

Perspectives

Official Newsletter of the Sociology Club of North Dakota State University

Service Learning in Guatemala

How You Can Help



As part of the newly added Soc 379 Service Seminar, a group of NDSU students led by Graduate Student Angela Mathers and Dr. Christina Weber will travel to Antigua, Guatemala in May. Mathers instructed a similar class last spring as well (pictured above). This year the group will build homes in collaboration with the God's Child Project, a 501C3 based out of Bismarck, ND. Over the semester students have conducted research on Guatemala and learned about teambuilding and service learning. Donations of new or gently used clothing and children's chewable vitamins are being accepted through May 13th; donations can be dropped off at the Volunteer Network in the Memorial Union.

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Sign up for NDSU Sociology Club updates by joining us on Facebook! Search "NDSU Sociology Club" and look for the symbol below!



Save the Date!

End of Year Party
Monday, May 4
 Elections, Grilling & Frisbee – Meet in Minard 209 @ 2:30PM

Odney Ceremony
Wednesday, May 6
 Dr. Weber will be recognized for her excellence in teaching with the Odney Award

Graduation!
May 15 & 16
 Graduate Students: May 15 @ 4pm;
 Undergrads: May 16 @ 10am, FargoDome

Tim Kronebusch, President



Tim grew up on a 500 cow dairy farm in Altura, MN. He is about to graduate in May with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. Tim first became interested in the field of sociology because it offered

a different perspective on issues compared to psychology. Interested in applied areas of psychology, Tim saw a focus on how science can help improve society as a natural fit.

Hattie Tysver, Secretary

Hattie became interested in sociology when she first realized she was an active participant in society. She has been passionate about finding ways to end injustice for as long as she can



remember. Sociology has helped Hattie find out precisely how she might begin to do that. Hattie was elected officer and learned that all of our special interests and passions within sociology help to form a group of people able to affect change. She is personally interested in gender relations and gender discrimination. She says, "I have learned ways that these things exist in society and continue to reproduce injustice. However, with tools of leadership and group participation that I have learned from being a member of the club, I feel able to use the wealth of knowledge I have gained from my major."

Sociology Club Officer Bios

Meet the 2008-2009 Sociology Club Officers!

Thomas McCurdy, Vice President



Thomas McCurdy is a senior Sociology major with a Music minor who hails from Devils Lake, ND. Thomas enjoys antiques, cats, the supernatural, Indian food, and playing the tuba. Graduating from NDSU in May 2009, he will be attending Temple University beginning this

fall to earn his PhD in Sociology and pursue a career in academia. His alternative plan is to become a professional adventurer. Thomas's sociological interests include Gender and Sexuality, Classical Social Theory, French Feminist Theory and Masculinity Studies. Thomas is the Vice President of NDSU's Sociology Club, collects lamps, and lives in downtown Fargo with his cat Percy.

Wesley Ford, Treasurer

G. Wesley Ford is a senior Music major with a minor in Sociology, originally from Coon Rapids, MN. He plays the french horn in the NDSU Gold Star Concert Band, instructs an Intro to Sociology Breakout Session, teaches a local drum line, and enjoys commuting on his bicycle. Wesley



plans to attend graduate school for Sociology after graduation this spring. He is interested in Environmental Sociology, Sociology of Education, Classical Sociological Theory, and Economics.



Sociology Faculty Spotlight

Odney Award Winner Dr. Christina Weber

On May 6, Dr. Christina Weber will be presented with the Odney Award, which was established by the family of the late Robert Odney to recognize outstanding faculty teaching.

In 2005, Dr. Weber joined the Sociology Department at NDSU, and in just four years, she has made quite a name for herself on campus. As an Assistant Professor, Dr. Weber specializes in classical and contemporary social theory, feminist theory, gender, and memory/trauma studies. In her courses, such as Sociology of Sex Roles and Feminist Theory and Discourse, students are continuously challenged to open their minds to different standpoints and see the social world from new perspectives.

In addition to her course load, Dr. Weber also serves as an advisor to the Feminist Majority

Leadership Alliance and Sociology Club, is co-teaching a newly added service learning course, and is a member of the Commission on the Status of Women Faculty and FORWARD. Her broad knowledge and abilities were recognized in the fall of 2008 when she was named to the NDSU Tapestry of Diverse Talents after being nominated by her students.

This spring, a number of students nominated Dr. Weber for the Odney Award by submitting letters to the Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. Out of 18 nominees, Dr. Weber was awarded with this honor. There will be a reception on May 6 at 3:00pm in the Alumni Center to recognize her contributions to the educational experience of students at NDSU.



Faculty Corner: Welcome Dr. Lisa Cox

We would like to welcome Dr. Lisa Cox Hall to the faculty. She comes to Fargo from Denver, Colorado where she taught at Metropolitan State College for Denver for the past six years. Originally from Missouri, she earned her degree at Kansas University. Dr. Cox Hall likes to run, ski, hike, and snowshoe. Jason, her husband of 15 years, is a dentist and avid outdoorsman. They have two children, Nathan, 11, and Olivia, 7. She will teach Intro to Sociology (SOC 110) and Sociology of Aging (SOC 440/640) in the fall semester.

