

SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVI

Fall 2007

Special points of interest:

- Greetings from O'Connor Hall—Fernandez
- Alumni Shadowing Program
- Welcome New Faculty
- Applied and Clinical meetings
- Reflections from graduating seniors
- Faculty and Staff News
- Alumni News



Sociological Perspectives, the official journal of the Pacific Sociological Association, is now hosted at SCU. Drs. Powers and Fernandez are the new co-editors.

Letter from the New Department Chair

It is funny how life unfolds. Today I sit across from Witold Krassowski's old office writing to you. I spent many hours in his office as an undergraduate getting feedback on my senior thesis, and then later, getting advice about life: "Do something you like, are good at, and that will pay you." I felt fortunate, like many of you, to have taken classes from Witold and for the time he spent with me. When I walked into his office I always had the feeling that he had nothing else to do but chat with me. Although Witold was one of a kind, I am happy to report that the same care and concern that Witold had for students lives on in the Department through our staff and faculty.

So as I write this I feel fortunate again, fortunate that I work in a department where every one of the faculty are dedicated to students, to teaching, and are active scholars. Fortunate to be part of a department that is highly regarded in the discipline for providing a first rate undergraduate curriculum that pre-



pare our students well for their futures, whatever those futures may be. And fortunate for our students, past and present--for having the courage to major in sociology, for sharing your dreams and hopes with us, and for letting us know how your lives are unfolding once you leave. Although much has changed at Santa Clara over the years, we hope that these things do and will continue to remain.

Marilyn Fernandez is owed much gratitude for the tireless hours and energy she put into running the Department for the past seven years and as always, we are thankful for the work of Sandra Chiamonte in the Department as well as on this newsletter. I look forward to hearing from many of you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
 Laura Nichols, SCU 1990
 Incoming Chair, Fall 2007

CLASS OF 2007
AWARD WINNERS

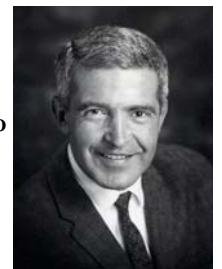
The 2007 Witold Krassowski Sociology Award was presented to

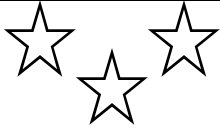
Ashley Marie Schweickart

Ashley was also inducted into: Alpha Kappa Delta, Alpha Sigma Nu, Phi Sigma Alpha, and University Honors Program.

Double Majors awarded to:
 Griselda Renteria (Sociology and Ethnic Studies)
 Ashley Schweickart (Sociology and Political Science)

Double Degree awarded to: Clarissa Quintanilla (Sociology and Spanish)





A Sincere Thank You , Marilyn!!!

by Sandee Chiamonte



As we reflect on the past SEVEN years we can see much change. First Dr. Fernandez was the Anthropology/ Sociology department chair, then Sociology section chair, the next step seemed to be separate programs with separate chairs and then finally in Fall of 2005 the announcement that Sociology would become its own DEPARTMENT. This has been a fruitful journey under Marilyn's leadership, we have much to be grateful for..... her exemplary leadership, endless energy, and her unselfish devotion to the department. Thank you Marilyn for leading us to where we are today!!



Congratulations on a job well done!!!

GREETINGS FROM THE THIRD FLOOR OF O'CONNOR HALL

by Marilyn Fernandez

I want to share with you an exciting new development in the department. As of Fall 2007, we have a **new department chair, Dr. Laura Nichols**. Dr. Nichols is a 1990 alum of our department. She received her M.A. from the Western Michigan University and Ph.D. from the University of Akron in 2000. She joined the department in Fall 2000 as an Assistant Professor and was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2006. Having been on both sides of the academic landscape, first as a student of the department and later as a professor, she is intimately aware of the workings and needs of our students, faculty, staff, alum, and administration. Welcome, Dr. Nichols, to your new role; we look forward to your leadership of the department in the coming years.

Some program notes: This past year, under the able leadership of Dr. Charles Powers, we have continued with the assessment of our learning outcomes. We also implemented our new curriculum in 2006-07. Sociology juniors started their research sequence courses in Winter 2007. In 2007-08, as seniors, they will be completing their two capstone courses, a basic research and an applied sociology capstone. Our hope is that these capstones will help better prepare our majors for graduate school and/or work in applied settings.

We are proud of the many accomplishments of the class of 2007. At the 2007 university graduation, 22 Sociology majors were listed in the graduation program. Two graduated with a double major and one with a double degree. Many graduates had also been inducted into Honor Societies. Well done, graduates!!! (see Page 1 for details of student achievement)

Finally, you know how much we appreciate hearing from you and the goings-on in your lives. Please do drop us a line or two via email or snail mail. In the meantime, have a safe and blessed holiday season.



