

Sociologists Travel to Budapest



Top left: Dr. Huff-Corzine moderates a panel session. **Top right:** Discussion with the Hungarian National Police Counter-Terrorism Unit. On the topic of mass murders, particularly school shootings. **Above:** Relaxing on a Boat Trip to the Danube Bend.

During the month of August Drs. Corzine and Huff-Corzine traveled to Budapest, Hungary for the 23rd Annual Meeting of the International Police Executive Symposium (IPES). The event was hosted by the Hungarian National Police and the Ministry of the Interior. Approximately 125 participants from over 40 nations attended the symposium. Police and researchers were equally represented among the attendees.

Dr. Huff-Corzine was the Chair of a session on Cyber-Security-Technology and both Drs. Corzine and Huff-Corzine were members of a roundtable on "Amok." The topic was mass murder, but "amok" is more widely understood among an international audience.

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Congratulations Sociology Graduates!



Top Left: At the Summer 2013 Commencement Ceremony, 6 Doctoral students graduated. They are from left to right **Dr. James McCutcheon** (Assistant Prof U. of Memphis), **Dr. Marc Settembrino** (Assistant Prof Southeastern Louisiana University), **Dr. Melissa Tetzlaff-Bemiller** (Assistant Prof Lakeland College), **Dr. Jordana Navarro** (Assistant Prof Tennessee Tech University), **Dr. Anne Bubriski-McKenzie** (Assistant Prof University of South Carolina Union), **Dr. Tangela Towns** (Assistant Prof Winston Salem State University).

Far Bottom Left: Dr. Tetzlaff-Bemiller (left) and Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine celebrate at the August graduation ceremony.

Near Bottom Left: Master's student Jessica Chase walks into the graduation ceremony.



Sociology BA Graduates

Tabitha Armstrong
Stephanie Barrett
Treshawndra Capers
Keandra Cherry
Kalyn Colson
Elijah Cruz
Carly Damstra

Brittany Durrwachter
Amy Fowler
Andrew Goins
Brianna Green
Dayanne Harvey
Deandra Haye
Eleanor Kaile
Eric Lampert
Andrew Lopez
Alan Mai

Whitney McIntosh
Thomas McLoone
Liza Ramirez
Brian Rico
Erica Ryan
Victoria Saiz
Myalieka Shirley Terry
Ramon Velez-Cruz
Alyssa Wilmoth
Joseph Yagatich

Student Publications

Huff-Corzine, L., McCutcheon, J. C., Corzine, J., Jarvis, J. Tetzlaff-Bemiller, M., **Weller, M., & Landon, M.**(2014). Shooting for accuracy: Comparing data sources on mass murder. *Homicide Studies* forthcoming.

‘How Can We Stay Sober?’ Homeless Women’s Experience in a Substance Abuse Treatment Center: A Research Note,” by **Joanna Eisele, Candice Campanaro, Drew Baird, Thomas Hall, and James D. Wright.** Forthcoming in *Society*, 2013.

Gaulden, S. “Exploring Cognitive Dissonance between College Students’ Religious and Spiritual Beliefs and Their Higher Education. (2013). *UCF Undergraduate Research Journal*.

MA Graduates

Jessica Chase
Matthew
Hiesterman
Alyssa Mullins

Alumnus Awarded

Applied Sociology Master’s Alumnus **Heidi Watt** was named the 2013 winner of the UCF A & P Gabor Excellence Award. Heidi is the Director of Accreditation and Quality Assurance at UCF.

Alumni News

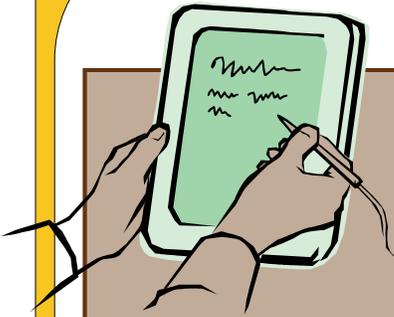
Applied Sociology Master’s Alumnus **Rebecca Feiler** wrote to tell us that she is the Sociology College Lecturer at Ocean County College. Rebecca will be teaching courses in Sociology as well

as working closely with the Dean to perform classroom observations, collecting and evaluating data on teaching materials, curriculum, assessments and conducting program reviews and writing reports.

