

RECENT AWARDS

- **Doctoral Student Delores Edelen** is the recipient of the **ASA Minority Fellowship Award**
- **Dr. Libby Mustaine** received a grant from the **LIFE foundation**
- **Dr. Brent Marshall** received research funding from the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection**
- **Doctoral Student Monica Mendez** received the **Delores Auzenne Fellowship**
- **Master's Student Sara Neunshwander** received a graduate **RAMP fellowship**

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10 Facts you didn't know about the UCF Sociology Department

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Socio-logic, the newsletter for the department of Sociology. There are lots of exciting things going on in our department and we hope that this newsletter gives you a small taste of who we are, what we do, and how you can get involved. If you want to learn more we invite you to stop in and meet with our faculty, staff, and students or check out our web page at: www.sociology.ucf.edu.

Thought you knew everything there was to know about Sociology at UCF? Did you know:

1. Sociology is home to 4 academic journals.
2. We have three different

types of graduate programs.

3. We have undergraduate internships available.
4. Our department is the primary sponsor for the 2008 Focus the Nation event.
5. We have the only PhD program in Sociology in the USA with a concentration in domestic violence.
6. One of our professors is a Provost Research Professor (PREP).
7. Sociology hired the first Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) professor on campus.
8. In the inaugural of the Undergraduate Research

Journal 4 of the 8 articles were written by Sociology majors.

9. Our department is home to the Institute for the Social and Behavioral Sciences (ISBS).
10. A new research center is being developed through the efforts of Sociology faculty Drs. Jay Corzine and Lin Huff-Corzine and representatives from the FBI.

As you can see there are a lot of interesting and unique happenings in the Sociology Department! In upcoming issues we will detail more of these as well as profile faculty, students, and staff.

What can you learn outside the classroom?: The benefits of an internship.

Internship at Harbor House

By Ashley Simpson, Sociology undergraduate student

This semester I am an intern for Harbor House at the Orange County Courthouse.

Harbor House is a non profit organization that provides help to survivors of Domestic Violence. The purpose of the office at the courthouse is primarily to help clients file for injunctions, as well as to go over safety planning. The clients we serve are in crisis

and we go over safety planning because an injunction is just a piece of paper and in order to really be safe there are certain considerations that these women should be aware of and plan for.

I took a course "the Sociol-

What is a professional meeting like?



Typical conference scenes: a presentation session (above) and hallway networking (below).

“It is easy to memorize a list for a test,...(but) what really makes that information memorable is listening to a client’s story...Every story ...I’ve heard ...(is a reason) listed in the course textbook.”

My Trip to ASC

By Michael Bachman, Sociology Ph.D. student.

Attending the American Society of Criminology (ASC) meeting 2006 in Los Angeles from Nov 01 – 04 was an astonishing and highly rewarding experience. After arriving and checking in at the conference hotel, the group of students I was with took the shuttle bus to the Sta-

ples Center, the gigantic building in which the conference was held. We registered, then sat down to look for interesting sessions in the very thick program book. We found so many sessions for our particular research interests that we split up and spent the afternoon attending sessions. Later that day, we met up with some of our professors and went for dinner together. They introduced us to their col-

leagues from other universities.

We were also able to talk to textbook publishers, and try to obtain some free samples of interesting books which, by the way, were plentiful at the conference! We also walked through the job fair to get an idea of what the job-market looks like right now and how it will be for us when we will be part of this great resource.

Internship, cont.

ogy of Domestic Violence” with Rae Taylor, and it was a fascinating course. Ms. Taylor was also very enthusiastic about the cause which made the class so much more interesting. One thing that’s really connected the course and this internship together is that in the course you learn a list of reasons for why people stay in violent relationships. But, a list is easy to memorize

stories. These tasks may not seem like a lot but in reality, what this organization does is provide the hope of a peaceful and safe future. I love interning at Harbor House; it is an organization that I would love and be proud to work for after I graduate.

for a test and then forget. What really makes that information memorable is listening to a client’s story and hearing why they stayed. Every story is unique and I’ve heard clients give all the reasons listed in the course textbook and more.

