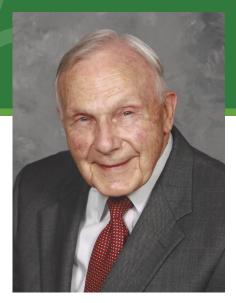


Union Institute & University Eugene P. Ruehlmann Public Service Fellowship Program

The Eugene P. Ruehlmann Public Service Fellowship Program was established to pay tribute to the memory and legacy of former Cincinnati Mayor Eugene P. Ruehlmann (1967–1971), former Union Institute & University trustee, and former Western & Southern board member, who passed away in June 2013.

The program, funded by a generous gift from the Western & Southern Financial Fund, provides a fellowship to stellar students at the dissertation stage of their Ph.D. program. The Ruehlmann fellow is selected by a committee based





on his or her doctoral dissertation and research and the alignment with Mr. Ruehlmann's guiding principles of leadership. His service embodied cooperation, collaboration, compromise, communication, and community-building. The student's doctoral work is expected to make a significant contribution and impact to the community.



Eugene P. Ruehlmann: A Distinguished Visionary Leader and Public Service Servant

Eugene P. Ruehlmann was a public servant who lived his life through the guiding principles of cooperation, collaboration, compromise, communication, and community-building. Born in Cincinnati, he attended Harvard Law School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

As mayor of Cincinnati from 1967–1971, he directed and initiated many major achievements, including the construction of the city's first major stadium, Riverfront Stadium (now replaced by the Great American Ballpark) and the plaza at Fountain Square. Along with other civic improvements, he also led efforts to create new city programs to alleviate unemployment and housing discrimination.

During the late 1960s, Mayor Ruehlmann was hailed nationally as a voice of calm during the 1968 riots. He walked the streets in the affected neighborhoods, made friends, and connected communities. He worked tirelessly to overcome the racial strife that overtook Cincinnati and collaborated personally with community and neighborhood leaders, pastors, and his neighbors throughout the city, and was sometimes introduced as the "Mayor of all our people."

A longtime attorney, Mr. Ruehlmann served as a trustee at Union Institute & University from 2000 to 2005, and shared the university's mission and values to educate highly motivated adults who seek academic programs to engage, enlighten, and empower them to pursue professional goals and a lifetime of learning, service, and social responsibility.

Mr. Ruehlmann was also a valued longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Western & Southern Financial Group, which has provided major support to the Eugene P. Ruehlmann Public Service Fellowship program.

John F. Barrett, Western & Southern chairman, president, and chief executive officer said of Mr. Ruehlmann:

"Gene was elected to our board in 1968 and provided our company with sharp insight and counsel faithfully for over 45 years. He was known for his high ethical standards, hard work, and bringing people together. The Urban League honored him in 1970 for his work on poverty, housing, and improving race relations with a special award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Service. In 1998 he was named a Great Living Cincinnatian by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. We are proud to lend our support to create the Eugene P. Ruehlmann Public Service Fellowship Program at Union Institute & University, another institution that he cared about deeply."

Union Institute & University is honored to partner with Western & Southern in this prestigious fellowship program and, through a new generation of servant leaders, further the work of Mayor Ruehlmann.



Dr. Lisa Newton Ph.D. in Ethical and Creative Leadership (2016)

Entrepreneur CEO of Illume Business Development

Dissertation: An Investigation of Cultural Intergenerational Trauma or Collective Traumatic Memory as a Social, Economic Barrier for African American Women Entrepreneurs in Cincinnati, Ohio. What did the Ruehlmann Fellowship mean to you in terms of your academic goals?

My academic goals were to show African American women they can prosper as entrepreneurs. The Ruehlmann Fellowship allowed me to examine the barriers African American women face and provide insight on how to break these barriers. It helped me earn a Ph.D. and fulfill my dream to improve the lives of African American women by addressing the issues faced by these women.

Describe how your doctoral dissertation project focused on the guiding principles of the Ruehlmann Fellowship.

The guiding principles of the Ruehlmann Fellowship are based on how we can work to improve lives—to transform lives and communities. My dissertation examined the barriers to entrepreneurship and economic growth. The opportunity to use these principles to improve the poverty rates in Cincinnati and around the country are a testament to Mr. Ruehlmann's beliefs. He was a business man and leader who worked to break poverty cycles. I am using my skills and my research to help and guide women so they can prosper and improve their standard of living.

What are you doing to ensure that your education is making a difference in your own life and others?

