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Tara Carr-Lemke MA

La Salle University, carrlemke@lasalle.edu

Huntly Collins MA

La Salle University, collinsh@lasalle.edu

Amy Cranston

La Salle University, cranston@lasalle.edu

Rhonda Hazell DPM

La Salle University, hazell@lasalle.edu

Heather McGee PhD

La Salle University, mcgeeh@lasalle.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Tara Carr-Lemke MA; Huntly Collins MA; Amy Cranston; Rhonda Hazell DPM; Heather McGee PhD;
Ernest Miller FSC, D. Min.; Anthony Paul Smith PhD; George Walter MS; and Joanne Woods

I-LEEP

Institute for Lasallian Education & Engaged Pedagogy

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Questions, comments, or submissions?

Email Heather McGee:
mcgeeh@lasalle.edu

Reimagining Lasallian Higher Education in Philadelphia

Ernest J. Miller, FSC, D. Min. M.A., Vice President for Mission

La Salle University is now in its third century of providing a human and Christian education to the young, especially those who are poor. Steeped in the Lasallian tradition which we inherit from St. John Baptist de La Salle and his first Brothers, we have the important and urgent task to keep the Lasallian mission resident in the University vital and vibrant.

"The City as Classroom: Lasallian Higher Education in Philadelphia" was the topic for a panel discussion held during Inauguration week. Three motifs - "Inspired by faith, dedicated to service, united in community" were the lens through which the panelists considered some of the ideals and principles of Lasallian education and evangelization. Each of these elements lead us to consider how we must educate for justice.

This event was, in one sense, a celebratory moment of the university's intellectual life and civic engagement as we prepared to inaugurate Dr. Colleen Hanycz, Ph.D., as the new University President. It was also a moment that uncovered further opportunities for growth in the University's academic life and neighborhood relations.

To that end, Communication faculty member Huntly Collins posed this question to the audience: "Will La Salle University, during this period of retrenchment, put its money, however limited, where its mission is?" For our consideration, she offered 10 "what ifs." I invite you to read and think critically about Collins' dream (a portion of her remarks can be found on page 2). Then, I invite you to imagine your list of "What Ifs." If you would like to share your ideas, they can be sent to: miller95@lasalle.edu. Responses received will be compiled, shared, and considered as we move forward.

Now is the time for us, individually and collectively, to think with holy boldness about what La Salle will become as a coeducational institution of higher learning. Its status as a Catholic and Lasallian university causes the community to live tensions to be authentically Lasallian and Catholic, to provide an authentic context for the meeting of the gospel and the culture, while sustaining the virtues and practices of the Academy.



From left to right: Brother Ernest Miller, FSC (VP for Mission), Frances Kinder, Ph.D. (Nursing), TiRease Holmes (Community Development), M.A., Huntly Collins, M.A. (Communication), Marianne Gaus, M.B.A., (Management & Leadership)

What If? Remarks from *The City as Classroom* panel discussion (October 2015)



Huntly Collins, M.A., Communication Department

Will La Salle University, during this period of retrenchment, put its money, however limited, where its mission is?

As I thought about that question, I came up with 10 ideas, some of them realistic and affordable, some of them perhaps unrealistic and not affordable. But ever the dreamer, I share these ideas with you now, hoping that they will, in the best tradition of American higher education, spark robust conversation and debate. So with your indulgence, here are 10 “what ifs:”