ALPHA KAPPA DELTA

On Monday, May 14th at a departmental reception, the following students were inducted into Santa Clara University's Sociology Honor Society. After the induction ceremony, Shannon Gleeson, 2002 alum., and current Ph. D. graduate student at UC Berkeley spoke about the use of the sociological imagination in life and in sociology. Congratulations to all new and former inductees on your great accomplishments!

Ashley Butts (to be inducted Spring 2008), Kristin Casterson, Lauren Clark, Amy Dodd, Efrain De L Peza, Catherine Erker, Sarah Erker, Laura Fowler, Christine Hartsock, Caitlin Hastings, Kelly Ongman, Griselda Renteria, Cristina Sanidad, Olga Vasserman.

ALUMNI SHADOWING PROGRAM



**AN ALUMNI
SHADOWING
PROGRAM**

Do you recall what it was like to be in college and not necessarily know what you wanted to do with your life? Would you like to share your experience and expertise with Santa Clara undergraduates?

The Career Center's Alumni Shadowing Program provides a small portion of undergraduate students the opportunity to shadow Bay Area alumni at their workplace. In return you will play an integral role in our students' vocational

discernment and open the door for a possible future mentorship.

For further information about this Career Center program and to sign up online please visit: <http://www.scu.edu/careercenter/alum/shadowing.cfm>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Thompson at the Career Center, 408/554-2359, ethompson@scu.edu

WELCOME

DR. ANKE T. SCHULZ, Assistant Professor

*Help us welcome
our newest member
to the
department....*

The department is pleased to welcome Dr. Schulz, who joined us as a tenure-track faculty member in Fall 2007. Dr. Schulz received her Sociology Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of California San Francisco. She also has two masters' degrees; one in Sociomedical Sciences (Columbia University) and a M.P.A. in Public Administration and Health Policy (New York University). Her dissertation research was titled "Judgment Days: On Battered Women and Children, Domestic Violence, and a Liberal Court." She also has extensive professional experience with the domestic violence service and legal communities in the Bay Area. As an adjunct professor, she recently taught Principles of Sociology and Sociology of Deviant Behavior in the department. Together, these academic and professional experiences make her well suited to teach in the Criminology & Criminal Justice Cluster of the Sociology major. We look forward to having Dr. Schulz as a colleague.



SOCIOLOGY HIRES ANOTHER AYL FOR 2008

We are also happy to welcome Mr. Daniel Dexheimer in an academic year (2007-08) lecturer position in the department. Mr. Dexheimer is working on his dissertation on "Gendered Drinking Among College Students" at the University of Florida (Gainesville). His Master's Thesis was titled, "The Influence of Parental Drinking Backgrounds on the Alcohol Consumption of College Students." He has also taught Social Problems and Sociology of Crime in the department. Mr. Dexheimer will primarily teach Principles of Sociology and Social Problems for us in the coming year. Dan is also a Star Wars enthusiast.... So, please help us welcome Dan to Sociology and welcome back Dr. Kyle Eischen for another year as our Business, Technology and Society faculty member.... Welcome to both of you!! 2008 is going to be a great year thanks to your help!!



Tidbit from the SC Magazine; The 2007 Applied & Clinical Sociology meetings

Solving homelessness is not just an academic question. At the same time, outreach programs that are on the front lines can benefit from rigorous research, though they don't often have the resources to undertake it. That's where five SCU undergraduates come in, tackling research designed to help right here in Santa Clara County—and, as a result, winning a national academic award.

The Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology presented the 2006 Student Problem Solving Exercise on Homeless Outreach to the Santa Clara research team for examining best practices in outreach programs throughout the country and applying what they learned in the classroom to the larger community. Rebecca Jones '07, Patricia McGlynn '07, current seniors Zachary Mariscal, Cristina Sanidad, and junior Olga Vasserman worked under the guidance of associate professor of sociology Laura Nichols '90 to examine homeless outreach programs in New York City, Chicago, San Diego, and Philadelphia.

The students presented their findings to the Santa Clara County Collaborative on Housing and Homeless Issues. The five sociology majors entered the competition as part of the service-learning portion of Nichols' course in social stratification. Nichols herself is a veteran of community-based learning programs

at Santa Clara, where she earned her undergraduate degree. She was also recently recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for her scholarship and work in community-based learning with a fellowship in the foundation's Service Learning for Political Engagement Program. Nichols is one of only 25 faculty members from public and private universities across California who received this honor.

