



Fall Newsletter

November, 2020



October All Committee Meeting

What is LCA?

Leadership Committee for Africa (LCA) is a non-profit, student-run organization with a mission to educate the Culver community about the various crises impacting different countries in Africa. LCA especially promotes health, welfare, education, and advancement of African women and children and provides opportunities for Culver students to learn and volunteer in Africa. LCA was founded in 2004 by members of Culver Girls Academy. Today LCA includes both CMA and CGA members. LCA currently partners with Christel House South Africa, Amani Children's Foundation, ECHO, and the School of St. Jude. Members of LCA have the chance to visit two of those organizations, Christel House South Africa and the School of St. Jude, during annual Spring Break GPS Trips. By dividing the committee into four sub-committees: Fundraising, Research and Education, Communications, and Work Projects. LCA efficiently involves its members in working together. Each committee works to raise donations and awareness through beading sessions, sports concessions, and hosting informative and interactive all committee meetings. In the future, LCA plans to continue spreading the vision of empowering students to support children and women in Africa. The impact of LCA is far reaching.

Follow @culverlca on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected

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SNEAK PEEKS

- LCA is one of the biggest clubs on campus and we take time to recognize all of our new members in meetings and schoology posts
- Bake Sale November 23rd and 24th
- LCA is helping host doggie play November 25th
- Movie Night November 28th
- December 4th Holiday Sale in Math/Science Lobby
- Looking for a present? Consider buying or making a bracelet
- Make sure you check the LCA Schoology Page for upcoming events and announcements

Jenna Pae and Taylor Lewandowski



Taylor at the August, 2020 Activities Fair

I'm Jenna Pae, and I am a senior in Linden dorm and from Yorktown, Indiana. I serve as LCA's Executive Officer, which means that I plan and run our Steering Committee and All-Committee meetings with Taylor, and coordinate with the Communications and Research and Education subcommittees. My goals for this year include finding unique ways to communicate LCA's mission to the Culver community and serve our partner organizations amidst the pandemic.

My name is Taylor Lewandowski and for the 2020-2021 school year, I am privileged to serve as this year's Leadership Committee for Africa Steering Committee Chair. My biggest goal for this school year is to uphold the LCA mission in ways stronger than before due to the given circumstances. Even though we may not have the opportunity to travel, we are seeking ways to implement ideas that will create change and contribute towards our common goal. I also have been striving to steer our members in the aspect that they will be leading this organization one day. I am proud to say that I have never seen more dedication and I look forward to seeing where we land.

Mission: "PROMOTES HEALTH, WELFARE, EDUCATION, AND ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN "

CHOCATLE BAR UPDATE

Hi my name is Maggie Bialek and I am in charge of the choco—amaranth bar. Due to difficulties with our first chocolate producer, and our small order, we have to find a new one. Especially with COVID it will be even more difficult to find another chocolate maker, but I will keep you all updated.

SCHOOL OF ST. JUDE

Hi, my name is Celestine. I am the Fundraising Projects Manager for the School of St. Jude in Tanzania. This year LCA is focusing on maintaining and fostering our relationship with the School of St. Jude. With the COVID pandemic, St. Jude is doing extremely well! They are back in school after some time in quarantine. The students and families at St. Jude had a trivia day to celebrate all of their hard work! The students at the School of St. Jude continue to work hard and make a difference in their communities.

Committees Goals and COVID19

Christel House Rep & Tower Dorm Representative, Becky Young

I'm Becky Young, a four-year senior in Tower dorm. As the Tower Dorm Rep, I pass information about upcoming LCA events to the girls in Tower. As Christel House Rep, I keep tabs on Christel House, and I act as the go-between for LCA and Christel House.

With regards to COVID-19, Christel House South Africa briefly closed but has been up and running since July with students coming to school on a rotational basis. They have many safety measures in place including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and regular sanitation. The CEO Adri Marais shares, "Christel House is a safe-haven for our students where they receive warm cooked meals, are loved and cared for by our staff, can chat to a psychologist or nurse when needed." In late October they celebrated graduation and their seniors start their national exams in November.

As a part of the fundraising committee, we have had to adapt to restrictions due to COVID-19. This has made it difficult to do events, such as concessions, to raise money. However, we are looking to figure out more ways to continue to raise funds to support our partners.

