

FALL 2014

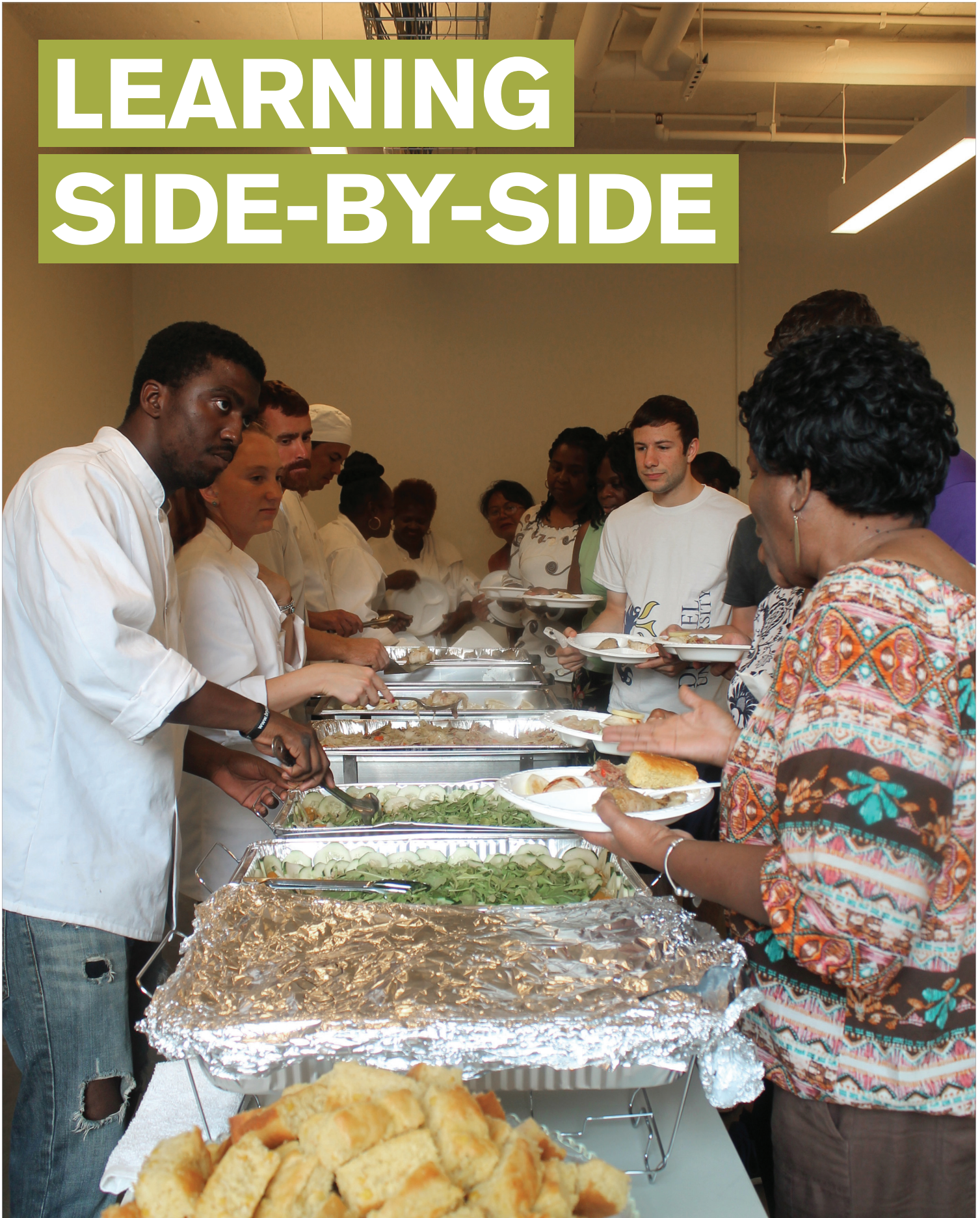
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# THE DORNSIFE CONNECTOR

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**LEARNING**

**SIDE-BY-SIDE**



## EDITOR'S WELCOME

Dear friends and neighbors,

We want to start by thanking all of you who have attended programs, workshops and month community dinners or just stopped by to say hello. In our first four months we have had over 4,200 visits to the Dornsife Center and we couldn't be happier! Thank you for welcoming us to your neighborhood. If you haven't visited yet, stop on by.

