



Caritas Veritas Symposium

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m. Opening Plenary

10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I

A. Through Our Lens: Anti-Asian Racism, the Other, and the Pandemic

Ada Cheng, Jane Hseu, Chelsea Qi Zhao

This panel addresses anti-Asian racism under the context of the pandemic through storytelling. In the first part, the three panelists will tell personal stories to highlight the connection between the personal and the structural. In the second part, we will engage in critical dialogue with participants to reflect on anti-Asian racism and its connection to different forms of racism as well as to white supremacy.

B. Travel with Purpose

Anjali Chaudhry, Jessica Mackinnon, Elizabeth Silk, MaDonna Thelen

We share a unique opportunity we had to travel to Nepal in order to:

- (a) To advocate for those whose worlds will never collide with us unless we make an effort. But, we also advocate for our students as we strive to broaden their worldview and help them create a just world. To share our understanding of how Veritas leads to Caritas.
- (b) To share our journey as we walked together, laughed and cried together, learned about and with each other. But, our journey was also about walking with and in the footsteps of Nepalese men and women as they navigate their daily lives amidst squalor, dug-out unpaved roads, wearing masks predating the pandemic to manage smog and dust, where poverty and domestic abuse lives side by side with beauty and harmony.
- (c) To highlight experiential learning as a tool for getting at the truth and effecting real change in our hearts and minds with the hope that it leads to action for truth and justice.

C. Does the Parable of the Lost Sheep Provide Insight for the College Classroom Today?

Giovanni Bue, Jonathan Garcia, Pamela Goodman, Luis Suqui

The pandemic and the protests against racial inequality have prompted a critical examination of the relationships between faculty and students. We will discuss the challenges that our students face and propose changes to approach equality in our courses with emphasis on the experiences and perspectives of our students.

D. Lives Are Saved in the Oddest of Ways: A Spiritual Journey to Nsukka, Nigeria

Vito C. DeFrisco, Carol R. Fendt, Esther Hicks, Kathleen M. Johnson

In this session, Carol Fendt (MA 1995), Kathleen M. Johnson (St. Viator School), Vito DeFrisco (MA 2006; Rockford Diocese Assistant Superintendent), and Esther Hicks (Archdiocese of Chicago, retired) will share the lessons they have learned as cross-cultural partners and educators. The panel will invite participants to ponder and share how cross-cultural partnerships encourage us to deepen our communion with the other. We will invite the audience to reflect on how they might be called to share in the dreams of their brothers and sisters around the world.

E. Higher Education: A Caring Profession

Melissa Muth Martinez

The presenter will discuss her own personhood as a Latina, adoptee, and educator and the ways in which a caring approach can transform the lives of students, colleagues, and greater community. The goal of this session is to get attendees to think about how they as individuals can tap into their roots and experiences in order to cultivate more dynamic, creative, and robust communities of care.

and

Improving Mental Health for Students through First Aid Trainings

Kathryn Brien

Kathryn Brien will present on her research on the effectiveness of Mental Health First Aid trainings at Dominican University in the past year. She will share what she learned and her recommendations going forward. There will also be time for audience discussion on college mental health in a curated brave space facilitated by the presenter Kathryn Brien.

F. Peer Led Team Learning from the Point of View of the Peer Tutors and Students

Iris Arce, Maddy Fette, Liz Foot, Amanda Jenkins, Lizzy Leon, Kate Powers

We will explore embedded tutoring and student facilitated learning spaces through the experiences of the peer tutors and the students. Embedded tutoring and student facilitated learning leads to the democratization of education and students controlling their own learning. How did the first year of the program work and where are we going next?

11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions II

A. I Am Not Your Perfect Latinx Professor: An Autoethnography of Identity in Post-Postmodernity

José F. Blanco

In this presentation, to address the question of how I “get at the truth”, I will use a self-reflexive approach to discuss my lived experience from growing up in Costa Rica, to moving to the United States as a student, to learning how to perform my Latino identity in the United States, and now my “struggle” to both fit and problematize stereotypes as a Latinx professor at a Hispanic Serving Institution. I will augment my personal story by using post-postmodern frameworks including van den Akker and Vermuelen’s (2010) concept of “oscillation” (proposed as part of their ideas on metamodernity) and Bourriaud’s (2009) concept of the “radicant” (introduced as part of his altermodernity concept.) I will argue that the most effective way to “effect change” is by accepting and asserting your personhood as complex, changeable, and ever-changing; thus, living a life where—as an individual—you are in control of your intersectional identities. Individual agency is essential for those of us interested in challenging the perception of identity as monolithic.

and

Power in Poetry

Marci Madary

Radical change requires deep truth. Spiritually based poetry, from the Psalms to Alan Ginsberg, can speak deep truth to the present moment. With narrative and spoken poetry, Dr. Madary will interweave thoughtful understanding of this genre’s unique qualities with a sampling of poems to inflame the spirit.

