

greetings from the SADC

We hope you enjoyed our first Newsletter last month! We had some very positive emails about it and welcome feedback or ideas from our colleagues. October was a wonderful month, which included an outstanding Understanding Diversity Series Speaker. Lisa Diamond, Associate Professor in Psychology, addressed the question “Who Counts as LGBT?” to a packed house on October 20. Pride Week (October 18 – 22) included several amazing speakers and ended with a sold-out Gay-la dinner at the Jewish Community Center. Read more about the week’s events in this newsletter.

As always, we invite you to send us articles, ideas for programs, or topics for upcoming newsletters. If you have any questions about articles or about the Diversity Council, please contact Debra Daniels or Kari Ellingson, Co-Chairs of SADC.

mission statement

The Student Affairs Diversity Counsel (SADC) strives to cultivate an environment that embraces and promotes the broad scope of diversity within the division.

it's hard to hate someone whose story you know: stories of growth and change

This column will feature stories by Student Affairs professionals who would like to share an experience (event, book, speaker, etc) which promoted growth, a change in perspective, an awareness of another, or when some knowledge that was previously missing slipped into place.

religious diversity

Michael Bard, Associate Registrar

What religions do Americans practice? According to the Pew Forum on Religion, 78.4 percent of Americans report that they are Christian. Within Christianity there are subgroups including Protestants, Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Orthodox, and many other various sects. When looked at closer, many of the sub-groups

can even be broken down into more specific groups.

The second largest group among Americans is Unaffiliated, which comprises 16.1 percent of the population. It includes Atheists, Agnostics, unaffiliated secularists, and the unaffiliated religious.

The remaining US population are distributed among: Jewish (Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, other sects), Buddhists (Zen, Theravada, Tibetan, other sects), Muslim (Sunni, Shia, other sects), Hindus, Baha’i, Sikhism, Unitarian Universalism, Jainism, Shintoism, Taoism, Caodaism, Wiccan, Paganism, Zoroastrianism,

Jediism, New Age Spirituality, Native American religions, and other world faiths.

After reading these statistics, it’s not surprising that we sometimes bump into each other, have differences of opinion, or have varying views on any given topic. For some, belonging to a particular faith can place them into a religious minority, whether in their community, state, or in our nation as a whole. On the other hand, a community member who practices a predominately practiced religion can easily travel to a location where they find



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calendar

Friday, November 12, 2010
5:00pm-6:30pm
Student Union Theater
**Transgender Awareness
Film Screening and Social:
"Harsh Beauty"**.

Learn more by visiting
<http://www.events.utah.edu/webevent.cgi?cmd=listmonthtemplate&cal=all135>

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010
12:00pm-1:30pm
Parlor A, Union Building
**SADC's Understanding
Diversity Series: *Threads of
Diversity and Social Justice
in American Music.***

Theresa Martinez, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Assistant Vice President for Academic Outreach.

Oct. 21, 2010-Feb. 17, 2011
Art Exhibition
Utah Museum of Fine Arts
410 Campus Center Drive
**Trevor Southey:
Reconciliation**

Learn more by visiting
<http://umfa.utah.edu>

themselves in the minority. In any case, I feel it's important that we take our effort beyond just tolerating each other, and move it into the realm of understanding.

As a child growing up in Pennsylvania, I was raised in a family that was agnostic. I rarely had exposure to religion other than the occasional holiday trip with my grandmother to whatever church she was attending at the time. I found those experiences enjoyable and fascinating. I enjoyed the various combinations of impassioned preachers, rock bands, choirs, dress codes, and cultures. Otherwise, in our neighborhood we were the agnostic family. We were generally treated very nicely, but I remember one friend who was forbidden by his parents from playing with my brother and I. He told us that it was because we weren't the same religion. We didn't really understand why that meant we couldn't play together, and it rarely stopped us.

