



# pathways

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## 2020

**ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK  
SERVICE LEARNING LITERARY MAGAZINE 2020  
VOLUME VIV**





# Welcome to Alternative Spring Break's literary magazine, Pathways.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of ASB's founding at the University of Virginia. Originally part of Madison House, ASB is now an independent, completely student-run 501(c)(3) that has sent thousands of students on service trips all over the world. This journal has been dedicated to ASB's pursuit of service learning. Our service learning grant program challenges ASB participants to further pursue the mission of service learning by engaging with their site through the lens of their creative and research projects. The phenomenal outcomes from these projects demonstrate the wide range of approaches to interpreting service-learning with humility and depth.

ASB is a massive endeavor that requires the dedication and effort of so many outstanding individuals. I would like to thank our site contacts, executive board, 40 site leaders, spring Fellows, community partners, University administrators, partnering CIOs on grounds, and the hundreds of participants who chose to spend their spring break challenging themselves and exploring service learning.

Additionally, I'd like to thank Ms. Kathleen Baireuther, the UVA Alumni Association, and the Hannah Graham Fund for funding our grants and community outreach programs. To everyone involved: thank you so much.

This organization has a profound impact on the many people involved in the process, and we strive to continue collaborating with site contacts around the country and here in Charlottesville. It has been such a joy to work with participants as they grapple with complex issues and produce projects that seek to communicate their new knowledge to others. With that, we are proud to share this year's Pathways Journal!

ASBest,

Ned Flanagan

Service Learning Chair 2019-2020



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# Table of Contents

## Baireuther Grants *(pp. 3-25)*

Two Sides to Every Story: The Rebuilding of New Orleans and the Lower Ninth Ward - *Katherine Zain*

Exploring the Costs and Benefits of the Surge of Visitors and Volunteers at National Parks in the United States - *Briti Nandi*

Crossing the Border through a Child's Eyes: What it Means to Enter the United States as a Child Immigrant - *Lucie Rutherford*

Saving the Sea Turtles: Investigating the Conservation of a Keystone Species - *Justin Ngo*

Alternative Spring Break: Volunteer Motivations - *Carley Calfee*

## Creative Grants *(pp. 26-35)*

San Juan, TX: Day-by-Day Poems - *Dayton Petrus*

Biscayne, FL: Contrasting Photo Series - *Justin Ngo*

Joshua Tree, CA: Photo Essay - *Ashlyn Ferguson*

Nashville, TN: Friends of Warner Parks- *Kelsey Lipscomb*

San Juan, TX: Video Reflection - *Lucie Rutherford*

Nashville, TN: Video Reflection - *Ciara Barrogo*

## Virtual Service Learning Banquet *(p. 35)*

2019-2020 Trips, Executive Board, Fourth Years  
*(p. 37)*



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# **Baireuther Grants**

## **Two Sides to Every Story: The Rebuilding of New Orleans and the Lower Ninth Ward**

*Katherine Zain*

(Adapted from full paper)

### **Factors that Have Affected the Rebuilding Process**

Why has the Lower Ninth Ward struggled to rebuild? What factors and policies are affecting the process of rebuilding and development? Which have helped and which have hindered rebuilding? These are some of the questions that I had as I learned more and more about New Orleans' neighborhoods, the Lower Ninth Ward and inequality in the rebuilding process. There are obviously numerous societal, historical and economic factors at work, many of which I will not be able to address. However, I wanted to research and bring attention to several factors which impacted these neighborhoods and their rebuilding before and after Katrina.

Flood insurance, and lack thereof, played an influential and complex role in the ability of homeowners to rebuild their homes. According to a study published by the Urban Institute, "Prior to Katrina, FEMA had zoned the Lower Ninth Ward as "low risk" because it sat on slightly higher ground and was expected to be protected by the levees, so lenders did not require residents to purchase flood insurance ("After Katrina," 2006). In hindsight, FEMA's prediction is painfully ironic, given that the Lower Ninth Ward, like Lakeview, was decimated due to its proximity to a levee. Why would a government agency not require at-risk residents to have flood insurance? FEMA oversees the U.S. government's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which provides flood insurance to more than 5 million U.S. households, setting the rates and mapping at risk areas (Walsh, 2017). As a result of the establishment of the NFIP in 1968, many private flood insurance companies have been driven out of the market (2017). Schalch of NPR reported that federal flood insurance can cost "hundreds of dollars per year" (2005). Holmes Jr. offered some insight as to why some households might opt to not purchase flood insurance. He stated that it could be expensive, particularly during Hurricane season, when it was often price gouged and residents could be forced to pay three times the regular rate. For families in difficult financial situations, they might decide to put that money towards another necessity, and take the risk instead (Holmes). Furthermore, homeowners insurance does not include flood insurance. As a result many will decline to buy it unless required by their mortgage, and lenders only require it if a house is in "a floodplains likely to get inundated at least every hundred years." Ironically, homes in areas which are "protected by levees that are certified by the Army Corps of Engineers" do not require insurance (Walsh, 2017). Carolyn Gorman, the Vice President of Insurance Information Institute, stated that only about 46% of Louisiana residents have flood insurance, despite most of the coastal gulf region being 10 feet below sea level (Schalch, 2005).



In addition, even for those who had insurance, damage from hurricanes is not necessarily covered. Some flood insurance will exclusively cover “wind-driven water damage” or storm surge and traditional flooding is not covered (Schalch, 2005). Unclear definitions is just one of many problems with flood insurance for residents of Louisiana who have tried to rebuild their homes and communities. The lack of private insurers, unaffordability of insurance for vulnerable families, and unrealistic flood plain mapping all provide challenges to residents in New Orleans and the gulf coast region.



## Best Service Shot – Grand Canyon – Judy Nguyen

Another factor which has affected residents returning to their properties is heirs properties. Carey Biron of Reuters defines heirs property as “enforced communal ownership that can arise when land or a home is passed on without a clear will” (2019). Often a home and its land will pass from generation to generation, but as it was not passed on through a will, the family member with “ownership” lacks title or has clouded title to the property. New Orleans lawyer Malcom Meyers estimates that informal property ownership affects roughly 20,000 New Orleanians (Ydstie, 2008). They might even pay property taxes or the mortgage in a dead person’s name. Meyers also explained that past owners may be hesitant to transfer the title, as they are unfamiliar with the legal process required or are deterred by the cost which could be equivalent to 10% of the value of a low-income home (2008). Families that had been displaced because of the storm, sometimes faced problems reclaiming their land without a deed. Coyle explained how flooding had destroyed personal records and documentation, making it difficult for an individual



to prove ownership of their property. Even if a family does not face complications with living in their property, the cost of repairs may make it infeasible. By law, a homeowner of an heirs property is not eligible for government aid, following a natural disaster (Biron, 2019). Heirs property owners faced problems when applying for money to rebuild from the Road Home program. According to the Data Center, Road Home, or the Homeowners Assistance Program, was a state and federal program which provided funds “for the uninsured losses of homeowners to repair their homes.” Road Home created a work around which allows whoever “claimed the homestead tax exemption on the house” to receive the rebuilding money but heirs property owners still face significant barriers accessing state and federal rebuilding funds (Ydstie, 2008).

