

**Sociology
Department
Wittenberg
University**

The Interactionist: An Informative Newsletter for Sociology Students

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Special points of interest inside this issue:

- Graduation Plans of Sociology Majors
- Wittenberg's Senior Thesis Presentations
- Faculty News and Announcements

Visiting Professor Wins Prestigious Honor

Dr. Katherine Rowell, visiting professor who teaches full-time at Sinclair Community College, recently won the 2005 Outstanding Community College Professor of the year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education award.

This national honor comes as no surprise to anyone who has taken her Gender and Society class offered at Wittenberg during the 2005-06 school year. Although the

night classes meet for three hours, the time flies by as Dr. Rowell skillfully holds student attention through varying lectures, videos, guest speakers, and group projects that include huge Post-Its.



"Dr. Rowell adds a personal touch to all of her classes," says Nicole Spirgen, senior. "It is clear that she not only theorizes about sociology. She puts her knowledge into action by working to make the world a better place and takes an active role in encouraging her students to do so as well. She is a great role model."

Dr. Rowell also offers students the chance to break out of the typical Euro-centric focus and concentrate on different cultures. Kylie Evans, senior, says, "What I loved most about Dr. Rowell's class was the global feminist perspective she offered. She challenged us to explore the effects of global poverty on women

around the world, as well as the steps we can take to understand how women's backgrounds and experiences influence their beliefs and values."

Dr. Rowell always encourages her students to get out of the Witt Bubble and into the real world, whether it was listening to Liz Murray at Sinclair, making bagged lunches for the homeless, or just hanging out in Yellow Springs. She is a major asset to the Sociology team, and we hope that she will return and continue to benefit future students. Katherine Spittler, sophomore, says, "She is an amazing professor. She challenges her students more than most professors and her courses are intriguing as well as informative. She is one of the best professors I have had at Wittenberg."

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~Nicole Spirgen

Professor Rowell's Alpha Kappa Delta Lecture, Thursday April 20th

The Wittenberg chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, our International Sociology Honors Society, will be holding its annual public lecture on campus Thursday, April 20th, at 4:00 PM in Shoulin 201. The lecture this year will be given by Professor Katherine Rowell. Her title is "**Moving Beyond Soup Kitchens: Urban Appalachian Homeless in Dayton, Ohio and Challenges Facing the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**" This lecture is sponsored with a generous grant from the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honors Society.

Senior Thesis Line-Up

Although most seniors can't believe it, thesis presentations are starting next week! Here is the schedule of speakers, topics, and times:

Tuesday, February 28

1:00-2:20 p.m.

Session 1

COMMUNITY PROBLEMS, COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Tony Ottomanelli—The Capitalist Culture of Increasing Globalization and Decreasing Manufacturing: Examining Springfield, Ohio

Ri Felts—Foreclosures and Economic Education in Secondary Schools

*Anne Gohmann—How Do Schools Prepare for and Handle a Crisis? A Study of Crisis Plans and Suicide Prevention Programming in a Springfield, Ohio High School

Discussion

2:20-2:30 p.m. Break

2:30-3:50 p.m. Session 2

POPULAR CULTURE

Sean Buffington—One Step Forward and Two Steps Back: The Battle between Law Enforcement and Graffiti Artists

Travette Harper—Rap Music's Lyrical Significance: An Analysis of Rap Music as Political Consciousness and/or Internalized Racism

Whitney Kelly—Modeling after Celebrities: Appearance-Based Social Comparison, Celebrity Attachment and the Effect of Body Image

Discussion

3:50-4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks and Announcements for the Day

Wednesday, March 1

8:30-9:00 a.m., Coffee and Healthy

Snacks for the Morning

9:00-10:20 a.m. Session 3

SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Latesha Clay—Educational Attainment and Foster Care Youth: What Happens to Youths as They "Age Out" of Foster Care Systems

Marianne Hickcox—The Effectiveness of Transitional Housing Programs for Clients with Substance Abuse Problems

*Nicole Spirgen—The Effects of Bullying by Teachers on High School Students

Discussion

10:20-10:30 a.m. Break

10:30-11:50 a.m. Session 4

CHALLENGES IN EDUCATION

Dymond McDonald—Athletics and Academics: Patterns of Role Conflict Among College Student Athletes

*Jessica Gegel—Spanish-Speaking Youth in America's Schools: Equal Opportunity for All?

Jered Glover—Dropout and Retention Patterns Among African American College Students

Discussion

[11:50-1:00 p.m. Luncheon for Presenters, Faculty and Guests (Shouplin 203)]

1:00-2:20 p.m. Session 5

A SOCIOLOGY OF ADVERTISING

Tracie Fairbanks—Women and Lookism in Advertising: A Content Analysis

Jessica Savage—Conforming to an Unrealistic Proposal: A Study of General Stereotypes of Women as Portrayed Through Mass Media Advertising

Lavon Wilborn—Race in Advertising: A Content Analysis

Discussion

2:20-2:30 p.m. Break

2:30-3:50 p.m. Session 6

ANIMALS AND SOCIETY

*Elizabeth Narcho—The Entanglement of Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence

Robert Bhoelai—Speciesism and Video-games

Betsy Reed—Animal Therapy: Patterns of Human and Non-Human Connections in a Therapeutic Context

Discussion

3:50-4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks and Announcements

[4:00-5:00 p.m. Assessment: Focus Group for Presenters]

*Indicates Honor Thesis

Faculty Corner

Thesis is Done—Now What??

Some of our seniors have some pretty cool plans set up for after they graduate.

