

3-2015

I-LEEP Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 2

Tara Carr-Lemke MA

La Salle University, carrlemke@lasalle.edu

Rebecca Goldman MSLIS

La Salle University, goldman@lasalle.edu

Heather McGee PhD

La Salle University, mcgeeh@lasalle.edu

Cornelia Tsakiridou PhD

La Salle University, tsakirid@lasalle.edu

Bob Vogel EdD

La Salle University, vogel@lasalle.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/ileep_newsletter

Recommended Citation

Carr-Lemke, Tara MA; Goldman, Rebecca MSLIS; McGee, Heather PhD; Tsakiridou, Cornelia PhD; and Vogel, Bob EdD, "I-LEEP Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 2" (2015). *I-LEEP (Institute for Lasallian Education & Engaged Pedagogy) Newsletter*. 2.
http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/ileep_newsletter/2

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at La Salle University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in I-LEEP (Institute for Lasallian Education & Engaged Pedagogy) Newsletter by an authorized administrator of La Salle University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact careyc@lasalle.edu.

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

**Diplomat-in-Residence
Program**

**City as Classroom:
Philadelphia
Seminars**

Faculty Coffee Circles

**Inside-Out: Going
Beyond Prison Walls**

**Community
Partner in Focus: Face
to Face**

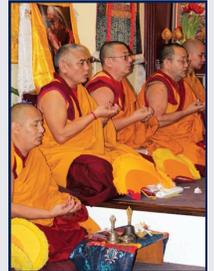
**Digital Commons:
A Showcase of La Salle
University's Research,
Scholarship, and History**

Writers Matters

Diplomat-in-Residence Program

Cornelia Tsakiridou, Ph.D., Philosophy Department & Director of the Diplomat-In-Residence Program

The Diplomat-In-Residence Program (DRP) opened its spring programming with a February 5, 2015 roundtable on the Greek elections featuring speakers from the Political Science, Economics and Philosophy Departments. It will continue with an event on Chinese and Japanese calligraphy on March 26, 2015 featuring Japanese calligrapher Mayumi Tomii, co-sponsored with the La Salle Art Museum and the Art History Department. Our final event for this semester will be a week-long program (April 13-17, 2015) featuring Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery, India. During their residence at La Salle, where they will be hosted by the Christian Brothers, the monks will create a sand mandala in the university's Art Museum, give lectures on Buddhism, present a monastic debate and perform ritual dances and prayers. This program is co-sponsored by multiple departments including the Multicultural and International Center, the Religion Department, Art History Department, the La Salle Art Museum and the Catholic Studies Program. Generous funding is provided by the Concert and Lecture Series and the Student Programming Center.



City as Classroom: Philadelphia Seminars

Heather McGee, Ph.D., Community Engagement and Service-Learning

La Salle University exists in one of the most vibrant and culturally rich cities in the county. Philadelphia has it all: treasured historical sites, a thriving performing arts scene, world-class museums, and cutting-edge research institutions. To promote student engagement with educational opportunities in the city and region, La Salle's new core curriculum will feature "Philadelphia Seminars" — small, innovative seminars (20 students or less) that focus on a wide range of aspects of life in Philadelphia. These seminars can be offered in any academic department or program and will satisfy a core requirement within the new curriculum.

While the new core curriculum is not set to launch until Fall 2016, the School of Arts & Sciences is currently piloting several Philadelphia Seminars. Spring 2015 offerings include: *Philadelphia on Page and Screen* (Dr. Kevin Harty, English); *Philadelphia and America's Soul* (Dr. Joel Garver, Philosophy); *Philly: Where to Live and Work* (Mr. Francis Mallon, Economics). Be on the lookout for several new Philadelphia Seminars this fall including: *From National Treasure to Rocky: A History of Philadelphia Through Film* (Dr. Francis McKee, History) and *Art Masterpieces of Philadelphia* (Dr. Susan Dixon, Fine Arts).



Dr. Lisa Jarvinen (History) takes students on a Mural Arts tour of Chinatown.

Faculty Coffee Circles

By Tara Carr-Lemke, M.A., Director of the Explorer Connection

Faculty Coffee Circles are informal spaces for conversation on a variety of classroom-related issues. Conversations are facilitated by one or two faculty or staff members around a particular topic, often related to pedagogical strategies. Participants may bring a particular query or conundrum, an example of a classroom success or failure, or simply a desire to converse. The group meets over light refreshments. In order to promote conversation that includes all participants, attendance is capped at ten.

The first circle of the semester took place on Wednesday, January 28th and was entitled “*Tired of giving the same old papers and exams? Considering creative ways of assessing student learning.*” The conversation was facilitated by Dr. LeeAnn Cardaciotto, Psychology Department; Jessica Morris from the Instructional Design Team sat in on the session as a resource person.

The next coffee circle will take place on Thursday, March 12th from 8:45-9:45am and is entitled “*Students in crisis: What's my role as professor?*” This conversation will be co-facilitated by Dr. Lane Neubauer, Associate Dean of Students, Counseling and Health Services, and Dr. Suzanne Boyll, Director of the Student Counseling Center.