Look for our new dance classes and join our weekly neighborhood walk to get your whole family moving. Visit Kevin in the KEYSPOt to access the Internet and join us for Bring Your Own Device nights. Courtney from Drexel's HR is on hand weekly to help you with your resume and job search.

## EVENTS

### COMMUNITY DINNERS

**First Tuesday of each month  
6:00 p.m.**

Drexel's community dinner with Mantua and Powelton Village neighbors.

### NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS

**Wednesdays  
10:00 a.m.**

Open to everyone. Walk your way to health with your neighbors.

### OPEN TOURS W/ DREXEL HR

**Thursdays  
1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

We are onsite to provide you with personal career guidance and support.



## STAFF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Kenniaah "Rose" Samuel-Evans  
**Job:** Assistant Director, University and Community Partnerships  
**Hometown:** Imagine: The Republic of Ghana  
**Current town:** The Neighborhood of Mantua, Philadelphia  
**Favorite Movie:** *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Akeelah* and *The Bee*  
**Favorite Food:** Spaghetti with meatballs

### What is your job?

I manage the University's engagement in the West Philadelphia Neighborhoods of Mantua and Powelton Village through the development of marketing and communications strategies along with the building of partnerships and programs to enhance the quality of life for the neighborhoods.

### Where will we find you at the Dornsife Center?

On the third floor of the Lindy House looking out the window for insight and inspiration.

### What is your favorite thing about the Dornsife Center?

Dornsife puts smiles on people faces, joy in their hearts and warmth in their souls.

It is place for human connection, conversation and the building of community relations through collaboration. It is a place for bridging gaps, breaking down walls and opening up doors.

### What do you do when you aren't at work? (hobbies, sports, etc?)

I care for mother and sister. I date my husband when he is available. I serve the church. I read the bible and all kinds of literature. I write sermons and inspirational thoughts. I coach children in public speaking. I listen to light classical music to relax.



Despite the impending winter frost, community based learning continues to bloom at the Dornsife Center. With its prime location, welcoming environment, and accessibility for both students and community members, the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships has quickly become a natural home for community based learning courses at Drexel University. During the fall term, the Dornsife Center was the host site of three Side-by-Side courses, a pedagogy that aims to co-create learning in a class comprised of an even mix of Drexel students and community students.

“Gleaning, Food Security, and Agriculture”, taught by CoAS English professor, Dr. Eva Thury, is exposing students to the concept of gleaning through many ways including on the farm, in films and novels, on television, and throughout history. Students are working closely with Philabundance, a Philadelphia nonprofit focused on hunger relief, to examine the gleaning process aimed at addressing food insecurity.

Professor Cyndi Reed Rickards, CoAS professor of criminology and justice studies, is currently teaching a special topics course entitled, “Reconsidering Our Code: An Ethnography of 33rd Street”. This Side-by-Side course explores the relationship between Drexel students and community students, creating opportunities for dialogue between members of the Drexel, Mantua, and Powelton Village communities.

Finally, after wrapping up a fantastic summer course focused on making family recipes healthier, Chef James Feustel, of the Culinary Arts and Food Science program, is hosting a special topics course on food preservation. This course pairs Drexel students and community members together to work with seasonal fruits and vegetables that are ripe for preservation. Students are mastering a variety of culinary techniques and their work continues to be featured at the monthly Dornsife Center community dinners, held on the first Tuesday of each month.

We are excited to witness the expansion of community based learning courses throughout Drexel University, and especially hosted in partnership with the Dornsife Center. Course registration for the winter term is open now for both community and Drexel students.

