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# I-LEEP Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 3

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# I-LEEP

Institute for Lasallian Education & Engaged Pedagogy

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

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## Anthology on Race

Megan Schoen, Ph.D., English Department

La Salle is pleased to announce a forthcoming collection of student writings about race. As part of a continuing effort to fulfill La Salle's mission of social justice, faculty and staff have been planning programs and activities to address recent issues of racial tension in the United States; this anthology represents one such response. The idea for the collection came about during a faculty/staff meeting last fall, when Karen Reardon, Assistant Professor of Business Law, suggested that students' own voices should be heard about their perspectives on racial inequities. Professor Reardon was inspired by the student writing produced in her own courses, as well as by her attendance at the King's Dream Oratory & Spoken Word Contest. She has teamed up with Jaime Longo, Director of Academic Support Programs, and Megan Schoen, Assistant Professor of English and Director of University Writing, to solicit submissions and compile the anthology. La Salle professors Chip Gallagher and Luisa Ossa, as well as Brother Brian Henderson, have agreed to contribute critical introductions and afterwords. The editors are in talks with YBK Publishers to publish the book for use in La Salle classes, student programs, faculty development, and in local Christian Brothers high schools.

To help promote student contributions, the editors are holding a contest for entries, with a top cash prize of \$100 and multiple smaller prizes, all generously donated by the Community Engagement and Service-Learning Program and by the Explorer Connection.

Faculty and staff are asked to publicize the anthology to students and encourage submissions. Submissions may include original poetry, short fiction, essays, criticism, personal reflections, photography, and digital artwork produced for students' courses or on their own. A more detailed call for submissions will soon be sent to faculty and students with additional information about how and when to submit.



## Community Building Team

By TiRease Holmes, M.A., Director of Off-Campus and Commuter Communities

The Community Building Team (CBT) was established in 2006 with the purpose of addressing common concerns and enhancing relationships between members of the La Salle community with its nearby neighbors. CBT is a coalition of La Salle faculty, staff and students, as well as community neighbors, business owners, law enforcement and leaders from our GLOW neighborhood (Germantown, Logan, Olney, Wister) who commit ourselves to the Lasallian value of "Together and by Association." Our core values include Dynamic Decision-making, Diverse Voices, Personal Relationships & Purposeful Partnerships, Collaborative & Creative Thinking and simply Being Good Neighbors and Citizens.

CBT considers itself an outcome-based entity. A 2010-2011 grant provided by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board helped to propel and launch many of the ideas generated in meetings and community input forums. Our programs provide opportunities to build positive relationships and bridge the gap between neighbors and university members.

Our anchor programs include Neighborhood "Trash Bash" Clean-ups, an annual Fresh Produce Drive, and a community based Health Fair which has engaged up to 55 vendors and over 600 Community and University participants. Additionally, our annual MLK Interfaith Service offers a great opportunity for the community

and university to fellowship with one another. In addition to these and the many other events we host, we pay attention to the pulse of our community and address in solidarity the issues facing us. Most recently this was displayed through a "Vigil Against Violence" to mourn the death of the 50 homicide victims in the City of Philadelphia in 2014.

We publish a quarterly newsletter that is distributed to students, neighbors, local community groups and faith based organizations about resources available for a wide-array of issues. CBT meets bi-weekly. For more information, contact CBT chairperson TiRease Holmes at [holmest@lasalle.edu](mailto:holmest@lasalle.edu).



*Members of the Community Building Team at the 2015 Interfaith Prayer Service held on Martin Luther King Day*

## Lost Dreams on Canvas

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



*Lost Dreams on Canvas*, a portrait exhibition of children who were innocent victims of violence, is now on display through April 11<sup>th</sup> in Connelly Library. Since 1993 more than 200 volunteer artists have painted nearly 500 portraits of slain children, in the hope that those who see these portraits will be reminded of the importance of stopping violent behavior and of creating a more peaceful world. To learn more about Lost Dreams on Canvas visit them on the web: <http://www.lostdreamsoncanvas.org/>

## Community Partner in Focus: *Lutheran Settlement House*

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

Lutheran Settlement House (LSH), founded in 1902 and located in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, provides assistance to vulnerable children, adults, families and seniors. LSH has a long history of addressing the needs of local residents, beginning when Kensington was crowded with mills, factories, breweries and machine shops. LSH continues to address the complex needs of those struggling to survive in some of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the city. LSH's programs are designed to help protect, educate and empower community members in need.