During my teens, and years after my parents divorced, both of my parents remarried. My mother remarried to a Mormon from Utah and together we moved to the Midwest. At the time, I had absolutely no idea what a Mormon was. A friend told me

that they had horns and that they filed them down so they would not be detected. I carefully but distantly examined my step-father's head and found no evidence to support that claim. I attended my step-father's church and found it to be full of absolutely wonderful, kind people. I made great friends there and shortly

after I became a member of the LDS faith myself. The high school I went to, and many of my friends were predominately Catholic, so I never really talked about it there. I had many great experiences with the LDS faith and still hold some of its principles dear to my heart. However, after years of practicing the faith and struggling to reconcile it with my sexual orientation, I left.

During my first years in college, I again held an agnostic view. After my freshman year, I followed my mother to the great state of Utah. I found it easy to make friends here, and surrounded myself with all sorts of great people. Being openly gay was sometimes a challenge, but I learned very quickly who my friends were. Concurrent with my studies, I became interested in reading about religion in general. I made acquaintance with a fellow student who practiced Hinduism, and I widened my scope to eastern religions too. I devoured books and

"There are amazing people everywhere, regardless of any differences, and many of the things that make them so amazing are those differences."

voraciously read about several world religions, many of which I had held misconceived notions about. In my readings, I came across Buddhism and it intrigued me. I searched for local practitioners who could tell me

more. I met some local groups and teachers, and was astounded by how vibrant the Buddhist community was. The more I learned, the more it felt connected to it. Approximately seven years later, I'm still a practicing Buddhist.

I always thought it was ironic that I converted to the LDS faith in the

Midwest, and then began practicing Buddhism in Utah, of all places. Nevertheless, my life's path has been uniquely mine, as everyone's is. Each stop along the way, I learned something new and I value each of those experiences.

Moving forward, I take with me a few lessons I've learned so far. The first is to always be open to what is present and who I'm sharing each moment with. The second is to be a good listener, as there are invaluable lessons that I can learn from each individual who I have the honor of crossing paths with. Another is that there are amazing people

everywhere, regardless of any differences, and that many of the things that make them so amazing are those differences. Finally, I've learned that I should always take the time and effort to learn about others directly from the source. What I hear about others from the media, friends, rumors, or other miscellaneous sources is never the whole story. If I take those things to be fact, I miss the opportunity to see a bigger and more complete picture.

So when we come in contact with another person who has a different religion or point-of-view, I propose that we greet that opportunity, take

a moment, listen, and learn. There is so much beauty in the world, if only we allow ourselves to be open enough to experience it.

"shades of queer: connecting through difference": pride week at the U

As I enter the first six months of my fourth year as director of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center at the U, I am grateful that I have survived my fourth LGBTQA Pride Week at the U. Although there were a few hiccups behind the scenes, the week was a huge success!



The highlights were our film series, Shades of Queer Monologues, Trevor Southey Art Reception, Pride Pet Pageant, and our Gay-la and Silent Auction. Pride Week attracted students/faculty/staff from campus, community members and travels from as far as Utah Valley University. We had many sponsors from the campus as well as the community. Most importantly, what made it fruitful was having a planning committee in place that was organized, intentional and thoughtful in how and what events were planned. Issues that

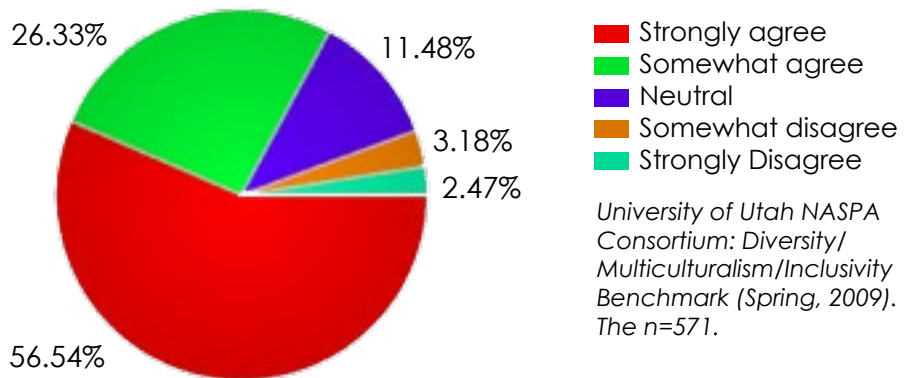
were addressed were bisexuality, undocumented student issues, the vast meaning of a queer identity and hate crimes legislation. Reflecting on the week, I would like to thank the student affairs staff for their support of the LGBT Resource Center and the students the center serves. If you would like to assist in

