

Sociologic

Fall 2011

Honoring Dr. Jay Corzine

At the annual welcome and welcome back event Sociology faculty, staff and students and COS Dean's office guests took a moment from the celebration to honor Dr. Jay Corzine. After a champagne toast, Jay was presented with a gift basket of gift cards for all his favorite local restaurants, several bottles of nice Italian red wine and about five pounds of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Dr. David Gay spoke on behalf of the department.

"After fifteen years of service as the Department Chair Dr. Jay Corzine stepped down in August. Jay joined the department as Chair in the fall of 1996. At that time there were seven sociologists and five anthropologists. Anthropology now has their own department and four of the sociologists who were here when Jay arrived are still here. During Jay's tenure as department Chair the faculty have grown to 21 full time faculty, the number of undergraduate majors has

doubled, and the Master's program has remained

leadership doctoral program.

strong. Under his leadership we pursued and obtained a Ph.D. program. The success of our Ph.D. program is evidenced in the track record of the success of our newly minted Ph.D's. In addition, a number of universities now refer to us as their aspirational peers. UCF Sociology is alive and well on the national scene. Jay's leadership style was democratic. As Chair he was easy to approach, and he listened to what we had to say. He represented the department well within and outside the university. We thank you for your service to the department as Chair, we welcome you back to the



trenches of faculty life, and we wish you continued success in your current endeavors. Congratulations on a job well done."



New Sociology Faculty & Staff

Dr. Amy Reckdenwald



Dr. Amy Reckdenwald joined the Sociology department this fall as an Assistant Professor of Sociology. I recently sat down with her to learn more about who she is and what she brings to the department. Here is what she told me.

I grew up in Ithaca, New York and received my B.S. in Psychology with a double major in Statistics from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After graduating I moved down to Florida and began my graduate work at the University of South Florida, where I received my M.A. in Criminology. I later moved to the University of Florida, where I received my Ph.D. in Criminology in 2008. I have spent the last 3 years teaching at Florida Atlantic

University in Boca Raton, Florida."

"My research interests include urban violence, intimate partner homicide, domestic violence, race and gender issues, capital punishment, and sentencing. My teaching interests include criminological theory, murder, domestic violence, research methods, and statistics.

I am currently working on a project examining the comprehension of capital punishment sentencing instructions, particularly in California. I hope to later extend this research to the state of Florida. I am also working on a project that focuses on the influence of various forms of prior abuse on sexual homicide offending. My other interests center on the availability of domestic violence resources and homicide offending".

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

"As a graduate student I had amazing mentors that have had a strong influence on my research interests. I am excited about working on research with both undergraduate and graduate students and hope to have the same positive impact as my mentors had on me".



Mrs. Traci Milbuta

Traci Milbuta joined the Department of Sociology in July 2011 as an Admissions Specialist. Here she assists both undergraduate and graduate students with academic support. She began her career at UCF in 1997 and has worked with various departments on campus including Health Services, Undergraduate Admissions, and the Library. During this time she graduated with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies minoring in Art History, Anthropology, and Humanities.

Dr. Amanda Koontz Anthony

Dr. Koontz Anthony is one of our newest faculty members in the Department of Sociology. She recently received her doctorate from Florida State University with her major area in Social Psychology, after graduating with her B.A. in Sociology from Appalachian State University.

Dr. Anthony's research interests include social inequalities, culture, and an emphasis on identity construction within social psychology. Her dissertation focused on the perpetuation of traditional and new racism in the authentication of self-taught artists, along with the negotiation of imposed identities by the artists themselves. Her current research continues to analyze the perpetuation of inequalities in the construction of authenticity, along with representations of race, class, and gender in popular culture and the arts. She is also expanding into research on the importance of community organizations to residents and visitors in neighborhood betterment and involvement.

