DEPARTMENT NEWS

From the Director of Graduate Studies

There is a lot to be proud of in this issue of the newsletter! Our graduate students have been more involved in professional activities than ever and have won some impressive awards. In addition, several graduate students work as research and teaching assistants for the Department. Graduate alumni of our program continue to prosper; some have completed their PhDs and gone on to do post-doctoral work and started academic careers. Others have entered marketing research careers and are teaching courses at Indiana colleges. Some are buying their first homes and becoming parents for the first time! Our graduate students’ accomplishments are just one indicator that our Masters Program, launched in 2001, continues to grow and flourish.

We are not alone in recognizing the success of our graduate program. In our recent ten year department review, the reviewers noted that “the masters program is off to an excellent start. The number of graduate credit hours provided has doubled in its short history. Entering classes typically include 11 students, an increase of several students over the past few years. Approximately 20 students have been enrolled in the program in the past few years, which is an excellent number and probably should not be increased much. The average undergraduate GPA of new students has increased from 3.2 to 3.6 in five years. Fourteen students have already been awarded degrees, which is excellent given the number of part-time students. Many graduates have already gone on for Ph.D. degrees. A Ph.D. minor in sociology was recently developed for doctoral students in other departments. We spoke with individuals in several related areas and they had high praise for the program. In short, the launch of the masters program is one of the most successful we have seen.”

We should all be very proud of the hard work everyone (both faculty and students) has put into making our graduate program a real success. Our work, however, is not complete. Now that our program is clearly established, the graduate committee will begin to focus its efforts on continuing to improve the quality of the program as well as offering more professional opportunities for students. We have several ideas in mind:

First, we hope to further develop the applied emphasis of the program by establishing a list of agencies that regularly seek research interns in areas that complement our MA concentrations. We also hope to include more of an applied focus in our courses, especially the methods courses.
Second, we are phasing out the practice of allowing undergraduate students in our graduate level courses. Having such a mix of students has proven to be mostly detrimental to such courses, both in terms of the students’ experiences and the professors’ experiences. Such courses are very difficult to teach and learning often becomes compromised.

Third, thanks to graduate student Sarah Muterko, we recently established a graduate student Sociology Club that we hope to see come to life in the years to come. The club could do many things, including organizing professional development forums, social events, and other activities that bring graduate students together.

Fourth, we will continue to work on securing more graduate student space.

Fifth, we will consider whether to pursue dual MA programs, for example with the School of Public Health or Social Work. Other ideas to expand options for our students would be to offer a joint BA/MA program. All of these may make our MA more attractive.

Sixth, with the recent awarding of several new grants, joint research hires, and collaboration with a variety of research centers (i.e., Bowen Research Center, SLA Center for the Study of Social Issues, and the Polis Center), we hope to be able to offer an increasing number of research assistant positions in the years to come.

These are just some of our many ideas that we may work to implement in the years ahead. We welcome your ideas, and inputs, as we move forward along the path towards ever greater success!

Given our accomplishments with the graduate program in such a short period of time, it won’t be surprising to anyone that being Director of Graduate Studies is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job and I truly look forward to staying in this position for years to come!

That said, there comes a time when everyone needs a vacation from their job. This summer will be particularly busy for me because I am applying for tenure. This means I must prepare a huge dossier to document my accomplishments as an assistant professor as well as outline a trajectory for the years to come. I am therefore unable to attend the summer conferences in Boston this year (where I normally arrange a graduate student/faculty night out; if anyone else wants to arrange this, please do so…it’s usually a lot of fun).

I am also stepping down from my position as Director of Graduate Studies as of March 31st until I submit my tenure dossier in August. Until August, Dr. Ain Haas, pictured to the left, and who was the previous Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), will serve as DGS. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the graduate program during the spring/summer, please direct those to Dr. Haas. Ph: 274-2418  ahaas@iupui.edu

I wish you all a successful end to the spring semester and have a good summer!

Carrie Foote, Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

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Welcome New Graduate Students!

