm coming from as well, is important.

We get calls from people in the community about something that they think is suspicious, and sometimes it is based on someone's appearance. Maybe it's race, maybe it's the clothes that someone's wearing. We always want people to call, but then we have to go figure that out. And if it is just based on a bias, we are now enacting that bias if we make contact with the person. So we try really hard to evaluate for ourselves before we engage. But we don't always get the answer; you try to ask what is suspicious, but we don't always get an answer. So that is something that I see that impacts people, and we don't want to impact people in that way. So we have to be careful about that.

I've seen officers who didn't understand what white privilege was. They didn't understand it. And when they hear other people's stories of their experience, a light bulb goes off, because they have never experienced it that way. And that changes them, and helps them recognize where they have privilege. It helps them to be more mindful and thoughtful in their interactions, and recognize how another's life experiences have taught them something.





Water Rights Training

A 2020-21 Klau Center initiative helped train government and private sector actors, including local communities, to develop sustainable water resource policies in the Amazon. Training focused on processes that are consistent with a human rights-based understanding of the right to water.

Inspired by the Catholic Church's Amazon Synod, the Klau Center worked with UN-Water and the Institute for Global Dialogue and the Culture of Encounter (IDGCE) to provide educational content to indigenous peoples, government regulators, and private sector water providers from the Pan-Amazonian region. The five-week, Zoom-based training program was incorporated into Klau Center Faculty Fellow Diane Desierto's course in economic, social, and cultural rights at Notre Dame Law School. Through the course, Notre Dame students and the program's participants together explored why an integrated and sustainable approach to water rights has been difficult to achieve.

In addition to securing the agreement with UN-Water and IDGCE, the Klau Center supported the program by providing funding for a research assistant, Keough School MGA student Belén Carriedo, who carried out interdisciplinary research on case studies for the course.

Student Highlight: Belén Carriedo

Belén Carriedo, a master of global affairs student at the Keough School and Klau Center student affiliate, was the research assistant for our water rights training initiative.

In my work for Professor Desierto, we tried to conceptualize the right to water through case studies. We focused on the World Bank's role as an investor in water projects, and so I researched case studies that I then summarized for use in the course. I was also tasked with finding literature that looked beyond the economic good of water; to investigate how communities define water. Because in the end, water is at the epicenter of all other rights; if you violate the right to water, you violate the right to health, the right to food, and everything else.

We tried to understand private water concessions, and how that business model fits in with the international covenant on economic, social, and cultural rights – if they're compatible, where the pain points were, the caveats, and seeing how we can balance the two. And trying to see how we can fit them together without limiting what the covenant says.

What we tried to dissect was how we see the right to water. The tendency to just see it as an economic good has to be dismantled. That's not how communities see it, especially when we're talking about indigenous communities. What challenged me, particularly, was the progressive realization of a right. How does the state monitor and evaluate that progression? How do you capture the nuances, the quantitative aspects of it, especially across a wide variety of different cultures and environments?

It was great to have these discussions with students of different backgrounds – MGA students and law students – which allowed us to look at the issues from both a legal and a policy standpoint. Getting the balance that allows for good policy was our end goal, and coming up with a community policy agreement was something everyone contributed to. So I'm hopeful. There are a lot of champions stepping forward to make this happen, which is what we need right now.





Vatican Compact on Education

Reflecting “a need to create an ‘educational village,’ in which all people, according to their respective roles, share the task of forming a network of open, human relationships,” Pope Francis in 2020 announced a renewal of the Global Compact on Education.

The Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education invited an international group of Catholic universities to provide leadership on different educational topics. Notre Dame was named the leader on education pertaining to human dignity and human rights, and the university accordingly invited the Klau Center to lead the effort.

The two-year initiative began with an international address delivered by Professor Jennifer Mason McAward on June 15, 2021, and will lead to the eventual formation of a set of white papers, advising institutions worldwide on how to fulfill the mission of the Global Compact.



ACADEMICS

EDUCATING FUTURE LEADERS

Providing students with the knowledge, resources, and critical skills to become leaders for justice is the core of our mission.

Through support of academic programs, scholarships, and fellowships, 2020-21 saw the Klau Center grow its student base into a broader and more committed community than ever.

at a glance

LL.M. in International Human Rights Law

Master of Global Affairs

Supplementary Major in Global Affairs

Student Affiliate Program

Rita Bahr Scholars

Summer Fellows





The LL.M. Program in International Human Rights Law

A joint program of the Klau Center and Notre Dame Law School, the LL.M. program continued its mission to attract international students despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. The LL.M. class of 2021 included human rights lawyers from five countries.

