Sociology News 2004-5

Chair’s Corner

The department and university are looking forward to an exciting year. Sociology remains a popular major and we are doing our best to serve our students with programs in general sociology, criminology, social welfare, and counseling. A year ago the department completed an overhaul of our computer lab, and the students now have a state of the art lab for their methods and statistics classes. Despite the reduction in the university budget, we are initiating a new Masters program in Social Welfare, and we are offering a two year degree completion program at College of the Canyons. Some of our faculty have entered the early retirement program, and we are hiring new faculty to build the department. As the department changes, our faculty and staff are committed to helping our students learn and prepare for their future careers.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIOLOGY

MSW Program Scheduled For Fall 2005

The MSW graduate program in sociology is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005, according to the acting director, Dr. Jean Daniels. The MSW graduate program is designed for students interested in serving the community and in providing social services to the community. This is a full-time 2 year program that will result in a Masters degree in Social Welfare. Other faculty teaching in the program will include Dr. Eli Bartle, Dr. Herman DeBose and a new faculty member, Dr. Amy Levin.

This program will prepare students to work in the various agencies and offices of mental health, child welfare and child protective agencies, the health department, the elderly and numerous other public and private (non-profit) agencies.

The first cohort will consist of 30 full-time students

College of the Canyons 2 year degree completion program

The Roland Tseng College of Extended Learning and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences will be launching a cohort degree completion program at the College of the Canyons in Spring of 2005. This small program will a cohort of 25 to 30 students go through a set schedule of classes and is specifically designed for working adults who wish to complete their degree at the off campus location.

The program is designed with specific sociologically inspired semester long themes that cross the classes offered during that semester. These themes help integrate the mission of sociology into the curriculum. Upon admission the students will have completed their lower division requirements for transfer to CSUN. The program classes
Mosaic Program

MOSAIC is a new CSUN program that incorporates work study and a 2-unit class where students go to a gang prevention or intervention site and work with "at risk" youth. The class teaches students about gang subculture, gang prevention/intervention, mentoring, communications, and other important aspects of social work, sociological, criminology, and communications concepts that they will need to apply in their work with the high school youth. CSUN students go to four after-school sites in underserved areas of the San Fernando Valley. The students are paid $8-$12 per hour for their work in addition to the course credit. According to MOSAIC, CSUN students who serve 300 hours over the course of two semesters will be eligible to receive a $1,000 Ameri-Corps educational award. For further information, look online at the Center for Community Learning Service or contact Jennifer Roman, the project director, at jennifer.roman@csun.edu. MOSAIC is funded through a Federal Service Learning grant. Patty O'Donnell-Brummett and Michael DeCesare are the Sociology Department instructors in the program.

CSUN Youth Services Program

This program is for at-risk youths through the LA County probation department funded by a Department of Education Grant. Dr. Herman DeBose is the program director and the program coordinator is Terry Salseth. The program sends CSUN students and probation officers to high schools to work with students considered at risk. CSUN students work with the probation officers and the at-risk youth for 10-20 hours a week at seven high schools. CSUN student duties include checking attendance, home visits,
academic tutoring and mentoring. Some of the high school students come to the CSUN campus after school in the afternoon one day a week and participate in college courses in photography, computer graphics, theater, and swimming.

Sociology Club

The Sociology Club sponsored several seminars in the Fall 2003 on how to get into graduate school, funding for graduate school, and how to secure employment with a sociology degree. Dr. David Boyns, Dr. Amy Levin, and Dr. Michael DeCesare plan to initiate similar forums in the fall. Membership is open to all sociology majors, and several exciting events are being planned.

Two New Faculty

Two new faculty, Dr. Amy Levin and Dr. Michael DeCesare, began teaching in the sociology department in Fall, 2004.

Dr. Levin received her Ph.D. at the University of Southern California School of Social work. Her dissertation topic was “Profession at risk: Why are so many workers leaving the field of child welfare? Exploring the relationship between diversity, inclusion, social support, stress, job satisfaction and intention to leave among public child welfare workers.” Dr. Levin is teaching in the social welfare program.

Dr. DeCesare completed his Ph.D at the University of Massachusetts, and his dissertation topic was “Preaching Science or Promoting Citizenship? Teaching Sociology in American High Schools.” Dr. DeCesare will be involved with the university Teachers for a New Era project and will be teaching sociology of education and methodology courses for the department.

Student Awards

The department held its annual Honors Dinner last May at the University Club. The following awards were given to our students at the dinner:

The Russ Miller Memorial Scholarly Award for social welfare students was awarded to Wendy Levinson and Kanna Uehara.

Kanna Uehara is a member of the Phi Beta Delta Omega Chapter Honor Society for International Scholars at CSUN, a Gold Key Honor society member and a member of the Phi Kappa Phi society for academic achievement.

