

**Sociology
Department
Wittenberg
University**

The Interactionist: An Informative Newsletter for Sociology Students

Volume 2, Issue 1

May, 2004

Plans for 2004 Graduates

Special points of interest inside this issue:

- Carnegie's Newest Addition
- Wittenberg's Latest Sociology Colloquium...



- Faculty Publications and Travels

Katie Martin, after taking some time off for a cross-country road trip—destination Los Angeles—will head back to the Bluegrass State to complete a masters program in applied sociology where she has a teaching assistantship at the University of Louisville. After that...“the world is her oyster.” Katie was also accepted in the graduate programs at Temple University and Purdue University. Katie astutely judged that University of Louisville had the best applied sociology program.

Bri Barclay will attend Florida International University to pursue her Masters and then Ph.D. in comparative sociology, focusing on cultural and gender studies. She has a teaching assistantship with a goal to become a college professor which she says, “seems like a gazillion years away.”

Brandon Stanfill will be working for Teach For America. He will be

teaching in the inner city of Newark, New Jersey with children from poverty ridden neighborhoods. This opportunity means a lot to him because, as he says, “I truly feel strongly about the problems surrounding our education system in this country. Now I actually get to do more than just complain about the problem.” After his two year commitment, he will either go on to law school or grad school.

Jessica Stephens will begin a masters degree at the Ohio State University in the School of Social Work this fall.

John Nelson is working full time in the family property management business, Nelson & Associates. He is on his way to becoming a property manager.

Emily Richardson will be helping with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps for the next year.

“Now I actually get to do more than just complain about the problem.”
-Brandon Stanfill

Her time includes living in Baltimore working for Healthcare for the Homeless, for a one year commitment. “I may pursue graduate school after that but at this point I am excited to be doing social justice work.”

Gretchen Fisk was accepted into attending the Masters sociology program at Cleveland State University.

If we inadvertently neglected someone, we apologize. Please share your post-Wittenberg plans and ambitions for our next issue.

Updates on Sociology Alumni

2002 Grads

Annie Waggoner will be teaching orphans in Uganda this July as a volunteer. Then she will start as a teaching assistant in the Masters sociology program at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Kevin Hooker just finished his first year at the University of Michigan's Masters of Social Work program. After receiving his MSW he is considering continuing at U of M for his joint Ph.D. in social work and sociology.

2003 Grads

Abbe Linscott will be entering the Masters of Gerontological Studies program with a graduate assistantship—full waiver of tuition plus a stipend.

Mindi Laine is living in New York City working at the Rockefeller University in development. “I absolutely love it here! Just a little different from life in Springfield and at Wittenberg!”

Jess Sandeen will be starting graduate school in the fall at the School of Social Work at the Uni-

versity of Buffalo. It is a two year program with a Children and Youth concentration.



Please keep in touch! We want to know how you are doing!

Jeremy Bardon will be starting at Miami University at Oxford in a Masters program in Sport Organizations. His teaching assistantship covers full tuition and stipend.

Andy Waddle left Mansfield University in Pennsylvania for a new coaching position at Maryville College in Ten-

nessee where he is the defensive football coach. He says he “enjoys coaching football from a liberal arts perspective.”

Jayne Gerber will be starting in the Masters program in sociology with a focus on “Rural and Environmental Change” at the University of Montana in Missoula. She chose this university based on “their program option, because I was awarded a teaching assistantship, and because it’s in the mountains.”

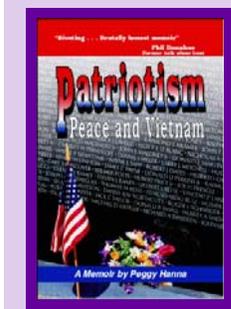
Meet Carnegie's Newest Addition

Peggy Hanna, Department Assistant joined the Sociology and Geography departments in the spring of 2004. Peggy is not new to Wittenberg. She worked in Student Services and the Computing Center from 1979 to 1990. Her four sons and two daughters-in-law all graduated from Witt in the mid to late 80s.

