Dr. J. Scott Carter will be joining us from the University of West Georgia where he was an Assistant Professor in the Sociology and Criminology Department for 3 years. Prior to that position, he earned a Ph.D. degree in Sociology at the University of South Carolina where he studied racial inequality and urban and region subcultures. Before shifting his interest to Sociology, Dr. Carter earned a bachelor degree in psychology from the University of South Carolina and a masters degree in Applied Psychology from Francis Marion University.

Dr. Carter's research interests revolve around racial and gender inequality, attitude measurement issues, and urban and region subcultures. In particular, he has been interested in understanding the unique characteristics of Southern and rural living on residents. This interest developed primarily while growing up in a highly racially integrated small town in the middle of the Old South.

While research and teaching describes his academic life, Dr. Carter is very excited about joining UCF to be nearer to the beach and the warm weather where he enjoys outdoor activities such as tennis and swimming.
Fellowship Recipients

Each year the university awards several different types of fellowships to graduate students. For the 2007-08 Academic year, the department of Sociology was awarded several different types of graduate fellowships.

**Graduate Ramp Fellowship:**
Sara Neuenschwander
Meagan Arrastia

**Summer Mentoring Fellowship:**
Meagan Arrastia
Latoya Prescod

**Provost Fellowship**
Michele Coving																					anooga
Hilary Dotson

**Doctoral Merit Fellowship:**
Amy Donley
Mónica Mendez
Michael Bachmann

**Delores Auzenne Fellowship**
Mónica Mendez

If you are interested in learning more about fellowship opportunities please contact the Sociology graduate director.

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**Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence (SURE).**

Every spring UCF hosts research week. As part of that week students are able to present their research at two events. Undergraduate researchers present their work at the SURE showcase.

Meagan C. Arrastia presented her research titled “Perceptions about HPV, the HPV Vaccine, and Condom Usage on a College Campus” and Wendi B. Kane, presented her research titled “Social Class Justifications: The Capitalist Conspiracy?”

Wendi was also awarded honorable mention in the Social Sciences I category.

Congratulations!
As part of research week graduate students are able to present their research in two different formats. They have the option of creating a poster and participating in the poster session or giving an oral presentation at this event. The following students participated in this year’s Graduate Research Forum:

**Oral Presentations:**
- Michael Bachmann
- Minna Grantham

**Poster Presentations:**
- Sara Neuenschwander
- Tony Saieva

Doctoral Student **Minna Grantham** was the Co-Winner of the Social Sciences Oral Presentations.

Every spring the fourth floor of Phillips Hall is filled with the sounds of students presenting their research in the annual Research Symposium. This display of research posters represents the culmination of work that Sociology majors have completed in their methods and statistics core courses. Students work to develop and carry out an empirical research project that they then present to the Sociology faculty. This year’s symposium showed off projects using a class dataset with over 1,000 respondents. Attendees at the event include Dr. Panousis (COS Dean), Dr. Alison Morrison-Shelter (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), and Dr. Rick Schell (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs).

**1st Place:** **Lisabeth Fryor** “Attitudes regarding future care of an aging parent”

**2nd Place (Tie):** **Jessica Rice** “Alcohol use and sexual behavior”; **Wendi Kane** “Social class justifications: The capitalist conspiracy”

**3rd Place:** **Debra Romeo** “Religiosity and life satisfaction”

**Alumni Kudos!**

Jobe Baboucar was the recipient of the Endowed Teaching Chair at Seminole Community College.

Eirini Chaddon graduated from the University of Florida with a Master of Science in Management.

We would love to include your accomplishments in our future issues!
More Excellence

Doctoral Student Debra Marshall was the College of Sciences winner for excellence in graduate teaching.

Master’s Student Oneshia Herring was selected as Who’s Who among Students at UCF. Oneshia also started the Black Graduate Student Association here at UCF.

Doctoral student Nick Libby was the department winner of the best graduate student paper.

Doctoral student Rae Taylor was the department winner for excellence in graduate teaching.

Doctoral Student Melanie Carlson was elected to the board of directors for the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Drs. Gay and Lynxwiler took over editorial duties for Sociological Spectrum.

Dr. Jana Jasinski was the recipient of UCF’s first award honoring faculty who work with undergraduate research.

Dr. Elizabeth Mustaine was the recipient of the Excellence in GEP Assessment Award.

Dr. Fernando Rivera is the recipient of a new Disaster Mental Health Research Mentoring Program funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, Dartmouth College and the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (NCPTSD). (For more info go to: redmh.org). He also received funding from UCF to conduct a qualitative study about Puerto Ricans in Central Florida and their attitudes towards help-seeking.

Dr. Jim Wright (with Steven L. Nock and Laura A. Sanchez) has a new book coming out entitled “Covenant Marriage and the Marriage Movement: Religion, Divorce, and Public Policy” from Rutgers University Press.