



# HTLC Newsletter

Issue No. 12 | April 11th, 2025



## Literacy Unbound: *From Page to Presence*

On February 14th, 2025, community members took part in *From Page to Presence*, an interactive workshop hosted by The Center for Holistic Teaching and Learning at Southern Oregon University. Dr. Gordon, Senior Fellow of Innovation at Columbia University and Waldorf instructor, joined us to share his approach to teaching English through embodied learning. This approach is just one piece of his work at *Literacy Unbound*. Going beyond traditional reading methods, *Literacy Unbound* fosters a more holistic understanding of text through the use of one's **body, voice, and imagination**.

The workshop began with a quick literary warm-up. Participants were randomly assigned a simple task to perform and a sentiment to speak, all of which were inspired by the writings of Franz Kafka. The key to this exercise was to only focus on one's self. The group, although hesitant, eventually leaned into the **kafkaesque** experience, adding to the chorus of voices. Then, Dr. Gordon sat the participants down and offered *The Fellowship*, a short story written by Kafka in 1936. After a moment of silence for the room to read, annotate, and digest the story, the participants were split into groups of five. In these groups, the participants would have to create a snapshot retelling of the story using only their bodies. The groups discussed their plans privately and rehearsed for about twenty minutes before it was time to present. As the groups performed, the audience was encouraged to observe and share on the body language of each character. It was at this point that the whole-group's understanding of the text shifted to a place of empathy.

Community member, Robin Martin, shared that the experience was similar to that of playing on the playground as a child. The **intuitive nature** of the learning made it much easier for the participants to connect with each other and the text. "We used our physical bodies as the main mode of learning," Martin said. She adds, "We connected with our bodies to reach a new state of mind." The Center for Holistic Teaching and Learning looks forward to hosting more events like this one in the near future. To learn more about upcoming events, please visit our website.



Play is a mode of inquiry -- through creative experimentation, improvisation, and transformation, we engage with texts not to solve them, but to step inside them, expand possibilities and co-create meaning.

**Erick Gordon**

# Quarterly Features

## Holistic Education Review Issue 4.1

The Holistic Education Review (HER) has recently published their newest open-themed issue (4.1).

***"We anticipate the power of the examples shared throughout this issue to provide inspiration, motivation, and useful tools for use in your schools, classrooms, and throughout each part of your learning life."***

For more information, please visit:  
[her.journals.publicknowledgeproject.org](http://her.journals.publicknowledgeproject.org)

## Social and Emotional Learning Workshop Offerings

Join us for our upcoming workshops on **Social and Emotional Learning & the Outdoors** on Saturday, May 31st from 8:30 a.m. - 4:20 p.m. (PDT). This workshop will be offered in-person (at Southern Oregon University) and online via Zoom. We will also be hosting workshops on **Decision-Making** and **Sustaining Cultural Differences** this term. All SEL workshops are free for community members. Register now through the Education page of our website, or by scanning the QR code below.

"This course integrates outdoor education with SEL focusing on positive relationship building skills and empowering learners. Activities will offer opportunities to heal and nurture our capacity to manage thoughts, feelings, and emotions."



## Holistic Education Discussion

The Holistic Education Discussion is hosted by Andrea Laubstein and Cam Vancil and is open to all! The next Discussion will be on ***The Beauty of Danish Folk Schools*** on April 21st and will be

facilitated by Christopher Nye & Kam Bellamy. HED is hosted on every-other Monday from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Pacific Time) at [tinyurl.com/HEDiscussion](http://tinyurl.com/HEDiscussion)



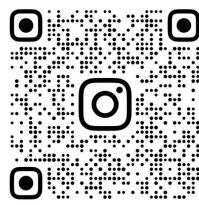
## HTL-Club

During the winter term, the Holistic Teaching and Learning Club hosted a candle fundraiser and a bake sale to raise funds for a visit to The Salmonberry School, a holistic school located on Orcas Island, WA. They also collaborated with the **Native American Student Union (NASU)** to host an event where indigenous members shared their experiences with education, and club members had the opportunity to learn traditional beading techniques. This past term, the leadership team presented at **ORATE** on topics such as holistic education, teacher burnout & preventive strategies, and culturally responsive teaching. Spring term will include legacy activities like Grad Cap Decorating, Pot Painting, and our BBQ. Follow us on Instagram **@htlc.sou** for updates on upcoming events!



## HTL-Podcast

The Podcast Subcommittee has some exciting episodes lined up! They've recently recorded a conversation with **Haley Moore** on Core Reflection, as well as with **Sean Corrigan**. The HTL-P is also thrilled to announce our upcoming Q&A episode with holistic educator **Jack Miller**, where he'll answer questions from students, faculty, and community members. Be sure to follow us on Spotify for the latest podcast updates!



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