

## Chronology of Events

- 1985:** MacDonald joins the CSULB faculty
- 1994:** MacDonald publishes *A People that Shall Dwell Alone: Judaism as a Group Evolutionary Strategy*
- 1995:** MacDonald receives full tenure at CSULB
- 1998:** MacDonald publishes *Separation and Its Discontents: Toward an Evolutionary Theory of Anti-Semitism*
- 1998:** MacDonald publishes *The Culture of Critique: An Evolutionary Analysis of Jewish Involvement in Twentieth-Century Intellectual and Political Movements*
- 2000:** MacDonald testifies at Irving vs. Lipstadt trial
- 2000-2006**
- October 2006:** SPLC announces intent to issue report on MacDonald
- January 2006:** F. King Alexander becomes president of CSULB
- December 2006:** Psychology department adopts a statement strongly condemning the knowing misuse of psychological research "by groups that disseminate views of racial/ethnic superiority and/or racial/ethnic hatred". The statement does not mention MacDonald.
- Spring 2007:** President Alexander issues his statement regarding MacDonald's research and views.
- 2008:** MacDonald publishes *Cultural Insurrections*
- Spring 2008:** ADL publishes reports on MacDonald
- February 2008:** First ever "President's Forum on International Human Rights: Modern Genocides and Global Responsibilities" is held on CSULB Campus.
- March 2008:** Jewish Studies Department issues statement concerning MacDonald
- April 2008:** College of Liberal Arts sponsors conference on hate speech featuring ADL and SPLC speakers
- April-May 2008:** Five more programs issue statements concerning MacDonald including the History, Psychology, Anthropology, Linguistics, and Human Development Departments.

## Community responds To CSULB professor's anti-Semitic writings

By Deborah K. Goldfarb, Executive Director



Deborah K Goldfarb

In June, the Jewish Federation hosted an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) educational forum to raise awareness about the writings of racist and anti-Semitic psychology professor Kevin MacDonald, a tenured professor at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). Over 200 community members attended the forum at the Alpert Jewish Community Center.

As a result, the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee has convened local groups, since June, including ADL, the California Conference of Equality and Justice (CCEJ), and other interested parties in order to coordinate community efforts to further expose and limit the impact of MacDonald's rhetoric. The objectives of the group are to:

- raise awareness among university faculty about who MacDonald is and what he advocates;
- work with the university to raise awareness on his own campus about MacDonald's anti-Semitic writings;
- raise awareness in the wider community about the dangers of MacDonald's work; and
- make clear to the wider community that MacDonald's anti-Semitic and white supremacist words do not enjoy the respect of his colleagues and are not welcome in our community.

"More importantly, however, another primary objective of this effort is to educate as many people as possible about the inherent dangers that such views pose for pluralistic societies and the role they can play to combat segregationist and racist rhetoric in the future," said CSULB President F. King Alexander, when asked about the University's role.

### History of MacDonald's Activities

MacDonald wrote his first book in 1994 on how, according to him, the Jews have undermined the "American culture". He claimed Jews opened up immigration to non-whites, made this a pluralistic society, and

thus made it impossible for those of European heritage to control their destiny. He also accused Jews of controlling American policy, especially as it pertained to Israel. Since then he has published three additional books expounding his theories.

"MacDonald has suggested that Jews act like a parasite in their home countries—leaving an implicit charge that Jews are an alien people," said Kevin O'Grady, regional ADL Executive Director. According to ADL, MacDonald maintains ties with racist, anti-Semitic and White supremacist groups who cite and praise his work.

While MacDonald's activities have been an issue for over a decade, and the ADL and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) were actively monitoring his activities, he flew largely under the radar in the local community from 1994 to 2007. Since then the SPLC, ADL and CCEJ and campus advocates have been creating a more public discussion by exposing his work and by requesting that action be taken at the university to mitigate MacDonald's writings.

### Exposing MacDonald to the Public

MacDonald's views and activities first became public after the Irving v. Lipstadt trial in 2000, in which Holocaust denier, Irving, challenged eminent Emory Holocaust professor Deborah Lipstadt. MacDonald's views have periodically surfaced in media outlets and other national organizations during the last decade. More recently, after the Southern Poverty Law Center released a national report on MacDonald's activities in the spring of 2007, a great deal of concern and attention focusing on his work surfaced throughout the country and among many national organizations. This document also alerted members of the Long Beach community, who contacted CSULB President F. King Alexander to see what could be done to raise awareness of this professor's work.

The ADL released an extensive report on MacDonald and his writings in spring 2008. On campus, after faculty became aware of his views, many academics began to review and question his assertions and beliefs during numerous online and open forums. This led to six university departments issuing formal statements disassociating themselves from

Kevin MacDonald and his writings, including his own department, Psychology (see statement p.3).

### University Response

President Alexander and university administration have taken the stance that they are limited in what they can do because they must uphold standards of academic freedom as protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. However, President Alexander has issued his own statement to numerous media sources (see statement p.3). More recently, a resolution was also brought forward to the Academic Senate by university professors, asking for a formal adoption. The Senate has not yet ruled on the resolution.

