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# The Interactionist

*An Informative Newsletter for Wittenberg Sociology Students*

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## WHAT ARE SOCIOLOGY MAJORS DOING AFTER GRADUATION? CLASS OF 2010

- Jimmy Ryan, who graduated with a double major in Sociology and Geography, is planning to attend graduate school in cultural geography at University of Cincinnati.
- Grace A. Mooney-Melvin is attending Loyola University in Chicago this fall working on her masters degree in social work.
- Victoria Vogelgesang, who graduated with a Sociology major and a minor in Political Science, is planning to attend graduate school in public policy at either Loyola or DePaul University. She likes Chicago after attending the North Central Sociological Annual Meeting this spring, which was held in Chicago.
- Sarah Larson will be working with Lutheran Volunteer Corps for a year in Seattle, Washington. 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.
- Meghan Connor is living in Manhattan and working with an advertising company in New York
- Emily Elliot, like Sarah Larson, is working with Lutheran Volunteer Corps. She will be volunteering in Georgia at a gay rights political activist group. Her new email address is [emilyelliott88@gmail.com](mailto:emilyelliott88@gmail.com).
- Andrew Steele is the founder and executive director of the non-profit organization, 'BLOOM Africa' that provides resources for orphans in Lesotho. Its website is [www.bloomafrika.org](http://www.bloomafrika.org). Andrew is currently serving as a Young Adult in Global Mission service volunteer with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. He is now in Bloemfontein, South Africa, at the 'Lebone House,' a children's center and orphanage. He will spend the next year serving at the orphanage and children's center for at risk youth through the Young Adult Global Mission program. BLOOM Africa will continue working hard pursuing our mission while Andrew is in South Africa.
- Lauren Berzins is currently working in the research department at Wendy's International Corporation in Columbus, Ohio. She is thinking about applying to graduate school in Scotland.
- Kristy Dye is planning to pursue a masters degree in sociology at Antioch University Midwest.
- Stevie Brown is planning to apply to law school this year.

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## CLASS OF 2009

- Brandi Bobo is working as the manager for a student collection agency called GC Services. She plans to go back to school and find another job more related to sociology.
- Chase Michael Bryson is working as a supervisor in the credit department for the worlds largest jewelry company...Sterling Jewelers Inc. It is not really what he planned on doing with a Sociology major and Psychology minor, but with the salary they offered him and the opportunity to work for one of the bigger fortune 500 companies, it was kind of hard to turn down.
- Melissa Straight is working with behavioral children at Mental Health Services here in Springfield. She is looking into getting her masters degree in Psychology or Social Work.
- Abby Reese is currently working in Columbus as an AmeriCorps member under the non-profit Homeport by Columbus Housing Partnership. When her year of service is done in September, she is looking into graduate schools, either social and public policy/administration or law.
- Brit Sterling- Ghoslm got married and is going to Capella University online pursuing a MS in Higher Education Leadership. She is currently working as an addictions counselor at The Deridder Addictive Disorders Clinic, in DeRidder, LA. She will be moving to Alaska soon to be with her husband.
- Jane Lyle (Hord) is living in Lexington and will finish her first year at University of Kentucky in law. This summer she did an internship with a federal district judge in Lexington and hopes to be able to do a research project on the status of sexual assault victims in the Kentucky justice system.
- Emily Beavers is currently finishing her first year in the OSU Masters of Social Work Program, and this summer she will be doing research on the housing expectations of offenders vs the current housing options available to them.
- Kara Guss is working for Teach for America this year. Teach For America provides a critical source of well-trained teachers who are helping break the cycle of educational inequity. These teachers, called corps members, commit to teach for two years in one of 39 urban and rural regions across the country, going above and beyond traditional expectations to help their students to achieve at high levels.



## THE NOT SO DISTANT PAST

• Blake Troxel, who graduated with a Sociology major in 2005, will again be going to Vanuatu, where he had worked and lived as a member of the Peace Corps. Blake leaves around Sept 17th. Blake, who now attends Yale University, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship to Vanuatu in Ecology / Environmental Studies, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently. He will stay for 10 months and return to finish up the masters program next year. Where is Vanuatu?



- Ashley Sodders is a 2007 Wittenberg graduate with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. She is a 2010 Wright State Graduate with a M.P.A. (Masters in Public Administration). She is currently employed by the Department of Job and Family Services as a Case Manager in the Child Support Division. Ashley's future goal is to pursue a career working for a non-profit organization.
- Tony Ottomanelli, who graduated with a Sociology major in 2006, is graduating from DePaul University in August 2010 with a Master's in Sociology. His area of concentration is visual ethnography. He recently recommended a documentary on the special relation between President Clinton and the British Prime Ministry Tony Blair titled "The Special Relationship."
- Krissie Wells, who graduated in 2008, recently graduated from Case Western Reserve University with her Master's degree in Social Administration in May. She is currently employed at the Housing Research & Advocacy Center in Cleveland as a Research Associate. She researches issues relating to community lending and housing discrimination.

