

UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

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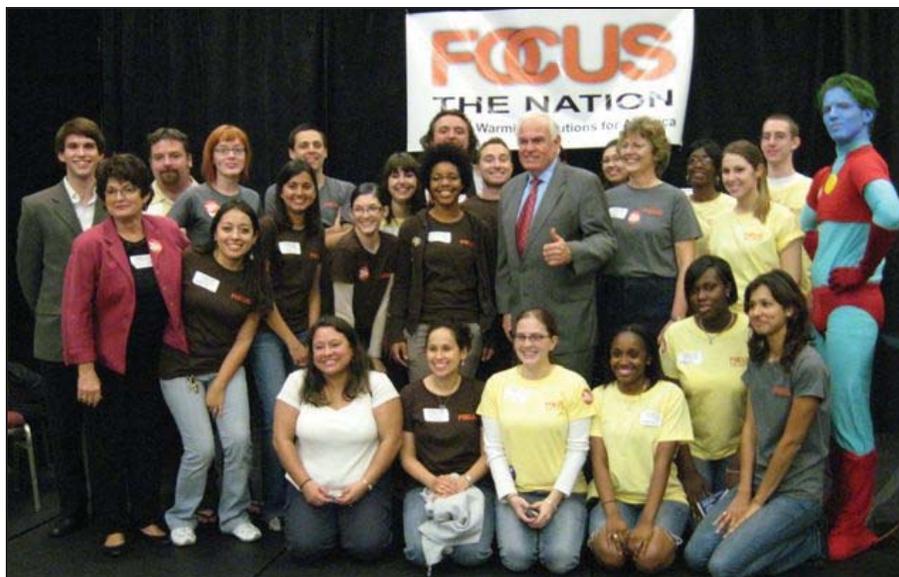
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Letter from the editors: On January 31, 2008 major event took place on the UCF campus. UCF hosted the Focus the Nation Event. Sociology faculty, students and staff were heavily involved in making this event something that UCF and the Central Florida Community would talk about for years to come. Consequently this issue is a special themed issue focusing on the events and people that played a role in bringing Focus the Nation to UCF.



Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty (Center) poses with members of the Focus the Nation team including Sociology faculty Drs. Penelope Canan, Brent Marshall, and Joan Morris, undergraduate and graduate students, and Captain Planet (blue tights).

If your radio was tuned in to WPRK's (91.5 FM) noon program "The Front Porch" Wednesday (1/30/08), you would have heard UCF sociology students talking about the urgent need to focus the nation on solutions to climate change. Sociology graduate student Nnenia Campbell joined Richard de Treville (sociology major and president of the Focus the Nation student club at UCF) and alumna Natalia Paredes (2007, now with Orlando Utilities Commission) in the hour-long interview by host Julie Norriss (also owner of the Dandelion Café).

The three budding sociologists described their participation in the climate change social movement led by university students and faculty across the country. Focus the Nation, they explained, was a network of 1,800 universities dedicated to bringing about a green energy future, that is, an 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050.

The students urged listeners to participate that night in "The 2% Solution," a live national webcast about the 80% goal that was hosted by UCF and to the "Teach In/Reach Out" at the Student Union the next day. The webcast can be accessed now on www.earthdaytv.net <<http://www.earthdaytv.net/>> . The website for the "Teach In/Reach Out" is www.ftncf.org <<http://www.ftncf.org/>> .

~written by Dr. Penelope Canan

FTN@UCF

Working with the Orlando "Green Team"

Student Publications:

Libby, Nicholas E. & Jay Corzine. 2007. "Lethal weapons: Effects of firearm types on the outcome of violent encounters." Justice Research and Policy 9:139-159.