As part of the fellowship, over the next two years, Nichols will work with colleagues from a wide variety of disciplines to create, implement, and reflect on service learning with the goal of increasing students' understanding, skills, and motivation for political participation. [from the SC Magazine, Fall 2007 edition]



Problem-solvers and the prof: from left, students Patricia McGlynn, Cristina Sanidad, and Rebecca Jones with Associate Professor of Sociology Laura Nichols '90. Not pictured: students Zachary Mariscal and Olga Vasserman.

REFLECTIONS from our Graduating Seniors

In response to the question “Would you share with us your thoughts on how the Sociology Department has helped you prepare (good or bad) for the next stage of your life?”

Bianca Vallorz: The Sociology Department at Santa Clara has a wide variety of classes. This has helped me broaden my knowledge and understanding of different aspects of life. While I am unsure which field I will work in, I know I have a substantial background to fall back on. I know that my sociological training will allow me to not only acknowledge a problem, but find a practical solution. And through my training, I can be successful in any career opportunity I pursue.

Alisha Rodrigues: Sociology has really opened my eyes to the world of social research. Since the program is very research based, I feel I have learned many more valuable skills than the average sociology student. Although the sequence may have felt overwhelming at times, I really feel it was all worth it. As someone who is planning on entering the professional world of social research, I feel this department has offered me all the important qualitative and quantitative skills I will need in order to be successful. Therefore, thanks to the excellent staff and all the research experience I have gained in the last two years, I really feel I am now able to move on to the next stage of my life.

Lucero Govea: Sociology has helped me see the world in a different view. I now can see that before we start to judge someone for choices they've made, whether good or bad, we need to look at the social aspects of their lives. We all come with a story and through sociology we can now go out to help those who are in need. I've made great friendships through the program that will hopefully last a lifetime. All the professors have been encouraging and have always had words of advice. Overall, I will take with me a better understanding of the world, people in it, and their different life situations.

Victoria Duran: The Sociology Department has prepared me for many new challenges in life. Prior to attending SCU, Dr. Powers was kind enough to introduce me to the Sociology Department and prepare me as a prospective student. That introduction prepared me for my experiences as a Sociology Major. I feel prepared to conduct research and exercise my sociological reasoning and skills as I venture out into the “real world.” Sociology has served as the gateway into the real world throughout my entire SCU experience. Thank you and best wishes to you all in the future of sociology at SCU.

Rebecca (Beckie) Jones: I feel very fortunate to have chosen sociology as my major. I feel like the main reason that I have had such a positive experience at Santa Clara University is due to the Sociology Program. The personal

Reflections continued

attention I have received from the faculty has been extremely beneficial for me. I feel that my education at Santa Clara, and especially in the Sociology Department, has opened my eyes to the world's needs and has also given me the tools to make an impact. I am confident that I will be able to use my sociological understanding and skills regardless of which path I choose for the future.

Patricia McGlynn: The Sociology Department at SCU has been amazing. I really appreciate all the guidance, help and support I have been so lucky to receive from the entire faculty, specifically Dr. Fernandez. Whenever I need help determining career plans, classes to take, or how to write a paper, a professor was always there. I really liked having the Business and Human Services emphasis. This concentration helped me when applying my sociological background to "practical jobs" I have applied to in the business world. Finally, the Department helped me to take classes that developed a very compassionate, yet logical view of society and social problems. I have been "socialized" very well. Thanks for everything!!

Ashley Schweickart: Sociology is really a way of thinking, a frame of mind. If you truly understand sociology, you see it all around you, in every interaction, in every facet of daily life. So sociology is my basis for the next step, the toolbox which I carry with me after graduation. I can use sociology in graduate school at USC, in my job, in my relationships with friends and family, etc. I can't further explain how sociology is a way of life, how it informs my reality. Learning about the different avenues that sociology has gone down, you realize that you could study almost anything sociologically because the concepts and theories apply to EVERYTHING!! So that's all. Sociology is explaining my life.

Maeve Riley: This is a hard question to answer when you are unsure of what that next stage entails. But sociology, in general, has provided me with the skills to explore life – analyze the institutions and organizations which are prevalent in my present and future. Classes on family structure, race, gender, and theory – all of these courses have allowed me to see the complexities of social structures, and apply sociology to these situations. All in all, my professors have given me confidence to succeed in school and work environments, which is an irreplaceable asset.

Connor Gurnee: At this point, I have about zero clues where life is taking me next or where the next step is, however, I walk towards my giant question mark in the sky with confidence and poise. This Department has taught me to always ask questions, always seek answers from anybody, and what the heck Karl Marx was talking about. I feel prepared to face life's challenges and rewards and feel that I know how I fit in to this social world. But most importantly, the knowledge and confidence to change this world – hopefully for the better, but hey, it's me. I'll probably procrastinate too long.

**Congratulations!!
Sociology
graduated
22 majors**

**June 15, 2007. "Now is
the time to define you,"**



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS!!!

