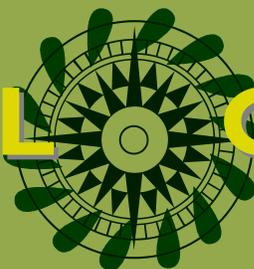




SOCIAL CIRCLES



Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2011

In Spring 2011 we had:

- 446 Majors
 - 285 minors
 - 29 students in the Masters Program
 - 15 students in the Global Village Learning Community
 - 25 faculty:
- 16 tenured and tenure-track
4 full-time lecturers
5 part-time instructors

Inside this issue:

Faculty Spotlight	2
Graduate Program Highlights	2
Departmental Awards Ceremony	3
About the Department	4
Show Your Support	4

Welcome from the Chair

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

I hope you enjoy receiving and reading these newsletters. I'd really like to know what you think of them. Please take a minute to drop me a line at Lisa.Walker@uncc.edu to let me know what you like and don't like about Social Circles. Also, let me know if you have ideas about



Dr. Lisa Walker

things to include, or questions you'd like to see answered in these pages. We are planning on including alumni profiles in future issues—please feel free to volunteer yourself

or nominate a friend!

We are gearing up for summer around here: preparing for Institutes, teaching summer school classes, studying abroad, conducting lots of research, etc. Not exactly a summer "break," but it is definitely a chance for us all to change up our routines a bit.

I hope you are able to change things up as well, whether it involves travel, family time, or even work!

Announcements

Dr. Roslyn Mickelson was awarded the First Citizens Bank Scholars Medal, UNC Charlotte's highest honor, on March 31, 2011.



Marc Horgan, Dr. Roslyn Mickelson, and Chancellor Philip Dubois

- The department successfully completed another Distinguished Speaker Series that included scholars Nan Lin, Thomas DiPrete, Katherine Faust, Arne Kalleberg, and Larry Isaac. We look forward to next year's program.
- Congratulations to Mary McKenzie and Cynthia Hancock for their promotions to Senior Lecturer.
- New officers for the Student Association of Sociology (SAS) and Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the sociology

honor society, were elected. Congratulations to:

President of SAS and AKD:
Ashley Bland

SAS Secretary:

Jessica Norwood

SAS PR Committee Chair:
Tianna Harrison

SAS Fundraising Committee Chair:

Elizabeth Halloway

AKD Vice President:

Amanda Avenoso

AKD Secretary:

Melissa Parache

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Vaughn Schmutz



Dr. Vaughn Schmutz

The department is pleased to welcome Dr. Vaughn Schmutz as a new faculty member to the department in the fall semester.

Dr. Schmutz earned his Ph.D. from Emory University. He also holds an M.A. degree in Sociology from Emory University, an M.S. in Sociology from Brigham Young University, and a B.A. degree

in Sociology from Brigham Young University where he was Valedictorian.

Before coming to UNC Charlotte, Schmutz taught at Rollins College and Oglethorpe University. His research areas include Sociology of culture;

Globalization/global sociology; Social Theory, Race, class, and gender; and Organizations/ economic sociology.

Much of his work uses the case of popular music production and consumption to understand processes of cultural classification, legitimation, and consecration.

Dr. Schmutz has published in *multiple journals including Social Forces, Poetics, American Behavioral Scientist, Cultural Sociology, and Popular Music and Society.*

Graduate Program News: Growth and Accomplishment Abound

The graduate program boasts 29 students and has experienced some wonderful growth this year.

The department underwent some minor construction during the winter to create a new graduate student office that holds 11 individual work spaces, a lounge space and a communal work space, as well as a screen and projector for practicing presentations. "It's like my home away from home" says first year graduate student Aaron Silverman. Second year student, Travis Jones says the addition, "makes me feel like grad students are a defi-

nite priority of the Sociology Department." This new room allows for the previous graduate student office to be used by teaching assistants for their office hours to provide confidential meetings with students.

The department would like to congratulate our graduate students on their accomplishments this year. Kaitlin Boyle and Caroline Schierle were the first recipients of the Graduate Research Fund Award.

