



LYNÉE CONNELLY

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

ENGLISH TEACHER AND COLLEGE COUNSELING LIAISON

2023-2024

HAS YOUR TEACHING STYLE EVOLVED OR CHANGED SINCE STARTING AT SYA?

I am always thinking about ways to change and evolve to meet the needs of our students. I have added more reflective writing activities for the students to engage in after each travel break. I think it is important for them to take time after they travel to write about it upon returning to school. I have also paid attention to their well-being in a different way since the pandemic. For example, I have spent more time community building in the classroom so that students feel like they can trust and can rely on their classmates. Since we share a lot of our writing, it is important to have that community trust.

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED AT SYA SINCE YOU STARTED?

The semester program was added since I started at SYA. I think it is a great opportunity for students to fully commit for a semester and gain insight into a new culture and themselves.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS OR ASPIRATIONS AS A TEACHER?

My future goal as a teacher is to continuously pay attention to the changing needs of my students. I am fortunate to have an insight into educational practices in the U.S. and in France. This insight allows me to further understand how learning is evolving and how teaching is as well.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR?

My favorite part of the academic year is the arrival in September. It is a joy to see how the students first view their new surroundings. I also really enjoy the first two writing assignments about their arrival.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENTS TO SHARE FROM YOUR TIME AT SYA?

I am very fortunate to have had many memorable teaching moments and students during my time at SYA. Last spring, we were working on Italo Calvino's text *Invisible Cities* and some of the students were a bit skeptical about how to read and interpret his work. I remember having a conversation with a group of students about the importance of understanding the stories that Calvino's cities held and why. Unfortunately, it still remained a difficult text for them to analyze; however, they were determined to learn more. After a few more classes, the students began to understand my "why" of assigning the text as well as Calvino's "why" for writing it. In fact, one day on my way to class, I saw two students brainstorming on the board about each of the cities. I also overheard one of the students explaining her ideas, which were visually mapped out on the board, and explaining the "why." I was very proud of them. If you ask any student about my teaching style, they would surely comment that I am always looking for the "why."

WHAT DOES THE HONOR OF BEING NAMED FOR A SECOND TIME MEAN TO YOU?

Being named the SYA France Class of 1974 Faculty Chair in Memory of Peter Greer and Charles Hamblet is a very humbling experience for me. I truly believe in the program and fully support the students' intercultural journey. I wish I had done SYA as a high school student.