Congratulations All Spring 2011 Graduates!

**Ph.D. in Sociology**
Dr. Betsy Swart

**Applied Soc MA**
Brittany Murray
Jaclyn Schildkraut
Ken Storey
Mandi Barringer

**Stephanie Carter**
Brittney Gracia
Jaime Hecht
Jerrold Kaufman
Lei Lei

**Sociology Bachelor’s of Arts Graduates**

Amelia Bickel
Caitlin Costa
Keriana Doyley
Danielle Franks
Zoran Milanovic
Laura Adarve
Zachary Anacker
Kasey Barger
Bruce Bejger
Dayna Bentel
Glenda Brown
Jessica Brush

Kara Bunting
Kimberly Bush
Sarina Colburn
Yaidimar Colon
Caleb Dean
Elorm Dzurekey
Kelly Ellingson
David Galloway
Cherie Gonzalez
Matthew Hiesterman
Mycle Hopman
Gerard Hubbard
Adam Hyman

Michendy Joseph
Alexander Lewis
Faye Libeskind
Joseph Maalouf
Isaac Manning
Jennifer Nadelman
Jacob Neer
Jacob Newsom
Marcus Pruitt
Pauline Purdy
Robin Regacho
Linsay Rogers
Heidi Ross

Amanda Russell
Christine Sepulveda
Joshua Simpkins
Christie Smith
Samantha Snyder
Kimberly Spencer
Heather Velz
Kimberly Vigil
Andrea Whitehurst
Jessica Zamparelo

**Sociology Graduation**

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**SURE**

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**Tonya Walker Moves On**
students and professors came up to my poster of my research and gave me praise, advice, and even constructive criticism. Overall, this experience enhanced the knowledge that I have gained during my years at UCF. I believe that this experience has helped me prepare for the "real world" after I graduate this May. I would recommend this experience to all sociology majors.

Christine M Sepulveda

My experience at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings in Jacksonville was an incredible one. I learned so much from the different presentations that I attended and the people that I met. I was also able to network with different professors and students from other universities. Furthermore, I learned a great deal from presenting my actual research as well. Several students and professors came up to my poster of my research and gave me praise, advice, and even constructive criticism. Overall, this experience enhanced the knowledge that I have gained during my years at UCF. I believe that this experience has helped me prepare for the "real world" after I graduate this May. I would recommend this experience to all sociology majors.

What is presenting at a conference really like?

Marie Gualtieri

Presenting my research at the conference was a very rewarding experience for me as a student, a future sociologist, and as a person. I felt a full wide range of emotions of nervousness before presenting, jubilant excitement as I spoke about my research, and of complete awe when hearing what others had been doing in the field. Being at the conference reinforced the fact that being a sociologist and a college professor is exactly what I want to do in the future, and everything for a moment in time felt right and I know I am on the right track. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference because this one experience has led to other experiences down the road that I never thought were possible.

Student Researchers

Paul Ashworth
Kasey Barger
Sarina Colburn
Cherie Gonzalez
Yehuda Green
Kate Griffin
Marie Gualtieri
Katelynn Palmer
Heidi Ross
Amanda Russell
Christine Sepulveda
Kelly Worthen
Every spring students from the data analysis classes present their year long projects to each other, the sociology faculty and representatives from the Dean’s office. This year over 78 students presented their work. Posters were evaluated by a team of Sociology faculty and three students were selected as the top projects for the year.

1st Place: Amanda Russell “Perceptions of Fraternities and Sororities”;

2nd Place: Kelly Worthen “How does technology affect communication decisions?”;

3rd Place: Kate Griffin “Go green! The impact of messaging on college students’ attitudes and beliefs about the environment.”
Surveyors at the Department’s Institute of Social and Behavioral Sciences recently completed 761 interviews with Orange County adults to determine their opinions about teen drug use in the county and their knowledge of drug-related issues. Design for the survey was featured in the Winter 2011 issue of this Newsletter. Key findings were:

More than 75% of respondents believed that drug and alcohol use in our community is somewhat to very serious.