I hope I am a beacon of light for others to start businesses. I am teaching others, especially African American women, to prosper. I am showing that entrepreneurship is a viable way out of poverty. I am hopeful that my work will become one of the tracks that will improve the poverty rates in Cincinnati and around the country.

Why did you choose Union for your doctoral studies?

I wanted to make a difference in Cincinnati. Union offered that chance. I also received my undergraduate degree from Union so I knew the commitment to social justice, the student support system, and the quality and leadership of the professors were the right fit for me to pursue my Ph.D.

What is your favorite quote?

"Compassion and understanding is one of the greatest gifts love provides. Self-compassion and self-understanding is where great love begins."

—Original quote from Lisa Newton, Ph.D.

Dr. Newton's dissertation was the first study to look at the effects of the trauma of slavery acting as a barrier to becoming an entrepreneur. The study was based in Cincinnati and included interviews with 10 African American business women.





Dr. Leah MacVie

Ph.D. in Ethical and Creative Leadership (2019)

Director Center for Online Learning & Innovation at Canisius College

Dissertation: Finding Erich Jantsch's Five Crucial Innovations: A Study of Four Small Colleges

What did the Ruehlmann Fellowship mean to you in terms of your academic goals?

Earning a Ph.D. comes at a significant financial cost. I am extremely grateful for being awarded the Ruehlmann Fellowship and the opportunity it provided me to pursue this degree.

Describe how your doctoral dissertation project focused on the guiding principles of the Ruehlmann Fellowship.

Jantsch suggested that universities could play a leadership role in the future of society in 1969, an idea that still makes sense today. I decided to use the main component of his report, the five crucial innovations, as a framework to study innovation in higher education institutions. Are institutions today incorporating some of these innovations that Jantsch predicted they would need to in order to take on a leadership role in society? Four institutions on the East Coast were studied and the case studies detail the broad service they are performing in their surrounding communities.

What are you doing to ensure that your education is making a difference in your own life and others?

I decided to pursue a Ph.D. so that I wouldn't be limited on job opportunities in the future. I learned more than I had

imagined in the program and my mind is forever transformed. This new self interacts on a daily basis with students in my classes, faculty who come to my office for help, and fellow administrators who ask my input. I have become a contributing member of the systems and futures communities since starting the program and my new self seeks to impress in these spaces through future research.

Why did you choose Union for your doctoral studies?

Union offered me the flexibility I needed. The residency experience and high-touch webinars offered me an unforgettable opportunity to interact with my professors and classmates. The online format allowed me the opportunity to pursue a Ph.D. while working full-time.

Leah MacVie's dissertation explores Erich Jantsch's five crucial innovations and researches if they can be found in innovations at four small institutions of higher education. The late Jantsch was one of the founders of the Club of Rome (systems, futures, and sustainability). Little research has been done to explore Jantsch's contributions to higher education as well as the application of the ideas presented in his 1969 report. Her hope is that the knowledge generated from this study will add to his legacy, provide insight to the field of systems thinking, and inform research on innovation in higher education. This study also adds to the small body of work that specifically focuses on small institutions of higher education.





Dr. Vanessa Enoch

Ph.D. Public Policy & Public Change, concentration in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Studies Specialization (2017)

President & CEO of a business & political consulting services firm

Dissertation: Qualitative study that applies an intersectional lens to understanding the experiences of three black female judges, and their ascendency and removal from the judiciary in major cities in Ohio.

What did the Ruehlmann Fellowship mean to you in terms of your academic goals?

The Ruehlmann Fellowship allowed me to devote myself full-time to completing my dissertation research. My research process required traveling out of town for interviews, and an intense period of coding, analysis, and writing.

Describe how your doctoral dissertation project focuses on the guiding principles of the Ruehlmann Fellowship.

My doctoral dissertation project focused on the need to diversify the bench in order to promote racial fairness and reconciliation through an appreciation for difference. My project encompassed many of the values that Eugene Ruehlmann exemplified during his lifetime of public service in the Greater Cincinnati community. Among them are the need for cooperation, collaboration, and compromise for the sake of promoting a better future for our city. My study focused on the structural composition of the bench, and the challenges faced by women of color in terms of their ascendancy within the judiciary. The study expanded the literature on American female jurists and unveiled the complex reality of the intersectionality of race and gender dynamics on the bench. The findings

demonstrate why judicial diversity should be rooted in the composition of the bench, and provided an understanding of the myriad of ways that life experiences contribute to one's sense of fairness and the nature of their approach to carry out their duties and responsibilities.

