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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

NAME PRESIDENT'S LETTER BY DEBRA JOHNSON



Dear Members of NAME

I am excited about the work we have accomplished so far this year. For example, we held our very first Summer Institute with a focus on PK-12 teachers in Philadelphia, PA. on July 11th at Temple University. We have also planned a powerful and intellectually stimulating conference for the 18th International NAME Conference to be held in New Orleans, LA. So, I hope you are planning to join us November 12-14, 2008 for what promises to be a rewarding experience.

I am proud to have represented NAME at the 10th Annual Convention of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. NAME was one of five organizations to present a proposal to the group in hopes of securing funding from the sorority as its national philanthropy. Although we were not successful in securing the funds, it does mean that there are many new individuals who **now** know about our great organization and the good work that we do.

My goals for my term as your president were to increase membership, work collaboratively with other organizations, and develop a strategic plan that sets realistic targets and goals for our national budget. However, I cannot do this without your help and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have some time, energy, and/or suggestions to move us forward in our efforts to promote the vision and mission of NAME.

Finally, I want to thank our Executive Director, NAME staff, and the Board of Directors for all of their hard work and support. I appreciate you all and know that your love for NAME and deep abiding belief in what we stand for continues to guide your work and sustain your commitment.

Six Degrees of NAME

By Paul Gorski, NAME President-Elect

On a bit of a whim I recently created a Facebook page for NAME. For those of you who aren't familiar with Facebook, it's a networking site used by a LOT of school and university folks. NAME is a "group" in Facebook. When people "join" a Facebook group they get updates related to that group. It also means a link to the group appears within their Facebook page so others can see it, click on it, and join.

If you have access to Facebook, take a peek. If you don't, I encourage you to start a Facebook account just to join the NAME group. The more people in the group, the more other people see the group and the more traffic we direct to our web site. If/when you have access, let me know. I'd like to send an email to the listserv and general membership list to encourage them to join, so that anybody who visits their Facebook page is introduced to NAME.

To clarify, this can never "replace" our web site. It is only a way to connect people to our web site. I've also created an "Events" page for our conference to direct people to the conference information on site.

(Email Paul at gorski@edchange.org)

From the Executive Director

Page 2



Howard Gittis at dedication ceremony of the student center that bears his name.

We are eagerly awaiting your arrival to help **celebrate** the 18th Annual NAME International Conference in New Orleans, LA.

November 12-16, 2008.

Remember to check the website, www.nameorg.org, for information and updates.



Scenes from Temple University

"Amid all the laughter,
Dr. Grant's message was
clear as he shared insights
on the institute theme."

BY JOYCE E. HARRIS

Super Summer Institute

NAME held its first annual Summer Institute at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA on July 11th from 8 AM–3 PM in the beautiful Howard Gittis Student Center. Special thanks to Tchet Dorman, president, Pennsylvania Chapter of NAME and Rita Robinson, Region 3 Director for their hard work in making sure this inaugural Institute, which was specifically designed to meet the needs of PK-12 educators, was a success. (See [more about the Summer Institute below.](#))

18th Annual International NAME Conference

I certainly hope that all of you will be in attendance at the 18th Annual NAME Conference in New Orleans, LA, November 12-16, 2008. This year's theme is *Beyond Celebrating Diversity: ReACTivating the Equity and Social Justice Roots of Multicultural Education*. As is our practice, Wednesday, November 12th is Pre-conference Day. You will have the opportunity to attend half day or full day institutes. Our conference hotel is the New Orleans Sheraton on Canal Street. This is one street from the French Quarter, and there is plenty to do, both downtown and in the Quarter.

As conference coordinator, I am happy to have working with me Donna Gollnick, Program Chair; Christine Clark, Proposal Committee Chair; Jill Moss Greenburg and Susan Shaffer, Film Festival Chairs; Rose Duhon Sells (Founder), Asraf Esmail and Melba Venison, Local Host Committee Chairs; Debra Johnson, NAME President; and Paul Gorski, NAME President-Elect.

