

SOCIOLOGY NEWS

Message from the Chair, Herman L. DeBose

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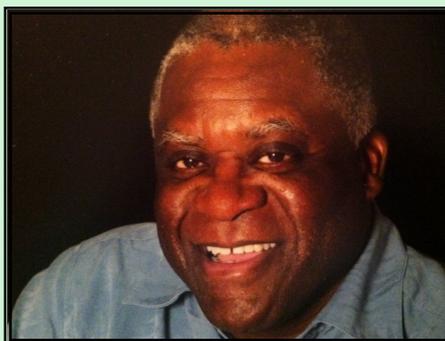
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Gemeinschaft, a German word, which means “community,” was used by sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies to define “an ideal type or model society where social bonds are personal and direct and there are strong shared values and beliefs.” These for me were developed during my experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya (1969-1972). In order to involve our students in the community, CSUN has developed a Community Engagement (CE) program where students provide services to the community through their participation in service learning projects. According to CE, “service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

Since my arrival at CSUN approximately twenty years ago, I have been involved in several service learning projects through CE and the sociology department which have provided my students opportunities to be engaged with the community in some of their areas of interest. The service learning projects have helped me become a better teacher, mentor, administrator and colleague. There are two specific programs that

are significant to me in regards to developing a sense of community for my students and myself. They both focus on providing mentoring and tutoring services to at-risk youth. They are (1) CSUN Los Angeles County Probation Department Youth Services Specialist Program (CSUN YSS) and (2) Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage (MOSAIC).



The CSUN YSS Program was a five year (1996–2001) contracted program with the Los Angeles County Probation Department to implement and administer a YSS program at CSUN. The YSS program provided academic credits and part-time employment for 20 CSUN students per semester who assisted probation officers at seven high schools in the San Fernando Valley. The CSUN YSS program aimed to reduce recidivism by helping deputy probation officers expedite the transition of juveniles on probation into the community. This program gave CSUN students

the ability to link sociological theories that they were learning about in the classroom to real world experiences.

The MOSAIC Program (profiled on Page 2 of the newsletter) is currently operated out of the Sociology Department and offers students the opportunity to earn course credits through Sociology 420CSL while at the same time participating in a service learning project.

The program uses a national model for linking CSUN students with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) high school students enrolled at continuation high schools in the San Fernando Valley. MOSAIC is in the process of partnering with other departments and programs on

campus to expand the opportunities for students and faculty to have the chance to give back to the community. A significant number of the CSUN students involved in these programs have come from communities similar to the communities in which services are provided to the at-risk youth. Enrolled in college, these students serve as positive role models to at-risk youth and send the message that they too can be successful and become a student at CSUN and “SHINE.” This is the beginning of *Gemeinschaft*.

MOSAIC Profiled on FOX 11 Midday Sunday Program

In July of this year, current director of the MOSAIC Program, Alex Ojeda, sat down with Tony Valdez, host of *Midday Sunday*, a local public affairs program. MOSAIC (Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage) provides CSUN students with a service-learning opportunity to mentor students at four continuation high schools in the San Fernando Valley. Alex became involved with MOSAIC in 2007 while earning his bachelor's degree. His involvement with MOSAIC grew over the years as he worked alongside faculty member Teresa Madden to sustain the program's activities. Currently Alex is completing his master's degree in Chicano/a Studies at CSUN and has based his thesis project titled "Restoring Hope within an Invisible Population: Humanizing Pedagogy

through Critical Mentorship" on his work with MOSAIC.

CSUN students who are interested in participating in MOSAIC enroll in SOC 420CSL and spend 6 hrs/week as a mentor. They mentor high school students who face a complex

set of barriers that have placed them at risk of not graduating from high school. The students live in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty, substandard housing, inadequate schools, gang activity, and high incarceration rates. Despite facing such barriers, the mentees are intelligent and creative students who enjoy learning. The continuation high school offers them a flexible schedule which allows students who work full-time or those who have a child, to make up units at their own pace. Mentors help students create academic action plans and identify personal goals using the principles of Albert Bandura's theory of self-



Alex Ojeda (front left) with MOSAIC mentees attending MeCha's Raza Youth Conference at CSUN.

efficacy.