News & Events

Dr. Wayne Brekhuis Returns to NDSU



April is Civil Education Month. To educate and celebrate, the NDSU Student Activities Office brought in Dr. Wayne Brekhuis, an NDSU Alumni who is now a sociology professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Brekhuis agreed to give a special presentation for a Sociology Club Meeting in Minard Hall during his return in which he discussed his career as a sociologist and as well as his recently released book, *Peacocks, Chameleons, Centaurs: Gay Suburbia and the Grammar of*



Social Identity. He also answered questions regarding his experience and career in sociology, which he explained as his choice of study because “It’s just awesome!”

God’s Child Project Founder Patrick Atkinson Speaks on Human Trafficking

A nearly packed audience in Century Theater had the opportunity to spend the evening with God’s Child Project and ITEM (Institute for Trafficked, Exploited and Missing Persons) founder Patrick Atkinson. Atkinson discussed the atrocities associated with human trafficking and relayed frightening statistics that reminded those in attendance that slavery still exists; it is now in modern-day form. Traveling extensively throughout the world, Atkinson has devoted his life to overcoming the atrocities that face much of the world’s people. His non-profit organizations span the globe, including India, Africa, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Providing necessary services such as education and health care, Atkinson believes that we can change the world, “one child at a time.”

Farewell NDSU: The Graduates of Spring 2009

A number of students will be graduating from NDSU this spring, including the Sociology Club Officers. In order to give the fearless foursome a grandiose sendoff, the Club will be hosting an End of the Year Celebration on Monday, May 4th at the home of Sam Larson and Wes Ford, located at 708 7th St. N. in Downtown Fargo. We will be grilling burgers, playing ladder golf, listening to some bangin’ music, and enjoying the (hopefully) sunny day. Join us in congratulating Tim, Thomas, Hattie, and Wes on a job well done!



Flood Fight 2009



A number of sociology students joined forces for a combined effort to help others when our community needed it the most! Graduate

Students Sam Larson and Angela Mathers (pictured above left) set out with Angela's husband, Michael, an engineering student, to fill, toss, and build a dike by the El Zagal Shrine.

Students from Sam Larson's Introduction to Sociology Breakout Session also ventured out into the community to volunteer and wrote reaction papers on their experiences. Mostly freshmen and sophomore level students, they were very impressed by the sense of community witnessed. Dillon Evenson noted, "Only in North Dakota will you find a situation like this with *too* many people volunteering."

Students were also asked to reflect upon their experience, responding to the question "Can one person make a difference?" Overwhelmingly, the classes expressed a newly discovered lesson in how they can personally create change. As Lana Erickson described, "In reality one person can only do so much manual work but they also have the great ability to inspire others to get out there and help the community. It is by combining all the little things by the many single persons that the great things that were done were accomplished."

Most importantly, one of the most inspiring aspects was the way in which students came together during this time to volunteer their time and energy to help others without hesitation. The flood fight would not have been a success without their efforts!

THANK YOU ALL!

Fall Course List

These are the courses now available for Fall 2009. Please check the NDSU Homepage for a link to the full course schedule!

Soc 110 Introduction To Sociology
Smith, Corwin, Hall

Soc 202 Minorities & Race Relations (Online)
Hours Arranged - Corwin

Soc 214 Social Interaction
12:30-1:45pm T Th - Biga

Soc 214 Social Interaction (Online)
Hours Arranged - Coleman

Soc 340 Social Research Methods
9:30-10:45am T Th - Biga

Soc 404/604 Community Assessment
12:30-1:45pm T TH - Goreham

Soc 407/607 Deviant Behavior
12:00-1:15pm W F - Browning

Soc 412 Sociology of Sex Roles
9:00-9:50am M W F - Corwin

Soc 412 Sociology of Sex Roles (Online)
Hours Arranged - Corwin

Soc 417/617 Sociology of the Family (Online)
Hours Arranged - Smith

Soc 420 Sociology of Disaster
11:00-11:50am M W F - Youngs

Soc 424/624 Feminist Theory & Discourse
3:30-4:45pm T Th - Weber

Soc 440/640 Sociology of Aging
9:30-10:45am T Th - Hall

Soc 489 Senior Capstone in Sociology
9:00-9:50am W - Goreham

Soc 700 Qualitative Methods
10:00-10:50am M W F

Soc 701 Quantitative Methods
9:30-10:45am T Th - Biga

Soc 723 Social Theory
11:00-12:15pm T Th - Weber

Summer Jobs and Internships

NORTH DAKOTA

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters**, www.thevillagefamily.org/bbbs/
- **CHARISM**, www.charism.org
- **Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch**, www.dakotaranch.org
- **Fargo Park District**, www.fargoparks.com
- **Lutheran Social Services**, www.lssnd.org
- **Trollwood Performing Arts School**, www.trollwood.org



MINNEAPOLIS AREA

- **Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights**,
http://www.mnadvocates.org/Internships_Fellowships.html
- **Minnesota International Health Volunteers**,
http://mihv.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={1E80B5CD-19A6-43B7-9303-7ADE4FC4C5FA}
- **Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless**,
<http://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/act/volunteer/>
- **Special Olympics Minnesota**, <http://www.specialolympicsminnesota.org/Internships.php>
- **Make-A-Wish Minnesota**, <http://minnesota.wish.org/fb/about/internships.html>
- **Free Arts Minnesota**, <http://www.freeartsminnesota.org/careers.php>
- **Minnesota Historical Society**, <http://www.mnhs.org/about/interns/>



Have a great rest of the semester
and continue to look for updates
about our fall events!