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DO UGLY MEN COMMIT UGLY CRIMES?

Maybe so, according to Rachel Rayburn and Jim Wright of UCF's sociology department, whose paper on the topic was published in *Society* (July-August 2009).

They posted photos of 24 registered sex offenders to www.hotornot.com, where anonymous participants ranked the attractiveness of each one. The 24 offenders were a random sample of 12 men who had committed only a single non-violent sexual offense and a second random sample of 12 men who had committed multiple violent

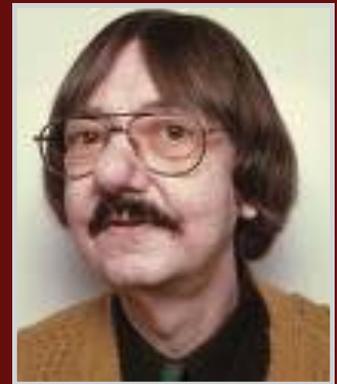
sexual offenses. Raters knew nothing about the men, their offenses, or the study.

The non-violent group had a mean attractiveness score of 6.74 (on a scale from one to ten), significantly different from the mean of 5.79 registered for the violent group.

"More violent sex offenders are significantly uglier than less violent offenders," they write, perhaps because of greater aggression born from a lifetime of discrimination on the basis

of physical appearance.

A news item on the paper appeared under the title "Face of Crime" in the *Wilson Quarterly*, Autumn, 2009, p. 13.



Hot or Not?

New Sociology Department Colloquium Series!

Are you curious about research done in the department? Do you know which topics people are working on? Do you need an experience in presenting? Would you like to get some of your ideas out there? Do you

like to just ponder on research issues? Yes!!!! The Sociology department welcomes you to our brand new colloquium series: a series of talks given by faculty members and graduate students about their cur-

rent research. This is an event not to be missed! All faculty, graduate and undergraduate sociology majors are encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to present and discuss work-in-progress and hear what

Global Warming, Social Change, and Music



As an extra credit opportunity in Dr. Canan's Social Change class, students could select three songs related to a lecture topic, and then argue for one as most closely related theoretically. Mindy Weller's argument for Bad Religion's "Kyoto Now!" is an excellent example.

"Forgetting Home describes global warming as a plague of burning forests, raging oceans and stormy winds, conditions that undermine confidence in great plans of global, social, and environmental control. Accompanied by bagpipes and sung like an Irish funeral dirge,

the haunting "Forgetting Home" looks upon human greed, hate, fear, and negligence as bequeathing a negative future, but it does not really touch on social change *per se*. Neither did the more upbeat "The Global Warming and Everything Else Wrong Song" which indicts corrupt bureaucracies and insatiable human hunger for overwhelming Mother Nature.

In the angry "Kyoto Now!" Bad Religion (2002) screams for social change and public support for the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change. They warn that we have let misinformation and misplaced faith in technology cloud our judgment about the harm of global warming, as represented in the lyric, "Don't allow this mythologic hopeful monster to exact its price." They urge listeners to

understand that the consequences are too great to waste precious time squabbling over the very existence of the threat. It sings of how the media have fed us lies, written by a controlling class "founded on petrochemical plunder." The rationales of past inaction no longer make sense logically or scientifically, it warns. We must unite, they say, and replace the religion of self indulgence with common purpose by supporting the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.



AKD Fall 2009 Induction

Dr. Jim Wright gave an inspiring induction speech at the AKD Induction Ceremony this year. His talk truly exemplified the honors society's motto, "social research for the purpose of service to mankind." He outlined some of his research that has had real benefits for the Central Florida



community. Among them are a study of violence in the lives of homeless women, a survey of homeless people living in the woods of east Orange County, as well as a study of poor and near poor families in Central Florida. He harkened back to the words of Franklin Roosevelt who said, "The test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have (Continued next page)

News from ISBS

In November 2008, ISBS undertook a comprehensive evaluation of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (MDCHT) and its Continuum of Care for homeless persons. Miami Dade County has one of the most comprehensive and admired continuum of services for homeless persons in the nation. ISBS was hired not to tell MDCHT what they do right but rather how they can improve.

Components of the evaluation included:

- Several agency site visits
- Interviews with agency management and staff
- Interviews with key stakeholders
- Focus groups with homeless clients
- Surveys of homeless people
- Analysis of the HMIS data base
- Analysis of archival data and documents

In all about two dozen local elected officials, members of the Trust board, and representatives from numerous city, county, and state offices and agencies were interviewed. Staff members from nearly all of the MDCHT funded agencies were interviewed. Approximately two hundred homeless people participated in our surveys and focus groups to provide perspective and information that program management and staff could not.