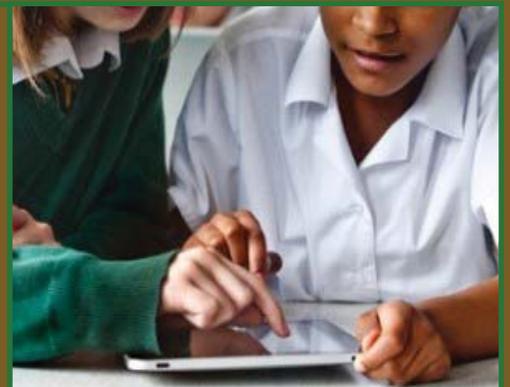
Dr. Anthony currently teaches Social Theory (SYA 3110) and the Sex and Gender in Society (SYD 3800), and she will teach Social Theory and Sociology of Popular Culture (SYP 3630) in Spring 2012.

She believes in active contribution by students to courses, including presentations on students' chosen topics of interest and integrating discussions of current events into each of her courses. She finds it important for students to be able to apply the sociological perspective not only to in-class assignments, but to students' own research and broader interests.

Her Sex and Gender course covers how gender socialization and construction is integrated into all areas of life, including occupations, education, family, relationships, and beyond. It does not only look at "men versus women," but the overall effects of living in a gendered society. Her Social Theory course covers classical to contemporary theorists, applying and critiquing the theorists' primary works and theories.



Two Sociology faculty, Dr. Fernando Rivera and Dr. Jana Jasinski, are participating in a small study conducted jointly by FCTL and the RAMP/McNair programs office regarding the ways in which faculty and students use iPads in their personal and professional lives. As part of the study they will serve as a mentor to a RAMP/McNair scholar, participate in focus groups, and engage in many online discussions out their experiences using this form of technology for research, teaching and mentoring.



Why I chose Sociology: A first hand look at Sociology as a major

~by Marie Gualtieri

When I came to college I thought I had my whole life planned out. I had a major and I knew what I wanted to have as my career after graduation. Sociology was not part of "my plan", but if there is one thing I have learned in college it would be that having a plan is good, but change is not necessarily bad. Ever since I first began studying society and trends in my Introduction to Sociology class, I was hooked. Never in a million years did I expect to change my major to the word I searched for in Google three years ago. I am ultimately glad I made the decision to switch because I honestly cannot picture my life any other way.

One aspect of the subject that really interested me was getting the opportunity to learn about and to conduct my own research. I feel as though research actually leads to having a deep understanding of a topic. It trumps studying from a book. Putting your heart and soul into something through actively going out into the world and finding answers creates a rewarding feeling that I yearn for, which can only be filled by research. It might sound cheesy, but there is something remarkable about the moment that you input all of your data into a software system and start analyzing your findings for the first time.

I think another feature that keeps me loving Sociology more and more everyday is the department. No matter which sociology class I am enrolled in, the professor always has so much passion for the subject and I feel that is not something that is found in every classroom around campus. I have never felt so welcomed or have been given so many opportunities than I have in the Sociology Department, for which I am entirely grateful. I am so thankful for all of the people I have met, and I know that without changing my major I wouldn't have met them at all, and my undergraduate career would not be as fulfilling as it has been.

Did you know Sociology has a student club?

Find the Sociology Club on Facebook at "The Sociology Club/AKD".

Questions about the club can also be sent to Marie Gualtieri at: marie.gualtieri@knights.ucf.edu

What are we about?

The Sociology Club is full of students interested in issues pertinent to sociology. The club organizes and sponsors events to benefit its members and the Orlando community through volunteer work and donations.

The club is a great way to become more involved at UCF with students who share similar interests. Becoming an active member provides hands on experience with working with people and participating in extra curricular activities. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings or events!

Stay Connected!

Join our Facebook page to see some of our upcoming events and meetings!

Sociology Club / AKD at UCF



Current and former Sociology students gathered for a quick photo at the annual meetings of the Homicide Research Working Group in New Orleans, Louisiana. Sociology Alumni Dr. Rae Taylor ('09) (front left) acted as the local arrangement host. From left to right (front row): Master's alumni Jackie Schildkraut, ('11) Dr. Christa Olson, ('09) doctoral students Will Watkins and Melissa Tetzlaff-Bemiller, Dr. Lin Huff Corzine, Dr. Minna Cirino, ('09) Dr. Christian Bolden ('10). Back row from left to right: Doctoral Student James McCutcheon, Dr. Jay Corzine, Dr. Amy Donley ('08), and doctoral students Holli Marshall and Rachel Rados.

