

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

**New Book by  
Sociology Fac-  
ulty!** 2

**News from  
ISBS** 3

**Sociology Un-  
dergraduate  
Excellence** 3

**Graduate Re-  
search Forum** 4

**Graduate  
Kudos** 4

**Faculty  
Accomplish-  
ments** 5

**Department  
Research  
Symposium** 5

**Upcoming  
Undergradu-  
ate Courses** 6

**Fall 2009  
Graduates** 7

## **SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT HOSTS COS DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER**



On February 15<sup>th</sup>, it was our pleasure to sponsor the College of Sciences (COS) Distinguished Speaker Series by hosting Dr. Francis Dodoo, leading authority on African demography and population studies. Dr. Dodoo is currently the Senior Research Associate in the Population Research Institute at Pennsylvania State University (PSU) and Professor of Sociology and Director of the Regional Institute for Population Studies at the University of Ghana.

Dr. Dodoo joined us for an informal lunch and discussion

in our department before speaking to a full-house of interested students and faculty at the COS event. The topic of his lecture concerned the relationship of dowry payments to women's reproductive autonomy in Africa, particularly in

Ghana, where his current research is based. He also intrigued us with data from previous research about the rise of slums and informal settlements in both East and West Africa.

Dr. Dodoo's research is widely recognized and his current projects are supported by the National In-

stitutes of Health (NIH), the Hewlett Foundation, the Global Development Network, and other international foundations.

Dodoo is also a former Olympic athlete and All-Africa medal-winner in the long-jump and triple jump, so we were not surprised that he managed to catch a quick glimpse of a basketball game in the student gym or that he requested a visit to Brighthouse Stadium before leaving campus for the last time. We were thrilled to have Dr. Dodoo as our guest and look forward to working with him in the future on issues of mutual concern.



## New Book by Sociology Faculty!

What we know about women who live on the street and their experiences with violence both as children and as adults is limited. Many dozens of studies and comprehensive literature reviews of physical and sexual violence

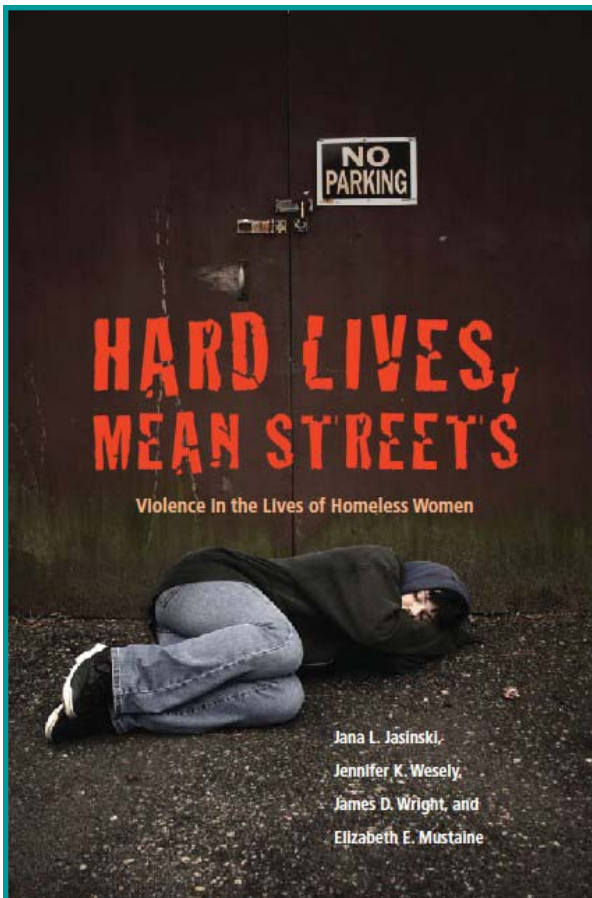
against these extremely vulnerable women than in exploring the context and experience of this violence, especially in terms of contributing risk factors, the role of violence in the etiology and dynamics of homelessness among women, or the consequences of violence in other areas of these women's lives.