Gentrification is one of the most important and complex factors affecting almost any kind of development or rebuilding, but particularly those following Hurricane Katrina. Unlike flood insurance or heirs properties, gentrification is more challenging to narrowly quantify or define, yet it is also at the crux of my research. The title for my paper came from the various narratives I saw and heard surrounding gentrification while I was in New Orleans, researching, and even in Charlottesville. It seems as if there are often two sides to every story of gentrification: one community welcomes the needed building and development, while another community struggles with displacement and replacement. Coyle contrasted some of the advantages of gentrification, homes being rebuilt, with the drawbacks, displaced residents and families and the erasing of existing cultures. As New Orleanians work to rebuild their city, the two sides of gentrification seem evident. In the neighborhood of Mid City, a Whole Foods Market stands out among a local neighborhood mechanic shop and beauty parlor. Intended to promote healthy eating, it was a part of the \$20 million ReFresh Project Development, sponsored by Broad Community Connections, “a local nonprofit focused on revitalizing the area, and L+M Development Partners, a New York-based firm that specializes in low-income housing” (Sayre, 2014). Sayre describes Whole Foods as a chain, which is “known for organic and pricier times” (2014). With this business model, the grocery store will likely exclude many residents in a neighborhood which had an average household income of \$52,000 in 2017 (“The Data Center”). The damage from Hurricane Katrina only magnified the problem of gentrification in many low-income neighborhoods. Researchers at Arizona State University and Georgia State found that “neighborhoods with a higher percentage of physical building damage were more likely to have gentrified one decade after the storm” based on their study of New Orleans (Florida, 2019). Holmes made the distinction that the core issue of gentrification is not development itself, but displacement of the population that lived there previously. Regarding the families and individuals who are often driven out when areas or neighborhoods are rebuilt, he warned “be aware of the people you are stepping over to create your ideal neighborhood” (Holmes).

### **Connection with Charlottesville**

Unlike New Orleans, Charlottesville has not been dealt with the devastation of a large scale



natural disaster or had to rebuild at a significant scale. However the city, which is frequently connected to and affected by the nearby University of Virginia, faces an unresolved housing affordability crisis. The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordable housing, as that in which a household does not have to spend more than 30% of their income on housing and housing related costs (“Comprehensive Regional Housing Study,” 2019). A “severely cost-burdened” homeowner spends more than 50% of their household’s income on housing (2019). In Charlottesville and neighboring Albemarle, Greene, Louisa, Fluvanna and Nelson counties, more than 10,000 households spend greater than 50% of their income on housing (2019).

Like New Orleans, Charlottesville also continues to grapple with gentrification, as new apartments and housing complexes are developed close to the University’s campus. The displacement of Vinegar Hill is one of the most prominent historical examples of this gentrification. In the mid-1960s, residents of Charlottesville’s Vinegar Hill neighborhood, “an African American residential-business district” were required to relocate to public housing (Butler, 2008). Per a city survey from the 1960s, the combined income of the 29 businesses in Vinegar Hill was \$1.6 million (Saunders, 1998). Local government officials claimed that Vinegar Hill was “blighted” and as a result it was demolished under the federal Urban Renewal program (Butler, 2008).



**Sequoia – Morgan Butler**



# Exploring the Costs and Benefits of the Surge of Visitors and Volunteers at National Parks in the United States

*Briti Nandi*

(Adapted from full paper)

## Introduction

Known to be one of the top twenty destination spots in America and the fourth most visited national park in 2019 with 4.5 billion recreational visitors, Zion National Park is famed for its magnificent red cliffs and the crystal blue Virgin River that runs through the valley (Bloom). This park, named after a Hebrew word for the hill of Jerusalem in the Old Testament, was settled by Mormon pioneers in the early 1860s (Cuthbert, Lori, and Joe Yogerst). Zion is located in southwestern Utah and ranges 229 square miles as the home of the Puebloan and Fremont cultures. Additionally, there are more than 800 native plant species and 400 animal species inhabiting the area (“Zion National Park”). President Woodrow Wilson officially named Zion a national park in 1919, three years after establishing the National Park Service to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and...leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (Rosenblum).

This breathtaking park, though very popular because of its scenic landscapes, is mainly renowned for being one of the world’s best canyoneering locations, as well as its two very iconic and strenuous hikes, the Narrows and Angels Landing (“Zion National Park”). Zion had more visitations in 2019 than the very well-known national parks, Yosemite and Yellowstone, and placed just under the Rocky Mountain, the Grand Canyon, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks (“Visitation Numbers”). The number of visitors has jumped up by 60% within the last decade (“How Did Zion National Park Become More Popular than Yosemite or Yellowstone?”). This surge of visitors has gotten to the point where it is now overwhelming the park staff and damaging the natural wildlife of the area. It might seem counterintuitive that visitors could overload the carrying capacity of an expansive and open park; however, one of the main issues comes from the park being understaffed, due to financial constraints, with not enough people to manage all the disruptions that are caused by people abusing the natural area.

The growing need for volunteers at national parks is rapidly increasing as the budget for the National Park Service and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided by the government no longer is sufficient to support the largely increased number of visitors. The parks, containing fragile ecosystems of native people, plants, and animals, need volunteers to focus on the preservation and sustainability of maintaining the natural beauty of the place, which is often destroyed when invasive or non-native species, trash, and careless people take over the area. Recently, volunteer-tourism has become a growing phenomenon, causing a great debate among researchers on the true benefits of these excursions. Many believe that voluntourism can cause more damage to the community, socially and environmentally, as it creates a level of dependency among both parties, which sometimes is not communicated properly. However, if done correctly, there are many ways that the service can be tremendously beneficial to both parties.

Volunteering at national parks can not only help conserve our natural lands, which are slowly being ruined by the lack of care by people and the decline of our Earth's atmosphere, but it can also inspire people to get more involved in environmental justice and take better care of our lands (Beatty).

The research question I explored during my Alternative Spring Break trip at Zion looked at whether visitors and volunteers are beneficial or detrimental to the preservation of national parks, and specifically Zion National Park.



## Zion - Zoe Olbrys

### Methods

During my Alternative Spring Break trip at Zion National Park, I, along with a group of nine more students, volunteered with the park ranger staff for four out of the six days that we were camping within the park. For our service, we assisted the Zion Resource Management and Research division. We helped Ranger Kathy, who works with the wildlife and vegetation, for two days and Ranger Dustin, who deals with recycling and park staff resources, for the other two



days. In addition to interviews with both of these park rangers about their field of specialization, I was also able to interview the volunteer coordinator, Ranger Eleanor, about a lot of the general questions I had about Zion. Lastly, I interviewed the members of my group at the end of the week about their experiences with volunteering at a national park and whether that affected their future environmental endeavors. The goal for all of these interviews was to gain insight on what factors affect Zion's habitats, visitor experiences, and how these relate to the growing number of volunteers and tourists at the park. Also, I asked everyone their personal opinions about whether the large influx of visitors is currently helping or damaging national parks, and if the National Park Service should allow people open and unrestricted access to these beautiful landforms.

