

The Interactionist

An Informative Newsletter for Wittenberg Sociology Students

**2008 Senior Theses
Presentations**
Best Sociology Conference in Ohio
See Program Inside

Sociology Club 2008-09 Officers

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Service Learning

SOCI 301 Women and Poverty

Saturday Feb. 16, 2008 Dr. Rowell's Women and Poverty Class participated in an Urban Plunge. The class went to Dayton for the day and interacted with people at the agency to help the urban community. They visited St. Vincent's and the House of Bread. Students shared a meal that they had prepared. Cate Downing, class of '08 shared these thoughts after her conversation with the director of the House of Bread- "The dinner table is the point of equalizing all differences we seem to have. It is a common place to engage in conversation."

SOCI 380 Identity, Self, and Society

Students from Dr. Keith Doubt's Identity, Self, and Society class have been going to the Springfield National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Drop-in-Center to play pool, cards, and sing. The director of the center writes, "The students have been doing wonderful. They have come in and shot some pool, played bingo, and have done a great job of interacting with everyone at the center."

Sociology Club/ Department End of Year Picnic

Tuesday, April 22

At Peggy Hanna's Home
Carpooling from Carnegie at 4:00 PM

Letter from Wittenberg Sociology Graduate

Hello all, **Kevin Hooker** (02) here,

It has been awhile since I have talked with some of you, but I have some exciting news to share with all of you. I recently was accepted into the Air Force Social Work Residency Program. The program will allow me to finish up my requirements for licensure while learning and meeting the mental and emotional health needs of the thousands of our brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. I will be entering at the rank of 1st Lt on active duty.

On June 30th I will report to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL for Commissioned Officer Training (COT) for Healthcare Professionals. COT will last for 4 weeks and I will graduate from there on August 1st. I was fortunate enough to get my first choice out of the four possible placements for the residency program. Upon graduation, I will be returning to my home state of Ohio at Wright Patterson AFB for the next 9 months while I complete the residency program. The other options were in FL, MD, and CA, but I decided I am about to go through a huge life transition and it will help to be surrounded by friends and family. I am really looking forward to coming back to Ohio at least for a short time. I am looking forward to visiting Wittenberg and UM during that time and see some faces that I have not seen in awhile. Once I complete the program, I will then be stationed at an Air Force Base somewhere in the United States for at least the remainder of my initial 3 year commitment.

I wanted to share this news with all of you because you are either family, a friend, or served as a mentor or source of inspiration sometime in my life. This was a highly selective program as only 14 applicants nationwide were selected into the program. I truly feel honored to be selected and have the opportunity to serve my country by helping our service men and women.

Some of you may be wondering why I chose to pursue the military? Oddly enough it was my mother (who did not initially take the decision well) who was able to put words to it. It is my calling and passion at this point in my life. You only need to open the newspaper or watch the news to hear how the mental health needs of the troops are not being met as suicide rates are climbing among enlisted soldiers. I truly believe that this is God's calling for me right now. It is going to require some sacrifice on my part in many different aspects of my life, and yes, there is the possibility that I could be deployed to a war zone in the future. I know all these things going in and am prepared to do what it takes to assist our enlisted troops. I admit, I do not agree with all our nation's defense and military policies, but I feel the needs of our service men and women transcend the political differences that I may have with military policy and our current administration's foreign and defense policy.

The next four months of my life will be a bit hectic as I prepare to say goodbye to Florida and get ready to move and prepare myself for military life. I have always appreciated the support that all have you have given me over the past years of my life and I hope I can continue to receive that support as I make this transition and change in my life. It is my intention to keep all of you informed on this process and my soon-to-be military life.

Thank you for all you support, past, present, and hopefully in the future.

Sociology Colloquium

“Reflections on America’s War in Vietnam and Vietnamese Society Today”

Presented by Wittenberg students:

**Thao Thi Xuan Nguyen of Ho Chi Minh,
Nam Tuan Vu and
Dang Hai Mai, Hanoi**

Thursday, April 17

7:00 p.m.

Ness Auditorium, Hollenbeck Hall

Sampling of Vietnamese food!

