

Final Essay: addresses how the class has impacted you and your thinking and 3-5 key take-aways from the course and your understanding of cross-cultural philanthropy and traditions of philanthropy and it's practice.

Giving, volunteering, and community service have always been a huge part of my life. In high school I was the Philanthropy Head of the Student Community Action Council and my job was to facilitate all interaction with charitable organizations and to set up volunteer events with them. This role made me question my idea of philanthropy and when asked what philanthropy is I could never come up with a precise definition. The first UGBA 39AC class made me realized that giving and volunteering are what philanthropy truly means. Philanthropy is not just an old (probably dead), rich white man donating a lot of money to be remembered, it literally means “the love of humanity”. I like the way Cedric Brown stated philanthropy in his presentation: “the giving of time, talent, or treasure”. According to “The Four Traditions of Philanthropy”, this new, evolving definition of philanthropy is based on “human connectedness” and the four causes that people from all backgrounds give to improve. The four traditions of philanthropy are “relief”, “improvement”, “social reform”, and “response”. Relief comes from compassion and aims to alleviate human suffering, improvement comes from a want for progress and aims to maximize human potential, social reform comes from a sense of justice and aims to solve social problems, and response comes from participation and it builds the community. I have learned that philanthropy can come in many shapes and forms. Every culture and community innately helps others, what differs is how they help, not why.

While reading “Ten Principles of Cross-Cultural Philanthropy” three main principles stood out to me: “philanthropy is universal”, “practices are based on traditions”

and philanthropy is not just about giving, it is about caring. These principles go along with the new idea that philanthropy is about giving back and that all cultures give back, just in different ways. But what is culture and how does it define how one looks at the world and chooses to help others? My second major takeaway is the definition of culture; culture does not just mean ethnicity, it is much more than that. Culture is about interaction, not just identification. People of different ethnic groups can have the same culture. One of the classes that stood out to me the most was the day after we had discussed all of the minority cultures and, as a class, we made a list of what culture is derived from. We came up with the following: race, gender, faith, background, economic status, community, food, traditions, media, values, and geography. I think it's important to note that no one aspect defines a person in life, or their philanthropy. Along the same lines, I also relearned why it's important to know that every culture gives back to their community differently; in order to help one must understand where the people they are helping are coming from. It was also very interesting to me to see how different cultures give back and the reasons behind it. The article "Minority Cultures and the Tradition of Philanthropy" gave a great overview of different cultures forms of giving. For example, Latin America communities tend to focus on giving to the church (which provides education, health care, and social services), mutual aid funds or "mutualistas"; Asian American communities tend to focus on the idea that helping your community leads to helping the whole world be a better place and giving "remittances"; African American communities tend to focus on caring for their community, self-help, social protests and solidarity with the oppressed, and education; and, lastly, Native American communities believe that wealth is for distribution and in the idea of "potlatch", reciprocal generosity.

While defining how different minority cultures give, it is important to note that these are generalizations and to remember that a person's culture is much more than their ethnic background. One of the most important things I believe we all learned is to realize generalizations are a broad overview used to get to know the community you want to help. They do not solely define one person or one group. As Jan Masaoka said we need to be "changing communities from the inside out". Her example of the importance of understanding a community and its needs before implementing solutions was the debate between having trucks bring water or putting in water wells. Most would say that having trucks deliver fresh water is easier, cheaper, and it ensures that the local community will receive water. But, the local people know that one day the water trucks might not come anymore because they have moved on to another cause, so the wells are more sustainable. Although this is a great example, the one that stood out to me the most was when the large corporation decided to donate hundreds of car seats to a hospital in a low-income neighborhood in order to ensure the safety of the new children. It sounds like a wonderful way to help this community, however the corporation didn't do enough research. Many of these families didn't have cars. I still can't believe someone would spend thousands of dollars without thoroughly researching whether or not their plan would help. Cedric Brown summed up the other important takeaway I have on helping others: "know the difference between effective and patronizing". It is very important to know the communities that you are helping and to make sure that you are helping them without making yourself seem superior. Diane Yamashiro-Omi called this idea "cultural humility". I believe this idea can be carried throughout our lives, not just in philanthropy.

It teaches us empathy and to help because we want the world to be a better place, not for recognition or to feel above anyone else.

As the class went on I began to realize how important philanthropy and the non-profit sector are in making the US economy be complete and in the lives of Americans. Before I hadn't realized the extent of the impact. Why is it that Americans rely so much on the nonprofit sector? According to the article "America's Nonprofit Sector: A Primer", the US has resisted the world wide movement towards a predominately governmental approach to social welfare provision because of the American emphasis on individuality and the ingrained hostility towards centralized unions. Nonprofits and philanthropies are needed to fill in the gap between business and government. When Jan Masaoka came to speak some of the facts she shared blew my mind. The most surprising was that every idea for social change in the last 100 years has started with a nonprofit. There are 72,00 in nonprofits alone; 50,000 of which are all volunteer. It was eye opening to see how much change and progress is due to nonprofits and volunteers. The one thing I will always remember is when Jan Masaoka said "nonprofits do not change the world, people do. But, the change is usually done through nonprofits."

My largest takeaway was that we can indeed change the world. "The Next-Generation Philanthropy" article from the Forbes 400 Summit showed that how we change the world is dependent on five main things: personal values, faith, sense of obligation or duty, family legacy, and desire to add value to society. These make up our core values. I have discovered that my core values are equality, a belief in second chances, hard work brings reward, and that we should invest in our youth. Both Cedric Brown and Ruben Canedo Sanchez ended their talks by telling us to be true to ourselves.

Your identity and beliefs influences everything that you do. Cedric said that who you are is your “bedrock” and when you are challenged you want to be standing on bedrock rather than quicksand. Dapree’s video “Ripples” reiterated the idea that doing something small to help someone can change his or her life.

On the first day we went over was the syllabus. One quote stood out to me: “I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefor that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again” (Unknown). As the class went on I began to realize that this was the whole meaning. To accept and understand other cultures that may not be represented and to realize that it is our duty to make the world a better place because we want to and because we can. As Mahatma Gandhi famously said, “be the change that you wish to see in the world”. This class has impacted me in many ways, but most importantly it has shown me that I can be the change and how to go about helping others. Over winter break my dad and I are going to start working on the foundation of a program that will focus on giving young girls confidence, because that’s something I am passionate about. I’ve wanted to start for a while, but now I have a renewed sense of belief that I can make a difference. I cannot wait to see what my classmates do in the future.