New Faculty Profile

Dr. Warren Waren is the newest member of the Sociology Department at UCF and comes to us from Loyola University New Orleans. Like many of his students at the Cocoa Campus, Dr. Waren was a non-traditional student who balanced work and study. After completing his Associate’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Oklahoma he worked in advertising, pollution control monitoring, and also as a professional musician in Nashville. Dr. Waren completed his Master’s in Sociology at the University of Arkansas and his PhD at Texas A&M with an emphasis on demography and quantitative techniques.

Dr. Waren’s research investigates the social inequality between minority groups using demographic techniques. His current project looks into the experiences of Latino day laborers in post-Katrina New Orleans. Many of these men were attracted to work in construction jobs after the storm. But many of them also experienced wage theft—where they were not paid by their employers as promised at the end of a project. Dr. Waren found that from 304 day laborers interviewed in the city in 2009, they claimed over $400,000 of losses due to wage theft during the previous year.

In the fall semester of 2010 Dr. Waren will be teaching Applied Social Statistics (SYA 3400C), Research Methods (SYA 4300C), and Race and Ethnicity (SYD 3700).

Statistics is one of the primary tools used by social scientists to demonstrate differences between groups, the efficiency of social policies, and to identify and isolate the contributing factors of many social processes. The course on research methods emphasizes that knowledge comes from good research. And good research comes from good data. And good data come from rigorous research design and implementation.

The course on race and ethnicity will do much more than just present a history of race in the United States. Rather, it will highlight the recurring patterns sociologists see across many cultures that result in the development of groups of “us” vs. “them”. In the spring semester, Dr. Waren will teach a course on the Sociology of Music.
Dr. Amy Donley is no stranger to the Sociology Department at UCF. She has just completed a one year post doctoral research fellowship with the UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences and is now joining the Sociology faculty as an Instructor. I recently sat down with Dr. Donley to chat about her research, teaching and her new role as an instructor.

“Growing up I moved around a lot as a child finally settling in Kaiserslautern, Germany where I spent all of junior high and high school. After returning to America and trying out several schools and majors, I transferred to UCF as a junior to major in sociology. I went on to earn my Masters and PhD in sociology at UCF.

I have been teaching research methods and data analysis for two years and will continue to do so. This year I will also be teaching intro and urban sociology for the first time. My research focuses mainly on homelessness, specifically the intersection between homelessness and crime and the ways in which homeless people are perceived. “

“What projects are you working on right now?”

Currently I am part of the evaluation team for the Moving to Work program at the Orlando Housing Authority. My research continues to focus on homelessness. I am working on two papers with Dr. Monica Mendez (a UCF Sociology alum) focusing on domestic violence, homelessness and race. I am also gearing up to begin a new project in the fall with a former student working with homeless fathers residing with their children at the Coalition for the Homeless.

“What are you most looking forward to in your new position?

As a post doc I only taught one class per semester. Now I will be teaching three. I am excited to continue teaching the research methods - data analysis sequence. Being able to teach the same group of students in a smaller class for a full year is a lot of fun. I am also very excited to teach urban sociology for the first time this spring.

“I have been a part of UCF for so many years. The students and faculty at this school are great and I am just happy to continue to be a part of it all”.

Dr. Amy Donley
Mr. Michael Loree will be joining the faculty as an instructor based on the UCF metrowest campus. He is also another familiar face in the Sociology Department as he was a Visiting Instructor in 2009.

When asked about his background Mike replied:

“I am from Port St. Lucie, FL but have been living in Gainesville for the past 14 years. I have a B.A. and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Florida and am currently ABD at UF as well. My primary areas are Aging and the Life Course and Medical Sociology with Research Methodology being my secondary area.

My research generally focuses on issues of population health, particularly ways to more accurately model and predict variability in a given population's levels of adverse health outcomes.

