



Celebrating the Class of 2018

The Mgrublian Center wishes all the members of the class of 2018 a big congratulations and much success as they begin their new journeys post-CMC. In particular, we would like to acknowledge a few members of the class of 2018 who have earned special awards from the Center and deserve individual recognition for their dedication to human rights.

Best Overall in the Human Rights, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies Sequence — Asher Greenberg '18

We commend Asher on his outstanding scholarship and successful completion of the Human Rights, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies sequence. Asher completed the sequence in addition to a dual major in History and International Relations. His scholarship is matched only by his commitment to human rights research, particularly in the field of Holocaust studies. Asher was involved with the Center not only through the curriculum but as a regular attendee and supporter of Center events and as a human rights intern during the summer following his sophomore year. We wish him well as he begins a new career in management consulting with Parthenon- Ernst & Young.



Best Thesis in Human Rights — Larissa Peltola '18

Larissa is the definition of a human rights crusader and spent the better part of her time at CMC involved in the scholarship, activism, and promotion of human rights issues across our campus and around the globe. Larissa was instrumental in establishing the Amnesty International chapter at CMC, helped organized and host many human rights awareness events and social media campaigns, conducted research independently and in conjunction with faculty mentors, and was Editor-in-Chief of the Center's newsletter. Larissa's thesis, *Rape and Sexual Violence Used as a Weapon of War and Genocide: An Examination of Historical and Contemporary Cases of Genocidal Rape and Prosecution of Rape in International Courts*, is the winner of this year's Best Thesis in Human Rights award. We wish her great success as she embarks on her next adventure as a Fulbright Scholar in Hungary where she will teach English to first generation Roma college students.



Elbaz Family Post-Graduate Fellow in Human Rights — Jasmine Shirey '18

This year the Center announced the inaugural Elbaz Family Post-Graduate Fellowship in Human Rights. The Fellowship will provide financial support to one CMC senior for one year post-graduation to pursue an otherwise unpaid career opportunity in human rights. The Center is proud to announce Jasmine as the first recipient of this prestigious award. Jasmine's fellowship will support her to work with FAWA (Forum for African Women Educationalists) in Zimbabwe where she will direct a new weather station project as well as help implement the organization's sexual and reproductive health program. Jasmine will commence her fellowship work in September 2018 and will return to CMC in Fall 2019 to share highlights of her work experience made possible by the generous support of the Elbaz Family.



Farewell Letter from Larissa Peltola

Dear Mgrublian Center for Human Rights,

It is with both excitement and sadness that I write this letter. As I reflect back on my memories at CMC, I think fondly of the time I spent in the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights (MCHR), first as a volunteer and President of the Amnesty International chapter, then as a research fellow and student assistant, and now as a proud alumna. Some of my best memories come from my time in these positions and working with Kirsti, Professor Lower, Professor Appel and the incredible and brilliant students that work here. I have been lucky enough to call the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights my second home.

When researching and visiting colleges as a high school junior and senior, I had a difficult time deciding between universities like Georgetown, Middlebury, and American. All had strong programs in international relations and would provide me with a terrific education. But what stood out for me was CMC and its human rights center on campus. After reading about Professor Lower, Professor Roth, and the incredible history behind how the Center was founded and the work it was doing, I was convinced that Claremont McKenna College was where I was meant to be.

I was not disappointed. I have had the most incredible experiences, being educated by wonderful professors, discussing pressing issues at the Athenaeum, and being afforded the opportunities to conduct my own research and have internships with leading human rights organizations. Most importantly, I have always felt a great sense of support and community from the center and camaraderie with the students who work here. I am thankful for all of the experiences and the relationships I have developed. I am constantly inspired by my professors, especially Professors Lower, Appel, Petropoulos, and Roth, and their commitment and dedication to teaching the next generation of human rights leaders. Staff members like Kirsti Zitar who go above and beyond as advocates for the students on this campus, and my fellow MCHR classmates and colleagues who have shown me what true passion and commitment look like.

As I embark on a new journey after graduation as a Fulbright Scholar working with first-generation Roma students in Hungary, I will always feel humbled and honored to have been a part of the Mgrublian Center family. I am so incredibly grateful for having had the opportunity to receive the best education possible in an academic environment that encouraged me to rise to every challenge and do my best. And I want to express my deepest appreciation to this Center, its board members, faculty, staff and students for encouraging me to pursue the most noble of goals, that of becoming an upstander who champions human rights and social justice causes everywhere.

