

OPUS PRIZE

REGIS UNIVERSITY 2017

As the 2017 Opus Prize partner, Regis University has completed a worldwide search for the three 2017 Opus Prize recipients of the \$1 million and two \$100,000 awards. The faith-inspired work of these finalists is evaluated by the Opus Prize Foundation along with a group of Regis Faculty Delegates and Student Scholars who are making site visits this spring. These site visits require diligent observation and written reports of each finalist based on Opus Prize values. The 2017 finalists will be officially announced in July at Alumni Weekend.

Regis University is proud to introduce the Regis University Opus Prize Site Visit Delegation Team. Faculty Delegates were selected based on a submitted application and careful review by the academic dean's council. Our Student Scholars were nominated by Regis faculty and staff and selected after a competitive interview process. The delegation brings diverse gifts and leadership to this important process and we are grateful for each participants' time, commitment and compassion.



Faculty Delegates



GEOFFREY BATEMAN, PH.D.

Assistant Professor and Chair,
Peace and Justice Studies

Director, Women's and Gender
Studies Program

Geoffrey Bateman, Ph.D., is assistant professor and chair of the Department of Peace and Justice Studies at Regis University, where he also serves as director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. He teaches courses on a range of social justice issues, including conflict transformation, gender and homelessness, liberation movements for social justice and research and writing in the community. In 2003, he published the book *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Debating the Gay Ban in the Military*, and he has written articles on Horatio Alger and the history of sexuality in the American West, the ethics of working women writers experiencing homelessness, and queer rhetoric and service-learning. Bateman has also written numerous book reviews and op-ed pieces in the *Denver Post*, the *Rocky Mountain News* and other community newspapers. He's currently chair of the board of directors for The Gathering Place, Denver's only daytime drop-in shelter for women, children and transgender individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty. He cherishes his work at Regis for the social justice education and activism opportunities its Jesuit mission encourages. Bateman is excited to serve as a 2017 Opus Prize delegate and learn directly from the nominees' innovative approaches to creating lasting social change.

experience in pediatrics, neurological rehabilitation and global health. At the core of her career as an academic and physical therapist is her strong ethical foundation and philosophy. She focuses on a balance of power and privilege with humility and perspective for the delivery of health services and community engagement. Footer is a leader in bringing the classroom into the world through a reflective process of clinical practice and community engagement. She incorporates best practices to prepare future leaders to practice in the world with socially just, responsible and ethical outlooks. As one of the new assistant deans in the School of Physical Therapy, she is looking forward to leading by learning together with other Regis community members as a faculty delegate for the 2017 Opus Prize.



MEGHAN SOBEL, PH.D.

Assistant Professor,
Communication

Meghan Sobel, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Regis University.

She teaches classes on international media, public relations and human rights. Her research focuses on the role of media in combatting human rights abuses and humanitarian crises around the world. Sobel has worked with human rights organizations in the U.S. and Thailand and with the U.S. Department of State in Lilongwe, Malawi. She loves working at Regis because of the opportunities to engage with students in small classes, especially on issues relating to social justice. She is particularly excited about the opportunity to be a 2017 Opus Prize Delegate so that she can connect students in the classroom and the field with unsung heroes making big differences around the world. Sobel hopes to work with the Opus Prize finalists to inspire students to be unsung heroes in their own communities.



CHERYL BURDITT FOOTER, PT, PH.D.

Assistant Dean and Associate Professor, School of Physical Therapy

Cheryl Burditt Footer, PT, Ph.D., is assistant dean and associate professor at Regis University School of Physical Therapy. She joined the Regis faculty in 2002 with vast

CHAMPIONS FOR FAITH-FILLED CHANGE.



Student Scholars



AMY BLOOMQUIST

Graduate Student, Master's of Nonprofit Management, College of Business and Economics, Class of 2018
Denver, CO

After learning about the Masters of Nonprofit Management program at Regis University, Amy Bloomquist was quickly captivated by the values represented in Jesuit education and by what the program had to offer. With over eight years of experience in nonprofits, locally and abroad, Bloomquist knew this program was an essential step in her understanding how to lead an effective nonprofit organization in the future. Originally from Idaho, Bloomquist moved to in 2011 to work with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP), and has already applied her Regis education to her occupation in a practical and tangible way. Since joining this program, Bloomquist has utilized her newfound skills to help ACMNP move through a time of growth and transition by creating a strategic human resource plan, and actionable steps towards engaging the organizations 11,000 alumni. She was personally responsible for a 13 percent increase in team member participation in one year. Becoming an Opus Prize Student Scholar has been a great joy and blessing, as it has paired Bloomquist's skills and passion for the nonprofit sector with the real world where people and organizations are living out our Jesuit values. Bloomquist could not be more excited to share her Opus Prize experience with the Regis community and greater Denver area. She believes the work of the Opus Prize finalists will inspire action and innovation on our campus and throughout our community.



