

Alumni News

Jessica M. Barron (MA-2010) received the Association for the Sociology of Religion's 2017 Distinguished Article Award for her article, "Managed Diversity: Race, Place, and an Urban Church" (*Sociology of Religion* 77:18-36).

This article was based on a project that started as Jessica's MA thesis in our department.

Phillip Stevenson (2011) has a new position as Domestic Security and Immigration Section Research Manager, Domestic Social Policy Division, Congressional Research Service. Phillip has been in Washington DC since February 2015 when he took a job with Pew Charitable Trusts.

Nathan Bruemmer (2013) just started in the Urban Planning Program at UIC.

Todd Fuist (PhD-2013) is an Assistant Professor at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.

Gwendolyn Purifoye (PhD-2014) is an Assistant Professor at North Park University in Chicago.

Kasey Henricks (PhD-2016) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Courtney Irby (PhD-2016) is an Assistant Professor at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.

Laura Hillebrand (2017) is doing a

year of service with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) Northwest. See Laura (second from left in the photo below).

Alumni Outreach

**Send all news to:
Stephanie DeCaluwe at
Sociology@luc.edu**

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Cook County's Social Worker for the Dead

Helping the Unclaimed Find Final Resting Places



Rebeca Perrone (2009) works as Cook County's Indigent Coordinator. Hired in 2015, she is the first person to hold this position, which was created after a scandal in the morgue was exposed.

Rebeca's job is to identify unclaimed bodies of people who pass away in Cook County, including children and babies. She provides for a dignified burial for these individuals and investigates whether there are family or friends to whom the remains should be given.

[Read](#) the Chicago Tribune article profiling Rebeca.

Milton Doyle Drafted by the Brooklyn Nets

Milton Doyle (2017) signed a contract with the Brooklyn Nets in August playing for the team at the NBA Summer League. Milton is one of the most decorated Loyola basketball players ever.



Alumni News

Conversations in Black & White

By Carolyn D Dallas, BA 1975

Irvin L Dallas BBA, 1975

Carolyn Dallas graduated from Loyola in 1973, with a BA degree, in Sociology. Her husband graduated in 1973 with a degree in Business. They lived in Boston, D.C. and recently moved to Richmond VA. They are leaders in their local community and church that involves working towards racial harmony and reconciliation, which the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia has asked churches to focus on. Below is an article about their work. Carolyn stated that "over the years I have discovered that my education at Loyola had a profound affect upon me especially regarding social justice and what God has called us to do in life, I have devoted close to thirty years of working with low income neighborhoods as an Executive Director providing all types of services to families and children, I consider myself a strong advocate for children and families."



Conversations in Black and White began in the summer of 2015 at St John's Episcopal Church in Richmond Virginia. It grew out of a conversation between myself (Carolyn) and a white parishioner about a racial incident in South Carolina at our weekly prayer group. I was lamenting to her about "if only we could begin a conversation about these difficult issues that we could understand each other's perspective much better". From that conversation, a meeting with the Rector and a planning committee that included Irvin was formed. The goal was to have monthly pot luck suppers with a discussion around a theme, which could be an article

from the newspaper, a particular book, or articles from authors in the field discussing a particular subject as it relates to race. From each presentation, questions are developed and each person gets to share their thoughts. It is an opportunity for everyone especially blacks and whites, to have meaningful conversations about difficult subject matters regarding race, to express feelings, and to gain a better understanding and perspective by listening to different experiences. It is trying to learn who we are, as it relates to race, how we operate and why we operate as we do. It is learning how to live in harmony with each other and respectful of each other's life and experiences. It is the seeing God in a person of another race, understanding who they are, how they have come to exist and how they operate within God's community. The program provides a safe environment and a safe space to talk. It encourages participants to live in harmony with each other and to be respectful of each other's life and experiences. Our baptismal vows form the backbone of Conversations in Black & White. During Baptism, we pledge to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being as well as loving others as God loved us. All of this we pledge to do with God's help. It is whites looking at blacks and forever wondering if blacks were afforded those same privileges such as access to the GI Bill as whites were afforded, how would that have benefitted black lives and economic status in the community and in the world today. It is whites understanding why blacks always insist upon a receipt when purchasing items in a store, or blacks being followed in a store and what this does to our sense of self-worth. It is the need for blacks to continue to share our stories no matter how painful or embarrassing as it helps us become stronger. It is blacks learning that whites are capable of understanding our story and experiences, can understand our anger and frustration and can acknowledge that these real experiences have affected our lives sometimes in a negative manner. It is when both races can share these experiences and know that they will forever be changed as to how they see each other and the world. Sometimes it is very difficult to step outside the box and put ourselves in someone else's shoes. Once understood and accepted, the challenge is what can I do as a person of faith to understand, promote change and make an impact!