We had several students present papers at the 2011 Southern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting in Jack-



Dr. Teresa Scheid, Megan Smith, and Amanda Bloomer

sonville, Florida in April. Megan Smith, James Benson, Amanda Bloomer, Kimberly Miller, Eric Wright, Tonya Frevert, and Travis Jones all presented with helpful feedback from their peers.

Megan Smith and Amanda Bloomer were presented with the Health Services Research Academy's Masters Student Paper Award for their paper, "HIV and Co-occurring Substance Abuse: The Impact of Social Support on Mental Health Outcomes."

Two of our graduate students have been accepted into PhD programs in Sociology starting in the Fall. Congratulations to Kaitlin Boyle who will be attending the University of Georgia and congratulations to Megan Smith who will be attending Emory University.



New graduate student office

Departmental Awards Ceremony Recognizes Students and Faculty

At the end of every spring the Department of Sociology and the Department of Anthropology hold an annual awards ceremony to highlight the achievements and successes of students and faculty.

The ceremony always serves as an event to induct new students into Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honors society. This year, twelve students were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta to join the roughly 20 students that were inducted in the fall semester. To be inducted, the student must be a junior or above, have an overall GPA of at least 3.3, and a GPA in their sociology courses of at least a 3.0. We would like to again congratulate those students.



2011 AKD Inductees:

Amanda Avenoso
 Nathan Barnes
 Ashley Bland
 John Connors III
 Geoffrey Cummings
 Alesha Eaves
 Ericka Foster
 Jeremy Herring
 Jessica McGratty
 Melissa Parache
 Melissa Siegel
 Kaitlyn Stevens

Four students were recognized for their outstanding achievement in Sociology and Anthropology. David Pezzella was awarded the Outstanding Graduating Student in Sociology Award and Steven Montgom-

ery was awarded the same for Anthropology. Nathan Barnes was awarded the Outstanding Continuing Student in Sociology award and Olivia Shen was awarded the same for Anthropology and they each received a gift certificate from Gray's Bookstore.



Students let off some steam at the pre-final car bash in December.

The Student Association of Sociology, highlighted their accomplishments over the past year including a pre-final car bash fundraiser, adoption of a highway close to campus, sending three students to the Southern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, and participation with Jacob's Ladder to provide new and gently used professional attire to individuals trying to get back into the workforce.



Members of the Student Association of Sociology

Angelita Smith, Amber Williams, MiKeisha Allen, and BJ Perry were recognized for their combined total of 230 hours of volunteer tutoring services in the Sociology Department's Peer Tutoring Center. The tutoring center was formed little more than a year ago to provide tutoring services to students in one or more of the core sociology courses. The tutors

provide help on a volunteer basis and the program is coordinated mostly by students with guidance of the Undergraduate Coordinator, Mary McKenzie.

The department also awarded the Michael A. Pearson Scholarship to Melissa Siegel who will receive a tuition scholarship for her work towards improving race relations, expanding social justice, and establishing a more peaceful world through her work with non-profit organizations and high academic achievement.



Dr. Elizabeth Stearns, Dr. Scott Fitzgerald, Pearson Scholarship winner Melissa Siegel, Dr. Bill Gay, and Dr. Roslyn Mickelson.

Dr. Elizabeth Stearns and Dr. Wei Zhao were acknowledged for earning tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. It was announced that Dr. Charles Brody will serve as the new Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dean Nancy Gutierrez presented Dr. Lisa Walker and Dr. Rosemary Hopcroft with Jefferson Cups on the occasion of their promotions to Full Professor for demonstrated clear distinction in teaching, research, writing, creative activities, and service to UNC Charlotte.

To see all of the pictures from the awards ceremony, please visit <http://sociology.uncc.edu> and look for the photo links under the "News" section.

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 400 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 :

General Fund Graduate Research Fund

Pearson Scholarship Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

*Please return to: Sociology Department
Fretwell 476
UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
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!