

Belize 2020-2021

McMaster Fellows

Nady El-Zayaty, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Business - This project consists of assessing data from visual acuity screenings of school-age children in north central Belize in order to provide the Belize Council for the Visually Impaired with information that will facilitate the best use of their resources and have the greatest benefit to the children in need of eye care.

Mary Ann Studer, Dean of the McMaster for Advancing Humanity

McMaster Associate Fellow

Mia Mathews, Director of Service Leadership Programs

McMaster Scholars

Hayden Clingaman, Junior, Accounting – This project will build on prior bookkeeping work with farmers in the village of San Carlos to increase profitability. Lessons on profitability and cashflow, along with assistance in writing bylaws for a Village-Community-Bank (VICOBA) will improve farmer access to low interest credit and increase financial stability.

Dylan King, Sophomore, Psychology and Social Work – This project's focus is centered around the development of a Non-Invasive Poverty Index (NIPI) and collecting data to gauge the economic standing of the village of San Carlos.

Alivia Kruczkowski, Sophomore, Molecular Biology – This project will continue collecting data on possible contaminants in environmental waterways in the New River and the New River Lagoon in Belize. This data will be used by the community to assess and remediate potential sources of contaminated water and its effect on marine life.

Sophia Moller, Sophomore, Early Childhood Education/K-12 Intervention Specialist with Autism Studies Minor –Through this project two preschools in Belize will receive lesson plans based on evidenced practice and training for inclusive and innovative pedagogies to improve their ability to prepare their students for successful academic careers.

Abbe Rank, Sophomore, Social Work and Criminal Justice – In order to address heart disease, diabetes, and breast cancer in Belize, this project will provide information to our community partners about proper nutrition and hydration along with self-breast exam and yoga education.

Autumn Saddler, Sophomore, Molecular Biology – This project will be utilizing prior data and collection methods for the testing the subsurface water in New River and New River Lagoon in Belize for contaminants.

Kelsie Shafer, Sophomore, Adolescent to Young Adult Social Studies and Intervention – The purpose of this project will be to model Universal Design for Learning through an agriculture camp. This camp will allow teachers to see this pedagogy first-hand and will fully engage students, regardless of learning style in learning about agricultural processes.

Lucas Thomeier, Junior, Mathematics –This project will assist in certifying and training teachers, rangers, and foresters in these remote communities in CPR, first aid and snake bite management. Additionally, this project will build upon lessons from last year, providing education on concussions in the schools of San Carlos and August Pine Ridge.