

Weissberg Program

IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022
BELOIT COLLEGE

Established in 1999 by Beloit parent
Marvin Weissberg, the Weissberg Program
in Human Rights and Social Justice is
supported by a gift from the Weissberg
Foundation.

Weissbergfoundation.org

Thank you!

Executive Summary

The Weissberg program has enabled Beloit College students, faculty, staff and community to engage across a variety of platforms that educated, inspired, and gave rise to action. The engagements aligned with the college's strategic plan of employing an interdisciplinary approach with community and alumni involvement. The totality of the year's events produced opportunities to engage in the issues of citizenship, migration, and belonging. These efforts afforded Beloiters the opportunity to connect on an institutional, local and global level.

Beloit College aspires to be an anti-racist institution. The Becoming Better plan is a framework for centering anti-racism. The Weissberg collaboration with the office of Student Success, Equity and Community expanded the college's efforts of dismantling racism. The Weissberg program provided and supported residencies, panel discussions, guest lectures, film screenings, special project courses, spring break immersions, incubation workshops, training, summer project grants, mental health support, and student scholarships.

The residencies were thematically coordinated around a thorough examination of citizenship, migration and belonging. The speakers addressed the erasure of black immigrants and the connection between detention of immigrants and the history of slavery in the US; the persistent and intractable issue of statelessness, which affects over 15 million people worldwide, and; the very present issue of the rights and suffering of undocumented migrants in the US. Students, led by a faculty mentor, spearheaded an advocacy campaign inspired by the thematic focus.

The Weissberg program has enriched the initiatives for Beloit College's Justice & Rights Career Channel. Students were identified as freshman fellows and were provided with a series of opportunities from lectures, workshops, cohort-building, job shadowing, internships, to alumni engagement to fully immerse them in the area of human rights and social justice and connect them with future career opportunities.

Experiential learning opportunities – Spring break immersions, summer grant programs, study abroad equity scholarships, and post graduate fellowships – enabled students to apply their studies in the real world and get hands-on experience in the fields of human rights and social justice, positioning them for future impact in their careers.

By the numbers:

- 10 major public events on campus on Citizenship, Migration and Belonging, attended by 400
- 10 students funded to carry out summer projects and post-graduate fellowships
- 10 students funded to study social justice and human rights abroad
- 19 students funded to study citizenship & migration in Washington DC and Spain
- 6 female students from Cambodia and Rwanda fully funded to attend Beloit College
- 27 faculty and staff members engaged in workshops and trainings

The Weissberg Program Components

Campus events

- Weissberg Chair Residency.
- Ousley Scholar in Residence.
- Ivan Stone Lecture.
- Guest speakers and special events.



Student development

- Spring Break Immersions: student-initiated and led trips to explore a topic in depth.
- Summer Project Grants: grants for internships and research in the summer.
- Post-graduate Fellowship: funding for taking the first steps toward a career in human rights and social justice.



Scholarships

- SHE-CAN scholarship to support female students from war-affected countries.
- Study Abroad Equity Scholarship: support for high-need students to study social justice and human rights issues in global context.



Faculty development

- Supported the incubation and implementation of the program, structured to fuel faculty and staff development while designing the year's events.





Year of Citizenship, Migration and Belonging

Program Year at-a-Glance

September

Denae Joseph - Ousley Scholar, virtual

Panel: Afghanistan at Another Crisis
by Paul Fishstein'77 and Roy
Gutman, virtual

October

Film and lecture:
Michele Stephenson, "Stateless."
Virtual

November

Film: "Myanmar's Killing Fields"

Lindsey Green and Tom McHale visit
campus to present on
"Statelessness in Bangladesh"

Amal De Chickera lecture, "Statelessness
and Inclusion"
Virtual

January

Incubation retreat on intersectionality
for 2022-23 theme, with David
Anderson Hooker, virtual

March

Weissberg Chair Jason De León
The Rights of the Undocumented
Hostile Terrain 94 Installation

April

"Movies for Mental Health" workshop,
& TalkSpace

May

LGBTQ+ Safe Zone Workshop
Summer Grants and Fellowships
Seminar in Spain

Campus Activities

A portrait of Denea Joseph, a Black woman with long dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a light pink button-down shirt under a white blazer. The background is a blurred interior with a blue patterned wall.