## UPCOMING COURSES AT THE DORNSIFE CENTER

**Winter 2015 (January 5 – March 20, 2015)**  
**Register NOW!**

“**History of Philadelphia: West Philadelphia, the Black Bottom, and Commemorating a Shared Past**” will be taught by Professor Patrick Grossi. This course will invite students to consider the distant and recent past of West Philadelphia, while developing skills to conduct archival research including interpreting primary historical sources and collecting oral histories.

**Spring 2015 (March 30 – June 12, 2015)**  
**Register in February 2015**

“**Philadelphia Stories**” will be lead by Dr. Gabriella Ibieta, associate professor of English. This course will explore Philadelphia’s rich tradition of African American writers whose work addresses many topics related to issues of cultural identity within the constraints of a racially conflicted society.

**Summer 2015 (June 22 – September 4, 2015)**  
**Register in May 2015**

“**The Situation and The Story: A Community Writers Anthology**” will be taught by Dr. Rachel Wenrick, associate teaching professor of English. Students will begin by writing a series of short personal essays and then identify one major piece they’d like to work on throughout the term. The final project will include a published collection of essays with contributions from each student., both Drexel students and community members alike.

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*For more information on upcoming Side-by-Side courses, or to register, please visit the reception desk at the Dornsife Center and ask for Dominique, or contact Professor Cyndi Rickards at [crr46@drexel.edu](mailto:crr46@drexel.edu).*

## SUCCESS STORY WITH SARALA ASHOK

Sarala Ashok used to hike the Himalayas, alone, and now she is learning basic computer skills at the Dornsife KEYSPOt.

Originally from Bangalore, India, Ashok learned about the Dornsife Center Open Access Computer lab from a newspaper story about a previously homeless man who gained computer training through KEYSPOts. She frequents the KEYSPOt daily while she is visiting her daughter for six months.

"I had always wanted to learn the computer," Ashok said. "I never had the time nor patience. So now [with the KEYSPOt] I have one-on-one attention."

Ashok had always thought of herself as computer illiterate but now is taking classes every day to improve her computer skills. She makes sure to attend all the Dornsife events, too.

When asked about such community efforts in Bangalore, Ashok said: "We don't have any free trainings in India, the only ones are profession based and you can't learn



the basics like this. Now I can say I am able to send and receive emails, which I didn't know anything about."

She also is learning online chat to communicate with family and friends in India. Within the coming weeks, she will complete Microsoft Word and Excel trainings.

"The main thing is that I am an independent person," Ashok added. "I do not like troubling others for things, and this was the only thing I had to depend on others for. Now life becomes easier."

Ashok said she has made many friends in the community and is going to miss the KEYSPOt upon her return to India in the winter. She has a laptop at home that she will utilize more often to keep in touch with her daughter.

Ashok said: "I just love it here, and I am truly grateful for the Dornsife Center and Drexel University."

## COLLEGE ACCESS

The Lindy Center for Civic Engagement is excited to partner with The Mayor's Office of Education Connect2College Labs Initiative) to create DUCAC, Drexel University's College Access Center. Bolstered by our fundamental principles of partnership and community access, DUCAC aims to engage Mantua and Powelton Village youth in college preparatory work by locating vital drop in services in the Dornsife Center.

As a drop in college access site, DUCAC engages with traditionally aged high school youth around key college access services: The college search, Common application, Application essay writing, Scholarship searches and

applications and FAFSA completion. Youth from the community are encouraged to stop in to DUCAC to work with College Access Coordinators around these services, as well as participate in workshops and events also aimed at preparing for college and post-secondary success.

DUCAC is located in the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood partnerships on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-6 PM. Additional evening workshops and events for students and families will be scheduled throughout the year. For more information, please contact Kelly Sheard, Assistant Director for Community and School Partnerships at [kas553@drexel.edu](mailto:kas553@drexel.edu).



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