



# Ethnic Reporter

Newsletter for National Association for Ethnic Studies, Inc.

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## President's Message

The election of Barack Obama as the nation's first African American president has been widely touted by the public, media and much of the western world as a new era in post-racial politics largely driven by the notions of equity and social justice. To many the myth of the American dream and its fulfillment has finally come to pass.

Undoubtedly, many of us rejoiced in the Obama victory in November. As a national delegate for Obama I was able to witness first hand the outpouring of admiration, anticipation and adulation given to then Senator Barack Obama by throngs of Americans who represented virtually every cross section of this nation's ethnic populations and cultures. We stood in unity that last night of the convention as we listened to our candidate express his beliefs and vision for a new America and a new road to attain the promise of our nation's destiny. Certainly, those were heady times and can probably never be repeated, at least in my lifetime.

As we reflect upon this victory and the dawn of the "Obama era", there is the temptation on the part of some to say its time to relax and enjoy the labors of our collective triumph and to put aside the nay-sayers' mantra that "race matters." However, this temptation must be

tempered by the realization that at the present time we have no African American senators seated in Congress and the only two Latino senators remaining in the Senate will be leaving after the inauguration for new posts in the administration and the private sector. Despite the attempt by Obama to construct a multicultural cabinet, populations of color continue to remain underrepresented politically, educationally, economically and in every way that connotes access to power, authority and privilege within this nation.

We also in a short span of time have suppressed the racial anecdotes, barbs and innuendos that were hurled at Obama during the election on both sides of the political fence and by both parties. True, that power is an irrepressible antidote to bias and ignorance. Nevertheless, the election of an African-American will set a new stage for much of the old mythology that permeates and lingers on within a society that has long ignored any real or meaningful dialogue on race and multiculturalism. In some ways the Obama Philadelphia speech, during the election, gave entrée to such a dialogue and the need to address both race and prejudice.

We as Americans have constructed, deconstructed and in some cases reconstructed seemingly impenetrable divisions

and borders in the work place, community and even within our own institutions of higher learning. We have passed through the eras of civil rights initiatives, institutional diversity, culture wars and political correctness only to find ourselves once again facing one another on these issues but now on a new playing field. As scholars and investigators of such human phenomena, more than ever there is the need to seek new solutions, understandings and connections to these cycles and events.

Obama in many respects managed to change the traditional trajectory of racialized politics and power wielding by fostering a reenergized concept of patriotism and American exceptionalism. I too believe that the next era for ethnic and cultural studies will see dramatic shifts, newer paradigms and resurgent interest in the capacity for us to exist as a nation that prides itself in its diverse heritage and makeup.

Our next conference in San Diego will allow all of us to examine new and persistent questions that affect us all within the realm of academe and ethnic confluence. I hope to see you there and have the opportunity to exchange ideas, wisdom and moreover friendship.

*Larry J. Estrada*

## NAES News



This is our youngest member, Yaretzi Hernandez-Hazelrigg. She never misses a conference!! Thanks, Cecily, for sharing your lovely daughter with us.

New Board Members  
**Dr. Ron Scapp**  
College of Mount St. Vincent

Dr. Scapp is the founding director of the Graduate Program in Urban and Multicultural Education at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, where he is professor of humanities and teacher education. He is a fellow of the Education Policy Studies Laboratory at Arizona State University. Ron's work focuses on urban education, educational leadership and policy and teacher empowerment. He also writes

on topics as varied as homelessness, American theater and contemporary continental philosophy. He is the author, editor and co-editor of a number of books and other publications, including *Teaching Values: Critical Perspectives on Education, Politics and Culture*. He has a Ph.D. in philosophy and is a member of Group Thought, a philosophy collective based in Red Hook, Brooklyn.

**Dr. Carleen D. Sanchez**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. Sanchez holds a joint position in the Institute for Ethnic Studies and Department of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition she is an affiliate with the Women's and Gender Studies program. Dr. Sanchez received a B.A. degree in Political Science from California State University Fullerton; her M.A. and Ph.D. are in Anthropology from the University of California Santa Barbara. Her dissertation was supported



**Dr. Sandra Holstein,**  
2008 Irby Award  
winner

with a Fulbright Scholarship and focused on archaeological excavations in Honduras.

