

The Student Sociologist

A semi-annual newsletter for students and their departments from the American Sociological Association



Spring 2005



2005 Annual Meeting

The American Sociological Association's 100th Annual Meeting will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The convention theme, "Comparative Perspectives, Competing Explanations: Accounting for the Rising and Declining Significance of Sociology," explores the wide historical sweep of Sociology and addresses the key aspects of the social history of the discipline.

The plenary presentations and presidential address offer students the opportunity to hear distinguished scholars in the field. As sociology students, you should consider participating in this important event.

More information on the content of the Annual Meeting can be found at www.asanet.org/convention/2005/. The Preliminary Program will be available in late May. It will contain all the session listings, information on registration and housing, and everything else you need to know about the Annual Meeting. There are student discounted rates for housing and registration as well as special events planned with you in mind.

Opportunities for Student Involvement (in addition to regular sessions):

Student sessions

There are three paper sessions and two research-in-progress sessions specifically designated for students.

Workshops

The Annual Meeting offers a variety of workshops (academic, teaching, career, professional, and research) at no additional cost to attendees. Some workshops of particular interest to students include: Ideas for Teaching Introductory Sociology, Making the Most of Your Dissertation: Publishing Opportunities, Ensuring a Successful, First Solo Teaching Experience as a Graduate Student, Navigating the Graduate Admission Process, Getting in and Staying in Graduate School, and Thesis and Dissertation Accomplished: Practical Steps to Getting Done.

Section Events

Participating in Section events is the perfect way to make connections with other sociologists beyond your department who share your specific interests.

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There are currently 43 sections and 1 section-in-formation. Each offers paper sessions, refereed roundtables, a business meeting, and a reception. You do not have to be a member of the Section to attend these events. For more information on Sections, visit www.asanet.org/sections/general.html.

Graduate Program Poster Session

The Academic and Professional Affairs Program sponsors a Graduate Program Poster session each year. This session brings together department representatives with undergraduate and Masters students looking to continue their education and undergraduate advisors and professors researching programs of interest to their students. Graduate schools will have information about their programs, brochures, and pamphlets. Since the event is free, there is no reason not to attend!

Travel Grants

2005 Student Travel Awards

Applications due May 1st !

The ASA Student Forum administers student travel awards to the ASA Annual Meeting. They generally grant 25 awards in the amount of \$200 each. These awards are made on a competitive basis and are meant to assist students by defraying costs associated with attending the Annual Meeting. All applicants are encouraged to seek additional sources of funding to attend the Annual Meeting. More information can be found at <http://www.asanet.org/studentforum/travelgrant.html>.

Student Reception and Hospitality Room

All students registered to attend the Annual Meeting are invited to a special **student reception** co-hosted by the Student Forum. This is an opportunity to socialize with other sociology students and enjoy complimentary refreshments. A **Student Center** will also be open throughout the meeting. This hospitality room is provided as an informal

place for students to meet, make dinner arrangements, caucus, etc.

JOIN A SOCIOLOGICAL HONOR SOCIETY!

Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honor society, was founded in 1921 by Dr. Emory S. Borgardus of the University of Southern California. The name Alpha Kappa Delta represents the first letters of three Greek words which signify the motto, *anthropon katamanthaneion diakonesein* or "social research for the purpose of service". From the beginning, the aim of Alpha Kappa Delta has been to stimulate scholarship, not only among its members but among all students in sociology, so that as large a portion as possible might become eligible for membership. During the eight decades of its history, over 75,000 scholars have been initiated into the Society. There are presently 447 chapters in 49 states, Canada, China, the District of Columbia, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

The Society publishes a journal, *Sociological Inquiry*. Chapters and members can participate in a number of funded opportunities, including the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition, grants to support initiation speakers, grants to support symposia and workshops, and grants to support student travel to regional sociological meetings.

For information on membership or organizing a chapter visit the AKD website at: <http://www.alpha-kappa-delta.org>.

Pi Gamma Mu, which was founded in 1924, seeks to foster excellence in the social sciences and to promote cooperation among them. In addition to sociology, members are also from such disciplines as anthropology, economics, international relations, criminal justice, social work, social psychology, social

philosophy, and cultural geography. Membership includes a subscription to *International Social Science Review*, the official journal. Pi Gamma Mu also offers scholarships. More information can be found at: <http://www.pigammamu.org/>

NEW ASA ONLINE BOOKSTORE

The American Sociological Association is pleased to announce that it has launched a new online bookstore. Through the online bookstore located on the ASA website at <http://www.asanet.org/pubs/pubs.html> students may order ASA publications, including the Guide to Graduate Departments, career materials, social policy volumes, research reports, and merchandise.

Students: Be sure to browse the Career Publications section!

JUMP START YOUR STUDENT CLUB!

