

Department Head's Message



Kenneth Bolton

Warm greetings from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice! This newsletter illustrates that the past year has been one of tremendous change and activity in the de-

partment, as we develop academic programs to prepare students for the 21st century workforce and meet the needs of the surrounding communities. Yet, we realize that looking to the future is more meaningful when we have a greater appreciation of our past and all of those who were here before. We encourage you to view our website and keep informed about the department, to come by and visit

and to participate in departmental events. Please keep in touch and let us know when you graduated and what you are doing now. We want to sponsor alumni events and alumni awards, so please send us information about yourself or others you believe are deserving of this recognition. We look forward to the coming year and hope you will become a greater part of our collective endeavors in the future.



Contact us!
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Department Welcomes New Faculty



From left to right: Burley, Shrock, Hensley and Bisciglia.

Michael G. Bisciglia received his Master's in Applied Sociology from Old Dominion University (1999) and his doctorate in sociology from Louisiana State University (2008). Currently his research interests focus on the relationship between residential segregation and homicide rates. Dr. Bisciglia has recently co-authored an article on this topic that is forthcoming in the

International Journal of Crime, Criminal Justice and Law. In addition, Dr. Bisciglia is an associate fellow of the Crime and Policy Evaluation Research Group and serves as the affiliate director of the Future Problem Solving Program International for the State of Louisiana, an academic educational program.

David Burley is an environmental sociologist who received his doctorate in the College of Urban Planning and Affairs at the University of New Orleans (2006). A native New Orleanian, David is currently working on a book entitled *Losing Place: Attachment, Identity and Land Loss in Coastal Louisiana* to be published in June 2010 by the Uni-

versity of Mississippi Press. Additionally, he is working on sustainable agriculture possibilities with a community in southern Mississippi. Dr. Burley is also the faculty advisor for the new student organization Reconnect, and is heading the department's Social Justice Speaker Series for the Fall 2009 semester.

Rebecca Hensley earned her Master's degree in Sociology at Western Illinois University and reached ABD status at Florida State University, earning in all a total of 118 graduate level semester-hour credits. She has been an award-winning teacher for twenty years at six universities. Her primary area of interest is power relations, including

race, class, gender, and globalization. Since arriving at Southeastern, she has introduced courses on gender and sexuality. She advises the Southeastern Sociological Association, a student organization. She also maintains a blog, Why Am I Not Surprised, on the socially constructed, political notion of race.

Tara Mann earned a B.A. and an M.A. in English from Mississippi State University. She graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2004 and was admitted to the bar in October 2005. She has taught English at Mississippi State and Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. Ms. Mann's major areas of interest are

international law, Middle East studies, women and the law, and First Amendment law. She gave a presentation during Women's History Month on the ongoing femicides in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and is currently at work on an awareness project regarding Afghani women.

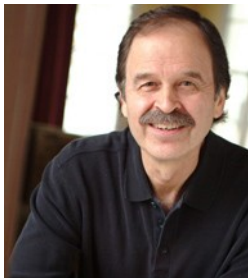
Peter Shrock obtained his M.A. in Criminal Justice from Indiana University Bloomington, and his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University at Albany, State University of New York. The Department of Criminal Justice at Indiana awarded him the Robert F. Borkenstein Award for academic excellence. At Albany, he studied as a Presidential Fellow from 1998 to 2001. His paper "Claims-

making as a Basis of Class Power" won the 2003 Graduate Paper Award from the New York State Sociological Association. Currently he is continuing his research into determinants of regulatory enforcement, with a concentration on the enforcement of occupational safety and health in the United States.



Tara Mann

Social Justice Speakers Series



Allan Johnson

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice has organized the annual Social Justice Speaker Series as a means of bringing nationally- and internationally-recognized social justice activists to the Southeastern community. Social justice encompasses a recognition that all people possess inherent dignity and rights, and that all people should be able to access the necessities of life and have the opportunity to pursue their aspirations. Social justice activists devote their work to raising awareness of critical issues facing our society. Speakers in past years have discussed the right of life, (Sister Helen Prejean on the death penalty), the right to be

free of racial oppression, (Morris Dees), war and human rights, (Medea Benjamin, Codepink), and the recovery/redevelopment of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, (Sakura Kone, Common Ground Relief).

