

SERD Meeting Minutes

9/15/08

Attendance: Gargi Roysircar, Corey Gifford, Cindy McKusick, Nate Thorn, Amanda Blanchard, Amithea Love, Maura Cole, Jamie Lucas, Randi Hirschberg, Rachael Goren, Afshan Afsahi, Bryan Clarke, Tracy Shannon, Emily Graesser, Jamie Carroll, Dan Greif, Beth Ketainek, Marielena Tecce, Jean Devenny, Antoinette Booth, Kamna Chhibber, Sheeba Thomas

- Old members, new members, and visitor introductions
- Gargi brought up the idea of re-starting a sexual identity support group at Antioch.
- Summers holidays were discussed
- Shakti's disaster recovery outreach in Tabasco, Mexico, was discussed, and the MCC website link for the Mexico outreach, <http://www.multiculturalcenter.org/shakti/mexico/>, was given to get more information; Several students had questions about Disaster Shakti and how to get involved; Gargi noted that SERD/Shakti members play an active role in generating ideas for local community activities and disaster relief outreach.
- SERD/Shakti's conference presentations at APA 2008 were noted and each was briefly summarized; also powerpoint handouts of each presentation were distributed; Members who presented were: Gargi Roysircar, Vincent Pignatiello, Michael Brodeur, Josefina Irigoyen, Peter Gill, Brian Denietolis, and Wendy Vincent.
- Corey discussed how the costs for traveling for Shakti trips can get expensive, but researching can help; also for her, it was worth it due to the experience she had; donations as well as an outreach trip to help those affected by the hurricane in Texas were brought up.
- Sheeba gave an update on the "thank-you" letter and fund-raising letter being developed as a result of Shakti's trip to Mexico. Gargi brought up the information that outgoing communications (such as letters) from Shakti need to go through the Development Office for approval and mailing. The President sends acknowledgments for support received.
- On Saturday, October 4th, Shakti will be presenting a symposium on their disaster recovery outreach work at Diversity Challenge 2008 of Boston College; Gargi said that she may not be able to present due to having to be in Mississippi during that time; Nate and Sheeba volunteered to give Gargi's part of the presentation; This first part would take

half an hour, and then would be followed by Shakti members Josefina, Brian, Wendy, Amanda, and Corey, for the next 50 minutes. Then there will be 10 minutes for questions and answers.

- A meeting of all Shakti members presenting for the Diversity Challenge was scheduled for next Monday, September 22nd from 3.30-4.30 p.m. to discuss preparations. An email will be sent to members notifying them of this, and requesting them to RSVP if they are planning to make their presentation at the symposium.
- Bryan Clarke gave a description of the **Latino Cultural Connection** (started by Josefina Irigoyen) to visitors and new members; meetings are generally held every two weeks, usually the week that SERD is not meeting; other members of LCC noted that this gathering is for all levels of Spanish-speakers and has a very comfortable atmosphere to improve Spanish-speaking skills
- Gargi noted that LCC needs to be added as a link in the Multicultural Center website. Ben Herzig will be doing the organizational work of LCC, such as making an LCC listserv, developing a schedule of meetings, sending meeting reminders, posting brief summaries of meetings, and giving updates at the SERD meetings. Bryan will facilitate the meetings because of his English-Spanish bilingual skills. Meetings are usually held at either 12 pm or 3:30 pm on alternate Mondays; the schedule will be organized and posted in PsyD Notes.
- For action items for the new year, Tracy Shannon brought up the pressing needs of Somalian school children in Columbus, Ohio, where there is a large Somalian refugee population. Their educational and adaptation needs are not often brought up by Somalian residents due to their fear of being deported.

Respectfully submitted by:

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