



The Interactionist:

An Informative Newsletter for Sociology Students

Letter From the Chair

This academic year is a lean one for the Wittenberg Sociology Department. Professor Jerry Pankhurst is on a full-year sabbatical traveling to Russia to study religion. Professor Stephen Smith is on sabbatical doing research in the anthropology of food. Professor Kiesha Warren took a maternity leave this spring. Professor Linda Lewis continues to be on leave this year. This means Professors Keith Doubt, Alan McEvoy, and David Nibert are on campus this spring. Wow! We, though, have several

adjunct faculty offering exciting courses in gender, social work, and ethnicity in Africa.

Once again the Wittenberg Sociology Department is hosting perhaps one of the best sociology conferences in the area. I am sure you have already seen the exciting titles for Senior Thesis Presentations. Come hear the results of your classmates' research. Eight of the eighteen presentations will also be presented off-campus. Two in Lexington, West Virginia at the National Un-

dergraduate Research Conference and six at the North Central Sociological Association Meeting.

This year we will have an invited speaker at our Alpha Kappa Delta induction ceremony. AKD is the International Sociology Honorary Society. Michael Norris, a sociologist at Capital University, will come to Wittenberg and give a lecture titled "The Lutheran Knot: How Literal is Taking the Role of the Other in Lutheran Theology?" The AKD lecture is at 4:00 PM Friday April 29th in Shouplin 201.

**Wittenberg
University**

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2005

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Upcoming Events
- ☺ Letters from Sociology Alumni
- ☺ Student and Faculty Paper Presentations
- ☺ Call for Papers
- ☺ Setting up an Internship
- ☺ The Sociology Department's Mission Statement

Upcoming Events

Witt Series: Gallery opening/ talk

February 28

Spring Break:

March 7-11

Witt Series: Gus Lee

March 21

Advising Week:

March 21-24

Good Friday (no classes):

March 25

Witt Series: Flute Concert

March 30

AKD (Sociology Honorary) Induction/ Speaker

April 29

Last day of Classes:

May 4

Reading Day:

May 5

Graduation:

May 14

Updates On Sociology Alumni

A New Perspective

After I graduated from Wittenberg, I completed a year of service in the AmeriCorps VISTA program. And after completing that year my career interests had changed a bit and Graduate School was the next step. While two more years of school can seem unappealing, my perspective had changed after a year of full time work. To begin with, the hours at Graduate School are great (no 9-5) and you can't beat the vacation time. In addition the academic world has a lot to offer and Graduate students have the freedom to follow their own interests. I am in the Sports Organization program, which is kind of like sociology of sports, and a number of Graduate students are get-

ting experience in teaching, coaching, researching, and getting their foot in the door in whatever area of interest they may have. The faculty and administration treat the Graduate students more as colleagues than as students and there is also more responsibility placed on your shoulders to take initiative with your own education. Overall, my experience has been great and it is really nice to have an assistantship where they are paying me to come to school, it takes a lot of the pressure off of not having a full time job.

There are a couple of things that I have found really useful from my time at Wittenberg. To begin with, Theory, theory, and more theory is really important and it has helped me

immensely to have a good background of the big theories and theorists. It is also good to have knowledge of gender, race, and class issues, as they will play a part in any profession that you go into. And believe it or not, it is invaluable to have the experience of research methods and having done a thesis. By doing a thesis once, I feel much better prepared to do one for Graduate school and a much better grasp on doing research and reading and analyzing existing literature. In general, a liberal arts education has been beneficial in my schooling and my life experiences.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Bardon



Hola from the Sunshine State! My goodness, how my life has changed in the past year. This

change is not just a location change though, it goes much deeper. As many of you know, I am currently in my first year of graduate school at Florida International University in Miami, and am working on my Master's and eventual Ph.D. in Sociology.