Research/Education Co-Chairs, Conner Lee and Ally Barath

Connor Lee, a four-year senior in Band, and Ally Barath, a two-year junior in Ithaka dorm, are this year's Research/Education Co-Chairs. Our main job is to research and present LCA's meeting topics for our All-Committee meetings. We also help coordinate special events, such as World AIDS Day. Our goals this year include educating our members through research of our partner countries, highlighting COVID-19 related struggles and triumphs in Africa, and reaching out to Culver alumni and activists in Africa as potential speakers for our meetings.



September, 2020 All Committee Meeting

Committee Goals and COVID19 Cont.

Work Project and Outreach CO-Chairs, Briana Small and Katherine Beeson

We are Brianna Small and Katherine Beeson, juniors in Benson and Atrium. We run Work Projects and Outreach, and our goals consist of facilitating concessions, alumni interviews, workshops, penny wars, care packages, and grant writing to raise money for our partner organizations. Typically, we would be running concessions at football, hockey, and basketball games, but we have had to adjust because of COVID-19 by looking for other ways to raise money or other opportunities to do concessions. We are looking forward to adapting to new circumstances and coming up with creative solutions!

Fundraising Chair, Paloma Guerrero

I am Paloma Guerrero and I am a senior from Mexico City. I currently hold the position of Fundraising Chair, my job is to organize sales and coordinate with the LCA fundraising managers to carry out specific fundraising projects. Unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic has changed some of our plans for the committee this year, so we know that even if we can't do as many projects as past years we want to maintain the connection with our partner organizations. In September, we hosted a movie night on campus and sold concessions during the event. Currently we are working on a bake sale on campus to collect money for LCA's partner organizations and we are still organizing several beading sessions (both in dorms and on campus).



BECOMING A MEMBER

To become a member of LCA you must attend at least 5 LCA events, whether that be meetings, activities, or concession events. New LCA members given a certificate and are recognized at monthly All Committee meetings. Members join the LCA family in the will to help people around the world.

BEADING SESSIONS

Hello! My name is Maddy Taylor. I am a three-year junior in Benson dorm. I have been on LCA since freshman year. Last year I got involved with the Steering Committee through being a Dorm Rep, and this year I am in charge of organizing, planning, and hosting the LCA Beading Sessions.

The beads used during the beading sessions come from an organization called the Amani Children's Foundation. The foundation supports orphaned babies in Kenya using money from donations and the selling of various crafted products.

Our "Amani beads" come from the Kazuri bead factory in Kenya. LCA is given beads that do not pass the standards for the jewelry they make and sell. We use these beads combined with donated filler beads to make bracelets, keychains, and more.

The money we make from our beaded items is given back to Amani to support their foundation. Every \$1000 we donate supports a baby for a year.

WHY I LOVE LCA

Makes me appreciate everything that I have, and it helps me feel like I am making a difference in the world. -*Stella, 2022*

Because it gives students a chance to do something good outside the “Culver bubble”. Culver is a leadership laboratory, but LCA is a chance to apply leadership for something good in the real world. -*Enzo, 2022*

Given me the opportunity to meet many new people. -*Ally, 2022*

Everyone is so inviting and kind! -*Anna, 2022*

I enjoy the people in LCA and how we serve on campus. Even though I may be one of a few CMA members, we all share the common goal of supporting Christel House, the School of St Jude, and more. -*Wade, 2022*



Learn About Our Previous Trips

There is so much about Tanzania's beauty that it is hard to fit it all in a couple sentences. What is the first thing that comes to mind when Tanzania is mentioned? For me, it was poverty. But Tanzania proved me wrong and demonstrated me that rather than living under miserable conditions, they were, in fact, rich. The trip of Tanzania searches to show how incredibly lucky we are to have all the opportunities we do and to help, in any way we can, the school of St. Jude. But more importantly, the trip of Tanzania is about learning a new culture, about connecting with others and about asking ourselves, are we really rich or are we poor? - Regina Herrero '20

Learn more about the Tanzania trip, this is the link to the blog: <https://culvergps.wordpress.com/category/2018-gps-trips/tanzania-2018/>

8,413 miles away I was lucky enough to meet some of the most inspirational, loving, and uplifting individuals I know. Despite over 20 hours of grueling travel, our arrival in Cape Town, South Africa was a truly remarkable experience. This trip allowed me to grow out of my comfort zone, step past my self-set limits, and expand my leadership potential. The work we did in Cape Town and various areas we visited made the South Africa mission trip a truly enlightening and unforgettable experience.—Abby Beck '20

