Dear Advocates,

We hope this newsletter finds you out from under whatever mountains of snow drifted your way in the past week, and looking forward to an early spring (so says Jimmy the Groundhog of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, the Official Groundhog Capital of the World).

The spring semester is always an active time on campus for programs, speakers, and activities, and spring 2011 is no exception. We are fortunate that many of the programs this semester are centered on issues of social justice and inclusion. In lieu of a separate brown bag series, we would like to promote and support the many opportunities that are already planned on campus. Mission Week 2011, the Pan-African Heritage (February), Women of Diversity (March), and Asian Pacific Islander (April) Celebrations, and events surrounding the Department of Performing Arts presentation of The Laramie Project will all provide tremendous opportunities for our own and students’ learning and growth. In addition, the Diversity Advocates has been given the very special opportunity of meeting with Judy Shepard while she is on campus. We hope you can attend – please read on for more information!

Division of Student Affairs Diversity Committee

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Diversity Advocate Network Orientation – February 23, 2011

Our next orientation will be Wednesday, February 23, 2011 from 2:00-4:30 p.m. in the Raynor Library Conference rooms. Please invite colleagues that you think might be interested in becoming an advocate, and ask them to RSVP to stacie.dooley@marquette.edu.
Judy Shepard: The Meaning of Matthew

Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard and co-founder of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, will be on campus to share her story. Her public lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2011, and is entitled, “The Meaning of Matthew.” The lecture will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Weasler Auditorium, and is free. A book signing will follow.

In addition, all Diversity Advocates are invited to meet with Mrs. Shepard for a special session while she is on campus. While she will only tell her story once (during her public lecture), advocates are invited to discuss with Mrs. Shepard her insights on how to make our campus safer and more inclusive for students who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or who are questioning their sexual identity. The Diversity Advocates session with Mrs. Shepard will take place on Tuesday, March 1, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in AMU Ballroom CD.

About the book (from Amazon.com)

“The mother of Matthew Shepard shares her story about her son’s death and the choice she made to become an international gay rights activist.

Today, the name Matthew Shepard is synonymous with gay rights, but before his grisly murder in 1998, Matthew was simply Judy Shepard’s son. For the first time in book form, Judy Shepard speaks about her loss, sharing memories of Matthew, their life as a typical American family, and the pivotal event in the small college town that changed everything.

The Meaning of Matthew follows the Shepard family in the days immediately after the crime, when Judy and her husband traveled to see their incapacitated son, kept alive by life support machines; how the Shepards learned of the incredible response from strangers all across America who held candlelit vigils and memorial services for their child; and finally, how they struggled to navigate the legal system as Matthew’s murderers were on trial. Heart-wrenchingly honest, Judy Shepard confides with readers about how she handled the crippling loss of her child, why she became a gay rights activist, and the challenges and rewards of raising a gay child in America today.

The Meaning of Matthew not only captures the historical significance and complicated civil rights issues surrounding one young man’s life and death, but it also chronicles one ordinary woman’s struggle to cope with the unthinkable.”

The Laramie Project

“In October 1998 Matthew Shepard was kidnapped, severely beaten and left to die, tied to a fence on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. Weeks later, Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project visited Laramie. Over the course of the next year they conducted interviews with people of the town and from this wrote The Laramie Project, a play chronicling the town in the year after the murder. The Laramie Project is a breathtaking theatrical collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink, and the heights of compassion of which we are also capable. This play is partially supported by the Theatre and Social Justice Fund.” (from the Helfaer Theatre website: http://diederich.marquette.edu/COC/Laramie-Project.aspx)

The play will be performed on the following dates:
February 24, 25, 26 @ 7:30 p.m.
February 27 @ 2:30 p.m.
March 2, 3, 4, 5 @ 7:30 p.m.
March 6 @ 2:30 p.m.

Helfaer Theatre Box Office Contact Information:
Phone: 414-288-7504
Email: helfaer.boxoffice@marquette.edu
Hours: 90 minutes before every performance; 2 to 4 pm Tuesday-Friday

Purchase theatre tickets online at:
http://theatretickets.marquette.edu/
Mission Week Activities

For a complete listing of Mission Week activities, check your Mission Week brochure or visit the Mission Week 2011 website at: http://www.marquette.edu/mission/missionweek.shtml

**Monday, February 7**


Noon, Faber Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Schroeder Complex, Room 111
RSVP to ellen.blonski@marquette.edu.

