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News

At the end of April the department was rocked by the tragic death of Dr. Brent K. Marshall. Dr. Marshall will be missed by all. He was a great scholar, teacher, mentor, and departmental citizen. He was also a good friend. While the discipline, department, and university have lost much with his passing, we are also much better, having known him.

This issue celebrates the life of Brent and also the many accomplishments of Sociology students, faculty, and staff.

— Jana and Libby

**Master's in Applied
Sociology Graduates**

Summer 2007
Katherine Lieftink
Oneshia Herring

Spring 2008
Loren Butler
Mary Collins

Sociology PhD Graduates
Spring 2008
Mónica Méndez



In Fall 2005 the department launched the Sociology Doctoral Program with a cohort of 9 students. In Spring 2008 Dr. Mónica Méndez became the first Sociology PhD at UCF. She is shown here (large picture above) with Dr. Jana Jasinski (l) and Dr. Ida Cook (r). She is also pictured (small picture above) with the Dean of the College of Sciences, Dr. Peter Panousis. Dr. Méndez will be moving to North Carolina to begin a tenure track job at East Carolina University.

Many of you know Tami Pullin as the person who helps you navigate both UCF and the department of Sociology. In May, after 11 years of working on her degree, Tami graduated with her BA in Sociology. She is shown here with her sister, Tina. Congratulations Tami!

Student Publications:

Taylor, Rae. "Slain and Slandered: A Content Analysis of the Portrayal of Femicide in Crime News", accepted for publication in *Homicide Studies*.

Bachmann, Michael. 2007. "Lesson Spurned? Reactions of Online Music Pirates to Legal Prosecutions by the RIAA". *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 1(2), 213-227.

Bachmann, Michael. 2008. "Review of Clifford, R. D. (Ed.). (2006). *Cybercrime: The Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of a Computer-Related Crime* (2nd. ed.)

Congratulations to our Spring Graduating Majors!

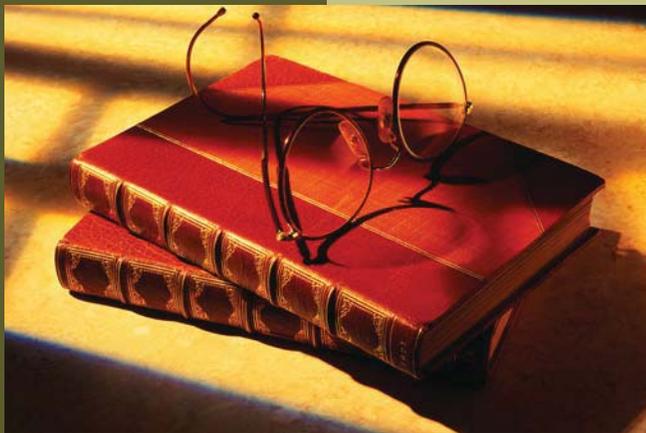


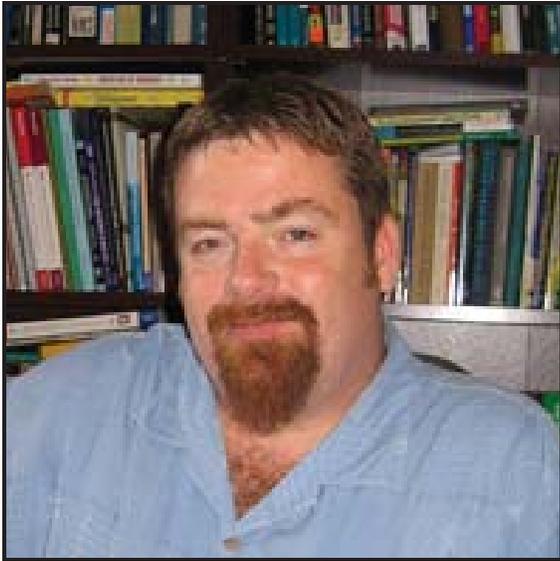
Maggie Bell
Jennifer Casey
Shirley Gaver
Amanda Karaba
Carl King
Ashley McGrath
Michelle Meulke
Katie Monaco

