



LEARNING COMMUNITIES

NEWS Brief.....

BRIEF EDITION....go to <http://lanecc.edu/lc/fresources/LearningCommunitiesNews.htm> for complete edition. For information, contact Anne McGrail at mcgraila@lanecc.edu. **Spring Term Schedule is available on the web!** Check out Lane's Spring Learning Communities offerings at lanecc.edu/lc.

Fast Lane to Success Expands to 12 Sections

More than five years ago, Fast Lane to Success began as a two-course learning community. Since then, Fast Lane has grown to twelve sections and now links College Success with a host of classes tailored to suit first-year students' needs. In Fall 2009, Lane offered Beyond the Field, a "fast lane" for student athletes; Visualizing Success, a "fast lane" for aspiring artists; Math Fast Lane with Math

60; and Fast Lanes with Speech and Writing classes, including two online sections.

What makes Fast Lanes to Success so successful? Fast Lane students spend the term learning how to create success in their lives by setting short-term and long-term goals, learning how to take purposeful actions toward their college and life goals, and overcoming self-

defeating patterns in school and life, among other topics. Students are in cohorts and so develop relationships with peers while they work toward their degree with key discipline-area courses. Fast Lane faculty now number twenty-two. Contact Anne McGrail for more information on how to participate or to be added to the First Year Experience faculty resources moodle page.

New "Pen and Page" Developmental Learning Community: Helping Students Start Out Right

Fast Lane to Success is not the only First Year Experience (FYE) that Lane students can benefit from. In "Pen and Page," a new learning community for Reading and Writing 80 students, instructors

Elaine Pray and Cristina Simoni take advantage of the natural connection between reading and writing skills. Students who are not quite ready for college-level classes take both RD80 and WR

80 classes in the same term, resulting in a full schedule of developmental course work with coordinated curriculum, a combination sure to increase student success.

Mark Your Calendars!

Two-Day On Course Workshop April 22nd and 23rd

Join us on April 22nd and 23rd for a two-day faculty development workshop. The goal of the workshop is to provide faculty with effective strategies for empowering students to become active, responsible learners. The result is greater academic success and retention. Dr. Jonathan Brennan will lead the workshop. All faculty who teach first-year students or who want to improve the learning impact of their courses should attend. Part-time faculty will receive a stipend for attending. Contact Anne McGrail for more information on how to register.

You're Invited: "Tea and Topics"

All faculty are invited to join us for tea and cookies and talk about teaching in the First Year Experience Program. Contact Anne McGrail.

Thursday, January 21st 3-5 pm CML 205

Friday, February 26th, 2-4 pm CML 205



Learning Communities and First Year Experience

What is the First Year Experience (FYE) Program all about?

By now many faculty and staff have heard that Lane received a five-year, \$2 million Title III grant from the Department of Education. This grant is intended to strengthen institutions, and Lane is using the money to support college-wide efforts to improve student retention and success. In addition to increasing the number of first-year students who take learning communities, the program improves services and communication to students about resources for success.

If you want to know more about the First Year Experience and the *Engaging Students* program, go to the Faculty Resources page of the Learning Communities website: <http://lanecc.edu/lc/fresources/FacultyFastLaneResources.htm>

Lane's LIVE Program Helps Veterans Make the Transition to College

Lane's Integration of Vets in Education (LIVE) program, funded by a national grant awarded to only 20 colleges and universities, is directed by veteran and Social Science faculty member Michael Samano. LIVE provides veteran students with a fully integrated first-year experience (FYE) that builds on the college's current Title III *Engaging Students* program. LIVE is

designed to engage veteran students more fully in their learning and to assist them with the transition back to college after service. For more information, contact Michael Samano at samanom@lanecc.edu.

Prerequisites: Improving Student Preparedness for College-Level Work

While many Lane courses demand that students possess certain skills in computation, reading and writing for success, prerequisites are not required in most courses. The Success and Goal Attainment (SAGA) committee will be hosting discussions in Winter and Spring term about how we might begin the process of suggested or required prerequisites for General Education courses. Portland Community College has undertaken campus-wide prerequisites for their credit courses. You can find out more about their process at <http://www.pcc.edu/registration/prereq.html>

What Are Faculty Saying about Fast Lane?

"The Fast Lane learning community does not guarantee that all students will perform fabulously in one's writing class; however, the curriculum does translate to a very engaged core of students who use lessons from on course to improve their class participation and, what I refer to as, "class citizenship." Students often become very involved with each other's successes and demonstrate a keen

understanding of how interdependence benefits everyone. Obviously, interdependent and collaborative students enrich any classroom." -- **Kate Sullivan, English**

Reading Together Hosts Poet Laureate Kay Ryan

Reading Together is a college-wide reading program started years ago with the help of benefactor Jane King. The program is delighted to announce that Poet Laureate Kay Ryan of California will speak and hold a student



Photo of Kay Ryan. Credit: Christina K Hernandez

workshop at Lane on May 13th and 14th. More details will be forthcoming from Eileen Thompson, interim *Reading Together* coordinator.

Would you like to have access to teaching resources for First Year Experience? Contact Anne McGrail and she will add you to the Moodle course for faculty. And visit lanecc.edu/lc/fresources to visit the faculty resources page for all learning communities.

Check out the expanded edition of the *Learning Communities News* on our website: <http://lanecc.edu/lc/fresources/LearningCommunitiesNews.htm>