Gender Differences in Juvenile Justice

Sponsored by the sociology department, the gender studies minor program hosted a panel discussion on “Gender and Delinquency” on September 29 as part of its “Doing Gender” lecture series. The panel discussants included The Honorable Judge Rhonda Wood (Circuit Judge for the 20th District, which covers Faulkner, Van Buren and Searcy Counties), Faye Shepherd (Community Resource Coordinator and a Juvenile Probation Officer for Faulkner County Juvenile Court), Scott Tanner (coordinator of the Juvenile Ombudsman Division), and Luke Ferguson (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney). Judge Wood discussed the structure of the Juvenile Court, the path from arrest to adjudication, and what delinquency dispositional alternatives are available to a juvenile judge. Mr. Ferguson focused on the basic differences between the types of offenses committed by male juveniles and those committed by female juveniles. Mr. Tanner discussed how juveniles are routed through the judicial system. Finally, Ms. Shepherd discussed gender-specific intervention programs designed to change risky behaviors in both genders (e.g., a boxing program for boys and a book club for girls). More than 90 students and faculty were in attendance.

The main objective of this panel discussion was to create awareness about gender issues in the criminal justice system, as well as available programs. Student feedback on the discussion indicated that they learned much from the experience. They indicated that they were glad that the juvenile court concentrates on the rehabilitation of the teens rather than focusing on punishment; they had assumed that the juvenile court only gives jail time to the offenders. Students were also surprised and pleased to learn that the Judge and attorneys have developed mentorship programs for the juveniles. Students also learned that they have an opportunity to work as volunteer probation officers to make a difference in young people’s lives.

The gender studies minor, housed in the sociology department, is designed to enrich student understanding of gender issues for both men and women through a cross-disciplinary perspective. The program hosts one lecture a semester to provide an opportunity for students to learn about gender issues. More information about the program may be found at www.uca.edu/genderstudies or send questions to the program director, Dr. Rifat Akhter, rifata@uca.edu.
Museum Anthropology students have made significant progress in cataloging UCA-owned collections to create digital databases and online exhibitions. During the 2011 fall semester, students were divided into several groups to work on developing digitized images and the identification of items in several collections. They used their creativity and technological know-how to conduct these projects in a highly professional manner.

A collection of African sculpture, displayed in a case in the library for decades, has been thoroughly photographed in preparation for an online exhibition. Developing a digital library of the Doris Curtis collection of Ozark paintings also began this semester with students researching explanations for the chosen images that show a slice of life in the early 20th Century. Work on the West Mexican Indian Shaft Tomb collection of nearly 600 ancient artifacts continued during the fall semester and the end of that project is near. The end result will be a digitized searchable database that will make the collection accessible to researchers worldwide. Students also initiated a digitized database for Dr. Brian Campbell's collection of heirloom seeds obtained through seed swaps from Arkansas farmers.

Any UCA students who are interested in social issues may join the Sociology Club. Email Mr. Beacham at cliffb@uca.edu

UCA students who would like to participate in the Anthropology Club or simply keep informed about club activities may email Dr. Campbell at brianc@uca.edu

Students Gain Museum Experience

Students of junior or senior status with an overall GPA of 3.25 or above, and a major GPA of 3.5 or above, may be invited by the sociology faculty to participate in the honors program in sociology. Successful completion of the program allows the student to graduate with honors in sociology and involves the following: completion of SOC 4390 in consultation with a thesis advisor, completion of a research paper based upon readings and research completed, and an oral examination conducted by three members of the department. If you are interested in graduating with honors in sociology, please contact Dr. John Toth (jtoth@uca.edu, 450-5665).

Three senior sociology majors were recently inducted into the international sociology honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta. New members are (from left) Tisha Nooner, Kyler O’Brien, and Bailee Winterrowd.

Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society Inductees

Students Gain Museum Experience

Chris O’Quinn stands with some of the items that students have identified and cataloged.
Shepherd Publishes and Presents Research


Additionally, in October Dr. Shepherd presented a paper, “Liberal Tolerance among Honors College Students Revisited,” at the 2011 meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association in Little Rock.

