

The Inside-Out Center NEWSLETTER

The Inside-Out Center at Temple University
International Headquarters of The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program®

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Always Welcoming the New and Unpredictable

Happy 2013 – a new year, always new possibilities, and – in your hands – some fresh kinds of newsletter submissions. In this issue, you will see much more of the creativity that is alive and well in the Inside-Out community. Besides our usual updates and photos, we have poetry, reflections, art, and interviews, as well as our first book review – coming from around the U.S. and Canada, including Oregon, Tennessee, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Kitchener, Canada. And we are especially happy to have a number of pieces from the Graterford Think Tank in this issue.

Over the past two months, we have been deeply involved in raising the funding that we need, and we're happy to say that our donor appeal has had some inspiring results. As we go to press, we have reached nearly 80% of our goal of raising the

\$25,000 needed to match a grant that was generously provided us by anonymous supporters. Along with funding that has recently come our way from two other foundations, we are in relatively solid financial shape to keep moving forward in the near term. Now, we just need the further funding necessary to allow us to continue to grow and expand in new directions.

Finally, I'd like to share with you a few opportunities that came our way over the past several months to introduce Inside-Out in ever more public venues. They included, but were certainly not limited to:

- A Presidential Plenary at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (in New York)
- A TEDx talk at Arcadia University (in the Philadelphia area)
- A second TEDx talk at Haverford College (in the Philadelphia area)
- Several papers presented at the American Society of Criminology (in Chicago)
- The keynote address at the National Conference of Women in Corrections and Juvenile Justice (in Little Rock, AK)
- An invited presentation at the Global Gathering on Love and Forgiveness sponsored by the Fetzer Institute (in Assisi, Italy)

And, most significantly, an invited presentation at the Clinton School of Public Service, as part of their Speaker Series (in Little Rock, AK) – the talk can be accessed on their site at <http://clintonschoolspeakers.com/content/one-brick-time-power-and-possibility-dialogue-across-prison-walls> (note that the sound is not good from minutes 2:19 to 4:14, but is fine after that).

Additionally, a half-hour interview show about Inside-Out has been airing on various PBS stations around the country. The show is part of a series called 'Inspiration with Lance Heft.' We hope to be able to make the show available – in whole or in part – on our website in the near future.

Onward – into this new year, with its many and often unpredictable opportunities!

– Lori Pompa, Founder and Director
The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program



The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program® promotes social change through transformative education. It is an initiative directed at deepening the conversation – and transforming ways of thinking – about crime, justice, and related social issues. Founded in 1997, and a national (now, international) program since 2004, Inside-Out brings college students and incarcerated individuals together as peers in a classroom setting that emphasizes dialogue, critical thinking, collaboration, and the creation of new ideas.



An Interview with Paul: The Man with The Idea

Paul has been a core part of Inside-Out since its inception. He is the person who gave Lori the idea that ended up becoming Inside-Out, after meeting with her Temple students at SCI-Dallas. He is a founding member of the Graterford Think Tank and has helped build and strengthen Inside-Out over the years, participating in all of the 23 instructor trainings held in Philadelphia (three others were held elsewhere) and supporting the international expansion of the program. Paul is well known and respected throughout the international Inside-Out community for his leadership, sincerity and, of course, his brilliant ideas!

What was your role in Inside-Out's inception?

The most significant role I played in the inception of Inside-Out is probably giving the idea to Lori. I also had the honor of participating in and helping to draft the proposal that made the first class held at SCI-Graterford possible. At the time, I never imagined that I'd have the privilege of being a founding member of a Think Tank that would be instrumental in Inside-Out's national/international replication.

How is Inside-Out different or similar to your initial vision when you suggested it to Lori at SCI-Dallas?

On the most basic level, Inside-Out is just as I envisioned it in 1995, a prison-based college class where incarcerated and outside students learn together through dialogical engagement. After we formed the Think Tank in 2002, the original idea became an evolving shared vision that morphed into a multidisciplinary pedagogical phenomenon. In just eight years since we began the Inside-Out replication in 2004, more than 12,000 students throughout the U.S. and abroad have taken an Inside-Out class. I'm still amazed by the number of alumni who have echoed the sentiments expressed at the end of the class I participated in, that Inside-Out was a life-changing experience.

How has your role in Inside-Out changed over the years?

