



# Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Newsletter

SPRING 2014

## Message from the Chair



Dr. Kim Logio, Chair of Sociology/CJ

Spring is a busy time for sociology and criminal justice. While we are starting off cold (there are 13 inches of snow on the ground as I write this), we know we will end with warmer weather and a commencement celebration for our sociology and criminal justice students. This spring semester we have full classes with new majors all the time. We also welcome many non-majors to our courses that offer a focus on diversity, globalization, and non-Western culture. The sociological perspective is available to all!

Our newest faculty member, Dr. Chris Kelly, is teaching undergraduate students, graduate students, and mentoring a summer scholar. Dr. Melissa Logue just celebrated ten years at the University. Dr. Marybeth Ayella was just honored with

a teaching merit award. Dr. Clampet-Lundquist has returned from a sabbatical and is busy working on a new scholarship project. Dr. Maria Kefalas and the Richard Johnson Center are planning an exciting event. From the acclaimed HBO series, *The Wire*, actor Charley Scabies and writer Rafael Alvarez will be on campus on January 28th. Dr. Keith Brown continues to lead our campus in fair trade efforts. Last December we had our seniors present their original research at our annual poster session. The research presented included in-depth interviews, content analyses, and secondary analysis projects. The work was truly amazing and we are so proud of all of our students and faculty. I am serving my first term as chair of the department and am thrilled to be part of such a remarkable group of people. I hope to see you at an upcoming event.

In the meantime, think spring!

## Special Events and Department News

### FACULTY AWARD

We would like to recognize and congratulate **Dr. Marybeth Ayella**, Associate Professor in the Sociology Dept., on receiving a merit teaching award this past Fall semester. Very well deserved!



Date: **Tuesday, April 1, 2014**

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Please be sure to mark your calendars for this special event.

### Returning Professor

Students will be happy to hear that **Dr. George Dowdall**, former Sociology professor who retired recently, will be returning in the Fall 2014 semester as "Professor Emeritus". Looking forward to seeing Dr. Dowdall on campus again.

**Don't miss this event sponsored by the Richard Johnson Center for Anti-Violence !**

**William Julius Wilson**, a leading professor of race and urban sociology in the world, from Harvard University, will be speaking on campus. He is the author of numerous publications and has received honors such as the American Sociology Association's Award for Public Understanding of Sociology and Martin Luther King, Jr. National Award.



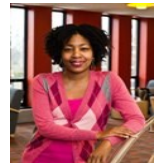
### SAVE THE DATE--

#### Annual Take Back the Night Vigil

Plan to attend the annual Take Back the Night Vigil on **Wednesday, April 9th, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Chapel of St. Joseph**. All are welcome to attend this very meaningful event.

### Congratulations:

**Dr. Melissa Logue**, Associate Professor in the Sociology.CJ Department, has been recognized for her 10 years of service here at Saint Joseph's University.



### Upcoming Event:

**AKD Induction Dinner—April 24th**. Guest Speaker: **Dr. Scott Brooks**, Associate Professor at Univ. of Missouri.

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**SOC 316: FAIR TRADE COURSE****COFFEE: FROM CO-OP TO CUP**

**Have you considered a Study Tour to Nicaragua ?**

Dr. Keith Brown, will be traveling with students to Nicaragua to examine the labor-intensive activities that go into producing shade grown and organic coffees, and the economic benefits that farmers receive for growing coffee in Central America. Students will live alongside farms who are growing fair trade coffee and learn about the "Coffee Crisis" that greatly affected Central American farms in the early 2000's. Prior to attending the trip, students will read about the political and economic dynamics of Central America, the history of coffee, and the fair trade movement. Students will gain a broader insight into the

limits and possibilities of integrating their values into their everyday shopping patterns.

**Tentative Travel Date:**

**10 days—January 2015**

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2014**

**Questions: Contact:**

**Dr. Keith Brown: kbrown01@sju.edu**

**Phone: 610-660-1897, MH 366**

This course satisfies DGNW Overlay; Upper Level Elective for IBU, SOC, Latin American Studies

**Study Tour to**



## Alumni News

**Margaret McGannon, (Sociology 2011)**, shares with us how her experience in the Inside-Out course changed her life the moment she walked into a prison for the first time and the journey she has taken on realizing her passion and goal to reduce the rate of incarceration in the United States.

Please read an excerpt below:

"Following my personal experience with the program, I have found myself repeatedly drawn to those most affected by the U.S. criminal justice system and to understanding the complex factors that have pushed the U.S. to become the world leader in per capita imprisonment. This is my passion in life, and the education I will gain in pursuit of my J.D. will allow me to work towards my goals".

