

Annual Report

FY 2024

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Letter from the Director

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is John O’Keefe, and I am the new permanent director of the Brueggeman Center at Xavier University. I am a theologian by training, but I also have a background in documentary filmmaking and podcasting—skills that I think will prove helpful in our future projects here at the Center.

I assumed my role as director on July 1, 2023, after serving many years on the faculty at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Creighton, like Xavier, is a Jesuit institution, so coming here feels a bit like moving to the house of a dear cousin. I am very excited to continue the excellent work inaugurated by my predecessors, especially in the areas of Interfaith Dialogue and Sustainability. In the fall semester of 2023, our Center was delighted to host two interfaith luncheons for faith leaders in Cincinnati.

It has also been gratifying to inherit the Brueggeman Fellows program and to be working with some of Xavier’s finest students as they craft personal (and truly international) research projects. We will also be continuing the Center’s tradition of sponsoring interesting events and speakers related to our mission. We are actively exploring ways to channel the entrepreneurial spirit of Edward B. Brueggeman, SJ, after whom the Center was named.

In closing, I would like to thank former directors James Buchanan and Bill Madges for their support during this transition.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John J. O'Keefe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John J. O’Keefe, PhD

Director of the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue

Our Mission

As endowed center at a Jesuit/Catholic university, we are committed to the fundamental vision of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, that all that we do should be for the greater glory of God.

We stand at a moment in history where divisions between people and groups are especially pronounced. In response to the tensions that arise out of these divisions, the Brueggeman Center is committed to fostering dialogue. As a crucial form of interpersonal relating, dialogue is not simply conversation, but an encounter between people built upon a both a willingness to listen deeply and an openness to being transformed.



Pictured above: Faith leaders from Cincinnati share a meal at the Brueggeman Center on November 29, 2023.

The 4 Apostolic Preferences

Today, the mission of the Center is concentrated in the promotion of the Four "Universal Apostolic Preferences" of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus):

1

Showing the Way to God—
through the Spiritual Exercises
and interfaith exploration.

2

Walking with the Excluded—
by accompanying the poor and
the marginalized in a mission of
reconciliation and justice.

3

Journeying with Youth—
in the creation of a hope-
filled future.

4

Caring for our Common Home—
by working for the protection of
the Earth and the renewal of
God's creation.

A Year in Review

Fall 2023

NOVEMBER 29 & DECEMBER 13 - INTERFAITH LUNCHEONS

In the Fall semester, the Brueggeman Center hosted two interfaith luncheons for faith leaders from Cincinnati. These events were coordinated with the help of Chip Harrod, the director of EquaSion.

Pictured right: Faith leaders from Cincinnati share a meal at the Brueggeman Center on December 13, 2023.



Spring 2024

JANUARY 10 - HOT COCOA BAR
for 2024 Brueggeman fellows

FEBRUARY 13 - PIZZA & INFO NIGHT
for 2025 Brueggeman Fellows

FEBRUARY 21 - 2023 FELLOWS
PRESENTATIONS
hosted in Smith Hall

MARCH 13 - SABBATH FILM SCREENING
hosted in the Kennedy Auditorium
panelists: Martin Doblmeier, Dr. John Sniegocki,
Dr. Waleed El-Ansary, and Rabbi Jen Lewis

APRIL 7 - COMMUNITY DINNER WITH BILL
VITEK
hosted at Moriah Pie in Norwood

APRIL 8 - URBAN FARM TOUR WITH BILL VITEK
led by Kathleen Smythe

APRIL 8 - COMMUNITY DINNER WITH BILL VITEK
hosted at the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue

APRIL 9 - LAUDATO SI LECTURE
The New Perennials Project: Nourishing Deep
Roots in Communities & Classrooms, with Bill
Vitek, hosted in the Kennedy Auditorium





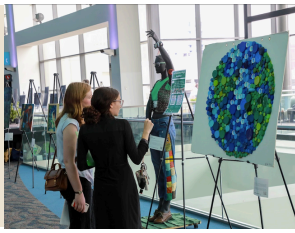

Bill Vitek, the director of the New Perennials Project in Vermont, was hosted by the Center for a series of events in April.

Sponsorships

In FY24, the Brueggeman Center continued to honor its commitment to fostering dialogue by partnering with key nonprofits in Cincinnati.

“If someone says it’s raining, it’s not your job to run around the house trying to find someone who says it’s not. It’s your job to open the door and see if it’s raining.”