Tamara Pullin
Priscilla Rivera
Daniela Roloff-Johnson
Malena Rubino
Kimberly Smith
Christina Sokol
Kendra Worrow
Jacob Zucker

Student Accomplishments

- ◆ Doctoral Student **Rae Taylor** was the recipient of the UCF Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Award.
- ◆ Doctoral student **Minna Grantham** was the recipient of the Sociology Graduate Student Teaching Award.
- ◆ Doctoral students **Erin Nabors** and **Rae Taylor** co-authored the paper that received the Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award.
- ◆ Incoming Doctoral Student **Sara Neuenschwander** received a Graduate RAMP Fellowship.
- ◆ Master's student **Megan Arrastia** received a Graduate RAMP Fellowship.
- ◆ Incoming Doctoral student **Cyndia Morales** is the recipient of a McNair and a McKnight doctoral fellowship.
- ◆ Incoming Doctoral student **Jamie Dodge** is the recipient of a McKnight doctoral fellowship.
- ◆ Incoming Master's students **Lillian O'Connell** and **Nicolene Papp** are the recipients of a UCF Provost Fellowship.
- ◆ Master's student **Tangela Townes** is the recipient of a FAMU feeder fellowship.
- ◆ Doctoral Student **Michael Bachmann** is scheduled to receive his doctorate this summer and soon after will move to Texas to begin a job at Texas Christian University.
- ◆ Doctoral student **Amy Donley** is scheduled to receive her doctorate this summer and following graduation will be the first post-doctoral fellow for the UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- ◆ Undergraduate major, **Lisa Fedrowitz**, was selected as a peer mentor for the Summer Research Academy.
- ◆ Graduating major, **Ashley McGrath**, was 1 of 4 selected for the Top GPA in the College of Sciences award. She was seated on the platform during graduation!





In Memory of Dr. Brent K. Marshall

Brent K Marshall, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Central Florida (UCF), passed away in the early evening of Sunday, April 27, 2008, from complications resulting from his motorcycle accident in the early morning of Friday, April 18, 2008. He was well attended by his family, friends, and colleagues throughout his hospitalization and passed comfortably around 6:00 p.m.

Brent grew up in the small city of Blaine, near Bellingham, Washington. He graduated from Blaine High School where he developed his love for good friends and basketball. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Washington and his master's degree in Political Science at the University of New Orleans. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Tennessee and moved to Orlando, Florida, in 2000 to continue his research and teaching at UCF. Brent dedicated countless hours to progressing the study of environmental sociology and sociological issues associated with disasters and natural resources. Outside his office, he enjoyed fishing, riding his motorcycle, playing with his dogs (Vonnegut and Bronte), and spending time with his friends and family. Words cannot adequately express how much he will be missed by family, friends, colleagues, students, and those who were able to share what limited time he had. His life and memory will be treasured by his sister, Barbara Satushek, her husband, Edward, and their children, Adam and Anna, and his brother, Brad Marshall, his wife, Astrid, and their children, Andrew, Athena, and Austin.

A scholarship fund has been created in Brent's honor. Donations may be made to the Brent K Marshall Memorial Scholarship Fund through the UCF Credit Union, 12253 Challenger Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826. This fund has been set up by the family to continue Brent's dedication to the educational and learning experience of graduate students in field of environmental sociology.

A Faculty Spotlight story on Brent that originally appeared in November 2005 is available on the Office of Faculty Relations home page. Go to www.ucf.edu, type in "Faculty Relations," and click on Brent's photo to go to the story.