The Department of Sociology welcomes two new graduate students for spring semester! Jularut Padunchewit who prefers to be called Dew, joins us from as far away as the University of Chulalongkorn in Bangkok, Thailand! While working on her Sociology Degree in Thailand, she had the opportunity to do research with Tsunami victims and worked with a research team to better understand how they rebuilt their lives after the Tsunami. She is eager to focus her studies in the area of Medical Sociology!

After four years of service in the Navy, obtaining a nursing degree, and finishing her undergraduate Sociology degree at Old Dominion University in Virginia, Sarah Aktepy decided to return to her home state of Indiana to pursue a Masters Degree in Sociology. Sarah is very interested in two of our concentrations: Medical Sociology and Family/Gender Studies. And for those of you who need to de-stress or want to complement standard medical care with a more holistic approach to health, Sarah is also a Level 2 Healing Touch therapist and offers her services at a very reasonable price! For more information on Health Touch, see: http://www.healingtouchinternational.org/

Welcome New Faculty!

Please welcome Dr. Neale Chumbler to our Department! Dr. Chumbler will split his time between us and the VA. He will teach one course for us each year in the area of Medical Sociology and plans to employ graduate students on his research projects through the VA. Dr. Chumbler focuses his research on identifying and evaluating effective strategies by which to deliver accessible services for frail non-institutionalized older adults. His current agenda consists of implementing and evaluating care coordination models, which are enhanced by home-telehealth technologies for veterans with disabling, chronic diseases to improve patients’ health related quality of life, avert preventable health services, and assist informal caregivers.

Job Search Update

We are extremely excited about the possibility that Dr. Tamara Leech may join us this fall. The School of Liberal Arts is currently in the process of extending Dr. Leech an offer to join us! Dr. Leech's areas of expertise include Medical Sociology, Urban Communities, Population Studies, and Research Methods. Dr. Leech's previous academic experience has focused on racial and ethnic variations in adolescent wellbeing. She is currently involved in an ongoing project focusing on health risk behaviors among adolescents, and is starting research on social organization in Indianapolis neighborhoods.
A special thanks to all the graduate students who provided feedback on the candidates for our job search!

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Congratulations to several of our students for making progress on their MA degrees!!

**Winter MA Degrees Awarded:**

**Stacia Murphy:** Internship: SPEA’s Health Policy, Center for Urban Policy and the Environment. Project Title: *Clarian Health Partner Project.* (Chair: Prof. Eric Wright)

**Elizabeth Henderson:** Internship (Chair Prof. Sue Steinmetz)

**Jeremy Roseberry:** Internship: G&S Research. (Chair: Prof. Carrie Foote)

Congratulations to those students who have met their Thesis/Internship Proposal Requirements!

**Rachel Katerjohn, Sarah Muterko, Tiffany Smith, Lisa Lloyd**

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We have three Graduate Student Teaching Assistants this semester. **Sarah Muterko** (50% appointment) and **Tiffany Smith** (25% appointment) are working as TAs with Instructor David Strong (Intro to Soc), and Prof. Michelle Rainey (Intro to Soc). **Ben Drury** works as a TA for Prof. David Bell and his research methods class. We have several partially funded Research Assistants working for Professors for part or all of the spring semester. **Jodie Atkinson** and **Sarah Lynn** work for Prof. Carrie Foote on her NIH funded HIV and Childbearing Study; **Jodie Atkinson** works with Peter Seybold on a project examining environmental risks and toxicities. **Tiffany Smith** works for Prof. Carol Gardner and Prof. Bill Gronfein. **Erica Reichert** continues to work with Prof. Betsy Fife on her NIH funded cancer study. **Sarah Aktepy** works as an RA for the Department of Family Medicine.

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**Reminder:** All students awarded TA or RA positions must continue to make adequate progress through the program. This means having no incompletes and completing coursework in a timely manner.
Graduate Student Publications


Graduate Student Awards

Tiffany Smith, Educational Expense Grant for her MA thesis research, Graduate School, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Erica Reichert, USA Funds Access to Education Graduate Student Scholarship

Chris Conner, Indy Pride Educational Scholarship

Graduate Student Presentations


Acceptance into Ph.D. Programs

Erica Reichert, Purdue University, U Mass, U Colorado Boulder, U Maryland

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* Registration is now open! *All 2008 Cohort students must enroll in R551.

