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I-LEEP Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 1

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I-LEEP

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Questions, comments, or submissions?
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Broad Street Pilgrimage to the Papal Mass

Contributors: Dr. Maureen O'Connell, Dr. Julie Regan, Pastor Gregory Holston, & Mohamed Abdallah

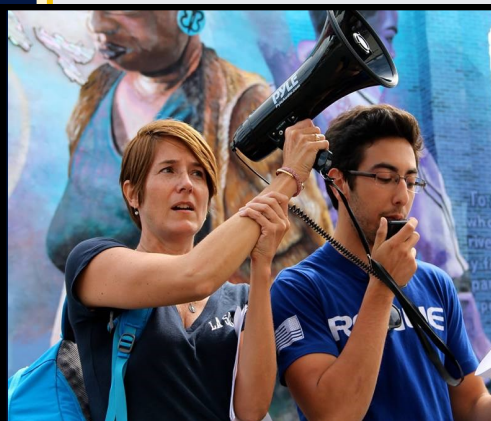
Nearly 150 La Salle students, alumni, faculty, and staff made a "pilgrimage" through neighborhoods of North Philadelphia down to the Parkway on Sunday, September 27th. Along the 5-mile route they recalled people who lived and worked and worshipped in these places throughout Philadelphia's history, and lifted up the suffering and stubborn joy of our neighbors in one of the poorest cities in the country. Pilgrims stopped at churches and synagogues, murals, and gardens—touchstones of the resilient hope and neighborly love of the City of Philadelphia. Pilgrims talked about Pope Francis' invitation to encounter our neighbors marginalized by our economy of exclusion and received blessings from a handful of faith communities along Broad Street.



Reflections from the day:

Dr. Julie Regan of La Salle's Religion Department observed that Professor O'Connell "invited us as pilgrims to open ourselves to seeing something more in the world of our community and our neighbors on the margins in North Philadelphia. It is so easy to drive down Broad Street and not notice the abandoned buildings, not to mention the faces of the human beings living in one of the poorest neighborhoods of the city, so very close to our relative comfort and wealth. Our

mission to reach out with warmth and friendship to meet people where they are in our own neighborhood and just beyond, in the Lasallian spirit, obviously made an impact on those who waved and greeted us in return. But just as important was the impact these encounters and sights/sites made on us: churches committed to embracing multiple generations of immigrants, murals painted by convicts reflecting on the value of forgiveness or drug addicts embracing faith and hope."



Dr. Maureen O'Connell (Religion Department)
& La Salle student Benjamin Dylik

Pastor Gregory Holston of the New Vision United Methodist Church, offered a prayer for La Salle students along their journey, remarking “I’m so happy just to have these students here from La Salle who are walking down to join the Pope in the mass on the parkway...They are concerned as their faith is instructing them not to be concerned just for themselves but for the social justice of our community....They see their faith and they want their faith to be in action. We just wanted to pray for them as they take this walk, as they walk through Philadelphia: Philadelphia, the poorest big city in the country.”



Mohamed Abdallah, President of the Muslim Student Association at La Salle, reflects on the day: “We embarked on a journey in which we were brought together as a Lasallian community that celebrates the plethora of diverse cultures, and faith beliefs amongst us. It was an absolute honor and blessing to be able to represent the Muslim Community, as I was able to start off the event with a Call to Prayer from the Islamic faith, which brought people together to celebrate the diversity and inclusion that the Lasallian mission stands for. “



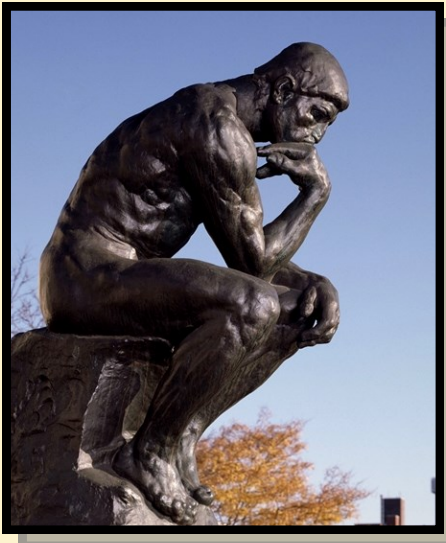
Vittoria Woodill, CBS Philly Reporter and La Salle alumna (2009), reports on the pilgrimage from Broad St. and Wyoming Avenue in North Philadelphia.

The Essential Question

Marjie Allen, Ph.D., Chair of Integrative Studies

This year's Essential Question touched many of the issues that Pope Francis spoke about during his recent visit to the United States and specifically to Philadelphia. You may remember that this year's essential question asked freshmen students to

- Explain the résumé virtues you hope to develop during your next four years at La Salle University and how you expect to develop them
- Explain the eulogy virtues you hope to develop and how you expect to develop them
- Explain how EITHER set of virtues might help you to understand, to make difficult choices about, or to personally impact the future as it relates to complex current events such as ONE of the following:
 - 1) Growing income inequality in the United States
 - 2) The issues of race, power & authority being played out in places like Baltimore & Ferguson
 - 3) Failure to take care of the Earth



The intent of the Essential Question this year was for students to see the interrelationship between their own values and personal responsibility and how that relates to structural changes in political and economic systems so that all human beings can live with dignity. As Pope Francis spoke about the need to work for equality and inclusion, and to be good stewards of the earth, our students wrote about their personal commitment to use their education for that purpose. The Essential Question was an opportunity for them to plan how they will use their La Salle education to become the people they want to be.

