



LOGOS

- the journal of CAPSR, the Community Association
of Pacific School of Religion

December 2007

Happy Holidays
from LOGOS
and CAPSR Council!
(More photos from the Christmas Dinner
are on the back page.)



Break the Silence about Racism by M. Linda Jaramillo, PSR alumna and Executive Minister of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries

October 8, 2007 - I can't stop thinking about how racism is ravaging this nation. I just can't get it out of my mind because I don't know if we realize how serious it is. Thousands across this land were shocked and angered by the December 2006 incident in Jena, Louisiana when white students hung nooses from a tree outside the local high school. However, thousands more are taking this opportunity to revive "white pride" movements that encourage racial divide and bigotry.

Just two weeks ago, I wrote that the incident in Jena, Louisiana was but an example of how racism continues to rear its ugly head in communities across this nation. Unfortunately, I was right. Nooses are a symbol of hatred and bigotry, a vivid reminder of the ever-present evil of racism in this country.

Hanging nooses from a stage rigging in Germantown, Tennessee just a month ago was motivated by racism and it was meant to intimidate. Nooses hanging from a tree at the high school in High Point, North Carolina just two weeks ago was motivated by racism and it was meant to frighten students and the community. Nooses strung on the back of a pick-up truck driving past the peaceful demonstration near Jena, Louisiana on September 20 was motivated by racism and it was meant to bully the demonstrators.

Yes, in each of these three cases, the persons responsible were held accountable for their actions. Some lost their jobs and others were charged with various crimes. For example, the 18-year old man driving the pick-up truck, draped with two nooses, was booked on charges of incit-

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From the Editor

This issue focuses on "Students and the System." We start by digging into the role of students on the academic institutional level. We offer you reports from the student representatives on various administrative and academic committees. We even have a little feedback from some PSR pets about what they make of their housing situation.

We also bring you some perspectives on the system of racism that imbues our lives, on Holy Hill and beyond. The following pages provide updates and reflections from members of the Dismantling Racism Committee, along with Emily's interview of our new DRC Program Director Dr. Chamblee.

Taking us outside the PSR community, to look at how we interact with the national systems of politics and progress, we also have Kim Montenegro's exuberant explanation of why she wants a Barack Obama-nation. Just to be clear, Kim's article is not an official LOGOS endorsement of Obama, just as other articles reflect sentiments that may or may not express the views of CAPSR and CAPSR Council. We put them out there to get conversations going - and because you send 'em in!

I'm sad to say it, but it's getting to that time in my seminary career that graduation looms nigh on my horizon, and with it, the conclusion of my tenure as Editor-in-Chief of PSR's LOGOS newsletter. I have greatly enjoyed my time as editor and will continue to edit until my replacement is ready to take over, but I know that I will miss this part of my life.

Yes, it's lots of work, but the responsibilities of this job really use all of me, and go far beyond the technical aspects of editing, formatting, and publishing the articles submitted to me. Just as much, this job is about building respectful, mutual relationships with as many members of the PSR community as I can. I have not always done this as well as I would like, but I am pleased to have been able to utilize my minsiterial skills as well as my wordsmithing in this position.

I highly recommend this position, and have faith that CAPSR Council will find the right someone out there reading this with just the skills and interests for the job. In the meantime, I want to thank you for letting me serve this part of the PSR system.

- Audrey deCoursey

Logos Submission Guidelines

Who can submit

All members of the Pacific School of Religion community are invited to submit to Logos: students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, family members, and supporters of PSR.

What to submit

Original work of interest to the PSR community:

- Opinion pieces, news, feature stories
- Reviews: books, movies, concerts, albums, lectures
- Poetry, prayers
- Event and group announcements
- Drawings
- Photography: artistic, news-related, social events

How to submit

Email: adecoursey@psr.gtulink.edu

When to submit

Upcoming Priority Deadlines:

February 8

Spotlight on **Intersession** Classes and Trips

Spring Issues - start submitting now!

Poetry Special

Focus on the **Arts**

More guidelines

-Please limit submissions to 1,000 words.

-Publication is subject to the needs of the newsletter and the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and Logos Editorial Board. The Editor-in Chief and Editorial Board reserve the right to edit submissions for publication.

-If you have any questions about submissions, feel free to talk with the Editor-in-Chief or email her at adecoursey@psr.gtulink.edu.

Thanks. We look forward to hearing from you.

Contemplation in Three Passages

1

Hummingbird anointing.

Cat stretching.

Human impatient.

11

Candles burn.

Voices chant.

Feet strain.

111

Warm sun,

Cool night,

Heart breath,

Love everlasting.

- *Patricia C. Wood*

A new LOGOS Editor.... could it be you?!

Are you interested in being the new LOGOS Editor-in-Chief? Contact CAPSR Council Moderator Jeanette Brodersen for more details about the position.

