The Department Cares more than an ton, a ton of food that is. Over the course of the 2012-13 Academic year the College of Sciences collected donations for the Knights helping Knights pantry. The Sociology department donated 3,455 pounds or just over 1.7 tons of food. In fact, the Sociology department lead the college with just over half of the 6,613 pounds of food donated by the College of Sciences.

When Knightro Comes Calling

It is not every day that Knightro pays a visit to Howard Phillips Hall. Tamara Pullin, Coordinator of Administrative Services is a big fan of UCF Knights Athletics. This spring Knightro and baseball players Ryan Breen (left) and Chris Matulis (right) paid a visit to the Sociology Department to personally deliver her baseball season tickets.
Dr. Penelope Canan

Dr. Canan joined the Department of Sociology in 2006. In December 2012 she retired from UCF and at the spring Founder’s Day Celebration was named Professor Emerita. Prior to her arrival at UCF, Canan worked in Tsukuba, Japan as the Executive Director of the Global Carbon Project, one of the Earth Systems Science Partnerships of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP), the International Program on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IHDP), the World Climate Research Program (WCRP), and Diversitas.

At UCF, Dr. Canan was instrumental in the formation of Focus the Nation, a national network of more than 1,000 college and university campuses dedicated to solutions to global warming and climate change. In 2008, Focus the Nation organized and produced the largest one-day “Teach-In” in US history. She helped establish UCF’s FTN student organization and assisted in its production of UCF’s “Electric Car Events” (2007), the National Wildlife Federation’s podcast entitled “The 2% Solution” filmed at BCCC/UCF studios (2008), the UCF “Teach-In/Reach Out on Climate Solutions” (2008), the UCF “Teach-In Plus” (2009), and the formation of the student organization named “Climate Connections,” dedicated to linking UCF student leaders with environmental leaders in Central Florida.

In 2010 Dr. Canan was one of six women in the College of Sciences and 15 in the University to receive a “Women Making History” award given to honor women recognized nationally and/or internationally for their research, creative activities and leadership from 2008-2010. In 2010 the United Nations Environment Program listed her on its “Montreal Protocol Who’s Who” (MPWWW), a web portal launched “to honor the visionaries, innovators and implementers who are making global environmental success story.” In 2007 Dr. Canan received the Frederick Buttel Award for Distinguished Career Contribution to Environmental Sociology from the Section on Environment and Technology of the American Sociological Association, as well as the “Best of the Best” Award for Ozone Layer Protection (Individual Category) from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Did You Know?

Penelope coined the SLAPP acronym in the 1980s...
Faculty Honors

On April 5, 2013 at the annual Founder’s Day Celebration Dr. Jim Wright was awarded the Excellence in Professional Service Award and was named a Pegasus Professor. This award is the most prestigious award a UCF faculty can receive. Dr. Wright was recognized for his extraordinary contributions to teaching, research, and service.

UCF sociology professor Jim Wright was also recently honored for “nine years of dedicated service” to the Board of Directors of the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. Wright served three consecutive three-year terms on the Board (the maximum allowed under Board bylaws) between 2003 and 2012, during which time he served as Chair of the Board’s Research and Evaluation Committee. He also received the Chairman’s award for distinguished service in 2004.

In a related ceremony, it was announced that the kitchen at the Women’s Residential and Counseling Center (WRCC) had been named in honor of Jim and his wife Chris for their years of preparing and serving meals to the women of WRCC.
Student Research

When the calendar says it is spring it is time for the Sociology Department annual research symposium. Students in the data analysis classes work hard over the entire academic year to design and carry out empirical research projects. At the end of the year these projects are presented to their peers and the Sociology faculty and staff. The hallways are wallpapered with posters on topics such as corporal punishment, self-esteem, gender inequality, and deviant behavior.

Sociology Storms the Southernns

Large numbers of Sociology faculty attend the Southern Sociological Meeting every year as it is the regional professional meeting for the southern region. Increasingly large numbers of students have also attended the meeting to present their research, network with their peers, and learn about what it means to be a Sociologist. For many students this meeting is the first opportunity to present their research to scholars outside the university.

Left: Undergraduate student Sherri Ferrell completes her presentation with a thumbs up.

Above: Alyse Gruber prepares to give her presentation.

Front row: Sherri Ferrell, Juan Barredo, Alyse Gruber, Marie Gualtieri. 2nd row: Kelsey DeGenaro, Alexandra Minnick, Alyssa Mullins, Nicole Stark, Lauren Gilmore, Amy Fowler. Back row: Katelynn Messer, Dr. Amy Donley, Kate Griffin, Rachel McCloskey, Joshua Simpkins.
This year 11 Sociology students participated in the Showcase of Undergraduate Research. They are:

Kelsey DeGenaro
Jessica Frelow
Emmanuel Jackson
Ali Kuranz
Jasmine Loftin
Katelynn Messer
Alexandra Minnick
Grace Parker
Robert Reardon
Shaun Richardson (Honorable Mention)
Emily Rosenbaum
Nicholas Simons

Left: Emily Rosenbaum talks about her research looking at the relationship between fear of crime and mass school shootings.

