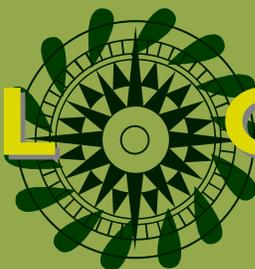




SOCIAL CIRCLES



Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2010

In Spring 2009 we had:

- 317 Majors
- 213 minors
- 20 students in the Masters Program
- 17 students in the Global Village Learning Community
- 24 faculty

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Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Social Circles, the official newsletter of the Department of Sociology at UNC Charlotte. We hope that the many friends of our Department, whether they are alumni, donors, faculty, current students, or otherwise, will find this newsletter informative and entertaining.

It has been my privilege to serve the Department as Chair since July 2008. My friends and colleagues have been listening to me talk about how great I think this Department is for years, and that belief has only been strengthened through this opportunity.

The Department and the University have been through a lot of changes since I first arrived on campus as an Assistant Professor

in 1998. Everything has grown, and those of you who have not been on campus in while might find it hard to recognize! The built space on campus and the student body have each dou-



Dr. Lisa Rashotte

bled in the last 12 years. This has provided us all with a lot of challenges and opportunities for making contributions to the mission and goals of UNC Charlotte, the College of Liberals Arts &

Sciences, and the Department of Sociology.

In these few pages, I hope you will get a sense of the things that are happening here in the Department these days. We are a thriving place, with hundreds of undergraduate majors and minors, a strong M.A. program that sends a high percentage of students on to Ph.D. programs, a varied faculty with active research agendas, and an exciting Learning Community for freshman students. Whew!

If you have any questions about what is happening in the Department or how you can be involved, please contact me at

lrashott@uncc.edu.

Best, Dr. Lisa Rashotte

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- The department's new reading room is open and operational! The room is located in 460K and offers resources for students and faculty, and houses the department's tutoring center run by members of Alpha Kappa Delta.
- Awards Ceremony for the Sociology and Anthropology Departments will be held on May 6th at 12:00 pm in Fretwell 128. Join us in recognizing inductees to Alpha Kappa Delta and Lambda Alpha, and presentation of the Pearson Scholarship Award.
- Sociology Speaker Series concludes with [Dr. Saylor Breckenridge](#) of Wake Forest University on April 30th. All speakers are at 11:00 a.m. in Fretwell 480C.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Beth Rubin



Dr. Beth Rubin

Beth Rubin earned her PhD from Indiana University. She also holds an MA degree from Indiana University and a BA from State University of New York-College at New Paltz.

Before coming to UNC Charlotte, Rubin taught at Tulane University, where she was a member of the Sociology Department and an adjunct

member of the A.B. Freeman School of Business, and at Cornell University.

Her research areas include labor market structures and practices; workplace and economic restructuring; time in organizations; and work-life balance.

She served as an NSF program director for sociology from 2004-06. While at NSF, she

was part of the human and social dynamics priority area team, served on the MRI panel and co-moderated an IGERT panel.

Dr. Rubin has also served as the Graduate Coordinator for the Sociology Department. She was recently elected President of the Southern Sociological Society.

Sociology Club Active on Campus

The Student Association of Sociology has been an active pre-professional organization on campus since 2007. It is a group of very determined students dedicated to increasing the amount of information available to their peers so they can move forward in their academic or professional careers.

Their ultimate goal is to strengthen the relationship between students and faculty, the social sciences, and the university and its surrounding community.

They have been heavily involved with the sociology department in attending conferences, representing the department at university events, and sponsoring the annual awards ceremony for the Anthropology and Sociology Departments.



They have also engaged students through providing guest speakers and tours of local organizations related to the field of sociology.

SAS is currently raising money to attend the Southern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA in April.



For more information, please visit their website at sco.uncc.edu/SAS or send an email to sasuncc@gmail.com.

Students Heading Overseas for the Summer

This summer a small group of UNC Charlotte students will spend five weeks studying urban sociology and community building in Manchester, England. The course, "Community and Identity in a Changing City," is taught by Dr. Scott Fitzgerald and linked to the Global Village Learning Community (a year long program for incoming First-year students).

