Abstract
The Building Community through Social Justice Learning and Living Cohort is an opportunity for first-year students to get involved with many aspects of social justice locally, regionally, and globally. One of the greatest current challenges to our democracy is the issue of immigration. There are several issues that confront our society and the people wishing to immigrate to the United States. Our group explored this issue first-hand by participating in The Immigration and Refugee Plunge, an event sponsored by the Center for Social Concern in the spring of 2012. This plunge was designed to give participants a better look at the process and the problems many foreign nationals face navigating their way through the US Immigration Service. We will be reflecting on the principles and practices of the system; the benefits of the current system; the negative aspects of the process; and, how maintaining the status quo can impact immigration and our democracy.

Social Justice LLC Mission Statement
We are a living learning community that:  
- Engages in a process of intellectual inquiry  
- Productively negotiates and creates space for critical listening and the free exchange of ideas  
- Holistically integrates academic, residential, and co-curricular experiences  
- Deploy the particular methodologies of the Humanities disciplines, specifically those associated with the study of English, Philosophy, and Religion  
- Foster an interdisciplinary approach to fundamental human concerns, e.g., what it means to be human  
- Focuses on apprehending and addressing issues of Social Justice, such as stewardship, solidarity with those different from us, commitment to the integrity and equality of all human life, and dedication to the common good  
- Encourage undergraduate research that is informed by the experience of service learning

American Friends Service Committee Mission Statement
The American Friends Service Committee is a practical expression of the faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice, it seeks in its work and witness to draw people of many faiths and backgrounds into friendship, strife into cooperation, poverty into well-being, and injustice into dignity and participation. We believe that ultimately goodness can prevail over evil, and oppression in all its many forms can give way.

Expected Outcomes
- We thought we were going to do hands on activities  
- We were expecting to raise awareness on immigration in our country  
- We thought we were going to do service for the immigrants in the United States  
- We expected to learn

Reflections
Victoria Lewis
I felt the Immigration and refugee plunge was an inspiring experience for me. It helped me to develop an understanding of the struggles immigrants are facing. We listened to speakers who are immigrants and refugees from Mexico, Equator, and Africa. These speakers helped me to realize how unjust our immigration system is and how it is affecting the lives of immigrants today. I got a first-hand experience of what it is like to be an immigrant and refugee.

Ian Fitzpatrick
What I will take away from the Immigration and Refugee Plunge is simply knowledge. I have learned how hard it is to be an undocumented immigrant in the United States and the fear minorities have of being deported. I also learned of the challenge of African refugees, and what they must go through here in our country.

Nick White
The immigrant and refugee plunge was a great opportunity to see the struggles immigrants face dealing with an American culture. I developed more sympathy for immigrants after hearing a few personal stories from the presenters. The plunge did a great job of showing what we can do to change the problems in the United States Immigration problem.