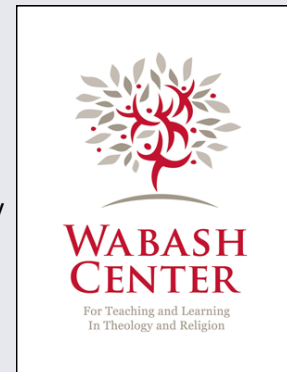
- What if we seized the prioritization process as an opportunity to rethink our new but as yet not- implemented core curriculum and build into it social justice as a central theme?
- What if we expanded our notion of faculty service so that joining the board of a neighborhood organization counted as much as joining a faculty committee to keep the wheels of faculty governance turning?
- What if we truly empowered our Community Building Team so it had the resources to mount joint initiatives on pressing issues such as violent crime in the neighborhoods around La Salle?
- What if we created a community choir, made up of students, faculty and people from our surrounding neighborhoods, to sing together on Sundays and put on concerts at neighborhood venues?
- What if we asked our trustees to raise funds for an endowed chair in urban studies which would have a special charge to teach classes relevant to our urban mission and to help develop data-driven initiatives to work with our neighbors to revitalize our part of Philadelphia?
- What if we created a special faculty sabbatical program in which faculty could take a semester without class work to develop deep connections and first-hand knowledge of the issues that plague our community, whether that be the high incarceration rate or low birth-weight babies?
- What if we renovated some of our own now empty or unused space and rented it at sub-market rates to faculty members who would not only live on campus but also get involved in the neighborhoods surrounding the campus?
- What if we expanded the Signum Fidei Learning Community, which has fewer than two-dozen students, and turned one of our larger dorms into a vibrant living/learning community for students and faculty who have a special interest in community service?
- What if we were able to make 3/3 the standard teaching load, allow heavily experiential classes to run for four credits rather than three, and made it easier to team-teach classes across disciplines for full credit toward our class load?
- And finally, ye apostles of assessment, what if we built into our assessment initiative not just measures of critical thinking and the acquisition of knowledge, but also measures of whether we have instilled in our students such qualities as curiosity, empathy and imagination?

You can't move a society forward unless you can first imagine a different and better future. With Catholic social teaching and our Lasallian ideals guiding us, it is my belief that we can, indeed, usher in a better future if we work shoulder-to-shoulder with our neighbors to solve the problems that affect all of us. Our future – and our common humanity – depend on it.

Wabash Center Grant

Anthony Paul Smith, Ph.D. Religion Department

The Religion Department was recently awarded a \$30,000 grant by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. The grant project is entitled, “Encountering our Neighbors and the Sacred in the City: Developing a Lasallian Liberatory Pedagogy of Exploration & Engagement” and will be used to create a pedagogical resource for faculty and staff who want to be more critical and rigorous in the way they use engaged learning models (site visits, community-based learning, community partners, etc.). This resource will provide a common vocabulary and conceptual framework for engaged learning in line with our Lasallian charism. We understand the Lasallian charism to have the following implicit commitments: 1) social justice, 2) civic responsibility, 3) meeting students where they are (association), 4) not leaving students where they are (providing tools for self-criticism), and 5) formation (holistic liberal arts education). Each semester of the grant’s life a two-day, overnight workshop will be held to train a cohort of seven in this pedagogy. There will be a small stipend awarded for participation in the program and throughout the semester we will offer logistical support and hold report back meetings to address as a community any issues that arise.



2015-16 Community-Based Learning Fellows

Heather McGee, Ph.D., Greater Philadelphia Initiative

The Community-Based Learning Fellows program (CBLF), now in its second year, brings La Salle faculty members together to develop community-based learning projects that engage students in service and/or research with a community partner for a minimum of 10 hours each semester. CBL Fellows are currently developing community-based projects for the following Spring 2016 courses: REL 274: Contemporary Feminist Religious Thought (Dr. Maureen O’Connell), PHL 373: Discovering Dialogue (Dr. Whitney Howell), HIS 356: Topics in Modern Non-Western History (Dr. Baba Jallow), and NUR 411: Public Health Nursing (Dr. Frances Kinder). Previous CBL Fellows have engaged students with service and research with community partners including: Face-to-Face, Calcutta House, Broad Street Ministries, Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Citizens for a No-Kill Philadelphia, and the Bethesda House.



2015-16 CBL Fellows pictured left to right: Maureen O’Connell, Ph.D. (Religion), Baba Jallow, Ph.D. (History), Frances Kinder, Ph.D., (Nursing), & Whitney Howell, Ph.D. (Philosophy)

City as Classroom: Lasallian Day of Service Extends Beyond a Day

Contributor: Rhonda Hazell, DPM, Biology Department

When Biology professors Drs. Rhonda Hazell and James Church led their first and second year nursing students in a service activity last month at the Casa Del Carmen Family Service Center, on the Lasallian Day of Service, they didn't expect it to last beyond the day. Their student group (the self-titled "Anatomy Cares" team) spent the day planting various types of fruit trees and bushes, so that the clients would have access to their fruits for years to come, and painting areas in the food pantry. The students found the work so meaningful that they asked the Director of Casa Del Carmen if they could return to work on future projects. They are now scheduled to begin another painting project in November and have begun collecting donations to purchase diapers for the organization. Go Explorers!



