Congratulations Sociology Graduates!

**Sociology PhD Graduates**

**Spring 2009**
Christa Polczynski Olson
Rae Taylor

**Master’s in Applied Sociology Graduates**

**Fall 2008**
Patrick Burt
Shirley Dames
Nicole Bauer

**Spring 2009**
Meagan Arrastia
Jennifer Diaz
Hilary Dotson
Wendi Kane
Andrew Lash
Leslie Maloney
Janel Rabinowitz
Tangela Towns

**Fall 2008 Sociology Bachelors Graduates**
John Blasi
Jezielyn Cintron
Jonathan Colen
Jennifer Cork
Rodrigo Guillen
Lindsay Hempill
Nicole Kushner
Brian McClary
Allison McKee

**Spring 2009 Sociology Bachelors Graduates**
Ryan Anderson
Crisy Brutus
Lucia Castresana
Amanda Craig
Alake Davis
Erin Frank
Jennifer Hall
Kelly Hilvar
Adam Maldonado
Justin McCullough
Jean Nicolas
Michael Palermo, Jr.
Danaly Prokopowicz
Leonard Ross
Erin Ruff
Courtney Struble
Thomas Welsh
Doris Wilkinson
Katrina Wilson
Sociology was well represented at this year’s SURE showcase. The following students presented their research:
Eda Abolfathi
Deborah Bernacett
Katie Bishop
Jennifer Hall
Lisa Fedrowitz
Jessica Johnson
Stephen Silber
Lindsey Singer
Tina Trunzo

Courtney Struble

Two students also won awards at the Showcase:

2nd Place: Lindsey B. Singer
What is the Effect of Celebrity Endorsements on College Students’ Political Views

Honorable Mention: Lisa J. Fedrowitz
Stalking Advice by Law Enforcement Agencies: An Examination of Police Department Web Sites

Lisa Fedrowitz also presented her research at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meeting in Boston.
Every spring Sociology majors spend an afternoon sharing their research projects with faculty, staff and each other at the annual undergraduate research symposium. At this event students present posters representing their year long projects to the faculty who then rate each poster and select the top posters. This year the first place winner was “Littering Behavior among College Students” by Samantha Snyder, second place was awarded to Jessica Schwendeman’s “Perceptions of the Homeless by College Students” and third place was awarded to the team of Hilda Remh and Tina Trunzo for the project titled “Do College Women Know What Rape and Sexual Assault Is?”

Above: Samantha Snyder stands next to her first place project
Below: Jessica Schwendeman and her project on the homeless

Tina Trunzo (left) and Hilda Remh (Right)
Graduate Student Accomplishments

- Doctoral student Christian Bolden was the recipient of the College of Sciences Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Award.
- Doctoral student Melanie Carlson was the recipient of the Sociology Graduate Student Teaching Award.
- Doctoral student Jenna Truman authored the paper that received the Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award.
- Doctoral Alumni Dr. Michael Bachmann was the recipient of the College of Sciences Dissertation Award.
- Doctoral student Chastity Blankenship was awarded the SAGE/Pine Forge Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award to attend the ASA Teaching and Learning workshop.
- Incoming Doctoral Student Tangela Towns and incoming master's student Deneisha Legget received a FAMU Feeder Fellowships.
- Incoming Doctoral Student Meng Ke and incoming Master's Student Katelan Smith are the recipients of a UCF Provost Fellowship.
- Doctoral student Christian Bolden received the Delores Auzenne Fellowship.
- Melanie Carlson accepted a tenure track position at the College of Mt. St. Josephs in Cincinnati, OH.
- Minna Laurikkala accepted a tenure track position at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA.
- Dr. Christa Polczynski Olson accepted a tenure track position at Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, MA.
- Dr. Rae Taylor accepted a tenure track position at Loyola University New Orleans.
- Rachel Rayburn was elected to be the student representative for the Southwestern Social Science Association (Sociology affiliate).

Sociology Graduate Students were very active this year. Presentations were made at the following conferences:
- American Society of Criminology
- Southern Sociological Society
- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- Mid South Sociological Association
- Southwestern Social Science Association
- Homicide Research Working Group
- Society for the Study of Social Problems
- American Sociological Society
- Puerto Rican Studies Association
- National Association for Hispanic Scholars

Doctoral Student Cyndia Morales presented her research at the Graduate Research Forum.

