

SOCIAL CIRCLES

Spring 2014

Welcome from the Chair

Hello! As we wrap up the Spring semester, our thoughts turn to all that has changed in the past year, and all that we have accomplished. This year, that is particularly true for me, as I will soon be ending my time as the Chair of the Department.



Dr. Lisa Walker

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Department Chair and, while I look forward to the next stage of my career, I am proud of all that we have accomplished and created in the Department in the last 6 years:

- We have started two new scholarship funds, the Graduate Research Fund and the Forrest Study Abroad Scholarship, while continuing the Pearson Scholarship.
- We have developed and implemented two study abroad programs.
- We have created concentrations within

the major, allowing students to better tailor their time with us—and have doubled the number of majors along the way!

- We have successfully conducted student learning outcomes assessment, participating in re-accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and been highly praised by external reviewers during a self-study.

- Our graduate students are continuing to accomplish great things after completing the MA—including going on to great doctoral programs and getting amazing jobs!

We've accomplished a lot more, of course—these are just the highlights. Please join me in welcoming to the Chair's office Dr. Stephanie Moller. You'll hear from her in the Fall!

Departmental Highlights

Spring 2014 Statistics	
Majors	481
Minors	269
Master of Arts Students	18
Global Village Learning Community	16
Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty	17
Full-time Lecturers	4
Part-time Lecturers	8

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UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Faculty Spotlight: Joseph Dippong



Joseph Dippong is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department. He completed his undergraduate degree in Social Sciences at Hiram College in Cleveland, Ohio. He received his PhD in Sociology from Kent State University. His areas of study include: social psychology, group processes, status and power, criminology, and deviant behavior. Primarily his research and teaching interests center around social psychology, group processes, and criminology. He utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach to study social interaction that focuses on identifying and exploring connections between existing theoretical traditions among many disciplines.

He is currently involved in three research projects on: Bridging Affect Control Theory and Status Characteristics Theory, unraveling status effects and power effects in the theory of differential coercion and social support, and he is continuing his ongoing research on priming effects and gender-based performance expectations.

In his limited free time Joseph is an avid runner, and he plays the drums, bass, and guitar. He also enjoys spending time with his family: his wife Nicole, and their daughter, Stella, and son, Niko.

Currently, he teaches courses on deviant behavior and research methods. In the fall he will be teaching courses on sociological social psychology and sociological research methods.

Alpha Kappa Delta/Student Association of Sociology



The Student Association of Sociology and Alpha Kappa Delta had an eventful semester full of events. The clubs continued their monthly participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program, in which they volunteer to clean up a stretch of Old Concord Road.

The clubs also continued their useful “Toolbox Series” in which invited speakers discussed resume writing, working in non-profits, and plans after graduation.

In addition to the continuation of events, both clubs participated in the Yellow Brick Road Walk, a Second Harvest food drive, and held an Kickball/Cookout event at Reedy Park.



Above Picture is from the Alpha Kappa Delta induction ceremony held on April 11.



Buzz Around the Office: Announcements

Faculty Workshop

On February 27, 2014 UNC Charlotte hosted a faculty development workshop titled, “Every Semester Needs a Plan: How to Create a Strategic Plan for your Research and Writing and the Secret to Actually Doing It” with Kerry Ann Rockquemore, President of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. The workshop addressed issues of work/life balance and the need for structure, accountability and support while faculty strives to implement best practices during their time in the academy. Kendra Jason (Sociology), Takiyah Amin (Dance) and Janaka Lewis (English) organized the event with support from the Chan-

cellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund, ADVANCE, and various university colleges.

International Women’s Day

Kendra Jason was recognized at the Charlotte International Women’s Day held March 27, 2014. She was nominated as someone who embodies the richness of internationalism and has made an impact on the lives of women locally or globally by one of her former Sociology students.

Graduate Students' Corner

Savannah Larimore is finishing up her second year in the master's program and is graduating this summer. Currently, she works as a research assistant on the NSF grant project, Roots of STEM. Her thesis research focuses on cultural boundaries to food access in Charlotte's urban farmers markets. She is currently applying to PhD programs and believes that her experiences here at UNC Charlotte have adequately prepared her for a doctoral program.



Tremaine Winstead is a first year graduate student in the sociology department. He received his undergraduate Anthropology degree at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. He is currently a research assistant for the Group Composition and Team Based Learning project assisting Dr. Lisa Walker and Dr. Coral Wayland. His research interests include urban communities, and inequality.

Aaron Wood is a first year graduate student from Charlotte, NC. He is currently working as a research assistant on the Roots of STEM project with several faculty members. His research interests include the sociology of education and stratification. Aaron



plans to continue working on the Roots of STEM project and to pursue his PhD after the master's program.

Kayla Pierce, originally from Auburn Alabama, is a first year graduate student whose primary interests are small group interaction, nonverbal behavior and emotions. As the current Group Processes Lab Manager, she looks forward to building on her research experience by assisting Dr. Murray Webster and Dr. Lisa Walker with their upcoming study funded by the National Science Foundation. Kayla says, "the mentorship and support I have received here is invaluable. I look forward to growing more in the next year and sharpening the skills needed to excel in a PhD program."



Yunsub Lee is a first year MA student. He is from South Korea and is now working as a teaching assistant for Quantitative Analysis. His research interests include Social psychology, Mathematical sociology, Micro-Macro interactions and Social order problems. Recently, he was accepted from ASA roundtable session (Social psychology) and will go to the ASA meeting 2014 in San Francisco. He is incredibly excited to be selected.



Buzz Around the Office: Southern Sociological Society Meeting

History on the Southern Sociological Society

The Southern Sociological Society was established in 1935. According to the Southern Sociological Society [website](#), the Southern Sociological Society "promotes the development of sociology as a profession and scientific discipline by the maintenance of high academic professional and ethical standards, and by encouraging effective teaching of sociology, valid and reliable methods and research in the study of human society, diffusion of sociological knowledge and its application to societal problems, cooperation with related disciplines and groups, recruitment and training of sociologists, and development of sociology programs in educational and other agencies."

Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting

This year the Southern Sociological Society meeting was held in Charlotte April 2nd-5th. This year's theme was "Poverty, Social Policy, and the Role of Sociologists."

We are always excited to be able to participate in the Southern Sociological Society Meeting every year; however, it was incredibly exciting for it to be held in our very own "Queen City."

List of Participants from UNC Charlotte:

Ricardo Bailey
Evelyn Bjerre
Anita Blanchard
Martha Bottia, Ph.D
Charles Brody, Ph.D
Leann Elizabeth Caudill
Daniel Davis
Alexandra M. Dunn
Scott Fitzgerald, Ph.D
Tonya K. Frevert
Jason Giersch
Joseph Graham
Samuel Grubbs
Kendra Jason
Justin Lane
Savannah Larimore
Yunsub Lee
Andreas Lefrank
Roslyn Mickelson, Ph.D
Stephanie Moller, Ph.D
Amy Hawn Nelson

Ashely Parker
Kayla Pierce
Steven G. Rogelberg
Beth Rubin, Ph.D
Jordan Sannito
Michael J. Sawyer
Paul Benjamin Schmidt
Vaughn Schmutz, Ph.D
Linda Shanock
Selena Skorman
Joseph Wade Smith
Sabrina Lenee Speights
Elizabeth Stearns, Ph.D
Oscar Jerome Stewart
John Stogner
Felesia Stukes
Isabela Szymanska
Cara Marie Tallarida
Ada Uche
Benjamin Bradshaw Uhrich
Lisa Walker, Ph.D
Michael Walsh
Eleanor Williams
Tremaine Winstead
Aaron Wood

