

Session Descriptions

Session #1

Living Outside of Your Box

Most individuals from diverse backgrounds don't feel safe to express themselves on university campuses. How can climates be improved so difference isn't a barrier? This session will explore our differences and ask participants to share experiences that have hindered/helped us move away from/towards acceptance.

Social Justice Art Ed

Approaching social justice utilizes visual art as a lens through which students can examine themselves and the world around them. This session will explore strategies for implementing a social justice theme into a middle school art curriculum and will also acknowledge misconceptions in the topics involved in a social justice curriculum and the degree of shift and adjustment needed to implement such a theme.

The Importance of White Privilege Self-Awareness in Professional Development

Lack of awareness of race relations impacts relationships and growth in the workplace. Caucasian human service practitioners often aren't equipped to address the racial barriers of others because they are unaware of the freedoms provided by their ethnicity. This session will discuss how practitioners can address white privilege.

Talking Hate

This session covers academia and activism through the presenter's own experiences as an anti-hate activist scholar. The presenter will share her own privileges and difficulties in learning to talk about hate. The discussion will be situated within the larger region and sociohistorical context to illustrate patterns of hate in various cultures.

Session #3

Keepin' it Real: Privilege, Equality, and Justice

This session will discuss issues associated with how students of color have been taught in schools. The ideas of social justice will be deconstructed to illuminate the way these terms are currently being used in urban education. Building upon this, the presenter will introduce reality pedagogy as a tool that can enable educators to create a more equitable learning environment and a more culturally-relevant curriculum.

Privilege: Examining the Impact of Our Professional Identities on the Students We Teach

Modernity often focuses on binaries such as black/white, male/female, etc. How does a postmodern and culturally competent view open up opportunities to probe these natural ways of viewing learners and teachers? This session opens a fluid dialogue around one's professional identity with how "other" is created.

Latinidad and Higher Education

In the United States, there is a disparity in the baccalaureate degrees between Latinos and their white, non-Latino counterparts. This session will explore the scope and magnitude of the disparity in degree attainment as well as various factors which have been provided as possible explanations for this inequality. Additionally, strengths such as code switching will be examined as resiliency in higher education.

Working for an Adaptable World

Members of Delta Alpha Pi will share their experiences with disabilities, challenges, accomplishments, experiences, and strategies that work for them in the classroom, community, and workforce. The panel members will answer a series of prepared questions as well as respond to questions from the audience.

Session #2

What's After Marriage?

The fight for same-sex marriage is on the rise, and it seems the fight will be won. But what happens afterwards? Other issues need to be fought for, including transgender rights and rights in the workplace. This session will analyze why the fight won't end with marriage equality.

Advancing Cultural Competence in the Human Service Sector

This session will enhance the audience's cultural competence. By understanding the challenges families face in culturally incompetent settings, we can help eliminate the barriers they face accessing social services. This discussion will be explored through family-in-environment perspective and will provide effective training strategies, advocacy skills, and competent approaches to decision-making.

Session #4

Teaching Diversity as Social Justice Action

This session will discuss how incorporating diversity in KU courses benefits students. Dr. Morris will share the story of a student-generated event to raise awareness about contemporary Native Americans. Dr. Fennelly will explore how teaching visual arguments gives students the opportunity to enact changes in their immediate environment via social media and campus brochures and flyers. Dr. Hasler-Brooks will show how studying fiction, from such authors as Cormac McCarthy and Ana Castillo, challenges students to put themselves into the shoes of those caught in the drug trade at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Transparent Communications as a Cure for Social Injustice

KU's interpersonal perceptual field is beset by forms of harassment, which is seen to be high among disabled and LGBTQ individuals and, to a lesser extent, among women and minorities. Harassment is also high among faculty and staff. This panel

The Rage of Racism: How to Work Toward Social Justice

This session will involve exercises exploring how a shift in paradigm is possible when certain factors are taken into consideration.

Interracial Alliances: The Important Role of School Counselors

Due to historic marginalization, students of color may encounter multiple barriers to education. Current scholarship addresses the school counselors' role regarding strategies and suggestions addressing inequalities that exist in schools. This presentation will offer a summary of the inequalities, review theory which undergird the issue (Critical Race and Relational Cultural Theory), and offer potential solutions for school counselors.

will review these findings from Rankin's (2011) study of KU's institutional climate regarding discrimination, levels of mistrust, and the need for open communications.

Making the Invisible Visible through Picture Books

This workshop will open up narratives about gender and race representations through the exploration of picture books. Participants will be invited to deconstruct character identities and engage in encounters, such as the creation of book structures, by viewing and responding to art and poetry that promotes social justice for all by examining self and others.

Privilege and Oppression

Audience members will get a glimpse at what privilege means in the U.S., who has it, and how it has been used to oppress different groups of people. Participants will leave the session understanding what privileges and disadvantages in society they can use to better themselves and to make change happen for those being oppressed.

Meet the Speakers

Allies of Kutztown University

Allies seeks to promote quality within the student and faculty bodies; to actively engage in bringing together individuals sensitive to diversity; and to inform those who are in need of information about the gay, lesbian, and bi-affectionate community.

Jonathan Asayag

Jonathan Asayag is an advanced year master's in Social Work student. He has experience working with a diverse range of individuals and families, immigrant populations, criminal justice, and mental health, along with working in clinical settings by providing group and individual therapy. He has been recognized by the Warren County, NJ, Human Relations Commission for his community non-profit work and has experience working at the micro, mezzo, and macro level.