The 2006/07 year was another great one for **Ms. Chiamonte**, but for the first time since she started working in the department she missed graduation. She was sad not to say good-bye to the Class of 2007, but Sandee spent two wonderful weeks in Virginia and Washington D.C.. She took a step back in time and visited the Historic Triangle "Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown." So much history to see and absorb. What a wonderful way to start the summer. She then went on a road trip to Fredericksburg, where she visited Mary Washington's home and James Monroe Presidential Library. Her next stop was Mount Vernon to see George and Martha Washington's home. What stories she heard about the life of George Washington and his plantation. Visiting Mt. Vernon was one of the highlights of her trip. Just when she thought it couldn't get any

better she spent 6 days in Washington D.C.... where she visited so many places that she said it would take the entire newsletter to tell all the stories and history she learned along the way.... "Our country is truly a fascinating place and has an even richer history". She is so happy she went on this historical trip. Ms. Chiamonte looks forward to taking a historical trip someday with her children, grandchildren and sharing the experience with them.

One Friday afternoon in August, Sandee was paid a visit by one of her previous student assistants Kelli Swader. She is no longer Kelli Swader, but Kelli Wolfe.... What a wonderful surprise to see Kelli and meet her husband,

Faculty and Staff News *continued*

James. They make a lovely couple. It was nice catching up on the happenings in Kelli's life... She now lives in England with her husband, where she studies music and has recorded a CD by the name of "On the Verge" www.cdbaby.com/cd/kelliswader. Thanks Kelli for stopping by and I love the CD!! All the best to you, your career, and your new life together with James.



spectives, the official journal of the Pacific Sociological Association. Their term started in July 2007 and they have been busy learning the ropes of journal editorship.

Professor Alma M. Garcia experienced a very productive year. She published her sixth book, *Ethnic Community Builders: Mexican Americans' Search for Justice, Power & Citizenship Rights: The Struggle for Citizenship Rights in San Jose, California* (co-Author Francisco Jimenez), Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press.

She also published a major encyclopedia article, "Latina Entrepreneurs," in *Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia* edited by Vicki L. Ruiz and three book reviews. In addition, two encyclopedia articles "Mexican Americans" and "Chicana Feminisms" will appear in *The Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity and Society*.

Dr. Garcia participated in a roundtable discussion panel, "Crossing Boundaries: Race, Class and Gender in Graduate School", National Association for Chicano/Chicana Studies, San Jose, CA. April 6-8, 2007.

She has also started a new research project, "Latina Day Laborers: Gendered Struggles in Silicon Valley." She received a \$4,000 Research & Curriculum Development Initiatives Grant from the Center for Multicultural Learning Irvine Grant fund. Caroline Mooser, English/Modern Languages major (Class of 2009) is her student research assistant. Dr. Garcia was also named a recipient of SCU's Faculty-Student Research Assistant program that will provide her with the opportunity to mentor an undergraduate student. Maricela Alvarez, Sociology major (Class of 2008) will be her student research assistant for this project.

Dr. Garcia is also working on a book prospectus for an anthology, *Images &*

Realities: Popular Culture & Representations of Women of Color. Several publishers have already expressed an interest in publishing this anthology.

In an effort to integrate more material on the environment into her Social Problems course, Professor Garcia applied and was accepted as one of a group of SCU faculty who participated in the Environmental Studies Institute Faculty Development Program's June 21-22, 2007 workshop on "The Environment and Sustainability."

Dr. Garcia was appointed by the Dean's Office of the College of Arts & Sciences to serve as a Center for Multicultural Learning Faculty Associate. She was responsible for organizing activities such as panel discussions for CML associates. In addition, she was the co-organizer for SCU's Diaspora Symposium that took place in the spring quarter. This symposium focused on the process of migration and settlement patterns. A series of keynote lectures, films, panel discussion and other activities addressed various aspects of African, Asian, Latino, and Native American Diasporas.

Santa Clara University has started the process of reaffirmation of accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Under the WASC review process, each institution is asked to propose a self-study focusing on themes or issues central to its own mission and institutional context. Santa Clara University is focusing on the following three themes in its self study: Educating for Competence, Conscience, and Compassion; Supporting the Teaching Scholar Model; and Promoting a Community of Inclusive Excellence. A WASC Self Study Steering will supervise the process Committee chaired by Associate Provost Diane Jonte-Pace. Sub-Committees will take responsibility for the three themes. Dr. Garcia was appointed to SCU's WASC (Western Association of Schools & Colleges) Steering Committee and was named

On the professional side, **Dr. Eischen** spent most of the last year working on a grant studying Silicon Valley companies work and location in the global economy. He was fortunate to have the help of Cristina Sanidad as his RA, who was fantastic. Kyle also helped jump start the Santa Clara Social Investment Fund that gathered donations from the SCU community and invested them in social entrepreneurs through Kiva. But, most important than all of that, Lisa and Kyle had wonderful baby boy - Sascha Isbjorn Osamu - right in the middle of winter quarter. It's been absolutely wonderful. He especially thanks each and every person in the department for being so wonderfully happy, understanding, and supportive of the mild madness that comes with being a new father.

