

A Biannual Newsletter from the **Department of Sociology and Anthropology** at The College of New Jersey
Phone: 609-771-2670 Fax: 609-637-5186 Web: www.tcnj.edu/~socanth

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pre-Social Work Track 2

Professor News 2-4

Interview with Dr. Diane Bates
Dr. Rachel Adler's Book Release

Sociology Club Updates.... 4

Club is Active!
Pizza with Professors

Profiles in Sociology 4-6

Meet senior sociology students
and learn how sociology has
impacted their lives

Choosing Courses..... 6

One student offers her advice

Viewpoints 6

Double major wants recognition

A Change in the Environment at TCNJ: Sociology's Newest Concentration

By Julie Ann Glaz

Ever since the "birth" of the American environmental movement in the 1960's and 70's, more and more people have been growing concerned with the state of our natural world. Part of grappling with this problem is being able to identify the "symptoms" of an unhealthy ecosystem and to understand how they affect peoples' health. This, along with generating ideas as to how these problems can be fixed, has traditionally been the realm of biologists, chemists, ecologists, and the medical profession.

The more we learn, however, the more we realize that many environmental problems are deeply rooted in the social realm. Whether we want to understand how soil erosion in African countries has been affected by tribal migration or how our industrialized culture produces multiple types of pollution, a sociological analysis could be a valuable addition to an ecologist's report.

It is with all of this in mind that Professor Diane Bates has been asked to spearhead the new Environment and Social Change concentration in TCNJ's Sociology department. Scheduled to be available by fall 2004, the Environment and Social Change concentration will allow students to study how humans affect their environment, as well as how changes in the environment affect human populations.

There will be two core classes, the first on the topic of social change, the other on environmental sociology, including how to use the Arcview GIS computer programs to analyze data by geographic location. Along with these core classes, Professor Bates says that she hopes to give this concentration a very interdisciplinary focus, giving students the opportunity to study environmental issues from not only a sociological, but an anthropological, biological, historical, and political frame as well. Some other classes that she hopes to implement are courses on disaster studies, cities and suburbs, political ecology, public health, and environmental policy.

Transformative Change and You

By Christine Klucsarits

Hopefully over the course of the past academic year, students have heard the concept of transformative change mentioned. While a few seniors have chosen to cope with the change by ignoring it, this technique is not recommended for most students, especially those who still have two or more years left at the College. So if you find yourself wondering what all this talk is about, look no further than this article, your very own *Sociology Major's Guide to Transformative Change*.

Dr. Rebecca Li, chairperson of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, summarized transformative change by stating, "We've transformed to a system where students take fewer courses per semester so that they can focus more on those courses they're taking...and can engage more in out-of-class learning experiences, such as internships, research, and field work." Essentially, this is transformative change in a nutshell. Until now, The College of New Jersey has been like most other public colleges in that most classes offered were worth three credits. Upon completion of transformative change, all three-credit classes will be phased out and replaced with more demanding four-credit classes. But before you panic, understand that while you will be taking classes worth more credit, you will also be expected to take less classes overall. For example, instead of taking five classes worth three credits each, a normal semester load will consist of four classes worth four credits each. Now that doesn't sound so bad, does it? These new four-credit courses, which many of you may already be enrolled in, will require more extensive reading and involve more class discussions and team projects. In addition, as Dr. Li mentioned, limiting the course load to only four classes allows students to focus more rigorously on those classes. As far as our department is specifically concerned, Dr. Li announced that sociology had already transformed all of its core courses last year, with the exception of tutorial. "We are pretty much ready with the transformation of the remaining courses, and will be ready for when the entire school is required to switch to the new system," she stated.

