

Cory Smith Lecture:

The Devastating Effects of Anti-immigrant Sentiment on Victims of Human Trafficking

By Betsy Danforth

The HEART Initiative at MSU, Office of the Dean of Students, Honors College, VOICE Center, and Women's Center joined to highlight the work of national human and civil rights advocate, Cory Smith in a virtual lecture held on April 12, 2022. Cory Smith is an attorney who is a former fellow of the Pulte Institute for Global Development at the University of Notre Dame and the former Vice President of Policy, Advocacy, and Communications for the renowned organization, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). Smith is currently a board member for the non-profit Every Woman Treaty, and his key legislative accomplishments include successfully working to renew the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, securing nearly \$100 million dollars in federal funding and language to provide tools to assist law enforcement in combating human trafficking and funding for services for survivors of human trafficking.

Smith first discussed the overwhelming challenge of collecting and analyzing data around human trafficking in general.

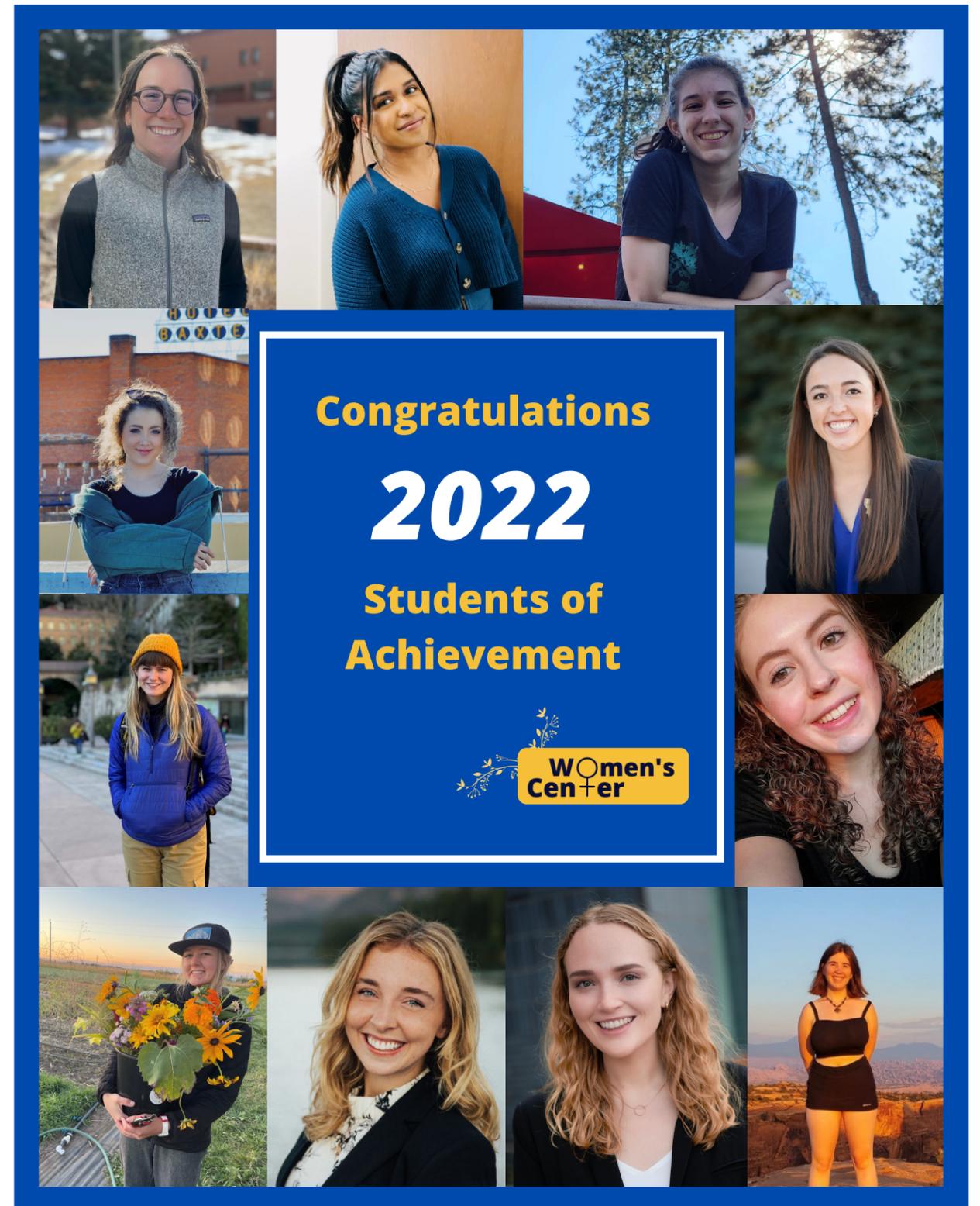
While sex trafficking is rampant and no doubt far more pervasive than statistics might indicate, Smith also discussed the fact that labor-based human trafficking is likely even more pervasive and more challenging to track. Though we tend to hear about victims of sex trafficking in today's media, it is estimated that 20,000,000 people are currently being subjected to forced labor and labor trafficking around the world. Like victims/survivors of sex trafficking, those trafficked for labor are often stripped of their documents, moved from site to site, intimidated and threatened with deportation and violence, and most likely live in the shadows of society in horrifying conditions. In numerous circumstances, victims have paid exorbitant amounts of money in the form of "finder's fees" to foreign labor recruiters who lie about job opportunities and pay scales. All too many times, these temporary jobs are tied to short-term visas which offer no recourse for an immigrant when and if they separate from that particular employer.

