



NEWS & VIEWS UAA SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM

FALL 2006

FACULTY & STAFF

Faculty:

Professor & Chair, Sharon Araji
Assistant Professor, Nelta Edwards
Assistant Professor, Chad Farrell
Term Instructor, Andrew Hund
Term Assist Professor, Ann Jache
Professor, Mike Pajot
Associate Professor, Karl Pfeiffer
Adjuncts, Toni Jones & Gale Smoke

Staff:

Admin Secretary, Debbie DeBaun
Student Assistants, Carly Barron
& Raven Ahmed-Kison

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT FACULTY NEWS

Karl Pfeiffer, Associate Professor, will be presenting a paper in Chicago at the Midwest Sociological Society on April 4th through April 7th, 2007.

The title of the paper is, "Narratives from Successful Ex-Foster Parents" based on a snowball sample of Interviews and qualitative research with Alaskan foster adoptive parents.

Mike Pajot, Professor, begins his 32nd year teaching at the former Anchorage Community College which was merged with UAA in the late 1980s. He has served as chair and is one of the primary professors in Option I, Family and Life Cycles.

Chad Farrell, Assistant Professor, recently traveled to Penn State to participate in research meetings with the Spatial Segregation Project (SSP), a group of scholars from Penn State, Stanford, the University of Auckland (New Zealand) and UAA.

This group is working to develop improved measures of residential segregation—the spatial separation of two or more social groups—for large metropolitan areas in the US. Residential segregation is a topic of interest for sociologists because access to opportunities and exposure to social problems is determined in part by the neighborhood in which one lives.

Gale Smoke, Adjunct faculty, served as Channel 11's analyst for the primary and general statewide elections this year. Working with the late night and weekend anchors, Gale interpreted the results of the votes with and assisted the viewers in making sense of what had happened. He was extremely pleased to learn on the general election night that he had been invited back as analyst was because of the many positive emails the station had received.

Rachel Mason, new Adjunct faculty, will be teaching an Introduction to Sociology course at North Hall this spring. This will be a new partnership between the Sociology department and UAA student housing.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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THE 78TH ANNUAL PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Sharon Araji and Student Katy Sanders, are working on a paper titled: "Sexually Aggressive Children: Consequences of Ignoring Their Existence" that will be presented as a paper at the PSA conference.

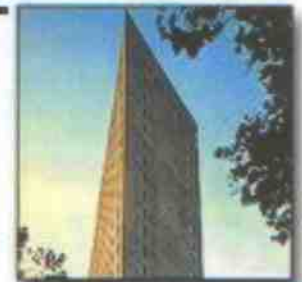
Rachel House, UAA student and Director of the Service Learning Program at Camp Fire USA will also be presenting a paper that she is completing in Dr. Araji's Social Psychology class this fall. The paper is titled, "Community Connectedness & Middle School Students: An Assessment of Service Learning Programs." Kelly Lanzarone will be

attending the conference, although not presenting a paper.

Katy and Kelly received \$500 travel awards from UAA's Club Council to attend PSA.

Sharon Araji, Chair and Professor of Sociology is also Chair of the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Committee, and will serve as moderator/discussant for undergraduate AKD sponsored sessions and will be presenting several sessions on domestic violence, contested child custody and the courts.

*PSA Meeting
March 29-April 1, 2007*



*The Oakland Marriott
City Center*

NEW TERM INSTRUCTOR AT UAA IS SOCIOLOGY ALUMNUS

Looking back on it, I have been enthusiastic about sociology since my first class with Dr. Knisley as an undergraduate at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Knisley (now retired) opened my eyes to a strange new world that was the very society in which I had lived. I embraced sociology because it challenged many things I had taken-for-granted about society. Since then, I have pursued research in the area of social

inequality and purposefully continue to investigate the ways in which societal institutions perpetuate systems of inequality, specifically, in regards to health, ecology, and public policy.

After graduating from UAA, I acquired a Masters degree from Humboldt State University, and then wiggled my way into Case Western Reserve University's Ph.D program in Medical Sociology and Gerontology. I am presently com-

pleting my Ph.D dissertation, which focuses on the effects of ethnicity (Native and non-Native Alaskans) and/or social class on select health outcomes.



