



I Choose to Teach!



A PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER 2006

THE NEW FACE OF DIVERSITY:WHAT ARE YOU?

NEIL ODA, ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE

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"Prejudice comes from being in the dark; sunlight disinfects it." This famous quote by Muhammad Ali reveals much about the world that we live in. Many people live in the "dark" as Ali said, which fuels our bias or prejudice. With this in mind, the Japanese American National Museum in downtown Los Angeles is shedding some light in an exhibit titled "**Part Asian, 100% Hapa**," now through October 29, 2006, www.janm.org.

The exhibit explores the question of "What are you?" Artist Kip Fulbeck traveled the country to compile photos of individuals with their responses to the specific question of "What are you?" All of the participants are people of mixed race, many times referred to as "hapa" in the Japanese realm. This refers to a background of multiple nationalities, but always including some mix of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage. All of the photos are taken in a "passport style" manner to capture the individual in a natural state. Below each photo is the individual's handwritten response to the question and below it is a listing of the individual's nationalities. Fulbeck collected these "photo journals" from kids to grandparents and everyone in

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AN INVITATION YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

VIELKA ELVEBAK, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Two years ago, I attended my first SCTA conference. Little did I know then, that SCTA would become a major part of my life in volunteer service. The 2004 Fall Leadership Conference took place in beautiful downtown San Francisco where I met several students from different campuses across the state. It was an amazing experience! I attended some great workshops on political action and leadership skills. I couldn't believe how much work our SCTA executive board members put into making this event a success. SCTA paid for the expenses of three members from my chapter and my own cost of travel, hotel reservations, mileage, and meals. We all felt a sense of belonging and excitement that we hadn't felt before. All of us discovered during that weekend, that SCTA is not only a pre-professional organization for future educators, but a wonderful way to connect with other students.

I highly recommend you attend the upcoming Fall Leadership Conference, **Teacher Triathlon: Teach, Lead, Inspire, November 4-5**, near the San Francisco airport. There is going to be a special event for potential leaders and chapter leaders on Friday night, **November 3**, which will include some wonderful games and fun activities. I'm inviting you to register and come have a great time. Believe me, you will take so much back with you. Sign up soon. The forms are accessible on-line — www.cta.org/membership/scta/SCTA+Events. I'll see you there!



WWW.CTA.ORG/
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Contact the Editor! Submit an Article!



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Deadline : November 16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 2006

- 6-8 REGION 2 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, RENO, NV
- 7 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 13-15 REGION 1 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, BURLINGAME
- 20-22 STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES
- 31 HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER 2006

- 4 CSET EXAM
- 4-5 SCTA FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, BURLINGAME
- 10 HOLIDAY (VETERAN'S DAY)
- 10-12 NEA-SP CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE, DENVER, CO
- 23-24 HOLIDAY (THANKSGIVING RECESS)

DECEMBER 2006

- 2 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 9-10 SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BURLINGAME
- 22-JAN. 3 HOLIDAY (HOLIDAY & NEW YEAR'S RECESS)

JANUARY 2007

- 12-14 RURAL ISSUES CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, NV
- 15 HOLIDAY (MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.)
- 19-21 GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE, BURLINGAME
- 20 CSET EXAM
- 26-28 STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES

FEBRUARY 2007

- 2-4 REGION 3 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SOUTH (TBD)
- 10 SCTA SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, SOUTH (TBD)
- 10 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 19 HOLIDAY (PRESIDENTS DAY)
- 23-25 URBAN ISSUES CONFERENCE, LONG BEACH

CAN AN HOUR OF “PHONE BANKING” PROTECT OUR FUTURE PROFESSION?

PANDORA SIBLEY, CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHING CREDENTIALING LIAISON

By now, we've all heard that California elections are coming up on **November 7**; an election that will determine who our next Governor will be. CTA State Council of Education has voted to recommend Phil Angelides for Governor. And why should we care? Because depending on the outcome, our profession will either be exposed to dangerous decisions and positions, or be protected as one of the most important professions in our state. Will we be regarded as the vital educators of California's future citizens or, will we just be looked upon as dispensable trouble-makers? (Remember Schwarzenegger's costly special election just last year?) The answer depends not only on your vote but informing others about what's at stake.

So what can you do to protect the profession you have chosen?

- ◆ Spend an hour and volunteer to “phone bank” in October. Let your voice be heard loud and clear by calling other educators to get out the vote. CTA leaders and staff will facilitate the process, and before you know it, you will find yourself actually enjoying the camaraderie of the phone banking team! The simple phone calls you make in just one short hour of your day may have a

lifelong impact for California students, their classrooms, public education and, of course, the dedicated teachers of tomorrow that we aspire to be.

