The Sociology, Criminal Justice, Anthropology Newsletter of SLU!

**A Word From The Chair, Dr. Richard Colignon**

Dr. Richard Colignon

**Shared Vision**

The 21st century belongs to interdisciplinary research and we are poised to benefit from our multidisciplinary department. In scholarship, teaching, and service we are both thinking and working outside the traditional boxes. We just hired a social demographer and social geographer, adding to our disciplinary diversity. These two members promise to advance our focus on St. Louis as a laboratory of social science research. They bring new theory and empirical research techniques which will broaden our curriculum and will allow us to better serve our students.

This year we are building on last year’s successes. Last year three faculty members (Drs. Harris, McGuire, and White) were tenured and promoted to associate professor. We also updated and expanded our curriculum. We have created 12 new courses from the sociology of sports and environmental anthropology to juvenile justice and feminist social movements. This year we are opening a new graduate program that includes two areas of concentration: public sociology and criminal justice. We have just completed hiring Juan Sandoval, a social demographer that comes to us from Northwestern University and Joel a social geographer who will receive his Ph. D. from the Cambridge University.

**Welcome New Faculty**

Dr. Noelle E. Fearn

Dr. Noelle E. Fearn received her Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Missouri – St. Louis in 2003. Formerly an assistant professor in the Criminal Justice Program at Washington State University, she is currently an assistant professor of criminal justice in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Saint Louis University. Her scholarly work has appeared in *Justice Quarterly*, the *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law, and Society*, the *International Journal of Comparative Criminology*, the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, *Social Justice Research*, and the *California Journal of Health Promotion*. She is co-editor/author of a new edited volume on *Issues of Violence in Corrections* due out later in 2008. Her current research focuses primarily on multilevel influences on criminal justice decision making (particularly sentencing) and evaluations of community and custodial programming for criminal offenders, especially females. She currently teaches university courses on community and institutional corrections but has also taught various foundation and specialty courses related to a multitude of criminal justice areas (both at the undergraduate and graduate level). She plans to continue her research in criminal justice and corrections while engaging SLU students in the exciting and ever-changing arenas of criminology and criminal justice.

Joel Jennings is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography and a Gates Scholar at the University of Cambridge. His doctoral research focuses on Latino/a immigration, citizenship, and geographic scale in the St. Louis region. Joel has done extensive fieldwork in St. Louis, including work with *La Clinica, Accion Social Comunitaria* and as an immigration expert with Congressman Russ Carnahan’s Congressional office.

Prior to beginning his doctoral research, Joel attended San Diego State University, where he earned an undergraduate degree in Geography, with a minor in Latin American Studies. He subsequently completed a Masters degree with an emphasis in Human Geography, studying spaces of children and families with a particular focus on children’s work.

At St. Louis University, Joel also serves the Micah Program in the capacity of community liaison, particularly focusing on new immigrant outreach. Joel has recently contributed to publications in *AREA: A geographical journal* and *Childhood*. This spring he will be teaching Sociology 493, a challenge seminar on citizenship and immigration processes with a focus on the City of St. Louis. Joel is looking forward to future research that will bring together his interests in children and families with his study of Latino/a immigration.
Sociology News

How I’m Spending My Sabbatical “Vacation”  
By Dr. Scott Harris

Every seventh year of their employment, faculty at SLU may apply for a semester-length break from teaching for professional renewal. Most professors use this time to catch up on the latest developments in their fields and to complete major research projects. During my first sabbatical, I had hoped to write a book about the theoretical perspective of “Social Constructionism.” But since it took me eight long years to finish my first book (The Meanings of Marital Equality, published in 2006), my plans seemed like wishful thinking. Fortunately, my sabbatical was supplemented by a second grant which allowed me to spend an entire year writing full-time—except for occasional faculty meetings, composing letters of recommendation for students, and other service duties.

As I compose this message (in January), it’s looking like I should finish my book by summer. It will have seven chapters. Five will examine current research on the social construction of “Mind,” “Emotions,” “Family Diversity,” “Marital Equality,” and “Social Inequality.” In my introductory and concluding chapters, I will attempt to provide a broader overview of constructionist research in sociology and will highlight enduring controversies and opportunities.