In short, prior research has only presented a bird's eye view of women's experiences with violence on the street. Yet without a more complete understanding of the realities of living on the streets or in the shelters and all that these living conditions entail, we cannot possibly hope to eliminate these experiences or even design policies that might

ameliorate them. The Florida Four City Study was designed to provide a more complete picture of violence in the lives of women without a home.

Funded by the National Institute of Justice, UCF Faculty Drs. Jasinski, Wright, and Mustaine and UNF faculty Dr. Jennifer Wesely conducted a study involving 200 face to face structured interviews with women from homeless shelters in four Florida cities (Tampa, Jacksonville, Miami, and Orlando). In addition twenty in depth interviews were conducted with women who were homeless and had experienced violence.

*Hard Lives, Mean Streets: Violence in the Lives of Homeless Women* (Northeastern University Press) has been hailed by Walter DeKeseredy of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology as "...an excellent and much needed contribution to the field". It is refreshing to reach a rich scientific account of one of society's most compelling social problems that offers in-depth qualitative data on the lives of people who typically suffer in silence."



committed against homeless women have been published. Many of these studies, however, have been more concerned with establishing the *fact* of violence committed

# News from ISBS

**Ton O' Tuna Update.** The last issue of Socio-LOGIC noted the Department's participation in the "Ton O' Tuna" food drive organized by Jim Wright and the East Orange County Kiwanis Club. We are pleased to announce that by Christmas Day, 2009, a total of 2,660 pounds of tuna had been delivered to Second Harvest Food Bank. Dave Krepcho, Executive Director of the food bank, said, "I think – no, I **know** – this is the most tuna ever donated to the Food Bank at one time." The campaign and the Department's contribution were featured in an item in the Orlando *Sentinel* in February, 2010.

**Annual Point-in-Time Count.** Departmental faculty, students, and volunteers were out in force on January 27, 2010, assisting our local Homeless Services Network in enumerating the regional homeless population. ISBS Research Associate Dr. Amy Donley led a team of interviewers from shelter to soup kitchen and back again surveying the roughly 4,000 men and women who comprise the region's homeless. Results from the annual point-in-time count are used by HSN in its annual funding application to the US Department of Housing

and Urban Development.

**ISBS Survey of Housing Conditions.** In 2004, the Institute of Social and Behavioral Sciences surveyed almost 2,500 Orlando residents in an effort to assess overall housing conditions in the city and identify specific neighborhoods for city intervention. In Fall of 2009, the City asked us to do the survey again, to see if housing conditions had changed. Preliminary analysis of the new survey data suggest that little change has occurred. General housing conditions are about the same now as they were five years ago. The new survey has also identified For-Sale signs and foreclosed and abandoned properties as significant problems in many Orlando neighborhoods. A Final Report on the study was submitted to the City in February and pending approval by the City will be available on the ISBS website.

**Wright Keynotes American Evaluation Association meetings.** UCF sociology professor Jim Wright delivered the keynote address at the annual meetings of the American Evaluation Association in Orlando, November 12, 2009. Wright's address was entitled "Context, Pretext and Agenda in Evaluations of Programs for the Homeless."

## Sociology Undergraduate Excellence



Soc Major Amy Carey talks to Dr. Gay about her project looking at the relationship between religion and attitudes about domestic violence. Amy won first place in the Social Sciences I category.

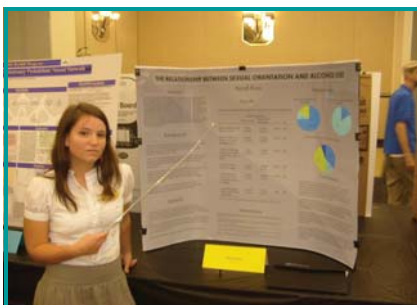
At this year's Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence, Sociology was well represented. The following students presented their research: Shannon Smith, Jillian Mitchell, Abigail Malick, Michelle Attia, Marcus Pruitt, Liani Ramos, Amy Carey, Shannon Baily, Lindsay Dhanani, Garrett Grainger, Ruth Joseph, Heidi Ross.