Smith spoke about the need for more holistic approaches to both immigration and human trafficking—approaches that will help to ensure humane labor environments, freedom of movement and the elimination of foreign labor recruiters engaging in illegal activities. He pointed to the fact that as anti-immigrant sentiment and policy grow stronger, the bias against all immigrants, including those victimized in human trafficking rings, has and will continue to inform government policy as well as non-profit organizations in ways that are detrimental to individual victims and that benefit those profiting from trafficking. He stressed that there is much disinformation about immigrants and trafficking and that we need more legitimate and credible groups working on these extremely complex and fraught issues. Smith also provided us with a list of organizations that are effectively educating folks about these issues and offering resources for advocates of victims and survivors of human trafficking. There is something we can do to help!

Locally: The Gallatin Valley Human Trafficking Task Force educates and raises awareness around trafficking happening right here at home as well as offering resources and contacts for help:
<https://www.gallatincountyhumantraffickingtaskforce.org/contact-us>

National and International organizations:

Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, <https://endslaveryandtrafficking.org/>
Freedom Network USA, <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/>
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, <https://www.castla.org/>
Polaris Project, <https://polarisproject.org/>
National Survivor Network, <https://nationalsurvivornetwork.org/>
Not for Sale, <https://www.notforsalecampaign.org/>



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Maria Gallivan

She/Her

Maria will graduate in May with a degree in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics. During her time at MSU, Maria has held multiple officer positions with the Association for Women in Engineering, where she advocated for diversity and inclusion in technology. She has also served as a NACOE ambassador, where she shared her experiences as a woman in STEM with potential engineering students. During her time as a STEM student and as a member of the MSU Spirit Squad, Maria has made sure to act as a role model within these spaces by living as her authentic self. Upon graduation, Maria will work to become a white hat hacker to help companies become more digitally secure. She hopes that her impact on her classmates will continue to encourage them to create respectful communities in every space they occupy.

Isabelle Ivankovich

She/Her

Isabelle will graduate this spring with a degree in Business Marketing and Business Finance. During her undergraduate years, Isabelle began her career working in tech sales with Amazon. She plans to continue this work as a part of Amazon's STAR program, where she will have the opportunity to experience various sales disciplines. Isabelle served the Bozeman and MSU community as a Thrive CAP mentor and an Eagle Mount dance instructor. She has also become a leader on campus through her position as the president of the MSU chapter of the American Marketing Association, as a Supreme Court Justice for ASMSU, and as a member of the Student Conduct Hearing Board. Upon graduating, Isabelle hopes to continue making a difference in the lives of young people by working as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children during custody hearings.

