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Dr. Fernando Rivera to serve as McNair Faculty



In the 2012 Spring and Summer semesters Dr. Fernando Rivera will serve as a McNair Scholars Program Faculty Fellow. In this position Dr. Rivera will lead workshops for McNair Scholars on how to prepare competitive graduate school applications, how to evaluate journal articles and what being a faculty member is like. In addition he will also travel with McNair Scholars when they visit graduate schools or attend professional conferences.

Upcoming Departmental Colloquia

Monday, March 19th, Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine and Dr. Jay Corzine will present a talk titled "Highways to Homicide: Interstates, Drug Markets, and Violence."

On **Friday, April 13th** we will have our first undergraduate research colloquium. Several undergraduates will present on their own independent research.



Honors in the Major Graduate

Angiemil Perez successfully defended her Honors in the Major thesis, "A Comparative Study of Community-Based After-School Programs to Faith-Based After-School Programs," during the Fall 2011 semester. Her study compared and contrasted the various goals and structure of the two types of programs. Her conclusions suggest directions for future research and how studies could improve the measurement of performance outcomes. She is shown in the photo (left) with Dr. David Gay her thesis chair.



Social Problems Students Take Action with NIOT

After viewing the new documentary *Not in Our Town: A Light in the Darkness* (PBS, 2011) about anti-immigrant violence in the US, students in *Social Problems* (SYG 2010.0002) decided to heed the film producers' *Not In Our School*. The group promotes anti-bullying and anti-prejudice activities on the UCF campus and is one of the first groups of its kind to be listed on the national NIOT.org web site. The class also started a Facebook page called *Not In Our School UCF*, which now includes undergrad and grad students, alumni, and faculty--and has been commended by UCF's Lead Scholars program. The class is planning to hold a screening of the PBS follow-up film *Class Actions* when it premieres in February.



Dr. David Gay (left) shown here with UCF's first lady Martha Hitt as honorary coaches.

David Gay Honorary Coach for a Night

David Gay served as the Honorary Coach of the UCF Women's Basketball Team in their game against SMU. As an Honorary Coach he was able to experience firsthand the excitement of being

a member of the team in the heat of competition. "It was fun to sit directly behind the team bench and root for the team. Unfortunately, we lost. They're a good team with a good attitude. It was a fun evening."



Point in Time Count Experience by Tiffany McDaniels

Last Spring while taking Dr. Donley's Data Analysis class, she presented us with an opportunity to participate in the annual Point in Time Count. This count consists of trained volunteers going out into the community to survey Central Florida's homeless population. Teams go out to day labor outlets, food pantries and other agencies which help those in need. The data collected from the surveys helps those in the sociology field better understand the needs of those that are homeless in Central Florida. The need for volunteers was large and the areas to survey were a little out of my comfort zone, but Dr. Donley promised she would train us and her enthusiasm overcame my hesitancy. The experience turned about better than I could have predicted. It was great to be able to help and interact one on one with a group of people that most people only give uncomfortable glances at.

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with a group of people that most people only give uncomfortable glances at.

It's time again this year for the Point in Time Count. Again, Dr. Donley presented me with an opportunity that at first I perceived to be pretty overwhelming. I was put in charge of the food pantry portion of this year's Count. I was responsible for calling all the agencies in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties that had received at least 10,000 lbs of food donations from Second Harvest Food Bank in the last year. My goal was to get their permission for a team to come out and survey. I thought my spread sheet list of agencies was never going to end. However, after many hours of calls over a week's time however, I had a solid list of locations to survey. Again, Dr. Donley's project was more rewarding than I could have guessed. It felt great to know that I was a small part of a project that was really going to help improve people's lives.

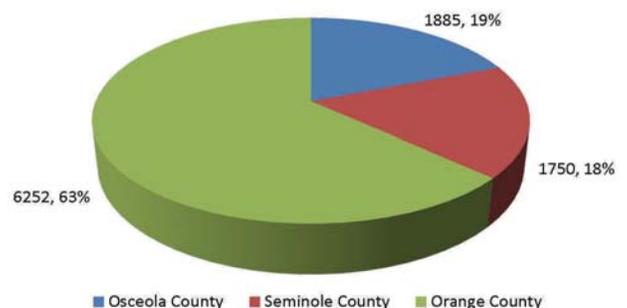
I'm very excited to run analysis on this year's survey results and see what needs are presented. Get-

ting to work hands on in the field while seeing what you've learned in the classroom be applied in a practical situations may be one of the best parts about being a sociology major. My desire to study different groups of people and how those people interact with each other in society has only been enriched by the sociology department and experiences like The Point in Time Count.

