



SOCIONEWS



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Welcome to SocioNews

Welcome to the Fall 2013 edition of the sociology department's SocioNews! Written and produced by The College of New Jersey's chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta- the national sociology honor's society- this biannual newsletter calls attention to student experiences and

sheds light on the workings of the department. Inside you will find students' reflections on past sociology courses, trips and study abroad experiences, as well as interviews from our recently appointed department chair and one of our new adjunct

faculty members. We sincerely hope you find our newsletter both enlightening and enjoyable.

Jason Hammer
Editor

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An Interview with Department Chair Dr. Elizabeth Borland

-Stephanie Mallinas

What are the major responsibilities of the department chair?

I see it as a service to the department and fulfilling the responsibility we have to students and faculty. Most of it involves long-range planning, such as organizing the curriculum and offering courses that meet the requirements for the major. I also serve as a liaison with the dean and administration to advocate for the needs of the department.

What area of sociology are you most interested in?

Social movements really got me interested in sociology. I was a Spanish and Latin American studies undergrad, and my senior honors thesis made me interested in social movements and drew me into sociology. That is still my deepest interest, alongside gender and applied sociology.

The department offered some really great electives this past semester. Should we expect to see more of that in the future?

Yes, the department is much better situated now than it was a few years ago. We have two new faculty

members, Dr. Gazley and Dr. Shakow, and Dr. Brown-Glaude is now officially a department member. We worked hard to be able to staff more courses, and now we're able to do that. We're trying to make sure that we offer courses that haven't been offered in a while. Many topics courses are in the process of getting onto the curriculum.

"I SEE IT AS A SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND FULFILLING THE RESPONSIBILITY WE HAVE TO THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY"

What do you hope to see happen in the department while you are chair?

We're trying to do a better job of organizing and communicating resources to students. We're trying to post more information about internships on the bulletin board outside the office. We really want students to take advantage of our

Facebook page. We're going to start to develop our LinkedIn, which will be a great resource for students to network with alumni. We also want to leave a bigger footprint on campus by organizing and sponsoring events. We also want to support faculty research, develop faculty-student research seminars, and encourage participation in MUSE.



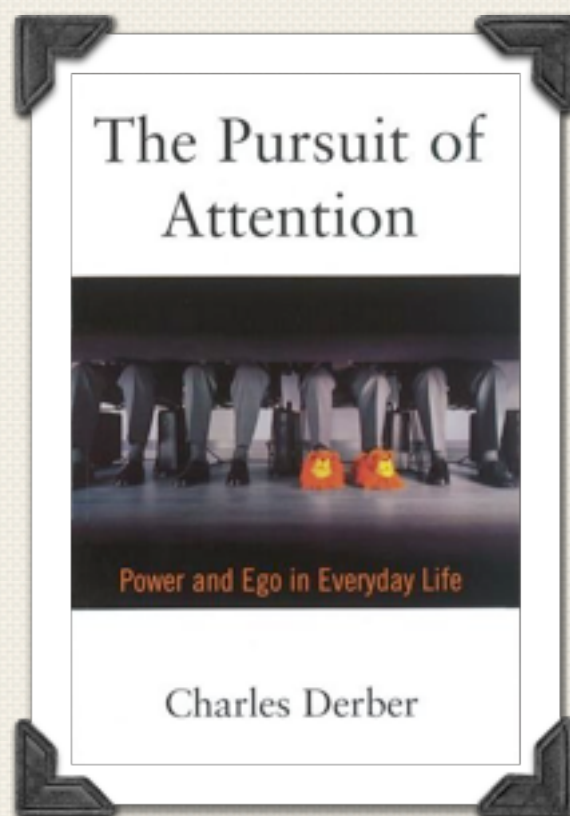
The Art of the Attention Whore: How Sociology Changes You

-Mary Burns

My first semester at TCNJ, I had Sociology 101 with Dr. Clydesdale. Although I've been told what to expect in the class, no one warned me that by the middle of the semester, every interaction I had was thoroughly examined. I couldn't go through a conversation without thinking, "well if our country was not based on capitalism you probably wouldn't feel that way." When it came time for our final project, I wanted to explore other parts of society that I never looked at from this point of view: the attention whore.