Denea Joseph
September 17, 2021

**Ousley
Scholar-in-Residence**

This year's Ousley Scholar in Residence was Denea Joseph, an undocumented Black DACA recipient and national activist for immigrant rights. Joseph has been active in advocating for greater access and support for undocumented students in institutions of higher education.

Joseph's talk addressed the erasure of Black immigrants in conversations on immigration, and the connection between detention of immigrants and the history of slavery in the US. Her talk was delivered virtually to an in-person audience in the Weissberg Auditorium on Beloit College's campus.

Established in 2017, the Ousley Scholar-In-Residence honors the legacy of Grace Ousley, the first black woman to graduate from Beloit College, and is a junior scholar/activist/organizer/intellectual who is committed to the theory and practice of social justice.

“Afghanistan at Another Crisis”

September 28, 2021

In August of 2021, students returned to Beloit College’s campus just weeks after Kabul had fallen to Taliban forces. At the suggestion of alumni seeking answers, the Weissberg Program organized a virtual panel featuring two experts on Afghanistan and long-time friends of Beloit College and the Weissberg Program, Paul Fishstein’77 and Roy Gutman.

The panelists provided their perspectives on what led to the precipitous collapse of the Afghan military and prospects for the future. The audience joined the conversation both in-person in the Weissberg Auditorium and virtually from locations around the world.



Paul Fishstein'77, alumnus of Beloit College, is a Non-Resident Fellow at New York University’s Center on International Cooperation (CIC). Paul has more than 40 years of experience in research, design, and management of economic development and assistance programs, with a focus on Afghanistan and South Asia



Roy Gutman was the 2002-03 Weissberg Chair in International Studies, and is an Associate Fellow at The Washington Institute. His foreign correspondence won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993, and he has four decades of experience reporting on war, war crimes and Middle East affairs at some of the world’s most prestigious publications. He is the author of *How We Missed the Story*, *Osama Bin Laden*, *the Taliban*, and *the Hijacking of Afghanistan*.

Focus on Statelessness

As part of the year-long thematic focus on Citizenship, Migration and Belonging, the Weissberg Program offered a fall series on the problem of statelessness. A stateless person is defined as “individuals who are not considered citizens or nationals under the operation of the laws of any country.” There are over 15 million stateless throughout the world. This series shed light on this persistent and complex issue. Students enrolled in a Special Project course with Prof. Beth Dougherty on Statelessness and Advocacy, which spearheaded an advocacy campaign connected to the series.