In brief: The LOGOS Editor spends approximately 30 hours per month soliciting, editing and formatting submissions and publishing the completed newsletter, both online and in paper. The Editor is also responsible for facilitating meetings with the LOGOS Editorial Board and reporting to CAPSR Council and Community Life. Experience with Adobe Indesign or Pagemaker is of special benefit in the technical aspects of producing LOGOS.

The position would start partway through the spring semester and run through the 2008-9 school year, depending on your schedule and the needs of CAPSR Council.

CALL FOR A WEB SITE CREATOR FOR DASU!!!!!!!

The pioneering DisAbled Student Union at Pacific School of Religion is called to be accessible to people who are looking for the DASU group online. We have the Will, but not the internet skills to have the Way.

You will open the internet doors so people can learn that DASU at PSR is a voice for expressing God's love for all people of different abilities.

You will be able to add your DASU web-site creation to your résumé. Contact John Alex Lowell at jxlowell@covad.net if you know someone who can help open those internet doors!

Blessings from a protégé of Lazarus & Paul, John Alex Lowell

EMILY'S INTERVIEW: DR. MARQUITA CHAMBLEE

Hey you! Yeah, you! Get to know your fellow PSR community members a little bit better. Below is an interview I, Emily Joye McGaughy, conducted with PSR's new Dismantling Racism Committee Program Director, Dr. Marquita Chamblee. There will be more to come, with other PSR students, staff and faculty in the future. Readers enjoy!

EJ: What student bodies have you worked with and for in the past?

MC: This is my first foray into working at a religious institution. In the past I've been at huge secular universities where I worked mainly with undergraduates. I have worked with high school students all the way to doctoral folks and early career faculty. My work has always been around diversity. My academic background, don't laugh, is in agriculture: specifically animal science, and my PhD is in agricultural education.

EJ: Fascinating. Tell me what you learned in agricultural science, in a nutshell.

MC: I learned about systems, about natural systems, from microbial systems all the way to educational systems. Systems are systems.

EJ: I read an article in the NY Times yesterday about ant swarm intelligence—that's a system—and the varying layers of being drawn to and repulsed by one's own kind in the pursuit of larger projects. This guy's basic finding was that in order for an organism of little bodies to act like one big body, they had to experience both desire for enmeshment and a strong aversion to being totally eclipsed by the other. Do you see any parallels with human behavior in that?

MC: I'm part of a leadership program and we recently did an activity where we moved

around in silence. The leaders instructed that we "try to avoid people." So we were just moving randomly, trying hard to avoid the people moving around us. They confined the space we were in. The more we tried to avoid people, the more we ran into them. Then they leaders told us to "shift and step into the space." Our focus moved from avoiding running into people to stepping into the "space" between. This was a shift from avoidance to pro-active behavior. I am playing around a lot with that experience these days. When I try to avoid things, I bump right into them. When I step into the in between space I can get into the flow and figure out what I am doing there. The space in-between is where the action really is. I appreciate the swarm thing. It's an interesting, choreographed dance by the universe; when you step out of avoiding and step into the space between, there is flow.

EJ: Cool. So how does this relate to your work at PSR?

MC: A few months ago I did a workshop related to the work I do in diversity. I've become much more intentional about language. The title I chose for that workshop was "From anti-ism to pro-connection: a path to peace." What that represents for me is a shift I am making in the way I view the world and certainly the way I view my work in this area: from an anti-racism point of view to a pro- position in every way I can. How that translates here: my focus here at PSR will for this moment be to help lead the dismantling racism effort, but I am also encouraging us to make a shift to 'advancing racial justice.'

EJ: What does that look like?

MC: It's a two-phase process:

1) It acknowledges that we will have to deal with racism on campus because it hap-

pens—everyday. This is the tearing-down, dismantling part.

2) So now, what are we building in its place? We are building an environment that advances racial justice. This means in part that we will create more opportunities for dialogue and learning around these issues.

EJ: Has there been a film or several films or maybe even pieces of music that have strengthened this work for you?

MC: The short answer is that it's whatever speaks to me in the moment. I recently had a chance to watch a clip of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" delivered at the March on Washington in August 1963. It continues to be stirring despite the fact that I've heard it dozens of times. There's such power in it. You can watch it on YouTube now. It still gives me chills and moves me as if I were hearing it for the first time. I can say the words with him as he's speaking.

EJ: Well of all the planetary locations that lured you, I'm glad you're here instead of somewhere else.

MC: This is my life work. I grew up listening to conversations about race at the dinner table. So to use the language of seminary, it's a 'calling' for me. It's my work and my life and the reason why I am on the planet.

EJ: How's all the God stuff for you around here?

MC: It's another space I've been in my whole life. I've sought God both within and outside of church. It's landed me in some interesting places (laughs), so PSR is just the most recent "interesting place."

EJ: Anything striking about your first week?