This study abroad program provides a "hands-on" exploration of social arrangements and community building through experiential learning. Experiential learning increases stu-

dents' understanding of the topics they are studying—giving them an opportunity to apply their classroom material in a societal context and gain understanding of those whose life experience differs from their own.

Now in its second year, this is a highly interactive, individualized and exciting course—where the city itself is the classroom. During the program students (1) learn key theories and concepts in urban and community sociology; (2) apply this knowledge to the study of contemporary Manchester; (3) engage in experiential

learning with community organizations - all while exploring an amazing, cosmopolitan British city!

One component of the course is helping restoration efforts at The Victoria Baths, a public swimming and bathing facility built in 1907. This building had been condemned in the 1990s (after eight decades of use) and slotted for destruction until a group of local community activists successfully fought for its restoration.

Michael Pearson: Remembered Through Giving

Dr. Michael A. Pearson was a faculty member in Sociology for 25 years before his death in 2002.

In his honor, his family and friends instituted an annual scholarship award for students who share his interests and goals in improving race relations, expanding social justice, and establishing a more peaceful world.

The 2009 recipient of the Michael A. Pearson scholarship was Sharon Doerer. Sharon



Dr. Michael A. Pearson

earned her MA in Sociology in 2009 and is currently a

doctoral student in Organizational Science at UNC Charlotte.

Sharon's MA thesis addressed the causes and consequences of inequality of participation in work teams in which skin color differentiates actors.

The recipient of the 2010 award will receive \$1000 to be applied toward Fall 2010 tuition at UNC Charlotte.

For more information about the Pearson Scholarship, please visit the [Pearson Page](#)

Dr. Larry Lance Retires After 40 Years

This July, UNC Charlotte says goodbye to a 40-year faculty member, Dr. Larry Lance of the sociology department.

Dr. Lance began his higher education at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Continuing his enrollment in ROTC, he joined the Army Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant at Fort Sill, Oklahoma after graduation. Because of his background in mathematics, he was placed in the artillery division where he excelled and even considered continuing his career in the Army. The risks of Army life weighing more heavily than the rewards, he went on to graduate school where he achieved his Doctorate in Sociology at Purdue University in Indiana. Following graduation he ac-

cepted a professorship position at UNC Charlotte in 1970. His areas of expertise in sociology include sexuality, sociology of sport, and methodology.



Dr. Lance celebrates with friends and colleagues.

For many professors, working in academia means spending more time on research and publishing than with students. For Dr. Lance, it means the opposite. Revealing the expectations of professorship he admits, "There is a publish or perish mentality", but he believes the real reward has been enriching the lives students who have, in turn, gone out to effect their communities.

Dr. Lance used this student-focused approach to bring research in the field of sexuality to UNC Charlotte's campus in the late 1970s. The start of his interest and research in sexuality be-

gan with a cherished colleague Dr. Sol Gordon, whose groundbreaking work in the socialization of sexuality lead to improving adolescent misinformation about safe sex practices in the 1980s. Helping Dr. Gordon with his research was impetus enough to realize both the importance of the subject matter of applied sociology to impart social change.

At a time when UNC Charlotte boasted fewer more than 3,000 students (compared to almost 25,000 in 2010), Dr. Lance was attracting over 200 students to a course in sexuality aided by his colleague, Dr. Loy Witherspoon, in which they recruited guest speakers from across the community and nation. Lance recalled that even mothers and daughters attended. The speakers series was published as a collection of books that Dr. Lance will be donating to UNC Charlotte's library upon his retirement.

When asked what he will miss most about teaching, Dr. Lance said, "I enjoy teaching and I enjoy teaching with a sense of humor. I'll miss doing that."



Dr. Lance speaks with Chancellor Dubois at his retirement celebration.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT & UNC CHARLOTTE



The Department of Sociology at UNC Charlotte has grown steadily since its beginnings. Currently, the program regularly supports more than 300 majors, 200 minors, and 20 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.

Show Your Support!

Fretwell 476
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28223

Phone: 704-687-2252

Website: sociology.uncc.edu

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 :

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You can also give online at <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" or "Pearson Scholarship Fund" in the description box.

Thank you for your contribution!