

The Interactionist

An Informative Newsletter for Sociology Students

Special points of interest inside this issue:

- Sociology professors interact "television-style"
- Three sociology students make a "hit" in CHICAGO!
- Students enjoy the sights and sounds of Salt Lake City!
- Updates on Sociology graduates
- Department *Book Nook*

Letter from the Chair

Dear Sociology Students, Majors, Minors, Colleagues and Friends,

With this publication of a sociology department newsletter, "The Interactionist," we revive an old Wittenberg tradition. The last issue of "The Interactionist" was published in the Winter of 1990. It was sub-titled "an informative sociological newsletter for Wittenberg students." Following the suggestion of Robin Heil, our administrative assistant, we subtitle this new issue, "an informative newsletter for sociology students."

The issue seeks to share information about student research, alumni endeavors, and faculty research that you might not happen to know about from classes or typical exchanges during the semester. While the issue seeks to be comprehensive, it must be

selective in that there is important news and notable information about sociology students or faculty members that is left out. We can only hope to remedy the inevitable over-sight with subsequent issues.

I wonder, as you, too, might wonder, what does "Interactionist" mean for the founders of the department newsletter. I put forth a theory. Sociology studies action, not behavior. Psychologists study behavior. Action involves more than behavior, for instance, value orientations, motives, rationality, and, of course, conditions and circumstances. Sociologists study either the action of an individual or the action of a community, group, or society. The heart and soul of sociology is to observe and learn from the ac-



tions of human beings both with and against each other. The excitement of anthropology is to understand the distinctive actions of people in different cultures both locally and globally. The challenge of sociology is to critique the dominate ideologies that inform political action. In other words, sociology is where the action is because sociology studies action or, more to the point- interaction.

I thus propose that we accept this inheritance, "Interactionist," from the founders of the department newsletter and give it the strongest reading we can, one that encompasses our interests as fellow-students of social life.

Best,
Keith Doubt
Professor and Chair

Two Witt Professors' Interaction Televised

Lifetime Television for Women and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence hosted Stop Violence Week in Washington during March. At a briefing hosted by Lifetime Television in cooperation with the Women's Caucus, **Dr. Alan McEvoy** made a request to House members. An excerpt follows: "*Congress is disproportionately comprised of*

men. As such, my challenge to you is this. I ask that the men in public office devote a portion of their time to learning more about sexual violence and about the needs of those who have been raped. A good place to start is for each of you to visit in your home districts with professionals in law enforcement and in victim services who work directly with rape survivors. I also ask that you include information about sexual violence

in your speeches, your visits to schools, your town meetings, and your interviews with the media."

Dr. Keith Doubt was recently invited to Bosnia to participate in a public forum entitled "The Social Sciences and the Reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina." He also appeared on Bosnian television to discuss his recently-published book, which will be adapted in sociology classes.



Dr. Doubt discusses his book, *Sociologija nakon Bosne*, translated by Asim Mijkić, Sarajevo: Buybook, 2003 on March 28, 2003.

SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS ATTEND THE MSS IN CHICAGO

Three students accompany Dr. Keith Doubt to the Windy City in April to present papers at the Midwest Sociological Society's 2003 Annual Meeting (Session 6: Recovering Bosnia)

Abbe Linscott and Janye Gerber share their experiences:

After waking up at a surprising 5:00 o'clock in the morning, an hour I was positive didn't exist, all of us met at the ever popular student center circle. The 6-hour ride to Chicago proved to be a very educational and informative ride. We discussed and reviewed what we were going to be presenting at the conference as well as learning a little more about one another all the while being provided food and beverage from ever helpful Aprile. As a very audience-shy individual, a slight fear of presenting to others on a topic that was not my specialty started to build the closer we got to the windy city. I also do not feel that I was alone with this slight apprehension, but Jayne, Geremy and my own fears were soon settled after arriving at the Denver conference room of the Marriott hotel where we discovered a nonexistent audience awaiting us. Being assigned to the first session on the first day of the conference didn't really work out to our advantage since few had yet to arrive at the conference.

After a few minutes of debate, we decided the show must go on; after all, we had very interesting topics to discuss and we

were all curious about one another's speech. Jayne began with a strong discussion regarding the nature of scapegoating and its effects on the victim, using various theorists for support. But alas, in the middle of Jayne's discussion, Dr. Kevin Anderson joins our conference and brings a new perspective to the table. After Jayne, Geremy continued the discussion of scapegoating and the problems involved with this damaging tool. I was up next and spent my time describing the nature of double-voiced discourse and Milosevic's ever-present talent at engaging in this form of language to further maintain control. Dr. Doubt then gave a very compelling discussion, which looked at "War as Sociocide." This discussion defended the notion that what occurred in the former Yugoslavia could be described as sociocide, the death of a society, as opposed to just genocide. Afterwards, all of us engaged in a very thought-provoking and interesting discussion with Dr. Anderson and one another in which we all gained a little more knowledge into our own topics.