(Continued on page 2)

(Transformative Change, continued from page 1)

These “core courses” are those specific classes that must be completed by every student, as opposed to the sociology and anthropology electives of which students can choose any variety. It is within these core classes that the biggest change took place. Many of the juniors and seniors probably remember taking the Sociocultural Theory I and II sequence. Now instead of two theory courses, students can take one transformed course. Other sequences, such as the methods sequence, have also been combined into one course. With less sequences, students will be required to take a tutorial instead, which will be offered across a wide variety of concentrations. Dr. Li pointed out that this change is beneficial in that, “Greater flexibility comes in where students can choose between tutorials that they are interested in, instead of following a more rigid sequence.” Furthermore, “It frees up faculty time to teach more electives, allowing them to develop more concentrations, such as the new Environmental Sociology/Social Change and Urban/Ethnic Studies concentrations.”

Following completion of transformative change, our college will have a curriculum comparable to those at such private institutions as Swarthmore, Vanderbilt, and Amherst. While this is wonderful for the school, being caught in the middle of a transition like this can be very frustrating for students. In fact, a number of seniors have expressed concerns about completing the requirements to graduate within this pseudo-transformed system. However, such concerns can be abated with just a simple trip to the third floor of the Social Sciences Building where you can *meet with your advisor*. As Dr. Li put it, “We are very ready, and we have worked extra hard to ensure that we have prepared students throughout the transition with advising, additional communication and informational sessions hosted by the Chair, and information posted on the website.” Thus, the help is out there for you; now you just need to get out there and take advantage of it!

Pre-Social Work Track

By Chrissi Minerva

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employment of social workers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2010.” The field of social work is rapidly expanding, and contrary to the popular belief that social work is limited to government agencies like DYFS, social workers can work in a variety of areas such as hospitals, crisis centers, adoption agencies, schools, community centers, correction centers, mental health facilities, marriage counseling agencies, family planning centers, and shelters. Social workers can also serve a variety of functions ranging from outreach and

advocacy to counseling and motivating. Increasingly, many social work positions are requiring a master of social work (MSW) degree. However, some social work positions only require a bachelor’s degree in social work (BSW), a bachelor’s degree in sociology, or a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Thus, although The College of New Jersey does not offer the BSW degree, TCNJ’s pre-social work track does provide a unique opportunity to explore the social work field. Through the pre-social work track, students earn a bachelor’s degree in sociology (this degree does not limit students to only a career in social work like a BSW does) while simultaneously providing classes that introduce students to social work. Since many classes in the program (including beginner classes such as Intro to Social Work) require students to have internships at social service agencies, students really gain an understanding of whether or not they want to pursue careers in social work. Moreover, these field experiences teach interns to evaluate the effectiveness of agencies, to assess their own personal strengths and weaknesses, and to discover which issues and identify populations of people they are most comfortable and enjoy working with. For instance, junior pre-social work major Danielle Sutton notes, “Because of my experience at Cherry Tree Club (a day care for homeless children), I learned that many kids fall through the cracks. I want to be the one that prevents that.” Additionally, classes such as Methods of Social Work Practice assist students in finding information on both graduate school (MSW programs) as well as career options should the student chose not to attend graduate school.

In sum, social work is a growing field with many different options. TCNJ’s pre-social work program allows students to explore these options while earning a Sociology degree. For more information on the pre-social work concentration, contact the advisor, Dr. Swiatek.

PROFESSOR NEWS

Meet Professor Diane Bates By Jessica Barakat

College teachers fascinate me. Okay, so maybe it’s the nerd in me, but I’m impressed by them. They have Doctorates. They get paid to talk about subjects they love. And they are generally weird individuals. Not only that, but I sincerely believe they have the power to change the world by helping shape the minds of future generations. I’m intrigued. Hence I jumped at the chance to interview the newest installment of the Sociology Department’s staff: Diane Bates. If you’ve been curious about this pleasant, pixie-haired professor then read on: here’s everything you need to know about Professor Bates.

(Interview, continued from page 2)

Where and when were you born?

I was born in 1969 while my parents were living in Graduate student housing at Kent State University (Ohio). And for the record, we were still there in May of the following year, but as a one-year-old infant I have no recollection of the shooting of the college students at Kent State. We moved to Minnesota when I was three, so I don't remember much about Ohio at all.

What schools have you attended?

