



SociNEWS

University
Of
West Georgia

Fall 2012 Volume 4, Issue 1



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Graduate Student Receives Grant Funding for Thesis Research By: Brechae' Catron

Katie McIntyre Reece is a second year graduate student in the Sociology master's program here at UWG. She will complete the program in April 2013. Katie recently received the Disability Determination Small Grant from Policy Research Associates, Inc. She plans to use the grant in order to complete research for her thesis which is entitled, "Defined as a Disability: An Institutional Ethnography on Disability Determination for People with HIV/AIDS." Katie hopes that her research will go towards making changes in the way people currently receive their social security benefits.

The purpose of Katie's study is to investigate and analyze the everyday activities of people with HIV/AIDs as they undertake the process of applying for disability benefits. The goal is to discover possibilities for positive change in disability determination procedures. The overall research question is: What are the gaps in organized work practices related to disability determination that interfere with meeting the needs of the applicant population, specifically those with HIV/AIDs? She aims to discover how the social organization of disability determination practices creates problems for people who are involved in these processes and possible ways to ameliorate this situation.

After grad school Katie plans to...

Teach for a year and then go back to school for her PhD. She is looking at schools in New York, Canada, California and a few local ones.



Graduate Student Receives Funding for Thesis Research cont.

Her research plans to take the standpoint of the people receiving benefits as well as caseworkers aiding the special population of people with HIV/AIDS. She will begin with the actual experiences of people with HIV/AIDS as they navigate the system. She will also bring to light the social relations, which shape the activities of people as they apply for benefits and of those who are involved in making disability benefit related decisions.

Katie is one of the first graduate students in the department to receive such an amazing grant! Katie's research sounds very interesting and I along with the rest of the Sociology Department wish her the best of luck with her project and look forward to the final result.

Sociology Graduates



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Spring 2012 Undergraduates

1. Cydney Jalisa Avery
2. Rebecca Nicole Bonds
3. Torri Cheryll Brown
4. Monique Shanae Cook
5. Eboni Arlean Davis
6. Jasmine D'Ondria DeLoach
7. Ti-Asia Kenya Dickenson
8. Ciera SaQuoia Favors
9. Brittanie Jewel Remington Grant
10. Brittany Michelle Harris-Gillespie
11. Maseo Montrel Haygood
12. Suzanne Lee Elliot Jones
13. Thomas M. Kennedy
14. Danielle Joan Maebus
15. Christina McDermott
16. Trevor R. Moore
17. Nadja Bianca Moore
18. Anelia Delisa Murray
19. Chisom Nneka Okponyia
20. Jasmine Pitts
21. Whitney Lee Sherer
22. Susanna L. Sierra
23. Schjuana Nicole Smith
24. Brittany Marie Stuckey
25. Daphne N. Towns
26. Kyla Jane Underwood
27. Brooke Elizabeth Vermilya
28. Lona Elizabeth Weeks
29. Anica Jean Wiebe
30. Meshunda Chantelle Williams

Summer 2012 Undergraduates

1. Monique Revell Barnes
2. Ebonie Belton
3. David Brigman
4. Brechae' Lauren Catron
5. Ashli Louise Chafin
6. Jarrett Xavier Daniels
7. Jenoris Joe Darby
8. Krystal Joyce Diamond
9. Mashieka Lasha Hatten
10. Sharonda Hope
11. Tori Hymes
12. Jessica Cherokee Madruga
13. Ebonie S. Mayes
14. Jasmine Danielle Phillips
15. Cornell M. Thomas
16. Esmirna Valdez
17. Areial Kristen Vaughn
18. Latosha Renia Ward
19. Nikkea Damesion Ward
20. Brittany Nicole Young

Special Congratulations to
Brittany Marshay Hikes for
receiving her M.A. in Sociology
this summer!



Tucked Away Community

By: Brechae' Catron

Tiffany Parsons, UWG instructor and Women's Studies Director, has been visiting a group of homeless men in Downtown Atlanta for the past three years. This group of individuals have formed a community and taken up residence in a desolate area under a bridge.

Over the year the residents of this tucked away community have shared a number of stories with Ms. Parsons but her research is focused on their creation of community.

On her first visit, Ms. Parsons met a man named Jessie who gave her a tour and explained that although each person had their own space there weren't any boundaries per se. He stated, "Anybody can go anywhere" and, while stretching his arms out, "The whole place is our home. You welcome. Unless you tryin' to start stuff or steal. Then you gotta go. This aint their home [if] they tryin' to steal stuff."

Later Ms. Parsons was introduced

to Kenny and Captain who taught her about their system of reciprocated borrowing. As long as a person had what another person needed they would share with no questions asked.

Captain also took great pleasure in showing off his "pole" which he used to keep rats and other animals from getting to his food. The contraption was made from an abandoned pole, a crate, and some bungee cords. While the pole didn't prevent all rats from

"The whole place is our home." - Jessie

getting into the food, it was nifty invention created from what was available to the men.

