Beatriz Alcazar Awarded the 2012 William Randolph Hearst/ CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement

Beatriz Alcazar, a senior Sociology major, was awarded the 2012 William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. As one of 23 extraordinary students selected by the California State University, and the only student from SSU, Beatriz traveled to Long Beach in September for the awards ceremony. This award honors a student from each campus who overcame profound personal hardships to excel academically. Beatriz was also named as the CSU Foundation Board of Governors’ Scholar an award sponsored by Ron R. Barhorst and awarded to a student scholar who exemplifies significant achievement both academically and in service to community. Beatriz is the first sociology major from SSU to ever receive this award. She is also a McNair scholar and plans to go to graduate school after graduating from SSU. She volunteers at the Jewish Community Clinic and is employed as a bilingual educator, a sexual assault crisis counselor and a support group facilitator at Sonoma County’s Rape Crisis and Trauma Center. She is also president of the Children’s School Parent’s Club. Of the experience, Beatriz said, "I had the privilege of attending a CSU board of governor’s meeting in September. One student from every CSU was present and spoke of the paths that led them to pursue a college degree. The experience and the stories that each student shared was extremely powerful and reminded me that struggles placed before us only make us stronger individuals." The Sociology Department warmly congratulates Beatriz and celebrates her outstanding academic achievements at SSU and engagement in the community!

Sociology Student Feature: The Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project

This past summer I had an amazing month-long internship opportunity to work at the legislative offices at the State Capitol in Sacramento through the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project CLYLP Comcast Fellowship. The CLYLP is a non-profit organization, which promotes leadership and higher education among young Latinos in California. The CLYLP Comcast Fellowship accepted 6 students statewide and the requirement was to have previously attended the CLYLP Summer Conference as a high school student along with a rigorous application process. I attended the CLYLP Sacramento Summer Conference in the summer of 2008.

My name is Eduardo Vasquez, I am a junior at Sonoma State University with a double major in Sociology and Chicano & Latino Studies. My hometown is Rohnert Park Ca, and I was essentially raised in this community all my life although I lived in Puebla, Mexico during 5th grade. I am a graduate from Rancho Cotate High School. I am also a brother of Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity (NAK).

(Continues on page 2)
The Sociology Club is a student-based group that is committed to fostering the practical application of sociology as an academic discipline by pursuing extracurricular activities through community service and advocacy.

On September 20th, 2012 the Sociology Club held our annual welcome back mixer for Sociology majors, minors, and faculty with the purpose of connecting people and creating a welcoming environment for those interested in sociology. For the hour between 12pm and 1pm about 40 individuals enjoyed lunch and good conversation with fellow sociology students and professors.

On November 1st, 2012 from 11:30am until 1pm the Sociology Club held a graduate school panel with the intention of informing and encouraging students who were planning to attend graduate school, thinking of attending, or just not sure. The panel consisted of Sociology Professor James Dean, Sociology Professor Peter Phillips, Daniel Smith, Director of the NoGAP McNair Scholars Program; and Katie Musick, current Masters of Public Administration student and Administrative Coordinator for the departments of Sociology and CCJS.

All Sociology majors and minors are encouraged to attend our meetings!

More information available at: www.sonoma.edu/sociology/students/club.html.

Sociology Class Offered During Winter Interession 2012-2013

SOCT 317 (Emotions and Adult Life) will be offered during winter intersession through the Department of Extended Education.

Sociology 317, Emotions and Adult Life
Satisfies Upper-division GE, category E
4 Units, class #1046.
Instructor: Melinda Milligan
M-F Dec. 17-21 and Jan. 2-10 (12 meetings) 1-6pm

For more information contact Extended Education at www.sonoma.edu/exed/

The Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project (continued from page 1)

calls, researching information about particular bills, meeting new people (networking), and attending workshops. One of the most valuable skills I acquired during this fellowship was the ability to volunteer and network.

This fellowship tremendously shaped my perception on community involvement. Prior to participating in the fellowship, I was rarely proactive in school in terms of service and getting connected with the community. After the fellowship, I immediately started to reach out to organizations on campus and outside of school. Including: the Latino Students United (LSU), the Sociology Club, M.E.Ch.A, and the Multicultural Center now known as the HUB. Outside of Campus I am proactively involved in two organizations: The Hispanic Chamber Young Professionals of Sonoma County and The Latino Leaders of Sonoma County.

