Message from the Chair

It has been a busy time in the Sociology and Criminal Justice department this academic year for both our students and faculty. They have been working hard both in the classroom and through service and campus organizations.

One cause which is very important to me is the Kristin’s Krusade 5K Walk/Run. Our students in REPP (Rape Education Prevention Program) promoted this event which was held on November 3rd and we’re happy to say that it was a great success. More information on this is on page 2.

Our service learning students have been busy in Inside-Out and doing weekly service at sites such as My Brother’s House, St. Columba’s, the ARC, and Gesu.

The Senior Seminar poster session was held on December 3rd and was an impressive showing of our seniors’ hard work on their research projects.

I’d like to thank our faculty who have been working extra hard this year, especially with the retirement of Dr. George Dowdall this spring and Drs. Logio and Clampet-Lundquist on sabbatical.

I’d also like to extend our congratulations to Dr. Susan Clampet-Lundquist who received the Alpha Sigma Nu Teaching Award from A∑N, the International Jesuit Honor Society and also the Faculty Merit Research Award.

Welcome Back Picnic

On Sunday, September 23rd, the department held it’s second annual Welcome Back Picnic. A pot-luck picnic for sociology and criminal justice majors and faculty was held on a beautiful fall day on St. Mary’s Lawn. Thanks to those who provided the delicious food and drink and, of course, to all of those who attended. We hope to continue this tradition each fall with larger crowds each year!

Dr. Susan Clampet-Lundquist’s Crime and Urban Communities Class during a visit from three students from DeLaSalle Vocational.

The Winning Team! Congratulations Janine Pietrangelo, Peter Leonard, Joseph Murry, Greg Loughney, Karissa Tinnzon, Carolyn Barrett. This team can now represent SJU at the Fair Trade Conference Wallyball Tournament at Cabrini College on March 15th. (More on this event on page 3).
Interested in an Internship?

Have you considered an Internship this summer? Dr. Keith Brown, Internship Director, has compiled a list of available internship opportunities for all Sociology and Criminal Justice majors and encourages students to take this opportunity to gain valuable work experience in their field. This listing is available in the Sociology/Criminal Justice office in Merion Hall, Room 360. Internships are available to students for 3, 6 or 9 credits. Credits for Internships taken during the summer term may be applied to the following fall.

For further information on an internship, contact Dr. Brown (kbrown01@sju.edu).

During a summer study tour to Nicaragua for a Fair Trade class, Dr. Keith Brown’s class met up with some “street children” who have run away from families destroyed by poverty and violence. After suffering mistreatment and abuse, these children have managed to survive and to move to the cities. Here they can be found in market areas where they beg, steal, assault and do jobs which are inadequate for children. They are exposed to violence and sometimes to torture. They can be counted by hundreds of thousands, a continuously increasing number and a sad and alarming index of the country’s situation.

Los Quinchos is an organization founded in 1991 to give hospitality to abandoned and mistreated children. Their goal is to reinsert children in their own society offering them access to human rights they have been denied up to now: the right to a peaceful childhood and the knowledge of their rights and duty as future citizens.

Dr. Brown and a group of students have begun a fund-raising drive to support Los Quinchos after seeing the good they have done with these children in Nicaragua. The first event was the Volleyball Tournament where they raised over $300. We ask that you please look for information on this project and be generous to this very worthwhile organization whose goal is to help these children.

Special Events and Department News

We were happy to be a co-sponsor of “Fighting Crime and Seeking Justice in the City of Brotherly Love: An Evening with Deputy Commissioner Richard J. Ross, Jr.” (an alum) on Tuesday, November 13th.

The Department was also a co-sponsor with the Faith Justice Institute, of the showing of “The Dhamma Brothers”, a film that explores how the inmates of a maximum security prison in Alabama were dramatically changed by an ancient, intense meditation program called Vipassana on Monday, November 19th. This showing included a presentation by Jenny Phillips, the producer/director/writer.

Kristin’s Krusade 2012

We are happy to report that the 2012 Kristin’s Krusade 7th Annual 5K Run/Walk was very successful!

Held on Saturday, November 3rd, at the SJU campus, this annual event is held to raise awareness about domestic and dating violence.

Thanks to our Honor Society and REPP members for getting the word out and recruiting the many runners/walkers who came out to participate in this important event.

Save the date! March 15, 2013–SJU and Cabrini College have partnered with Catholic Relief Services to promote Fair Trade Initiatives at Catholic colleges in Philadelphia. This conference will be held at Cabrini College in Radnor. For more information, please contact Dr. Keith Brown by email: kbrown01@sju.edu.

Alums in the News

Two of our graduates have been in the news recently.

Marvin O’Connor (Sociology 2002), most notably known for his basketball performance at SJU, was the subject of an article in The Philadelphia Tribune about his “wanting to make a difference in his community”. Marvin has purchased some property in Germantown where he plans to build an all-purpose recreation center where people can participate in different activities. “... It’s time for me to do something for somebody else. I truly understand the hurdles people face in everyday life. I’ve lived it. I know what it’s about.....” says O’Connor. Marvin is looking for funding support from the business community and is hopeful some will step in to help with this very important community effort.

Maura Bernt (Sociology 2011) was pictured in an article on Philly.com on Philadelphians Allied for a Responsible Economy (PhARE)’s protesting the Philadelphia School District’s proposed plan to close or relocate 44 schools throughout the city.