However, Dr. Sanchez maintains a variety of interests including Ancestral Mesoamerica, Latin American Indigenous movements, Feminist and Gender studies, and Popular Culture. Her current writing project is a cultural biography of Frida Kahlo placed within the context of post-revolutionary Mexico.

**Dr. Caleb Rosado**  
Warner Pacific College

Dr. Rosado is Professor of Urban Studies at Warner Pacific College in Portland, OR, and Director of the Urban Studies Program. He holds a doctorate in sociology from Northwestern University, a Master's in New Testament Studies from Andrews University, and a Bachelors in Theology from Pacific Union College. He has taught in diverse academic settings in the United States, the UK, and in Latin America. These venues include: community

colleges; small to midsize private colleges and universities; and large state universities. He has served as department chair in two schools, and as director of a branch campus. His areas of expertise in sociology are: Race Relations, Theory, Urban, Religion, Latina/o Studies, and Wisdom/Ethics. Dr. Rosado has also been a human systems consultant since 1978. He has worked on issues of human relations and human systems change with government agencies; universities; K-12 school districts; corporations; churches; and community



Retired Board member, **Dr. Harriet Ottenheimer** and her husband, **Martin** were recently honored by the Comorian government for their 40 years of research and writings about the Comora Islands.

Organizations. He has studied religion and social change in revolutionary Cuba, refugee life in internment camps in Thailand, street life in England, and cultural life in Spain. His latest publication, in his current area of research focus (quantum physics and urban transformation), is titled "Context Determines Content: Quantum Physics as a Framework for 'Wholeness' in Urban Transformation." Prior to coming to Warner Pacific College, Caleb taught at Southern Connecticut State University and at Quinnipiac University.

### Graduate Student Rep.

There was a tie in the vote for this position. We have two co-representatives:

**Ravi Kumar Perry** is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Brown University and **Mert Sanivar** is a M.A. candidate in English at SUNY, New Paltz. We hope you will come and meet the new reps at the San Diego conference.

### Announcements

NAES President Larry Estrada's sabbatical replacement at Western Washington University is **Dr. Midori Takagi**. She holds joint appointments in the History Department and at Fairhaven College.

National office manager, **Cecily Hazelrigg-Hernandez**, will be a visiting faculty member at the Universidad de Latina America in Morelia, Mexico during the fall 2009 term. She was also the 2008 recipient of the Western Washington University Women of Color Empowerment Award.

**Dr. Shirley Jackson** received the Teaching Apple Award from the New England Sociological Association

**Members who wish to have their announcements posted can email them to** [lindigd@aol.com](mailto:lindigd@aol.com)

## 2008 Atlanta Conference “The Politics of Ethnicity” April 2008



Former NAES Board Member, Dr. Robin Chandler (Northeastern University, Boston) engages in discussion with colleague, Dr. Susan Asai (Northeastern University) while awaiting the start of a presentation

Dr. Shirley Jackson (Southern Connecticut State University) chaired the Atlanta conference. Thank you, Shirley, for a very exciting and interesting conference!



Dr. Gretchen Bataille, President of the University of North Texas, was honored with a Founder's Award from NAES.

Here she is flanked by Dr. Ashton Welch (NAES Vice President) and Board Member, Dr. Larry Shinagawa.

## New Technology Update: Web-Based Forms

As many of you may have noticed, the National Office has been working to better utilize available technologies as a means of streamlining operations. We have used an all online process for the submission of conference abstracts this year with great success. The web forms are secure and allow us to gather the necessary information and increase our efficiency to better serve the NAES membership.

The new NAES membership form is available on our website (<http://www.ethnicstudies.org>) year round. We've updated it so that you can tell us more about your academic interests and ways in which you may wish to become more involved with the Association. With the new form, all payments are securely processed via PayPal, which allows us to continue to accept credit cards, but also PayPal account purchases and electronic checks.

