

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

Experiences Kindle Understanding, Compassion, Action

By Michael Bard

In socio-economic terms, I'm currently 'middle class', though I'm grateful my life path has given me opportunities for other experiences too. As a child, my family was of very modest means. It wasn't until I was a teenager, my mother remarried, and we moved into the 'middle class' that I gained perspective enough to realize that we had been barely getting by. "Hand me downs" from second cousins, grandparents that cared for us while both my parents worked to make ends meet, and some of our living arrangements never crossed my mind as being anything but completely normal. Of course, as children, we were more concerned with chasing bugs and climbing trees.

Many years later, as an adult, I experienced a couple of challenging life situations. I had just come out to my family, was new to Salt Lake City, was not very self-sufficient, had made a few unwise choices, and I didn't have many places to turn. As a result, I ended up homeless, living out of my car, and/or couch surfing among a couple of friends for a period of time. It was one of the most humbling, unstable, and tumultuous periods of my life. Fortunately, I was able to regain stability, reconnect with my family, and get back into college a few years later.

I've been grateful for those experiences. They rekindled a sense of compassion and understanding for others facing similar situations and socio-economic challenges. I knew what it was like to wonder where I was sleeping at that

night. I found out what it felt like to own only what I could carry with me in my car. Still presently, those memories make me feel a great deal of appreciation for what I have and for the loving people in my life. They also motivate me.

Sometimes, though, I find myself confronting internal feelings of prejudice towards the affluent... though I'm often reminded of the many wealthy people who do a great deal



Painting a schoolhouse in Tulum, Mexico, December 2012

of good in our communities. Most recently at the Inclusion Center's Humanitarian of the Year Awards Dinner, I was reminded of this again when I heard their director make a comment about how we need the help of our wealthiest community members to accomplish some of the daunting tasks we're faced with. I'm reminded of this each time I am involved with a philanthropic event and hear of such generous

donations. It's with their generosity and kindness too, that we have scholarships to offer students who need assistance; as well as funds to run organizations that feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, and provide care for the sick.

I still sometimes struggle with my socio-economic status though, but now it's the struggle to find balance between the resources that I have and how I should best use them. I see so much need in the world, both here in the United States and also abroad. Compared to some others, I sometimes find myself feeling a sense of guilt over the abundance that I have access to, but I do my best to turn that guilt into meaningful action to help those still in need.

U Staff & Students Present at NASPA in Orlando, Florida



From left to right—Jose Hernandez, Sam Ortiz, Kari Ellingson, Mele Folaumoeloa, Wendolens Ruano, Debra Daniels, and Alonso Reyna

Last month at the 2013 NASPA Annual Conference, Student Affairs Diversity Council Co-chairs, Debra Daniels and Kari Ellingson, had the opportunity to present with our NASPA Undergraduate Fellows (NUF)

about the Council. The NUF program was developed by NASPA to encourage undergraduates from populations currently underrepresented in Student Affairs to learn more about our field as a career choice. As most of you have probably experienced, stereotypes about our state once we leave the borders. We believe it is our responsibility to help our colleagues understand the changing face of Utah, particularly Salt Lake City where the University of Utah is located (since many still ask, "Now that's in Provo, right?"). We also want to explain the efforts we are making in Student Affairs to prepare ourselves to best serve our students.

Over 70 attendees were present to learn more about our most recent initiatives. More importantly, they had the opportunity to hear from our five Undergraduate Fellows who presented their responses to two questions: What is it like to be a student of color at a PWI? And, What makes it a culture of inclusion on campus and what more can be done?



APRIL SEMINAR SERIES

Higher Education in an Era of Inequality: Rethinking the Language and Practice of Social Justice

Erin L. Castro is an Assistant Professor in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah. Her research, teaching, and service are all guided by a commitment to educational equity and justice, and the specific role of higher education policy in an increasingly divided and unequal society. In this discussion she explores the utility of social justice rhetoric in higher education against a backdrop of widening social, economic, and political fracture.

