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## VOICES Newsletter, v7n1, October 2010

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THE CENTER FOR  
MULTICULTURAL  
EDUCATION

OCTOBER  
EVENTS:

- OCTOBER IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!
- THE LARAMIE PROJECT: WED, OCT 13
- THE LARAMIE PROJECT—10 YEARS LATER, AN EPILOGUE: THURS, OCT 14
- CME SEVEN BOOK CLUB: THURS, OCT 21
- TIM WISE LECTURE: TUES, OCT 26



TIM WISE

<http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.racialicious.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Tim-Wise-31.jpg&imgrefurl=http://>

# Voices

Promoting diversity in the university community and beyond...

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2010

## The CME Welcomes Program Coordinator Emily Wilker

The Center for Multicultural Education (CME) is pleased to announce the hire of a new Program Coordinator, Ms. Tabatha Cruz. Tabatha, known as “Tabby” is well qualified for the position, having earned her BA in Family Services here at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). She journeyed to Illinois State University (ISU) to obtain her Master of Science degree in College Student Personnel Administration. Tabby was really involved during her time at UNI. As president of the Hispanic Latin Student Union, and an active member of her sorority for four years, Tabby was really involved as an undergrad. She then moved on the serving her university as a Resident Assistant. During her graduate work at ISU, Tabby worked as a graduate assistant to the Diversity Advocacy Program, the multicultural

center on campus. While working there, she assisted in the program: Developing Cultural Leaders, which aided many different groups on campus.

When Tabby has free time, she tries to catch up on sleep. She likes to experiment with cooking and is a self-proclaimed “Gleek.” She loves to watch musicals and the hit show “Glee.” If she were granted the opportunity, Tabatha would love to immerse herself in the Eastern Indian culture for a year. While attending Illinois State University, Tabby became friends with several Eastern Indians and was invited to Indian Night, which was a celebration of Indian food, music, and fun. She walked in a fashion show in which she wore traditional Eastern Indian clothing and says she felt, “so welcome.” She loves the vibrancy and warmth of the Indian culture.

While at the CME, Tabby hopes to re-teach the meaning of “multicultural.” Tabby aims to show people that multiculturalism is not about race alone. She wishes to teach community of and around UNI to understand and appreciate people of all cultures. To commence these ambitions, she and the CME are very excited to present the Multicultural Student Leadership Retreat in Nov, 2010. At this retreat, anyone who wishes to develop leadership skills and to become more culturally competent is welcome to apply. At his leadership event, participants will learn the following things: professionalism, communication skills, group dynamic skills, multicultural competence, and civic engagement. This exciting event is coming up on Nov 6, 2010. Applications will be available starting Oct 1.

## CME Sponsors Tim Wise at UNI

A white man who speaks out in opposition to racial discrimination is what can be found in Tim Wise. Wise has written five books and contributed to over two dozen more. Wise has spoken in almost every state, as well as in Canada and Bermuda. Wise has appeared on hundreds of radio and television programs,

including CNN and ABC’s 20/20. He is —a national treasure,|| according to Georgetown Prof. Michael Eric Dyson.

The CME is sponsoring Tim Wise to visit UNI on Tuesday, October 26. Students will be offered two opportunities to see him; first, an informal discussion at the CME at 3:30 PM and at a

Emily Wilker

lecture at 7:00 PM at the GBPAC Great Hall. Wise will be discussing antiracial politics and policies, as well as sharing with us his personal wisdom and experiences. The CME will also be holding a book discussion of his new book, “Colorblind,” on Oct. 21.

# CME Hosts: Undoing Racism

Emily Wilker

For more info about  
PISAB to go:  
[www.pisab.org](http://www.pisab.org)

Injustice anywhere is  
a threat to justice  
everywhere.  
-Martin Luther King  
Jr.

You cannot dream  
yourself into a  
character; you  
must hammer and  
forge yourself one.

Determine the  
thing that can  
and shall be done,  
and then we shall  
find the way.  
-Abraham  
Lincoln

The "Voices" news-  
letter is published  
occasionally and  
electronically  
throughout the  
year.