- ◆ You may want to explore the website, www.angelides.com. CTA finds that Phil is the candidate who has demonstrated a deep commitment to teachers and to improving public education. Phil Angelides has vowed to protect Prop. 98, which mandates that the state provides minimal funding for public education, as well as Prop. 1D, which calls for funds for the construction of new schools and update old classrooms. Angelides believes that every Californian should have access to a quality education and intends to treasure our profession as the key that will bring about the change California wants to see.
- ◆ Check out CTA's “Campaign 2006” at www.cta.org/issues/current/campaign. As a Student CTA member, you can also sign-in to the new member's only section for additional resources and info.
- ◆ **Register and vote!**
The registration deadline is October 23!

PROJECT: SCHOOL MAKEOVER

TONI DUPONT, NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Do you remember how excited you were for the first day of school? Do you remember how much fun it was to shop for new school supplies? And how you looked forward to the new year? A new teacher? A new room? Even a new school?

But what if your school was falling apart? Enter **Project: School Makeover** to the rescue. The SCTA Community Outreach Committee will select a school and fix it up using the established format of the National Education Association's (NEA) Outreach to Teach. This program renovates a needy school to create a better environment and improve the student experience. This will be a large project and we need volunteers willing to give their time and energy to spruce up the school.

Many school buildings need paint, the grass may not even exist any more, and the classrooms have more areas to avoid than to explore. The environment is distracting, and the process of education has been compromised. It is difficult to learn how to add and subtract when the paint is four different colors on the same wall, and peeling off. And it's hard to concentrate when the ants crawling on the floor seem more interesting and more productive.

We, as future educators, have an opportunity and a responsibility to improve the learning environment for the students of today and the students of tomorrow. It is a

known trend that state funding cuts have forced our schools to cut back on necessities. This project will try to fill in these gaps. Our students deserve to have classrooms that work for them, quality teachers and staff, and an involved community. And we are hoping that our efforts will bring a greater awareness to the predicament of the public education system in our great state.

We are in the midst of the process, and we should have a final selection by the end of October. The selection criteria we are using include: the physical condition of the school, evidence of school staff and community support, economic disadvantages, and family demographics. Once we select the location for our project, we want to involve our members. It will give us, as members of SCTA, a chance to work with current educators, administrators, parents, and the community. It will be a weekend project, most likely in late May or early June. Watch for future updates.



CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE!

ANJANA KHANNA, SOUTHERN VICE PRESIDENT

It's pretty tough to find decent websites these days, especially when it comes to teacher preparation information. Have no fear, www.teachcalifornia.org is here! Navigating the site is quite simple. It's full of cool videos, quizzes, and even has a link in Spanish. It is separated into several parts:

Section	Comments
Decide if teaching is for you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual interviews with current teachers.• Salaries, benefits, incentives, financial aid.• Try writing a sample lesson plan.• Take a quiz and find out <i>your</i> management style!• COMMUNICATION section has excellent advice for new teachers!
Understanding the Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elementary and Secondary have different requirements• It covers requirements for vocational or special education.
Make and Follow Your Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create your map based upon the level of your education: college student, credential program, changing careers?
Find the Right Preparation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can search for programs anywhere in the state (online, blended, or credential only) and it gives you contact information.
Find Financial Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There's a TON of information on financial aid! It covers Cal grants, Pell grants, loan forgiveness programs, money to buy a house, and even provides links to more financial aid information.
Check out Schools and Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you want to teach in a low performing or a California Distinguished school? This section provides everything you need to know!
Find a Teaching Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This shows you where to look for jobs and some tips for preparation.

RADICAL TEACHER MAGAZINE

JAMES SHELDON, STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

About a year ago, I came across a magazine at the UC Santa Cruz library called Radical Teacher. It intrigued me, so I looked through the issues. It turns out that it's been around since 1975, and is devoted to socialist, feminist and anti-racist practice within teaching.

The current issue has an article on welfare reform, an article on access to gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender books in school librar-

ies, and particularly interesting for SCTA members-- an article about what it is like teaching in charter school classrooms post-Katrina without teachers' unions or any kind of protections for educators. I have found the magazine to be an interesting experience, and hope that you find it useful in your teaching and educational practice.

Subscriptions for part-time/unemployed persons (such as students) are ten dollars a year. For

more information, you can visit the website at <http://www.radicalteacher.org/> or email them at



REQUEST FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES

TONI DUPONT, NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

As part of our Community Outreach project, we want to collect new and gently used school supplies for the students of the school that we select for **Project: School Makeover** (see article, Page 3). We plan to donate these school supplies to the school, which will help the students who can't really afford them and save some money for the teachers that often end up buying the extra needed supplies.

