

# Social Science Advocate

Spring 2008

## Dean Leeder's Notes



Welcome to the School of Social Science's Newsletter. Once again we are pleased to update you on our recent activities. Given the budget situation for the state and the resultant cuts that we are expecting for next year, we have been tightening our belts and preparing for troubled times. Nonetheless, we have still gone forth with six of the ten hires we had hoped to do this year for the '08-'09 academic year. Thus far, we have hired new faculty in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies and one more to be completed in Counseling. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the searches in Anthropology, two in Psychology and one in Counseling because of the impending budget crisis. It is our intent to hire for those positions as soon as the crisis subsides.

We are still giving students internship scholarships through the Delphine Newman Internship Scholarship Fund, faculty are still receiving travel funds, which were increased this year by a significant amount and I am still hoping to provide summer research monies to faculty for their important scholarly undertakings. Six of our faculty received sabbaticals for the next academic year, which is a large portion of the eleven that were awarded for the whole university.

We are proud of our faculty for the level of their scholarly work and the superb teaching that they engage in the classroom and as mentors. We appreciate all their hard work under what can really be stressful circumstances.

I am still teaching my Introduction to Sociology class to 200 freshmen and my new book on women in prison is selling well. I have held four Donuts with the Dean open houses and we have had an average of 36 stop bys for that monthly event. It is fun to visit informally with all who choose to visit. In addition, I have been doing quite a bit of fundraising lately. The Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove is almost completely funded. We are just trying to find the funds for the signage and hopefully we will be able to open the grove in late summer of 2008. I have also been somewhat successful in finding funds for some of the other small projects in the School, although we are always eager to solicit your donations. Please consider donating to the Dean's Discretionary Fund, which allows me to assist faculty and students with some of those unforeseen needs that arise.

Again, I want to say how proud I am with the School and the high quality of our work. The staff and faculty of this School are among the finest with whom I have ever worked and it remains an honor to be the Dean of the School of Social Sciences.

Warmly, Elaine

### Donuts with the Dean

Don't forget to join Dean Elaine Leeder for **DONUTS WITH THE DEAN**, in which faculty, staff and students are invited to an hour with the Dean. Now planned as a regular activity, everyone is invited to come to visit, complain or just grab a donut. The dates for this semester are: February 28th, March 20th, April 24th and May 8th from 10-11am in the Anthropology Lounge, Stevenson Hall, room 2054.



#### Dates to Remember:

- Donuts with the Dean- 2/28, 3/20, 4/24, 5/8 Anthro. Lounge
- Campus Closed  
March 31st, Cesar Chavez birthday
- Morris Dees Lecture  
March 4th, 7:30pm, Cooperage
- Spring Break March 24-28th  
No classes, campus open
- Multicultural Retreat  
April 18th, 10-2 Student Union

## What do the School of Social Sciences alumni think about their education?

To answer this question, Professor Heather Smith and fourteen upper division psychology students surveyed all undergraduates who graduated from School of Social Science undergraduate programs in Fall 2000 or Spring 2001. Below, we highlight key findings from 156 respondents (42% response rate):

- Most respondents reported being 1) teachers, 2) clinical social workers, therapists and school counselors and 3) project managers, administrators or office managers. However, they also reported a wide range of occupations including a 911 dispatcher, construction supervisor, registered dental assistant, realtor and waitress.
- Of those who attended graduate school, most respondents completed teaching credentials and master's degrees in counseling.

Since leaving SSU, over three quarters of the respondents 1) participated in a community project, 2) donated their services or 3) worked with a community or government non-profit organization. These rates of community service are significantly higher in comparison to the rates of community service reported in similar national surveys of college and university graduates.

When asked on the first page of the survey to list two or three issues faced by recent college graduates, most respondents mentioned 1) finding a job that pays well enough to cover local housing and living costs, 2) paying off student loans, 3) lacking specific work experience or knowledge, 4) deciding whether to attend graduate school. Respondents offered several creative and useful suggestions for improving career advising and guidance.



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### A Little Diversity Can Go A Long Way

Opportunities to meet, work and form close friendships with students from different backgrounds can be rare for students who attend predominantly white undergraduate institutions like Sonoma State University. However, Professor Heather Smith, Ray Parr, Raven Woods, Brooke Bauer and Tim Abraham of the Psychology department propose two ways in which limited undergraduate diversity could be leveraged to increase its impact. First, close undergraduate friendships with people from a different religious background or sexual orientation might foster students' support for diversity. Second, undergraduate multicultural course content might shape graduates' current attitudes and activities.