More than half believed that Orange County public schools should drug test their students.

Half of the respondents had not spoken with any adolescents in the year prior to the survey about issues related to alcohol and drugs. However, among those respondents with teenage children, more than nine in ten had had such a conversation with their teen. Those parents also feel confident about what to say to their teen.

Methamphetamines and heroin were consistently considered the most harmful drugs of abuse.

Respondents considered teen alcohol use more acceptable than teen use of marijuana.

Friends and parents emerged as the top two “major influences” on teen alcohol and drug use.

Respondents to this survey felt fairly strongly that drug education should be handled by parents.

Women rated drugs as more harmful than did men for every drug and every frequency-of-use category.

Parents rated drugs as more harmful than did people who were not parents for nearly every drug and every frequency-of-use category.

Windshield Survey of Housing Conditions

ISB also recently completed the “windshield survey” of Orlando Housing Conditions that was noted briefly in the last issue of the Newsletter. Concerning housing units in the three target neighborhoods (Goldenrod, Pine Hills and Parramore), the most frequently observed problem was breaks, cracks or holes in the driveway (45% of all units were observed to have these problems). “Needs paint” was in second place (32% of all units), followed by breaks, cracks or holes in the sidewalks (19% of all units). A range of exterior problems finished in fourth place (each with 16% of all observed units): poorly maintained yards, problematic exterior stairs and porches. A tenth of all units were observed to have sagging roofs. No other issue or problem was observed in as many as a tenth of all units. Restricted access was noted in 29% of all cases.

General housing conditions varied greatly across the three neighbor-
hoods. In all cases, the best housing conditions were found in the Goldenrod neighborhoods. In contrast, Pine Hills and Parramore had noticeably poorer conditions, with Parramore worse off on most indicators (if only by a small margin). Illustrative of the differences, our observers rated 92% of the units observed in Goldenrod as in “good” or “excellent” condition, vs. 68% of the units in Pine Hills and only 55% of the units in Parramore. Forty percent of the units in both the latter neighborhoods were observed to need paint, but this was true of only 18% of the units in Goldenrod. Similar patterns are found on almost all the observational variables. Block conditions tended to mirror unit conditions. Aside from off-street parking issues, the most commonly noted block problem was dead trees, dead grass or other evidence of poorly maintained exteriors, observed in 25% of all cases.

The results of the survey are being used by the City of Orlando in conjunction with an earlier telephone survey to target their neighborhood revitalization program funds.

The ISBS Survey Research Lab recently commenced work on two new surveys. The first, “POP Lite,” is a survey being conducted for the Heart of Florida United Way and focuses on public opinion about and understanding of the work that United Way does in the Orlando community. A similar survey was conducted in 2009 and one key question is how attitudes about the United Way and actual charitable giving patterns have been affected by the economic recession.

Survey Lab Starts Two New Projects

In addition to Marsden and Wright, the event was attended by numerous chapter authors, including Don Dillman, Tom Smith, Tim Johnson, Jennifer Dykema, Nora Cate Schaeffer, Paul Lavrakis, Benjamin Messer, Clyde Tucker and Ned English – a veritable Who’s Who of American survey researchers. In all, twenty or thirty researchers were in attendance.

The 2012 AAPOR meetings will be held here in Orlando.

UCF sociologist Jim Wright traveled to Phoenix in May for the 66th Annual Conference of the American Association of Public Opinion Research, the nation’s leading association of public opinion and survey research professionals. Wright was invited to the Conference to participate in an “Author Meets the Critics” event for The Handbook of Survey Research, 2nd Edition, which Wright co-edited with Peter V. Marsden, now Dean of the Social Sciences at Harvard University.
Sociology is always well represented at the annual Showcase of Undergraduate Research

Below: Heidi Ross presented her work on homeless fathers.

Above: Matthew Landon presented his study titled "Orange County Household Spending Patterns by Racial Composition, 2009."

Left: Marie Gualtieri explains her study on perceptions of real women in print advertising.

Below: Amanda Russell received Honorable mention for her study titled "Perceptions of Fraternities and Sororities".