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AKD Honor Society President Elizabeth Bogumil on Cultivating Community

The Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society's motto is to "investigate humanity for the purpose of service" resulting in the underlying goal of cultivating community within AKD, the CSUN Sociology Department, and the community beyond our university. The CSUN AKD chapter is just one of over 400 chapters located at colleges and universities across the world. AKD's volunteer events, website, seminars, guest speakers, and initiation ceremony aim to bring together students, faculty, and community members.

This year, one of our primary goals is to strengthen our student community by giving back through community volunteer work. This Fall AKD recruited volunteers for the Models of Pride Youth event which supported the LGBTQIA

community while building camaraderie between AKD members and affiliated students. In addition to volunteer events, AKD also encourages individual and small group community outreach and involvement through its website's event listings, internship, career, and scholarship information. Our AKD

Speaker Series invites prominent scholars from across the country to come speak on campus. Our primary goal for AKD's Guest Speaker Series is to provide an opportunity to share perspectives on present day sociological issues with the larger CSUN community.

Finally, through AKD's spring Initiation Ceremony, it is our goal to create feelings of unity between new AKD members and to encourage their future involvement in and contribution to the Honor Society. With the help of all the active graduate and undergraduate members, AKD is looking forward to further developing our community and its ties to the CSUN community and Sociology



Professor David Boyns speaks to students at the Graduate School Seminar sponsored by AKD.

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What is Community

by Ellis Godard

What is Community? We are associated as members of various aggregations. Faculty and students alike are part of the Sociology Department, of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, of CSUN, and of the CSU system. But association entails an oxymoronic mix of formal connection and atomized self-interests. *Associations* are not as lasting, nor perhaps as meaningful, as *communities*.

Tonnies knew that location and ideology, for example, could generate *Gemeinschaft* (a tight network of bonds). And sociologists have long sought to understand the conditions under which that happens, when non-kinship factors develop into shared interests, stronger bonds, and tighter networks. They have, in particular, been interested in the development of community, even among themselves.

The term is sometimes used more loosely, as a in professional community among those who share some identity. As faculty, we are members of various professional communities – with our CSUN colleagues, with Sociologists worldwide, and with faculty generally. Sociologists, as happens in a number of other disciplines, are active in self-organizing national, regional, local, and topical associations through which they hope to develop and nurture communities.

Faculty and students alike are members of various com-

munities on campus – the department, the college, and the university. Within each of these aggregations, members share some interests and engage each other in routinized and even ritualized ways. The strength of their bonds of course varies, and entails a mix of *Gesellschaft* and *Gemeinschaft*. But sometimes the commonality of interest become apparent, and the bonds are strengthened and networks tightened. Faculty rally for fair contracts, students organize against tuition hikes, and all of us hope for improvements in the state budget process.

There are, however, members of our campus community who may share common interests but who do not yet engage in communal behavior and networking, groups which are not yet associated and have not yet developed a community. The alumni of our department, for example, are an impressive group of thousands who may share interests, from career networking to helping to strengthen their *alma mater* department. We look forward to finding common interests among them, and to building a community among them through activities on campus and elsewhere. And, of course, we welcome them back any time, to revisit the communities here that they were a part in building.

Alumnus Ed Krusey Class of 2009

Ed Krusey graduated with a B.A. from the Department of Sociology in 2009 and an MPA from CSUN in 2011. He was a Sergeant in the California Highway Patrol (CHP) when he was a student in Dr. Lopez's Policing Society class. In July, 2013, he was promoted to Captain and assigned command of the Los Angeles Communications Center (LACC) for the California Highway Patrol. The LACC is the largest of the CHP's twenty five communications centers and has the highest call volume. LACC is housed in the new state-of-the art, 88,000 square foot LARTMC building that has the capability to withstand a magnitude 8.0 earthquake and has an uninterruptible power supply to provide continuous operation in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. As part of the CHP's mission of providing the highest level of safety, service, and security to the people of California, the LACC is the largest of the CHP's twenty five communications centers. In 2012, LACC handled approximately 2.2 million calls for service; 1.9 million of those were wireless 9-1-1 calls. The second largest center handled approximately 1.4 million calls for service; 1.1 million of those were wireless 9-1-1 calls. Two hundred twenty one authorized positions (civilian and sworn) are assigned to the

LACC. The center dispatches for a number of other agencies including Alcohol and Beverage Control, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and DMV, to name a few. A major challenge for the center is to

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Dr. Lopez congratulating Captain Krusey on promotion to command the LACC.