One of our Association's goals is to increase membership. In support of that goal we think this would be a great project for established chapters and for campuses working to build chapters. We want to get you involved and connected to this project, even if you cannot volunteer during the project weekend.

Here are some ideas to get started: Hold a school supply drive on your campus; asking your fellow students to donate to our project. Ask for donations from the local office supply stores. Check your own stash at home for unused supplies to donate. Ask others in your community to help. This will get you started, but please brainstorm some of your own ideas.

Some items to collect:

- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Notebooks
- Binders
- Filler paper
- Dividers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Index cards
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Rulers
- Pencil boxes
- Backpacks
- Stickers



TIME TO ENTER THE CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

CYNTHIA GUTIERREZ, COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

You've gone through a rigorous undergraduate program.
So, now what's next?

It is time to get ready for the credential program. There are many things that need to be done in order to apply:

- Pass all the subtests from the CSET (California Subject Examination for Teachers) along with the CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test). Go to <http://www.cta.org/membership/scta/teacher/> for more information.
- Apply or reapply to an institution by their application deadline, which is usually some time in November.

Depending on the institution, you will need to provide certain materials such as letters of recommendation, copies of your CBEST and CSET results, certificate of clearance, and an essay. Prepare yourself to apply and be accepted into the credential program of your choice. Do the research and get informed. You are almost there; soon you will be a teacher!

FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TEACHER TRIATHLON: TEACH, LEAD, INSPIRE.

WHEN: NOV. 4-5, 2006
WHERE: SHERATON GATEWAY HOTEL, SF AIRPORT
WHY: BUILD YOUR PORTFOLIO, WORKSHOPS, NETWORK, AND FUN

Registration Deadline: Oct. 20
Download registration form at:
<http://www.cta.org/membership/scta/SCTA+Events.htm>



SCHOLARSHIPS ARE
AVAILABLE

Application forms for the
SCTA Herb Forman and Ed
Romero Scholarships are enclosed.

Applications for the L. Gordon
Bittle Memorial Scholarship for
SCTA are now available. Look for
the Martin Luther King Jr.
Memorial Scholarship applications
in January.

Go to the CTA website and
log-in as a member, www.cta.org.



November 7, 2006

**Defend Public
Education and Protect your
Interests!**

CTA ETHNIC MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
TAMARA HARRIS, ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE

In August, the SCTA Ethnic Minority Representatives (EMRs) attended the CTA Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC) training. Members representing cities throughout California joined together to discuss the importance of ethnic, minority, and gender diversity within CTA, SCTA, and the teaching staff of California schools. In addition, the training taught attendees how to meet the needs of these various populations. Each participant served as a representative for either Human Rights or Women's Issues for their individual service centers. The EMRs, Neil Oda & Tamara Harris, represented Student CTA. Neil serves as the Human Rights contact; as such, he networked with the other statewide Human Rights contacts and trained to advocate on behalf of student members for ethnic and minority issues. As the Women's Issues contact, Tamara attended workshops that covered issues of concern for female teachers and students. While women represent the majority of teachers in California, women hold a very low percentage of leadership roles. Minorities are also underrepresented in leadership positions; therefore, there is a focus on training and developing leaders.

During these workshops, the EMRs learned of workshops available to all SCTA chapters. CTA has created a variety of workshops that will help to train potential new leaders, build self-esteem, prevent school violence and enhance the image of public schools. The following is a list of trainings available on your campus:

- California Challenge: A Program for Celebrating Diversity
- High Risk Program (focuses on identifying and assisting high-risk student populations)
- Running for Office (prepares members for running for local Association or public office)
- Women's Leadership Training Program (open to both men and women, but focuses on issues traditionally faced by women)
- Ethnic Minority Leadership Development Program
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Leadership Development Program
- Enhancing Public Education Program (highlights areas of concern in public schools)

If your campus would be interested in one of these workshops, please email your SCTA Ethnic Minority Representatives. Other workshops may also be available upon request. Overall, this was a very productive weekend, which has sparked a great beginning for the EMRs.

THE NEW FACE OF DIVERSITY: WHAT ARE YOU?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

between to see the range that is present in the world today. Exploring this exhibit truly gives the visitor much insight into the feelings and ideas that “hapa” people have about their diverse heritage. As a future educator you can see expressions of mixed feelings and total joy through the responses. Some of the individuals feel extremely proud to be so diverse, while others still struggle with their mixed background, and some have yet to discover an opinion of whom he or she might be.

