

The Interactionist

An Informative Newsletter for Wittenberg Sociology Students

WHAT ARE SOME OF OUR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS DOING AFTER GRADUATION?

Alyssa A. Wolf (2011) is currently living in Grand Rapids, MI going to law school full time. She writes, "I find it very interesting that a lot of the theory that we learned in theory class is quoted and analyzed in the court cases that I am reading. I'm now in my second semester and time has just flown by. It is hard to believe that, at this time last year, I just completed my sociology senior thesis. Law school is going very well. I pulled a 3.4 my first semester and am now working to find internship opportunities for the summer. I am applying at many firms in both Michigan and Ohio. I hope that things are going well at Wittenberg. I heard that the new University President has an extensive sociology background. I'm sure that she will be a great asset to the department and to the school in general. Thank you for all your continued help and support over the years!"

Bree Stewart (2011) is in the graduate sociology department at Ohio University and writes, "I just wanted to give you a quick grad school update. I just put my thesis committee together and will be writing about Social Movements, Grassroots Movements, and Astroturf Movements and the Rise of

Internet Activism. I also wanted to let you know that I was selected to teach this summer and next year and I will be teaching a soc 201 course, "Contemporary Social Problems." Just wanted to give you a quick update and thank you for everything you did for me during undergrad! Hope things are going well!"

Brenda Dootz (formerly Chomiuk) (2007) writes, "I wanted to send you a note to let you know that I was accepted into grad school! I will be starting University of Massachusetts May 29th with Braille & Psychosocial Aspects of Visual Impairment."

Emily Elliot (2011) is with the Lutheran Volunteer Corp and writes, "I was shocked and deeply honored when I saw my email this morning. I have been nominated for PFLAG's Out with the Stars Award for the safe schools work I have been doing in Georgia! I was so surprised by the nomination, mostly because I have always seen anti-bullying efforts as a broad coalition-based and community-based movement. Regardless, this is an amazing opportunity to get the work of the Georgia Safe Schools Coalition and Georgia Equality into the spotlight and push forward the message that passing effective, comprehensive anti-bullying policy in every school district is the first step to making schools safer for *all* students."

Grace Mooney-Melvin (2010) writes, "I just thought I would check in and give you an update about where my education has taken me! So I graduated this May with a Masters in Social Work. I specialized in Mental Health and last year I interned at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in their psychiatric unit. It was a really great experience and helped me establish what I want to do long term. I recently started a job at a psychiatric and rehabilitative nursing home. I work with a program, Adapt of Illinois. This program goes into nursing homes and provides case management to the residents that are severely mentally ill. We work with about 30 of the residents and work with them on learning coping skills, social skills, etc, with the ultimate goal of transitioning to less restrictive living. A majority of these residents have been institutionalized a majority of their lives and do not have some of the basic skills that others might have, such as taking medications without being reminded multiple times. The majority of the residents we work with have the diagnosis of schizophrenia. So it has been a really good learning experience thus far. Soon I will start working towards getting my LCSW. I hope to go back to the hospital setting, I really liked working on the inpatient unit.

I just thought I would give you an update because a lot of what I learned at Witt, in sociology has pushed me in this direction and I couldn't be happier. I hope all is well and you have a bunch

of eager seniors gearing up for their thesis."

Laura Finch (2011) writes, "I just wanted to write you a brief email to let you know that I am headed to Vinton, Iowa to begin a ten month journey with FEMA Corps. It is a new program that is a part of AmeriCorps in the north central region of the U.S. I hope everything is well with you and would like to keep you updated on my new journey. I am wearing a Wittenberg T-shirt as we speak on my way to check in in Vinton today. I am so proud of the school I came from."