The language of social justice continues to garner attention in higher education with increasing popularity and intrigue. Yet, what does it mean? What does the discourse of 'social justice' do for colleges and universities in general, and for student affairs in particular? The language of social justice in higher education, similar to its sister language of diversity, defies definition; thus, efforts at creating a more equitable and just society are complicated because they are based ambiguous language. For example, if we can use the language of social justice without ever naming the root causes of inequality, when inequality is literally all around us, then how is this a useful concept? Paradoxically, then, what makes the language of social justice useful is also what makes it limited in that it can mean everything and nothing at the same time. Given the conceptual and practical looseness of this concept within the field, higher education has an opportunity to shape and commit to a more clearly defined conversation about social justice. In this discussion I explore the utility of social justice rhetoric in higher education against a backdrop of widening social, economic, and political fracture and provide suggestions for politically- and philosophically-grounded social justice practices.

Wed., April 24, 2013 (NEW DATE), 12:00 PM—1:30 PM, Union Collegiate Room

April Events

Days of Remembrance

Wednesday, April 10 at 12:55-5pm

Holocaust Workshop

Warnock Engineering Building, Room L105

This is a workshop with lectures and discussions on different aspects of the Holocaust. Participants will include Nadja Durbach (History), Maeera Shreiber (English), Nathan Devir (Languages and Literature), and Peter Black (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum).

Wednesday, April 10, 9am-5pm

Reading of the Victim's Names

Student Union + Patio



Thursday, April 11

Candlelight Vigil

Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities

Building Patio, 6:30-7pm

The vigil will take place immediately before the keynote speaker.

2013 Days of Remembrance Keynote Address, 7-9pm

Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building, Rm 109

Peter Black, Senior Historian, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum "70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising"

Allies Awareness Week

Monday, April 15, All Day

Ally Banner, Student Union Lobby

All day in the Student Union lobby, visitors will be able to sign the 'I am an Ally' Banner. Choose whether to add your name, or write what you stand for as you declare your support for LGBT and other communities. The banner will remain in the Union lobby for all of Ally Week.

Tuesday, April 16

Fagbug Display,

Marriott Library Plaza, 10am-1pm

Erin Davies' VW Bug was vandalized with the word "fag" because she had a rainbow bumper sticker. Erin decided to

embrace what happened by leaving the graffiti on her car. She took her car, now known worldwide as the "Fagbug," on a 58-day trip around the United States and Canada. The Fagbug will be on display, and Erin Davies will be sharing her story and her experience of being an ally.



Fagbug Documentary and Q & A with Erin Davies
Student Union Theater, 3pm

Wednesday, April 17, 2pm

Ally Panel Discussion, Student Union Den

Join the dialogue about what it takes to be an ally, who gets to be an ally, and how you can become an ally for other communities.

Thursday, April 18

Safe Zone Training

Student Union Den, 11:30pm-2:30pm

Ally Social & Ally of the Year Award

Student Union Collegiate Room, 3pm

The Ally social will honor this year's winner of the Ally of the Year Award.

Friday, April 19, 1-2pm

Day of Silence: "Break the Silence" Rally, Union Patio

Show your support for the LGBT community by participating in the Day of Silence. At the rally, there will be food, speakers, and the Ally Banner will be showcased.



Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women's Resource Center
Kari Ellingson, Co-chair Student Development
Michael Bard, Registrar's Office
Kajsa Berlin-Kaufusi, Center for Learning Abroad
Arlyn Bradshaw, Dean of Students Office
Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Nelly Divricean, International Center
Kris Fenn, Bennion Center
Eduardo Galindo, ASUU Student
Adrienne Howell, TRIO
Nedra Hotchkins, Graduate Student
Scott Jensen, Housing & Residential Education

Trisha Jensen, Orientation & Leadership Development
Suzanne Jones, Registrar's Office
Carol MacNicholl, Center for Disability Services
Kai Medina-Martinez, LGBT Center
Susan Miller, Campus Recreation
Sana Muller, ASUU
Sam Ortiz, Student
Rachana Patel, Office of Admissions
Cynthia Powell, Student Health Center
Valery Pozo, Career Services
Erica Rojas, Financial Aid & Scholarships
Claudia Snow, Union Administration

For more information and recourses, please visit:
sadc.utah.edu