Ellie Jackson

She/Her

Ellie will graduate in May with a degree in Cell Biology and Neuroscience with minors in Global Health and Hispanic studies. Ellie has emerged as a campus leader through her role on the ASMSU senate, and has advocated for victims of human trafficking as the director of the HEART Initiative. As well as raising community awareness of the incidence of human trafficking, Ellie worked with the Gallatin County Human Trafficking Task Force to create a survey in order to facilitate a broad understanding of the prevalence and perceptions of human trafficking in the Gallatin Valley. Ellie will pursue a degree in medicine as a general practitioner, and will use her education in global health and Hispanic studies to work toward eliminating disparities within the medical system. Ellie's research, education, and campus leadership will enable her to continue striving for social justice as she advances in her career. Upon graduating, she plans to pursue a Doctor of Medicine and a Masters of Public Health.

Jessica Maynard

She/Her

Jessica will graduate in May, 2022 with degrees in English Writing and Sociology-Criminology. Jessica's education in Sociology facilitated her understanding that one's intersectional identity effects their ability to succeed within our society. This knowledge directed her toward her plan of attending law school and practicing law, where she can make an impact on the criminal justice system to make it more equitable. She is also passionate about victim advocacy and worked at the Gallatin County Attorney's Office as a Victim's Witness Advocate to make sure crime victims were treated with respect and dignity. Additionally, Jessica has been involved as both a volunteer and employee at the MSU VOICE center and is a board member of the Students Against Sexual Assault Survivor Fund. This work has enabled her to advocate for victim/survivors of interpersonal violence within the MSU community. After further education, Jessica hopes to become a judge, where she can continue her commitment to social justice and community service.

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A Space for Us: Empowering Young Women through the Outdoor Experience

By Caroline Stahl

When I was a teenager, I would leave my hometown to spend the summers in the wilderness trips with a program called Camp Manito-Wish. These began with a two-day canoe trip when I was ten years old. I spent these two days crying over thunderstorms, the taste of food cooked over a campfire, my clothes getting dirty, and a litany of fears about the danger of the outdoors. Despite the discomforts of that first trip, I returned the next summer for a longer one.

During high school, the length of these trips increased -- I spent two week kayaking on Lake Huron in Canada, and backpacked for a month in the Wind River Mountain Range in Wyoming. My time as a trip participant ended with a 45 day backpacking trip above the Arctic Circle in the Brooks Range of Alaska. I spent over six weeks with three other 17 year old girls and two leaders, both 23 year old women who passed on wisdom about their lives in college and served as gracious role models as they taught us how to navigate the outdoors as adventurers who didn't fit the macho stereotypes of those thought to "belong" in the outdoors.

When I turned 18, I returned to Manito-Wish to serve as a trip leader myself. Starting small once again, I began by leading short three day trips, where my 12 year old participants spent their time looking forward to the comforts of home. Despite their complaints, I knew the value of the adversity they faced in the outdoors. I returned again each summer and led several 14 day backpacking trips in the summer of 2021. This summer, I will return to the Wind Rivers, once again, as a leader.

These experiences in the outdoors have been the most formative of my life. As a young woman in college, I often feel disoriented. I am learning to take care of myself as I navigate academics, career, and college's social dynamics. In the backcountry, however, I am solid. I am viewed by my participants as a trustworthy leader, caretaker, and role model. I pass the knowledge gained from the women who led my trips as a teenager to the next generation of young women interested in outdoor leadership. I am given the agency to rely on myself completely in situations that are both high risk and extremely rewarding. When we encounter other groups in the backcountry, which are often mixed gender or primarily male, I have become accustomed to receiving comments about "looking too young" for the job. I am often quizzed about my qualifications. Once, as a 21-year-old, I was asked if I was the older sister of a group of five fifteen-year-olds.

