A Message from the Chair

One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching at Villanova are the relationships that we faculty members can build with our students. Many of the relationships extend far beyond graduation and take place on many different levels. For example, this semester five alumni are returning to speak with current students at two separate events. On more than one occasion, we have received unsolicited letters from alumni telling us how our program has prepared them for employment or graduate school.

The department recently received one such letter from Jocelyn Fontaine (2003) who wrote that her experience in the Sociology program at Villanova provided an excellent foundation for graduate school (American University). She told us she was “glad to have the experience of writing multiple term papers because she would be lost without it.” She even thanked us for the written assignments, and recommended that we assign “all the writing we possibly can give.” She also wrote that students “should realize that at the time [assignments] might seem like a daunting task, but in the end, it is worth it.”

Don’t worry, we won’t follow her suggestion to increase the writing requirements...too much!

— Dr. Thomas Arvanites

Welcome Professor Welch!

The faculty and staff of the department are very pleased that Professor Kelly Welch will be joining us in the fall. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. Professor Welch’s research explores the dynamics of popular perceptions of race and crime and how they influence support for our punitive criminal justice system. One of her articles has already been accepted for publication in Criminology.

In addition to this academic work, Ms. Welch has been a Criminal Intelligence Analyst with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and a Research Assistant on a Department of Corrections program to enhance inmate rehabilitation.
Career Presentations

This semester the department is sponsoring two events for students to learn about careers and job searches for majors who do not pursue graduate school. Five sociology majors will take time from their jobs to speak about their career paths since leaving Villanova. The first will be held Friday March 19, 2004 at 12:30 in Bartley 2001. Ms. Jolene Peckne ('03) and Mr. Vince Garzarella ('97) will be speaking at an informal question and answer session. Ms. Peckne is a Pre-Release Counselor with The PROGRAM for Female Offenders. She sees clients and her work takes her to prisons in Dauphin and Cumberland counties. Mr. Garzarella is a supervisor for Vanguard in Malvern, PA.

The second presentation is scheduled for April 1 at 11:30 in CEER 001 (Dr. Gallagher’s Occupations class). Ms. Kristine Curtis ('98) a Business Analyst with JP Morgan, and Ms. Maria Rubino ('99), a grant administrator with an international pharmaceutical company, will be speaking about how the sociology major prepared them for a career in business. Mr. Norm Vetter ('89), Director of the Chester County Department of Mental Health, will speak about employment opportunities in mental health and related social services.

In the past, students have complained that we did not “do enough” advising on employment opportunities. The above presentations represent two excellent opportunities for you to learn more about how your undergraduate sociology degree can help you find secure employment. Juniors and sophomores should take note: It is never too early to start thinking about life after Villanova. It will be here quicker than you think.

Students in the News - Stephanie Doyle & Bruce O’Neill

Sociology and Honors Major Stephanie Doyle ('05), has been selected as a Finalist in the 2004 Harry S. Truman Scholarship competition. Stephanie, a junior Presidential Scholar studying this semester in Denmark, has advocated the institution of a Sexual Awareness Curriculum for high schools in her home state of Massachusetts.

Bruce O’Neill ('04), previously qualified as a finalist for the 2003 Harry S. Truman Scholarship and the 2003 Rhodes Scholarship. Bruce is a Sociology and Philosophy Major from St. Louis, Missouri who has attended Oxford as a Connelly-Delouvrier International Scholar. Focusing on homelessness, he has served as an outreach coordinator for the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness.

Congratulations to Stephanie and Bruce for the public recognition of their hard work and dedication!

New Sociology Courses

New courses available for Fall 2004:

- CRJ 3300-001 — Criminal Courts
  (Dr. Welch M/W/F 11:30-12:20)

- SOC 4000-001 — Sociology of Sports
  (Dr. Eckstein M/W/F 8:30-9:20)

- SOC 4000-003 — Special Topics: Work, Wages and Inequality
  (Dr. Juliani T/R 10:00-11:15)

- SOC 4000-004 — Special Topics: Immigration, Ethnicity and Development
  (Dr. Patttnayak T/R 2:30-3:45)

- SOC 4000 — Special Topics Abnormal Behavior
  (Dr. Gallagher T 4:00-6:00)
On April 13th, 2003, I along with several other Villanova students, attended the 23rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Research Conference. I was apathetic about attending the conference but it turned out not only to be educational but also fun. Each of us had a research paper from our theory or methods classes that we were going to present at Messiah College.