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**President of the Sociology Club**  
**Ali Bickel**

**Look for forthcoming announcements regarding meetings  
and events.**

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Wittenberg Student Peace Alliance

Mobilizing Our Generation To Create And Sustain Peace

The Wittenberg Student Peace Alliance was formed under the Sociology Club in 2009. Student Peace Alliance chapters exist in over 30 states across the country. The role of the SPA Chapter is to educate members of the local community about the field of peace building, engage in community service efforts aimed at preventing and reducing violence, encourage local representatives to endorse HR 1064/S 435 and HR 808, and to raise funds for the continued growth of the Student Peace Alliance. HR 808, a Department of Peace will

- Provide much-needed assistance to efforts by city, county, and state governments in coordinating existing programs; as well as develop new programs based on best practices nationally
- Teach violence prevention and mediation to America's school children
- Effectively treat and dismantle gang psychology
- Rehabilitate the prison population
- Build peace-making efforts among conflicting cultures both here and abroad
- Support our military with complementary approaches to peace-building.
- Create and administer a U.S. Peace Academy, acting as a sister organization to the U.S. Military Academy.

I cannot tell you with what weapons mankind would fight WW3, but I can assure  
you that WW4 would be fought with sticks and stones.

~ Albert Einstein

[Join the Sociology Club and learn more about the Student Peace Alliance!](#)

## Fulbright-Scholars-in-Residence in the Sociology Department at Wittenberg University

Two years ago Lin Erikson and I prepared and submitted an application for to the Fulbright-Scholar-in-Residence Program for Wittenberg University. Wittenberg has sent many faculty abroad through different Fulbright Programs. Indeed, Wittenberg has had thirty-one faculty selected as Fulbright scholars to teach or do research abroad. What is exciting with this initiative is that the program brings Fulbright scholars from abroad to Wittenberg. The goal of the Fulbright program is to create bridges between people in different countries, bridges built on good will. Scholars and academics in different countries meet, work together, get to know each other, share knowledge, and learn about each other's cultures. Now the bridge is a two way bridge. Not only are Wittenberg faculty going abroad to other countries but Fulbright Scholars from other countries are coming to Wittenberg.

The purpose of this particular program as written by Lin Erikson and me is to shore up our cultural anthropology curriculum at Wittenberg, to offer new courses, to seek advice on program development, and to create new programs in cultural anthropology. These international colleagues serve not only the Sociology Department and its interest in developing a stronger anthropology curriculum, but also Women's Studies, Urban Studies, Africana Studies, and Russian and Central Eurasia Area Studies. The program supports as well Wittenberg's Strategic Plan in bringing an authentic and clear international perspective into our curriculum.



Last year, we had the pleasure and honour of hosting two international scholars, Professor Tseli Mapetla from Lesoto and Professor Nina Vodopivec from Slovenia, one during the fall semester and the other during the spring semester. It was exciting for students and faculty to have these colleagues in Carnegie



Hall. Professor Mapeta taught two courses: Gender & AIDS in Global Context and Gender & Urbanization Southern Africa. Professor Vodopivec also taught two courses: Gender and Society and Anthropology

in Eastern Europe. This spring 2011, we will have a third international scholar to teach in the Sociology Department. We are very fortunate in this regard. Professor Thea de Wet is in the Department Anthropology and Development Studies at University of Johannesburg in South Africa. Her specialities are race, ethnicity, gender, and health. We are excited to have her teaching at Wittenberg this coming spring.

Professor Keith Doubt

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## Welcome Awesome New Sociology Faculty

Professor Lawrence Hammar will be teaching this entire academic year as a full-time Visiting Professor in Cultural Anthropology. Lawrence Hammar is a cultural-medical anthropologist who has worked extensively in Papua New Guinea since 1988. He has many interests in gender studies, ethnography, qualitative research methods, and HIV and AIDS. He worked alongside Papua New Guinean colleagues from 2003–2006 during a nationwide study of HIV, AIDS, STDs, and sexual health and behaviour. This summer he worked in Suva, Fiji, leading a project, "Positive Research for Positive People," during which he trained Fijians in the rudiments of qualitative research methods and then, with them, conducted formative research about intimate partner transmission of HIV. Professor Hammar's recent book is titled "Sin, Sex, and Stigma: A Pacific Response to HIV and AIDS" and is available from the publisher at [www.seankingstonpublishing.com](http://www.seankingstonpublishing.com)



Professor Jeanne Ballantine will be teaching two sections of Introduction to Sociology this fall. Dr. Ballantine is a retired professor from Wright State University and has dedicated her career to advancing our knowledge of, and elevating the status of teaching in, the discipline. This is evident in her work in the scholarship of teaching and learning and in the sociology of education. Wright State University, the North Central Sociological Association, and the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning have honored her for her contributions to teaching. She is a member of the ASA Department Resources Group, has served as the ASA Field Coordinator, and has directed Wright State University's Center for Teaching. At the 2004 ASA Annual Meeting, she led a pre-conference workshop to help graduate students improve their teaching, showing her dedication to advancing teaching sociology and sharing that knowledge with the next generation of sociologists.



