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I-LEEP (Institute for Lasallian Education &  
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# I-LEEP Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 3

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# I-LEEP

Institute for Lasallian Education & Engaged Pedagogy

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

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Questions, comments, or submissions?  
Email Heather McGee:  
mcgeeh@lasalle.edu



## Community-Based Learning Fellows

Heather McGee, Ph.D. Greater Philadelphia Initiative

The 2015-16 Community-Based Learning Fellows are engaging La Salle students with our community in a variety of impactful ways. Fellows developed projects during the fall semester that incorporate community-based service and/or research and are implementing these projects this semester. Students in Dr. Whitney Howell's (Philosophy) *Discovering Dialogue* class meet weekly with students at Central High School to discuss philosophical texts that raise questions about, among other things, the role of law in political community, the "disembodied" nature of imagination and thought, and the ways in which we realize—or fail to realize—our freedom to direct our lives. Students in Dr. Frances Kinder's (Nursing) Public Health clinical group collaborated on a Lenten drive for residents of the Backstretch at the Racetrack in Bensalem, collecting items including clothes, dry food, hygiene items and toiletries to donate. Students in Dr. Baba Jallow's (History) South Africa and Race course have conducted interviews with fellow La Salle students regarding attitudes and beliefs about race relations on campus. Dr. Jallow's students will present their findings in a campus-wide presentation on April 28th, 12:30-1:30p, in Holroyd, 290 as a way of facilitating the La Salle community's conversations on race.



Dr. Howell's students, Paul Fitzpatrick and Darvhan Moses, facilitate a discussion on Descartes at Central High School

Since the Community-Based Learning Fellows program began in 2014, La Salle faculty have created and deepened partnerships with many local organizations including: Face-to-Face in Germantown, Calcutta House, Broad Street Ministries, Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Citizens for a No-Kill Philadelphia, Lutheran Settlement House and the Bethesda House.



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

# 2016 Philadelphia Science Festival

Heather McGee, Ph.D., Greater Philadelphia Initiative

La Salle University is a proud co-sponsor of the Philadelphia Science Festival for the sixth consecutive year. Launched in 2011, the Philadelphia Science Festival is a city-wide, nine-day celebration of science that takes place annually in April, featuring lectures, debates, hands-on activities, special exhibitions and a variety of other informal science education experiences for Philadelphians of all ages. The festival, which kicks off on April 22nd and concludes on April 30th, seeks to engage a wider audience with informal science learning.



A La Salle student assists children at a PSF Discovery Day event

La Salle's Biology Department's will host four events during the festival to introduce the cardiovascular system to all ages. This year's theme is "What's inside my heart and how does it work?" On Saturday, April 23, 2016 (10a-2 p.m.) Dr. Rhonda Hazell and her students will participate in West Philly's "Clark Park Discovery Day" and will have a booth at Penn's Landing for the all-day Science Carnival on Saturday, April 23rd. Please stop by and say hello!

For more information about the schedule of events visit the PSF website: <http://www.philasciencefestival.org/>

## SISTERS DIVIDED BY BARS, UNITED BY LOVE:

### Challenges Facing Women Transitioning Back to Their Community

Carly Cohen, La Salle Student  
Alliance Coordinator, Critical Literacy Fellow  
Sociology, LGU '16

*Sisters Returning Home*, a community faith-based non-profit located in Germantown, will hold a women's panel discussion entitled "Sisters Divided by Bars & United by Love" at La Salle on Saturday, April 23rd, from 10a-2p. Panelists will discuss the challenges that women who are returning citizens face as they transition from prison to life in the community. The discussion will include reflections on the ways in which developing self-sufficiency, self-respect, and self-esteem help returning citizens through this transition and how the community can get involved and support this important organization.

