



## OPHD E-news

Spring 2013

An update on bias, harassment, and discrimination issues from the  
Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD)

### In this issue:

- “We Are Tritons” launches
- OCR responds to sexual assault
- UCI fraternity criticized over “blackface” video
- Did you know?

#### **“WE ARE TRITONS” LAUNCHES**

UC San Diego has launched a new online program for all entering freshmen and transfer students called “We Are Tritons.” The program is designed to introduce new students to expectations regarding community, to our nondiscrimination policies, and to ways to respond to and report issues of bias, harassment and discrimination. During the Winter 2010, the UC San Diego community experienced a series of bias incidents which resulted in campus-wide attention to climate issues. Campus administrative leaders took steps to enhance education to help address these bias issues. The new web-based training is one such effort. Frequently asked questions about the program are available at <http://ophd.ucsd.edu/wearetritons.asp>

#### **OCR RESPONDS TO SEXUAL ASSAULT**

On May 9, 2013, the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and U.S. Department of Justice entered into an agreement with the University of Montana to reform its system for responding to and preventing sexual assault. The agreement requires the University of Montana to take effective steps to prevent sex-based harassment in its educational programs and activities, revise its policies and procedures, investigate and respond to allegations of retaliation, and provide training to individuals designated to coordinate its Title IX efforts. The federal government is also reviewing the City of Missoula Police Department and the Office of the Missoula County Attorney. Those investigations remain ongoing.

#### **UCI FRATERNITY CRITICIZED OVER “BLACKFACE” VIDEO**

UC Irvine fraternity Lambda Theta Delta was strongly criticized over a music video created by some of its members which featured a student in “blackface.” The fraternity apologized and voluntarily suspended itself from all campus activities including rush until September 2014. The fraternity published a statement that its decision to suspend activities was “due to the abhorrent, insensitive and highly offensive “blackface” video created by our members that has been circulated widely on the Internet. We are aware that the campus has initiated an

investigation of our behavior in several videos involving racial insensitivity and alcohol use. We are cooperating fully with the University's investigation."

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

It has been 30 years since Dr. Sally Ride became the first woman in space. On June 18, 1983, Astronaut Ride served as mission specialist aboard the space shuttle, Challenger. Following her career at NASA where she logged over 345 hours in space, she served on the UC San Diego faculty in the department of Physics. The U.S. Navy recently announced that its newest research vessel, to be operated by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, will be named in honor of Sally Ride. She will also be posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, later this year.

### **BE THE VOICE—REPORT BIAS**

OPHD oversees the UC San Diego online bias reporting system. All members of the UC San Diego community may report bias-motivated incidents or other acts of intolerance to [reportbias.ucsd.edu](http://reportbias.ucsd.edu), (858) 534-BIAS (2427) or [ophd@ucsd.edu](mailto:ophd@ucsd.edu). Be The Voice—Report Bias.

### **OPHD IS ABOUT SOLUTIONS.**

Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD), 201 University Center, corner of Gilman and Myers, (858) 534-8298, [ophd@ucsd.edu](mailto:ophd@ucsd.edu), <http://ophd.ucsd.edu>.