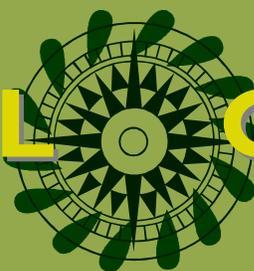




SOCIAL CIRCLES



Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2010

In Spring 2010 we had:

- 342 Majors
 - 239 minors
 - 28 students in the Masters Program
 - 17 students in the Global Village Learning Community
 - 25 faculty:
- 16 tenured and tenure-track
4 full-time lecturers
5 part-time instructors

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Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the second issue of Social Circles, the official newsletter of the Department of Sociology at UNC Charlotte. We were very pleased with how our first issue allowed us to reconnect to our alumni and friends. If you have something you'd like to include in future issues, please let us know!

I am thrilled to announce that the response to our announcement in that first issue about the new Graduate Research Fund for the Department garnered enough support that we will be making our first scholarship from the fund this month. A number of extremely promising



Dr. Lisa Walker

graduate students have submitted their thesis proposals in consideration for the award. This is an annual fund, so I hope you will all consider making gifts in the future.

In addition to the exciting initiatives described elsewhere in this issue, I am excited to let you know that we will form our first Alumni

Board in a few months. We are hopeful that this Board will help to guide our programs, support our students, place students in internships and jobs, and just generally be a part of the Department's activities. If you are interested in serving on the Alumni Board, please let me know.

Fall is a beautiful time on campus, and I hope that if you are around, you will come by for a visit and a tour. 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,

Announcements and Upcoming Events

2010 Spring Speaker Series

- January 14: Nan Lin (Duke University)
- February 4: Tom DiPrete (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- February 18: Arne Kalleberg (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
- March 4: Katherine Faust (University of California-Irvine)
- April 29: Larry Isaac

(Vanderbilt University)

- Look for the Awards Ceremony for the Sociology and Anthropology Departments in April. Join us in recognizing inductees to Alpha



Kappa Delta and the presentation of the Pearson Scholarship.

Sociology Club Events

- Dec. 6: Biannual Pre-Finals Car Bash at the Belk Tower 11:00-3:00.
- Dec. 9: Winter Alpha Kappa Delta Ceremony, time and location TBA.
- Sociology t-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts are now on sale. Show your Sociology pride!

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Elizabeth Stearns



Dr. Elizabeth Stearns

Elizabeth Stearns earned her PhD from UNC Chapel Hill. She also holds an MA degree from UNC Chapel Hill and a BA from Rice University.

Before coming to UNC Charlotte, Stearns taught at the University of North Florida. Her research areas include stratification/inequality; sociology of education; interracial friendships; and

race/ethnicity and race/ethnic relations.

Most recently Dr. Stearns along with Dr. Roslyn Mickelson, Dr. Stephanie Moller, and Dr. Melissa Dancy has been awarded a substantial grant from the National Science Foundation.

Their project is titled, "Finding the roots: interactive influences of individual, secondary school, and college

institutional factors on the success of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM majors."

She has been involved with the Southern Sociological Society as a member of the Sociology of Education Section Review Committee and the Program Committee. She will co-chair the program for the SSS meetings in 2012.

A Graduate Student's Summer Run-In With Vikings A Once-In-A-Lifetime Experience

by Kaitlin Boyle, M.A. Student

To visit and study in Norway has been a dream of mine for years, and with the support of UNCC faculty, I applied for a full scholarship and was accepted. My program, at the University of Oslo, was on Gender Equality in Nordic Countries. I spent three hours a day for 6 weeks discussing the construction of gender and its impacts on Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. We dissected volumes of theory and policy, trying to understand the core of Nordic identity, while comparing it to our own. We visited the Gender Equality Ombud, a domestic violence shelter, and a treatment facility for abusive offenders. We also spent time in the streets, shops, and pubs of Oslo, observing gender in media, work, and social interactions. (In some ways, the entire summer was a sort of ethnography, a way of making the strange familiar.) Spending six weeks with students from Tanzania to Turkey, Iran to Mexico, I feel that I have both a greater understanding of the human condition and politics, as well as a fresh set of eyes to view American culture.

Coincidentally, the ISA World



Viking Ship, Vikingskipshuset (Viking Ship Museum)

Congress was being held in Sweden while I had my mid-semester break. Flying to and exploring Oslo convinced me I could go to Gothenburg, stay alone in a country I'd never been to, navigate a city-wide conference without knowing the language, and introduce myself to people in sessions that to me, are celebrities. I sat in on historical sociology lectures, listening to presentations from Japan, Poland, and

Brazil (to name a few). I also spent time in the social psychology, gender, and theory sessions (my core interests) and met fellow graduate students from the University (I was the only non-Gothenburg student volunteer).