What are you doing to ensure that your education is making a difference in your own life and others?

I am using my education to enhance people's appreciation for difference. I am educating people through journal articles, television talk shows, and through public speaking appearances. I am also using my education to contribute to transforming systems by clearly articulating how some policies serve to sustain systems of marginalization.

Why did you choose Union for your doctoral studies?

I chose to complete my doctoral studies at Union Institute & University because of its stated commitment to social change. I identified many programs that offered Ph.D.s in Public Policy, but very few encompassed my passion for social change.

What is your favorite quote?

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

–Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.





Scottie Ehrhardt

Ph.D. in Public Policy & Social Change (2017)

Chief of Training HQ, US European Command

Dissertation: A Soldier's Story: The Impact of Soldiers' Experience in Afghanistan as it Applies to Constructivist Thought in Military Intervention

This dissertation evaluates the narratives of soldiers to address the phenomenon of soldiers implementing courses of action and/or recognizing constructivist approaches (i.e. cultural awareness, economic support, interagency cooperation) to develop more effective intervention guidelines despite guidance from higher command and how those actions may eventually impact future policy direction.

What did the Ruehlmann Fellowship mean to you in terms of your academic goals?

I have been fortunate to have progressed through my academic career fairly rapidly over the last few years, earning my bachelor's, master's and doctoral coursework in 10 years' time. Now that I am completing my dissertation phase, there is a limit to the traditional financial aid available to complete my Ph.D. If it were not for the Ruehlmann Fellowship, there is no possible way for me to be continuing and finishing my dissertation right now.

Describe how your doctoral dissertation project focuses/focused on the guiding principles of the Ruehlmann grant.

As a combat veteran, it has always been important to me to help bring a voice to the thousands of soldiers who risk their lives for our freedom. My dissertation hopes to shed light on the fact that even the lowest ranking soldier has valuable insight that may be used in future military actions, and that it is essential that the military, and the politicians who call them to action, develop ways to better gather and utilize this collective knowledge.

What are you doing to ensure that your education is making a difference in your own life and others?

Union's focus on interdisciplinary work and social justice has already paid dividends in my life as I am able to take my experiences gained at Union and apply them in my federal

work environment. Understanding other social groups and their views and concerns has translated well in an environment that is intensely cross-cultural, in addition to being stationed overseas and seeing the effect we have on allies and enemies alike. I have recently accepted an adjunct professor position with the University of Maryland here in Europe to share my knowledge and experiences with fellow soldiers and their dependents as they work through their own academic goals. Once my Ph.D. is completed, there will be an opportunity for me to gain a position as a policy analyst for the military or possibly instruct in one of the Department of Defense (DoD) school houses where we instruct foreign military, furthering the possibility of sharing and influencing other members of the military community.

Why did you choose Union for your doctoral studies?

The reason I chose Union was two-fold. First, while finishing my master's degree at Troy University, I asked my professors if they knew of a program where I could earn my Ph.D. with minimal resident time. When my professors asked me what I wanted to do with my Ph.D., I told them my plan is to eventually teach. They all recommended Union Institute & University. The second reason is that, unbeknownst to me, a friend had earned her Ph.D. from Union. When I talked to her about her experience and she explained about the interdisciplinary approach and the focus on social justice, I knew it would be a good fit.

What is your favorite quote?

"There are two people in the world, the quick and the dead. Who are we? THE QUICK! Who are they? THE DEAD!"

- Army Infantry Saying

The fullness of this quote must be explained. It is derived from the New Testament, an example of which is 1 Peter 4:5 "...who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead." When I was younger and a soldier it meant that the better I was at my job the better my survivability would be on the battlefield. But as I have gotten older it has transformed into a reminder about change and progress. Those who do not continue to learn and develop, and who cannot change with the flow of time are no longer quick, and will be left behind. Those who are quick and can see the future and are willing to embrace change will be far more successful. My goal is always to be the quick not the dead.

Learn more about supporting the Union Institute & University Eugene P. Ruehlmann Public Service Fellowship program by contacting Carolyn Krause, VP, Advancement, carolyn.krause@myunion.edu



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OUR MISSION

Union Institute & University educates highly motivated adults who seek academic programs to engage, enlighten, and empower them to pursue professional goals and a lifetime of learning, service, and social responsibility.

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Business Management

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Criminal Justice Management

Early Childhood Studies

Elementary Education

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Organizational Leadership

Psychology

Secondary Education

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Online

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Maiors: Creativity Studies

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