To date all data have been analyzed and recommendations have been developed to assist MDCHT in better providing services to homeless persons. The final presentation will be made to the Trust Board in January 2010. Results will be published in the Winter Issue of Sociologic.



In July and August 2009, telephone interviewers from the UCF Institute of Social and Behavioral Sciences surveyed 483 adult residents of Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties to determine public perceptions of the homeless in Central Florida and opinions about regional agencies that serve this population. Key findings from the survey:

A majority (55%) described homelessness as a "major problem" in Central Florida. An overwhelming 90% said that, nationally, the homeless problem is getting worse.

A substantial majority, 73%, said that not enough is being done "to address the issue of homelessness in our community" and an even larger majority, 83%, said Central Florida's municipal and county governments "should do more to fund programs that address homelessness."

With few exceptions, most people in Central Florida also hold sympathetic views towards homeless people. In contrast to the sympathetic views of the general public, there is a strong consensus that the media portray the homeless in a negative light. Despite media negativity, most people whose views about the homeless have recently changed say that they have become more sympathetic to homeless people.

Among local organizations serving the homeless, only the Coalition for the Homeless was recognized by most people. Opinions of the Coalition and other homeless organizations were generally positive. People do understand, clearly and unambiguously, that these organizations serve women, children and families as well as single homeless men.

much; it is whether we provide enough to those who have too little. Seventeen Sociology students were inducted during the ceremony and enjoyed coffee and brownies afterward. Dr. Elizabeth Mustaine, the faculty advisor to AKD congratulated these scholastically excellent students: Melissa Tetzlaff, Rachel Morgan, Melissa Henson, Samantha Snyder, Laura Adarve, Paulette Brown-Campbell, Earl Mowatt, and Lindsay Sanderfur (Not pictured: Deborah Barr, Autumn Bishop, Timothy Colyer, Jessica Eason, Sharon Halvorsen, Jennifer Leippert, Erin McArthur, Ariandna Ozuna, and Arianne Speth).



SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT, AND TUNA

Congratulations to Senior Sociology Major Jennifer Leippert!

Ms. Leippert and her faculty sponsor Dr. Amy Donley were recently notified that she was accepted into the American Evaluation Association (AEA) Pipeline program.

AEA is dedicated to improving the capacity of evaluators and supporting the field of evaluation. The pipeline program supports full-time graduate (and select undergraduates) students of color and students interested in applied research in cross-cultural contexts in attending the AEA annual conference and learning about the field of evaluation

What does tuna have to do with social engagement?

Graduate student office 403F currently holds about 25 pounds of canned tuna. Why? Because the graduate students in the department have agreed to help collect and donate 100 pounds of the total ONE TON o' tuna goal to Second Harvest to help families in need between now and Christmas Day

Second Harvest Food Bank is a private, non-profit organization that collects and distributes donated food to about 500 nonprofit partner agencies in six Central

Florida counties: Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia.

The current economic downturn has greatly increased the emergency food needs of Central Floridians, especially among struggling families, children, seniors, the working poor, the homeless, and others in need. Dave Krepcho, CEO of Second Harvest, says that with demand increasing daily, he's never had less food on his shelves.

Among the non-perishable food items that Second Harvest distributes, none is more in demand among families in need

than canned tuna – versatile, nutritious and delicious.

1 can of tuna is 6 ounces.

One ton is 2,000 pounds, or 32,000 ounces. A "ton o' tuna" is therefore 5,333 average sized cans. A challenging goal, but not impossible!

Undergraduate students, faculty and staff have all been stopping by to contribute. One can at a time - we hope to reach 100 pounds by the end of the semester!



Department Colloquium, con't

others are up to. The colloquia are held approximately once a month. The inaugural event features Dr. Jim Wright on Monday, November 2 in our seminar room (4061).

