

**Sociology
Department
Wittenberg
University**

The Interactionist: An Informative Newsletter for Sociology Students

Volume 3, Issue 1

October 2005

Newest Addition to the Carnegie Family

Special points of interest inside this issue:

- Carnegie's Newest Addition
- Wittenberg's Latest Sociology Colloquium...
- Faculty Publications and Travels

- Editor— Elizabeth Narcho

Beckett Broh is our newest full-time tenure-track assistant professor. Her passion for sociology stems from her lifelong interest in and dedication to social justice issues. Her primary scholarly interests include stratification and inequality, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, family, and sport.

Dr. Broh teaches courses on many of these issues as well as research methods. Much of her scholarly work focuses on education and the differing educational experiences of



students from various races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. She has recently published articles in the *American Sociological Review* and the *Sociology of Education*, and has also reviewed articles for various journals. Her paper with Paul von Hippel entitled "Are Schools the Great Equalizer," published in the *American Sociological Review* in October 2004, was voted the best Sociology of Education paper published in the last three years.

Prior to coming to Wittenberg, Dr. Broh worked for the Ohio Legislature as a

"Now I actually get to do more than just complain about the problem. I am living sociology."

-Brandon Stanfill, on his involvement with the Teach For America program.

Program Evaluator in a non-partisan oversight office that evaluates publicly-funded education programs. Dr. Broh received her Bachelor's degree in psychology and women's studies from Albion College, and her Master's and Ph.D. in sociology from The Ohio State University.

Alum Reaching Far Out By Peggy Hanna

Blake Troxell, Sociology major and 2005 graduate, chose the Peace Corps before going on to graduate school. After completing the long and arduous application process, he is scheduled to leave for Vanuatu, a cluster of islands in the South Pacific, at the end of September. Blake said, "It's about challenging myself, testing my own limits and boundaries." He'll have "his own place" - one room with no electricity

or running water.

When asked how he became interested in going into the Peace Corps, Blake said, "It started three years ago when I came to Wittenberg as a transfer student. Some of my Sociology classes got me thinking of the world from a different angle and something that was completely new to me."

Blake traveled to Nicaragua where the people touched him more than anything. He took summer classes in

Europe where the classes were based on international organizations including the United Nations.

With his interest in international affairs, he chose the Peace Corps with its many choices as to work and location. Blake's only preference for location was it be more remote than urban. And remote it is! Blake will teach general math and be responsible for starting organizations to meet the needs of the people he'll be



living with on the island. After his two years with the

Peace Corps, Blake plans to go to graduate school.

The Sociology Department is proud of Blake and wishes him much success in Vanuatu.

btroxel@gmail.com

What are our graduates up

Want to check up on an old friend? Wanna see what all people are doing with the Sociology degrees? Here's an update on our most recent class—the Majors of 2005!

Erin Cruze has been hired at Franklin County Job and Family Services where she will be a Case Manager. She warned that finding the job took a lot of time and hard work, sending out about 40 resumes, so future job-seekers must be up for the challenge.

Jessica Beaulieu has returned to her native California with fellow Witt Alumnus Adam Good. She is working as an insurance assistant at Marsh, the world's leading risk and insurance services firm. After working for a while she hopes to apply to graduate school. Jess also wanted to specifically advise undergrads to take at least one or two introductory-level business level courses. According to her, it would be very beneficial when finding a job after graduation, unless you are certain you will go into social services. Also, she suggests making sure you are proficient in Excel since most companies require you to be familiar with the program.

Carly Cole is currently working as a Youth Worker for Lighthouse Youth Services in Cincinnati. Their program consists of many different areas including their own charter school, therapeutic foster care, a homeless shelter for youth, a homeless shelter for 17-27 year olds, independent living housing, a runaway shelter for kids, a boys group home, and a girls group home. She works in the girls' group home with girls ages 11-17. They do therapeutic groups, go on daily outings and some weekend trips, play games, cook their meals, teach them independent living skills, listen and attend to their needs, as well as show them how to live their lives in a safe, healthy way. Carly has decided to hold off on graduate school after changing her mind as to



what she wanted to go to graduate school for. She plans to go back next fall to Northern Kentucky University to obtain a graduate degree in Social Work.