DVD Series

We are sold out of copies of the Geneva Gay DVD. We still have Sonia Nieto, Beth Harry, and Phil Chin DVD's. However, the four-DVD Monarch Series has concluded. NAME owes much thanks to Phil Chinn, a long-time member and former vice-president, for producing the series and his son, Kelleth Chinn for directing the series. Phil saw a need to produce something that would benefit both our members and the organization financially. He found the funding to do this and did not ask NAME for anything. **Thank you, Phil!**

Support NAME

Remember to support the NAME travel site and to use GoodSearch.com when surfing the Internet. Start your travel searches by using ytbtravel.com/name. Start your Internet surfing by using GoodSearch.com and typing in National Association for Multicultural Education when prompted for an organization. GoodSearch now has a GoodBuy link connected to it. These two sites represent easy ways for you to help NAME raise money.

NAME SUMMER INSTITUTE

NAME's first annual Summer Institute took place in Philadelphia, PA on July 11, 2008. This premier event was hosted by Temple University. The theme for this exciting day was *Today's Children, Tomorrow's Leaders: Strengthening America through Socially Just Corporate, Political, and Educational Partnerships*. The institute featured two powerful keynotes, more than ten individual workshops, and networking opportunities during a delicious continental breakfast and nutritious lunch.

Dr. Carl A. Grant, former NAME president, opened the morning session as only Carl can do. Participants were encouraged to become actively involved in his presentation and some interesting and inspirational insights were shared by these "volunteers." Amid all the laughter, Dr. Grant's message was clear as he shared insights on the institute theme. Using two statements and eight observations, Dr. Grant reminded us that the world is rapidly changing and we must prepare tomorrow's leaders for it.

Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, Professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Community Planning at Rutgers, University, was the afternoon speaker. She reminded the audience of the challenges associated with being an "after lunch" speaker. She then proceeded to carry the participants away through the use of personal narratives taken from her life. She talked about the many challenges she faced and the importance of vision, mission and family in overcoming obstacles.

This educational warrior shared frustrations and triumphs experienced as she sought to ensure the passage of the first Charter School Bill in the state of New Jersey. She shared the mission of her most ambitious undertaking, the LEAP Academy Charter, a K-8 school focusing on math, science, and technology which opened its doors in 1997 as a model of what education for tomorrow's leaders might entail.

Workshops and opportunities to network and make new friends rounded out a very powerful day for those in attendance. Congratulations to Institute planners for a job well-done.

Region 1

NECME Conference a Huge Success

The 13th Annual New England Conference on Multicultural Education (NECME) was held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut on October 8, 2008. Keynote speaker, Dr. Carlos E. Cortes addressed the topic, "Multicultural Education: Building a More Inclusive American Future." Dr. Cortes is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California, Riverside and has authored many books including his most recent book, "The Children Are Watching: How the Media Teach about Diversity." Other outstanding speakers were Donna Gollnick, Lee Mun Wah and Nancy Schniedewind.

The following awards were presented at the conference luncheon: Diane Kearney (P-12 Multicultural Educator of the Year), Dr. Lorrie Stoops Verplaetse (Higher Education Multicultural Faculty of the Year), and The Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut (Multicultural Program of the Year).

History of the NECME Conference

In 1996 a consortium of educational agencies and institutions came together to organize what has become THE major multicultural event in New England. Educators, as well as parents and community members at all school levels, were seeking ways to enhance teaching diverse students and a curriculum that could prepare all students for working in a diverse world.

After years of holding an annual Connecticut Conference on Multicultural Education at local hotels, the event "outgrew" the ballrooms. Beginning in 2007, the conference moved to the Connecticut Convention Center which is now its home. The conference also expanded its reach to formally include all New England states, New York and New Jersey. This one-day event now includes three sets of 14 concurrent sessions, draws in excess of 800 paid attendees, and is the oldest and largest event of its kind in the region.

(Thanks to Bill Howe for this story.)



Save the Date

14th Annual
New England Conference on
Multicultural Education
(NECME)

Wednesday, October 21, 2009
Connecticut Convention
Center - Hartford,
Connecticut



Check out these special
sessions at the NAME 2008
Conference

Regional and Chapter
Meetings

Town Hall Meeting

Learn more about NAME!



America did not invent
human rights. In a very
real sense, it is the other
way around. Human
rights invented
America.

~ Jimmy Carter



Region 3

RITA ROBINSON, DIRECTOR

Region 3 is proud to have been the region which helped to host the first NAME Summer Institute. Thanks to the hard work of Tchet Dorman, President of the NAME Pennsylvania Chapter and staff member in the Temple University Office of Multicultural Affairs, this first institute was a huge success. (See related story on page 2.)