Above: Jessica Frelow presents her research on mentally and physically disabled individuals.

McNair Scholars Shaun Richardson (left) and Emmanuel Jackson (right) pose for a photo with Faculty Mentor Dr. Amy Donley and the McNair Banquet.
Congratulations Graduates!

Right: Dr. Stephanie Gonzalez-Guittar and her adviser Dr. Jim Wright pose for photos after the December graduation.

Right: Drs. Warren Waren and Heili Pals pose before the December graduation ceremony.

Right: Spring 2013 Sociology Doctoral Graduates: From left to right: Drs. Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz, Rachel Morgan, and Lindsey Blumenstein.

Above: Dissertation Co-Chairs Dr. Ross Hinkle (left) and Dr. Penelope Canan (right) hood Dr. Leesa Souto. Although Dr. Souto’s degree is in Biology she worked closely with the Sociology department and Dr. Canan on issues related to environmentally sound behaviors.

The first graduate of the Sociology Ph.D. program graduated in 2008, by the end of the Spring 2013 semester 27 students have graduated from the UCF Sociology doctoral program. Our graduates have gone on to hold tenure track positions at schools such as Texas Christian University, Loyola University New Orleans, and Framingham State University among others and applied positions with agencies including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Avatar International, and Ahtna Support and Training Services. One graduate even started her own non-profit agency, House of Mentoring & Empowerment, Inc. (HOME).
More than 200 students have earned their Master’s degree from the Sociology department at UCF. Graduates from our Applied MA program have been very successful. Many graduates have gone on to complete doctoral degrees at institutions such as Penn State University, University of Florida, and University of Chicago. They have also gone on to work at agencies including Westat, the American Sociological Association, Research Triangle Institute, and the Kissimmee Convention and Visitors Bureau.

---

**Sociology BA Grads**

David Amirrezvani  
Paul Ashworth  
Lisette Barteau  
Katherine Beckmann  
Bridget Besoner  
Shantrell Bowe  
Elena Breedlove  
Michael Brown  
Amanda Buitron  
Keandra Cherry  
Jordan Clark  
Jennifer Cogert  
Kelsey DeGenaro  
Jazmine Dickens  
Gleider Dominguez  
Sherri Ferrell  
Grayling Forehand  
Ashley Fraser  
Sherina Glaves  
Daphne Gonzalez  
Giovanni Gonzalez  
Kelly Goodman  
Catherine Sochar  
Jenilees Suero  
Jeisson Tavarez  
Shavonne Tejada  
Kelly Thiele  
Maria Thomas  
Rachel Valore  
Kayla Ward  
Stefani Wolfson  
Nikilaus Wycha  
Ezekiel Green  
Seth Jesutus  
Peter Johnston  
Lauren Kanzler  
Sarah King  
Amber Krauss  
Michelle Kudelka  
Thomas Kudro  
Tara LaBrecque  
Andrew Leadbeater  
Casey Lehman  
Angela Lipa  
Jasmine Loftin  
Stacy Martin  
Katelynn Messer  
Krista Nigrelli  
Michelle Nohr  
Chelsea Nordham  
Gladys Ochoa  
Kathleen Ortiz  
Michelle Parra
Student Publications

Andrew Latinsky. “Public Presentation of Gendered Bodies: A Look at Gay and Lesbian Online Dating Profiles” Sociatation Today.


Student Grants

Doctoral Student Marc Settembrino was the recipient of Quick Response Grant from the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado-Boulder to study the effects of Hurricane Sandy on the homeless.

Sociology Club

The Sociology Club had a busy semester. We had 4 wonderful guest speakers come speak at our meeting. The guest speakers were Alyssa Mullins, an intern from UCF Victim Services, Dr. Amanda Koontz-Anthony and Melissa Tetzlaff-Bemiller. We volunteered at Habitat for Humanity at UCF’s Shack A Thon, cleaned up the Lake Claire Trail and volunteered at the Zombie Knights 5k. We participated in Relay For Life on March 16th and had a bake sale to raise funds for Relay for Life. We also participated in the One Billion Rising Event on February 14th. We designed our own sociology club t-shirts and also increasing our advertisement of the club. Congratulations to all the seniors graduating including vice-president Katelynn Messer and historian Amy Fowler. Thank you to Traci for sending all the emails about the club meetings and events to the faculty and students. Thank you to Dr. Ford for being our club advisor.
AKD Induction

In April 2013 4 graduate students and 16 undergraduate students were inducted into the Sociology Honor Society Alpha Kappa Delta. Dr. Jason Ford (right) served as the master of ceremonies for the event. This year’s keynote address was provided by Dr. Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz (far right) who discussed his own journey into the discipline of Sociology and encouraged students to follow their passion.