Thanks to my internship experience I was able to understand and embrace the value of volunteerism and networking. I am currently taking 16 units and working about 15 hours a week. I am involved in school and outside of school. One reason why I make the time to get involved is because I am aware that as a college student, that some day I will need a career, a job or a letter of recommendation and by establishing relationships with former professionals I will have a higher possibility of being offered an internship opportunity or job. From my experience, you will never know where life will take you; the reason I say this is because I never imagined myself having the opportunity to work at the legislative offices in Sacramento this past summer.
Sociology of Culture Fieldtrip

This semester, Professor Dean’s Sociology of Culture class focused on the social organization of art worlds and how artists build their reputations through exhibitions at major museums. In order to see this process in action, his class visited the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and viewed photographer Cindy Sherman’s retrospective of her three decades of work. With a docent lead tour on the last Saturday in September, just before the retrospective closed, the class learned about Sherman’s reputation as a provocateur of female impersonation and her ability to demand millions of dollars for her postmodern images.

Vanessa Hernandez Receives the 2011-2012 C. Wright Mills Award for Sociological Imagination

The Department of Sociology is pleased to announce that Vanessa Hernandez is the recipient of the C. Wright Mills Award for Sociological Imagination for 2012. The Mills Award is bestowed on the best student paper each academic year and was given to Vanessa for her paper titled “Social Work as a Profession: Motivations and Career Satisfaction among Social Workers in the United States and South Africa,” which she wrote for Sociology 498 (Senior Seminar). In addition, Phillip Cohen, was awarded an Honorable Mention for his paper “Cell Phones and Emerging Moral and Temporal Orders,” which was also written for Sociology 498. Congratulations Vanessa and Phillip!

Faculty Participate in ASA, SSSI, and Sexualities Conferences in Denver

The Sociology Department was well represented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI), both held in Denver, CO in August 2012. Professor Kathy Charmaz gave a special workshop on “Constructing Interpretive Inquiry through Grounded Theory” as a part of the SSSI conference and she served as a critic for the ASA Author Meets Critics session for the book Pink Ribbon Blues: How Breast Culture Undermines Women’s Health (Oxford, 2010) by Gayle Sulik. Professor James Dean presented a paper in the ASA Sex and Gender Section Roundtables on “Heterosexual Femininities and Shifts in Compulsory Heterosexuality.” In addition, he presented his paper “Post-closeted Culture and Heterosexual Identities: Rethinking Normative Heterosexual Boundaries and Homophobia” at the Sociology of Sexualities Mini-Conference on “Crossing Boundaries, Workshopping Sexualities.” Professor Sheila Katz presented a paper on “Perspectives on the Great Recession from Welfare Mothers who Pursued Higher Education” in the ASA Open Refereed Roundtables. Professor Melinda Milligan organized a paper session on “Interpretations of Self and Identity” and presented a paper (“Preservation on Display: Notes on Organizational Identity and the House Tour”) at the SSSI conference.

Call For Submissions for the 2012-2013 C. Wright Mills Award for Sociological Imagination

Deadline: Mon, April 30, at 4pm

The Mills Award is bestowed on an annual basis for the most outstanding original student research paper. To be eligible, papers must have been written for an upper division SSU Sociology course in 2012-2013 by a Sociology Major or Minor. Papers may be revised prior to submission.

The Mills Award will be presented to the winning student in a ceremony to be held in May. Specifics to be announced.

Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

(1) Creativity and imagination in the conduct of inquiry;
(2) Significance of theme and the clarity with which it is stated;
(3) Logical precision, methodological rigor, theoretical frame; and, where relevant,
(4) Sampling adequacy, good measurement, and proper data analysis.

For more information please contact Professor Dean by email at james.dean@sonoma.edu or call (707)664-2599.
This semester's sociology interns have a wide range of interests and diverse placements. Students began planning internships and meeting with me last spring and summer. We worked on fitting each student’s internship with his or her career goals and/or plans for graduate study. Some Fall interns began or completed their work at the field settings during the summer. Those with summer internships increased their opportunities for placements throughout the state. Students are enrolled for 1-4 units of credit and their hours in their respective settings vary accordingly. Students may use up to four units of internship credit for the sociology major.

