

SOCIOLOGY AT CAROLINA

SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER USC-COLUMBIA FALL 2007

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAY & AUGUST 2007 GRADUATES!

Jessica Arrington, Jessica Ceremuga, Jessica E. Dingle, Tarrance Dingle, Sonya C. Durant, Sierra S. Folder, T.D. Funderburk, Frances Goldman, William R. Hall, Tran Yen Hoang, Melissa Jennings, Krystal L. Lewis, Virginia McComb, Stacy L. Miller, Tiffany S. Murphy, Travis A. Nelson, Katherine Owens, Julie L. Poteet, Casey N. Rankin, Allen K. Robinson, Jason E. Soifer, Vivian J. Tinker, Amanda P. Urowsky, Shamika Whitfield, Douglas E. Adams, Hugh G. Bell, III, Anil V. Damani, Tiffany N. Kates, Jessica A. Laws, Byron C. Pinckney, Marie C. Roberts, Lisa-Marie Robertson, W. H. Sanders, III, Eloise Scoville, Rachel Shiebeck, Clarence Williams, Justine C. Wise. The Department of Sociology wishes you Good Luck!

CONGRATULATIONS TO DECEMBER GRADUATES!

The Department of Sociology congratulates, in advance, sociology majors graduating this December. Good Luck and Keep in Touch!

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY

Lesley Firestone, Stephanie Fisher, Carla Grant, Maureen McDonnell, Rejeania Morrow, and Faith Sable will become members of AKD this fall. Congratulations. In addition to the recognition of being a member of AKD, membership provides superior undergraduate students entering Federal Civil Service a pay level increase from GS-5 to GS-7. This amounts to a permanent pay increase of approximately \$5000 per year for the rest of their Federal career. If you are interested in becoming a member, please look for announcements posted during the 2007 – 2008 academic year.

CAREER EXPLORATION: IT'S FOR ALL STUDENTS, NOT JUST SENIORS!

Every semester devote some time (perhaps one hour each week) to career exploration. Use the services of the Career Center; search the web to learn about careers; where possible, tie a course assignment to a potential career; do a phone interview with people in careers that interest you and shadow them for part of a day; go to USC's Career Festivals to learn more about careers and employers even if you're not a senior; consider taking SOCY 399 (Independent Study in Sociology) and tie what you do in it to career interests; use volunteer activities and part-time jobs for learning about careers and developing career skills, and more!

Ask supervisors to write letters of recommendation for you when you end a volunteer activity or part-time job. When you look for your first job after graduating from USC, you'll have those recommendation letters to show to potential employers.

Career Exploration is for all students, not just seniors.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Casey Rankin is attending the Charleston School of Law. Katherine Owens is an Interplan Marketing Coordinator with Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina and enjoys her work. She is planning to pursue a Masters in Public Health. Amanda Urowsky is a mental health technician in Charleston and plans to attend the Medical University of South Carolina to earn a BSN and then a Masters in Nursing to become a Nurse Practitioner.

ON BEING A LAW STUDENT...

Casey Ranking graduated in sociology from USC in May 2007. Casey explains:

As I began my first semester as a law student at the Charleston School of Law, I had the same feeling of nervousness and excitement as I did when I entered the University of South Carolina as a freshman in 2003. When the professors at the law school began spouting off law terms and Latin phrases, I was overwhelmed. The first reading assignment was around twenty pages and it took me roughly three hours to complete it. I have pushed through every page of every assignment since and it has made me a faster and more efficient reader and therefore a better student overall. The curriculum is tough and can seem daunting at times. Nevertheless, never give up, keep reading and re-reading until you understand the concept. The law is not memorization; it is reasoning, understanding, and application. In final consideration, I am having a great time at the Charleston School of Law getting to know my fellow classmates and learning about the law.

GOING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL IN SOCIAL WORK AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Megan Campbell graduated from the sociology department at USC and is currently attending Social Work and Public Administration graduate school at USC. Megan states:

I greatly value my undergraduate education and feel that it has served as a strong precursor for my graduate studies. My Sociology degree will continue to help me as I advance into my career path.