I don't think my role in the Think Tank has changed much since the beginning. I've always supported Think Tank projects and activities by making whatever contributions of time and effort I could. I try to support and encourage the growth and development of the Think Tank and its members. Notwithstanding occasional personality clashes and stormy periods of growth, the Think Tank has always operated in the spirit of collective leadership.

What is one thing outside of Inside-Out that you love to do?

One thing I love to do is jam with other musicians. I've played lead and rhythm guitar since the early 1970s, mostly Soul, R&B, and Jazz music. Unfortunately, my commitment to Inside-Out and several other community service programs leaves little room in my schedule for playing music. But I have managed to make time to perform once or twice a year in a show for the prison population with one of the bands here.

What is one thing that you pride yourself on, and how does it carry over into your work with Inside-Out?

I have a long history of spitting out what some perceive as over-the-rainbow ideas. I take pride in the knowledge that, through my own efforts or in collaborations with others, every now and then I'm able to transform one of those ideas into reality. The Think Tank has been an incubator for the development of thoughts and ideas I have about human behavior and social justice. It's also a platform to test and examine new ideas that emerge from many thought-provoking Think Tank discussions.

How has Inside-Out changed your life?

Inside-Out has been an invaluable, multifaceted learning experience that just keeps getting better. In addition to gaining a wealth of insight on a host of social and criminal justice issues, I've learned more about life, people, and myself than in any other program I've ever participated in. Without the luxury of space for elaboration, I'll just say that from the inside out, I believe I've become a better person because of Inside-Out. I think it has helped me to become more tolerant of people and opinions different from my own, as well as more compassionate, empathetic, humble, and sensitive to the commonalities and interconnectedness we all share as evolving human beings. In essence, my Inside-Out experience informs so much of what I do that I've come to think of myself as a disciple of transformative education.

What are some things you hope Inside-Out accomplishes in years to come? How do you see yourself being a part of it?

I would love to see people in prison become certified Inside-Out facilitators and training instructors. I'd also love to see the program expand into outside communities as a means to empower residents and youth with a sense of agency that would motivate them to work collectively to create safe and healthy neighborhoods. I'd be willing to do anything that would advance Inside-Out's mission to promote social change through transformative education.

– Cyndi Zuidema
Program Associate
The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

A Wagon Wheel With...

The first experience in the first combined session of an Inside-Out class is what we call the Wagon Wheel. The outside students are asked to move their chairs into the middle of the circle, form a smaller circle facing outward, and have a seat. The inside students then pull up a seat in front of someone in the middle circle, forming a second circle facing inward. Once everyone is paired up with someone from the opposite circle, the facilitator offers an unfinished sentence and each pair finishes it together for about a minute. The facilitator then says 'stop,' and asks either circle to move a seat or two to the left or right. A new unfinished sentence is then called out and the new pairs converse. This continues until the moving circle has gone completely around. The unfinished sentences, as it is with each class session and the class overall, begin near the surface and progressively deepen. Ice breaks. Walls crumble. Inside-Out happens. During one of our Wednesday night meetings, the Graterford Think Tank's Writing Committee sat down in a 'mini-Wagon Wheel' with fellow Think Tank member, Rell.



On my way to tonight's meeting I was thinking...

I was a little upset, thinking about [another Think Tank member's] situation with the courts. I didn't speak to anyone when I came in, didn't say hi to anyone because I was thinking about how unfair things are. That's not right, man.

My favorite TV show is...

I really like Scandal. I like all that... all that backdoor intrigue. I like all that conspiracy; you know, that's why they can't get parole in PA.

When I win the lottery...

First and foremost, I'd have to be home, on the outside to win, so that would be great. But I'd want to build a school for young men, to teach them how to live, to give them a new way of living, a new way to look at life.

One of the funniest things that ever happened to me was...

Well, the funniest thing that happened to me was probably not funny to me, because people were laughing at me for something I did, and I didn't think it was funny. The funniest thing that happened to someone else was when I was little, and I discovered fire. Me and my friend were at a supermarket and discovered boxes of matches and my friend lit one and burnt the whole box up in his hand. It was funny when he dropped the box. I saw him the other day, he came through here. I meant to ask him if he remembered that.

When I was a kid, I was known as...

Rell. Nothin' else.

The thing I like most in people is...

Differences. I love to talk to people who think differently, learn about how to think differently, learn about different cultures. I love variety.

I really can't stand it when people...