Inside-Out Class for Fall 2013. There are 2 opportunities for students to participate in this class during the upcoming fall semester. SOC 377: Exploring Justice Behind the Walls, will take place at the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia and ENG 482/PHL 342: Dimensions of Freedom will take place at the State Correctional Institution in Chester. Only 15 spots are open for each class. Application may be picked up in the Sociology, English & Philosophy department offices. The application deadline is March 18th.
Active Minds—Stomp Out Stigma Day

Dr. Marybeth Ayella, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Active Minds Chapter faculty advisor, reports that on Tuesday, October 9, the SJU chapter of Active Minds, held “Stomp Out Stigma Day”. Held during national Mental Health Awareness Week, our chapter members affixed hateful labels such as psycho, slut, fag, etc. to paper and then to a soda can. They then “stomped” the can and threw them on the lawn, symbolically making a decision to stop using hurtful words to stigmatize people—especially those with mental illness.

There was a great turnout for this event. In only its second year on the SJU campus, our Active Minds chapter has received “five star status” recognition by the national organization. This is the highest evaluation a chapter can receive for its work in empowering students to speak openly about mental health in order to educate others and encourage help seeking. This is our second year receiving this rating. Our chapter spread awareness in Spring ‘12 by its “Send Silence Packing” exhibit of 1100 backpacks symbolizing the number of college students lost to suicide annually. This spring’s events included a NAMI speaker living with mental illness; a “love your body” table during Eating Disorders week; “Mindfulness: Coping with Stress” an open lecture given by Dr. Greg Nichols during midterms. Upcoming events include a film and panel on “Debunking Stereotypes of Mental Illness and Violence (in March); True Story: I live with a Mental Illness (April 16th at 5 pm in the Forum Theater); and closing out the year, “Field Day,” aimed at reducing student stress during finals.

Dr. George Dowdall Retiring

Although we are happy for him, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to Dr. George Dowdall who retired after this fall semester. A reception for him was held on December 5th and was well attended by many of his colleagues, many of whom spoke of Dr. Dowdall and all of his accomplishments during his years at SJU.

Dr. Dowdall will be taking on “Emeritus” status, so, hopefully, we’ll be seeing him around campus in the future!

Fair Trade Advocates go to Chicago

Students Richard Estudillo, William Foley, Cristina Menna, Holly Polakiewisz and Adriana Zegarelli, along with Prof. Donna Gottardi ventured on a journey to expand their knowledge of fair trade by attending the Fair Trade Conference held in Chicago in late October.

Three of these students and Prof. Gottardi had been introduced to fair trade during a summer study tour to Nicaragua this year and recruited others to learn more about this initiative in order to promote fair trade more extensively at SJU.

The conference was successful in that these students gained important information on how to start an on-campus fair trade campaign, and how to work with the campus dining services provider and university administrators in order to bring fair trade products to campus. This was accomplished through conference presentations of personal stories on the benefits to fair trade farms and artisans and through a marketplace at the conference displaying fair trade products.

All of these students and Prof. Gottardi along with Dr. Keith Brown, are anxious and enthusiastic to bring the knowledge gained from this conference to the SJU campus and, hopefully, begin a campaign to make Saint Joseph’s University fair trade friendly. Dr. Brown encourages students to attend the Fair Trade Conference being held on Friday, March 15th at Cabrini College with students from other area colleges and universities. Any student interested should contact Dr. Keith Brown in the Sociology Office in Merion Hall.
New Department Faculty Member.
We are happy to announce the hiring of a new full-time faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Dr. Christopher Kelly, who received his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Temple University, is currently a post-doctoral associate at the University of Albany, School of Criminal Justice. Dr. Kelly will be teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses for us and we look forward to him joining our department.

AKD Honor Society Welcoming New Members.
Congratulations to the following new members of AKD, the national Sociology Honor Society, who will be inducted at a dinner held on April 25, 2013. Our invited guest speaker for this event is Dr. Tim Clydesdale of The College of New Jersey.

Michael Abbattista
Rebecca Arnowich
Philip Berry
Lauren Broggini
Jonathan Chieppor
Katherine Darby
Jacob Dillabaugh
William Dixon
Paula Hall
Jessica Heymann
Elena Hyder
Elizabeth Keenan
Nicole Liebowitz
Kathryn Macconi
Adam Scull
Cristen Sheppard
Kathleen Shull
Emilia Twomey
Megan Ward
Aaron Woelkers

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 “letter to the editor” from one of our current seniors:

As a senior, I am called to reflect upon my time here at SJU. There is something here at SJU that deserves recognition of its impact on its students, the sociology and criminal justice department. I have never heard a college student speak so highly and with such admiration as the sociology and criminal justice students of SJU. Most students admit that the passion and work of their professors inspired them to declare a sociology or criminal justice major. I have never met such committed and outstanding people. They have changed our lives for the better, and I am sure that I can speak for all of their students when I express my gratitude.

The sociology professors have taught us that our worth extends our knowledge, and they motivate us to discover it. They have made us look at education in a new way which expresses its social significance in this world, and they engage us in information in a way which prompts us to want to continue learning as they do. Beyond their profession, they are some of the best people that I have ever met; they are most intelligible, relatable, and genuine, and they care deeply for their students beyond what is required of their positions. They create a family that exhibits the best qualities of SJU and all that it stands for. These professors are the reason why I know I picked the right university.

Thank you!
Sincerely,
Jessica DePaul
SJU Class of ’13

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:
Registration for the summer and fall semesters will begin on:

Summer: Monday, April 1, 2013
Fall: Wednesday, April 10, 2013

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

An important change for the fall semester is that class will now be held on either a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule or a Tuesday/Thursday schedule. In addition, more time between classes has been added to the schedule.

SAVE THE DATE—Annual Take Back the Night Vigil
Plan to attend the annual Take Back the Night Vigil on April 13th in the Chapel of St. Joseph. All are welcome to attend this powerful event.