Ford, Jason & Meagan Arrastia. Forthcoming. "Pill-poppers and dopers: A comparison of non-medical prescription drug use and illicit/street drug use among college students." Addictive Behaviors

With environmental problems - such as, disasters, global climate change, and water shortages - receiving more attention in the media and among the public, governments at all levels are unveiling new environmental initiatives. The University of Central Florida, Orange County, and the City of Orlando are taking important steps in an effort to become better environmental stewards and leaders in the green movement. As an environmental sociologist, I have been working with Orlando's "green team" to help launch Mayor Buddy Dyer's "Green Works Orlando" (www.cityoforlando.net/elected/greenworks), a set of environmental initiatives. Collectively, these initiatives address the city's objectives of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment, investing in green buildings, vehicles and materials, fostering alternative transportation options, and increasing the amount of trees and green spaces. One of the four areas of concen-



tration in the department's Ph.D. program is urban and environmental sociology. Interest in this area of concentration and the three graduate courses we offer on the environment have increased. Two of our graduate students Mary Collins and Janel Rabinowitz have been awarded paid internships with the city. This a great opportunity for our graduate students because the research they do will have a direct and significant impact on the implementation of the city's green initiatives. The students will be working on specific projects, such as assessing the city's carbon footprint and tree canopy coverage. Other projects focus on certification programs, including Green Business, STAR, Florida Green Building, and Green Globe. Paid internships enable our students to take what they have learned in the classroom and apply to research in the field. Furthermore, these opportunities strengthen the collaborative relationship between the department and local government.

~Written by Dr. Brent Marshall

Ten things you can do to reduce global warming

1. Ride a bike instead of using your car.
2. Plant a tree.
3. Use canvass bags at the grocery store.
4. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs.
5. Recycle.
6. Compost.
7. Carpool.
8. Raise the AC temperature 1 degree.
9. Use green power (eg. solar, wind).



News from the ISBS

The Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences has remained busy with a diverse number of projects. Among those completed most recently the ISBS has looked at transportation issues for a recent ISBS report, *Popular Thinking about Regional Transportation Issues: A Series of Focus Group Studies*, conducted for METROPLAN ORLANDO, our regional transportation planning agency.

The report focused on four issues: the use of automatic cameras to detect and fine red light runners; use and perceptions of mass transit in the region; the commuter rail system; and transportation funding alternatives.

Results showed there is widespread support for using red light cameras to issue citations to red light violators. The majority has limited to non-existent experience with

the Lynx bus system but expresses negative perceptions based on the inconvenience of using buses to get around.

Misunderstanding about the coming commuter rail system was widespread but once the system was explained, it proved extremely popular, even among those who would not directly benefit.

Finally, discussions of transportation funding options brought little in the way of consensus with the exception of the ever-popular option of taxing tourists more heavily.

The results highlight the important fact that transportation issues remain a major concern for many Central Florida residents. Not one participant thought that the topic was undeserving of attention and many expressed views that the region is "behind" in its transportation systems. Virtually all participants believe that public

transit needs to be the focus or a major part of the focus of transportation planning in the coming years.

On January 25, 2008, ISBS researchers under the supervision of Amy Donley, in partnership with the Homeless Services Network, were deployed at various service sites around the city to count the number of homeless people. Teams began at 4:00 AM surveying people in the day labor outlets and other volunteer groups did street intercept interviews in the morning but the bulk of the counting effort began at about 11:00 at Daily Bread, a feeding outlet on Central Avenue in Parramore. Donley and 6 other researchers worked the lines and tables at Daily Bread until about 1:00, then spent the afternoon interviewing homeless men and women at the Salvation Army, and wrapped up the day surveying homeless clients at the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. ISBS will release the results of the Point in Time Count sometime in March.

~Written by Dr. James Wright, Director ISBS

Global Climate Change in Introduction to Sociology?

At UCF the general education program (GEP) now includes a unifying theme to focus discussion and encourage interdisciplinarity in an content area selected by UCF students. This year, the selected theme was Global Climate Change. How does this theme work in Sociology? Dr. Joan Morris talks about how she integrated the theme in her SYG 2000 course. She states "The theme of my course is 'Climate Change as a Social Problem.' We are discussing how social interaction both influences and is influenced by social and cultural structures. Thus the definition of climate change

as a "problem" is very much a social construction, i.e., while nearly all scientists now agree that climate change is happening and that it is caused by human action, recognition of the issue as a problem that the whole society needs to address is taking a great deal longer. The GEP unifying theme provides a way for students to look at issues, using the various scientific perspectives, and become better informed. citizens.