Peggy and her husband, originally from Chicago, have nine children and thirteen grandchildren. Raising kids is not her only interest. Her activism in peace issues, politics and community service earned her the Wittenberg Women of Accomplishment Award in 1986.

Most recently Peggy has published a book, *Patriotism, Peace and Vietnam: A Memoir*.

For more information about her book, please visit her web page www.pegghanna.com.



Still unsure what to do with a Sociology degree? Check out the Wittenberg University Sociology Department Web Page and go to the Links of Interest Link on the Menu Sidebar. Visit, for example, Cleveland State University at www.csuohio.edu and consider their Master's degree program.

AKD Initiation... at Least the Company Was Great

Welcome initiates of Alpha Kappa Delta, Wittenberg's own Sociology Honor Society. To all of you who were in attendance, thank you for your patience. The ceremony was not as smooth as other years, but besides list mix-ups and food mishaps, the ceremony went without a hitch! Congratulations to the following inductees: Leigh Abbott, Erica Beckstedt, Brenda Chomiuk, Erin Cruze, Nicole DiLaura, Sarah Fassler, Gretchen Fisk, Natalie Hess, Jennifer Ingwalson, Michael Lute, Melissa Moser, Elizabeth Nar-

cho, Lindsey Newton, Deana Nowakowski, Jalyn Parks, Charlie Steed, Amanda Topham, Blake Troxel, Dr. Keisha Warren, Katie Westlund, Octavia Williams, and Kristen Zelenka.

A congratulations is also in order for the following members who are graduating this spring, along with several of their new inductee peers: Bri Barclay, Emily Richardson, Ruthie Rodelander, Erica Rosian, Jamie Shampine, Brandon Stanfill, and Jessica Stephens.

The teal cords worn by the seniors signifies their membership into this honor society. Congratulations!

Student and Faculty Travels

~Trip to Cleveland for NCSA~

Early in April four students, accompanied by Dr. Keith Doubt made the short trip to Cleveland for the North Central Sociological Association's Annual Conference. Brandon Stanfill, Katie Martin, Jamie Shampine, and Bri Barclay each presented an abbreviated version of their senior thesis presentations. Dr. Doubt was presented two of his papers at the conference as well.

Being a conference for graduate students and faculty, the four stu-

dents were a bit intimidated at first to learn they would be presenting alongside those much longer involved in the field longer than they themselves were. However, they each quickly realized the department had prepared them well, and all gave outstanding presentations. Several compliments were heard throughout the weekend on behalf of the seniors and their impressive research.

~Off to Indy for the NCUR~

This April, Emily Richardson and Ruthie Rodelander traveled to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) to present their senior thesis work at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Emily's topic was "Sexual Assault Awareness Education at Small Colleges: Problems and Prospects." Ruthie's topic was "A Content Analysis of the Learning Channel's 'A Makeover Story': Does

the Self Come in Different Shades of Lipstick?"

They were joined by students from over 400 colleges and universities from nearly every state in the United States. A variety of fields were represented, including creative arts, mathematics, business, social sciences, humanities, physical and life sciences, natural resources, and engineering, to name a few.

Senior Thesis Presentations

Wow! What an amazing year for presentations. Not only did the presentations go well for the students, the whole two days were enjoyable for all those in attendance. The morning of February

the 24th started off with eight presenters, followed by a lunch, catered by the Sociology faculty at the Black Culture House. The second group of five then gave their presentations before breaking for

the evening. The next day seven students presented, concluding the two-day colloquium. As Dr. Doubt noted, Wittenberg possibly gave the best sociology conference in all of Ohio!