**Sarah Jordan (Sociology 2013)**, a recent graduate, has started writing a blog about her time as a Jesuit Volunteer in Chicago and wants to share with us . Please visit her blog at: <http://volunteertolove.wordpress.com>

**Donna Leuchten (Sociology 2009)**, an alum we would like to acknowledge for her accomplishments since graduating. Donna is currently the Dir. Of Sustainable Food Systems for UpLift Solutions. She originally joined the UpLift Solutions' staff as the Assoc. Dir. In August 2011 and supports and oversees UpLift's Sustainable Food Systems and Health Innovations work. She holds a B.S. in Sociology from SJU and a M.S. in Social Policy from University of Pennsylvania.

Before joining UpLift Solutions, Donna was a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow through the DC-based Congressional Hunger Center, working on initiatives related to SNAP/Food Stamps policy and health concerns of the homeless community. Ms. Leuchten also conducted research for the Center for High Impact Philanthropy, housed at the University of Penn.

We'd like to congratulate Donna on all her success !!

**We would like to hear from you!**

Do you have any news you'd like to share ? As requested in previous issues, we love to

hear from both our current students and graduates so we can publish what you're doing and what you have to say! We were happy to receive the following update from one of our recent graduates:

**Caitlyn Grabenstein, May, 2012**, was inspired to start **Bandade, LLC**, after watching a best friend, Casey, struggle with leukemia. During Casey's battle, she received a signed care package from one of her favorite musicians, Ingrid Michaelson. To a true music enthusiast, nothing could be more touching than that single stranger, so admired as an artist, would take the time to make a personal connection with a fan in need. Forever impacted by this seemingly small gesture, and the ultimate passing of such a dear friend, Caitlyn decided to start Bandade, to start a fight and create a connection.

Bandade gives fans the opportunity to purchase signature t-shirts and care packages from their favorite musicians. A portion of all the proceeds will go towards benefiting the American Cancer Society, and towards a yearly scholarship for one deserving student, aspiring to study the arts.

Bandade is simply a community of hopeful music lovers !

**Please visit the Bandade website at: [www.bandade-music.com](http://www.bandade-music.com) [facebook.com/bandadecause](https://www.facebook.com/bandadecause)**

## Faculty Research—Dr. Christopher Kelly

We would like to share some of the interesting research that **Dr. Christopher Kelly**, Associate Professor in Sociology Dept., has been doing research on interrogation techniques. Read on.....

My current research focuses on humane and effective methods of interrogation and intelligence interviewing. In collaboration with the High Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), I recently completed a study that analyzed interrogation recordings from the Robbery-Homicide Division of the Los Angeles Police Dept. (RHD-LAPD). Not only did we find that rapport-based methods were more effective than confrontational ones in promoting suspect cooperation, a major finding to come from this research was the lingering effects of such confrontational methods. Specifically, harsh techniques, such as directly accusing the suspect of being guilty, threatening the suspect with consequences for non-compliance, and when the detective expressed anger, frustration or impatience, among others, lowered suspect cooperation for up to 15 minutes after first employing the technique, regardless of the other methods used in the intervening time period. This research

contributes to a growing body of literature demonstrating that harsh, abusive or coercive interrogation methods are not only immoral (and, in some instances, illegal) but also ineffective. I will be presenting a portion of this research this June at the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group (IIIRG) annual conference in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Additionally, **Dr. Chris Kelly**, a new full-time faculty member in the Sociology/Criminal Justice Dept., also shared some of his teaching techniques:

“With regard to teaching, I strive to bring the same passion and creativity to the classroom as I do my research, and I attempt to apply course concepts to real-world situations. In past course evaluations, students have noted that I “was very good at effectively explaining all the material, relating it to real life, and making it interesting and easy to learn.” Further, students have consistently stated the energy and enthusiasm I bring to my courses. Last semester, I partially “flipped” my graduate level Research Methods and Data Analysis course so that students would start learning some basic statistical functions of Microsoft Excel.

For my course, the students watched one or two 10-minute YouTube clips on how to, for instance, use equations, make graphs, and easily create descriptive statistics tables in Excel. In class, I had several exercises prepared using FBI Uniform Crime Report data on violent and property crime, court processing data of those who stood trial for homicide, and survey data on opinions on crime and the justice system. The students felt as though these were useful exercises and look forward to “flipping” more of my courses in the future”.

### SENIOR RESEARCH TOPICS

This year’s senior seminar class participated in many interesting topics for their senior project. Some of the topics are listed below:

- “Predictors of Juvenile Delinquency”
- “Negative Effects of Binge Drinking on College Students”
- “Factors that Influence the Public Opinion of Police”
- “Factors that Influence a Juvenile’s Sentence in Adult Court”

## Special Events and Department News Continued

### Don’t forget to:



Click on the button above or go to Facebook and search Saint Joseph’s University: Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

### Upcoming registration dates:

Both Summer and Fall registration will begin on : **Monday, March 31, 2014**

\*\* Please note that the last day to withdraw from **Spring** courses is **March 28, 2014**.

Please watch MySJU for the published schedule so you are ready to register for the coming semesters.