Students included both Sociology majors and other majors who were working with Sociology faculty. Winners in this year's showcase included Amelia Carey (1st place), Lindsay Dhanani (Honorable Mention), and Garrett Grainger (Honorable Mention).

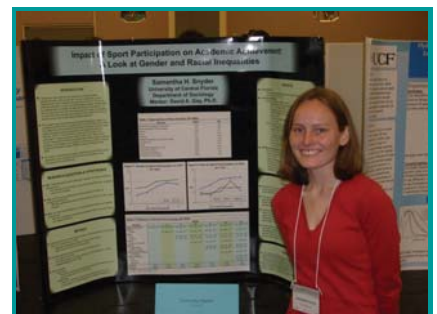
At Founder's Day this year, 3 Sociology majors received recognition for being in the top 1% of undergraduates in the college of sciences: Amelia Carey, Ryan Collman, and Arianne Speth.

Kudos to our outstanding award-winning undergraduates!

Heidi Ross points out her research findings on sexual orientation and alcohol use.



Abigail Malick stands by her project titled "Views on Gender at UCF"



Samatha Snyder 's project looked at the racial and gender inequalities on the impact of sport participation on academic achievement.



**Graduate Student News**

**Kudos**

Master's Student Lillian O'Connel is the recipient of the 2010 COS Award for Graduate Teaching Assistant.

Three graduate students, Jordana Narvarro, Holli Marshall, and Melissa Tetzlaff will take part in the National Behavior Research Course offered by the FBI Behavioral Science Unit, April 11-16, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Dr. Jay Corzine will also be a participant in the course.

Debra Marshall received tenure at Brevard Community College.

**Publications**

Rayburn, Rachel L. and James D. Wright. 2010. "Sobering Up on the Streets: Homeless Men in Alcoholics Anonymous," *Society*. March/April.

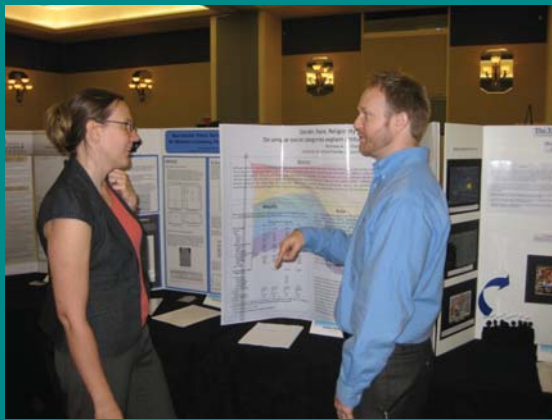
**Jobs**

Jenna Truman has a full time job with the Bureau of Justice Statistics

Michele Covington has a tenure track job with Georgia Southern University

Christian Bolden has a tenure track job at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**GRADUATE RESEARCH FORUM**



Left: Doctoral Student Nick Guittar speaks with Dr. Heili Pals about his study "Gender, Race, Religiosity Intersections: Do Unique Social Categories Explain Attitudes Toward Homosexuality?"



Master's Student Denise Crisafi next to her award winning poster "The Response of Administrators and Instructors in the Orange County, Florida Public School System to Dating Violence Prevention Programs: Recommendations for Program Development and Implementation."



Above: Doctoral Student Cyndia Morales discusses her study "No Latino Left Atras: Latinos and Education Reform".



Above: Master's Student Mandi Barringer presented her study on "Men Work, and Housework: Comparing Messages in Religious and Secular Literature"



Left: Doctoral Student Sara Neuen-schwander discusses her project "Steal from the Rich to Give to Whom?: Testing Social Disorganization Theory in Middle and Upper Class Foreclosed Neighborhoods" with Dr. Jay Corzine.

