



The First Year Experience Community Update

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Cornerstone Faculty Feature



Alisa Callahan

Professor of Business
& Cornerstone Experience

Why did you choose to teach SLS 1515?

Up until this semester, my course instruction had been only within my content area of expertise, finance and business, because of my tremendous enthusiasm for these topics. However, circumstances in scheduling led me to broaden my teaching experience to include an SLS 1515 class this semester, and it has been so fulfilling and rewarding that I've requested to stay on as a Cornerstone instructor as long they'll have me. I believe our Cornerstone students also benefit from having a broad cross section of SLS instructors who include college administrators as well as a diverse group of faculty members across many different disciplines. I was initially skeptical about SLS 1515 when it was in development. However, the execution of the FYE program has been very impressive as it is very well designed and well supported within the college.

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

Cornerstone is such a fun class to teach! Our course topics are so transferrable and comprehensive that everyone, faculty included, can experience personal growth and benefit from this learning experience. There are often conversations and topics that I "bring home" to my 12-year old twin boys because of their relevance. But, perhaps what makes me most proud of SLS 1515 is knowing that FSW is giving our students the best chance for success because of the efforts of the Cornerstone instructors and First Year Experience program.

How did the course change you?

Teaching a course outside of the School of Business and Technology has given me a unique opportunity to learn from my students in a way that I hadn't experienced before. I have also developed a better understanding for my students. This will make me a more effective teacher that will benefit ALL of my future students, not just those enrolled in SLS 1515.

Peer Architect Feature



Joseph Burton

Peer Architect
Lee Campus

Through my experience as a Peer Architect, I have learned to be understanding of other cultures and have had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of students through the Cornerstone class, workshops, and in the FYE Office. I've developed my problem-solving skills and have learned the importance of asking complex questions.

As a Peer Architect, I love to help students discover themselves and reach new limits they did not think were possible.



Cornerstone Fundraiser

Fall 2015: Animal Shelter and Clinics



This fall Cornerstone students raised/donated \$1,750 and over 1,400 items for animal clinics near our FSW service locations. Cornerstone classes were incentivized to reach various fundraising goals. Students were invited to participate in delivering the donations to animal clinics near their FSW campus. Charlotte campus donations were given to the Animal Welfare League in Punta Gorda, FL. Collier campus donations were distributed to the Humane Society in Naples, FL and Lee campus donations were divided between Paws of Lee County and Animal Services of Lee County in Fort Myers, FL.

\$1,750

Dollars Donated

1,404

Items Donated

Cornerstone Experience Top Class Contributors

Names of each faculty member and assigned Peer Architect (PA) for the highest contributing classes appear below.

\$200 & 200 Items

Professor Miller
& PA Ashely

Professor Rhyne
& PA Delirys

\$50 & 50 Items

Dr. Gubitti & PA Suley
Professor Harvey & PA Mikey
Professor Rhine & PA JP
Dr. Gillespie & PA Mikey
Professor Staple & PA Shanice
Dr. Towers & PA Natalie
Professor Staple & PA Suley



Service Saturday: STEM Event



"This experience was unforgettable and I truly enjoyed being a culinary judge." – FSW Student Participant, Lee Campus

"Volunteering at this event was a lot of fun, I would do it again!" – FSW Student Participant, Collier Campus

100% of student survey respondents "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that the service event helped them make new connections with fellow students, faculty, or staff.

On Saturday, November 14, 2015, FSW students volunteered 156 hours at the Solar Oven Cook-Off. Local elementary, middle, and high school students participated in the challenge representing over 20 different schools. FSW volunteers helped with event registration, facilitated several engineering team challenges, and served as members of the culinary panel.



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