Professor Marilyn Fernandez has completed her 14th year of teaching, research, and service at SCU. It was just the other day (well, August 1992) that she made the move from Chicago to Santa Clara. Santa Clara has certainly become home. She continues to work on her research monograph that is provisionally titled *It Takes A Community: Rethinking Domestic Violence Services*. She has a book contract from Lexington Books. Along with Dr. Powers, she was selected to be the Co-Editor of *Sociological Per-*

Faculty and Staff Notes *continued*

chair of its subcommittee on Inclusive Excellence. The WASC review process will take several stages from 2007 to 2011. Dr. Garcia is also a member on the Academic Affairs committee, the Faculty Senate and is serving as the faculty advisor to the Sociology Student Association and the Jewish Student Union. The American Sociological Association selected Dr. Garcia to serve a two-year term on the Jessie Bernard Award nominating committee. This award is given to a sociologist who has made an outstanding lifetime contribution to the study of women in society. Dr. Garcia was nominated for this award two years ago.

In the midst of babysitting 2-year-old grandson Luke once a week, **Dr. Kichi Iwamoto** volunteered to teach English conversation to 9th and 10th grade Chinese students in Shangyu, China (near Shanghai). The classes went from July 5th to July 15th. After a little sightseeing in China, Dr. I. visited his cousins in Yokohama, Japan for 5-days of 'R&R.' Now back home, he is reworking some domestic violence data with Dr. Fernandez, and resuming his babysitting. Unfortunately, his wife Caryn could not accompany him to China.

Dr. Laura Nichols spent the last academic year teaching

and working on her research on first generation college students. She taught Sociology of Family for the first time and enjoyed the students and the various topics that they explored. In Ap-

plied Sociology students completed research projects for the local organizations: Grail Family Services and Sunday Friends. This summer she attended an on-campus workshop about incorporating issues related to sustainability into the curriculum and as a Carnegie Fellow, on Civic Engagement. She also received a small internal grant from the university's DISCOVER program to include more content and exploration for students about vocation in the Applied Sociology course. Winter and Spring 2008 she will take her first sabbatical and will study symbolic boundary crossing (more on that in the next edition!).

Professor Charles Powers has been busy convincing himself that he can relax a bit and learn new things. He has been surfing three times this year! (Not very pretty, he says, but he can stand up if surf conditions are right.) Back at campus, Dr. Powers had a wonderful time working with students in the theory class last winter (early 2007), and he is now directing a research practicum study of organizational culture. People in his 121 classes are learning about the qualities of organizational culture that are crucial for sustaining innovation, and are making important discoveries about the role sociological dynamics play in maintaining or transforming organizational culture. (Sociology rules!)



ALUMNI MAILBAG

CLASS OF 1965

Judy Joyce Tomsic, Esq. has accepted a position on the advisory committee of University of California, Riverside's Department of Law and Public Policy formed to determine the direction of the department's expansion at the new campus location in Palm Desert. Ms. Tomsic, an international ADR attorney, will also teach a post graduate course for the department on the topic of legal ethics. In addition to her background in philosophy when an undergrad at SCU, her recent summer program at Oxford University Law in England had international ethics components. She writes "After several years as an attorney doing International delegate work in Conflict Resolution and court systems design, I realized- being the first California lawyer to meet with the Constitutional Court of S. Africa post-apartheid- that to discuss with that court how S. Africa's legal system might address streamlining its administration to provide better access to "justice for all" was inspired by my SCU education and undergrad with DR. Krassowski. I was a Sociology grad from the first class of SCU women in 1965. Returning to the U.S. provided me with an opportunity to meet with Nelson Mandela's adult grandson being college educated on the East Coast at the time. I chose SCU Law despite receiving my Law School degree elsewhere. My ethics background from SCU and association with the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics on campus was instrumental in the ultimate decision I made not to join the tour despite it's International appeal and the personal kudos available for enjoying at that time. Imagine my surprise, when attending Oxford University law classes in England this past summer, when I was to find SCU Law students there competing with

Oxonians for a legal prize. It would seem that no matter where life takes us, the SCU Sociology Department is what helped form our ideas about social justice, ethics and the way to a better community life. Teaching Ethics this winter at U.C. in the southern California desert seems to have found me taking what I've learned all those years ago in what now is one long straight line- felt even to this day- for what Santa Clara and especially the Sociology Department inspired along the way." [Thank you for being a great role model...ed.]