Master of Global Affairs

The Klau Center continued to support students at the graduate level at the Keough School. Students in the Master of Global Affairs program received academic counseling and benefited from coursework supported by the Klau Center.

Undergraduate Concentration in Civil and Human Rights

This academic year, 12 students enrolled in the Keough School's supplementary major in global affairs chose to focus their work in civil and human rights. With support from the Klau Center, these students committed to a program of study that integrated both domestic civil rights and international human rights at the core of their global affairs curriculum.

Student Affiliate Program

In the face of unprecedented challenges wrought by the pandemic of 2020-21, Notre Dame students sought fellowship in shared concerns and dedication to larger issues. Our affiliate community grew during this academic year to represent nearly every school at the university, over 140 students from global affairs, law, science, engineering, business, and a wide variety of disciplines from the college of arts and letters.

Undergraduate Highlight: Nicholas Crookston

Nicholas is enrolled in the Keough School's supplementary major in global affairs, with a concentration in civil and human rights. He is vice president of the Latinx Student Alliance and serves as a Diversity, Inclusion, and Gender Relations Commissioner for Siegfried Hall.

I am the proud son of a Colombian immigrant mother, a Black American man who I know and love as my Dad, and the rest of a large, multiethnic, multiracial village of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family and friends that raised me. All that I am, and all that I am becoming, I owe both to the love of those people who sacrificed so much to bring me up and, above all, to the greatest possible love of God, from whom all of these blessings flow.

I have always taken questions of justice seriously, because I take them personally. Because, in the faces of those most affected, I can't help but see my family and its own experiences with xenophobia and racism. As a child, I felt a pressing demand for explanations for what I was witnessing. As a teenager, I would think about these things until my head hurt. And, as a young man, I wanted to speak out, and learn what role I might play in the fight against injustice. These questions have played, and continue to play, a fundamental role in cultivating a personal passion for civil and human rights.

As a student in the Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary course, I have gotten to critically discuss the issues of racism in our country alongside a small group of remarkably engaged, humble, and inspiring peers, who come from a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and places in life. Further, we've been in deep, collective thought about how we, as individuals, might be strong and fervent antiracists and allies to our brothers and sisters of color, across the communities that we call home.

For his final Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary project, Nicholas designed an investigation of Confederate symbolism, to be used in middle school classrooms. Leading students through a critical analysis of its verbal and visual language, he then asks them to consider how these symbols relate to current events, particularly the 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.



Rita Bahr Scholars

The Rita Bahr Cari Memorial Scholarship Fund supports the work of LL.M. human rights students at Notre Dame Law School. The Klau Center is proud to administer funding for the Rita Bahr scholarship. This year's Rita Bahr Scholars were:

Balapuwaduge 'Asha' Mendis

Sri Lanka

Jemimah Kolo

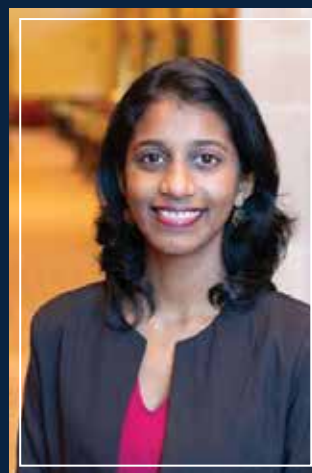
Nigeria

Railen Hernández Guatache

Costa Rica

Kyung Mo Kang

South Korea



Klau Center Summer Fellows

The Klau Center provides funding for law students to pursue summer internships with organizations that promote civil or human rights. The fellowships provide a unique point of entry into a hands-on training environment.



Madeline Callaghan, working with the Shriver Center on Poverty Law in Chicago, was impressed with the level of work she was asked to take on. "I think definitely some of it was more hands-on than it might have been if I was at a big firm," Callaghan says. "For example, the immigration housing bill that we were trying to parse through, and come up with materials that we could distribute at a local town hall. I realized that the things I am writing down right now, and the ways that I am explaining what this legal document says, are going to be given to lots of people. I don't know that that's necessarily something that I would have been doing at a big firm. I don't think I would have been communicating what laws mean to lay people."