Social Science BS Grads.

Tiffany Cox	Ricardo Jaimes	Tabatha Sams
Joseph Dicarolo	Nicole Langford	Arlen Spitalnik
Megan Fitzpatrick	Amy Longtin	

News From the ISBS



iPad® Survey Initiative

This summer the ISBS survey lab adopted the iPad Survey Research Team from UCF's Wellness & Health Promotion Services. The iPad® team is composed of 30-50 undergraduates who volunteer their time in order to gain research experience. Each semester the team scouts different areas on campus to ensure surveys are representative of the

UCF student population. Surveys are conducted face-to-face as computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI). A sample of at least 500 students is obtained by approaching students who cross a specified line on the sidewalk. While the use of iPad® assisted surveys is a fairly new concept, it has proven to be fruitful, with an average response rate of 60%. We are expecting to conduct at least nine surveys for the 2013-2014 academic year on issues relevant to both students and UCF.

Data collection for our first survey on student's healthy eating habits was completed in early September. Over 600 stu-

dents were interviewed at five diverse locations on campus. Students were asked questions about how often they ate certain food items, where they usually ate (at home or out), what they prioritized when shopping for food, and demographic information. Preliminary data analysis indicates that while most students reported that maintaining a healthy diet was important, 63% eat out at least a few times a week (including sit-down restaurants, on-campus, or fast food). Most of the students surveyed were 18-21 years old, and pretty evenly distributed in both gender and college standing.

Bithlo "Needs Assessment" Survey

Data collection for the Heart of Florida United Way Bithlo Needs Assessment was recently completed and a report is due out at the end of September 2013. Data collection included over 100 telephone surveys done in the ISBS survey lab, as well as over 100

face to face interviews done in the Bithlo community. The data provide HFUW an overview of Bithlo's most pressing needs and will guide the agency's decision-making about what services to promote in the community. Preliminary data analysis proves consistent with

focus group data collected in the spring of this year. Bithlo residents are highly concerned with crime, specifically drug related crime, opportunities available for Bithlo youth, and affordable child care, among many other concerns reported.

New Smyrna Beach Citizens Survey

The New Smyrna Beach Citizens Survey, completed in April 2013, indicated that residents were generally very satisfied with life in New Smyrna, even after recent city budget cuts. Upon further analysis this summer, ISBS found that while residents

were generally satisfied, those who tended to be the most satisfied were women, those under the age of 30 and over 60, those not in the labor force, and more recent arrivals to the city. For example, short term residents were 18 points more likely to

be 'very satisfied' with life in New Smyrna than long term residents. Not all differences proved to be as sizeable. Women, for example, were less likely than men to say that the recent budget cuts made 'no difference' but the

magnitude of difference was only 9 points (63% to 54%). It is likely that those who have the strongest and longest ties to the community are also those who see what could be improved, more than those with weaker ties.

Metroplan

In June, the ISBS survey lab completed the 2013 Metroplan Orlando Public Opinion Survey. It was the fifth in a series of surveys done for Metroplan Orlando, the region's transportation planning agency. 796 residents of Orange, Osceola and Seminole County completed the telephone survey and 632 residents from all over Florida completed the

online version. The survey found that nearly 80% of residents feel that transportation is a very important issue and that 60+% do not feel that enough is being done to address transportation issues in the region. Specifically, 70+% feel that too little money is being spent to solve transportation issues. Public transportation is growing in popularity as compared with previous years. This year 61% of

residents agreed that investing in public transportation is the only real solution to congestion. This survey comes at a time when transportation in Orlando is experiencing major changes, including the construction and opening of the Sun-Rail Commuter rail system, the widening of I-4 and the improvements and expansion of SR 408.