**SOC-R 515 Sociology of Health and Illness (3 cr.)**
Class #3775  6:00p – 8:40p  W  Gronfein, William
Class #28643  9:30a - 12:10p  F  Gronfein, William
Surveys important areas of medical sociology, focusing on social factors influencing the distribution of disease, help-seeking, and health care. Topics covered include social epidemiology, the health-care professions, socialization of providers, and issues of cost and cost containment.

**SOC-R 551 Quantitative Research Methods (3 cr.)**
Class #5930  4:30p – 5:45p  T/R
Surveys the major quantitative techniques for investigating current sociological problems. It emphasizes the relationship between theory and practice in understanding and conducting research.

**SOC-R 557 Advanced Sociological Theory II (3 cr.)**
Class #27878  6:00p – 8:40p  M  Williams, Colin
Reading and exercises will involve the student in close analysis and criticism of sociologists belonging to the idealist tradition of sociology. In this second part of a two-semester course in theory and theory construction in sociology, students will be required to demonstrate their mastery of the theorists studied, as well as to demonstrate their own abilities in theory design and construction.

**SOC-S 560 Topics: Aging and Society (3 cr.)**
Class #6302  6:00p – 8:40p  T  Steinmetz, Suzanne
As the median age of our society continues to increase, we will face a number of issues that will not only impact the elderly but also their families. This course will examine the biological, psychological, sociological and demographic aspects of aging. Topics include the social security debate, medical care for the elderly, reallocation of resources between youth and elderly, need for long-term care and nursing facilities, marriage and remarriage among the elderly, support services for caregivers, and end of life choices.

**SOC-S 560 Topics: Gender, Families and Work (3 cr.)**
Class #27879  6:00p – 8:40p  R  Haas, Linda
This course explores the critical challenges involved in integrating the competing responsibilities of paid work and family life, from the perspective of multiple stakeholders, including women, men, children, employers, and society at large. Special attention is given to how gendered assumptions and norms in the social institutions of family and work affect how work and family life interconnect and influence each other. The course evaluates workplace and government policy initiatives aimed at helping individuals manage work and family, examining these from an international perspective.
Interested in attending the summer conferences?

**American Sociological Association**
http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2008

**Society for the Study of Social Problems**
http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/293

**Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction**
http://sun.soci.niu.edu/~sssi/sssiasa.html

**Association of Black Sociologists**
http://www.blacksociologists.org/conference.htm

Some of these associations offer graduate student travel funds if you present a paper. I can also recommend up to two students to receive travel funds from the IUPUI Graduate School. Let me know if you are presenting.  [http://www.iupui.edu/~gradoff/students/travelfell.html](http://www.iupui.edu/~gradoff/students/travelfell.html)

Students might also consider joining one or more of these associations which provide valuable information such as career opportunities through the ASA Job bank.

GRANT AND PAPER COMPETITIONS

**Association of Black Sociologists Graduate Student Paper Competition:**
Deadline May 1, 2008
http://www.blacksociologists.org/awards.htm

**SSSP Student Paper Competitions**
Deadlines: Vary by sections

**2008 Martin Levine Student Essay Competition**
Sociology students are invited to submit an original, 20-page (double-spaced) essay on the social dimensions of HIV/AIDS for the annual student essay competition. The topic is broadly defined and can include any aspect of HIV/AIDS from a sociological perspective. The student must be the first author and must have written most, if not all, of the manuscript. Deadline: **June 15, 2008.** The winner will be notified in early August prior to the annual meeting and will be announced at the Sociologists AIDS Network (SAN) Business Meeting and in Footnotes. The winner will receive an award of $100 and a five-year membership to SAN. All Students who enter the competition will also receive a one year membership to SAN. Papers should be submitted by e-mail to Anne Esacove (esacove@gmail.com)
Grad Grants Center: For information on funding for graduate students, including research grant information, try the Grad Grants Center available for IUPUI graduate students at www.indiana.edu/~gradgrnt/index.html


