Privileged History

Each year, as part of a university-wide collaboration, the Engaged Learning Series at Weber State focuses on a single topic. This year the 18th Annual Diversity Conference adopted the series theme to examine "Privileged History: Where did all the diversity go?"

This question emerged following controversial changes to school textbooks in Texas, which among other things, called slaves "workers." Publisher McGraw-Hill announced it made a mistake and would change the text. However, this example raises interesting questions not only about how we talk and teach about the history of people,

Less than two weeks ago, on Sept. 24, Americans gathered to celebrate the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington D.C., billed as “a place that transcends the boundaries of race and culture that divide us, and becomes a lens into a story that unites us all.”

The 350,000-square-foot museum showcases the sorrow and celebration of the African-American experience. At Weber State University’s 18th Annual Diversity Conference, presenters and participants will continue to look through the lens at America’s diversity story to find where gaps, inaccuracies and outright lies exist. The goal is to replace misinformation with a shared truth that brings tolerance and empathy.

James Loewen, best-selling author of the book “Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong,” will present the keynote address Oct. 7 at 11:30 a.m. in the Shepherd Union Ballrooms.

Loewen, a sociologist, began his teaching career at Tougaloo College, a private, historically black, liberal college near Jackson, Mississippi. “I got interested in history because Tougaloo students ‘knew’ the most astonishing lies about the past; lies that put them down as African-Americans,” Loewen said. “That broke my heart, so I decided to do something about that.” Eventually he spent two years at the Smithsonian Institute surveying 12 American history high school textbooks.
## OCTOBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Sessions on the Ledge</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 6-7</td>
<td>Annual Diversity Conference</td>
<td>see back page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 10-14</td>
<td>Pride Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>LGBTQ+ &amp; Ally Coming Out Stories</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Pride Week Booths</td>
<td>Get to Know the Lesser-Known</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identities of the LGBTQ+ Acronym</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Activism in the Hispanic/Latinx Community</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Title IX Student Rights</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Taboo Talks: Rape Culture</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Homeless LGBTQ+ Youth</td>
<td>Discussion with Food &amp; Clothing Drive 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Sessions on the Ledge</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Supporting People with HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
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## NOVEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Sessions on the Ledge</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Native History Month</td>
<td>Film: &quot;Unspoken&quot; 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>The Native Community:</td>
<td>Does Persecution Still Exist? noon</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Veteran Recognition Event</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Sessions on the Ledge</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 10-11</td>
<td>Annual Native Symposium</td>
<td>&quot;Reconciliation After Appropriation: Healing Conversations with Indigenous People“</td>
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<td>7 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon (Lunch-RSVP)</td>
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<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Women’s Health Fair</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Why Homelessness is Not Synonymous with Laziness</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Transgender Day of Remembrance</td>
<td>noon</td>
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## DECEMBER

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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Sessions on the Ledge</td>
<td>noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>WSUSA Diversity Board</td>
<td>Celebrates Holidays Around the World noon</td>
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## JANUARY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 13 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Annual Gospel Music Festival</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>MLK Freedom Breakfast &amp; March</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
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## FEBRUARY

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Month</td>
<td>Black History Month</td>
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## MARCH

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Month</td>
<td>Women’s History Month</td>
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## APRIL

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 3-6</td>
<td>Holocaust Remembrance Week</td>
<td>Shepherd Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Annual Luau</td>
<td>Shepherd Union</td>
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but also whether we give them subject or object status.

This, of course, does not even begin to address forgotten or excluded history — troubling topics such as Hispanic lynching or the Bracero Program, which brought immigrant workers to farm fields across the U.S., or a critical analysis of Japanese internment that unravels the mixed messages in our teaching and conversation. For example, if internment was meant to protect the Japanese from others, then why were the guns of the guards trained on the Japanese rather than those from the outside attempting to enter the camps? These stories are not better left unsaid, they are better shared, understood and analyzed to help shape a socially just future.