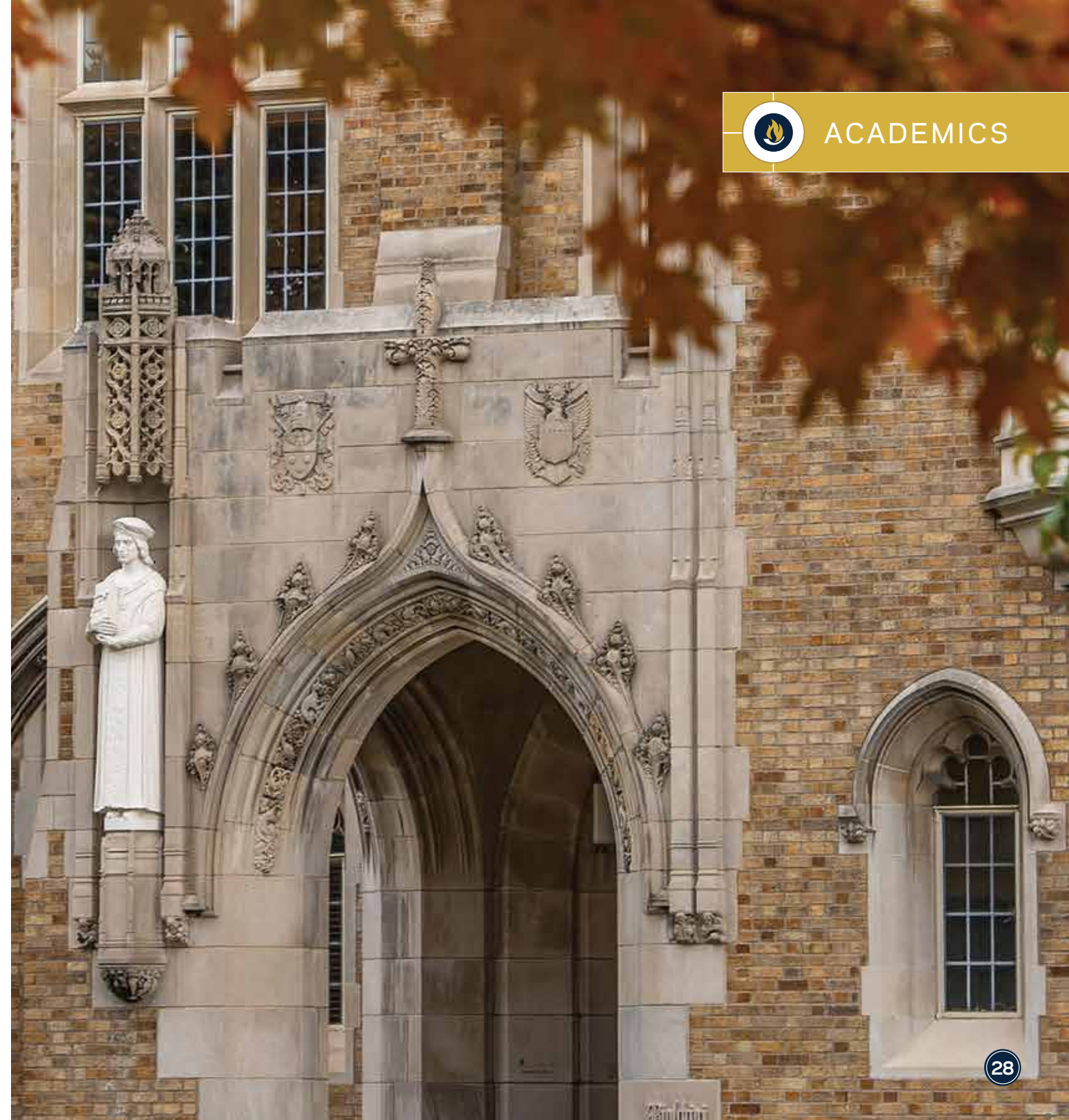
Working with the Public Rights Project, based in Oakland, California, **Tommy Kozdron** similarly experienced a high level of collaboration. "There was very much a sense of, how can we have the most possible impact within our budget, within our staffing? So I feel like I got to do more work and if it wasn't me doing it, I got to have more input on what other people were doing," says Kozdron. "It felt very transparent and very open. They encouraged us to share our ideas and I really feel like we got to see like the big picture. Okay, we have this request; how might we want to do it? And then after we came up with a game plan, let's do the work together, let's tailor it together, let's edit it together. I didn't feel like I've gotten into the middle of the process. I feel like I got to see it from beginning to end."