Nov 2 (12:30pm in 4061): Dr. James Wright . "Public Perceptions of the Homeless and the Agencies that Serve Them." ISBS has just completed a three county survey of perceptions of the homeless and of various homeless service agencies. This survey is typical of the work the Survey Lab has been doing since we took it over in 2004. So the colloquium serves both to introduce faculty and students to the substance of the results and to the kind of survey work that goes on here. The collo-

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Students in Betsy Swart's Sociology of Domestic Violence Class got to see first hand the challenges victims of domestic violence face everyday as they attended and participated the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event held on October 22 in the Student Union. Male volunteers selected a pair of high heeled women's shoes and walked around the student union as a way to raise awareness about violence against women. Sociology major Zach Anacker stated "It was wonderful to see all the care and support from not only the people who did the walk, but the people who saw us walking. I believe this was a really effective event because it showed that not only women are supportive, but men are as well. All in all, it was a spectacular experience and it was great to see that it was a such a successful event."



SYP 3562 Student John Zajicek selecting his shoes.



SYP 3562 students Mark Rutkoski (left) and Matt Reinstelle (right) with Harbor House CEO Carol Wick.



Sociology majors at Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: Amy Carey, Kelly Worthen, Cassandra Adams, Dayna Bentel, and Glenda Brown.

Department Colloquium, con't

quium on November 2 is two days before the "official" release of the report through the Central Florida Commission on the Homeless meeting on Wednesday, November 4.

Nov 30 (12:30pm in 4061): Dr. Fernando Rivera "Puerto Rican Health in Florida"

During the past two decades, Puerto Ricans have been moving to central Florida in large numbers in search of better opportunities. While there is some evidence that Puerto

Ricans in central Florida enjoy higher levels of education than Puerto Ricans living in traditional settlement hubs, it remains unclear if these population shifts have also translated into health benefits. The first goal of this paper is to provide a brief overview of the literature on the health of Puerto Ricans in the United States. The literature shows that Puerto Ricans continue to experience worse health outcomes than other groups. The second goal is to establish a recent profile of Puerto Rican health in the U.S. and Florida. By using recently released data

from the 2007 American Community Survey, we compared disability rates of Puerto Ricans across 72 counties with large Puerto Rican populations. Our results indicate that Puerto Ricans in Florida have a health advantage over many Puerto Ricans living elsewhere in the U.S. We conclude by discussing some of the social scientific implications of this study and by making some recommendations for future research in this highly understudied area of Puerto Rican disability.

If you have any suggestions or ideas related to colloquium series or would like to present yourself in the future, please contact Dr. Heili Pals.



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Department Earns Gender Equity Seal of Approval

The UCF Sociology Department has been issued the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Seal of Approval for Gender Equity. This award is based on the Report Card on Gender Scholarship and Equity in Sociology Departments developed by the SWS and recognizes departments that excel in creating a climate welcoming to women and women scholars. The full Report Card can be found on the Committee for Academic Justice website: www.socwomen.org

Graduates

Congratulations to the summer 2009 graduates from the Sociology Master's Program!

Donavan Bowers
Nnenia Campbell
Adrienne Horne
Jason Levine
Hollianne Marshall
Brandon Presley

Congratulations to the summer 2009 Doctoral Recipients!

Dr. Melanie Carlson
Dr. Minna Laurikkala
Dr. Nick Libby



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Editors:
Dr. Jana L. Jasinski
Dr. Elizabeth E. Mustaine

Upcoming Undergraduate Courses for Spring 2010:

SYA3110 Social Theory (Main, Daytona)
SYA3400C Applied Social Statistics (Cocoa)
SYA4300C Research Methods (Cocoa)
SYA4450 Data Analysis (Main)
SYD 3700 Race and Ethnicity (Main, Web)
SYD3800 Sex and Gender in Society (Main)
SYD4020 Birth, Death, and Population Trends (Main)
SYD4510 Environment and Society (Main)
SYG2010 Social Problems (Main)
SYO3410 Patterns of Mental Health in Society (Main)
SYO3530 Social Power and Inequality (Main, Cocoa)
SYO4100 Family Trends (Main)
SYO4323 Community and Diversity (Web)
SYO4400 Medical Sociology (Main)
SYP3400 Social Change (Main)
SYP3510 Deviant Behavior (Main, Daytona)
SYP3511 Sociology of Murder (Main, Metrowest)
SYP3520 Criminology (Main, Daytona)
SYP3530 Juvenile Delinquency (Main)
SYP3650 Sports and Society (Main, Daytona)
SYP4000 Sociological Social Psychology (Main)
SYP4514 Patterns of Violence in Society (Main)
SYP4536 Gangs and Society (Main)
SYP4550 Patterns of Drug Abuse in Society (Cocoa)
SYP4730 Patterns of Aging in Society (Main)

