Special Points of Interest:

- SACJ Advisor Notes
- Interview with Dr. Paige Miller
- 10 Top Reasons to Attend Grad School
- SACJ Club Events
- Photos

Notes from the SACJ Club Advisor

It was a busy Fall Semester for the SACJ Club and Department. We are into our second year of the SACJ Club, and I have to admit that I am excited about the direction it is going. The club is a great organization that supports the social and educational interests and activities of students at UWRF. As the advisor, working with the students, organizing events, and planning for future activities is very rewarding. Inside this newsletter, you will find highlights of the fundraisers, field trips, and service projects that we have participated in over the semester, as well as what we plan to do in the future. There are several dedicated students who have put in a great deal of work in moving the club forward. I would like to thank all of you who have worked hard this year. It isn’t just the work of the executive board, but the members that have made the Club what it is. Let’s keep the momentum going!

One important event that the SACJ Club and Department will be holding this spring is the 2nd Annual SACJ Alumni Banquet which is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th — so mark your calendars! It was fun catching up with alumni who attended last year, and congratulating our graduating seniors! Hope you can make the event. We will reminisce, dine, enjoy a talk, and celebrate student achievements. Students who are inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta will receive their certificates, and the Outstanding Sociology Student of 2009-2010 will be recognized. This year our distinguished alumni speaker is Eric Atkinson. He graduated in 1997 with a degree in Sociology with a CJ emphasis. He has worked in a variety of settings in the criminal justice field, and has completed a master’s degree. Eric works for the Hudson Police Department where he has served as acting police chief and currently serves as a Detective Sergeant in charge of the detective division.

Some news from the department - we are fully staffed! We welcomed Dr. Paige Miller to the department during the fall semester. You will find a small article about her in this newsletter. Dr. Rich Wallace spent the fall semester in Scotland – we are happy to have him back on this side of the pond! Dr. Pao Lee is getting more settled in his second year at UWRF. Professors Nissen (department chair), Copp and Robins are still doing their things! My news is that I’ll be gone half of this spring semester on maternity leave – our baby girl should be arriving around March 6th!

In future newsletters we would like to have a section titled “Alumni News” – so feel free to send me your current employment status, family and life stories since leaving UWRF to be included in that very important section. For those who are not aware of it - we have a Facebook group – please join it and keep updated on what is going on (search for SACJ Club). Finally, don’t forget to go to the department website and update your information on the alumni page (www.uwrf.edu/alumni).

If you know of anyone interested in Sociology, Anthropology or Criminal Justice, please tell them about us. It can be a potential student, a friend, a teacher, or a coworker. You are part of our history and future – we depend on your word of mouth as our best advertisement!

“Whatever sociology may be, it is the result of constantly asking the question, what is the meaning of this?” C. Wright Mills

-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
INTERVIEW WITH DR. PAIGE MILLER

What’s New in the Department, or rather, who?

Dr. B. Paige Miller is the new addition to our department and will be teaching Introduction to Sociology, Gender Roles, and Statistics this spring semester. We are very excited to have her and look forward to her contributions to the department! Welcome Dr. Miller!!

Where did you grow up?
Spearfish, SD is where I call home. I received my B.A. there from Black Hills State University in 2003.

Where did you go to grad school?
I obtained my MA (2005) and PhD (2009) at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

What inspired you to study Sociology?
Well in high school I had a sociology class that was taught by the track coach, not very inspiring. It wasn’t until college during my second semester when I had my first “real” sociology class—it was an eye opener for me. I now had a name, “sociology”, for how I already looked at the world.

What are your interests?
I like to knit, run, do yoga, and read. I also have a new car named Lucy. If you see a midnight blue Honda Fit driving around, it is probably me.

Do you have any pets?
Yes! I have two cats Napoleon and Daria. They are such a nuisance right now. They miss my fiancé, John. He’s in Louisiana. He’s a librarian with a MLIS degree in archives and is trying to find a job here.

What was your first job?
My first job was at a senior citizens home. I helped serve lunch and during off time a bunch of us played dress-up in the thrift shop.

Who has been an inspiration in your life?
My grandma, she had six kids and still was able to go back and get her degree in accounting at the age of 53. She is a cool lady who knows everything.