The chance to engage as a full partner in meaningful legal work marked the fellows' internships as particularly significant. For **Katherine Cienkus**, the opportunity to engage directly with clients gave her internship at Living Access in Chicago an unexpected depth. "I had complete ownership over the consumers that were calling through intake. I was the one learning how to counsel and communicate with them, which was a really important skill that I think a lot of lawyers don't learn until they start practicing. So people would be very distressed, have had civil rights violations, and I was the first person they would share this with. So that kind of training, when it comes to legal counseling and advocacy, was very much unparalleled."



ACADEMICS





EVENTS

CREATING SPACE FOR DIALOGUE

The troubling social and political events of 2020-21 demanded community-wide reflection and response.

Supplementing our weekly Building an Anti-Racist Vocabulary series, Klau Center programming – our own, and that of other campus partners with whom we collaborated – provided opportunities to gather virtually and reflect on these often immense challenges.

at a glance

Wrongfully Convicted: The Story of Patrick Pursley

Assault on the Capitol: What Just Happened?

Justice for George Floyd? Unpacking the Verdict

Additional Programming





Wrongfully Convicted: The Story of Patrick Pursley

October 29, 2020

Patrick Pursley spent two decades in prison for a murder he did not commit. While proving his innocence, he also changed Illinois law. Thanks to a partnership between the Klau Center and the Notre Dame Law School Exoneration Justice Clinic, Mr. Pursley shared his story via Zoom with Notre Dame students.

In April 1993, a member of the Rockford, Illinois fire department was killed during an attempted robbery. While no blood, fingerprint, or DNA evidence tied him to the crime scene, Pursley was charged with the murder. At trial, based solely on flawed testimony from the state's ballistic expert, he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

From his cell in Stateville Correctional Center, Pursley continued to assert his innocence. In 2001 – seven years after his incarceration – Pursley read about a new integrated ballistic identification system that Illinois state police were using to identify guns used at crime scenes. "I knew immediately that was my ticket," Pursley said. He knew that more accurate ballistics testing would prove that his gun was not the murder weapon.

Illinois law, however, allowed police to use the ballistic identification system only at new crime scenes, not for re-examination of ballistic evidence in older cases like Pursley's. Pursley therefore began corresponding with lawmakers, urging them to change the law. In 2007, the Illinois legislature did so, due to Mr. Pursley's advocacy.

When new testing revealed no match between Pursley's gun and the bullets retrieved from the crime scene, he was awarded a new trial. Just days before the retrial, it was also revealed that because state investigators could find no gun at the crime scene, they had simply placed Pursley's gun into the collected evidence.

In 2019, Pursley was exonerated. He had spent 23 years of his life imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. "I was the poster child for mass incarceration from the time I was 14... but I was also a father, and I was also trying to start my own business. I was trying to find a path out."



Assault on the Capitol: What Just Happened?

January 8, 2021

The Klau Center and the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy asked three campus experts to reflect upon the historic events of January 6, 2021, when a violent mob stormed the US Capitol in an attempt to prevent the results of the 2020 presidential election from being certified.

Jimmy Gurulé, professor of law and former official in both Bush administrations:

What we witnessed with respect to the attack on the Capitol Building, did that constitute rebellion? Did that constitute insurrection? Insurrection is defined by Webster's dictionary as an uprising against the government. Is that what Trump's supporters were doing, engaging in an uprising against the government? I think that it could be argued that's exactly what they were attempting to do. If our democracy is truly a constitutional democracy based on the rule of law, then people who violate the rule of law must be held accountable. Otherwise the foundation of our democracy will begin to crumble. And I believe, as the framers believed, that no one is above the law, including the President of the United States.

Christina Wolbrecht, political science professor and director of the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy:

Throughout American history, one of the most consistent things we see is when identities align rather than crosscut, we see sharper partisanship and much more political violence. We are in a period like that today. We have fewer of these crosscutting alliances. When all of our identities line up with our partisanship, it's not just that I lost or that my party lost, but that my religious tradition lost, that my racial group lost. This leads to things like negative partisanship, in which it's more that we dislike the other party than we're so supportive of our own party. The most obvious historical parallels are before the Civil War, when there were dozens of violent attacks, including guns drawn on members of Congress.