Having a B.A. in sociology is great (and regardless of what you may hear, there is a lot to do with the degree!), but going to graduate school is a completely different experience. Just in the past year I have met a great group of friends/students, become acquainted with wonderful faculty, team-

taught an undergraduate methods class, studied gender and migration with a leading researcher in the field, and became the social chair of FIU's Sociology Graduate Association. Being here in Miami has also been a learning experience for me, both in and out of the classroom. Being one of the few monolingual students at the school (and blonde too!) is often a challenge, but they say what doesn't break you only makes you stronger, and I wholeheartedly believe it. My Spanish is coming along quickly and, well, being the center of attention for my hair color is not all bad.

I was told we live in the Witt Bubble for our four years on campus, and to a large extent this is true. While Wittenberg shielded me from the class sizes of 400, registration lines lasting over an hour, and waiting lists for majors, it also created a tool kit of skills I can now use on a larger scale. Each of the faculty has added some-

thing to my understanding of the field and has helped equip me for life outside the Bubble. Now that I am here I cannot imagine what I would have done without all their support. I was asked to write something about my experience at grad school and although I would love to go on and on about how much I love being at FIU to study the world's greatest subject, I also want to take this opportunity to thank the professors for their dedication to teaching. All who go through the department are blessed with a gift in our faculty. If your path takes you to do research or to do social work or to teach or to grad school (!!!), I would encourage each one of you to take what you have learned in the Bubble and always remember you have been given the means to do amazing things. Good luck!

-Bri Barclay

Sociology Club Update

Wittenberg's Sociology Club is a great place to share your interests with others who have similar interests.

The club is always open to new ideas for activities.

Look for E-mails from Dr. Doubt for meeting times. They look forward to seeing you at their next meeting.

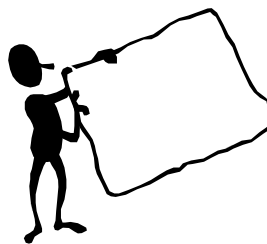
Students and Faculty Present Their Work

In April, seven students and one professor will travel to present their work. Six students will be presenting their work at the North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting, entitled "The Local Community in the Global Age," held in Pittsburgh, Penn. from April 7th -10th. The following are the students and professor, their paper titles, and the regular session in which they are presenting.

- Erin Cruze, "'The Phenomena of the 'Mr. Mom': Redefining Masculinities," in Family Structure and Child Well-Being
- Elizabeth Narcho, "Speciesism in Sociological Theory," in Environmental Sociology
- Melissa Moser, "The Ethos and Solidarity of Cross Country Runners: A Timely

Sociology Study," in the Sociology of Sport

- Jessica Beaulieu, "Mean World Syndrome and the Impact of the Media on Perception of Crime, Fear of Crime and Perceived Risk of Crime," Crime and the Media
- Katie Westlund, "Who Does Service? The Relationship between Postmaterialist Values and Community Service," Framing Social Issues
- Kari Smith, "Coming Out in Post-Stonewall America," LGBT Studies
- Keith Doubt, "Teaching Sociology Students to Love Talcott Parsons with Coprock" and "Against Scapegoating: A



Sociological Critique of Rene Girard"

Later in April, Blake Troxel and Katie Westlund will travel to present their theses at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research at Virginia Military

Institute and Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Blake's thesis is entitled, "Waste Consumption - Motives and Perceptions: A Qualitative Study of Dumpster Diving."

Congratulations to our students and faculty who continue to represent Wittenberg's Sociology Department around the country.

Call for Papers

Alpha Kappa Delta

2005 Undergraduate Student Paper Competition

Prizes:

First Prize is \$600 and up to \$600 travel Expenses to the American Sociologic Assoc. Annual Meeting

Second Prize: \$300 and travel expenses listed above

Third Prize: \$150 and travel expenses list in first prize

Details:

The paper can be up to 35 pages; there can be multiple authors, but the authors must be members of AKD.

Deadline: June 15

See Sociology Office for Mailing Instructions and the other small details.