To test these ideas, they asked SSU alumni to describe their closest friends while at SSU and what they remembered about their undergraduate coursework. As predicted, college graduates who reported more college friends from different religious backgrounds, ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations reported more support for multi-culturalism and completed more community service *five years later*. College graduates who recalled more frequent classroom mentions of multiculturalism reported more multicultural competence and more community service *five years later*. Importantly, respondents' classroom exposure to a multicultural curriculum mattered more for respondents who listed fewer friends from different backgrounds. These relationships remain reliable even after including the respondents' ethnic background, age, gender, political orientation and the educational attainment of the respondents' parents in the analyses.



The authors presented their results at the 2007 American Psychological Association annual meeting. As far as we know, this is the first survey of college and university graduates to show that classroom exposure to multi-culturalism and undergraduate cross-group friendships can lead to societal benefits after graduation.

The original questionnaire and related presentations are posted at:  
<http://www.sonoma.edu/users/s/smithh/2006alumsurvey/survey.html>.

## School of Social Sciences Upcoming Sabbaticals

**Laurel McCabe**~ Psychology. Dr. McCabe will be studying a 17<sup>th</sup> century text, *Atalanta Fugiens* (de Jong, 2002), with the goal of providing a psychological interpretation of its contents using the work of C. G. Jung as a theoretical framework. The *Atalanta* consists of 50 detailed copper engravings with epigraphs, each accompanied by a musical fugue; its essential subject matter is personality transformation. Jung's psychology focuses on the concept of individuation, the life-long process of psychological discovery, integration, and transformation that allows one to become and to live one's essential nature. Jung's work provides a sufficiently complex theoretical structure to allow analyses of cultural religious and artistic products such as the *Atalanta Fugiens*.

**Peter Phillips**~ Sociology. Dr. Phillips will focus on the research necessary for the completion of his book *Investigatory Sociology: Research and Purpose in the Discipline of Sociology*. The book will synthesize his recent research into a comprehensive text book in the investigatory tradition of C Wright Mill, G. William Domhoff, and John Walton, utilizing historical and qualitative research methods to answer the questions, who decides, who wins, and who loses in contemporary social issues such as health care, affirmative action and the military-industrial complex.

**Steve Estes**~ History. During Dr. Estes' sabbatical, he will be conducting research for a book on the history of Charleston, South Carolina. With this urban history of a small southern city, Dr. Estes is trying to understand the ways that the South has changed as a result of the social movements of the 1960s, and perhaps try to explain the reasons that it has not changed as much as civil rights movement activists had hoped. In other words, he is trying to figure out how much of Martin Luther King's dream has become a reality in the modern South.

**Rheyna Laney**~ Geography and Global Studies. Dr. Laney intends to use her sabbatical to launch a research project on farm-based conservation initiatives in the Bay-Delta Region of California. Farm-based conservation is an effort to entice farmers and ranchers to adopt new techno-managerial practices, such as altered cropping and harvesting patterns, that directly enhance wildlife ecosystems on their lands. The goal is to promote agriculture and protect endangered species on the same land. The objective of her research is to understand why farmers choose to participate or not in these initiatives.

**Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp**~ History. (D.I.P.) Associate Professor Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp will be investigating the interplay of authority between Mexican and U.S. officials in regard to early 20<sup>th</sup> century immigration politics and the respective governments to control the ethnic and racial composition of the Americas. An outline of the research plan was presented at the U.C. Berkeley Latin American History Working Group under the title, "Mexico, Mother of Foreigners: An Exploration of Mexican Citizenship" during the Fall 2007 semester.

**Charlene Tung**~ Women's and Gender Studies. During her sabbatical, Dr. Tung will be working on a book manuscript, "Caring for the Nation" on Filipina migrant domestic workers caring for the elderly. She will look at reconstructions of the family through transnational carework.

**Margaret Purser**~ Anthropology. Dr. Purser will be launching a new phase of fieldwork on her cultural landscape project in Levuka, Fiji, and setting up a pilot fieldschool program on international heritage management in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji.

