

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall 2007



**Have a Seat! You
Deserve it.**

The Source
Shippensburg University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Newsletter

Dancing Sociologists

Sociology seminar class organizes fundraiser



Last semester, Spring 2007, Dr. Cornelius' Senior Seminar class organized the University's first ever "Dancing with the Profs" competition. All proceeds of this benefit dance went to Doctors Without Borders. Sociology majors Joe Spencer and Ashley Zeger MC'd the event.



To everybody's delight, the event was a roaring success! When all pennies were counted, Doctors Without Borders were given approximately \$1,500.



We are told by some that attendance outgrew available seating, and many found themselves standing. President Ruud and his wife Judy also joined the dancing scene. We thank again all of the students and faculty who participated in this event.

Mandatory Advising Meeting for All Soc Majors!!

The Department will host our yearly advising meeting in **Franklin Science Center #256 on Tuesday October 2 at 4:30 p.m.** All majors must attend—minors are strongly encouraged.

Refreshments of soda and pizza will be served. Be there or be unadvised!!

Department Newsletter:

You are reading the sixth 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 alumni.

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 cmkimm@ship.edu.

FACULTY RESEARCH and TRAVELS



Drs. Broyles and Drenovsky Attend an International Sociology Conference

In May of 2007 Dr. Philip Broyles and Dr. Cynthia Drenovsky attended the first annual sociology conference of the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) in Athens, Greece. ATINER was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world could meet in Athens and exchange ideas on their research and discuss the future developments of their discipline. ATINER held over 60 international conferences in disciplines such as communications, education, philosophy, and political science since its inception. Dr. Broyles and Dr. Drenovsky were honored to have their research accepted for presentation at the first ever ATINER conference in sociology. Dr. Broyles presented findings on his research on the gender pay gap among chemists and Dr. Drenovsky's research was on the motivations of students who are considering volunteering for hospice organizations.



The Cultural Context of House Decoration in Pirgí, Chios (Greece): Tradition and Change **Dr. Alice James**

Recently, I have been involved in an interdisciplinary study involving anthropology, architecture, and mathematics. The goal of our project is to analyze the friezes of Pirgí, a village on the island of Chios, Greece. Our plan is to study the physical process of how the friezes are produced, to interpret their context, and to analyze the mathematical structure on which these friezes are based. The mathematical analysis is well in progress. My contribution to the project will be to analyze and describe the cultural context of the friezes. At this time, the need to conduct interviews is pressing, because the traditional craftsmen are aging.

Scholars have studied traditional decoration on houses around the world, but these studies have been based in a single discipline, for example, architecture, art, history, anthropology, or mathematics. Some scholars have suggested that an interdisciplinary approach would inform these investigations but, to my knowledge, our team is the first to undertake a truly interdisciplinary approach. In addition to myself, our team consists of Loukas Kalisperis, PhD, Professor of Architecture at Penn State, and David James, PhD, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Michigan—Dearborn. Dr. Kalisperis brings to the research expertise on building construction and a unique understanding of Chios, as his family is native to the island. Dr. James has long been interested in the mathematical analysis of symmetry, especially with regard to folk design, which makes him exceptionally qualified to enhance this collaboration.

We have presented preliminary findings at two conferences and our presentation was selected for publication in the proceedings of the ISMA-Bridges conference in Granada, Spain. We have also had the results of our preliminary investigations, emphasizing the mathematical analysis, published in the interdisciplinary journal *Leonardo*, which is published by MIT Press.

FACULTY RESEARCH and TRAVELS continued...

Dr. Sandy D. Alvarez and sociology major

Ms. Julie Nasser presented the paper “Country Roads take me Home: An Analysis of Women in Country Music” at the Gender, Work and Organization Conference at Keele University in Stoke on Trent, UK, June 2007.

Music provides insight into societal values, social structures and belief systems (Aday and Austin, 2000). Country and Western music has traditionally reified the role of women as the maternal archetype caring for home and family or as the femme fatale. With the popularity of such artists as the Dixie Chicks, Jo Dee Messina, and Lonestar. There is a perception that the gender roles are being redefined to include a stronger more egalitarian balance.