At a College of Sciences reception for graduate award winners Christian Bolden (left) accepts the Graduate Teaching Award from Dr. Panousis.
News from the ISBS

AASRO: ISBS has recently joined the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). AASRO was formed in March 2008 with a mission to promote excellence and integrity in the conduct of survey research in academic settings.

The Arts in Orlando: In December 2008 we completed a survey for the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission on popular attitudes about the Arts in Orlando. We found that Central Floridians value a strong and vibrant arts community and a range of artistic and cultural opportunities.

Metroplan Orlando: We also recently completed our fifth major study for Metroplan Orlando, our regional transportation planning agency. Less than one Central Floridian in four agreed or strongly agreed that what is now being done to improve our transportation system is adequate. (Four years ago, it was one resident in three.) The study also showed strong support for the SunRail commuter rail project and, more generally, greater investments in mass transit and less reliance on highways.

New Projects: Projects now underway or in the planning stages include a survey of public opinion about the United Way, an update of our 2004 survey of housing conditions in Orlando, and a survey of popular perceptions of the homeless and local agencies that serve them.

Faculty Accomplishments

◊ Dr. Ida Cook was elected to be the Chair of the Faculty Senate. She is now known as The Honorable Dr. Ida Cook.
◊ Dr. Jay Corzine was appointed to the Program Committee for the 2009 American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings.
◊ Dr. Tracy Dietz was the General Program Director for the Southwestern Social Science Association.
◊ Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine was promoted to Associate Vice Provost.
◊ Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine was elected to be the program chair for the Homicide Research Working Group Annual Meeting.
◊ Dr. Jana Jasinski received a Teaching Inventive Program (TIP) Award.
◊ Dr. Jana Jasinski was elected to be Chair of the Harbor House Advisory Committee.
◊ Dr. John Lynxwiler is beginning his second term as the editor of Sociological Spectrum.
◊ Dr. Libby Mustaine was elected to be the Program Chair for the 2009 Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Conference.
◊ Dr. Fernando Rivera was elected as council member for the ASA Latino section. He is also the chair for the American Sociological Association’s Latino/a Section Distinguished Career Award.
◊ Dr. Fernando Rivera was accepted to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Third Annual Symposium.
◊ Three books written by Dr. Jim Wright were reissued this year: Armed and Considered Dangerous: A Survey of Felons and Their Firearms; The State of the Masses. And Address Unknown: The Homeless in America.
◊ Dr. Jim Wright was elected to be Chair of the Orlando Area Trust for the Homeless.
Summer 2009 Course Offerings

**Summer B**
SYD 3800 Sex & Gender in Society  
SYD 3700 Race & Ethnicity  
SYG 2000 Introduction to Sociology  
SYG 2010 Social Problems  
SYP 3511 Sociology of Murder  
SYP 3520 Criminology  
SYP 3530 Juvenile Delinquency  
SYP 3650 Sports and Society

*For more information about these offerings, and for our course schedule for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010, see your Sociology Advisor.*

AKD Induction

In Fall 2008 twenty students were inducted in the Sociology Honor Society Alpha Kappa Delta.

**Undergraduate**
Natoya Aird  
Tristen Anderson  
Sandra Cordova  
Sheiletta Fisher  
Elena Lovina  
Kimberly Kampe  
Adam Maldonado  
Karlie Schaefer  
Lindsey Singer  
Shelley Thompson

**Graduate**
Donavan Bowers  
Melanie Carlson  
Lucretia Cooney  
Hilary Dotson  
Adrienne Horne  
Jason Levine  
Leslie Maloney  
Ashely McGrath  
Christa Polczynski Olson  
Brandon Presley  
Marlenys Rojas  
Tangela Towns

Ashley McGrath (I) is shown here with Dr. Libby Mustaine after the induction ceremony.

This fall, the AKD Induction Ceremony will be on Wednesday, September 30 from 2:30-4pm.

Look for your invitation to join AKD coming to your mailbox soon!

To be invited, you need a UCF CUM GPA of 3.4 and be a junior Sociology major. If you feel you qualify and do not receive an invitation by June 30, please contact Dr. Libby Mustaine at: emustain@mail.ucf.edu.

News from our Alumni

Kristina Dzara, a sociology masters alumni just successfully defended her dissertation at Southern Illinois University—Carbondale.

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