



ADVISING...More Than Just Scheduling

On October 18th the department held its annual Sociology Majors Advising Meeting. Dr. Robert "Skip" Pindea-Volk, Chair, welcomed the crowd and introduced the faculty. On the agenda was talk of the Sociology/Anthropology Club, Internships, Interdisciplinary Minors, and the department masters program Organizational Development and Leadership. Topping the list of important announcements were the following course updates:

- Classical Social Theory and Senior Seminar will be offered in spring 2006
- Two sections of Data Collection and Analysis (386) will be offered in spring 2006. It will not be offered in fall 2006.
- Social Strat will continue to be offered in fall and spring.

I would like to quote a few statements made by Ms. Stacie Wight, undergraduate Honors student, from *The Honors Chronicle*, Vol. 19, No.2. She presents a challenge to all students. *"Take advantage of being a college student,"* she writes, *"and get as involved as you possible can. It is your involvement that will make you grow, both personally and mentally. Broaden your horizons and develop yourself as a more worldly and educated person. Your textbooks aren't going to teach you how to think. Challenge yourself and step outside of the classroom. There is no greater investment than your education."*

How many of you "step outside the classroom?" You know what I mean...are you an active member of your community? How much social capital do you have? What are your perceptions of opportunity? Indeed, your perceptions are subject to the social networks you have access to. And as a student, you have access to so much. Have you heard of the Reading Circle, for example? Did you know that 6 to 8 of your peers gather bi-monthly with a faculty member at Jazzman's Café over good food, drink and good company? They read short stories and discuss ideas. They read small books over the winter and summer breaks and have lunches and dinners off-campus. How do you accumulate social capital? Are you interested? If so, email Dr. Chad Kimmel at cmkimm@ship.edu.

Department Newsletter

You are reading the third issue of the Sociology / Anthropology Department's newsletter, *The Source*. This newsletter will be published twice a year, every Fall and Spring semester. It is written for three audiences: current students who are majors and minors in the department, the department faculty, and those who have previ-

ously graduated from the department.

News items normally contain information on the activities of current students, faculty and alumni. Please forward any information that would be of interest to any of the above parties. We are especially eager to report on faculty / student research, career and internship opportunities, and alumni

news. Please forward this information to: The Source Editor, Sociology / Anthropology Department, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA 17257, or



Internships as Social Capital

“To do, or not to do; that is the question.” Let’s be honest—Internships are in. Too often students, especially sociology majors, believe that their degree alone will land them a job. Grades are good. But, at times, experience can be better.

In sociology we call this “social capital.” Students who take one or more internships accumulate social capital; that is, they build social networks and become embedded in them; they become part of groups of people who work with and for each other. Interns receive a wide variety of benefits. In short, people who make up social networks do things for each other.

Are you “in the know?” If not, contact your advisor immediately. Do not wait! See department webpage for more internship information or pick-up hard copies outside the door of Dr. Philip Broyles, Internship Coordinator, Grove Hall 435.



Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Pictured from L to R, (Bottom Row): Pindea-Volk, Denison, Carey, Lorenz; (Top Row) Loveland, Alvarez, Kimmel, Drenovsky, and Broyles. Not pictured: Cornelius and James

FACULTY RESEARCH

Dr. Drenovsky Collaborates with Gerontology and Political Science Faculty to Research Pennsylvania Senior Centers.

Clubs for older adults have existed since the 1800s and the first senior center was developed in the United States in the 1940s. Today, there are over 10,000 community senior centers in the United States. The contemporary model for the senior center was developed as a result of the Older Americans Act of 1965, and federal funding for senior centers was established in the 1970s. Senior centers offer a variety of programs to serve many needs of older adults including health programs, meals, recreation, socializing, and financial assistance. Most of us assume that participation in all of these activities would benefit older adults in many ways, but how important is participation in these activities compared to staying at home?

Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging requested the research assistance of the Shippensburg University Gerontology Program in answering the question posed above. More specifically, the Department of Aging wanted to know if senior center participation enhanced older adults’ mental and physical well-being. Dr. Sara Grove, Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Helen Miltiades, Assistant Professor of Gerontology (now an Assistant Professor at California State University at Fresno), and I embarked on a study to investigate this question.