This article explores the balance of gendered politics in country music and how country music associations are constructed as gendered organizations that perpetuate traditional patriarchal roles (Acker, 1998 Britton, 2000). Examples that challenge the notion of patriarchal control are seen as whimsical and capricious (Weatherall, 2002). Country music fans describe themselves as average working men and women, in other words they are from the working or lower middle class (Billboard Magazine, 2004). The question remains, as women gain a stronger voice in country music can they redefine the traditional patriarchal voice and be accepted by the conservative constituency of country music (Leonard. 2002).

Alumni...Where are they now?

Rachel Marks started working for the US Census Bureau as a statistician in the Puerto Rico, Island Areas, and Overseas Program Branch in the decennial division.

Jessica Leidy has been employed by Chapel Pointe at Carlisle as an Activities Coordinator where she arranges the activities department schedule, manages the activities staff as well as volunteers, and integrates a new Therapeutic Engagement Program.

Melissa Cidade has taken a position as the research associate for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (<http://www.accunet.org>), located in Dupont Circle.

Frankie Ellis is now in his second year of classes at UPENN. This past summer he traveled to South Africa.

New Faculty Spotlight!!!

Dr. Joel Schoening



My interests outside academia include bicycles, volleyball, and any excuse to explore either the wilderness or the urban environment.

My teaching areas include Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, Work and Organizations, Urban Sociology, Mass Media and Society, and Political Economy.

My dissertation evaluated the forces leading to the decline and eventual sale of a worker owned and democratically managed company that, at its peak, was the largest of its kind in the United States. My current research interests include democratic community development, workplace participation, and urbanization.

Welcome Professor Schoening!!!!

Student Research Opportunities

Each year the Institute for Public Service awards grant money to student researchers. They have had a history of funding all that apply—do you get my drift? If you are interested in research or want to explore this unknown territory, contact a faculty member. With their help you can develop and carry out your own project.

The benefits of this are many, and if you are creative, you could knock off a few credits (Independent Study). Talk with someone to imagine the possibilities. Completed applications are due October 2 of 2007....DON'T WAIT!

Sociology-Anthropology Club

"The dead governs the living."

Auguste Comte

ANTHROPOLOGISTS DO IT IN THE DIRT. SOCIOLOGISTS LIKE TO WATCH.

"Sociology, *n.* [L. *socius*, companion, and *-ology*.] The science which investigates the laws or forces which regulate human society in all its grades, existing and historical, savage and civilized; the science which treats of the general structure of society, the laws of its development, and the progress of actual civilization."

"Anthropology, *n.* [*Anthropo-*, and Gr. *logia*, from *legein*, to speak.]

1. A discourse upon human nature. [Rare.]
2. That manner of expression by which the inspired writers attribute human parts and passions to God. [Rare.]
3. The science of man and mankind, including the study of man's place in nature, that is, of the measure of his agreement with and divergence from other animals; of his physical structure and psychological nature, together with the extent to which these act and react on each other; of the various tribes of men, determining how these may have been produced or modified by external conditions, and consequently taking account also of the advance or regression of the human race."

Definitions provided by *Webster's Universal Dictionary of the English Language with A Comprehensive Addendum of newest Words Compiled by Joseph Devlin, M.A.* The volumes were published by *The World Syndicate Publishing Company* in Cleveland, OH and New York, NY in 1937.



"It's not that we don't think it's funny, it's just - does it fit in with our act?"

A Message from President Kat Loutrel:

The Sociology Anthropology Club is making a comeback! This year there is a very motivated team that is hoping to get students in our department more involved with each other and our campus by providing activities that everyone may enjoy. The club is for the students by the students (staff are welcome to join in on any of the activities as well). With the club just getting started for the year ('07-'08) plans have not yet been finalized. However, the group has many great activities that are being considered. Some of these activities include (but not limited to) an ice cream social, Sociology/Anthropology Club and Department t-shirts, an archeological dig, and a trip to State College. Anyone that is interested should come check it out. We meet in Grove 401 every other Tuesday from 3:30-4:30, starting Tuesday September 18th. We hope to see you there!

Soc/Anthro Meetings:

October 2,

October 16

October 30

November 13,

November 27

Grove Hall Room #401 @ 3:30pm

E-mail: socio.anthro@gmail.com

Officers:

President: Kat Loutrel

Vice President: Ellen Gunther

Secretary: Marti Wormuth

Treasurer: Jamie Spankuch

Activities Director: Candee Gonzalez