Wendy Levinson is member of the Gold Key Honor Society and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. She has consistently been on the Dean’s List.

Harvey Rich Scholarly Award was given to Gayle Pulliam.
Lori Anderson Memorial Scholarly Award for an outstanding Criminal Justice student was awarded to Sara Walsh.

Bernie Thorsell Memorial Scholarly Award, which was created to remember Dr. Thorsell, former sociology chair and faculty emeritus, was presented to Ijeoma Ekwunife.

The Sociology Department Memorial Scholarly Award was presented to George Skiles.

The Kian Kwan Scholarly Award was awarded to Ena Carcamo.

The Sociology Department Book Awards were given to three students - Fariba Akbari, LeSean Jennings and Rebecca Brown.

Faculty Recognition

Two faculty were selected for the Polished Apple award in Spring 2004. Congratulations to Dr. Helen Dosik and Dr. Tracie Gardner who were nominated by the Student Senate Ambassadors to receive this honor.

Dr. Karren Baird-Olson was selected by the CSUN Student Association for an Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award.

The CFA Scholar’s Dinner in April honored Dr. Herman DeBose and Loretta Winners for their book New Faces in a Changing America: Multiracial Identity in the 21st Century. The dinner was held at the University Club.

The title of ‘Professor Emeritus’ was granted to Dr. Veronica Elias, Dr. Wayne Plasek, Dr. Jane Prather, and Dr. Lawrence Sneden in 2004. Emeritus status is an honorary title given to retiring faculty for their service to the academic community.

Dr. Veronica Elias has been a respected member of the Sociology Department since 1970. Highlighting her 34 years of service to the university is her work in the Center for Sex Research which she co-founded with her husband, Dr. James Elias. Veronica Elias is a leading authority on human sexuality and she has helped to make the Center for Sex Research one of the most innovative centers on the subject in the world.

Dr. Wayne Plasek has been a highly revered member of the Sociology Department since 1968. Known for his sage advice and counseling of students in the sociology and Master of Public Administration programs, he was one of the founders and remains the coordinator of the department’s program in Interviewing and Counseling for Work Settings. He was also coordinator of the department’s Graduate Program for many years.
Dr. Jane Prather has been a valued member of the Sociology Department since 1969 and has held many university positions including Sociology Department Chair from 1999 to 2002. Jane was a past President of the Pacific Sociology Association. She was one of the founders of CSUN’s Women’s Studies Department. Her participation on various university committees and work with the gerontology minor has gained her the respect and admiration of students, staff and faculty. She has also been active in the formation of the Sociology Department’s Alumni Association.

Dr. Lawrence Sneden has been a vibrant member of the Sociology Department Faculty since 1968. He was founder and director of the department’s library. During his career, he made many research trips to Finland, Italy, Morocco, and Turkey. In recent years he has written a number of books and publications on globalization. Many students have found his courses in social theory and in social psychology both engaging and stimulating.

California Sociological Association

Dr. Harvey Rich finished a 2 year term as President and President-Elect of the California Sociological Association in 2004 and was a member of the Executive Council of the California Sociological Association for 2001-2004. Dr. Rich took an active role in planning the CSA annual meetings in Riverside in 2002 and in Berkeley in 2003. CSA will be meeting in Riverside again in 2004.

Dr. Rich is on sabbatical in the Fall 2004 and is working on a multi-college study on faculty perception of the process of faculty evaluation. He will be looking specifically at perceptions of student evaluations of faculty.

Alumni News

Julia Atwood BA ‘03 is working for the Department of Defense in Port Hueneme.

Tara Bartolone BA ‘02 is attending graduate school towards her masters in Marriage and Family Therapy and working as a full-time cases manager for a non-profit shelter for the homeless in Orange County.

Cyndee Bellamy BA ‘03 is attending graduate school at CSUN in the Masters of Counseling program with a specialization in marriage and family therapy.

Jill DuDeck Biondo MA ‘99 teaches Sex and Gender at CSUN and works at UCLA.

Dwayne Bozeman BA ‘03 is a Federal Police Officer and attends CSUN in the masters program for educational administration.

Ryan Brennan BA ‘04 reports that he is an Account Executive with a top level recruiting firm specializing in job placements of computer software engineers. Ryan
feels that his degree in sociology helped him in his job interview and that all the research classes he took taught him to do research in a professional manner.

**Katie Callahan BA '01** is working as a teacher in Fillmore and is enrolled in a Master's program at CLU.

**Hugo Carlos MA '98** is completing a second MA at USC and has been admitted into the EdD program in academic human resources. He expresses his gratitude to all his professors here at CSUN and especially Professors Jeffries and Plasek.