Most of us presented at different times so we attended each other's presentations. I met other sociology majors, made new friends, and got to know my professors outside of the classroom. I realized that we, as Villanova students, were better prepared for the conference in comparison to other schools that were there. I was really nervous about conducting a presentation in front of 15 to 20 strangers, but the few familiar faces in the audience put me at ease. I gained public speaking skills and have a great addition to my resume. I highly recommend attending the conference to everyone. It was a wonderful experience that was topped off by dinner at Bertucci's.

I'll be there again this year, this time at Wilson College.

Sociology Major Reflects on MAUSRC 2003
by Fareha Ahmed

New Faculty Publication - Rick Eckstein
"Public Dollars, Private Stadiums"

Public Dollars, Private Stadiums: the Battle over Building Sports Stadiums, by Associate Professors Rick Eckstein and Kevin Delaney (Temple University), provides an eye-opening account of recent battles over publicly financed stadiums in nine U.S. cities. The book utilizes interviews with key decision makers to present a behind-the-scenes look at how and why powerful individuals and organizations foist these expensive sports palaces on increasingly unreceptive communities. Eckstein and Delaney argue that corporate-led “local growth coalitions” in different cities covertly influence public policies that result in new stadiums costing taxpayers anywhere from $100 million to more than $1 billion.

Rather than promising that these publicly financed stadiums will generate economic benefits to the community, subsidy advocates increasingly claim that the stadiums will produce more intangible rewards such as social cohesion and community prestige. As with the once popular economic promises, these alleged social rewards have not materialized, and cities with new stadiums might actually be worse off than they were before.

Los Angeles columnist Steve Lopez has described the book (published by Rutgers University Press, 2003) as a “revealing dead-on investigation of the modern-day sports stadium boondoggle.” Dr. Eckstein previously wrote Nuclear Power and Social Power (Temple University Press, 1997), and received Villanova's Lindback Award for Teaching Excellence in 2000.

"The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses."

Malcolm X
Focus on Slavery

From National Geographic, September 2003
(http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0309/feature1/index.html)

Panneer is ten years old. He winds thread 14 hours a day for looms in Kan-chipuram, India. His fingers bleed. His body is being poisoned by dye.

Exquisite handmade carpets are admired throughout the world. For a growing number of consumers, however, their beauty is dimmed by the knowledge that at many looms young children do the hard work of transforming fiber into art—without choice, or pay. "If you have an imported handwoven carpet on your floor right now," says Kevin Bales, a leading slavery researcher and director of the U.S.-based group Free the Slaves, "there is a good chance that it was woven by an enslaved child."

Surekha has spent much of her life in a four-by-six-foot (one-by-two-meter) brothel cell in Mumbai, India. She sleeps, prepares her meals, and stores her few possessions there—and this cell is where she serviced the customer who infected her with HIV.

There are more slaves today than were seized from Africa in four centuries of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The modern commerce in humans rivals illegal drug trafficking in its global reach—and in the destruction of lives.

Web Resources on Slavery:

http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0309/feature1/online_extra.html

www.antislavery.org
Founded in 1839, Anti-Slavery International is the world’s oldest international human rights organization and the only charity in the United Kingdom working exclusively for the elimination of all forms of slavery. Anti-Slavery International has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Through campaigning, research, supporting local NGOs' work, and pressing governments to implement national and international laws against slavery, the organization works to end this abuse throughout the world.

childrenofthenight.org
Children of the Night has rescued more than 10,000 American children from prostitution since 1979. It is dedicated to assisting children between the ages of 11 and 17 who are forced to prostitute on the streets for food and a place to sleep.

www.catwinternational.org
The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women is a nongovernmental organization that promotes women’s human rights. It works internationally to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms, especially prostitution and trafficking in women and children, particularly girls.

www.freetheslaves.net
Free the Slaves fights slavery all over the world by helping people to freedom and to stable lives after liberation, by removing slave labor from the products we buy, and by helping governments enforce their own anti-slavery laws. Free the Slaves is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., that is leading U.S. work against slavery.