The Invisible Identity Series:
Interfaith Community
(Interfaith Families/ Relationships)
Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs

Thursday, February 21, 2013
4:00 to 6:00 PM
Campus Rec Center Conference Room
Imogene A. Stulken
Protestant Campus Minister
THE INVISIBLE IDENTITY SERIES

THURS. FEBRUARY 21ST

Interfaith Community

Did you grow up in a family where more than one religion was inherited and/or observed? Are you in a relationship with someone of another faith? Do you have a roommate with a different religious tradition from yours? This workshop will consider some of the challenges, rewards, surprises, expectations, and realities of Interfaith families or relationships.

4PM-6PM @ CRC CONFERENCE ROOM

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. For other events check: umassd.edu/clubs
For more information: multicultural.affairs@umassd.edu
Introductions:

1) What is your name and what is/ are your role(s) at this University?

2) What is your entry point into, or interest in, today’s topic?
Terms:

What comes to mind when you hear or see:

Interfaith Families/ Interfaith Relationships
And a few more:

Multi-faith

Ecumenical

Intrafaith
Multi-faith (or multifaith): When used of dialogues, cooperative efforts, etc., Involving or characterized by several different religions

Ecumenical: When used especially in reference to Christianity, referring to worldwide cooperation among Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant denominations (from the Greek οἰκουμενὴ – oikoumenē, “the inhabited world,” and from the Greek οἶκος – oikos, “house”

Intrafaith (or intra-faith): When people belong to the same religion but practice different traditions within that faith.
Questions to consider:

Did you grow up in a family where more than one religion was inherited and/or observed?

Are you in a relationship with someone of another faith?

Do you have a roommate with a different religious tradition from yours?
More questions to consider:

How are/were any conflicts resolved or dealt with?

What have you learned from the experience, from the relationship?

What difference does it make/has it made in your life?
In interfaith, ecumenical, or intrafaith families, relationships, & community what are the:

- benefits
- dilemmas
- realities
- surprises
- challenges
- expectations
- rewards
Leonard Swidler's "Dialogue Decalogue"

(Journal of Ecumenical Studies 20 [1984]: 1-4.)

1. The primary purpose of dialogue is to learn; that is, to change and grow in the perception and understanding of reality, and then to act accordingly.

2. Inter-religious, inter-ideological dialogue must be a two-sided project within each religious or ideological community, and between religious or ideological communities.
3. Each participant must come to the dialogue with complete honesty and sincerity.

4. In inter-religious, inter-ideological dialogue, we must not compare our ideals with our partner’s practice, but rather our ideals with our partner’s ideals, our practice with our partner’s practice.
5. Each participant must define himself. Conversely, the interpreted must be able to recognize herself in the interpretation.

6. Each participant must come to the dialogue with no hard-and-fast assumptions as to where the points of disagreement are.

7. Dialogue can take place only between equals. Both must come to learn from each other.
8. Dialogue can take place only on the basis of mutual trust.

9. Persons entering into inter-religious, inter-ideological dialogue must be at least minimally self-critical of both themselves and their own religious or ideological traditions.
10. Each participant eventually must attempt to experience the partner’s religion or ideology “from within;” for a religion or ideology is not merely something of the head, but also of the spirit, heart, and “whole being,” individual and communal.
Shared Stories
Small-group work:
Case studies from Patheos.com Public Square
Resources:

http://www.patheos.com/ Patheos – “Hosting the Conversation on Faith” [Search for “Interfaith Marriage”;
http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Leaping-across-the-Divide.html ]

http://www.interfaithfamily.com/ – “supporting interfaith families exploring Jewish life” (including a section on death and mourning in interfaith families)
Announcements:

1) Interfaith Student Association (IFSA) – Focus on Faith Forums, etc.

Spring 2013:
* Focus on Faith Forum: Islam (February)
* Focus on Faith Forum: Hinduism (March)
* Focus on Faith Forum: Christianity (April)
2) “Braided Streams: Women of Faith Speak” (16th Annual) panel
(Panels needed)

Wednesday, March 20, 2013:
Dugan 208, 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM
Coburn 304, 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

Interfaith panel: Sharing experiences of the intersection between religion and gender.

Sponsored by Protestant Campus Ministry
Additional comments, questions?
Thank you for coming!

Let the conversation continue!