Jalyn Parks is interning at the Ohio Legislative Service Commission, working on behalf of the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus, during which time she will be studying for the LSAT and applying to law schools.

Kari Smith has applied to an Americorps program in Boulder, Colorado, with her fiancé (Alumnus Brian Loeffler, Class of '03), but does not know if either has been accepted. She is most excited right now about her upcoming nuptials in October of this year.

Molly Cloyd has been traveling around Europe since graduation, and is looking forward to graduate school when she gets back, although she hasn't decided where or for what.

Abbe Linscott is at the National Council on the Aging working with the Access to Benefits Coalition, which works to help Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes know about and make the best use of resources to help them reduce their prescription drug costs.

David Ballenger has been looking for a job and is considering joining the Navy.

Anne Byrne is working at Chestnut Ridge Hospital in the in-patient/residential Unit working as a Mental Health Specialist. She is also waiting to hear back from the Federal Prison she applied to working as a drug/alcohol counselor or probation officer. She will later be looking for jobs working in advocacy.

Brenda Chomiuk is planning on going into Americorp and then Peacecorp.

Melissa Moser is going to University of Cincinnati working in the graduate program for Criminal Justice.

Ken Sophorn has a job lined up in Columbus, working at Po Furnishings in downtown City Center as an assistant manager.



Katie Westlund is attending Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis. She is taking part in a dual degree master's program involving the school of public and environment affairs: nonprofit management program and philanthropic studies through the center on philanthropy. She is very happy with the dual program and encourages undergrads to look into such a curriculum. Katie also wants rising seniors to know that her tuition was completely covered and that she is essentially being paid to go to school; so if the perceived cost of grad school has been scaring you off, a little bit of financial aid research might show that it *could* be possible to get your higher degree without getting even deeper in loan debt.

Katie had an interesting encounter at her new school when thesis was discussed at orientation. The school – the **graduate** school – encourages students to attempt a thesis, even if they do not complete it. There is no penalization for a lack of completion, and students will still graduate. Students can also opt to take methods and an extra class if the task seems too daunting. That should be some major encouragement for those contemplating graduate school, or those who are going out to the workplace – your education here at Witt over-prepares you for the outside world. You'll graduate with a leg up on almost everyone else, and will be able to complete other projects beyond expectations with little extra effort!

Going Even Further Back...

James Godbold graduated from Witt with a Soci degree in 2002, and is also the founder of our beloved Sociology Club. He is now in his fourth week of law school at Indiana University-Indianapolis. Heartfelt congratulations and good luck goes out to James as he goes forth with this challenging venture!

Updates on the Graduated Minors

No, we didn't forget about them!

Robyn Kistemaker is attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary to study for a Master of Divinity for Parish Ministry.

Nikki Kogan has been working with the John Hopkins' Center for Talented Youth summer programs at Siena University in New York. Then she will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's College Student Development and Administration master's program.

Alison Nahrup will be teaching elementary school in Cincinnati.

Sarah Wallace is planning on working for children social services in Columbus.

Rachel Gallup is heading for Case Western for a master's in social work.

Janet Barrows is enrolling in the master's program of Bioethics at Case Western.

Norah Gillam moved to New York City to teach high school English through the Teach for America program.

Lauren Metz plans on going to grad school for counseling.

Tricia Hefner is working at the Madison Correctional Institute.

Brian Davis is continuing with his crew/rowing activities full-time.

Heather Wise is in Columbus working at Bright Horizons, a child development center, as a nursery school

How the Sociologists Spent Their Summer "Vacation"

Keith Doubt has been taking several trips to speak in Bosnia. From July 11-15, he joined leading experts and scholars on the subject of genocide in Bosnia at an international scientific conference in Sarajevo. In October for week, he went to Sarajevo, Mostar, Bihać, Banja Luka and Tuzla to speak about distance learning, explaining to professors how to get started in setting up the kind of course linkage Dr. Doubt has already accomplished. The lectures were supported by a grant from the US Embassy in Sarajevo.

Stephen Smith is currently on sabbatical in Asia, having already been to Tokyo and Mongolia. He plans to be in China for the month of October, and will be back on campus in January of 2006.

Jerry Pankhurst's biggest recent activity was a month-long trip to Russia in April/May, where he made some significant progress on old projects and developed some new plans for research and exchange. He also recently attended the American Sociological Association and the Association for the Sociology of Religion conferences in Philadelphia.