## **Data Collection**

### Day One: Volunteer-work and Interview with Ranger Kathy

On day one, we learned about the plant seed propagation process at Zion. This is very important because Zion is known to have many wildland fires due to their climate and vegetation. Usually, lightning from thunderstorms ignites a fire, which is then fueled by catching onto Cheatgrass, an invasive species that has taken over the park ("Current Fire Information"). Cheatgrass out-competes native species as it germinates and grows earlier than the natives do. This not only decreases the biodiversity in the park, but also makes the park prone to disastrous fires. Cheatgrass dries out early on in the summer, allowing fires to spread very quickly over extensive areas. This is dangerous to visitors and it burns all the native seeds. Due to unpredictable damage that can occur to the natural plant species, the park staff collects seeds of different plants from all around the park and either saves these seeds for later, or they grow them in the greenhouse so that they can be protected and replanted when necessary.

For this day's service, we helped Ranger Kathy by moving a particular species, which they no longer needed to collect seeds from. First, we un-planted them from the protected land near the greenhouse, and then re-planted them around the park's visitor center. This was important because it cleared up that protected area so that new plants could be planted there and propagated. Additionally, planting these near the visitor center allowed for us to remove Cheatgrass from this location, where it would be especially dangerous for people if there was a massive fire. As a wildlife and vegetation specialist at Zion, Ranger Kathy's biggest worry about the large number of visitors is people increasingly trample plant habitats and do not respect the rules about leaving the animals alone. Even by just feeding birds or deer at campsites, for example, teaches these animals that they can come back to these locations for food, which ends up making that area unsafe for future visitors and the animals.



## Zion - Zoe Olbrys

### Discussion and Limitations

One of the great things about Zion is that they aim to be as sustainable as possible. This means that they sort their recyclables to ensure that the recycling station can use as much, if not all, of the items that they send over. Additionally, the rangers ride their bikes throughout the park so that they do not pollute the area. They keep an eye out for all the plants and animals that live in the park, and they make sure to maintain the integrity of the biodiversity. The Zion Canyon Visitor Center has also won many awards for their sustainability features (“Sustainable Architecture”). These are all things that I, as a volunteer, got to help out with. Though, day by day, it may have felt like my contribution was small, my duty as a volunteer was to help the park staff complete large projects that would take them a lot more time and money to complete otherwise. Ultimately, the biggest thing that I learned was that even the smallest contribution to the environment was a big one. For example, picking up one or two pieces of micro-trash can save one or two birds. Planting a few plants can promote the growth of natural wildlife and ensure that these native species do not go extinct when they are harmed. Even something like counting the number of people on trails and using the busses benefits the park because they use that information to get funding from the government and other sponsorships, which ultimately,



they do not get enough of. Even though many people make the argument against voluntourism, I definitely realized that environmental volunteering does not have the same negative impacts that human impact volunteering may have. In fact, I think the more people experience for themselves what benefits there are to taking care of the environment, the more that we can spread that knowledge. As a society, then, we can all start being more aware about issues that places like Zion face and how we can help.

On the other hand, there is the question of whether the abundance of visitors can have that same symbiotic relationship with national parks, and specifically Zion. From my interviews, it was clear that there is no one good answer. On one hand, the park rangers emphasized that issues such as social trails, micro-trash, noise pollution, and the dangers of overcrowding on risky hikes like Angels Landing can cause a lot of disruptions for staff, harm the natural ecosystem, and ruin visitor experience for others. On the other hand, places like Zion are meant to be experienced and they are so beautiful that visiting these places can teach people why they should care about the environment, which is lacking in our society currently. After hearing many opinions, I found that the biggest thing that everyone agreed on was the simple fact that many of our issues can be solved if people learn to be environmentally cautious when they visit Zion and other parks. People from all over the world should be able to see nature's formations, and having that privilege means that we should all know how to respect the land we are on. At a place like Zion, for example, visitors need to know that they should not stray off onto social trails, they should practice sustainable travel methods throughout the area, they should be aware of where they put their trash and recycling, they should respect quiet hours for other people and animals, and afterwards, they should encourage the government to increase funding for agencies that protect our planet. If all of these guidelines are followed, then there is no reason why the surge of visitors should be detrimental to a national park.

The main limitations to my data come from my small sample size. Since all of my data comes from interviewing a small group of people, I could not create an official experiment that would analyze the statistical significance of my question. My experiment would have too small of a sample size and not enough randomization to make an accurate analysis. For this reason, I had to just compile my data into summary format to compare. Along with that, I wanted to make a conclusion that could apply to all national parks; however, all my data comes exclusively from Zion National Park. This research, since it also includes information from different sources about other parks, could be suggestive of similar conclusions for other natural areas in the world, but they are not definite. One example of how my data could not necessarily be applied to all national parks is that the size of the park in question definitely affects whether the carrying capacity and amount of resources is bigger or smaller than Zion, because this would definitely change the conclusions.

# Crossing the Border through a Child's Eyes: What it Means to Enter the United States as a Child Immigrant

*Lucie Rutherford*

(Adapted from full paper)

## **Background: An Increase in Child Migration at the Southern Border**

In the 1980s, the United States saw a significant increase in the number of immigrants coming from Central American countries due to a series of civil wars occurring in mostly El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Although immigration into the U.S. has been fairly constant since the 1980s, the demographics of migrants greatly shifted in 2014. Rather than young adults, many migrants were families and unaccompanied minors escaping domestic and gang violence, natural disasters, poverty and economic crisis in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Crossing the U.S.-Mexico border presents countless dangers to immigrants, from human trafficking and robbery to death due to natural causes. In many ways, adults are more equipped than children both physically and mentally to make this journey, though children must make it nonetheless. Following apprehension, children can be separated from their parents, sent to detention centers amongst hundreds of other children, processed through the court system alone, or forced to set up camp just across the border with other immigrants awaiting asylum. The hardships, challenges, and obstacles that children face during this journey can be much different than those of an adult, as children think, act and respond differently to the many stimuli of such an intense experience. Journeying to the border, then crossing it, will many times cut childhood short, and quickly replace it with the harsh realities and responsibilities of survival and adulthood.

## **The Dangers of Crossing**

Each immigrant who crosses the southern border is threatened by a number of dangers along the way. They are faced with robbery, physical and sexual assault, abduction, sickness, and the harshness of terrain and climate. According to Amnesty International, as many as 20,000 migrants are abducted each year by gangs asking for ransom. For women and girls, the organization claims that 6 out of 10 are raped and possibly trafficked (Most Dangerous Journey). Thousands of children are amongst these numbers. In *Tell Me How it Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions*, Valeria Luiselli recounts her experiences as a translator in the immigration courts of New York City. The book was written three years after the surge of unaccompanied minors crossing the border began, so Luiselli's primary role was unveiling the whys and hows of children's experiences. In it, Luiselli writes that the children have "fled their towns and cities; they've walked and swam and hidden and run and mounted freight trains and trucks" (Luiselli 26). Despite the countless dangers, migrant children continue to cross. By turning themselves into Border Patrol, they are sometimes given a safer life than remaining in a dangerous country or continuing to face the horrors of migrating.