Coming Up

As always, ISBS is gearing up for new projects started this fall and in 2014. Results from the 2013 Metroplan Orlando Opinion Survey raised a number of questions to be addressed in a new series of focus groups. One concerns the region's elderly and their relatively

negative views of public transit. Seniors would be expected to endorse public transportation, yet Central Florida seniors do not. Why not? A second issue concerns county differences in preferences for how transportation projects are funded and in views of public transit. What factors may ac-

count for these differences? A final series of focus groups will deal with the issue of trust in government and its relationship to attitudes about transportation funding. Two other projects are currently in the proposal stage. One is a survey of toll road users in the region to be undertak-

en for the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, yet another in a long series of ISBS transportation-related research work. Another recently proposed study would poll residents of Seminole County around the issue of extending the soon-to-expire 1 penny sales tax add-on for another 10 years.

ISBS, Con't.

Expanding the Point in Time Count

Last year, ISBS incorporated a new component in the annual Point in Time Count which consisted of surveying housed people who were utilizing local food pantries. A team of UCF Sociology undergraduate and graduate students reached out to community food pantries to ask about client experience and overall satisfaction. Several graduate students then wrote technical reports by analyzing the data from surveys to provide agencies with client demographics, overall satisfaction, and needs for additional services.

Findings from individuals

using community food pantries suggest that clients routinely use the services of the food pantries, with a majority of clients using the resource once a week. Clients also supplement their food pantry usage with other food acquisition programs such as food stamps, other pantries, soup kitchens, and other resources in order to survive. Even though supplementation is occurring, there are still clients and families that skip meals or eat lighter because they do not have enough food. While many participants are very satisfied with the services

received at the community food pantries, some clients have suggested that they are in need of more food by the food acquisition programs that they currently use. In addition to needing more food, clients have expressed their need for meat and fresh foods.

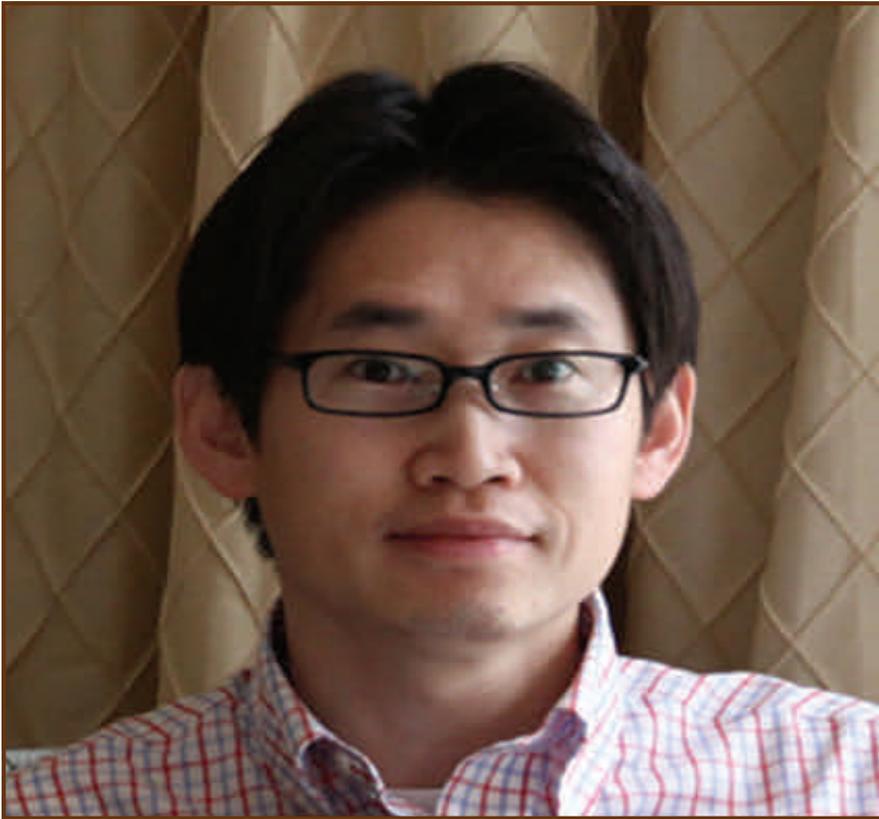
As January approaches, ISBS is in its planning stages of the next Point-In-Time Count. If you are interested in becoming a part of the research team or for other research opportunities available to students, please contact Dr. Amy Donley at amy.donley@ucf.edu.