Our students wrote essays which show that they are ready for the challenge that a La Salle education offers them. "I want people to remember me as a man," writes Michael Anthony, "who wasn't afraid to do the right thing even when everyone else was doing the wrong. I want people to remember me as a man who would tell you straight up how it was and would never lie to you even when it would be more beneficial for them. I want to be remembered as a man who

would always help out anyone who needed, and would never complain about it after." Erin Brennan continues "So, from my first day as I begin my young life at La Salle developing my resume virtues I plan on using them for the common good and hopefully developing my own eulogy virtues while I am living my life to achieve a more meaningful and virtuous life. . . .I hope to develop this virtue by getting involved now while I am just at the beginning of my college experience with all of the different Service clubs, and Youth Ministry that will help me to give back, stay close to God, and to remember to keep a pure heart. Another eulogy virtue that I wish to develop is that people remember me as someone who was courageous, not afraid to stand up for what is right."

The Essential Question responses this year show that our students have spent time thinking about the direction of their lives and how their La Salle experience can help them.

City as Classroom: Corporate Social Responsibility in Focus

Karen Reardon, J.D., M.A., Management & Leadership

Students in Professor Karen Reardon's course on the Legal and Ethical Environment of Business (BUS 303) confront a number of important questions about corporate social responsibility (CSR) through responding to needs in our community, both La Salle's immediate neighborhood and beyond. Some of the framing questions include: What responsibility do we as citizens, and our places of business as corporate citizens, have for ameliorating societal problems? Is it the responsibility of business simply to maximize profit for its owners or shareholders? Should the business go further and take care to observe the moral minimums in doing so (i.e., leave the community in no worse shape than it found it)? Should businesses, like all good citizens, work to act in the public good, helping to solve social problems?

In response to these questions, Professor Reardon's students begin to address the problem of litter in our neighborhood. In September, students picked up trash from city curbs, sidewalks and parks and were empowered to identify "their own corner" of the city which called out for some love. They invited fellow students, friends, family and groups to join them.

In their reflective papers, students reported feeling good about this learning experience which ran deep. They know that while they may not be responsible for this problem, as citizens, if we PULL Together, we can make an impact that will LAST in Philadelphia and take pride in knowing we, her citizens, were the solution.



Explorer Cafes

Tara Carr-Lemke, M.A., The Explorer Connection & Service-Learning



Join us at the Café! Explorer Cafés bring the La Salle community together for engaging, interactive discussions on thought-provoking, interdisciplinary topics. Cafes take place on most Wednesdays of the semester, from 3-4p, in the Holroyd Atrium (unless otherwise noted). Cafes are open to the entire La Salle community and no prior experience or technical jargon is required. Come check us out if you are looking for interesting conversations, a comfortable atmosphere, food and friends. Some of the topics of fall cafes include: debriefing Pope Francis' visit, the Buddhist approach of mindfulness, social media's impact on one's reputation, and what white supremacy looks like today.

For a full listing of Fall Explorer Cafes, please visit: <http://wp.lasalle.edu/cel/the-explorer-connection/explorer-cafes/>

Travel Study Courses for Spring 2016

Melinda Ingersoll, M.A., Study Abroad Programs

Our travel study program combines the excitement of study abroad with the academic rigor of classes taught by La Salle faculty members. Our travel study programs engage students in critical thinking through first-hand experience with diverse lifestyles of other cultures. These courses also offer an interdisciplinary approach to enhance student global awareness through engagement and reflection. The following travel study courses will be offered during the spring semester:

- **Cuba: Politics , History and Daily life** (Drs. Lisa Jarvinen and Miguel Glatzer)
- **International Marketing to Germany and France** (Dr. Swee-Lim Chia)
- **Towards the Asian Century: Between Globalization and Traditional 21st Century India and Nepal** (Melinda Ingersoll, M.A., and Dr. Charles Desnoyers)
- **The World of the Early Christians traveling to Greece** (Dr. Jackie Pastis)
- **Chile and Philadelphia** (Dr. Rosemary Barbera)
- **The Divided City: Art in Times of Crisis in Germany and the Czech Republic** (Drs. Vince Kling and Jeffery Renye)
- **Business in China** (Dr. Pinjun Jiang)
- **Contesting Narratives: Versions of the Viet Nam War** (Dr. Joe Volpe)
- **India: Meeting the Global Challenge** (Dr. Robert Vogel)
- **Public Health Nursing to Mexico** (Dr. Jeannine Uribe)

For more information about our travel study courses and program, please contact Melinda Ingersoll in the Multicultural and International Center.



2015 Philly Phind

Heather McGee, Ph.D., Greater Philadelphia Initiative

The Philly Phind is an annual citywide scavenger hunt that introduces incoming students to La Salle faculty members, the city of Philadelphia, and fellow students in one fun-filled afternoon during Opening Weekend. This year students received clues for the Philly Phind from none other than Dr. Colleen Hanycz, our new president, and her family. Once in Center City, students discovered La Salle faculty throughout Old City and Society Hill, at locations such as Spruce Street Harbor Park, the new FringeArts hub, the Race Street Pier, and Christ Church.



Dr. Colleen Hanycz and her family help to kick-off the Philly Phind by distributing clue packets



Dr. Lyman Stebbins with students at Christ Church



Drs. Mike Prushan & Conrad Gleber await students at Fringe Arts



Drs. George Boudreau & Lisa Jarvinen at historic Elfreth's Alley



Drs. Rich Nigro & Pres Feden with students at Spruce Street Harbor Park



Drs. Rhonda Hazell & Whitney Howell greet students at the National Constitution Center



Dr. Jaime Longo & her husband, Michael, at Christ Church