"GETTING TO WORK HANDS ON IN THE FIELD WHILE SEEING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM ... MAY BE ONE OF THE BEST PARTS ABOUT BEING A SOCIOLOGY MAJOR."



Number of Persons Who Will Experience Homelessness in Central Florida in 2009: 9,887



These data show a 17% increase in the number of homeless persons in the region over 2008 results. Results from 2010 and 2011 show similar numbers but increased proportions of chronically homeless.

News from the ISBS

The Institute for Social and Behavioral Science always has something interesting going on: studies that have just been completed, studies currently underway, and studies about to begin.

Annual Point in Time Count

In January ISBS once again worked with the Homeless Services Network of Central Florida to conduct the annual Point in Time Count. The PIT is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandated census of homeless persons that communities all over the country conduct annually. The PIT in Central Florida covers three counties: Orange, Osceola and Seminole. We identify and interview homeless person in various locations including homeless shelters, day labor outlets, food pantries, meal services, camps and on the streets.

Dr. James Wright is primarily responsible for developing the survey questionnaire while Dr. Amy Donley handles all of the training and supervising of the volunteers who conduct interviews at many of these locations. We began interviewing Saturday January 21 at a food pantry in Ocoee and wrapped up on Tuesday, January 31 at a meal service in Downtown Orlando. In all 25 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the data collection process this year. Now that we have collected the data, several undergraduate sociology students will enter it into the Homeless Management Information System. Results are expected at the end of March.

The Responsible Retailers' Survey

With funding from the Orange County Office for a Drug Free Community, ISBS will soon start surveying alcohol retailers in East Orange County. This includes bars, restaurants, package stores, convenience stores and even full service supermarkets. The intent of the study is to determine the effectiveness of the Orange County retailer prevention campaign and to garner information about the responsible beverage practices of alcohol vendors – whether they post the signs and warnings they are required to post, what their practices are with respect to checking identification of clients, whether under-age drinking is considered to be a serious problem in Orange County, whether retailers understand local laws pertaining to the sale of alcohol to minors, whether employees receive “responsible alcohol” service

and sales training, and many related questions. The Responsible Retailers' Survey is set to commence sometime in February and will be completed by the end of the semester.

Tampa Bay Estuary

Fertilizer run-off is well-known to be a principal contaminant of ground water resources, and yet the fertilizer behaviors of average homeowners are surprisingly under-researched. In conjunction with the UCF Stormwater Management Academy and Applied Ecology, Inc.. ISBS will soon begin a survey of this very topic in three counties that comprise the Tampa Bay Estuary (Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Manatee). One key issue in the survey is whether homeowners are even aware of recent ordinances that “change the rules” of lawn fertilization; more generally, the concern is with awareness of residen-

tial fertilizer ordinances and lawn fertilization practices and behaviors of homeowners in these three counties. The survey is slated to begin in March and end sometime early in the summer.

Florida Renewable Energy Association Poll

ISBS is also about to commence a statewide opinion poll on Florida's renewable energy resources. Remarkably, Florida ranks fourth among the 50 states in total electricity consumption and yet 98% of the state's electricity is produced from energy resources that come from out of state. The state also ranks 43rd among the 50 states in the percentage of electricity produced from renewable resources. A central question in the poll is whether residents of “The Sunshine State” would be willing to pay an extra buck or two (continued on next page)



Sociology Students Survey in Eatonville on Food Security Issues



Dr. Jim Wright (left) with John Rife, a local entrepreneur.

In October 2011, graduate students in Jim Wright’s Poverty, Homelessness and the Cities course, with assistance from Brittany Hanson Minnick and Rachel Morgan, surveyed

twenty-one residents of Eatonville. The survey was intended, first, to gauge resident interest in the reopening of an Eatonville Farmer’s

Market and, more generally, to develop baseline indicators concerning various food security issues in Florida’s first legally incorporated African American city.



Above: Master’s Student Alecia Carpenter (left) interviews a resident of Eatonville.