Using sociological evidence, I wanted to explore the origin of the attention whore. In Charles Derber's The Pursuit of Attention, he unveiled how our selfish conversation tactics are a direct result of the US' extreme capitalistic values. Since we live in a society that thrives on competition, can you blame someone for their inherent need to report their triumphs? Conversely, our capitalistic values also describe why we view these "attention seekers" in a negative light. In a true, capitalist fashion, individualism is valued above all else. Therefore, when we see people who are "desperately" clamoring for attention (aka being dependent on others) they are shunned for not sticking to the capitalist status quo.

Coming to this realization made me truly appreciate sociology even more than I already did thanks to Dr. Clydesdale. When people asked me "why sociology?" I told them how sociology explains everything you didn't know you needed to know. The sociology classes I have taken made me a better listener, a better arguer, more tolerant, less heteronormative, and definitely more aware. People have told me that college changes and defines your life; I just thought it would take a little longer than my first class of my first semester of my freshman year.



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“WHEN IT CAME FOR OUR FINAL PROJECT, I WANTED TO EXPLORE OTHER PARTS OF SOCIETY THAT I NEVER LOOKED AT FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW: THE ATTENTION WHORE.”

My Host Family Experience

-Holly Malerba

In Fall 2012, I studied abroad in Lima, Peru with International Studies Abroad. The best part of my experience was living with a host family. There were so many good memories with my host family, but a few that stand out are going to lunch on Sundays, celebrating birthdays, and trying all of the delicious food. In Peruvian culture, Sundays are an important family day because many people have the day off of work, so the parks and restaurants become filled with families. Every Sunday, I went with my host family to a restaurant, occasionally joined by cousins, aunts, uncles, grandchildren, and, grandparents. It was special to be a part of these family gatherings and often we spent hours in a restaurant eating, talking, and laughing. For birthday celebrations, it is traditional to sing to the birthday person at midnight on their birthday. My host mom's birthday was during the week, and we stayed up until 3 a.m. eating cake and talking, even though we all had to get up early the next day. Peruvians pride themselves on their cooking and cook a wide variety of dishes. My host mom was a great cook and made sure that we tried everything. Some of my favorite meals were aji de gallina (shredded chicken in a creamy, peppery sauce served over potatoes), ceviche (raw fish marinated in lemon juice), and any kind of soup or stir-fry she made. I am so grateful for the experience that I had and the relationships that I made. When the time came to leave Peru, I felt that I was leaving my second family.

"I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE EXPERIENCE I HAD AND THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT I MADE."

Toxic Tour of Newark's Ironbound

-Joanna Peluso

Dr. Diane Bates took a group of TCNJ students on a field trip to Newark's Ironbound section, where we took part in a "toxic tour". Two tours were organized to show the environmental degradation and injustices as well as environmental successes. Though every aspect of this trip was informative, what was most interesting was the different perspective each tour offered us. First, we toured the Hackensack Meadowlands from a pontoon boat, which was led by the Hackensack RiverKeeper. They are an environmental advocacy NGO focused on the conservation and restoration of the Hackensack River and Meadowlands from development and pollution, so all can exercise their right to clean and safe water. From them we learned about the polluting factories and deleterious development along the river. Second, by bus we toured the Ironbound section of Newark led by the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC). This non-profit organization is active and successful in improving the community, environment, and wellbeing for all residents of the Ironbound. From them we learned about how this community is directly affected by the environmental degradation caused from the harmful development we just learned about while on the boat. For example, from the Hackensack RiverKeepers we learned about the building of a storage facility and the potential risks on the river ecosystem. From the ICC we learned about how this new storage facility will lead to a community eyesore, noise/air pollution and insufficient jobs for local residents. In the end, we did not just experience different visual perspectives, from a boat to in the streets. We also experienced first-hand distinct environmental perspectives - ecological perspective versus environmental injustice perspective. This led me to conclude that both are necessary for the improvement of this environment, whether it be done for the people or the river ecosystem.

"WE ALSO EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND DISTINCT ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE-
ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE VERSUS ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE PERSPECTIVE."

Get Busy Digging or Get Busy Dying

-Alexis Jaffe

I had the pleasure of sitting down with one of the new Anthropology professors here at TCNJ. Soon to be Dr. George Leader lives by the motto of "get busy digging or get busy dying" and here is just a slight inside into one of the department's professors.

What brought you to being a professor at TCNJ?

I wanted to be on the east coast. I am originally from Pennsylvania and I had known TCNJ's reputation. After coming to campus, I have ended up loving it.

Where did you receive your various degrees?

