

TEMPLE

Spring 2009

review

A Matter of
Light

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Live and Learn

Temple's Living Learning Communities provide students with residence hall living, coursework and co-curricular activities.

Story by Greg Fornia, *SCT '92*


Photographs by Ryan S. Brandenburg

It's 8:30 a.m. Mercedes Lewis, a freshman from New York City, shuts off her alarm and gets out of bed. Her first class is at 8:40 a.m., but she's not running late. Lewis is part of the Honors Program Living Learning Community and her first class of the day is just down the hall.

Temple's Living Learning Communities (LLCs) unite residential life, academics and co-curricular activities to create a unique educational environment. Today, close to 800 students live in the university's 11 LLCs. Each LLC has its own group of residence hall suites. Several LLCs also have a classroom, advising office, lounge or workspace in the residence hall. In addition to course offerings, lectures, workshops and volunteer activities in the LLC's subject area, the program offers learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Students can sign on for LLCs with a focus in music and dance, architecture and engineering, community service and other areas. Two of Temple's most developed learning communities are the Student Leadership Challenge and the Honors Program, which became Temple's first LLC in 1993.

Temple's Honors Program serves academically talented students with small classes, one-on-one academic advising and unique experiences from freshman through senior year. Entering first-year students are automatically screened for admission to the Honors Program. For 2008, 422 freshmen enrolled in the Honors Program with an average combined SAT score of 1318 and an average high school GPA of 3.86.

"The Honors Program offers the best of both worlds," says Director Ruth Ost. "Students get the breadth and reach of a major research university and can be a part of a small, passionate group of learners."



First-year students Lincy John (left) and Tera Martin share a laugh in Temple's Leadership Living Learning Community, one of 11 residential experiences on campus that combine academics and co-curricular activities.





The nearly 500 Honors Program students living in the residence hall at 1300 Cecil B. Moore Ave. can take courses in a classroom just a few steps from their suites.

develop thoughtful leaders who can thrive in a variety of contexts,” says Program Director Elizabeth Housholder, who teaches a course that introduces students to the academic rigor needed to be successful within the context of group processes and individual strengths and weaknesses. “It’s about students finding their passions and core beliefs and then integrating those with new skills and competencies.”

Freshman Nathan Kadish’s obsession is filmmaking. Casting his hall mates from the Leadership LLC in all the roles, Kadish directed a short romantic comedy called *Amor Aeternus*. Students then held a premiere night party in the residence hall lounge. “Living with this group of people is one of the most unique experiences in my life,” Kadish says.

“I love our wing,” says first-year Fox School of Business student Clarice Shackelford, who co-directed *Amor Aeternus* and works with high school students in her spare time. “You can see the different types of leadership styles and how everyone can contribute to a project. It’s amazing.”

Shackelford vividly remembers the ropes course in the Pennsylvania woods that was available for Leadership LLC students during their second week at Temple. “We had to work as a team to complete the course,” she says. “I had to put all my faith and trust in people I just met. It was a great way to get to know everyone.” ♦

curriculum,” he admits. “Temple is moving toward having a rich academic component for all its LLCs. Core courses, learning outcomes and faculty involvement, as well as students living and working together on projects as a community, will be a part of all LLCs at Temple. Not every LLC is completely there yet, but all are moving in this direction.”

LLC students also organize their own activities to complement their academic work. “Students bring in visiting artists or have their own jam sessions,” says Randolph. “They can drive much of their LLC programming, and that responsibility is a great learning tool in itself.”

Building an on-campus family

In 2008, about 40 first-year students living in White Hall took that initiative during their first semester on Main Campus. The Leadership LLC students organized two fundraising events, including a party with a DJ, raffle prizes and a video game tournament, and raised \$750 to donate to the HIV/AIDS cause.

The Leadership LLC is open to students who take part in Temple’s Student Leadership Challenge, which provides students with experiences that foster the development of thoughtful leaders and prepares them for effective citizenship after graduation. Offerings include a six-day leadership institute, conferences and workshops, a speaker series, an emerging leaders seminar program, for-credit courses and service learning opportunities.

“The Student Leadership Challenge is designed to

Living Learning Opportunities

The Honors Program and Student Leadership Challenge are just two of Temple’s Living Learning Communities. Students also can choose:

- Alliance for Minority Participation
- Architecture and Engineering
- Residential Organization for Community Service
- Music and Dance
- School of Communications and Theater
- University Studies
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Russell Conwell Center
- Tyler School of Art

For more information, visit www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/housing and click “Residence Hall Information.”