2005 Midwest Student

Sociology Conference

The conference is asking for students to attend and present papers for about 15 minutes.

Conference Location: Earlham College, Richmond, IN

Dates of Conference: April 1-2

Deadline: February 28th

See the Sociology office for further details.

Setting up an Internship

An internship is a great way to "work in the trenches," try out a career, network and get experience, fill your resume, and get course credit!

Sociology students have interned in places varying from small towns to large cities in local to national organizations.

You can do internship credit over the summer and try out an experience.

Currently, a group of sociology majors is interning together at the Gibault Inc.

Here is a list of some former sociology

students' internships:

- PACE (Reynoldsburg, OH)
- Criminal Law Internship Program (Washington DC)
- Sadie Waterford Home (Crestwood, IL)
- Clark County Victim Witness (Springfield, OH)
- Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina (Akron, OH)
- DC Corporation Counsel (Washington DC)
- Project Woman (Springfield, OH)
- Clark County Prosecutor's Office (Springfield, OH)
- City Attorney's Office (Columbus, OH)
- America Reads (Wittenberg Campus and Springfield City Schools)

- Alzheimer's Association (Springfield, OH)
- Clark County Juvenile Court (Springfield, OH)
- Champaign Co. Dept of Job & Family Services (Urbana, OH)
- Ohio Wesleyan Junior League (Delaware, OH)
- Institute on Philanthropy and Voluntary Service (Washington DC)
- Beech Acres (Cincinnati, OH)
- Ransburg YMCA (Indianapolis, IN)
- Elect Anastatio Group (Xenia, OH)

Please stop into the department office or talk to your advisor today about internship credit. It's a great way to get class credit and try out a career.



<http://www4.wittenberg.edu/tour/carnegie.html>



Our Mission Statement

The Department of Sociology is comprised of professional sociologists and anthropologists dedicated to representing these two disciplines in the Wittenberg community. The facilities and resources of the Department are to be used in the pursuit of this task. Our primary tasks are those of instruction in our specialties, with the preservation, creation and dissemination of knowledge in our areas of expertise linked to instruction and consonant with it.

Sociology and Anthropology are the most general social sciences, both devoted to the analysis of society and culture as complex human phenomena. While the first goal of scholarship is understanding, our pursuit of knowledge is also guided by the need to address human problems and assist in the formulation and implementation of intentional policy to meet socio-cultural goals. Each faculty member is involved in research activities with the aim of discovery and preservation of knowledge about society and culture. In the most general sense, as teachers we seek to induct students into this quest. At minimum, we seek to provide students with the basis upon which they will be able to evaluate publicly relevant social scientific scholarship, such as that which is used in policy development or planning.

The scholarly approaches of both Sociology and Anthropology are taken by faculty in the department. Within the constraints of resources, both approaches are integrated in the curriculum of the department, with neither prejudice nor privilege granted to either.

The members of the department serve at least three distinct constituencies. First, we provide a Sociology Major for advanced undergraduate students. Second, we introduce our social scientific approach to a broad array of non-majors as part of their General Education program in the liberal arts and sciences. Third, acknowledging the increasing applicability of social scientific approaches to a wide range of questions, we serve diverse communities-- campus, local, state, national and international communities -- as resources for information and insight in the areas of our expertise.

We meet the third function through our research publications and presentations, consultancies, participation in community service, media appearances and the like. In all these activities, we take the role of teacher of the public as a high calling.

We meet the second function, serving the general education program of non-majors, by offering courses on the introductory level that introduce the major ideas, theories and concerns of our scholarly approach. Such introductory courses may be overviews of our fields, such as Introduction to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology, or they may be topically focused courses, such as Social Change or Sociology of the Family. We also serve the interdisciplinary major and minor programs on campus through courses with appropriate content such as Global Change (Global Studies), Gender and Society (Women's Studies) or Japanese Society (East Asian Studies).

Finally, the Department of Sociology provides a curriculum with which students may complete a major or minor in Sociology.