



An Interview with Ted Bunch '83

by Tim Eubanks '00

Antioch alumnus Ted Bunch '83 is a national leader with A CALL TO MEN which works to end violence against women by facilitating a national movement of men who see that as their mission. All across the country anti-violence organizations benefit from Ted's ideas and his passion.

So what is the connection between Ted's Antioch education and his current national work? I sat down with Ted to find out...

1) Can you tell us a little bit about your current projects?

I am the co-founder of A CALL TO MEN and we are a national association of men and women focused on ending violence against women. We seek to bring about a national movement of men committed to address the issue.

Violence against women is a men's issue and men have to step up and get involved. The overwhelming majority of violence against women is committed by men. So many men know of friends, brothers, fathers, cousins who commit violence and abuse against women and yet they say nothing. Because of this we want to educate men and raise awareness and encourage men to get involved.

We address the issues by deconstructing the socialization of men and how manhood is defined in a construct that is sexist and patriarchal and designed to benefit men at the expense of women.

2) How did your education and experiences at Antioch College help you become a national leader in the anti-violence movement?

Antioch College was very informative in framing my social justice analysis. The college's emphasis on critical and free thinking particularly in social justice inspired me to be an activist to support these things. Today I clearly see the important place that Antioch College had in my development.

3) Who and what inspired your learning at Antioch College?

The spirit and emphasis on positive social change as well as a number of community groups on campus that helped push for social change inspired me. Also I graduated in 1983 and the visibility and pride of same-sex relationships was very strong on campus. While I am not gay, I was inspired by the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community members. They helped me see how the struggle for LGBT rights is a part of the social justice struggle as well.

Many of my professors at Antioch encouraged me to think outside the mainstream box. Professors like Jewel Graham, Jim Dunn, Bill Chappelle '80, as well as Chuck Smart, the Associate Dean of Students at the time, and of course Steve Schwerner '60 (who has left quite a legacy), the Dean of Students, these folks were real thinkers.

Also to see people of color in leadership positions like Jim Dunn and Jewel Graham was inspiring and then to see the work of progressive white allies like Steve Schwerner, was great. It was powerful to be around people who expected you to be a positive contributor to humanity.



These leaders were my mentors. They helped me see the connections that I can build as man of color with both people of color as well as white folks.

So I am very proud to be from Antioch College because Antioch College offered such a radical and transformative education.

4) Any thoughts about coming back to visit Yellow Springs for Reunion?

I hope to make it to the Reunion, though October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and a very demanding time for me. I may also be able to make it to the Nonstop June Festival.

5) Any stirring words of wisdom for those engaged in the movement for Antioch College?

We should market our strong focus on social justice as a way to attract students. Social justice should be a core focus or a strong major. The world moves so fast now so I would like to see an Antioch degree take 4 years to achieve or less.

6) If you could bring one thing to the future of Antioch College, what would it be?

I would like to bring education around the issue of engaging young men to become an active part of stopping violence and discrimination on college campuses.

http://alumni.antiochians.org/s/1050/qs1_index.aspx?sid=1050&gid=1&pgid=252&cid=1143&ecid=1143&ciid=1131&crid=0