Meet the New Graduate Students

Patricia Lara by Sarah Stembridge

Patty received her B.A in Sociology (criminology and criminal justice option) from CSUN. In the Master's program, she plans to pursue her interests in criminology and social psychology. She loves her dog, Lady, and is a fan of Disney, the Steelers, and animation. Patty really likes chocolate, sushi, ahi tuna, and steak (thinking about it makes her hungry); she also enjoys playing video games, like Gears of War, Dance Dance Revolution, Halo, and Nintendo games like Mario and Donkey Kong. Her family is very important to her, and she is the first to pursue a graduate degree!



Sarah Stembridge by Patricia Lara

Sarah received her B.A. in Liberal Studies in 2010 from CSUN where she also minored in Human Sexuality. She is really excited to be returning to CSUN for her MA degree in Sociology. Her hobbies include watching classic movies, listening to Billie Holiday, drinking tea and coffee, home improvement projects, and swing dancing, especially the Lindy Hop. Some of her favorite things are - rainy days, Italian food, and her cat named *Greta Garbo*.



Aleksey Reshetnikov by Ryan Brennan

Aleksey was born in Communist Ukraine (Kiev to be exact) about 8 months before the USSR fell. He moved from the Ukraine when he was approximately 2 years old. Aleksey earned his BA in Sociology this past Spring from CSUN. He enjoys traveling; in fact, it's his favorite part of life. He recently finished a 13-state tour of the United States, traveling from Washington to South Dakota, and hitting 11 other states in between. An avid sports fan, and an avid beer drinker, Aleksey's favorite teams are the Lakers, Dodgers, Kings, Galaxy, and Raiders. When Aleksey is not hitting the books at night, he is delivering the pizza for a small Italian establishment in the San Fernando Valley. Aleksey is not afraid of anything that sociology can throw at him, but oddly enough, he is deathly afraid of clowns and needles. Please introduce yourself to Aleksey when you see him on campus.



Ryan Brennan by Aleksey Reshetnikov

Ryan Brennan is a San Fernando Valley native, born in Tarzana and raised in Agoura Hills. Ryan is 32 years old and like a fine wine, he gets better with age. Prior to entering this program Ryan earned his BA from CSUN in 2004 and MPA degree from CSUN in 2007. Ryan has spent 8 years as a Police Officer with a specialization in hostage negotiations. Despite his responsibilities as a police officer, Ryan found time to get married three years ago. He also finds time to work out. There are currently studies being done to understand how Ryan has so much energy. Ryan would like to teach sociology after earning a Ph.D.



Ioana Schmidt Returns to CSUN

Ioana Schmidt is originally from Romania but spent most of her childhood growing up in the San Fernando Valley and is thrilled to contribute to the academic community through her involvement at CSUN. Ioana earned a BA in Psychology from UC Santa Barbara, where she was inspired by her social psychology classes to pursue a Master's degree in sociology. She found the study of the ways in which the individual and collective influence one another fascinating. She completed a MA in Sociology with an emphasis in Gender and Sexuality in 2009 from CSUN. While at CSUN, Ioana had the opportunity to form mentoring relationships with faculty in the sociology department, and develop her research interests and professional aspirations.



She decided to pursue an academic career and continue her studies at UCLA in Social Welfare. After studying both psychology and sociology, Ioana found

the discipline of Social Welfare to offer a converging of the two. She was able to apply her knowledge of sociological theory and social forces in empowering vulnerable populations. She earned her MSW degree from UCLA and continued into their Ph.D. program where she is currently working on her dissertation proposal. Her clinical work as a MSW student involved working with a community agency in the San Fernando Valley to provide trauma focused individual and group therapy to women and children victimized by intimate partner violence. Her dissertation research has focused on community based parenting interventions for unmarried, low-income African American parents. She is involved in a longitudinal, year long pilot intervention study testing a psychoeducational approach to working with African American families at a community agency in South Los Angeles. She is utilizing a qualitative research approach to gain an understanding of how parents relate to one another and perse-

vere their co-parenting efforts, despite daily challenges and stressors.