On November 6, 2008, the department hosted **Dr. Allan Johnson** as the Social Justice Speaker. Dr. Johnson is a writer, teacher and public speaker working to address issues of privilege, oppression, and social inequality. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 1972. He taught for 30 years and now devotes his time entirely to writing and public speaking on issues such as patriarchy and male privilege; the dynamics of gender inequality in families, schools, and workplaces; sexuality and relationships between women and men; and the dilemmas of manhood and fatherhood. (see: www.allangjohnson.us). Dr. Johnson has written numerous books, including: *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise*, *The Blackwell Dictionary of Sociology*, and *The Gender Knot: Unravel-*

ing Our Patriarchal Legacy, and Privilege, Power, and Difference. The last publication has been used in the department's Sociology of Gender class (SOC 354) and was the focus of Johnson's campus presentation. The Social Justice Speaker Series has been sponsored by the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and the Lyceum Arts and Lectures Committee at Southeastern.

Coming Up: The 2009 Social Justice Speaker Series

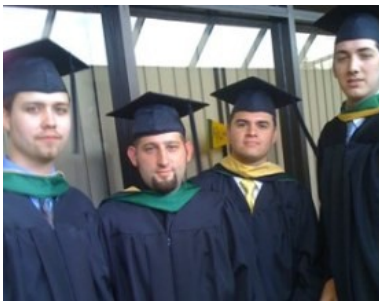
The 2009 Social Justice Speaker Series will be held on November 11 and 12. We will host two prominent citizens involved in environmental and sustainability issues. On Wednesday November 11, Omar Freilla, founder of Green Worker Cooperatives in the South Bronx of New York City, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Freilla's employee-owned sustainable organization is dedicated to incubating worker-owned and

environmentally friendly cooperatives in the South Bronx in response to high unemployment and environmental racism. The following day, Diane Wilson will be speaking. She is a fourth-generation shrimp-boat

captain and mother of five who launched an environmental justice campaign against a corporation for polluting the Texas Gulf Coast and subsequently damaging the shrimp-ing industry. Both events will be

held in the Student Union Theater during afternoon hours. Consult our website for more details, as these dates draw near.

Graduate Program in Applied Sociology



From left to right: Hines, Boos, Nutt and Wilson.

During the fall 2008 semester the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice awarded M.S. Degrees to Aleshia Cyprian, Jamie Nolen, Twanda Pierre, and Denise Donlan. At the recent spring commencement, degrees were awarded to Bradley Boos, Daron Hines, Richard Daniel Nutt, Jennifer Pujol, and William Jade Wilson. Congratulations to all of our recent graduates.

In addition, William Jade Wilson and Dana Adams were inducted into

Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honors Society.

Finally, congratulations to Holly Watts on her presentation of “*Gender Differences in Views Towards Economic Development in a Small Louisiana Community*” at the annual meeting of the Southern Rural Sociological Association and to Gregory Esteven for his presentation of “*Twenty Years of Dissent: Genealogizing the Critical Discourses of Intersexuality*” for the Southern Sociological Society.

Student Organization News

At present the department sponsors two student organizations: The Southeastern Sociological Association (SSA) and Reconnect. Both organizations have been quite busy.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the SSA collected winter clothing for impoverished farming families in the Mississippi Delta. They also co-sponsored (with the campus chapter of Amnesty International) a series of open forums on such topics as violence against women, the economic crisis, police brutality and race and ineffective government programs. The SSA also showed films on governmental suppression of the Black Panther Party and helped organize a new student group called Spectrum,

dedicated to advancing the rights of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or marginalized in other ways because of gender and sexuality.

Reconnect is a new student group providing students with an opportunity to help educate the campus community about environmental and sustainability issues, connect with other student groups who share common goals and assist in the greening of Southeastern and the community at large. The group attends local and nationwide events like the environmental community organizing conference, Powershift, in Washington D.C. in Feb ‘09 and Tulane’s Environmental Law and Policy Conference in April ‘09 and

participates in programs like Green Light New Orleans, Keep Hammond Beautiful trash pick-up days, SELU’s recycling program, and in Earth Day activities.