So now if you happen to see me scurrying between the library and the department’s photocopy machine—or if you don’t see me at all—you’ll know what I’m up to! Thanks for your words of encouragement.

Anthropology News

Suriname Research
Dr. MacKinnon continues field-based research in the South American country of Suriname, where she has worked since 2004. She is collaborating with a colleague at Kent State University, Dr. Marilyn Norconk (Dept. of Anthropology), and several of her graduate students, on a long-term community ecology and conservation project that examines several species of primates in Brownsberg Nature Park. The larger aims of that study include: assessing the impact of legal and illegal gold mining on wildlife in the park, its effects on the local human population, and a better incorporation of the local people into economic and educational components of their project. An example of this is already in the works: a proposed extension project that will provide ways to improve the livelihoods of nearby village residents, enabling them to take advantage of a potentially lucrative tourist industry, as well as assisting in a cultural history/revitalization program. Their research team works with the permission and support of STINASU, the Foundation for Conservation in Suriname, as well as with personnel at the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (the country’s only university). In addition to the above, Dr. MacKinnon will begin her own research project on group activity, diet, and social behavioral development in brown capuchin monkeys (Cebus apella) at the site during 2008-2013. She plans on taking SLU undergraduates with her in the future, so that they can participate in various research projects in primatology, cultural anthropology, ecology, and conservation.

Costa Rica Research
Dr. MacKinnon was invited to join the honorary scientific board of La Suerte Biological Field Station in Costa Rica. The board is developing a five-year plan to promote continued conservation, education, and research at the site. Dr. MacKinnon will be teaching an intensive 4-week field course: Advanced Primate Behavior and Ecology during the summer of 2008; several SLU students will be taking this course. Please see the website for more information: http://www.lasuerte.org
Criminal Justice News

On October 2, 2007, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, along with Great Issues Committee sponsored a presentation by Phyllis Kornfeld. Phyllis Kornfeld is an artist, educator, and author of *Cellblock Visions: Prison Art in America*. She presented a slide talk on the unseen world of prison art from soap carvings and tattoos to drawings and paintings. Despite the harsh conditions faced by those behind bars, prison art is a way for the artists to gain a sense of self-worth, an opportunity to vent rage, and a way to find peace. The presentation was held in the Busch Student Center. In addition to her presentation, Phyllis conducted a two classroom presentations with Intro./Criminal Justice classes and one presentation with Intro/Sociology courses.

Faculty Presentations

Dr. Gretchen Arnold presented “The Ties that Emancipate: Network Growth and Dynamics in the Battered Women’s Movement,” at a Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section workshop of the American Sociological Association on August 10, 2007 at Hofstra University.

Dr. Colignon was an invited speaker at University of Richmond where he presented the keynote address: “What will you be doing in the 21st Century” to the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honors Society Mu chapter of Virginia in March, 2007

Dr. Fearn presented the following papers in November, 2007 at the American Society of Criminology Meeting:
- “Jail Sentences: A National Examination”
- “Race Prosecutorial Decision Making in Context: A Multilevel Analysis”
- “Searching for the Common Punishment Denominator: An Analysis in Golden State.”

Dr. Fearn presented the following papers in March, 2007 at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Seattle, WA:
- Prosecutorial Decision Making in Context: A Focus on Homicide Prosecutions.”
- “Gender, Race, and Formal Court Decision-Making Outcomes: Chivalry, Paternalism, or Gender Conflict?”

Dr. Harris presented “Constructionism in Sociology: Objective and Interpretive Forms” at a panel session at the Midwest Sociological Society.

Dr. Harris presented “‘X-Work’: The Concept of ‘Work’ in Interactionist Analyses” at a panel session of the society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction.

Dr. MacKinnon presented “Going back to go forward: The need for a constructivist framework in evolutionary primatology;” at the 76th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, in December, 2007, Washington DC.

