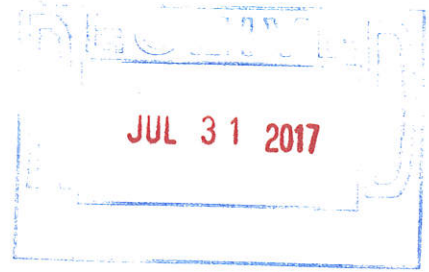


July 30, 2017



Lisa M. Nolan

Albany, NY 12208

City School District of Albany
Board of Education
1 Academy Park
Albany, NY 12207

Re: Letter of Interest to fill vacant position on Board

Dear Members of the Albany City School District Board of Education:

Let me say first, I am no stranger to the Board. On many occasions I have sought assistance in obtaining the most appropriate educational opportunities for my daughter who has received special education services since pre-school. I have exercised my right to challenge administrative decisions. I have sat at many CSE meetings analyzing educational assessment data, and advocating on my daughter's behalf. I strongly believe parents should be active participants in their children's education. And, when you are the parent of a special needs child, you rise to the level of professional participant and full-time advocate. While I consider it important for the Board to have members who are aware of the process of special education, I believe, however, it is imperative to have someone who truly feels and understands the pain of watching your child go off to school each morning and knowing his or her day is going to be more challenging than the average student's. Above all, any school district is more than just a set of processes; it is a dynamic system and a community made up of many different people who all deserve to be heard.

There is a certain sensitivity and sensibility that comes from having a special needs child in your life. You begin to understand that excellence in education must have a broader meaning. It cannot narrowly be defined as graduation rates. It must be understood as a certain quality of life for which as a parent you entrust the school to prepare your child. At the end of the day, if a child graduates from Albany High, but does not have the skills necessary to live a meaningful life, then in part the school district has failed him or her.

I believe my experience as an advocate for my daughter relating to issues in education, medical, mental health and developmental disabilities would be an asset to the Board and the Albany City School community. I have also been a teacher of Spanish language and literature. I understand what it is like to be in a classroom setting with learners who have different ways of accessing information and expressing knowledge. It is not easy. I believe teachers have the earnest desire to move their students forward by opening their minds and hearts to learning. We all start the beginning of the year hopeful and enthusiastic. It is the responsibility of

everyone in the school district to maintain the hope and the enthusiasm so evident in September, even in the midst of challenges. The challenges make it real and ought not to be understood as a weakness. Albany City School District is a complex and diverse community. It also needs to continue pushing forward and become as inclusive as possible. I do recognize the responsibility of this position. My schedule is flexible and I am available to meet at regular Board meetings as well as when the need arises. This position in my opinion is one of service, which necessitates commitment.

I have two daughters in the City School District of Albany. One daughter attends New Scotland Elementary school, our home school; one North Albany Academy (in September, North Lark), as a special education student. Each year I carry the challenges and joys of my children's experience in my own heart. I have seen both daughters in distress for various reasons: sometimes it is social; sometimes academic. Navigating the system, whether it is for a special needs child or a neuro-typical child can be disorienting at times. A parent's communication skills are honed on countless discussions with teachers, administrators and even other parents. I have worked hard for both my daughters. I believe it is the desire of most parents to want to smooth out the road traveled by their children, and that road truly begins when a child enters school. We want our children to do well, be treated fairly, treat others with respect and excel at everything! When our children stumble we immediately respond. All issues are big when it comes to our children. There is no time to waste in waiting for the next year or the next teacher to come around and/or maybe the next CSE meeting My interest in serving on the Board comes from my lived experience with my own children, and my conversations over the years with friends and colleagues regarding public education, and my own personal desire to serve my community.

I respectfully submit my resume and letter of interest. I can be available to speak on August 17. I look forward to the opportunity to meeting all the members of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Nolan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa M. Nolan

Lisa M. Nolan, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Hispanic Studies, 2003
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
The University at Albany, State University of New York

Area of concentration: Modern/Contemporary Spanish Peninsular & Catalán literature. Areas of research focus: theater, cultural studies, trauma-studies, & theories of nation/nationalism

Dissertation: Repeat Performance: Federico García Lorca's Theater, Fascism and the Spanish Literary Imaginary. Director: Dr. Jaume Martí-Olivella. Defended & Deposited: April 2003

MA, Spanish, 1999
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
The University at Albany

Areas of concentration and examination:
Modern/Contemporary Latin American literature, Peninsular literature
& Literary theory

MPA, 1990
University of Vermont

BA, 1988
Major: Political Science
Kean University, Union, New Jersey

Other educational experiences:

Attended *Don Quijote* in-country Spanish program for conversation classes while doing research & writing in Sevilla, Madrid, & Salamanca, February – May 2005

Dissertation research, *Fundación García Lorca*, Madrid, Spain, January 2002 & March 2003

Attended weekly seminars on linguistics and literature in Málaga, Spain, *Málaga program* sponsored by The University at Albany, June - August 1997

Mexico-Cuernavaca Immersion Program, Sponsored by Brockport, State, University of New York, June – July 1995

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2010 - Spring 2011

Lecturer,
Modern Language Department
College of Saint Rose
Classes taught: Intermediate Spanish

Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

Lecturer
Siena College, Loudonville, NY
Modern Languages & Classics
Classes taught: Introductory & Intermediate Spanish

Fall 2006 – Fall 2007

Lecturer
Russell Sage College, Troy, NY
Department of English and Modern Languages
Classes taught: Introductory & Intermediate Spanish

Fall 2004

Visiting Assistant Professor
University at Albany
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures,
Classes taught: Introduction to literary methods, Spanish literature in translation, & composition

Fall 2003 – Spring 2004

Visiting Assistant Professor
University of St. Thomas
Department of Modern and Classical Languages
St. Paul, Minnesota
Classes taught: Introductory & Intermediate Spanish

Fall 1999 – Spring 2001

Teaching Assistant
University at Albany
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Classes taught: Introductory, Intermediate, & Advanced Spanish

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

Nolan, Lisa. "A Politics of the Body: José Antonio Primo de Rivera's Fascism and Federico García Lorca's Benjaminian Response." *Modern Drama*, Vol. L., N.1 Spring 2007.

Nolan, Lisa. "La mediterraneidad de Eugeni d'Ors y la Unión Europea: ¿El

nacionalismo entrópico?" *Oceanografía de Xenius: Ensayos críticos en torno a Eugenio D'Ors*. Eds. Carlos Ardavín, Eloy Merino and Xavier Pla. La universidad de Gerona: editorial Reichenberger, 2005.

Reviews

"The Family Album: Histories, Subjectivities, and Immigration in Contemporary Spanish Culture." *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*. Primavera de 2007, Vol. 31.3

"Love, Desire and Identity in the Theatre of Federico García Lorca." *Modern Drama*. Vol. 51, No. 4, Winter 2008.

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED:

Nolan, Lisa. "'If Only I were a Woman!' When the Map is Definitely Not the Territory." *Second International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies*, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. May 24-26, 2006.

"Pedro Almodóvar's Female Philosophy: Creating Place out of Time." *Out of Time: Theorizing Culture and the Political Conference*, University of Minnesota. Oct. 20-22, 2005.

"The Trauma of Translation and the Translation of Trauma: Mercè Rodoreda's La plaça del Diamant and its English Translation, The Time of the Doves." *25th Annual Cincinnati Romance Languages and Literatures Conference*. Cincinnati, Ohio. May, 12-14, 2005.

"Trauma and Representation: The Task of the Homosexual." *Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA) 35th Annual Conference*. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. March 4-7, 2004.

"Politicizing the Aesthetic and Aestheticizing the Political: Federico García Lorca's Return to the Theater of Tragedy as an Aesthetico-Political Response to Fascism." *13th Annual Central New York Conference on Languages & Literature*. SUNY College at Cortland, Cortland, New York. October 26-28, 2003.

"Entropic Nationalism: Eugeni d'Ors's Mediterraneanity and the European Union." *Turn of-the-Century Catalunya: 1900 and 2000 Session II. MLA 118th Annual Conference*, New York, New York, December 26-31, 2002.

"These 'Things That Are Life': Mercè Rodoreda and the Material World." *North American Catalan Society 10th Colloquium*. Providence: Brown University, May 10-12, 2001.

AWARDS & POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

Chair of "Trauma Politics: Literatures, Authors, Bodies II." *Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA) 35th Annual Conference*. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania March 4-7, 2004.

Co-founder and Editor of Graduate Student Journal: Sodalitas Journal of Hispanophone and Francophone Literary and Cultural Studies, 2001.

Graduate Fellowship 1997-1999
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
The University at Albany

Undergraduate Representative and Member of committee to revise Spanish undergraduate Program: Discussed and researched course requirements for Major and Minor in Spanish, 1996.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance writer El Registro Newspaper, Troy, NY (2006)

Bookshelf Editor & Reviewer MultiCultural Review (2008)

Research Assistant Public Management Systems (New York State Legislature) (1993-1995)

Research Assistant, Legislative Commission on Expenditure Review (1992-1993)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)
Spanish (Fluency)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

MS word, excel, Apple software: Pages, Keynote Presentation