This year’s conference seeks to uncover history that has gone missing or is largely forgotten, while also creating a space to discuss the importance of seeing the mosaic of participants in and throughout history. We understand where we are today in light of where we have been before. Our understanding becomes clearer when we offer a fuller picture to consider. Today, we live in a world where technology allows individuals to document and share history moment by moment. This means that history is being recorded and told from many perspectives, which makes shaping and understanding our past even more important.

Adrienne Andrews
Chief Diversity Officer

The last thing high school history textbooks want is to be controversial. Therefore, of course, they can’t even be interesting.

James Loewen

Overall Loewen is optimistic that America’s youth are increasingly integrated and open-minded, but an adequate education demands unvarnished history. “We still teach and learn a white supremacist’s history in ways we can’t imagine yet, so we still have a lot of work to become not only not racist, but also anti-racist.”
Items on display at the Museum of African American History & Culture

Muhammad Ali Headgear, 5th Street Gym, c. 1960s
Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

Dress sewn by Rosa Parks, 1955 - 1956

Tin box handmade and carried by Joseph Trammell to hold freedom papers
Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Elaine E. Thompson, in memory of Joseph Trammell, on behalf of his direct descendants
Poverty’s Impact on Housing, Health Care

When it comes to health care and housing, every person wants the best. But for millions of Americans, the best is out of reach.

Jennifer Gnagey and Carla Trentelman will present “The Complex Relationship between Housing and Poverty” during a conference workshop session. Gnagey, assistant professor of economics, and Trentelman, associate professor of sociology, will explore the meaning of “protected classes” and discuss the many factors that influence poverty and housing.

Poverty Rates

14.8% National
11.7% Utah
23.7% Ogden

“Ogden has one of the highest poverty rates of any city in Utah,” Gnagey said. “While the national poverty rate is 14.8 percent and the Utah rate is 11.7 percent, the poverty rate in Ogden is 23.7 percent. With all the ways poverty and housing are interrelated, it is a relevant and important topic for today’s students and the larger community.”

Gnagey studies labor and education economics, and also works with Ogden’s refugee resettlement program. Trentelman focuses on a variety of poverty issues, including housing and homelessness.

In addition to the poverty-housing relationship, throughout U.S. history, health care discrepancies and abuse have occurred within minority populations. Race, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity have shaped, and continue to shape, how, when and where people receive health care.

Assistant nursing professors Kathleen Paco Cadman and Alexandra Hanson will present “Sick of it All: The Struggle for Equal Healthcare Across Diverse Populations.”

“This topic shows the context for health care disparities that continue to face millions of Americans based on issues related to diversity,” Cadman said. “There are systemic factors that continue to perpetuate discrepancies in how different populations are treated, ranging from environmental factors, to socioeconomic implications, cultural biases and legal rights.”

Both nurses have backgrounds in community and public health. Cadman’s expertise is in global health, and Hanson focuses on health care for inmates.

The workshops are designed to help participants understand inequality and make a positive change.

“Disparities due to diversity not only have been present throughout history but also occur today,” Cadman said. “Without increased awareness, they are likely to continue in the future. Every human being is responsible to ensure equal rights for all humanity.”

Cadman and Hanson’s presentation will take place from 8:20-9:20 a.m. in Shepherd Union Room 312. Trentelman and Gnagey will follow from 9:30-10:20 a.m. in Room 321.

“Every human being is responsible to ensure equal rights for all humanity”

Kathleen Cadman

Diversity & Education Resources

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<th>WSU</th>
<th>COMMUNITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Access &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>Edutopia: George Lucas Educational Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access &amp; Diversity</td>
<td><a href="http://edutopia.org">edutopia.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Affirmative Action/</td>
<td>American Historical Association</td>
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<td>Equal Opportunity</td>
<td><a href="http://historians.org">historians.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Diversity &amp; Unity</td>
<td>Teaching Tolerance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Multicultural Excellence</td>
<td><a href="http://tolerance.org">tolerance.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Diversity Officer</td>
<td>Social Justice Training Institute</td>
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<td>Diversity &amp; Inclusive Programs</td>
<td><a href="http://sjti.org">sjti.org</a></td>
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<td>LGBT Resource Center</td>
<td>Academy of Achievement: A Museum of Living</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td><a href="http://achievement.org">achievement.org</a></td>
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<td>The Smithsonian</td>
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<td><a href="http://si.edu">si.edu</a></td>
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18th Annual Diversity Conference

Privileged History:
Where Did All the Diversity Go?

