

College of Liberal Arts 2015-2016 Annual Report

The CLA Change Team met during the 2015 Fall semester to brainstorm ideas for programs we would sponsor. Our fall program featured Communication professor Rebecca De Souza and Geography professor Adam Pine on "Charity and Hunger: Theorizing civil society responses to food insecurity". Their presentation took place on 12/2/15 12:00PM to 1:00PM H 480. This presentation attracted an audience of 25 faculty, students and staff.

About Rebecca de Souza

Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

My scholarship examines the relationship between communication and empowerment, paying particular attention to how issues of culture and structural access influence health and illness. I am interested in the tensions and contradictory realities that individuals facing arduous life circumstances encounter when they enter the health, medical, and/or social welfare systems. My work encompasses a range of problems in global and local contexts including HIV/AIDS, obesity, prescription stimulant abuse, and more recently, food insecurity faced by minority groups in Minnesota.

About Adam Pine:

Assistant professor of geography and director of the Urban and Regional Studies Program at the University of Minnesota Duluth

Every part of my life, from research and teaching at UMD to community work at CHUM and other local organizations, focus on building community, and improving the physical and social environment of the city of Duluth. Rather than tell neighborhoods how they could be improved, I'm interested in working to develop agency within local communities so that they can be empowered to agitate for their own self-betterment. In addition to researching ways in which the local food system can be strengthened, I've been involved in promoting neighborhood festivals and working with local organizations to improve food security in the Duluth community. In this sense, I'm passionate about a form of community/university interaction that benefits students, faculty and the larger region.

Our spring event was **The State of Post-9/11 Global Affairs**

A Round-table discussion of faculty from the College of Liberal Arts ChangeTeam (Dr. Runa Das/Political Science; Dr. Elizabeth Wright/Writing Studies; Dr. Rosemary Stanfield Johnson/History; Dr. Qiang Fang/History; and Dr. Deborah Petersen-Perlman/Communication).

Dr. Stanfield Johnson spoke on history of Islam

Dr. Fang reviewed post 9/11 diplomatic US foreign policy

Dr. Das presented an analysis of how theories of International Relations may include civilian perspectives at the global level to understand the post-9/11 state of affairs.

Dr. Petersen-Perlman discussed Critical news analysis of terrorism coverage: ISIS, Boko Haram, Taliban, domestic, etc.

And Dr. Wright presented on local discourse on understandings of Islam and the presence of Islamophobia in Duluth.

The event took place at 10-11:30 on April 28 in Voss Kovach 221.

We attracted an audience of 40 faculty, students, staff and community members.

Drs. Beard, Wright and Petersen-Perlman represented the CLA Change Team at meetings of the Campus Change Team.

Deborah Petersen-Perlman, Ph.D.