I have mainly gone to public schools the whole way through although I spent an embarrassingly unsuccessful first year at Occidental College in Los Angeles. My Bachelor's degree is from Humboldt State University in Northern California (now CSU-Humboldt). My Master's and Doctorate are from Rutgers.

Where else have you taught?

I have taught (in reverse order) at: Sam Houston State University, Rutgers University, Fairleigh-Dickinson University (Madison), Seton Hall University. I was full-time faculty only at SHSU.

What do you consider your major accomplishments?

Obviously, I'm very proud of my PhD, but I'm probably more proud that I have been able to keep in touch with so many interesting people over the years despite all my moving around!

What is your favorite childhood memory?

I don't have a particular memory that stands out, but I clearly remember the first time I learned to body surf.

What hobbies do you have?

Like many academics, I have a dearth of hobbies. Of course, I like to read and travel and these take up a surprisingly large amount of my free time. I watch very little TV, although I'm a Weather Channel junkie and I'm a pretty avid baseball fan. I love to hike and have done a lot of hiking all over the world, but it seems like I do less and less of that with each year. In Houston, I was involved in a grassroots environmental organization and a writer's group as well as a book club.

How many people do you have in your family?

It's just me, my husband Ralph, and our newly-adopted kitten, Mo.

What's your favorite movie?

Bladerunner. Although the film is a little violent and depressing, it raises interesting questions about what makes us human. Lest that sound too pretentious, I'm also a fan of Kevin Smith and M. Night Shylaman and am anxiously awaiting the third "Lord of the Rings" film.

What's your favorite food?

I'm a vegetarian and a miserable cook, but I'll eat at almost any type of restaurant: Italian, Indian, Mexican, Middle Eastern, Thai, diners, etc. (Although I don't fare so well at steak or seafood restaurants).

What's your favorite book?

"Chronicle of a Death Foretold" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Well, that's more of a story than a book, but I love almost everything Garcia Marquez has written. I have a soft spot for Latin American fiction in general.

Who do you look up to the most?

I look up to my parents and my professional mentors. That said, I respect and admire all sorts of people for all sorts of different things. I have a special admiration for artists, especially writers and musicians.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

To control time, because I never seem to have enough.

Who is your favorite sociologist?

Of the classical theorists, I identify most with Weber, but find Marx easier to read. Of contemporaries, I like a lot of environmental sociologists, such as Tom Rudel, Allan Schnaiberg, and Timmons Roberts. I just read Rob Lang's new book on "Edgeless Cities" and I rather liked that.

Where have you traveled to?

I've been all over the US (except Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington) and most of Eastern Canada (but not Newfoundland); the Bahamas and Dominican Republic in the Caribbean; the Mexican border states of Baja Norte, Chihuahua, and Tamaulipas; El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama in Central America; Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil in South America; Kenya in Africa; Spain, England, Wales, Dublin (Ireland), and Paris (France) in Europe. I spent this past July in Brazil, and I absolutely loved it. Despite its social problems, Rio de Janeiro is the most beautiful city I have ever seen, and the culture of the North and Northeast of Brazil are fascinating.

Is there anything else that you would like the students and faculty of TCNJ to know?

Just that I'm glad to be here and that I'll try to live up to the high standards that prevail at TCNJ. I look forward to meeting all of you in person.

Anthropology Professor Releases New Book!!

By Danielle Orfanidis

This past summer marked a milestone in the career of Dr. Rachel Adler, professor of anthropology here at the College. After two years of collecting data, and an additional two years analyzing data, her book entitled,

(Book, continued from page 3) Yucatecans in Dallas, Texas: Breaching the Border, Bridging the Distance, was released.

Dr. Adler's book proved to be a significant undertaking. The original focus of her research was on transnationalism and "how migrants fit into the world system". Transnationalism refers to the migration pattern in which connections are maintained by the migrants themselves by either going back to their homeland or sending money and goods back from their new home. More specifically, she wanted to focus on gender and issues of legal residency in the United States. Her research was directed at a group of immigrants from the town of Kaal in Yucatan, Mexico, who were currently residing in neighborhoods in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Adler originally hypothesized that men would be more transnational than the women among the group. After gathering extensive data via numerous methods such as questionnaires given to individuals in the United States, interviews with couples in the United States and Mexico, as well as active participant observation, Dr. Adler found that both men and women wanted to return to Mexico, women even more so. Moreover, after interviewing husbands and wives in Mexico and the United States about their "immigrant agenda", she found that women were more concerned with building houses in Mexico and eventually wanted to go back to live there. On average, women spoke more about going back to Mexico than men.

