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○ ISSUE 1 | ○ VOLUME 1 | ○ 2007

Newsletter



TTU Department of Sociology and Political Science

Contest: Name Our Newsletter!

Sociology and Political Science is pleased to present to you the first issue of our departmental newsletter. To make this a success, we need your input, starting with ideas for a name! The winner will have his or her picture displayed in our next edition. Email your suggestions to PCampion@tntech.edu or LNorris@tntech.edu.

Inaugural Homecoming reunion took place on November 11

We held a first-ever departmental reunion for our alumni during Homecoming, November 11, 2006. Despite the stormy weather, several graduates representing classes from decades past attended the event with their families and enjoyed a light brunch while catching up.

Many of the attendees also secretly knew that one of our department's most treasured faculty members would be recognized for his many years of dedication. It was announced that Dr. Wesley Henry, who recently retired, would have the first new classroom technology workstation named in his honor. The Homecoming reunion kicked off this fundraiser to make this a reality. Many in attendance were happy to

contribute, recognizing Dr. Henry's years of service, as well as his struggles with our ornery equipment! Thanks to alumni and their generosity, the department has been able to equip not one but two classrooms with permanent, more "user-friendly" technology stations.

Attendees also learned about opportunities to get involved with the department through job shadowing or mentoring, or by joining our Departmental Alumni Advisory Board.

Stay tuned for details about next year's Homecoming reunion, or visit the department's website (<http://www.tntech.edu/sociology/>). See you on October 6, 2007!



Dr. Wesley Henry received a certificate of recognition for his outstanding service to the department.

First lunch meetings of the Alumni Advisory Board

On March 23 and April 27, a group of our alumni met with us and created the Sociology and Political Science Alumni Advisory Board. The conversation was lively, as friends reconnected with each other and with faculty members. We exchanged many ideas regarding how the board could be involved with the department and our majors by offering possibilities for internships and job shadowing, as well as mentoring our students. Our focus is to make sure that students are aware of the resources that are available to them, and that they are ready to be successful not just at Tech, but throughout their life. We also started working on bylaws. The date of the next meeting is soon to be announced. For more information, please contact Dr. Lachelle Norris (LNorris@tntech.edu, or 931-372-6220).

Our Faculty and Staff

Dr. James Raymondo: Our new Chairperson, starting next year.

Dr. Patricia Champion. Assistant Professor of Sociology. LSU graduate, in her second year at TTU, she teaches Field Research Methods, Rural Sociology, and Gender and Society, and conducts research on rural development.

Dr. Michael Gunter. Professor of Political Science. Internationally renowned specialist of Kurdish politics.

Dr. Ada Haynes. Professor of Sociology. Research interests include Appalachia, critical thinking, cultural diversity, and pedagogy. Look for two forthcoming publications.

Dr. Hank Mannle. Criminal Justice Program Director, teaches Criminology, Organized Crime, Procedural Law and Corrections. Researching the 4th Amendment and organized corporate crime. Recently published on Medicare fraud.

Dr. Lori Maxwell. Associate Professor of Political Science. With her students, she is currently involved in a project that will bring training in debate to local high school students.

Dr. Harsha Mookherjee. Professor of Sociology. Teaches a variety of courses in Sociology, Demography, and Anthropology. He spent a sabbatical in India last year, to collect data for his research

Dr. Jerry Neapolitan. Professor of Sociology. Heavily involved in online teaching, his most recent research resulted in seven entries in *Great Lives from History: Notorious Lives*, to be published later this year.

Dr. Lachelle Norris. Associate Professor of Sociology. Teaching in the areas of Research Methods, Environmental Sociology, and Death and Dying. Faculty advisor for the Nontraditional Student Organization.

Dr. Gretta Stanger. Chairperson. With this department for the longest, she is finishing seven years as department chair and returning to teaching along with her responsibilities at the TTU Women's Center.

Dr. Sharon Whitney. Associate Professor of Political Science. Teaches courses in Public Administration and Constitutional Law. In charge of the Pre-Law program and Mock Trial. Six of her students recently participated in a regional Mock Trial competition in Louisville, Ky.

Instructors/Adjuncts: Randall Adams, Shelley Brown, Clarke Carlton, Wesley Henry, Richard Holt, John Hudson, Melody Miller, David Patterson, Steven Williams.

Secretaries: Trish Hall. Carol Gibbons is retiring after 25 years of service.

Our website: <http://www.tntech.edu/sociology/>

JOB SHADOWING: How you can get involved



The Department of Sociology and Political Science is pleased to announce a new opportunity for its current majors to explore careers in their field of interest. Under the supervision of a faculty member, students can choose to follow someone on the job for 30 hours over the course of a semester, to find out more about this job.

Where you come in: We are looking for alumni to volunteer as "shadowees". The only requirements are to spend 30 hours with a student, and hold a job that would recruit majors from the programs in our department.

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