

Campus Ministry Report



No. 5, October 19, 2008

Interview with Salvador Leavitt-Alcantara, Campus Ministry Innovation Associate

Campus Ministry's Fund for Innovation



This past summer, FCCB and the Metta Center for Nonviolence Education sponsored a summer internship program placing college students with

East Bay community partner organizations that address poverty, racism, immigration, environmental degradation, and violence prevention. Campus Ministry's Minister-in-Training Geoffrey Gaskins and Campus Ministry Innovation Associate Salvador Leavitt-Alcantara talk about what's on the horizon for the Fund for Innovation.

Geoffrey: What exactly does the Campus Ministry Innovation Associate do?

Salvador: The idea is to facilitate a conversation between Campus Ministry and the congregation on how to create programs and alternatives for university students that, first, are attractive to them; second, that are related to our

social justice values as progressive Christians; and, lastly, that these programs are long-lasting.

Geoffrey: What kinds of programs are we talking about?

Salvador: We're talking about programs that stress ethical and spiritual awareness within the student population. So, we're talking about programs addressing issues of social justice, poverty, ecological sustainability, and community involvement, and then reflection on student experiences in those areas. It is important that participants not only *do*, but also *reflect* on their experiences. We're trying to connect the ethical and the spiritual, the doing and the reflecting.

Geoffrey: What makes our programs different from other ethical development programs?

Salvador: We expect more involvement *from a spiritual perspective*. We allow

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Student Profile

Lisa Coronado-Morse

Lisa Coronado-Morse is a leader in Campus Ministry programs, currently active in our interfaith



activities on campus. Originally from Las Vegas, Lisa's family moved to Manhattan Beach, California, where she played softball, basketball, and ran track at Mira Costa High School. An English major and thinking about a minor in Creative Writing, Lisa is interested in exploring a career in Journalism and is looking into a journalism internship this summer.

Lisa found FCCB shortly after getting to Berkeley, and was attracted to the church because she saw women in the pulpit and because she finds that progressive Christianity allows her to shape her religion in concert with her own faith experiences. Before her exposure to FCCB, she didn't know that this was possible in institutional religion. Her keen interest in interfaith issues and activities is about exploring those questions of religion and spirituality in more depth, and to be exposed to other religious perspectives.

Lisa is active in Cal's Interfaith Leadership Project, a six-week discussion/dialog group about issues of faith. This year, she was appointed the Coordinator of that group and is in the process of getting out applications to the program and trying to launch another 6-week project this year concerning issues of faith and religious differences. Lisa sings in FCCB's Chancel Choir and is currently attending new member classes.



2008 METTA Summer interns

Campus Ministry Gets Out the Vote

Interfaith Voter Mobilization Drive

FRESC Voter Engagement Campaign 2008

Campus Ministry students, along with students from Berkeley Hillel will be going to Colorado to work with FRESC, a Colorado non-partisan progressive labor organization, that is doing voter mobilization and advocacy work in Denver. We will be going to Denver, November 1-5, where we will work with FRESC members to get out the vote. Our goal is to help drive up voter participation, and engage voters in the crucial down-ballot issues.



Colorado is a battleground for progressive values! Progressives in Colorado are making inroads in re-aligning the political and economic environment there; however, conservatives have

organized a backlash, with referendums on the Colorado ballot designed to:

- prohibit public employees from donating to political campaigns
- curtail affirmative action initiatives
- restrict reproductive choice by redefining "person" to include fertilized eggs and embryos

As part of a progressive response, there are also amendments on the Colorado ballot are designed to:

- require "Just Cause" for employees to be discharged or suspended.
- establish criminal liability for executives found guilty of criminal conduct

Our voter registration program will take 10-15 students from FCCB and Berkeley Hillel to the work the streets of Denver, educating people about their voter rights and helping people actually get to the polls. ■

Interview with Salvador Alcantara

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for some form of meaningful activism in which their activism is informed by their faith and vice versa... most programs focus on one or the other.

Geoffrey: So, we're trying to create activists?

Salvador: That's a good question: What kind of people do we want to create? I don't know if it's "meaningful activism" that we're trying to foster. Maybe its more like "engaged citizens," or "engaged people of faith" or "engaged religious people."

Geoffrey: What's is the Fund for Innovation doing for this school year?

Salvador: Three things. First, I am working on a curriculum for spiritual and ethical formation for students at Cal. Second, I will be engaging FCCB in a conversation about the role of FCCB in the UC Berkeley community, particularly with students. Third, we will be offering innovative programs that address ethical and spiritual thirst of the students. The first program will be the Spring immersion program in Tijuana, Mexico. This program is already set; it will be a good opportunity to see how to learn and spin it around. There will be mini-immersion programs around homeless. ■

Coming up in Campus Ministry...

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 6:00 pm

Debate-Watching Party
Berkeley Hillel
2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
(Bancroft and Piedmont Avenue)

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 3:30 pm

Flying Trapeze Outing
Napa (meet at FCCB at 2:30 pm)

Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 7:00 pm

Tents of Hope Kickoff Event
Upper Sproul Plaza

Saturday, November 1, 2008

Service Project (to be announced)
Contact Tinley for details.

Sunday, November 2 through Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Voter Mobilization Drive
Denver, Colorado

Sunday, November 2, 2008

First Sunday Student Lunch
Durant House
FCCB, 2345 Channing Way,
Berkeley

Get involved in Campus Ministry at FCCB!

To learn more about the Campus Ministry at First Congregational Church of Berkeley UCC and our Lifesjournez program, contact Geoffrey Gaskins. Give Geoffrey a call at 510-848-3696. ext 23 or email him at ggaskins@fccb.org.