The study, which compared the impact of senior center participation on older adults’ health and well-being in York and Clearfield counties, produced results that most of us would have expected. For example, non-senior center participants, as compared to senior center participants, have higher levels of ADL (Activities of Daily Living) impairment. The entire report is available on the Department of Aging’s website for those of you who would like to review all of the results (www.aging.state.pa.us/aging/lib/aging/SeniorCenterstudy.pdf). We will also present the study at the Gerontological Society of America’s annual conference in November. Now that we have completed the study, I would say that one of the most beneficial aspects of the project for me was the opportunity to learn more about the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the services they provide. I also met many helpful and committed professionals at the Pennsylvania Department of Aging who truly care about older Pennsylvanians. Our work with the Pennsylvania Department of Aging has enabled us to secure internships for our students and pave the way for research opportunities in the future. If you would like to know more about the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the opportunities that they might have for you, please give me a call at X1596 or email me at ckdren@ship.edu.

“News You Can Use,” by Dr. Debra Cornelius

Did you ever wonder whether or not courses taken at a community college or other institution would "count" for Shippensburg credit? Here's an easy way to find out. Go to www.ship.edu, click on "Admissions," then on the menu on the left of the page click on "Transfer," then on the next left-hand menu click "Course Equivalencies." You will see the course listings for the institution paired with the equivalent course at Shippensburg. Here's an example from Harrisburg Area Community College: HACC Anthropology 205 (Cultures of the World) = Ship Anthro. 211 (Comparative Cultures); HACC Humanities 101 (Modern Culture & the Arts) = Ship Art 101 (Art Appreciation); HACC Spanish 201 = Ship Spanish 103. Some community colleges have "intersessions," or "Winter Sessions" between the end of our Fall semester and the beginning of our Spring semester. If you are several credits short of graduating when you would like, this is a good way to make up for lost time.

Sociology / Anthropology Club

Under the direction of club president, Leah Birek, the Sociology / Anthropology Club has been quite busy this semester. In addition to their monthly meetings, the club organized a Career Development Event at the Career Development Center on November 17th. Here attendees learned about resume development and interviewing skills, and they were introduced to the many resources that the center offers students.

Why wait until you're a senior to create a resume? It's never too early to begin sketching out your academic and social accomplishments on paper. For more information on club meetings and activities contact President Leah Birek, lb1675@ship.edu.

FACULTY RESEARCH (continued from page 2)

Dr. Chad Kimmel and Sociology Majors Rachel Marks and Chris Ottey Take Levittown By Storm.

The Levittown Heritage Project, a grant funded research project directed by Dr. Kimmel, continues to collect oral histories on Levittown, Pennsylvania, and the company that built it, Levitt and Sons. Dr. Kimmel, along with two Research Assistants, Rachel and Chris, recently spent a day at a community senior center interviewing previous laborers on the Levittown project. "It was the ideal qualitative research experience," stated Dr. Kimmel in a recent interview with himself. "A perfect interview, one that touched on all themes without the need for probing, was followed by a no-show." Nonetheless, the team gathered an impressive amount of material. Before the day ended, Dr. Kimmel took Rachel and Chris on a brief tour of the Levittown community.

Sociologist George Ritzer, in *The McDonaldization of Society*, refers to Levittown as a rationalized, mass-produced, standardized product, one that reversed the assembly-line techniques used by Henry Ford. Unlike Henry Ford, Levitt and Sons used the building site as their factory. Labor was divided according to the many separate tasks needed to complete a home (i.e., ground preparation, plumbing/water, foundation, wall framing, roof construction, etc.). Workers moved in teams across the land, repeating the same movements at each home until the project was completed. Like Ford, Levitt and Sons maximized efficiency by scientifically managing labor through the organization of specialized teams/crews, subcontractors, incentive pay, and time-and-motion studies. This project uses the oral history method in order to capture the stories of those who built Levittown, the laborers and subcontractors whose stories have largely gone unnoticed.

Dr. Sandy Alvarez recently published her co-authored paper entitled "Continuing Business as Usual: A Case Study of Hialeah, Florida" in *The Industrial Geographer*. "This article," she writes, "poses research questions about the issue of spatial distribution of immigrant women in urban environment and the impact of occupational segregation issues based on gender and race that is exacerbated by economic globalization. That is, how has the relationship between more recent émigrés and those of the past industrial expansion period changed?"