Nicole Spirgen has been applying to various graduate schools for a Masters in Public Administration program. She has been accepted to SUNY Albany, Syracuse and, her first choice, American University. She plans to work in fundraising for United Way of Greater Cleveland this summer, which she has done for the previous two summers as well. This year Nicole was nominated and selected as a Junior Fellow in the Academy of Political and Social Science.

Anne Gohmann has been accepted at the graduate schools of social work at Loyola University-Chicago, University of Chicago, and Columbia University. She has decided to attend Columbia, and so she will be moving to New York City in August.

Robert Bhoolia is moving to Tampa and going to grad school at the University of Southern Florida, and getting married!

Tracie Fairbanks will start work at the Urbana University Bookstore as the Assistant Manager and hopefully shortly after that buy her own home.

Whitney Kelly is planning a four-week backpacking trip throughout Europe and has some job interviews lined up at various law firms and organizations.

Jeanine Harold, who graduated last year, is working as a case manager in at the Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center for Adults in Springfield, Ohio.

This year Professor **Keith Doubt** was a recipient of the Distinguished Fulbright Chair Award. While on sabbatical next year, he will teach at the University of Innsbruck in Innsbruck, Austria. From February to June 2007, he will offer three courses, one on the American Social Character, another on Bosnia-Herzegovina (of course!), and then another on Social and Political Thought to graduate students. The award is viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program. He plans as well to do research on the Balkans next fall. His book, *Understanding Evil: Lessons from Bosnia* is in press at Fordham University Press. It will appear this fall.



Professor **Jerry Pankhurst**, when he isn't reading theses, is part of a group of sociologists (American, Russian and Finnish) exploiting a large

data set on religion in Russia that compares the notions of tolerance among Russian Orthodox and Muslims in Russia. There is a great deal of other types of

good information on religion in the data set, too, and he is excited about getting some new insights from it.

He is also planning to go to Russia sometime next year to work on a project attempting to validate sociological measures of religion in Russia. There is lots of survey data now, but it is all built upon a Western Christian-based approach to religion. He wants to examine the applicability of these survey measures in Russia today, where Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Islam are the dominant religions. Adherents of these faiths do not necessarily view their religion in the same way, and we may be making incorrect conclusions by simply applying our habitual measures to them.

Professor **Beckett Broh** is expecting a baby! She anticipates that this fall she will be on maternity leave. Spring 2007 she plans to teach SOCI 306 Research Methods, SOCI 350 Race and Ethnicity, and SOCI 210 S Sociology of Family (of course!).



A Look Ahead at Next Year's Senior Theses

Three of our junior majors are applying for summer research grants.

Katy Nichols will be examining the effects of county racial concentration on criminal sentencing. She is applying for funding to travel throughout Ohio and collect data from multiple counties.

Melissa Niese wants to evaluate the effectiveness of the World Trade Organization in meeting its stated goals. She will be applying for funding to collect data in Washington DC.

Beth Houser will be examining the impact on women and children of China's one-child policy. She will be applying for funding to conduct fieldwork and interviews in China.

It is exciting to look at the next generation of theses. Let's encourage our juniors as they are attempting to do some really cool things!

The Interactionist

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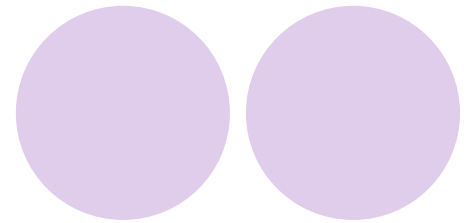
Visit us our Sociology Department Web page:

www4.wittenberg.edu

Exciting New Journals

This January, the first issue of the international, interdisciplinary, bilingual, online journal *Duh Bosne / Spirit of Bosnia* was published. Professor **Keith Doubt** is the editor. The journal addresses why it is both necessary and good to keep a complex and sophisticated society like Bosnia together. Drawing upon anthropology, literary criticism, philosophy, and sociology, *Duh Bosne / Spirit of Bosnia* publishes essays and literary works that recover and examine the cultural heritage and social history of Bosnia. The journal can be found at <http://www.duhbosne.org>. Check it out.

Also forthcoming is the publication of *Wittenberg Journal of Sociology*. This online journal will publish sociology majors honors theses and notable papers from sociology classes that are nominated by sociology faculty and the Sociology Club. Our first issue will appear this May. The sociology department will invite illustrious sociology alumni to serve on the editorial board.



“An Immigrant’s Deal: Two Lives for the Price of One”

Wednesday, April 19th in Hollenback Hall 131 at 4:00 PM, Professor Omer Hadziselimovic will give a lecture sponsored by the Faculty Endowment Board and the American Studies, English, Foreign Languages and Literature, and Sociology Departments. Professor Hadziselimovic was formerly a professor of American Studies at University of Sarajevo and chair of the English Department. He left Bosnia during the war and is now Adjunct Professor of English at Loyola University Chicago. He will share his views on immigration and life in America.

Announcement for Senior Thesis Scholars

Every year, Wittenberg has a spring research symposium in which students can show off their research projects. The Spring Research Symposium will be April 7 preceding the Honor’s Convocation, 2:00-3:45. Students who have been involved in research, internship, study abroad, or service learning that would lend themselves to presentation in a poster format are invited to participate.

For students who participate, Prof. Margaret Ann Goodman will need the following by Monday, April 3: 1) Title of project; 2)

Electronic description (MS word preferred); 3) Student name; 4) Faculty advisor/affiliation.

The Soci Department hopes that many of you will be interested in preparing a poster display to show off your thesis research. You can talk with Dr. Pankhurst or with your faculty reader concerning how the poster could be set up. Most of you can display elements of your PowerPoint show from your presentations next week.

This is another great opportunity to make hay from your thesis, and it would be a good addition to your resume for jobs or grad applications!



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