the planning of Pride Week 2011, please contact me. Our first meeting will take place in January 2010.
-Cathy Martinez



fun fact

I believe that being able to interact with individuals of diverse backgrounds will help me after college.



University of Utah NASPA Consortium: Diversity/Multiculturalism/Inclusivity Benchmark (Spring, 2009). The n=571.

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feedback

Do you have suggestions? Comments? Responses to the articles? Ideas for speakers? We welcome all of your feedback. Please contact Nicole Miranda at nmiranda@sa.utah.edu or 5-1998.

october: responses

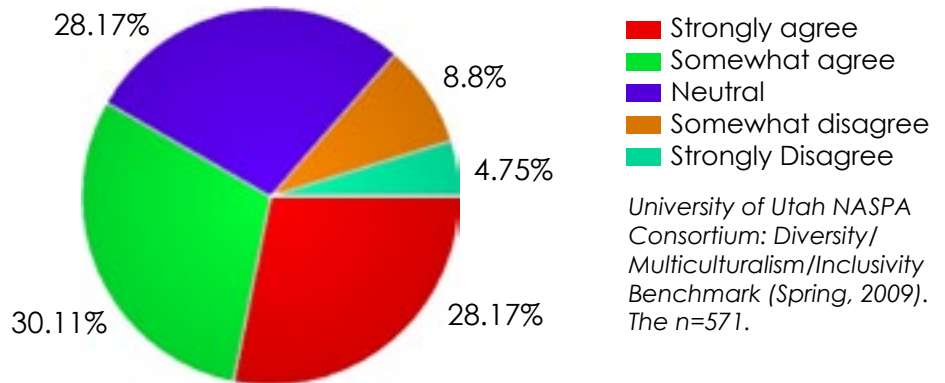
I know both Deb and Kari and was very interested in their stories. I have been taking a diversity class this semester with Theresa Martinez and the ... students in this class remind us every day that they indeed do think about race each and every day in many different circumstances. They recently wrote papers ... and there were some startling examples of the racism they encounter in their daily lives.

-Carolyn Hebert

upcoming staff survey

We currently have a group of MBA students looking at the question, "How do we recruit and retain a diverse staff in Student Affairs?" As part of their project, you will be receiving a brief survey (no longer than 10 minutes) about your experiences in Student Affairs and in your department. Your answers will be completely anonymous and will help us better understand the issues (as well as help these great students complete the course requirements!).

I have become more open-minded about diversity-related issues since starting college.



student affairs diversity council

Debra Daniels, Co-chair
 Kari Ellingson, Co-chair
 Maria Baldwin
 Michael Bard
 Arlyn Bradshaw
 Karen Cone-Uemura
 Holly M. Cox
 Branden Dalley
 Christoph Dressler
 Gwen Fears
 Adrienne Howell
 Scott Jensen
 Suzanne Jones
 Carol MacNicholl
 Cathy Martinez
 Susan Miller
 Nicole Miranda
 Sana Muller
 Casey Poe
 Cynthia Powell
 Erica Rojas
 Nick Rothacher
 Claudia Snow
 Nancy Trevino
 Jim White

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 Educational Opportunity Programs
 Registrar's Office
 Dean of Students
 Counseling Center
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