See Reverse Side →

I chose to study Sociology as an undergraduate because I knew that I wanted to have a career that would help others. I decided that Sociology would be beneficial because it provides a basis for understanding human behavior and interaction. I later discovered that I had a passion for helping others on a larger, more systemic level. I feel that having a wide variety of knowledge about society, societal institutions, relationships, and structures is extremely necessary in order to bring about structural changes in society. I plan to use my knowledge gained in undergraduate throughout my entire career.

I strongly suggest attending Graduate School at USC. I believe that concepts learned in Sociology could be applied to any area of study. Graduate school in Social Work and Public Administration provides a basis for helping society through creating change. Social Work Graduate school also allows students to learn about helping people on an individual basis. My graduate courses are more difficult and time-consuming than undergrad. However, I am learning a lot and do not have an overwhelming amount of stress. I think that most Sociology majors would be well-prepared for Social Work graduate school, and I highly recommend the program.

IS GRADUATE SCHOOL RIGHT FOR YOU?

Rachael Chatterson graduated from USC with a degree in sociology in May 2006. She is now working on her M.A. in sociology at USC. Rachael provides some suggestions to consider in attending graduate school.

Applying to graduate school can be nerve-racking and exciting all at the same time. Even once you get accepted into a program, transitioning from the expectations of undergraduate study to the expectations of graduate study can be even more stressful. There are many things that need to be thought about when applying to graduate study. I will mention a few of those things along with some differences between undergraduate and graduate study.

One of the most important things to think about is what you actually want to do with your life. Is there a position or a career path that an M.A. or Ph.D. will afford you that you could not attain with a B.A.? You do not need to stay in the same graduate program you are in as an undergraduate. In fact, many graduate programs will accept you as long as the programs are somewhat similar (i.e. liberal arts programs, science programs, etc.). It is important to look into these options and it is most important to realize that you are not limited by what you did in your undergraduate work. Do what you want to be doing!

Once you have decided which programs and schools you are going to apply to, look into financial options. Most schools have some sort of assistantship/fellowship program available. This assistance may come from the university, from the graduate school at the university and/or from the department that you are applying to. Most programs have an application deadline that gives you priority for these types of aid.

Finally, transitioning to graduate study is not always the easiest thing in the world. In fact, it is quite difficult. You are expected to act professionally and with academic excellence in everything you do. The days can be rigorous and the work stressful. However, from my point of view, the benefits are completely worth the work. You typically only have one class (of two and one-half hours) on any one day, and the autonomy graduate school affords is great. But this typically means that you need to be able to focus when necessary and get the work done. The work is harder and the expectations greater, but graduate school is probably one of the most rewarding choices I have ever made for myself.

Think about your goals. Think about what you like to do. Think about what you want to do. Graduate study is a great option. Preparing yourself for the transition is the key to excelling in graduate school.

SOCIOLOGY ORGANIZATION FOR STUDENTS

Are you interested in establishing a sociology organization for undergraduate students? Sociology students could arrange for guest speakers, career workshops, and other activities of interest. If you are interested, the sociology department will assist you in establishing the organization. See Paul Higgins, Sloan 306.

WEBSITE FOR SOCIOLOGY MAJORS

Check out the American Sociological Association's website for students. Career and other information is available. Go to www.asanet.org/ and click on "students."

CAREER CENTER

Check out the Career Center early in your career at Carolina. The Career Center can help you with career exploration, resume writing, job shadowing, job interviewing, placement, and more. The Career Center is on the 6th Floor of the Business Administration Building, 777-7280; www.sc.edu/career/. If you have career questions, go to www.sc.edu/career/cascdp and use the "Exploring Career Options" Section.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

Checkout the revised website for your Sociology Department at Carolina: www.cas.sc.edu/SOCY/. Thanks to Professor Mathieu Deflem for his efforts.

**THE FACULTY WISHES ALL OF YOU A
SUCCESSFUL END TO THE FALL SEMESTER.**

HAVE A GOOD FALL.