

MLK DAY SYMPOSIUM 2020

GLOBAL ACTIVISM: YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

SESSION 1 OFFERINGS:

AAPI Representation in Hollywood. In this workshop, we will analyze the evolution and growing involvement of Asians and Asian Americans in Hollywood over the past decade, from the damaging stereotypes perpetuated by cult classics like *Breakfast at Tiffany's* to the groundbreaking steps made by comedians like Ali Wong and Hasan Minhaj. We will discuss what it means to be an Asian American and how the media we consumed in our youth has influenced our present notions of identity and the ways we carry ourselves as we navigate various spaces. Finally, we will examine how the progress that has been made still fails the Asian community in terms of full representation and who should be cast into certain roles. Note: This session is OPEN TO ALL, and non-AAPI faculty/staff and students are encouraged to attend.

Big Data & The Vote. How do data analytics affect modern elections? What data can be collected and how is it used? How can campaigns predict voter behavior? How is social media involved in data collection? We'll watch several video clips and discuss some of the math and statistics behind these issues, as well as the complex ethical questions that arise around use and misuse of data in elections.

Digging Deeper: A Conversation with Xiuhtezcatl Martinez. In this session, participants will have the opportunity to have a smaller, more intimate discussion with our keynote speaker, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez.

Bio: Earth Guardians Youth Director **Xiuhtezcatl Martinez** (his first name pronounced 'Shoe-Tez-Caht') recently turned 18. He's an indigenous climate activist, hip-hop artist, and powerful voice on the front lines of a global youth-led environmental movement. At the early age of six Xiuhtezcatl began speaking around the world, from the Rio+20 United Nations Summit in Rio de Janeiro, to addressing the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York city. He has worked locally to get pesticides out of parks, coal ash contained, and moratoriums on fracking in his state and is currently a lead plaintiff in a youth-led lawsuit against the federal government for their failure to protect the atmosphere for future generations. Xiuhtezcatl has traveled across the nation and to many parts of the world educating his generation about the state of the planet they are inheriting and inspiring youth into action to protect the planet. Earth Guardian has grown to hundreds of crews in over 50 countries.

In 2013, Xiuhtezcatl received the 2013 United States Community Service Award from President Obama, and was the youngest of 24 national change-makers chosen to serve on the President's youth council. He is the 2015 recipient of the Peace First Prize, recipient of the 2015 Nickelodeon Halo Award, 2016 Captain Planet Award winner, recipient of 2016 Children's Climate Prize in Sweden, and received the 2017 Univision Premio's Ajente de Cambio Award. Bill McKibben of 350.org calls Xiuhtezcatl "an impressive spokesman for a viewpoint the world needs to hear."

Eating Disorders and Marginalized Voices. Eating disorders have long been categorized as a “white girl problem.” While young white women do continue to be the largest and most at risk group for disordered eating, new research shows that there are growing numbers of people of color, trans people, men and older women who are impacted by eating disorders. These groups are often overlooked and not given adequate or effective support. Not only do people often not believe that these group members are being affected by an eating disorder, but the treatment models that exist do not address their unique perspectives. In this workshop, we will explore the National Eating Disorder Association’s “Marginalized Voices” project and look deeply at personal narratives and larger trends of who is being impacted by eating disorders and why.

Inside the Justice System. What do public defenders do all day? How do prosecutors decide which cases to bring? What are the social-justice implications of each kind of work? Two UHS alums involved in this work (see bios below) discuss what it’s like from the inside.

Polina Beckerson (UHS Class of 2000) is a Deputy Public Defender for the County of Santa Clara, where she is currently a felony trial attorney. Before becoming a public defender, she spent two summers working on death-penalty appeals in Houston, Texas and New Orleans. Her first assignment, in 2009, was a post-conviction project where the release of previously withheld evidence necessitated the review and re-litigation of hundreds of sexual assault convictions. Since then Polina has represented clients in misdemeanor, juvenile, and felony cases at all stages of proceedings, from arraignment to trial and sentencing.

Meredith Osborn graduated from UHS in 1998, where she was a Peer Advisor as well as the editor of the *Devil's Advocate*, and played softball. In 2009, she moved to Washington, D.C., to help start the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with now-Senator Elizabeth Warren. In 2011, she returned to San Francisco to help found the western regional office of the CFPB, and she became a federal prosecutor in 2014. She has prosecuted drug dealers, child pornographers, violent gang members, and white-collar criminals.