MC: My first chapel was interesting. If chapel most of the time is as chapel was [that] week, then that lets me know that there's work to

be done here around racism in particular. It wasn't about the message or the preaching, but the container of the full chapel (the music in particular) If I were to walk in there as a new African American student—well I am a new African American staff member- I would ask myself the question, "Do I see myself in chapel?"

EJ: Can you say more?

MC: Racism is like pollution. Sometimes you're kind of aware that there's something wrong with the air, but most of the time you're not. Let me put it to you this way: for white people it's invisible in a lot of ways. The privilege that comes with whiteness is invisible to white people. And because it's invisible, hello (!), you can't see it. It's like those creatures in the Harry Potter films that are invisible and only people who have seen death can see them. Harry's friends thought he was crazy because he was the only one who saw them.

Let's call that creature racism at PSR and in the church and in the US. If you're the only person of your friends and peers that can see it, then as much as they love you, they start to tell you that you're crazy or they make you feel crazy. It is only when they can begin to see it, that they know it's real and that you're not crazy or making it up.

EJ: Anything else you want us to know?

MC: I want people to know who I am as an individual is evolving and it's coming to embrace my various ethnic backgrounds. Racism is not a "black-white thing," it is an equal opportunity phenomenon. We have a lot of work to do, and I'm looking for allies—for other hands and feet—to work with me on this. I want people to know I am approachable and that they can come talk with me about just about anything. And if folks don't know who I am, when I'm out in the quad or walking around on holy hill, I am most likely wearing a hat.

(Break the Silence, continued from page 1)

ing a riot. Police Sgt. Clifford Gatlin of Alexandria, Louisiana stated, "I wish we had a charge in Louisiana for aggravated ignorance, because this is a classic case." Gatlin said the crowd of about 200 people at the bus station remained calm throughout the episode. He also added, "They were just offended and appalled that somebody would be that stupid to do that." My question is why did this young man seem to think that this kind of behavior is even acceptable?

I believe that many of the residents of these communities are horrified by the actions of some. I trust that many did not realize how racism is threaded in the fabric of their communities. I would submit that many of us do not realize that such incidents are happening in our communities every day. If we are aware, too often we remain silent.

There is no doubt that the racism revealed in Jena, Germantown, High Point, and Alexandria was directed at African Americans. However, we cannot direct blame at the dominant culture in these communities alone. We are all responsible for a social culture that sees racism, yet says and does nothing. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." The racism we are witnessing today matters and it is time to break the silence and confront this evil in our midst.

Dear PSR Community:

Recent events in Jena, Louisiana, Columbia University, the University of Maryland and in our local communities are reminders that racism and racial violence continue to plague us as a nation and impede the vision of a "beloved community." The images of nooses that have appeared hanging from trees and office doors of African American individuals hearken us back to the history of brutal lynchings and violence against people of color that many in America would wish to forget. What is disturbing is that these are not isolated 1960s events, but multiple occurrences this fall.

Here at Pacific School of Religion, though we are thousands of miles away from Louisiana, New York and Maryland, the specter of racism continues to show itself even here on our campus; perhaps not in the threatening, overt spectacle of nooses and other graphic displays, but in the day-to-day realities of racism faced by people of color at PSR and across the Bay Area. In our continuing commitment to dismantling racism at PSR and toward creating a just, welcoming and racially inclusive community we have recently welcomed a new program director to work with the Dismantling Racism Committee. Dr. Marquita Chamblee brings to PSR not only the benefit of her nearly 25 years of experience doing diversity work in higher education, but her own lifelong commitment to dismantling systems of oppression and building just, equitable and peaceful communities for all people.

Challenging racism in our nation and our local communities, including our own, must remain a social and theological imperative. PSR encourages all those in positions of civic and religious leadership to stand boldly in opposition to racism and racial violence. We remain committed to being an active participant in the continuing struggle for racial, gender, sexual orientation, ecological and economic justice and to equipping leaders to fight racial and other forms of oppression.

Part of the work of equipping bold leaders must be about taking down racism in its many forms and building in its place communities, congregations and societies that embrace people of all races, creeds and colors. I am pleased that many of us on campus have a deepening personal commitment to do this important work. I invite all members of the PSR community to join us.

Sincerely,
Bill McKinney
President, Pacific School of Religion

An Honest Conversation About Race

by M. Linda Jaramillo

August 20, 2007 - These days, I often hear that things are much better because social policies protect people's rights regardless of their race. It is simply not true. For thousands, it is not much better. In fact, in some instances it is worse than ever. I feel discouraged when elected leaders, community organizers, the justice system, and even faith communities deny that race and racism is the fundamental factor in economic and social disparities. It seems that we would rather sweep people's experiences with racism under the rug than deal with them in ways that are healing and transforming.

