



# The First Year Experience Community Update

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## Cornerstone Faculty Feature



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Professor of Psychology  
& Cornerstone Experience

### Why did you choose to teach SLS 1515?

Many of the course topics; such as motivation, personality type and learning styles, align well with my psychology background. I liked the idea of exploring these types of topics in a different, more practical context that supports and encourages the success of the individual. The experiential approach and focus on campus community are key elements of SLS 1515 and were particularly appealing and interesting to me.

### What do you enjoy most about teaching the class?

I enjoy being a part of the journey that a student makes during their first semester at FSW. It is a pleasure to witness the growth and change that occurs when a student's school engagement, comfort level, confidence, and motivation increases. These changes can be transformative and empowering for those just graduated from high school as well as non-traditional or returning students. This course looks beyond the classroom and challenges the student to think about their future.

### How did the course change you?

This course has increased my empathy for the first-year student and influenced how I teach all of my courses. I now take more time to prepare my students for course assignments and work harder to link course material to future job and career success. My area of concern has widened as I am now monitoring a student's success beyond their performance in my class.

## Cornerstone Experience by the Numbers: Fall 2015

109

Class sections of the Cornerstone Experience course

45

Instructors teaching SLS 1515

2867

Students enrolled

40

Peer Architects

\* Statistics as of 8/25/15

# Fundraising: Muscular Dystrophy Association

This summer, First Year Experience and the Office of Student Life raised \$912.13 for Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

Seven Cornerstone classes donated money for MDA. Two classes raised over \$300 and had the opportunity to squirt their Peer Architect and dunk their professor.



Professor Staple's Class with PA, Delirys



Dr. Tower's Class with PA, Ines

- FSW donations helped the MDA provide
- 30 Flu shots
- 14 Minutes of research
- 9 Support Group Sessions
- 3 Clinic Visits
- 1 Repair of durable medical equipment
- 1 Child to MDA summer camp



Service Saturday

# Service Saturday: Community Cooperative

On Saturday July 11, 2015, FSW students, volunteered 75 hours preparing and serving breakfast and lunch to those in need at the Community Café in downtown Fort Myers, FL.



# Peer Architects



The college-wide Peer Architect team is pictured above. Peer Architects have an average GPA of 3.53 and are welcoming the new freshman class on 2015 to campus.

40 students were selected to serve as Peer Architects this fall. Peer Architects attended college-wide training as well as campus-specific training. Dr. Denis Wright, Dr. Eileen DeLuca, Dr. Kathy Clark, and Whitney Rhyne were featured speakers during Peer Architect training. Cornerstone instructors shared their expertise through a Cornerstone Experience Faculty Panel. Professors Vanselow, Schultz, Walters, and Dr. DiPofi served as panelists during our college-wide training. Professors Day, Vaughan, Scaruffi-Klispie, Newhouse, Rhine, Harvey, Maguire and Dr. Rath served as panelists at our campus-specific trainings.



# FYE Programming

This fall FYE will hold approximately 450 workshops and events. We are excited to introduce several new large-scale programming initiatives for students. We have worked with Suncoast Credit Union to provide a week of Financial Literacy during the first week of October. We will host educational sessions facilitated by Adaptive Services during disabilities awareness month. We are also working with faculty from various disciplines to host discussions and introduction to various programs and academic schools.



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