Judge other people. I really hate that. I mean I judge sometimes, but at least I'm aware of it. I try to check myself from doing it. I know that I don't like to be judged so I try not to judge others. Yeah, I really hate that.

Many people don't agree with me, but I think...

I'm an agreeable person! Everyone should just agree with me. Haha, nah... People should disagree or it'd be boring. Disagreeing makes

things interesting, and it's a fun challenge to convince people to think how I do, so I like it when people disagree.

You'd probably be surprised to know that I...

I used to be scared to death of the dark, so scared that when I was 3 or 4 and I had to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night, I would just go in bed 'cause I was too scared. Everything was alive in the dark, you know...when you think, what is that, a MONKEY???

The thing I like most about being in the Think Tank is...

Being able to learn new things. More so the 'how to.' I learn how to do so many things – most importantly, how to talk in front of people. I'm naturally introverted, it's hard for me to talk in front of people and I had a really hard time with that at first. The Think Tank really helped me with that, now I talk in front of the group.

What I really can't stand about being in the Think Tank is...

Havin' to meet in these hot a@# classrooms! [Response given in a hot a@# classroom.]

Thanks, Rell! The pleasure was all yours. Outside circle, two seats to the right!

Signing off,

The Writing Committee of the Graterford Think Tank

LOVING INSIDE-OUT

I've walked on melting faith,
Choked on smoke from burning hope.
Broke my heart while swinging high
On love from rotting rope.

I struggled with my spirit chained
To hopelessness for years
Then blessings unexpected came
From 'Inside-Out' and peers.

Still scaling walls of ignorance
From the dark depths of despair,
Now guided by the light that glows
From hearts that truly care.

Flying in and out of open hearts
Like windows to the soul.
Surfing high on waves of wisdom,
Hearing thoughts so new and bold.

Swimming in a sea of kindness
On currents of joyful tears,
I gaze into compassion's eyes,
Drink smiles that drown my fears.

In the marathon of life
I caught my second wind,
Fueled by confidence inspired
By 'Inside-Out' and friends.

– Paul, Graterford Think Tank

TAKING A STAND

I'M SO FIRED UP

Thinking about injustices
Thinking about a great man's words:
"An injustice anywhere is a threat to
justice everywhere"

But who cares
People are just trying to do their
own thing

Who should we be loyal to?
There's a lot of pain that will bring
This ain't the 60s
Justice is not at the forefront of our
minds

At least not virtuous justice
It's about just us, the 1%

What affects one affects us all
When will we WAKE UP
I'm so fired up!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

– Harry, Graterford Think Tank

THE MAKING OF A THUG

With the realization of the haves and
have nots
Desperation set in.
Just trying to find my place in the
puzzle,
Where do I begin...
Trying to find a way through

Looking to cope with this newfound
lack of hope,
In the pursuit of power,
Life tasting sour,
Can't be no coward...
Trying to find a way through

It's make or break time, gotta make
my move.
In search of a hustle;
Here comes my first tussle,
Living life from the muscle...
Trying to find a way through

I've gone too far, in too deep
Battling addiction,
Violence surrounds me
Money money money the American
Dream...
Trying to find a way through

– Harry, Graterford Think Tank

Pitch-blackness. In the center, a twinkling dot, growing bigger, or coming closer; flickering wilder now; a flame, yes; a crackling campfire. Glowing ashes rising up, swirling like fire flies, flying higher everywhere into the blackness, becoming countless twinkling stars.

I'm under a starlit sky, sitting Indian-style by a campfire. The silhouettes of endless pine trees surround me.

I hear sounds: crickets, frogs, owls, wind, whispering tree leaves... howling wolves... my heartbeat...

pounding. And a familiar voice: *"Kempis, in five words, say something about your situation."*

I spin around, turning my head in every direction, scanning the landscape. But my view is besieged by monstrous concrete walls and towers all around me. I swivel back around... on my metal desk stool to face the campfire... that is now my desk lamp. The stars are gone; the sounds are that of jingling, not like bells but more like... keys... and footsteps.

"Say something about your sentence to life without parole, in five words."

"Five words?"

"Yes, five words."

Jingling keys and footsteps getting louder. A full moon appears, unusually and disturbingly bright, blinding me. But hold up; that ain't no moon...

It streaks away as suddenly as it intruded. The afterglow fades with the jingling keys and footsteps.

