

# SOC NEWZ

on the web: <http://www.uaf.edu/sociology/socnewz.html>

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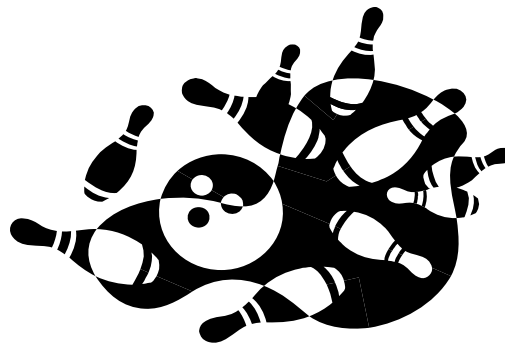
## AKD Update

Alpha Kappa Delta was exceptionally busy this year, thanks to the enthusiasm of several key student leaders. In January, we inducted twelve new members. Dr. David Valentine gave a rousing keynote address that urged the audience to become politically involved at the local, grassroots level.

The highlight of the year's events was Bowling for Equality! This event was the kick-off for UAF's SpringFest, and attracted

one of the most diverse and large crowds of any event at this year's SpringFest. Besides free bowling,

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *14 majors graduate this year, p. 4*
- *Dr. Mix spotted in Hollywood, below*
- *Scholarship named for Dr. Berman, p. 2*
- *Note to alums p. 4*

## Hurray for Hollywood!

Two students and a faculty member traveled to Tinseltown in April to attend the Pacific Sociological Association's annual meetings. Terin Walton-Rantz, Cassie Johnson, and Dr. Sine Anahita presented papers based on their research. Terin presented two papers, one on a project she did with current AKD president Max Baker that described an experiential gender transgression project the two conducted in spring 2005 as part of an assignment in Dr. Tammy Mix's class. Cassie Johnson presented independent research she has done on deviance among comic book characters. Cassie and Terin were both highlighted in the *Fairbanks News-Miner* for this achievement. Dr. Anahita presented a paper on the commodification of the

aurora borealis. In addition to presenting their own papers, the three UAF attendees also went to multiple paper sessions and networked with

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Captured in Hollywood at PSA :Dr. Mix, Terin Walton-Rantz, Cassie Johnson, & Dr. Anahita

## Faculty News

Faculty in the Department of Sociology were quite busy this past year! Dr. Jordan Titus published a controversial editorial, "Born Black, Born Criminal," in the *Fairbanks News-Miner*. Based on her research on the sociology of law and discourse, this editorial provoked much discussion in the university, as well as in the community. She even got an email from someone in the Lower-48 who had read her editorial. Dr. Sine Anahita and Dr. Tamara Mix published an article in *Gender & Society*, hailed as the most important journal in the sociology of gender. Their article, entitled "Retrofitting Frontier Masculinity For Alaska's War Against Wolves," analyzes how public masculinities shape Alaska's state policies on wolf control.

Dr. Tammy Mix was, unfortunately, lured away to Oklahoma State University in 2005. She was much missed this past year. She was spotted in California at the recent PSA meetings; see this newsletter for details and a pix of Dr. Mix.

## Dr. Berman Retires After 25 Years

After 25 years, our beloved Dr. Gerry Berman retired in January, 2006. Always an indefatigable teacher, he promptly returned from retirement to teach SOC 100X, said to be his favorite class. Rumors are that he will return to Fairbanks to teach SOC 100X in Summer, 2007.



*Dr. Gerry Berman grins for the camera.*

Originally from Israel, Dr. Berman received his MSW and his PhD from Case Western Reserve University. His research interests focus on the provision of social services to indigenous peoples, as well as work satisfac-

The Department is happy to welcome Ms. Andrea Greenberg as Term Assistant Professor of Sociology beginning Fall, 2006. Ms. Greenberg will teach several classes in Sociology here at UAF, and also at TVCC and through distance education. If you don't know Ms. Greenberg, be sure to stop in to say hello to her.

As the article below elaborates, Dr. Gerry Berman retired from UAF this year. He will be sorely missed by students and colleagues alike. Congratulations to Dr. Berman (and a plea to come back to visit often!)

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we will be seeking a full time, tenure-track faculty member this year. The search will open in September, and we hope to have someone hired and ready to go in Fall 2007.



Ms. Andrea Greenberg will teach Social Problems, Research Methods, and other courses in Sociology.

tion and immigration issues. He also taught in Social Work, and received the Social Worker of the Year Award in 2005.

In honor of his retirement, Dr. Berman's colleagues initiated the Gerald S. Berman Sociology Excellence Award. Terin Walton-Rantz was awarded the scholarship in spring, 2006.