Scott Mainwaring, the Eugene P. and Helen Conley Professor of Political Science:

How would I characterize President Trump's actions during this period and during his term? I would say it was a very aggressive attempt to weaken democratic checks and balances, to undermine opposition rights, to attack opposition, to install loyalists throughout branches of government, throughout government agencies which should be independent of the executive, but in Trump's view should be agencies staffed by loyalists to him. To most viewers of democracy, this is dangerous. And if it goes really, really far, it can eventually tilt into executive takeovers of democracy. There's no question about that.

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Justice for George Floyd? Unpacking the Verdict

April 26, 2021

A Klau Center panel reflected on the trial of Derek Chauvin, charged with murder in the death of George Floyd, who died in police custody on May 25, 2020. The jury found Chauvin guilty of all charges.

Richard Pierce, professor of history and Africana Studies, traced the historical origins of policing and his own negative experiences with police officers as a Black man. "I have endured encounters with police officers," Pierce said. "I have been placed in handcuffs." Pierce also said modern-day policing stems from the Fugitive Slave Act and other measures designed to recapture and police Black slaves. He argued that today's systems of power not only expect compliance from Black people, but also subjugate them.

Klau Center director Jennifer Mason McAward explained that even after appeals are complete, Chauvin could face additional federal civil rights lawsuits. "As a government officer, Chauvin was bound to respect George Floyd's constitutional rights," McAward said. "And by using excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment, Chauvin might be held criminally or civilly liable, spending time in jail or paying money damages over and above whatever happens in the state court."

"The criminal process is meant to hold Chauvin himself accountable, and that's a very important thing in the case, as a symbolic matter. It is exceedingly rare for police officers to be charged, much less convicted when they kill somebody, much less a Black person," McAward said. "But beyond individual accountability, the goal is to make this case not just a symbol, but a real inflection point after which we see strides toward real and systemic justice."

Black Lives Matter activist Emmanuel Cannady also spoke on the topic of systemic change, saying that George Floyd's case is not the end of the BLM movement. "In the wake of this verdict, there was a lot of joy, but there was almost an instantaneous pivot," Cannady said. "This is just a start. Individual accountability doesn't address the structural issues that are happening in our communities."

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by Maggie Eastland in *The Observer*



Additional Programming

Let's Talk About Climate Refugees: November 1, 2020

A panel event that addressed the topic of climate refugees with professors and graduate students from the Keough School. Presented by CRS Ambassadors and co-sponsored by the Klau Center.

Representing Jacob Blake: November 5, 2020

A conversation on the meaning, challenges, and impacts of representing Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old African American man, who was shot in the back and seriously injured by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Presented by the Black Law Students Association, the Law Alumni Relations Office, and the Klau Center.

Madam Vice President: Kamala Harris: January 22, 2021

Panelists discussed the many historic, gender, and racial implications of the Harris vice presidency for American politics today. Presented by the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy and the Klau Center.

Lamentations of Jeremiah: An Intergenerational Conversation on the Crises of Our Time: February 22, 2021

Civil rights advocate Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. and Minister Tiauna Boyd Webb engaged in an intergenerational conversation on building a more just and peaceful world. Presented by the Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion, and co-sponsored by the Klau Center, the African Student Association, the Department of American Studies, and the United Religious Community of St. Joseph County.

Processing Anti-Asian Violence: April 8, 2021

Notre Dame professors and PhD students examined the intersectional nature of anti-Asian violence, the roots of systemic racism, and the needs of AAPI communities now and in the future.

Histories of Anti-Asian Violence in the US: Politics, Gender, and Resistance: April 29, 2021

This panel examined anti-Asian violence in America, from Chinese exclusion in the nineteenth century to the recent Atlanta shootings, and what organizers and activists are currently doing to combat the increased anti-Asian violence and discrimination in the United States. Presented by the Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, Gender Studies Program, Department of American Studies, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Department of History, Klau Center, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Center for Social Concerns, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, Initiative on Race and Resilience, and University of Notre Dame Association of Graduate Historians.

Forced Labor in China: May 6, 2021

A university panel explored the forced labor crisis in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China. Presented by the Student Trademark and Licensing Human Rights Committee and the Klau Center.

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