Pennsylvania NAME

The 10th Annual PA-NAME State Conference was held April 4-5, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA. Sponsored by the Temple University Office of Multicultural Affairs (Rhonda Brown, Associate VP), the conference theme was, "How Far Have We Come and Where Are We Going?: A 40-Year Retrospective on the Movement for Multicultural Education." The keynote speaker was Dr. Patricia Hill Collins, a social theorist whose research and scholarship have examined issues of race, gender, social class and sexuality.

Outstanding conference highlights included a powerful Multicultural Education Leadership Forum, an outstanding Student Panel, inspiring cultural interludes, and entertainment from social and cultural activist, Yewande Austin.

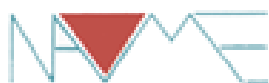
In case you missed this year's great conference, mark your calendar for the 2009 PA-NAME Conference which will be held April 3-4, 2009, at Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA.

Virginia NAME

Virginia NAME held a very important planning meeting on May 9, 2008, at James Madison University. The focus of the meeting was to nominate a slate of new officers and to engage in strategic planning for the chapter. All individuals interested in joining this up and coming NAME chapter should contact Doris Martin at martindm@jmu.edu or 540-568-6292.

Human Rights Day Celebrated in Maryland

The Coalition Opposed to Violence and Extremism (COVE) and the Maryland Association of Human Rights Agencies (MAHRA) co-sponsored the Ninth Annual Human Rights Day in Annapolis, Maryland, on February 5, 2008. The event which took place at the Maryland State House featured Dr. Joanne Martin, President and CEO of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, who addressed the topic, "The Noose: A Symbol of Hate - Past and Present." The event is held each February to highlight current issues and legislation dealing with human rights and to foster awareness of efforts to combat prejudice, bigotry and violence in the state and elsewhere. Attending this year's program from the Maryland Multicultural Coalition, Chapter of NAME (MMC/NAME) were: Tom Owen, Treasurer; Rita Robinson, NAME Region 3 Director; and Bonnie Brownell, Vice-President.



*It is still a world where
far too many continue
to focus on their own
self-interests and
believe that their way
is the **only** way.*



Save the Date

Annual Utah NAME
Conference - UNC 2009

March 27-28, 2009
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dr. Pedro Noquera
Keynote Speaker



Region 7

KEITH FELLERS, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Wichita Chapter News

Throughout the 2008-2009 school year the Wichita Chapter has been presenting free mini-workshops showing the **NAME Multicultural Video series** featuring Sonia Nieto, Beth Harry and Phillip C. Chinn. A spirited discussion follows each showing. All educators and community members are invited. For more information contact Keith Fellers by email: kfellers@usd259.net. The chapter also extends an invitation to all to join us for the 18th NAME International Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 12-16, 2008.

Missouri Chapter News

The 2nd Annual Missouri-NAME Conference was held October 10-11, 2008 in Springfield, Missouri. This dynamic conference, co-sponsored by Missouri State University, focused on "Achieving Academic Excellence Through Multicultural Education." The keynote speaker was Dr. Geneva Gay, Professor of Education at the University of Washington-Seattle where she teaches multicultural education and general curriculum theory. She is also the author of the highly acclaimed book, *Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Research and Practice*.

Message from Regional Director

As a public school teacher in a large urban high school I interact with a multitude of cultures. I wish that I could say that everyone I meet has the desire to work towards a better world with people who are different from themselves; but, that is not the case. It is still a world where far too many continue to focus on their own self-interests and believe that their way is the **only** way. Throughout history this has never worked. It has only caused pain and suffering. However, in those small pockets throughout the world where humankind has gathered for the good of all things, peace and understanding have advanced.

When traveling around Region 7, whether physically or in cyberspace, I find those groups of people working diligently to make this a better world. Every year beyond the boundaries of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska at our NAME International Conference, I find those pockets of people coming together. They push themselves beyond their present state of understanding, share the belief that we all are equal, including all living things, and acknowledge that this rotating orb we call Earth, our home, must be preserved for future generations.

I look forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans at the 18th Annual NAME International Conference to continue to share and learn.

Love to all

Keith

OTHER REGIONAL NEWS

Georgia NAME (Region 4) along with Kennesaw State University Student NAME Chapter (Region 4) sponsored a summer workshop and luncheon at KSU Center on May 9, 2008. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Loretta Howell-Lilliard (former NAME Board member) and the luncheon speaker was Dr. Joel Spring. Dr. Spring, professor of education at Queens College and Graduate Center—City University of New York, addressed the topic, "Intersections of Multicultural and Global Education."