"Your sentence in five words;" the voice persisted.

"Okay, that's easy," I said. "This...is...not...my...destiny."

– Ghani, Graterford Think Tank

Book Review: *Education Behind Bars*, Christopher Zoukis

Looking for a resource guide on the world of higher education in prisons? This may be the book you've been waiting for. Covering a wide array of topics, ranging from the need to educate those behind bars to the programs already in place that are doing so, Zoukis presents a comprehensive strategy for improving our prisons, ourselves, and our society.

Education Behind Bars begins by examining the need to provide those in prison with higher education. Somewhat surprisingly, the first major point that Zoukis makes concerns the national economy, making the claim that prison education could cut \$60 billion from the national budget each year, and possibly much more. This is because of the cost differential between providing education versus incarceration, with education being about one-tenth the cost of keeping people incarcerated. It turns out that more is better, as well. One 2010 study indicates a zero percent recidivism rate for those who obtain a Master's degree during the time of their incarceration.

Mr. Zoukis quickly moves on to the real heart of the book, a thoughtful and thorough account of programs currently available in the United States that are accessible to those in prison. As something of a preface to the resource guide, there is a section on potential

hardships and problems encountered by the student in prison. Many of the suggestions tendered are no doubt invaluable for those studying on the inside, such as funding issue advice, how to handle adversity from the prison administration effectively and appropriately, and so forth.



necessary contact information, as well as tuition and textbook costs, courses and degrees, and time limits. While one would like to see more personal anecdotes relating to the programs, Zoukis manages to make it work without them, evoking an almost College Board-like feel that is easily navigable.

All in all, this book is a recommended resource for both those inside and out. As we all know, education is the path to a brighter tomorrow, regardless of where we may be. And, in the immortal words of Zack de la Rocha, "It has to start somewhere; it has to start sometime. What better place than here? What better time than now?"

– Tuesday
Graterford Think Tank

New Collaborations at Rikers Island

On a cloudy, chilly day in mid-November, a group of Inside-Out instructors and staff met at the bridge that crosses over to Rikers Island, New York City's hub of jails located just offshore from the Bronx. We received a warm reception from Assistant Commissioner Angela Tolosa and Executive Director of Educational Services, Francis Torres. Inside-Out instructors and staff came from New York City and Philadelphia: Maria Mercedes Franco from Queensborough Community College, Dan Stageman from John Jay's College of Criminal Justice, and Judith Ryder from St. John's University in New York, as well as Lori Pompa and Erin Howley from The Inside-Out Center in Philadelphia.

We first toured the school in a women's facility, and were very impressed and encouraged by the positive culture of support on the part of the staff for the success of the women in achieving their academic goals. Meeting with administration, teaching staff, and officers in one of the classrooms, we discussed the history of Inside-Out, and there was a mutual sense of enthusiasm and interest in the transformational aspects of the Inside-Out classroom.

Next, we went across the island to a male facility and were very fortunate to meet with the inside students who were completing their first Inside-Out course, taught by Andrew Skotnicki through Manhattan College. We had the chance to answer questions about the history and scope of the program, explain think tank activity and alumni work, and let the students know that

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Wisconsin Update

Students in Carmen Heider's Spring 2012 Inside-Out Prison Exchange course focused on myths and realities of women in prison. Students were divided into five groups for their final project assignment; each group created a poster designed to challenge stereotypes and reflect the realities of women in prison. They collaboratively wrote a paper explaining each aspect of the poster and then presented their poster to the class.

'Dear Mama' highlights the number of women in prison who are mothers and encapsulates the various challenges that are part of pregnancy, parenting, and prison life, along with programs that are beneficial for mothers and children. An outside student drew the image of the pregnant woman with shackles on her hands, and the cards were drawn by the child of an inside student, allowing for 'real' voices to be heard.



The Closing Ceremony for Carmen Heider's 2012 Inside-Out class, offered through the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and Taycheedah Correctional Institution.