The Casa Del Carmen Family Service Center has provided over fifty years of service to the Latino Community. A bilingual, bicultural staff provides social services to the community without regard for race, language, ethnic origin, or the ability to pay. Services include: Social Services, Family Support Services, Pregnancy Services, Utility Assistance, Certificate Assistance from the US, Puerto Rica and the Virgin Islands, and an "Aging in Place" Program.

If you would like to make a donation to support the work that Casa Del Carmen does, you can reach them at: (215) 329-5660

Early Explorer Experience Programs to Debut in 2016

George Walter, M.S., Vice President for Enrollment Services

In an effort to provide a different and meaningful campus visit experience to those who have been admitted to the University, the Undergraduate Admissions Office partnering with each of the Dean's Offices, has created a series of on-campus visit opportunities named the Early Explorer Experience Program. The program is meant to provide a "deeper dive" into the academic disciplines within each School, through breakout sessions highlighting curriculum, outcomes and affordability. Each program is meant to bridge the time between the student's notification of acceptance and the Spring Accepted Student Blue and Gold Days. Early Explorer Experience Programs will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on the following dates:

- School of Nursing and Health Sciences- Saturday, January 30, 2016
- School of Arts and Sciences- Saturday, February 13, 2016
- School of Business- Saturday, February 27, 2016

La Salle University Community Partner in Focus

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



Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition *Advocating for Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees*

The Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC) is a diverse coalition of over 50 member organizations and hundreds of individual members. Our membership includes community groups, mutual assistance associations, nonprofit social and legal service providers, advocacy organizations, labor unions, faith communities, community leaders and concerned individuals. *Our mission is to advance immigrants' rights and promote immigrants' full integration into society by advocating with a unified voice for greater public understanding and welcoming public policies throughout Pennsylvania.*

Through coalitions and taskforces, PICC leads and supports campaigns to advance immigrant rights at the local, state and federal levels, and to ensure effective implementation of pro-immigrant public policies. PICC builds immigrant electoral power through voter registration, turnout and citizenship promotion and provides information, training and leadership development to immigrant communities and immigrant-serving organizations.

For more information: On the web: <http://paimmigrant.org/>
Address: 2100 Arch Street, 4th Floor | Philadelphia, PA | 19103
Phone: (215) 832-0636

If you are interested in engaging your students with PICC, or another La Salle community partner, through service-learning please email carrlemke@lasalle.edu. A full list of our community partners can be found on our website: <http://wp.lasalle.edu/cel/>



PICC's 2015 Youth Leaders

BUSCA Receives White House Recognition and Expands to the Lehigh Valley

Contributors: Joanne Woods, Director of BUSCA & Amy Cranston, Director of Social Media



La Salle University's Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement (BUSCA) Program was named one of the country's "Bright Spots in Hispanic Education" by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. La Salle's was the only higher education program from Pennsylvania included on the list of more than 230 programs that have been recognized for investing in key priorities for Hispanics. The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics was established in 1990 to address educational disparities in Hispanic communities.

The BUSCA program was established in 1993 to provide a college education for Spanish speakers in the Philadelphia region. Since then, it has evolved into a five-semester associate's degree program designed to help Spanish-dominant students learn the necessary cognitive and language skills to succeed in mainstream classes. Students take courses included in La Salle's liberal arts curriculum, taught by instructors who are experts in their subject matter as well as in developing the students' English skills. All 60 credits earned in the BUSCA program are transferrable towards a bachelor's degree at La Salle.

"Most of our BUSCA students face many challenges—many work full-time, have children, rely on financial aid, lack a strong educational foundation, or are adjusting to a new environment," said Joanne Woods, Director of the BUSCA Program. "Our faculty and staff have high expectations, but work extremely hard to make sure our students receive the extra attention and services that first-generation and English-language learners need to be successful." In addition to Woods, BUSCA also has a part-time academic adviser, motivational counselor, administrative assistant, and a designated Spanish-speaking representative in La Salle's Office of Financial Aid.