~Written by Dr. Joan Morris

Environmental Leadership by Focus the Nation

America engaged in the largest teach-in in USA history January 31, 2008, where Focus the Nation (FTN) simultaneously held a national symposium with 1700 universities, places of worship, and civic centers to move the national government to action to confront the climate crisis.

On the topic of solutions to global climate change, this social movement engaged

college students and the extralocal community to push for environmental political leadership in America to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. This mobilization attracted a critical mass of support to have a communal and national impact.

Over a million students, teachers, and community members partook in galvanizing America to reestab-

lish a representative democracy on behalf of the climate movement.

The event took a lot of planning, organizing, staffing, developing, and evaluation by a tight network of students, staff, and professors that put on the events throughout the day. The FTN at UCF organization had a successful event because of growing awareness and involvement of global climate change as shown by



the national grassroots response.

Awareness of involvement of environmental social change, whether radical or simple reform, is becoming a dynamic counter culture challenging the old norm of maintaining the status quo in terms of energy needs, pollution emergencies, environmental racism, and blind over-

consumption. As this social movement becomes a mainstream movement, urgency of monetary investment is of need. Already, the USA is beginning to make consumer and business changes, as well as voluntary state and city governance to correctively augment the carbon footprint.

Business and government are key players. Hunter

Lovins, the key note speaker of UCF's Teach-in/Reach-out spoke about how the greening of America can be the "most profitable investment for corporations and small businesses." She presented that under Sarbanes-Oxley corporations are now socially responsible to present a carbon footprint to stock holders. She recommended "first efficiency then green power" to maximize profitability and alleviate extra green house gases.

But, according to Dr. Penelope Canan, this greening of America will not move from the fringe to the mainstream without the USA becoming a "full citizen of the world." By joining the rest of the world who are on board with saving the planet the USA can revert the worst possible scenario of an average five to ten degree temperature rise. Dr. Canan says that this necessity of an intergovernmental function of mitigation is

Master's student Janel Rabinowitz speaks with passers by about how individual consumer choices can affect the global climate.





Hunter Lovins (left) hangs out with Sociology MA student Josh Roosth

Environmental Leadership, Con't.

similar to solving the past event of the ozone layer depletion. In that situation, America became a leader and drove innovation through partnerships.

The climate movement continues past the Teach-in/Reach out. Now that environmental nongovernmental organization are on board together, stu-



dents are mobilized, cities are pursuing environmental sustainability, businesses are gaining profit, and people are making wiser choices about consumption, it is time for national government to act as a representative democracy and hear the voice of America shouting "green!"

~By Joshua Roosth

Department Neighborhood Gets "Spruced" Up



Thanks to the International Society of Arboriculture, we have a new, mature trumpet tree (tabebuia), right outside Phillips Hall. Its plaque will honor UCF's efforts to Focus the Nation on Solutions to Climate Change.



A panel comprised of local, regional, state, and federal leaders discussed their role in solutions to climate change.

Dr. Liz Grauerholz receives ASA Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award

Elizabeth Grauerholz, Professor of Sociology at the University of Central Florida, is the 2007 co-recipient of the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Teaching award. Not only is Professor Grauerholz a gifted teacher and accomplished textbook author, but her tireless efforts to improve teaching throughout the discipline and her contributions to scholar-

ship on teaching and learning are truly remarkable. Since 1988, she has published a dozen articles or chapters on teaching, including six articles in the flagship journal, *Teaching Sociology*. The earliest of these explored innovative techniques for enhancing active learning in the classroom, including "role taking" (1989) and "This is

Jeopardy" (1991) a creative look at making exam preparation fun and challenging. Her subsequent *Teaching Sociology* articles explored a broad range of topics, including pedagogical ethics (1994), writing intensive courses (1999), deep learning (2001), critical thinking (2003), and instructional goals in the teaching of sociology. As

Associate Editor and then two-term Editor of *Teaching Sociology*, she helped strengthen the field and raised the level of scholarship in the journal by providing insightful critiques and supportive editorial suggestions.

