DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

OVER TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO AMERICA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

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WASHINGTON, D.C — JANUARY 27, 2017   Dialogue on Diversity presented the ninth of its Colloquia on internet and privacy concerns January 25th in a crowded conference room at the Stewart R. Mott Foundation on Capitol Hill. Speakers drawn from think tanks and academia, IT design firms, and Washington area social service groups contributed their insights and experience in a many-faceted day-long program. Colloquium convenor **Ma. Cristina Caballero**, Dialogue on Diversity President, notes, "The 2017 agenda knits together a compact lineup of salient topics within a very broad field: the task of securing privacy interests in the face of an ever more penetrating and analytically rapid-paced, in short, revolutionary body of hardware and engineering savvy."

In the introductory session **Julio Güity-Guervara**, Deputy Director of the D.C. Office on Latino Affairs, described the menu of services provided by OLA for the Latino communities in the District of Columbia, emphasizing the role of "big data" methods in tailoring programs and initiatives targeting this growing population segment. The Agenda proper led off with **Nicol Turner-Lee**, until recently Vice President at the Multicultural Media Telecom and Internet Council, and now part of the Technology Innovation Project at the Brookings Institution. Ms. Turner Lee reviewed the texture of regulation governing electronic communications — flagging her concerns that a new, often contrarian Administration may seek to alter elements of the most recently achieved progress.

One of the striking recent IT developments is the rise of IoT (the Internet of Things), networks of mutually regulating mini-computers achieving a perpetually adjusting equilibrium within the multi-component system. This robust principle, explained **Kenya N. Wiley**, an experienced lawyer and at once a shrewd — and tech savvy — exponent of aesthetic sensibilities, founder and head of Fashion Innovation Alliance, is one that extends, perhaps surprisingly, even to the field of fashion.

Aaron Rieke, a regular participant in these Colloquia, brought an attentive audience current with the innovative projects of the UPTURN boutique IT firm, formed by Mr. Rieke and four expert colleagues, each bringing a distinct species of expertise to the project — software engineering meshed with the philosophical and economic underpinning of the project. **Claire Gartland**, of EPIC, laid out the essentials of commercial data collection and its impacts on privacy through the curious economics of the internet. Turning to the always sensitive and crucial questions of education and the rights and privacy interests of students, **Brenda Leong**, of the Future of Privacy Forum, reviewed studies on school-parental responsibilities — the aim: systems of record maintenance that are efficient and at once seriously respectful of students' present and, most of all, future interests.

Medical IT applications, where privacy concerns are a dominating consideration, were analyzed by **Prof. Maria Sevillano**, a thirty-year veteran of academia, now with the Ana G. Méndez Univ. System; **Adrian Gropper**, physician and MIT engineering graduate, who serves as Chief Technology Officer with the Patient Privacy Rights organization; and **Michael Beck**, developer of systems governing swift but secure access to medical information data.

The day's final segment brought into focus the troubling problems of governmental data collection and its often adverse relationship to privacy values. **Natasha Duarte**, the current Plesser Fellow at the Center for Democracy and Technology, discussed the practices of governments at all levels in surreptitiously monitoring movements, e.g., the where and when of a subject's car in motion. A Colloquium highlight was the appearance of CDT's senior counsel **Gregory Nojeim**, expert in the law of government surveillance and in the strategies of response that have arisen, reviewed concerns over these governmental initiatives as a matter of public policy. Mr. Nojeim had begun with an engaging recall of his own long acquaintance with the Mott building and its denizens, situated amid the nearby Capitol Hill environs — inclusive of recollections of his own wedding a score of years before in the very Mott House room of the day's program.

Adult education was the subject of discussion by **Raúl Medrano**, heading the Carlo Rosario school's entrepreneurship program, and **Monique Riviere**, program chief at "Byte Back", a growing organization providing job-enabling computer instruction gratis at numerous neighborhood training nodes for economically and socially disadvantaged young adults, capped with a meaningful career impetus as they enter the economic swim.

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY: Founded in 1990, Dialogue on Diversity, a §501(c)3 non-profit, is a national network of women entrepreneurs and professionals, actively promoting constructive dialogue among Latino and other ethnic and cultural communities, on social and civic empowerment, with especial emphasis on their economic viability through entrepreneurship.