As W.E.B. DuBois wrote: “Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.”

Get involved!

Tricia Davis

Save-a-Tree by going Green! If you would rather receive your newsletter electronically instead of a hard copy through the mail, e-mail us at sociology@uwrf.edu
**FACULTY NEWS**

**Brian Copp** is serving half time this year as the Interim Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy. Dr. Copp taught Social Psychology and Introduction to Social Science for Teachers this fall semester. He is also toying with the idea of retiring in a year or two but has not made a final decision. His wife and daughters are doing fine.

**Tricia Davis** took on a new position in the College of Arts and Sciences as the Assistant Dean. She is teaching half the time in Sociology and spending the other half dealing with student issues in the dean’s office. This was her first semester in 8 years not teaching Research Methods due to Pao Lee joining the department. She taught Sociological Inquiry and Social Statistics. Dr. Davis still enjoys making statistics not so ‘scary’ for terrified students. She and Dr. Wallace presented at the Wisconsin Sociological Association’s annual conference this fall on “Teaching Ethics: Students Participating in a Mock IRB.” At home she is enjoying watching Davis grow (18 months old already) and spending time with Kevin.

**Pao Lee** is the newest member of the department – beginning this fall 2008 semester. He has had a very busy semester with teaching, serving as a member of the search and screen committee, finishing his dissertation, and seeking support for a possible summer program. He taught two sections of Intro to Sociology, Research Methods, and Deviant Behavior. In November, he attended the Annual American Society of Criminology Meeting in St. Louis where he presented a paper entitled, “From Thug Life to ‘Sucka-Free Life’: Hmong Youth and Their Subjective Understandings of Racialization.” He successfully defended his dissertation in December at the University of Minnesota, so you can now call him doctor. The summer program he is trying to start will seek to help “disadvantaged” and “at-risk” youth realize their own potential within the context of oppressive social structures. In essence, Professor Lee hopes that these youth will learn to use their sociological imagination. If he is successful in acquiring funds, he hopes to recruit sociology and criminal justice students to assist with the summer program.

**Tim Nissen** has been keeping busy advising the student chapter of Habitat for Humanity, serving on the department’s search committee for a new faculty position and overseeing the department’s assessment program. If you get a request for an alumni survey from the department, PLEASE participate. If your email address is out of date please send us a current one so we can be in touch with you. In addition to that, Dr. Nissen has continued to teach his online courses and took over responsibility for the Sociology of Diversity course. He is also responsible for the Sociology/Anthropology internship program and continues to encourage students to include an internship in their academic program.

**Ed Robins** is in his 6th year as chair of the department. He will be taking students to Belize this March for the 7th year to experience first-hand the cultural and biological diversity of the country, and study the effort to conserve that diversity. Students spend the first weeks of spring term preparing for the trip by learning about Belize through student presentations, and then spend 12 days in Belize over spring break. Several students from the group typically return to Belize in the summer for internships. This past year, two students worked at a center for women and children - Peacecorner in San Ignacio, Western Belize.

**Rich Wallace** keeps busy with the Criminal Justice students. He taught Juvenile Delinquency, White Collar Crime, and Sociology of Sports and Leisure this fall semester. He continues to work with all the criminal justice interns. He and Dr. Davis presented at the Wisconsin Sociological Association’s annual conference this fall on “Teaching Ethics: Students Participating in a Mock IRB.” Dr. Wallace is excited to announce that he will be returning to Scotland next fall semester (2009) to teach in the Wisconsin in Scotland program again.

**STUDENT AWARDS**

**Joshua Lambert** won 2nd place in the Wisconsin Sociological Association’s undergraduate paper competition in Fall 2008.

**Caitlin Hunstock** won the 2007-2008 Outstanding Student of the year award given by the SACJ department.

CONGRATS!

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*Have any tips for students, employment opportunities, stories to share, or interesting articles to read? “The Observer” is always looking for new materials to add for its readers! Send information to sociology@uwrf.edu*
TOP REASONS PEOPLE DON'T GET HIRED FOR INTERNSHIPS

By Katie Johnson

One of the most important attributes a person can have when applying for a job is related work experience. As an undergraduate, it is important to gain transferable skills in your area of interest by having an internship. Once you have found an internship that interests you, (for help finding internships talk with Dr. Tim Nissen or Career Services) you will need to apply and have an interview like any other job.

At an event held by Career Services last year called, Career Roadmap, a panel of employers shared their top reasons for not hiring a candidate for an intern position.

1. Can’t identify most marketable skill and communicate it.

If you don’t know why they should hire you, how would they? Taking an assessment test at Career Services and setting up an appointment with a career counselor can help you to identify your skills. Once you know your skills, build a career portfolio so you have documentation, pictures, and evidence to show during an interview to help market those skills.

2. Struggle with simple interview questions.

Don’t go into an interview unprepared! Schedule a mock interview at career services to run through an interview and get feedback on your answers. Or, print off the interview packet online from career services and use the practice questions.

3. Don’t invest enough time in their search.

Take time to learn about the company. Make sure it is the right fit for you and that you have the required qualifications for it.

4. Present a poor or inappropriate appearance.

Dress to impress! You only get one first impression so don’t let your appearance lose you the job. Pick out an outfit early and MAKE SURE IT STILL FITS! Also, attend Career Services’ Runway to Success on April 2nd to learn what clothes are appropriate for the work place.

Ultimately, make sure you plan ahead and prepare for your interview. Sometimes it’s the simple things that get forgotten and can keep you from getting hired.

SACJ CLUB EVENTS

By Emily Johnson

This being our first semester, we have been busy, busy, busy. We have had quite a few events through fall and are excited for our upcoming spring events.

Fall Events

* Sept 10-Picnic in Glenn Park to kick off the school year with students and faculty.

* Sept 27-We participated in a silent auction to gather funds for our club to use for future events and community service projects.

* Oct 14-Sgt. Glen Hartman came to campus from the Hudson Police Dept and taught students about drug awareness and being in law enforcement.

* Nov 24-Dec 10-We organized an on-campus toy drive called Operation Christmas Child. We collected toys for kids of all ages and delivered them to Grace Place in Sommerset, WI.

* Dec 2 & 9-Groups toured the maximum security prison in Oak Park Heights, MN. As this was a popular event, we had two groups.

* Dec 8-SACJ Bake Sale where we raised just under a hundred dollars for the Club.

Spring Events

* February-Dollar dinner at Journey House fundraiser.

* April 2-5-Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Contact Dr. Davis if you want to attend.

* TBA-End-of-the-year banquet.

Thank you to:

- Emily Johnson for her contribution of SACJ Club Events to the newsletter
- Amanda Mollner for organizing the mailing

Become a member of the Midwest Sociological Society (www.themss.org) or Wisconsin Sociological Association (www.uwrf.edu/wsa)!

These are great résumé builders!

There is still time to sign up to go to the conference in Iowa!

See Dr. Davis for details (e-mail: tricia.m.davis@uwrf.edu).
PHOTOS

Fun games at Glenn Park

Students meet and greet at the club picnic

Dr. Rich Wallace grills the hotdogs

SACJ Club enjoying the outdoors

A little Q & A with Sgt. Glen Hartman from the Hudson Police Department

Students at the Drug Awareness Speaker event