An internship gives you the opportunity to see for yourself the kinds of services and positions that you might pursue after graduation. The internship gives you first-hand experience in and knowledge of the organization of your internship site. It can help you decide what kinds of settings to seek and with which kinds of clients or customers you would like to work.

All students who are enrolled in an internship for the first time must take Sociology 496, Internship Practicum. In this class, we not only meet and discuss what’s happening in the internships, but also we apply sociological concepts to the settings and the students’ work within them. In particular, we attend to how knowledge of formal and informal organizational structure can help students understand their settings and how they might more effectively contribute to them. Many of the class sessions are devoted to practical skills such as writing and critiquing resumes, constructing cover letters and statements of purpose for graduate study, and participating in mock job interviews.

Special guests have shared their knowledge during this semester's internship practicum. Anya Bergman, Career Services Specialist, from SSU’s Career Services visited the Thursday section and gave students superb tips on career planning and job-seeking. Meghan Murphy, MSW, Program Director at Face To Face, Sonoma County AIDS Network gave inspiring talks on working in a community organization and becoming a social worker to both sections of the class. Meghan shared her path from her undergraduate days to her present position and offered many insights about becoming a professional and living a fulfilling life. She said that her experience in the Peace Corps allowed her to assume responsibilities only much more experienced.

Interested in an Internship Next Semester?

Professor Sheila Katz is the internship coordinator for all Spring 2013 internships. Internships are an excellent supplement to classroom learning and are often helpful in exploring career paths. If you are considering an internship for the summer or fall, look over the internship pages for course requirements and campus internship listings (http://www.sonoma.edu/sociology/ resources/internships.html). You must complete all paperwork and receive departmental approval prior to beginning an internship.

Professor Katz can be reached at sheila.katz@sonoma.edu her office hours for the remainder of Fall 2012 are M 1-1:45, W 11:45-1, & TH 12:45-1:45.

Informational Meetings: Nov 29th from 12-1, Dec 10 from 4-5, and Dec 12 from 12-1. Location TBA.

professionals would have in the US and helped her pursue her master’s degree in social work. Face to Face has long provided excellent internship opportunities for our students that have advanced their careers and increased their qualifications for graduate school in diverse professions. Interns in prevention services at Face to Face provide HIV information, risk reduction counseling, and community HIV awareness throughout Sonoma County. Interns also learn how various cultural groups approach HIV education and how to create and offer culturally sensitive and directed HIV education.

Carrie Peterson, MSW, Youth Education and Employment Services Case Manager, West County Community Services of the Family Services Agency - Sonoma County, spoke at the Monday evening class. Carrie is a 2005 graduate of the Sociology Department who went on to earn her degree in Social Work in 2011 at San Francisco State University. Carrie mentioned that having excellent writing skills helped her apply for graduate school. She strongly urged students to learn as much as they could about the organizational culture of their placement settings and of any jobs for which they planned to apply. Interns in Carrie’s program are involved with mentoring at-risk and low-income youth, helping them find employment, teaching study skills and social skills by using a curriculum the agency has in place, and assisting with program development. Both Meghan and Carrie welcome sociology students to intern in their programs during Spring, 2013.

Our Fall, 2012 interns’ roles and placement settings include: Student Assistant, Sports Management (SAY).
Fall 2012 Internships (continued from page 4)

Group/Athletic Association, Purpose Initiative Intern, Beach Cities Health District; Sexual Assault Violence Prevention Educator, Verity; Freshman Interest Group Intern, Residential Life, Sonoma State University; Universal Pitching Marketing Intern, NBC Universal; Intern, The Oaks; Recreation Assistant Specialist, City of Santa Rosa; Teen Shelter Intern, Social Advocates for Youth; Mother and Child Room Assistant, The Living Room of Santa Rosa; Child Advocacy Intern, YWCA, Sonoma County; Public Health Intern, San Luis Obispo Department of Public Health; Summer Intern, KNBR 680/1050; Intern, CalServes AmeriCorps; Assistant Coach, Petaluma high school; Intern, North Bay Organizing Project; Sports Marketing/Camp Operator, National Academy of Athletics; Assistant Recreational Specialist, YMCA; Intern, Just between Friends; NAMI Jail Visitor/Warm Line Coordinator, National Alliance on Mental Illness; Campus Leader, Democracy Matters; Volunteer Assistant, Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Student Feature: The Internship Experience

