

Do You Know Your Human Rights?



Katz



Koirala-Azad

USF's School of Education recently became the first pedagogical college in the nation to offer an emphasis in human rights for masters and doctoral education students—an option that is already proving popular in just its second semester.

“This emphasis is designed for teachers at

all levels, K-12 as well as at the community college and university levels of higher education,” said Susan Katz, program developer and chair of international and multicultural education (IME).

Katz, who along with Assistant Professor Shabnam Koirala-Azad was awarded two grants worth a combined \$9,500 in 2007 to research previously piloted courses, recruit additional instructors, and develop the curriculum, said the new program provides a level of academic rigor unparalleled at other universities.

So far, 17 IME students have enrolled in the program's second semester this spring with many more expressing interest for the fall 2009 term, Katz said.

Completing the human rights emphasis could open the door to career options beyond the limited number of jobs offered by nonprofits and nongovernmental agencies working for human rights, to the fields of education, the arts, and law, Katz said.

Sixty years after the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, it's surprising how few American students study it, especially in the wake of the prison abuse and torture scandals that have come to light during the war on terrorism, Katz said.

Four core classes form the foundation of the emphasis—human rights law, human rights pedagogy, immigration and forced displacement, and gender and globalization—with electives being offered on subjects such as human rights in Latin America.

The emphasis, however, goes beyond theory to praxis, providing students with hands-on experience. In fall 2008, students in the gender and globalization class worked with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, the Women's Institute for Leadership Development for Human Rights, and the Global Fund for Women to promote women's rights, for example.

“The philosophy behind human rights education is to combine both the content with a teaching strategy, which empowers individuals to act in defense of human dignity,” said Andrea McEvoy Spero, a third-year doctoral candidate in the IME program pursuing a human rights emphasis. **USF**

USF Lauded for Community Service

University of San Francisco students' commitment to community continued to draw commendation in 2008, with the university making the President's Honor Roll for Community Service for the third year running.

USF was among the top 89 schools to be honored “with distinction” or better by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the honor roll. A total of 635 schools made the honor roll.

The Mechanics of Falling and Other Stories

by Catherine Brady, associate professor, MFA in writing

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA PRESS, 2009



This book is a collection of 11 short stories that explore those moments when seemingly stable lives become unstable—when the love of a mother fractures, a faithful husband abandons his family, or a comfortable middle-class life implodes—and the faith needed to break that fall. The stories, all set in and around San Francisco, deal with a range of circumstances and characters who must decide what they are willing to risk for the sake of transformation.

Wawona Hotel

by Matthew McKay '69

BOAZ CORPORATION, 2008

McKay's first novel centers on a woman who, after a three-week coma, has the ability to read the emotions and motives of others with perfect clarity. As her husband copes with this transparency, their marriage goes through a series of jolting revelations and she develops a relationship with a young man. The novel focuses on the question of what happens inside a person who is seen and known, yet not accepted.



Filipino American Faith in Action: Immigration, Religion, and Civic Engagement

by Joaquin (Jay) Gonzalez, associate professor of politics

NYU PRESS, 2009



Drawing on interviews, survey data, and participant observation, Gonzalez focuses on the large immigrant community of Filipino Americans. The book explores Filipino American religious institutions as essential locations for empowerment and civic engagement, with Gonzalez showing how Filipino Americans maintain community, ethnic and religious networks, and how they share their traditions with the larger society.