Andrew Hund, Term Instructor



While a graduate student, I taught at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Lake Erie College, and the University of Alaska Anchorage.

It has certainly been enlightening and challenging being on the other end of the classroom setting, especially at UAA. Looking out over a sea of faces in my classroom, I see mostly the MTV generation.

SOCIOLOGY MAJOR AND THREE-TIME GNAC ALL-CONFERENCE HONOREE



Mandy Kaempf will be the new Assistant Coach for the Ski Team at UAA starting near the end of fall 2006 and continuing into spring 2007 semesters, says Head Coach Michael Friess.

Sociology and History Major Mandy Kaempf: "UAA's welcoming and supportive environment helped me to overcome my initial fears of living thousands of miles away from my home in Germany,

studying in English, and ultimately succeeding as a student-athlete.

Exchanging ideas with faculty and students from across the country and around the world, inside and outside of the classroom, has been an eye-opening adventure."

Congrats to Mandy for her dedication as a student, athlete, and soon to be assistant coach.

Mandy Kaempf is from Steinbach-Hallenberg, Germany—the first UAA student-athlete to qualify for the NCAA Championships in three different sports.

YOU'RE FROM WHERE...?

Both Kelly Lanzarone and Katy Sanders are Sociology transfer students. They have been an asset to the department and program.

Kelly: "I have recently transferred from UAS Juneau. I would like to thank both Chad Farrell and Nelta Edwards for expanding my knowledge of sociology, as well as challenging my aca-

demic abilities. I highly recommend taking courses offered by either of these professors!"

Katy: "Transferring to UAA from UAF has been an interesting experience.... I would recommend that students who are planning on transferring come prepared. The sociology department at UAA offers in-depth degree op-

tions that other universities in Alaska do not offer. This was a motivating factor when I originally decided to transfer. I had fun at the Halloween Fun Night which I attended as a Friends of AKD officer and member. We had a booth for children with a ring toss and a palm reader. We were a very popular booth for the younger kids."

Kelly Lanzarone & Katy Sanders,
Co-presidents of Friends of AKD



DIVERSE VOICES PROJECT

Ann Jache, Term Assistant Instructor: The "Anchorage's Diverse Voices" project, funded by a grant from the 2006-2007 Chancellor's Strategic Opportunity Fund/UAA as Public Square, selected a student project for the spring 2007 research award titled, "Exploring Generational Differences among Samoan Fa'afafine." This research was proposed by Liberal Studies major Tafilisaunoa Toleafoa.

Fa'afafines are biological males who as children perform the household responsi-

bilities of girls and who continue in female identities in adolescence and adulthood. The fa'afafine identity is an established identity in Samoan culture. This project compares the experience of mature vs. millennial fa'afafine and will explore the unique challenges faced by young people raised as fa'afafine who now live in Anchorage and attend UAA. Ann Jache, Term Assistant Professor of Liberal Studies and Sociology, will mentor Tafilisaunoa Toleafoa.

Ann Jache &
Tafilisaunoa Toleafoa



Ann Jache teaches Sociology A110, Introduction to Gerontology, which now meets a General Education Requirement.

2006 ISER POLICY RESEARCH INTERNSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Brit DelMoral: Sociology Major
"After exploring subjects and publications of ISER's research, one of many that caught my eye was, "Thirty Years Later: The Long-Term Effect of Boarding Schools on Alaska Natives and Their Communities." The personal testimonies of Alaska Natives who either chose or were forced to attend boarding schools peaked my interest, particularly the vast array of positive and negative feedback the boarding schools received. Having been born and raised in Sitka, Alaska, I have

witnessed first hand the role Mt. Edgecumbe High School has played in educating Native youth from across the state. This project raises several questions in my mind for further research concerning how boarding schools that have remained open, such as Mt. Edgecumbe High School, have and will continue to influence Alaska Natives and their communities both positively and negatively. These questions include, whether native students from rural areas of the state who attend boarding school and receive their high school diploma

or equivalent are more likely to return to the rural areas of Alaska, or instead are contributing to Alaska Native's increasing migration rates to urban areas. I am also curious as to whether Alaska Native students who attend boarding schools versus Alaska Native students who attend rural schools in the state are more likely to further their post-secondary education. If so, how will this affect the Alaska economy and the Alaska Native labor force, as well as the proportions of highest levels of education obtained by Alaska Natives?"