Indy Pride Scholarship Program: Each year, Indy Pride, Inc. provides scholarships to students who have worked to make Indiana a better place for the GLBT community. Monies for the scholarship are obtained through fundraising events such as Laugh Out Loud and the annual IN Pride Festival. The scholarship deadline this year is October 1st. Scholarships are awarded in November at the annual Indy Pride Community Thanksgiving Event. For more information see their website: www.indyprideinc.com

USA Access to Education Scholarship Program
http://www.usafunds.org/planning/access_to_education_scholarship/index.html

2008 SAN Scholarly Activity Award
This Sociologists AIDS Network (SAN) Award aims to nurture scholarly interest in the sociology of HIV/AIDS by supporting the work of emerging scholars in the field. One applicant will be chosen each year to receive a one-time award of up to $250 and a year of free membership in SAN. All graduate students working on topics in the sociology of HIV/AIDS are eligible to apply. Supportable activities include, but are not limited to: Research expenses such as incentives for research participants, transcribing interviews, or copying archival materials or travel to conferences to present original research. Applicants should submit the following items to the award committee chair, Jorge Fontdevila (jfontdevila@fullerton.edu), by June 1, 2008. For application information, please see: http://www.sociologistsaidsnetwork.org/

Sociology Department Thesis Research Expense Grant
This grant will be given to a Sociology graduate student to assist with future (not past) out-of-pocket thesis expenses, such as (but not restricted to) data gathering travel, postage for questionnaires, purchase of secondary data, purchase of tapes for audio recording, payment to research participants, etc. Applicants can request up to $500. For more information, please see Appendix D in the Sociology Graduate Handbook.

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Awards and Grants
The Society sponsors a number of awards, some presented annually and some periodically. Application instructions are provided for Student Research Grants, the FSSS Grants-in-Aid program, and for nomination as Fellows of the Society. Other awards are presented at the discretion of the Society's Board of Directors. http://www.sexscience.org/awards/index.php

IUPUI Office of International Affairs Graduate School Funding.
http://www.iupui.edu/~oia/SA/GradSchoolAid.html

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CAREERS AND INTERNSHIPS

Come join us for the first ever Graduate Student Internship Presentation Panel!
When? April 29 3:45-5:15
Where? Sociology Sussman Library CA 308
Who? Sarah Muterko who interned with the Crane House
Rachel Katerjohn who interned with Girls Inc
Lisa Lloyd who interned with MATEC (Midwest AIDS Training)

The graduate students will share their experiences pursuing the internship option for their MA. Come learn about the agencies where they worked, the sociological skills they used in their intern settings and whether they would recommend these agencies for other students.

Indiana Collegiate Career Fair
Friday, April 4th, Indiana Convention Center

Meet employers seeking HUNDREDS of interns and full-time professionals

Employer Panel, 9:00AM
Come early for an employer panel at 9AM! Find out what employers really want. Then, put their tips to good use at the Career Fair!

Networking Workshop, 11:00AM
Networking NOT Working? At 11AM, learn from Career Services professionals how YOU can make the most of a career fair!

Liberal Arts & Science Students, 1:30PM
Be sure to take advantage of this “high touch” opportunity to talk with employers in a relaxed setting. This event will be held at 1:30PM.

FREE to all degreed or soon-to-be degreed career seekers. Close to 100 employers attending! More Information: http://www.jobfairs.iupui.edu/

Interested in a career in teaching after graduate school? Sociology students can teach at the college/university level with a MA degree. Consider participating in the IUPUI’s Preparing Future Faculty Program: http://center.iupui.edu/Units/SCAP/ppf.asp Our department also continues to offer teaching appointments to graduate students. A student must be making adequate progress towards their degree and normally have completed nearly all of their coursework. Any students offered these opportunities are expected to continue to make adequate progress towards their degree. We are always looking for ways to increase teaching training opportunities for students and hope to develop more opportunities in the future.
IT Training is again offering very useful free STEPS workshops for students including introductions to SPSS and EndNote. These workshops are free to students. I highly recommend that you learn EndNote, a software program for creating in-text citations and bibliographies for your research papers. You can register for STEPS workshops at: http://ittraining.iu.edu/iupui/