THE NORTH BAY ORGANIZING PROJECT (NBOP)
- By Maira Nava

I am a graduating senior and for the past semester I have been interning for the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) a power-based group that develops local leaders to organize around social justice and civil rights issues. I chose to intern for NBOP because it aligns with my immediate career goal of becoming a community organizer. My sociology major has been an excellent source of directing my passion into a useful practice like organizing. My passion has been to serve underrepresented communities in issues of social and environmental justice. Sociology has also allowed me to recognize and legitimize through observation the different social dynamics seen on an everyday basis in our community. Organizing is a very dynamic profession where planning constitutes a crucial part of successful organizing. The exposure I have received to real life social issues through the internship in combination with my education gives me confidence to continue pursuing my aspirations of attaining a MSW degree upon graduation.

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)
- By David Smith

I am currently doing an internship with NAMI of Sonoma County. The purpose of this organization is to provide education, support, and advocacy for people affected by mental health challenges; this could be mental health consumers themselves, or their families. NAMI is a grassroots organization, founded in the 1970’s, and is classified as a 501 c3 non-profit organization. All who participate within, and all who comprise the organization are stakeholders in the mental health system. This means that it is supported and run by mainly family members who have loved ones with mental health challenges, and by individuals who are facing mental health challenges themselves.

The organization itself exists nationally, although the specific branch that I work for resides in Santa Rosa California. Throughout my time as an intern with NAMI I have worked directly with individuals who are experiencing mental health challenges, as well as family members of individuals with mental health issues, to which we provide information, referrals, and support. I would have to say that this position has exceeded my expectations as I am constantly being challenged and exposed to aspects of the mental health field that I had not been familiar with prior to my time with NAMI.

YWCA SONOMA COUNTY’S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES PROGRAM
- by Camille Fiori

My internship with the YWCA of Sonoma County in the Domestic Violence Program has proved to be very rewarding and valuable. It is exposing me to new responsibilities, skills, and populations within the community. I am gaining a lot of experiences and knowledge that I can carry into my future career and personal life. With the YWCA, I have the opportunity to explore so many positions such as family advocacy, support group facilitation, court accompaniment, case management, crisis hotline, community outreach, and more. This internship is very beneficial and relevant in preparing me for my goal of an occupation in social work.
Gendered Fitness: Exploring How Men & Women Approach Dieting and Exercising

By Daniel Alvarez

Research Method: In-depth Interviews

Senior Seminar: Gender & Sexuality with Professor James Dean

Abstract: Since as early as the 1800s, men and women have approached dieting and exercising very differently and these differences have yielded different results in constructions of the gendered body. Gender expectations have evolved in the world of fitness, shaping men and women to approach diet and exercise in ways not founded on health but rather in conforming to what society idealizes. In my research I am conducting ten in-depth interviews with men and women who are deeply invested in their personal health through their regimens of dieting and exercising. My research compares the ways these active men and women exercise, eat, their motivations in pursuing high levels of fitness, and the influence that the media and their peers have on how they approach fitness as a whole.

The Relationship Between Face to Face Communication and Social Networking

By Ally Basham

Senior Seminar: Social Icons in American Society with Professor Andy Deseran

Research Method: Surveys

Abstract: My main intent in this research is to answer the question—Are high users of social media, (e.g. Facebook- cell phones), less likely to engage in face-to-face communication than low users of social media? To answer my research question, I will use survey research and analysis to explore this topic more in depth. I plan to administer my research proposal by targeting college students enrolled at Sonoma State University by using a convenience sample of students from my own classes. The survey will include questions relating directly to the use of cell phones and Facebook and how much users use these pieces of technology to communicate electronically instead of communicating face-to-face. I will also look for correlations between media use and face-to-face interaction as well. With this research, it is my hope that I will be able to contribute to the body of research dealing with these issues.
towards issues and other people can affect a person’s actions. In the case of homelessness, it can affect a person’s voting behavior towards policies affecting the homeless or how they treat the homeless. It also has been stated that in-group contact with an out-group breaks down stereotypes of the out-group. This study will add to current sociological research, because there is a lack of research regarding the contact hypothesis specifically looking at the relationship with volunteering and working with the homeless. Past research also has failed to look at quality contact, which involves interactions where both people of opposing groups are on equal footing. This study hopes to fill in these gaps of current research of the perceptions of the homeless. In this study, I am creating a survey and will be distributing it to the employees and volunteers of JUMP who interact with the homeless and employees at Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) at the Dr. Coffee Teen Shelter, which is a relief shelter for homeless and runaway teens.