Out of all the valuable information gained from visiting with these men, Ms. Parsons took away how a sense of community translated into the men helping and sharing with one another. At

first glance the "community" may seem like a strange word to label a group of people who lack housing. However, it is the perfect description of the place where Jessie, Kenny and Captain live.



Where The Music Takes You

By: Brechae' Catron

Dr. Pamela Hunt is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at UWG. She has been teaching at this University for 5 years. She currently teaches at the undergraduate & graduate levels. Her area of concentration is in sociological social psychology. Dr. Hunt recently wrote a book, and I sat down with her to find out more about it.



What is the title of your book?

Where the Music Takes You: The Social Psychology of Music Subcultures

What is the book about?

Today's students access a variety of media to keep abreast of new, and up and coming musical artists. The anthology *Where the Music Takes You: The Social Psychology of Music Subcultures* turns this interest into a successful vehicle for educating readers about some of the most fundamental sociological and methodological concepts, including rituals, collective effervescence, ethnography, participant observation, and symbolic interactionist theory.

The reader is divided into three parts. Part I explores the why and the how of subculture research. After introducing readers to the concept of subcultures and to the subcultural theory, the material explores jamband subculture specifically, and discusses methods and analyses used in researching such subcultures. Part II provides a social psychological perspective on subcultural phenomena. Topics include measuring subcultural embeddedness, subcultural resistance to authority, and identity. Part III paints a colorful ethnographic portrait by examining a day in the life of jamband subculture members.

How do you think your book will contribute to the field of sociology?

Where the Music Takes You provides numerous real-life examples of

research methods, measures, deviance, social psychology, and sociological theory. The text includes a glossary of relevant terms, and a How to Festival Guide which takes the material out of the classroom and into the real world. It successfully introduces students to the interconnectedness of qualitative and quantitative research methods, and offers a dynamic exploration of major sociological and methodological concepts. It can be used in courses such as Social Psychology, Cultural Anthropology & Qualitative Research Methods.

The book will be released in Feb. 2013 through Cognella Academic Publishing

Welcome Dr. Wolfe!

By: Kimberly Lalonde

This semester at the University of West Georgia, the Sociology department was honored to receive a new faculty member by the name of Dr. Christina Wolfe. Dr. Wolfe is originally from south Louisiana where she attended Louisiana State University and obtained her Bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in rural sociology along with a Bachelor's degree in French with a concentration in Francophone Culture. Dr. Wolfe comes to UWG from Pennsylvania State University where she did her graduate work.

She is a dual-degree Doctoral candidate in the departments of Sociology and Demography at Penn State. Her dissertation is entitled "Childhood Poverty and Family Formation;" she is writing under the direction of Professor Alan Booth.

Dr. Wolfe looks at the linkages between family income during childhood and family structure in young adulthood along with looking at the intergenerational transmission of family structure. Her other research looks at the time use differences between cohabiting families and married families with children living in the household. She has had previous work with Dr. Jennifer Hook published in *European Sociological Review* and *Journal of Family Issues*.

Dr. Wolfe has presented her work at professional conferences such as the Population Association of America, the American Sociological Association, and the Work and Family Research Network.

Courses being taught by Dr. Wolfe over the Fall 2012 semester included Sociology of Gender, Research Methodology, and Sociology of Childhood. For Spring 2013, students can look for these courses along with a Population Seminar.

As a student myself having Dr. Wolfe for two different classes this semester, I can honestly say that I enjoy her teaching. She has an open door policy and is willing to help her students as much as possible in order for them to do well in her courses. I am very happy to welcome Dr. Christina Wolfe to UWG and hope that she stays on as long as possible! Welcome to West Georgia Dr. Wolfe!

Cambria Moon Receives First Creative Juices Award

In many creative fields, awards such as OBIEs, Emmys, Tonys and Grammys recognize people's accomplishments. In the Sociology department we pay tribute to the employees who use their creative juices to help our department run better, to assist us in achieving our goals, and to make the Sociology Department a fun place to be by honoring them with the Juicy Award.

Cambria Moon is the first recipient of the Juicy Award, a trophy made of recycled materials, including the top of a juice carton. Cambria is a very talented Graduate Research Assistant who has helped with numerous projects, and she was an obvious choice to receive the Juicy. Cambria is seen in this photo with an unnamed blonde.

The Juicy Award is a traveling honor and whoever receives the award must select the next recipient. Who will it be?



2012 Georgia Sociological Association Conference

By: Susanna Sierra



The 2012 Georgia Sociological Association's annual meeting was in Dahlonega, Georgia, this year. North Georgia College and State University's campus served as the location for the conference, and undergraduate and graduate students and professors headed to Dahlonega to present their most recent research. Three graduate students represented the University of West Georgia's department of Sociology this year: Joe Stincer, Katie McIntyre Reece, and Susanna Sierra. Joe and Katie presented the preliminary findings of their theses, titled "How Moroccans Create Space for Sexuality: Marrakech to Casablanca," and "Defined as Disability: An Institutional Ethnography of Disability Determination for People with HIV/AIDS," respectively. Susanna presented the preliminary findings of Dr. Noori's and her forthcoming article titled, "Does Academic Freedom Globalize? The Diffusion of the American Model of Higher Education, the Academy, and Academic Freedom." The three presentations were well-received at the conference, and each presentation sparked much discussion.

