



# HTLC Newsletter

Issue No. 8 | October 11, 2023



## Holistic Teaching & Learning Conference



### FLOURISHING

April 18 - 21, 2024

Hosted by the  
Center for Holistic Education

To be added to our contact list, email:  
[htlconference@sou.edu](mailto:htlconference@sou.edu)

<https://centerforholisticeducation.org/>

## 2024 Conference

The Center for Holistic Education will be hosting the International Holistic Teaching & Learning Conference (HTLC) in Ashland, OR (USA), April 18 - 21, 2024. We hope that you will consider participating in this important event with us.

Our theme this year is  
**Flourishing:  
Embracing Urgency &  
Grounding in Community.**

We will be updating our website over the coming weeks with information on submitting presentation, session proposals, registration, travel, local highlights, and accommodations. To receive updates and information about our upcoming conference, email us at [htlconference@sou.edu](mailto:htlconference@sou.edu)

## SEL Workshop

We have launched an alternative pathway to obtain credits for the Social-Emotional Learning Micro Credential (Badge).

On October 28th, Dr. Roni Adams &

**SEL: Self Awareness**  
"Experiential examination of personal and professional identities and the development of dispositions that demonstrate respect for diverse cultures and contexts."  
Saturday, October 28th  
EP 195 or over Zoom  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
Hosted by Dr. Roni Adams and Michele Pavilionis  
SOU Students: A one-credit workshop towards the SEL Micro-Credential  
Local & Global Community: Register on our website

Michele Pavilionis will be hosting SEL: Self Awareness from 9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (PT) in-person and on Zoom.

The workshops are free to our local and global community. If you would like to attend this free workshop or to receive PDUs, please refer to our website's Education tab and register in the HTLC Pathway page.

## Holistic Education Discussion

Andrea Laubstein's virtual Holistic Education Discussions are hosted on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (EST)

Upcoming Discussions:

- October 16th, Tatenda Blessing Muchiriri, *Moving Education and the birth of Montessori on Wheels*
- October 30th, Sheryl Morris, *Reintroducing James Moffett & the Universal Schoolhouse*

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# Monthly Features

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## HTLC Thailand Study Abroad

It was with great gratitude and honor that this summer students were given the opportunity to join Dr. William Greene and other classmates traveling to Bangkok, Thailand, for an immersive trip of teaching and culture. Their ten-day trip, lasting from the 6th of September till the 16th, was jam packed with different cultural experiences, along with finally being able to visit the famous Roong Aroon school .



*Stephanie Hougan has shared a testimony:*

### Friday, September 8th, 2023

The first day of our trip began by meeting the amazing Freddie le Roux who would be such a wonderful guide for us throughout the entire trip. This day was also the first time we stepped foot onto the Roong Aroon campus, where we would be shadowing teachers throughout the week to get a better understanding of their perspective of holistic teaching.

### Saturday, September 9th, 2023

On Saturday we had our first big outing of the trip as we biked through the mangroves of Bangkok. This is something that the third graders at Roong Aroon do every year, as the mangroves are a key unit of learning for the year. In the afternoon, we took the time to visit two important temples in the city, Wat Ratcha Orasaram Ratchaworawiharn and Wat Nang Ratchaworawiharn. As a group we were also able to visit a local museum nearby which had exhibits about traditional Thai medicine, and the history of the area. Here we were able to drink traditional Thai herbal tea, which is still made following traditional Thai medicinal texts. We finished off the day with an amazing and lavish dinner at the beautiful Poom Jai Garden. We learned about the history of Poom Jai Garden and how they value and support their community in providing a beautiful and peaceful place for the local community.



### Sunday, September 10th, 2023

We had the great privilege of meeting with one of the Buddhist monks that frequents at Roong Aroon to help in providing support to the teachers there, to answer any

questions that they may have about the Buddhist religion. In our more than two-hour session with him we got to have that same experience. We spent our time asking questions about religion, his thoughts on education and how these two things intertwine with each other. This meeting found itself to be quite profound for many of us.

As even now after the trip when reminiscing, we tend to reference the things we learned in this session-- the main one being "nothing is permanent, everything is subject to change."

### Monday - Friday, September 11th -15th, 2023

During this week of our trip, we students were finally able to spend time with our classrooms in KG, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, and 4th grade. Here we began to observe and eventually help co-teach different lessons or activities throughout the week. Throughout the week we also had quite a few different immersive activities that the school had so graciously organized for us (a few of which included a Muay Thai lesson, learning how to fold lotus flowers and a Thai cooking class where we learned how to make Somtam).

Our time ended with visiting Mr. Mechai's restaurant, Cabbages & Condoms with Ajarn Prapaphat, the founder of Roong Aroon School . Mr. Mechai is an influential philanthropist in Thailand, most known for bringing contraceptives to Thailand during the Aids crisis. We also learned about the Bamboo school Mr.Mechai founded, and about Mr. Mechai's legacy in social work in Thailand.

Having to say goodbye to the students was truly the hardest part of my trip. As they all didn't want me to go, with all of them running to give me one last goodbye and asking to play



with me one last time on the playground. "Teacher Stephanie has to go; she has to go on a very long plane ride back to America." The student says, "Well, we will miss you Teacher Stephanie, and who knows, perhaps you can come back and be our teacher some-time in the future."

All in all the impact that this experience has given me is truly one that can not be taken for granted. So it is with my sincere gratitude to all the staff at Roong Aroon, and all that helped to make this trip possible, I truly appreciate each and every one of you. I truly look forward to the connections we will make in the future!



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