I am currently working on my dissertation which focuses on developing and evaluating semi-parametric approaches to modeling health trajectories in middle and old age. Also, I am currently working on converting my Patterns of Aging class to an online format.

What you most looking forward to with your new position at UCF?

I am looking forward to teaching courses that I find interesting, refining my skills as an instructor while doing so.”
Dr. Shannon Carter is another familiar face in the Sociology Department. She is starting a new position as an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department.

“I grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and completed my B.A. in Sociology at the University of Michigan. I thought I would spend my whole life in Michigan until a particular February day during my junior year of college caused me to change my mind. The temperature was 20 degrees below zero with a wind chill factor of negative 40. I walked about 5 blocks to school. It was so miserably cold that I vowed only to apply to graduate schools in warm locations. I ultimately decided to attend the University of Florida, where I completed my M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology.”

“My teaching and research interests are sociological theory, gender and race inequality, sociology of education, and sexuality and reproduction. “

What projects are you working on right now?

“I am currently working on a project that focuses on the gendered nature of racist acts, or the ways white people “do gender” while “doing racism.” I have some other projects I am working on with students on race socialization, gender and economic inequality, and race and gender politics. My other work is on pregnancy and childbirth, which I am working to expand to include breastfeeding.”

What are you most looking forward to with your new position at UCF?

“One of the main changes in my position is that I can be an “inside” member on student committees, so I am looking forward to working more closely with students.”

What would you say is an innovative teaching technique you have used in the classroom?

“In my Sociology of Education class, I teach students about alternative educational approaches by allowing them to experience first grade from a couple different approaches. We spend a day where they pretend to be first graders, first in a Montessori classroom then in a Waldorf classroom.”
UCF Sociology professors Waren (with the bouquet) and Pals (with the power tool) switch roles while taking the traditional Estonian marriage test during their wedding ceremony on May 22, 2010. Independent reports confirm the happy couple passed the test.

**Sociology Department Research Colloquium**

Wednesday, September 15th
12:30-1:20pm in 406I

Betsy Swart "Whispering to the World: Gender-Based Violence and Women's Diaries in Kibera, Kenya"

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**New Book by Sociology Faculty**

The *Handbook of Survey Research* by Peter Rossi, James Wright, and Andy Anderson was published in 1983 and in the 27 years since, the survey research landscape has evolved dramatically. An entirely new edition by Peter Marsden of Harvard and UCF's James Wright has just been published by Emerald Publishing to bring the book into line with developments of the last three decades. Organized around the concept of Total Survey Error, the new edition has sections on legal and human subjections considerations, survey sampling, survey measurement, data collection, preparing and augmenting survey data, and special survey types and applications. The new edition has been nominated for the “Book of the Year” award of the American Association of Public Opinion Researchers.
Congratulations to the following Sociology graduates for summer 2010!

**Ph.D.**

Dr. Michele Covington  
Dr. Christian Bolden

**Applied Sociology MA**

Autumn Bishop  
Lucretia Cooney  
Tanya Crockett  
Ashley McGrath  
Lillian O’Connell  
Melissa Tetzlaff

**Sociology BA**

Thomas Aldinger  
Daniel Avila  
Deborah Bernacett  
Vanessa Calano  
Andjile Celestin  
Weatherly Chapdelaine  
Michelle Chin  
Brittany Cocroft  
Jeanine Cruz  
Renelle Debose  
Janet Defeo  
Shane Drahos  
Katie Gordon  
Stephanie Hill  
Ashely Jennings

**Social Sciences BA**

Chelsea Lipman  
Abigail Malick  
Aixa Merriweather  
Joshua Rogers  
Shannon Smith  
Colette Sprenger

Congratulations to Dr. Jay Corzine who was elected President of the Homicide Research Working Group. The Homicide Research Working Group (HRWG) is focused on advancing knowledge of lethal and non-lethal violence with the goal of developing successful intervention policies. Its membership is diverse with significant representation of both academics and practitioners from applied fields, including criminal justice, law, and medicine. The HRWG sponsors the refereed journal, Homicide Studies, and holds its annual meeting in June.