Ohio NAME (Region 5) hosted a Diversity Workshop in Columbus, OH on June 27, 2008, featuring Dr. Paul Gorski (NAME President-Elect) as the luncheon speaker. The theme for the day was "Unlearning Stereotypes" and the program started with a panel discussion led by five diverse panelists. The format included three breakout sessions focusing on such topics as Multicultural Books for the Classroom, Creating Safe Spaces for GLBT Students and Valuing Cultural Norms.

Utah NAME (Region 8) sponsored a conference on March 7, 2008. The theme for the conference was "Building Bridges through Relevancy, Relationships, Rigor and Results." Dr. Christine Sleeter, a well-known scholar in the field of multicultural education, was the keynote speaker. Conference participants also had 21 breakout sessions from which to choose as they explored the conference theme.

Colorado NAME (Region 8) hosted its first statewide conference on April 10, 2008. Featured guest was Dr. Paul Gorski and the theme focused on "Colorado Practices for Closing the Achievement Gap."

(Other News continued on page 8.)



Greetings from the NAME Membership Chair

Hello to NAME Members and Friends of NAME:

I look forward to seeing each of you in New Orleans in November for the 18th NAME International Conference. I want to thank each and every one of you members for belonging to NAME and for what you do in the name of multiculturalism and social justice. I don't have to tell you what a struggle our work is because you see and feel it everyday. Every time someone is oppressed, we have to work harder. But, when others of different beliefs band together to make this a better world, our hearts are warmed. You know the more people who work together, the easier our work. That is why I implore you all to reach out to colleagues, friends or strangers and encourage them to become NAME members. It is through strength of numbers, working together, and sharing that we can make this a better world.

Again, thank you all.
Keith Fellers

Items Needed for Conference 2008 Silent Auction and Raffle

Among the various fundraisers that we run (almost every year) at the national conference are a silent auction and a raffle. Our idea this year is to ask each chapter to contribute one or more items to be auctioned or raffled off in New Orleans. Your chapter's contribution might be one of many things:

- a basket of regional cultural fare
- one or more books (signed or unsigned) related to our work
- a piece of art or photography with a social justice theme
- clothing with a political statement
- yummy edibles
- something you come up with, which is probably better than anything I could've listed here

It doesn't have to be expensive.

Please send your item with somebody from your chapter who is going to attend the conference, especially if they plan on arriving early. Have them drop the item/items by the NAME office at the conference site. Please also include a few sentences describing the item and, if relevant, its significance.

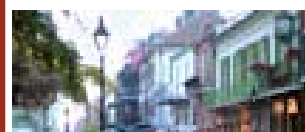
Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. And, remember-you can donate something individually to be auctioned or raffled off, as well. These items do not have to come from chapters only...

Your Friendly Neighborhood President-Elect,

Paul



Scenes from New Orleans



CONFERENCE 2007— Baltimore, MD

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Are you still trying to decide if you should make plans to attend the 18th Annual NAME International Conference in New Orleans, LA., November 12-16, 2008? Well, just look at these pictures from Baltimore and a testimonial from a first-time attendee who clearly expressed the value of NAME conferences. These items should help you make the right decision . . . “I can’t miss a NAME Conference!” See the next page for what awaits you and we’ll see you in ‘Nawlin’s.



Cultural Interlude Dance Performers



Bill, Mitchele, Lynn, Keith and Rosie



Mitchele Beaver and Bill Howe



Participants check-in for the Saturday Institute for Teachers

An email received immediately after the 2007 NAME conference, from a first-timer:

December 19, 2007

“I cannot express to you the impact this conference has had on me and my future. Everyone welcomed me with open arms and truly made me feel “at-home.” I thank you especially for all your encouragement and guidance as I break new ground here at Frostburg State University.

NAME is truly a blessing and there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that I will forever be a part of this organization. I will live it, love it, and make it a part of me. You and everyone I’ve met at the conference are such wonderful people, and I thank you again for giving me such an enriching experience! I look forward to hearing from you!”