I got my Bachelor's at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Then I got my Master's and PhD at The University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. It was important for me to be in the field and get my hands dirty and not in a dusty museum.

What classes did you teach this semester and what will you teach next semester?

This semester I am teaching two classes of Physical Anthropology. Next semester I will be teaching Cultural Anthropology and Human Evolution.

What are your main areas of research?

The Earlier Stone Age. I look at the stone tools which our homo ergaster ancestors made a million and a half years ago. Then I analyze early behavior and human emissions through the stone record. I would love to get students involved in digging in South Africa.

What are you interested in outside of archeology?

I love everything soccer. I watch the English Premier League and support Southampton. When I am not doing anything related to archeology or soccer, I am playing with best friend and soul mate, Bella, my dog.

What are your hopes for the future?

I would like to continue with my career in academics. Ultimately I would like to continue to teach and continue with research.

**"IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME
TO BE IN THE FIELD AND
GET MY HANDS DIRTY AND
NOT IN A DUSTY MUSEUM"**



How to Snag Your Dream Internship

-Carly Hann

As college students, we all understand how important having an internship is. Internships give you experience in your field and can even lead to job opportunities in the future. However, finding an internship can be a daunting task and finding your *ideal* internship can be nearly impossible. After searching for my own internship as a requirement for SOC 499, I learned a few tips and tricks that can make the process a lot less stressful.

1. Know what you want-The first and most important step when searching for an internship is knowing what type of internship you are most interested in. Are you more interested in research or social work? Do you want to work with children or the elderly? Do you have an interest in non-profit work? If you are unsure of what you want, it is going to be difficult to start your internship search. My suggestion is to try to narrow your interest to two options. For example, I knew I was more interested in social work and working with women and/or children. Once I narrowed down my interest, I was able to search for internships with those interests in mind.

2. Talk to the faculty-After a few half-hearted internet searches, I was feeling pessimistic about my options. I was only finding internship postings for research assistant positions (if you are interested in research, you're in luck!) but after talking to a faculty member, I learned that I could really just apply anywhere that interested me. Many non-profits are overjoyed to have help if you simply ask! The faculty can also guide you to internships that past students have had and worked well for them.

3. Use agency websites as a guide-An agency or company's website can tell you a lot about them.

The website will usually have their mission statement, goals, and general information which will assist you in determining whether or not you would be a good fit. The website will also probably list contact information which will be helpful when sending out your resume.

4. It doesn't hurt to ask-Even if an agency or company doesn't have an internship position listed, it does not hurt you to contact their volunteer coordinator or human resource department and ask! In my experience, they were thrilled to have someone interested in helping out and eager to set up an interview.

5. Don't wait until the last minute-The worst possible thing you can do is wait until three weeks before the start of the semester and expect to find an internship. For some internships, there is a long interview process. In other cases, positions have already been filled and you have missed your chance. The earlier you start the search process, the more opportunities will be available. An internship offers you the chance to test your abilities and apply what you have already learned from your courses. So, get off of Facebook and Twitter, and start searching!



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Applying Sociology to Everyday Life

-Katia Barone

The many benefits of pursuing a major in sociology include not only the vast possibility of future careers you can obtain after attaining a degree, but also the reality that sociological concepts can be applied to any and all facets of life. All majors are equally demanding and enlightening, however the undifferentiated nature of sociology allows its students to see relevance in nearly anything. Politics, reality shows, sports, movies... Everything in our lives are the products of human interaction and diversity, realms that we as sociology majors are trained to understand.

As a senior, something that I have noticed throughout my four years at The College of New Jersey is that what I learn in my courses can be used outside of the classroom. I am not by any means belittling any other course of study, but conventional studies such as mathematics and accounting can only teach so many vocational skills-leaving out the very important factor of everyday improvement. My experiences have not only taught me tangible knowledge but also an overarching understanding of all people. Remember that we are not only being trained as students and for our future careers, but for changing and bettering society in every interaction we have. Sociology is a major that prepares us to change and improve both the world and ourselves. Never doubt the possibilities of this major, for they are endless and inspiring.

"MY EXPERIENCES HAVE NOT ONLY TAUGHT ME TANGIBLE KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO AN OVERARCHING UNDERSTANDING OF ALL PEOPLE."

