



Bearing Witness

Backpack Journalism: A social justice documentary project



Since 2010, Backpack Journalism has sent more than 70 students to such locations as Uganda, rural Alaska, the border-town of Nogales, Arizona/ Nogales Sonora Mexico and the Dominican Republic to produce six films.

While the physical journeys during the course are the same for every student, the mental and spiritual journeys are unique. Students learn more than how to use a camera; they develop broader global understanding, cultural appreciation, self-awareness, faith and empathy. They are ignited to create change within themselves, in their communities and across the globe.

Backpack Journalism

is a collaborative College of Arts & Sciences summer class that teaches students filmmaking, journalism and theology in a layered learning experience.

Led by theologian-documentary filmmaker John O'Keefe, filmmaker and artist Tim Guthrie and journalist Carol Zuegner, the professors work with a group of students in an immersive, five-week course to produce the documentaries as well as blogs and other content. The students earn six credit hours in theology and in graphic design/journalism while experiencing life, briefly, in a challenging part of the world.

