INTENTIONAL TEACHING: A CRITICAL SKILL
Teaching critical thinking & how to remain objective.

“I teach the Fellows Legal Environment class, and have done so for the past 6 years. One thing that I’ve discovered over that span of time is that I don’t just teach law – I also try and teach students how to critically think. Critical thinking is all about (1) discovering what the real issue in the case is (because it’s really hard to get to a correct answer if you’ve identified the wrong problem), and then, (2) remaining sufficiently objective so you can see, not just the obvious answer, but also the other point of view, the alternate approach. That is very much what the Legal Environment class is designed to teach students to do.

Lest you have any doubt as to the importance of developing strong critical thinking skills, employers and recruiters routinely mention it as among the two most important qualities of an effective employee. More importantly, critical thinking is generally cited as the skill most lacking in new hires. I believe that my class makes an important difference for students on this dimension, as does the entire Fellows program.

While I love all the classes I teach, the Fellows class holds a very special place in my heart. Of course, it’s fun teaching students who are smart. But what I really love is that Fellows students come to class prepared to learn, and genuinely eager to learn! They just seem to have this innate intellectual curiosity that I don’t consistently see in other students. As a professor, there is nothing more exciting than that!”

- Professor Rob Rhodes
As the International Liaison, I am able to work with the current NFSO board and faculty to help establish a weekly point of contact between the Fellows who are studying abroad and those studying in Fort Worth. Every week we feature a “Study Abroad Spotlight” in TGIF notes that get sent out to all current Fellows. Additionally, we will be having two Skype-esque digital classroom meetings where all the Neeley Fellows studying abroad will be able to join in on a Fellows Lab as well as an International Business class meeting. I am more than excited for what’s to come and very appreciative for the opportunity to serve the Neeley Fellows!”

- Conner Lovely, NFSO International Liaison

15/32 of our Juniors are abroad this semester, and Conner Lovely is our International Liaison, coordinating a couple Neeley Fellows meet-ups this semester while keeping the cohorts updated on their exciting adventures.

Fellows are global citizens. Globetrotters, some would say.

“In Madrid, I’m taking classes entirely about the culture, history, and art of Spain which has been an all-encompassing experience considering I am simultaneously living that culture and the consequences of their history.”
- Andrea Carrasquilla, Class of 2020

“One of the main things I’ve learned while abroad is how to step outside my comfort zone to fully embrace different cultures. It’s amazing to be completely emerged in the Italian way of life since it is so different from life in America.”
- Natalie Fedder, Class of 2020
“While taking classes in our cohorts naturally helps develop strong friendships, there is also an incredible opportunity for cross-cohort mentorship. Fellows Families encourages deeper camaraderie between cohorts, further uniting the Neeley Fellows program.” – Ashley Servais, NFSO VP Membership

“I loved having a cross-cohort opportunity to unwind and reflect on my first semester in Fellows. Sharing a meal with these people made me realize just how lucky I am to be surrounded by such driven and passionate individuals.”
- Carson Jones, Class of 2021

“Being at Meg’s house for the Fellows Christmas party, particularly the White Elephant exchange was so much fun for myself and the rest of the Fellows. It was a much welcomed chance to get away from our studies and enjoy each other’s company. Thank you Meg!”
- Davis Donaldson, Class of 2020

“The Rodeo event was so fun and exciting as it was my very first rodeo ever since I am from Kansas City. I loved being able to catch up with old professors as well as getting to connect with new alumni. This really proved to me how great the Fellows alumni network is.”
- Ellie Mitchell, Class of 2021

Each of the Neeley Fellows information sessions has been packed this year, and Monday, February 25th was no exception. The room was buzzing with questions, as excited freshmen applicants got to chat with current Fellows over Canes and cookies. With the application open until March 22nd, we are eagerly awaiting our new class of Fellows, whom we will soon welcome into our Fellows Families.
Fellows Impacting Fellows

Welcome to the newest addition to our newsletter! We are so excited to highlight some alumni who are giving back to the Fellows community. Fellows exceed because we lean on one another and challenge each other to grow in ways otherwise unimaginable. Thank you to each of you who continue to help the Neeley Fellows program grow.

In January, Entrepreneur Magazine wrote an article on connection in the workplace. This article highlighted our very own Riley Kiltz who founded Craftwork, a coworking space and specialty coffee retailer created to combat the isolation epidemic facing the next generation. Congratulations to Riley for creating this coworking space that impacts so many lives daily!

Additionally, Riley spoke to students in an Alumni Panel then offered an internship to Thomas Gilbert, a current Junior Fellow. It is safe to say Thomas is learning everyday on the job, but he is even more thankful for a mentor who has worked to change the world we live in for the better.

“At the end of last semester, Riley reached out to Meg because he was interested in having a Fellow serve as Craftwork’s first intern. Craftwork needed another hand on board to support the team in operational, financial, and other projects.

I am excited and very thankful for the internship for two key reasons. First, the opportunity provides a platform to apply and develop a variety of business skills. Right now, I am conducting a COGS analysis, stretching my excel skills. Simultaneously, I am applying a market research project from school to my work by doing a study on TCU students perspective on Craftwork. Secondly, I knew mentorship would be incredibly beneficial. Both Riley and Laura communicated they look to develop my skills professionally and empower me to take on whatever lies beyond the internship. Riley and Laura both have incredible work experiences and backgrounds, so I know I can learn a lot from their mentorship.” - Thomas Gilbert, Class of 2020

Congratulations Megan!

This past February, our lovely Megan McKinney accepted a position as Associate Director, Duck Career Network at the University of Oregon. We are forever grateful for the love and hardwork she poured into the Fellows program. We will miss Megan, but we are so excited for her incredible opportunity! Congratulations!

Want to see you or a friend featured here?

We are so grateful for each member in our cohorts, and we know you and your cohorts are changing the world one relationship at a time. Please email FellowsImpactingFellows@gmail.com with any recommendations for next quarter’s edition of Fellows Impacting Fellows to be featured in the Neeley Fellows Forum. We would love to hear how Fellows are impacting Fellows!