MANNING UP: A LOOK AT MASCULINITIES AND FAMILY DYNAMICS - By Tyler Gulovsen  
**Senior Seminar:** Gender & Sexuality with Professor James Dean  
**Research Method:** In-depth Interviews  
**Abstract:** How does growing up with an absentee father affect college-aged men’s ideas of masculinity? It is proposed that young men who grew up with their fathers present through their developing years will focus on different aspects in their definition of the meanings of masculinity than those who grew up without their fathers. I am conducting ten semi-structured interviews with college-aged males. Five participants are men who grew up without a father present for a majority of their childhood and teenage years. The other five participants are males who had a father present for a majority of their childhood and teenage years. The preliminary results show that the interviewees have their own interpretations of what it means to be a man, but that they all define their own masculinity in relationship to society’s definition of what dominant or hegemonic masculinity means. Other results focus on how young men are socialized into their masculine identities as well as the personal effect masculinity has on their self-identities overall.

GENDER STRATEGIES & STEREOTYPES AMONG FEMALE SSU ATHLETES - By Claire Lueders  
**Senior Seminar Topic:** Gender & Sexuality with Professor James Dean  
**Research Method:** In-depth Interviews  
**Abstract:** My research explores the stereotypes and various gender strategies of action that Sonoma State female athletes use to negotiate their statuses as athletes and women. I have chosen to interview ten Sonoma State female athletes from a range of different academic years and sports. My respondents’ sports teams range from softball and volleyball to cross country, soccer and basketball. The preliminary findings show that women athletes engage in conscious gender strategies to perform a conventional heterosexuality femininity in responding to stereotypes they encounter due to their involvement with college level sports. Other findings discuss athletes’ respect for their team and the strength they gain from training and athletic involvement at the collegiate level in general.

DIFFERENCES IN VIRGINITY LOSS ACROSS SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS - By Bethany Van Der Haeghen  
**Senior Seminar:** Gender & Sexuality with Professor James Dean  
**Research Method:** In-depth Interviews  
**Abstract:** Is losing one’s virginity different depending on one’s sexual orientation? How is it different, and why? What exactly is different, and does the act of sex mean something different to someone who is straight, compared to someone who is gay or bisexual? I propose that there are multiple ways in which today’s society views virginity as well as sex. Besides intercourse, there is a long list of sexual acts that some deem as counting in defining the loss of one’s virginity. I am conducting ten in-depth interviews with students at Sonoma State who identify with various sexual orientations. The main themes of my research will be definitions of virginity loss, differences in these definitions by sexual orientation, others’ reactions to a student’s virginity loss, and the pressures students face from both their peers and the media. My primary results confirm that sexual orientation, indeed, plays a pivotal role in definitions of virginity loss as well as in deciding what counts as sex in general. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight sexual identities shape how young people navigate both their loss of virginity and the meanings they attach to sexual acts.
**Faculty News and Announcements**

**Andy Lee Roth** is happy to have rejoined the sociology department, as a lecturer. He is also associate director of Project Censored, and co-editor of Censored 2013: Dispatches from the Media Revolution, to be published by Seven Stories Press in October. He has also co-hosted Project Censored’s KPFA radio program, participating in broadcasts on labor in global perspective, Guantanamo and targeted killing, and the commons.

**Kathy Charmaz** gave the opening plenary address, "The Power and Potential of Grounded Theory," on September 5th at the British Sociological Association’s (BSA) Medical Sociology Conference. She also was invited to give the opening plenary, “A Career Path in Medical Sociology,” at their preconference “Early Career Researchers’ Event.” Her main address was just published in MedSoc Online, the official outlet for the medical sociology group of the BSA. In July, the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and ResearchTalk co-sponsored her professional development courses for faculty and doctoral students and in June, she delivered an address, “Grounded Theory Methods: Classic and Contemporary Versions,” at Oslo and Akershus University College in Oslo and conducted a seminar for graduate students. She also gave a workshop “Using Grounded Theory Methods in Social Justice Research” and presented a paper, “Grounded Theory in Global Perspective,” in the session, “Challenges for Qualitative Inquiry as a Global Endeavor: Methodological Issues,” at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.