Co-sponsored by

Alpha Kappa Delata (Sociology Honor Society) and
Wittenberg Sociology Club

Alpha Kappa Delta Annual Sociology Lecture

“Violence Against Transgendered Persons”

Daniel F. Jauk

University of Akron and University of Graz, Austria

Thursday, April 10

Kissell Hall, Koch Hall

Co-sponsored with Women’s Studies.

Supported by National Alpha Kappa Delta Honorary Society

News from Wittenberg Sociology Major Graduates

Hey, it's **Tony Ottomanelli (06)**. I hope all is well. I just wanted to let you know that I have completed my first quarter of Graduate School at DePaul University. I received a solid A in my "Dilemma of the Modern Age" course and an A- in my "Making Ethnographic Documentary Film" course. The only reason I got an A- was because my professor says he won't give out solid As.

Regardless, I finally feel like I'm heading in the right direction. After a few jobs in Corporate America directly upon graduating from Witt, I felt completely lost and unhappy, as if I was walking away from the light at the end of the tunnel. Now, from reading and writing about social issues all day every day, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

In my "Dilemma of the Modern Age" course we read 'The Future of Success' by Robert Reich. I was excited to read this book in its entirety because I had used it for my Senior Thesis and never got to read it word for word. We also read 'The European Dream' by Jeremy Rifkin, in which I really connected with this book as well. It truly gets to the core of what it means to be American, I loved it. All of the material I am studying makes so much sense to me.

Furthermore, in my "Making Ethnographic Documentary Film" course we learned how to make short films that provide a glimpse inside an outside culture. I made a ten minute short film that follows the life of my Uncle Mike. He is an old-fashioned, 63 year-old charismatic Italian man with captivating stories. I decided to focus on his 'Sociological Imagination' as well as the social isolation that takes place. Everyone has really enjoyed it so far. I have made a number of copies on DVD and I would like to send a copy. Dr. Doubt, maybe you can utilize the

film in one of the courses you are teaching.

This is **Anne Gohmann (06)** and I just wanted to say hello and let you know what I've been up to in graduate school recently.

I will be graduating with my master's in social work in May. I am on the clinical tract and am specializing in families, youth, and children. I have an amazing internship at a therapeutic nursery school in Brooklyn, where I do play therapy with 4 3 year olds who have a variety of emotional disturbances. I also do case management for 2 other students on the Autism spectrum and co-facilitate a parent support group. I would love to work in a similar setting someday!

After I graduate I am planning to move back to Chicago and find a job. I am getting very tired of living in New York City. I'm currently trying to figure out how to get licensed and certified in Illinois. I want to work in a school, but need to be certified in Illinois and may need to take a few extra classes before I can do that.

Hello, here is **Jathiya Abdullah-Simmons (02)**. I just wanted to let you know that I was accepted to the University of Dayton Masters program for School Counseling. I had my first class this past Tuesday!

I will keep you updated as to my progress.

Wittenberg Sociology Majors ROCK at North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting in Cincinnati!

On March 29th and 30th, ten of our seniors presented their original thesis research at the North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting with impressive style. Congratulations to Shelby Wyland, Ashley Bletzer, Sam Mohr, Kristen Wells, Kailyn Baker, Cate Downing, Alyssa McEachran, Amanda Williams, Katy Yohman, and Peri Cohen. Professors Alan McEvoy, Jerry Pankhurst, and Professor Beckett Broh also participated in the conference. Professor Katherine Rowell is president-elect of the North Central Sociological Association. Professor Rowell said that at the Council Meeting several commented on the superior quality of the Wittenberg Student presentations.



Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Lutheran Volunteer Corps is a year-long national volunteer service program for people seeking to unite faith, social justice, intentional community, and practice simple and sustainable living. Volunteers are matched with non-profit organizations in ten metropolitan areas across the United States. They work full-time in various positions ranging from direct social services, to political advocacy, community organizing, education, and activism while living in intentional community. LVC is an independent, non-profit organization, a member of Lutheran Services in America, and an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Statement of Vision for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps

In response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Lutheran Volunteer Corps exists to preserve, nurture, and sustain life.