My goal for this work as a leader is to show young women that outdoor professionals do not need to fit a certain cookie cutter look. I want them to know that femininity, gentleness, awareness, and compassion have equal importance in outdoor professions as machismo and physical strength. Watching young women overcome their ideas about their physical and mental limitations while summiting a mountain or putting on their 70-pound backpacks in the morning fills me with pride. I want them to know that despite the tumultuous experience of female adolescence, the outdoors exist as a place of refuge. Wilderness tripping creates daunting challenges. When my participants find themselves facing a situation that pushes them out of their comfort zone, they know they must overcome it. And they always do. After the summer, when they return to high school life, they can use this self-knowledge as a compass, reminding them that they are capable, independent, and strong.

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Madeline Metcalf

She/Her

Madeline will graduate this spring with a degree in Economics and a minor in Global Health. As an undergraduate, Madeline has been involved with a variety of research programs that have allowed her to actively help reduce health disparities in Montana.

With MSU's Proyecto SALUD, Madeline worked directly with immigrant Latino populations to identify disparities and to promote interventions in community health outcomes. Her work with Montana Fort Pecks Tribe complimented her research regarding the development and implementation of trauma-informed public health policies in a rural, Indigenous community. Through her internship with South North Nexus, Madeline completed a community assessment at the US-Mexico border to prepare the design of a model to address the nutritional needs of migrant women and children in border cities. Madeline hopes to utilize these experiences to establish trusting, equitable partnerships in healthcare. Madeline will continue her education in public health in order to utilize community-based approaches to promote accessibility and equity within rural underserved communities. She has been recognized as a Montana State University Idea Network of Biomedical Research Scholar, and presented her research at the Western Institute of Nursing.

Samantha Myxter

She/Her

Samantha will graduate this Spring with a degree in Psychology and minors in Sociology and Hispanic Studies. During her time at Montana State University, Samantha has worked as a peer advocate at the VOICE Center, where she provides support and resources for victims of interpersonal violence, both in person and over the crisis hotline. She has also participated in outreach and campus educational events to educate the MSU community about consent and sexual violence. In the Bozeman community, Samantha works as a Family Support Mentor, where she provides support to youth during mental health treatment. She worked as an assistant in the REACH Lab in MSU's Psychology department where she learned about the disproportionate effects of health disparities regarding substance abuse and mental health in underprivileged populations. Upon graduation, Samantha will attend graduate school in Colorado to become a licensed mental health counselor.

Lucy O'Hagan

She/Her

Lucy will graduate in May with a degree in English Teaching and a minor in Global Health. Lucy has prepared for her future as an educator through her work as a student-teacher at Belgrade High School, as a staff member at the Montana Outdoor Science School, and as a one-on-one tutor for students of all levels at the Sage Learning Center. She has volunteered with many adaptive programs with Eagle Mount. All these experiences have helped Lucy see the benefits of challenging traditional classroom norms by bringing education into the greater community. Lucy has volunteered with the VOICE Center as an advocate and peer mentor to raise awareness and give support to survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. After graduating, Lucy plans to work as an educator where she will continue examining the ways that reading, writing, and learning can be experienced by all students through different strategies and relationships built within the classroom setting.

Juliana Rajamohan

She/Her

Juliana will graduate this spring with a degree in Human Development and Family Science with a minor in Personal and Consumer Finance. Juliana has focused on empowering those around her through her work creating the Montana State University chapter of United Nations Association. This student club works to engage the community in mitigating global inequities. Juliana established a podcast with Bridgercare to debunk cultural myths around mental health and accessibility to sexual and reproductive health. She has been a leader for increased diversity on campus through her position as Student Director of ASMSU's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council that works to increase student awareness of DEI related issues on campus. This position enabled her to create a dialogue around internal policy changes at MSU regarding international students and DACA students. As an international student, Juliana is passionate about being a catalyst for change in addressing gaps in MSU's community related to opportunities for

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different populations. Juliana is currently developing on onboarding process to sustain neuro-divergent students at MSU. She established a mental health campaign specifically for Asian Pacific Islanders with respect to honoring their cultures. Juliana was selected to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Upon graduation, Juliana will work to continue to help create a world that sustains each individual regardless of identity.