If you would like to propose a topic for a Coffee Circle or would like to attend one, please contact Tara Carr-Lemke: carrlemke@lasalle.edu

Inside-Out: Going Beyond the Walls of Prison

Heather McGee, Ph.D., Community Engagement & Service-Learning

La Salle University sponsors a number of “Inside-Out” courses, which are taught inside Philadelphia prisons. Half of the class is made up of La Salle students (“outside” students) and half are incarcerated students (“inside” students). Inside-Out courses are designed to bring college students and incarcerated men and women together to examine fundamental issues of social justice. Recent Inside-Out courses have centered on questions such as: How do we account for America’s exceptionally high incarceration rate? Why are certain behaviors categorized as crimes and other behaviors are not? What are prisons for? Why do people commit crime? How does incarceration impact individuals? What are the current goals of our criminal justice system and what should be the goals? What are some of the myths and realities of prison life?

Currently five La Salle faculty members are certified to teach Inside-Out courses, with two additional faculty members set to attend the Inside-Out Training Institute this summer. If you would like to learn more about the Inside-Out course offerings at La Salle University, please contact Heather McGee: mcgeeh@lasalle.edu.

Inside-Out faculty pictured from left to right: Anthony Paul Smith, Ph.D. (Religion), Jordan Copeland, Ph.D. (Religion), Maureen O’Connell, Ph.D. (Religion), Jack Downey, Ph.D., (Religion), Caitlin Taylor, Ph.D. (Criminal Justice), Miguel Glatzer, Ph.D. (Political Science), Heather McGee, Ph.D. (Integrative Studies)



Community Partner in Focus: *Face to Face*

Heather McGee, Ph.D., Community Engagement and Service-Learning

Face to Face, located at 109 East Price Street in Germantown, is a place where struggling families and individuals are welcomed and treated with dignity and respect. Their mission is to meet basic human needs and reduce suffering, thereby assisting guests to a better future. They offer a dining room, a nurse managed health center, a legal center, a social services center and children's summer camps and after school programs. *Face to Face* also has a "Washeteria" where people can take a hot shower and receive a new set of clothes. *Face to Face* serves 2,500 annually and has been a stable presence in Germantown for over 20 years.



La Salle offers both ongoing service and service-learning opportunities at *Face to Face*, through service-learning courses in the School of Business, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the School of Arts & Sciences, and through weekly service trips sponsored by University Ministry and Service (UMAS). If you are interested in learning more about connecting with *Face to Face* via service-learning, please contact Heather McGee: mcgeeh@lasalle.edu. If you are seeking opportunities to volunteer at *Face to Face* please contact Amy Czulada: czuladaa1@lasalle.edu

Digital Commons:

A Showcase of La Salle University's Research, Scholarship, and History

Rebecca Goldman, MSLIS, Head of Archives and Digital Initiatives, Connelly Library

La Salle University Digital Commons (<http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu>) is a digital showcase for La Salle research, scholarly projects, creative work, and institutional history. It is maintained by Connelly Library and open to La Salle faculty, students, and staff. By contributing work to Digital Commons, Lasallians can improve the visibility of their research, share work that cannot be published in traditional journals, and make their scholarly output available to prospective students, employers, and collaborators. Authors receive permanent Web addresses for their work and can track how often it is being viewed and downloaded. To learn more about the benefits of using Digital Commons, or to deposit your work, please contact Rebecca Goldman, Head of Archives and Digital Initiatives, at goldman@lasalle.edu.

Writers Matter

Bob Vogel, Ed.D., Education Department & Co-Director of LGU

The Writers Matter Program provides a unique and innovative opportunity for middle and lower high school students to learn critical writing skills through the use of journal writing as a vehicle for self-expression. Through writing about their lives, the students find an effective emotional outlet at a time in their lives when personal expression and having their voices heard is so important. Writers Matter is a motivational strategy that encourages students to share personal stories with each other, listen to other voices, and develop effective personal relationships with peers to provide more tolerance and appreciation of others. Research conducted has consistently demonstrated that Writers Matter fosters more than just improved writing skill development among middle school students. These results include a more nurturing learning environment, stronger teacher-student relationships, and more effective classroom management because of the trusting and mutually respectful relationships that develop between teachers and students.



The Writers Matter Program was created in 2005 for middle school adolescent students, grades six through eight, in order to motivate and encourage them to become better writers. In 2008, I wrote *[Voices of Teens: Writers Matter](#)*, which was published by the National Middle School Association. Through continued analysis of the research data and contributions from our Writers Matter teachers, many newly-tested teaching strategies have been designed and implemented related to the teaching of writing. These developments have led to new book that was published by Temple University Press in January 2014, by Drs. Vogel, Yost and Lewinski called ***Empowering Young Writers: The Writers Matter Approach***.

Since the inception of the Program, over 10,000 students have participated. This year over 200 students, 24 teachers, and 9 schools are involved in the program that include public, private and charter schools. Additionally, we are in our third year of providing an afterschool writing support program for Wagner Middle School that is run by La Salle University mentors. We are planning to open more after school programs providing opportunities for LaSalle University students to get more experience working in the city schools.

Additionally, The Writers Matter Program has become international. In 2011, ***Writers Matter: Israeli and Palestinian – Cultural Narrative Building through Writing*** began in the Middle East, engaging over 700 students in the region between the ages of 12–14 from ten schools in grades 6th-8th. It is comprised of Israeli Jewish and Israeli Arab students residing in Israel and Palestinians living in the Palestinian territories. This program has been designed and implemented by myself and Dr. Sami Adwan from Hebron University (Palestinian Territory). We have partnered with Achva College in Israel and have been working with the teachers and their schools since 2013. Many La Salle students have participated in this program the past few years. Plans are underway to open a new Writers Matter program in India at the Shanti Bhavan Pre-K-12 school.

Dr. Kimberly Lewinski is the newly appointed Associate Director for the Writers Matter Program.