David Nibert was presented the 2005 Distinguished Scholarship Award by the Animals and Society Section of the American Sociological Association at the ASA's annual meeting in Philadelphia. The award was for his book *Animal Rights/Human Rights: Entanglements of Oppression and Libera-*

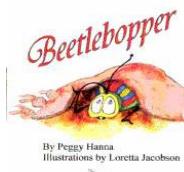
tion. He is currently working on a book that examines the practices and policies of the World Bank, U.S. agribusiness and the U.S. military and covert forces and the entanglements of oppression related to the production of cows for meat in Latin America. In October he will present a paper titled *Meat and Murder: the Oppression of Women and Animals in Latin America* and the annual conference of the Society for Human Ecology in Salt Lake City.

Alan McEvoy presented a paper at the Persistently Safe Schools Conference in Philadelphia this September. The paper is entitled, "When Teachers Bully Students: Patterns and Policy Implications." The paper is published in conference proceedings and is being revised for journal submission.

Peggy Hanna, Sociology's Academic Assistant, has recently published a children's book, *Beetlebopper*, with Sprite Press.

Beetlebopper is rainbow-colored, but the other bugs are black or brown. They're big and scary, which is just what Beetlebopper wants to be. But, while trying to be like the other bugs, he finds out he is wonderful in his own way. The beautiful illustrations in the book were done by her sister.

Peggy's other book, *Patriotism, Peace and Vietnam: A Memoir* has been used in history classes at Witt as well as Wilmington and Antioch Colleges.



A New Opportunity to Reach Out

2004 Soci (and English) graduate Brandon Stanfill is currently teaching English and coaching football just outside of New York City under the Teach for America program.

Teach For America recognizes that Witt students have a long history of pursuing and achieving ambitious goals. They are looking for those exceptional individuals to join their movement.

Teach For America seeks to eliminate educational inequity by calling upon the nation's most promising future leaders - recent college graduates of all backgrounds and academic majors - to commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong advocates for change.

In the short run, Teach For America gives graduates the opportunity to use their leadership to improve academic achievement in low-income communities. In the long run, this experience gives alumni the insight and credibility to effect fundamental change to ultimately ensure that all children have an equal chance in life. Participants also gain skills to succeed in whatever profession they pursue.

For more info, hit TFA online at https://www.teachforamerica.org/meet_online.html

Apps are due for the 2006 corps by October 30, 2005 and February 17, 2006

Let's Hear About Them Newbies!

Okay, not everyone here is completely new. However, these are the profs who do not get to interact with students very often, usually due to teaching just one or two night classes at Witt. Their subjects and backgrounds are incredibly interesting, and their classes are definitely worth checking out sometime, even if it does mean having a class a little later next semester.

Stewart Jobrack is one of our adjunct profs who has been here since 2002, but since he usually teaches night courses he does not get to interact with students as much. Currently he is teaching Cultural Anthropology on Wednesday evenings. He grew up in Newark, New Jersey (like on *The Sopranos*, but he assures us that his family had nothing to do with the waste management business. Riiiiight...), and is a cultural anthropologist whose main work has been with Southeast Asian refugees to the United States. He is a Ph.D. Candidate

at the Ohio State, currently writing his dissertation on the changing role of Buddhism in a community of Lao refugees. He has written on the fertility transition of Lao refugees in *Selected Papers on Refugee Issues II* (1993) and presented several papers at academic conferences on related subjects. Previously, he studied the anthropology of China, examining the language and culture. He is interested, more generally, in psychological anthropology, the anthropology of religion, migration and on how individuals and communities adjust to rapid socio-cultural change. Dr. Jobrack has taught sociology and anthropology as an adjunct instructor



at The Ohio State University, Denison University, and Columbus State Community College, where he won an "Adjunct Appreciation Award" from the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in spring of 2005. He has a wife of 24 years who is in the publishing business, and two daughters (one college sophomore and one high school freshman). After some careful consideration, he has determined that if he was stranded on a desert island, he'd want to be supplied (food-wise) with corn nuts, blue corn chips and other corn

based snack foods.