Focus Group Gathers Department Info

Immediately following the Senior Thesis Presentations, the sociology seniors participated in a focus group. The goal was to let the students' voices be heard for the upcoming sociology assessment. This assessment, which takes place every four years, is a way to show the faculty and the administration what works well and what can be improved within the department. This year the seniors met with Dr. Stefan Broidy and his assistant Abbie Klene for some pizza and discussion about what they like and disliked about the

way the sociology department was run. The four objectives of the afternoon were to:

(1) to determine student views on whether the major's senior thesis requirement should continue, cease, or be revised to better provide a capstone for the major;

(2) to gauge the extent to which students believe the senior thesis requirement provides a means for integrating the program's learning;

(3) determine the level of student satisfaction with the quality and quantity of internships/practica and colloquia;

(4) and to uncover the extent to which students are satisfied that their Sociology major program meets their expectations and hopes for that program.

Overall, the students felt the senior thesis was a worthwhile experience and helped bring what they had learned from various classes in a mean-

ingful integration. However, several suggestions were made regarding time usage and the level of faculty involvement.

When asked to describe what came to mind when they thought about the department (the classes, faculty, etc) the responses of the seniors varied, but were overwhelmingly positive: "encouraging and diverse, insightful, enthusiastic, useful, not coherent, extremely educational, interesting, adventurous, eye-opening to problems in society, variety of topics, committed professors, better than mediocre, interesting learning, enlightening, motivating, supportive, preparative (for grad school), welcoming and knowledgeable group.

In closing, Dr. Broidy asked the students, in groups, to determine the top strengths and weaknesses of the department. The majority of strengths focused on "the quality and student orientation of the faculty." The majority of the weaknesses focused included "the physical environment for program, and on the internal organization and unity of the department."



The Interactionist

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Faculty News

Dr. Warren's manuscript, "How Do We Understand Intercultural Communication?" has been accepted for publication in *Race, Class, and Gender*.

Dr. Nibert was the keynote speaker at the international conference Representing Animals this past fall at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. He was also chosen to serve as the editor of a special edition of the *International Journal on Sociology and Social Policy*.

Dr. Doubt traveled to Dubrovnik, Croatia where he gave an invited lecture "The Politics of Scapegoating: A Critique for the Sake of Democracy in South Eastern Europe" to a seminar of masters and doctoral students from Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia.

We proudly announce the 2004

T. Edwin Boling Sociology

Scholarship Award Winners:

Brianne Barclay

Katie Martin

Dr. McEvoy's Sabbatical Work

Throughout this year, Dr. Alan McEvoy has used his sabbatical leave to write, to conduct research, and to present professional workshops to educators concerned with problems of school violence. He has recently completed a new book entitled *Toxic Romance*. It is a guide for young women involved with controlling and abusive men. He will spend part of May in Ireland and looks forward to his return to the classroom in the fall.



Newsletter Producer and Designer: Bri Barclay

Sociology Club...A Look Back

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sociology Club for the 2003-04 school year. We raised over \$100 for the American Cancer Society at the Relay for Life, plus had some food and fun at our meetings and

events. A special thanks to my fellow officers: Natalie Hess, Erica Rosian, Becky Barnes, Ashland Griffin, & Molly Cloyd!

-Bri Barclay

Sociology Club...A Look Ahead

As we embark upon our third year of sociology club we look forward to many events incorporating both sociology majors/minors and those simply interested in what sociology is. This club serves as a support group for those studying sociology – often providing advice to underclassmen on internships, classes, local jobs, etc. It is also very informative to freshman and sophomores whom have not yet declared a major and are searching for their academic direction.

In the upcoming year, we have planned for activities including a Michael Moore Film Festival showing films including *Roger & Me*, *The Big One*, and *Bowling for Columbine* to entice students' sociological imagina-

tions. Also, we hope to bring in speakers and presentations that we feel represent the direct interests of the student body – perhaps in experimenting with sociology and a sample of majors and minors, we may find what topics students would enjoy for colloquia.

Meetings are held weekly or monthly, depending on upcoming events. Please email the club's new president, Molly Cloyd, at mcloyd@wittenberg.edu to join the mailing list and be informed of specific meeting dates and times. This is a great opportunity to get involved and a wonderful resume builder, especially if you want to take a leadership position in the club. We look forward to your attendance!

-Molly Cloyd