We are also excited to announce that a new Criminal Justice student association is being formed. The paperwork has been filed, Tara Mann has taken on the role of faculty advisor and ad hoc student officers have been chosen. Events being discussed for the next academic year include visiting a firing range and completing the course to obtain a license to carry a concealed handgun; visiting a crime lab; and hosting pizza and movie nights featuring criminal justice-related films like *Erin Brockovich*.

Geography and Anthropology

Within the department are two other disciplines – Anthropology and Geography – which provide essential course work complementing the disciplines of Sociology and Criminal Justice, as well as Education, Environmental Studies, Business, History, Biology, Earth Science and others.

Anthropology, the study of humans, seeks to understand the evolution of man. Anthropology is divided into four subfields: physical, cultural, linguistic, and archaeology. The anthropology courses offered by the department, some of which are cross listed as Sociology, include Introduction to Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Archaeological Field Studies, and Comparative Family Patterns, Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and Race and Ethnic Relations. Students in Sociology are required to take Cultural Anthropology, while Criminal Justice Majors are required to take Race and Ethnic Relations after completing Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101) or Introduction to Anthropology (ANTH 101). The department is currently developing a minor in anthropology, so please check with the department if you are interested in this stimulating minor.

Geography, or spatial studies, is a very broad field examining the earth's surface and the distribution and interaction of humans. Geography answers the questions pertaining to why things differ from place to place on earth and if spaces differ because of natural aspects or is it something that humans have done. Geography may be broadly subdivided into three areas: physical, cultural, and techniques, with the department offering classes in all three areas. Some of the courses offered include, Introduction to Geography,

Cultural Geography, Physical Geography, World Regional Geography, the very popular Geography of Louisiana, The Geography of the United States and Canada, Introduction and Advanced GIS, Introduction and Advanced Remote Sensing, Cartography, Map Reading and Field Methods, and Natural Hazards. Students majoring in Criminal Justice are required to take Geography of Louisiana, while students majoring in Sociology are required to take either Introduction to Geography or a World Regional course.

We also offer a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS). The field of GIS and Remote Sensing is the hottest field in geography. High paying jobs are available, even in today's poor economy. GIS/RS has an unlimited application, as illustrated by various types of projects conducted by our faculty and students, who have used GIS/RS to study crime hot spots in large cities such as Chicago and New Orleans; to examine the distribution of heartworm disease in St. Tammany Parish; to look at the impact of Hurricane Katrina on coastal wetlands; or to trace river bank erosion in the Alaskan arctic.

Department Welcomes Renowned Anthropologist

In honor of the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 50th anniversary of the Louis and Mary Leakey's find of the earliest hominid fossil in Olduvai Gorge in northern Tanzania, Anthropologist Dr. Kellen Gilbert and the department sponsored an April campus lecture by **Dr. Robert Blumenschine**, Professor of Anthropology from Rutgers University. Dr. Blumenschine is the director of the Olduvai Landscape Paleanthropology Project. His presen-

tation to anthropology classes focused on "Predation Risk, Stone Tool Transport Costs, and the Origin of Human Carnivory: A View from Olduvai Gorge." During his visit, he also had the opportunity to meet with colleagues from the department, Tulane University, and LSU.



Robert Blumenschine

Geography and Anthropology Study Abroad

Visit the Andes, the Amazon, Volcanoes, Indian Villages, Colonial Cities, and the Galapagos Islands....and earn up to six credits!

The Department of SOC & CJ and Office of Study Abroad is pleased to offer a new study abroad trip for May 2010. Gerald McNeill (Geography) and Kellen Gilbert (Anthropology) will lead a two week trip to Ecuador. For more information, contact Mr. McNeill (gmceill@selu.edu) or Dr. Gilbert (kgilbert@selu.edu).