With gratitude,

Larissa



Farewell from Professor Appel, Acting Director

Congratulations to Acting Director and Government Professor Hilary Appel on her recent receipt of the G. David Huntoon Senior Teaching Award. The award is given annually to a full professor selected by a Huntoon Senior Committee to recognize superior and effective teaching. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge Professor Appel's most recently published book, *"From Triumph to Crisis: Neoliberal Economic Reform in Postcommunist Countries."* Through her tenure as Acting Director of the Center, she has dedicated a wealth of knowledge and experience, not to mention countless hours and resources, to her role and we are grateful for her efforts and leadership. Below is her farewell letter to the position of Acting Director, though we look forward to continuing to work with her in many capacities in the future.

"I want to thank everyone for an exhilarating eighteen months at the Mgrublian Center. It was a true privilege for me and I wish to express how much I have cherished this opportunity. I learned so much from the students' research projects, from the Center's extraordinary speaker series and from the provocative film screenings on and off campus. In addition, I cannot tell you how many times I was moved by the Center's students, whose passion and commitment to human rights inspired them to develop innovative programs and to promote human rights awareness and activism on campus. Moreover, it has been a wonderful experience getting to know the Center's extended family and I look forward to continue seeing board members, affiliated faculty, and the Center's staff at future college events. I am especially grateful to Kirsti Zitar for her amazing work as Assistant Director of the Mgrublian Center. Her creativity, energy, and professionalism were on display every day and I know the success of the last eighteen months is very much a result of her extraordinary talents and commitment. I wish everyone at the Mgrublian Center continued success in the months and years ahead."

Hilary Appel

Podlich Family Professor of Government and George R. Roberts Fellow

2018 Human Rights Summer Interns

This summer the Center will sponsor seventeen CMC student interns to work with our industry partners and other leading human rights organizations around the world:

Jessica Ainslie '19 - *Amnesty International (Washington, D.C.)*

Laleh Ahmad '20 - *POLIN Museum (Warsaw, Poland)*

Erin Baranko '20 - *Disability Law Center (Salt Lake City, UT)*

Gabrielle Clouse '20 - *Child Family Health International (Quito, Ecuador)*

Will Cullen '19 - *GRID (New Delhi, India)*

Owen Dubeck '19 - *Living On One (Los Angeles, CA)*

Samuel Fraser '19 - *Human Rights Watch (New York, NY)*

Jenny Gurev '20 - *The Washington Institute (Washington, D.C.)*

Medina Latic '20 - *Save the Children & Amnesty International (Washington, D.C.)*

Lena Mersereau '20 - *Human Rights Watch (New York, NY)*

David Miller '20 - *The Enough Project (Washington, D.C.)*

Blake Morton '21 - *Haysbert-Moultrie LLC (Los Angeles, CA)*

Tiana Pugh '19 - *Human Rights Watch (New York, NY)*

Chris Raguz '19 - *U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, D.C.)*

Rebecca Shane '19 - *The Enough Project (Washington, D.C.)*

Anita Sheno '20 - *Claremont Canopy (Claremont, CA)*

Lauren Yamagami '20 - *Child Family Health International (La Paz, Bolivia)*



Follow our interns via their [blogs](#)!

Fall 2018 Programming - Save the Date(s)!

Mark your calendar for these exciting events coming in the fall of 2018 and please check our website regularly for updates to our 2018-19 programming - we will add to it as events are scheduled and confirmed.

- ♦ **September 7, (11am-1pm)** – Research Institute Open House and Club Fair. The Fair will take place outside on the Gann Plaza and is a cooperative event across all the CMC Institutes and Centers. Free and open to all.
- ♦ **September 24, (5:30-8pm)** – Human Rights Intern Welcome Back Dinner; Freeberg Dining Room (Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum). RSVP to Kirsti Zitar (kzitar@cmc.edu)
- ♦ **October 2nd (5:30-8pm)** - Jeffrey Kopstein, Professor and Chair of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. Kopstein will present on his latest book, *Intimate Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms in the Shadow of the Holocaust*. (Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum)
- ♦ **October 5, (9am-1pm)** – Mgrublian Center Fall Advisory Board Meeting
- ♦ **October 5, (11:45am – 1pm)** – Kristin Fabbe, Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School. Fabbe will speak on *Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Post-Conflict Reconciliation in Iraq and Syria*. (Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum)
- ♦ **November 5, (5:30-8pm)** - Valerie Sperling, Professor and Chair of Political Science at Clark University. Sperling will present *Courting Gender Justice: Russia, Turkey, and the European Court of Human Rights*. (Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum)

To submit event/speaker suggestions, as well as material to include in the newsletter, please contact Mohamad Moslimani at mmoslimani21@cmc.edu



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