

NEWS FROM THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE THE VOICE

June 2007



Message from the Chairs

Greetings Social Justice Educators!

I hope that you are able to take some time during this summer respite to reflect on many things, including your individual and institutional efforts on educating towards social justice. This summer represents a time of transition for the Commission for Social Justice Educators as Dr. Luoluo Hong takes over the leadership of CSJE and Dr. Keith Edwards (yes, Keith successfully defended his dissertation in May!) moves to his new role as Past-Chair. Together, we wanted to take this time to tell you a little bit both about where CSJE has been and where it is headed.

Where Have We Been

Over the past couple of years we have focused most of our energies on laying the ground work for the Commission. During this time some very committed folks have taken the time to put in all of the effort that comes with setting up basic policies, practices, and procedures for the regular functions of the commission.

This past year we co-sponsored the Tools for Social Justice Conference with ACPA/University of Kansas/PaperClip Communications. We have scheduled and are in the process of planning an Ally Development Institute to take place in the summer of 2008. The Commission was also active in fostering conversations and dia-

logue related to the scheduling of the ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting during Pass-over. CSJE has also played a significant role in the associations work on sustainable development.

At the Joint Meeting in Orlando we welcomed our newest class of Directorate Body members and assigned all Directorate Body members to their leadership roles for the coming year. Many of our Directorate Body members are returning to roles they held previously so that they can continue the good work they have begun. At the Joint Meeting, CSJE sponsored three convention programs, held an awards reception and social sponsored by Diverse Issues in Higher Education, and participated in the convention carnival and the
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Thank you again to Diverse Issues in Higher Education for sponsoring the ACPA Commissions for Social Justice Educators Reception. For more information about being a sponsor, see Page 7 for more information.



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student involvement fair. We will again be co-sponsoring, with PaperClip Communications, the Tools for Social Justice Conference in Kansas City at the end of October. We are also hosting, with the co-sponsorship of ACPAs Standing Committees, an Ally Development Institute in the summer of 2008 with Nancy Evans, Tracy Davis, Ellen Broido, and Robert Reason serving as the core faculty.

Where Are We Going

Because we are still a relatively “young” commission, a strong emphasis must be placed on recruiting and maintaining a vibrant, varied and stable membership. We need your help to identify individuals who bring unique and divergent view to our work into our Commission. As we grow the Commission membership, we will certainly build on the ground work that has already been laid in terms of our mission, goals, structure and policies. However, we will want to reassess and refine as we move ahead and learn more about what works for our Commission.

One immediate focus we have following the ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting is the drafting of a letter to the ACPA (and possibly NASPA) leadership to encourage all of us to continue in reflective, honest organizational learning and improvement following the scheduling of the Joint Meeting over the Passover holiday. A group of Commission members has developed the wording and circulated the document for feedback; a conference call with the appropriate ACPA leadership will hopefully identify appropriate next steps. It our hope that from such public mistakes, positive action can follow for the betterment of the entire Association membership.

A major planned project will be to continue our efforts to define a core set of multicultural and social justice education competencies and determine how to best proliferate such information across the higher education profession and develop a database of model programs and interventions with demonstrated effectiveness to positively impact behavior. At the same time, we will continue to focus on how we can capitalize on electronic and digital mediums to increase our presence and sphere of influence as a Commission with both present and potential members.

Just a reminder too that we have altered the timeline for the elections of Directorate Body officers. This academic year, those elections will take place in the Fall, with the call for nominations in October and the ballot available in early November. Because we all know how quickly time goes by over the summer, please be sure to start thinking now of either yourself or other individuals for leadership roles in the Commission.

Closing

As you incoming Chair and soon-to-be Past Chair, we continue to be impressed and inspired by the dedication, energy and expertise of the Commission membership. We have accomplished so much in such a short term of existence in large part because so many of you have been willing to dedicate your time and effort. We thank you for it, and will continue to count on it in the future so that the Commission can continue to thrive and advance the social justice agenda in higher education. Again, we hope you find respite, reflection and recovery in the summer, and we look forward to a productive next academic year. ■

Luoluo Hong—Chair

Keith E. Edwards—Past Chair

Commission for Social Justice Educators

Bedankt

The Commission for Social Justice Educators would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Keith Edwards for his three years of service as Chair of the CSJE. In addition to serving as Chair, Keith worked as one of the founders of the CSJE, spending years brainstorming the development of the CSJE and working with the Standing Commission for Multicultural Affairs to help it come to fruition. Many thanks to Keith for his tireless efforts within the Commission and in social justice



work everywhere.

Best of luck in the new

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ORLANDO CONVENTION IN REVIEW

Meet the Leadership of CSJE



The old and new members of the CSJE Leadership met in Orlando for the annual conference, and one of the only times this group gets to meet in person! Please feel free to seek out individuals to help however possible. If you are interested in any projects or positions listed as open, please contact Luoluo at luoluo.hong@asu.edu.