With Jeffrey Schneider, Professor of English at Indiana State University, Dr. Alvarez recently completed a paper entitled "Why OUR College Campus Need a Safe Zone." "The increased presence of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer student and faculties," they write, "underscores a fundamental epistemological break between campus diversity and inclusion. Universities will proudly announce their commitments to a diverse community of learners but will offer very limited possibilities for meaningful inclusion."

New Faculty Spotlight!



Dr. Sandy D. Alvarez comes to us from the Department of Sociology at Indiana State University. She grew up in Somerset, Massachusetts, and attended Northeastern University in Boston for a B.S., ending

at Kansas State University with a Ph.D. in Sociology. In the classroom, Dr. Alvarez uses a “hybrid” pedagogy, one that gives equal weight to Eurocentric and Afrocentric teaching styles. Such an approach, she said, enables me to “embrace personal experiences” of the students, their “personal backpacks.” This allows Dr. Alvarez to better understand her students. She describes her students as “bright, engaged, [and] eager for a challenge, journey.” Dr. Alvarez teaches Population Problems and Urban Sociology. The best book she’s ever read: *Lord of the Rings*. If you can’t find her in the office, you might want to look on the open road. For there, on her Honda Rebel, she rides. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Sandy Alvarez to our department.

We would also like to welcome **Professor Sharon DeWitte** who is filling in for Dr. Alice James this year. She is a graduate student in the Anthropology department at Penn State University and is currently completing her doctoral dissertation research. Professor DeWitte specializes in biological anthropology, the field of anthropology which focuses on human evolution and biological variation, both now and in the past. Her dissertation investigates the mortality patterns of the Black Death of 1347-1351. Her research question: whether the Black Death killed people indiscriminately, as is often assumed, or whether the very young, the elderly, and those already in poor health were more susceptible to the disease.

What’s Happening?

Dr. Christine Loveland was the keynote speaker on October 28th, 2005 for the SSHE Women’s Consortium Conference. The title of her talk was “Lilith and the Lahamana: Contrasting Images of Women.” Dr. Loveland will also be teaching Medical Anthropology at the Gettysburg HACC campus as part of Shippensburg’s Degree Completion Program. The students in the course are working toward a B.S. degree in Health Care Administration.

Dr. Alice James is spending her sabbatical year 2005-2006 in Greece

New Course Offerings on the Block.....Spring 2006



Dr. Allison Carey will be teaching **Health Policy** (SOC 490). This new course focuses on current health care policy issues and debates including the growth of managed care, patient’s rights, the role of technology in preserving life and causing death, free

market versus universal health coverage, and ethical dilemmas including euthanasia, rationing of limited resources like organ transplants, and cloning. Through these debates, we will examine how our health care system evolved, and examine the influences of business and politics in the delivery of health care. More generally, students will develop and utilize skills in policy analysis. As a 400-level course, this course will rely heavily on student participation and projects, and will also include a number of guest speakers from the area. Juniors, seniors and grad students welcome.

Professor Sharon DeWitte will be teaching **Forensic Investigations: Bugs, Bones, and Blood** (ANT 393). The course will focus primarily on forensic anthropology, the application of methods from biological anthropology and archaeology to the identification of human remains and the investigation of unexplained deaths, including homicides, suicides, genocides, and mass disasters. Students will learn how investigators recover decomposed or otherwise badly damaged human remains, estimate age at death, identify evidence of cause of death, use insects to determine time since death, use DNA for identification, and much more.

Graduate School?

Our very own Mr. Frankie Ellis, undergraduate sociology major, attended the recent Graduate School Fair at Penn State in State College, PA. He brought back a great resource, a page of links. Copies are available at the Graduate School Bulletin Board outside the Department office, Grove Hall 428. Thank you, Frankie!

If you are considering graduate work, please see your advisor. They are the best source for information. Applying to programs can be tricky. Personal statements, for example, are very important, yet they may just be the least understood. Some of our best students submit multiple drafts over many weeks. But in the end, they send out a strong statement, well written, insightful, and often tailored to the program of interest. See you advisor!

Have you heard of the Organization Development and Leadership (ODL) program? It is an interdisciplinary MA program stationed in our department. If you would like more information see Dr. Barb Denison in Grove Hall 439 or bjdeni@ship.edu. You can also stop by her office and pick up information outside of her door.