

Holiday and End of Semester Greetings

University of Colorado Denver Sociology Graduates

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Congratulations to April Cross-Bates, Jason Struna, Candace Farmer and Khristi Syte for successfully completing their MA degrees in Sociology, Summer or Fall 2008. April defended her Master's project on November 19. Her project, entitled "Evaluating Three Problem-Solving and Community Policing Programs at Jefferson County Sheriff's Office," used data collected by the Sheriff's office over three years to determine whether selected community policing programs were effective in reducing property crime in Jefferson County. April's graduate work also included an internship with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, where she used a variety of research methods to study statewide patterns of fraud and identity theft. Dr. Paula Fomby was April's thesis chair.

Jason Struna completed his MA degree in Summer 2008. Jason's MA project title was "Toward a Theory Global Proletarian Fractions". Dr. Aki Hirose was chair of Jason's MA project.

Candace Farmer also completed her MA degree Summer 2008. Her thesis focused on "Analyzing Social Variables' Effects on Adolescent Emotions". Dr. Paula Fomby was chair of Candace's thesis committee.

Khristi Syte completed her MA degree in Summer 2008. Her Project focused on "Pedagogical Preferences in Home-Schooling: Exploration Through Case Study". Dr. Karl Flaming was chair of Khristi's project committee.

Jeremy Martinez and Roger Chern hope to complete their MA degrees Spring 2009.

Congratulations to all the Sociology students who received their BA degrees Saturday, December 13, 2008. These include, among many others, Gladys Brown Jones, who was the 2007-2008 Student Sociology Club President and who has received many honors while attending UC Denver. Gladys plans to continue her education by seeking an MA in public policy. Benetta Price, overcame serious

health issues in order to graduate with a BA in Sociology. She would like to work at a Community College in Career Counseling. A short story about the obstacles Benetta overcame was featured in UC Denver's Media News release and is included in this newsletter on page 3.

David Troxel graduated Saturday with Summa Cum Laude honors. Following graduation, David plans to take some time off from academics to pursue independent research interests, while waiting for news from the CU-Boulder Ph.D. program. He will be looking forward to exploring fellowships and teaching opportunities, with an eye toward continuing research and teaching. He also plans to follow up on a writing project that he calls "The Human Algorithm", a theoretical concept developed while pursuing his undergraduate studies at UCD. David is a good example of why you never give up on getting your degree. He says it took him 33 years!

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Aki Hirose received a \$500 YUMPS (Young Upwardly Mobile Professors) award from the UC Denver Center for Faculty Excellence. This is to assist him in attending the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) meeting in San Diego, April, 2009. Other faculty members and graduate students are also attending and participating in this conference. Ed Casteel and Pete Padilla will present a workshop about Alpha Kappa Delta at the Southwestern Sociological Association Conference. The meeting is being held in Denver, April 8-11, 2009.

This Spring, **Paula Fomby** will present results from her research on family structure instability at the Population Research Center at the University of Texas Austin, the National Center for Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University, and the biennial meeting of the Sociology for Research on Child Development in Denver.

Dr. Sharon K. Araji was recently notified that she had been elected President of the PSA. This is one of the largest regional sociology associations in the country. She will serve as President-elect in 2009, President in 2010, and Past-president in 2011.

Faculty members Sharon Araji, Karl Flaming, Paula Fomby and Rob Kadel are involved in a research project with the Denver Police Department. This involves tracking sex offenders who utilize the Crossroads Homeless Shelter in Denver. Drs. Araji and Kadel completed the first report and presented it to the Denver Police Department on October 29, 2008. The project will continue throughout the year.

Dr. Pete Padilla served as lecturer in the Sociology department this past Fall. After a UC Denver internal search, he has been hired as an Instructor for the Spring 2009 semester.

He has also been very actively involved in the CU Succeed program this past semester. (see article below)

The UC Denver Sociology graduate program re-opened this past Fall. Eleven students successfully completed the first semester.