We believe that caring for the earth and working for freedom and justice with those who are oppressed answer God's call to Shalom ("Peace with Justice") in today's world. We seek Shalom for all people by serving congregations and organizations which share this call.

We believe that integrating faith and action is essential to wholeness. A vital part of this integration is exploring a simpler lifestyle. Linking inward and outward journeys helps fulfill our commitment to the global community. We pledge to help each other grow spiritually, live simply, and do justice.

We believe that sharing life in intentional community rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ helps us live justly in the world. We are committed to accepting and affirming diversity in community, working for healthy relationships, and living peaceably with all.

We believe that participation in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps strengthens us for a life of witness and leadership in the Church. We pledge to support the Church as it works for freedom and justice.

<http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org/>

Americorps

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's a chance to apply your skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community. Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Whether your service makes a community safer, gives a child a second chance, or helps protect the environment, you'll be getting things done through AmeriCorps!

<http://www.americorps.org/>

Sociology Web Page Links of Interest

At this link, there are four search engines for looking at graduate schools. For example, if you are interested in a graduate program in Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Peace Studies, go to the Peterson Guide, click search for program, masters degree or doctoral degree, and it will list graduate schools. You can do the same for Criminology, Cultural Studies, and so on. Each of the search engines has its virtues. Try them all.

<http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/soci/links/>

Senior Thesis Presentations 2008

Session One: Challenges of Sexism and Ageism

Kristen Wollenberg - Patterns of Emotional Abuse in Nursing Homes: Myths and Reality
Mallory Mahsetky - Reverse Sexism? The Portrayal of Males in Men's Contemporary Magazines
Ashley Anderson - Seedy CDs?: Sex and Gender Images in the Music Industry

Session Two: Race and Education

Desmond Braziel - Where Is Everyone Like Me? An Analysis of Retention of African American Students on Wittenberg's Campus
Cate Downing - Racial Dilemmas and Campus Climate: A Case Study at a Small Liberal Arts College
Lauren Purnell - Comparing the Social Climate at Predominantly White and Historically Black Colleges: Implications for Academic and Social Development

Session Three: Religion and Ideology

Alyssa McEachran - Social Distance, Dogmatism and Religiosity: A Critical Analysis
Matt McCurdy - What Is the Relationship between Belief and Practice? Perceptions of Religious Influences on Daily Life
Peri Cohen - Sex Selection and Decision-Making Processes: A Comparative Analysis of Two Female Populations

Session Four: Media and Popular Culture

Nick Nora - Parental Surveillance of Children's Video Game Playing: What Do They Know and When Do They Know it?
Kailyn Baker - Perceptions of Racism and Misogyny in Hip/Hop: Caring or Indifference among Consumers?
Kaleigh Lockhart - Theatre behind Bars: Rehabilitation or Entertainment? A Case Study of Shakespeare Behind Bars

Session Five: The Challenges of Social Change

Ashley Bletzer - How Has Technology Changed the Landscape of College Dating? Cell Phones, Facebook and the World of Cyberspace
Matt Lynch - Urban Redevelopment Projects: Variations in Perceived Costs and Benefits
Kaitly Yohman - Green or Mean? Truth and Propaganda in the Media's Portrayal of the Environmental Movement

Session Six: Educational Concerns

Ashley Schnedl - The Functions of Summer School Programming on Children from Diverse Economic Backgrounds
Amanda Williams - Perceived Academic Outcomes of Bullying in School: An Exploratory Analysis
Dallas Edwards - Standards or Stumbling Blocks? The Functions of the State Mandated Ohio Graduation Test

Session Seven: Confronting Violence

Sean Hyland - Players' Perceptions of Violence in Football: A Critical Analysis
David Huffman - Perceived Outcomes of Playing Violent Video Games: A Comparison between Adolescents and Adults
Krissie Wells - Rape Crisis Services for Male Inmates: Challenges and Prospects

Session Eight: Sociological Potpourri

Samantha Mohr -The Social Landscape of Suburban Poverty: Patterns and Challenges
Antonia Schwaigert - The Business of Emotion: The Negotiation of Feelings in the Funeral Home Industry
Cass Dunn - Academic Elitism in the Production and Dissemination of Knowledge: The Case of Scholarly Journal Publishing

Consider applying for a Wittenberg Grant to Support Your Research**Visit this Web Page for More Information**

<http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/frfb/eligibility.html>

Student Projects

Since these are competitive programs, students submitting proposals must demonstrate a high degree of previous academic success and appropriate preparation for the type of research being proposed. These qualifications might include, but would not be limited to, GPA, relevant coursework, preliminary research, faculty assessment, etc. Students applying for grants should consult with appropriate faculty members to obtain approval of the research project before drafting a proposal.

