

Pathways



Alternative Spring Break
Service Learning Literary Magazine 2021
Volume X

Welcome

Welcome to Alternative Spring Break's literary magazine, Pathways. This year marks the 29th 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 meaningful service trips all over the world. This journal has been dedicated to ASB's mission 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. This year came with additional challenges as we dealt with the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and a canceled spring break. I would like to thank our executive board, 26 site leaders, spring Fellows, community partners, University administrators, site contacts, fellow CIOs on grounds, and the participants who chose to spend their wellness days and weekends exploring service learning.*

Additionally, I'd like to thank Ms. Kathleen Baireuther, UVA Alumni Association, and 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 so many people involved in the process. 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 with you this year's Pathways!

ASBest,

Natalie Schiavone

ASB Service Learning Chair 2020-2021

*All ASB events and participants followed state and University COVID-19 guidelines.

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Fall Saturday Service Series (SSS)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to lead a SSS trip to one of our community partners in Charlottesville.

Below is a list of some of the organizations we worked with on various Saturdays in the Fall of 2020:

Camp Holiday Trails- Sept. 26, 2020

Habitat Build- Oct. 3, 2020

Salvation Army- Oct. 3, 2020

PACEM- Oct. 10, 2020

Rivanna Trails Foundation- Oct. 10, 2020



Photo Credit: Jei-Ming Ang

Spring Speaker Series

Youth Rebuilding New Orleans (YRNO)

YRNO is a New Orleans non-profit created by youth for youth, in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. YRNO purchases blighted homes, employs opportunity youth to supervise youth in the homes' renovation, and sells the constructed homes to teachers at a significant discount in exchange for their continued service to the educational system. Youth outcomes include high quality job training, career readiness, and economic self sufficiency. Prince Holmes, Executive Director of YRNO explains how YRNO integrates social justice, financial literacy and job readiness, along with mental health awareness, into its programs, rebuilding projects and daily operations.

March 18th, 2021



Prince Holmes- prince@yrno.com

Climate Collaborative

With less than ten years to meet our climate goals, swift action is needed — on the individual and collective level. Susan Kruse, Executive Director of the Community Climate Collaborative, talks about how we envision reaching these goals and provides local examples of success. The Community Climate Collaborative was founded in 2017 to bring communities together to lead on climate. C3 works with residents, businesses, and local governments to develop climate action plans and equitable policies which accelerate action.



Susan Kruse- susan@theclimatecollaborative.org

ASB and One for the World at UVA co-host Samantha Carter, who speaks about effective altruism. She is currently the Global Research and Operations Manager at Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD), a GiveWell Standout Charity. Sam's career has focused on the intersection of rigorous research with context-specific needs and constraints, including roles at MIT's Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and the World Bank's Development Research Group. At this event, she explores the link between one's intention to do good in the world and actually having an effective impact - both on a global and local scale.



