

Student Advocate Says “Never Again!”



Wendy Low is a proponent for social justice. It’s not a passing interest, but a lifelong passion that was ignited when she joined her first cause at the age of ten. Today, Low continues to advocate for social justice as president of Never Again!, a student group that promotes awareness of the Holocaust and atrocities of genocide to the DU community.

“Our mission is to encourage activism to prevent the reoccurrence of genocide so that we can truly say never again!” said Low, a junior studying biology (major) and Judaic studies (minor) with an emphasis in Hebrew.

“In a speech to the community during a ceremony for the Holocaust Memorial Social Action Site, I expressed a feeling of responsibility to the survivors to tell their stories and be involved in social justice work so that prejudice and bigotry could one day be erased from the world.”

Low was exposed to social justice issues at a young age through her mother’s work with Holocaust survivors and her father’s work with the Jewish Federation. It was through her father’s work that she attended her first interfaith gathering and embraced her first cause. Her commitment to social justice grew through high school and continues at DU.

“Once you’re an advocate, you never really stop being one, you just move on to a new cause,” said Low. “Social justice work is about restoring balance and harmony to an unequal world. It is both meaningful and rewarding.”

Growing up in St. Louis, Low attended Jewish Day School where students as young as kindergarten took part in Holocaust memorial and educational activities. In 5th grade she heard testimony from a survivor for the first time.

“My social justice work comes from a secular place. I do justice because it’s the right thing to do, but my Jewish roots have certainly acted as a background motivator.”

Low is thankful for the Jewish education she received growing up and the in-depth study of the “why” behind Jewish traditions and religious practices.

“I have a strong Jewish identity and find the academic study of religion and culture to be enlightening,” Low said of her Hebrew and Judaic studies at DU.

“Wendy is a bright, compassionate, and altruistic person,” said Sari Havis, lecturer in the Center for Judaic Studies. “In both my Hebrew classes as well as in my Israeli studies class, I have found Wendy to be an inquisitive and original thinker, aiming not only to learn the content but to understand it deeply.”

Under the direction of Havis, Low was recently inducted to the new chapter of the National Honor Society for students of Hebrew to DU. Initiated students exhibit linguistic commitment and academic excellence not only in Hebrew but also in their general studies, and plan to use the chapter and their membership as a venue to enhance their Hebrew interaction and to further engage in its culture.

As for career goals, Low hopes to work in a field where she can bring scientific innovation to the public's attention. "Scientists are not always their best publicists, and a lot of research never makes its way to the public's hands," she said. However, social justice work will always be a big part of her life.

"We are not living in a perfect world and once aware of the injustices it is impossible to turn a blind eye," said Low. "I know that through my actions I can make a small difference and better my part of the world. I hope that my work with social justice will inspire others to live more consciously and resonate to create a better campus and community for years to come."

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