Congratulations

Summer 2011 Graduate Program Grads!

Master's in Applied Sociology

Candice Campanaro
 Christopher McDaniel
 Shannon Simone
 Katelan Smith
 Doris Stanley
 Anna Turner

PhD in Sociology

Chastity Blankenship
 Nicholas Guittar
 Rachel Rayburn

Summer 2011 Sociology BA Grads

Lucie Alexandre
 Edgar Baez
 Mark Christiansen
 Jeanine Cruz
 Allison Estes
 Gina Gallucci
 Yehuda Green
 Matthew Harper
 Marcgenson Marc

Kristina Mineo
 Rameika Newman
 Ariadna Ozuna
 Katelynn Palmer
 Pamela Parsons
 Jacqueline Santiago
 Rhonda Shoup
 Autumn Warner

Summer 2011 Social Sciences BS Grads

Lauren Barry
 Dianna Dougherty
 Krysal Miller
 Alyssa Roman

News From the ISBS

ISBS investigators recently completed two large, three-county telephone surveys: a Public Opinion Survey for the Heart of Florida United Way and a marketing survey for Metroplan Orlando, our regional transportation planning agency.

The HFUW survey of 549 residents of Orange, Seminole and Osceola Counties showed that charitable giving is generally down as a result of the continuing recession. Nonetheless, Heart of Florida United Way still has strong name recognition in the local market and enjoys a very high level of public support. Majorities exceeding 80% are confident that the United Way “does a good job,” trust United Way to accomplish what it says it will do, and believe the organization is effective in advancing the common good. 82% of local residents have very or somewhat favorable opinions of the organization. These and other survey results will be presented to the HFUW Board of Directors in the coming months.

The Metroplan Orlando survey of more than 800 local residents was the third large survey ISBS has done for the organization since 2005. As in previous surveys, very large majorities of three-county residents say that transportation issues are important to them and their families and to the region as a whole. People in the region are not satisfied with what is currently being done to solve regional transportation issues; the two-thirds majority thinks that one problem here is that not enough money is being spent to address transportation problems. There is also widespread sentiment that the region needs a better balance in its transportation system between roadways and public transit. Indeed, a surprisingly large majority (64%) agrees that “the only realistic solution to transportation and congestion issues in the region is to stop building highways and instead invest in public

Forthcoming Projects

Projects currently slated for the fall term include a survey of alcohol retailers being undertaken on behalf of the Orange County Office for a Drug-Free Community and a survey of diet and exercise habits of adults and children in Winter Park, Maitland, and Eatonville being conducted for the Winter Park Health Foundation. The latter is a baseline survey in advance of a broad “Healthy Communities” initiative in the three communities and will be followed some years hence by a second survey to see if anything changed.

transportation – like passenger rail and bus systems” – up from 47% in 2009 and probably the most dramatic shift in public opinion registered in the survey.

Orlando Housing Authority Moving to Work Evaluation

Drs. Wright and Donley are serving as evaluators for the Orlando Housing Authority's Moving to Work (MTW) program. MTW is a 10 year, official designation given to only the highest performing housing authorities around the nation. This designation allows the housing authority to develop innovative programs and policies to better serve the residents of their many properties and to make their own operating procedures more efficient. The housing authority has already built a multi-faceted service center to assist residents in gaining employment, securing childcare arrangements and going back to school. As evaluators, Wright and Donley will conduct interviews with residents to determine if the changes that are being instituted are having the desired effects and to identify other changes that might be beneficial; they will conduct an online survey with staff members to determine if these changes are making the employees jobs more efficient; and they will review existing data to evaluate the costs and benefits of the individual changes.

Staff Changes at the ISBS

Dr. Amy Donley has moved into the role of Associate Director of the ISBS. I recently sat down with her to talk about what this change means for her.

How do you feel about your new role?

I am very excited about serving as the Associate Director of ISBS. I have been with the Institute for 6 years starting as a project manager. I have had the privilege of working on so many interesting projects. This new position allows me to continue being involved in conducting research but also to be involved in many facets that I used to be unaware of.

What are you looking forward to most?