We need only look at where toxic waste materials are dumped to see whose families are most in danger. We need only look at the difference in teacher's salaries from one school district to another to see whose children are most affected. We need only look at the inequity in access to health care services to see whose children and elders are left out. We need only read prison statistics to see how unjust the justice system really is. We need only acknowledge the race and ethnicity of hotel workers to see whose labor is least compensated. We need only hear who is targeted in the immigration reform debate. The list goes on and on. I will not.

I contend that a primary reason is that we simply do not want to believe that there is a status inequality in this country, and we refuse to name race as the leading factor in that inequity. A few years ago leaders in this country proposed a formalized dialogue about race and racism. While there are some organized groups meeting together to engage this very delicate and critical conversation, I think we are further behind than we were during the Civil Rights days when racism was so glaringly obvious. Nevertheless, I applaud the effort to organize for this distinct purpose of race discussions, but these processes are very challenging for a variety of reasons.

When I hear that we should all claim to be of one race – the human race – it makes me curious. Curious about what the social and cultural values of one race would uphold. Curious about what language that one race would speak. Curious about what the family values of that one race would embrace. Curious about what religious and spiritual principles that the one race would endorse. Furthermore, I am very curious about the physical characteristics of individuals in that one human race. We would undoubtedly find other reasons to be diverse and who knows how that would surface in the compelling need for privilege, power, and domination.

Recently, I received a 2007 social research report from the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University. It is entitled *The Dangers of Not Speaking About Race*. Researchers conclude that the "color-blind approach that reduces attention to race is impractical and harmful to racial equality and interracial good will." They reference color-consciousness as a promising option for appreciation and mutual respect for others of a different racial group.

Let's talk about it. No. Let's listen to each other. Let's listen to each others' stories that influence how we live. Let's have honest conversations about race with those whom we fear and avoid. Hopefully, we will learn something about the experiences of others. In fact, we might learn something valuable about ourselves.

Dismantling Racism Committee Members for 2007-2008

Student Representatives:

- Marlene
Henderson
- Sonja
Ingebritsen
- Sonsiris
Tamayo

Support Staff Representatives:

- Michael James
- Joellynn
Monahan
- Steven Peele

Administrative Staff

Representative:
- John Davis

Faculty Representatives:

- Boyung Lee
- D. Mark
Wilson

Trustee Representatives:

- Marsha
Raulston
- Ron Swisher

Ex-Officio:

- Bill McKinney
- Jerry Vallery

*More news from the
DRC on page 11!*

Greetings, PSR Community!

As the semester winds to a close and that jolly holiday break round the corner, CAPSR Council is giving you a very special gift this year: reports from the various PSR committees student representatives serve on each semester. And what gift could be better than the gift of KNOWLEDGE? (Okay, LOVE could be better. But KNOWLEDGE is pretty great, too, right?)

Below and in the following pages, you will find brief reports from several of your own student representatives and your Student Trustee. I'm sure any of them would be more than happy to talk to you in person about any further questions their reports may inspire.

These students volunteer their time to share a student voice on the academic and executive committees that make the decisions that affect every one of us studying and working here at PSR. These fine folks have been appointed by CAPSR Council and the Dean's Office, but they are accountable to all of us in this community. Their active participation is indeed a gift, and CAPSR Council is happy to wrap up this gift for you, with colorful paper and a shiny bow, for you to dive into and enjoy in this season of generosity.

Peace!

Audrey deCoursey, LOGOS Editor and member of CAPSR Council

Report from Patricia Wood and Jeff Crews,
Student Representatives on the Advancement Committee

The Advancement Committee of the PSR Board of Trustees is responsible for managing the long-term financial funding and revenue for PSR. This involves working closely with the Office of Institutional Advancement, the standing group that places the Advancement Committee policies into action.

Currently, the Committee is involved in managing the Annual Campaign, specifically addressing how the Trustees can best fulfill their fiduciary commitment by leading, participating, and assisting in annual fundraising. Since many of the members of the Board of Trustees are clergy, the committee encouraged the Trustees to either commit to a direct contribution to the school, or to engage others to make a gift. The Board of Trustees commits substantial resources to PSR in time, travel expenses, and financial support to the School. When you are introduced to a Trustee, please thank them for their significant commitment to PSR.

During the past year, a consultant reviewed the fundraising activities of PSR. After a discussion of the report by the Advancement Committee earlier this fall, a sub-committee was established to implement policies to directly address the issues brought forward by the review. This consultation was extremely timely, as the School operated at a budget deficit of about 7% last year—which must be funded from the endowment capital. (Budget deficits for non-profit organizations are not uncommon, but responsible practice would limit deficits to 4 or 5% per year—about what the endowment could be expected to earn each year.) The issue of fiscal responsibility impacts PSR in both financial and academic spheres.