Money & Guilt. Sometimes we feel bad about spending our parents' money or spending our own money on trivial things, and these feelings can sometimes be quite destructive. In this session, we will discuss the role that guilt plays in the decisions we make around money. We will start by looking at wealth distribution in the Bay Area and considering how people from different economic backgrounds may experience guilt surrounding money differently. Our goal is to dive into what drives the guilt we feel when spending money, and how we can work to counteract it when it isn’t productive. Come ready to learn and share with your peers and engage in meaningful dialogue; this session is open to everyone.

Nina Simone & Tracy Chapman: Music, Social Justice, Race, Gender, and Power. This session will look at two legendary black female artists, diving into how they have used music to communicate powerful messages in our complicated world. We will look closely at songs by both musicians, exploring the contexts from which they arose.

Personal and Political: Ethics and Practice of Mental Health Activism. Many contemporary artists expose their mental health struggles in their art, often to raise awareness or to drive social change. Since its inception, UHS’s Vox has published a sizeable number of mental health-related submissions that are informed by the culture of stress and perfectionism that

exists at UHS. In this exciting collaboration between Vox and Mental Health Coalition, we'll start with a conversation on the ethics of mental health activism guided by the following questions: How should viewers approach art about personal trauma? Is it ethical to exploit (or reclaim) personal trauma for monetary gain? Should the personal be political? Then, we'll draw inspiration from professional artists to create our own writing and visual art addressing mental health struggles. The art we make will form the basis of a special issue of Vox dedicated to mental health. Students and faculty/staff are not required to have had a mental illness (or art training) to participate; we are hoping to publish a wide range of personal experiences.

Rock & Dictatorship: Lyrics of Resistance, Lyrics of Hope. Is civil disobedience possible in a totalitarian regime? The military dictatorship that took over Argentina in 1976-1983 attempted to control both personal and public spaces by decreeing a state of siege, where any dissenting voice was banned, and many were disappeared. The fear and uncertainty that followed led many academics, writers and artists to self-censorship or exile. This session will look at how music, particularly the emerging genre of *rock nacional*, spoke to young people in a nation silenced by state terrorism. Lyrics will be in both Spanish and English.

Slowing Down Fast Fashion. Have you ever wondered about the true cost of the clothes you're wearing, both to the people in the supply chain and to the environment? Have you wondered about how your fashion choices can really make a difference? In this session, we'll look at the wider impact of fast fashion, name and shame some of the offending brands, and think about potential actions we could take as critical consumers. You'll also have the opportunity to upcycle one of your old t-shirts into a nifty bag.

Space Is the Place: Sun Ra and the Legacy of Afrofuturism. Coined by the (White) cultural critic Mark Derry in 1993, the term "Afrofuturism" has come to encompass a vast literary, musical, artistic, cinematic, and philosophical tradition revolving around futuristic, sci-fi-influenced images of African diasporic life. If you've watched *Black Panther* or the music videos of Janelle Monáe, you've seen examples Afrofuturism's legacy. What you might not know, though, is that much of this legacy can be traced back to the experimental jazz musician and time-traveling mystic Sun Ra—a larger-than-life figure who drew on the Black nationalist thinking of the 60s and 70s, biblical narratives of liberation, and glorified images of an Egyptian past to construct a futuristic image of diasporic collectivity. In this session, you'll learn a little about the biography of Sun Ra, listen to some of his intergalactic music, and watch clips of his classic Afrofuturist film *Space Is the Place*, released in 1974. We'll also discuss the legacy of Afrofuturism in culture today.

Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983. We will visit the de Young art exhibit which focuses on African American cultural expressions of identity, solidarity, and activism. The exhibit includes a particular feature of the Bay Area connection to the Black Power movement. We look forward to discussing the themes of Black culture and empowerment and then debriefing after the visit to share together the ways our ideas were challenged, enlarged, and inspired. We'll get lunch in the Inner Sunset before returning to campus. Notes: this session is limited to 20 attendees; priority will be given to students. If you're interested in attending, select this session as your first choice for both Session 1 and Session 2.

The Radical King: "Beyond Vietnam." As we celebrate MLK Day, this session will give the

opportunity to listen to King speak out on the Vietnam War, in his famous “Beyond Vietnam” speech from April 4, 1967 in New York City. Students accustomed to only encountering King in the context of the Civil Rights struggle will grapple with a King who encourages a global revolution of values and decries the “giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism.” Students will have the opportunity to listen directly to King’s oratory, with pauses for discussion.

Understanding Whiteness. This workshop is designed for white people who would like to explore how we may be contributing to a culture of white supremacy, even if we are opposed to the idea of racism and want to treat everyone equally. We will look at common patterns of thinking and behaving that obscure and protect racism, and discuss ways to shift these often unconscious patterns within ourselves and in our actions. This will be a supportive space aimed at inviting participants to connect more fully with ourselves and one another as we learn about and reflect on this complex topic.

