

Message from the Chair

-CHES-

Communications, Humanities,
Economic, Social & Behavioral
Sciences

-AGEP-

Alliance for Graduate Education
and the Professoriate

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Dear Reader,

I know I should be writing a nice letter describing CHES accomplishments but there's something that keeps getting in the way. It's the question of how you could tell a fake from the real thing when it comes to diversity efforts.

Imagine some University X that recognizes that diversity is important and more or less sincerely supports it. But for University X diversity is just one of a large set of priorities and frankly, it's not near the top of the list (school rankings, among other things, are seen as more important). University X sees diversity efforts as a form of outreach and is willing to sacrifice a bit when it comes to ACT or GREs scores to recruit minorities.

In contrast, University Y sees diversity as being intrinsic to the quality and richness of the community of scholars that comprise it. Its very identity is linked to diversity. Diversity is an axiom, not a corollary. It is constitutive. University Y couldn't be more different from University X. University Y cringes when it hears X talk about "outreach."

So how do we tell X from Y? When it comes to sports I have some guesses. In the case of

football Northwestern is probably a University X and the University of Michigan and Ohio State University are likely candidates for being University Y's. Sure Northwestern wins some football games and we did go to the Rose Bowl a little more than a decade ago, but that was us being out of character. We'll gladly embrace success but football is not what we are about. (I'm betting that there are undergraduates at Michigan and Ohio State that don't play football themselves but nonetheless chose to attend there, at least in part, because of their successful football programs.)

If there were a simple mapping between identity and success it might not be hard to tell an X from a Y. But there isn't. The Green Bay Packers haven't won a superbowl for some time, yet the Green Bay television stations cover Packer events and happenings literally year round. The Packers are part of the Green Bay identity in a way that the New York Giants, last year's superbowl champions, could only dream about. When it comes to supporting and identifying with the packers, Green Bay is a Y.

Our own women's lacrosse team has had stunning successes but only a handful of potential recruits (lacrosse play-



Doug Medin, Ph.D.

ers themselves) would choose to come to Northwestern because of its lacrosse team. So success per se doesn't guarantee identity.

The X's and Y's of diversity are much harder to pin down than the X's and Y's of sports. How many potential recruits choose to come to Northwestern, at least in part, because of its diversity? Are we a University X or a University Y? If we don't know which we are, does that mean we are an X? If so, maybe it's time for more outreach.

Doug Medin, Ph.D.

Mega Midwest Conference



Northwestern AGEP Students in Purple at the 2008 MEGA Midwest AGEP Conference.



From Left: Cheryl Judice, Larry Henschen, and Penny Warren at the MEGA Midwest Conference.

The First Mega Midwest AGEP (Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate) Conference was a collaborative effort of five Midwest AGEP alliances representing 18 universities led by Northwestern University and the University of Michigan. AGEP Graduate Students came together for 3 days of professional development and networking. Graduate students at all stages of study, whether first year or about to graduate, were able to choose between a wide variety of workshops and presentations while interacting with peers from across the Midwest. Special

student workshops were developed to better identify and more effectively address the needs and concerns of our next generation of young scholars. Workshops targeting SBES students included:

Diversity Matters in the Classroom, Cheryl Judice, PhD (Northwestern) This interactive workshop on diversity matters in the classroom is designed to raise awareness of issues faculty in the 21st century will face as American institutions of higher education become more culturally diverse.

Words of Wisdom: How to Thrive in Graduate School - SBES A panel of 3-4 advanced students sharing words of wisdom, tips, strategies, and resources that they found to help them through being admitted to candidacy and passing the qualifying exam.

Successfully Preparing for Quails: SBES This workshop covered topics such as understanding the qualifying exam, knowing your examiners, preparing early, and reducing stress.

AGEP Funds CHES Graduate Students

AGEP provides funds to CHES graduate students to attend conferences and conduct research. Students shared how these experiences impacted their research and helped prepare them for the job search.

Meccasia Zabriskie, Sociology.

"I received a grant from the AGEP program to support pre-dissertation research at Dance and Drum, a workshop in Conakry, Guinea, West Africa from December 17, 2007- January 7, 2008. The workshop was conducted by an artist from Conakry, who is currently residing in the United States. Students from the US, as well as other countries, attend this workshop for various lengths of time to engage in intensive dance training and to gain more knowledge about Guinean culture. During the workshops, students dance for four hours a day, have the option of taking drum lessons, and take a day trip to a neighboring village, Dubreka, to

get a sense of life outside of the city. Susu language lessons are given by some of the artist's family members during free time in-between classes.

My trip to this conference has been extremely helpful toward advancing my research in a variety of ways. Because of my experience on this trip, I am in the process of re-conceptualizing my project. I initially set out to examine how dance builds community and how social codes get scripted and re-scripted through dance practice; however, I no longer think that this is the central issue. Some of the issues that were salient were intergenerational struggles over "traditional" practices, the effect of these transnational practices on social norms and inequality in both contexts, and struggles over norms around gender and sexuality. Gaining this on the ground experience has also helped me to develop a preliminary but better sense of the dance community in Conakry. Additionally, I have an understanding of the possible

experience that dancers can have when they travel to Guinea to engage in these dance/ cultural exchange workshops. Lastly, this trip has been helpful in allowing me to make connections to other artists in Guinea, which will be helpful when I conduct a larger research project."

