



The First Year Experience Community Update

March 2016
Volume 4 Issue 7

Cornerstone Faculty Feature

What do you enjoy most about teaching the Cornerstone Experience course?

I love the opportunity to help students understand how to navigate the formidable waters of college. Students learn life and academic skills which can help them succeed in their established academic and professional goals. The lessons in critical thinking, financial literacy, and learning styles provide a roadmap that can lead to successful choices in degree and career selection. SLS 1515 has a heavy component focused on teamwork. On the first day of class, students are invited into our community of learners. I believe we can help each other to succeed as learners. I also enjoy helping students make lifelong connections with each other.

Why did you choose to teach SLS 1515?

The dropout rate for college students is a national problem. When I taught at the University of Delaware, I noticed that some students did not make it past their first semester. The years of preparation to enter college was wasted as students focused on activities that were not education-related. SLS 1515 helps students to understand how to succeed as a college student and as a professional. The course provides a number of essential skill requirements applicable to all aspects of a person's life. This is my second year teaching the course. I now have students preparing to cross "the finish line" as successful graduates. I am thrilled to have a part in their success.

How did the course change you?

As a military instructor, I was taught that if a soldier failed a test, that I did not teach them how to succeed on the task. I needed to understand what style of learning the soldier demonstrated and adopt my teaching style to meet their learning style. I have been teaching for over the 35 years and found this advice to be accurate. SLS 1515 has changed the way I understand the new generation of learners. I integrate technology, group work, communication skills, and compassion into my interactions with students. The need to understand their individual style of learning has not changed. My approach to helping students succeed has changed.

George Harvey

Adjunct Professor of
Cornerstone Experience



Critical Thinking in Careers
"The Number One Workplace Skill in Business"

FYE Programming Highlights



Google Docs



Time Management



How to Read Your Textbook

Technology Workshops

242 technology sessions were held this academic year.

97.6% of surveyed participants “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed” that the session increased their knowledge of the topic.

92.8% of surveyed participants would recommend the workshop to a friend.

Academic and Life Skills Workshop

450 instructional sessions focused on developing student’s academic and life skills.

96.8% of surveyed participants “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed” that the material covered was interesting.

Overview

FSW facilitated over **800** workshops and programming activities designed for first-year students this academic year. Over **9,000** student sign-ins have been recorded for FYE programming as of 2/25/2016.





Critical Thinking in Careers Lecture Series

This academic year, **1,771** participants have attended the Critical Thinking in Careers Lecture Series. We have two more sessions this spring, one facilitated by Dr. Larry Miller on March 24 and another presented by Mr. Claude Weir on April 12. Below, are photos from the lectures as well as participant survey data and student comments.



Very informative, I learned a lot, the lecture made me think.



I liked the thorough explanation of each health profession, and the real life examples gave me a better perspective on whether these careers would be realistic for me.

90.57% of surveyed participants “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed” that the topic was interesting and informative.



The speaker was great. I loved when he went into detail about how ancient Egyptians cured sickness.