A Message from the Chair

This semester is shaping up to be very busy for students in the department. Seven students participated in a poster session at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference in February (see p. 4). In April, approximately 15 students will be presenting papers at the Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Social Research Conference at Elizabethtown College. I would like to thank Drs. Brian Jones and Rick Eckstein for their time and effort in making this experience possible.

Congratulations to the students who will be graduating in May! You will be receiving Exit Surveys later this semester. We ask that you reflect upon your experiences with all of us and answer the questions thoughtfully and honestly (they are anonymous). The faculty take the survey comments very seriously and incorporate your feedback into our teaching and curriculum plans. Please stay in touch with your favorite professors and do not hesitate to contact us in the future if we can ever assist you. We wish you the very best.

To the students returning in the Fall, I encourage you to take advantage of the various experiential learning opportunities we offer. In addition to the conference presentations mentioned above, we offer service-learning options (such as literacy training in a state prison or tutoring students in Philadelphia schools) and internships. Any of these activities is a great addition to a résumé or graduate school application.

What will I do after graduation?

Get inspired at our upcoming Career Event

By Dr. Bernard Gallagher and Mariana Pardes

It is truly amazing how many different career paths our majors have pursued upon graduation! On Thursday, April 19, come to Bartley Hall 1010 at 11:30am to listen to a few graduates from our department speak to how they have built successful careers within the fields of law, finance, and management. This year our “Career Event for Majors” will feature three speakers: Michael Engle, J.D. (’97), a criminal defense attorney and recent president of The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Vince Garzarella (’97), a senior manager at Vanguard who now supervises hundreds of employees; and Kristine Curtis (’98), Vice-President at JP Morgan.

At this event, each speaker will provide a synopsis of their occupational experiences since graduating from Villanova. An open forum for discussion will follow; students are encouraged to pose questions to the speakers about any aspect of their professional lives, how they have reached their current positions, and what advice they can share with undergraduates. This annual gathering of students, alumni, faculty, and staff has always proven to be a lively and informative event that offers current majors contacts, job leads, and valuable practical insights into various career options.

We look forward to seeing you on April 19! Highlights about the event are listed in the adjacent box.
**Insights into Treating Mental Illness:**
**My Internship Experience at Princeton House Behavioral Health**

By Alyssa Choma ’12

Last summer I served as an intern at the Women’s Program of Princeton House Behavioral Health in New Jersey. Princeton House Behavioral Health is a unit of the Princeton Healthcare System and it provides treatment for people who have mental illnesses and other behavioral issues. The Women’s Program serves women of all ages who have been diagnosed with a variety of different mental health disorders. As a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice, I have a strong interest in the field of counseling, which is why I pursued this opportunity.

Through my internship, I was able to experience what it would be like to be a counselor or other professional involved in the treatment of mental health disorders. I was given the opportunity to observe and co-facilitate group therapy sessions as well as assist in the creation of patients’ discharge plans. I learned a lot from my experiences; in fact, my internship helped me to realize that after graduation I want to work more with children and adolescents than with adults.

Through this internship, I was able to see the applicability of some of the concepts we have discussed in my Criminal Justice classes. I was able to observe first-hand the effect that mental illness has on individuals. I heard about patients’ financial struggles, social problems, and, obviously, health issues. I saw how certain mental illnesses may lead to criminal activity, such as shoplifting or drug use. I also saw how being the victim of a crime can result in the development of mental health issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression.

Overall, I found my internship at the Women’s Program to be a great opportunity that allowed me to gain some practical experience in the field of counseling. I truly developed a deeper understanding of what it means to be mentally ill or suffer from behavioral challenges.

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**Meet our New Research Associate:**
**Mariana Pardes**

This March, Mariana Pardes joined the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice as the new Research Associate. Mariana recently earned her Master’s degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University, where she completed an interdisciplinary research project examining public space, urban youth, and new social movements in contemporary Argentina. Previously, as an undergraduate student at Swarthmore College, Mariana conducted research on welfare reform policies and urban poverty in the United States. She completed a senior thesis entitled “From Policy to Practice: Caseworkers and the Implementation of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).”

Over the past 10 years, Mariana has worked in various capacities within social service, educational, and nonprofit organizations such as Temple University, JEVS Human Services, and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Mariana has served as an instructor, administrator, and community organizer with different constituencies including low-income adults, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals, and students.