Sam Carter



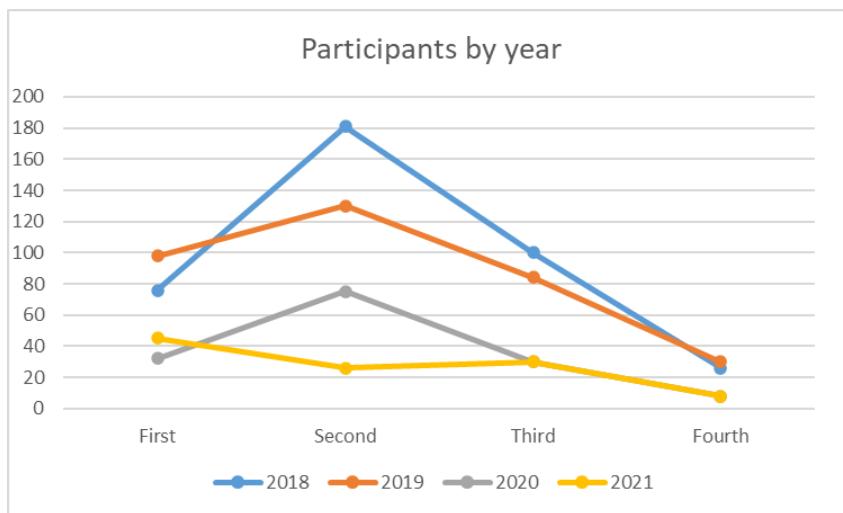
Photo Credit: Molly Gonnene

Spring Fellows

Wade Gallagher

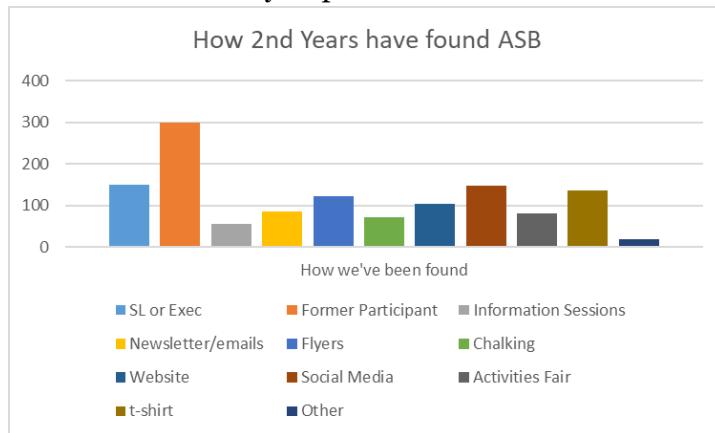
COVID-19, Participation in ASB, and How to Move Forward

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected a lot on Grounds this past year, and our organization is definitely one of those things that has been affected. Not only did the pandemic make us change our plans in the face of a canceled spring break, but it also led to changes in participation in our trips and likely in extracurriculars in general across Grounds. These changes pose both an opportunity and a risk for ASB in the coming years. On one hand, both first and second years will likely be starting their first (somewhat) normal year of college next year and may be looking for new opportunities to get involved on Grounds and make new connections. On the other hand, COVID may have disrupted our traditional ways of keeping participation up: according to a data sample I worked with, 61% of applicants in the last four years listed former participants as a way they learned about ASB. In order to keep interest in ASB and



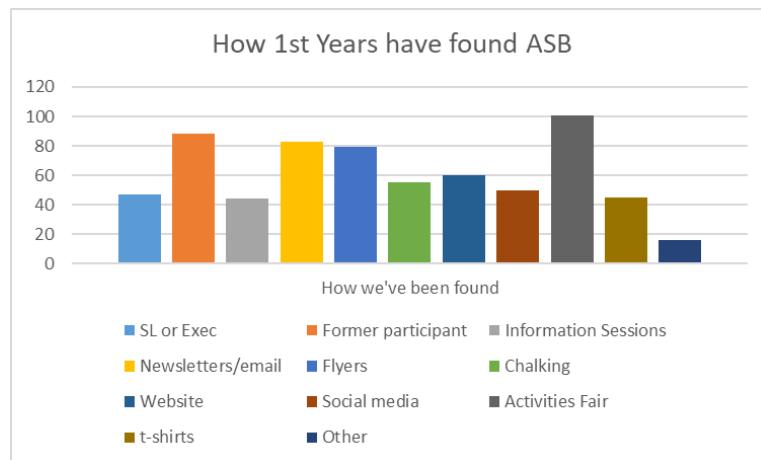
service-learning strong in the coming years, we should keep this in mind.

In past years, second years have been the biggest group in applicants, followed by first and third years. These second years, as seen in the following charts, list former participants as the most common way they have learned about Alternative Spring Break, most of whom are likely their peers here at the University. A potential issue with that for the 2022 year is that



many of the individuals I have been able to speak to reported struggling to make connections this year in online classes. This lack of connections could be one of the biggest factors in a potential drop in applicants for 2022.

A notable observation in this data is that, after learning about Alternative Spring Break through a former participant, second years listed social media, seeing ASB t-shirts, flyers, and our website as the most common ways they found us. This suggests that simply being visible on grounds may lead potential applicants to eventually be interested in learning more. For the 2022 year, one strategy to follow could be making sure we are visible enough on grounds for people to just know about us and eventually choose to learn more.



Another consideration to take into account is that many second years next year may be in a situation that is more typical for a first year. In the conversations I have been able to have with first years, many mention that, while some of them have been able to get involved in extracurriculars, many others have not, and it can be hard to make friends outside their dorm. Therefore, focusing on methods to bring in first years may also help bring in second years.

