



# The First Year Experience Community Update

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## Cornerstone Faculty Feature



**Pamela Mangene**

Adjunct Professor  
of English and  
Cornerstone Experience

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

I most enjoy the students in the course. They are an inspiring bunch. I think one of our greatest strengths at FSW is our enormous diversity. We recently did an activity in class to explore that diversity, and we found that we have pretty much all races, religions, learning styles, ages, and genders. It makes for an interesting and enlightening mix of thought.

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

Having taught ENC 1101 (Composition I) for a lot of years, I've always thought that we needed a course that helped our students succeed – not just in college, but in life! And I tried to teach the composition course that way. But SLS 1515 is a course that's designed to do just that, and it does an excellent job. I especially like the idea of the Peer Architect who adds enormously to the student experience.

### How did the course change you?

Teaching this course has encouraged me. I truly believe that without an educated citizenry, democracy will not stand, and I know that our kind of open-enrollment college is so important to that idea. The first night of class, I asked who was registered to vote – not expecting very many hands to go up. I was delighted to see that virtually the entire class was registered. Teaching Cornerstone has enabled me to face the reality of some of my own expectations and see that democracy is safe for a few more years!

## A Peer Architect's Perspective

### Why did you choose to become a Peer Architect?

I decided to become a Peer Architect because I love to help people and make their experience as a first-year student as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

### What have you enjoyed most about serving as a Peer Architect?

I enjoy the bonds that I am able to form with my Cornerstone students in the classroom.

### What skills have you developed through completion of Cornerstone Experience class and by serving as a Peer Architect that will help you in the future?

Some of the skills that I have developed through completing Cornerstone and becoming a Peer Architect are interpersonal relationship skills, creative thinking skills, critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills. With all those skills, I will be very successful in any situation in the future.



**Dominique Watson**

Peer Architect

# Cornerstone Experience

## Student Testimonials

*"I never thought Cornerstone would be this influential to my academic success. I am thankful that FSW provides such a class because without the class I would be lost."*

**-Taiisha Franklin**



*"This class allowed me to see what I wanted to do as my career and allowed me to expand on that thought. The most important thing is that this class was overall an amazing experience that allowed to me focus on my future career while actively participating in on-campus activities."*

**-Justin Pak**



*"Cornerstone is one of my favorite classes I have ever had. The class never failed to disappoint me and keep me on my toes. My writing has improved with all the journals, and my knowledge of the campus is greater now because of Cornerstone. Thanks to my professor for being an excellent mentor this semester. I am forever grateful."*

**-Sarah Bestrom**



*"Cornerstone was the first place I made "college friends" and the first class I could talk to any one of my peers on a level of mutual comfort." -Erin Lango*