Cotopaxi volcano, Ecuador

Sociology and Criminal Justice Scholarships and Student Awards

Scholarships

The department offers several scholarships for qualifying students, with the most recent being the Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice, created in honor of the recently retired, longtime criminal justice professor. We encourage your support of these opportunities to honor and award students and their academic achievements at Southeastern. For a detailed description of each, visit www.selu.edu/socj (see scholarships)

In Criminal Justice:

The Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship, The George Bedsole Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarship, The Richard A. Kent III Memorial Endowed Scholarship, The

Hammond Police Officers Union, Local 345 In/Out Criminal Justice Scholarship, The Mississippi and Louisiana Peace Officer Association In/Out and the Criminal Justice Scholarship.

In Sociology: The Jerry Salomone Endowed Scholarship in Sociology.



Tom Sullenberger

Student Awards

On April 2009, Sarah Easterly received the Outstanding Senior in Sociology Award and Barry Mince received the Outstanding Senior in Criminology Award. They had the highest GPAs of any graduating seniors in their respective programs.



Easterly and Mince

Highlighting Two Essential Staff Members



Donna and Brenda

The Department is proud to have two highly effective administrative assistants who multi-task, enabling the department to function each day. Donna Kennedy joined the department and Southeastern in spring 2008. She was born in the Springfield area, has lived in other states, and now resides in Natalbany. Her primary hobbies are traveling and

reading. Brenda Perret joined the department in fall 2008 and has been working at Southeastern since 2003. She was born in New Orleans, raised in Norco, and now lives in Loranger. Her hobbies are gardening and community volunteering.

Southeastern Social Science Research Center Highlights

Since the last newsletter, the Florida Parishes Social Sciences Research Center has changed its name to the Southeastern Social Science Research Center (SSSRC) (http://www.selu.edu/acad_research/programs/ssrc/index.html), and the mission was changed to include regional development.

Surveys

Between June and July of 2008,

all residents, business owners and renters, and property owners in Olde Towne of Slidell were asked to provide information and ideas that would help in the economic development and revitalization of Olde Towne.

The Bogalusa Area Shopping Study was conducted in the fall of 2008. This telephone survey was designed to provide decision makers with data that can be used to help

build a stronger, safer, and more economically viable community.

The 2008 Quality of Life Study is a benchmark survey of residents in the Florida Parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington. It was intended to be the first of a series of reports designed to help citizens and community leaders cooperatively develop solutions to identified problems.

Lastly, the SSSRC conducted two telephone surveys in the fall of 2008 for the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment to investigate the views of Southeastern undergraduates.

Development

The Land Trust for Southeast Louisiana (LTSL) has also been a significant development effort for the

SSSRC. After years of laying the legal groundwork, the LTSL has signed conservation servitudes for two properties. The Preserve at Whiskey Island is a 478-acre property with two tracts of wetlands that provide significant conservation benefits, including wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and absorption of flood and storm water. The Laurel Hill

Plantation comprises 133 acres along Highway 61.

Other Development Work

The SSSRC has also been involved with the Hammond Weed and Seed Initiative, a program intended to help weed out crime and replace negative factors with revitalization efforts.



Students at work in the SSSRC



RA, Jessica Darbonne



Bonnie Lewis, Director

Selected Faculty Professional Activities

Our faculty has been quite productive in the past year. Below is a partial list of their work (see faculty names in bold).

Michael G. Bisciglia

- “Methods and Rational for the Collection of Diversity Data in International Non-Profit Organizations.” *Future Problem Solving Program International*.

John Boulahanis and Bonnie Lewis

- “Gauging Public Perception and Fear of Crime in Post-Katrina Louisiana.” Mid-South Sociological Association.

John Boulahanis

- “Gauging Media Consumption and Fear of Crime: A Comparison of Various Parishes in Louisiana.” Southern Rural Sociological Association.
- “Mapping the Fear: A Social Constructionist Approach in Examining Media Effects & Fear of Crime in New Orleans.” *Sociology in a Changing World: Challenges and Perspectives*.

David Burley

- “The Symbolic Significance of Trees: Place Attachment and Land Loss in Costal Louisiana.” Southern Sociological Society.

Kellen Gilbert

- “Geophagy: Environmental and Health Implications.”

Southern Rural Sociological Association.

