

The University of Vermont
Living/Learning Center Programs
<http://www.uvm.edu/lcenter/>

Arts Initiative RLC: The Inkpot: A Creative Writing Community

Overview

The Inkpot: A Creative Writing Community is a living environment where peers are able to live together and share the similar interests of literature and creative writing. Living together in the Living/Learning Center on Athletic Campus students will be able to share their different styles of writing in a welcoming and supportive environment. For students of all majors it gives many different types of people an opportunity to meet and create a connection through the common interest of written expression.

Students will learn about different types of literature and poetic devices including Haiku and Beat Literature. Field trips to explore Vermont authors and hearing prominent literary authors visiting the University of Vermont are just a few of the many opportunities members of The Inkpot will have. Community service and interaction with other programs in Living/Learning also give students the chance to not only create a bond with its own members but the members of many different organizations throughout the Burlington community.

All students in the Arts Initiative will enroll in a self-paced, one-credit course designed to help them get the most out of their experiences residing in the Arts building of L/L and the wider Arts community.

Learning Objectives

All members will contribute to a literary magazine to be published by the end of the 2008- 2009 academic year.

Action Steps

- Members will research literary options in the Burlington community to be involved with for publication. (There are many different options for our members to take but some possibilities are *Vantage Point*, Burlington publications or even trying to be published in a Burlington newspaper. The most optimistic outcome is to publish the literary magazine ourselves by using InDesign to layout the magazine and then finding a printer to publish the magazine.)
- All members will develop over the course of the first semester their different poetic styles. By studying poetry at the beginning of the academic year members will immediately be immersed in expressing their creativity through many

different methods. By studying these different forms of poetry members will have many different samples of writing to help them focus for submissions in the literary magazine.

- Members will share their writings in weekly meetings for editing and constructive criticism. As members share with one another they get more comfortable sharing not only to one another but also for when it must be done in the literary magazine. Editing is a very large part of any form of publication and being comfortable in this area is a great advantage for the members.

All members will by the end of the academic year be more knowledgeable on different areas of literature and have more of a general understanding of what genre they wish to focus on in future literary endeavors.

Action Steps

- Members will focus on different authors in literature each month over the academic year. Each month there is a different type of literature that is covered, at first it is poetry, then it is African American literature, women's literature, and Beat literature as well as contemporary literature. These different types expose members to a wide variety of literature.
- Many prominent authors will speak to members at various English Department sponsored events throughout the academic year. Members will be encouraged to attend these events.
- Almost every meeting will have a reading where members will read something they have written independently or focused on the literary topic we are focusing on, giving them the ability to see which devices they enjoy or dislike.

By the end of the academic year members will have developed more of a connection with literary opportunities in the Burlington community and within the University of Vermont community.

Action Steps

- Through the community service project in which members will interact with students at Edmunds Elementary School they will see how literature affects the younger generation of the Burlington community. Members will be reading to children in after-school type programs where they have the ability to see the importance of literature for the children and how the foundation of books can have a tremendous impact for educational benefits in youth.
- Part of researching for publication allows students to see further self-opportunities at University of Vermont. During researching students will learn about *The Cynic*, *Vantage Point*, and other literary opportunities at University of Vermont that they can become involved in while in The Inkpot or later on in their college careers.
- Studying Vermont authors allows members to develop a connection with literature in Vermont.

Community Service

In cooperation with Edmunds Elementary School on Main Street, members will rotate volunteering to read and help with homework at an after-school program. Attendance will be subject to member's schedules and the school's availability, but the goal is to connect members with the beginning stages of using literature as a form of expression and influence on children's lives.

Plans For Interactions With Other L/L Programs

We would like to work with other programs within the Arts Initiative Residential Learning Community and the Liberal Arts community. Mainly we would like to work with the Creative Art program and collaborate on art and poetry, which was done in 2007. We also would like to work with Clay on Empty Bowls and even Music Appreciation to discuss how lyrics relate to poetry and the influence music has had on literature. We want to interact with other L/L members as much as possible to not only meet new people but to find way to collaborate different aspects of our program to find common similarities and extensions of literary importance in all forms.

About the Arts Initiative RLC

This program is a part of the Arts Initiative Residential Learning Community. The Arts Initiative RLC was formed, in part, due to ongoing feedback and requests from students within the arts-related programs in L/L for more interaction and enhanced opportunities for cross-programming efforts between the arts. The Arts Initiative enhances the ability for students and staff members involved in the RLC to create opportunities for exploration and outreach involving the arts across disciplines.

The primary goals for the Arts Initiative are:

1. To develop cross-program involvement. Allowing students in one branch of the arts to interact with, learn from and engage with students in another Arts area. The "Artist to Artist: Expanding Your Medium" program is one opportunity for students to pair with each other in order to facilitate strong community connections. This is designed to facilitate students' involvement in the Arts through one-on-one interactions with a member from a different program.
2. To enhance access to and interaction with arts-related communities within L/L, at UVM, in Burlington and in Vermont in order to support our creative and conceptual practices.
3. To support the creative growth of all members through informal and formal discussions, community events, performances and program designed activities.

All students in the Arts Initiative will enroll in a self-paced, one-credit course designed to help them get the most out of their experiences residing in the Arts building of L/L and the wider Arts community.

Examples of course requirements include attending arts-related events at UVM and in the Burlington area, interactions with other student artists and reflective writing based on your overall experience. Students are expected to enroll in the self-paced, one-credit course in the fall semester.

More information about the Arts Initiative RLC can be found at <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc>