

Training the Trainers Seminar
June 12-16 2006
Letter to the Democrat and Chronicle

Last week I was fortunate enough to be part of a wonderful series entitled "Understanding World Religions and Interfaith Relations," sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue under the direction of Dr. Muhammad Shafiq and the Department of Religious Studies and Life Listening Resources, both at Nazareth College. From Monday through Friday eight of us gathered at Nazareth College for six hours each day during which we explored five major world religions. Through lectures, discussion, and visits to centers of worship we were able to learn much about how Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity experience God and/or the universe. We were all moved by the practices we observed and the impressive people we met during this course.

In this time when there is so much misunderstanding and negativity regarding religion, this series by Dr. Shafiq and all of those who presented information is such a positive endeavor. When the course is offered again (it may be shortened to three days including the weekend), I urge all those interested to participate. Understanding more about our world is crucial, especially now. Additionally it is a wonderful and enriching experience which we can share with others.

Emily Osgood