

CHESS/AGEP Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

FALL 2007

CHESS

Communications,
Humanities, Economic,
Social & Behavioral
Sciences Diversity
Committee

AGEP

Alliance for Graduate
Education and the
Professoriate

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome	1
New CHESS Faculty	2
CHESS Faculty cont.	3
Angela Davis at NU	3
CHESS Recruit- ment	3
CHESS Contacts	4

WELCOME



with optimism. But within the framework of CHESS, there are grassroots efforts that may have a long term payoff. In this note, I'll briefly describe one of them.

On October 12th, a number of CHESS faculty, mostly from the social sciences, met with their counterparts from Northwestern Illinois University (NEIU) to discuss forms of cooperation. Northeastern Illinois University has a large number of minority undergraduate scholars, scholars who have limited opportunities to obtain research experience. The faculty discussed different ways in which NEIU under-

graduates might work with faculty and graduate students at Northwestern. Basically CHESS is acting as a clearing house where Northwestern labs can advertise research opportunities, and NEIU faculty help pair up NEIU undergraduates with labs. Obviously, this linkage is in developmental stages, but I hope to report on these collaborations in my next newsnote.

Cordially,

Douglas Medin, PhD.
Chair of CHESS.
(medin@northwestern.edu)

Welcome New CHESF Faculty

Victoria M. DeFrancesco

Victoria M. DeFrancesco is an assistant professor at Northwestern University in the department of political science and a fellow at the Institute for Policy Research as well as an affiliate in the African-American Studies Department. She received her Ph.D. in political science in 2007 from Duke University where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow and Dissertation Fellow. Victoria, a native of the Arizona-Sonora borderland, received her B.A. at the University of Arizona in 2000. Growing up in this bi-national context triggered her interest in Latino Politics, Latin-American Politics and the resultant interaction of both areas of study.

In her dissertation, “Do Latinos Party All the Time? The Role of Shared Ethnic Group Identity on Political Choice,” she employs a triangulated theoretical and empirical strategy to understand the mechanism through which ethnic identity influences candidate evaluation and vote choice. In this work and recent extensions, she considers how Latino ethnic campaigns influence the preferences of both Latinos and non-Latinos and, in particular, how ethnicity can trump partisanship in electoral choices.

Victoria’s work focuses on campaigns and elections underpinned by the intersection of political psychology and race and ethnic politics. More specifically, she is interested in how cognition and affect shape the processing of political information within a dynamic political environment of changing racial and ethnic demographics. Her ongoing research projects include campaign media effects, black-Latino inter-group relations, comparative race studies, and attitudes toward immigration as a result of varying frames of issue presentation.



Edd V. Taylor

Edd V. Taylor is an assistant professor of Learning Sciences. Dr. Taylor comes to Northwestern by way of the University of Wisconsin,

Madison where he was also a professor. He obtained his Ph.D. in Cognition and Development at the University of California, Berkeley. His research focuses on issues of equity in mathematics education as they relate to understanding the relationship between culture and mathemat-

cal cognition. Previous work utilized mixed methods to examine the ways students from a lower-income African-American community develop mathematical understandings while making purchases in corner stores. He is currently examining religious practices related to mathematical thinking, specifically tithing. His goal is to better understand the relationship between our everyday uses of mathematics and domains of mathematical knowledge valued in classrooms. In other work, he has studied an NSF sponsored professional development program administered through the Diversity in Mathematics Education Center for Teaching and Learning (DiME), examining the ways teachers draw on their students’ informal mathematical knowledge, the ways children engage curriculum that considers out-of-school knowledge, and the supports and constraints of drawing on children’s everyday practices in classroom instruction.

Jamie Dominguez

Jaime Dominguez is a College Adviser and Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Northwestern University. He received his BA from the University of California at San Diego and his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 2007. His research interests include race and ethnicity as well as urban, Latino, and minority politics. Professor Dominguez has taught at the University of Chicago, UIC, and DePaul University. In 2003 and 2004, he taught at Northwestern in the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies.

He is one of the principal architects of the Chicago Democracy Project (CDP), a thirty-year (1975-2005) online political database that provides citizens, community groups, and religious organizations with information on campaign finance, electoral outcomes, government contracts, minority appointments and levels of public employment for the City of Chicago. In addition, the CDP also provides links to demographic, economic, and other information of interest to the public. Professor Dominguez is currently working on a second grant to expand the CDP to twenty five major cities. He is also at work on a pilot project that examines the state of inter-minority relations in Chicago. Of particular interest is how Latino heterogeneity and population growth is redefining traditional political and race relations between blacks and whites. He is author of “Illinois Latinos and the 2004 Elections: The Waiting Game Continues,” in de la Garza and DeSipio’s *Latinos and the 2004 Elections* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2007).