Luoluo Hong—Chair

Member Services

Vice Chair for Member Services: Joy Tongstri

Listserv Coordinator: Joy Tongstri

Web Manager: Dave Belman

Elections Coordinator: briana Sevigny

Newsletter Coordinator: Jennifer Frost

Programs

Vice Chair for Programs: Kristi Lonardo

Program Coordinator: Dani Comey

Resource Coordinators: Anna Beale & Jon Sexton

Convention Coordinator: Bryan Van Osdale

Awards: Samanta Lopez

Scholarship Coordinators: Nurredina Workman & Lisa Landreman

Sponsorship Coordinator: Matt Matera

Professional Development Coordinator: Brian Arao, Anat Lev-
tov, & Jordan England

Advocacy

Vice Chair for Advocacy: Anthony Bettendorf

Liaison for Multicultural Concerns: Zakia Reaves

Liaison for Gender Concerns: OPEN

SC for Men - OPEN

SC for Women - Anat Lev-
tov

Liaison for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Awareness:

Chris MacDonald-Dennis

Liaison for Ability Concerns: Jeremy Page

Liaison for Other Concerns: Helen Alatorre & Robin Routenberg

Liaison for Graduate Students and New Professionals: Jane E.

Duffy

Outreach

Vice Chair for Outreach: Ryan Holmes

Liaison to NASPA: Loulou Hong

Liaison to SJTI: Anat Lev-
tov

Liaison to White Privilege Conference: Jon Sexton

Liaison to Idealist: Anna Beale

Contact Information for all Leadership members are available at
<http://www.myacpa.org/comm/social/pages/leadership2.cfm>

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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS

Thank You Presenters

Thank you again to the presenters of commission sponsored programs in Orlando! Each session was successful in providing valuable information to the field and CSJE is proud to have been able to sponsor your programs!

Living the American dream: Undocumented Students in Higher Education

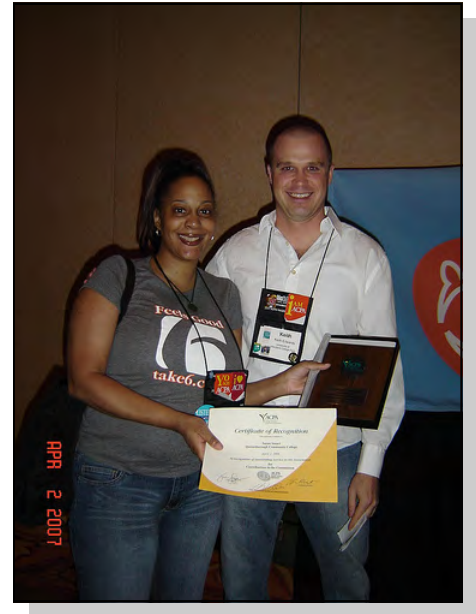
Presenters: Amjad Abdo, Purchase College & Sandra Garcia, SUNY Purchase

Aspiring Ally Identity Development: Selfish, Altruistic, or Social Justice?

Presenter: Keith E. Edwards, University of Maryland – College Park

Toward Social Justice: A Study of Facilitators & Barriers to Multicultural Practice in Higher Education

Presenter: Lisa Landreman, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Meeting Discussions

In addition, to the regular commission business below are some highlights of the Commissions initiatives that were acted upon or initiated at the Joint Meeting.

- The Commission was recognized for its outstanding newsletter, listserv, and website with the ACPA Commissions Publication Award.
- Matt Matera will be pulling together a group of folks to lead the CSJE's efforts on Sustainable Development in the coming year.
- Motion passed to endorse the original letter by Rebecca Cory on the scheduling of the Joint Meeting.
- The Commission will also be drafting a letter requesting that the leadership and offices of both associations (ACPA/NASPA) to review the policies, procedures, and practices related to the scheduling of the Joint Meeting, the response both before and during the Joint Meeting, and future issues. A letter will also be drafted by Luoluo Hong, Briana Sevigny, Brian Arao, and Jordan England and shared with the Commission leadership for feedback and endorsement.



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When It Comes to Racial Inequality Actions Speak Louder Than Words

By: Gabriel Cohen, Karen-Gicelle Fundales, Carlos P. Hipolito-Delgado, Carolyn Payne, Brittney White, and Nurredina Workman

On Monday March 26, 2007 state lawmakers from Maryland issued an apology for the state's role in slavery. Known as Senate Joint Resolution 6, the Maryland Senate expressed "profound regret for the role that Maryland played in instituting and maintaining slavery and for the discrimination that was slavery's legacy." Maryland became the second state, after Virginia, to apologize for playing a role in the "peculiar institution". However, are apologies sufficient?

This apology may appear to be indicative of progress toward racially equality, in reality it is a mere symbol—a symbol that will function to keep African-Americans pacified while making Whites look good. The famed author and civil rights attorney Derrick Bell, provides various examples of symbols, such as the Emancipation Proclamation and Martin Luther King Day that have been touted as markers of social progress, but have done nothing to improve the social conditions of African-Americans. This apology does nothing to challenge the current state of racial inequity in the US. It does nothing to address wealth and employment inequities between African-Americans and Whites. It merely provides a symbol that doesn't cost Whites much and will keep African-Americans pacified.