Left: Dr. Jason Ford and Katelyn Palmer discuss her study on images of men in the media.
Award Winners

Congratulations to doctoral student **Timothy Colyer** who was the recipient of the College of Sciences and the UCF Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Award.

Congratulations to Master’s student **Jerry Kaufman** who was the winner of the Departmental Student Paper Award. His paper was titled “Location, Location, Location! The Impact of Place of Residency on Forming Racial Attitudes among Urban and Regional Migrants.”

Congratulations to doctoral student **Rachel Rayburn** for receiving travel funds from the Lee Student Support Fund to attend the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) annual meetings in Las Vegas.

Graduate Research Forum

Four sociology graduate students presented their research at the 2011 Spring Graduate Research Forum.

Right: Sara Afflerback stands next to her poster titled “Buy Ourselves: A Dramturgial Analysis of Consumer Behavior”.

Below: Abigail Malick stands next to her poster “An examination of students’ knowledge and views of victim services at the University of Central Florida.

Other presenters not pictured: Stephanie Guittar and Earl Mowatt.
Hats Off!

Faculty Congratulations!

Dr. Jim Wright is a recipient of a Research Incentive Award (RIA)!

Dr. Jason Ford is a recipient of a Teaching Incentive Program (TIP) Award!

Dr. Fernando Rivera was promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology with tenure!

Dr. Jana Jasinski was promoted to Full Professor of Sociology!

Drs. Heili Pals and Warren Waren received an award for the best poster at the Population Association of America meetings. Their poster was titled “Variation in Lesbian Wage Gap by Lesbian Prevalence”

Drs. Jay Corzine and Lin Huff-Corzine were invited participants at the FBI’s “Gangs, Terrorism, and WMD Conference” in Stafford, VA, from April 25th to April 27th.

Dr. Jay Corzine was a Guest Lecturer in the National Behavioral Science Research Methods Program offered by the FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit in Tampa, FL, from May 1st to May 6th.

Student Kudos!

Jaclyn Schildkraut who received her M.A. in Applied Sociology in Spring 2011 received the 2011 Richard Block Award for Outstanding Thesis from the Homicide Research Working Group.

James McCutcheon and Rachel Morgan, two Ph.D. students, were invited to participate in the National Behavioral Science Research Methods Program offered by the FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit in Tampa, FL, from May 1st to May 6th.

Doctoral student Scott Larson was elected as the Florida State Representative for the National Academic Advising Association.

Undergraduate student Amelia Bickel was the recipient of the College of Sciences Founder’s Day Award and the Katherine Keller Scholarship.
More Student Successes!

Professional Presentations

Sociology graduate students are active in professional associations. This spring the following students presented their research at academic meetings.

**Academy of CJ Sciences Annual meetings**
- Tim Colyer

**Southwestern Social Science Association meetings:**
- Candace Campanaro
- Nick Guittar
- Stephanie Guittar
- Xavier Guadalupe
- Melissa Henson
- Lei Lei
- Holli Marshall
- James McCutcheon
- Chris McDaniel
- Earl Mowatt
- Katelan Smith
- Tanglea Towns
- Will Watkins

**Southern Sociological Society meetings:**
- Sara Afflerback
- Tim Colyer
- Xavier Guadalupe
- Nick Guittar
- Stephanie Guittar
- Brittany Hanson
- Jerrold Kaufman
- Chris McDaniel
- Brittany Murray Rachel Rayburn
- Jackie Schildkraut
- Marc Settembrino
- Katelan Smith

Student Publications

**Lei Lei** and Heili Pals. “Son preference in China: Why is it stronger in rural areas,” Forthcoming in *Population Review.*

**Navarro, Jordana** and Jana Jasinski, “Going Cyber: Using Routine Activities Theory to Predict Cyberbullying Experiences” forthcoming in *Sociological Spectrum.*


**Swart, Elizabeth.** “Ladies Last: Gender Roles in Domestic and Recreational Activities among Kenyan Youth” in *Journal of Social Development in Africa.*