B. BSB Rapid Relay: Business Definitely Was Not “As Usual”

Lisa Amoroso, Dave Aron, Molly Burke, Dan Condon, Paul Foszcz

Join Brennan faculty as they “run” for five minutes and then “pass the baton” to the next presenter for a fast-paced session. Each presenter will share one or two adaptations they made due to COVID-19 that they feel helped students continue to learn, in spite of the trying times. They will share how it went and what they are taking away from their experience.

C. Virtual Simulation of Auditory Hallucinations: Reducing Bias and Creating Empathy for Patients Who Hear Distressing Voices

Julie Brewer, Maureen Emlund, Michelle Gutierrez, Laurie Zack

Understanding the experience of mental illness and its associated symptoms is difficult. We often have preconceived notion bias from false media influences and misinformation about individuals with mental illness, which can lead to fear and anxiety when working with patients. This panel will discuss the teaching and learning approach of the virtual simulation of hearing distressing voices and how it may reduce bias by increasing understanding and empathy for patients who experience auditory hallucinations.

D. From Your Parent's Basement to Comic-Con: Finding Your Tribe and Truth Online

Steve Plane

Comic book, gaming, and science fiction-fantasy subculture continue to be disparaged in pop culture, despite ongoing efforts of progressive media platforms and profitable Hollywood franchises. In this session we explore the isolation many 'geek' enthusiasts experience, and the journeys they make to find communities that both accept and celebrate their unique worldview and cultural choices, both in online encounters and elaborate conventions --"cons."

The session will be split into two 'mini-sessions.' Half of the participants will hear a brief presentation and engage in a discussion on the topic of this session. The other half will engage in a brief, group online activity creating an online avatar that represents your unique and personal superpower, your charisma. After fifteen minutes the groups will reverse.

E. Five Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters: Pioneers and Role Models for the Education of Women Chemists

Brent Friesen

The contributions of Sister Marie Lillian Kurtenacker, Sister Alberic Runde, Sister Veronita Ruddy, Sister Brandon (Alice) Hudson, and Sister John Mark (Mary) Woods to the education of women in science will be presented.

and

Dominicans and Disease: Caritas and Veritas in Epidemics in Early American History

Christopher Allison

Faith communities have been at the forefront of fighting disease in American history. The Dominican order has been no different. Sisters, Nuns, Friars and laypeople have run into the proverbial flames of disease from the beginning of their presence on American Shores. In the late eighteenth century, the first Dominicans arrived in the United States, anchored in the mid-Atlantic port-cities where the majority of Catholic immigrants lived in the period. The Yellow Fever outbreaks from 1793 to 1800 in Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, and Boston occurred within the very precarious populations of their ministry. How did they seek to advocate for the affected, especially the most vulnerable? What was the role of community in supporting their efforts to minister to the sick? How can we use their experience to understand our own time of facing the many challenges of Covid-19 in our communities?

***** The session previously listed as E, Cultivating Kindness through Mindfulness with Debra Vinci-Minogue, has unfortunately been cancelled. If you registered for this event, please feel free to select another presentation.***

12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions III

A. Where Are We Now? Food Insecurity at DU in 2020

Jennifer Etheridge, Sarah Jones, Daniela Limon, Allyson West

The overwhelming response to the 2019 Caritas Veritas session on food insecurity among college students led by members of the Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association (SNDA), "The Truth is, Food is a Human Right," was an impetus for several initiatives on campus, including a survey assessing food insecurity among the DU student body conducted in April 2020. This session will provide preliminary survey results as well as provide a venue to brainstorm campus programming that aims to reduce food insecurity among the DU community. With your input, we hope to develop a list of the tools and strategies needed to advocate for additional food-related programming to support students on DU's campus.

B. Truth and Justice through Mentorship

Lesley Arroyo Arellano, Victoria Drozd, Daniela Martinez, Alicia Mena and Yessenia Torres facilitated by Liliana Gaona and Melissa Muth Martinez

Please join us as we reflect on the meaning and importance of mentorship within the context of our relationship-centered institution. A potential combination of both new and returning ACI-funded Estrellas mentors, our students will share their inspiration for having chosen to become mentors, how mentorship serves as a pathway to truth and justice, why mentorship speaks to the mission, vision, and values of our Dominican community, and the plans the mentors have to curate a 2020-21 mentorship experience as meaningful as possible within the context of modern social and political challenges, acknowledging the need for mentee belonging, growth, and fulfillment as well as mentor professional development.