CLASS OF 1969

Pamela M. Jolicoeur (via Dr. Powers) writes: As I know you are aware, AAC&U has asked 18 institutions to lead an initiative on educating students for personal and social responsibility. One of those institutions is Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota (Lutheran). I thought you might like to know that the president of Concordia is SCU grad and Ph.D. sociologist (Purdue) Pamela Jolicoeur. From the web: Pamela M. Jolicoeur is the 10th president of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She came to Concordia in July 2004 following a thirty-two year career at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, where she served as Provost and Dean of the Faculty from 1996-2004. In that capacity, Dr. Jolicoeur's responsibilities included academic affairs, academic services, admissions, information systems and services, athletics, institutional planning and research. She was a member of the sociology faculty from 1972-1993 and served as vice president for academic affairs from 1993-1996. A summa cum laude graduate of Santa Clara University, Dr. Jolicoeur earned her doctorate degree in sociology from Purdue University. She is the author of numerous publications and papers on sociological and higher education issues and is frequently asked to speak on the comparative advantage of independent higher education. In 2006, Dr. Jolicoeur was one of a select group of American college presidents invited by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to participate in a summit on international education. In January 2007, she was one of 25 U.S. and Muslim world college leaders invited by the Hollings Center to participate in a conference in Istanbul focused on the elements of a successful university, the "American paradigm" of higher education, and ways to grow and strengthen exchanges between American and Muslim colleges and universities. Dr. Jolicoeur currently serves on the boards of the Wye Faculty Seminar of the Aspen Institute, the Foundation for Independent Higher Education, the Lutheran Education Conference of North America, the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, the Presidents Council Advisory Group for NCAA Division III, the executive committee of the Minnesota Private College Council and the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference presidents executive

committee, and is chair of the board of Tri-College University. [Congratulations on all your accomplishments, you make us proud!...ed.]

CLASS OF 1978

Ruth Polen Welch writes: Each year I finish reading the newsletter and think "I have to write and fill them in on my post grad years!" Then life takes over and I never get it done. This year I picked up the pen and am determined to mail it off today. The newsletter is a wonderful connection to names of the past as well as a link to both memories of SCU and the future sociology stars making a difference across the globe. When I selected soc as a major, I had aspirations towards counseling and social work. Yet my professional journey took a different track into hi-tech and Human Resources. My sociology foundation and cultural anthropology teachings have served me well, providing roots that ground me to see the goodness in each employee and manager – and beyond the bigger picture of politics in the workplace. The office is a continual real life laboratory but most of the time we don't stop to learn from the lessons and "teaching" taking place around us. With all the changes that have taken place in Santa Clara Valley (a.k.a. Silicon Valley) over the last 30 years, it is a wonderful blessing to know we can always go home to O'Connor 329 and find friends and familiarity. I'd be delighted to support the students or network with others as a resource. [Welcome back...ed.]

CLASS OF 1998

Martha Castro 98 (via Ingrid Williams): Has accepted a position with the University of California, Office of the President. Over the past 9 years, Martha has played a pivotal role in providing customer service to SCU faculty and staff in the areas of Staff Compensation, Tuition Remission, Faculty Leaves, and Systems. [UC's gain is our loss...ed.]

Tomas R. Jimenez 98 (via Sarah Leon): Was selected by the CILAS [Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, University of California, San Diego] students to be the Latin American Studies Professor of the Year. [Congratulations!!...ed.]

CLASS OF 2000

Lindsay Payne writes: I was just accepted into the Masters of Social Work program at UC Berkeley for this Fall. I was wait-listed and they had a last minute opening on Wednesday! Classes start in a few weeks and I will be wrapping up my job at Williams-Sonoma by August 17. It's been a whirlwind week but I couldn't be happier and more excited about this new step in my life. [All good things take time, they say...ed.]

Maria Frances Wynne writes: Received a degree for Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education with a Specialization in Autism and Behavior Analysis from the University of Georgia at the Commencement Exercises on Saturday, August 4, 2007 at 9:30 am at the Stegeman Coliseum. [Congratulations!!...ed.]

CLASS OF 2002

Lisanna Stamos Gonzalez writes: I wanted to share with you the news that I was accepted to the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and will be starting the combined entry BS-MSN program next Fall! I am so excited! [So are we!...ed.]