SISTERS  
RETURNING  
HOME



Please RSVP: 215-900-4202 or  
[info@sistersreturninghome.org](mailto:info@sistersreturninghome.org)

**WHEN:** April 23rd, 2016, 10a-12p

**WHERE:** La Salle University, Music Room  
(Union Building, Room 203)



## La Salle University Community Partner in Focus: Calcutta House

Calcutta House, founded over twenty-five years ago by Mother Teresa's Brothers of Charity in a rented, five bedroom row home in the University City area of West Philadelphia, originally provided a clean, comfortable, accepting and supportive place for ostracized individuals with end-stage AIDS to spend their final months in peace and comfort. Calcutta House now serves people living with AIDS who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, and in need of rehabilitative and supportive care regardless of age, color, creed, physical or mental disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender identity and expression, national origin, race, religion, pregnancy, sex or sexual orientation. The organization recognizes a special responsibility to respond to the poorest and most vulnerable of the community. Calcutta House has served over 600 individuals since its inception and currently serves, at any given time, 31 residents.



Contact Kim McGrory to learn about their current volunteer opportunities.  
Email: [kmcgrory@calcuttahouse.org](mailto:kmcgrory@calcuttahouse.org)

## Institutional Commitment to Inclusivity and Multiculturalism

Tara Carr-Lemke, M.A., Director of Explorer Connection & Service-Learning  
Maureen O'Connell, Ph.D., Religion Department, Chair & Associate Professor

A group of faculty and staff met with President Hanycz, former chief of staff Kevin Dolan, and Vice President for Mission Brother Ernest Miller last December with a threefold intention: to share concerns about observations and experiences with racism on our campus; to offer background on the Ferguson & Beyond group and its initiatives; and to articulate initial suggestions for an institutional commitment to inclusivity and multiculturalism. At the close of the meeting, President Hanycz requested a follow-up meeting in February to discuss concrete steps toward an institutional commitment to inclusivity and multiculturalism.

A series of working groups met between December and March to investigate current practices and realities and to formulate proposals. The working groups were organized around operational and academic areas, with the thought that recommendations might complement those to come forward through the program prioritization process. Operational working groups included trainings for faculty and staff, orientations for faculty & staff, hiring for diversity, alumni, and student leadership and training. Academic working groups included the first year experience and the core curriculum.



Faculty and staff at a "Teaching with Ferguson" and Beyond event in 2015

At the March meeting, Dr. Hanycz requested that the working groups look at two areas for follow-up: first, prioritize the various recommendations and suggestions lifted up in each area and, if possible, construct a timeline for implementation; and second, propose a curricular approach for the incoming freshman class that could be implemented throughout Fall '16.

If you are interested in serving on a working group, discussing next steps, or simply learning more about the process, please contact Tara Carr-Lemke at [carrlemke@lasalle.edu](mailto:carrlemke@lasalle.edu) or 215.951.5120.

# Imagining Other Worlds in a North Philadelphia Prison

Jack Downey, Ph.D., Religion Department

This semester, Dr. Anthony Paul Smith (Religion Department) and I are teaching an Inside-Out course, “Imagining Other Worlds,” which investigates the concept of social justice through the lens of speculative fiction. When confronting a world of injustice, people have found it necessary to imagine other worlds. Sometimes this is a matter of escaping the pain of this world, but it has also been a matter of imagining a world of justice that might replace our contemporary reality. Both religion and science fiction have been important platforms for imagining other worlds, and asking what salvation might mean for humanity.

Our course has brought together regularly-enrolled La Salle students with classmates currently incarcerated in Philadelphia’s Cambria Correctional Center. We have explored questions of ethics, politics, social justice, and the conception of what it means to be human through close readings of contemporary fictional texts. Throughout the semester, students have brought their own experiences to bear in group discussions about the nature of justice, allowing themselves to dream big, and consider radical alternatives to current social structures.



Inmates conduct training for college professors inside SCI Graterford, a correctional facility about an hour outside of Philadelphia.