Learn more about the South Africa trip, this is the link to the blog: <https://culvergps.wordpress.com/category/2019-gps-trips/south-africa-2019/>

Holidays

October 11th: International Day of the Girl (UN)

This holiday recognizes girls and women's rights as well as unique challenges each of them may face around the globe. The holiday focuses on promoting the empowerment of women around the world as well as them receiving their rights. The UN International Day of Girl theme for the holiday is “My Voice, Our Equal Future”.

October 28th: Tanzania Election Day

Election day is followed by two more days of rest to celebrate the Tanzanian holiday, Mawlid Day.

November 18: Independence Day of Morocco

On this day in 1956 Morocco formally achieved its independence from France. Moroccans remember and celebrate the late King Mohammed V's fight for the country's freedom.

December 12: Jamhuri Day (Kenya)

Jamhuri is the Swahili word for “republic” and this holiday officially marks the date when Kenya became a republic in 1964. It is regarded as Kenya's most important holiday in which they hold numerous activities to celebrate the country's heritage and their journey to independence and self-governance.



A picture of “The Trooping of the Colour” which takes place every Jamhuri Day.



Moroccan citizens celebrating their independence day by making music and dancing in the streets.

All Committee Monthly Themes

November 2020:

Culver Academies has done tremendous work with keeping our students, faculty, and staff present on campus through the midst of a world – wide pandemic. Without such care and preparation, the Leadership Committee for Africa would not be as strong for the 2020 -2021 school year. Just recently as cases have risen, we made a decision to go virtual for one of our most populated events on campus, which are monthly ALL – committee meetings. For this month, we focused on: The Taste of Liberia / virtual presentation of a Nobel Peace Prize Winner (Leymah Gbowee), a tribute to Christel DeHaan – the person who founded one of our partner organizations (Christel House South Africa), and upcoming events happening around campus. Some events that we have prepped for the near future consist of: a bake sale, puppy therapy, movie night, beading sessions, bracelet sale, and World Aid's Day. As well as recognizing a great group of new LCA members! Although we were not in person presenting, we are grateful for the continuous work that is brought from all members and peers of the organization and we are looking forward to see what the rest of the year has in store for us.

October 2020:

On October 22nd we gathered in Roberts Auditorium for our LCA All Committee Meeting with the theme of poverty. We heard from Katherine Beeson who spoke about period poverty and reminded us of the challenges girls face monthly without education and access to feminine products. Ally Barath and Connor Lee presented on poverty in Africa and focused in on many countries including Nigeria, South Africa, Libya, and Tanzania.

September 2020:

On September 2nd we gathered outside for our monthly LCA All Committee Meeting. The theme focused on back-to-school and we heard updates from our partner organizations about their school and how they are managing COVID. Since this was also our first All Committee meeting of the year we introduced the LCA Mission and all of our Steering Committee Members.



LCA Compassionate Listening Workshop

November 15th, 2020, was an experience for LCA members to host and engage in a Compassionate Listening workshop, which welcomed any student from Culver to participate in. This is one of the leadership workshops we have taken to Christel House South Africa several times and we want to make sure many have experienced it on campus as well. The workshop was led by the team that won the Moulton Grant with the National Coalition of Girls Schools (NCGS) last year and LCA Chair, Taylor Lewandowski. They plan to lead several LCA Leadership Workshops this year. Our goal was to enable others to develop an understanding on “*what it means to listen to aid in the process of healing*” by processing information from others with a non-judgmental listening and self-inquiry mindset. Some of our activities that we practiced were the following: the one hand contract (each finger signifying a different agreement), for example - a thumbs up represents positivity, greeting others through silence, sharing an experience of conflict/adversity, understanding core compassionate listening skills, and much more. It was a remarkable experience as we got to take the time to focus on ourselves and others in a safe, welcoming environment. It was definitely one for the books!





LCA Mission:

“Respond to the AIDS and poverty crisis in Africa by supporting programs that promote the health, welfare, education and advancement of women and children.”

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:



Christel House.
South Africa



AMANI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION



**GLOBAL PATHWAYS
SPRING PROGRAM** 