SUMMER RESEARCH AT WITTENBERG IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Elizabeth Schaeffer won a summer research grant at Wittenberg.

Here is her title, "Marriage Patterns in Rural Bosnia"

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY

REVISED SPRING 2007

The sociology minor is comprised of Sociology 101 and 16 additional hours in sociology courses. Eight of these 16 hours must be at the 300 or 400 level. Sociology 490 and 491 can be used toward the minor only with Departmental approval.

SOCI 101. Introduction to Sociology _____

Sixteen hours selected from the following:

110	Cultural Anthropology	_____
201	Topics in Sociology/Anthropology	_____
203	Sociology of Education	_____
210	Sociology of Family	_____
230	Welfare and Human Services	_____
245	Gender and Society	_____
250	Sociology of Deviance	_____
270	Sociology of Minority Groups	_____
277	Islam and Islamic Societies	_____
280	Animals and Society	_____
290	Global Change	_____
292	Population Problems	_____
296	Urban Society	_____
301	Special Topics in Sociology/Anthropology	_____
307	Research Methods	_____
330	Wealth, Power, and Poverty	_____
340	Sociology of Religion	_____
350	Race and Ethnicity	_____
360	Sociology Theory	_____
364	Political Sociology	_____
370	Criminology	_____
376	Law and Society	_____
380	Identity, Self and Society	_____
390	Russian and Central Eurasian Societies and Cultures	_____
401	Seminar in Sociology/Anthropology	_____

Check here for completion of 8 hours at 300 level or above: _____

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Revised Spring 2007

The sociology major is comprised of 37 semester hours in sociology. The student selecting the major is required to complete Sociology 101, 307, 360, and 498. Twenty additional semester hours are to be selected from departmental offerings; eight of these hours must be at the 300 or 400 level. The student may use only four semester hours in Sociology 460, 490, or 491 toward the major. A 2.0 GPA in sociology courses is required, and majors are expected to attend regularly scheduled Sociology Colloquia.

Majors must complete a course in statistics (Psychology 107, Mathematics 127 or 227, or Management 210) and must demonstrate computing competency before taking Sociology 307.

Required Courses: 17 hours

SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology	_____
SOCI 307	Research Methods	_____
SOCI 360	Sociological Theory	_____
SOCI 498	Senior Thesis (See Note 1)	_____

Elective Courses: 20 hours

110	Cultural Anthropology	_____
201	Topics in Sociology/Anthropology	_____
210	Sociology of Family	_____
230	Welfare and Human Services	_____
245	Gender and Society	_____
250	Sociology of Deviance	_____
270	Sociology of Minority Groups	_____
277	Islam and Islamic Societies	_____
280	Animals and Society	_____
290	Global Change	_____
292	Population Problems	_____
296	Urban Society	_____
301	Special Topics in Sociology/Anthropology	_____
307	Research Methods	_____
330	Wealth, Power, and Poverty	_____
340	Sociology of Religion	_____
350	Race and Ethnicity	_____
360	Sociology Theory	_____
364	Political Sociology	_____
370	Criminology	_____
376	Law and Society	_____
380	Identity, Self and Society	_____
390	Russian and Central Eurasian Societies and Cultures	_____
401	Seminar in Sociology/Anthropology	_____
490	Independent Study (See Note 2)	_____
491	Internship (See Note 2)	_____

Check here for completion of 8 elective hours at 300 level or above: _____

Note 1: A student may elect to take Senior Honors Thesis (SOCI 499) in place of Senior Thesis (SOCI 498) if approved by the department to pursue honors in Sociology.

Note 2: A student may count only one 490 or 491 course toward the major.