Faculty Publications


Dr. Noelle Fearn submitted the following two articles for publication in Rick Ruddell and Mark Tomita (Eds.), *Issues in Correctional Health*. Richmond, KY: Newgate Press
- Communicable Diseases: Community and Correctional Health”.
- “Mothers Behind Bars: Challenges and Opportunities.


Dr. Shockey-Eckles presented: “From Villain to Hero: Voices from the Field” in November, 2007 at the American Society of Criminology Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia

Other News!

Dr. William Monahan Award

The Sociology and Criminal Justice Department has created the Dr. William Monahan Award as a symbol of recognition to those individuals who have provided distinguished service and have dedicated their time and studies towards social action. The Bill Monahan Award pays tribute to Dr. Monahan and how he has contributed and continues to play a role in the advancement of knowledge in the areas of demography, the criminal justice system, organizations, and the development of Latin America. The purpose of this award is to honor Dr. Monahan and to recognize students who apply their education in making a difference in the community.

Graduate Program

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is the newest graduate program in the College of Arts and Sciences at Saint Louis University. The MA path the student chooses, criminology/criminal justice or public sociology, encompasses rigorous empirical analyses of the attitudes, behaviors, cultures and structure within the urban, national and global systems. The MA in Criminology/Criminal Justice and Public Sociology at Saint Louis University trains students to identify and document insights into these social processes and structures in their desired professions.

Student Awards/Activities
* Kevin Wenzel was awarded the Outstanding Senior Award, which was presented by the College of Arts & Sciences in Spring 2007
* Steven Donner was awarded the first Bill Monahan Award, Spring 2007

A Selection of New Courses

SOC 210: Classical Social Theory
This course provides an overview of social science theories, major theorists, and theoretical formulations. It emphasizes key assumptions, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each theory, and the historical development of social theory.

SOC 222: Peace and Conflict Studies
This course introduces students to social science perspectives on peace and conflict by examining cooperation and conflict in human society. Cross-cultural examples and examination of our evolutionary past reveal what is really "human nature."

SOC 223: Cross Cultural Perspectives on Human Sexuality
This course examines human sexuality in an anthropological context, highlighting the importance of integrating biological and cultural aspects of sexuality. Broad perspectives on sexual behavioral patterns across, and within, human cultures are taken. Topics include sexuality in an evolutionary perspective, the physiology of sex, human sexual practices, and gendered sexuality.

SOC 301: Quantitative Research
This course provides computer analysis skills. It focuses on data management and data analyses using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for Windows software. The students learn to: prepare data for processing, formulate hypotheses, discern the relationships of variables in the analysis stage, and interpret the output from SPSS.

SOC 302: Qualitative Research
This course introduces the major methodologies and techniques for conducting research in the human condition in its natural context. It includes discussion of the analysis of group behavior, beliefs, rituals, ceremonies related to technologies, and generally order their natural world and control their societies.

SOC 310: Contemporary Sociological Theory
This course is an extension of classical social theory with an overview of recent sociological theories, major theorists, and theoretical formulations. It includes the key assumption of different theories, evaluation of each theory, appreciation of the historical development of theories, and how theories shape our understanding of society.

SOC 327: Environmental Anthropology
This course examines current ecological problems and conservation/management efforts around the world, and combines case studies with classic anthropological theory to explore the ethical, cultural and biological ramifications of habitat use and environmental change. Topics include population growth, large-scale development, biodiversity conservation, sustainable environmental management, indigenous groups, consumption, and globalization.

SOC 380: Juvenile Justice
This course provides students with an overview of the history and development of a system of justice for juveniles. This course focuses on behaviors that bring a youth into contact with the legal system, its context, and the stages of the processing of youths that have violated adult and juvenile laws.

SOC 405: Feminist Social Movements
This course analyses the American women’s equal rights and suffrage movements of the 19th century to the present. This course makes comparisons with feminist movements in European countries.

SOC 408: Urban Issues: Poverty and Unemployment
Analysis of the sociological, economic, and psychological dimensions of poverty and income distribution. Welfare reform policies and discussed with respect to these issues of poverty.