October 5

**Film Screening and lecture:
“Stateless,” with Michele Stephenson**

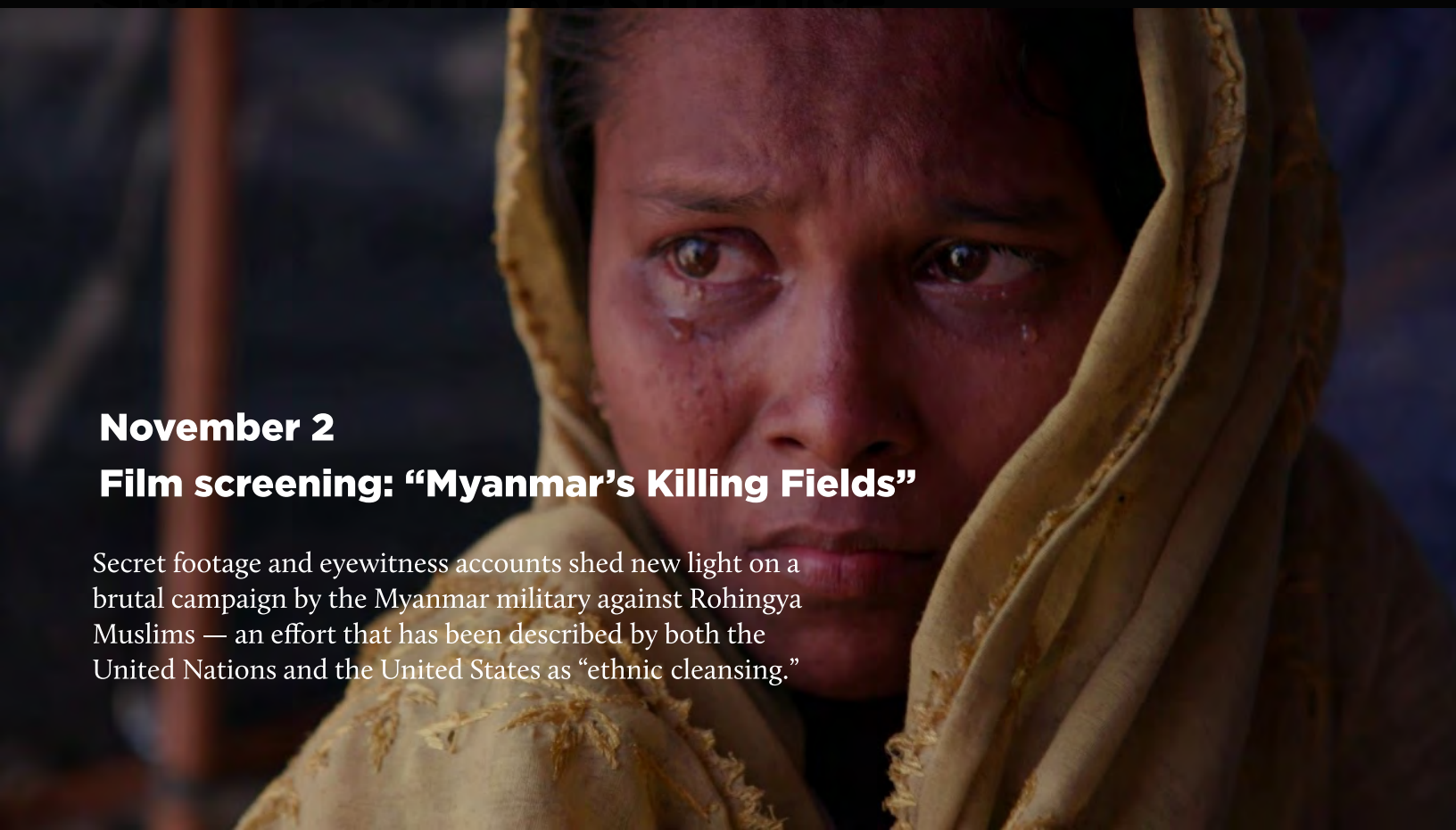
“Stateless,” a film from the critically acclaimed filmmaker of “American Promise,” looks at the complex politics of immigration and race in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, using a combination of magical realism and hidden camera techniques. The filmmaker, Michele Stephenson, joined the audience via video stream to discuss the film and answer questions from the audience.



November 2

Film screening: “Myanmar’s Killing Fields”

Secret footage and eyewitness accounts shed new light on a brutal campaign by the Myanmar military against Rohingya Muslims — an effort that has been described by both the United Nations and the United States as “ethnic cleansing.”



Focus on Statelessness



“Statelessness and Abuse in Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh”

with **Lindsey Green'08** and **Thomas McHale'07**

These Beloit College alumni, who both work for Physicians for Human Rights, joined one of the year's first in-person visits to campus for a panel on their research report on stateless Rohingya in Bangladesh. The panel formed the culmination of the Beloit and Beyond Conference, featuring student presentations and career networking events.