For first years over the past four years, 40% have listed that they learned about Alternative Spring Break at the activities fair, and the second highest way they listed other than former participants was through newsletters or emails. This coming year, it may be beneficial to have an increased focus on getting new participants at the activities fair and then keeping in touch with them until it is time to apply. These new participants may be looking for community, and it may make sense to have new social events or an organization wide GroupMe.

Finally, to potentially make up for the potential decrease in learning about ASB and service learning from peers, it may make sense to run something similar to the Saturday Service Series from this past fall. By doing so, potential participants for the spring will be able to get a taste for service-learning, and new site leaders who might not be as familiar with it will have the chance to gain experience before leading a week-long trip in the spring.

ALTERNATIVE spring break

A volunteering experience focused on service learning and reflection

"ASB is such a great balance between service learning and social aspects... I've never come across another opportunity to travel, meet new people, have fun, and engage in meaningful service all in one week."

- Caroline Caruso



"I absolutely love how ASB is able to combine fun trips with genuine service learning."

- Anonymous



"ASB has exposed me to so many issues I had not engaged with before and inspired me to critically look at how we can move forward to pursue a more equitable future."

- Anonymous



"... it is not just about us serving the communities we are visiting, but also about how they can serve us and open our eyes to issues outside our UVA bubble."

- Natalie Schiavone

Jackie Canning

Building an ASB Community

Initial Goals

- Create more unity and interaction between members of ASB
- Run either a volunteer day or field day open to all of ASB for people

Challenges

- Many volunteer organizations around Charlottesville require training and a long term commitment to work with them
- Slow/no responses from organizations that I reached out to
- Low interest from participants of the organization

What I Learned

- There's a lot of opportunities in the surrounding Charlottesville area to volunteer
- Hard to get people to participate in volunteer activities especially during COVID-19
- Awkward to attempt to plan something when the date and the number of people is unknown

Final Result

- List of good volunteer organizations in Charlottesville
- Contact information for the organizations



Photo Contest Winner: Julia Moschella



Service Learning Grants

Liv Vernon

10th & Page, Charlottesville, Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia, is home to 47,266 residents, the University of Virginia, and encompasses 10.26 sq miles. Within the city limits is an array of distinct neighborhoods, the one this paper focuses is the 10th & Page neighborhood. Roughly encompassing 90 acres, the 10th & Page district represents a historically working-class neighborhood that has a long history of being largely African American. The 10th and Page intersection is about a half-mile west of UVA. As UVA grew after its opening in 1819, faculty housing was constructed along Wertland Street, which runs at the top of the hill and perpendicular to 10th Street. Pre-emancipation, some of these professor households relied on enslaved labor. The 10th and Page Street neighborhood became the residence of enslaved individuals who worked for these professors, as well as other enslaved and free African Americans, for the location was in an undesirable real estate area due to flooding concerns.

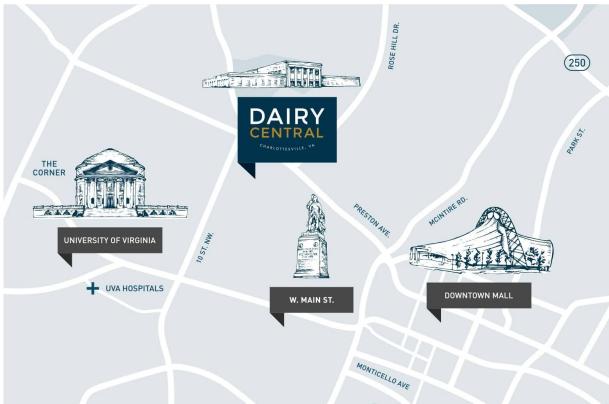
After emancipation, many African Americans remained working in these professor's homes as household servants and remained living in the 10th and Page neighborhood, partly due to limited job and real estate opportunities. The residents, with their new freedom, were able to assert their agency and foster black community growth. For example, John West, who was formerly enslaved, was trained as a barber and after emancipation began purchasing real estate in Charlottesville, concentrated around Grady Avenue. He died in 1927, after subdividing and selling lots to numerous