Emma Sihler

She/Her

Emma will graduate in December of 2022 with degrees in Cell Biology and Neuroscience and Political Science. During her undergraduate career at Montana State University, Emma served as a peer tutor in the American Indian Student Success Center. Emma is an advocate, a peer educator, and crisis line staffer at the MSU VOICE Center. She also acts as a victim advocate as a Students Against Sexual Assault Survivor Fund Board Member and as the Chief Editor and Secretary of the HEART Initiative at MSU. Working with the Guardians of the Living Water Program, She helped to design, implement, and evaluate an environmental health literacy summer camp for students on the Crow Reservation in Montana. Emma also founded the Camp Kesem chapter at Montana State University, to provide support for children with parents impacted by cancer. Emma has been awarded an MSU Award for Excellence and is a current Truman Finalist. After graduating, Emma plans to pursue a dual Master of Public Health and Master of Public Administration with an emphasis on community-oriented public health and analysis and evaluation. Ultimately, she hopes to return to Montana to work to decrease the burden of health inequities in rural and Indigenous communities.

Sophia Thompson

She/Her

Sophia will graduate in December 2022 with a degree in Nursing and a minor in Global Health. At MSU, Sophia has been a part of the Moyce Immigration Health Lab and Proyecto SALUD, which focus on the improvement of the Latinx community's access to healthcare in Montana. Sophia sees this as an opportunity to improve the lives of the community that helped raise her as a child in Puerto Rico. She has spent time volunteering with the Warming Center in Bozeman. This experience led her to become a more empathetic and effective care provider. Sophia has been recognized with the Montana State University Alumni Award of Excellence for Nursing. She is also a three-time IDEa Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence Scholar. Sophia currently works in the Critical Care Unit at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, where she works with vulnerable populations, and she hopes to be accepted into a Critical Care Graduate Residency Program once she has completed Nursing school.

Ella Van Vlack

She/Her

Ella will graduate in Spring 2022 with degrees in Psychology and English Literature. During her time at Montana State University, Ella has been involved with the VOICE Center as both a volunteer and a staff member. Through this experience, Ella has participated in tabling events and silent advocate work to increase support for survivors of inter-personal violence in the MSU community. This work influenced Ella to choose Psychology as her major so she can continue to support vulnerable individuals as a career path. Ella has been recognized by MSU as an Exceptional Student Employee through her work with MSU's Residence Life. She is involved in the MSU Honors College as a student fellow, where she attempted to make the classroom more welcoming and comfortable for students of all identities. She has been involved with Students Against Sexual Assault, where she helped organize the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women campaign, march, and artwork that was incorporated with SASA's Take Back the Night campaign. Ella is preparing to pursue a graduate degree in social work. She hopes to use her education to help victim/survivors take back control of their lives by assisting those affected by trauma in their healing processes.

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DISC GRADUATION

Celebrations



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER

MULTICULTURAL May 11
Museum of the Rockies 5PM -7PM

LAVENDER May 12
Museum of the Rockies 5PM -7PM

THE MULTICULTURAL & LAVENDER GRADUATIONS ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUE AND UNIQUENESS OF OUR STUDENT EXPERIENCES AND GIVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED YOU TO GET HERE !



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MAY 5, 2022

National Day of Awareness for MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

**9:00 -
10:00am**

**Self-Guided Exhibit:
'We Are Still Here'**

American Indian Hall

**10:00 -
11:30am**

**Panel with Cheryl Horn, Susan
Stewart, Nick Ross-Dick and
Terel Alden**

Moderated by Kristie Russette
American Indian Hall

**11:45am -
12:30pm**

Prayer Walk

Begins and ends on Sunrise Plaza between
American Indian Hall and Roberts Hall

**12:30 -
1:00pm**

**Healing Jingle Dress Dance
with the Black Whistle Singers
and Round Dance**

All are welcome to join Round Dance
Sunrise Plaza

1:00pm

Community Feed

American Indian Hall

**2:00 -
3:00pm**

Talking Circle

American Indian Hall



Contact ned@montana.edu for questions