I like that this new position presents new challenges and allows me to learn new things. I now have a lot more interaction with our clients and potential clients. In the past I typically became involved in a project once it was solidified but now I am actively involved from a project's inception.

What is currently going on in ISBS?

Thank you for asking (Ha!!!)

While the economic downturn slowed things down for ISBS for a couple of years we are very happy to say that things have really begun to pick up. We are currently serving as evaluators for the Orlando Housing Authority. We are also about to start two new survey projects: 1) a survey of Orlando retailers assessing their practices in regards to selling alcoholic beverages and 2.) a longitudinal study on behalf of the Winter Park Health Foundation and Florida Hospital assessing health behaviors among residents of Winter Park, Maitland and Eatonville.

Second Harvest Food Bank Gaps Analysis

During the spring semester, graduate students in Dr. Wright's program design and evaluation course started a multi-faceted project with Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. The goal of the project was to determine where potential gaps may be between where need for food is greatest and where SHFB's food is being distributed. Zip code areas in Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties were the primary focus of this project. The heart of this project was creating a database of census and community indicators to determine in which zip code areas the "gaps" exist. SHFB was so impressed with the results that the project has expanded to include the other 3 counties SHFB supplies, Lake, Brevard, and Volusia. We are currently working on including recently released 2010 Census data for the 6 counties into our database.

The Orlando Project

The ISBS is currently working on a project with the City of Orlando surveying residents of the Washington Shores and Holden Heights communities. Surveyors interviewed parents in these communities on a variety of different topics related to their children, such as getting into trouble at school, involvement in after school programs, physical activity, the importance of completing high school and going on to college, and the importance of having a career. The City of Orlando plans to use the results of this survey to obtain funding to implement additional community programs focused on making a difference in children's lives by investing in education, after school programs, and youth development.

A Conference in the Life of a Faculty Member: My Perspective

By: Fernando I. Rivera

In August, the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) celebrated their annual meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a faculty member I look forward to the meetings as I have the chance to catch up with colleagues from other institutions, learn more about new research trends, and have an intellectual exchange with fellow sociologists from around the globe. These meetings were particularly busy for me, as I had previous engagements at both conferences. For the SSSP, I co-presented a paper with graduate student Marc Settembrino entitled "*Sociological Insights in the Search of the Disaster Resilient Community: Past, Present, and Future*" as part of The Social Reconstruction after Natural and Unnatural Disasters II paper session. This paper was a product from my USDA grant Building Disaster Resilience and Sustainability in Rural Communities in Central Florida in which Marc serves as my graduate research assistant. We had a very lively session and we got positive feedback from the audience in attendance. After the presentation was over, I rushed over to the ASA conference hotel to give a talk to cohort 38 of the Minority Fellowship Program, one of the ASA's most prestigious fellowship programs, for which I am part of their advisory board. After the presentation and a short cab ride, I headed to the University of Nevada Las Vegas to participate in a couple of panels as part of my duties as council member of the Latino/a Sociology Section and organizing committee member for the 2011 Norma Williams Student/New Faculty Professional Development Workshop. I was part of two panels: Obtaining a Job as Professor in Academia, and Moving up the Ranks; and Success in Obtaining and Completing both Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships. After the workshop I had a council meeting and I wrapped up the day attending the Opening Plenary at the ASA meetings. The



first day of the ASA meeting I was up early to co-present a paper at the Latino/a Sociology Roundtables titled *Residential Segregation in Puerto Rican Disability: Does Social Class Matter?*, the rest of the day I attended different sessions and attended the Sociology of Mental Health section business meeting. The day ended with a reception at a local restaurant for the Latino/a sociology section for which I was part of the or-



ganizing committee. The second day started with an early presentation in the Section on Environment and Technology Session, Markets, Movements and Commodity Chains panel for a UCF sociology paper co-authored paper with Dr. Canan and Dr. Pals and other sociology students. Sociology graduate student Lindsey Singer Barés presented the paper and did an outstanding job for her first ASA presentation. After attending a handful of sessions, I wrapped up the day attending the reception for the Minority Fellowship Program that was attended by previous ASA presidents and former MFP fellows such as Eduardo Bonilla-Silva and others. Before heading to the airport on my last day in Vegas, I attended a MFP advisory board meeting. After my early morning flight into Orlando (2:00am), I was up early to teach my scheduled courses at UCF. In all, the meetings were a success and I was happy to represent UCF at one of the highest forums of sociological inquiry. I was also proud of the work of our graduate students in the program.