Dr. Sharon Araji's video program entitled "Listen to Our Voices" will be featured on UC Denver's website, www.cudenver.edu/latitude in the near future. She has also been invited by the Domestic Violence and Legal Issues Committee to make a presentation to the Colorado Bar Association, on this program, at their January 14th meeting. **Travis Luther**, Sociology graduate student is working with Dr. Araji on an edited version of the video program.

CU SUCCEED AT SHERIDAN HIGH SCHOOL BY PETE PADILLA

The Fall 2008 semester introductory course in sociology at Sheridan High School ended on a good note. Approximately 25 students (mostly seniors) completed the course. The principal of the school, Mr. Gabe Trujillo, commented that the course was one of the most attended and most popular. He mentioned that attendance was one of the highest throughout the entire semester and that students had asked him if it was possible to have more sociology courses in the future. Ms. Ami

Podczervinskia who co-taught the course, also mentioned that after taking the course, the sociology students of all types would interact together and with groups she said would have avoided each other before taking this course. The jocks, gays, emos, cheerleaders, student government leaders, and others all took what they learned from the course beyond the classroom doors and out into the Sheridan High School community. The course was successful enough that Mr. Trujillo is going to ask for an addi-

tional two sociology courses to be taught in the future. The students who completed the introductory course will be eligible to take sociological, social psychology and/or sociology of deviance. With many of these students being the first in their extended family to even take a college-level course, perhaps we will have some future "recruits" at UCD. Due to student interest, Sheridan High has requested an increase in the number of Sociology courses offered.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT EXTENDS APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM

The Sociology Department would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Sociology Program recently, throughout the CU Foundation. So, thank you to donors: Larry Adkinsson, Loretta Benore, James Buck, Yvonne Candelaria, Citicorp/Citibank, Diane Clippinger-Cannizzaro, Karalyn Dorn, Karen Duffala, Ed Glassman, Frank Gomez, Isoline Headstrom, Molly Hoffman, Robert Howland, Shirley Hud-

son, Eleanore Judd, Kendrick King, Robert Kløver Gregoire Lee, Lydia Marenin, Bonita Mays, Linda McCurley-Stafford, Diane Ortega, Kay Paine, Michael Pinkerton, Theresa Rock, Safeco Insurance Co. of America, Sharon Shannon, Rhonda Swartzendruber, Carla Tracy, Anita White, and Nancy Zellers. If you would like information on how to become a contributor to the Sociology program through the

UC Denver Foundation, contact Lora Adams; Senior Director of Development at (720) 425-2829 (phone) or lora.adams@cufund.org. You may also visit the foundation website at www.cufund.org.

UC DENVER'S NEWS RELEASE FEATURES BENETTA PRICE

Benetta Price, 43, who is graduating with a degree in Sociology, returned to college after a 20 year absence, fulfilling a "bucket list" after finding out she had the same terminal disease from which her fa-

ther (whom she cared for) had died; the disease is Spinocerebellar Ataxia. She has faced many health challenges, including systemic muscle atrophy, blurred vision, slurred speech, coordination/balance and

short term memory, but has persisted to graduation. She is an inspiration to all those who know her.

STUDENT CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE FALL 2009

Dan Auerbach and Charlene Shelton, sociology graduate students, are co-chairing the first-ever student research conference, to be held Fall semester of 2009. The all-day conference, which is sponsored by the Sociology Club, will allow students to present their research to other students, professors, and the general public. This conference (which does not yet have a name) is planned as a student-led, student-focused program and is open to any student from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

This is an unprecedented conference in the college. Although there has been a poster session available each year for students to show-

case their research, students have never had the opportunity to present their research in a conference-style venue. Students who are hoping to present at national or regional professional conferences and who want to add to their resumes will get presentation experience in a supportive environment. The Office of the Associate Dean of CLAS as well as the Office of Career Services, which has sponsored the poster sessions in past years, have already offered support for the conference.

While the conference is still in the early stages of planning, Dan and Charlene are recruiting students to help with the logistics.

So far there is a core of volunteers from throughout the CLAS, including students from the departments of biology, English, psychology, and health sciences. Six more volunteers are needed to help make this a momentous conference.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting and unique experience, please contact Charlene at LAHOJOEL@GMAIL.COM or Dan at dnauer04@gmail.com.