Respondents ranged in age from 26 to 93 (median age = 65) and were all participants in a twice-weekly “walk and talk group” organized by Eatonville officials,

with support from the Winter Park Health Foundation. Three-quarters were women.

Fifteen of the 21 respondents remembered having shopped at the Eatonville farmer’s market

before it closed down about a year ago. Almost everyone said they would shop at a newly-reopened market at least occasionally; most (76%) would shop there weekly.

Eatonville is a high-poverty community, with a poverty rate of 28.1%, more than twice the national average, and this is reflected in relatively high levels of food insecurity. About one respondent in five participates in SNAP (the old Food Stamp program) and about half utilize food pantries, soup kitchens and other free food outlets at least from time to time. Proportions on the order of 40% worry that their food supplies will “run out before I get money to buy more” (43% “often” or “sometimes”), report that “the food that I bought

just didn’t last, and I didn’t have money to get more” (43%), and stated, “I couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals” (38%).

Eatonville is one of three Central Florida communities (Winter Park and Maitland are the other two) being targeted by the Winter Park Health Foundation’s “Healthy Central Florida” initiative, which promotes better health through better diet and more exercise. The Department’s Institute of Social and Behavioral Science has the contract to conduct the before-after evaluation of the effectiveness of the initiative in the three target communities.

Florida Renewable Energy, con’t.

each month to develop renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, biofuels and other renewable energy resources. Other questions probe residents’ opinions about offshore drilling near Florida’s coasts, adding a penny or two to the gasoline tax to fund development of renewable resources, and related issues.



Student Publications & Presentations

Graduate Student Publications

Schildkraut, Jacklyn. & Amy Donely. (Forthcoming). Murder in black: A media distortion analysis of homicides in Baltimore in 2010. *Homicide Studies*.

Duesterhaus, Megan, Liz Grauerholz, Rebecca Weischel and Nicholas Guittar. 2011. "The Cost of Doing Femininity: Gendered Disparities in Pricing of Personal Care Products and Services." *Gender Issues* 28:175-191.

Bubriski-McKenzie, Anne and Jasinski, Jana. Forthcoming. "Mental Health Effects of Intimate Terrorism and Situational Couple Violence Among Black and Hispanic Women." *Violence Against Women*.

Semaan, Ingrid, Jasinski, Jana, and **Bubriski-McKenzie, Anne.** Forthcoming. "Subjection, Subjectivity, and Agency: The Power, Meaning, and Practice of Mothering Among Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Abuse." *Violence Against Women*.

Grauerholz, Liz and **Anne Bubriski-McKenzie.** Forthcoming. "Teaching about Consumption: The "Not Buying It" Project." *Teaching Sociology*.

Colyer, Timothy and Robert Bohm. Forthcoming. "You're Killing Me: A Review of State and Federal Death Penalty Statutes." *Criminal Law Bulletin*.

Watkins, William C. and Jason A. Ford. "Prescription drug misuse among Asian-American adults: Results from a national survey" *Substance Use & Misuse*.

Fall 2011 Presentations

The Fall 2011 semester has been a busy one for Sociology graduate students. Students presented their research at six different professional conferences.

American Sociological Association

Marcus Pruitt
Lindsey Singer Bares

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Sara Afflerback
Abigail Malick

Association for Applied & Clinical Sociology

Brittany Hanson Minnick
Olivia Metott

Mid-South Sociological Association

Ashihi Patel
Joshua Simpkins

National Council on Family Relations

Anne Bubriski

American Society of Criminology

Timothy Colyer
Rachel Rados
Jordana Navarro
Lindsey Blumenstein
Xavier Guadalupe
James McCutcheon
Rachel Morgan
Aaron Poole
Marc Settembrino
Melissa Tetzlaff Bemiller

Student Awards

Nicole Owens received the 2012 Jane Goodall Fellowship from the ASA's Section on Animals and Society.

2011 MA graduate **Anna Turner** received the 2012 COS Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Award. Anna is currently a graduate student in Communications.

Congratulations to **Dr. Betsy Swart** (2011 graduate) who was selected as the 2012 COS recipient for the Outstanding Dissertation Award!