Next on Dr. Adler's agenda is another book that she is currently working on. She informed me that she is conducting research in the Chambersburg neighborhood in Trenton, where she is studying the ethnic transition from Italian to Latino. At the time of our interview, she had already conducted fifty interviews with Italians in the neighborhood and plans to collect 150 life histories in total.

This brief synopsis is only a glimpse into the in-depth study that Dr. Adler has conducted among Yucatecans. If this research has piqued your interest, and you wish to find out more, her book is currently available through barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com, or directly through the manufacturer, Pearson Allyn & Bacon.

SOCIOLOGY CLUB UPDATES: Club Active Once Again

Thanks to Amy Dudley, Shaniqua McRae, and Dr. Diane Bates, the Sociology Club is back in action!

After Professor Bates discovered that interest did exist in reviving the Sociology Club and Shaniqua found that the Sociology Club was still considered active by the college, Amy stepped up as our new club president. With Shaniqua as our treasurer and Professor Bates as our faculty advisor, we are ready for action!

The primary goals of the club are to increase interaction among sociology majors and to encourage

better relations between students and professors. "Pizza with the Professors" has already begun to work on encouraging this communication. The first of these gatherings was Wednesday, October 1st and it was a big hit! At these meetings students and professors get together to talk and eat pizza, which is provided by the professors. The club plans to host these get-togethers several times per year. Sociology majors will be notified via email regarding upcoming dates.

Plans for other future events are being made, possibly including movies, trips, and presentations about the major. Ideas for sociology related t-shirts are already brewing and we welcome all ideas that you may have. We are working to make our club fun and beneficial to all those who participate. Please come join us in our activities!

Pizza with Professors

By Amy Dudley

If you order pizza - they will come. And so they came, professors and students alike to enjoy some good conversation and a great pie. Whether pepperoni, cheese or mushroom was your heart's delight, there was something there for everyone.

On October 1, the Sociology department sponsored its first "pizza with the professors" social. This relaxed setting was a unique way for teachers and pupils to talk and get to know each other outside of the classroom. Topics of conversation ranged anywhere from current courses, plans for next semester, ideas for the sociology club, an exchange of ideas on current issues, and of course the usual getting to know you questions. Students of the same major also were able to connect and offer advice on things such as graduating on time, obtaining internships and graduate school. Also, a student who is currently an undeclared major was able to attend and get a better feel of what the subject of sociology and the department is all about. I think that this get together shows to this student as well as the rest of us that the sociology department is one that truly cares about getting to know and helping their students. The event was enjoyed by all. I can be certain that all the students who attended look forward to making another date to have pizza with the professors in the future.

PROFILES IN SOCIOLOGY: Discovery of Your Passion

By Nathan White, Senior Sociology Major

My journey throughout school thus far has proved very interesting. Ideas for future career goals have changed drastically all the way from wanting to be a teacher to a counseling psychologist. When I first arrived in the fall of 2000, I came to the college as a freshman Elementary Math Education Major. After taking only one course in math, I realized that math was not for me. I had only chosen math because I was good at it. However, I knew this reason would not motivate me through my four years of school.

(Passion, continued from page 4) Though math did not in any way appeal to me, sociology did and I therefore became an Elementary Education Sociology major. However, the education aspect of my major soon changed after I had the opportunity to observe what is was like to be within a classroom setting. Though kids are cute, I knew I didn't have the patience for them. Consequently, my early childhood dream of becoming a teacher soon vanished and I switched entirely to sociology as a major. Soon after I switched my major, the subject of learning how to change fascinated me.