Katherine Rowell is another once-a-week prof you don't get to see very often unless you're in her Gender and Society class, as she spends most of her time as a full-time professor at Sinclair Community College. Her childhood background has certainly had an impact on her current research interests. Her parents were poor Appalachians, and Dr. Rowell grew up in a wooden one-room shack with no electricity or running water. She went on to get her Bachelors and Masters at Wright State, and then her Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Her research specialty areas in college



were urban sociology, race and ethnicity, and social stratification. She currently has specific interests in poverty and teaches a global poverty course at Sinclair, as well as cross-cultural and comparative sociology with recent trips to India, Botswana, Swaziland, and South Africa playing a role in that interest. She recently received the North Central Sociological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award, and has also received several awards for teaching at Sinclair. She is now working on two articles – one on

what it means to be an excellent sociology teacher and the other on the Appalachian Homeless – and has been asked to co-write a couple books on Social Problems and Global Poverty. Dr. Rowell has been married for 21 years and has a 19 year old son majoring in Anthropology at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and a 13 year old son at home. She says that she lives in a small zoo, with two dogs, a snake, a lizard, a guinea pig, a hamster, and two saltwater aquariums full of fish (she used to also have two birds and a tarantula). She enjoys watching *The Shawshank Redemption* when it is on television, and has reached the conclusion that she just really likes Morgan Freeman's voice (she saw *March of the Penguins* just because he was the narrator).

Victor Ayoub has perhaps one of the most impressive backgrounds we've come across in a while. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, he served in the army for 3 years during World War II. He received his doctorate from Harvard University in cultural anthropology, with the doctoral research being a village study in Lebanon. Before that, he got his Bachelors degree from Antioch College in literature and a Masters from Columbia University in philosophy. Following the grand tradition of the majority of our faculty, Dr. Ayoub hails from good ol' Yellow Springs, having served at Antioch

College for 30 years (September 1956 until June 1986), where he is currently an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology. In that interval of time, he did research, traveled, taught and lived in the Middle East, principally in Lebanon, Iran, and Jordan. He has also had the professional opportunity to live and travel elsewhere during those years, notably London and West Africa. During last three years at Antioch, Dr. Ayoub had an appointment as academic-in-residence under contract to the United States Information Agency in its Cultural and Educational

Affairs, Near East/South Asia branch, the domain of Public Diplomacy (the agency has since been disbanded, most of its activities returned to the State Department as the Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs). He continued with the agency for a year after retirement. He was given the opportunity to travel to Jordan under the Fulbright Fellowship to teach at the University of Yarmouk, returning to the states in 1995 and to Yellow Springs in late 1999. He has taught several times at institutions in the country other than Antioch, always finding the contrast a useful and pleasant experience.

One Professor's Passion

By Dr. Stewart Jobrack

It is always refreshing to see a prof really enjoy and get into his or her subject, rather than just reading from the teacher's edition, sounding as bored as the rest of the class. Dr. Stewart Jobrack loves his subject of anthropology, and in his own words he tries to explain why:

I am passionate about anthropology. I'm not sure we can ever fully explain our loves, but I'll try. I think anthropology is a liberating exercise – that is, by looking at unfamiliar cultures, we begin to gain a wider perspective, to see ourselves in a different, perhaps more critical light, and maybe understand ourselves a little better. And I think understanding is the first

step in gaining some control over our lives.

When I was growing up in Newark in the 1960's, there were all kinds of social problems. You might know about the riots in that city in 1967. I think those first-hand experiences at a young age troubled me enough to want to understand the social and cultural forces that make us who we are, and lead us to such ugly situations as Newark in 1967. So, that led to an interest in sociology and anthropology, and I began to see the



ethnic conflict in Newark in broader, more comparative, more holistic, less personal terms.

On another level, anthropology is just plain fun. This summer I visited the Southwest and helped some Havasupai Indians (They don't ever say "Native Americans") build a sweat lodge for a purification ceremony. The other day I sat in the living room of an 83 year-old Lao immigrant and interviewed him about his life in Laos and America. I feel privileged to cross those cultural boundaries, connect to people and try to understand both how we are alike and how we are different.

