Greetings!

Many thanks to our community partners for providing Vassar students with opportunities to deepen classroom learning, gain experience and become engaged citizens. Here’s a snapshot of some of the work Vassar students have done this semester. Warm wishes for a joyous festive season and 2018.

Poughkeepsie Youth Theatre

Drama enthusiasts Marc Milone ’20 and Rahul Makwana ’20 worked with City of Poughkeepsie High School students and Ms. Fischer at the PYT to create a devised theatre production around issues of immigration, substance abuse and violence.

Aequora

Aequora is a national program run by the Paideia Institute for Humanistic Study that teaches Latin to elementary and middle school students in after-school programs. It began in 2013 with a collaboration between the Paideia Institute and Still Waters in a Storm, a one-room school house in Bushwick, Brooklyn run by Stephen Haff. There are currently 25 Aequora programs running in 12 states. This fall, the Greek and Roman Studies department at Vassar teamed up with Vassar After School Tutoring (VAST) to start Aequora at Poughkeepsie Middle School. Since September, Latin students from Vassar have been going to Poughkeepsie Middle School on Monday and Wednesday afternoons to teach Latin to the students enrolled in VAST. The Aequora curriculum emphasizes literacy development and includes many interactive learning elements.

-Tara Mulder, Visiting Assistant Professor of Greek and Roman Studies
**Mental Health America of Dutchess County**

Three Vassar students, Rachel Jones ’18 Chase Morgan-Floyd ’18, and Rachel Fisher ’19 spent the semester with the Vet2Vet program led by Andrew Dye and Adam Roche. The Vet2Vet program provides peer counseling and free programming for veterans within Dutchess County. Additionally, the program connects veterans with the VA Hospital, temporary housing, and resources for substance abuse and chronic diseases. The students learned how these mental health and social services are offered to veterans through MHA. The students attended a walk for suicide awareness, planned a Veteran’s Day Turkey Shoot Out, planned their own health workshop including nutritional advice and mental health tips. In addition to event planning, the interns spent time assisting with personal appointments for the veterans.

- Rachel Jones ’18

**Rural and Migrant Ministry**

Lizzet Magdaleno ’19 and Nicole González ’19 worked to organize the Rural Women’s Assembly - a conference that brings together female farmworkers in New York state to share stories and build skills. They are pictured here at a fundraiser they organized.

**Collaborative work at One Nature LLC**

Elise Chessman ’18 and Anna Beeman ’18 have been working with Bryan Quinn at One Nature, LLC. Anna helped assess the impact of One Nature’s project, Safe Harbors Green (constructed in 2016) by quantitatively and qualitatively assessing different environmental, economic, and social co-benefits of the park. Elise explored how mapping can be used to value ecosystem services at Safe Harbors Green in Newburgh. She has created three final maps of the site’s hydrology, habitat, and carbon sequestration based on metrics from Anna Beeman’s qualitative and quantitative assessments. This mapping style can hopefully be used in similar projects by One Nature in the future to communicate the importance of potential projects and as a point of comparison.

- Elise Chessman ’18 and Anna Beeman ’18

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Dec. 13, 2017: Final reports due to faculty sponsors

Jan. 24, 2018: Second semester classes begin

Jan. 24 - Feb. 6, 2018: Add period for placements in the Spring