

Staff Spotlight

Chase Klingenstein



What is your role at the Begun Center? Describe the work you do. What brought you to the Begun Center?

I joined the Begun Center in 2016 after reading an article on the brilliant work being done through the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative led by Drs. Daniel Flannery and Rachel Lovell. The opportunity to conduct research that has an immediate and direct impact on the community was very appealing to me.

Currently, I work on various projects allowing me to do just that – help communities grow. Through the Begun Center partnerships with local, state, and federal organizations, I am afforded the task of trying to figure out what works and what doesn't in the field of violence prevention.

On which Begun Center project do you most enjoy working?

Lately, I have been working with law enforcement in various regards to enhance policing practices. By improving data collection systems, police departments can better analyze and utilize data to promote the safety and wellbeing of citizens they are sworn to protect. Through this work, I have met incredibly devoted individuals determined to continue progress on such a vital issue in the reduction of violence in communities.

What are your hopes for your career?

Through work at the Begun Center and my graduate studies at CWRU, I hope to continue learning about the social sciences to a point where they let me teach it, too! I enjoy helping others achieve their goals and love how alive and vibrant a college campus can be. So many great ideas are born in the classrooms of college communities – I want to be a catalyst in making them happen.

When you're not working, what do you like to do in your free time?

I love the outdoors, so in my free time, I am usually exploring the Cleveland MetroParks or other natural areas a little farther away. My wife is an artist, so when confined indoors, I find it relaxing to sit down with a book, play some music, and watch her paint. Recently, we have been visiting local art galleries and learning how art can help revitalize a community. We have dreams of opening our own art gallery in Cleveland someday.

If you were given \$1,000 and had to spend it on something fun for yourself, what would you buy?

For our honeymoon, we stayed in Charleston, SC and just explored the city every day. Good food, art galleries, and parks – we did it all and met some amazing people along the way. So I would buy a hotel room in a new city to explore... Toronto, New Orleans, and Denver are all on the list.