Aside from the dangers of extortion and abduction, Mother Nature has proven to be quite an obstacle for migrants. Under the Clinton Administration, Operation Gatekeeper was put in place to deter migrants, pushing them into dangerous crossing areas. By setting up checkpoints and filling metropolitan areas with border patrol officers, migrants were forced into more open and dangerous terrain such as mountain ranges, deserts, and irrigation canals (Operation Gatekeeper). Policies such as Operation Gatekeeper continue to contribute to the stresses of child migrants, something which can affect both their current and future health. According to Child Trends, an organization which advises policymakers and implements programs to help children of varying circumstances, the stresses involved with crossing the border can cause chronic health conditions, drug and alcohol abuse, and academic struggles later in life (Alvira). Though adults experience these same threats, children are at a vulnerable stage in which their thoughts, mentalities and outlooks on life are still developing. Interruption and bad influence are all too easy at such a young age, though these effects are many times placed at the back burner in the face of survival.



## San Juan – Lauren Blanchetti

### What Happens Following Apprehension?

After a child is apprehended at the border, many different paths lie ahead, depending on a child's situation. By law, an "unaccompanied alien child" is defined as a child who "(A) has no lawful immigration status in the United States; (B) has not attained 18 years of age; and (C) with respect to whom—(i) there is no parent or legal guardian in the United States; or (ii) no parent or



legal guardian in the United States is available to provide care and physical custody” (Flynn). If these children are not identified as unable to make their own decisions, nor are they victim to trafficking or persecution in their native country, they can be deported back to said country. If a child is not deported, they can then be transferred to a place of long-term shelter. This can include group homes, independent shelters, or foster care centers throughout the United States (Cheatham). For Mexican child immigrants specifically, rules are a bit different. According to the United States Immigration Profile, published by the Global Detention Project, “DHS had applied a presumption that [Mexican] children were not in need of international protection” (Flynn). The profile includes that 95.5% of unaccompanied children from Mexico are immediately deported without getting the chance to speak with an immigration judge. Children who arrive accompanied by an adult can still be identified as unaccompanied if the adult is deemed unrelated, dangerous, or criminally prosecutable (Cheatham). Both accompanied and unaccompanied children can be transferred to a detention facility, or can be forced to wait in Mexico while awaiting their asylum hearing. In the end, a child has three possible scenarios: losing their asylum case which leads to deportation, becoming a legal adult who is either released or detained in adult facilities, or win their asylum case and legally remain in the U.S.

Mary Mcarthy is a Texas resident working with Team Brownsville, an organization which helps immigrants seeking asylum. According to Mcarthy, sometimes children as young as five years old must represent themselves in court. Though there are pro bono lawyer groups who represent the underrepresented, those lawyers are extremely overworked, with each lawyer taking on some thousands of cases. “There are situations where the kids just go,” McCarthy said. “It was absurd for asylum cases; they don’t know what’s going on.”

### **Detention Center Realities**

Detention centers can be filled with both children who arrive unaccompanied, or by children who have been separated from their parent/guardian while the adult awaits their criminal hearing. According to the Global Detention Project, the U.S. has around 200 detention facilities throughout the nation. These facilities come in different forms, from privately operated detention facilities to “family residential centers” that are specifically-designed to detain families (Flynn).

A few years back, Mcarthy and other volunteers were able to visit Texas detention centers, though that has since been banned. “What we know is that the conditions there for the kids have gotten worse,” McCarthy said. “We really don’t have a real good idea about what’s going on there.” According to McCarthy, the main issue she noticed was the lack of nurturing that the children receive due to the extremely uneven child to adult ratio. “They are just mainly being warehoused and contained,” McCarthy said. “When you have that situation, that’s trauma producing in itself.” Various studies have shown how touch and affection assist children facing traumatic situations, from feeling calmer to increased production of the natural antidepressant, serotonin (Fetters).

Other than the lack of touch, detention facilities provide a threat of unsanitary conditions as well. A 2019 article published by Jonathan Todres and Daniela Villamizar Frank titled *The Trauma of Trump's Family Separation and Child Detention Actions: A Children's Rights Perspective* details the conditions which migrant children face. The article was published on the blog *ImmigrationProf*, a network of legal blogs edited by 100s of lawyers, deans, and law professors. According to the article, children slept on the cold, concrete floors and were denied basic sanitary necessities such as soap and toothbrushes. It was also reported that at least three of six reported migrant children deaths were caused by the influenza virus, further supporting the claim that these conditions were unfit for young children. In *Tell Me How it Ends*, Luiselli refers to detention centers as an "enormous refrigerator for people" and that "children are treated more like carriers of diseases than children" (Luiselli 22).

Another issue that has arisen with detention centers is the prolonged detainment of children, a situation that has laws in place which should be avoiding the issue. According to a *Washington Post* article which refers to detention facility conditions, "some children had been detained for as many as three weeks... although by law, child migrants are supposed to be transferred to the custody of Health and Human Services within three days" (Flynn). Prolonged exposure to these kinds of conditions most likely lead to further detrimental effects on migrant children.

### **What is Being Done to Help Child Migrants?**

Since the rise of child migration in 2014, many organizations have reached out to help minimize the inevitable hardships they face. One such organization is **World Central Kitchen**, a non-profit which serves hot meals to asylum seeking families waiting across the border in Matamoros, Mexico. These families are forced to set up camps as they wait for their asylum hearing, as a result of Trump's **Remain in Mexico** policy which bans families from awaiting asylum in the U.S. The goal behind **World Central Kitchen** is to not simply provide nutrients, but to provide hot meals which families can eat with dignity. Though **World Central Kitchen** feeds hot meals to everyone, the effect of having a sit-down meal as a family brings a sense of hope back to asylum seekers. According to McCarthy, who helps bring nightly meals across the border via **Team Brownsville**, the comfort which comes with eating a hot meal trickles down from



parent to child, easing the stress of their reality. In addition to bringing meals across the border, Team Brownsville has also assisted the camp in implementing a school for the children. “Having the camp organized to the level it is... the children are doing much better,” Mcarthy said. “It’s clear that they have friends and there’s more sense of community... All of that helps give the children a sense of security.” Humans can tackle many physical hardships, though the emotional hardships can sometimes be forgotten. To restore dignity in a family can lead to stronger family ties and improved mental health of both parents and children.

In the same general area of Brownsville, Texas, the non-profit Proyecto Azteca in San Juan, Texas also provides a service with effects that trickle down from parent to child. Proyecto Azteca provides housing assistance to low-income families on the Texas-Mexico border. Whether the families which they serve are immigrant families or not, giving a home plays a huge role in the lives of children. Having a place to sleep is the foundation of success for an adolescent mind, as they are then able to focus on important matters such as education and personal ambitions and relationships.

## Conclusion

With the rise of child migration came a rise of newfound rights violations and challenges for immigrants. The wave brought the opportunity for new deterrent tactics by the United States, and it brought on a new fear for the many parents and guardians responsible for young children. The children who cross the southern border do so to avoid a number of different dangers, and must grow up faster than most people could understand. Whether accompanied or unaccompanied, there is no policy in place which can truly protect these children, though groups and organizations such as Team Brownsville, World Central Kitchen, and Proyecto Azteca are able to bring some comfort back into the lives of child migrants.