Focus on Statelessness

Ivan M. Stone Annual Lecture “Statelessness and Inclusion,” by Amal De Chickera

The Ivan M. Stone Annual Lecture featured Amal De Chickera, who joined the in-person audience via live video feed from London, due to concerns over COVID-19. The lecture thoroughly covered the pressing issues of statelessness and the failings of international responses to the crisis. Mr. De Chickera also met remotely weekly with students in a Special Project course on statelessness during the fall series. The students in the class launched an advocacy campaign to raise awareness about the plight of stateless people.



Amal De Chickera is a co-founder and one of the Co-Directors of the Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion. He is a Sri Lankan human rights lawyer, advocate and activist, with expertise in the right to nationality, statelessness and discrimination. Amal has researched, advocated, written, spoken, delivered training and served as an expert on statelessness and related issues for the UN, NGOs and academia, since 2008.

Weissberg Chair Residency

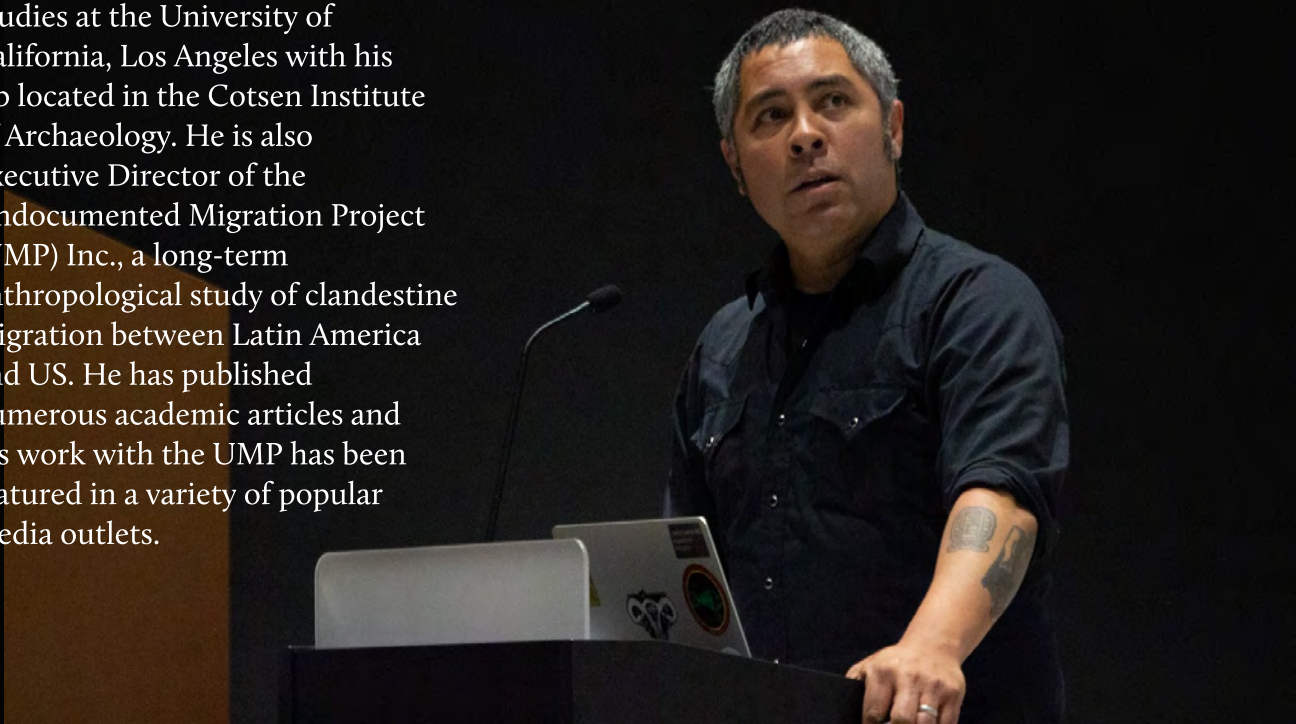
“The Rights of the Undocumented”

March 21 - 26

Jason De León, Weissberg Chair

Dr. Jason De León was the 2021-22 Weissberg Chair in Human Rights. Both a scholar and advocate for the rights of undocumented migrants, Dr. De León brought with him his public art project, Hostile Terrain 94, which engaged the Beloit College community in memorializing the lives of migrants who have died along the US-Mexico border.