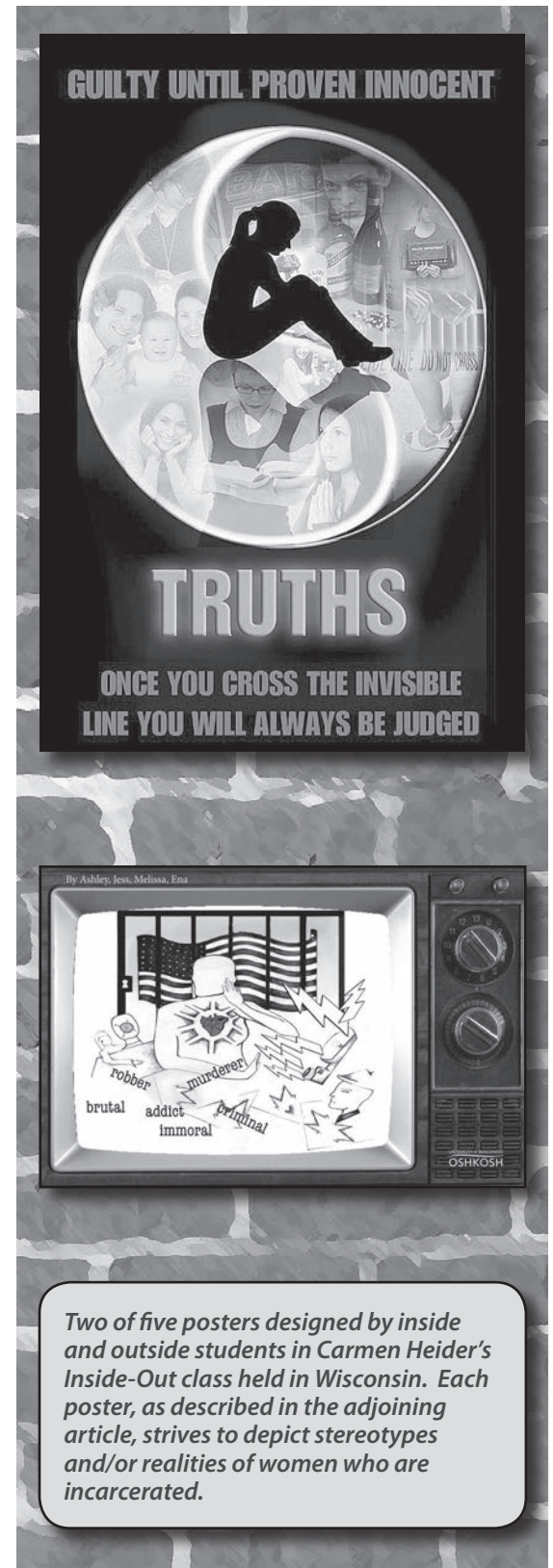
bridges the yin and yang and invites identification among all women.

'Mirror the Obsession' is designed to 'flip the stereotypes' of women behind bars with women on the outside. The poster also offers a critique of media representations through the movie marquee. The cross symbolizes forgiveness and the mirror metaphor suggests that the incarcerated and free are more similar than different.

'Choices and Pathways' weaves together two perspectives on women in prison: the mirror/billboard and road that reflects our similarities and common humanity, and the simultaneous choices and circumstances that can direct us down different paths.

'Television' illuminates the ways in which the media creates misrepresentations of incarcerated women, and the ways in which those words and images become harmful to those on the inside and outside. Drawn by an inside student, the faceless woman shielding herself from the press and its labels signifies the invisibility and dehumanization that the incarcerated often feel.

– Carmen Heider, Instructor



Two of five posters designed by inside and outside students in Carmen Heider's Inside-Out class held in Wisconsin. Each poster, as described in the adjoining article, strives to depict stereotypes and/or realities of women who are incarcerated.

Bucknell University and SCI-Muncy (PA): Inside-Out Instructor is Named Volunteer of the Year, Inside-Out Course Offerings Expand, and Campus Event Will Include Former Inside Students

Inside-Out instructor, Coralynn Davis, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Anthropology at Bucknell University, was selected as the 2012 Volunteer of the Year by the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Muncy (PA). Coralynn was recognized at a Volunteer Day event at SCI-Muncy, as well as at a state-wide ceremony at the PA DOC training facility in Elizabethtown. (See photo.) In Spring 2012, she taught her sixth Inside-Out course at SCI-Muncy, one of two prisons for women in the PA system.

Beginning in Fall 2013, Bucknell University will be expanding its Inside-Out course offerings at SCI-Muncy. Coralynn will continue to teach her annual course there, while Kim Daubman (a professor in the Department of Psychology) and Carol Wayne White (from the Department of Religion and Comparative Humanities Program) will also begin teaching courses in their respective areas of expertise, as well. Carol co-taught the first Inside-Out course at SCI-Muncy in 2005 with Coralynn.