NEW COURSES OF INTEREST FOR SPRING 2009

Soc. 3552: Language and Diversity: Daniel Martinez

This course investigates the regional and social variation of language, the numerous factors that influence the ways in which we use language in social contexts, and what language reveals about who we are, where we come from, who we identify and associate with, and our position in society. Topics include: language and gender, age, social status, and ethnicity, and sexuality; language and world view; the ethnography of communication; language attitudes; multilingualism.

Soc. 4700: Sociology of Law: James Simmons

This class will explore the origins and sources of law, the functions of law in contemporary American society, major theories of the connection between law and society, the sources of law within all three branches of our government, and the uses of law for social control, dispute resolution, and social change. The class will focus on several recent important Supreme Court cases on subjects, such as gun ownership rights and the death penalty for adults who sexually assault children.

Soc. 4774/5774: Violence in Relationships: Sharon K. Araj

This course focuses on abuse and violence that happens to those in dating relationships, marriage, and living together arrangements across the lifespan. This is a course of interest to everyone who knows someone who has experienced child abuse, partner abuse, elder abuse, or some type of sexual abuse. Lectures, discussions, guest speakers, films, research papers and exams are featured in the course.

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA (AKD) HOLDS FALL 2008 INITIATION

The new AKD initiates for Fall 2008 are Andrea Lane, Dr. Lisa Hall, Khristi Syte, Travis Luther, Mari Anne Christie, Charlene Shelton, Ronnette Garcia, Mitzi Hicks, Lee Weissman, Julie Roat, Rachel Aceves and Deborah Roth.

The initiation was held on the UC Denver campus at St. Francis center, on Friday, November 7. There are many benefits to joining AKD. For example, there is an Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper Competition with first prizes of

\$600.00 and up to an additional \$600.00 in travel expenses to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Sociology Association. This year it will be held in San Francisco. The first place paper winner will have an opportunity to have their paper published in *Sociology Inquiry*, the AKD Journal. There are also monies to support student travel to attend regional sociology meetings. There are honor cords available to wear on graduation day as well as lapel pins, charms and medallions to order from the International Office. You must

have at least an overall GPA of 3.0. For more information contact the Chapter Advisor, Ed Casteel at 303-315-2139 or at edward.casteel@ucdenver.edu. We will hold a Spring initiation in April or May.

Thanks for your Support!

RECIPIENT OF 2008 SOCIOLOGY OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD: APRIL BATES

April Cross-Bates, UCD Master's of Sociology Graduate Student has been awarded the Students of Sociology Club's 2008 Outstanding Leadership Award. This award is given to students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership within the Sociology Club. She has served in the past as a club officer and also serves as the Graduate Student Liaison to the Sociology faculty. She is assisted by Dan Auerbach. April has been a great departmental citizen and organized this Fall's screening of Iron-Jawed Angels as a pre-election campus event.

This past October Ed Casteel, one of Sociology's Instructors lost his adopted daughter, Becky. He asks that we remember Becky in the following way.

In Memory of Rebekah "Becky" Kauffmann. April 21, 1986 - October 16, 2008.

I am the child who cannot talk.

You often pity me. I see it in your eyes.

You wonder how much I am aware of... I see that as well.

I am aware of much... whether you are happy or sad or fearful, patient or impatient, full of love and desire, or if you are just doing your duty to me.

I marvel at your frustration, knowing mine to be far greater, for I cannot express myself nor my needs as you do.

You cannot conceive my isolation, so complete it is as times.

I do not gift you with clever conversation, cute remarks to be laughed over and repeated.

I do not give you answers to your everyday questions, responses over my well-being, sharing my needs, or comments about the world around me.

I do not give you rewards as defined by the world's standards... great strides in development that you can credit yourself.

I do not give you understanding as you know it.

What I give you is o much more valuable... I give you instead opportunities.

Opportunities to discover the depth of your character, not mine; the depth of your love, your commitment, your patience, your abilities; the opportunity to explore your spirit more deeply than you imagined possible.