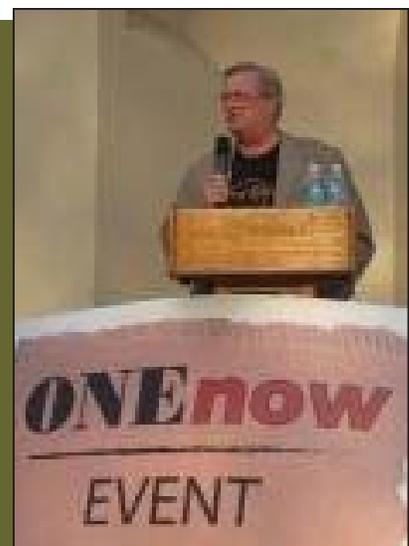
Dr. Jim Wright, Keynote Speaker for OneNow 2008.
May 17, 2008

OneNow is a coalition of non-profit organizations in Orlando dedicated to ending poverty and homelessness. The group staged an all-day event at Lake Eola to promote citizens to ask, "What's the One thing you can do - to make a difference?" Speakers and musicians alternated at the Lake Eola's band shell on a beautiful Saturday in downtown Orlando.

Professor Dr. Jim Wright shared the findings of his extensive sociological research on poverty and homelessness and urged citizens to contact their congressional representatives to get serious about setting

national policies for alleviating homelessness and poverty.

--submitted by P. Canan, roving faculty correspondent!



Writing Seminar Stems from Focus The Nation Event

Students enrolled in this summer's writing seminar (an independent study) will be presenting at an American Sociological Association round table entitled "Focus the Nation: Insights on the Climate Movement in American Universities", organized by Penelope Canan.

The co-authors in the seminar aim for a published journal article. For the round table presentations, the co-authors have assumed individual responsibility for the following topics.

Nnenia Campbell, University of Central Florida,

"Social movement theories: applications to *Focus the Nation* on Solutions to Climate Change 2008."

Richard Carter de Treville, University of Central Florida, "Significant events in the social evolution of *Focus the Nation* in Central Florida."

Wendi Kane, University of Central Florida, "Just another environmental movement organization? *How Focus the Nation's* 'national' vision set the tone for bottom-up 'local' action."

Natalia Paredes, Orlando Utilities Commission, "The

Dynamics of University Student Social Capital in the Climate Movement: Reflections on *Focus the Nation* 2008"

Joshua Roosth, University of Central Florida, "Who was 'in' *Focus the Nation* 2008? The hanging demographics of social commitments."



Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Liz Grauerholz was the recipient of the American Sociological Association Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award.

Dr. Penelope Canan was awarded the Best of the Best award in stratospheric ozone layer protection for path breaking sociological research on Montreal Protocol Network by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Penelope Canan was awarded the Distinguished Career Award from the Environmental Technology and Society Section of the American Sociological Association.

Dr. Jana Jasinski was the recipient of the UCF Excellence in Professional Service award.

Dr. Jason Ford was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Elzbieta Sikorska-Simmons was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine was promoted to Full Professor.



News from the ISBS

Low and Moderate Income Families

The Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences has just completed the first-ever survey of low and moderate income families in the five county region of Orange, Osceola, Lake, Seminole and Sumter Counties. Findings from the study were presented to the community at a Public Forum held at Leu Gardens on March 5, then again at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Heart of Florida United Way, a Board meeting of Workforce Central Florida, and numerous other community venues.

Speaking at the Leu Garden forum was JARED BERNSTEIN, Director of the Living Standards program at the Economic Policy Institute. Jared is the author of *The State of Working America* and pointed out that the Central Florida findings are a pretty good guide to what's going on in the nation as a whole.

The study found widespread economic hardship and uncertainty among the region's low income families and even a great deal of financial anxiety among middle income families (roughly, families with incomes between \$30,000 and \$70,000 a year). To illustrate the results:

- Half the low income population and a quarter of the middle income population have no savings to fall back on.
- Nearly two fifths of middle income families would not be able to pay their bills if they missed a month's pay.
- Half of those in the middle income category are concerned that their retirement planning is inadequate.
- More than one in four feel their economic situation is getting worse.
- One in three of the low income families and nearly one in five middle income families are **not** covered by any kind of health insurance plan.
- More than one in five of the poor, and one in eight of the middle class, went without medical care at least once last year because they could not afford it.