Faculty Give Seniors Some Methods Pointers

Yes, all the seniors have had a methods class. Most of them were actually in the same methods class last semester. But over summer it's easy to forget. So to support senior sociology majors undertaking thesis research, the sociology department is providing a set of workshops featuring current faculty research. The goal

is explore the diversity of sociological methodologies within sociological inquiry and to model for sociology majors examples of research projects in progress. The presentations will take place in CARN 215 from 1:50 to 2:50 PM on the above dates. Drinks and snacks will be provided. The following is the specific schedule.

October 3rd, Monday. Keith Doubt, "An Introduction to Semiotics and a Critical Application to the Scorpion Militia Video Recording of its War Crimes"

October 19th, Wednesday, Beckett Broh, "Racial/Ethnic Inequality: Quantitative Methods with National Data"

October 31st, Monday, Jerry Pankhurst, "Mixed Methods: Qualitative and, Quantitative Research in Russia"

Research Dates At-A-Glance
 October 3rd—Dr. Doubt
 October 19th—Dr. Broh
 October 31st—Dr. Pankhurst

Senior Thesis

Most seniors are not even thinking about their presentations yet—they're still busy trying to get their theory section done by the end of the month. But as a look ahead anyway, the presentations have been scheduled for February 28 and March 1 (Tuesday and Wednesday) of 2006 in 201 Shoumlin. There will be lunch on the last day.

An Exhibition on the Human Cost of Iraq



Your own Sociology Club, in conjunction with the College Democrats, is bringing "Eyes Wide Open" to campus. According to its website, which you can access at www.afsc.org/eyes for more information, this exhibition features a pair of boots honoring each U.S. military casualty, a field of shoes and a Wall of Remembrance to memorialize the Iraqis killed in the conflict, and a multimedia display exploring the history, cost, and consequences of war.

The Interactionist

D

P

S

Visit us at:

www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/soc

Special Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped me put together my first department newsletter. Whether it was looking something up or answering my inane questions, I am tremendously grateful. If there is anything

that you want to see in the next issue, contact either Peggy Hanna, Dr. Doubt, or myself at s06.enarcho. Thanks again, and here's to a great (or at least bearable) school year!

~Elizabeth Narcho

Sociology Club...A Look Ahead

From Robert Bhoelai

The Sociology Club is a group interested in raising the awareness of local and national social issues in and out of the news. Participation is open to any student, faculty, or staff member at Wittenberg.

We are very excited as we plan for the upcoming year. We are undertaking many projects dealing with social issues around the world. The group is Co-Sponsoring Eyes Wide Open, which is an exhibit on the war in Iraq, with the College Democrats

(although the club holds no official party affiliation), as well as putting on activities for Homeless Awareness Week in October.

We are working on developing some philanthropic activities this year as well, as well as some fun fundraisers. We welcome the ideas of anyone who would like to take part in our club! Meeting times will be listed in the Weekly Events, or email club president at s06.rbhoolai to be added to the club mailing list.

“New” Soci Library

The soci library has not exactly been a top hangout spot for students in the past—it's actually been more known as the dark room with the copier.

Hopefully that will be changing this year. The library has been revamped into an area students can feel comfortable studying, working, or just relaxing with a cup of coffee between classes. The room is now furnished with more furniture—including cushy couches and chairs—lamps, a coffee machine and a microwave.

If any students want to actually conduct research in the library (a novel concept), it has been reorganized according to the Library of Congress call numbers to make finding your subject easier. Topics range widely, so chances are there is something useful you have not discovered yet.

So students should feel free to go into the library anytime. Hope to see you there!



We proudly announce the 2005

T. Edwin Boling Sociology Scholarship Award

Winners:

Jalyn Parks

Katie Westlund

Blake Troxell

~Call for Papers~

NCSA is having its annual paper competition, giving Witt students another chance to win money and recognition for their work. There is no restriction for topics, so you can write about WHATEVER interests you, as long as it has some sociological merit. Papers must be no more than 5000 words (18-20 pages or so), with an abstract of 100 words or less.

Winners will receive up to \$150, and will get to present their paper at the NSCA conference, scheduled to be in Indianapolis, March 23-25, 2006 (Speaking from experience, the conferences are a LOT more fun than they sound!). Seniors can submit their completed theses, and

this is especially important for those doing the honors thesis, which must be presented off-campus anyway. All entries must be received by January 9, 2006. Check your email or with the Soci office for more details.



Newsletter Producer and Designer: Elizabeth Narcho