"Gaining this on the ground experience has also helped me to develop a preliminary but better sense of the dance community in Conakry."

Meccasia Zabriskie



Meccasia Zabriskie at a dance workshop in Guinea.

Recruitment Update

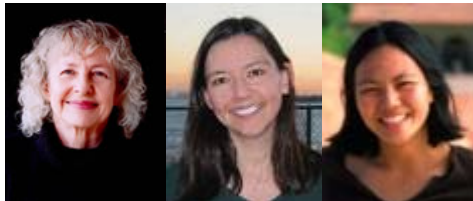
Several CHES faculty volunteers gave academic lectures and spoke with underrepresented minority students at schools across the country. This is part of CHES' effort to encourage students to pursue graduate studies and to highlight the various programs at NU that support the retention of minority students in PhD programs.

CHES' 2008 recruitment trips are as follows:

Alice Eagly, Psychology, visited Wesleyan University in Nebraska on January 31.

Wendi Gardner, Psychology, visited the University of California at Davis from February 24-26.

Joan Chiao, Psychology, visited the University of Illinois, Purdue University and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champagne in early 2008.



Psychology faculty: Alice Eagly, Wendi Gardner, and Joan Chiao

Annual BGSA Conference

On April 12, 2008, Northwestern's Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) held its twelfth annual Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference. This year's theme was "Extending Our Sphere of Influence," which inspired participants to implement their research beyond academia and make a broader impact. Opening remarks were given by Dr. Gerri Henderson, professor at Medill. The keynote address featured Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., Professor in the School of History, Technology and Society at Georgia Institute of Technology who spoke on "Addressing Racial Disparities Through Collective Action."

The conference, held at the McCormick Tribune Center, featured more than 25 oral research presentations by graduate students from Northwestern and other institutions across the Midwest. Conference attendees engaged in discussion and networking, culminating in an Honors Banquet held at the James Allen Center. The banquet celebrated BGSA alumni who have successful careers in academia, graduating members, and the organization's accomplishments throughout the year.

-Text by Stacey Finley, BGSA President and AGEP Scholar

Huggins-Quarles Award to NU Grad Student



Crystal Renee Sanders

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) selected Crystal Renee Sanders, Northwestern University PhD Candidate, as one of two recipients of the Huggins-Quarles Award. This Award is given annually to one or two graduate students of color at the dissertation stage of their PhD program. On Saturday, March 29, 2008, OAH

president Nell Irvin Painter presented the award in New York City at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Organization.

Crystal Sanders' dissertation is entitled, "Redeeming the Community: Mississippi Black Women and Head Start, 1965-1967." Her project explores why Head Start's pilot program and premier success was de-funded

within two years of its creation. She examines how cooperation between local activists, especially black female teachers and parents, and federal officials after the Civil Rights Act, threatened the hold of Mississippi white elite on power in the state.

Both recipients of the 2008 OAH Huggins-Quarles Award share a commitment to unearthing the history of black women activists in struggles for equal rights and community equality in the twentieth century.

- Text from OAH Press Release

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SROP Hosts Young Scholars in 2008

On June, 22, twenty-two students from around the country and Puerto Rico will descend upon Northwestern's campus to participate in The Graduate School's Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), which is in its twenty-third year.

Each year, The Graduate School receives roughly 500 SROP applications from a diverse group of undergraduate students who are interested in doing research at Northwestern for the summer. This year, the participants will be hailing from the following institutions:

Cornell University
DePaul University
Hunter College

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ohio State University

Rice University

Stanford University

University of Chicago

University of Florida

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University of Maryland at Baltimore County

University of Michigan

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

University of Puerto Rico at San Juan

Winston-Salem State University

Yale University

These students will be working with faculty mentors from a wide range of disciplines, from Art History to Neuroscience, and the entire campus community will be invited to learn about their exciting research projects at the SROP Research Forum on August, 14, 2008.



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Northwestern University, The Graduate School - Student Life and Multicultural Affairs

Penny Warren
Assistant Dean

The Graduate School
633 Clark St.
Evanston, IL 60208-1113
Phone: 847-491-5995
Fax: 847-491-5070
E-mail: m-craigen@northwestern.edu

Newsletter Editor:
Sarah Benoit
S-benoit@northwestern.edu

CHESS on the Web:

<http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/studentlife/multiculturaloffice/chess>

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

Chair: Douglas Medin, Ph.D.

Northwestern University, the lead institution in the 7 member GLASS (Great Lakes Alliance for the Social and Behavioral Sciences) AGEP alliance is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The primary goal of AGEP is to increase the number of underrepresented students receiving doctoral degrees in communications, humanities, social, behavioral, and economic sciences (CHESS fields) and to increase their numbers in academia.

PI: Lawrence Henschen, Ph.D.

Director: Cheryl Judice, Ph.D.

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

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