Oct. 6–7, 2016

THURSDAY, OCT. 6
Weber State University Davis, Building 3 Ballrooms

5:30 – 6 p.m.
Opening reception

6 p.m.
Welcome remarks
Film and discussion of “Precious Knowledge”

7:55 p.m.
Brief remarks, James W. Loewen
Sociologist, historian and author

FRIDAY, OCT. 7
Shepherd Union Building
Concurrent Panel Sessions and Presentations

8:30 – 9:20 a.m.
SU 321 Your Economic DNA
SU 312 Sick of it All: The Struggle for Equal Healthcare Across Diverse Populations
SU 316 Exploring the Question of Inclusivity and its Relation to Disciplinary Inquiry, Knowledge Creation and Innovative Pedagogies

9:30 – 10:20 a.m.
SU 321 The Complex Relationship between Housing and Poverty
SU 312 Remembering the Diverse Contributions of Science’s Past and How to Reshape Science’s Future
SU 316 I’m not Racist! Psychological Factors that Shape our View of Others and How to Bring About Change

10:30 – 11:20 a.m.
SU 321 Tuning into the Global Voice: A Conversation on Language and Immigration in Higher Education
SU 312 The Evolution of Women in STEM Fields
SU 316 The Lost Discourse on Early U.S. School Desegregation: Jim Crow “Busted” by Mendez

11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Conference keynote speaker James W. Loewen

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Book Signing “Teaching What Really Happened: How To Avoid The Tyranny Of Textbooks and Get Students Excited About Doing History” by James W. Loewen

1 – 2 p.m.
Roundtable discussion and luncheon (RSVP)

All events are free and open to the public.
Luncheon requires registration. RSVP to Teresa Martinez at weber.edu/diversity or 801-626-6957.

‘Precious Knowledge’
JEFFREY RICHEY

One of the most heated public education battles in recent memory raged from 2008 to 2010. At the heart of the debate was Arizona House Bill 2281, which banned Mexican American Studies (MAS) classes in Arizona public schools on the grounds they promoted resentment, advocated ethnic solidarity and encouraged sedition from the United States. The bill’s legal challenges are still making their way through the courts although in 2015, a federal judge struck down some of the most egregious aspects of the law.

The documentary “Precious Knowledge,” directed by Ari Luis Palos, chronicles the debate surrounding the final year of Mexican American Studies at Arizona public schools. Footage captured during a school year at Tucson High School allows viewers a unique look into classroom dynamics. The film interweaves the stories of several students enrolled in the MAS program, along with teachers, education officials and lawmakers who were intent on banning the MAS classes.

The documentary links the creation of Mexican American Studies in the late 1990s to Arizona’s troubled history of racial discrimination and exclusion. In a growing climate of anti-Latino hostility in Arizona and other parts of the United States, MAS courses began equipping students with the tools to understand the social forces stacked against them, to engage in community service, to develop self-confidence and to increase academic success.

The documentary introduces MAS students whose personal lives and educational experiences were profoundly enriched by the program. For example, Gilbert, who grew up feeling that both the city and the schools were stacked against him, and Pricilla, whose life unraveled following her father’s deportation.

In the end, Tucson High’s Mexican Studies Program proved itself a model of educational success, with 93 percent of enrolled students across the Tucson School District graduating from high school, and 85 percent going on to college. In a community where nearly half of all Latino students were high school dropouts, the program played a central role in boosting Latino achievement. Given the program’s success, it is no surprise — though no less thrilling — when the documentary captured students who mobilized and used “texts, Facebook, optimism, and a megaphone,” in a battle to keep their nationally recognized program alive.

As the kickoff event for WSU’s 2016 Diversity Conference, the community is invited watch and react to the documentary, during a free screening Oct. 6 from 6-8 p.m., in the WSU Davis Building 3 Ballroom. An opening reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.

weber.edu/DiversityOffice/conference.html