Volume 1 Issue 5

Gaining Experience Through Internship

The Internship in Sociology class offers juniors and seniors the chance to gain career knowledge and skills while working a minimum of 150 hours at a job that is complemented by a degree in sociology.

After acceptance into the class, students must apply and interview for a non-paid work position in a sociology related field. The internship helps students to learn about different jobs within their career choices and to decide whether this is the right career path for them. They build employment experience, improve written and oral communication skills, and develop confidence, which in turn will enhance their resumes and improve their interview abilities.

Students may also develop a network of contacts to help them as they begin applying for jobs. There have been instances when interns have performed well and that they were hired to fill a permanent position upon graduation. Overall, an internship that is taken seriously encourages a smooth transition between college and the student’s professional life.

Volunteer Probation Officers

Several sociology students have chosen to complete internships as Faulkner County Volunteer Probation Officers lending support and encouragement to juvenile offenders. These students help fill a shortage of county resources by offering supervision and encouraging positive behavior to at-risk teens.

Faye Shepherd, Faulkner County VPO Community Resource Coordinator, describes the internship’s success:

“It really is a win-win-win situation for the intern – the juvenile – and our court. The intern needs field experience, a practical application of the concepts s/he has been exposed to; the court-involved juvenile needs mentorship and our court needs help working with these young people. The juveniles, whether they are status offenders or first-time non-violent delinquents have responded positively to the mentorship they’ve received from these students. Interns may take several different paths in our program: some are monitoring youth who are adjudicated through our Juvenile Drug Court (these cases require intensive supervision); some help teach parenting and life skills classes; and still others are intern Juvenile Probation Officers and supervise 2-3 juveniles throughout the semester. Interns are involved in preparing cases for court, doing home visits and drug screens, observing and/or testifying in court; staffing cases with staff probation officers; developing programs and case plans. One of our former interns developed an assessment tool for a counseling agency to use with our drug court youth. Another developed a teen parenting curriculum. Still another worked with our Intake Officer to bring cases to court. We need highly self-motivated interns who are willing to be creative and committed. We’ve been lucky to have found so many of them in the Sociology Department.”

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Interning at Haven House was great! I was able to work with girls who came from different foster homes or who had just been moved from their homes due to abuse or neglect. At Haven, I was able to help them work through their experience as well as teach them independent living skills that would one day benefit each girl once she is on her own.” Julia Holland, Sociology major.

Byron Gardner, Sociology major, completed his internship with the United States Postal Inspection Service in Little Rock. “I felt my internship was a great opportunity that allowed me to work first hand with federal law enforcement. My internship gave me experience in areas such as weapon handling, spread sheet use, courtroom etiquette, and much more. I would recommend this internship to anyone interested in a career in law enforcement.”
Habitat For Humanity Gardens

The Sociology Club established a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build raised-bed gardens for new residents. Their mission is to provide a source of healthy, affordable food for those less advantaged. Over the course of two semesters, the club raised the money necessary for the construction of four raised beds, built and delivered them in time for spring planting. As many as fifteen students participated in the various stages of production.

Cooperative Garden Project

The Sociology and Anthropology Clubs partnered in a gardening project at the Faulkner County Library. The project also included students from the other two colleges in Conway—Hendrix and Central Baptist. The goal of this project was to implement various gardening methods to see which school could produce the most vegetables and provide models for the public. A fourth collaborative garden was established for the organization Plant a Row for the Hungry. The mission of this project is to promote community, sustainability, and home food production. At the time of publication, four hundred pounds of fresh produce had been distributed to local food banks.

Grad School Panel

Approximately thirty students attended “So You Wanna Go to Grad School?”, the Sociology Club’s evening panel discussion. The program, held March 15th in Irby Hall, featured four speakers who answered questions about and explained the preparation and process of applying for graduate school. The scheduled program was from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The evening concluded with informal discussions and refreshments. Panel members were Dr. Greg Smith, Admissions Coordinator for UALR’s Masters of Social Work Program; Brenda Herring, Administrative Specialist for UCA’s Graduate School; Dr. Bill Lammers, representative for UCA’s Psychology and Counseling graduate program, and Whit Baringer and Anthony Simmons, both UCA alumni working on Graduate Studies in History at the University of Mississippi.

CAAH!

Conserving Arkansas’s Agricultural Heritage project grew significantly this year. Project interns and collaborators hosted seven Seed Swaps throughout the state to distribute and collect Arkansas Heirloom seeds. The seed bank currently has an inventory of approximately 550 varieties of fruit, vegetable, herb, and flower seeds.

More information:
http://www.uca.edu/anthropology/researchandservice/caah.php

Sociology Club Survey

By Kristen Sobba

The Sociology Club is conducting its own survey about prevalent issues in today’s society. We want to learn about what UCA students think about issues such as marijuana legalization and homosexuality. With the results from our study, we will be able to do a comparative analysis throughout the years.

Those involved with the initial planning of this research were Dr. Powers, Kelsey Blasingame, Tommy Vance, Brittney Taylor, Daniel Chien, Tisha Nooner, Jessie Robinson, Caroline Wheeler, and Kristen Sobba.

Surveys will be distributed in Principles of Sociology classes each semester.
Students Present Research

Nine University of Central Arkansas sociology students attended the 2010 Arkansas Undergraduate Sociology and Anthropology Symposium on April 20, at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.

Sydney Whitfield: “Tackling Sports Reform in Intercollegiate Athletics.”

Kristen Sobba: “Sex Trafficking in Asia: The Ins and Outs of an Unjust Trade.”

Don Willis: “Gender-Specific Messages: Analysis of Relationship Framing in Popular Men’s and Women’s Magazines.”


Tommy Vance, James Depper, and Alicia Allen: “Conserving Arkansas’s Agricultural Heritage.”

Rachel Tidwell: “Woo Pig Sooie: A Study of Purebred Hog Farming and its Cultural Significance in Farming Communities.”

Callan Pecoraro: “Gender Stereotyping in Children’s Literature.”

If you are considering Sociology for a major please set up an appointment to speak with Mr. Beacham. cliffb@uca.edu

Anthropology Club Elects 2010-2011 Officers

Big Woman: Sehr Shaikh
Sha-Woman: Katie Hall
Scribe: Anushree Jumde
Big Kahuna: Lennon Bates
Clan Mother: Allyson Mead
Ministers of Morale: Kyle Sylvar and Victoria McKinney

2009-2010 Sociology Club
Don Willis was selected by the sociology department faculty as the Spring 2010 Katherine Hinson Outstanding Sociology Student.

Willis, a senior sociology major, completed a content analysis entitled “Gender-Specific Messages: Analysis of Relationship Framing in Popular Men’s and Women’s Magazines” which he presented on April 20, at the 2010 Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association Undergraduate Symposium at Henderson State University. Additionally, he completed an internship at the Conway Senior Citizens Center.

Upon his May graduation Willis plans to work in community service for one or two years before pursuing a graduate degree.