

February

2008



The Voice

Commission for Social Justice Educators

Reflection from the Chair

By: Luoluo Hong



During my time as a student affairs educator, I have often surprised myself how much easier it is to talk the script and walk the path of social justice when we are consciously in our social justice frame of mind. Yet, the very real dynamics of power, privilege and marginalization play out every single day, and we don't always name them or respond to them from a social justice framework. There are elements of our everyday professional etiquette that in fact are embedded in aspects of power and privilege yet we don't necessarily question the validity of the value we hold.

For example, consider the expectation of, "If you have a problem with me, I would prefer that you come to me di-

rectly." Over the years of having been both an employee and supervisor, I have increasingly come to understand how dynamics of power and authority mediate this expectation. Certainly, as colleagues on equal footing - where one does not report to the other or is not in the position to make decisions that can impact the other's work environment or livelihood - this could be a reasonable expectation. But let's say I am the boss - is this really a fair expectation? Certainly, I can feel comfortable to go directly to my subordinates to express my concerns, or my disappointment, or my fears or my anxieties about something they said or did. But do the staff who report to me, conversely, have the same degree of safety to reciprocate? Certainly, I would hope that I can listen ac-

tively and be responsive to the feedback I am getting, and then not retaliate in the future. But how would I be held accountable for that? I would have a responsibility to perhaps create or support other venues for airing grievances or concerns for those who did not feel safe; after all, safety would have to be in the perception of the beholder.

Sometimes, our "social justice" radar is triggered because of visual or other cues that remind us that "difference" is present in the room. I know I am on a lifelong journey to remember that dynamics of power and privilege are ALWAYS with us in the room.

DATES TO KNOW

CSJE Directorate Body Business Meeting

Date: 3/30/08
Start Time: 9:00am—5:00pm
Location: TBA
Information: This is a meeting of the Leadership of the Commission.

CSJE General Business Meeting

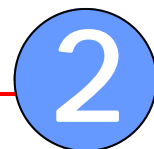
Date: 3/31/08
Start Time: 4:00pm—5:30pm
Location: TBA
Information: This is an open meeting of Commission. It is a great time for prospective members to become more involved.

CSJE Social & Networking Reception

Date: 3/31/08
Start Time: 7:30pm—9:00pm
Location: TBA
Information: This event is open to all members and friends of the Commission. Whether you are involved in CSJE or want to learn more, or just want to meet some great people, come on by! In addition, the event will include the annual Commission awards ceremony.



How Can I “Hail To The Redskins”?



By: Sylvester Gaskin, M.Ed.

On a bitterly cold morning in Minneapolis, I was driving to my local coffee shop, listening to Morning Edition on National Public Radio. The day before, a young man named Sean Taylor was shot in the leg at his Miami home. For most people, this news was nothing new; another Black man shot in a botched robbery. However, for myself, being a native Marylander, the shooting of the Washington Redskins’ starting strong safety was concerning. When I pulled into the coffee shop parking lot, I immediately slammed on my brakes as the newsreader stated that Sean Taylor passed away. I, as many other football fans, sat stunned at the loss of such a young man in a senseless manner. Many questions came up in my mind about this situation, however one recurring questions kept coming up; one that continually tests my social justice training and belief in a just society.

Days after Sean Taylor’s death, I went to the Washington Redskins website and purchased a stocking cap with “Taylor 21” stitched on it. Proceeds of the sale went to a scholarship fund for Sean’s daughter. When I got the cap, there was a DVD celebrating the 75th anniversary of the team, complete with historical moments (many of

which were beating the hated Dallas Cowboys). As I watched the DVD, I reflected on my childhood growing up in Laurel, Maryland. As a kid, I wanted to be a Washington Redskin. I remember learning the fight song “Hail To The Redskins” in elementary school. I fondly remember watching George Michael on WRC-TV 4 talking with Sonny Jurgensen and John Riggins about the next week’s upcoming game. I distinctly remember Super Bowl XXII, sitting there with my father while watching Doug Williams become the first Black quarterback to start a Super Bowl and lighting up the Denver Broncos for 4 touchdown passes in the second quarter. When I started playing football in the 6th grade, I chose the number 81 for my favorite player, Art Monk. When I scored a touchdown (mostly in practice), I would pretend to jump in the air and slap hands with imaginary players, just like “The Posse” (Art Monk, Gary Clark, and Ricky Sanders) would. I really wanted to become Earnest Byner, Stephen Davis, Timmy Smith, Clint Didier, Rick “Doc” Walker, Mark Rypien, and other famous players, because they were part of an organization that was so loved by its fan base. It was fair to say that I was enamored with the Red-

skins, as many other children in my area were.