UnMasking: Young Men Talking About REAL SHI(F)T. Far too often young men have to navigate the complex world of school, home, and the streets by themselves. Issues like fitting in, self-esteem, trauma, loss, body image and the pressures of life keep many youth from realizing their full potential inside and outside of school. Moreover, school rarely provides a safe space in which young men can talk about the challenges of growing up. Through presentation, hands-on activities, and film, this session will introduce participants to the world of gender support groups, with a focus on young men. Note: this session is open to all self-identified men; facilitated by Ashanti Branch (whom juniors, seniors, and most adults may remember as our Community Day keynote speaker in 2018).

Ashanti Branch, born and raised by a single mother on welfare in Oakland, California, took the road less traveled to get out of the ghetto and attended one of California’s premier engineering colleges, California Polytechnic - San Luis Obispo. Ashanti studied Civil Engineering and worked as a construction project manager in his first career. After tutoring struggling students and realizing his true passion was teaching, he changed careers. He had suddenly found the “fire” that was missing in his life and he hoped to ignite a similar enthusiasm in his young students. In 2004 as a first year teacher, Ashanti started The Ever Forward Club to provide a support group for African American and Latino males, who were not achieving to the level of their potential. Since then, The Ever Forward Club has grown to serve both young men and women and become a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Ever Forward Club has helped 100% of its members graduate high school and 93% of them have gone on to attend college. With over 19 years mentoring youth and 10 of those years as a math teacher educating inner city youth, Ashanti was awarded with a Fulbright Exchange Fellowship to India, a Rotary Club Cultural Ambassadorial Fellowship to Mexico and a 2010 Teacher of the Year Award from the Alameda-Contra Costa County Math Educators.

Ashanti is on a mission to change the way that students interact with their education and the way schools interact with students.

Wakanda...forever? In this session, we will delve into *Black Panther’s* Wakanda and *The Watchmen’s* Tulsa, Oklahoma, observing the fictional histories of both locations and how those histories contributed to the “modern worlds” inhabited by T’Challa and Sister Night

respectively. From there we'll observe the actual historical roots that influenced both fictional histories and the barriers that have prevented those realities, and conclude with a discussion on the role of comics (and television and movies based on comics) in discussions of social justice.

“Women in Business.” In recent decades, women’s gains in top management positions and on corporate boards have slowed. As of 2019, women represent just 5% of Fortune 500 CEOs, down from 2017’s record high of 6%. And, perhaps more worryingly, women only occupy 7% of top executive positions in the Fortune 100 companies. The numbers grow even more somber for women of color; over two-thirds of Fortune 500 companies do not have a single woman of color as a board director. In a time when women’s resistance to the status quo is more vital and invigorating than ever, these numbers seem to bely the conventional wisdom that women are now fully equal to men. So what is it like to be one of these elusive “women in business?” How do the women who attain senior-level positions feel about their journey to success? How does a high-profile industry scandal like the collapse of Theranos and Elizabeth Holmes affect the perception of female executives? Come find out! SWEAR is excited to be hosting Carolyn Feinstein (parent '20), Margaret Johnson, Gabrey Means, and Lisi Dean, top executives at Dropbox, Goodby Silverstein, Grow, and Capital Group Private Client Services, respectively, for a moderated panel discussion regarding their experiences as women navigating the business world. Time permitting, the audience will be able to direct questions of their own to the panel.
Note: This session is open to all who are interested.

Carolyn Feinstein is the Chief Marketing Officer at Dropbox. She has had an impressive career spanning more than two decades, leading marketing teams at Electronic Arts and Pure Storage. At EA, she built brand campaigns for franchises like Madden Football, FIFA, Battlefield, and The Sims, which have all become household names. At Pure Storage, she launched the company’s first ever multi-platform brand campaign and oversaw the company’s digital marketing strategy. She is also the mother of three children, including Jack Edwards ('20).

Margaret Johnson is the Chief Creative Officer and partner at the advertising agency Goodby, Silverstein, & Partners, of which she is a 23-year veteran. In 2012, she was recognized by *Business Insider* as the 10th most powerful woman in advertising, and in 2018 she was named Executive of the Year by *Advertising Age*. Her work at GS&P has encompassed numerous household names, including Nintendo, HP, Häagen-Dazs, and the Ad Council, as well as several iconic Super Bowl ads. She was appointed president of the 2019 Cannes Film Lions jury, which celebrates outstanding creativity in the advertising industry. Outside of her work in advertising, Margaret also produced and directed the short film *Dunkumentary*, which was featured at Cannes.