C. Universal Design for Learning: Supporting a Wholistic Approach to Teaching and Serving Students in the Era of Covid-19

Danielle Bank, Molly Mansfield

This presentation will share the underlying principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and highlight how it can be implemented to support high-flex instructional and service-driven environments within Higher Education. We will provide a tool kit for faculty, staff and students as they prepare to transition back to classes in the upcoming fall semester that includes:

1. Approaches to course development
2. Demonstrations of the UDL features in Canvas and other online modalities
3. Options for integrating adaptive technology in the classroom
4. New ways of managing physical and virtual spaces to insure active learning

D. Representations of Minorities in Comics: The New Teen Titans

Dayana Moreno

Representation in media is an important cultural discussion and the call for more minority representation in media forms is the key point of the discussion. Using the Teen Titans, this paper examines the truth of the representation of minorities in comics and whether they are useful and good to the real-world community in the text.

and

Poetics and Entrepreneurship: Analysis of Poetic Marketing on Crowdfunding Campaign Success

Yuanqing Li, Chelsea Zhao

In this research, poetic analysis examines the entrepreneurial campaign success through Kickstarter projects. One hundred examples collected from each of the two categories: film and technology forms the basis of this research. For each example, the Kickstarter campaign content is analyzed by its use of 10 poetic elements which include both the auditory (alliteration, assonance, consonance, slant rhyme, rhyme) and the literary (metaphor, symbol, simile, allusion, imagery). The 200 samples from Kickstarter are taken daily and tracked for its demographics, online engagement, target and achieved funding, the range of the bid, and the campaign location, which is narrowed down to within the United States for this research. The purpose of this research is to determine the relationships, if any, between the frequency of poetic device usage and the marketing success of the Kickstarter crowdfunding campaigns.

E. Peer Led Team Learning From the Point of View of the Faculty

Chris Anderson, Rahel Bokretzion, Jeanette Mokry, Kate Powers, Pliny Smith

We will explore embedded tutoring and student facilitated learning spaces through the experiences of the faculty members who invited peer tutors into their classrooms this past year. We will talk about how their classrooms changed and how faculty felt about handing some control of their class over to their peer tutors. After our reflection on the past year we will talk about the future of the program.

1:45 p.m. Concurrent Session IV

A. Leading with Caritas and Veritas

Mary Ann Cronin, Mark Fields, Sister Judith Schaefer, OP

Members of the Dominican University Board of Trustees reflect upon the leadership challenges presented by the extraordinary events of 2020 in light of their shared and guiding values.

B. A Candid Conversation on Race, Ethnicity, Privilege and Health Equity in the Era of COVID 19

Venoncia Bate Ambrus, Tamara Bland

Utilizing the TRHT framework, our focus is to influence people's perspectives, perceptions and behaviors about Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity. Participants will engage in a candid conversation on race, ethnicity, and privilege and the direct impact it has on health disparities. Interdisciplinary, multisector, community-driven solutions are necessary for collective impact to increase health equity in low SES and communities of color. Foundational to this conversation is developing an understanding of the intersections between racialized violence, economic power, and health outcomes (morbidity and mortality). Join us for a candid, collaborative conversation on COVID-19, its disproportionate impact on black and brown communities, and how to create meaningful and sustainable change.

C. The Problem of Bias and the Challenge of Moral Discourse in a Time of Crisis

William George

Achieving shared moral clarity to guide our actions on specific issues is difficult in the best of times. Right now, we face challenges on so many fronts (pandemic, racial reckoning, political divisions, a battered economy, etc.) that shared moral truth becomes even more elusive. This presentation seeks to address this challenge by discussing, with fitting examples in this time of multiple crises, four distinct yet related kinds of bias that impede civil discourse: (1) “dramatic,” (2) “individual,” (3) “group,” (4) and “the general bias of common sense.” Understanding better the *multi-faceted* problem of bias, with suggestions for how to respond, can be a step on the way to more fruitful conversations and the shared search for *veritas*—especially moral truth—in deeply troubled times.

and

Daring to Lead

Dianne Costanzo

Through poetry and other spiritual sources, I would like to examine what the Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore challenges us to do, which is to go “where the mind is without fear and the head held high.” Now, perhaps, more than ever, we must unite to bring justice to the world and move through fear to love.

D. A Perspective on Truth & Change at DU: Doing Title V Work "Strengthening Advising, Teacher Ed and Our HSI Identity"

Lisa Amor Petrov

Title V Part A Project Director shares perspectives and experiences with institutional change in support of low-income and minority undergraduate students. Format will combine a short presentation, workshop exercises and a Q & A discussion.

E. Discovering, Teaching, and Acting on Truths about the Natural World: Introducing Dominican’s Sustainability Committee

Kathryn Brien, Ellen McManus

A hard truth is that human survival depends on recognizing our connectedness with the natural world. In this session, members of the newly created University Committee on Sustainability will discuss how equitable sustainability requires not only seeking truth but also acting on agreed-upon truths, in terms of teaching and learning, campus operations, community engagement, and adherence to mission.

F. The Spiritually-Infused Classroom: How Trust Builds Truth

Anne Drougas, Khalid Razaki

Drawing from Pope Frances’s speech to the World Congress of Accountants and growing religious diversity in society, this presentation discusses how the accounting and finance professions can enact change and restore the trust in the eyes of the public. That change begins with a spiritually-infused classroom, promoting how different faiths transparently tackle ethical issues in financial reporting. Practical examples and recent research are highlighted to underscore how a diverse lens and mindful curriculum development can prepare students for dealing with ambiguous ethical situations.