

SOCIOLOGY AT CAROLINA

SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER USC-COLUMBIA Fall 2008

CONGRATULATIONS MAY and AUGUST 2008 GRADUATES:

MAY - Salwa Adly, Denise Blackwell, Lauren Brooks, Melodie Capole, Robert Clay, De'Adrian Coley, Jason Cook, Cassie Deas, Natalie Downing, Ashley Dyson, Santana Earle, Jennifer Gaal, A. Geter-Herndon, Lashay Glover, Shanice Graham, K.A. Hinnant Jr., Robert Hinson, Jeromy Jones, Darlene Morejon, Sarah Murdock, Ashley Myers, Robin Nichols, Eric Nord, Kathryn Palanza, Derek Pressley, Maria Reyes, Nathan Rice, Crystal Riggs, Alexander Rose, Deborah Rutland, Emily Sevin, Shane Sickler, Sherika Sims, Kristen Smith, Emily Stanek, Jonathan Stokes, Elyse Vena, Heather Wagner, India Walters, R.V. Washington, Jennifer Weller, Anne Wiggins, Ryan Wiles, Benjamin Wilson, Marcy Wynn, **AUGUST** - Brittany Collins, J.W. Douglas III, Stephanie Greene, Shailah Jefferson, Jawanna L. Jones, Joel M. Kennedy, Jennifer N. King, Leslie McKnight, Ashley E. Simmons, Natalie Sulejman. The Department of Sociology wishes you Good Luck!

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY

Jessica Addison, Ashley Pettit, and Alice Wheat 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 2008 – 2009 academic year.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Regeania Morrow-Drdak is looking to do the M.A. program in public health. Leslie Firestone is planning on going to law school but had not yet decided which one to attend after having been accepted by the law schools at USC, Charleston School of Law and Franklin Pierce among others. Denise Blackwell began work in June as a WIA case manager at the South Carolina Employment Security Commission and is working on her Master's degree in Social Work. Deborah Rutland is attending the Charleston School of Law.

HELP WORLD HUNGER

Click on www.thehungersite.com to donate one cup of food, sponsored by the companies advertising at the site. You may do so one time each day from your computer. Why not book mark the link, clicking on this site costs you nothing except 10 seconds of your time.

PROFESSOR STEELMAN BECOMES CHAIR

Professor Lala Carr Steelman, a long-time member of the sociology department, became the new chair of the department in July. If you have any suggestions for how the sociology department can better serve its majors, please let her know. (Steelman@sc.edu). The sociology faculty congratulate Dr. Steelman on becoming chair of the department.

STUDYING ABROAD IN AUSTRALIA

During Fall 2007, Anne Wiggins, who graduated in May 2008, studied abroad in Australia. Here is what she wrote:

I enjoyed a study abroad program (in Fall 2007) through the University of South Carolina in Brisbane, Australia for three months. Unlike most study abroad programs, I applied and received an internship with Beenleigh Youth Accommodation and Crisis Services. While abroad, I proceeded to accept another internship at Spiritus: Foster and Kinship Care. As a sociology major it is hard to decide what you want to do when you graduate. I had so many ideas, but no certainty about what path I was going to go in. While at my internship sites, I experienced at-risk, foster, residential and departmental children and young persons, age 4-18, hands on. At Beenleigh, I had my own case, which was a 14-year-old from a broken home. Not only did I work with her in therapy sessions, but I worked with her family as well. Also, each young person we accepted lived in a residential living space where we observed their actions and further analyzed each individual situation. During my time with Spiritus, I encountered many families, including foster families and the foster children's' families. I attended family meetings, departmental meetings, work-team meetings, house visits and therapy sessions. At Spiritus, I got to do more behind-the-scenes work such as working with case files and with case workers. Also, I got to encounter Aboriginal families and learn the history of Australia through some of the oldest natives. My experiences in Australia could never compare to a study abroad program taking classes. These experiences have helped me decide what my future aspirations are and how to go about making my dreams come true. Before I left, all I knew was that I wanted to work with children, but when I got back, I knew exactly what I wanted to do and what I did not want to do when I graduated. My study abroad experience was life changing and the most wonderful adventure of my entire life. Not only was I working, but I got to climb mountains, jump off waterfalls, go to beaches, camp at beaches, and travel all over the East coast. I went to places such as Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, Sydney, Brisbane, Cairnes, Great Barrier Reef, Rainbow Beach, Nimbin, and the most eastern tip of Australia, Byron Bay. I met people who will be my friends forever, not just American students interning around Australia but Australians such as neighbors and my host family. I learned many things about myself that helped me grow as a person. Culture shock was a huge obstacle, although I was in an English-speaking country. *See Reverse Side →*

The society functioned completely differently, ranging from the road structure to the language dialect. Each child, young persona, and adult with whom I worked had an impact on my life. One child in particular helped me decide to focus on child and family therapy. She made me question my decisions and future aspirations through her therapy sessions. I got to enjoy a new society and learn how the Australian society interacts and functions. My time in Australia affected me in many ways, including personal growth, cultural influence, and gaining valuable experience at work and in my free time.

To learn more about study abroad opportunities, contact USC's Study Abroad Office (777-7557; <http://www.sa.sc.edu/sa/>). Studying abroad may change your life!

MAGELLAN RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Magellan Scholar program was created to enrich the academic experience of USC's undergraduates through research opportunities in all disciplines from science, technology, and medicine, to theatre, music, and art. By providing access to faculty mentoring relationships and a professional research experience, this program enables students to creatively explore their interests at a more in-depth level than can be attained in the classroom. The Magellan Scholar program provides opportunities for undergraduates to build a competitive edge in the job market. If you are interested, learn more about the program at www.sc.edu/our/magellan.shtml.

PROFESSOR SIMPSON IN SWEDEN DURING FALL

Professor Brent Simpson is on sabbatical leave during fall 2008. Every 7 years, if approved, professors may be on sabbatical for a semester to research and improve their skills as professors. Here is what Professor Simpson wrote:

I am spending the bulk of my research sabbatical in Sweden, working as a visiting researcher at the Center for the Study of Cultural Evolution at Stockholm University. (As a side note: I would encourage any of our majors who are interested in culture and are considering graduate school to think about applying to the Center.) My collaborators at the Center and I have been doing research on morality, altruism, religion, and intergroup conflict. Although I am enjoying my time away from USC to focus on research, I look forward to getting back to teaching – and to seeing the familiar faces of sociology majors – this spring. I wish all our majors good luck with the semester's end and happy holidays.

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 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 graduation from USC, you'll have those recommendation letters to show to potential employers. However, don't wait until you graduate to look for that first job, start looking at least several months in advance, even the semester before you graduate.

Career Exploration is for all students, not just seniors.

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 WINTER BREAK.**

"Everybody makes their own fun. If you don't make it yourself, it isn't fun. It's entertainment."

(Spoken by a character in the movie, *State and Main*.)