Does your department have a student club? Is it in need of some new ideas and revitalization? Order the book *Sociology Club Tool Kit* (\$5 members/\$7non-members) to borrow many excellent ideas.

This publication includes information on orienting new majors to the department, developing student handbooks, structuring your club, how to receive funding from your school and outside sources, advertising the club, creating newsletters and listservs, meeting ideas and activities, off campus excursions and activities and awards.

The Sociology Club at Hendrix College has a bake sale, appropriately called, *Social Roles*, and gives money to local charities. At Centre College, students have a party in honor of

Durkeheim's birthday. Challenge the psychology club to a volleyball game, as the sociology club at Baldwin-Wallace does. Fordham University organizes a daylong symposium on sociological practice for all sociology students in the New York City region. At Anne Arundel Community College, the student club sponsors a spring fair, including a dunk tank (with faculty volunteers), a fortune teller (predicting a bright future in sociology), lots of brochures and treats. North Hennepin Community College borrows the campus van and brings a group of students to the Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting every year. Several departments invite alumni as guest speakers to assist current club members with all that important networking.

Additionally, you may want to connect with Alpha Kappa Delta, the national honor society for sociology, and propose a chapter if one is not in place. Contact your campus Student Affairs office for possible funding for your club and its activities

INTERNSHIPS IN SOCIOLOGY

As a sociology student, you are learning basic sociological concepts and methodologies. You are analyzing how society works, why problems occur, and how they can be addressed. With this new knowledge, you are ready to apply your scientific understanding and ability to the "real world." The question is, "HOW?"

An internship in sociology is one answer.

An internship is an opportunity for students to apply their sociological knowledge to practice in the work place. An internship also provides students with an unique out-of-classroom experience; helps students become more marketable with future employers; makes classroom learning come to life in a real world setting; and often provides academic credit for experiential learning.

Many sociology departments offer internship programs which students should take advantage of. Not only does the student learn to apply sociology to the real world setting, but it also mobilizes the student into action. No matter where the internship is, the student should relish the experience.

Ask yourself what you want out of an internship and what your goals are.

Contact nonprofit organizations, businesses, governmental and educational agencies, etc. that interest you. Contact internship coordinator or career counselor at your college for contacts. Ask your sociology professors for contacts in areas you are interested in. See links below.

U.S. Department of State - www.careers.state.gov/student/
Internships in government

National Society for Experiential Education (NSIEE) – www.nsee.org
An association dedicated to the development of experiential education programs, including internships, nationwide. They have several publications of interest to students as well.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities National Internship Program - www.hnip.net/

InternWeb.com – www.internweb.com
Online search engine for internships that also includes articles and books.

InternshipPrograms.com – www.internshipprograms.com
Internship search engine

Rising Star Internships - www.rsinternships.com/

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars - <http://www.twc.edu/>

Institute for Experiential Learning - <http://www.ielnet.org/>
Internships in Washington D.C.

InternJobs.com – www.internjobs.com
Internship search engine

The 2005 Guide to Graduate Departments

This invaluable reference has been published by the ASA annually since 1965. A best seller for the ASA for many years, the Guide provides comprehensive information for students and others seeking information on social science departments in the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Included are listings for over 250 graduate departments of sociology.

In addition to name and rank, faculty members are identified by highest degree held, institution and date of degree, and areas of specialty interest. Special programs, tuition costs, types of financial aid, and student enrollment statistics are given for each department, along with a listing of recent PhDs with dissertation titles. Indices of faculty, special programs, and PhDs awarded are provided.

Available in the ASA Bookstore in late April

Coffee a popular topic on college campuses

Friday, February 25, 2005

DANVILLE, Kentucky (AP) -- For years, sociology professor Beau Weston has held informal office hours off campus in a local coffee shop, sipping his mocha latte while advising students.

As he did, he formed relationships with other coffee shop regulars who might otherwise

have remained strangers. That caused a sort of academic epiphany, and now he's one of a handful of teachers across the nation who have developed courses that study coffee and its effect on society.

Don't drop your morning cup of joe. Weston's class, offered during a recent intensive three-week term at Centre College, was hardly "Starbucks 101," although the 15 students who enrolled in "The Cafe and Public Life" could be forgiven if that was their original impression.

Audrey Rogers, a freshman from Dallas, said she initially wondered about the academic strength of the class: "I didn't know how it was going to last a week."

Weston understood such skepticism and designed his course to focus not only on coffee as a drink, but on how its consumption has changed society through the centuries.

A class on coffee might seem strange at a college like Centre, an elite private school known for producing two Supreme Court justices and hosting the 2000 vice presidential debate between Dick Cheney and Joe Lieberman.

Then again, unique classes are becoming commonplace at the school of about 1,100 students. Last year, a Centre professor taught a class called "Basketball As Religion," playing off the passion for hoops in the Bluegrass State.