African American families. On 10th Street, there is an empty lot with a plaque marking his success and commitment to the neighborhood. The contentious housing development, Westhaven, was also named in honor of him. Other notable landowners were William Jeffires, B.E. Jeffires, L.W Cox, A.D. Cox, R.L. Anderson, and Mrs. Turner. By 1950, the neighborhood had practically fully developed with only a few remaining vacant lots, and a thriving industrial/commercial development along Preston Ave and the block of 10th St NW north of West Main Street. As one of the only areas in the city where white people did not use racial ordinances, neighborhood covenants, and zoning laws to prevent African Americans from living there, 10th and Page became home to black families whose homes were destroyed through urban renewal in different parts of Charlottesville. However, it eventually suffered from the same type of disinvestment and displacement seen in other redlined areas, particularly as subsequent urban renewal programs disrupted the socio-spatial fabric. According to Mapping Inequality, “As homeownership was arguably the most significant means of intergenerational wealth building in the United States in the twentieth century, these redlining practices from eight decades ago had long-term effects in creating wealth inequalities that we still see today.”². By 2000, decades of disinvestment had left the area with a series of challenges. In the 1980’s and 1990s the city’s crime spiked, as did the disproportionate incarceration of African-Americans. The 10th and Page neighborhood was labeled a Stay Out of Drug Area. Residents such as Sharon Jones, who now serves on the Community Development Grant task force, led efforts to make the neighborhood safer such as marchers through the streets in protest of the drug dealers in the area.

Now, as Charlottesville faces a city-wide housing crisis, 10th and Page is reckoning with a massive tide of gentrification. In social activist Zyahna Bryant's video series "Welcome to the Neighborhood! BHM Edition" she speaks with the 10th and Page Neighborhood Association President, Vizena Howard. Howard states, "10th and Page is really a growing area, it's getting more productive as time goes by. It's not what it used to be but it's growing. We used to have everybody know each other, it was like you could leave your doors unlocked at one time. But not now, but everyone, we know you, and could correct your kids, no problem." In recent years, the development of mainly multi-family, large-scale, luxury residences with commercial business beneath, along the northern and southern boundaries of the neighborhood has closed in the community. Along West Main Street the neighborhood's south side, two giant student housing structures have been built. These towers loom over 10th & Page and add 900 units to the city's housing market, but instead of making any of these apartments affordable for families making less than \$50,000 a year, the developers opted to instead pay into that city's affordable housing fund.

Currently in construction is a new 226,000-square-foot mid-rise office and luxury apartment development, behind the newly reworked Dairy Market food hall, located on the corner of 10th and Preston Ave. The Dairy Market is a previously identified Historical building, but would not be a part of the proposed 10th and Page Historic District. Of the 250 new multi-family units, some of which will be made affordable, however, there is concern about how the added housing will tilt the housing market as well as increase traffic through the neighborhood. On the Dairy Market

website is a map displaying the Dairy Market's historical relationship with the area. The map features the Downtown Mall, a consumer-oriented landscape, the University of Virginia, and to signify W. Main St with the controversial Lewis and Clark statue that the City Council is seeking proposals to remove from W. Main Street because of its



colonizing attitudes. Literally erased from the map are the buildings that make up the 10th and Page neighborhood, reflecting the development's lack of consideration for its neighbors. In Charlottesville, the 2011-2015 median household income was \$56,755, for African American families it was \$32,816. Charlottesville was ranked in a recent study by Stanford economist Raj Chetty and Harvard economist Nathaniel Hendren as one of the worst jurisdictions for income mobility, 2,700 out of 2,885. If property taxes continue to rise in the 10th and Page neighborhood because of these new developments, as they are projected to, its lower-income residents are going to continuously struggle to keep their homes. The city offers tax relief for the permanently disabled and those over the age of 65, but only if they earn less than \$50,000 a year and have a net worth below \$125,000.