PSR is unique in that it does not receive substantial portions of its annual income from denominational support. This means the school must raise a greater portion of its annual budget than most seminaries—both a blessing and a challenge. It is a blessing because the School is not bound to a particular denominational direction, and it is a challenge because the burden of funding the entire budget falls to the Board of Trustees and Office of Institutional Advancement each year.

Report from Emily McGaughy, Student Trustee

The October trustee meeting revolved around issues brought forth by the WASC & ATS accreditation visit (also in October). I will focus (most of) my report on those issues as I think they are most important and relevant for students at this time.

The accreditation team gave PSR positive feedback in regard to our educational programs, culture of progressive Christianity, consistent articulation and messaging of identity and mission across constituent lines, and effective developments in establishing a culture of assessment. The team was especially impressed by the Senior Seminar and Field Education components of the M.Div. curriculum. The majority of the feedback given by the WASC & ATS team was positive and upbeat in nature.

They strongly encouraged PSR to continue to negotiate its relationship with the GTU, which has been financially draining its member schools. Bill McKinney has been leading the "GTU Alternative Futures Task Force" over the last two academic years to problem-solve the very issues the accreditation team identified. Their second area of concern was in regards to the financial deficits PSR has run the last three academic years. John Davis (PSR's CFO) and the Finance Committee of the Board are adjusting fiscal policies and programs to bring down the draw rate off the endowment. If you have not read it already, please see the November 15th email sent out by the Communications Office entitled "PSR budget announcement" that details how these adjustments will impact our community. Please know that more information about finances will be forthcoming.

Other news of importance: Professor Boyung Lee was granted tenure; Tom Clarke was voted Treasurer of the Board of Trustees; a facilities audit will take place in the spring of 2008; negotiations for the purchase of University Christian Church are on-going.

Report from George Bennett and Cathy Lauber, Student Representatives on the Degree and Certificate Program Committee (DCPC),

The Degree and Certificate Program Committee (DCPC) is a faculty committee which is responsible for many important aspects of PSR's academic offerings. Over the past semester we have approved new courses and discussed proposed changes to existing courses. Student representatives can vote on this committee, which addresses matters related to short-term academic planning and the oversight of all degree and related programs. Academic petitions are brought before the DCPC as well as academic policy changes and proposals.

We are currently working on policies that will improve PSR's privacy standards, while enabling the faculty to objectively evaluate the progress of student learning. Also, we are committed to making the standards for matriculation clearer. The committee is instrumental in the making of the class schedule, and we are excited about the fact that we have recommended several excellent courses to the faculty committee. PSR is dedicated to offering quality courses and consistent measurement of our learning progress, and our time on this committee has helped us to understand how this is done.

Report from Kayla Bonewell, Student-Faculty Representative

I am a fourth-year MDiv student and I am the faculty representative on CAPSR council. This means each month I attend a faculty meeting or President's Council meeting as a student representative. I am the liaison between the faculty and CAPSR council. I am responsible for bringing bringing student information, concerns, and issues before the staff and faculty and for keeping the student council updated concerning information and issues which arise in faculty meetings. This is a fun and meaningful position that I enjoy very much; it is a pleasure and honor to sit with our faculty outside of a classroom setting. Next semester is my last semester at PSR so this position will be open. I urge all interested to apply.

Report from Robyn Hamilton,
Student Representative to the Finance Committee of the
Board of Trustees

PSR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT BACK TO YOU!

This semester, I met with the Finance Committee for the Board of Trustees and was involved in the beginning of attempts by that committee to meet the budgetary goals imposed upon the PSR Administration by the WASC Accreditation committee. We discussed the budget for the past year as well as the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and were able to identify small ways in which budgetary savings might be accomplished. However, since the budget for our next fiscal year was written prior to the recommendations of the Accreditation committee, we were unable to work with that budget. A revised budget is under examination at this time by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, and that budget will likely be discussed at the spring Trustees' meetings.

Report from Abby King Kaiser and Lavon Stalling,
Student Representatives to the Educational Resources Committee

The Educational Resources Committee oversees the programs within PSR that are outside of the degree programs, including but not limited to the Certificate in Ministry Studies program, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Ministry (CLGS), the Institute for Leadership Development and Study of Pacific and Asian North American Religion (PANA), the Bay Area Faith and Health Consortium, Community Life, Earl Lectures, PSR Summer Session.

This semester the bulk of the committee's work has been oriented towards the accreditation process and how these programs fit within the mission and goals of the school. Each program has been self-evaluating, presenting the ways that they encourage progressive Christian leadership. As a result, ERC this semester has not been focused on decisions as much as feedback and data gathering.

As student representatives, our contribution has been to be a part of this ongoing conversation as students. We have been challenged to think about how we see these programs as contributing to the educational effectiveness of the school and our development as progressive Christians.