BIO: Jason De León is Professor of Anthropology and Chicana/o Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles with his lab located in the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology. He is also Executive Director of the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP) Inc., a long-term anthropological study of clandestine migration between Latin America and US. He has published numerous academic articles and his work with the UMP has been featured in a variety of popular media outlets.



During his week on campus, Dr. De León conducted workshops, met with student groups, spoke to faculty, spoke in eleven classes, served on two panels, and gave a keynote address to a full house in the Weissberg Auditorium.

Weissberg Chair Residency

Hostile Terrain 94 Installation

Hostile Terrain 94 (HT94) is a participatory art project sponsored and organized by the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP), a non-profit research-art-education-media collective, directed by Weissberg Chair Jason De León. The exhibition is composed of over 3,200 handwritten toe tags that represent migrants who have died trying to cross the Sonoran Desert of Arizona between the mid-1990s and 2019. These tags are geolocated on a wall map of the desert showing the exact locations where remains were found. This installation will simultaneously take place at a large number of institutions, both nationally and globally in 2021 throughout 2022.

Student workers supported the work of Logan Museum Curator Manuel Ferreira to install the map in Beloit College's Powerhouse. Student leaders facilitated workshops with campus groups to fill out toe tags for the installation. The work continues in fall of 2022, reaching a wide range of students, faculty and staff.



Jason DeLeón facilitating a workshop filling out toe tags for migrant remains recovered in the border region of Arizona.



Manuel Ferreira, Curator of the Logan Museum, building the map wall with student workers.

Faculty & Staff Development

Incubation workshop on Intersectionality for 2022-23 Theme Featuring David Anderson Hooker January 10 - 11

This year, a group of nine gathered virtually for two half-day sessions to explore the topic of Intersectionality as it relates to a variety of disciplines. The group was asked to read articles and chapters and to watch a series of videos ahead of time. The guest speakers for the retreat were Nina Weissberg and Ricshawm Adkins Roane from the Weissberg Foundation, and Dr. David Anderson Hooker, a consultant who works on conflict and community transformation. The group generated a rich list of suggested events, speakers and resources, which are being implemented in the 2022-23 academic year.



LGBTQ+ Safe Zone Workshops and Training

The Safe Zone Project (SZP) is a free online resource providing curricula, activities, and other resources for educators facilitating Safe Zone workshops (sexuality, gender, and LGBTQ+ education sessions), and learners who are hoping to explore these concepts on their own. The Weissberg Program provided two LGBTQ+ Safe Zone workshops for staff and faculty in the fall, and a half-day training for facilitators in the spring. The facilitator training was attended by eighteen faculty and staff members who have now formed a collective of facilitators for workshops to be offered throughout the year. The next phase of this project is to train student facilitators to expand training for the student body.



Variance Spending

Due to pandemic-related restrictions on travel and in-person activities in the 2020-21 funding cycle, the Weissberg Program funds intended for programming and travel were underspent. A variance request was submitted to the Weissberg Foundation in October, 2021, to use funds for three focus areas – mental health support on campus, pre-college courses for SHE-CAN scholars, and furnishing the Global Experience Office, home to the Weissberg Program at Beloit College.

Mental Health Support

To help meet the spike in demand for mental health counseling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Beloit College contracted with TalkSpace, an online therapy program to offer a full year of access for all students, faculty and staff. The finalization of the contract was completed in April, 2022, and will continue for a year, which means that most of the funding for this initiative will be spent in the next fiscal year, 2022-23.