- **The Bilingual Domestic Violence Program** provides free, quality counseling services for victims and survivors of domestic and dating abuse regardless of gender or sexual orientation: female, male, transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual.
- **The Community Education and Employment Department (CEED)** is one of the longest-running programs in the agency, dating back more than 100 years. The program provides adults with literacy, basic education, GED preparation, computer class instruction, and career-readiness training and support to help participants achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.
- **Jane Addams Place** is a comprehensive emergency homeless shelter in Philadelphia for up to 29 mothers with children. Staff utilize a holistic framework in assisting residents by focusing on family systems and employing Sanctuary®, a nationally recognized trauma-informed model. Our programs help families to regain and maintain self-sufficiency and access permanent/transitional housing and employment.
- **The Senior Center** provides community-based services, activities and classes that enhance the quality of life for adults 55 plus. The Senior Center provides community-based services, activities and classes that enhance the quality of life for adults 55 plus. The Senior Center also provides a daily meal in addition to its monthly food cupboard services and USDA-donated food boxes through Philabundance.

If you are interested in learning about service and service-learning opportunities at Lutheran Settlement House, please contact Heather McGee ([mcgeeh@lasalle.edu](mailto:mcgeeh@lasalle.edu)) or visit them on the web at: <http://www.lutheransettlement.org/>



*Participants in Lutheran Settlement House's Community Education and Employment Department (CEED) program*

# Philadelphia Science Festival

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



Since 2011, La Salle University has been a proud co-sponsor of the Philadelphia Science Festival, which offers thousands of individuals the opportunity to engage with science through lectures, debates, hands-on activities, special exhibitions and a variety of other informal science education experiences. This year, the Philadelphia Science Festival kicks off on April 24th and wraps up on May 2nd, with a day-long "Science Carnival on the Parkway."

Each year, La Salle's Dr. Rhonda Hazell (Biology Department) engages her students with the Philadelphia Science Festival in a variety of ways. "The Philadelphia Science Festival is one of my favorite activities because it allows La Salle students to become involved and to give back to younger students and encourage them in the science field. It is an excellent tool for recruitment because we get students of all ages coming to our booth/table to learn about science at La Salle. It is also an excellent way to share La Salle with the community at large since over 40,000 people attend this event. For some younger students it may be their first introduction to science and first impressions are lasting impressions!"



Dr. Hazell with La Salle students at the 2014 Philadelphia Science Festival

La Salle will participate in four events at the Philadelphia Science Festival, including the Clark Park Discovery Day on 4/25, the Neighborhood Science After School event on 4/29 and 4/20, and at the Carnival on the Parkway on 5/2. For more information please contact Heather McGee ([mcgeeh@lasalle.edu](mailto:mcgeeh@lasalle.edu)) or visit the Philadelphia Science Festival on the web: <http://www.philasciencefestival.org/>

# May Faculty Development Workshops

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

La Salle faculty members are invited to join colleagues for all or part of a four-day faculty development series that will take place in May. On **Monday, May 18th**, a Writing Across the Curriculum workshop will be offered and will include a variety of sessions to help instructors throughout the institution to successfully incorporate writing assignments and assessments in their courses across the disciplines. The morning sessions will focus on writing and rhetoric generally, with specific tools and tips for using writing to learn in the classroom. The afternoon will include breakout sessions to discuss and share assignments and instruction practices in particular disciplines, including the Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, Business, and Nursing and Health Sciences. On **Tuesday, May 19th**, a workshop for instructors of the First Year Odyssey will be held. On **Wednesday, May 20th**, the Summer Technology Institute will look at tools for faculty to use for student learning. This Institute is a forum for collaborative learning across the University Community and faculty are encouraged to come learn about some of the new ways to use technology in and out of the classroom. On **Thursday, May 21st**, faculty interested in engaged learning will have an opportunity to discuss Philadelphia Seminar pilot classes, as well as Spring 2015 service-learning and community-based learning courses. Community partner agencies will join the conversation to share their perspectives from the field.

If you have questions about any of the sessions, please contact Tara Carr-Lemke: [carrlemke@lasalle.edu](mailto:carrlemke@lasalle.edu). Please note: On **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, faculty and staff with interest in the *Teaching with Ferguson* group will meet to conduct joint curricular and co-curricular planning for the new academic year. Stay tuned for more details.