The exhibit is a great means to gain some insight into the minds of such diverse people and it can only help future educators to understand the students that they will teach. The worse thing that a teacher can do is to assume that they completely know a student without even examining where they come from. This exhibit will not give you complete understanding of multi-ethnic students, but it will certainly help you to see that things are never “black or white” as the saying goes. Things are always a mixture of the two extremes and just

understanding that will help you in the future as an educator.

The exhibit is a great means to gain some insight into the minds of such diverse people and it can only help future educators to understand the students that they will teach.

Too often, we do not fully understand people, but are quick to judge them without any prior knowledge about the person or any insight into what and who they are. I am sure that many of you reading this article have a number of cultures, nationalities, and or races to which you identify with. This makes it quite interesting for teachers stepping into the classroom today because the traditional scenario of students coming from a singular background is quickly fading with the widespread interconnectedness of our global society. Therefore, knowing your students and having as much experience with diversity will only benefit you in connecting with your students to find a common thread, which makes teaching fun and enjoyable.

For more information about the exhibit, museum hours, and directions you can visit <http://www.janm.org/>.

NEED TO FIND WHAT COURSES ARE TRANSFERABLE TO THE COLLEGE OF YOUR CHOICE?

- There is a great website where you can determine which courses are equivalent to each other on different campuses.
- This is a great way to know what courses/pre-requisites are needed to transfer to another College/university.
- It is also a great tool if you want to take some of your courses on a different campus, but don't know what course is equivalent.



The website is: www.assist.org

ARE YOU AWARE OF YOUR SCTA BENEFITS?

- \$1,000,000 liability insurance and legal protection when you work with students as a part of your preparation to be a teacher
- A life insurance benefit that increases with each year of continuous CTA membership up to \$2,000
- \$1,000 accidental death and dismemberment insurance
- Low rates on auto, homeowners/renters insurance
- Scholarships
- Credit Union privileges
- Workshops and conferences

SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 26-27, 2006 - Burlingame, CA

Present: Ngoc Le, Consuelo Cardenas, Toni Dupont, Linh Dao, Vielka Elvebak, Anjana Khanna, Cynthia Gutierrez, Neil Oda, Tamara Harris, Pandora Sibley, Frieda Nicol, James Sheldon, Rebecca Wagoner, Kevin Wolfe

Excused Absence: Nadia Bravo, Chris Sumner

Excused Early Departure: Consuelo Cardenas, Vielka Elvebak

Call to Order: 11:13 am

Approval of Agenda and July Minutes

Old Business

State Council Workgroup Report-Current schedule does not permit optimal participation. Recommendation to modify SCTA meeting schedule to allow for more active participation, reduce committee obligations, improve communication between Board and State Council Representatives.

-Tamara Harris moves to adopt to the State Council Workforce schedule, as noted, with the modification of splitting Special Services/Conference, while making Community Outreach a committee of the whole, Linh seconds. Motion passed.

New Business

CTA UCLA Summer Institute Reports

Committee Reports

A: SEMAC-assigned members to different caucuses – Cynthia to Hispanic, Neil & Linh to Asian Pacific Caucus, Tammy to African American, James to GLBT, Frieda to Native American, Anjana to Women’s Caucus created website for SEMAC, to be updated after State Council.

A: SPAC-

Kevin moves to have the SCTA Board members voluntarily phone bank at October State Council, Toni seconds. Motion passed.

Kevin moves to have phone banking available during workshop time at Fall Leaderships and to only one session, Toni seconds. Motion passed.

B: Special Services-

Finalized scholarship questions. Deadline set as November 20, 2006.

Neil Oda moves to have a sale on SCTA merchandise, Pandora seconds. Motion passed.

Neil Oda moves to have SCTA/CTA jewelry, made by Frieda, to sell as SCTA merchandise, Cynthia seconds. Motion passed.

B: Conference-

Southern Regional Conference theme “Fall in Love with Teaching”.

Northern Regional Conference-Still considering locations.

C: Community Outreach-now named “Project: School Makeover”- set selection criteria to select school

C: Membership- working to create an advisor information packet and revise membership letter.

D: Policy-temporarily change Bylaws *Article 5, Section 3c* to read Voting Board Members instead of Executive Board Members. To be voted on at RA.

Open Forum-Announcement of NEA-SP Connections Conference Attendants/Alternates

Attendees

Rebecca Wagoner- California Baptist

Kathleen Sao- CSU East Bay

Lori Chiok- CSU East Bay, Contra Costa Campus

Alternates

Priscilla Espinoza- CSU Channel Islands

Tammy Harris- CSU Fullerton

Linh Dao- Orange Coast CC



Adjournment: 3:23 pm