## 2007 C. Wright Mills Award

The department of Sociology is pleased to announce that Laura Chandler and Lianna Hart have received the 2007 C. Wright Mills Award for Sociological Imagination. The Mills Award is bestowed upon the best student paper from the previous academic year (2006-07). The department decided to honor two students this year. Laura Chandler received the award for her paper "Cohousing: Community Formation and Enactment," which she wrote for Sociology 498 (Senior Seminar, Spring 2007). Lianna Hart earned the award for her paper "Enacting Ideologies: Autism and the Maternal Role," which she wrote for Sociology 495 (Special Study, Fall 2006, Spring 2007).

## Morris Dees to speak on SSU Campus ~ March 4th

The event is sponsored by the **Andrea Neves and Barton Evans Social Justice Lecture Series** and co-sponsored by the Heritage Lecture Series of the Center for Culture, Gender & Sexuality, School of Social Sciences, School of Education, Instructionally Related Activities, Associated Students and the Sonoma Student Union Corporation.

**Tuesday, March 4th  
7:30 p.m.  
Location: The Cooperage**

Speaking Schedule on March 4th:

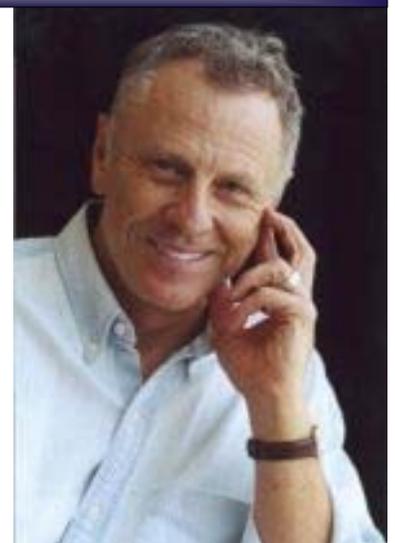
**3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Schultz 3001  
A Conversation with Morris Dees:  
Social Justice in the 21st Century**

(Informal Q&A, hosted by Dean Elaine Leeder, Social Sciences and Dean Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Education)

**7:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Cooperage  
"With Justice for All"  
Lecture by Morris Dees**

Reception in Cooperage immediately following lecture

Dees is the co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a non-profit group specializing in lawsuits involving civil rights violations, domestic terrorism, and racially-motivated crimes. Dees and his associates have successfully battled and dismantled a series of hate groups, including the Aryan Nation and Ku Klux Klan, and have secured huge criminal, civil, and financial judgments against them.



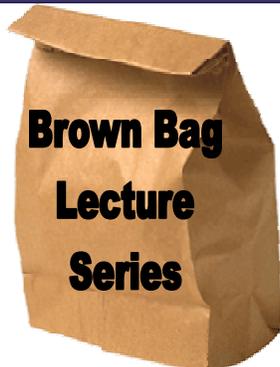
**Morris Dees Jr.**

## Staff Comings and Goings

- Shannon Fields is the newest member of our team, happily accepting the position of receptionist for Anthropology, Linguistics, Political Science and History departments.
- Cindy Menghini is the new Administrative Coordinator for Arts and Humanities.
- Ashley Wise is the new Administrative Coordinator for Anthropology, Linguistics, Political Science and History departments. She is most definitely familiar with the department, since she had served as their receptionist for the previous 11 months.

We are thrilled to have our employees and wish the best for those that have moved on to other ventures!

## Brown Bag Lecture Series



**TUESDAYS 12-1pm**  
**Stevenson 2011**  
**Bring Your Own**  
**Lunch!**

- March 18:** **James Dean**, Sociology. Title: "Racial Heterosexual feminine Identities in a Post-Closeted Society."
- April 1:** **Geri Olson**, Psychology. Title: "How Toys Teach Racism"
- April 15:** **Josh Meisel**, Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. Title: "Meta-Analysis of Juvenile Parole and Aftercare Interventions"
- April 22:** **Steve Estes**, History. Title: "Save the Males: The Fight Against Gender Integration at the Citadel"
- April 29:** **Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp**, History. "Bending Borders and Bodies: Foreign Citizens in Mexico"
- May 6:** **Kathleen Noonan**, History. Title: "Pocahontas, 'A Picturesque Episode in the History of Two Nations'"

## SOCIAL SCIENCE ADVOCATE

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