William Huerta writes: It has been an exciting couple of months in regards to my application to dental school. After sending out my AADSAS application in June, I received secondary applications in August, and started receiving invitations to interview as early as October. In all, I chose to interview at: Creighton University, University of Iowa, University of Washington, University of Southern California, New York University, and University of the Pacific, Harvard University, and UCLA. And guess what... I was accepted at all eight schools that I interviewed at! I have accepted the acceptance offer from UCLA School of Dentistry and I am excited to begin the D.D.S. program in September! UCLA is among the top dental programs in the U.S. whose students receive some of the highest scores on the National Board Exams. UCLA School of Dentistry graduates are also accepted into many well-respected specialty residency programs. In addition, I just learned on Friday that I was selected by the UCLA Scholarship Committee to receive the Mary Hooley Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Performance! [Congratulations!!...ed.]

Bryna Koch writes: I am finishing my MPH this August and presenting my work done in Mexico titled "Centro Para Los Adolescentes de San Miguel de Allende: A Case Study of Interweaving Secular and Non-Secular Ethics to Produce Public Health Social Justice", and continuing the job search. [Well done and good luck!...ed.]

Eric D. Bobadilla writes: Marilyn and Chuck congrats on your position with the Pacific Sociological Association! I wish you the very best with that endeavor. On a lighter note, it is nice to see those O'Connor restrooms are finally getting a touchup. [So are we...ed.]

CLASS OF 2003

Stacey Crespo writes: I just returned from a business trip and was delighted to find the Soc newsletter in my mailbox. Needless to say, it was opened well before the numerous bills. I'm thrilled to see that the department is becoming more and more acclaimed as time goes by. I am still working in Campbell at a financial auditing firm and for the past several months my position as an Account Manager has kept me quite busy! A large percentage of my time is spent traveling to various clients in the U.S. and Canada. On a side note, you should know that of all my sociology and anthropology courses, the one that I apply the most in my job is... Quantitative Methods and Applied Statistics! [You remembered...ed.]

CLASS OF 2004

Megan Kinnear writes: I got into Washington State's vet school! It is such a relief, and I'm even more excited than ex-

pected. My goal has become a reality, and I finally feel like all my hard work has paid off! I was also accepted into the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, but unfortunately, it is way too expensive to get my education there, and the program is 5 years instead of 4. So, I'm off to Pullman (which is a very small ag town in the middle of nowhere) mid August. In the meantime, I'll continue to work at the same vet clinic, which I'm still really enjoying and where I use all my sociological skills on a daily basis—really! I'm also trying to get the most out of Seattle... I've really been enjoying this city and will be sad to leave, but I'm sure I'll be so busy in school that I'll forget all about where I'm living. [Pullman will grow on you!...ed.]

Catherine Hilger writes: I got into MBA programs at Boston College, U Mass Boston, and Case Western Reserve and after visiting all of the programs this spring I decided on Boston College last week! I am really excited for the new endeavor and new location. [BC is lucky to have you...ed.]

Salena Acox writes: I think the last thing I wrote was about my switching from Sociology to a Masters in Public Administration at San Jose State. I ended up staying in Sociology and I am really happy I did. I met a couple of professors who have really helped me figure things out (Scott Myers Lipton and Preston Rudy) in terms of where I need to be heading both career wise and educationally. I'm thinking that I'll finish with an MA, and get into community organizing. [Sociology has its hold on you!...ed.]

Nicole Hanson writes: The whole experience at Santa Clara and with our department seems like a gift, and I am reminded regularly how lucky we are to be part of such a great team. I am now considering where to take my skills and all that I have learned thus far in life. I am hoping to help a family friend of mine expand her jewelry brand to include a clothing line in the next two years. As part of this I hope to attend FIDM, the Fashion Institute in San Diego to earn an additional degree in Product Development. [Please let us know when the clothing line is available to the public!...ed.]

CLASS OF 2005

Bianca Ally writes: My law school applications went very well. I did apply last year and I'm currently attending University San Francisco School of Law. It was a very tough decision on where to go, but USF had a fantastic public interest program (which I hope to do when I graduate) and that area of San Francisco is so beautiful that I couldn't say no. Law school is tough, lots of reading and such, but I'm starting to get used to it. I was actually thinking of your senior seminar class the other day because we were studying battered women's syndrome in my criminal law school and since that's what I wrote my final paper on, I

continued: Alumni Mailbag

had a lot to say. [We are glad you are building on your SCU training...ed.]