Apart from presenting and attending other panel sessions at the conference, the three attendees enjoyed mingling with graduate students and professors with similar research interests. In particular, Katie enjoyed reconnecting with her undergraduate professors from Kennesaw State University, and Joe and Susanna enjoyed meeting the professors and their students. They also enjoyed visiting with Dr. Laurel Holland who recently left the University of West Georgia's Department of Sociology. Many professors from other programs in Georgia offered their advice about applying to Ph.D. programs, and the three UWG students were grateful for their tips. They also enjoyed visiting Dahlonega as the leaves were changing, enjoying the local eateries, and exploring the North Georgia College and State University campus. The attendees were very pleased with their experience in Dahlonega, and enjoyed equally the academic and recreational aspects of the trip.



Make A Difference Day 2012

By: Brittany Catron



The head of the dragon sculpture

MAP is an academic support program created for minority students. MAP provides study skills sessions, mentoring, career exploration and a variety of other services aimed at promoting academic success



The inside of the sculpture that can be walked through

The Multicultural Achievement Program is coordinated by Ashley Lewis and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion located in Row Hall

Make A Difference Day is a nationwide event sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine in partnership with Hands On Network. It is the national day of doing good in which millions of Americans participate by coming together to make a difference in their communities. On Saturday, October 27th, a group of UWG students (including MAP (Multicultural Achievement Program & Gamma Sigma Sigma) participated by assisting The S.C.R.A.P. Bin, a local arts and crafts store, in its attempt to enter The Guinness Book of World Record for the world's largest bottle sculpture. The sculpture is in the shape of a dragon and is being created by repurposing discarded bottles. The Carrollton community donated all of the bottles used for this project. Upon arriving at the site, students were divided into two groups. The first group sorted and cleaned bottles to be added to the sculpture. The second group added those same bottles to one of a piece of the larger portions of the sculpture. Other volunteers are still working the dragon sculpture on. Once it is completed, it will on display in downtown Carrollton behind the Cultural Arts Center where the public can view and even walk through the massive structure.



2012 MAP Mentors

Sociology Department Professional Activities

Hunt, Pamela. 2012. "Examining the Affective Meanings of Interaction Settings in the Jamband Music Subculture." *Journal of Professional and Public Sociology* 4(1): Article 5.

Luken, Paul C. 2012, "Approaches: Ethnography." Pp. 124-128 in *International Encyclopedia of Housing and the Home*. Elsevier.

Luken, Paul C. Editor. "Institutional Ethnography: The Newsletter of the Thematic Group on Institutional Ethnography (TG06) of the International Sociological Association." Issue 2, Spring, 2012.

Luken, Paul C. and Suzanne Vaughan. "Challenges in Writing Up Institutional Ethnographic Research." Society for the Study of Social Problems, Denver, August, 2012.

Paul C. Luken. "Achievements, Challenges, and Prospects in the Application of Institutional Ethnography Research." Second International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology, Buenos Aires, August, 2012.

Noori, Neema. 2012. "War, Revolution, and Social Change in Iran." In *Incorporating the Middle East into the Classroom*, edited by Jason Tatlock. University Press of Maryland.

Noori, Neema. 2012. "Dubai: Global Gateway in the Desert." In *Places of Encounter: Time, Place and Connectivity in World History*, edited by Aran and Elaine MacKinnon. Westview Press.

Noori, Neema. 2012. "Teaching Abroad in the Age of Empire." *Journal of Public and Professional Sociology* 4(2). (Special Issue on Faculty Development Abroad)

2012 GSA Conference

Katie McIntyre Reece

"Defined as Disability: An Institutional Ethnography of Disability Determination for People with HIV/AIDS"

Joseph Stincer

"How Moroccans Create Space for Sexuality: Marrakech to Casablanca"

Neema Noori & Susanna Sierra

"Does Academic Freedom Globalize? The Diffusion of the American Model of Education, the Academy and Academic Freedom"

Changes in Academic Advising



Beginning January 2013, Dr. Pamela Hunt will once again serve as the academic advisor for undergraduate sociology majors. She can be reached at phunt@westga.edu. Students should be advised in the Excel Center until they have completed 39 hours in Core Areas A-E. Once this coursework is finished, they should be advised by the Sociology Department



STUDY ABROAD 2013

The College of Social Sciences is sponsoring a new Essence of Europe study abroad program for 2013. During Maymester, graduate students and advanced undergraduate students have the opportunity to earn 6 credit hours (taking two three credit classes). Students will travel to Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Munich, Germany; Venice, Rome, and Florence, Italy; Lucerne, Switzerland; Colmar (Alsace), and Paris, France; and London, England. The deadline is February 1, 2013. For more information go to <http://www.westga.edu/coss/sa>.



This Issue's Contributors:

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To comment on the SociNews write pluken@westga.edu. Use the same email address if you are a student and interested in working on the next issue.