

Interns in Action

Training thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions...

Impact Report

JUSTICE FOR ALL

Sept. 2018

It excites me to share with you this Impact Report about a recent JFA intern, Susanna Buckley. Susanna encapsulates the heart of Justice For All - in every conversation she has, she gracefully balances sharing the truth about abortion and the dignity of every human person with sharing the message of the great love Jesus Christ has for each of His unique children. Each person who has spoken to Susanna has received a great gift, because Susanna not only has a brilliant and educated mind, but a heart full of love for her Savior and all whom He loves. She strikes the balance between love and logic, and I'm proud to have worked alongside her and to call her one of my dearest friends. Thank you for supporting my work with Justice For All, so that I may continue to invest in interns like Susanna and aid them in becoming the best pro-life advocates they can be.

 - Grace Fontenot

...one person at a time

Having driven from Virginia to Kansas to begin a JFA internship on September 1, 2017, Susanna found herself four days later in Indiana at Purdue University creating conversations. Sensing that conversation was a passion of the JFA team, she jumped in with both feet. By the time her internship ended in June 2018, she had logged over **100 conversations** with students on college campuses. In one of those conversations, she talked with “Rachel” (pictured, right) at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and shared the story in her reflection, “Of Men and of Angels” (reverse).

These conversations didn't happen by chance. JFA's training team (supported by hundreds of monthly and annual supporters) worked hard to arrange all of the logistical details so that these events could take place.

Throughout her internship, Susanna also jumped with both feet into another JFA passion: training advocates. She learned to deliver the speaking for whole sections of JFA's workshops and seminars. And she did it like a pro.

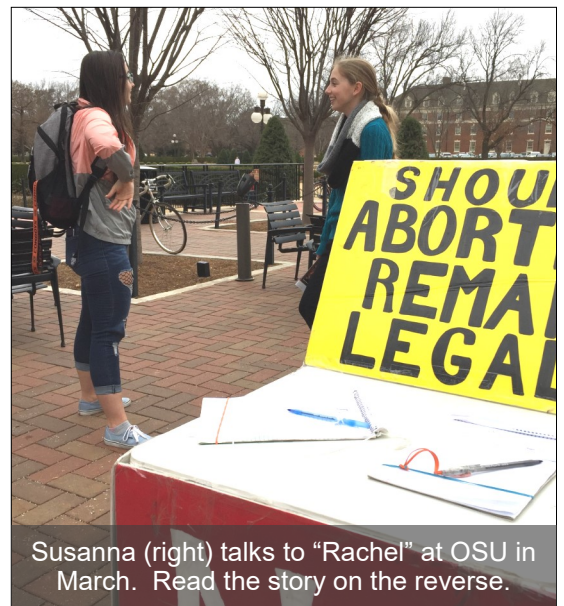
Susanna didn't stop there. She went on to teach JFA material to 30 members of an outreach-oriented mission team at Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, New Jersey in July 2018 during three workshops she organized **by herself**. She's now a student at George Mason University and one of the inaugural class of fellows in the new JFA Fellowship program. She's working to partner with JFA as she creates outreach events on her campus.

More conversations. More advocates. Two passions. Susanna explored and exemplified both. That's also our aim for Kaitlyn, the intern we just welcomed to Wichita a few weeks ago. In fact, during the first two days of her internship, Kaitlyn was with the JFA team on the Wichita State University (WSU) campus creating conversations with students. Now she's preparing to teach sections of a JFA workshop on October 7 in Minnesota. Like Susanna, Kaitlyn has jumped with both feet into both of JFA's passions!

Please pray with us for both Susanna and Kaitlyn. We thank God for their dedication to the JFA Internship program, to creating conversations, and to training advocates on into the future. We also thank God for your partnership that makes it possible for our interns to learn to change hearts and minds for a lifetime.

- Steve Wagner, for the JFA Team

Note: Go to the web version of this report, www.jfaweb.org/interns-in-action, to hear an audio clip of Susanna telling stories from her internship and to read other reflections she wrote about her conversations.



Susanna (right) talks to “Rachel” at OSU in March. Read the story on the reverse.



Kaitlyn (pink shirt) interacts with students at WSU in August.

Of Men and of Angels

Out of the corner of my eye by Oklahoma State University's Chi-O Clock, I recognized her. Just moments before, she had walked past me. I had smiled and she had smiled back, but then she kept walking. Now, she was returning in my direction, slowly. I turned and smiled again, "Would you like to sign our poll table?" As if noticing it for the first time, "Rachel" agreed. (See a picture of this conversation on the reverse.) After she finished writing on the "Yes" side of the "Should Abortion Remain Legal?" poll, she waited around to talk to me about her view.

We introduced ourselves, and she said abortion should be legal because of the many difficulties that people discover along the way in pregnancy. I agreed that there are many possible complications and difficulties involved in pregnancy. Rachel then cautiously voiced her belief that the unborn isn't human. She asked me what I thought about abortion.

Gently, I said, "Before I tell you what I think, can I ask you more questions?" She happily agreed.

"You said you don't think the unborn is human. Do you mean that in a biological sense or a philosophical sense [i.e. that the unborn doesn't share our intrinsic value or basic right to life]?"

She grinned. "I just came from a human development class, and I failed philosophy; so let's talk about biology!"

Carefully and respectfully, she and I went back and forth for a few minutes while I clarified the specifics of her position. Through the answers to five questions, I discovered that she believes the unborn is just a mass of cells in the first two weeks of pregnancy. According to her professor, "You can technically get in there and find human DNA, but it's not a human yet."* We discussed this and ended up agreeing that the unborn is biologically human from conception. It was her understanding, however, that the unborn was not significant in value until the third week of development when the new heart and brain are in communication, and he or she starts to look more human in appearance.

I felt that we were getting into the territory of philosophy, so I transitioned us. "Rachel, you asked me what I think about abortion. I think we should value human life in all stages of development, even those humans in life stages to which I am not personally attracted. I cannot relate much to the unborn from conception to three weeks of age, but it is still important to treat it like the human that it is and respect life all the way through development, even to old age. That includes the two-week embryo, all these students around us, and you."

She paused and stared at me for a moment. When she spoke, she said, "Let me just say, that is the most sensible pro-life view I've ever heard. Every other time I've had this conversation, the pro-life person just screamed expletives at me and derided me for being a 'liberal.'"

I expressed sadness at the way she had been treated in the past, and I thanked her for sharing her experience. She went on to say how nice it was to disagree in a free way with me. She had grown up in a liberal environment, I had a conservative upbringing, and we were looking for truth together.

Thinking back on this exchange, I Corinthians 13 has new context for me. Even if I could speak with the tongues of men and of angels, having the most knowledge and scientific facts at my disposal, but I do not love the person I'm talking to, it's more than worthless – it is that obnoxious sound that hurts, and you wish would just stop. For Rachel, I was the first person with whom she disagreed who had allowed her to express her opinion without attacking her. I hope I'm not the last.

Thank you so much for your support which enables me to create a different kind of conversation about abortion with students like Rachel on college campuses all around the United States.

- Susanna Buckley (March 2018)

* Explore biological evidence for the humanity of the unborn at www.jfaweb.org/what-is-the-unborn, and learn why this professor's statement was problematic on two counts. (Biologically, it's false. Also, "human" is ambiguous.)

Learn More about Applying for a JFA Internship or Helping to Fund One:
www.jfaweb.org/internships