Student leaders also organized a workshop on “Movies for Mental Health,” offered by the organization Art with Impact, held on April 8, 2022. The workshop used short films as a point of departure for discussion on fostering mental well-being for self and community.



The poster features a vibrant, stylized illustration of a person's profile filled with various scenes: a sunset, a bridge, a house, and a person walking. The background is a mix of purple, blue, and orange.

ART WITH IMPACT **Beloit College**

AB KORKOR FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

THE CHARLES E. KUBLY FOUNDATION
A public charity devoted to improving the lives of those with depression.

MOVIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

CONNECTING WITH OURSELVES AND OTHERS THROUGH SHORT FILMS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Friday, April 8, 2022
5:00pm – 7:00pm CT

Moore Lounge, Pearsons Hall (2nd Floor)
Free Registration: bit.ly/bc-m4mh

For Accessibility-Related Accommodations Or Questions: alexr@artwithimpact.org

Variance Spending

Pre-College Courses for SHE-CAN Scholars

With support from the funding variance, Beloit College's Pathway to Excellence program was able to run a pilot year of pre-college courses for SHE-CAN students in Liberia and Cambodia who were preparing to enter college in the US in fall 2022. Courses focused on academic writing, communication, and navigating US higher education. The feedback from students was very positive. "The skills and knowledge increase my confidence in class," reported Sreynoch Van, who is now attending Syracuse University.



Furnishing the Global Experience Office

In fall of 2021, the Weissberg Program moved to the Global Experience Office space (below), located in Pearsons Hall. The space was carpeted and painted to match the Career Works office, with which it shares a reception area. Weissberg funding made possible cubicles and modular furniture for three workstations. Installation was completed in December, 2021, and the staff and students love the workspace.



Student Support

Spring Break Immersion on Immigration Policy Washington, DC, March 11 - 16

Five Beloit College students traveled to Washington DC over Spring Break 2022 to participate in the Spring Lobby Weekend organized by the Friends Committee on National Legislation, with funding from the Weissberg Program. The focus of their advocacy work was on immigration policy reform. The students reported on their experiences and shared their ideas for action in a panel featured prior to the Weissberg Chair keynote address.

The student participants, pictured below, were Martu J. Kollie'23, International Relations and Environmental Justice and Citizenship, Shruthi Chandrasekar'23 Psychology, trip organizer Veeka Malanchuk'24, Russian, Spanish and Education and Youth Studies, Autumn Green'24, Sociology, and Magali Gray'24, Education & Youth Studies and Chinese.



Veeka Malanchuk (pictured at center), said, [the trip] “was majorly impactful in the way that not only I, but the rest of the group members viewed important political issues (such as immigration) and the impact that we as every day citizens can really make on policies through advocating. I, and the rest of the group are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have attended through Beloit College and the Weissberg Program.”



Autumn Green'24, speaking during a panel discussion of the group's experiences in Washington, DC. Student comments during the panel demonstrated a rich and meaningful experience that will have impact on their careers and futures.

Scholarships

Weissberg SHE-CAN Scholarships

The Weissberg Program supported scholarships for six students from Cambodia and Rwanda who are attending Beloit College through the SHE-CAN program. This scholarship allows these high-performing students to thrive at Beloit College, enriching our campus, and building female leadership in their home countries upon their return.

Two of the students, Christiane Umutoni'22 and Chamnan Suon'22, graduated in May 2022. Two others, Phidor Kong'23 and Ariane Irafasha'23, studied abroad in Europe, while the remaining students, Moon Sum'24 and Sochea Chaay'25 became involved in campus activities and carried out grant-funded summer projects.



Moon Sum'24 (pictured here at right in burgundy top, during her summer project in Cambodia) has prepared a separate report on the SHE-CAN scholars, detailing their progress, activities and achievements.