Coralynn Davis has also organized a speaker panel, 'People, Policies & Prisons: Experiences with Incarceration in PA,' to take place on the afternoon of March 21, 2013, at Bucknell University. This event is part of Bucknell's 2012-13 Social Science Colloquium Series on Mass Incarceration in the United States. The panel will feature two former Inside-Out inside students – Tyrone Werts (currently a consultant at the Philadelphia Public Defenders Association and Public Relations Consultant for Inside-Out) and Tina Spence (now Executive Assistant to the Director of the PA Prison Society) – as well as PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel and Ann Schwartzman, Policy Director at the PA Prison Society.



Coralynn Davis receives 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award at SCI-Muncy. From left: John Murray, Deputy Secretary, Central Region; Shirley Moore Smeal, PA DOC Executive Deputy Secretary; Coralynn Davis, Bucknell University; John E. Wetzel, PA DOC Secretary; Thomas S. McGinley, CCPM, SCI-Muncy; Rev. Debra Reitz, Chaplain, SCI-Muncy.



New Collaborations at Rikers Island

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they are part of an international program. The inside students talked about how Inside-Out has created encouragement and vision in setting and reaching academic and personal goals in their lives, and the means by which to enter college and follow their dreams. It was very powerful and inspiring to witness all of the dedication and passion the men have for reaching new heights, despite the real challenges they are facing when they get out of jail.

Wrapping up our tour, we met in the Educational Services office and talked about the unique culture of support and encouragement for educational success that Director Torres and her staff have created at Rikers Island. Ms. Torres certainly is a leader of innovation and affirmation in bringing educational opportunities to incarcerated men and women, and we look forward to an ongoing collaboration between Inside-Out and Rikers Island.

– Erin Howley
Program Coordinator
The Inside-Out Prison
Exchange Program

Importance of the Circle

Whether or not a word is ever spoken, the sharing circle can silently expose doubts of being equal with one another. The moment we sit beside someone for the first time, our habitual conditioned thoughts of measuring up overwhelms us with false truths about who we are. It exposes the oppression within our thoughts through the fear of false inadequacies that tell us we do not belong, we are not smart enough, and that our struggle to adequately articulate how we feel, think, and believe will be misunderstood. Therefore, we remain silent – to disguise what we believe to be flaws that set us apart from everyone else, flaws that we own as truths, when in fact they are not.

This is why the sharing circle is important within my First Nations communities. In order to achieve a community, we must be able to contribute without the fear of failure, the questioning of our status, or the quality of our existence. We cannot achieve a healthy community until we recognize how similar we are in nature. The Inside-Out course was strategic in removing doubts, insecurities, and misconceptions. It exposed the humanity of all people by bringing to light our shared similarities within the circle.

As a First Nations woman, I see the sharing circle as a key element of fostering a supportive community. The rippling effect of this course has challenged me to look deeper within my heart and soul, bringing to the surface many untruths about me and others that I had harbored unknowingly. This opportunity unknowingly aided in exposing the silent contributions of oppression I imposed upon others, as well as myself. Had I not been a part of the Inside-Out circle, I may never have had the opportunity to heal holistically and achieve an inner feeling of freedom.

– Sharla, student in 'Diversity, Marginalization and Oppression'
Wilfrid Laurier/Grand Valley Institution
for Women
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

'Criminologists and Criminals'

When I stood at this podium one year ago and spoke to the tremendous potential and deeply transformative impact of the Inside-Out program, as we closed its very first Canadian semester, I never imagined I would ever again feel so impassioned, so humbled, or moved by a class. I told myself that never again could a course be as great as our first course was, but oh, how I was wrong!

This class, 'Prisons and Punishment,' began with force! In the great Inside-Out tradition, we appeared at first an unlikely group of peers. Under the labels of criminologists and criminals, we joined together to navigate the complex social and emotional causes and effects of the penal process – it was an ambitious task!

Yet never did I feel like we were strangers, forced together. Never did I feel awkward or judged or subordinate. Instead, we became a unified group, with much more in common than we had apart. And as we learned and explored and debated the nature and effectiveness of imprisonment, we forgot all about the social barriers that normally exist between us.

Indeed, as this class ends, some of us may go on to become parole officers, while some of us will remain here, waiting for the day we are paroled. But all of us will do so, understanding one another and understanding why a little better.