AKD Spring 2011 Initiates

**Undergraduate Students**
- Sarina Colburn
- Bobbie Crane
- Kelly Ellingson
- Kate Griffin
- Marie Gualtieri
- Mycle Hopman
- Jamie Joyce
- Julianne Ong
- Katelynn Palmer
- Amanda Russell
- Chrisinte Sepulveda
- Rachel Sewell
- Alexandra Vega
- Autumn Warner
- Linda Witkowski

**Graduate Students**
- Candice Campanaro
- Nicholas Guittar
- Jerrold Kaufman
- Abigail Malick
- Olivia Metott
- Jaclyn Schildkraut
- Shannon Simone
UCF Sociology Department takes on the Southwest!

The Southwestern Social Science Association held its annual meeting in Las Vegas this year and Sociology was well represented.

Right top: from left to right: Tangela Towns, Lei Lei, Stephanie Guittar, Melissa Henson, Dr. Fernando Rivera, Dr. Ida Cook, Earl Mowatt, Nick Guittar, Dr. Heili Pals, Dr. Warren Waren. Missing from photo: Drs. Scott and Shannon Carter and Katelan Smith.

After all their hard work at the conference UCF Sociology students and faculty relaxed at Peppermill—the neon-rimmed 24-hour coffee shop frequented by Liberace and all of the rat pack.

Right bottom: from the left: Earl Mowatt, Dr. Fernando Rivera, Nick Guittar, Stephanie Guittar, Lei Lie, Tangela Towns, Dr. Heili Pals.
Alumni Achievements

Former Master’s Student Hilary Dotson (now a doctoral student at the University of South Florida) has published a manuscript based on her Master’s thesis. Her paper will appear in the Journal of Poverty.

Former doctoral student Dr. Monica Mendez presented the Keynote Address to the 2011 Alpha Kappa Delta initiates. Dr. Mendez is the Community Engagement and Prevention Manager for Harbor House of Central Florida.

Former Master’s student Donavan Bowers will be starting a doctoral program at Florida State University in the fall.

New Graduates are Moving On

Doctoral student Nick Guittar has accepted a tenure track position in the Department of Sociology at the University of South Carolina-Lancaster.

Doctoral student Rachel Rayburn has accepted a tenure track position in the Department of Public Policy at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne.

After graduating in May 2011, Dr. Betsy Swart will be working in Uganda with a United Nations sponsored rehabilitation program for child soldiers and female victims of sex trafficking.

Transitions

Master’s graduate Jackie Schildkraut will enter Texas State University’s Ph.D. in Criminal Justice Program in Fall 2011.

Master’s student Lei Lei will be starting her Ph.D. program at SUNY-Albany in the fall.

Master’s student Jerry Kaufman will be starting his Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago in the fall.

Master’s students Candice Campanaro and Shannon Simone will be starting the UCF Sociology doctoral program in the fall.

Master’s student Chris McDaniel will begin a doctoral program at North Carolina State University in the fall.
Juvenile Homicides: A Social Disorganization Perspective
Minna K. Laurikkkala

Description:
Laurikkala studies youth homicides between 1965 and 1995 in Chicago. She considers variables relating to the offender, victim, setting, and precursors to the homicide by race and gender. Her results indicate that youth homicides involved increases in lethal gang altercations, particularly among Latinos, and an increased use of automatic weapons. Young females had very little impact on homicide rates in Chicago. The findings point to several measures of social disorganization that could aid in the prediction of youth homicides, albeit varying across groups. Overall, the results support social disorganization theory and also underscore the relevancy of data disaggregation by gender and race/ethnicity.

About the Author:
Minna K. Laurikkkala is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Shenandoah University. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Central Florida. Her current research interests include violent crime, homicides, juvenile delinquency and justice, immigration and crime, and social stratification.

Where’s Tonya?
Over the past six years the Sociology department faculty, staff and students have seen Tonya Walker’s smiling face in our department. In April Tonya left our department to move into the College of Sciences Dean’s Office. So although we no longer see her sitting behind her computer or serenading us as we walk through the office she is only a phone call or short walk away.