Congratulations to Dr. Jana Jasinski who has taken the position of Editor-in-Chief for the journal Feminist Criminology. With the addition of Feminist Criminology, the Sociology Department now houses three journals including Social Science Research and Sociological Spectrum.

Master’s student Ashley McGrath shown here with Pam Rea, director of Student Disability Services

On Monday, April 19, 2010, a Student Disability Services celebration took place in a room in the Student Union at the main campus, where 24 students were inducted into the newly formed Alpha Xi chapter of the Delta Alpha Pi (DAP) Honor Society. Alpha Xi is the first DAP chapter in the state of Florida. Ashley McGrath, a Sociology Master’s Student was inducted into the society. Select students and faculty members were also recognized for their achievements. The DAP charter members received a certificate of recognition, a pin, and other gifts, and refreshments were served.

Congratulations to Dr. Libby Mustaine who received a Teaching Incentive Award.  
Congratulations to Dr. Liz Grauerholz who received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award.
I have an M.A. in Justice Studies from Kent State University and a Ph.D. in sociology, with concentrations in criminology and quantitative methodology, from Bowling Green State University. I was hired as an Assistant Professor in 2002 and was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 2008. During my time at UCF I have taught general sociology, social problems, deviant behavior, criminology, and juvenile delinquency. I have also conducted several independent research projects with undergraduate students. One of these projects has resulted in a paper that was presented at an academic conference and is currently under review for publication. My research interests include substance use, particularly prescription drug misuse, and crime and deviance over the life course.

I was born and raised in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. I am a huge sports fan and for some reason, still follow the Cleveland Indians and Browns. I have been married to my wife Lori for seven wonderful years. We have two amazing children, Anderson who is 4 and Norah is almost 2. In my free time I enjoy playing golf with other members of the sociology department golf team: Drs. Gay, Lynxwiler, and Rivera.

What do you look forward to in your new role?
In my new role as undergraduate director I am excited about working closely with students, to help them achieve their academic and career goals. As the primary advisor, I look forward to assisting students navigate the problematic degree audit process at UCF. Hopefully, I can ease some of the anxiety this process causes for many students. As the undergraduate director I will also serve as the internship coordinator for the department and the faculty advisor for the sociology club. An integral part of the position is to help students find internships so that they can gain valuable real-world experience. Finally, involvement in student clubs is an important part of the college experience and I will do all that I can to make the sociology club a positive experience for all involved.

What do you see as the future directions for the Sociology undergraduate program?
In recent years the number of sociology majors has increased dramatically at UCF. I believe it is necessary for the undergraduate program in sociology to adapt to this increase in students. It is important for students to get the classes they need or want so that they can graduate on time. I also believe it is important to establish a more formal structure for students to find internships. Making students aware of the different companies/organization in central Florida where they can intern is a priority. Finally, it is important that the sociology club meets on a regular basis and is open to all interested students.
Prior to coming to UCF, I was serving as graduate director for the sociology department at Purdue University. However, most of my experience with graduate education comes from classroom and informal settings. I've been teaching graduate courses, and working with and advising graduate students, for many years. Some of the courses I teach are based upon my substantive interests (e.g., gender) but I also teach courses geared towards more professional development such as the Seminar on Teaching.

**What do you look forward to in your new role?**

Getting to know the students better. Currently, I mostly just get to know students who are in my classes or for whom I'm serving on committees, but in this role, I'll have the opportunity to get to know everyone. That's what I'm looking forward to the most.

**What do you see as the future directions for the Sociology graduate programs?**

Honestly, the program seems to be working very well, as evidenced by the number of students we graduate and doctoral students who are placed in excellent schools and agencies. So I see us continuing to do much of what we're already doing. I do think we need to increase stipends in order to attract the best students so I'll be exploring that possibility with the chair.