This is Inside-Out's power! It strips us of our statuses, assumptions, and comfort zones, and lets us connect as human beings – human beings who all essentially just want the world to be a little kinder, a little more understanding.

I wish the whole world functioned just like an Inside-Out class! I wish we all sat in circles and sought to understand each other's contexts and perspectives, and that we did so in a gentle and inclusive way.

Perhaps in this world there would be less violence. Perhaps there would be no prisons. And perhaps when we introduced ourselves, all that would matter would be our names, because words like 'criminal' and 'criminologist' would not exist.

But until then, we can celebrate every person who has come into this program with their whole hearts and without judgment. You have all taught me so much and you have weakened the strong walls that do separate us with every step you have taken to be here, and with every brave thought you have shared.

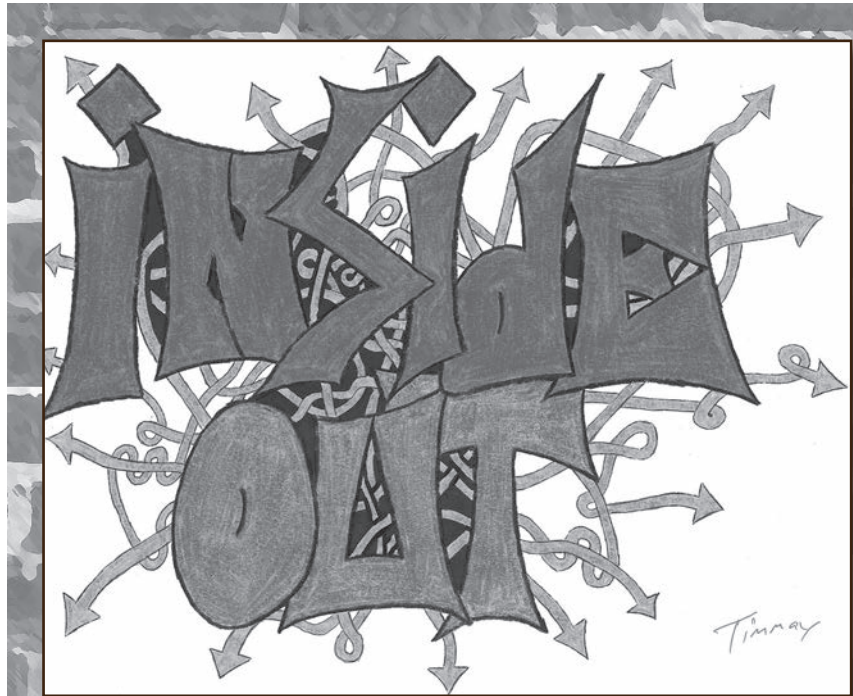
I will carry everything about our unlikely and inspiring group into everything I do in my future, and I will really miss you all.

– Nyki, inside student
Inside-Out: Prisons and
Punishment, Fall 2012
University of Toronto Mississauga
and Grand Valley Institution for
Women

Inside-Out Perceptions

You come into this setting
but do you really think you know me?
You stop and take a look around
but only what you're allowed to see.
You bring with you the baggage
of what you think you know
Criminals, do gooders, deviants, gawkers,
guilty, innocent, although...
There is something familiar in that face
across the room I hadn't anticipated
Guarded, uneasy, anxiety, curiosity
Optimism, hope, Are we related?
It's true that labels were made
and perhaps boxes prepared
but stigmas soon fade
When common ideas, values,
and experiences are shared
We don't all agree
that's painfully clear
but as we humanize others
we displace the fear.

– Rob, inside student



Six Degrees

They say there are only six degrees
But what if there were none?
What if I and the person next to me
Were less than one
If it was me standing there
With little more than a blank stare
Would someone give me a chance
Or pass me by without a glance
Would it be that I were here
and you were there?
Would there still be six degrees?

– Anonymous outside student

Poetry and art generated by students in Theresa Leopold's Fall 2012 Inside-Out class. The course 'Criminal Justice in Society' was offered through Lake Superior College, Duluth, Minnesota, and held at the Northeast Regional Corrections Center (NERCC) in Saginaw, Minnesota. NERCC is a minimum-security facility housing male offenders.