The Qualitative Research Summer Intensive will be held August 9-13 in Long Island New York. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about qualitative methods from experts in the field such as Kathy Charmaz, David Morgan, John Creswell, Carolyn Ellis, Michael Agar, and Douglas Maynard. A bit pricey but well worth the money. e-mail information@researchtalk.com to be notified when more information about the 2008 QRSI is available http://www.researchtalk.com

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods for Social Research. Registration for the 2008 Summer Program is open. For more information, see http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/training/summer/index.html

Interested in publishing? Preparing a paper for publication is a lot of work that is often difficult for graduate students. One solution - consider asking your thesis committee chair to help you revise your thesis (or other research papers) into manuscripts that you can then submit for journal publication). Many faculty welcome the opportunity to coauthor papers and have the skills to revise your thesis so that it becomes acceptable for publication. In these cases, the student would be the first author, and the faculty member the second author.

Want to stay another year in Indy? Consider also getting a specialized graduate certificate to complement your degree. Many of these certificate programs can be obtained at IUPUI. See: http://www.iupui.edu/~iuihome/certificate_table.php

Reminders:
- First year graduate students should continue to meet with their first year academic advisors through the spring semester. Full time students should identify a thesis or internship chair by the end of their second semester in the program and finalize a thesis topic or identify possible places to intern.
Graduate students have 5 years to complete their MA degree but normally a full time student is expected to complete their degree in 2 years, a part-time student in 3 years. Courses older than five years will not count towards your degree. Should extenuating circumstances exist, a student may petition for an exception but this is rare and the student will still need to revalidate courses should they go beyond the five year limit.

Please keep the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) informed of any academic graduate student activities such as presentations, publications, major progress towards the completion of the MA, acceptance to Ph.D. programs. It is critical to have this information when completing year end graduate program reports for the school. E-mail the DGS a description of the activity including the title, date, other authors, etc.

Several resources are available on the graduate student mailbox book case including: Examples of thesis and internship proposals, graduate student grant proposals and travel applications, and professional resources such as letters of intent for Ph.D. programs, letters for teaching jobs, etc. You may make copies but please leave the originals in the order that you found them. Completed Master Thesis papers of past students are available in the Sussman Library CA 316. Please do not remove these from the library.

OTHER NEWS

The May graduation ceremonies will soon be upon us! We hope to graduate around 8-10 students by August 2008. This will be our largest graduating group ever in one year!

Peter Seybold has agreed to be the Graduate Sociology Club Advisor

We will be looking to identify a new graduate student representative for next year. Interested students should e-mail the current rep. - Sarah Muterko. sapatter@iupui.edu.

The refrigerators have been cleaned. Please help us keep them clean.

Training will begin on April 7th for Amy Wickstrom who has been hired for the office Coordinator position. Stop by and introduce yourselves when you get a chance.

We now have a graduate student alumni listserv to keep graduates of our MA program informed about graduate program news.

There are now two (rather than one) computers for graduate student use outside the offices of Dr Bell and Dr Carrie in CA306. NVIVO 8 (Qualitative Software) will soon be available on these computers.

We are currently wait-listed to replace the ancient bulk computers by the copy machine in CA303 with slimmer flat screens. It could be a while.

We are getting a new copy machine. Please be gentle with it.
SAVE THE DATES

New Student Orientation
When: Thursday August 14
Where: Room to be announced
More details will be sent out in the summer!

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PICNICS - Annual Summer Department Picnic
When: Saturday August 23
Where: Dr. Wan Ning Bao’s house in Carmel
More details will be sent out in the summer!

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ALUMNI NEWS

Tiffany Martin Brown, Ph.D. (MA 2003) accepted a position at the University of Colorado Denver in the Department of Family Medicine as a Senior Instructor with a joint appointment in Community Pediatrics. For the Department of Family Medicine. She is the project coordinator for an AHRQ Task Order on the costs and benefits of engaging in quality measurement data collection and reporting for diabetes. For the Department of Community Pediatrics, she works at Children's Hospital as the Director of Continuous Quality Improvement for the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP). She is developing and implementing a reminder-recall for immunizations for Medicaid and SCHIP kids in Colorado as well as acting as a practice coach to improve quality of care in the CCHAP practices related to immunizations, asthma, ED utilization, after hours phone care, and no shows. She is also on a Task Force to help develop the standards for the state criteria of the medical home for Medicaid kids.

