Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

The semester is well under way and think I can even see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. Advising for spring semester is almost upon us, the ASC meetings are coming up in DC (and we are going to have a very large presence there), then we have Thanksgiving break closely followed by final exams. The semesters seem to go by more and more quickly each year.

We have had a few events take place including a beautiful evening on the Rover Cruise and a smashing night of pool where faculty rallied and beat the Graduate Students 11-5. I do worry about the next contest, however, which I believe will be bowling! I am not sure if the faculty has ever won that event but now that Nick has graduated we may stand a chance.

We had our first PhD candidate successfully defend her dissertation (Congratulations Cathy!) and I believe we will be seeing a few more this spring or summer. In fact our graduate students are doing very well with recent publications (Congratulations Jesse!) and paper competition awards (Congratulations Victoria!). I am sure there are more success stories and I apologize in advance for not remembering them. Congratulations to all students and faculty for your many contributions. Our department clearly rocks and you should all be Tooted!!!

Have a great rest of the semester!

Randy

Note from the Editors

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter. Special thanks to our Department photographers. Feel free to send information to either myself or Victoria for the Spring 2012 newsletter. Please remember, we can only put in what you send to us.

Dawn and Victoria
Department Welcome and 2011/2012 Year Start-Off on the Rover
Program Updates:

Masters Program

In the MA in Applied Sociology program, we have five August graduates. Please join me in congratulating Nick Adams, Le’Jeane Ellis, Ken Jackson, Nazia Naeem, and Cristalle Pronier.

I'd like to welcome our new cohort of eight students for Fall 2011 and remind those second year students who are working on the thesis to note the Spring deadline to have the completed document to the style editors in the Dean’s Office is typically mid-March. This means the final defense should be scheduled for February. These deadlines really sneak up on students, so please plan accordingly.

Dr. Carmody
Graduate Program Director
MA in Applied Sociology

PhD. Program

In the PhD. Program, we have had our first successful dissertation defense. Please join us in congratulating Kathy Cowling. We also welcome our new PhD students to our program: Lindsey Upton, Michael Hollingsworth, Jessica Morgan, Georgiana Brain, and Kimberly Waggener. As always, our PhD students are very active publishing, presenting and winning awards.
Fall Department Party 2011 Welcoming our Visiting Scholar
GSOC’s Trip to the Crime and Punishment Museum in Washington DC
GRADUATE STUDENT WISDOM—Day late and dollar short :)

Back it Up—and I don’t mean your booty!

It was April and only a couple of weeks were in the semester. It was “crunch time” as papers and projects were due in a couple of weeks. I was working in the office on a paper and had my thumb drive in the computer. It was around lunch time, and the power went out in the building. I didn’t think it was a big deal, because a week prior the power went for a couple hours. Realizing that the power could be out for a couple of hours, I went to lunch. I came back to the office (the power was restored) and continue to work on my paper. Unfortunately, my thumb drive was not showing up on the computer. At first, I thought the computer was acting up, and tried the thumb drive on the other computers in the office – and it was not showing up on any of the machines. The power-outage fried my thumb drive.

After realizing that my thumb drive was not working on any of the computers, I ran down to OCCS technical support center – they said that they couldn’t fix the drive. I went to a computer store, and the technicians said that there was a one percent chance that my files or data could be recovered. Additionally, it could cost up to a thousand dollars to “attempt” to recover anything off the thumb drive. Being a poor college kid, this was not really an option.

The biggest mistake I made in my life - and I made some huge mistakes, but that is for another time – was that I did not back up any of the papers or data that I had been working on all semester. Everything that I have been had worked on during the semester (term papers, class power points, and manuscripts) was lost, and gone forever. Since the semester was almost over, I was f@#cked; three papers were due in two weeks and none of them were backed up. After several beers, I rushed to get at least two of the paper done. I was able to get an extension for the final one, but felt embarrassed that I had to make that request. The moral of the story is to back up all of your stuff. I now back up everything on an external hard drive, the “h” drive, and a thumb drive. It was a horrible experience.
Toots to the Faculty-Grad Pool Tournament. The event was very well attended by faculty and a true gaggle of Graduate Students! It seemed that fun was had by everyone, but especially the Faculty who won “BIG TIME” and regained their self-esteem after the Graduate Student blow out last time.
Other News:

Two of our PhD students (Victoria Collins and Favian Martin with Dawn L Rothe) attended a post-Doc Graduate Course on Victimology in Roodeport South Africa (October 2011) and well, the pictures below tell you how rough it was for some of us :)

---

![Tiger on Student](image1.png)

![Another Photo](image2.png)

![Two Students](image3.png)

![Another Student](image4.png)