I drive you further than you ever go on your own, working harder, seeking answers to your many questions, creating questions with no answers.

I am the child who cannot talk.

Thanks extended to Ed's Fall 2008, *Race and Ethnicity In The United States* class, who collected \$100 to donate. Members of the Sociology Department also contributed a similar amount. The funds were donated to Camp Courageous, in memory of Becky.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Study abroad in Prague, Czech Republic this summer. Prague provides a fascinating opportunity to study issues of democratization, crime and justice in a rapidly changing society. Application deadline is February 15, 2009. For information log into www.studyabroad.colostate.edu
- Watch for "Call for Applications" for Sociology MA program coming up in mid-February 2009.
- Please see your Sociology advisor at least once each year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT!



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SOCIOLOGY HONORS REQUIREMENTS

The department of sociology offers two levels of honors with the degree in sociology: High Departmental Honors (Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude) and Departmental Honors (Cum Laude). The requirements are:

~ Cum Laude ~

If you wish to graduate with Departmental Honors (Cum Laude) in Sociology, you must fulfill the following requirements (in addition to completing all of the requirements for the Sociology Major):

1. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better while enrolled at University of Colorado at Denver.
2. Have a GPA of 3.2 or better for all course work done in Sociology while enrolled at the University of Colorado at Denver.
3. Complete at least six (6) hours of Soc 4840, Independent Study, spread over at least two semesters. This independent study will serve as the basis for the research project.
4. Complete an independent research project under the supervision of a University of Colorado at Denver Sociology faculty member.

~ Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude ~

Students wishing to graduate with High Departmental Honors (Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude) must meet the following requirements (in addition to completing all of the requirements for the Sociology Major):

1. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better while enrolled at the University of Colorado at Denver.
2. Have GPA of 3.5 or better for all course work in Sociology while enrolled at the University of Colorado at Denver.
3. Complete six (6) hours of Soc 4840, Independent Study, spread over at least two semesters. This independent will serve as the basis for the research project.
4. Prepare an Honors Thesis based on an independent research project directed by a Sociology faculty member and present the Thesis to a Departmental Colloquium at least six (6) weeks before the end of the semester in which you intend to graduate.

The level of Honors (Magna or Summa Cum Laude) conferred by the department will be determined by the Honors Committee's evaluation of the Honors Thesis and GPA.

If you have any questions about the requirements or would like to make sure you are on track to receive honors, contact one the Sociology Undergraduate Advisors:

Andrea Haar, 303-315-2138, Andrea.Haar@ucdenver.edu
Ed Casteel, 303-315-2139, Edward.Casteel@ucdenver.edu

STUDENTS OF SOCIOLOGY CLUB

The Students of Sociology (SOS) Club is for all undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in Sociology. The SOS Club:

1. Provides social environments for students to create important networks and access resources at UCDHSC.
2. Offers positions with various levels of commitment to anyone that is interested.
3. Acts as an impartial liaison between students and faculty in the Sociology Department.
4. Provides access and information about internships and independent studies in the field of Sociology.
5. Provides information and guidance on attending and presenting research papers at the Sociological Association meetings.
6. Holds meetings and social events, so that current, new and prospective club members can meet and share ideas or concerns. Some of the meetings may also include the Sociology Department Faculty (i.e. faculty upside down, potlucks, etc.).

Students of Sociology Club meetings are usually held once a month. All majors and minors will receive an email from the department when meetings are scheduled. Emails can only be sent to your University email address (@email.cudenver.edu), make sure you check your email regularly. If you are not receiving our emails, please contact Rachel Watson at Rachel.Watson@ucdenver.edu to make sure you are on our email list.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the Sociology Club Officers:

Travis Luther, President

Travis.Luther@email.cudenver.edu

Gladys Brown Jones, Vice President

Gladys.Brownjones@email.cudenver.edu

Rebecca Wood, Secretary

Rebecca.Wood@email.cudenver.edu

Charlene Shelton, Treasurer

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Paula Fomby, Faculty Sponsor

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