Inside-Out is Moving Forward at DeBerry Special Needs Facility in Tennessee

Kate King's class, entitled 'Critical Issues in Criminal Justice,' just ended. During the semester, students discussed issues such as collateral consequences of a felony conviction. Both inside and outside students were stunned to learn about disenfranchisement and the extensive legal obstacles facing individuals upon release from prison. Other topics included juveniles sentenced to life without parole, the impact of incarceration on families, overcrowding in prison, and the issues related to wrongful convictions. The group project by the class is a book, along the lines of Howard Zehr's masterpiece, *Doing Life*. We were given permission to bring in a high quality camera and take photos of the students. In the book, those photos will be opposite their essays on a critical issue of their choice.

The Think Tank at DeBerry Special Needs Facility has created a help line for individuals on parole who are scared and struggling, and need a helpful person to listen and assist by providing information on local resources. This project, called We Stay Free, also has a Facebook page and a blog, where people can donate to this wonderful effort. Previously released individuals who have transitioned successfully out of prison will answer the calls and give callers both moral support and real guidance to resources in the community. To support that part of the effort, inside members are collecting impressive amounts of information and compiling them in notebooks for the use of those answering the hotline. Think Tank members saw a critical need and We Stay Free was born on 11/20/12. We have T-shirts and hoodies emblazoned with our new logo for sale, which was drawn by our own inside Picasso!

– Kate King, Instructor

Making Connections, Moving Forward

I recently traveled from the University of Oregon to the East Coast to meet with Inside-Out professors, alumni, and think tanks in an effort to build relationships between think tanks and to help to construct an international alumni infrastructure. In Morgantown, West Virginia, I met Jeri, Delia, and the think tank at Hazelton Federal Penitentiary; I met Barbara in Baltimore to discuss creative writing and Inside-Out; and I met Inside-Out alumni, staff, and the Graterford Think Tank in Philadelphia.

While visiting the Inside-Out Center at Temple, I went to the Youth Study Center (YSC), "the only secure youth detention facility in Philadelphia." The YSC was located in the heart of North Philadelphia amidst neighborhoods of unfettered poverty. Originally a mental hospital, the building had been transformed into a 105-bed facility "for court-ordered juveniles between the ages of 13-18, who are alleged to have committed a felony type offense and are deemed by the court to be a serious risk to the safety of the community." I had never seen anything like it.

There is usually a methodical structure and logic to prisons that help to compartmentalize the shock of walking through their hallways. This was not so for the YSC. The edifice clearly demonstrated that there was no justified reason for how those kids were housed, for the decrepit neighborhoods of North Philly, for the deaths and imprisonment that those kids talked about with such nonchalance, for their preparedness and even seeming excitement for prison, or for any of the destructive realities represented by incarcerating kids.

The YSC is a checkpoint between birth and prison. Inside-Out and think tanks are working to expand carceral education and establish prison-to-university pathways, yet the reality of the YSC and the 5,000 youth housed there each year demonstrates the need to bring education into communities before their children are shipped away. Inside-Out works in prisons, but the problems begin well before incarceration. As we develop the alumni infrastructure, I believe we should take heed of the YSC and of the imperative to disrupt the cradle-to-prison pipeline by utilizing the alumni organization – at least to some degree – to work with at-risk and incarcerated youth.

– Jordan, University of Oregon



Closing Ceremony of Angela Bryant's Inside-Out class through Ohio State University - Newark.

How to Contribute to The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program[®]

Your gift to Inside-Out will make a profound difference in the lives of incarcerated students and the outside students who join them in classrooms across North America.

To Contribute

You can make a secure online donation.

Follow the directions on the website page at:

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Or you may send a check made out to TEMPLE UNIVERSITY (with "Inside-Out – P9894" in the memo line – this is VERY IMPORTANT, to assure that Inside-Out receives the money) to the following address:

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P.O. Box 827651
Philadelphia, PA 19182-7651

(Please email us at insideout@temple.edu once you've made a donation, whether online or by check. It will help us in tracking it.)

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. You will be provided with a receipt and letter of thanks from both Temple and the Inside-Out program for your files.

Thank you from the Inside-Out Team

*While some dream
of doing big things,
others stay awake
and do them!*

– Inside participant and Think
Tank member

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2013 Calendar

May	19–25	Training #27 in Michigan
June	10–16	Training #28 in Oregon
July	15–21	Training #29 Ontario, Canada
August	12–18	Training #30 in Philadelphia, PA

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