- Jenn White, Truth in Journalism talk, 2024

	Organization	Event	Outcome
	EquaSion	Compassion Through Action Dinner	In April 2024, EquaSion hosted their inaugural “Compassion” dinner.
	Woman’s City Club	Truth in Journalism	NPR host Jenn White addressed a near sold-out auditorium at Memorial Hall.
	Green Umbrella	MidWest Regional Sustainability Summit	80+ speakers gave inspiring talks on sustainability topics.
	Catholic Charities of SW Ohio	Global Crisis. Local Hope.	This was a free event, open to Xavier University students, staff, and the surrounding community.
	EquaSion	Festival of Faiths	34 faith traditions are represented at this annual event.

Other groups we sponsored:



CREO ARTS



Winter-Cohen Brueggeman Fellows 2023-24

The Brueggeman Center's fellowship program offers up to 8 students each year the chance to combine a year of intensive independent study with an international immersion experience. The program is highly competitive and draws from graduate and undergraduate students from all four of Xavier's colleges.

Each fellow is awarded a research/travel stipend for the purpose of completing an independent project. This year's stipend was \$3,500 per student. Each of the fellows coordinated the budgets and logistics of their immersion experiences with guidance from the Center's director.

They each are scheduled to spend at least four weeks in their chosen countries: Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, South Korea, India, Sweden, and Australia. Their travel will take place between May and August of 2024.



Alyssa Blandford

History & PPP



Abby Diehl

History & PPP



Mia Karlsson

History &
Philosophy



Reagan Oliver

PPP & Psychology



Sophia Olivia

PPP



Isha Patel

Finance & PPP



Raquelia Ramlogan

Music Performance

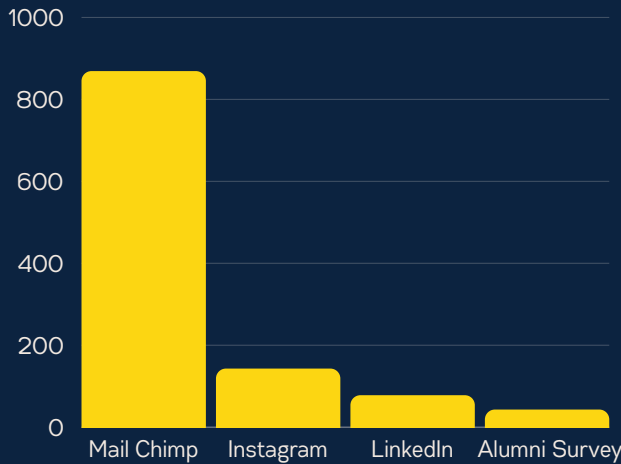


Sophia Willis

Biomedical Science

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

In Fall 2023, the Brueggeman Center created accounts on the following platforms as a way to engage with program alumni and future fellows: LinkedIn, Instagram, LinkTree, and Mail Chimp. We also created an Alumni Survey that was sent to all former fellows in May 2024. The goal of these initiatives is to heighten the visibility of the Brueggeman Center and to increase the applications for the Bruggeman Fellows program by 100% in FY25.

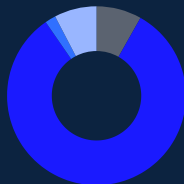


Subscriber Totals by Social Media Platform:

Mail Chimp	869	100% ▲
Instagram	143	100% ▲
LinkedIn	78	100% ▲
Alumni Survey	43	100% ▲

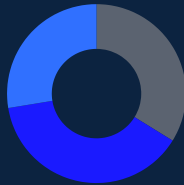
Social Media Engagement Metrics (March 10 - June 10)

Engagement (likes, comments, clicks)



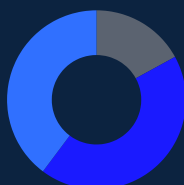
MailChimp	46
Instagram	462
LinkedIn	11
Alum Survey	43

Views



MailChimp	874
Instagram	998
LinkedIn	713

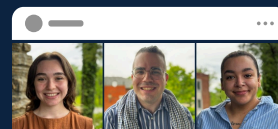
Followers in Ohio (percentage)



MailChimp	15*
Instagram	38
LinkedIn	35

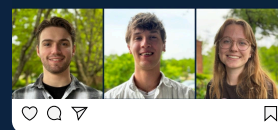
*percentage of opens, not subscribers

Top Performing Content on Instagram:



Likes: 68

Comments: 2



Shares: 14

Reached: 307

Engaged: 70



Likes: 35

Comments: 1

Shares: 4

Reached: 486

Engaged: 36