**Tuesday, February 8**

**Finding Common Ground: Imagining Another Spiritual Path**

Featuring Margaret Coel, Jour ’68
Noon, Johnston Hall, Room 104

**Storytelling and Imagination: Performance and Narrative**

Featuring Thirza Defoe
2 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m., Johnston Hall, Room 103

**Wednesday, February 9**

**Soup with Substance: One Church under God: Imagining Christian Unity Amidst National Division**

Featuring Dr. Braden P. Anderson
Noon, AMU, Henke Lounge

**Thursday, February 10**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: IMAGINE A MORE JUST WORLD: PARTNERING WITH THE POOR**

Featuring Dr. Paul Farmer
4 p.m., Varsity Theatre

Keynote tickets are available to Marquette students, faculty and staff beginning Jan. 24 in the Brooks Lounge, Alumni Memorial Union, first floor. They are available while supplies last, and the limit is two tickets per Marquette ID. Beginning Jan. 31, remaining tickets will be made available to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Brooks Lounge hours:**
Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 2 p.m. – 11:30 p.m

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**PAN-AFRICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION 2011**

For a complete listing of events visit the Office of Student Development website at: marquette.edu/osd/multicultural

**Ronald E. McNair Student Colloquia:** Thursday, February 10, Noon
AMU Multicultural Center. Students will present their research over lunch as well as their stories of how they got involved in the McNair program.

**Remove the Blindfold:** February 13-16, Raynor Library Beaumier Suites. *Remove the Blindfold* is a student-led exhibition which promotes diversity.

**Soup with Substance: Black Migration:** Wednesday, February 23, Noon
AMU 227. Reuben Harpole, activist and community organizer, will discuss the process of Black Migration to Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin, and how historical migration parallels current stories of immigration and migration.

**Brew City Stomp Down:** Saturday, February 26, 6:00pm (doors open at 5:00 pm)
Varsity Theatre. Presented by the nine historically Black Greek letter organizations that comprise the National Pan-Hellenic Council. Tickets are $15, available at the Brooks Lounge.
Privilege and Power

Privilege. This is a concept that can bring up many different reactions in the world of diversity and social justice. Yet privilege is something that, as agents of social justice, we must not only bring up, but be willing to explore for ourselves. Like a fish in water that does not recognize the water in which it lives, so too are we living in privilege that we often have no awareness of unless we actively look for it and express curiosity about it. And why would we? It can oftentimes be much more comfortable living in ignorance. To actively engage in exploration of our privilege can be challenging. We may experience a plethora of reactions to the recognition that we have privilege as a member of a dominant group. Once we identify and understand our privilege and its impact on society, we then are moved to do something about it. And all of this can be very uncomfortable. Uncomfortable because it means we have to make changes – changes in how we view ourselves and our world, as well as changes in our behaviors.

So what exactly is privilege? We hear this word used in the context of discussions about diversity and social justice, but do we really understand what it is? Privilege is what members of a dominant social group enjoy and never have to consider. It can refer to the privilege men may have in not having to consistently worry about being the victim of sexual assault as women often do. Or it can refer to White people not having to worry about being singled out because of their race. It can also refer to the things heterosexual people take for granted, such as the right to marry, public displays of affection, and donating blood. Privilege includes the benefits of being a member of a group simply for being a member of that group – not because those benefits are earned. Furthermore, privilege is considered “the norm.” Yet members of the non-dominant group do not share and often do not have access to this privilege. They are excluded, unless they are granted such privilege by the dominant group. Thus, it is the dominant group that has power over and makes decisions about privilege, even if the dominant group has no awareness of its privilege.

What is important to understand about privilege and power is that any one of us may simultaneously inhabit membership in a dominant and a non-dominant group, depending on our personal and social identities, such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, social class, age, etc. For instance, a person may identify as a Black, heterosexual man. So this person may experience privilege that comes with being a heterosexual man, but will also experience lack of privilege as a Black person. When examining our privilege, it is also important to recognize that our identities intersect.

Privilege and power are complex concepts and realities. Yet the complexity should not keep us from exploring and challenging that privilege and power. We can do so by attending workshops and discussions, reading books and other materials that challenge our assumptions, taking classes that have a strong diversity component, talking with others who are similar and different from us, as well as engaging in difficult dialogues with our colleagues and peers. And when exploring our privilege and power, it is also helpful to be compassionate with ourselves and others. Examining one’s privilege and power is a lifelong process. We are always in a position to learn more about ourselves and others. And remember: while this work can be very challenging, it can also be extremely rewarding. We make a valuable difference in our world when we are open to exploring our privilege and power, and do something with that increased awareness and knowledge.

By Angela L. Zapata, Ph.D. (Diversity Coordinator, Marquette University Counseling Center)

Recommended readings: