

To cultivate creative, intellectually engaged, and ethical problem solvers through integrative inquiry and action for social justice and the public good.

NEXUS

SCHOOL OF INTEGRATIVE STUDIES | FALL 2017

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GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of Edgewood College, we reflect upon the roots and origins of our School of Integrative Studies programs in this edition of *Nexus*. You may have noticed Edgewood College's *90 for 90* online journal, which is a collection of "engaging facts, photographs and other markers of an institution that continues to live the mission we embrace." The thematic threads that connect past to present such as our college's response to the needs and opportunities of the times, our commitment to social justice, and the stewardship of our special geography, are evident with every click. I can't help but think about all of the ways in which the people represented in these images have paved the path for the work you will read about in this newsletter.

In these stories, roots and origins are both literal and figurative—from roots that will sprout our first community garden, to the origin of a life-long passion for tutoring, to our groundedness in community, and to the genesis of our institutional connections to China. What inspires me about this work, and the contributions of everyone connected to the School of Integrative Studies, is the reverence displayed for our Dominican roots and the responsibility demonstrated for keeping the central tenets of our origins alive through study, reflection, and action.



Left to right starting at the top: Steve Gilchrist, Brian Whitmore, Ernise Williams, Kris Mickelson, Andrea Byrum, Sara Friar, Bonnie Sierlecki, Sue Pastor, Lauren Lacey, Binbin Fu, Lisa King, Jake Griffin, Tricia Dusick, Angela Woodward, Nancy Kern



ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

The Social Innovation and Sustainability Leadership Graduate Program (SISL) piloted its continuing education program between Spring 2016 and Spring 2017. In our pilot year, we offered courses such as Mindful Leadership, Social Entrepreneurship, Youth Leadership, Adaptive Leadership, Permaculture, Yahara Watershed Academy, Design Thinking, Participatory Leadership, and the Summit on Mindfulness for a Just and Sustainable World. We partnered with individuals and organizations in the community who had a wealth of knowledge and skills to share. Educational partners included Lisa Baker, Annette Miller, Nola Walker, Carmen Alonso, Michael Mucha, Jeffrey Lewis, Tina and Grant Abert, Madison Permaculture Guild, Design Concepts, CEOs of Tomorrow, and Clean Lakes Alliance.

Our continuing education program is expanding. An example is the creation of a Special Topics course that allows graduate students to choose one or more of the courses as an elective. It gives students a broader choice of electives and provides a space where they can connect with community members who share similar interests. As we build a stable foundation for the continuing education program, our hope is to work with current and new partners in responding to the evolving leadership, social innovation, equity, and sustainability needs of the community.



Summit on Mindfulness for a Just and Sustainable World

HONORS STUDENTS CREATE COHORT EXPERIENCE

In addition to enrolling in Honors courses, our students now participate in Honors program-sponsored activities each semester, creating a true community of learners. Each fall, incoming Honors students meet each other during an orientation session and social. A popular off-campus experience has been the GLEAM art exhibit at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, with a private tour from Edgewood College Gallery Director David Wells. In Fall 2016, Shad Wenzlaff, Senior Lecturer in Art History, accompanied a group of students to the Chicago Art Institute. Honors students gathered twice in Spring 2017 to make tie-blankets to donate to the Madison-area homeless population. Students who serve on the Honors program advisory committee have developed an experience called "Hidden in Plain Sight: A Downtown Madison Scavenger Hunt," which will be offered every year. In connection with the Common Reading program, Honors students have had an exclusive chance to engage with the material and each other during the past several years. For example, *Orphan Train* author Christina Baker Kline and *The Adventure Gap* author James Edward Mills both met privately with Honors students to discuss their work and field questions. These events and excursions are fully funded by the Honors program to allow all students the chance to participate. By incorporating Honors program-sponsored activities into the student learning experience, Honors students are able to explore a variety of intellectual pursuits while sharing time together as a learning community.





ENVS SPONSORS A COMMUNITY GARDEN AND NEW MAJOR

Happy autumn from the Environmental Studies (ENVS) program! It's a great time of year to get outdoors for study, reflection, action, and fun—all of which are included in our programming for the 2017-2018 academic year. Our student organization, Woods Edge, started the season off right with a day trip to Devil's Lake State Park to enjoy the warm colors and cool breezes of fall in Wisconsin. As summer ends and we turn to our academic and service goals for the coming year, these days of adventure help keep

Left to right: Ashley Siegel, Jan Campo, Olivia de Castro, Rebekah Herring, Grace Wildeboer, Kayla Foulk

us rooted in the passions that will fuel our work. In the spring, those roots will produce literal shoots, fruits, and vegetables as we pilot an exciting new project: Edgewood's first community garden program. We have been collaborating with COR program classes and Edgewood High School volunteers to reclaim the overgrown garden space on the east end of campus, and will be making plots available for students, faculty, and staff to grow their own food in partnership and community with others over the summer months. While our students are busy leading this effort and our traditional service projects, our faculty will be working on the development of a new major in Environmental Studies available for the 2018-2019 academic year.