## What have Sociology Faculty been up to?

Professor Mike Norris says that Wittenberg alumnus Richard E. Gordon was his advisee in the Wright State's M.A. program in Applied Behavioral Science. His M.A. project, "Law Enforcement Experience, Reasoning, and Profiling Violent Crime," won a Graduate Student Excellence Award, and he presented it at a Graduate Student Colloquium at Wright State on May 27, 2010. Richard surveyed members of the Springfield Police department while at Witt for his Senior Thesis, which formed the basis of his M.A. project. He is now on his way to medical school.

Criminological highlights from his European trip this summer were the Torture Museum in Prague and Adolf Hitler's favorite coffee house in Vienna.



His study on police use of force in the U.S., Mexico and Venezuela was previously published in the *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* and is now forthcoming in Spanish. His evaluation of the Greene County teen court was recently published in *Crime and Delinquency* and I'm now evaluating a prevention diversion program for the Greene County Juvenile Court.

Professor Norris continues to enjoy writing songs about criminology, playing the guitar and singing for my Witt students in SOCI 250, Sociology of Deviance, and SOCI 370, Criminology. After all those years of practice, Mike says, "I finally made it to Carnegie!"

Professor Kathy Rowell will be teaching two courses this fall on Race and Ethnicity. The Sociology Department continues to benefit from the services of this outstanding professor. Last year Professor Rowell was President of the North Central Sociological Association and gave the key note speech in Chicago. Here is why Professor Rowell received this impressive honor: She was awarded the 2005 Outstanding Community Colleges Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation and Case Foundation. She has taught sociology at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, since 1996 and continues to teach as she serves as the college's first director for the Center for Teaching and Learning. During this time, Rowell has worked to infuse service learning into classroom instruction, designing courses that require students to volunteer with her at area shelters as one way to enhance their community awareness



and civic engagement. She has worked on numerous module forms of learning including a diversity module on her campus as part of an NSF project and modules for the MidWest Institute for International Education. She also also worked with the American Sociological Association and the NSF on an Integrating Data Analysis project over the past few years. As part of this project, she helped develop data analysis modules that could be used by students across the United States in introductory courses. Rowell earned a bachelor's and master's degrees from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

Professor David Nibert is currently working on a comparative historical study that challenges the conventional idea that the domestication of animals has advanced human development. Nibert argues that such use of other animals has enabled and promoted widespread violence and warfare over the



course of world history and has undermined the development of a just and peaceful world. Nibert's book-length manuscript is slated to be published by Columbia University Press later this year.

Professor Jerry Pankhurst spent most of his time outside class work during the Spring Semester chairing the Provost Search Committee, and he did a remarkable job.. He continues to work on issues of religion and politics in Russia and Eurasia, and with a group of scholars from around the world, is planning a mini-conference in November on the processes of de-secularization in post-Soviet and post-communist societies. The work of Peter Berger on the topic of de-secularization provides a core idea for the project, and Berger will participate in the conference as a discussant and convener. The mini-conference will include two venues: the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Baltimore and the Kennan Institute at the Wilson Center on the Mall in Washington,

DC. For the fall semester, he hopes we can continue to develop programming that fosters interfaith understanding. As well as his course on Islam and Islamic societies, he belongs to a group of faculty and the University Pastors that has been discussing options over the last year. Look for activities with the local Muslim, Jewish and other communities. In this connection, he will also be attending an interfaith conference in late July in Minneapolis that is sponsored by the Lutheran Church (ELCA). He hopes to bring back some good ideas to put to use at Wittenberg. Finally, his summer will end with attending the conferences of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) and the American Sociological Association in Atlanta. At the ASR conference he will be convening two panels, one on "Religion and Identity Construction" and the other on "Religion, Politics and Civic Culture." He looks forward to working with seniors on Senior Thesis projects this fall!





Keith Doubt taught a course titled "Sarajevo: Surviving Urbicide," which involved a one week visit to Sarajevo. The course with eight Wittenberg students studied Sarajevo: its multi-cultural heritage, its distinctive historical periods, and its tragic war experience. Students watched films such as "Re-make" and "Grbavica" and read books such



as "Sarajevo Blues" by Se-mezdin Meh-medinić and "Sarajevo Marl-boro" by Mil-jenko Jergović. Students then vis-ited Sarajevo for eight days and upon their return they constructed their own online

walking tour of Sarajevo, using digital pho-tos with narratives collected in Sarajevo. In Sarajevo, students followed two guide-books, one written for the Winter Olym-pics in 1984 by William Tribe and another after the war in 2005 by Majo Dizdar. The link to their outstanding Web pages that students constructed can be found at:

<http://www9.wittenberg.edu/academics/soci/sarajevo.html>. In April 2010 Professor Doubt attended the 100th Jubilee Celebra-tion for Meša Selimović in Sarajevo and presented his invited paper, "Solipsism Narrated Magnanimously: Reflections on

'Death and Dervish.'" He co-edits still the quarterly, interdisciplinary, international, bilingual online journal, "Duh Bosne / Spirit of Bosnia," at <http://www.spiritofbosnia.org>, now in its fifth year of publication.

## 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/>