



# MLS Newsletter

## Spring 2015

847-735-5083  
mls@lakeforest.edu

Spring is in the air and we are inaugurating a new spring and summer line-up of community writing workshops at Lake Forest College. The Writing By The Lake program is not for credit but offers community members a chance to brush up on writing skills or move ahead on a writing project. Another first is the line-up of introductory language courses in our Summer Language Institute, which offers courses in Spanish, French, and Chinese for everyone. Check out all of these options, together with the list of summer session courses for credit, at <http://www.lakeforest.edu/academics/summer/>.

### Alumni News

Each year we share with you some of the things our alumni are doing. This year we've learned **Jane Steen ('06)** is eagerly awaiting the final selection of the Soon to be Famous award. Her book, **The House of Closed Doors**, is one of three in the final round. She writes, "This is the first award of its kind in the U.S., . . . it's fun to be in the forefront of this effort to get libraries involved in the indie publishing world!"

Last spring **Joe Agnew ('04)** told us that he is working with Discover as a Senior Manager of Information Security and Records Management. He has been with the company over three years, and in this position he leads the governance and oversight organization within corporate risk management.

**Karen Bolek (06)** also had a career update for us. She writes that she has been working as an editor for Kaplan University's Curriculum & Innovation department, while also doing some free lance editing work for the MBA Exchange, a company that assists MBA school applicants in applying for admissions. Lastly, she has been an occasional Mad Men blogger on BlogCritics.org.

One of our graduates from last year's class, **Ty Harris ('14)**, took on a new job with Johnson Controls as Operations Manager. He shared, "Besides my experience, having a Master's degree gave me the edge during the recruitment process for this position. In my new position I'm tasked with revamping an entire work structure and mindset. In order to be successful I must be open to others opinions – this is where the MLS experience steps in. With the lessons learned from the MLS program my toolbox has been upgraded with a more openness towards both critical thinking and analyzing opportunities in a group setting."

Another of our recent graduates' accomplishments just missed our newsletter last spring. **Sam Schuring ('14)**, was honored with a position on the All-Conference basketball second team.

**Will Segall ('03)** surprised us with his note in January about his life-changing decision. He said after eleven years working in a private high school in Seattle, he and his wife rented their house, sold many of their belongings, and moved with their daughter to Kurdistan, Iraq to build a school, returning only last April a changed family. He

ended his note, saying, "Our family is quite well and although we miss living overseas, we no longer take things for granted."

**Hui Lin ('11)** has returned to China to teach in Beijing. He says he is excited about this new episode in his life, but also finds himself filled with nostalgia for his days in the states.

### Sad Farewells

October of 2014 was a difficult month for the MLS family. With heavy hearts, we said a final good-bye to **Professor Bailey Donnally**, who previously taught the Idea of Law seminar in the MLS program. Bailey, an accomplished physicist and well-known photographer, taught physics at the College for over forty years. Shortly thereafter, we learned that MLS alum, **Elizabeth Van Ella ('01)**, had also passed.

Just as we were going to press, we learned **Fred Lutz ('11)** passed away this week.

### MLS Program News

Our seminars this year were filled with students interested in the topics of law and religion. A new course, **Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**, was taught in the fall by Debra Levis (Politics) and Catherine Weidner (History), while this spring Ben Zeller (Religion) and Carla Arnell (English) are exploring the religious experience in **Religion: An Interdisciplinary Approach**.

Next year we will bring back two old favorites. In the fall, **Building Chicago** will be taught by Miguel de Baca (Art) and Michael Ebner (History). This course looks at the unique relationship between Chicago's people and the city by examining its architectural achievements, how the city expanded, and why it looks the way it does. In the spring, Carolyn Tuttle (Economics) and David George (Modern Languages) will take an interdisciplinary look at Latin America, focusing on economics, society, and culture in **Latin America: Economy and Culture**.

We look forward to welcoming three new graduates into the MLS alumni family this year: **Bruce Campbell, Jolene Riordan, and Lauren Strelsin**. We hope you will join us at the reception on May 8 as we congratulate them on their accomplishment and present them with their master's hoods.

*Save the date!*

*Friday, May 8, 2015, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.*  
*MLS Hooding Ceremony & Reception*

We thank our wonderfully supportive alumni for their generous donations to the recently created MLS annual fund. We received over \$8900 this year, which helps us to keep tuition costs low and to draw extra faculty into our team-taught program.

If you have news to share or would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact me at [klein@lakeforest.edu](mailto:klein@lakeforest.edu), and please follow us and share your thoughts with us on Facebook!