However, as I watched this DVD, I started to feel uneasy as White band members dressed in stereotypical Native American wear would march on the field playing the fight song. I first remember this uneasy feeling as a graduate student while watching “Not In Our Honor”, about Charlene Teters and her battle against Chief Illiniwek at the University of Illinois. When they showed “the Chief” prancing around Assembly Hall doing some sort of dance, I actually cringed in sickness. I thought “man, that’s some crazy stuff there...damn White folks.” The more I thought about that scene, I started to think about my childhood. I was being fed the same misinformation about my favorite football team; I was being swindled into believing that the team’s name was “honoring” some legacy. As I did research for a paper, I started noticing that this tactic of promoting “honor” and “dignity” was replicated across the country. And, as I furthered my research, I started questioning my own actions. I was always uncomfortable with the Cleveland Indians’ mascot Chief Wahoo, but why would I do the Tomahawk Chop when I watched the Atlanta Braves on

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How Can I “Hail To the Redskins?”

Sylvester Gaskin



Commission Sponsored Programs

Dani Comey



Sponsorship Opportunities

Matt Matera

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TV? Growing up, I liked the Florida State Seminoles and thought seeing Chief Osceola ride onto midfield at Doak Campbell Stadium was awesome, but why was I angry at reading about the University of North Dakota and their opulent hockey stadium, “dedicated” to the memory of the Sioux Indian? Why did I want to slap Ralph Englestadt yet not Jack Kent Cook or Dan Snyder?

As I continued watching the DVD and reliving memories of watching Charles Mann and Dexter Manley perform on the defensive line, I could only shake my head at my own hypocrisy. I hated the various team names: The Fighting Sioux, The Fighting Illini, The Seminoles, The Braves, The Chiefs, The Warriors. However, I had a special affinity for The Redskins, which is probably the most offensive name out there. At that moment, I remember a joke by Chris Rock, likening the Washington Redskins to naming a team the “Newark Niggers”. Should I disown my loyalty to Washington, or should I keep rooting for a team that I had a strong connection with? In my mind, I kept saying “I mean, come on, they just suffered a major tragedy; can’t social justice take a minute to calm down and realize what’s happening? There’s a Redskin down! Hail to the Redskins! Hail Victory! Braves


on the Warpath! Fight for old D.C.!” At that moment, I realized the silliness of my thinking. Even as a budding social justice activist, I immediately resorted to my internal oppression. I had to “check” my thinking, turn off the DVD, and just mentally note my actions.

I continue to think about this struggle daily as I am reminded by the challenges all us social justice activists face daily. This experience gives me more pause and grace to my colleagues who are also struggling with their issues. I think of the White ally who has to deal with their privileges when confronting racism, or the male ally dealing with their own internal sexism. This situation also made me pause on my own internal homophobia as I continue to work with LGBTQAI communities, and the current battles I face to become a better advocate. I think, as activists, we have to make a choice as to whether continue on the beaten path of ignorance or to truly affect positive change. So, I put away the DVD, threw my Redskins paraphernalia in my closet, and yet I still held on to my memories of a childhood. I love to think that I was just a naïve child who didn’t understand the ugly history of genocide and the lingering poverty afflicting Native Americans, and in truth I was. I now can comprehend what those images

mean, and no matter how difficult it is to let go of my childhood dreams and aspirations, my commitment to social justice must remain true. At time, I wish I didn’t live around Washington D.C. and ever hear of the Redskins, so my decision would not be so difficult. But I know that life is not so simple, and I have chosen a path full of hard decisions and tough situations. I imagine my road to becoming a better advocate for all groups will get bumpier, yet I’m ready for the task. However, just don’t expect me to become a Dallas Cowboys fan anytime soon.

No Conference Bags

The ACPA Convention Planning Team has made a decision with regard to the distribution of bags at the Convention. In order to be consistent with ACPA’s values of sustainability and social responsibility, they will not be giving out bags at the 2008 Convention.



COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS

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Commission Sponsored Program to Check Out in Atlanta

By: Dani Comey

Note these programs as you make your plans for Atlanta! We don't have the detailed convention schedule yet, but as soon as we do program times and locations will be posted on the CSJE website at: myacpa.org/comm/social/index.cfm

Constructing Identities at the Intersections: Implications for Student Affairs Practice

Susan R Jones, Kristan M Cilente, Marybeth J Drechsler, Travis Greene
University of Maryland-College Park

A diverse group of graduate students and faculty at the University of Maryland recently used autoethnographic methodological approaches to explore identity construction and intersecting social identities. Presenters will share how their personal autoethnographic narratives, when connected to sociocultural contexts, offer new theorizing related to multiple and intersecting identities, as well as discuss implications for improved practice

in understanding and with college students from dominant and underrepresented groups.

Monday, March 31, 2008; 4:15 - 5:30 PM
Marriott Marquis, A703

Recognizing and Responding to Dynamics of Oppression: Creating Greater Inclusion

Kathy Obeart, The Social Justice Training Institute

Too often we don't recognize the more subtle and covert forms of oppression and non-inclusive behaviors that occur in many meetings, programs, and organizational practices. In this interactive session participants will identify many of the common, daily dynamics that undermine multiculturalism and explore strategies to respond and intervene effectively to create greater inclusion on campus.