This past summer has certainly lit my desire to see and learn about more places firsthand, and I am hoping to study in Spain soon. When I teach gender and other topics one day, in a global perspective, I want to have lived these experiences, not just have read about them. I want to know the sights and sounds of the world, and to inspire my students to grow personally and academically as I have been. I hope this summer, in many ways, was the first step in an active, global career.

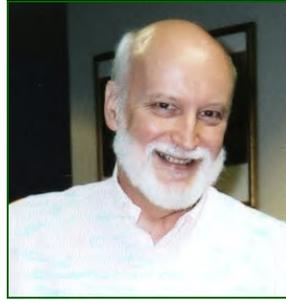
On a more personal note, I also got the chance to visit Kristiansand, the southern seaport town that my grandmother is from. It was a whirlwind weekend of seeing cottages, storefronts, and landmarks—narrated by my great-uncle with personal stories about my family. My grandmother came to America in 1948, and passed away when I was 10.

Continued on page 3

Tom Forrest: Remembered Through Giving

Dr. Tom Forrest was a faculty member in Sociology for more than 30 years before his death in 2004. He served the Department, at various times, as Interim Chair, Graduate Director, and Undergraduate Coordinator. He was also one of the founders of the Women's Studies program at UNC Charlotte. Dr. Forrest was truly interested in the success and experiences of his students. His research interests and publications were concerned with the areas of organizations and natural disaster research.

During the early 80's, Dr. Forrest



Dr. Tom Forrest

taught abroad at the University of Reading (England). He subsequently maintained professional and personal relationships throughout England. Dr. Forrest took his nieces on trips

abroad, and believed strongly in exposing young people to new cultures. We believe that honoring Dr. Forrest with a scholarship in his name to support the Department's Study Abroad program in Manchester is fitting and overdue.

We are developing a new endowed scholarship fund in Dr. Forrest's honor. This fund, once large enough, will each year provide financial support to a student attending the Manchester Program. Our next newsletter will detail our kick-off event for

Department adds Honors Program and Concentrations

The Sociology Department will be adding two new options to its curriculum starting spring 2011. We are very excited that undergraduate students will have the opportunity to choose a concentration in three different areas of sociology: social problems, social psychology, or organizations, occupations, and work. Students may also choose to take honors classes in sociology which would allow them to graduate with Honors in Sociology.

The concentration in a specific area of sociology will be notated on the student's transcript and can benefit the student when they market

themselves to future employers. The three concentrations each have a course that is a pre-requisite for the specific concentration and will each require three more electives chosen from a set of electives that will fulfill the concentration. A grade of "C" or higher must be earned in the required course and a GPA of at least a 2.5 must be earned in the concentration. These courses will not add to the total number of hours required for the major, but will count as four of the six electives already required for the major.

The Honors Program in the Department of Sociology allows

students with an overall GPA of at least 3.2 and a GPA of at least 3.5 in all Sociology courses to complete at least nine credit hours of Honors courses in Sociology to graduate with Honors in Sociology, the highest distinction the Department offers. The student is required to complete at least two Honors courses in Sociology and an Honors Thesis. If the student has a concentration in Sociology, one of the Honors courses must be in the concentration.

For more information you can pick up a outline of the concentrations in the Sociology

Norway cont.

Seeing the home she left at age 18, in search of opportunity and adventure—the same reasons that brought me back to Norway 62 years later—was deeply moving. Picking cherries on the lawn, barbecuing until the sun set around 11 PM, seeing the World War II bunker and Viking grave on their farm, and hearing stories about fishing for salmon with my great-grandfather redefined family—and history—for me. I hadn't

felt that close to my grandmother, and to my heritage, in fifteen years (if ever).

I found that I have always had a Norwegian sense of pride, strength, and peace, which was highlighted and strengthened by these interactions and experiences. I spent the greatest summer of my life as an outsider, exercising my sociological imagination and gaining an understanding of

cultures and people I would have never known otherwise. It gave me a



The Eternal Peace Flame; Aker Brygge, Norway

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 350 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!

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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 :

General Fund Graduate Research Fund

Pearson Scholarship Fund

Name _____

Address _____

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Charlotte, NC 28223

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 General Fund", "Pearson Scholarship Fund" or "Sociology Graduate Research Fund" in the description box.

Thank you for your contribution!