Scholarships

Weissberg Study Abroad Equity Scholarships

Studying abroad is a powerful and effective way for students to gain valuable and resume-building experiences that connect their studies to critical global issues. The Weissberg Study Abroad Equity Scholarship significantly lowers the barriers to allow many more students to take advantage of this opportunity to enrich their studies in human rights and social justice abroad. Ten students who have high financial need and who are studying human rights and social justice issues received the scholarship, making global immersion possible.



Briana Aguilar'23 is a psychology major who studied at the University of Sussex with support from the Weissberg Study Abroad Equity Scholarship. A McNair Scholar who studies barriers to success among first-generation students in the US, Aguilar took courses including history of the global south that widened her perspective on the history of colonization and its severing of indigenous roots.

Below are the student recipients, their majors, and their countries of study:

Briana Aguilar'23, psychology (England)

Paige Airaudi'23, education & youth studies, Spanish (Costa Rica)

Branda Joseph'22, health & society, French (Réunion Island, France)

Phidor Kong'23, political science, environmental justice and citizenship (Finland, England)

Isabelle Morrow'22, education & youth studies, Spanish (Spain)

Elena Patilliet'23, international relations (Jordan, virtual study)

Voleak Phan'23, sociology, creative writing (England, South Korea)

Gisela Sarabia-Sandoval'22, international relations (Costa Rica)

Christiane Umutoni'22, computer science (Philadelphia, PA)

Xavier Youngdale'23, critical identity studies, creative writing (The Netherlands)

Student Support

Summer Project Grants

The Weissberg Summer Project Grant gives students the opportunity to propose and carry out their own project or internship related to social justice or human rights, applying their studies to real-life contexts. This year, five students received Weissberg Program funding for their summer projects.

Sochea Chhay'25 (undeclared): Women's Water & Sustainability, Cambodia

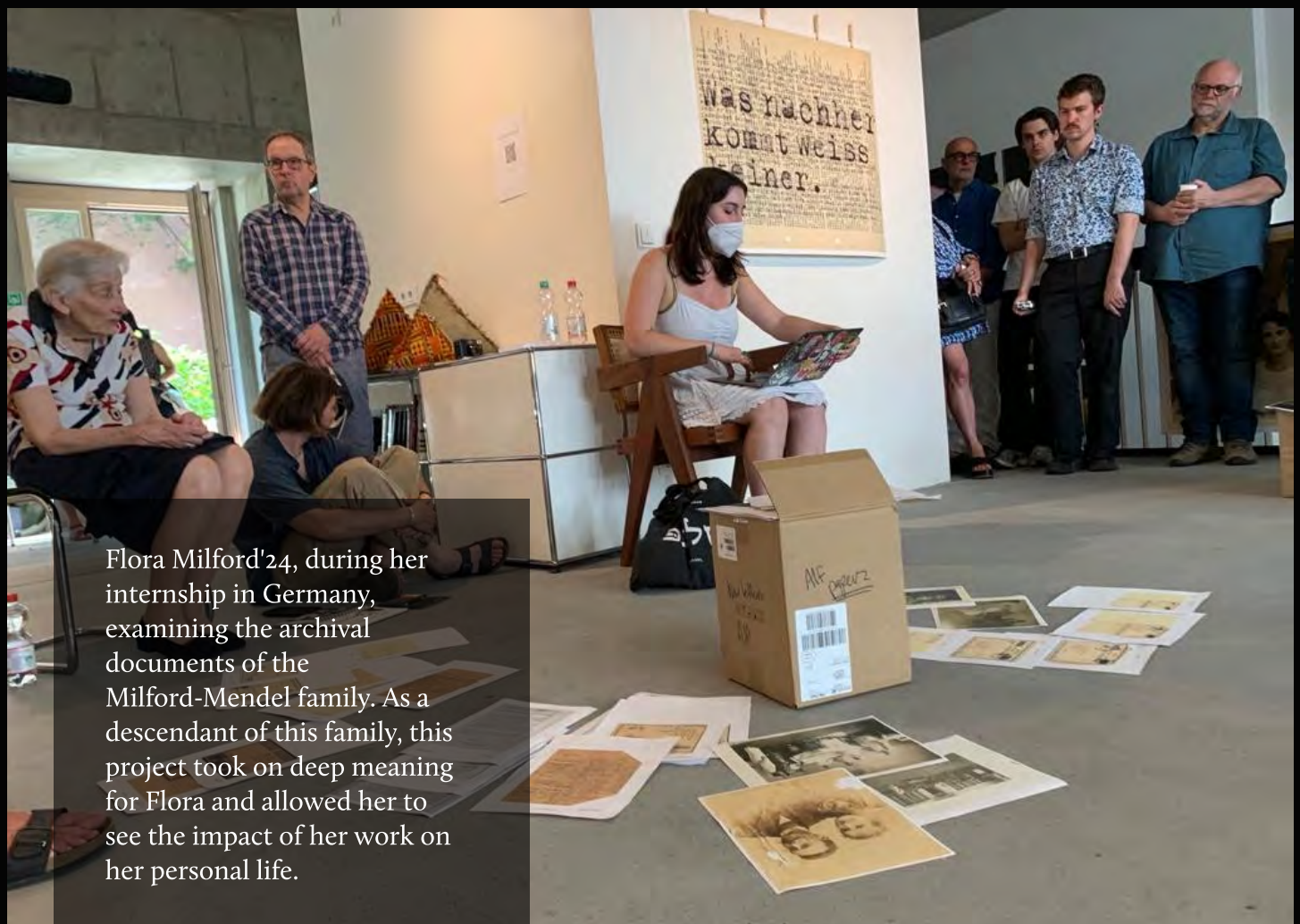
Saumyaa Gupta'24, (political science, psychology): Virtual Internship in Diplomacy, Conflict Resolution, and International Relations in South Africa