After our conference we headed out into the city to experience a little of Chicago.

Over the next two days we divided our time between other conferences and the big city, hoping to get in as much as possible. We were able to attend other conferences

where the discussions ranged from Native-American issues such as comparing Indian tribes of North America to the Australian Aborigines and the growing Indian Gaming phenomenon to conferences discussing CyberCulture which included talks about rave cultures, urban legends and hacker lore. We were also able to take in parts of the city, by heading out to The Field Museum, experiencing the EI, and taking a look out into the big city from the John Hancock building. Overall, this was a very educational and exciting trip, one I felt honored to attend.

Abbe Linscott—2003



Our Sociology Students at Chicago's MIDWEST SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Doubt, Abbe Linscott, Geremy Bardon and I had the pleasure of attending the Midwest Sociological Society Conference to present at a session titled, "Recovering Bosnia." This was a great experience for all of us, not only to be able to present our own work, but to hear interesting sessions from professors and students from all over the Midwest. I was especially excited to be able to meet

Dr. Deena Weinstein, an author I had used in my senior thesis who studies rock musicians and, specifically, the heavy metal genre. While we were in Chicago, we also had the opportunity to take some trips to sites like the Field Museum, the John Hancock Building, and meet up with some Wittenberg alumni who now live in Chicago. It was a great trip, and we were all thankful the University and Dr. Doubt

allowed us this opportunity.

Janye Gerber-2003

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More Student Travels: This Time—Salt Lake City!

On Wednesday, March 12, 2003, Mindi Laine and I accompanied six other Wittenberg students to Salt Lake City, Utah, to present our research projects at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) which took place March 13-15. NCUR, which was established in 1987 and has been held for 17 years, highlights student research from a variety of different disciplines and seeks to promote under-

graduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study. Students from Wittenberg represented the Sociology, Psychology, Biology and Geology Departments.

Overall, there were around 2,000 students who presented at the conference, representing about 260 universities

throughout the United States. Students had many options as to the type of presentation they would give including poster presentations, oral presentations, or perform-



Clock tower of the historic Salt Lake City & County Building

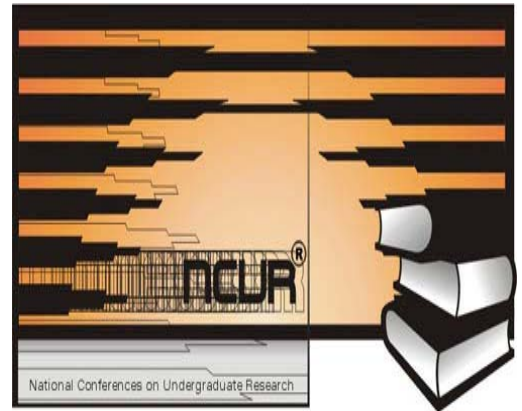
Salt Lake City, cont.

ing arts presentations. Mindi and I chose to give oral PowerPoint presentations, much like the ones we gave at Wittenberg when we presented our senior thesis projects in February. The title of Mindi's presentation was "Civil Liberties or National Security After September 11: Race, Class, and Gender," and the title of my presentation was "A Critical Analysis of Disney and Childhood Gender Socialization: Uncovering the Myths Within the Magic Kingdom." Selected students also had the option of submitting their research paper for publication in the Conference *Proceedings*.

While we were there, (since it was our spring break!) we did get to see some of the sights and nightlife in Salt Lake, which was an absolutely amazing city. After a night on the town on Thursday, we settled into our lavish hotel room

complete with a fireplace, all generously paid for by the university. On Friday night, we also attended the Gala Banquet, which was open to all NCUR presenters where we had wonderful food and live entertainment. Overall, the trip was loads of fun and a great learning experience. It was also very interesting to see what our colleagues from around the nation are researching as well. NCUR 2004 is set to take place in Indianapolis on April 15-17. I would definitely recommend the conference to you seniors who are going to be doing your thesis in the fall and all of you other Sociology people who will one day be going through the wonderful process of senior thesis!!

Jennifer Deal- 2003



Six Wittenberg students present papers at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

What Are Our Sociology Students Doing?

Class of 2002

Meghan Gaydos is working in the JET program in Japan. She teaches English and has been teaching her students to play American basketball! She even hosted an American-style Thanksgiving, managing to find the basic ingredients for a home-style meal and to find room for 20 people in her tiny apartment!

Kevin Hooker is working for a social-services agency in Dayton, OH, educating young men about health and sexuality. He is planning to attend the University of Michigan School of Social Work (one of

the very best in the U.S.). He still has a really cute little niece.