Recognition of Student Achievement

Every spring students in the data analysis courses present the results of their year long projects to each other and the sociology faculty and staff at the annual research symposium. Faculty judges review each poster and select the top three posters. These students were recognized at our annual awards ceremony. From Left to Right: (2nd place) Connor McKelvey “Corporal punishment: Sending a message”, Dr. Amy Donley, (1st place) Maria Thompson as “How symptoms of anxiety, depression, ADD or ADHD contribute to students self-medicating via marijuana and non-medical prescription drugs (NMPD).”, Dr. Amy Reckdenwald, (3rd place) Grace Parker “Uneven ground: Comparing environmental concern and perceptions of women’s equality among college students.”

Congratulations to Doctoral Student Wendi Kane who is the 2013 recipient of the Department of Sociology Graduate Student Teaching Award.

How Sociologists can contribute to research on human-animal relations.

Doctoral Student Nicole Owens’ interview with the Animals and Society Institute discusses the need to study human-animal relations and how the discipline of Sociology can play an important role in this area of research. To read the interview: www.animalsandsociety.org/pages/asinterview.

Nicole was also the recipient of the COS Award for Excellence by a Graduate Teaching Assistant and the Department of Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award.
Heart of Florida United Way

Two HFUW projects have kept us busy this year. In July 2012, Wright and Donley gave a workshop at United Way on "outcomes management" for the HFUW emergency services agencies and programs (homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, emergency feeding programs, etc.)

We continued this work throughout the year with two rounds of site visits to all these agencies and the preparation of a Final Report, the first draft of which was just submitted. Our conclusion is that "long term outcomes" in agencies addressing short-term emergency needs are difficult to conceptualize and measure, much less report on quarterly. For most agencies, measuring outcomes would require follow-up in the community that most agencies have neither the skill nor the resources to do.

Departmental graduate students were very heavily involved in the HFUW "outcomes" project. Sara Strickhouser wrote her MA thesis out of the project; Jessica Kleinberger contributed a report on the seventeen food pantries supplied principally through the Osceola Council on Aging. Other students whose work is featured in the final report are Rameika Newman, Rebecca DeCesare, and Marie Gualtieri.

The other HFUW project that has kept us busy this year is the Bithlo Community Needs Assessment project. As with many of our needs assessments, this one began as a series of three focus groups: one with Bithlo seniors, one with high school students, and one with working age adults. Across all groups, the common themes were more opportunities needed for children and teens; crime – especially drug crime; transportation; essential services – more businesses needed in the area; and greater attention needed from government representatives to help solve problems.

Our Bithlo team is currently developing a questionnaire out of the focus group results to gather more systematic and generalizable data on Bithlo's community needs.
New Smyrna Beach

In Spring 2013, ISBS phone interviewers were busy calling 286 residents of New Smyrna Beach to ascertain public opinion about the quality of life and the adequacy of city services in that small Florida beachside community. The 2013 survey was a replication of a survey we had done for New Smyrna Beach in 2009. Huge majorities of NSB residents -- on the order of 95% -- are satisfied with the overall quality of life and majorities approaching 60% say that city government works well or very well. There is some concern about how well the city has managed growth and development but 75% are satisfied “with the overall direction New Smyrna Beach is taking” and about 80% consider that “the services and amenities residents receive from the City are a good value considering the taxes we pay…”

Orange County Partnership for Success

The Orange County Office for a Drug Free Community and the Orange County Public Schools have partnered with ISBS to conduct the research surrounding number of new anti-alcohol and drug initiatives aimed at the County’s young people. Partnership projects currently underway include “environmental scans” around Rollins College and UCF to see how alcohol is marketed and whether alcohol retailers are in compliance with the law; and a large (N = 800) telephone survey of Orange County parents to determine their attitudes towards underage drinking and drug behaviors. This is a replication of a survey we did two years ago and is intended to investigate the effects of the Partnership campaigns on parental outlooks.

Metroplan Orlando

About every two years, ISBS partners with Metroplan Orlando, our regional transportation planning agency, to assess popular opinions about transportation issues and options facing Central Florida. A long series of surveys dating to the 1990s shows that traffic congestion and related traffic problems are the number one complaint of Orlando-area residents, the number one threat to the local quality of life. But our surveys also show a lack of consensus on how the problem should be attacked: some say the only realistic solution is to stop building highways or otherwise adding to highway capacity and build up mass transit instead. Others say that mass transit is not a feasible solution for many residents and that enhanced highway capacity is the only way to go. Luckily, ISBS only has to estimate how many people think what – we don’t have to resolve the dissensus or resolve conflicting views!

The 2013 survey of public opinion on transportation issues is currently in the field with a final report anticipated early this summer.
The faculty in the department of Sociology have been busy planning new courses. Look the following new additions to our course offerings:

SYO 3408: Animals and Health
SYO 4402: Sociology of Health & Illness Behavior
SYP 4401: Social Determinants of Health
SYP 3060: Sociology of Sex and Reproduction
SYP 4631: Sociology Through Film

Chair: Dr. Jana L. Jasinski
Associate Chair: Dr. David Gay
Coordinator of Administrative Services: Ms. Tamara Pullin
Admissions Specialist: Ms. Traci Milbuta
Newsletter Editors: Dr. Jana L. Jasinski, Dr. Libby Mustaine

Phone: 407-823-3744
Fax: 407-823-3026
E-mail: Sociology@ucf.edu