Inaugural Edition

This first edition of *Class Consciousness* comes to you nearly halfway through our spring semester. This semester has seen all of us get stressed, most of us get sick, and even one of us get hit by a semi. We have all had setbacks this semester; articles that may not have been read or deadlines that may not have been met. Despite this, most days the faculty and students of the sociology department can be found, not crying in the bathroom or hiding under their covers, but at school in fellowship with one another. Whether we are discussing the latest baseball scores, the latest news out of Washington, or simply telling stories about our day it is this sharing of ideas, opinions and stories that keep us going. This newsletter is meant to be an extension of this fellowship. Twice a semester we will share our ideas, opinions, events and news. If you have an opinion or something you want to add for next time let us know. As one famous sociologist always says, “If you're not in, you’re out”.

Graduate Student Sociology Club Schedule

There are some wonderful interesting things going on and we want you to be a part of them! This semester the GSSC will be hosting “Coffee and Conversation”. This event will include short talks on important topics such as developing your thesis and applying to PhD schools. We are still confirming our spring dates but be on the lookout for more information soon!

In the tradition of last years successful events, Hockeypalooza and the Soc-stravaganza, the GSSC will be hosting more outings and events this semester! Come to one of the upcoming meetings and share your ideas for events and activities.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Wednesday, March 3 @ 6pm
Tuesday, March 23 @ 4:30pm
Wednesday, April 7 @ 6pm
Tuesday, April 20 @ 4:30pm
All meetings held at “Our Den” at the University Conference Center and Hotel.
Events You Should Know About

FEBRUARY

Speakers Series: February 26 @ 4:30 PM CE 264
Professor Pat Wittberg: “The Decline and Fall of the Catholic Parish Community: Fact, Fiction, or Evolution?”

MARCH

Discussion and Lecture: March 3 @ 6:00 PM CE 409
“In the Wake of the Quake: Rethinking and Rebuilding Haiti”

Eco-movie Series: March 5 @ 7:00 PM Epworth United Methodist Church
"A Sea Change: Imagine a World Without Fish". Sponsored by the Epworth-Sierra Club

Special Event: March 6 @ 10:00 AM Indianapolis City Market
http://indianalivinggreen.com/green-scene/blog
IN Living Green Scene: Grow Your Own and Eat Local

Special Event: March 10-11 @ Indianapolis Museum of Art
http://www.indianabuildinggreen.org/
Indianapolis Green Building Symposium

Professional Development

Conferences are an important part of your professional development as a sociologist. Whether you are going to present or network they are a great place for you to see and be seen. Plus it’s just fun to travel. Check out some of the conferences happening this year!

Upcoming Conferences

March 31-April 3 @ Chicago
Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting: Communities in the Age of Social Transition

August 13-15 @ Atlanta

August 14-16 @ Atlanta
Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

August 14-17 @ Atlanta
American Sociological Association: Towards a Sociology of Citizenship

"Whatever sociology may be, it is the result of constantly asking the question, what is the meaning of this" C. Wright Mills
Show Me the Money!

Maybe you want to go to one of those great conferences but just don’t have the money? Maybe you need research supplies or equipment for your thesis? We have resources for you! There are funds available to make all your conference attending/thesis finishing dreams come true! Act fast as deadlines are approaching and funds are limited.

**Educational Enhancement Grants:**
The IUPUI Graduate Student organization has funds available for both travel and supplies/equipment. Applications are available at:  http://tiny.cc/P9FZp Spring Deadline: March 31, 2010.

**Travel Fellowship:**
The Graduate Office offers travel grants of up to $800 available for students presenting their work at a conference. Call 317-274-7577 for more information. Awards are made in May and February. Only two awards are made to each department.

**SAGE/Pine Forge Professional Development Awards in Teaching**

What Are You Up To?

We know you are all doing amazing stuff this semester and we want to know about it! Did you get published? Are you presenting at a conference? We want to know your accomplishments so we can tell everyone how great you are! For now here is bit of what the graduate students are up to!

**Presentations at Professional Meetings**

**Tara Hobson-Prater**
“Explaining Racial Differences in Levels of Instrumental Collective Efficacy”
2010 SSSP Annual Meeting Atlanta

**Amanda Zimmerman**
“Perceptions of Partners’ Wealth and Partnership Decisions among Young Adults”
2010 SSSP Annual Meeting Atlanta

**Regina Pessagno**
"Dealing with Death: Medical Students' Experiences of Patient Loss."
2010 Mid-West Sociological Association Annual Meeting Chicago

**Publications**


"It is the political task of the social scientist, continually to translate personal troubles into public issues, and public issues into the terms of their human meaning for a variety of individuals. It is his task to display in his work and, as an educator, in his life as well, this kind of sociological imagination. And it is his purpose to cultivate such habits of mind among the men and women who are publicly exposed to him. To secure these ends is to secure reason and individuality, and to make these the predominant values of a democratic society."—C. Wright Mills

**Why Sociology?**

Do you ever get tired of answering questions about why you are getting your degree in sociology? Do you ever doubt your choice and wonder what you have gotten yourself into? What exactly is sociology and why are you paying so much money to learn about it? We asked a few sociologists to explain in one sentence “Why Sociology?” Feel free to use these answers next time you, or someone you know, needs an explanation.

“Because sociological methodologies present our best opportunities to achieve a sustainable polity of liberty and justice” Barry

“To apprehend the outside world” Kasim

“To dissolve the moral constructs of my upbringing” Nichol

“To better understand the world we live in” Robbie

“To learn more about the world” Brandon

“To not have a superficial view of the world and to truly understand how/why things happen” Brian

“To promote large scale change” Gina

“Because I do not believe that every behavior can be summed up as an individual’s biochemistry.” Traci

“To know myself better and others better and to know the world better and to contribute to the struggle to change the world” Peter

“To create a better world for myself and those around me” Sam

“I want to be the change I wish to see in the world, which I know I can’t change the world, but I will change lives and make a difference” Somer

“To figure out what is really going on in the world” Tara