What is the best advice you were given?
When I was worried for my first observation in class while teaching I received an e-mail that boils down to ‘just relax and do your best’.

What are your academic interests?
I am interested in Globalization, International Development, Social Studies of Science and Technology, Gender, and Social Networks.

**Dr. Miller will also be attending The Midwest Sociological Society conference in Chicago this spring with a few SACJ students.

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
10 Top Reasons to go to GRAD SCHOOL
www.gradsource.com

1. **Advance Your Career**
   Most professionals, especially doctors, engineers, and scientists, need PhDs. Others that used to get by with BAs now need at least a master’s degree.

2. **Do Your Personal Best**
   Grad school is a great place to test your mentality.

3. **Joy of Learning**
   Grad school can give more of what you love to do, and gives you the opportunity to become an expert in your field.

4. **Be Paid to Learn**
   As a grad student, you get paid to work as a teaching assistant or research assistant, which usually pays three times more than minimum wage and includes some benefits and vacation pay. What’s more, you get the inside track on how your professors evaluate students’ work.

5. **Rite of Passage**
   After four years as a lowly undergrad, you finally earn some respect, and you can call your professors by their first name. You’re part of the hood, literally.

6. **Place of Refuge**
   Grad school is a good place to park yourself while you figure out what you want to be when you grow up. It also gives you a respectable excuse not to work.

7. **Expand Your Mind**
   There’s no better place than grad school for a complete mental workout.

8. **Earn Prestige**
   A graduate degree will open doors to not only a myriad of professions, but also to the inner circle: the more letters trailing your name, the closer you get to the inner sanctum.

9. **Build Your Network**
   Grad school will give you the opportunity to meet many people with diverse knowledge and experiences, many of them famous. Not only do you get to rub shoulders with the best and brightest, but you also get to establish valuable contacts that will serve you well in your future career.

10. **Expand Your Horizon**
    Grad school gives you the opportunity to live and work with people all over the world.

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**SACJ Club Events**

**FALL SEMESTER**

**SEPTEMBER**
18<sup>th</sup>-SACJ Welcome back picnic
30<sup>th</sup>-Bake Sale

**OCTOBER**
2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>-Wisconsin Sociological Association (WSA) annual conference in Inver Grove Heights Community College
14<sup>th</sup>-GLBTQ Ally Training
20<sup>th</sup>-Guest Speaker Dennis Lazenberry, MN State Patrol

**NOVEMBER**
10<sup>th</sup>-Decorated and hung fall decorations at Lutheran Home
10<sup>th</sup>-Etiquette Dinner hosted by Career Services

**DECEMBER**
1<sup>st</sup>-Oak Park Heights Maximum Security Prison Tour
2<sup>nd</sup>-Bake Sale—all proceeds went to River Falls food shelf

**FUTURE EVENTS—SPRING SEMESTER**
—Spring Bowling and Pizza Party
—Major Fair-February 17<sup>th</sup>
—Etiquette Dinner hosted by Career Services-March 30th
—Midwest Sociological Society Annual Conference March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>
—2<sup>nd</sup> Annual End-of-the-year Banquet-April 24<sup>th</sup>
—Oak Park Heights Maximum Security Prison tour

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**2009-10 Executive Board**
Tricia Davis-Advisor
Katie Johnson-President
Amanda Mollner-Vice President
Sarah Rose Knight-Treasurer
Emily Johnson-Social Chair

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**Thank you to:**
• Amanda Mollner for organizing the mailing
Midwest Sociological Society Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Mike Freedman, Josh Lambert, Dan Scott (kneeling), Dr. Rich Wallace, Katie Johnson, Amanda Mollner, Jill Schmidt, and Dr. Tricia Davis

Alumni at the banquet: Tiffany (Kirwin) Vedamuthu-Fall 2007, Ruthie Meahyen-Fall 2005, Aimee (Stellmach) Rice-Spring 2003, and Cliff Jennings-Spring 2000. Cliff was also the guest speaker for the eve-

Sarah, Katie, and Amanda (Executive Board Members)

Bowling Party

Graduating seniors that received awards at the banquet-Camaya Wallace, Jacinda Campbell, Leigh-Anna Bliss, Josh Morgan, Kelly Quinn, and Josh Lambert

*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 MSS Conference in Chicago, IL March 31-April 3!*