Report from Robyn Hamilton, Student Representative to the Housing Access Committee

As the student representative to the Housing Committee this semester, I met monthly with that committee. We began the year on a highly positive note as CAPSR Council and the Housing Committee came together to provide hospitality during move-in week and orientation. In both August and September, the committee worked toward a goal of achieving full utilization of PSR housing. With a smaller-than-average entering class, we have only seven housing units vacant this term, and will work toward complete utilization in the spring.

The Facilities Department reported on a large number of projects that they had accomplished over the summer break. Since the Capital Campaign this coming year is directed toward Housing and Facilities, both departments are working hard to identify which housing units and facilities would need priority treatment when the campaign is completed.

In an effort to control spiraling utility costs, the administration has asked the student body to voluntarily restrict their usage of heat, asking that thermostats be set to come on at 58 degrees and go off at 68 degrees, as well as asking that the heating system be turned off during the heat of the day and during the night. If there needs to be further follow-up done to this request, or if it seems as though students are refusing to cooperate, we may need to revisit this request, either through the administration or through a Town Hall meeting structure.

Dismantling Racism Committee (DRC) End of Semester Report, from Marlene Henderson

As outlined in our charter, The Dismantling Racism Committee brings together faculty, staff, students and trustees to serve in an oversight function for the continuous work of the following:

- 1) The development and monitoring of a holistic plan focused on the elimination of systemic and institutional racism.
- 2) Equipping leaders with the values, skills, and commitment to cross-cultural competency necessary to build anti-racist institutions and dismantle systemic racism in society.
- 3) Modeling this commitment and work at PSR.

Current DRC Student Representatives are Marlene Henderson, Sonja Ingebritsen and Sonsiris Tamayo. These students are committed to working with other students, faculty and administration to help maintain a racially sensitive and culturally competent community at PSR.

The goal of the committee is the collective work of faculty, administration, staff, trustees and students and requires the ownership of the entire school. We recognize that responsibility for planning and implementing specific strategies for this work often rests with other staff functions, faculty and trustee committees; however, the DRC will continue to interface with committees in order to advise, monitor progress, recommend policy, and otherwise be useful in achieving this goal.

This year, the Dismantling Racism Committee has worked in the following capacity:

- Last summer DRC sent two students, Sonja Ingebritsen and Kim Montenegro, to a weekend intensive training on racism, sponsored by the World Trust Institute.
- During orientation week, Dr. Shakti Butler of the World Trust Institute facilitated a racial sensitivity workshop for all new students. This event stimulated thought provoking conversations around race and privilege.
- In September, four follow-up lunchtime conversations on racism were hosted by Megan Dowdell, Kim Montenegro and Sonja Ingebritsen where students were invited to discuss different aspects of privilege, racism, and racial sensitivity.
- DRC was instrumental in hiring PSR's new Dismantling Racism Program Director Dr. Marquita Chamblee. After interviewing several skilled candidates, Dr. Chamblee was selected as DRC's first choice and accepted the position, which officially began on November 5, 2007. With this position filled, DRC anticipates an enhanced capacity to address issues of racism and to help cultivate a more culturally cohesive community.
- In conjunction with the GTU Doctoral Student Professional Development Program and other GTU organizations, DRC co-sponsored a lunchtime viewing followed by a discussion of the film, *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*, by Shakti Butler.
- On December 3, 2007, DRC sponsored an open house in order to introduce Dr. Chamblee to the greater PSR community. The event was titled "Conversations with DRC's new Program Director" sponsored by the Dean's Office. All students, staff, and faculty were invited to attend this event in order to get to know Dr. Chamblee and discuss any issues, concerns, ideas, or suggestions regarding racial sensitivity.
- The DRC is currently working with faculty and administration to improve the multicultural context in the curriculum at PSR. The intention is to create a more equitable community by advancing cross-cultural competency thereby strengthening pastoral leaders in the community at large.
- The DRC plans to implement a process for handling race-related concerns and grievances. The details of this are forthcoming. Meanwhile, please direct such concerns to Dr. Chamblee, any member of the DRC, or the PSR administrative staff.

So you are wondering what you can do to advance the work of Dismantling Racism at PSR? Here are a couple of brief suggestions!

- Get involved with the DRC! Although the voting membership list is included above, all are welcome and will be put to work. We always have volunteer opportunities available that can utilize your talents.
- Learn about the resources offered by your own denomination and get familiar with them.
- Keep doing your own work, in whatever way challenges you and works for you. This may include viewing films and/or reading books, hopefully in small groups so you have the opportunity for discussion, attending workshops, or establishing discussion groups to name just a few options. I've been reading *Understanding White Privilege* by Frances Kendall and have found it a very helpful follow-up to the *Making Whiteness Visible* DVD shown during orientation.
- Keep at it. Mistakes will be made, but they will (probably!) not be deadly. Figure out for yourself why you are doing this work and continually remind yourself of that. Then keep going.