Gabrey Means is the co-founder and Chief Creative Officer for Grow Marketing, a woman-owned and led independent experiential marketing agency based in San Francisco. Grow Marketing has worked around the world to create live, interactive experiences for top brands like Nike, Google, Netflix, and Target, among many others.

Lisi Dean is a Senior Vice President and Investment Counselor at Capital Group Private Client Services, one of the world's largest investment management organization. In addition to being a wealth advisor, she aids nonprofit organizations in financial organization and investment management. She is also a parent to three children, including Eliza ('18) and Diana Dean ('20).

SESSION 2 OFFERINGS:

Creative Maladjustment: MLK's Revolutionary Concept & What It Has to Do with Mental Health. In 1967, at a conference for the American Psychological Association, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a speech entitled "The Role of the Behavioral Scientist in the Civil Rights Movement." In this speech, he encouraged attendees (mostly mental health clinicians) to reflect on the word "maladjusted," which was then a commonly used term to describe someone struggling with their mental health. King urged his listeners to consider the existence of inequities "to which we should never be adjusted...things concerning which we must always be maladjusted if we are to be people of good will." He called for "creative maladjustment," outlining it as foundational to our capacity to resist oppressive forces and endure the pursuit of justice. We will explore King's concept of creative maladjustment, as he outlines it in various speeches, and discuss its relationship to ideas about mental health. We will discuss how all of this does or does not show up at UHS and hope to formulate some ideas for healing & liberation within our community.

Designing from Dystopia. For many people, the last few years (or more) have started to feel like we've entered a dystopian world. White nationalism, gun violence, the climate crisis, nuclear threats, and increasing technological surveillance all challenge our sense of hope and belief in the ability to create a better world. Popular culture and storytelling are tools for creating hope, and can help us design ourselves out of dystopia. In this participatory workshop, we'll analyze dystopian stories from pop culture and use them as springboards to imagine alternative stories that explicitly question our assumptions around race, gender, class, and power. We'll end by using our new stories to brainstorm solutions for some of our most intractable social justice challenges, including how to organize and act with integrity in a system designed to divide and oppress. **Participants should come to the workshop with a good recollection of the details of at least one of these titles (movie, TV series, and/or book): *The Hunger Games*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *WALL-E*, *The Giver*, *The Matrix*, *Sorry to Bother You*, *Watchmen*, and/or *Fahrenheit 451*.** Note: a number of these are available on streaming services, so if you have a chance, rewatch before the Symposium!

Harvard and the Myth of the Model Minority. The recent trial accusing Harvard of maintaining racial quotas has brought much attention upon the longstanding idea of "Yellow Peril," or fear of Asians disproportionately overrunning institutions. But what has the trial revealed about the myth of the Asian "model minority?" Come learn about the history of this myth and background behind the trial itself. Be prepared to unpack both sides of the trial as well as its ramifications for the future of affirmative action.

Healthcare Through a Conservative Lens. The calls for Medicare for All have been an ongoing part of the current Democratic presidential primary, but what exactly is Medicare? And how did we get to this point? This session will take a brief look at the ways the federal government currently provides healthcare through Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP as well as the history of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) from its genesis in a D.C. think tank to its current form

with a focus on some of the principles and forces that shaped it. We will also discuss some current ideas for addressing the problems in the United States healthcare system and for ensuring that everyone gets the care they need.

Inside the Justice System. What do public defenders do all day? How do prosecutors decide which cases to bring? What are the social-justice implications of each kind of work? Two UHS alums involved in this work (see bios below) discuss what it's like from the inside.

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Let's Talk Rap. 808 beats permeate 21st century life. Every style of rap has found itself in packed concerts and in the headphones of teenagers. Rap is characterized by rhythmic poetry and it has roots in countless social movements. Such a diverse platform finds itself at the top of the Billboard charts and at the hearts of revolutions. This MLK Day Symposium session delves into the intersection between all forms that rap has taken: How has rap been used as a social catalyst for change? Does it continue to be used as such? How has the meteoric rise of some rap genres altered the meaning of "Rap" and "Hip-Hop"?

My (In)visible Self: A Conversation. This session will create a dialogue that focuses on the intersection of visible and invisible identifiers. For example, race and sexual orientation are both identifiers that people are often discriminated against for. Sexual orientation is an aspect of identity which lies below the surface, so there is an idea of "coming out" that surrounds it. In contrast, the immediate assumption of race and other surface-level things that strangers place upon one another make these areas far harder to conceal. Our session will work to create a meaningful dialogue to discuss how the visibility of our identifiers affects how we treat issues relating to them. We will think about how our identity shapes both our sense of self and others' sense of us. When do we have to "out" aspects of ourselves, and when do the realities of our appearances, mannerisms, names, and faces "out" those aspects for us? What misconceptions do people hold about us based on the ways we present ourselves to the world? The goal of this session is conversation, and that will be aided with a brief opening survey and a short video to spearhead discussion. Hope to see you there!