Beyond “Celebrating Diversity”: ReACTivating the Equity and Social Justice Roots of Multicultural Education

As you plan your NAME Conference Agenda, be sure to include some old favorites:

Old Favorites:

- Comprehensive Pre-Conference Sessions
- First Timer Orientation
- Opening General Session and Reception
- Cultural Beginnings
- Founders’ Luncheon/Rose Duhon-Sells Lecture
- Outstanding General Sessions
- Founders’ Roundtable
- Powerful Concurrent Sessions
- Exhibits
- President’s Banquet
- Regional and Chapter Meetings
- Multicultural Film Festival
- Town Hall Meeting
- Saturday Institute for Local Educators

Cultural Tours:

Take advantage of the tour packages and see New Orleans in a special way. See the NAME website for more conference details at www.nameorg.org

Look Who’s Coming to New Orleans

Linda Christensen, Director of the Oregon Writing Project at Lewis and Clark College and Editor of *Rethinking Schools*

Antonia Darder, Professor of Educational Policy Studies & Latino/a Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and author of *After Race: Racism After Multiculturalism*

Ralph Slaughter, President Southern University System

Rose Duhon-Sells, Founder of NAME, NAME’s First President, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Southern University/New Orleans and author of *The Devastating Impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Health and Education: Voices of the Children*

James Loewen, author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong*

Teja Arboleta, Entertaining Diversity, Inc. and author of *In the Shadow of Race*

Angela Rola, Director of the Asian American Cultural Center at the University of Connecticut

Look for this Special NAME-Sponsored Session

NAME Leadership “Sell-a-bration”

This is a special session designed to encourage participants to explore opportunities for and benefits of assuming leadership roles in the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME). NAME believes in “growing its own” members who are willing to serve NAME in elected, appointed or voluntary positions of leadership. These roles include local, regional and national positions. The basic premise underlying this session is that, “EVERYONE” is a leader and we want to sell you on the importance and benefits of becoming a NAME leader. .

This session is especially for:

- People who have already decided to pursue a leadership role in NAME.
- People who have been identified by NAME members as potential NAME leaders.
- People who just want to know about leadership opportunities in NAME or what NAME leaders do to promote the mission of the organization.



Other Regional News (continued)

Page 8

Minnesota NAME (Region 5)

FREE MN-NAME Event

Co-sponsored by St. Paul Public Schools

MN-NAME (the MN Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education) announces the fifth installment of its *Insisting on Equity* series. Join educators, policy-makers, activists, and others to gain a deeper understanding of the role school staff play in the disproportionate number of behavior referrals and suspensions for students of color. Panelists will discuss strategies on how to recognize, address and prevent these inequities.

Topic: Insisting on Equity: Deconstructing the Suspension Gap (October 23, 2008)

Cookies and Beverages at 5:30 PM

Program Begins at 6:00 PM Sharp

1

Location:

Arlington High School

495 Rice Street/St Paul, MN

Formal Registration is not required. However, please help us prepare by emailing your RSVP to Seema Pothini, MN-NAME board member, at sg1515@hotmail.com

Questions? Please email Seema, or any other MN-NAME board member. Find contact information at <http://www.mn-name.org/contact.html>

PLEASE spread the word and let us know if you'd like a Word copy of this document to reproduce and distribute by emailing us at mn-name@edchange.org. Oh yes, CEU's are available!!!

For more information, check our website at <http://www.mn-name.org/>

NAME CONFERENCE 2008 SPECIAL SERVICE PROJECT

Whether you are coming to NOLA for the NAME conference, or not... please give the gift of your favorite multicultural children's book to children in New Orleans!

YOU can assist in NAME's efforts to help rebuild the library of NOLA's Martin Luther King Charter School by donating a new (or very gently used) children's book to NAME's service project. Located in the Lower Ninth Ward, the K-6 school was devastated by the flooding after Hurricane Katrina and is still rebuilding.

During a Preconference Session on November 12th, participating NAME members will work at the school, deliver the books and plant trees to commemorate the area's rebirth. Books gathered will sport a special book plate, identifying them as a gift from NAME.

If you are not able to join us, please support NAME's efforts by mailing your donation to **Ashraf Esmail**, one of the NOLA conference Co-Chairs. Here's the address for the books to be shipped directly to NOLA:

Dr. Ashraf Ismail

NAME Book Drive

c/o Southern University at New Orleans

College of Education 6400 Press Dr.

New Orleans LA 70126

By Tasha Lebow, NAME Immediate Past President