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Undergraduate Director: Libby Mustaine
Graduate Director: Jana Jasinski
Administrative Assistant: Tami Pullin
Program Assistant: Tonya Walker

Back By Popular Demand: Faculty Trivia!

In our last issue your faculty were asked the following question, "What is your favorite TV show?" Here are the answers.

1. Eureka - Jasinski
2. Battlestar Galactica - Mustaine
3. House - Houvarous
4. 24 – Barrett
5. Countdown with Keith Oberman- Grauerholz
6. CSI - Cook
7. Seinfeld Rivera
8. The Wire - Ford
9. Saving Grace - Canan
10. The King of Queens - Carter
11. The Office - Corzine
12. Prison Break - Dietz
13. Pardon the Interruption - Gay
14. Boston Legal - Lynxwiler
15. Curb Your Enthusiasm - Marshall
16. The Colbert Report - Morris
17. NASCAR Racing - Wright
18. I dont watch TV –Goldstein

Your faculty were asked the following question, "Before you wanted to be a Sociologist, what did you want to be when you grew up?" Can you guess which professor answered which profession?

1. Marine Biologist
2. Forest Ranger
3. Baseball Player
4. High School History Teacher
5. Clinical Psychologist
6. MD
7. Artist
8. Astronaut
9. Ballerina
10. CIA Operative
11. Accountant
12. Actress
13. Lawyer
14. Home Economics Teacher
15. Dentist
16. Anything except a philosopher
17. Teacher
18. English Professor

Alumni News

- Doreen Watson a former Bachelor's and Master's student has accepted a tenure track position at Regis University in Colorado.
- Melissa Castora, a Master's degree recipient contacted us to let us know she is now working as a Policy Research Analyst for the Katz Policy Institute in Ohio.

Departmental Kudos

- Megan Duesterhaus has passed her candidacy exam and is now ABD! Congratulations!
- Congratulations to Michael Bachmann who is the first doctoral student to accept a job. After Michael receives his PhD the summer he will move to Texas where he has accepted a job with Texas Christian University.
- Dr. Jim Wright was elected Vice Chair of the Orlando Area Trust for the Homeless.
- Rae Taylor won the COS Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award.



Newsletter Editors:
Dr. Jana Jasinski and Dr. Libby Mustaine

Sociology Summer 2008 Course Offerings

Summer A

SYD 3700 Race & Ethnic Minorities in the US
SYD 3800 Sex Roles in Modern Society
SYG 2000 General Sociology
SYG 2010 Social Problems
SYO 4100 Family Trends
SYP 3510 Sociology of Deviant Behavior
SYO 4100 Family Trends
SYP 3510 Sociology of Deviant Behavior
SYP 3511 Sociology of Murder
SYP 3511 Sociology of Murder (W format)
SYP 3530 Juvenile Delinquency
SYP 3540 Sociology of Law (W format)
SYP 4000 Sociological Social Psychology (M format)
SYP 4514 Sociology of Violence

Summer B

SYD 3800 Sex Roles in Modern Society
SYD 3800 Sex Roles in Modern Society (M format)
SYG 2000 General Sociology
SYG 2010 Social Problems
SYO 3410 Sociology of Mental Illness
SYO 4200 Sociology of Religion
SYP 3511 Sociology of Murder
SYP 3520 Criminology
SYP 4536 Gangs and Society

Summer C

SYD 3700 Race & Ethnic Minorities in the US (M format)
SYD 3800 Sex Roles in Modern Society (M format)
SYG 2000 General Sociology (W format)
SYG 2010 Social Problems (W format)
SYP 3510 Sociology of Deviant Behavior (W format)
SYP 5005 Sociological Social Psychology

Summer D

SYD 5937 ST: Sociology of Prejudice and Discrimination International Service – Learning (Study in Poland)
SYO 3000 Modern Sociology (W format)
SYP 3520 Criminology (W format)
SYP 3530 Juvenile Delinquency (W format)
SYP 3551 Sociology of Alcoholism (W format)
SYP 3562 Soc Perspectives on Domestic Violence (W format)

*For more information about these offerings, and for our tentative course schedule for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009, see your Sociology Advisor or your favorite Sociology faculty member.