# Faculty Accomplishments

The United Nations Environment Program has listed **Dr. Penelope Canan** on its "Montreal Protocol Who's Who" (MPWW), a web portal launched "to honor the visionaries, innovators and implementers who are making the Montreal Protocol a global environmental success story." The "Montreal Protocol Who's Who" is the first collection of biographies from the Montreal Protocol Community. The work, achievements and background of each of the individuals is described in a short biography embellished with photographs, video and memorable quotes.



**Dr. Penelope Canan** was one of six women in the College of Sciences and Fifteen in the University to receive a 'Women Making History' award. These awards are given to honor women recognized nationally and/or internationally for their research, creative activities and leadership from 2008-2010 .

**Dr. Jana Jasinski** was awarded the 2010 College of Sciences Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

**Dr. Jana Jasinski** was awarded a 2010 Award for Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Doctoral Students.

**Dr. Elizabeth Mustaine** received the King Arthur Award, which is given to the most outstanding Greek Fraternity Advisor.

**Dr. Fernando Rivera** was part of a team that won a 2009 Bronze Telly Award. The prestigious Telly Awards honor outstanding local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions, and work created for the web. Dr. Rivera along with Level 2 Productions was recognized in the Education category for Online Course Content for the Medical Sociology course introduction video they produced for Dr. Rivera.

<http://engage.ucf.edu:28158/ramgen/col/cas/rivera/syo4400/intro.smil>

## Departmental Research Symposium Series

**April 21** (12:30pm in 4061) : Dr. Liz Grauerholz

"Gendered representations in 20th century children's books"

Cultural images, including those in children's literature, serve to reproduce and legitimate gender systems and gender inequality. This study examines gender representations in the titles and central characters of 5,618 children's books published throughout the 20th century in the United States and shows that gendered cultural representation have been a mainstay in children's literature over the 20th century. Such representations are not static, however. Differences across decades, as well as by type of character and book series are discussed, in order to provide a historically and culturally rich examination of one of society's most valuable cultural artifacts.

## University of Central Florida

Department of Sociology  
4000 Central Florida Blvd  
Orlando, FL 32816-1360

Phone: 407-823-3744

Fax: 407-823-3026

E-mail: sociology@mail.ucf.edu

Department Chair: Jay Corzine

Associate Chair: Jana Jasinski

Undergraduate Director: Libby Mustaine

Graduate Director: Jana Jasinski

Coordinator of Administrative Services:

Tami Pullin

Program Assistant: Tonya Walker

## Graduates

### Fall 2009 Undergraduate

Eda Abolfathi  
Drewali Bey  
Lisa Church  
Richard De Treville  
Steven Erekson  
Lisa Fedrowitz  
Porcia Fitzgerald  
Allison Herx  
Brandy Lewis  
Jared Littlehale  
Christopher McDaniel  
Andrew Mullins  
Lindsey Singer  
Joshua Townsend  
Amy Tyson

### Fall 2009 Master's

William Ingramm  
Cary Rankin  
La'Shawn Rivera  
Patrick Sacleux

*Sociologic* Newsletter

Editors:

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

# Upcoming Undergraduate Courses for Summer and Fall 2010:

## Summer 2010

Urban Society  
Race and Ethnicity  
Social Problems  
Sex and Gender  
Social Power and Inequality  
Family Trends  
Medical Sociology  
Deviant Behavior  
Sociology of Murder  
Criminology; Juvenile Delinquency  
Sociology of Law  
Alcoholism in Society  
Domestic Violence  
Popular Culture  
Social Psychology  
Drug Abuse in Society  
Aging in Society

## Fall 2010

Race and Ethnicity  
Sex and Gender  
Environment and Society  
Women in Contemporary Society  
Social Problems  
Family Trends  
Mental Health in Society  
Social Power and Inequality  
Religion in Society  
Political Sociology  
Medical Sociology  
Deviant Behavior  
Sociology of Murder  
Domestic Violence in Society; Criminology  
Juvenile Delinquency  
Alcoholism in Society  
Sports and Society  
Social Psychology  
Criminal Victims  
Gangs and Society  
Aging in Society  
Drug Abuse in Society