Martu Kollie'23 (international relations, environmental studies): PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies 2022 Green Teams

Flora Milford'24 (creative writing, sociology): Researcher for Mendel Project, and archive of the Mendel and Milford families, a collection of Davidson College

Maddison Moser'23 (biology, health & society): Volunteer with HealthNet of Rock County

Moon Sum'24 (political science, critical identity studies): Creator of "Empower Women in Higher Education," Cambodia



Flora Milford'24, during her internship in Germany, examining the archival documents of the Milford-Mendel family. As a descendant of this family, this project took on deep meaning for Flora and allowed her to see the impact of her work on her personal life.

Student Support

Weissberg Postgraduate Fellowship

The Weissberg Postgraduate Fellowship provides funding for graduates of Beloit College to make their first steps in their career in human rights and social justice work. In 2022, five students were awarded the Fellowship award of \$4,000 to support living expenses. They are:

Rahul Basu'22, studio art, environmental studies

Rahul plans to do research and create original artwork on urban sprawl and environmental degradation in his native India.

Nguyen Huynh'22, environmental studies, quantitative economics

Nguyen is working as a financial specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources within the Fisheries and Natural Heritage Conservation Bureau.

Hannah Kang'22, education & youth studies, studio art (pictured at right). Hannah has produced artwork for the Weissberg Program for four years, and is currently student-teaching at Peachtree Ridge High School in Georgia, where she plans to start her art teaching career using culturally-relevant pedagogy and social-emotional learning.



Jessi Nguyen'22, international relations, education & youth studies

Jessi is carrying out a project in her native Vietnam on the access to public education for stateless children. The project stemmed from her participation in this past year's Special Project course on Statelessness, as part of the Weissberg Program.

Amy Ward'22, French, environmental studies

Amy plans to work with a nonprofit organization on energy policy and environmental justice, promoting clean energy and uplifting marginalized communities of color.

The Weissberg Program in Human Rights prepares Beloit College students to engage critically with human rights and develop effective and responsible strategies that promote and defend human dignity

Beloit
College