Alexander also has said that it is the responsibility of any good university to offer education opportunities that counters racism, bigotry and segregationist views everywhere. Alexander cites his comments in which he said, "Our responsibility, and part of my responsibility, is to educate more people—so that ideas like this, and many others, do not take root in a population that might be susceptible to it."

Based on this belief, Alexander created a first ever three-day campus-wide public forum on International Human Rights: Modern Genocide and Global Responsibility in spring 2008. The forum's success exceeded all of the University administration's expectations attracting over 10,000 students, community members from throughout Southern California, and guests from around the world. According to Alexander, "because of the success of last year's forum we are committing ourselves to this important endeavor annually and to raise important international human rights issues for our campus and the public at-large." This year's forum on international human rights will focus on freedom of expression and religious belief and will be held in early March on campus.

Meetings of community members continue with university administration to encourage further action and with local organizations to build community support. As these activities expand, the Federation will continue to bring the activities to the Jewish Community's attention.

## Statement from CSULB President:

I wish to make it clear that Professor Kevin MacDonald's views are his own entirely. I also would like to reiterate a statement that I have made on previous occasions that I personally find his views deplorable and reprehensible and they in no shape or form whatsoever represent the views of this great university.

Furthermore, California State University, Long Beach supports the right as American citizens for professors to express their views as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the

Constitution. However, when a faculty member speaks, they speak only on behalf of himself or herself, and not on behalf of the university. More importantly, however, as we advance our educational mission our university is committed towards eliminat-

ing all forms of racism, anti-Semitism, and bigotry wherever they exist.

- F. King Alexander, President, California State University, Long Beach

## CSULB Department of Human Development Statement

Statement Concerning Kevin MacDonald  
May 15, 2008

The promotion of racial, ethnic and religious bigotry -- whether through scholarship or other forms of activism -- undermines the principles upon which this University was founded. Such bigotry also limits the opportunity of members of the university community to conduct meaningful intellectual exchanges in a context of mutual respect. For these reasons, the CSULB Department of Human Development hereby publically dissociates itself from the prejudicial views expressed by CSULB tenured Professor Kevin MacDonald of the Department of Psychology on his website and in many recent publications. As a multidisciplinary department that includes psychology, anthropology, and sociology, the Department of Human Development is gravely concerned about Kevin MacDonald's use and misuse of many concepts central to our intellectual pursuits and pedagogical philosophies. In particular, we deplore and reject his positions regarding racial differences, white ethnocentrism, Jewish traits, non-white immigration, social evolution, population genetics and intelligence testing (see attached Appendix) that at best promote intolerance and quite possibly could be used to incite hate crimes.

To be sure, our department considers itself an advocate for freedom and human rights for all. We also wish to emphasize that we believe in, respect and seek to protect the core principle of academic freedom. At the same time, we understand that academic freedom can sometimes be used to advance racism, bigotry, and other forms of intolerance.

We refer, in particular, to Kevin MacDonald's writings that characterize Jews, African Americans, immigrants, and other ethnic groups in an odious and negative manner, and which assert that the behavior of these groups is the consequence of genetic predisposition. We find that MacDonald's use of concepts such as "race" and "genetic inheritance" does not wrestle adequately with established standards and findings in our respective fields, as reflected, for example, in public statements on race made by the American Association of Anthropology and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

<http://dev.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm>

<http://www.physanth.org/positions/race.html>

Furthermore, we reject MacDonald's call for the creation of a white ethnostate to protect the interest of white Americans, his descriptions of Jews as "insular," "aggressive" and "hyper-ethnocentric," and his close association with the white nationalist journal, The Occidental Quarterly. Not only do Kevin MacDonald's writings bear a close resemblance to those of Nazi racial theorists - and rely on one such theorist explicitly - but his writings are regularly used by white separatists and neo-Nazis to advance their cause.

In addition to our respect for the principle of academic freedom, we wish to make it clear that we do not seek to limit Kevin MacDonald's First Amendment rights to speak or publish unpopular ideas. On the contrary, we believe we have the obligation to use our free speech rights to counter his writings on race, ethnicity and intelligence. We believe these writings hold little scholarly merit, but instead serve chiefly to justify and legitimize some of the oldest forms of intolerance and hate. We therefore commit to the ongoing use of progressive curriculum, research, service, discussion and activism in order to challenge the kinds of theoretical positions that Kevin MacDonald's writings support.

## Letter to the Editor:

Monday, August 18, 2008

A few days ago we were with a group of Jewish community leaders who met with Dr. F. King Alexander, the president of California State University at Long Beach.

We were concerned with the books and essays written by Professor Kevin MacDonald which we considered to be anti-Semitic, racist and white supremacist.

Dr. Alexander expressed his abhorrence concerning this bigotry and emphasized the university programs to combat these views.

He mentioned in particular, the Conference on Genocide held earlier this year and a Forum on Human Relations to be held next year.

Professor MacDonald's department has dissociated itself from him as have other departments. Hopefully the Academic Senate will do the same. The principle of free speech and the First Amendment prevents any censorship. We feel the President Alexander has done more to combat this bigotry than any previous president of the university.

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