In Fall 2013 Ioana made her way back to CSUN, this time as an instructor. She always hoped for the opportunity to come back to CSUN and be a part of the sociology department once more. She is currently teaching Sociology 493, Diversity and Social Justice. In Spring 2013, Ioana will also be teaching Social Work 535, a research methods course in the MSW program at CSUN. Ioana has also been teaching in the Sociology Department at College of the Canyons since 2011. Ioana is enjoying the insights and experiences offered by the diverse student population at CSUN. She considers it a special privilege to return to the place where she began her graduate career in order to inspire new generations of students. She believes she would not have found her path so clearly had it not been for the guidance and support of faculty in the CSUN sociology department. She hopes to complete her PhD in 2015 and continue teaching at the university level. In her free time, Ioana enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs, hiking, hanging out at the beach, and traveling the world.

Community Focus

Dr. Vickie Jensen has taught several courses that academically address issues in the area of domestic violence. While these courses are seen as being really informative by students, the real "aha" moments come when they work in a clinic with actual victims of domestic violence. Dr. Jensen has had students work with children's programs at two different shelters and, most recently, with the Domestic Abuse Self-Help Clinics run in four of LA's courthouses. Students work with litigants who want to receive a domestic violence restraining order. It is in working with actual survivors that the academic material becomes real. It is gratifying when students come through the process and have an original, empirical paper to show for a semester of field work. Dr. Jensen notes that it is challenging to guide a research process that she is not directly involved in. Managing interactions with the supervising staff at the site is sometimes a chal-

lenge as the agency, like so many nonprofits, is struggling financially and has increased the workload for all its' staff. Dr. Jensen learns by doing, and this kind of course provides the "in the moment" challenge for her to think quickly and respond to questions about a variety of issues including strategies for working at the site, domestic violence-related topics, and writing academic research."

Dr. Lopez has been serving the community as a volunteer with the Los Angeles Police Department's 77th Street Area Division (south central Los Angeles) attached to the Gang Enforcement Detail. In addition, by Order of the Governor, he received an appointment in the California State Military Reserve (CSMR). The CSMR is the State Defense Force of California authorized by United States Code Title 32 and the California Military and Veteran's Code 550. The primary mission of the CSMR is to support the National Guard in its Homeland Defense, Homeland Security

missions, and service to California during times of state emergencies. He has been appointed the rank of Specialist (SPC/E4) assigned to the Joint Forces Training Base, Regional Support Command South, B Company, 1st Battalion (State Military Police).

In the last several years Dr. Ballard has taught the Intro course to primarily freshman. Many of them bring community service experience to the university as their high schools required it for graduation. After discussions, Dr. Ballard has learned to continue this tradition and allow students the opportunity to work and/or contribute to local food banks that have need for translators, workers and food. Thanks to their generosity, students have donated several thousand hours of service time and collected over 32,000 cans/boxes over the past five years. Equally as gratifying is the fact that seven former graduate students now contribute to these efforts by collecting at local community colleges where they teach.

In my experience of teaching a course on the sociology of community, I believe students gained a better understanding of the common facets all communities share. In understanding how a community develops, students learned more about the nature of their connection to others in their environment.
 Prof. Michael J. Carter

What students take away from these classes is a more comprehensive understanding of complex issues; in my last class on homelessness, my students came to a much better understanding of the BREADTH and COMPLEXITY of the problems/issues surrounding homelessness.
 Prof. Laura Edles

Faculty Sound Bites

I believe that applying sociological concepts to the real world is a challenging task for our students, but these experiences often lead to jobs after graduation.
 Prof. Loretta I Winters

In-depth and long lasting learning is increased by experiential and affective learning. Each semester students in my American Indian Contemporary Social Issues course who partner with American Indian organizations and my Sociology Intern course who mentor at a middle school repeatedly state that facts and theory have now become real and meaningful. Over and over, I have heard that students lives have been changed and many choose new professional goals.
 Prof. Karren Baird-Olson

Most students start these classes uncertain of how they are going to negotiate their roles as student, researcher, and service-provider. By the end of the semester, they seem much more confident and relaxed. They see the value of what they are doing, and while some discover a career path, others tell me with a smile, "Now I know I don't want be doing that for the rest of my live".
 Prof. Ana Prata



This photo features our field supervisors and faculty members attending the bi-annual Social Welfare and Social Justice Option internship luncheon. Each year we acknowledge the efforts and support of community agencies that involve our student as volunteers in creating social change.

