

GUMMERE FELLOWS



LAKE FOREST
COLLEGE

Annual Report, 2020-21

In 2020, three new students were selected for the Gummere Fellows Program: Yesenia Uribe '21, Gabriel Anzeze '23 and Jamari Tansmore '22. Joining them to make up the 2020-21 class were incumbents Carlson Ayanlaja '22, Clara Biolo Thompson '22, Margaret Blackstone '22, Mark Bogley '22, Hannah Gurholt '21, Fallon Longfield '21 and Aaron O'Neill '21. All were involved and positive contributors to the campus community and share the same enthusiasm and pride for the College that Spike does. In addition to contributing to the College's enrollment success, Gummere Fellows were responsible for assisting with alumni engagement efforts.



Due to the pandemic, the entire student body studied remotely during the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year and about two-thirds were back on campus for the spring semester. While challenging, the Gummere Fellows remained committed to the Program and continued assisting in Development & Alumni Relations initiatives, interfacing with key alumni, and fostering alumni engagement. Such activities included:

- **Forester Day 2021**

An annual day of giving back and celebrating being a Forester, this year's event was completely virtual and attended by a record number of alumni, parents, and friends. The Gummere Fellows helped make the day a success by joining alumni break-out rooms and starring in videos run throughout the day highlighting their student experiences and role as Gummere Fellows. As usual, the Fellows were well received.

- **Professional Development**

A unique aspect of the Gummere Fellows Program is the opportunity for Fellows to interact with accomplished alumni during regularly scheduled professional development sessions. During the year alumni Devin DeStefano '94, Donell Harmon-Parker '99, David Ellison '83 and Alison Reuter '94 met with the Fellows to share their wisdom and guidance on topics such as budgeting and money management, mental health during the pandemic, and hiring and interviewing skills/tips during the age of Zoom.

In addition, the Fellows assisted with Admissions events, virtually and in-person with Admissions staff. Despite the completely virtual fall semester and reduced-density spring semester, Fellows took every opportunity to represent the community, when possible, some expanding their commitment by joining the Ambassador Program to assist campus recruitment efforts. Significant Admissions activity included:

- **On-Campus Tours**

A select number of students, including members of the Gummere Fellows Program, expressed a desire to provide campus tours to visiting families. These students were trained in COVID safety protocols as well as modified tour routes to provide the best and safest possible visit experience for prospective students. Simply put, student-led tours during the pandemic would not have been possible without the Gummere Fellows.

- **Virtual Recruitment**

Gummere Fellows conducted extensive outreach to prospective and admitted students to assist with yield efforts. Events included workshops, student panels, region-specific events, individual chats, and virtual tours. The Fellows were essential in providing student-to-student connection at a time when prospective students and families were seeking a sense of normalcy.

Michael Cohen, Senior Director of Admissions and Strategic Development, concludes “The Gummere Fellows represented the best of our campus in the most difficult of times. They continued to ensure that the prospective student experience was as personal, and community driven as possible. I could not be prouder of what this group accomplished in such a challenging year. We could not have achieved record enrollment without all of their efforts.”

With four graduating seniors in May, and another scheduled to finish up in December 2021, nearly 30 students applied for the Gummere Fellows 2021-22 class. All involved with the creation of the Gummere Fellows Program continue to be delighted by the success it has enjoyed. Spike is equally pleased, and it is no exaggeration to say he is thrilled. He has written “It has been rewarding and fun to have the opportunity to meet and get to know the individual Fellows. They are impressive individually and collectively. I confess to being very proud of the Program and the significant contributions it has made to Admissions and Development & Alumni Relations outreach endeavors. Indeed, I’ve never been prouder. The dedication and commitment from leadership, faculty, coaches, and staff in dealing with the challenges COVID presented has been remarkable. And the commitment of the Fellows has been equally impressive.”