**Funniest Photo – Joshua Tree – Ashlyn Ferguson**



# Saving the Sea Turtles: Investigating the Conservation of a Keystone Species

*Justin Ngo*

(Adapted from full paper)

## Introduction

On our trip to the Everglades and Biscayne National Park in Florida, we conducted trail maintenance and restoration tasks assigned by park rangers. In Biscayne, we worked at Elliott Key on marine debris pickup. We went out in boats and picked up trash along the beaches where turtles nest; clearing paths for baby turtles to make it to sea. In my investigation, I explore why saving the sea turtles is important to humans, what is being done and can be done to protect the sea turtles, and whether the issue is more serious than the occasional joke about turtles and plastic straws.

Biscayne National Park was established in 1980. 95% of the park is underwater. The park contains four main ecosystems: a fringe of mangrove forest along the mainland shoreline, the southern expanse of Biscayne Bay, the northernmost Florida Keys, and a portion of the third largest coral reef in the world. Pelicans, manatees, sea turtles, and more than 500 native fish species call the park home. (National Geographic, 2018)

Healthy oceans need sea turtles because sea turtles are a keystone species. A keystone species is one that is an important part of their environment and influences other species around them. (“Why Are Sea Turtles Important”) If a keystone species is removed from a habitat, the natural order can be disrupted, and wildlife and fauna can be critically impacted. (Eckert, 2005) Sea turtles have become endangered as a result of the adverse consequences of human activities. (Tisdell, 2002) The green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) which can be found along coasts such as Biscayne, Florida is indirectly being hurt by human pollution. In addition, high percentages of studied sea turtles along the Florida coastline consumed marine debris at a high frequency, most commonly found to be plastics. The consumed plastics disrupt the digestive tract of sea turtles, causing health problems and even death in developing turtles. (Bjorndal, 1994)

The United States government currently protects the six species of sea turtles under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) The act itself does not enforce a significant amount but it recognizes and acknowledges the United States effort to protect endangered and threatened species. In addition, the act has brought about research and conservation efforts to protect sea turtles. The United States government has recently passed legislation and policy with the intent of protecting endangered species but receives criticism for not providing sufficient funding for conservation efforts.

The conservation of a species, or more widely of biodiversity, has been linked to the possibility of achieving sustainable development. A healthy population of sea turtles can be beneficial in the future from an economic perspective. Sea turtles can provide or contribute to new products and medicines. (Tisdell, 2002) These applications can be extended to the other

marine life that interact with sea turtles as a result of their keystone role in maintaining ecosystems of economic significance.



**Best Landscape Photo – Moab – Cailan Kelly**

### **Ecological Impact**

The impact of sea turtle extinction is understood to have two major ecological effects. The first effect is that there will be a significant decline in sea grass (*Sargassum*) population, and consequently, a decline in the population of many of the other valuable marine species which humans rely on for food and medicine. Sea turtles, especially the green sea turtles native to Florida, are one of the very few animals to eat sea grass beds. (“Why Are Sea Turtles Important”) Sea grass needs to be constantly grazed on and kept short in order to be healthy and grow across the sea floor. In many marine ecosystems, such as those in Biscayne, the sea grass beds that provide habitat to the thousands of species are in poor condition. Sea turtles are one of the few species in the ecosystem that graze on the grass, helping maintain the health of the sea grass beds. Furthermore, sea grass beds are important because they provide breeding and developmental grounds for many species of fish, shellfish, and crustaceans. Over the past decades, a decline in sea grass beds has already been observed. The decline in seagrass beds are strongly linked to the few and decreasing number of sea turtles grazing on them. Thus, without sea grass habitats, many of the other valuable marine species that humans rely on for food and medicine would be lost. (Sea Turtle Conservancy)

The second major ecological effect of sea turtle extinction is that beaches and dunes will

face increased coastal erosion, reducing habitat for wildlife. A decline in sea turtle population causes the beaches and dune systems to be unable to retain nutrients necessary for vegetation to grow. (“Why Are Sea Turtles Important”) Sea turtles use beaches and lower dunes to nest and lay their eggs. Sea turtles deposit an average of about 100 eggs in each nest and lay between 3 and 7 nests during the nesting season. Along a 20-mile stretch of beach on the east coast of Florida, sea turtles lay over 150,000 lbs. of eggs in the sand. Although not all of the nests and eggs will hatch, and not all of the hatchlings in a nest will make it out to the sea, the remains that are left behind provide an important source of nutrients for the dune vegetation. In addition, the left-over eggshells from hatched eggs provide a major source of nutrients. (Sea Turtle Conservancy) As a result of sea turtle nesting, dune vegetation is able to grow and become stronger with the presence of nutrients from turtle eggs. As the dune vegetation grows stronger and healthier, the health of the entire coastal ecosystem improves. Stronger vegetation and root systems helps hold the sand in the dunes and protect the beach from erosion. Sea turtle extinction is understood to contribute to the loss of a major source of nutrients for dune vegetation and destabilization of the entire ecosystem. The result would be increased coastal erosion and reduced habitat for all wildlife. (Sea Turtle Conservancy)

The declining population of sea turtles impacts the local ecosystem significantly. Sea turtles are part of two ecosystems, the coastal system and the marine system. If the population of sea turtles continues to decline, both the marine and coastal ecosystems would be negatively impacted. Humans utilize the marine ecosystem for natural resources of food and medicine. In addition, humans use the coastal ecosystem for a variety of activities such as tourism and leisure. Therefore, the negative effects felt by these ecosystems would negatively impacts on humans. (Sea Turtle Conservancy)

### **Political Action**

The United States government currently protects the six species of sea turtles under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. The purpose of the ESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems which they depend upon. The act is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commerce Department’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Service has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms, while the responsibilities of NMFS are mainly marine. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) The act itself does not enforce a significant amount of its goals, but it recognizes and acknowledges the United States effort to protect endangered species.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administer the Endangered Species Act with respect to marine turtles. NOAA Fisheries leads the conservation and recovery efforts of sea turtles when they are at sea, while the USFWS lead on nesting beaches. To reduce harm to sea turtles, NOAA restricts and enforces commercial fishers from using certain kinds of fishing gear (gill nets, long-lines, pound nets, and trawls) that are known to catch large numbers of sea turtles as bycatch. (NOAA, 2019)



Throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s, the United States worked to implement several actions to improve the international conservation of sea turtles. The United States government implemented shrimp-turtle legislation to ensure turtle excluder devices are used in shrimp fishing practices. (Sec 609, PL 101.162) The United States government was involved in negotiating and ratifying the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Negotiating and ratifying the Indian Ocean Southeast Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding. (“Sea Turtles”, 2019) In addition, the United States government was involved in negotiating and developing the FAO “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations”. Adopted in 2004, these guidelines are the global standard for avoiding interactions between sea turtles and fishing operations in international waters and providing for the safe release of sea turtles accidentally caught in fishing gear. Now, the government is funding research on fishing gear modifications to reduce sea turtle interactions and mortality. Based on this research, NOAA Fisheries developed collaborative projects with countries around the world to test turtle excluder devices, modified gillnets, circle hooks in longlines and buoy gear covered in the international provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act. (“Sea Turtles”, 2019) In addition to working bilaterally with other countries, NOAA Fisheries Service has worked through Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to adopt sea turtle resolutions that require implementation of the FAO guidelines, increased observer coverage, increased data reporting, and changes in fishing gear and practices. (“Sea Turtles”, 2019) The United States government has passed legislation and policy with the intent of protecting endangered species but is criticized for not sufficiently funding the protection of the species. National parks and administrations argue that low funding does not equip the organizations with sufficient resources in order to effectively protect sea turtles.