Dr. Charmaz has recent international publications for doctoral students and new PhDs. She was invited to contribute to the Discussion Paper: “How many qualitative interviews is enough?” which appeared in the National Centre for Research Methods Review Papers in the UK and published a chapter, “Multiple Futures of Symbolic Interactionism,” in The Present and Future of Symbolic Interactionism with the University of Pisa Press. Her other recent publications include “Mixing or Adding Methods?: An Exploration and Critique,” in Qualitative Inquiry and the Politics of Advocacy; “Reflections on a Sociological Journey,” in Studies in Symbolic Interaction, and a co-authored chapter with Linda Liska Belgrave, “Qualitative Interviewing and Grounded Theory Analysis,” in the Handbook of Interview Research 2nd ed.

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**Professor Milligan Promoted**

As of Fall 2012, Professor Melinda Milligan was promoted to Full Professor. After receiving her PhD from UC Davis and teaching elsewhere for a number of years, she joined the Sonoma State Sociology as an Assistant Professor in 2003. Professor Milligan teaches courses in emotions, organizations, social interaction, urban/community sociology, and the built environment. Her current research focuses on the social psychology of historic preservation. Congratulations, Melinda!

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**Investigative Sociology: Student Research into Social Issues in Sonoma County**

- by Andrew Hobbs

Research and investigation are tools best learned with boots on the ground and task at hand. Investigative Sociology 336, instructed by Dr. Peter Phillips, compels teams of students to unpack today’s local issues and discover the finer points of today’s headlines, while raising awareness and generating valid research for Sonoma County’s citizens. By focusing on local events, students are able to research face to face, rather than using online sources or published work as the basis for their conclusions. This semester, four teams of Investigative Sociology students developed research topics based on the question, “What information should be gleaned from our local area which would compel thought or action?”

The SMART rail system has been a topic of conversation, hope and even some fear for years among North Bay residents. Cui Bono—“To whose benefit”—has been the point of research among one of the teams, focusing on the ownership status and potential profits of individuals associated with the SMART system. Utilizing public records and interviews, these students hope to provide insight into the potential motivations of both opponents and boosters of this local project.

Campus health access is of importance to every member of the CSU community; family planning included. Further, multiple recent campus tragedies have raised the issue of adequate crisis planning (CAPS). Are students receiving care commensurate with their fees? This team has been conducting hundreds of anonymous surveys across the campus. In addition, students are comparing the costs and availability of care at other nearby CSU campuses to SSU.

Rohnert Park has described itself as “The Friendly City,” but do local business owners feel it lives up? Since its agricultural origins, Waldo Rohnert’s seed farm has transformed into a community where citizens can live, work and shop. By using interviews and following the trail of taxes, redevelopment funds and overall economic policy and comparing them to other communities in Sonoma County, one group of students asks how Rohnert Park’s economic policies affect small business well as those of ways the policy can be altered in order to further

(Continues on page 9)
Social Work Advising Workshops were held:
Thursday, Oct. 25, 12-1 pm, Stevenson 2006
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 3-4 pm, Stevenson 3076

Social Work Advising Office Hours (Fall 2012) – 2084L Stevenson (Sociology Department)

Marjorie Helm, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, has been practicing as a Social Worker in a variety of settings for over 30 years, including private non-profits, government human services and schools. She is currently Co-Coordinator of the CSU Long Beach Distance Education Masters in Social Work Program on campus at SSU. Ms. Helm also teaches a Field Seminar in the CSULB MSW Program and has taught in the SSU Human Development Department. In addition, she has a private practice as a Coach and Consultant, provides bereavement services for Hospice of Petaluma and is active in many community organizations and events.