The residents of 10th and Page are not passive in these gentrification systems. When Brant asked Howard, “what does being black mean to you” Howard responded, “being black to me is just growing up in a neighborhood, living in a home my grandfather and grandmother passed on. Sitting on the porch eating, enjoying the summer, having iced tea, and neighbors talking back and forth to each other”. There are these themes of legacy, community, family in her statement that she through her position as President of the 10th and Page Neighborhood Association is trying to maintain and grow. Jeremy Claplin, a white man, has for the last 30 years, quietly bought nearly 70 houses in 10th and Page, renting them out at deeply affordable rates to extremely low-income residents. His lowest rent is \$200 a month, and his highest is \$990 a month for a five-bedroom house. He estimates the majority of his renters are African-American. “I try to preserve what’s left of the black culture in this neighborhood and to preserve these houses,” says Caplin. “This crowd never got any respect or any financial breaks or any help. I’ve had a lot of breaks, a lot of help. I see how the world works, and it’s just unfair. The deck was stacked. You get a deal of cards in life, and many people in this neighborhood have no high cards.” From 1960 through 1980, Eugene Williams, a civil rights activist and former president of the local NAACP chapter, amassed more than 60 properties that became Dogwood Housing. Though not exclusively within 10th and Page, some of the houses were in the neighborhood, and have long given residents affordable rents, along with any needed financial literacy and workforce training to help ensure income mobility. Wallace Dowell has preserved six affordable housing units, directly across the street from the 10th Street B&B, which he

runs with his wife, Antoinette. There is also the Community Development Block Grant task force, which funnels small pools of federal money into neighborhood infrastructure.

In 2019, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources provided funding for a reconnaissance architectural history survey of the 10th and Page neighborhood by 106Group in order to “provide needed documentation of resources, enabling the City

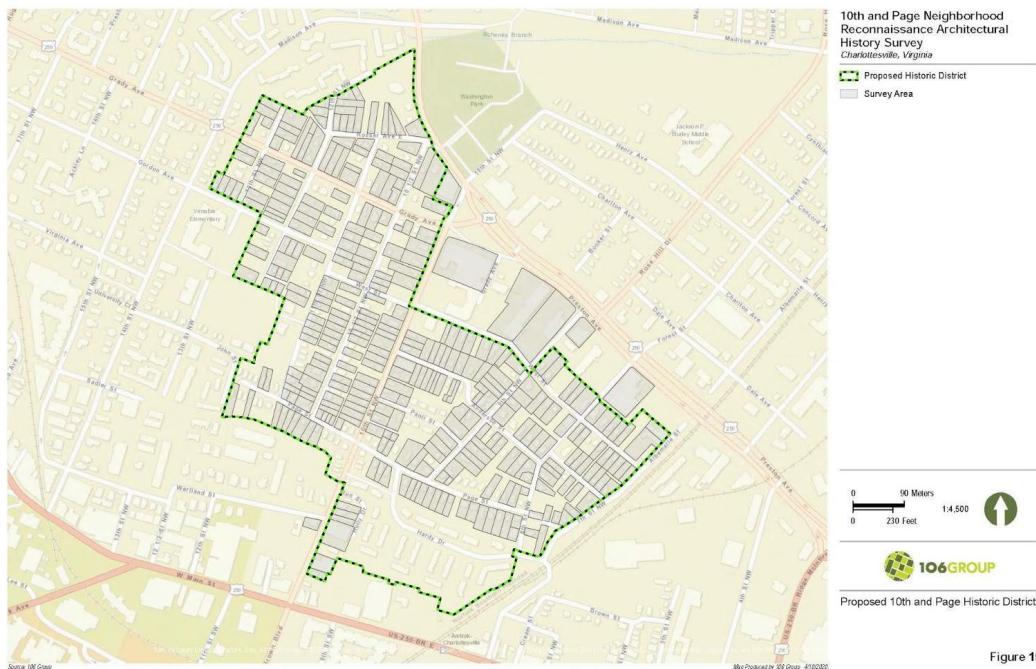


Figure 15

and its residents to better understand the architectural and historic significance of the neighborhood and assist the City and community in future planning”(iii). The outcome of the survey reports that the neighborhood qualifies as a Historic District under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage (African American), Community Planning and Development, and Social History, and under NRHP Criterion C in the area of Architecture. This designation would help preserve the character of the area by protecting individual structures and groups of properties.