Implicit in our work this semester has been a commitment to building bridges between “Inside” and “Outside” students – breaking down stereotypes, but also drawing on diverse experiences to open up new channels of radical imagination. The culmination of the course was a series of group projects that asked students to construct their own imaginary worlds, and creatively articulate how they speak to contemporary justice concerns in our reality.

**Did you know?** Seven La Salle professors are certified Inside-Out instructors. In Summer 2016, that number will increase to eight; School of Business faculty member Carolyn Plump, J.D. will attend the Inside-Out Training in July.

# LGU Partners with Our Lady of Hope

Marjorie Allen, Ph.D., Leadership & Global Understanding

The Leadership and Global Understanding Capstone course places students in social ministries in northwest Philadelphia in order to work with leaders in those ministries and support our neighborhood. Faith-based communities are among the most important “assets” in Philadelphia and partnerships of these churches, mosques and organizations with universities can help us create stronger communities. One of those churches is Our Lady of Hope on Broad Street. We intend for this cooperative effort to be one of an ongoing partnership between La Salle and Our Lady of Hope, the closest Catholic church to the La Salle campus.



LGU Students at Our Lday of Hope

Four students, Gavin Lichtenstein, Danielle Marx, Rebecca Petit-Frere and Kiana Maria, have been working with Sister Mary Katherine and Sister Gertrude at Our Lady of Hope in a variety of ways. At the heart of their partnership with Sister Mary Katherine and Sister Gertrude is working with neighbors on the Community Garden at Our Lady of Hope. Although it is early spring, much work has to be done to get the garden ready for planting and to set up schedules for neighbors to participate throughout the summer. In addition to the garden, we will be working with Our Lady of Hope on several projects regarding hunger in northwest Philly. We will be designing a data base of food pantries at faith-based institutions, providing “gift cards” for families who need food and providing fresh produce in our annual spring fresh food drive in partnership with Fresh Grocer.

# Prisoners: They're Animals & Their Animals

Whitney Howell, Ph.D., Philosophy Department

La Salle is hosting a two-part presentation and dialogue on perceptions of prisoners in our society and the role that universities can play in addressing the educational needs of incarcerated individuals. This event will provide the university community the opportunity to consider and discuss incarceration policies, a prominent topic on the national agenda that is of interest to people across the political spectrum. The event will also allow us to consider more specifically what role Catholic universities have to play in the national conversation and policy-making processes.

The presentations will be offered by two founders of the JCI Scholars Program at Jessup Correctional Institution in Maryland, Dr. Drew Leder and Mr. Vincent Greco. Drew Leder is currently Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Maryland and holds an M.D. from Yale University School of Medicine and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Stony Brook University. Since 1992, Leder has been involved in prison education, first in a maximum security prison in downtown Baltimore and, more recently, at Jessup Correctional Institution (JCI). Leder's book *The Soul Knows No Bars: Inmates Reflect on Life, Death, and Hope* (1999) demonstrates the value and insights of philosophical discussion in prison. Vincent Greco helped establish and administer the JCI Scholars Program from the "inside," while an inmate at Jessup Correctional Institution. He is a political activist especially interested in prison education and incarceration policies.



## Monday, April 11th, 3:00-5:45pm, Music Room

Prisoners: "They're Animals" and Their Animals – 3:00-4:15pm  
Leder and Greco will give a presentation based on a co-authored paper, entitled Prisoners: "They're Animals" and Their Animals. Their paper examines and criticizes the correlation made in the public imagination between prisoners and animals, and explores the actual relationships formed between prisoners and animals. Their presentation will be free and open to the public.

Prison education and incarceration policies – 4:40-5:45pm  
Leder and Greco will discuss their roles in developing the JCI Scholars Program at Jessup Correctional Institution and their current work in prison education. This discussion will be free and open to the public.

This event is sponsored by La Salle's Concert & Lecture Series and co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department, Sociology & Criminal Justice Department, Explorer Connection, Greater Philadelphia Initiative, and the Leadership & Global Understanding program. It is free and open to the public.