I'm interested in hearing from students what they think we can and should do to facilitate their progress through the program. I plan to schedule meetings with the different cohorts during the fall semester to provide a structured opportunity for feedback. I'd like students to know that if they can't make these meetings, or prefer to talk privately, I'm happy to meet students in my office.

You can contact Dr. Grauerholz via email at grauer@mail.ucf.edu, via phone at 407-823-4241, or in her office located in Howard Phillips Hall room 403M.
Drug use among American high school students, especially abuse of prescription drugs, is steadily increasing. What do parents think about these trends? Who or what is responsible? And what should be done?

With funding from the Orange County Office for a Drug-Free Community, the Survey Research Lab of ISBS will soon be fielding a county wide survey of attitudes towards drug use and abuse. The 15-minute survey will target a sample size of about 800 respondents. The core drugs of interest to the study are alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and prescription drugs, since many studies show these to be the principal drugs of abuse among the young.

Publications


News from the ISBS

Student Success in the Workplace

The University of Central Florida was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Model Program. The REAL Project - substance use prevention and intervention services and the Clinical Psychology SURG lab (Substance Use Research Group) were recognized a Model of Exemplary, Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse Prevention Program on College Campuses. The Department of Education's defines an Exemplary program as: A program that has a strong theoretical base and demonstrated effectiveness in reducing alcohol or other drug abuse among college students or reducing problems resulting from alcohol or other drug use among college students, using a research design of the highest quality.

The REAL Project and the SURG lab were recognized for their theory to practice efforts in developing evidence-based intervention strategies. Research was conducted by Clinical Psychology faculty Mike Dunn, and Tom Hall, Sociology doctoral student and Director of the Student Development and Enrollment Services REAL Project. As an Exemplary site, UCF is expected to disseminate our findings and provide technical assistance to colleges and universities throughout the country.

The Florida Department of Children and Families was awarded $750,000 by the US Department of Education to decrease underage drinking among college students. Tom Hall, Sociology doctoral student contributed to the grant proposal. The funding will provide technical assistance to Institutions of Higher Education in Orange, Alachua, Leon and Hillsborough counties through the development of the Florida Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug and Violence Prevention. As the chair of the Florida Higher Education Alliance for Substance Abuse prevention, Mr. Hall will oversee the Development of this Center.

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Michael P. McNeil, BA Sociology ’94, was recently promoted to the Director of the Alice! Health Promotion Program at Columbia University. He previously served as Assistant Director and Interim Director of Health Promotion at Columbia.

Christine Bevc, MA Applied Sociology ‘04 is currently a Post Doctoral Research Associate at the North Carolina Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Christine’s research specializes in the application of social networks and social science research methods to better understand the organizational partnerships of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

In addition to her work with NCPERRC, Christine also contributes to the Social Science Research Council’s (SSRC) Task Force on Hurricane Katrina and Rebuilding the Gulf Coast’s longitudinal study on community recovery. She has also served as the managing editor for the Natural Hazards Review, an ASCE peer-review journal, for the past 5 years (2005-2010). She currently serves on the Executive Council for the American Sociological Association’s section on Environment and Technology.

We would love to hear from more alumni! Drop us an email and let us know what you are doing and make sure to update your contact information with the alumni office.

Our late colleague Dr. Brent Marshall continues to be recognized, even in death, for his contributions to environmental sociology. A recent publication by Dr. Riley Dunlap (also a former UCF sociologist) in the International Handbook of Environmental Sociology was dedicated to Dr. Marshall for his work in the field of Environmental Sociology.
Department Chair: Jay Corzine
Associate Chair: Jana Jasinski

Undergraduate Director: Jason Ford
Graduate Director: Liz Grauerholz
Coordinator of Administrative Services: Tami Pullin
Program Assistant: Tonya Walker
Newsletter Editors: Jana Jasinski & Libby Mustaine