**Best Overall Photo - Death Valley - Adela Novak**

## **Economics and Ecotourism**

The conservation of species, or more widely of biodiversity, has been linked to the possibility of achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, a healthy population of sea turtles can be beneficial from an economic perspective. Wild turtles in the future could provide or contribute to new products as yet uncertain or unknown, such as future medicines. (Tisdell, 2002) The uncertainty-option element can provide an additional reason for conserving turtles or at least a safe minimum populations of sea turtles. These applications can be extended to the other marine life that interact with sea turtles as a result of their keystone role in maintaining ecosystems of economic significance. The immediate economic impact of a declining sea turtle population can be easily seen in modern coastal communities.

Sea turtles play an important role in coastal economies and communities. Many beach communities around the world rely on turtle observation for jobs such as canoeing, boating, snorkeling near turtle habitats and nesting sites. (National Geographic, 2018) A decreasing population of sea turtles can be observed to account for less jobs and activities in these areas, damaging the local economies. Although there are many conservation efforts that can be taken to further protect the sea turtles, the remainder of this section investigates and focuses on improving ecotourism as a sea turtle conservation effort. Ecotourism is used as an example to demonstrate an economically beneficial and sustainable effort in promoting sea turtle conservation for both the government and the public.

Ecotourism is a form of tourism that is usually wildlife based and careful of the environment. The experience of ecotourism generates revenue for the park service running the operation and is intended to leave tourists with a positive attitude towards the conservation of nature. (Wight, 1993) Mon Repos Conservation Park in Queensland, Australia practices ecotourism involving the park's population of sea turtles. In a survey conducted at Mon Repos in 2000, it was found that respondents obtained a high degree of consumers' surplus on average after turtle-watching. (Tisdell, 2002) From the responses of the survey, it can be inferred that on average the consumer's surplus of individuals was more than double their entry fee. This surplus indicates a high degree of economic satisfaction with the turtle-watching and is likely to add to political support for not only ecotourism programs but also government conservation efforts. In addition, 98 percent of respondents intended to share their experiences at Mon Repos with friends and relatives that would provide an additional avenue of support for the conservation of sea turtles. (Tisdell, 2002)

The study of the turtle watching experience at Mon Repos demonstrates that investing in simple, combined conservation efforts such as ecotourism can provide an economic return on investment for the government and parks. Investment in conservation efforts such as ecotourism can provide major and sustainable support, social and economic, for the conservation of marine turtles. Although implementing such improved conservation efforts would be mutually beneficial in protecting the sea turtles and providing funding for the parks, it alone is not enough to protect the entire species. Protection of sea turtles benefits from improved conservation efforts taken by the public and government in other avenues as well, such as addressing the use of plastics.

# Alternative Spring Break: Volunteer Motivations

*Carley Calfee*

(Adapted from full paper)

Voluntourism has been associated with “a neglect of locals’ desires, a hindering of, work progress and completion of unsatisfactory work, a disruption of local economies, a reinforcement of conceptualisations of the ‘other’ and rationalisations of poverty, and an instigation of cultural changes” (Guttentag, 537). Critics of ASB and other potential forms of voluntourism characterize these programs as “paternalistic, neocolonial or culturally imperialistic” (Lough 1341) or at worst unsustainable charity work that disproportionately benefits volunteers over local communities. As a person who at first did not understand the implications that ASB could have on the sustainability of local communities, I wanted to learn if ASB volunteers working with me in San Juan, TX were volunteering for truly altruistic reasons. The purpose of this paper is to present survey findings to determine what motivates students to volunteer in San Juan, whether these reasons are truly altruistic, and whether these reasons differ from all of UVA’s ASB site leaders’ expectations of what motivates students to volunteer. Overall, I believe that perceptions of the level of altruism that motivates students to volunteer in San Juan will be lower than the actual level of altruism.

First and foremost, I structured this survey into two separate groups: one survey given to students and the other survey given to ASB site leaders. For the ASB students’ survey, I wrote six statements asking students to gauge their motivation to volunteer in San Juan. For example, students had to respond to statements such as “I am motivated to come to San Juan for personal growth,” “I am motivated to come to San Juan to apply my academic background to a real world setting,” “I am motivated to come to San Juan for career-related reasons,” “I am motivated to come to San Juan to practice language acquisition,” “I am motivated to come to San Juan for the experience,” and “I am motivated to come to San Juan to help others.” For each of these statements, the student had to select one response, with answers ranging from “Strongly disagree,” “Disagree,” “Neutral,” “Agree,” “Strongly Agree,” or “Undecided.” After answering to which degree each statement personally resonates with them, students had to rank from most important to least important as to which reason most incentivized them to come to San Juan. The purpose of the student response survey is to see how highly students rank the altruistic reason for coming to San Juan, which is “to help others” compared to the less altruistic categories.

The second survey, which was distributed to ASB site leaders, was structured to gauge outsider expectations in regards to the motivations of ASB volunteers. I selected ASB site leaders as the comparison model because they have prior knowledge of the ASB program, and might have a more holistic perspective of what motivates volunteers as a group from spending so much time observing them. For the ASB site leader survey, I wrote six statements asking them to gauge their perception of what motivates students to volunteer in San Juan. For example, site leaders had to respond to statements such as “I believe ASB volunteers are motivated to come to San Juan for personal growth,” “I believe ASB volunteers are motivated to come to San Juan to apply their



academic background to a real world setting,” “I believe ASB volunteers are motivated to come to San Juan for career-related reasons,” “I believe ASB volunteers are motivated to come to San Juan to practice language acquisition,” “I believe ASB volunteers are motivated to come to San Juan for the experience,” and “I believe ASB volunteers are motivated to come to San Juan to help others.” For each of these statements, the site leader had to select one response, with answers ranging from “Strongly disagree,” “Disagree,” “Neutral,” “Agree,” “Strongly Agree,” or “Undecided.” After answering to which degree each statement personally resonates with them, site leaders had to rank from most important to least important as to which reason they believed most incentivized volunteers to come to San Juan. The purpose of the site leaders’ responses was to provide a group from which to compare student volunteers’ motivations to outsiders’ perceptions of student volunteers’ motivations. The reason why I include this metric in the survey is to determine whether the perception of altruism as a primary motivation for students to volunteer in San Juan is higher than the actual rate of altruism among students.