Good luck!
John Davis

Reflections of Oliver and Annie, two Italian Greyhounds,
on living in Student Housing
transcribed by Mary Heron Dyer

Oliver: Boy, Annie, mom was really mad this morning.

Annie: Why, Ollie?

Oliver: Well, she was reading the announcement about saving on utilities in the student housing units.

Annie: Why would that make her mad? She is really careful about it.

Oliver: I know she is. She always tucks us in at night with a blanket and a heating pad so we won't get cold, rather than keep the heat on.

Annie: So what made her mad?

Oliver: Well, remember that time last week when she was taking a bath after our bedtime and she started shouting for our other mom to come into the bathroom?

Annie: Not really. I was dreaming. I was chasing a squirrel and was about to catch it!

Oliver: Well, you must remember the next morning.

Annie: Oh yea. Mommy was really grumpy. The hot water spigot broke while it was on full blast. I remember when she forgot to close the bathroom door and we could hear the water running and the hall filled up with steam.

Oliver: Right.

Annie: So, what was the problem? It didn't get the floor wet. It was just a little noisy.

Oliver: She tried to get them to fix it right away. She kept trying to figure out how much water was being wasted every hour. I think she said it was about ten gallons a minute. . . or something like that.

Annie: Well, it didn't go on for that long.

Ollie: It took two and a half days for them to fix it! That's a long time, even for a dog.

Annie: So what is the math on that? I can just count up to twenty. Oh, wait, I don't have dew claws. That means I must have seventeen . . .

Ollie: 17? Don't you mean 16?

Annie: Oh, right. So do you remember the math?

Ollie: Uh, well, I can't actually DO math, but I do have a good memory. Like elephants. It was something like 10 gallons a minute, times 60 minutes an hour, times 60 hours, give or take. That is 36,000 gallons down the drain in that time.

Annie: Wow, that's a lot of water. I don't take baths. I like it better when you lick my face and . . . (oh, this is a family newsletter), well, you know . . .

Ollie: I don't understand either. We both wash mommy's feet every night when she watches TV and Mallie washes her face, so I don't even understand why she has to take a bath.

Annie: Oh, you know. Other mommy says stuff like not liking her to come to bed with dog saliva on her face. That's weird!

Oliver: Yeah, it is. But, back to the math. Mommy said that they run the water about ten minutes a day, to fill up baths for both of them.



Annie: That doesn't seem like a lot. Is it enough?

Oliver: Well, they're both pretty much bigger than us, and for some other humans. So I guess it's about right.

Annie: So, what does it mean?

Oliver: Mommy was saying something like, "For God's sake. . . ."

Annie: Isn't that taking the Lord's name in vain? I heard that somewhere . . . maybe in chapel.

Oliver: That's all right. She's a minister.

Annie: But that isn't all she said. She said something that started with "F." Can she say that?

Oliver: Well, it depends on whether you are a Protestant or a Catholic, I think. . . . or maybe just if you're not a funda- , a funda -. What's that word, Annie?

Annie: Fundamentalist.

Oliver: Well, back to the math. She said that if they ran water 10 minutes a day on average, that means that there was enough water wasted for both of them to bathe for a whole year. It was 6 times an hour, times 60 hours, for 360 days of baths.

Annie: They're exaggerating. Even a dog knows that there are at least 365 days in a year. Then leap year, that means something different. I think it has something to do with rabbits . . . or squirrels.

Oliver: And that doesn't even count the energy it took for the hot water. She didn't do the math on that.

Annie: Yeah, I forgot that.

Oliver: So does that mean they can't take any more baths this year?

Annie: No, they will still do it, Ollie. But it was just wasted water.

Oliver: So, why was mommy so upset when she read about the warning about using energy?

Annie: Oh, Oliver, no wonder I have to take care of you! Mommy and other mommy did everything they could to get them to fix it right away! Mommy even jumped into her clothes and rushed upstairs when she was still wet to tell the apartment manager.

Oliver: So what took so long?

Annie: I don't know. It just seems . . . what was the word they used? Hyper . . . hoop-er. . .

Oliver: Hypocritical?

Annie: Yes, that's it.

Oliver: I don't get it. We could just drink some more water, maybe a quart a day, and clean both of them the way we clean each other. Would that help save water?

Whence the Obamania?

by Kim Montenegro

Hello PSR community! Many of you have asked why am I supporting Barack Obama. I want to share this with you, not in way that hits you over the head with a blunt object, but to perhaps be an invitation to start a conversation about why you may or may not support Obama. I feel that Obama is the beginning of a shift in politics in the United States. Obama by himself is not that change. WE as concerned citizens need to stand up and speak out, and when we do we ARE that change. I want to stop being disenfranchised with the system and recognize that if I am not personally, actively fighting the system I am complacent in it. Obama is the candidate who understands how important that is. His goal is not only to be president, but also to get people involved in their communities. This isn't about him—it is about us!