Resisting Racism Through Photography. Some people don't take up a lot of verbal space in discussions about race and racism. Instead, they prefer to resist -isms through their artwork. In

this session, we will look at some photographers of color who engage with race through their art. The goal of this session is to introduce attendees to artists of color and, we hope, to inspire all to consider art as a form of activism. The artists whose work we will view may include David Hammons, Adrian Piper, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, Gordon Parks, and Zanele Muholi.

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The Wage Gap. This session on the wage gap investigates why members of different demographic groups earn such wildly different amounts of income. There are large income differences across race, gender, nationality, immigration status, age, and religion, among others. After chronicling the extent of these income differences, we will discuss economic rationales for these wage gaps, and contrast these with ideas based on power and discrimination.

UnMasking: Young Men Talking About REAL SHI(F)T. Far too often young men have to navigate the complex world of school, home, and the streets by themselves. Issues like fitting in, self-esteem, trauma, loss, body image and the pressures of life keep many youth from realizing their full potential inside and outside of school. Moreover, school rarely provides a safe space in which young men can talk about the challenges of growing up. Through presentation, hands-on activities, and film, this session will introduce participants to the world of gender support groups, with a focus on young men. Note: this session is open to all self-identified men; facilitated by Ashanti Branch (whom juniors, seniors, and most adults may remember as our Community Day keynote speaker in 2018).

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White Fatigue. Despite your understanding of the importance of social justice work, you're a White person who is feeling tired of discussing race & racism. This workshop will examine this experience and look at how shifting to an understanding of systemic racism vs. individual racism can be helpful. There will be some video/lecture, and a discussion in this session.

Whose Planet? In this session, we will be deconstructing the role that privilege plays in environmental activism through a screening of the film *Necessity: Oil, Water, and Climate Resistance*, followed by a group discussion. This film focuses on the impact that pipelines have had on indigenous communities, specifically in Minnesota, and the work that both indigenous people and their non-indigenous allies have done to protest these pipelines. *Necessity* implores us to reflect: "In a climate emergency, is civil disobedience a necessity?" Through the screening of this film and the discussion that ensues, we will attempt not only to answer the questions that *Necessity* poses to us, but also to consider what role our own identities and privileges play in our choices to engage (or not) in environmental activism.

Why Summerbridge? Educational Equity & the Roots of a Non-profit, Founded at UHS. Did you know that Summerbridge is only two years younger than your high school? The founding site of the now international Breakthrough Collaborative program, Summerbridge provides academic enrichment and family support to students and families in the San Francisco Bay Area. Additionally, SB provides intensive teaching internships to college students, passionate about education and social justice. The majority of Summerbridge students attend public schools. Our goals for our students include the following:

- Teaching our students and families about the high school application process, in order to prepare them for the college application process
- Providing our students with the chance to advance academically
- Providing our students with small class sizes (6-10 students per class)

This discussion will provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about the role that public schools play in Summerbridge's mission. We will use our work in Summerbridge as the foundation for a larger discussion about the strengths of public schools and how we talk about them in our community, here at UHS. The social justice issue at the core of this workshop is **educational equity**. Come prepared to ask questions and discuss.

"Women in Business." In recent decades, women's gains in top management positions and on corporate boards have slowed. As of 2019, women represent just 5% of Fortune 500 CEOs, down from 2017's record high of 6%. And, perhaps more worryingly, women only occupy 7% of top executive positions in the Fortune 100 companies. The numbers grow even more somber for women of color; over two-thirds of Fortune 500 companies do not have a single woman of color as a board director. In a time when women's resistance to the status quo is more vital and invigorating than ever, these numbers seem to bely the conventional wisdom that women are now fully equal to men. So what is it like to be one of these elusive "women in business?" How do the women who attain senior-level positions feel about their journey to success? How does a high-profile industry scandal like the collapse of Theranos and Elizabeth Holmes affect the perception of female executives? Come find out! SWEAR is excited to be hosting Carolyn

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Words Don't Belong to Everyone. This session will begin with a viewing of Ta-Nehisi Coates' explanation of why not everyone can say the n-word. We will then explore the "ownership" of certain words and language and the implied privilege of appropriating that language. Grounded in community norms and agreements, we will also talk about how this behavior shows up in schools and how communities respond to incidents of the usage of racial/ethnic slurs.