**Marissa Cervantes BA '03** is currently employed as a case manager for the Santa Paula Family Resource Center and is enrolled in the graduate program for school counseling at CSUN.

**Davina Cohen BA '02** moved to New York and is attending the Wurzweiler Graduate School with expectations of graduating in 2005. She has begun work as a case manager for foster children and is moving to Israel in 2004.

**Leona Davis BA '04** has started the police academy and will be a police officer for the city of Pasadena.

**Sonia Diaz BA ’03** is working at ONEgeneration providing services to seniors and will attend CSULA in 2004.

**Claudia Duarte BA ’04** is working at a juvenile facility mentoring and tutoring incarcerated minors.

**Susan Escoto BA ’03** has been working as a substance abuse counselor for a non-profit organization based in Ventura County and has applied to graduate school for the MFT program.

**Judy Fernandez BA ’03** was accepted to graduate school in CSULB’s MA program in criminal justice.

**Peyman Garakani BA ’01** is currently working as a geriatric social worker at the LA Jewish Home for the Aging and is attending CSULB in the MSW program.

**Joanna Garcia BA ’03** currently works at Pacifica Hospital as a Pediatric Sub-Acute Social Worker.

**Jaime Gomez, Jr. BA ’02** is a Deputy Sheriff for the Ventura County Sheriffs Department.

**Gareth Hems ’03** is currently working as a pricing analyst with Countrywide Financial.
Abieyuwa Igodan BA ‘04 is planning to attend graduate school to obtain her masters in International Relations.

Lina Hodali BA ‘04 is in the masters program for school counseling at CSUN.

Janice Keenberg BA ‘04 is currently employed as a Respite Care Coordinator with the Alzheimer’s Disease Association of Kern County. She is planning to return to CSUN for the MSW program.

Robert Lerma BA ‘03 is working with Morgan Stanley as a financial advisor.

Miriam Mekelburg MA ‘99 is the Chair of Sociology at Ventura College.

Kari Meyers BA ‘03 just finished her first year as a graduate student at CSUN in the sociology department. She presented a paper at the CSA last year. She is currently doing research in family law and subcultures.

Carol (Carrie) Newman BA ‘03 is working as a sentencing advocate for alternatives for treatment for Jewish offenders at Beit T’Shuvah.

Eliza Oglukyan BA ‘03 works as an eligibility interviewer for the Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles.

Nazeli Oglukyan BA ‘02 is in graduate school at USC, majoring in social work and working part-time as an assistant social worker at an adult day health care center.

Oscar Padilla BA ‘04 is working on an MA in sociological research at CSU, Dominguez Hills.

Nicole Palomares BA ‘03 just passed her CBEST exam and is working towards taking her CEST exam as well as enrolling in a teaching credential program.

Sarita Pouzanoff BA ‘03 attended law school but has decided to attend a culinary arts school to work in her dream job of pastry chef.

Chris Price BA ‘02 is in graduate school at George Washington University pursuing a Master’s degree in Forensic Science concentrating in high technology crimes (computer crime, forensic accounting, network security). He is also working as an Information Security Analyst at the university.

Ben Ramirez BA ‘03 is currently entering his second year at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa. Ben says thank you to all the faculty who shared their knowledge with him.

David Ramos BA ‘02 is working as a police officer.
Colin Renaud BA ‘03 is attending the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara.

Omar Romero BA ‘03 is working as a network administrator at the Navy base in Port Hueneme and looking forward to attending graduate school in the near future.

Fernando Salmeron BA ‘03 works for the Glendale Police Department as a police officer.

Brett Sanders BA ‘01 is working at CSUN in student services

Javier Sandoval BA ‘03 is working for the Washington Mutual Bank as an Assistant Manager.

Chris Schurer BA ‘03 works as a mortgage specialist and was married in April, 2004. Chris is currently enrolled in the MS program at CSUN in school counseling.

Linda Swiller BA ‘03 is in graduate school at USC.

Taissa Tafoya BA ‘03 has been working as a youth counselor in Thousand Oaks and is attending CSULB to obtain her teaching credentials.

Emily Taillon BA ‘04 is currently working at Casa Pacifica, a residential/shelter for children in Camarillo. She says it is a fabulous facility to work for (www.casapacifica.org.).

Chauntelle Tibbals MA ‘04 is attending the Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at Austin.

Leticia Vega BA ‘03 was accepted to graduate school at USC's School of Social work.

Judith Verduzco BA ‘03 is currently a Prevention Education Specialist for the Valley Trauma Center for the sexual assault center for both the Santa Clarita and San Fernando valleys

Rita Yelangueuzian BA ‘04 is working at Hoover High School as a Recreational Leader and plans to apply to graduate school next year.