The study was cosponsored by the Heart of Florida United Way, the UCF Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies, Workforce Central Florida, and Orange County.

Community Needs

A survey of community needs in the Orlando metropolitan area has found that **crime and unsafe neighborhoods** are at the top of the list, with related issues of youth violence ranked third, drug and alcohol abuse fourth, and family and domestic violence eighth. Close behind is **the cost of things**: affordable health care (2nd), finding jobs that pay a living wage (5th), affordable housing (6th) and affordable child care (10th). In the same category of concern we would also include hunger and homelessness (9th), having sufficient services for the homeless (11th), and poverty (13th). Thus, issues of crime, safety, affordability, and impoverishment dominate the list of regional concerns.

The ISBS Community Needs Survey was conducted at the request of the Heart of Florida United Way, who intends to use the results in the process of implementing their "Community Impact" resource allocation model.

In conjunction with the survey, The Institute also conducted more than thirty focus groups with various constituencies around the three-county region and analyzed the results from HFUW's web survey. The focus group and Web data provide strong confirmation of the survey findings.

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Graduate Director: Jana Jasinski

Administrative Assistant: Tami Pullin

Program Assistant: Tonya Walker

Summer 2008 Course Offerings

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

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

Answers to last issues faculty trivia:

Before you wanted to be a Sociologist, what did you want to be when you grew up?

- ◇ Marine Biologist — Jasinski
- ◇ Forest Ranger — Grauerholtz
- ◇ Baseball Player — Rivera
- ◇ High School History Teacher — Ford
- ◇ Clinical Psychologist — Carter
- ◇ MD — Corzine
- ◇ Artist — Lynxwiler
- ◇ Astronaut — Marshall
- ◇ Ballerina — Morris
- ◇ CIA Operative — Mustaine
- ◇ Accountant — Cook
- ◇ Actress — Barrett
- ◇ Lawyer — Canan
- ◇ Home Economics Teacher — Dietz
- ◇ Dentist — Gay
- ◇ Teacher — Houvouras
- ◇ English Professor — Wright

Alumni News

- ◇ Master's Alumni **Melissa Castora** wrote to let us know she is working as a Policy Research Analyst for the Katz Policy Institute in Ohio.
- ◇ Bachelor's alumni **Michael McNeil** was recently awarded the Creating a Tobacco-Free Generation Leadership award for 2008 at the 7th National Tobacco Symposium on Young Adults in Sacramento, CA.
- ◇ Master's Alumni **Rebecca Feiler** has recently accepted the position of Development Specialist for the Southern Partners Fund (www.spfund.org) an organization that seeks to promote social, environmental and economic justice among southern communities.
- ◇ Master's Alumni **Kristina Dzara** is the recipient of the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Dissertation Research Award for 2008-2009.

Faculty Trivia: Your Sociology faculty answered the following question, "What is the worst job you ever had?"

- ◇ Working in a cherry factory: cleaning the brine pits
- ◇ Selling encyclopedias door to door in rural North Carolina
- ◇ Agricultural laborer: scooping shell corn out of bins
- ◇ Raspberry picker
- ◇ Telemarketer
- ◇ Janitor at a church
- ◇ Carhop at A&W
- ◇ Greeter at Wal-Mart
- ◇ Painting billboards in the hot Alabama sun
- ◇ Cocktail waitress in a bar near a race track where I had to wear high heels and a mini skirt
- ◇ Clearing trays of uneaten food and other gross stuff at a student cafeteria
- ◇ Fast food restaurant worker

Can you guess which of us has had these dregs of the working world?



Newsletter Editors:

Dr. Jana Jasinski and Dr. Libby Mustaine