

Gemeinschaft News

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology

Texas A&M University

December 12, 2006



Publications

James Burk. "Strategic Assumptions and Moral Implications of the Constabulary Force." *Journal of Military Ethics* 4 (November 2005): 155-167.

Presentations

Alex McIntosh gave two presentations recently at Michigan State University. One was delivered at the Department of Sociology, titled "Parental Time Constraints and Children's Diet and Nutrition." His second paper was presented at the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center and was titled "Culture and Food Production and Consumption: Recent Research." The latter talk centered on family meal rituals (consumption) and the moral economy of antibiotic use in the feedlot industry (production).

Foster featured on CYF website



Holly Foster is a featured researcher in the Children, Youth, and Families Interdisciplinary Research Program at Texas A&M. Check out the website:

<http://cyf.tamu.edu/featured.htm>

Ice Closes A&M!

On Wednesday night, December 7th, rain turned to sleet and ice causing slippery roads. The Dallas-Fort Worth Airport was closed and one of our job candidates was



re-routed to the Houston airport where Mark Fossett met her and drove her to College Station. Texas A&M was closed on December 8th.

Comprehensive Exams Completed

Kate Parks passed her comprehensive exams on November 22nd. Her committee consists of Joe Feagin (chair), Mark Fossett, Joseph Jewell, and Ken Meier (Political Science)

Isabel Ayala passed her comprehensive exams on December 6th. Rogelio Saenz is the chair and Mark Fossett, Dudley Poston and Cruz Torres (RPTS) are members.

Karen Glover passed her comprehensive exams and also defended her proposal on racial profiling. Her committee is comprised of Joe Feagin (chair), Sarah Gatson, Holly Foster, and Marco Portales (English).

Sociologists Attend Conference in Beijing

Recently, four Texas A&M sociologists attended and participated in a major conference in Beijing, the “Second Conference on China-U.S. Relations: Trade, Diplomacy and Research.” The first such conference was held in College Station in November of 2003. In 2007 the conference will return again to College Station. The major sponsors of the conference held last week in Beijing were Texas A&M University, Peking University, and China’s International Friendship Association.

Four sociologists from our department, namely, **Ben Crouch**, **Dudley Poston**, **Carol Walther**, and **Crystal Copeland**, joined about 100 other faculty, students and administrators from Texas A&M, along with scholars from a host of other universities (e.g., Cornell, MIT, UC-San Diego, Harvard, Princeton, etc.) and businesses in the U.S. and several other countries. President George H. W. Bush, Governor Arnold Schwarznegger, and General Brent Scowcroft were among those delivering keynote presentations at the conference. **Crouch** led a delegation from the College of Liberal Arts, including the above three sociologists along with faculty from the departments of Economics, Political Science, and Communication. **Poston** organized a session on “Gender Policy and HIV-AIDS in China,” in which he presented a paper titled “China’s Unbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth: How Many ‘Bare Branches’ Have Ben Born Since the 1980s?” **Walther** and **Copeland** assisted in the conduct of the general conference, assisted Poston in his session, appeared on CCTV television in China, met personally with President Bush, toured the Great Wall, the Summer Palace and the Forbidden City, and attended and participated in most of the conference sessions and roundtables.

While in Beijing, **Poston** visited Renmin (People’s) University and presented a 3-hour colloquium to over 60 demography and sociology faculty and graduate students from Renmin University on the topic of “Heterosexuality, Homosexuality, and Asexuality in China and the United States.”

Jim Burk’s Son Flies Lead Jet in Flyover at Kyle Field on November 26th

At halftime in the Texas A&M — Texas football game on November 26th, **Jim Burk’s** son, **Lt. Commander Theodore Michael Burk** piloted the lead jet (an F-18 Super Hornet) in the diamond formation flyover over Kyle Field. Ted and the other pilots and their assistants, as well as Ted’s daughter (and the granddaughter of Jim and Trish), Sarah, were later introduced to the 86,000+ fans attending the football game. Ted is currently stationed at the China Lake Naval Air Station, in Ridgecrest, CA. Congratulations to Jim and Trish Burk.



The faculty, students and staff of the Department of Sociology were deeply saddened last month to learn of the death of **Woodrow Jones**, Dean Emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Political Science. During Woody’s tenure as Dean of our College, Dudley Poston and Rogelio Saenz served under him as department heads. Dudley and Rogelio both agree that Woody was a wonderful Dean; he was easy and a delight to work with and was especially good to our department. We all will miss him.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baby Announcements!

Jeff Ackerman announces that he and Peg are expecting a baby early this Spring term.



Tony and Melissa Love are expecting a baby brother for their son, Collin, soon.

Howard and Diane Kaplan are new grandparents. On November 29th, Calvin Austin Kaplan was born.

Dissertation Travels

Kate Parks will be relocating to Albuquerque, New Mexico in early January in order to pursue her dissertation research, as well as teach a few classes at the University of New Mexico. She reports that she is excited about this new opportunity, but will miss her Texas A&M friends and colleagues a great deal, and urges everyone to keep in touch

December Birthdays

Judy, Linneman, December 1
Mark Fossett, December 17
Jon Alston, December 19
Kathy Dietrich, December 20
Zulema Valdez, December 23
Mary Ann Davis, December 30

Departmental Retreat

The Faculty will have a departmental retreat on Friday, January 13th. The retreat will take place from 8:30 to 5:00 at the Kyle House in downtown Bryan. For directions and more information about the Kyle house, go to: <http://www.kylehouse.com/>

Errata statement from Ms. Newsletter:

Ms. Newsletter (she could never aspire to becoming Dr. Newsletter) apologizes for many spelling errors this last year. Her New Year's resolution is to achieve higher spelling accuracy in 2006. It should be noted that Mr. Newsletter never makes such errors and that Ms. Newsletter takes full responsibility.

Here is a partial list of errors:

Dr. Sciulli's name is SCIULLI;

Phi Beta Kappa is Beta not Betta;

Carla Raynbird's publication is about Mitigation NOT Migration.

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