Alumnus Jeff Kim on Community Engagement

Even though the concept of community engagement is complex, multifaceted and incredibly subjective, I tend to invoke a quote from bell hooks' seminal book, *Teaching Community*, in which she maintains that building community "requires vigilant awareness of the work we must continually do to undermine all the socialization that leads us to behave in ways that perpetuate domination." I interpret her words that it is not enough to merely discuss the ideas of domination in classrooms, but the classroom itself must be transformed into a self-actualized form of community in which students are encouraged to challenge their prejudices as well learning to deconstruct the hierarchical domination.

My participation in community engagement occurred alongside my time as a graduate student at CSUN. As an organizer within the immigrant rights movement, I connected the various theories around topics of globalization,

immigration and economy I learned in classes into advocating for those that had been forced to migrate here mainly due to forms of economic and social inequality enforced through the policies of the globalized elites. My participation also served as a hands-on learning experience about the diverse approaches and tactics needed to win justice for a community: from office visits to congressional members to willingly getting arrested in acts of civil disobedience, my role as an organizer in the immigrant community allowed me to open up my eyes to the struggles of those who I have always taken for granted as workers that pick our foods, clean our houses and cook at restaurants. Furthermore, as a participant in the Occupy movement for economic and social justice, I completely immersed myself in the activist culture that sought to prefigure a better world for all through transforming both our intrapersonal relations as well as the macro societal

problems that loom over our society.

Through my involvement in Occupy, my capacity to understand the intersectionality of various oppressed communities and

how it relates to the macro social structures of power, capital and privilege in our society, has immensely matured. As a Korean-American immigrant and a social justice activist, my ability to comprehend the complexities of the constantly fracturing and multilayered cultural boundaries of oppressed communities and their intersectionality has been immensely influenced by my participation in various arenas of community engagement based on social justice.



Our Award Winning Students

Tracy L. Reed, who is a junior at CSUN, majoring in General Sociology, was just awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year Award at the Annual California Sociology Association Conference (CSA) in Berkeley, November 8-9, 2013. Tracy was at the conference to present research she conducted among residents of the community of Santa Clarita, entitled: *Looking for Enchantment in a Fabricated Edge City*. She interviewed 14 residents from different areas of the community to determine how their lived experiences shape the look and feel of the community. She used both Weber and Goffman to construct a theoretical framework for her research. Her research

was part of a larger interdisciplinary project with students from College of the Canyons, in partnership with The Getty and in conjunction with their exhibit, *Overdrive*, which displays a large multimedia site study of Los Angeles. A student exhibition, which includes photography, original art, graphic design, and portions of Tracy's research, opened at the University Center at College of the Canyons on November 15th and runs through December 5th.



Karen Sabbah was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year Award at the Annual California Sociology Association (CSA) Conference. From the time Karen entered graduate school she fully immersed herself in both her coursework and pursuit of independent research projects. In addition to organizing a Gender and Sexuality session for the CSA, Karen has presented her research at the Pacific Sociological Annual Conference, and her research on Male Sexual Behaviors with Street Prostitutes is going to appear in the 4th edition of text *Choices in Sexuality*. During her time in graduate school Karen has also gained teaching experience, working as both a teaching assistant and guest lecturer at CSUN, College of the Canyons, and Pierce College. As a member of the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, Karen has served for the past three years as an officer putting in countless hours with the organization to plan and organize volunteer events, guest speakers, and the induction ceremony. Karen is an ambitious, hard working, and organized student who always goes the extra mile when it comes to anything she tackles whether it be research, teaching or service to the community.



Mosaic (continued from page 2)

Before this can all happen, CSUN students undergo several weeks of training prior to becoming mentors. They learn that to be a successful mentor, they must slowly build rapport with the students. As Alex notes, "I speak to mentors honestly and tell them that they need to be genuine and not just there for a grade because this is something that the students will pick up on." While it takes time for the students to trust the mentors, the process has been very successful with many of the mentors staying in touch with students long after the class has ended.