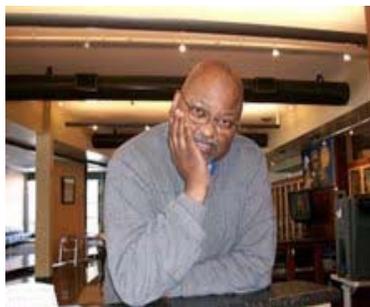
Abraham J Heschel uttered these noble words: "Racism is man's gravest threat to man – the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason." You and I live in a world where racism is a very real thing. The Center for Multicultural Education (CME) has taken the necessary steps to generate an environment liberated of hatred when it hosted the three part workshop "Undoing Racism" on September 22, 23, and 24. The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB) established Undoing Racism with the hopes of creating strong leaders and the communities that are needed to eradicate racism by educating participants about the foundation of racism, how it functions and why it is still ever present. The learning process is intense and includes self-reflection, heated discussion, role-playing, and creative planning. Participants may have found themselves in a place they never thought they would visit as they tried to leave their bias at the door and prepared to become more culturally accepting and aware.

At the University of Northern Iowa, the CME encouraged professors from all departments to attend and be educated with the hope

that they, sequentially, would pass along the magnitude of the message to their students. Professors

at the University of Northern Iowa are known for being honest and open with their classes, so inviting them to attend the workshop is perhaps one of the most direct ways of teaching young adults about undoing racism. Reaching students at the college level is so important. If racism can be undone at this level, it may be possible to enter "the real world" without the burden of racial tension. Participants addressed many issues that pave the way to change, such as defining the term "racism," as well as determining where it lurks in our community. Attendees learned how racism affects his or her own life and classes, as well as how to effectively undo racism in their families, neighborhoods, communities and classrooms. Dr. Victoria DeFrancisco was one of dozens to attend the Undoing Racism workshop. Dr. DeFrancisco has been shaping the minds of students at UNI for over 20 years. During those years, she has taught classes in the subjects of Communication, Women and Gender Studies, Intercultural Communication, Re-search Methods, and Interpersonal Communication. She has been studying the topic of racism for almost 30 years and has attended many work-shops on racism and says that the work-

shop the CME hosted was the first to begin by saying, "this is NOT a racism workshop; this is an invitation to join a social movement!" Having studied racism for 30 years, DeFrancisco would define it as "discrimination by a dominant group based on race and/or ethnicity." Now, after completing the workshop, she says that she knows that the U.S. was built on racism. DeFrancisco also spoke of realizing that we impoverish in order to avoid poverty ourselves, and that is how racism is still thriving today. She and dozens more underwent some challenging self-reflexivity exercises and critically analyzed, "the ways in which oppression is systematic and implicit in our culture." Because of Undoing Racism, DeFrancisco says that she knows "why it's important to look at poverty and financial privilege as the source and tool of racism." She wants to make clear that she knows not all members of groups that suffer from racism are poor, but rather that our institutions make it difficult for those groups to reach the "American Dream." DeFrancisco plans on using the skills Undoing Racism taught her as she assists the Provost's Office and the university, as well as in her classes.



## A Message From the Director

I was eager to discover what all the hoopla was about. The local ministerial alliance in Boston called a press conference out of the blue. I was so happy the organization was finally doing *something*, that I jumped at the chance to see what was the matter! I took the “T” to a church lawn in Roxbury where the event was to take place. Leaving the subway station, I walked briskly up the hill towards the church. Running a little late, I was elated at a distance to see that a small crowd had already gathered and one of the ministers was speaking in the taped bundle of microphones.

I ambulated towards the back, but still within earshot. The speaker was announcing how gay rights was anathema to civil rights and to the movement for such rights in the

1950’s and 1960’s. In essence, he made the claim that homosexuality is nothing that a minister worth his salt would support. I was appalled! On a day when the ministerial alliance members were finally pushing away from their usual perch at a conference table full of coffee, juice, and pastries, they used their out-side-the-box activity to be a scandalous put-down of a whole category of people!