On the informal side she and her husband, Steven, bought their first house and moved in this past weekend! She also applied for her first external funding as PI from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation. Finally, her synchronized skating team placed 2nd at regional competitions and 5th at nationals! She is hoping to start competing at the individual level again this summer.

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Mathew Gayman (MA 2003) will defend his Ph.D. in Sociology this summer from Florida State University. After receiving several job offers, he decided to take a Postdoctoral Fellowship, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
Sharon Sidenbender (MA 2005) continues to work with Professor Jim Wolf in the IUPUI Survey Research Center as the Assistant Director of Administration. She is responsible for overseeing the administrative obligations of the Survey Research Center (http://www.indiana.edu/~csr).

Aimee Zoeller (MA 2005) recently took the position of visiting lecturer and department coordinator for Indiana University Purdue University Columbus in sociology.

Merih Tzeggai Bennett (MA 2006) continues to work at G&S Marketing Research as an entry level analyst (www.gs-research.com). Merih and her husband are also expecting their first child, a boy, due within two months! Merih can be reached at mbennitt@gs-research.com.

Tony Lawson (MA 2006) continues to work with Eli Lilly as an Outcomes Research Consultant.

Tysha Hardy Sellers (MA 2006) is a lecturer of Sociology at Franklin College and IVY Tech. She taught Gerontology at Franklin during the fall and taught Sociology 101 at both colleges this past spring.

Charles Hulen (MA 2006) continues to work towards his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio.

Wyndy Smelser (MA 2007) works as a Moderator/Analyst for G&S Research, Inc. In this senior analyst-level position, she is responsible for all aspects of qualitative research, including: developing qualitative study instruments; conducting in-depth interviews and focus groups with consumers and health care professionals; analyzing collected data and reporting for clients within the pharmaceutical, biomedical, and health care industries (www.gs-research.com).

Deanna McQuillan (MA 2007) moved to Denver Colorado where she is employed as a Behavioral Researcher Level II with the National Jewish Medical and Research Center (the #1 respiratory hospital in the US). She and her husband, just placed a contract on their first home!
Sarah Vincent (MA 2007) continues to work as an IUPUI Academic Advisor for IUPUI where she assists new and current IUPUI students in their academic scheduling, major/career exploration, and enhancing their skills in order for a successful completion of their undergraduate career.

Tanya Gilbert (MA 2007) works as a health educator for Life Master, a disease management company. In addition, she just started teaching a course on the Sociology of Gender at Marion College in Indianapolis.


Sarah Vincent (MA 2007) continues to work as a Student Coordinator with the Twenty-first Century Scholars Central Indiana Support Site. As part of her job she enrolls 7th and 8th graders, secures affirmations of Senior scholars, and programs events for the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program of Central Indiana. The specialized population consists of low income students and their families within Marion, Shelby, Johnson, and Hendricks counties. Sarah will be presenting her Masters Thesis at the MSS conference. For details see the presentation section earlier in the newsletter.

Elizabeth Henderson (MA 2007) continues to work for the Indiana Family and Social Service Agency, Division of Mental Health and Addiction. Office of Policy, Planning, & Technology Information Technology and Reporting Section. She is an Operations and Survey Manager.

Stacia Murphy (MA 2007) took a job with G&S Marketing Research as an entry level analyst (www.gs-research.com).
Do you have some graduate program or graduate student news to share?

We are especially interested in hearing about what former graduate students are doing. Please e-mail your news Brief to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Do you want to make a Contribution to the IUPUI Sociology Department?

To make financial contributions to the Department, please make checks payable to the IUPUI SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT PROGRAM and send them to:

Amy Wickstrom
Sociology Department Office Coordinator
IUPUI Sociology
CA303, 425 University Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46228

The foundation account currently provides money that supports conference travel and thesis expense grants for graduate students.

Newsletter Editor: Assistant Prof. Carrie Foote

Visit the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts
http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/

Discover Sociology at IUPUI
http://www.iupui.edu/%7Eslasoc/