Featured Class Spring 2013: Social Work and Social Welfare
Sociology 461 is an introduction to the profession of social work and the field of social welfare. The course will be taught by Linh Huynh, MSW and will provide students with an overview of the history, philosophy, values and knowledge base of the social work profession, emphasizing human diversity, generalist interventions and fields of practice. Additionally, this course will examine major social issues such as poverty, child welfare, mental health and welfare reform. We will study and assess a range of social services that are intended to affect change and advance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the core traditions and values of the social work profession including the profession’s continuing commitment to social justice;
- Understand the ethical perspectives of the profession and the use of the NASW code of ethics as a decision-making tool in social work practice;
- Recognize human diversity and its implications for effective social work intervention;
- Describe the historical and philosophical roots of United States social welfare policies;
- Understand the history and current reality of poverty in the United States as a central focus of social work services.
- Describe the impact of the current economy on the lives of low income communities and the role of social workers;
- Recognize one’s own belief about poverty and oppressed groups and critically reflect on how they affect one’s views about social policies;
- Analyze the multiple perspectives of major social service issues and critically examine the impact on communities and individuals’ lives;
- Examine how social services enhance the individual and social well-being of people, promote social and economic justice and address critical social problems.

Come meet the new School of Social Sciences Social Work advisor Marjorie Helm! Considering a career in social work? Thinking about going to graduate school in Social Work? Are you applying to Masters of Social Work (MSW) programs? Have questions about researching graduate programs, locating funding sources to pay for graduate school, or navigating the application process?

Marjorie Helm, LCSW will be available to discuss your specific questions regarding social work careers and applying to MSW programs. Drop by during office hours or email her for an appointment: helmatkin@earthlink.net.

The rights of undocumented individuals is always a hot topic in an election year, but one group of students took a local focus on a universal need: health care. Access to health care, especially essential in an agricultural area such as Sonoma County, has been perceived to be difficult to obtain for undocumented persons, under the duress of deportation, but given the local area’s reliance on this labor force, how limited is it? The students are interviewing medical professionals, social workers, police, trauma and emergency personnel- even the coroner- as well as the undocumented families and workers who need them and are sometimes prevented access.

The student teams, after compiling their research, build their newfound body of knowledge into a powerful statement concerning the state of Sonoma County, to be published and utilized (Andrew Hobbs is a Sonoma County resident & SSU Graduate assisting Dr. Phillips).
Interested in Study Abroad or Study Away?

Interested in studying abroad, studying away in the National Student Exchange program in the United States, or participating in other off campus study away programs?

Professor Sheila Katz is the new Study Away Advisor for the Sociology Department. Study away provides students with the opportunity to continue their university studies while gaining the personal experience of living in a new cultural environment. As the study away advisor, Professor Katz can answer questions you may have about staying on track in the Sociology Major while studying elsewhere, how to transfer credits back to SSU or for the sociology major upon your return, and ways of connecting your study away experience to your studies here at Sonoma State.

Professor Katz can be reached at sheila.katz@sonoma.edu her office hours for the remainder of Fall 2012 are M 1-1:45, W 11:45-1, & TH 12:45-1:45.

Sociology Alumni News

Monica Robledo (2009 alum) graduated from California State University, East Bay last September, 2011, with a Masters in Social Work with a focus on children, youth and families. She is now working at Sutter Hospital in Santa Rosa as a Medical Social Worker.

Gloria Yim (2009 alum) earned her M.A. in Sociology from Arizona State University in 2011. She now works as a research analyst for Avar Consulting in Washington, D.C. where she is focusing on a project with the National Center for Education Statistics’ Support Institute Network (ESSIN).

Luisa Parker (2011 alum) is working at Major, Lindsey & Africa, a legal recruiting firm in San Francisco. In this position, she is learning about human resources and recruitment experiences.

Lisa Johnson (2009 alum) is enrolled in the MSW Program at Florida Atlantic University. Her current internship is with a substance abuse center that focuses on people with mental illness.

Need to see an Advisor?

Do you have questions about registration? Do you know where you stand in your progress towards your Sociology degree? Are you concerned that the California state budget crisis is going to impact your progress through school?

It’s time to see a Sociology Advisor!

Sociology Department faculty have office hours available throughout the week to advise students about progress towards their degrees, discuss registration options for the spring semester and make a graduation plan!

The Sociology Department office is located on the second floor of Stevenson Hall in Stevenson 2084. Feel free to stop by or call us at (707) 664-2561.

See a Sociology Department Advisor every semester to ensure that you are making progress towards your sociology degree!