So the real question concerning this apology is who benefits from it? This apology puts the White citizens of Maryland at ease; they need no longer bear the weight of the responsibility for slavery and its legacy. They can feel that social progress has been made and racial relations are improved. This apology provides the illusion that slavery and its effects have been addressed and put behind us. No longer does society have to address the damaging effects of hundreds of years of inequity. In fact, this apology may make things worse because Whites can believe that racial discrimination has been addressed and put in the past.

Now that the state of Maryland has put slavery behind them, does that mean we are now on an even playing field? According to Teller-Elsberg, Folbre, and Heintz, authors of "Field Guide to the U.S. Economy", the financial wealth of white households (about \$42,000) was on average of 38 times greater than that of African-American households (about \$1,100) in 2001. Almost 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation there are still significant advantages to being White in America. However, this is but one advantage to being White outlined by Teller-Elsberg and company. In 2004 only 4.8% of Whites were unemployed while

10.4% of African-Americans were without work. Further, 24% of all African-Americans live below the poverty line compared to only 10% of Whites. It is evident that African-Americans still face distinct disadvantages.

Although many feel that an apology for slavery represents social progress, this apology does not address the above statistics. Nor does it address this country's possessive investment in whiteness. Author and scholar George Lipsitz coined the term possessive investment in whiteness to describe a series of social and political actions that have economically advantaged Whites at the expense of people of color. Lipsitz, in his book "The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics", provides examples of possessive investment in whiteness throughout American history. This includes the Federal Housing Act of 1934, which channeled loan money toward Whites and away from communities of color. Another example is the urban renewal projects of the 1950's and 1960's. These projects led to the demolition of many inner city homes and the development of suburban homes. Communities of color accounted for 60% of those displaced by urban renewal and

Atlanta 08—Call for Programs

Educational program proposals must be received by Friday, September 14, 2007th

- Program proposals must be submitted online
- Please draft your proposal in a word processing software program to enable editing and spell checking, then cut and paste into the online system.
- Please do not include degree titles (such as Dr., Ph.D., M.S.W.).
- Each educational program proposal should be submitted to one program category only (for example, choose General or Sponsored).
- The coordinating presenter must be an ACPA member and register for the convention
- The coordinating presenter must verify that co-presenters will also register for the convention.
- Programs must adhere to the convention theme Professionalism with Purpose — Advancing Inclusion and Expertise and target one or two of the Professional Outcomes.

More information can be found at
<http://convention.myacpa.org/program/program.html>



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only 2% of those receiving new homes.

Lipsitz also demonstrates the possessive investment in whiteness in the criminal justice system. Although Whites are seven times more likely to abuse drugs, African-Americans are four times more likely to be arrested on drug charges. Additionally, African-Americans receive on average 20% longer prison sentences than

Whites for the same criminal offense.

What does an apology for slavery do to challenge a possessive investment in whiteness?

Absent of any action to rectify the exploitation of African-Americans, it is another example of possessive investment in whiteness. This apology makes discrimination a relic of the distant past, ignoring contemporary examples of discrimination that has led

Whites to a position of privilege.

“I’m Sorry” is not enough. An apology cannot erase the gap in wealth and unemployment between Whites and African-Americans or the overrepresentation of African-Americans in prisons. What is needed is an understanding of social inequities in this country and how this country has possessively invested in whiteness. Maybe then people will learn how, although you yourself have not owned slaves, failure to take action to correct social injustice

makes you a part of the problem.

So what if the state of Maryland has passed a resolution apologizing for slavery? As you have undoubtedly heard before, actions speak louder than words.

Gabriel Cohen, Karen-Gicelle Fundales,Carolynn Payne, and Brittney White are undergraduate students, Nurredina Workman is a Masters student, and Carlos P. Hipolito-Delgado is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Maryland College Park. ■

“I’m sorry” is not enough.”

An Update for the CSJE Membership

By: Brian Arao

Like many constituents of both ACPA and NASPA, the membership of the Commission for Social Justice Educators was saddened and frustrated by the scheduling of the 2007 Joint Meeting during Passover.

We appreciated that the leadership of our Associations accepted responsibility for this egregious scheduling error, made efforts to facilitate access to the Joint Meeting by Jewish members and participants, and planned an educational Seder during the Joint Meeting.

Strill, many of us felt that our Associations as a collective were failing to address the thorniest questions brought up by the scheduling error. How does oppression

operate even within organizations that strive for inclusion and justice? How do power and privilege contribute to the marginalization of socio-cultural groups by well-intentioned people? How do we work more proactively to identify our personal and organizational learning edges and avoid future errors of this nature?

Dialogue around questions like these will almost certainly be protracted, yet the directorate of the CSJE felt that opportunities for such dialogue were limited to the Joint Meeting itself, and accessible only by a small subset of our memberships. As such, we discussed writing a letter to the leadership of our Associations, requesting that we reopen this dialogue and find ways to invite more participants to the conversation. A draft of a

letter was recently sent out to the Directorate Body of the CSJE to elicit feedback and to vote on whether or not to send the letter. We encourage you to share your own thoughts or feedback with us. We look forward to working together with you to achieving greater equity and justice within our Associations.





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