Student Publications

Colyer, Timothy and Robert Bohm. "You're Killing Me: A Review of State and Federal Death Penalty Statutes" forthcoming in *Criminal Law Bulletin*.

Duesterhaus, Megan, Liz Grauerholz, **Rebecca Weischel** and **Nicholas Guittar**. "The Cost of Doing Femininity: Gendered Disparities in Pricing of Personal Care Products and Services." Forthcoming in *Gender Issues*.

Navarro, J. & Jasinski, J.L. "Going cyber: Using Routine Activities Theory to predict cyberbullying experiences." Forthcoming in *Sociological Spectrum*.

Lei Lei and Heili Pals, "Son preference in China: Why is it different between rural and urban areas?" Forthcoming in *Population Review*.

Panio, Maria, **Chastity Blankenship**, Liz Grauerholz and Jeffrey Chin. "The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Teaching Sociology: 1973-2009." Forthcoming in *Teaching Sociology*.

Rayburn, Rachel L., Heili Pals and James D. Wright. "Death, Drugs and Disaster: Mortality among New Orleans' Homeless." Forthcoming in *The Journal of Long Term Home Health Care*.

Watkins, William C. & Jason A. Ford. (2011). Prescription drug misuse among Asian-American adults: Results from a national survey" *Substance Use & Misuse*, 46, 1700-1708 .

Climate Change Vs. Royal Wedding

Two important events occurred on April 29, 2011, Kate Middleton married Prince William and Dr. Penelope Canan delivered a lecture on the relevance of climate change for urban planners. Dr. Canan's lecture was part of the University of New Mexico Pearl Endowment Lecture Series. The title of her lecture was *Climate Change: The Planner's Dilemma*. Topics covered included the impact of local policies and programs on the environment and how planners can work with local community agencies to equip them for the future. Let's hope it's Dr. Canan who will have the more lasting influence on the world.

Undergraduate Student Awarded SMART Grant!

Senior Sociology major Fallon Kadel and her faculty mentor Dr. Amy Donley were awarded a Student-Mentor Academic Research Team (SMART) grant from the Burnett Honors College. Interestingly at UCF the majority of Biology majors are female yet only two of the tenured faculty members are female. Their research will examine the awareness and opinions female Biology majors have about the gender disparity in their discipline at UCF, possible impacts from the disparity and the perceived importance of same-sex mentoring opportunities. Their research is part of a growing field examining disparities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields of study. The results of his research will be presented in the spring at the Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence (SURE) at UCF.

Upcoming Departmental Events

Don't miss the next talk in the Departmental Colloquial Series.

Date: October 19

Time: Noon

Place: 406-I

Presenter: Dr. Libby Mustaine

the
Parole
Board

working with others
to protect the public

The Department of Sociology

Department Chair: Dr. Jana Jasinski

Associate Chair: Dr. David Gay

Graduate Director: Dr. Liz Grauerholz

Undergraduate Director: Dr. Jason Ford

Coordinator of Administrative Services:
Ms. Tamara Pullin

Admissions Specialist:

Mrs. Traci Milbuta

Parole Board Members' Views of Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification

Little is known about how criminal justice officials perceive fairness, efficacy or scope of sex offender registration and community notification procedures, despite their importance in implementing such policies. There is also scant literature regarding parole board members and their attitudes or approaches to their work. This study addresses both issues by examining the attitudes and beliefs regarding sex offender registration and community notification among members of state parole boards. Using a survey methodology, including the Community Attitudes Toward Sex Offenders (CATSO) scale (Church, et al., 2008), parole board members are shown to hold moderate views of the importance of such practices and to frequently question the efficacy and scope of registration and community notification. Additionally, the CATSO is shown to not be of assistance for understanding the views of parole board members.



Newsletter Editors

Dr. Jana Jasinski
Dr. Libby Mustaine