



Intergroup Relations Center

Office of the Executive Vice-President and University Provost

E-News 4.1 – Fall 2007

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From the Director...

This month marks the 6th anniversary of the 9/11 incident that shook our world. As we take time to remember the loss of life, the disruption of tranquility, and the awakening of a recognition that 'difference matters,' let us also acknowledge that each of us plays a role in promoting understanding, creating opportunities for effective communication, and fostering peace with our neighbors regionally and globally. On behalf of the IRC, I invite you to use a portion of your time this semester in the service of educating yourself about the diversity that characterizes our campus community. The IRC has scheduled a number of events to ensure that students, faculty, and staff can have platforms for discussion around difference, intergroup dialogue, and social justice. Some of these events are listed below; the full slate appears on our website. Welcome back to ASU. May this semester be one that engages your involvement in efforts to shape an inclusive environment.

–Dr. Delia S. Saenz

Diversity Works @ ASU



Students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to participate in dialogues with visiting scholars, leadership training, discussions on immigration and religion, made available to

you this semester by the IRC:

INVISION RETREAT (OCT 19-21), an engaging weekend retreat for students to promote leadership skills and an understanding of diversity.

FACULTY CROSS-TALK (OCT 24), on Immigration Reform featuring professors Lisa Magaña from the Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies Dept. and Brian Gratton from the Department of History.

DIVERSITY SCHOLAR SERIES (OCT 30-31), featuring Daniel O. Bernstine, President and CEO of the Law School Admissions Council and former President of Portland State University, exploring the topic of diversity and pipeline issues in law school admissions. Co-sponsored by the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE TRIP (NOV 3-4), an overnight trip to LA to visit the one-of-a-kind exhibit on social justice issues of the past, present and future.

FILMS THAT TESTIFY (NOV 14), featuring "Real Women have Curves," with a discussion focused on the intersectionality of culture/class/gender.

Location and registration details about these programs are on our web-page. Please come and join us!

Curricular Connections

One of the summertime collaborations for the IRC involved integration of diversity concepts into the curriculum. Specifically, Delia Saenz & Marcela Castro worked with three campus units to develop training modules around the topic of diversity. ASU 101, Division of Graduate Studies TA training, and Nursing Education were the beneficiaries of this collaboration.

ASU 101, a five-week course for freshman includes one module devoted to diversity. The goal of ASU 101 is to facilitate the success of first-year students. Receiving information about the advantages and challenges of living and learning in a diverse environment is an important component of education. The multimedia module includes facts about the racial/ethnic distribution of ASU students and faculty, and addresses different dimensions of diversity in US and global contexts. Additionally, the module speaks to inclusion and representation as key attributes of diversity on campus and provides a list of resources to learn more about diversity issues.

For the **Division of Graduate Studies**, IRC members developed an online module that presents incoming TA's with info on ASU's diversity, pedagogical considerations in teaching students from diverse backgrounds, and sample scenarios related to addressing the needs of students in the classroom.

The **Nursing Education** orientation was the first in a series of workshops designed for the academic year that will integrate social psychology content and effective pedagogy into the nursing curriculum.



The IRC summer program in South Africa

Identity, social location, ethnic narrative, and collective healing after gross human rights violations were the foci of a pilot project situated in Cape Town this past summer under the direction of Sr. Program Coordinator, Teri Murphy. Representing the IRC and in collaboration with the Univ. of Cape Town (UCT), she facilitated a six week intensive for visiting ASU students. Three former Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) participated in the program together with a diversity of cross-disciplinary faculty from UCT and ASU.

Fourth and fifth year students from ASU's Departments of Justice Studies, Political Science, Religious Studies and Sociology learned first-hand from the stark poverty, personal losses, collective injury and structural injustice that issued from the Apartheid political dispensation. They also witnessed the difficulties, complexities, and challenges that are cobbled into the road to social healing on the other side of collective violence. The intensive combined field trips to a variety of icons from the Apartheid era and anthropological sites of the Bushmen periods; conversations with perpetrators and victims of Apartheid, politicians, religious leaders and social workers; classroom lectures; and home stays in the black urban communities created by the Apartheid government.

Lindsey Ruscello and Ryan Sarver, two students from the IRC's 2006-2007 student leadership team remained in South Africa to pursue post-graduate degrees in the Humanities Department of UCT. They are currently research assistants for former TRC commissioner Dr. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela in the newly launched Center for Narrative, Trauma and Forgiveness.



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Community Links

Community members gathered September 5th to discuss relations between Blacks and Latinos in the Phoenix area at the Healing Racism forum, "**Black and Brown: Building Bridges.**" The community forum was held as part of Latino Heritage Month, and reflected on recent media reports examining increased tension for resources (e.g., jobs, education, political representation) between these two communities.

"Black and Brown: Building Bridges" highlighted the shared history of Latinos and Blacks in the fight for social justice and provided a safe space for open discussion. Among the questions addressed were: What are common struggles among the Black and Brown communities? What goals co-exist that can promote collaboration and common strength? Community members were given the opportunity to share their views and aspirations. Program presenters included Matthew Whitaker, Rory Gilbert, Michael Kelly, and Richard de Uriarte.

The Healing Racism Forum is a series of community conversations that provides a platform to promote dialogue on race-related issues that affect our daily interactions and experiences. The forum represents a partnership between ASU (the IRC & Dept. of History), the City of Phoenix,

Maricopa County, and the Maricopa County Community College District. Teresita Hurtado, Coordinator, represents the IRC on this committee.

The next Healing Racism dialogue is titled "40 Years of **Loving**: Interracial Dating and Marriages." It is scheduled for December 5, 2007 at Phoenix College from 5:30-7:30pm. *Loving* in the title represents the Loving vs. Virginia Supreme Court case that legalized interracial marriages in the United States 40 years ago.

Staff Notes

During the summer we said goodbye to two members of our staff and welcomed a new one. Mr. Thomas Walker left the IRC to complete his doctoral degree and Dr. Lori Girshick accepted a faculty position at the Chandler-Gilbert Community College. We wish them continued success! The newest member of the IRC family is Ms. Teresita Hurtado, who received her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania (2005) and is also an ASU alum, having received her B. A. in Psychology in 2003. Teresita will be in charge of student and community programming for the IRC. Please come by and say hello!

WATCH FOR OUR NEXT E-NEWS ISSUE IN SPRING 2008!

The E-News is a semi-annual publication of the Intergroup Relations Center. For a downloadable copy, and additional information on IRC programs, people and other resources, visit www.asu.edu/irc. To subscribe to E-News, send an email message with your name and email address to: asuirc@asu.edu.

an education, research and advocacy unit that advances the understanding and practice of effective intergroup relations