





## Faculty Plan to Apply Seminar Tools to Atlantic City, Philadelphia



Audrey Wolfson Latourette, Distinguished Professor of Business Studies, Law; Dr. Sonia Gonsalves, professor of Psychology and director of Academic Assessment; Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science; and Dr. Gorica Majstorovic, associate professor of Spanish, recently participated in the Faculty Resource Network seminars in Athens, Greece.

Dr. Sonia Gonsalves, professor of Psychology and director of Academic Assessment; Dr. Gorica Majstorovic, associate professor of Spanish; Audrey Wolfson Latourette, Distinguished Professor of Business Studies, Law; and Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science, participated in the Faculty Resource Network seminars in Athens, Greece from Jan. 12-Jan. 16.

Faculty in all three seminars participated in different instructional explorations that were intended to help develop strategies to integrate aspects of a city in their teaching paradigms.

Drs. Gonalves, Majstorovic, and Rodriguez plan to apply the seminar tools to Atlantic City. Meanwhile, Latourette plans to use the city of Philadelphia as a learning laboratory that would enhance her students' understanding of legal foundations in the United States.

Dr. Gonsalves and Latourette contributed to "The City as a Teaching Canvas" seminar and were exposed to substantial readings, including travel accounts of Greece from prior centuries, as well as significant computer experimentation.

The focus of the seminar was on utilizing Athens as the basis of analysis of integrating texts, spaces and virtual representations, affording faculty a model of the ways in which the city can be instructional in almost all subject matter areas and making various concepts concrete.

"The conveners proposed that students should not just take classes in a city, they should learn their city as it relates to their disciplinary studies," explained Dr. Gonsalves.

As part of "The City in Contemporary World Literature," Dr. Majstorovic joined a group of scholars in a series of weeklong discussions and field trips where they considered how recent urban fiction might help better understand ongoing transformations in contemporary literature and contemporary urban life. She plans to apply the insight gained in Athens to her study of the urban communities in New Jersey, and in particular, those of Atlantic City.

Dr. Rodriguez explored mapping techniques in "The City and the Environment" seminar. His group used Google Earth to map the environmental impact of urbanization, population growth, pollution and water quality.

"The City and the Environment" seminar also discussed the importance of green spaces in cities, the urban heat island effect and urban air quality. The group analyzed the energy efficiencies of cities, waste disposal, water resources and feeding urban populations.

Dr. Rodriguez's group was encouraged to develop resources about their home cities that can be used to engage students about their local environments.

"The seminar in Athens provided not only a fascinating urban setting but also new ideas and approaches that will inform my future teaching and research," Dr. Majstorovic said.