I see Obama as a man of integrity and someone who is able to understand the complexities of what is happening here at home and abroad. Let me say this: when we talk about how America is perceived around the world, the day that Obama is elected that perception will change. As someone who has lived abroad and still has family in the Two-Thirds World, Obama offers a perspective that is unique, one that is not just from what he has read or been debriefed on, but is his own story. Who knows more about the ills that face us at home than someone who has worked on the South Side of Chicago as a community organizer? This is the type of experience that I want to speak for me. He is a man of faith, of diverse experiences, and a man who acts with integrity. His vision of where we need to be as a nation is inspiring, and is something that I can really support. I welcome further discussions with you about any of this. If you are interested on his position of the issues here are some excerpts from his website that tells you his views on things. If you want more information visit: barackobama.com

On the War: Barack Obama opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning. In 2002, as the conventional thinking in Washington lined up for war, Obama had the judgment and courage to speak out against the war. He said the war would lead to “an occupation of undetermined length, with undetermined costs and undetermined consequences.” In January 2007, Obama introduced legislation to responsibly end the war in Iraq, with a phased withdrawal of troops engaged in combat operations.

Obama has a plan to immediately begin withdrawing our troops engaged in combat operations at a pace of one or two brigades every month, to be completed by the end of next year. He would call for a new constitutional convention in Iraq, convened with the United Nations, which would not adjourn until Iraq's leaders reach a new accord on reconciliation. He would use presidential leadership to surge our diplomacy with all of the nations of the region on behalf of a new regional security compact. And he would take immediate steps to confront the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Iraq.

On Health Care: Obama's Plan to Cover the Uninsured. Obama will create a new national health plan to allow individuals without access to affordable insurance coverage to buy coverage similar to that available to members of Congress. The Obama plan will have:

- Guaranteed eligibility: No American will be turned away from any insurance plan because of illness or pre-existing conditions.
- Comprehensive benefits: The benefit package will be similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and cover all essential medical services, including preventive, maternity and mental health care.
- Affordable premiums, co-pays and deductibles.

- Subsidies: Individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP but still need assistance will receive an income-related federal subsidy to buy into the new public plan or purchase a private health care plan.
- Simplifying paperwork and reining in health costs.
- Portability and choice: Participants in the new public plan and the National Health Insurance Exchange (see below) will be able to move from job to job without changing their health care coverage.
- Quality and efficiency: Participating insurance companies will be required to collect and report data to ensure that standards for quality, health information technology and administration are being met.

Although his health plan does not have the mandatory enrollment clause that other candidates health plans do, he argues that it is more accessible in that it if implemented would be cheaper than other plans. He argues that it is the high cost of health care, not the lack of requirement that keeps people from having health insurance.

On faith: "When we ignore the debate about what it means to be a good Christian or Muslim or Jew; when we discuss religion only in the negative sense of where or how it should not be practiced, rather than in the positive sense of what it tells us about our obligations towards one another...others will fill the vacuum, those with the most insular views of faith, or those who cynically use religion to justify partisan ends." - Barack Obama, Call to Renewal Keynote Address, June 2006

On Immigration: Barack Obama believes the immigration issue has been exploited by politicians to divide the nation rather than find real solutions. This divisiveness has allowed the illegal immigration problem to worsen, with borders that are less secure than ever and an economy that depends on millions of workers living in the shadows. Obama believes we must rise above divisive politics and act in the interests of our national and economic security. Obama has played a leading role in crafting comprehensive immigration reform and believes that our broken immigration system can only be fixed by putting politics aside and offering a solution that strengthens our security while reaffirming our heritage as a nation of immigrants.

On Support for Full Civil Unions and Oppose a Constitutional Ban on Gay Marriage: Obama supports civil unions that give gay couples full rights, including the right to assist their loved ones in times of emergency as well as equal health insurance, employment benefits, and property and adoption rights currently extended to married couples. Obama voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would have defined marriage as between a man and a woman and prevented judicial extension of marriage-like rights to same-sex or other unmarried couples.

These are just a few of the reasons I support Obama, but as mentioned earlier, most important to me is his refreshing vision of returning the role of the people in the democracy of America. In running a grass roots campaign that does not accept money from lobbyist, Obama's belief in the power of the American people to work towards change provides an audacious hope that has inspired me to get involved in the political process and dream of waking up to a world in which Barack Obama is my president.

Thanks for reading!

P.S. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail me (kimmontenegro@gmail.com)

Holiday!
Celebrate!

Happy faces dotted the PSR Christmas Party held Friday, December 7, in the CDSP Refectory. Along with a visit from Santa and fine dulcimer music by Meighan Pritchard, the PSR community wished a fond farewell to December graduates Barb Martin (pictured right, in lower right corner of picture) and Lynda Clark (pictured lowest right, on right side of picture). *Photographs by Rebecca Anderson.*