As a result of the academic rigor and personal attention from the University, the BUSCA Program graduation rate has consistently been above 52 percent, which is double the national average for Latinos earning associate's degrees at other private universities and triple the graduation rate for Latinos attending community colleges.

Lehigh Valley Expansion

After more than twenty years of providing Hispanic students in the Philadelphia area access to college and then helping them successfully complete their degrees, the BUSCA Program at La Salle University has decided to open a site in the Lehigh Valley in the building formerly used by St. Paul's School on West Susquehanna Street in Allentown. On Monday, September 14th, 47 students started the fall semester. They take classes at St. Paul's where there are recently renovated classrooms and a computer lab for their use. They also have access to free tutoring before classes and will study with instructors trained to work with English Language Learners.

BUSCA Lehigh Valley will be led by full-time bilingual Director Jane Schreiber, who has 36 years of experience working with English Language Learners, including 12 years as the Director of English as a Second Language for the Allentown School District in the Lehigh Valley. Ms. Schreiber supervised the creation of the Newcomer Academy for this district and has worked tirelessly to provide educational opportunities for this population throughout her career.

Interested applicants for next year's class can apply online at busca/lasalle.edu or contact Ms. Schreiber at schreiber@lasalle.edu.



November Events

Wednesday, November 4th, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Renaissance Room, La Salle Art Museum

Buddhism in Contemporary Art

Buddhist artists, Jean Plough and Gina Michaels

Wednesday, November 4, 3-4 pm, Holroyd Hall Atrium

Explorer Café

Shaming, Bullying, Career-Ruining: How Does Social Media Affect Personal Reputations (Including Yours)?

Dr. Mark Lashley, Communication Department

Thursday, November 5th, 12:30-1:30 pm, Holroyd 190

Imperial Intelligence: British Methods of Knowing in Qajar Iran

Dr. H. Stebbins, History Department

Co-sponsored by the Student Historical Society, the Departments of History, Fine Arts and Political Science, the Multicultural and International Study Center, and the Explorer Connection.

Friday and Saturday, November 6th-7th, Olney 100

Asians in the Americas Symposium

Monday, November 9th, 3:30-4:30 pm, Dunleavy Room, Union Building

Women and Children in African Conflicts: Agents for Change

Emma Leonard Boyle, Doctoral Candidate in Political Science and African Studies, Pennsylvania State University

Co-sponsored by the Departments of Political Science, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and Urban Public Health and Nutrition, Women's Studies, and the Explorer Connection.

Wednesday, November 11th, 3-4 pm, Holroyd Hall Atrium

Explorer Café

What Does White Supremacy Look Like Today?

Jacob Bennett, English Department

Thursday, November 12th, 4-6 pm, Holroyd 190

Moving Forward: Possible Strategies for Ending Mass Incarceration

Darryl Goodman, Lifers Public Safety Initiative Youth Transformation Project, J. Jondhi Harrell, The Center for Returning Citizens, Dr. Caitlin Taylor, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and Aviva Tevah, Philadelphia Reentry Coalition

Co-sponsored by the Departments of Political Science, Religion, and Sociology and Criminal Justice, Leadership and Global Understanding, the Greater Philadelphia Initiative, and the Explorer Connection

Monday, November 16th, 1-2 pm, Olney 113 & Tuesday, November 17th, 12:30-1:30 pm, Olney 113

La Salle Writes Workshop: Responding to Student Writing

Dr. Megan Schoen, English Department

How we read and respond to students' work is a big (and sometimes overwhelming) part of our job as writing teachers. This session will offer strategies for giving effective feedback on student writing.

Tuesday, November 17th, 12:30-1:30 pm, Music Room, Union Building

Who is a Citizen? Controversies over Birthright Citizenship

Drs. Lisa Jarvinen and Stuart Leibiger, History and Drs. Michael Boyle and Miguel Glatzer, Political Science

Wednesday, November 18th, 3-4 pm, Holroyd Hall Atrium

Explorer Café

What's So "Essential" About This Year's Essential Question?

Marjorie Allen, Integrative Studies Department