The University of Virginia has also launched several programs to address and remedy its part in the housing crisis. As an institution that had previously bought up black-owned homes to raze them and build their own infrastructure, the University has some community repair to do. The University's Affordable Housing work, which includes the goal to support the development of 1,000 - 1,500 affordable housing units in Charlottesville and Albemarle County over the next decade using land owned by UVA and/or the UVA Foundation. The new working groups comprise community members and UVA officials who work on the front lines in these areas as well as people who are directly affected by these issues. The initiative is still in the beginning phases, with location and resident eligibility yet to be decided. Hopefully, through the combined efforts of residents, property owners, the City of Charlottesville, and UVA the 10th and Page neighborhood can remain a welcoming, inclusive, affordable community.



Photo Credit: Katherine Zain

Louis Diment

Life After Habitat Builds

2020-2021 Trips, Executive Board, Fourth Years

Site Leaders & Trips

Aarti Sakuja and Jillian Hughes- Austin, TX

Aidan Reed and Lillian Way- Clearwater, Fl

Emily Porter and Molly Gonnene- Grand Canyon, AZ

Ella Thomas and Morgan Butler- Moab, UT

Alison Carbaugh and Sarah Whiteside- Hilton Head, SC

Keerthi Medicherla and Logan Cunningham- New Orleans, LA (HFH)

Carly Thurman and Kelsey Lipscomb- Portland, OR

Aidan Doud and Julia Paraiso- San Juan, TX

Julia Moschella and Julia Landis- Savannah, GA

Jei-Ming Ang and Wade Gallagher- Zion, UT

Alex Hanna and Emma Ellsworth- Joshua Tree, CA

Meredith Christian and Isaac Peabody- Sequoia and Kings Canyon, CA

Katherine Zain and Lauren Blanchetti- New Orleans- YRNO

**Photo Contest Winner:
Keerthi Medicherla**



**Thank you to our community partners with whom we
were able to work with this spring in place of our
previously planned trips:**

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
PACEM
The Haven
Salvation Army
Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards
Azalea Park
Camp Holiday Trails
Rivanna Trails Foundation
Habitat Build
Habitat Store

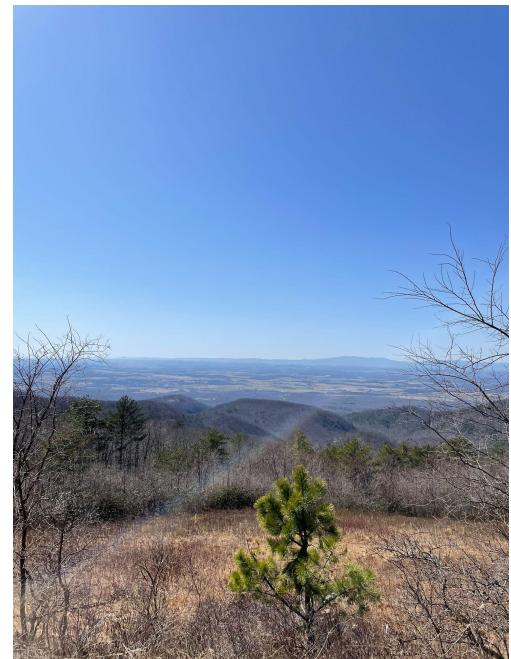


Photo Credit: Jei-Ming Ang

ASB 2020-2021 Executive Board

Ned Flanagan	President
Grace Sailer	Vice President
Jei-Ming Ang	Treasurer
Mikayla Mason	Secretary
Caroline Caruso	Financial Aid Chair
Cailan Kelly	Development Chair
Natalie Schiavone	Service Learning Chair
Emma Ellsworth	Community Outreach Chair
Justin Ngo	Webmaster
Katherine Zain	Student Advisor
Shelby Davis and Mackenzie Dorsey	Outreach Co-Chairs
Jack Neary and Mackenzie Fuller	Placement Co-Chairs
Martha Gallagher and Zoe Komodromos	Site Leader Co-Chairs

ASB 2020-2021 Fourth Years

Grace Sailer	Jei-Ming Ang
Mikayla Mason	Natalie Schiavone
Shelby Davis	Mackenzie Dorsey
Jack Neary	Mackenzie Fuller
Martha Gallagher	Kirstena Lilley
Heather Poyner	Julia Hunter
Sa Faraz	Aisha Naseem
Sahar Mohammadi	Skyler Nuelle
Neemah Koroma	Eli Benn



THANK YOU!!!

