

Education for Justice

September 2015

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Education for Justice

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Ways to get involved:

- ◆ Encourage your students to attend Education for Justice-sponsored events.
- ◆ Incorporate our annual theme of “Literacy” into your academic courses. Do you have your students write essays, create videos or posters, draw, paint, or take photos? Why not use “Literacy” as the focus of their creative pursuits?
- ◆ Follow up in the spring to see if we have grants available to bring awareness of our annual theme or other ongoing injustice to the campus community.

Education for Justice



John Donaghy Lecture

We hope you had a wonderful summer and first month back to the University of Scranton! With all that is going on in the world, we are looking forward to supporting your needs and interests as they relate to promoting justice-related issues during the 2015-2016 academic year. We hope that you will encourage your students to attend the programs that we are sponsoring during the fall semester (page 2).

For the next two years, Education for Justice will be sponsoring a series of programs tied to our 2015-2017 biennial theme: Literacy. See below as our theme is more than what

Literacy— Our 2015-2017 Theme

Education for Justice is proud to announce Literacy as our biennial theme for the 2015 and 2016 academic years. Literacy is traditionally defined as having the ability to read, write, speak and listen. According to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education

Statistics (2003), 12% of adults in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne and Wyoming counties were illiterate and 13% of adults nationwide lacked basic prose literacy skills. According to the Literacy Project Foundation, 14% of the U.S. population cannot

initially meets the eye.

We already have events organized related to the Pope's visit to the United States in September, including his historic address to a Joint Session of the U.S. Congress (join us), the life and legacy of Dorothy Day, and to contemporary social, economic, and political conditions in Scranton. We encourage students to attend our events to learn more about literacy and how it affects their communities.

We are always looking for interesting ideas that support the University of Scranton's commitment to education and formation of students in order that they may become men and women of faith and of service to their communities. Let us know how we can help.

Thank you to all those who assisted in last year's events. If you are interested in participating in our spring Teach-In on Catholic Social Teaching and Northeastern Pennsylvania, please drop us a line.

Mike Allison, Coordinator

currently read above the fifth-grade level, and only a third of fourth-graders read at the level of proficient. Traditional illiteracy remains a serious challenge in Northeastern Pennsylvania, the United States, and the world.

However, literacy in the

(continued on page 3)

Fall 2015

September 22nd: Co-sponsor of *Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story*, Brennan 228, 7pm.

September 24th : Join us to watch and discuss Pope Francis' address to a Joint Session of the U.S. Congress. Our event starts at 9:45am. The Pope's address begins at 10:00am in LSC 133.

September 24th: Co-sponsor of State of Scranton Series talk by Msgr. Joseph Kelly of Catholic Social Services on Homelessness., TDC 407A, 11:30am.

September 30th: Co-sponsor of public lecture *Encounters with Dorothy*

Day Robert Ellsberg, former Editor *The Catholic Worker*, as well as the Diaries and Letters of Ms. Day, Brennan 228, 7pm.

October 13th: Co-sponsor of *Dorothy Day: Don't Call me a Saint* film, Brennan 228, 7pm.

October 22nd: Co-sponsor of public Lecture by Martha Hennessey, author of *Memories of My Grandmother, Prophet and Catholic Peace Activist*, Brennan 228., 7pm.

November 16th: Co-sponsor of State of Scranton Series—LHVA: From Scranton's Iron Furnaces to Lackawanna River's Trail System. Michelle Dempsey, DX Dempsey and Natalie Gelb, LHVA. Brennan 509,

11:30am—1:00pm.

November 6th: Co-sponsor of Poverty Simulation in TDC, 3:30 – 5:30pm.

November 8th: Co-sponsor of symposium on "Shared Bread for the Journey: Living Dorothy Day's Legacy of Justice," the date of Ms. Day's 118th birthday.

November 17th : Co-sponsor of *Girl Rising* (a film about global girls education) in LSC133, 8pm.

December 2nd: Event to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the four US Churchwomen murdered in El Salvador.



University of Scranton alumnus Dr. John Donaghy '70, Ph.D., shared his insights with over 150 students, staff, and faculty. In his talk on "Accompanying the Poor in Honduras" Dr. Donaghy reflected upon what he has learned while serving as a lay missionary in Honduras for the last decade.

He encouraged us to open our hearts to the people we meet. Do not go to change them but to be changed ourselves.

Dr. Donaghy also met with undergraduate students in Sr. Mary Anne Foley's 20th Century Peacemakers class and Dr. Mike Allison's Human Rights in Latin America class.

The CIA Torture Report

On March 25th, Reverend Ron Stief of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) gave an inspirational talk to students, staff, and faculty on the coordinated efforts of this interfaith organization of more than 325 religious organizations committed to ending U.S.-sponsored torture.

Rev. Ron Stief is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and the executive director of NRCAT.