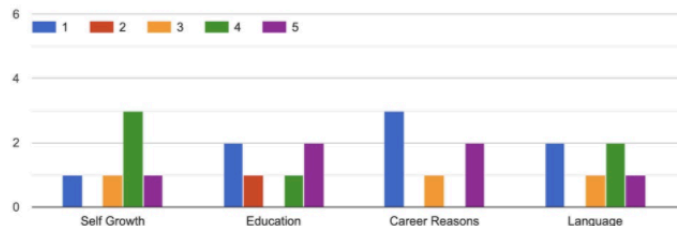


**Congaree – Maria Pittella**

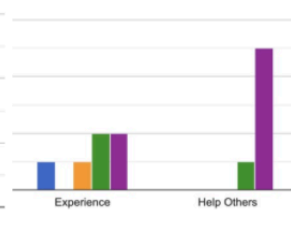
Before discussing the responses, it is important to disclose the forms of bias that exist within the survey. Firstly, because this was a voluntary response survey that was sent out over email to each of the populations, I was not able to receive the responses of every individual in the population, thus resulting in response bias. Secondly, because there were only eight participants in San Juan's ASB program, which only six people responded to, the sample size was too small to render the results applicable on a large scale. Because of this limited range or relevance, this survey can only apply its results to the UVA San Juan trip, rather than to a much larger group of all ASB trips. Thirdly, because many respondents answered the survey after ASB was completed, hindsight bias may have affected their responses. Some of the San Juan group discussions touched on the negative impacts that voluntourism could have on local communities if handled in an unsustainable, exploitative manner, and these discussions could have possibly impacted their ideas as to why they chose to come. Finally, the wording of some of the questions could have been classified as subjective, such as the phrasing of the statement "I believe ASB volunteers are motivated to come to San Juan for the experience." The word "experience" could bring a great deal of different connotations to the different survey respondents, and in hindsight, should have been standardized through more specific language.

According to the results of the survey, when measuring in terms of the quantity of people who selected "5" for the final graph, "helping others" was the most important reason for students to volunteer in San Juan. This starkly contrasts from what ASB site leaders perceived would be the greatest motivator for participation, which was "the experience." For student volunteers, the second

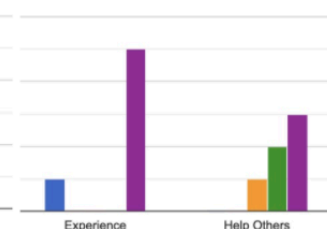
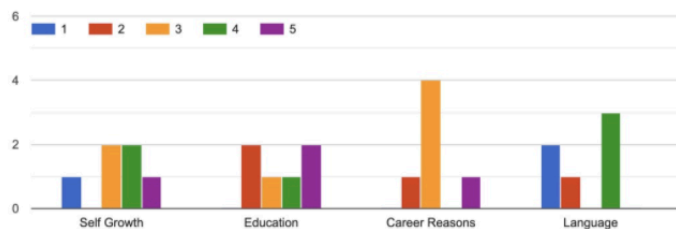
Rank the following categories, with 5 being most important and 1 being least important, in terms of what most incentivizes you to come to San Juan. The following rows reference your previously answered questions.



the following rows reference your



Rank the following categories, with 5 being most important and 1 being least important, in terms of what you believe most incentivizes ASB volunteers to come to San Juan. The following rows reference your previously answered questions.



most important reason for volunteering was tied between education, career reasons, and the experience, while the last reason was tied between language and self-growth. As for the responses of site leaders,



“helping others” was the second largest motivator, followed by education, then self-growth and career reasons, and finally language acquisition.

## **Conclusion**

Essentially, the data does not support my hypothesis that perceptions of the level of altruism that motivates students to volunteer in San Juan will be lower than the actual level of altruism. In fact, for the opposite was true; it appears that altruism in the form of “helping others” was a much greater motivator for participation than was expected by outside participants.

While many scholars criticize voluntourism programs for its unsustainable models, claiming that “volunteers focused primarily on personal benefit may have less to offer host organizations and communities,” (Sheridan, 399) the motivations of these students are in fact pure, and they have no intention to actively harm the communities that they serve



**Anza Borrego – Caroline Doyle**



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# Creative Projects

## San Juan, TX: Day-by-Day Poems

*Dayton Petrus*

(Adapted from full project)

### Introduction

I decided to write free-verse poems for my Creative Grant Project because I've always had a passion for writing. Some things you really can't explain unless you write them down. The poems serve as a daily recall for each day's service-work and how the things we learned are incredibly tangible. (I did not include either travel day but I do think a poem about a popped tire at three in the morning could be hysterical.) Below is a brief overview of the projects focused on in the poems:

Day 1: volunteering with World Central Kitchen in making food to be sent and served across the border by other volunteers

Day 2: border tour with Proyecto Azteca

Day 3: sitting-in on immigration court hearing

Day 4: sorting and packing donated clothing for a respite center

Day 5: serving prepared food at a soup kitchen (and dancing with some of the other local volunteers ☺)

Day 6: preparing and hosting a neighborhood party for children in one of the Colonias

While reading these poems, you'll notice three common things among each.

The first is that each one starts with "good luck". Luck, though it is merely a human construct, I find to be very similar to nationality. Where you are born/from and how lucky you are; these are things we cannot control. I found that luck was something I struggled with during this trip. It felt unjust to be the lucky one, but it also helped me to realize that my blessings are as numerous as the songs our group jammed to during car-rides.

The second is that there is a "I think of \_\_\_\_ statement" in each poem. I wanted these poems to really focus on the connections we make with one another. Though our group always get to see how our service impacted these people, a connection was linked and a ripple was made.

Lastly, each poem ends with a quote by Cesar Chavez. Chavez was a civil rights activist, passionate about representing those of the farming work-force. Proyecto Azteca was founded in the spirit of Chavez to respond to the need for housing in Hidalgo County. Much like Chavez's influence, Proyecto Azteca has grown, and now builds about 50 houses a year for families.

I hope you enjoy reading these as much as I did in writing them!

"Grant me the courage to serve others; For in service there is true life."-Cesar Chavez

**Day 1:**

Good luck is making a home-cooked meal  
No longer just about taste.  
A kitchen is filled with laughter and music,  
To make something with hands that better the whole body,  
And share it through a common blessing.

I think of a mother and son  
Sitting down at a plastic table set-up by  
Strangers they do not know.  
Their neighbors form lines moving towards  
The savory smell of cooked vegetables and rice  
Prepared by different hands, different minds.  
The boy jumps up to eat  
But she stays waiting.  
Wondering whether it's okay to ask  
For a second plate for her daughter.

She remembers walking towards a wooden kitchen table  
Placing down a tray to the smiles of her family.  
Husband, mother, daughter, and son.  
A dish that has persevered generations

No longer just about taste  
But the careful hands that passed it down.  
She prays the same love for those who serve  
And hopes it will be her once again.

*"If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him... the people who  
give you their food give you their heart."*



## Death Valley – Allison Eisner

Day 2:

Good luck is living limitless  
Like feet crashing into the pavement,  
As you run with the rising sun.  
Knowing that the road before you



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Goes miles longer than you ever could.

But I see beyond rusted poles  
To the other side, a world we've deemed foreign.  
What we've unjustly deemed unworthy  
Has made our land untouchable.  
Though the grass on the other side  
Is just as green.

I think of a woman who believes her freedom  
Can be no better found in  
The Land of the Free.  
She makes sacrifices  
Friends, family, a home she's known for 23-years  
And must run before the sun rises  
Missing how the river shines with light  
Like golden shards of glass  
She now tramples over.