Sociology Fall 2011 Graduates

Sociology BA

Adeyemo, Fauzia Debbie
 Bickerstaff, Brenton Daniel
 Blake, Elizabeth Jean
 Bruce, Mary Josephine
 Covet, Bryan William
 Delaney, Kaitlin Shannon
 Dumont, Tyler Evan
 Edwards, Sydney Erin
 Essick, Andrea Jean
 Freeburn, Courtney Leanne
 Hakami, John A
 Israel, Samuel
 Johnson, Lincoln Randell
 Joint, Wendy A
 Jones, Deanna Desiree
 Law, Chelsea Lynn Elizabeth
 Olaya, Valentina
 Ong, Julianne Katherine
 Perez, Angiemil
 Piccinini, Megan Layne

Pittman, Krystle Michelle
 Portal, Lauren Grace
 Richards, Giavanna Blair
 Scully, Crystal C
 Smith, Chelsea Breandrea
 Unger, Natasha Marie
 Van Cleave, Leah Ray
 Weippert, Brittany Natalia
 Weippert, Courtney Nicole

Social Sciences BS

Beard, Jessica Lynn
 Ktistes, Jennifer
 Potocki, Shannon Nicole
 Richards, Michelle-Ann Hope
 Tumminello, Erica

Master's in Applied Sociology

Ashish Patel

Faculty Activities and Kudos

Dr. Jay Corzine served as a Guest Instructor for the National Behavioral Science Research Certificate Course.

Congratulations to **Dr. Liz Grauerholz** who is the recipient of the 2012 College of Sciences Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award.

Alumni in the News

Dr. Kristina Dzara's research was featured in an October issue of the Huffington Post. (Does sex predict marital disruption http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-hughes/does-sex-predict-marital-_b_985068.html).

Dr. Dzara is a 2005 UCF Sociology MA graduate. Dr. Dzara is currently a research faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

Dr. Rachel Rayburn (2011 UCF Sociology Ph.D.) was featured in the Fort Wayne Reader (<http://www.fortwaynereader.com/story.php?uid=2050>) for a story discussing the annual Point in Time Count of the homeless. Dr. Rayburn is a n Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Policy at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



Sociology of Sport

Team Anomie, the UCF sociology department co-ed softball team, completed their fall season at the Oviedo recreation and parks adult softball co-ed league. Lead by Dr. Ford, the team managed to compete and win several games; including a brief appearance in the league's playoffs (unfortunately the team was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs). The team roster included graduate students, faculty, and friends of the department. More importantly it gave the department an opportunity to interact with other community groups and participate in recreational activities with our Oviedo neighbors.

The members of the softball team are:

Amanda Anthony
Rachel Morgan
Sara Afflerbeck
Nicole Owens
Melissa Tetzlaff Bemiller
Candice Camapanaro
Amanda Russell

Jason Ford
Fernando Rivera
James McCutcheon
Will Watkins
Ricky Hanson (Brittany Hanson's husband)
Timothy Bemiller (Melissa's husband)
Adam Nutt (Candice's fiance)
Eric Owens (Nicole's brother)



Meeting Erin Brockovich by Dr. Penelope Canan

On 10/24/11, I attended a town hall meeting in DeLand, FL (north of UCF) to hear environmental activist, Erin Brockovich, and her technical and legal support team speak about the contaminated private water wells in the DeLand residential subdivision of Country Club Estates. The currently banned insecticide Dieldren - used until the 1980s on the golf course property that is located within the community - has been detected in approximately 110 of the private wells of the 400 homes in the subdivision. It's been reported that carbon filters were immediately installed on all contaminated wells and the City of DeLand pledged to connect the residents to a potable water main. In the meantime, the focus turns to residents' long-term exposure to contaminated water via drinking, bathing, swimming, and gardening. Residents at the meeting shared personal family health histories ("cancer clusters"). Various community residents had already retained legal counsel for class action lawsuits. Those law firms joined the Brockovich Team from NY in listening to citizen concerns and pitching their services. One of Ms. Brockovich's commitments is building a database by CHEMICAL across communities since the incidence rate at the local level precludes statistical analysis and forecasting. I write this as the country is riveted to the pain and suffering of innocent teen agers exposed to TCE in LaRoy, New York. I was able to speak one-on-one with Ms. Brockovich after the meeting about our mutual experiences dealing with SLAPPs (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). We also talked about UCF's Sociology Department strengths in rural community health, focus groups and community survey research, masters level qualitative and the opportunity for community research.



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