BAILEY GENT

Undergraduate Student, College of Business and Economics, Class of 2019
Colorado Springs, CO

Bailey Gent is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Peace and Justice Studies. Bailey is passionate about service, effective social justice work and creating light and love in the world. Her passion began freshman year of high school and resulted in her founding The Power and Justice Campaign, an organization that inspires youth to become change makers in the world. Committed to a life of service and social justice, Bailey chose Regis University for opportunities like the Opus Prize. At Regis, Bailey enjoys working with the Center for Service Learning to create opportunities for students to serve the broader Denver community. Bailey has traveled with the Center for Service Learning on immersion trips to The Dominican Republic,

Guatemala and El Salvador. Bailey will also be traveling with Marketing For Social Change - The Uganda Project program to Uganda to work in partnership with Bead for Life and Unreasonable East Africa. When on campus, Bailey serves as an El Pomar Scholar for the University, working to pilot a Fair Trade initiative on campus. Bailey also serves on the PeaceJam board planning conferences for youth to learn about peace work through Nobel Laureates on campus each year. Bailey will soon take over as President of the Regis PeaceJam organization. Bailey is also working to found her own nonprofit, Elevated Hearts, to elevate others through random acts of kindness. Bailey is absolutely elated to be an Opus Prize Student Scholar and is looking forward to uniting Regis, the Denver community and the larger world in the Jesuit and Opus Prize mission.



CHRIS LEW

Professional Student, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions, Class of 2018
Denver, CO

Chris Lew is a Doctor of Physical Therapy student at Regis University. Since finishing his undergraduate studies in 2012, he has participated in a three-week service-learning project in Nicaragua to assess the effects of U.S. policies on the local economic, political and social environment. He also spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar, serving as a cultural ambassador and English teaching assistant at a bilingual secondary school in Madrid, Spain. He began physical therapy school at Regis in 2015 and has taken on several leadership roles since then, including his position as the Diversity Representative for the class of 2018. This role has provided him with the opportunity to bring awareness to issues surrounding diversity to the Regis community, such as hosting a presentation and discussion on health care issues specific to the LGBTQ community. He is also a member of the Canine Companions for Independence team at Regis, which raises a puppy that will eventually become a service dog for an individual in need. Chris is excited to be an Opus Prize Student Scholar and to have the opportunity to interact with organizations performing social justice work on the larger, global scale.



Student Scholars



DAVID MOONEY

Undergraduate Student,
College of Business and Economics,
Class of 2019
Cleveland, OH

David Mooney is an honors student with a double major in Economics and Philosophy. Consistent with the trademark “Jesuit Educated,” David came to Regis from St. Ignatius High School, a Jesuit high school in Cleveland, Ohio. From his time there, he was inspired to create the St. Benedict Joseph Labre Ministry to the homeless, an outreach ministry which seeks to bridge the gap between the Regis community and the Denver community by giving Regis students the opportunity to be in touch with their world and with those experiencing homelessness. David’s faith is the driving force behind his emphasis on servant leadership. He is especially grateful for the opportunity to be a student leader for the University Ministry sponsored Faith and Justice Trip to the underserved Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. As an El Pomar Scholar working with Yobel International, a nonprofit focused on bringing down global poverty by elevating fair trade awareness, David recognizes how indirect service can have a drastic impact on our world’s problems. Bringing the mission home, he is currently spearheading fair trade certification for Regis University. As a peer minister in O’Connell Hall, David knows the importance of community. This role is especially enriching because of the opportunity to guide residents through their faith formation and to help create a community of empowered students. As the Opus Prize comes closer to Regis, David is most excited to see what new inspirations will arise from within the Regis community.



KATIE SKOWRONSKI

Undergraduate Student,
Regis College, Class of 2019
Aurora, CO

Katie Skowronski is originally from Aurora, Colorado, and is an honors student at Regis University. She is studying psychology and neuroscience with an emphasis in pre-med with the dream of becoming a PTSD-focused psychiatrist. Outside of Regis, Katie has been involved in Project CURE and has helped with Buckley Air Force base events. She is looking forward to both the Opus Prize trip and working as a camp counselor for abused children. During the school year, Katie works as a Regis student ambassador for University Admissions, where she leads tours of the Northwest Denver Campus. She also participates in the University’s diverse and talented music program. Katie is

honored to be part of this new experience afforded to her by Regis. She is excited for her upcoming involvement with the Opus Prize foundation as it is a once in a lifetime opportunity for everyone involved. As an Opus Prize Student Scholar, she looks forward to gaining a new perspective on “how ought we to live” by observing individuals and communities making an important and tangible difference in the world.



MARLEY WEAVER-GABEL

Undergraduate Student,
College of Business and Economics,
Class of 2019
Denver, CO

Marley Weaver-Gabel is enrolled in the College of Business and Economics at Regis University. Before arriving at Regis, Marley intended to pursue a degree in financial advising and aspired to become wealthy in the financial field. Shortly after arriving to campus and starting classes, she found that her meaning in life was much deeper than monetary satisfaction. In her everyday life on campus, the Jesuit values of “men and women in service of others” and “Magis” became guiding lights for her actions, intentions and goals. At Regis, she works in University Admissions and enjoys sharing her Jesuit education experience with prospective students visiting campus. In Jan 2017, Marley traveled to Nicaragua with a Regis sponsored program to work alongside community members to improve their water collection systems. While helping with different student activities, she maintains that same positivity for the Regis life and shares it with all her friends and peers. Marley strives to be fully engaged with the different learning opportunities that she has been given and seeks deeper meaning of life through service. Marley applied to be an Opus Prize Student Scholar because of the exemplary values that align with her own principles. The Regis dedication to service and her experiences here have been foundational in her search for meaning in her own life. Marley is eager to represent Regis by being an astute and engaged member of the Regis University Opus Prize team.

Watch for more information to be shared with the Regis community at regis.edu/opus throughout the 2016-17 academic year as Regis prepares for **Opus October 2017**.

To learn more about the Opus Prize Foundation, visit www.opusprize.org.

If you have questions or would like to be involved in any part of the planning or implementation of this amazing opportunity for Regis, contact **Connie Bennett, Opus Prize Coordinator in University Advancement**, at opus@regis.edu or 303.458.4972.