UNLIKE ANY OTHER WORK I HAVE EVER DONE

Following the theme of roots and origins, here's a post-Edgewood update from former tutor Stephanie Cheslock, who was instrumental in forming our residence hall tutoring program ten years ago. Recent research on peer tutoring shows that its impact on the tutors themselves is profound. Stephanie's story bears this out. —Angela Woodward, Writing Center Director

I can honestly say tutoring changed my entire life plan. Since I was a child, I always wanted to be a teacher—that is until I discovered tutoring in the Edgewood College Writing Center. Then I knew I wanted to be a tutor. To pursue tutoring as a career, I went on to earn an MA in Rhetoric and Composition with a concentration in Writing Center Studies. After graduate school I continued teaching and tutoring for a few years, but eventually went into my current job as Deputy Clerk for the City of Menasha. I use the communication, writing, and teaching skills I utilized as a tutor every day, and I still freelance tutor whenever I can. Being a tutor gave me the confidence

to achieve whatever goals I set for myself, from presenting at regional conferences as an undergrad to earning my Master's degree from Ohio University to my current goal of working toward my Municipal Clerk Certification. Tutoring taught me to appreciate the little things and to appreciate all people from all cultures at all stages of learning and language development. Tutoring leaves me with a feeling of great achievement and fulfillment, unlike any other work I have ever done.

WGS CELEBRATES LGBTQIA HISTORY

This October, the Women's and Gender Studies program celebrated LGBTQIA History Month with a wide range of activities. Pictured here, WGS organized a social event for faculty, staff, and students associated with SAFE, Women's and Gender Studies, and our new campus club for Women's Empowerment. It was an opportunity to discuss our shared work, plan for future collaborations, and eat some yummy food.



Photo, left to right: Emily Schlepp, Alyssa Allemand, Cam Brockman, Sadie Cordova, Dr. Lisa King

Another event featured Dr. Lisa King, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Co-Director of Women's and Gender Studies, who gave a campus-wide talk on her research titled "Queer Theory and Intersectionality in the Harry Potter Universe." The talk was part of the Diversity Benefits Everyone: Scholarship, Research & Teaching series. Dr. King argued that the Harry Potter series does a good but not perfect job of embracing difference as a social, cultural and political resource rather than as a site of fear and social control. The presentation explored this claim through the lenses of queer theory and intersectionality, with magical folk as the Other to Muggles, and Muggle-borns as the Other to Pure Bloods. While Dr. King sees great promise in the series' critiques of the oppression of magical folk by Muggles, and of Muggle-borns by Pure Bloods, the series falls short in articulating the multiple axes through which power operates within the magical world.

ROOTS AND ROUTES IN ASIAN AFFAIRS

Two of the first four international students who arrived at Edgewood in 1948 were from China. In hindsight, that moment in our institutional memory, alongside the larger global forces and narratives, can be considered an origin for the college's continuous interests in expanding its educational connections with Asian countries. It marks the beginning of a transpacific route cultivated by many faculty, staff and students. The work of the Asian Affairs team today is rooted in that historical context and tradition. In recent years, we as a team have been continuing our efforts in promoting educational opportunities for our students and faculty across the Pacific. In addition to student recruitment, we have created faculty exchange programs between Edgewood and Chinese universities. In the 2016-2017 school year, we hosted four faculty members from Zhaoqing University, China, for a short-term exchange. Through this reciprocal and mutually beneficial program, Drs. Suzanne Allen and Mary Jane Best in the Ed. D. program were invited as international specialists to teach in an education leadership and teacher education training program at Zhaoqing University's College of Teacher Education in summer 2017. By signing a faculty exchange agreement with Zhejiang Yuexiu University of Foreign Languages (ZYU) in Shaoxing, China, we have welcomed two professors from this new partner school to Edgewood for a three-month visit this fall, and we have begun to offer faculty exchange opportunities for our faculty to visit ZYU in 2018.