Students from Dr. Mike Allison's Human Rights in Latin America and September 11, 2001 and Beyond classes as well as the University's Catholic Relief Ambassadors' program had the opportunity to engage with Rev. Stief in more intimate settings during the day.



Teach-In Recap

In April we hosted a day-long teach-in on our 2014-2015 annual theme of “Torture.” Faculty from Theology, Philosophy, English & Theatre, Criminal Justice & Sociology, and Psychology shared their disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives’ on our annual theme. The event was free and open to the public.

- *Love, Justice, and Torture* by Dr. Cyrus Olsen (Theology and Dr. Matt Meyer (Philosophy)
- *Enhanced Interrogations and Terror: Historical, Legal, and Psychological Perspectives* by Dr. Jessica Nolan (Psychology) and Dr. Michael Jenkins (Sociology/Criminal Justice)
- *Beneath the Blindfold* a Film Screening lead by Justine Johnson (Director of the Jane Kopas Women’s Center)
- *Guantanamo and the War on Terror* by Dr. Harry Dammer (Sociology/Criminal Justice)
- *Hell House: Scaring the Jesus into You* by Dr. Hank Willenbrink (English & Theater)
- *What’s in a Name? Semantics and Torture in the War on Terror* by Dr. Teresa Grettano (English and Theater)

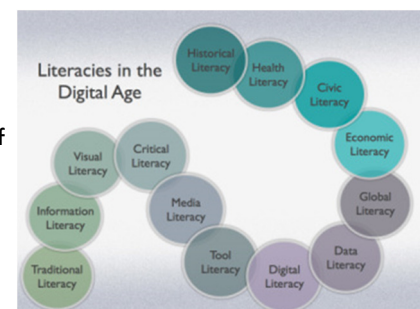


We plan to host another teach-in in spring 2016 related to Catholic Social Teaching and Northeastern Pennsylvania. Please contact us if you are interested in participating. We would love to help you think through your ideas . We might even have some grant money available if it would help.

Literacy (cont'd from page 1)

21st century goes beyond its traditional definition to include several additional literacies required to contribute to the greater good as engaged and compassionate professionals and citizens. Such literacies require citizens to be able to navigate vast sources of digital information, to understand how the global impacts the local and vice versa, and to take care of one’s health and financial situation as well as those of others. Librarian Kathy Schrock’s image presents many of the literacies necessary in our 21st century landscape. Others could include sexual literacy, spiritual literacy, and environmental literacy. We invite you to add others to our campus list as we explore literacy in reference to justice over the next two years.

Our goal for our biennial theme of literacy is to question what would be a just basic literacy in each area of literacies in our digital age. We also must question what basic literacy in each area is necessary for justice to prevail. We would like to assist faculty in exploring with students questions such as, “What would basic data literacy look like in a just world? Who should receive it or provide it? How might it be developed through more just means?” or “What basic environmental literacy is necessary in order for us to live justly?” Our hope is that we will explore the questions of justice and literacy from both the individual and global perspectives. It is important we do so not only to the growth and development of our country, but also to the perseverance of citizens around the world.



Advisory Board (2015-

Mike Allison (Coordinator) - Political Science

David Dzurec - History

Ann Feeney - Nursing

Anthony Ferzola - Math

Mary Anne Foley - Theology/Religious Studies

Teresa Grettano - English & Theatre

Justine Johnson - Jane Kopas Women's Center

Tata Mbugua - Education

Lori Moran - Center for Service & Social Justice

Jessica Nolan - Psychology (sabbatical)

Anna Rocco - Graduate Assistant

Future themes:

Health (2017-2019)

Literacy (2015-2017)

Previous annual themes:

Torture (2014)

Sustainable Memory (2013)

Inequality (2012)

Finding Justice after 9/11 (2011)

Peace and Reconciliation (2010)

Food (2009)

Immigration (2008)

Announcements:

Faculty who teach a course that fulfills the program outcomes of Peace and Justice Studies are invited to apply to have their courses listed for the concentration. For information contact Dr. Mary Anne Foley (maryanne.foley@scranton.edu)

Education for Justice is looking for one or two new faculty from underrepresented disciplines and colleges to join our Advisory Board. Please contact us if interested.



We're on the Web! Find us on Twitter @JusticeScranton ,
[Facebook](#) and [Education for Justice](#)



The Beginning

In October 2000, a delegation of University of Scranton administrators, faculty and professional staff attended a conference on Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education at Santa Clara University. At that conference, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach challenged all Jesuit colleges and universities in the US to be characterized more and more by "the service of faith and the promotion of justice...in who our students become, in what our faculty does, and how our universities proceed."

This meeting spawned a number of

gatherings at the University of Scranton, leading to the creation of a Task Force on Education for Justice to examine, publicize and promote campus initiatives; to research and propose new ones; and to propose a permanent structure to guarantee that such initiatives would continue to be effective. The Task Force issued its report and made its recommendations at the end of the 2004/2005 academic year, and a Coordinator of Education for Justice was named in the fall of 2007.