Annie Wagganer coordinates rape-crisis center volunteers, among other things, in a suburb of Atlanta, GA. She has decided to defer her acceptances to sociology grad programs until Fall 2004.

Jenn Williams has spent the last year or so in Americorps, with the Children's Hunger Alliance of Columbus. She has really enjoyed her job and has been able to do a wide variety of things for the agency and the constituents.

Lowell Stockstill is also working with

... I always fall back on the articles, the statistics, the concepts, I was given as an undergraduate at Wittenberg University. ... I now believe more strongly than ever, that those who are given the chance to become passionate sociologists, are accountable at some level, whether through volunteering or providing reliable statistics, to be advocates in their communities.

Annie Wagganer '02

Americorps in Columbus, although he is working with juveniles who have been connected to the criminal justice system.

More updates on Sociology grads

Gillian Taylor is an assistant manager at Abercrombie and Fitch, in Fairfield, OH.

Jared Embree restores a beautiful old home and caters vegan food on the side (for department functions!).

Class of 2001

Kate Adamson continues her activism

from the wonderful Twin Oaks, an intentional community in Virginia. She has been speaking at colleges and universities around the country, including Wittenberg.

Tim Davis is an intern with the Ohio State Legislature, having worked in social services and case management. He is

thinking about law school...

Christina Heine is finishing her master's in gerontology from Miami University.



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

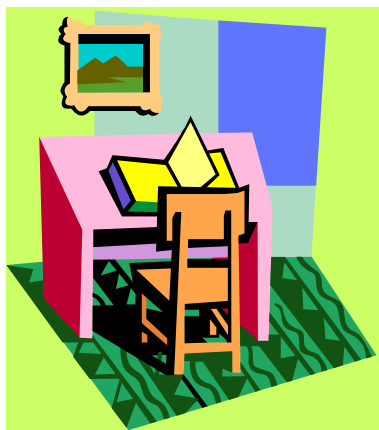
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Linda Lewis is author of *Laying Claim to the Memory of May: A Look Back at the 1980 Kwangju Uprising*. The Kwangju Uprising—"Korea's Tiananmen" is one of the most important political events in late twentieth-century Korean history. What began as a peaceful demonstration against the imposition of military rule in the southwestern city of Kwangju in May 1980 turned into a bloody people's revolt. As one of the few Western eyewitnesses to the Uprising, Dr. Lewis is uniquely positioned to write about the event. In this innovative work on commemoration politics, social representation, and memory, she draws on her fieldwork notes ... writings ... and ethnographic research—to produce not only the definitive history of the Kwangju Uprising, but also a sweeping overview of Korean studies over the last few decades.



The Book Nook

(Featuring Department Publication News)

Sociology Students Contribute to Dr. Rebecca Plante's Book

- by Rebecca Plante -

Regarding my co-edited book, *Sexualities: Identity, Behavior, and Society* (with Michael S. Kimmel, SUNY-Stony Brook). Forthcoming 2004, Oxford University Press.

This book has involved many Wittenberg hands. Gillian Taylor (Class of 2002), Jamie Shampine (Class of 2004), and Alaina Wolfe (Class of 2003) have all served as faculty research aides for me. Gillian helped me start the long process of gathering articles from across the disciplines. She acquired a number of cites via InterLibrary Loan, spent time in the basement periodical section of the library, and read articles and gave me her expert opinion on what would interest the average sexuality class

student. She helped develop the tables of contents and article databases that became the organizational foundation of the manuscript. Jamie had a big role in the process of gathering reprint permission from various publishers. She had to track down copyright holders, get addresses and phone numbers, and type letter after letter to beg for reduced reprinting rates! Alaina lucked out because she only had a few loose ends to tie up before she got to move on to more interesting tasks. She *did* have to go through the entire manuscript- it literally weighed



We proudly announce the
T. Edwin Boling Sociology
Scholarship Award Winners:
Jennifer Deal
Jayne Gerber

David Nibert is the author of *Hitting the Lottery Jackpot: State Governments and the Taxing of Dreams* (Monthly Review Press) and *Animal Rights/Human Rights: Entanglements of Oppression and Liberation* (Rowman & Littlefield). He is chair of a new section on *Animals and Society* in the American Sociological Association (ASA). (Of special interest: the forthcoming issue of the section's newsletter will include article abstracts by senior Alaina Wolfe.)

Dr. Nibert also authored an article titled *Human and Other Animals: Sociology's Moral and Intellectual Challenge* which appears in the spring 2003 issue of the *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* (IJSSP). He is currently editing a forthcoming special IJSSP issue on the oppression of other animals by humans.

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Visit us at readwithrobin.com through internet explorer—then,
travel on the reading train and press "d"

10 pounds- and note what was what and which was which. Many sticky notes were sacrificed for that task! Suffice to say that I would either still be working on the book or would be utterly mad by now, if not for the assistance of my very able Sociology aides.