Alex has also introduced workshops to students that focus on empowerment through learning about one's own history and culture. Almost all of the students that MOSAIC serves are Hispanic, many having grown up in immigrant families. As Alex notes, "the workshops are based on students learning about the culture of their ancestors prior to European colonization." He introduces students to the Maya mathematic system, Aztec calendar system and cultural traditions focused on harmony with nature. This approach resonates with students who feel a sense of pride and connection to what they are learning.

MOSAIC has also offered students the ability to participate in field trips and projects focused on art, music, photography, and dance. In recent years however, MOSAIC has had to maintain these programs on a shoe string budget. MOSAIC was initially funded by a \$500,000 3-year federal grant through *Learn and Serve America*. The grant allowed CSUN mentors to serve in paid work-study positions for the entire academic year, provided funding for conferences, transportation, and field trips and allowed MOSAIC to operate on a much larger scale. Unfortunately the grant from *Learn and Serve America* was not renewed because the focus of the grant shifted to funding programs run through the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines.

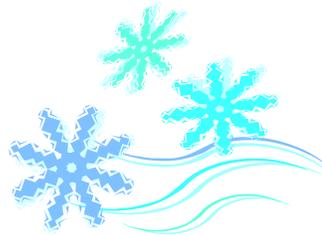
Alex Ojeda has been the glue that has kept the MOSAIC program together. His appearance on *Midday Sunday* brought about a generous monetary donation from a viewer and served as a catalyst for the launch of a fundraising campaign. The Sociology Department is proud of the MOSAIC program and the work of all of the faculty, staff, and students who have been involved with it over the years. If you would like to contribute to MOSAIC fundraising efforts please contact Anne Robison, CSBS Director of Development at: (818) 677-7738, anne.robison@csun.edu.

AKD (continued from page 2)

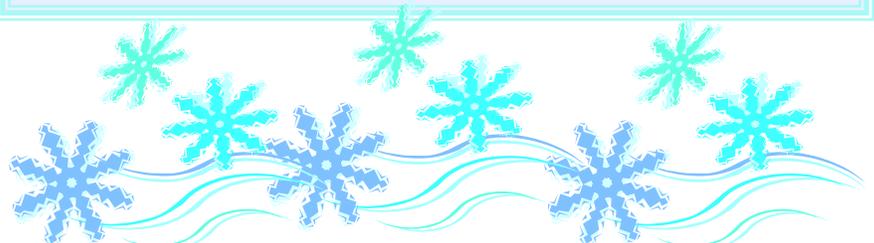
Department through new, interesting and dynamic events. It is only because of AKD's members, the participation of affiliated CSUN students and the Sociology Department faculty that AKD is able to faithfully investigate humanity through service oriented activities all the while contributing to the reinforcement of community ties. For more information on AKD please go to: <http://www.csun.edu/alphakappadelta>



AKD Guest Speaker Event with Dr. Erynn Masi de Casanova



Happy Holidays from the Sociology Department



Captain Krusey (continued from page 3)

adhere to all National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standards with regard to emergency incoming telephone calls. NENA sets the standards for all incoming 9-1-1 calls as follows: 90 percent shall be answered within ten seconds and 95 percent should be answered within 20 seconds. Additionally, all non-emergency calls should be answered within 60 seconds. The management team at LACC needs to ensure there is sufficient staffing of radio dispatchers and 9-1-1 operations

to handle the varying call volume. CHP officers assigned to the LARTMC constantly monitor the freeway system within Los Angeles County to identify and expedite correction of real or potential hazards. Tools which are available to the officers include: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), a closed-circuit television system (CCTV) comprised of approximately 350 cameras, and the Caltrans Freeway Vision Map. In addition to incident detection, emphasis is also placed on effective scene management, anticipating

and expediting support services and post-incident critique - in an effort to reduce the duration of freeway incidents and the occurrence of secondary collisions. Captain Krusey stated that his degree in sociology has provided him with an ability to critically look at data and statistics and to work with a large number of people from diverse backgrounds in pursuit of the Department's Mission. Captain Krusey is a great example of service to one's community!