Working within a correctional facility during the summer of 2001 gave me an opportunity to observe the impact of behavioral modification on the inmates who were involved within the program. I soon realized I wanted to be a Dr. Phil and help people find a strategy for their lives. Discovery of my passion has helped to clarify my vision for the future.

Currently, I'm pursuing graduate programs in counseling psychology so that I can go into therapy in order to fulfill this dream. Though my future graduate years will not include sociology, taking sociology for my undergraduate years of study has proved helpful in four important ways. Sociology has substantially developed my critical thinking skills. In addition, I have gained a broader understanding of society and its impact on groups and individuals. Also, being within the sociology major has put me in contact with supportive professors who have given me important insight and direction for my future. Finally, study of this behavioral science has served as a springboard for entry into counseling psychology. While I do not know exactly where I will end up after I finish graduate school, one thing continues to maintain my focus: identification of my passion. I want to encourage people with the idea that they have the creative talent and ability to design the life that they will love and enjoy.

I share all this information to say that life is a road of discovery. Learning your purpose inevitably requires adjustments, some of which are unpleasant. Many times the picture that you have for your future will change. While one moment you may think you have clear definite plans for the future, a conversation with one person could thrust you into a totally new direction. Therefore, it's important to be flexible and open to new ideas. And even if you don't know what you want to do with your life, pay attention to the things that provide you with the greatest sense of satisfaction. Identify your passion and your passion will help define you future. Cherish your experiences because they contribute to the future person you will become. Your experiences make you who you are and your survival through your experiences will make you a valuable resource to many other people.

Why Sociology?

By Rachel Jaffe

While sitting in my Calculus IV class one day sophomore year, I realized that this wasn't for me. What was I doing as a math major? It was time for me to begin a search for something else. What else to do became my problem. As an elementary education major I had to pick a second major, but nothing seemed appealing. I began my search.

So, why sociology? To be honest, I didn't even really know what sociology was when I actually changed majors. I'd had only the slightest glimpse of it in Sociology 101. But after two years as a math major, it was worth a shot.

Luckily, what I found in sociology was right for me. Switching majors was much easier than I had anticipated thanks to some very helpful sociology professors. For the first time in awhile, I was excited for my new classes to start and see what sociology was actually about.

My first impression was that people are much more interesting than numbers. Better yet, I understood what my professors were talking about. This is how I'd expected college to be- classes on interesting subjects with intellectual conversations. Having worked with three different departments on this campus, there is no doubt that the sociology department has been the most accommodating and easiest to work with. The professors take time to listen to what you say and actually help you. Also, the faculty in the department make the effort to get to know the students through student/faculty tea and pizza parties.

Changing majors was one of the best decisions that I've made here at college. If only I had known what sociology was when I entered college, maybe I would never have had to sit through that Calculus IV class.

Spotlight on Sociology Students: Meet Ryan Androsiglio

By Danielle Sutton

Ryan Androsiglio, (senior psychology and sociology double major with an anthropology minor), is making the most out of his college experience by keeping a busy schedule full of classes and activities. He takes on a lot academically as he is a double major with a minor in the honors program, and is currently doing research in the psychology department with Dr. Margaret Martinetti on reforming the current model of binge drinking at TCNJ. He is also researching the ethnic change in the Chambersburg neighborhood of Trenton with Dr. Rachel Adler. Even with all the school work, he still manages to find time to be involved on campus. Not only is he AKD president, but he is also president of the Tae Kwon Do Club, a member of the psychology honor society Psi Chi,

(**Androsiglio, continued from page 5**) and is currently working on starting a Yoga club on campus.

AKD is the sociology honor society and with its new president, Ryan, and new faculty advisor, Diane Bates, the club hopes to become a more well-known and active campus organization. Ryan became an official member of AKD in the spring of 2003. He joined AKD because he “wanted to be part of a group of people who took research and learning seriously,” and shortly after his induction was asked to take on the duties of president. “I felt this position would be a great opportunity to give back to my academic community,” commented Ryan. As president he is able to plan events and oversee activities and has gotten the chance to know the newest addition to the sociology department, Professor Diane Bates. “As a new professor to TCNJ, I think she has a lot of wonderful ideas to offer and lots of different experiences to draw inspiration from, and hopefully together we can get this club more involved with doing activities within the community.”