Mariana is excited about the opportunity to utilize her academic training in the social sciences, research skills, and administrative experience in her new position as Research Associate. She looks forward to working with faculty, staff, and students in the department and broader college community.
Congratulations to our Recent and Prospective Graduates*

Majors in Sociology

Samantha Abbiatiello
Megan Backus (PSY/SOC)
Allison Beatley
Kathleen Bullock
Donald Davis
Frank DiChiara***
Elizabeth Forster
Alexandra Frantz**
Michelle Garzia (SOC/COM)

Amanda Hostler**
Marlon Johnson
Grace Kinda
Michael Magnatta
David Marino
Katelyn Mazenko (ENG/SOC)
Michael Mazzella (MAT/SOC)
Lauren McCoy
Elka Peterson Horner

Leann Riether
Robert Sweeney
Ashley Thompson**
Sarah Thompson
Kristen Valosky
Christie Verdier
Amanda Waleko
Weddy Worjroh (GIS/SOC)

Majors in Criminal Justice

Matthew Abbadessa
Bradford Ackerman
Kyle Arnold
Kathryn Barrett
Scott Buckwalter
Kristine Burlin
Keith Capecci (CRJ/ENG)
Alyssa Choma (PSY/CRJ)
Michael D’Amore
Delano Ferguson

Stephanie Fujihara
Daniel Gerardi
Michael Jacouze
Michelle Krause
Sara Moore (CRJ/PSC)
Ashley Nussbaum***
Kelsey O’Donnell (PSY/CRJ)
Vincent Peterson II
Leeshua Pica (HS/CRJ)

Catherine Pirolli**
Christopher Putvinski
Michael Rasmussen
Melanie Romero (CRJ/PHIL)
Sherica Ward
Kristina Wotton (CRJ/PSY)

*This list is not official and is subject to change.
**Graduation date: September 2011
***Graduation date: December 2011

Please keep us appraised of your future endeavors and successes by contacting the Chair, Dr. Arvanites, at thomas.arvanites@villanova.edu

Research for Action (RFA)

RFA is looking to fill summer internship positions in research, technology, and communications. Interns typically work 15-30 hours and are unpaid; in some cases a small stipend is available and an internship can count as work-study.

Check out the ‘Employment’ link at www.researchforaction.org for more information.

American Red Cross Club of Philadelphia

The Red Cross Club program of Philadelphia seeks interns to work with high school students at school locations throughout the city. Under the supervision of Youth Services staff, interns will assist with training youth in humanitarian law, HIV/STI prevention, and disaster preparedness.

For more information, visit www.redcrossphilly.org and click on ‘Get Involved.’
Undergraduate Research Featured at Eastern Sociological Society Conference

On Saturday, February 25, seven Arts & Sciences students, along with Drs. Rick Eckstein and Emmanuel David, traveled to New York where they gave research poster presentations at the Eastern Sociological Society’s annual conference. After presenting and discussing their research, the students attended other conference sessions before debriefing at a well-known Portuguese restaurant. The students and their research topics were:

Elka Peterson Horner ('12; Sociology, Honors)
“How High Do Sports Score?: The Real Significance of Sports in University Attendance.”

Weddy Worjroh ('12; Sociology, Global Interdisciplinary Studies)
“Racial and Ethnic Self-Identity Among Black Immigrants.”

Michelle Garzia ('12; Sociology; Communication)
“Private Educational Counseling’s Impact on Traditional Processes for Selecting Colleges.”

Kristen Valosky ('12; Sociology Honors)
“The Criminalization of Homelessness in Chester PA.”

Ellen Salmi ('12; French, Honors)
“Active Social Pluralism: Community Building Among Cameroonian-Americans.”

Melissa Madden ('13; Sociology, Math, Honors) & Kristen DiGloria ('13; Sociology, Honors)
“Juvenile Criminal Background and Most Recent Arrest.”

Ellen Salmi’s work was part of a Villanova Undergraduate Research Fellows (VURF) project under the guidance of Dr. Eckstein. The other students’ research grew out of projects in Dr. Eckstein’s senior capstone seminar or Dr. Allison Payne’s research methods course. Ms. Valosky and Ms. Salmi also presented their research in March at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Salt Lake City.

Faculty Scholarship and News

Dr. Emmanuel David has co-edited the book, *The Women of Katrina: How Gender, Race, and Class Matter in an American Disaster* (Vanderbilt University Press). In addition, Dr. David has received a Fulbright research fellowship for his study of global labor practices in call centers in the Philippines.

Drs. Bernard J. Gallagher and Brian Jones have had an article, “Childhood Stressors and Symptoms of Schizophrenia,” accepted for publication by *Clinical Schizophrenia and Related Psychoses*.

Dr. Brian Jones appeared on WHYY's *Voices in the Family* from noon to 1 p.m. on Monday, January 23, at 90.9 FM for the program “Social Capital: Connections Cultivated.”