Liz Budd writes: I am studying like crazy for the GRE and will take them the last week of November. I've also met with Boston U, Harvard, and Portland State. I've also been reading up on others and setting appointments to talk with admissions advisors. The MS Society is going very well. It's a slower pace than last year, that's for sure, but it is a nice change. I've been planning events called Meets and Greets and Community Meetings for the Self-Help Groups around the state. My title is Volunteer Coordinator, but I seem to do more Community Outreach than working with volunteers [An up-date from Liz] Time has passed and the results are in! I was accepted to Boston University, Tulane University, and St. Louis University for public health. Although it's not completely certain yet, it looks like I'll be going to St. Louis University School of Public Health in the fall. I'll have a double focus in Behavioral Science and Epidemiology. I'm working very hard at getting a graduate assistantship with a professor who performs Diabetes and obesity studies. The professor is actually working on health policy recommendations for Barak Obama's campaign, which is pretty awesome. The future looks bright! It's so exciting to move closer to the career that I've imagined. [It is a nice feeling, isn't it?..ed.]

Sabrina Sanchez writes: In January, Jose and I were married and we are currently living in Pasadena. I am still working investigating medical malpractice cases. It has been just over a year and I cannot tell you how much I use my Sociological tools. I have plans to go to grad school, since my company will most likely pay 100% of it, but I still need to do a bit of research on it. [Let us know when you apply...ed.]

CLASS OF 2006

Melissa Aconito writes: I just returned from a most amazing, goose-bump eliciting, presentation here at Google where data and stats on things of interest to any sociological mind were presented in a clear, animated, interesting, informative, multi-dimensional, thought provoking – I could go on – way. A Swedish Statistician, and I will go ahead and say, Sociologist presented on a tool that he and his family developed to organize data in a visually interactive way that allows one to correlate and compare data about regions and countries over time, reaching back into history and projecting current trends into the future. I am wrapping up my tenure with Google in the coming weeks and moving to South Lake Tahoe (so excited) where I will be pioneering a Youth Outreach and Education program in the area through a Faith based Non-Profit called Young Life (younglife.org if you are interested). [Your enthusiasm is infectious! ed.]

Michelle Dezember writes: Last week I received my copies of the Silicon Valley Notebook. I was so excited to see the end result of a long process- only made possible by the both of you [Dr. Powers and Dr. Fernandez]. I owe so much of my confidence (and the 3 C's!) and tenacity to your guidance and I truly hope you know that you are greatly valued. I am confident that my future holds many exciting opportunities, and my eagerness to continue research like that found in this year's SVN is greatly attributed to you. I get to work everyday [Brooklyn Museum]. I am in the Education Department, and I teach a family program for 4-7 year olds, as well as daily lessons for visiting schools. It is a wonderful environment and I am so happy. [Wonderful...ed.]

Roxane Due writes: I am currently an Americorp member. I made a year long commitment to work at San Francisco 49ers Academy in my hometown of East Palo Alto. I mostly work with sixth graders as a teacher's assistant and after school program leader. I am in training to become a Child Advocate for the Santa Clara County. My first training was interesting. I listened to a few social workers talk about the Foster care system and talk about the importance of having Child Advocates. [Americorps is lucky to have you...ed.]


Kara Rasplika 06: I wanted to let you know that I have been admitted to the Master's Program in Nursing at PLU in Tacoma! My classes start June 18th, and I'm very excited. I spent this last summer taking a bunch of classes. The program called this summer "nursing boot camp" and it definitely felt like it because I spent about 35-40 hours each week just in class! I did my first clinicals at a long-term care facility, and it was a really good experience, though I'm also glad to be finished. It was really hard for me to leave my assigned patient at the end of it though. The fall is supposed to be much less time in class, and with more of an emphasis on our clinical sites. I'll have two clinical rotations then, one in medical-surgical nursing, and one in mental health. I'm really excited for both! In January, I'll have my pediatrics rotation, and in spring OB/GYN and one other rotation that I'm not sure of yet. [Nurse Rasplika; your patients will be lucky...ed.]

CLASS OF 2007

Rebecca Jones 07: I found a job as a counselor at EMQ Children and Family Services. I am very excited! [So are we; do keep us posted...ed.]

Alisha Rodrigues writes: I just received a position at United Way, which I am extremely happy about. It has been an extremely long process that has been going on for 3 weeks now but I finally got the job. I'll be doing a variety of different tasks ranging from data entry and analysis to event planning to fundraising so I am definitely looking forward to it. [You'll be great...ed.]

Ashley Schweickart writes: I start my Masters of Planning program at USC this fall. I'm also going to be working as a research assistant for the Population Dynamics Research Group on-campus, which is headed by my advisor. [Well done! ...ed.]



“You know how much we appreciate hearing from you and the goings-on in your lives. Please do drop us a line.”

Santa Clara University

Sociology Department
O'Connor Hall 329
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0261

Phone: 408/554-2794
Fax: 408/554-4189
Email: schiaramonte@scu.edu

**We're on the web:
scu.edu/cas/sociology**

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**SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT
O'CONNOR HALL 329
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
SANTA CLARA, CA 95132**