Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the newest issue of Social Circles, the official newsletter of the Department of Sociology at UNC Charlotte.

We have a lot going on around the Department these days. The faculty are, as usual, busy with research, teaching, and professional activities. Dr. Beth Rubin is currently serving as President of the Southern Sociological Society. Dr. Rosemary Hopcroft has recently found out that one of her research articles is among the Top 10 cited in the journal, Evolution and Human Behavior. Drs. Mickelson, Moller, and Stearns are busily working on several major grant projects. Take a look at the Department’s webpage to see what everyone else is up to! Our undergraduate students are active in two organizations – the Student Association of Sociology and Alpha Kappa Delta, our honor society.

This semester the students have cleaned up a highway, made crafts at a local school, recruited majors into the program, and initiated a slate of new members into AKD. They are also raising money to attend the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society in March.

Check out the pictures on Page 3 to see what they have been doing! Also see Page 2 for some information on the Master’s program. We’d love to connect our alumni to our current students. If you are an alum who would be interested in coming to talk to some students, please contact our undergraduate coordinator, Mary McKenzie, at mfmckenz@uncc.edu. If you have any questions about what is happening in the Department or how you can be involved, please contact me at Lisa.Walker@uncc.edu.

Cheers,
Dr. Lisa Walker

Study Abroad

Community and Identity in a Changing City:
Manchester, United Kingdom
July 5 to August 10, 2012

One of the many benefits of the Global Learning Community is the opportunity to gain understanding and experience a different culture.

Led by Dr. Scott Fitzgerald, this five-week program in Manchester will give students the opportunity to learn key theories and concepts in urban and community sociology; apply this knowledge to the study of contemporary Manchester; and participate in experiential learning with community organizations.

The program offers six hours of undergraduate credit for the following courses:

SOCY 3091: Special Topics: Community and Identity—Writing Intensive (3 hours)

SOCY 4125: Urban Sociology (3 hours)

The program cost is $3,225 plus a non-refundable $10 application fee. You do not need to be a Global Learning Community member to participate. Space is limited to 10 students, so apply soon!

Financial aid for which you qualify may be applied toward this program to meet your education abroad expenses.

For more information, or to view a payment schedule, please visit http://edabroad.uncc.edu/gvlc/.
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Stephanie Moller

Dr. Moller earned her Ph.D from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also holds an M.A. degree in Sociology from the University of Georgia, and an M.A. degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the University of Delaware. Dr. Moller has been with the department since 2003. She currently serves as Associate Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Moller’s work has been published in many journals, books, professional publications, and research reports; including most recently, Research in Higher Education, Contemporary Sociology, Social Forces, the American Journal of Sociology and Social Politics.

Dr. Moller’s specialties are Sociology of Education, Political Sociology, Public Policy, Stratification, Race and Gender, and Quantitative Methods.

In 2009, Dr. Moller was a finalist for the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work Family Research. She currently serves on the Editorial Board for the American Sociological Review.

Graduate Program News: Graduate Program Applications Accepted Now

The Sociology Department is accepting applications for Fall 2012.

We offer a Master’s degree that prepares students for future doctoral work and applied positions. Our areas of expertise include:

- Social Psychology
- Education
- Social Stratification
- Race and Gender
- Public Policy
- Organizations
- Health Research
- Political Sociology
- Mathematical Sociology
- Evolutionary Sociology
- Theory

Our graduates have gone on to study in doctoral programs at Albany, Duke University, the University of Delaware, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of South Carolina, and Vanderbilt University, among others.

Our students have also enrolled in doctoral programs in Organizational Science and in Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. We have been very successful at placing our students in corporate and governmental research positions.

The relatively small size of our Department allows us to devote substantial energy to our Master’s students. Some of our assistantships include teaching quantitative analysis and social research methods labs. Lab instructors enhance their teaching skills by developing lab assignments and using their own grading criteria. Instructors also work collaboratively with professors to ensure the lab assignments complement class lectures.

Students can also get involved in research assistantship opportunities, such as working in the Sociology Group Processes Lab, or with the School Reform Research Team. Research assistants in the Group Processes Lab supervise lab operations, which include interviewing and debriefing subjects. In addition, some students have the opportunity to work as a graduate assistant. A graduate assistant helps professors grade exams, maintain records, and even lecture!

For more information about our program, please visit our website at http://sociology.uncc.edu/Academics/graduate-program.html.
Southern Sociological Society Conference 2011, Jacksonville FL

Walk to End Alzheimer’s November 2011

Adopt-A-Highway, November 2011 Old Concord Road

AKD/SAS Halloween Bake Sale to raise money for the Special Education students at Carmel Middle School

2011 SAS/AKD Induction and Awards Ceremony

Recurring Meeting and Event Times
SAS: First Thursday of the month
AKD: Second Thursday of the month
General SAS & AKD: Third Thursday of the month
Adopt-A-Highway at Old Concord Road: Third Saturday of the month

Happy Holidays from SAS & AKD!

Contact us:
Email: sociologyclub@uncc.edu
Twitter: @socyclubsUNCC
Facebook Pages: Sociology Clubs UNC Charlotte
Website: https://sites.google.com/a/uncc.edu/sociology-student-organizations/
The Department of Sociology at UNC Charlotte has grown steadily since its beginnings. Currently, the program regularly supports more than 400 majors, 200 minors, and 29 faculty members; offering classes in over 15 sub-disciplines including theory, race, methods, education, work, social psychology, criminology, and gender.

UNC Charlotte is one of a generation of universities founded in metropolitan areas of the United States immediately after World War II in response to rising education demands generated by the war and its technology.

The Charlotte Center opened Sept. 23, 1946, offering evening classes. After three years, the state closed the center, declaring that on-campus facilities were sufficient to meet the needs of returning veterans and recent high school graduates.

Charlotte’s education and business leaders moved to have the Charlotte Center taken over by the city school district and operated as Charlotte College.

In 1961, Charlotte College moved its growing student body into two new buildings on what was to become a 1,000-acre campus 10 miles from downtown Charlotte.

In 1965, the legislature approved bills creating the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the fourth campus of the statewide university system. In 1969, the university began offering programs leading to master’s degrees. In 1992, it was authorized to offer programs leading to doctoral degrees.

Now a research intensive university, UNC Charlotte is the fourth largest of the 16 institutions within the University of North Carolina system and the largest institution in the Charlotte region.

**Become a Supporter of the UNC Charlotte Sociology Program**

The Sociology Program is growing and needs your help. Your gift will help us support our students in all stages of their college career. All contributions are tax deductible. If you would like to help the Sociology Department at UNC Charlotte continue its program of excellence, please pay by check by printing, completing, and mailing this form along with a check. Make checks payable to the UNC Charlotte Foundation.

Please apply my check to:

___ General Fund ___ Graduate Research Fund

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You can also give online at [https://www.uncc.edu/giving/](https://www.uncc.edu/giving/). Make sure to designate your gift to Sociology. On the 2nd page under gift designation select “Other” and then type “Sociology General Fund”, “Pearson Scholarship Fund” or “Sociology Graduate Research Fund” in the description box.

**Thank you for your contribution!**