Tuesday, April 1, 2008; 1:15 - 2:30 PM
Marriott Marquis, L405 & L406

Common Threads: Starting a Multicultural Conversation with 1300 Colleagues

Johanna E Soet, Stacey M Pearson, Malinda Matney, Tom Lehker, Sharon Vaughters
University of Michigan

In 2005, the University of Michigan Division of Student Affairs provided multicultural workshops to all 1300 employees. The Diversity Goal Group's goals for this program were: 1) Helping staff understand issues surrounding diversity and feel more comfortable discussing their own experiences; 2) Helping staff recognize their own privilege, while making efforts to interrupt that privilege; 3) Creating an inclusive environment celebrating different social identities. This program describes phases of this multicultural program, including outcomes data, challenges and next steps.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008; 8:00 - 9:15 AM
Marriott Marquis, International 1

It's Easy Being Greener

Clive F Pursehouse
University of Washington

The environment was a moral issue before Al Gore told us that it was at the Orlando conference. As our profession and this association have finally begun to assume a role in the sustainability movement on college campuses, what are we as individual citizens and educators doing to advance that movement? This documentary captures one professional's crusade to be a greener member of society and highlights one housing department's efforts towards education and innovation and a greener college experience.

Monday, March 31, 2008; 11:45 - 1:00 PM
Marriott Marquis, A703



ANNOUNCING

CSJE Awards

Celebrate the great work of your colleagues in social justice!

The following awards will be announced and presented:

- Outstanding Social Justice Collaboration
- Commitment to Social Justice Education
- Outstanding Social Justice Teacher, Trainer, or Mentor
- Contributions to the Commission

Please stop by the CSJE Social and Networking Reception in Atlanta to share in our accomplishments for the past year!

March 31 @
7:30—
9:00pm

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS

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“In the Service of What?”: Students of Color in Service-Learning

Jen Gilbride-Brown: Ohio Campus Compact
John Kengla: Otterbein College

Very little is known about service-learning from the perspective of underrepresented students of color. The “students” in the research are predominantly white and middle class (e.g. Butin, 2005; Eyler & Giles, 1999). Presenters will offer the results of a year-long study on how undergraduate students of color experienced service-learning and constructed conflicting discourses around service. Presenters will facilitate discussion about the ways in which these students' experiences both support and subvert the dominant understanding of service-learning in higher education.

Monday, March 31, 2008; 8:45 - 10:00 AM
Marriott Marquis, International 1

Creating Ally Communities: Developmental Space for Advancing Social Justice

Tracy L Davis, Jennifer Shields: Western Illinois University
Danielle Nied, Katherine Lewis : Colorado State University

Professionals in student affairs have been actively engaged in developmental interventions aimed at promoting social justice. More recently, efforts addressing privilege and ally development have challenged the notion that targets of oppression are exclusively responsible for challenging racism, sexism and other forms of domination.

One outcome of raising consciousness about privileged/advantaged identities is the necessity of creating developmental space for allies to be both challenged and supported. In this session, presenters will offer theory based strategies for creating ally communities.

Monday, March 31, 2008; 10:15 - 11:30 AM
Hyatt Regency, Hanover Hall A, B

Submit an Article

Submit an article to be published in the quarterly newsletter published by the Commission for Social Justice Educators. We are happy to publish articles that address issues of diversity and social justice both in and outside of higher education.

Submissions for the May 2008 edition are due by April 15th. Details about content and formatting can be directed to the Newsletter Editor, Jen Frost and jenfrost@rci.rutgers.edu.

Many thanks to the following CSJE members who assisted with program review and selection:

Victor Santana-Melgoza, Susan V. Iverson, Colleen S. Cipriani, Anna Beale, Anthony Bettendorf, Sara Sheikh, Robert Watson, Victoria Svoboda, Keith Edwards, Ryan Holmes, Teri Engelke, Jess Bennett, Abigail Delgado



ACPA ATLANTA 2008
PURPOSE • INCLUSION • EXPERTISE
ANNUAL CONVENTION





ACPA
COMMISSION FOR
**Social Justice
Educators**

Sponsorship Opportunities

Mission

To provide a collaborative home for college student educators working in the areas of diversity and social justice education.

Goals

- ✓ Provide a place to network
- ✓ Share knowledge, tools, and resources
- ✓ Collaborate across institutions and identities
- ✓ Provide support to college student educators

NOW AVAILABLE

Contact Matt Matera

mmatera@pima.edu

(520) 206-5026

Ally Development Institute Sponsor

Amount: \$2,000 - \$5,000

Benefits: Advertise to over 100 professionals from numerous colleges and universities

Your company's or organization's name on a sign at the event

Table to provide information about company or organization

National Convention Awards and Social Reception Sponsor

Amount: \$1,000 - \$2,000

Benefits: Advertise to over 250 professionals and graduate students from thousands of colleges and universities

Guest speaker at event

Your company's or organization's name on a sign in the reception area

Sponsor Undergraduate Students to Attend National Convention

Amount: \$250 - \$2,000

Benefits: Your company's or organization's name on a sign in the reception area of the event that recognizes grant recipients

Sponsor Graduate Students to Attend National Convention

Amount: \$250 - \$2,000

Benefits: Your company's or organization's name on a sign in the reception area of the event that recognizes grant recipients

Research Grants for Graduate Students

Amount: \$250 - \$2,000

Benefits: Your company's or organization's name on a sign in the reception area of the event that recognizes grant recipients