She prays that once she's over

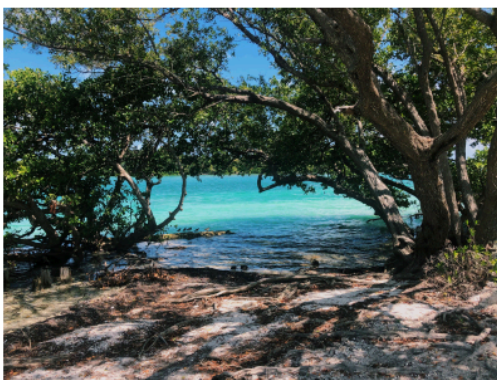
She'll continue until she reaches a new beginning.

How does she not know  
That the wind that blows between these rusted poles  
And rushes into her ears as she moves ahead  
Is truly the whisper that the road ends.

*"Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their  
sakes and for our own."*

# BISCAYNE, FL CONTRASTING PHOTO SERIES

By Justin Ngo, University of Virginia Class of 2023





# Joshua Tree, CA: Photo Essay

*Ashlyn Ferguson*

(Adapted from full project)















# Creative Project Video Bank

*(Click a project to view the video, or paste link into browser)*

[Nashville, TN: Friends of Warner Parks- \*Kelsey Lipscomb\*](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ApDOwtpPjPTpUazZAxyjs7ja7n920tKg/view?usp=sharing>

[San Juan, TX: Video Reflection - \*Lucie Rutherford\*](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17vp3flfz902csIFZ0d8rfYgiGl9NVxOl/view?usp=sharing>

[Nashville, TN: Video Reflection - \*Ciara Barrogo\*](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r5HSo3Shr2QbVg8vwCP6qCspuPJJnP5L/view?usp=sharing>

## Virtual Service Learning Banquet

Unfortunately, with the ongoing implementation of precautions to halt the spread of COVID-19, we were unable to host the annual Service Learning Banquet. Thankfully, though, Baireuther Grant Recipients were willing to film a brief overview of their projects and highlight some of their key takeaways. Please click on any of the projects below to view their presentations!

[Two Sides to Every Story: The Rebuilding of New Orleans and the Lower Ninth Ward - \*Katherine Zain\*](#)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O0H3OPoMHLz52q0W\\_9UDJOT99s1Wtnce/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O0H3OPoMHLz52q0W_9UDJOT99s1Wtnce/view?usp=sharing)

[Exploring the Costs and Benefits of the Surge of Visitors and Volunteers at National Parks in the United States - \*Briti Nandi\*](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/184wHv90EtZT9fNacGNR-1k8B1Xg81zKg/view?usp=sharing>

[Crossing the Border through a Child's Eyes: What it Means to Enter the United States as a Child Immigrant - \*Lucie Rutherford\*](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11G-FCfnloM4lVvARyRIbw4vLgCWOefK/view?usp=sharing>

[Saving the Sea Turtles: Investigating the Conservation of a Keystone Species - \*Justin Ngo\*](#)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GGpOSAEo909O0Qe7hCT6Tic1zb9WkQUL/view?usp=sharing>



## 2019-2020 Site Leaders & Trips

Sophie Mariam  
Calvin Tilson  
Katie Swenson  
Emma Clark  
Kelly Rohrer  
Alex Moss  
Anthony Murphy-  
Neilson  
Saqib Rizvi  
Natalie Schiavone  
Lyle Prockop  
Kristen Caramanica  
Abby Wood  
Maria Samaritano  
Claire Meyer  
Ned Flanagan  
Kyle Riopelle  
Julia Siegel  
Paige O'Brien  
Carson Reeves  
Leticia Freitas

Paigle Kobza  
Grace Sailer  
Maggie Weaver  
Kelly Moore  
Judy Nguyen  
Zoe Komodromos  
Caroline Caruso

Sarah Innis  
Ryan Deane  
Jack Neary  
Mikayla Mason  
Thomas Anderson  
Brynna Gaffney  
Cady Rombach  
Martha Gallagher  
Jack Smith T  
Adela Novak  
Kate Price  
Celia Gieser  
Zoe Olbrys

*Austin, TX*  
*Biscayne, FL*  
*Anza-Borrego*  
*Congaree, SC*  
*Grand Canyon, AZ*  
*Moab, UT*  
*Hilton Head, SC*

*John's Island, SC*  
*Savannah, GA*  
*Joshua Tree, CA*  
*New Orleans -YRNO*  
*New Orleans - HFH*  
*Portland, OR \**  
*Nashville, TN*  
*San Juan, TX*  
*Sequoia & Kings Canyon, CA*  
*Death Valley, CA*  
*Seattle, WA \**  
*Wilmington, NC*  
*Zion, UT*

*\*Cancelled due to COVID-19*



Best Group Photo – Hanna, NOLA



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## 2019-2020 Executive Board

President	Nathan Abraham
Vice President	Griffin Perry
Placement Co-Chairs	Jack Neary & Mackenzie Fuller
Site Leader Co-Chairs	Taylor Harvey & Abby Reeves
Outreach Co-Chairs	Mackenzie Dorsey & Shelby Davis
Community Outreach Chair	Katherine Zain
Service Learning Chair	Ned Flanagan
Development Chair	Celia Gieser
Financial Aid Chair	Claire Stemann
Treasurer	Samara Hamou
Secretary	Riley Okeson
Webmaster	Sarah Snow

## 2019-2020 Fellows

Justin Ngo  
Tyler Jones  
Jei-Ming Ang

## 2019-2020 Fourth Years

Ashby Poindexter  
Caitlin Catterton  
Sabrina Peng  
Jill DeWoody  
Fiona Teevan-Kamhawi  
Kelly Rohrer  
Judy Nguyen  
Celia Gieser  
Julia Seigel  
Katie Swenson  
Maggie Weaver  
Abby Wood  
Lyle Prockop

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## 2020 Hannah Graham Grant Reflection

*Caroline Caruso*

I first volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in 2019 on an ASB trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina. My trip's service work was unique because Habitat had just begun to break ground on a new neighborhood and there wasn't much for us to do — the houses-to-be didn't even have foundations yet. Instead, we built sheds that would hold construction tools during the build and ultimately be used by residents themselves. Despite these unique circumstances, Habitat was able to make my entire ASB trip feel that our service was meaningful. I was inspired by the dedication of the volunteers we worked alongside and the stories of the homes' eventual residents — so much so that I chose to lead the same Hilton Head trip this year. It was incredibly exciting to come back and see the progress of the new neighborhood. This year, my trip constructed and raised the walls of a house over the course of our spring break. Even though I've barely spent two weeks on Hilton Head, the island holds a special place in my heart. Over the course of both ASB trips, Habitat for Humanity has helped me to appreciate the importance of community investment in addressing inequality.

These experiences have also shaped my involvements outside of ASB. Over summer 2019, I volunteered for the Habitat ReStore in my hometown of Chicago. My 2020 trip's pre-service activity participated in a Habitat build in Charlottesville — and, if not for COVID-19, our post-trip activity would have been the same. Habitat for Humanity and ASB have both been foundational to my understanding of the wealth disparity in each of these cities. I believe organizations like Habitat for Humanity are doubly effective — they serve underprivileged residents and fuel a larger sense of community. Hannah Graham's passion for Habitat and commitment to helping others lives on in her scholarship. I am beyond grateful to the Graham family and her trip's site leaders for giving me the opportunity to learn and make positive — if small — impact.



THANK  
YOU!