Emily Beaver (2009) writes, "I graduated from The Ohio State University in 2011 with my Masters of Social Work and am a Licensed Social Worker and Chemical Dependency Counselors Assistant. I have been working with persons who have mental illness for the past two years. I am currently the clinical social worker at a Columbus area residential mental health treatment center. Things have been going well with me. I work with 15 men who have mental illness (Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Bipolar, Depression, Personality disorders etc) and provide them with counseling, some case management, and a lot of other random stuff! Some days it's really hard, but other days its really rewarding. Outside of work I'm in a great church (Veritas Community Church) I have a great community there, and am starting to work with their counseling program as well.

**Forthcoming Senior Thesis Presentations
Wednesday, February 20th, 2013
Shouvlin 201**

***Coaches as Charismatic Leaders*
Kelly Brown**

***A Loc Journey: An Autoethnographic Study*
Cory Cosby**

***On the Social Exchange Strategies of Military Recruiters*
Rebecca Cox**

***The Social Reason for the Mean Girl Syndrome*
Lucia Cross**

***The Nursing Vocation as Social Activism: Fighting Racism*
Erica Ford**

***Pastisch as the Social Logic of Schizophrenic Language*
Halle Gilligan**

***Triads as a Source of Unhappiness in the Family*
Kirstie Hansen**

***Anime as Global Carrier of Japanese Culture*
Patricia Jackson**

***Discrepant Roles or Double-Consciousness: A Town/Gown Study*
Stefan Latham**

***Gendered Viewpoints of Feminism in the Arab World*
Kathryn Murray**

***Narcissism versus Self-Love: The Feminist Account*
Kayley Petch**

***Teach for America: A Program Evaluation*
Sofia Recalt**

***Non-Apologetic Face-Giving in the Romney-Obama Presidential Debates*
Jordan Shriver**

***The Non-Perception of Increasing Income Inequality in the United States*
Zach Smith**

***Nationalism or Patriotism: Americans' Love of Their Olympic Athletes*
Taylor Young**

Faculty News

ON DR. BROOKE WAGNER'S PILGRIMAGE TO WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

I am very excited to be here at Wittenberg University. My journey to 'become an academic' has been untraditional, to say the least. I commuted to college after high school, like many of friends, but I wasn't really interested in higher education. I thought almost all of my classes were interesting, but I no idea what I wanted to 'be.' I spent the first two years of my undergraduate education switching from major to major. I had 5 declared majors before I found Sociology (Theater, Physical Therapy Assistant, English, Criminal Justice, & Psychology). When I finally found Sociology, I had already invested too much time (and money) to switch to a new major. Also during this time, I got pregnant. I was pushed into the world of single-parenthood; which gave me a new drive to succeed in college. For many, becoming a single parent is reason to drop-out of school. Luckily, I was able to continue my education, go to work, and take care of my son -Scott. My BA is an interdisciplinary degree in Liberal Arts education, with a concentration in Criminal Justice, and minors in Psychology, Sociology, and Creative Writing.

Though by my junior year of college I found Sociology, and loved it, I still did not know what I wanted to do with my life. After all, what do Sociologists do anyway? One of my professors told me, "Brooke, I think you should go to graduate school," and not having any other plans, I did. My family and I

moved from Indiana to Las Vegas so I could attend the Sociology graduate program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Here I received both my Masters and Ph.D. I also had my daughter, Rebel.

Sociology is a very broad field, and houses ancillary sub-disciplines such as criminology, gender & sexuality, pop-culture studies, ethnicities, and religion. But these are just a few of the things sociologists study. Sociologists study people, so anything the people do, believe, or create is open for us to study. I primarily study gender, sexuality, and deviance. My research focuses on the intersections of gender and sexuality, the effects of gender in the criminal justice system, and violent crime. Because these are my areas, I do tend to place a little more emphasis on the topics I like and know the most about; however, I am also careful to select material that is representative of the discipline in the mainstream.