Partnership for Success

The Partnership for Success Grant is a collaboration between the Orange County Office for a Drug Free Community and ISBS. We have just recently completed year 1 of this 3 year endeavor. This multi-faceted project includes telephone

surveys and focus groups with parents, environmental scans of local establishments, and a survey of local retailers. For year 2, we will be doing focus groups with high school and college students in addition to our already established surveys, focus groups, and scans.

New Faculty Member!



Dr. Hyung Sam Park joined the department as a lecturer in the fall semester of 2013. He received a Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh, PA with a dissertation titled "A Longitudinal Statistical Network Analysis of the Environmental Litigation and Alliances in the United States, 1970-2001." After graduation, he has taught at several universities including University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Texas A&M University, East Tennessee State University, and University of Texas at San Antonio. He brings to UCF his teaching experiences in environmental sociolo-

gy and quantitative methods (statistics, social network analysis) as well as introductory classes.

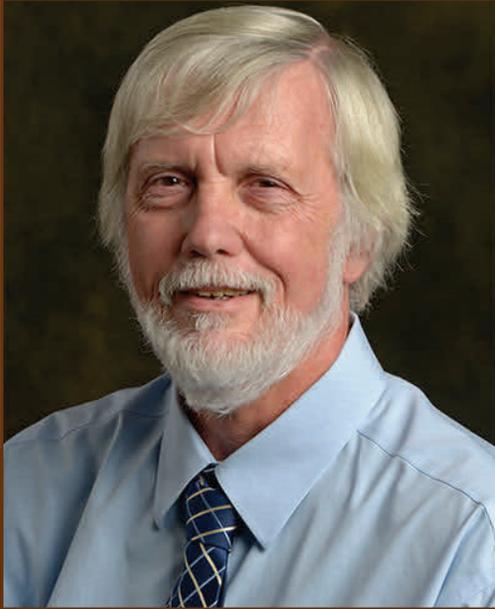
Based out of the Cocoa Campus, he teaches several courses including his favorite medical sociology and environmental sociology. He hopes to offer new courses on environmental health and networks & health disparities in the near future.

Dr. Park grew up in Seoul, South Korea where he obtained both B.A. and M.A. in sociology from Yonsei University, one of the top private universities in the

country. Inspired by his brother who was in a graduate program at Emory University, he came to the United States to pursue a Ph.D. At Pitt, he met Patrick Doreian, co-editor of *Social Networks*, who later became his dissertation advisor. Under his influence, Dr. Park became interested in discovering the importance of social connections in studying the environment and health disparities. He has publications on environmental social movement and global climate change at *Mobilizations and Sociological Spectrum* and several other manuscripts that are under review. While committed to teaching sociology, he hopes to continue to research on the intersections of energy production and its impacts on public health and the environment. He has a grant proposal submitted, with his collaborators, to the National Institutes for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), which focuses on hydraulic fracturing, a technique for natural gas production, and its impacts on the respiratory health in the drilling communities in South Texas.

He lives with his wife, Jin Hee, and two kids, Kristen and Ethan in Orlando.

Meet the New Graduate Director



Dr. Jay Corzine

I have been strongly involved with the graduate program in our department since coming to UCF from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1996. To date, I have supervised six dissertations and served as a co-supervisor for a seventh. One of my major goals in working with graduate students is to promote and facilitate their involvement in research and publishing, and I have been fortunate to co-author articles and book chapters with each of my doctoral students. My graduate teaching responsibilities have included SYA7309 and seminars in the areas of criminology and deviance.