John Ward, Centre's vice president for academic affairs, said that all the college's courses are approved by a curriculum committee that consists of faculty from across the campus who examine the "intellectual contexts" of any proposed course.

Ward said offering classes like the ones on basketball and coffee "is as if you hold a microscope up on something really interesting. We apply the same academic and intellectual rigor in courses like this as we do in advanced literature, language or science courses. It's the same tools at work."

The feedback from parents has always been positive. "What they say is, 'Wow, my kid was really motivated.' They don't say, 'I want my money back,'" he said.

Public life

Weston's regular trips to coffee houses led to "an interest in cafes as a place in which strangers can talk to one another" and discuss the issues of the day. In Europe, coffee shops and cafes have served that purpose since the 17th century, he said.

Over the centuries, "cafes became places where informed men, some educated and some not, would come together and talk about stuff," including literature, plays, poems, economics and politics, Weston said.

In recent years, the emergence of the Seattle-based Starbucks chain has brought the coffee house back into vogue in this country.

"Having a place to do that enriches a culture," Weston said. "It takes us out of the cocoon of private life and into the public world. Cafes are important for creating a public life, particularly in a democracy. It becomes a place where the town, or, in the big city, where the neighborhood develops."

At Atlanta's Emory University, the University of Washington and the University of California-Irvine, similar courses are taught by professors with academic backgrounds ranging from anthropology to chemistry to history.

"It really combines so many disciplines," said Mark Pendergrast, of Colchester, Vermont, the author of "Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World," which was used as a textbook in Weston's class at Centre.

"Everywhere you look in our culture, coffee has a fairly profound effect," Pendergrast said. "I think it's a wonderful way to teach history and culture and economics."

Cal-Irvine history professor Steven Topik began teaching his "History of Coffee" writing seminar course in 1996.

Coffee "is just not something we think about," Topik said. "History is usually taught as the history of great men and wars and great events. We don't think about the history of everyday things. But historians have been increasingly thinking about these things."

Studying coffee "is a palpable, liquid way of understanding globalization," Topik said.

University of Washington chemistry professor Joe Norman had another practical reason for developing his honors seminar, "Coffee and Humanity."

"It's fun, and I think education should be broad like this to some extent," Norman said. "Of course, Seattle is a good place to offer such a seminar. There's enough coffee around here!"

There apparently also is plenty in central Kentucky. Students in Weston's class visited roasters and coffee houses in Danville, Lexington, Louisville and Georgetown and freely imbibed.

Rogers, for one, came away from those trips, and the class, with a heightened sense of how coffee houses have affected modern society.

"The cafe is a lot more diverse," she said. "You have business people, students, motorcycle riders. A good cafe is a place where everyone goes."

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/EDUCATION/02/25/coffee.class.ap/index.html>

On the Web . . .

Fun, innovative websites designed to enhance sociological learning:

First Person, Plural

<http://fpp.culturalconstructioncompany.com>

Singing Sociology

<http://www.minnabromberg.com/soc/soc.shtml>

Contexts (UC Press/ASA publication)

<http://www.contextsmagazine.org/>

A Sociological Tour through Cyberspace

<http://www.trinity.edu/~mkearl/>

Capitale Sociale.it

<http://w3.uniroma1.it/soccap/eng-index.htm>

Allyn & Bacon Sociology Links

<http://www.abacon.com/sociology/soclinks/>

The Sociologist's Book of Cartoons

The ASA has contracted with *The New Yorker's* Cartoon Bank

(www.cartoonbank.com) to create a customized book of cartoons on the occasion of the ASA centennial. *The Sociologist's Book of Cartoons* (December 2004) is now available in hardcover. With an original cover cartoon created just for ASA, the book includes 85 cartoons originally published in *The New Yorker* magazine over the last 80 years, selected specifically for their relevance to the work and lives of sociologists. \$20 per copy to ASA members; \$25 to non-members. To order, complete the form below or visit: www.asanet.org/pubs/cartoonorder.html

Fun Facts . . .

Freshmen members of the House of Reps. who have background in sociology include:

- Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) has an MACT in sociology, EdD in curricula and higher education
- Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) has an undergraduate degree in sociology and political science

Congratulations to the recipients of the
second annual SWS Undergraduate
Social Action Awards!

Sarah J. Hansen, University of Minnesota
Action Site: The DC Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

Jessica Maass, University of Northern Iowa
Action Site: Feminist Majority
Foundation's Get Out Her Vote

Cara Margherio, University of Pittsburgh
Action Site: Citizens for Global Solutions
Pittsburgh

The Social Action award is designed to carry
on the SWS tradition of
acknowledging, affirming and inviting
students to participate in SWS.

Each of the recipients of the award
participated in the SWS Winter Meeting
where they co-presented on their experiences.

NEWS FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT

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