A Message from the Chair

Each year the Sociology Department conducts a Senior Exit Survey. This anonymous questionnaire asks graduating sociology majors for their honest assessment of the sociology program. Last year, several students commented that we could have done more to prepare them for “life after Villanova.” I am sure you may recall that we held two presentations on careers for Sociologists last spring. Both presentations consisted of recent graduates who spoke on their careers.

We have two events planned for this fall. The first is a discussion of graduate school opportunities. Joelle Sano (’04) will speak about getting into graduate school. Megan (Baksa) Dalton (class of 2002 and third year Villanova Law student) will speak about life at law school with a sociology degree. The second event will feature two alumni who will speak about their job search and career paths using their undergraduate degree. Vince Gazzarella (’97, a supervisor with Vanguard) and Jolene Peckne (’03, Pre-release Counselor) will be speaking in October (details will follow via email.)

I also call your attention to the various specials being offered by Career Services this fall (see p. 2). I strongly recommend you take advantage of these opportunities. Recently a recruiter commented to me that he found it “unbelievable that Villanova does not teach their Arts & Sciences students how to interview.” I told him Villanova does offer programs on interviewing but many students do not take advantage of these services.

Despite considerable “advertising,” one of the sessions last year was very poorly attended. When I asked students why they had not attended, typical responses were “It didn’t fit my schedule” or “It didn’t seem important at the time.” One of the many characteristics of successful individuals is taking advantage of the opportunities when they arise. The simple fact of the matter is that it is a little too late to think about life after Villanova in March of your senior year. I strongly urge you to take advantage of the previously mentioned opportunities!

- Dr. Arvanities

Is Grad School in Your Future?

Did you ever sit in class and wonder what kind of student your professor was or how she/he paid for graduate school? Most professors were strong students (most likely with at least a 3.5 GPA). The application process is the same as the undergraduate process (the GRE in lieu of the SAT). That is where the similarity ends. Three courses per semester is considered standard, classes are smaller and the instructors’ first names replace the title “Dr.” or “Professor.” However, the most significant difference is that most of your professors did not pay for their degree (this is not a typo). Graduate schools are like employers: they want good talent, so they pay. Most of us went to school on a Graduate or Teaching Assistantship. Normally this carries a full tuition waiver and a stipend (which can range from $10,000 to $15,000) per year.

Each year, at least one or two sociology majors enter graduate school. Some recent graduates are currently at Temple, Boston College and American University. Other alumni have completed their Ph.D.s at Harvard, Vanderbilt, University of Pennsylvania and Penn State.

Our department offers many ways to strengthen your application for graduate school. If you have any interest in learning more about graduate school, I encourage you to speak to me or any faculty member.
The Benefits of Internships

The department offers many ways to take advantage of an internship, and there are many benefits to doing an internship.

Job Contacts. Students meet professionals in the field who can notify them of available openings and provide professional recommendations. This is much more effective than random job searches.

Provides Experience. Participation in a professional environment is a strong addition to your resume or graduate school application. Experiential learning is an excellent way to distinguish yourself as a serious student committed to making the most of your educational opportunities. An internship is a great addition to your employment or graduate school application.

Active Student Learning. Internships provide you with an opportunity to get into the "real world" and practice what you have been learning about in the classroom. There is no substitute for seeing the information you have been reading and hearing about "come to life" before your eyes.

Personal Growth. An internship provides you with an opportunity to "test the waters" and see if an anticipated career is right for you. Each year, some students return from an internship having learned that a particular line of work "is not for them."

A Worthwhile Class and Experience!
By: Jen Troutman

On Thursday, April 22nd, eleven sociology students attended the Mid-Atlantic Social Research Conference held at Wilson College. This field trip is the main requirement of the independent study 6000 level class.

For this class, students conduct their own research under an advisor and then present their research findings at the conference.

Students seem to really enjoy the experience. One student commented, "This independent study helped me to understand the sociological research process in a way that was different than my previous theory and methods course." Another student said, "The conference was a great educational experience and it was exciting to present my own research at the conference."

Career Services Opportunities

VU’s Career Services has several applicable events planned that sociology majors should plan to attend.

Getting Your Foot In The Door - Wednesday, September 15th there will be Resume Review Day from 12 noon until 5pm, Corr 104.

Finding the Right Fit - Wednesday, September 22nd will feature the Fall Career Fair from 3 to 7 pm in the Pavilion. This is an excellent opportunity not only to start investigating careers, but also to find internships.

Learning to Sell Yourself—Wed., September 29th is Mock Interview Day for Arts Majors from 12 noon until 4 pm, Corr Hall. Students must sign up for this event through their Experience e-recruiting account.
Where Do I Go From Here?

By: Jen Troutman

It’s never too early to be thinking about what the future holds for you. For many students that future—otherwise known as real life—seems so far away, but it will be here before you know it! You might be asking yourself, “Self, what will I do with my sociology degree once I leave VU?” Well the answer to that question is as different as the people reading this article. However, in order to get you thinking, here are some avenues recent grads have pursued.