Nykolai Blichar

Nykolai Blichar is a sophomore at KU majoring in Political Science with minors in International Studies and Women's and Gender Studies. He is the president of Allies of Kutztown University, treasurer of FMLA, a HEART at KU advocate, and an undergraduate assistant at the GLBTQ Resource Center. After graduation, he dreams of becoming a human rights activist.

Danelle Bower

Danelle Bower is an Associate Professor in the Social Sciences Division at Reading Area Community College. She earned her BSW from KU and her MSW from Washington University, St. Louis. She is currently a third year doctoral student at Widener University's Center for Social Work Education. She has worked with different client populations and has served as an administrator at a local agency.

Delta Alpha Pi

Delta Alpha Pi was founded in 2004 to recognize the academic accomplishments of students with disabilities. Members of the honor society have the opportunity to serve as role models for first year students with disabilities. "Delta for disability; Alpha for achievement; Pi for pride."

Dr. Kristina Fennelly

Dr. Kristina Fennelly is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at KU. She regularly

incorporates diverse texts and activities into her Composition courses, particularly through projects involving social media.

Dr. Joanne Cohen Hamilton

Panelist and KU Senate's Institutional Climate Committee chair, Dr. Joanne Cohen Hamilton formerly served as ICC Task Force member and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling & Student Affairs. She has formal training and 10 years of experience specializing in trauma assessment and prevention. She is a nationally certified counselor, licensed psychologist, and licensed marriage & family therapist in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kerry Hasler-Brooks

Dr. Kerry Hasler-Brooks is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at KU and regularly incorporates diversity in his Literature courses.

Dr. Julia L. Hovanec

Dr. Julia L. Hovanec teaches Art Education at Kutztown University. She has over 27 years of experience teaching art and art education, and has presented at local, state, and national conferences.

Deborah Johnson

Deborah Johnson, Elementary Education professor at KU, was selected to deliver the 2013 commencement address and chose to speak on *The Power of Change*.

Dr. Amanda Morris

Dr. Amanda Morris is an Assistant Professor of Multiethnic Rhetorics in KU's English Department. She regularly incorporates diverse texts and activities into her Rhetorics courses.

Dr. Lauren Moss

Dr. Moss is an Assistant Professor at KU in the Department of Counseling & Student Affairs. She has extensive experience in the public middle school setting as a professional school counselor and special educator. Her experiences working with diverse populations have fostered research interests such as group work, bullying prevention, social justice, and advocacy.

Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder

Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Associate Professor of Art Education at KU, earned her master's

and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in Art Education and Teaching and Learning. In 2006, she was recognized as Iowa's Outstanding Elementary Art Educator. In 2007, she received the Western Region Outstanding Elementary Award from the National Art Education Association. She currently chairs the Professional Learning Through Research Working Group under the National Art Education Association Research Commission.

Dr. Maria Sanelli

Dr. Maria Sanelli, Associate Professor of History at KU, received her Ed.D. in Foundations and Multicultural Education from the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California. After nine years of teaching in PA public schools, she obtained her doctoral degree and has taught multicultural education seminars for the last two decades.

Dr. Jennifer Schlegel

Dr. Jennifer Schlegel is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at KU and a former chairperson of a local unity group.

Tracy Schott

Filmmaker Tracy Schott received her MSW from University of California, Berkeley's School of Social Welfare in 1985 and practiced child and family therapy with a diverse group of clients for 15 years. In 2000, she received her MS in Telecommunications from KU. After working for a commercial production company, Tracy started Schott Productions. Her work outside of *Finding Jenn's Voice* includes production of non-profit and corporate videos, live theatrical productions, event production, broadcast programming, TV commercials, and still photography. She is the producer of the short film *Location! Location!* and is the director and writer of *Dream Weddings*, a reality TV show which airs on NBC affiliate, WGAL.

Dr. George Sirrakos

Dr. George Sirrakos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Secondary Education at KU. His work on issues of culture, inequality, and education has been presented at local, national, and international conferences. He holds a Ph.D. in Education, concentrating in Urban Science Education; a master's in Science Education; and a bachelor's in Biology. He was named a 2013-2014

Phi Delta Kappa Emerging Leader for his work in advancing the belief that marginalized students can be successful in science.

Katie Sternbergh

Katie Sternbergh has been a Community Assistant at KU for the last two years. As a Psychology and Social Work undergraduate, she focused on various research topics pertaining to social psychology and on community barriers in priority schools. Now as a graduate student, her interests include geriatrics, hospice, and engagement with diverse populations.

Stephen Stoeffler

Stephen Stoeffler has social work experience in the fields of child welfare, probation and parole, adult protective services, and family homelessness. He teaches in both graduate and undergraduate Social Work programs with an interest in community and organizational practice, diversity, and social and economic justice. He received the 2011 Kristin Bowser Outstanding Young Social Worker Award for his contributions and leadership within the profession of social work. He received his BSW from Shippensburg University and his MSW from Temple University. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Center for Social Work Education at Widener University.

Bridget Tinney

Bridget Tinney teaches 6th and 7th grade art at Lehman Intermediate in the East Stroudsburg Area School District. She graduated with a master's in Art Education from KU in May 2014 and is currently in her seventh year teaching.

Dr. Arthur E. Thomas

Dr. Arthur E. Thomas has dedicated his life and career toward championing the cause of the poor, oppressed, and denied. He has fought all forms of injustices at the local, state, and federal levels. A 1962 graduate of the Central State University, Dr. Thomas is the first alumnus who returned to his alma mater to serve as its president. He served from 1985 through 1995. He is now President Emeritus of the university. Dr. Thomas will bring his years of experience in higher education, public policy, and politics to address our conference theme of "Taking Action: Social Justice for All?"