Toth Presents Alcohol Use Research at Meeting

Dr. John Toth, UCA Associate Professor of Sociology and department chair, presented a paper, “Adolescent Binge Drinking and Alcohol Use: Variations across Race and Socialization Domains” at the Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting. The October meeting was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Rich and Akhter Present Papers at International Conference

Dr. Lynne Rich, UCA Assistant Professor of Sociology (left), and Dr. Rifat Akhter, UCA Assistant Professor of Sociology (right), presented papers at the 6th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in New Orleans, Louisiana in July. Dr. Rich presented her paper titled, “The Correlates of Marital Well-Being in South Korea and Taiwan.” Dr. Akhter presented her research, “Factors Associated with Attitude towards Wife Beating and the Prevention among Bangladeshi Men: An Empirical Study of Demographic Health Survey Data 2007.”

Faculty Present Research at ASAA Conference

Five UCA sociology faculty presented papers at the 41st Annual Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association Conference at Heifer Ranch in Perryville on November 11, 2011. Dr. Lynne Rich, Assistant Professor of Sociology, presented “The Correlates of Marital Well-Being in South Korea and Taiwan.” Dr. Alison Hall, Lecturer I of Anthropology, presented “Provisioning the Collective Good in the Italian Countryside.” Dr. Brian Campbell, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, presented “Ozark Bioregionalism: Growing an Oak (OACC).” Dr. Gordon Shepherd, Professor of Sociology, presented “Does an Honors College Education Affect Students’ Civic Tolerance?” Husband and wife presentation team, Dr. Edward Powers, Associate Professor of Sociology, and Kathy A. Powers, 2011 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, presented “Blaming the Teacher: Teachers as Victims in the Struggle over Public Education.”

The Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association is one of the oldest state sociological/anthropological associations in the United States. Three UCA sociology faculty members currently hold association executive positions: Dr. Doug George is the president, Dr. Brian Campbell is vice-president, and Dr. Lynne Rich is the secretary. Many **ASAA** documents may be accessed through the UCA Archives located on the first floor of Torreyson Library.
What Are SOC Alumni Doing Now?

Holly Kirby, Alumna 2009

I graduated from UCA in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and a minor in anthropology. Currently, I am pursuing a Master’s of Science in social work (MSSW) at the University of Texas at Austin. Upon completion of my first semester in graduate school, I can proudly say that my undergraduate experience at UCA thoroughly prepared me for success at the graduate level. My education in systemic processes that perpetuate social inequality and oppression of vulnerable populations, in addition to an emphasis in cultural anthropology, provided an excellent foundation to enter the social work field. The research and writing skills I gained through writing literature reviews, ethnographies, and my departmental honors thesis were also essential to my academic success thus far at UT. After completing the MSSW program I am considering pursuing my Ph.D. in Social Work to continue research that is essential to legislation of public policies that seek social justice for oppressed groups in our society.

Yukari Nakajima, Alumna 2010

After graduating from UCA with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and speech in May 2010, Yukari Nakajima returned home to Tokyo where she worked at an international school. This past summer she returned to the United States to attend Portland State University where she completed a program that prepared Japanese and Taiwanese students to become Japanese/Chinese teaching assistants. She explained, “We were given the opportunity to observe a master teacher’s actual summer intensive course every day and we also had visiting professors from other universities. It was a great program that allowed the trainees to demonstrate what we had learned, and we had some opportunities to teach a real Japanese class.” Ms. Nakajima is currently a teaching assistant at Ole Miss (The University of Mississippi) where she is pursuing a master’s degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

When asked what she would like to do with her degree, she said, “I want to work internationally. I still want to travel and see the world... But for my career, I would love to work in a school environment. I want to take advantage of not only knowing two languages and having a degree in TESL but also having taught Japanese to non-native Japanese speakers for two years.”
Sociology Club Co-Hosts Peace Day Celebration

The UCA Sociology Club and the UCA P.R.I.S.M. Alliance jointly celebrated the International Day of Peace 2011, on September 21, outside of Ferguson Chapel. The groups offered live music and homemade cookies to the UCA community. Those who stopped by were encouraged to fold an origami crane, which is a traditional Japanese symbol for health and peace. The cranes were attached to a garland to be added to and displayed at future celebrations. They were also invited to sign the wooden crane built by Mr. Cliff Beacham, Sociology Club sponsor.
Was your internship experience exceptional? Would you be willing to share your experience in a future newsletter? If so, please stop by the sociology office to let us know.

Undergraduate Scholars
Do you want to push yourself beyond class-based exercises?