Sociology of Contemporary Italy

-Laura Magaw

I studied abroad in Rome this past spring semester and the experience was certainly a life changing one. Besides soaking up the food and culture, I was able to take a few sociology courses about a culture unfamiliar to me. I believe this experience has changed completely how I approach learning more about Sociology. The class that most intrigued me was my Sociology of Contemporary Italy course. It was the first time I got to take my Sociology content knowledge and apply it to an unfamiliar culture I was currently immersed in. I learned so many things in this class that were incredibly eye opening. First, there is a dichotomy between northern and southern Italy. The north has an "industrial triangle" of Turin, Milan, and Genoa, which produces most of Italy's exports. Such exports include cars, pasta, olive oil, and Nutella. The south is mostly agricultural and the north views it as an economic burden.

There are some political factions that actually campaign to separate the north and south! The parallels to American history are obvious, but what I find most interesting is that Italy is a relatively new unified country. Italy became one country in 1861, and before that it was organized city-states. This information was completely new to me and made me realize how I have been living my life with blinders on, not educating myself on cultures of the world. I believe this is a key foundation of Sociology and my study abroad experience opened me up lifestyles around the world. I believe that study abroad, especially for Sociology majors, is essential to educational development.

"THIS INFORMATION WAS COMPLETELY NEW TO ME AND MADE ME REALIZE HOW I HAVE BEEN LIVING MY LIFE WITH BLINDERS ON..."

Life Lessons: I Dream of Africa

-Lauren Kaplan

The life-altering experience of volunteering at a school for orphans in Cameroon, West Africa:

The first day I arrived, I got out of the truck and stepped onto the orange dirt road. My ears were graced with the most beautiful sound I had ever heard. The children were lined up, with their ripped, dirty uniforms on, singing a welcome song for me. Tears filled the corners of my eyes immediately.

The director of Saint Michael's, Molo Julius, gave a brief introduction and told them I was there to teach English, and help in any other ways that I could. Their eyes lit up, and their expression filled me with hope. Amazingly, these children always found a reason to smile in times and in situations where I felt like crying.

Every Sunday I visited the homes of these children and this is when I truly got a glimpse into their everyday lives. One of the most memorable moments was when I walked into a tiny room and two of the children said, "This is where we live." I asked how many people live here and they told me five. Every time I visited a compound, I was always given food and drink, and never left empty handed. The Cameroonian people are by far the most generous people I have ever encountered. They truly took after one another and put great

emphasis on the extended family. I felt more welcomed in Cameroon than I ever did in America, which speaks volumes.

I came to the conclusion that regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, or physical appearance, the concept of love is universal – it has no limits.

I went to Africa to teach, but instead I was taught.

The children of the village of Meluf, Cameroon, West Africa, are forever in my heart, and their smiles engraved in my mind; until we meet again.

Long live Africa, and long live Cameroon.

"I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT REGARDLESS OF RACE, CLASS, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE, THE CONCEPT OF LOVE IS UNIVERSAL- IT HAS NO LIMITS."

LAUREN'S TRIP



Tuckman's Stages of Group Development on TCNJ's Campus

-Karen Martinez

Have you ever wondered about how some student organizations are so cohesive? How well the group comes together? What process was in place in order to form such a strong group? After attending numerous probates for multicultural sororities and fraternities I became interested in this phenomena. One of the best ways to learn and truly learn abstract theories such as Tuckman's stages of group development is to apply them to real life. In learning sociological theories and using the sociological imagination, I found that it is best to apply the theories to your everyday life with friends, your interactions with others, and the interactions between people that you may observe. Applying theories to

my everyday life made SOC301 an incredibly rewarding and fun class. The following article will apply the theory of Tuckman's stages of group development to TCNJ student organizations to point out how cohesive groups on campus follow this process.

"APPLYING THEORIES TO
MY EVERYDAY LIFE MADE
SOC301 AN INCREDIBLY
REWARDING AND FUN
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In any one of the strong student organizations on campus you can see Tuckman's Stage of Group Development. The first stage is forming which is about when group members are polite and are seeking to be

accepted by others. This can be seen in the initial meetings of a club, an executive board, or rushing in Greek life. The next stage is storming, where minor conflicts may arise after people get comfortable enough to act more like themselves. This can be seen after some time in any club or executive board or in the pledging phase of Greek life. The norming stage is when members know each other well enough to appreciate each other's skills. This stage is visible when members of an organization work together more smoothly. Finally the last stage is performing when members trust each other to complete tasks independently. This can be seen in probates in Greek life.



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