- “Cultural Awareness and Short-Term Missions.” Society for Applied Anthropology.

Rebecca Hensley

- Excellence in Teaching Award, Sigma Alpha Pi; President’s Award, Greater Tangipahoa Parish Branch of NAACP.
- “Social Distance Between Africans and African-Americans.” National Association for African-American Studies.
- “Social Distance Between Africans and Black Americans.” Southern Sociology Society.
- “The Art of Re-enslavement.” *About . . . Time*.

Anna M. Kleiner

- “Organizational Capacity in the Post-Disaster Context: Assessing Needs, Assets, and Lessons Learned.” Rural Sociological Society (with Green, Kerstetter and Montgomery).
- “Evaluating Capacity and Services of Community-Based Organizations in Mississippi: Three Years of Recovery Following Hurricane Katrina.” Southern Sociological Society (with Green, Montgomery and Bunko).

- “Exploring Global Agrifood Politics and the Position of Limited Resource Producers in the United States”, in *Politics of Globalization*, edited by Samir Dasgupta and Jan Niederveen Pieterse. Sage Publications (with Green).

- “Expanding the Marketing Opportunities and Sustainable Production Potential for Minority and Limited Resource Agricultural Producers in Louisiana and Mississippi.” *Southern Rural Sociology* 23(1) (with Green).

Bonnie Lewis

- “A Study of Economic Development Efforts in a Small Rural Mill Town in Louisiana.” Southern Rural Sociological Association.

Tara Mann

- “Femicide in Ciudad Juarez Mexico” Southeastern’s Women’s History.

Molly McGraw

- “After the Storm: Community Partners Discuss Food System Analysis of Southern Louisiana.” Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and Association for the Study of Food and Society (with Adeleye, Camel, Kleiner and Coffman).

- “Environmental Forcing of Suspended Sediment in Coastal Louisiana Wetlands.” Association of American Geographers.

- “The Degradation of Ice Wedges in the Colville River Delta and their Role in Pond Drainage.” In *Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Permafrost*.

Gerald McNeill

- “Southern Louisiana’s Above Ground Concrete Vault Burials.” Southern Rural Sociological Association

Melanie Norwood

- “Examining Online Child Sex Abuse.” Southern Sociology Society.

Marc Riedel

- Chair, Richard Block Awards Committee for the outstanding dissertation and outstanding thesis on homicide; reappointed to the editorial board of the journal *Homicide Studies*.

- “Performances and Performance Killings.” Homicide Research Work Group.

- “Murder-Suicides: A Review of the Literature.” Southern Sociological Society.

- “The Relationships Between Criminology and Criminal Justice: Revisiting an Old Controversy.” American Society of Criminology.

- “Homicide Arrest Clearances: A Review of the Literature.” *Sociological Compass*.

- “Criminal Homicide.” *Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence*.

- “Arrest Clearances for Homicide: National and International Comparisons.” *Selected Essays on Current Legal Issues*.

Peter Shrock

- “Observations of Counteracting Effects of Political Institutions on Regulatory Enforcement.” American Sociological Association.



Fayard Hall

HELP US CONTINUE THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

If you would like to make a contribution, we would greatly appreciate it!
You will be recognized in our next newsletter.

To support the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Developmental Fund that assists with day-to-day expenses and sponsored events, please make checks payable to: *Southeastern Development Foundation & Sociology & Criminal Justice* and mail to: Sociology and Criminal Justice; SLU 10686; Hammond, LA 70402.

My/Our Gift is: \$ 10 - \$49 \$ 50 – 99 \$ 100 and above

To support the following endowed scholarships, please use the web link below to make your contribution:

- The Jerry Salomone Endowed Scholarship in Sociology**
- The Tom Sullenberger Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice**

Visit: <http://www.selu.edu> (see scholarships)

THANK YOU!

We want to hear from you! Please let us know how you are doing, and if you would be interested in being nominated for an alumni award from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (see award description at: www.selu.edu/alumni_donors/alumni_assoc/recognitions/index.html)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Year of Graduation and Major: _____

Additional Comments:

Southeastern Louisiana University

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!