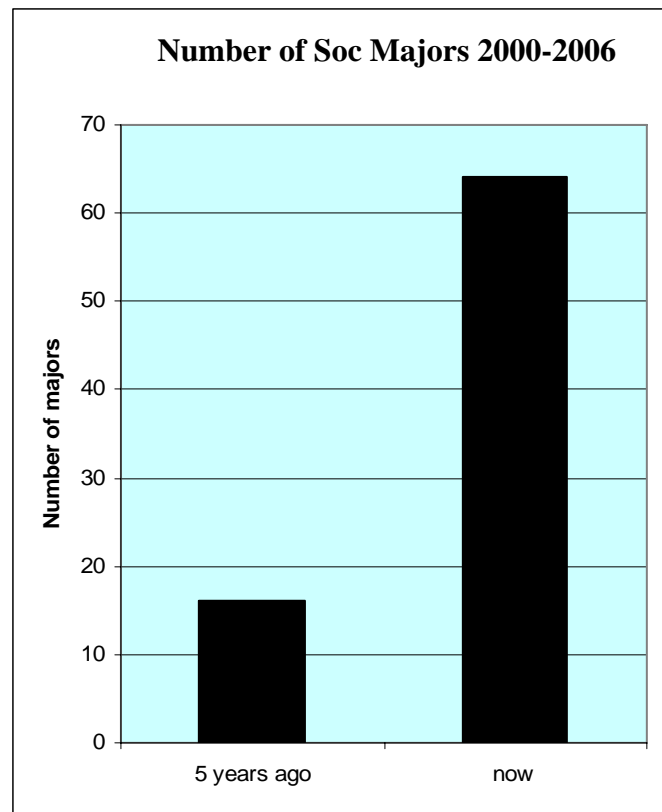
Dr. Berman says he plans to enjoy his retirement traveling and working on his acting skills. During his last few years at UAF, he appeared in several local theatre productions, and became quite the local celebrity. He played memorable characters, and was often seen practicing his lines while pacing up and down the aisles of empty classrooms. He would also lure unsuspecting colleagues into helping him practice his lines.

As of this writing, he plans to return to Israel after visiting his son in Michigan.

## Number of Majors Grows to Record Size

In Spring, 2006, the Department of Sociology counted 63 majors! This is the largest number of sociology majors ever to be at UAF. Just a handful of years ago, in 2000, there were sixteen majors. Think of it! We have four times the number of sociology majors now than there were in 2000! And this does not even start to count the number of students who declare Sociology as a minor. Unfortunately, the university does not count student minors. But we know from our interactions with students that we have many sociology minors.

There are several reasons why our department is growing so rapidly. Dr. Jordan Titus took over as chair, bringing fresh energy and a vision for vibrant and sustained growth for the department. We have new faculty members who also have new energy and ideas. The discipline of sociology itself is growing, as the number of majors has been increasing across the nation. Students increasingly recognize the value of the discipline of sociology in helping them understand events around them, as well as helping them gain valuable



*Since 2000, the number of undergraduates majoring in sociology quadrupled. As of spring 2006, we have 63 majors, 14 of whom plan to graduate in 2006.*

## Making Us Proud

Caroline Webster was selected as the Sociology Outstanding Student of the Year for 2006. In late April, Caroline received a certificate during a ceremonial breakfast attended by university notables, including faculty from the Department of Sociology. Caroline lives with her children in North Pole. Her husband is currently deployed to Iraq, but plans to return in December, 2006. Caroline expects to graduate from UAF in May, 2007.

Terin Walton-Rantz received the first annual Gerald S. Berman Excellence in Sociology Award. Named in honor of retiring faculty member Dr. Gerry Berman, the scholarship carries a cash award. Terin graduated in May, 2006. While she was a major, she was very active in AKD and can take credit for much of the positive publicity AKD generated during the last two years.

Congratulations to Terin and Caroline!



*Caroline Webster, selected by faculty as the Outstanding Sociology Student of the Year, 2006*



## Department of Sociology

*Understanding social inequalities, imagining social justice.*

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*Soc Newz* is published annually by the UAF Department of Sociology, and represents a collaborative effort among members of AKD, other sociology students, faculty, and staff.

### Attention Alums!

Send us your news! Tell us about your job, your family, your hobbies, your new life now that you have graduated from UAF. We'd love to hear from you, and we'll print tidbits in upcoming issues. You may email your announcements to [fysoc@uaf.edu](mailto:fysoc@uaf.edu). Hope to hear from you!

## Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2006

We are proud to announce the following will graduate with a BS or BA in Sociology in 2006. Congratulations, graduates!

- Jennifer Bolsinger
- George Eleshansky
- Jody Engen
- Brandi Grohman
- Jessica Hill
- Alexis Maas
- Frances Mercado
- Holly Pearson
- Janelle Perry
- Martin Roach
- Jocquis Sconiers
- Amanda Sipes
- Terin Walton-Rantz
- Crystal Wheelock



### AKD success

*Continued from page 1*

participants were able to chat with AKD members about the Department of Sociology and eat a hearty potluck dinner. Terin worked especially hard to help AKD obtain multiple funding sources for their event. They even held a delicious bake sale.

Two students—Terin Walton-Rantz (Public Relations Coordinator) and Cassie Johnson (President Elect 2006-07) were awarded AKD funds and other grants to attend the Pacific Sociological Association. They each presented research papers and represented our Department at the conference in Hollywood, CA.

Congratulations to AKD for

### PSA in Hollywood

*Continued from page 1*

sociology students and faculty from all over the Pacific area.

A highlight of the PSA meetings for all three attendees was the surprise appearance of Department of Sociology alums Laura Seeger (Class of 2005) and Amanda Coakley (Class of 2005) who drove from San Andreas for the conference. Another Most Excellent Sighting was Dr. Tammy Mix, formerly with the UAF Department of Sociology, who moved to Okalahoma in 2005. The group enjoyed several dinners with each other, and all agreed that they would like to return to the PSA meetings in the future. Next year the PSA will be