What do you look forward to in your new role?

Our M.A. and Ph.D. programs are both strong, but it is time to evaluate whether what we are offering to students will meet their future needs. For example, a number of recent Ph.D. students have acquired positions in part because of their expertise in GIS (mapping) applications, and it is clear that this is a skill that will be strongly in demand by academia and employers in applied fields in the future. In addition to taking a close look at the courses we are offering in our graduate programs, within the constraints of a continued tight budget, I plan to advocate for increased stipend levels for our assistantships offered through the department.

What do you see as the future directions for the Sociology graduate programs?

Last year we made some important changes. At the Ph.D. level, we introduced a new area of concentration in Health, Families, and Communi-

ties. At the M.A. level, we revamped the non-thesis option into an applied project option that is intended to better serve our masters students who plan to work in applied positions after graduation. These two changes are exciting, but it may be necessary to tweak one or both after faculty and students have the opportunity to see how they work in practice.

I'll also be discussing their progress with individual graduate students in an attempt to identify any unnecessary roadblocks that delay progress through the programs. The first graduate students that I met with are those Ph.D. students entering their third year in the program, and I plan to hold meetings with other students later in the fall semester.

You can contact Dr. Corzine (his preference is to be called "Jay") at his email, jay.corzine@ucf.edu, his phone, 407-823-2202, or at his office, PH 403K. If he is there, the door is almost always open.

Meet the New Undergraduate Director

Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine

Dr. Huff-Corzine, or more informally known as Dr. Lin, is a Professor in the Department of Sociology. Lin earned her Ph.D. in Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis with criminology, social psychology, gender, and complex organizations as areas of emphasis. Her BA is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa with majors in Sociology and Women's Studies. Prior to that she earned a Diploma in Nursing from Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois, began her career as charge nurse on a surgical unit and then moved into psychiatric nursing; positions that led to an appointment as Head Nurse of a 50-bed closed acute care psychiatric unit in the St. Louis area.

Dr. Lin's research focuses on violent crime, particularly mass murder, but she also has papers on topics such as the effects of drug transportation routes on homicide and robbery, firearm lethality, risk factors associated with assaults on police officers, the spatial distribution of sexual assaults, and the impact of medical resources on lethal violence rates in cities.

What do you look forward to in your new role and what future directions do you see taking the Sociology and Social Science Programs?

As the Director of the Undergraduate Programs in Sociology and Social Science, I especially look forward to working closely with students. To facilitate that effort, I have begun attending the Sociology Club, which meets every other week, so that I can serve as a liaison between this group of active Sociology majors and the department.

One of the events that I will begin this coming spring 2014 is a Sociology Career Day; an activity that will feature representatives from a variety of community agencies, who can discuss potential internships and future employment with student attendees. Complementing Career Day, the Undergraduate Committee is suggesting the development of a core course that will focus on the types of careers and graduate work Sociology majors are prepared for by completing an undergraduate degree, as well as how to approach a job search.

I also want to establish an internship program for Sociology majors that would encourage the majority rather



than the minority of our students to work at an agency, to do research with faculty, or to engage in community service at least half-time, but preferably full-time for one semester or summer. For students planning to seek employment directly after graduation, this type of involvement is extremely valuable because paid or not, internships are considered work experience by potential employers.

The activities noted above are the same ones that I have watched produce an increase in the number of majors in the past. I look forward with a sense of anticipation toward getting more UCF students excited about opportunities that Sociology has to offer.

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Registration for Spring 2014

Registration is just around the corner. If you are a Sociology or Social Sciences major plan an appointment with your faculty advisor to develop your program of study so you can graduate on time. If you are not sure who your advisor is just give us a call and we will be happy to put you in touch with the right faculty.

Along with our usual array of courses we are offering several new and exciting courses in the spring. In addition we offer coursework in multiple modalities (face to face, mixed mode, and fully online), and in multiple locations (Orlando, Metro West, Daytona and Cocoa).



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