



The First Year Experience Community Update

December 2014
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Critical Thinking in Careers Lecture Series



The Critical Thinking in Careers lecture series was enormously successful this semester with eleven presenters representing various academic disciplines.

Dr. Denis Wright, pictured above, spoke to first-year students about Critical Thinking in Social Science and introduced the ideas of enculturation and ethnocentrism and how both affect social behavior.

The QEP Implementation Team has already scheduled multiple speakers for the Spring Critical Thinking in Careers series to include FSW's esteemed faculty and administrators as well as community leaders.



Cornerstone Faculty Feature

What do you enjoy most about teaching Cornerstone?

What I enjoy most about this course is simply helping students to navigate their way successfully throughout college. There are so many decisions made throughout this pivotal period of their lives. Therefore, equipping students with the fundamental tools, FSW's magnitude of resources, and their options is the best starting point. Critical Thinking Skills, Time Management, and Understanding Diversity are three critical areas one can use to be successful in college, and in life. What better time to instill this than the First Year Experience.

Why did you choose to teach SLS 1515?

I chose to teach this course because I can identify with the diversity, challenges, and the success that students will encounter. This aids me to relate my own experiences as an FSW alumna, syncing with the content areas of the course. I believe this is an exciting medium for students to learn about the resources this institution provides to them, so they may better enjoy their college journey.

How did the course change you?

This course provides me with the opportunity to connect with students in a way other than wearing the 'Registrar's Hat'. It allows me to be connected with their current ways of thinking and learning. It is a beautiful revelation at the end of the course, when the work of your students reflects the content areas, skill sets, and critical thinking that were covered throughout the semester. That is a life changing moment.



Garnett Salmon M.S.

Registrar &
Professor of Cornerstone Experience

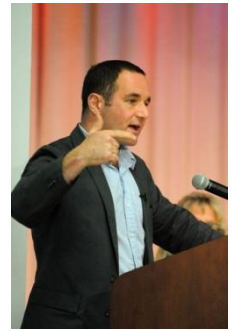


Dinner and Discussion Event



3rd Annual Cornerstone Critical Thinking Series

With Dr. Christian Parenti



On November 6, 2014 FSW hosted the 3rd Annual Cornerstone Critical Thinking Series featuring Dr. Christian Parenti. Parenti is an American Investigative Journalist and the author of several books including “*Tropic of Chaos*” and “*Freedom.*” Students were able to attend Parenti’s lecture entitled “Thinking Critically about Climate Change and Violence” on both the Thomas Edison (Lee) and Collier campus. The main presentation was held on the Collier campus in the evening and welcomed community members, FSW students, faculty, and staff.

Students participated in several events leading up to Parenti’s lecture including a film screening of Parenti’s documentary entitled “*Fixer: The Taking of Ajmal Nasqshbandi*” as well as a Dinner and Discussion event on Collier campus. The Dinner and Discussion event included a faculty-led discussion relating Parenti’s work and focusing on various disciplines including Business, Foreign Affairs, Education, Economics, and the Environment.



Community Engagement



This fall, Cornerstone students have engaged in numerous community service initiatives! Several of the community projects are featured below.

3,258



Cornerstone students raised over \$3,000 for Unicef's Eliminate Project during the Fall 2014 Cornerstone fundraiser. Professor Schultz's TR 11:00am class with PA Jennifer (pictured to the left) donated \$300.

556

Approximately 556 hours were volunteered by Cornerstone students this fall through FSW's Service Saturdays.

528

Over 500 non-perishables goods were donated by Cornerstone students for Operation Turkey on the Collier campus. Professor Rhyne's TR 4:00pm class with PA Barbara donated the most cans with 98.



49

49 pints of blood were donated through the Collier campus blood drive saving 147 lives. Dr. Lisa McGarity spearheads this initiative and noted that Cornerstone students were a large part of the record breaking success.