Graduate profile - Patty Mockler

Patty Mockler is a graduate of King’s who completed an honors double major in Social Justice & Peace Studies combined with Political Science. The graduate of Catholic Central High School, London came to King’s in her second year of post-secondary education, after taking one year at the University of Guelph.

“I am very interested in the study of human struggles for justice so the Social Justice & Peace Studies program at King’s was a perfect fit for that,” says Patty.

She successfully combined her two areas of study at King’s through community involvement opportunities and experiential learning courses. Former London Mayor, Joni Beachler, became Patty’s mentor through an independent study course, helping Patty learn more about “the ins and outs of municipal politics.” Through that involvement, Patty helped work on the Head Start London committee, which examines the barriers for women becoming involved in politics as elected representatives. Patty experienced media relations and was interviewed on CBC Radio, Ontario Morning, as part of her involvement after bringing Head Start London to King’s.

She was an active member of the King’s Debating Society, and Patty traveled to Montreal for the McGill Model UN. She also helped organize debating events at King’s including a Model UN for local secondary school students. As well, Patty was the Social Justice & Peace Studies faculty representative on the King’s Students’ Council. She also sat on the departmental development committee, giving students a voice in the future of the program. In her extra time, Patty worked at The Write Place, helping other students with their essays and writing assignments.

For more information

Department of Interdisciplinary Programs
Social Justice and Peace Studies
King’s University College
at Western University Canada
519-433-3491
1-800-265-4406
sandy.swartz@kings.uwo.ca
www.kings.uwo.ca/sjps/

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Social Justice & Peace Studies

Social Justice and Peace Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program committed to experiential education and inspired by the Catholic Social Teaching tradition. It encourages critical reflection on oppression and injustice, locally and globally, and it examines theoretical and practical approaches to justice and peace. It calls students to social action that transforms the world in the interests of human dignity, equality, sustainability, and peace.

The Program

This innovative cross-disciplinary program offers a series of core courses over four years in social justice and peace. In the first year students are introduced to the major social justice and peace issues, debates, and theories. The second-year is built around placement with a community-based organization. Anytime after the first year, many SJP students engage in international experiential learning, and throughout the program students combine advanced topical courses in SJP with courses drawn from a variety of disciplines: including history, politics, social work, sociology, religious studies, and many others.

Although the program reflects King’s mission as a Catholic College, the program addresses students of all religious and political persuasions in a spirit of open and free dialogue.

While this degree can be pursued independently, students are strongly encouraged to combine their degree in Social Justice and Peace with a Major or Minor in social science, arts, or science. The program is designed to make it easy to do this.

Career options

SJPS will be attractive to students who:

- Want to develop critical and analytical skills necessary to seek advanced degrees in the social sciences and the humanities. Many graduates establish careers in the law, social work, education, or medical fields.
- Seek to become engaged with non-profit organizations to improve the lives of people in Ontario and abroad. Students regularly participate in volunteer experiences and become part of King’s Centre for Social Concern.
- Are interested in expanding their awareness of social justice issues and their understanding of the interlocking nature of poverty, violence, racism, sexism, colonization, disability, religious persecution, environmental degradation and other forms of oppression.

What Alumni Say:

“The SJPS program facilitates interdisciplinary learning through both classroom engagement and field research locally and internationally. The mentorship I received provided me with the foundations for a research career focused on issues of social and health inequity.”

Dr. Daniel Grace, Research Fellow, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
SJPS Alumni, 2006

“The SJPS Program is the best of its kind in Canada, and I recommend it to any student who is interested in combining theory with practice in order to act as a progressive agent for social transformation. It inspired me academically to continue my education and contribution to the field of social justice. I subsequently worked in negotiations between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Philippines, and with the United Nations at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.”

Ms. Alicia K. Kuin, MA, Mediators Beyond Border’s International
SJPS Alumni, 2009

Our Faculty

Full-Time Faculty
Dr. Allyson Larkin
Dr. Megan Shore
Dr. Tom Malleson

Part-Time Faculty
Prof. Norm Pizzale
Prof. Karen Ross