Ryan’s majors and minor as well as his campus involvement give him an interesting and integrated perspective in the humanities, which will be a valuable asset for the future. He hopes to attend graduate school at NYU after graduation and work towards a master’s in counseling and eventually a Ph. D.

CHOOSING COURSES: What Courses Should I Take?

By Kristin Cosentino

As the fall semester ends and the chaos of spring registration begins, you may find yourself asking, “What courses should I take?” Besides the mandatory courses on your control sheet, there are a few good courses to fill up your electives. Anyone who is an Elementary Education, Sociology, Psychology major; anyone interested in parenthood or children; or anyone looking for an interesting course, I highly recommend taking the following:

- *SOCL 325: Urban Youth Deviance*- This fascinating course delves into the mindset of youngsters (urban as well as suburban) as they deviate from societal norms. Is “senseless youth violence” a product of our failing society or are these teenagers born with bad blood? If you love children and want to learn about ways to save these “angels with dirty faces,” sign up for SOCL 325.
- *SOCL 335: Courtship, Marriage and Family*- Families have changed tremendously over the years. Learn about the different types of families people come from and the problems they face. How do people survive this cruel world? They have a “tiospaye” (Sioux word – the people with whom one lives) to provide support at all times. Do you have a “tiospaye?” What is the “glue” that holds your family together?
- *SOCL 372: Comparative Public Health*- Can you define what it means to be healthy? It may not be as easy as it seems. Did you know that in today’s society many of the people who are deprived of the chance to live a healthy life are children? If you want to learn how to increase life expectancy and improve the quality of life, take SOCL 372.

These are only a few of the stimulating courses offered at *The College of New Jersey*. I encourage you to consider adding them to your control sheet. Remember to be selective when arranging your schedule because some of these courses are only offered annually. Good Luck and Happy Course Hunting!

VIEWPOINTS: Double Majors Deserve Recognition

By Lisa Sprofera

What’s your major? It seems like such a simple question to answer and yet many students have trouble answering it. There are many students who have more than one major and more than one minor. Sociology, the study of social life, interactions, behavior, and causes, is one of those majors, which is often combined with other areas of study including psychology, education, biology, business, etc. Students combine multiple majors in order to receive a more comprehensive, efficient and meaningful education. The College of New Jersey is filled with and proud of its very high achieving students and yet these same students are not granted proper degree documentation for both of their majors. For example, as a student with a double major in elementary education and sociology, I will receive a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Sociology. I find it aggravating and unfair that I do not receive a degree in both of my majors when I have spent the past four years balancing my time and effort between both of these programs.

However, I am not the only one who feels this way. The Student Government Association (SGA) has taken upon itself to gather information about this issue and argue for the rights of TCNJ students in the same situation as I. While SGA has focused on mainly education majors and has worked primarily with issues in the Education department, it is still looking out for the interests of other double major students. An SGA representative said, “If possible we would like to see Education majors, and all double majors for that matter, receive two degrees.” This is a huge issue that will take some time, but as a student at this college, I am glad that SGA is trying to support the students on such an important and widely influential issue. If you too have concerns about this issue, you can follow along with any progress on this issue and many others on the SGA website at <http://sga.intrasun.tcnj.edu>.

SOCIONEWS is published by The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at The College of New Jersey

Social Science Building, 3rd Floor, P.O. Box 7718, Ewing, NJ 08628

Phone: 609-771-2670 **Fax:** 609-771-5186 **Web:** www.tcnj.edu/~socanth

Editor: Dave Harker, **Layout:** Laura Robinson

Contributors: Jessica Barakat, Kristin Cosentino, Amy Dudley, Julie Ann Glaz, Rachel Jaffe, Christine Klucsarits, Chrissi Minerva, Danielle Orfanidis, Lisa Sprofera, Danielle Sutton, Nathan White