At the courthouse I see clients come in and hear

how they are dealing with the pain and stress of having experienced physical and/or emotional abuse at the hands of someone they loved. This is something that no one should ever have to encounter. Harbor House helps them fill out the paperwork, we attend court with them, and we discuss safety planning, all the while listening to their



News from the Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences

What is the ISBS?

Founded in 1979, the Institute for Social and Behavioral Science promotes community-oriented research throughout the social and behavioral science disciplines. Located in UCF's Department of Sociology, the Institute houses:

Survey Research Laboratory, with the capacity to do telephone and mail surveys and polls throughout the central Florida region and analyze Census data; and geographic information systems (GIS).

Center for Qualitative Methodologies, which specializes in focus-group methods and in-depth interviewing.

Center for Outreach and Public Service, which embodies the Institute's commitment to social and human service agencies that serve the population of our community.

Institute faculty consult regularly with community agencies and groups on issues of pro-

gram design and evaluation; survey research; data base design; data analysis; how to access

You may have already seen some of our work around Central Florida as we have partnered with the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce, Heart of Florida United Way, myregion.org, Community Foundation of Central Florida, Orlando YMCA/YWCA, Florida Blood Centers, and UCF's Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies to undertake the first-ever inventory of social capital in the Central Florida Region.

What is social capital?

"Social capital" is a way of conceptualizing and measuring how connected people are to one another. Just as economic capital is a measure of economic health, so is social capital a measure of the health of a community's social fabric. Social capital exists when people enjoy strong connections to family, friends, neighbors, and civic institutions. Contemporary

concern about dwindling social capital in American communities derives from Robert Putnam's work, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*.

Central Florida leaders have taken on the task of planning for future growth, something you may have seen in the papers in the form of community workshops titled "How shall we grow?"

The ISBS Social Capital Survey was based on over 1,600 interviews with adults in the seven-county Central Florida region, which includes Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Polk, Lake, Brevard and Volusia Counties.



ISBS Staff

Director: Dr. Jim Wright
Associate Director: Dr. Jana Jasinski
Project Manager: Amy Donley

Sociology Trivia Quiz:

How well do you know the faculty and staff in the Sociology Department?

1. Which faculty member just added a new member to his/her family?
2. Which faculty member has written a cookbook and a food column for *American Thunder*?
3. Which member of the staff has a sister with the same first name?
4. Which faculty member has been on a trapeze?
5. Which 2 faculty members have run in (and completed) a marathon?
6. Which faculty member's pantry has been featured in the Orlando Sentinel?
7. Which faculty member met his/her spouse on an airplane?
8. Which 2 faculty members are the new co-editors of the journal, *Sociological Spectrum*?

Want to know the answers? Tune in to the next issue of *Socio-Logic*, or talk to your Sociology faculty today!

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Looking for a way to get more involved?

We are reorganizing the Sociology Club here at UCF. This is a social club that anyone can join (graduate, undergraduate, sociology majors, non-majors) to make a difference in the community. In previous years the Sociology Club has shown weekly movies to the children at the Coalition for the homeless, and donated food and other items to Harbor House the Orange County Center Against Domestic Violence.

We would love to have interested energetic individuals contact us to get this club up and running again. We will be setting up meetings in the Spring 2007 semester but in the meantime, feel free to contact our undergraduate director Dr. Elizabeth Mustaine at emustain@mail.ucf.edu.

We want to hear from you

Now that you have heard from us, we would like to hear from you.

Alumni: Let us know what you have been doing since you graduated from our program. We love to hear what former students are doing and would like to update our database with current information (career and contact). If you are interested in being the subject of an alumni profile let us know and we will include you in one of our upcoming newsletter issues.

Current Students: We want to know what you are doing as well. We know that all of our students are involved in exciting ventures and have lots of unique stories to tell, however, we don't always get to hear all of them. Now is your

chance. We want to know what activities and organizations you are involved with as well as your personal goals and ambitions. Help us to get to know you better.

Newsletter Editors:
Dr. Jana Jasinski
Dr. Libby Mustaine