The Undergraduate Scholars Program allows high-achieving, motivated juniors or seniors to work with sociology faculty on independent research projects.

If you have a 3.5 GPA in the major and 3.25 overall, talk with your advisor about this exciting opportunity to push academic boundaries beyond the classroom.

Emmanuel Fitz, senior sociology minor, and Peggy “Natalie” Leong, senior sociology major, share a laugh at the fall awards and celebration potluck lunch.

Students gather information about sociology, anthropology, and gender studies at the fall majors fair.

Seniors, Cathrine Schwader, Peggy “Natalie” Leong, and Alex Denton display their awards at the sociology awards and celebration potluck lunch.

Anthropology minors, Ashton Hodges (left), and Lennon Bates (right), attended Earth Day festivities at Laurel Park in Conway.

December graduates mug for the camera. (From left) Tiffany Knox, Alexandra Denton, Tisha Nooner, Lorraine Stigar, Bailee Winterrowd, and Peggy “Natalie” Leong.
Leong Earns Sociology Departmental Honors

Peggy “Natalie” Leong, a double major in sociology and psychology, graduated in December as an Undergraduate Scholar in Sociology. She worked with Dr. Rifat Akhter, UCA Assistant Professor of Sociology, as her thesis mentor and produced a quality thesis titled “The Mad Dash to Utopia: American Anti-Intellectualism and its impact on Environmental Degradations.”

Following graduation, Ms. Leong returned to her home in Singapore where she will intern directly under Mr. Chen Show Mao, an elected Member of Parliament of the Workers’ Party. Her internship duties will include conducting research for Mr. Chen Show Mao and assisting with his duties as a Member of Parliament. Ms. Leong hopes to attend graduate school in Kansas and to eventually earn a PhD in environmental sociology. She says her time in sociology “helped me to appreciate different viewpoints, to be more broad-minded, and to appreciate the environment more.”

Denton Named Outstanding Sociology Intern

Alexandra Denton, senior sociology major, received The Dr. Carl Redden Outstanding Sociology Intern Award for Fall 2011. Ms. Denton was selected for her outstanding and energetic performance of her duties with the Faulkner County Juvenile Drug Court program. Going above and beyond her assigned duties, she created a library of more than 10,000 pieces of resource materials for juvenile offenders. The materials covered topics that included LGBTQ* issues, eating disorders, suicide, depression, domestic violence, self-harm, smoking cessation, male and female body image, sexual education and STD awareness. She also collected resource information for parental use and drug education/ paraphernalia information for other interns and volunteer probation officers to refer to in their casework.

Ms. Denton graduated in December with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology with a criminology concentration and a minor in addiction studies. After graduation she would like to become a juvenile probation officer or a school resource officer.

She shares her experience:

“I both enjoyed and learned from my internship with the Faulkner County Juvenile Drug Court. It was extremely rewarding working with and getting to know the juveniles and becoming a positive influence in some of their lives. This was the best experience I have had in my college career and I am very grateful I had this opportunity to help some of these kids. This internship affirmed my career plans and for that I am very appreciative.”

(*LGBTQ* stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Questioning, Pan-sexual.)
The degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in sociology requires the completion of 120 hours, including the general education component, special degree requirements, major requirements listed below, a minor worked out with a minor advisor, 40 upper division hours, and a minimum 2.0 GPA overall, in the major, and in the minor. Students may declare a major in sociology after they have completed SOC 1300 with a grade of C or better.

Schwader Named Outstanding Sociology Student

Cathrine Schwader received the Fall 2011 Katherine Hinson Outstanding Sociology Student Award. She was chosen for her outstanding academic record and her work with the UCA Sociology Club. Ms. Schwader will graduate in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and double minor in anthropology and interdisciplinary studies from the UCA Honors College. After graduation she would like to attend graduate school at the Clinton School or Arizona State University to pursue a degree in non-profit management.

Cathrine Schwader

The Sociology department at UCA is amazing. Everyone is extremely supportive and encouraging which is a great motivator to do your best. They provide you with everything you need to succeed as long as you let them. They are always willing to answer your questions and help you. Really, the encouragement is invaluable because knowing that people believe in you helps you do so much more. It is also important to get involved and Sociology club is perfect for that. You can voice your ideas for projects that make a difference and take leadership roles.

Cathrine Schwader

Mr. Cliff Beacham describes Cathrine Schwader’s accomplishments...