My dissertation, "The Founding of Sexual Assault: The Use of Formal and Bounded Rationality by Police in Sexual Assault Claims" expands on a pilot study that I co-authored for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) titled "An Analysis of Factors Associated with Known Incidents of Sexual Assault Reported to Police." My dissertation focuses on the influence of victim demographics, event characteristics, and contextual factors on the

likelihood of police determining the legitimacy of a sexual assault claim. I presented the preliminary quantitative findings of this research at the 2011 Society for the Study of Social Problems, and presented the theoretical portion at the 2011 American Sociological Association Theory roundtable. Using the same data, I also authored a paper titled "An Analysis of Factory Associated with Delayed Reporting in Sexual Assault Claims" that is under review at the Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

Beyond my dissertation topic, one of my primary research interests is gender and juvenile corrections. Before attending graduate school, I volunteered as an exit strategy counselor at a juvenile detention center, which ignited my interest in the juvenile justice system. I currently have a co-authored paper under review that examines the relationship between gender and juvenile case processing. This paper, titled "Gender and Juvenile Justice Processing Outcomes for Status Offenders," was presented at the 2010 American Society of Criminology in San Francisco and is under review at Justice Quarterly. Presently, I am the associate site coordinator for the Las Vegas area Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) project. CSEC is a grant-funded project through the New York Center for Court Innovations (CCI) and the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Protection (OJJDP). The goal of the CSEC project is to gather qualitative information about the prevalence of juvenile prostitution across the United States, as well as to

understand the day-to-day lives of juvenile sex workers. We have finished collecting the data, over 100 interviews, and I will be beginning the analysis of this data soon.

My other research interests include sexuality and identity. My thesis paper "Becoming a Sexual Being: Overcoming Constraints on Female Sexuality" examines the influence of postmodern sexuality on constructions of intimacy and was translated and reprinted in the German journal *Zeitschrift Für Sexualforschung* in December of 2009.

At Wittenberg, I am excited to teach several classes that focus on my areas of interest and research. During Fall 2012, I am teaching Introduction to Sociology and Women & Crime. Next semester, I will be teaching Research Methods - a mandatory course for Sociology Majors, Sociology of Deviance, and another section of Women & Crime. In the classroom, passion and application are the central tenets of my teaching philosophy. My passion for teaching stems from my own undergraduate program, where I was taught the value of thinking critically about the world around me. My professors inspired me to not only see the world through new lenses, but also to see myself in a different way. It is this moment of self-realization that I try to bring into the classroom. It is not enough for me to teach the course material, by the end of my class I expect students to be able to reflect on how the concepts we discuss shape their everyday lives.

Dr. Doubt's Summer in Bloomington, Indiana!

This summer I lived in a dorm for eight weeks with students and teachers in the SWEEEL Program at Indiana University! SWEEEL stands for Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages. I studied, as you might guess, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. The teacher from Zagreb, Croatia was very challenging. My classmates were graduate students who already spoke Russian. The course was a lot of fun, and I worked hard not to let my age group down. For each term I got an A plus. Now I am ready for an intermediate class in the Bosnian language and soon will be conducting interviews in Bosnia on elopements and family visitations after marriage.

Dr. Doubt Steps Down, Dr. Pankhurst Steps Up!

After more than a decade serving as Department chairperson, Keith Doubt has stepped down and will pursue new teaching and research activities. He is currently planning for an exciting sabbatical leave next academic year. Jerry Pankhurst re-enters the administrative role that he left after two terms in the 1990s. Dr. Pankhurst and the other department faculty members are planning some changes in the sociology major to make it more attractive, but the whole idea is to build on the strong foundation that Dr. Doubt preserved and improved during his term in office.

The department is deeply indebted to Dr. Doubt for his long and valuable service. We wish him great

success and joys in his upcoming projects!