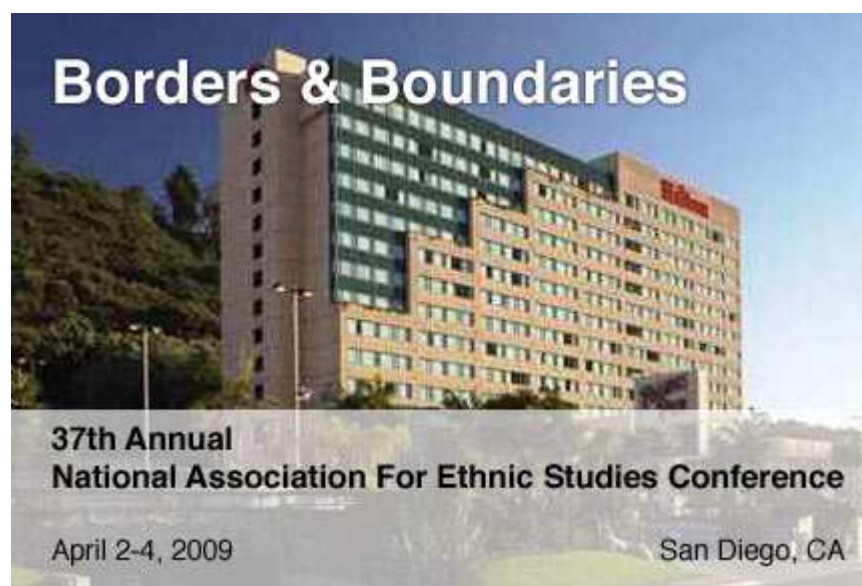
The online abstract submission process went very smoothly this year, with only a few minor glitches as we tested the system for the first time. We have listened to your feedback and are continuing to work to make the form more user-friendly. Finally, the registration form for the 2009 Annual Conference is available on the NAES conference webpage. The form contains logistical details of the conference, as well as speaker information and menu options for our various meal events.

As always, if you have questions about any of the new forms, feel free to contact the National Office.

## NATIONAL OFFICE

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On to San Diego April 2-4, 2009



Not to be outdone by San Diego's historic and scenic surroundings, this NAES conference promises an equally exciting venue. As in the past, you can expect to hear national and international scholars discussing cutting edge work from a variety of academic perspectives. In addition, we will feature several panels and special sessions addressing local community issues facing San Diego residents. Finally, we will be presenting a number of awards to both young and established scholars as well as community leaders. San Diego represents a great opportunity to blend intellectual stimulation with relaxing fun. Please join us!

*Dr. Maythee Rojas*, NAES 2009 Conference Chair

You will find all the information you need including hotel reservations and a list of featured speakers at <http://www.ethnicstudies.org/conference.htm>

## 2008 Awards were given at the Atlanta conference

### **Pon Award** was given to **RAKSHA**

Raksha, an Atlanta, GA-based non-profit organization, serves more than 400 people every year from the local Asian and Asian-American communities. Approximately 200 to 225 of these clients every year are domestic violence survivors and their children. In 2007, Raksha served 219 domestic violence survivors who were primary caregivers for 167 children. They are one of the few area non-profits that provide therapeutic services to children of domestic violence survivors, with an on-staff counselor who is a certified play therapist, working with children in a monthly support group. This work focuses on building self-esteem and improving communication with the children.

### **Irby Award** was given to **Dr. Sandra Holstein**

Dr. Holstein was nominated for the Irby Award for her many years of dedicated service to the mission and values of NAES. She was the Chair of the 2006 Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA which remains one of the most successful conferences over the lifetime of the Association. Holstein also serves as the Chair of the NAES Current Issues Committee, which was brought many high caliber speakers to conferences over the years. In addition to her NAES service, Holstein has remained committed to her own campus and academic work, focusing on curriculum development and research that bridges the fields of ethnic and gender studies.

**Phillips G. Davies Graduate Student Paper Award** winner was **Ravi Perry**, a Ph.D. candidate at Brown University. Ravi's paper was entitled, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Black Mayors, Non-Majority Black Cities, and the Representation of Black Interests*.

Comments on the newsletter and its contents are welcomed by editor, **Linda Delgado** at [lindlgd@aol.com](mailto:lindlgd@aol.com). Thanks