On Saturday, April 11, local high school students and their parents visited Chapman University as part of Chapman’s connection with Higher Ground Youth and Family Services. Higher Ground, a non-profit organization based out of Anaheim and Santa Ana, provides mentoring programs for youth in high-risk communities. Their goals are to promote positive educational habits, strong interpersonal skills and a sense of empowerment. Dr. Victoria Carty’s students have joined Higher Ground as student mentors through her course’s experiential learning component.

At the inception of the “Campus Visit” project, Dr. Carty and student assistant Lizzi Murtough brainstormed ways to bring students to campus. Together, they focused on the needs of the communities and building trust. "The goal was to bring students and parents on campus, and provide opportunity to ask questions disposing fears and misconception.”

The group wants both the students and the parents to start considering Chapman a possibility for their future. Lizzi Murtough, a senior in WCAHSS with a history of community engagement, has further developed both as a person and a scholar through her experience with Higher Ground. Working with her local community, she is a part of something larger then herself, a feeling she believes is part of the essential college experience. “Being forced out of your comfort zone is a little scary but overall very beneficial to students”, states Murtough. At the end of the visit, the team offered evaluations and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Funding comes through Wilkinson’s Community Engagement Fund.
DAVID SHAFIE RECEIVES FULBRIGHT

On April 30, the news was official. Associate Professor of Political Science, David Shafie, had been awarded the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship. Professor Shafie will be located at the Caspian Center for Energy and Environment in Baku, Azerbaijan. In addition to teaching two classes, he will be examining the environmental consequences of economic development in the Caspian Sea Basin, NGO participation and the prospects for promoting sustainable development. Baku is the largest city on the Caspian, and is home to many environmental and civil society groups which participate in environmental monitoring. Because of its position at the center of the energy boom, Azerbaijan is an ideal place to study the politics of energy and the environment. Congratulations Dr. Shaffie!

WILKINSON COLLEGE LEADS THE PACK IN STUDENT FULBRIGHTS

Congratulations to Nimah Gobir, double-major in Peace Studies and Studio Art. Nimah has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant to India where she plans to assist a local organization whose focus is female health services. Upon returning she will attend George Washington University’s Art Therapy graduate program.

Megan McKeown, Peace Studies major, has received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant to Jordan. Following her Fulbright experience, she intends to pursue a doctoral degree in education policy focusing on analyzing global school systems.

Finally, Wilkinson Congratulates Alumna Tiana Rees Silva who received her BA in Political Science and Peace Studies in 2013. Tiana has been working for Teach for America in San Antonio for the past three years and was awarded a English Teaching Assistant grant to Taiwan.

For more information, please visit: www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/crassh-burn

DR. BEVAN RECEIVES VALERIE SCUDDER AWARD

The Valerie Scudder Award was the first award of merit to be given to faculty by the university. It is in recognition of outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarly/creative activity, and service. The recipients for this award are chosen by their peers for their exceptional contributions. Congratulations to Dr. Bevan, the 2015 Valerie Scudder Award Recipient.

Bausch Receives Pushcart

Congratulations to Richard Bausch the recipient of the prestigious Pushcart Prize for his story “Map Reading” featured in the Virginia Quarterly Review. The Pushcart Prize is offered by Pushcart Press and honors the best literary works published in small presses. Nominations come from magazine and small book press editors.

DR. JUSTIN WALSH RECEIVES HARVARD FELLOWSHIP

Justin Walsh, Assistant Professor teaches Greek and Roman art and archaeology and has been granted $31,427 from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation at Harvard University to fund fieldwork in Spain this summer. The Foundation awards fellowships to support research, publication and projects in the areas of classical studies. It was founder James Loeb’s direction that excess library funds be committed to “special research at home and abroad in the province of Archeology and of Greek and Latin Literature”. During his stay, Dr. Walsh will be collaborating with a group of Spanish archaeologists at the site of Cástulo, the most important town in southern Spain for hundreds of years between 700 BCE and 1600 CE. The fellowship also allows for him to bring seven Chapman students to assist with excavation. Students will live abroad for six to eight weeks and “will have the opportunity to participate in a broad range of tasks associated with an excavation such as digging and sifting, and surveying and analyzing.”

They will be looking for evidence of daily life and the contacts between Cástulo and traders from the rest of the Mediterranean. In addition, Dr. Walsh has also been selected as a Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor in the Institute for Advanced Studies and the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Bristol (UK).

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