



Sociology Newsletter

Fall 2011

Words From Our New Department Chair

Welcome to the Department of Sociology! This is my 6th year at the College and the responsibilities as chair have been a major learning curve for me so far this semester.

As two of our four faculty members are on leave this semester, we have been fortunate to cover our classes with four part-time faculty members—Ana Velitchkova, Chris Morrissey, Hank Borne, and Marty Zusman.

As the new department chair, I hope to continue the fine work that our previous chair, Susan Alexander, has initiated. I would like to acknowledge Kathy Hammond, our department assistant, who has been a vital help in providing me with suggestions consistently so that I appear to know what I am doing.



I look forward to having both Susan and Carrie Erlin joining Mary Ann Kanieski and me in working with our wonderful students again next semester.

With the absence of Susan Alexander, our previous designer of our newsletter, I want to acknowledge

Rachel Harrington, a Sociology minor, who has graciously designed this semester's newsletter.

As you browse through our newsletter and find story bits about our department, I hope you will stay in touch and also share pieces of your life experiences with us (even if they are not necessarily sociological)! Wishing all of you a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Best wishes,
Leslie Wang

Jessica McManus Warnell "Applies" Sociology



The Sociology Department was delighted to welcome Jessica McManus Warnell ('98) to speak with our students about her experiences in applied sociology. Jessica currently teaches at the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business. Her courses include Business Ethics, Sustainable Business, Giving Voice to Values, and of particular interest to our students, Managing and Millennials. Jessica emphasized the need for sociological skills in analyzing data in today's world of assessment and accountability. She encouraged students to pursue internships and, when talking to future employers, to emphasize skill in working with data. Jessica's visit was made possible by the Indiana

Belles Bridges program, a program sponsored by our Career Crossing Office to establish connections between alumnae and current students. If you would like to speak with current Saint Mary's students about your career experiences and time at Saint Mary's, please let us know. We'd love to have you come!

Congratulations to our very own Kathy Hammond for her 25th year of working at Saint Mary's College . She has been with the Departments of Sociology, Social Work, and Political Science for 6 years. We appreciate all you have done!



Meet The New Members To Our Sociology Community...



Dr. Marty Zusman began his teaching career 35 years ago at Indiana University Fort Wayne and continued until his retirement in 2009 as Emeritus Professor of Sociology. During that time, he has taught both undergraduate and graduate classes at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, and at Rush Medical College. He came back to Indiana to be Chair of the Department of Sociology at IU Northwest. He has taught over 20 different classes and served as thesis director for several graduate students.

Dr. Zusman's background in Mathematics, Psychology and Statistics prepared him for a long research career. During that time, he published over fifty refereed articles in more than fifteen different journals, including the *Journal of Social Issues*, *Teaching Sociology*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, and the *College Student Journal*. His publications deal primarily with college student dating, medical sociology and substance abuse. His methodological articles on obtaining complete, reliable and valid data have been referred to and published in numerous books and in other languages.

Of all the classes he has taught, Statistics and the Principles of Sociology remain his favorites. Throughout his career, he has found that teaching is his greatest love. Dr. Zusman has received a dozen teaching awards including the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2000 from Indiana University. In 2004 and 2006 he was awarded the highly competitive Center in Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award from the Board of Trustees of Indiana University, Bloomington. At IU Northwest, Dr. Zusman won the Founder's Day Teaching Award for 2005-2006. In 2006, an anonymous committee in Bloomington selected Dr. Zusman to receive the prestigious Sylvia E. Bowman Teaching Excellence

Award given to a single outstanding educator for the entire Indiana University system. The award is given only in those years when it is deemed appropriate.

Dr. Zusman came to SMC to teach this year and has found it an outstanding environment to continue his first love, teaching. He has enjoyed returning to teach Social Problems and Medical Sociology, courses he has not had a chance to teach in over a decade. He finds the students at SMC to be active learners and has enjoyed his experience.



I'm a doctoral candidate in sociology and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame. I'm writing my dissertation on *publics*, autonomous spaces—including but not limited to various media and the people involved with them—Eastern Europeans created in ingenious ways despite government efforts to stifle free public communication during state-socialism.

I became a sociologist because I wanted to know the best way to bring about social change and social justice. This question has motivated me to look at a number of related issues, including social conflict and social peace, movements and violence, gender, culture and cognition, politics and globalization, democracy and political participation, among others.

I love teaching because it allows me to share with my students the exciting and disturbing things I've learned about through my own studies. Social change and social justice require the effort and commitment of many, so I hope I'm spreading some useful knowledge leading in that direction.

-Ana Velitchkova



I am a cultural sociologist interested in the politics of war, peace, and religion and the importance of significant social encounters contributing to social commitments and understandings. These interests inform both my teaching and scholarship.

I am nearly done with my dissertation *War, Peace, and Religious Advocacy: the Debate Over the Iraq War*, which is funded in part by a National Science Foundation Grant. The work analyzes religious actors debating the decision to go to war in Iraq in 2003, as well as the religious cultural dimensions of the larger public discussion. I argue that one cannot adequately explain the country's entry into the war without understanding the role of public Christianity in the argument for it.

As a teacher I aim to create synthesis between teaching and learning in the work of peace, justice, and empowerment. I help students realize the relevance of sociological ideas to their lives and consider the ways that their better understanding of culture and the social world can help them improve both their own lives and the world at large. I am very happy to be at Saint Mary's this semester!

-Chris Morrissey

I have been married for 36 years and my wife and I have two adult children and three grandchildren. We have lived in Michiana since 1976. I am originally from Long Island, New York, and I went to a prep school in Delaware for high school. I graduated with a B.A. from the College of Wooster in Ohio and did my graduate work at Notre Dame. I began teaching as an adjunct lecturer here at Saint Mary's in 1989 and have truly appreciated the opportunity to interact with students and share our "sociological imaginations."

Why did I become interested in sociology? Well, I spent ages 11-15 living in a residential institution run by the Jewish Child Care Association and the State of New York. I was sent there by my mother because of adjustment and truancy problems. Being raised in such a setting at such a formative period in my life caused me to "look beneath the surface of our taken-for-granted world" and to address some vital questions about what social forces were involved in helping create the person. The area of study in sociology that most attracts me is marriages and families, particularly how they develop and change over time and how people come to understand their own and other family members' experiences within these social institutions.

-Hank Borne

**Please Facebook or email us your stories! Stories can be Sociology related or not!
We want to hear about how our family is doing post-SMC!**

Please find and join our Facebook page at: [SMC Sociology](#)
or email Leslie Wang at: lwang@saintmarys.edu



Sociology Club News

This year, the Sociology Club would like to continue hosting the events that have been customarily held in the past. These events include selling sweatpants to raise money for the Community Fund which was founded by a former Saint Mary's College student to help Saint Mary's College employees in times of financial need as well as Sociology Week which takes place in the spring. These events are typically held every year and this year's club members hope to not only continue the traditions, but expand upon them and make them even better!

One thing that this year's Sociology Club is hoping to incorporate is fundraising in the form of "Give Back"



Nights at local restaurants. We would like to use these funds to expand on our events and send some of our members to the annual North Central Sociological Association (NCSA) Conference in the spring. This Conference is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience professionalization in the field of sociology.

We are hopeful that through our campus programming, events, and fundraising opportunities, we will be able to spread awareness of sociology in general as well as provide opportunities to discuss important issues within the field and possible career paths to the campus and community.

Sincerely, your Sociology Club!

Saint Mary's College
Sociology Department
Room 262, Spes Unica Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5001

