



LYNÉE CONNELLY

THE SYA FRANCE CLASS OF 1974 FACULTY CHAIR IN MEMORY OF
PETER GREER AND CHARLES HAMBLET

ENGLISH TEACHER AND COLLEGE COUNSELING LIAISON

WHAT DREW YOU TO TEACH AT SYA?

A student approached me about working for SYA! I worked at a boarding school in Massachusetts for eight years and one evening during dorm duty, I noticed that a student had an SYA sticker on her computer. I knew that she had just returned from Spain so I asked her about SYA and her experience. She was so happy to share her life-changing year with me. At the end of her story, she looked at me and said that I should apply to teach for SYA. In her opinion, I was exactly the interculturally minded educator that SYA students needed. I looked into the position and waited two years for the right time to apply. SYA encompasses many of my own passions as an educator such as intercultural competence, language learning, literature and travel.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MATERIAL OR LESSON YOU TEACH AND WHY?

The Cultural Inventory Project. I truly enjoy facilitating learning about identity. This project allows the students to form/re-form an understanding of themselves as cultural beings. Their awareness of their socially constructed self allows them to experience the time abroad in a more powerful way. Moreover, they are given the opportunity to reflect on who they are when they arrive and who they have become before they leave France (Cultural Inventory Project II).

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT TEACHING?

I find it very rewarding to engage students in critical thinking. In other words, I enjoy the interactions with students as they work through their own understanding of a text, an article, or a new experience and find meaning.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE TRAVELED TO AND WHY?

I am very fortunate to have had some wonderful experiences traveling. I did not grow up traveling, but as soon as I finished college I moved to Italy to live with my Italian friend's family. In 2000, a tiny town outside of Venezia soon became my second home. I have cherished this connection with the Vignotto family for the last 21 years. In fact, in 2019 I brought my daughter and husband to spend Christmas with them. In this case, it is the people that make it my favorite place to travel to.

WHAT DOES THE HONOR OF BEING NAMED THE SYA FRANCE CLASS OF 1974 FACULTY CHAIR IN MEMORY OF PETER GREER AND CHARLES HAMBLET MEAN TO YOU?

Being a member of SYA's faculty is a perfect position for me. I am able to expose students to many different aspects of literature, cultural learning and reflection. It wasn't until graduate school that a professor asked me what I thought about what I had just learned. Reflection is a very critical part of SYA for students and teachers alike. Being named The SYA France Class of 1974 Faculty Chair in Memory of Peter Greer and Charles Hamblet has given me the opportunity to reflect upon my position and presence in the classroom even more. I feel very honored to be recognized for my commitment to SYA and the growth of the students.