"Thirty Years Later: The Long-Term Effect of Boarding Schools on Alaska Natives and Their Communities."



OTHER NEWS

Sociology Graduates Fall 2005 or Spring 2006

Elizabeth Agi, Brooke Antonich
Chanda Hesson, Aaron Lawrence,
Jennifer Mariscal, Kelley McGuirk,
Natalie Parish, Brandi Patterson
Julie Payne, Meredith Talbert
Jennifer Thrailkill

Sociology Majors Applied for Graduation Fall 2006 or Spring 2007

Lindsay Bullock, Shayla Compton
Jose Santiago Diaz, Charlotte Forrest
Jennifer Grindrod, Stefan Novotney,
Danielle Pratt, Amy Sheffield,
Laura Thomas, Loki Tobin
& Daniel Warnke
Should you be on this list?

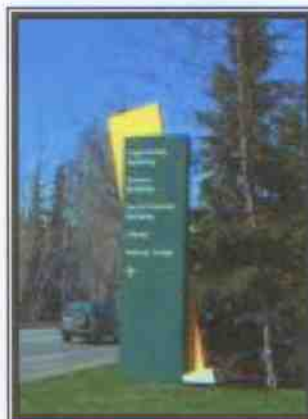
Sociology A452, Violence in Intimate Relationships was developed into a distance delivered course. Dr. Sharon Araji is the instructor and KC Wolfe, Distance Education, is the producer. Offered fall and summer on Cable Channel 9.

<http://sociology.uaa.alaska.edu>

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 UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



AKD NEWS & VIEWS

Thinking of joining a club? Become a member of Friends of AKD: A Sociology Club. The club is associated with Sociology's International honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta. Dr. Araji is President of AKD. What does Friends of AKD do? Students can attend the Pacific Sociological Conference in Oakland, CA in 2007; have fun with UAA students

and local children at UAA's Halloween Night; attend end of year social events; provide academic support to fellow students; raise awareness about current social issues; engage in sociological discussions; and much more!

If you would like to become a member or officer please contact Sharon K. Araji, Soci-

ology Chair/Advisor at af-ska1@uaa.alaska.edu. Kelly Lanzarone or Katy Sanders, Co-presidents of student club at askak@uaa.alaska.edu, or askms88@uaa.alaska.edu.

New members fall 2006: Randi Breager, Charlotte Forrest, and Kelly Lanzarone.

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY. . . ?

Sociology focuses on how social systems, social problems, and human behavior are interrelated. This discipline looks at the formation, structure, processes, and changes that occur in groups, systems, organizations and societies.

Topics include studies of intimate relationships, mob actions, deviant and criminal behavior, religions, cultural practices, environmental and medical issues and societal

attitudes and behaviors that are tied to race, sex, and social class.

Sociology prepares students for careers in sociology as well as other areas. These include social work, human services, urban and rural development, political and social policy, education, aging, environmental programs, business, public and private research, community action agencies and health, welfare and justice systems.

UAA is an ideal setting for the study of sociology due to the diversity of people in Alaska in both urban and rural areas. Students can specialize in one of three options: General Sociology; Family and Life Cycles; or Community and Change.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

-Gandhi

Sociology Website Highlights:

We're developing a new look for the Sociology website with additional information and more links to enhance student and faculty research in areas of Sociology.

If you are scheduled for graduation in fall 2006 or spring 2007, please let us know what your career plans are so that we may share your success with other students and alumni.

Also, if you have news to share for the spring newsletter contact the department's secretary.

For more information about joining AKD and what we do, visit the Alpha Kappa Delta website at:

<http://www.alpha-kappa-delta.org/>

Two Scholarships Available:

The Sociology department is offering two scholarships. One scholarship is the Eveline Schuster Memorial Award/Scholarship.

The other is the Michael Baring-Gould Memorial Scholarship. Both have deadlines of November 30th, 2006.

To find out more check out www.uaa.alaska.edu/scholarships