One day around Halloween in the refectory at Yale Divinity School, I saw a male student enter with a dress on. Everyone in the cafeteria during that fall semester of 1982 could not help but to stare at him with unwelcoming eyes and derision. He felt so humiliated that he was turning around to leave, but I called after him to sit at my table. He was so relieved that someone seemed to possess the kindness to reach out to him while others were treating him with such rancor. To watch this young man come close to tears, I decided at that point in my life never to relate to another

human being—regardless of their perspective or orientation—in such a hideously disrespectful manner as my fellow ministers-to-be.

Recently, I was criticized for briefly showing support for gay rights in a sermon that I gave to my congregation. Also, on another occasion, I was mildly mocked for the CME’s co-sponsorship of the Laramie Project. I realize that even positive social change takes place in a very gradual way. It’s been 28 years since I made my commitment to challenge people’s homophobia—especially among brothers and sisters of the cloth. If we can repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” during the course of the current administration, what a great getting up morning that will be!

### Check out Dr. B’s Blog!

Featuring his comments on current events and social issues

<http://drmdbwell.blogspot.com>

OR

<http://mdbwell.wordpress.com>

### “Voices”

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Ms. Emily Wilker

#### **Contributors:**

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Ms. Tabatha Cruz (interviewed)

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Ms. Tabatha Cruz (Program Coordinator)

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**Reserve the CME for your organization's event!**

We foster success in racial and ethnic minority students, contribute to the cultural competence of all students, and promote an appreciation of diversity in the University community.

We do this by:

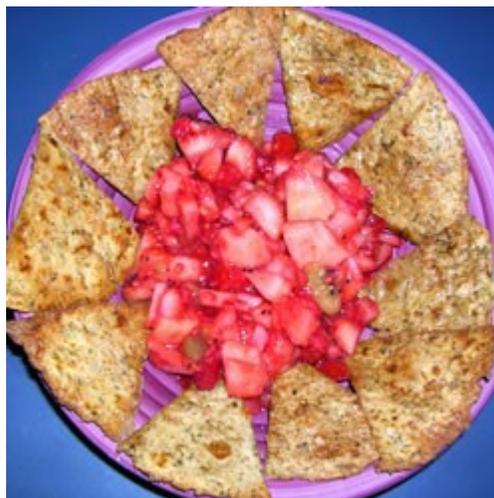
- ◆ Providing programs and services that contribute to success for racial and ethnic minority students.
- ◆ Encouraging racial and ethnic minority students to become fully engaged in campus life.
- ◆ Producing programs and activities intended to raise awareness and appreciation of diversity across the campus, and to increase the cultural competence of all students.
- ◆ Providing educational resources for faculty and staff regarding racial and ethnic minority issues; and
- ◆ Maintaining a facility environment that conveys appreciation for the cultural traditions, expressions, and perspectives of racial and ethnic minorities.

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# Hispanic Heritage Month Recipe

## Ingredients

- 2 kiwis, peeled and diced
- 2 Golden Delicious apples - peeled, cored and diced
- 8 ounces raspberries
- 1 pound strawberries
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons fruit preserves, any flavor
- 10 (10 inch) flour tortillas
- butter flavored cooking spray
- 2 cups cinnamon sugar



<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Annies-Fruit-Salsa-and-Cinnamon-Chips/Detail.aspx>

## Directions

In a large bowl, thoroughly mix kiwis, Golden Delicious apples, raspberries, strawberries, white sugar, brown sugar and fruit preserves. Cover and chill in the refrigerator at least 15 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Coat one side of each flour tortilla with butter flavored cooking spray. Cut into wedges and arrange in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Sprinkle wedges with desired amount of cinnamon sugar. Spray again with cooking spray.

Bake in the preheated oven 8 to 10 minutes. Repeat with any remaining tortilla wedges. Allow to cool approximately 15 minutes. Serve with chilled fruit mixture.