News from Dr. Moskowitz

It has been a good first year as a new faculty member in the Department of Sociology here at Wittenberg University. I've enjoyed getting to know students in the Department, working with seniors on their thesis projects, and becoming part of the University community. Teaching has kept me busy but I have been able to pursue my scholarship by presenting at local and national conferences. Last fall I presented a paper called, "Bakhtin, the American, and the Islander: Outside the Dialogue of Commonality?," at the American Anthropological Association meetings in Montreal. The paper was in a panel that examined the way that the identity of the researcher appears in the final writings that are produced.

I spent a month this summer conducting further research for this paper at New York University's Bobst Library and am currently revising the paper in a slightly different direction for publication. I also recently presented a paper called, "Navigating Lives through Self-Reference: Term Choice at Ogasawara Middle School," at the Midwest Conference for Asian Affairs held at Western Michigan State University. This paper stems from research I conducted with Japanese ninth-graders on language use during my dissertation fieldwork on Chichijima Island, Japan. I hope to rework this and other fieldwork scholarship into articles in the near future as well.

Dr. Pankhurst's Work and Travel Abroad

After returning from spring semester as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Tartu in Estonia, I have been very busy starting out a new term as Department Chairperson and also as Director of the Russian and Central Eurasian Studies program.

While in Tartu, I taught two courses on the MA level to a variety of foreign students; the language of instruction was English. The courses were "Social Change and Social Problems in Russia and the CIS: Bases for Sociocultural Analysis" and "Religion and National Identity: From Believer to Citizen." He also reviewed masters theses for his unit, the EuroCollege of the University of Tartu, which emphasizes the study of relations between the European Union and the Russian Federation and other post-Soviet societies.

On the research side, I lead in the organization and carrying out of an international workshop at the University of Tartu on "Religion, Politics, and Policy-Making in Russia: Domestic and International Dimensions." Besides Estonians, scholars from many other countries participated, including from Britain, Poland, Finland, Latvia, Sweden, Russia and the USA. The papers of the conference are now being prepared in final form for publication as a special issue of the journal, *Religion, State and Society*, which will be published next summer. Pankhurst's own contribution is entitled "The European Agenda of the Russian Orthodox Church."

One real pleasure while in Estonia was talking with Estonian high school students and their teachers about higher education in the U.S., and especially about the possibility of coming to Wittenberg. A Wittenberg student from Estonia, Martin Lukk, provided a videotaped segment in Esto-

nian language that really impressed the students in Tartu!

While in Europe for the Fulbright grant, I traveled to Russia, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Georgia, and Italy. In Italy I met with colleagues in the sociology of religion with whom he is engaged in a research project on the growth of the Eastern Orthodox population in Catholic Italy. In Poland, I met with a group of dissident Belarusians who are trying to disseminate information about the undemocratic practices of the government of the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko.

This summer has been taken up editing the papers for the journal issue resulting from the Tartu workshop, and getting back into the swing here at Wittenberg. One direct result of the Estonian Fulbright experience has been the establishment of ties with Estonian scholars, and one of them will participate in a spring course with me. I will offer a course on "Religion and Politics: America and Worldwide" that will include class meetings via Internet bridge with a professor at the University of Tartu who will be teaching a similar course there. Watch for full information about this course as spring semester registration takes place.

For the future, I am scheduled to give some lectures in Norway over spring break and then return to Tartu after Wittenberg commencement in May for the second Tartu workshop, which I am co-organizing.

If you are interested in Estonia, the Baltic region, Russia and the post-Soviet societies, or the EU in general, I invite you to come by and chat.

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).

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

Teach for America

In our country today, a significant achievement gap exists between low-income children and their wealthier peers. It takes committed leaders in our classrooms today who will continue to fight for students tomorrow. **Teach For America's** mission is to build the movement to eliminate educational inequity by developing such leaders.

We [recruit](#) committed recent college graduates of all backgrounds to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools

We [train](#) and develop these corps members so that they have an immediate positive impact on their students

We [foster](#) the leadership of our alumni as they address this problem from all sectors

In 2011, our organization was named one of Fortune magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work For.

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