Many sociology graduates go on to other institutions to further their education. Recently, students have enrolled in graduate programs at Harvard, Penn State, University of DE, the University of PA, and Florida State, among others. They have also attended social work programs, law schools, and education programs.

Other graduates enter directly into the workforce—whether it’s in business, social services, education, research, or law enforcement. Some positions of recent grads include: detective, assistant director of admissions, editor, marketing representative, human resources, case manager, director of emergency services, police officer, commodities broker, environmental consultant, and national accounts manager. For a more detailed list go to: www.sociology.villanova.edu/Careers.htm

The truth is, the possibilities are only limited by your imagination and ability to sell yourself. Work hard and prepare for your bright future.

Tips for the job search...

* Acquire a broad educational background
* Gain experience through jobs, internships, and volunteer work
* Obtain skills in public speaking, writing, and computer applications
* Focus on an area that interests you (e.g., human resources, industrial relations, management, marketing, public relations, or sales) and learn as much as you can before applying for positions.

-Source:www.asanet.org

Featured Professor—Dr. Hannon

By: Jen Troutman

Dr. Lance Hannon is working in his sixth year at VU. He holds a BA from SUNY Geneseo and a MA and PhD from UCONN. While an undergrad, he didn’t think becoming a professor was a realistic option until a teacher of his pulled him aside in his senior year and suggested that he consider it.

Dr. Hannon enjoys researching the relationship between socioeconomic disadvantage and crime. When he’s not working on his research, you can find him watching college or pro basketball, working out, watching Buffy reruns, listening to classic and alternative rock, or sleeping late. He also enjoys hanging out with friends in Old City and Northern Liberties.

Dr. Hannon considers his sky-diving experience to be one of his greatest accomplishments, since he generally is not the adventurous type. Dr. Hannon, who lived in Northern Ireland until he was six years old, also holds two black belts in Tae Kwon Do!

When asked, Dr. Hannon offered this advice to students: “In general, I think we define ourselves too much by so called objective outcome measures and not enough by the integrity of the processes that lead to outcomes. Judge yourself by how you play the game, not whether you win or lose. Unless of course, you’re a Los Angeles Laker player, then you should feel bad about both.”
Your Vote Counts!
by Jen Troutman - (Article Emailed to students 7-04)

Being away at school does not mean that you have to miss out on exercising your constitutional right as an American citizen in the upcoming presidential election. No matter what your political views might be, we hope that you will take a stand for what you believe in and make your voice heard by voting. You cannot really pass judgment on the outcome of an election unless you vote! If you can’t get home on November 2nd, here are some methods of obtaining absentee ballots.

As a general rule, registered voters may request an absentee ballot by contacting your local county or city election official. In most cases, the phone number for these offices is listed in the blue government pages of your phone book.

**PA Residents:** Applications for absentee ballots are available from your county Bureau of Elections. (To access contact information about your Bureau, go to www.pa.lwv.org/voting/ebureau.html). Pick up an application any time the offices are open. You may also submit a written request for an absentee ballot containing your name, voting residence and signature. Note: Applications for the ballot must be received by the Department of Elections no earlier than 50 days before the election, and no later than 7 days before the election. For more detailed information about voting in PA, visit: http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting

**NJ Residents** can simply visit www.lwvnj.org/absentee, fill out the form to get an absentee ballot and send the form to your county’s clerks office, all of which are found on the website. Registered voters can mail in an application to be delivered to the county clerk at least 7 days before the election, OR apply in person by 3:00 p.m. on the day before the election. After approval of your application, your ballot and instructions will be mailed to you on or after the 40th day prior to the Election. If application is made in person within the seven-day period before the election, the ballot will be given to you at that time. Note: Absentee ballots must reach the County Board of Elections no later than 8:00 p.m. (close of the polls) on the day of the election.

**CT Residents** can obtain absentee ballot applications from the Town Clerk and the Secretary of the State’s Web site: www.sots.state.ct.us/ElectionsDivision/elecrms/aabeng.pdf. Ballots are available to be mailed or picked up 30 days before an election, or 19 days before a primary. Ballots may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Town Clerk and they must be received by the clerk no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.

**DE, MD, NY, OH, & VA Residents**—visit www.state.de.us/doe_ncc/absentee_de/de_student.html

**MA Residents**—Visit www.lwvma.org/ElectionPubs/absentee_voting.htm

Your ONE vote can certainly make a difference!

* In 1776 One vote gave America the English language instead of German.
* In 1845 One vote brought Texas into the Union.
* In 1868 One vote allowed Andrew Johnson to escape impeachment.
* In 1876, One vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States.
* In 1923 One vote elected Adolf Hitler to the Nazi party.
* In 1960 a One-vote difference elected JFK and not Nixon.