Dr. Soyini Madison

D. Soyini Madison is a Professor in the Department of Performance Studies at

Northwestern and the author of *Critical Ethnography: Methods, Ethics, and Performance*; co-editor of *The Sage Handbook of Performance Studies*; and Editor of *The Woman That I Am: The Literature and Culture of Contemporary Women of Color*. Madison lived and worked in Ghana, West Africa as a senior Fulbright Scholar conducting field research on the interconnections between local human rights activism, corporate globalization, and indigenous performance tactics. She received a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in Belagio, Italy for her current book project, *Acts of Activism: Human Rights and Radical Performance*, based on fieldwork in Ghana. Madison also adapts and directs her ethnographic work for the public stage in performances such as: *I Have My Story to Tell*, a performance reflecting the labor struggles of University of Carolina service workers; *Mandela, the Land, and the People*, a performance based on the life and work of Nelson Mandela; *Is It A Human Being or A Girl?* a performance ethnography on traditional religion and human rights activists in Ghana; and, *Water Rites*, a multi-media performance on the struggle against the privatization of water in the global South.

Angela Davis Visits NU

On Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, the Women’s Center at Northwestern University along with For Members Only, Peace Project, and Rainbow Alliance hosted a lecture by Dr. Angela Davis entitled, “Building Activist Communities.” The event was free for students.

Through her activism and her scholarship over the last decades, Angela Davis has been deeply involved in our nation’s quest for social justice. Her work as an educator—both at the university and in the larger public sphere—has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender equality. Professor Davis has constructed extensive research on numerous issues related to race, gender and imprisonment. Her most recent books are *Abolition Democracy* and *Are Prisons Obsolete?* She is now completing a book

on Prisons and American History. In 1998, she co-founded Critical Resistance, a national grass-roots organization working for prison abolition. Now Professor of History of Consciousness at UC Santa Cruz, Angela Davis continues to fight for social justice and develop radical approaches to effect real change.



Angela Davis in 2006

CHES Recruitment Visits in 2007-2008

Recruiter	Trip Planned	Date
Alice Eagly (Psychology)	University of Richmond	Dec. 4, 2007
Paul Reber (Psychology)	Johns Hopkins University	Dec. 12, 2007
Joan Chiao (Psychology)	Purdue	Winter TBA
Joan Chiao (Psychology)	UIUC	Winter TBA
Joan Chiao (Psychology)	Northern Illinois University	Winter TBA
Alice Eagly (Psychology)	Wesleyan	Jan. 31, 2008
Wendi Gardner (Psychology)	University of California-Davis	Feb. 24-26, 2008

“Building a More Diverse Academy”: the 1st Annual DFI Conference

On November 16, 2007 DFI (Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois) held its first annual conference with the theme of “Building a More Diverse Academy” at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The conference was co-chaired by Jose Perales from UIC and Penny Warren from Northwestern University and included professional development panels and workshops for graduate students. The conference also provided an opportunity for graduate students to make research and performance presentations.



Participants at the Annual DFI Conference

NU Student Presenters

Several Northwestern graduate students participated in the DFI Conference and presented their research. Presenters included:

Nina Cartier - “Supa Soul Sista: Rethinking Black Female Representation in Blaxploitation”

Nneka E. Onyezia - “Adjustment and Functioning of African-American Transracial Adoptees: A Review of the Empirical Literature”



Presenter at DFI Conference

Winter Events: 2008 Mega Midwest AGEP Conference

Chicago’s Hilton Suites Hotel – Magnificent Mile will be the site of the Mega Midwest AGEP Conference (a professional development conference for graduate students, post-docs, and new faculty) from February 7-9, 2008. Organized by Northwestern University and the University of Michigan, eighteen universities from across the Midwest representing four AGEP alliances will be participating in this conference. The conference theme will be, “Elements of Success.” Sponsors of the conference include the NSF, Dow Chemical Corporation, and Shell Oil Company. Northwestern and University of Chicago AGEP Scholars will serve as ambassadors during the conference. For further information about this conference please consult the website at:
www.graduate.indiana.edu/agep/MMAC/

By Cheryl Judice

Faculty Proposals Funded by AGEP

Galen Bodenhausen (Psychology) - A Minority Recruiting Conference on Graduate Study in Social Psychology

Richard Zinbarg (Psychology) - Three-Point Plan for Concentrated Mentoring of Undergraduates from Underrepresented Groups

Richard Zinbarg - Five-Point Plan for Increasing Diversity of the Psychology PhD Program Application Pool

Mary Patillo (Sociology) - New Initiatives in Programming / Support to Improve Retention and Make Students Marketable After Completion of the PhD

**Northwestern University
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CHESS, the Communications, Humanities, Economic, Social & Behavioral Sciences Diversity Committee, is composed of Northwestern faculty members, administrators, and graduate students. CHES's mission is to recruit and retain a more diverse student population in these graduate programs.

Chair: Douglas Medin, Ph.D.

The **Midwest Crossroads AGEP** is one of 22 programs nationwide funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). A primary goal of AGEP is to triple the number of underrepresented minorities receiving doctoral degrees in communications, humanities, social, behavioral, and economic sciences (CHES fields) and increase their numbers in faculty positions.

PI: Lawrence Henschen, Ph.D.

Associate Director: Cheryl Judice, Ph.D.

For more information about CHES or AGEP activities, visit www.tgs.northwestern.edu/studentlife/multiculturaloffice/chess_diversity_committee/

Or contact Mario Craigen, at m-craigen@northwestern.edu.