

# Academe

Celebrating Academic Leadership and Christian Scholarship



## SERVING WITH EMPATHY

### SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

#### FEATURES

Sociology is the study of patterns of human interaction. At Huntington University, students learn to integrate sociological theories and Christian principles to draw conclusions about society. Sociology majors at Huntington University complete either an independent study or an internship. These studies provide students the opportunity to look into specific areas of interest outside the regular classroom and explore career options. Hospitals, non-profit social service organizations and public welfare offices provide opportunities for a variety of internship experiences.

Several options are available for sociology graduates after receiving a bachelor's degree. Graduates may become social service workers, probation officers, juvenile center leaders, camp counselors, recreation leaders, church youth workers, high school teachers and suicide hotline workers. If one wishes to obtain a graduate degree, other career options include college professor, marriage counselor, urban planner, director of social welfare agencies, research worker or Christian counselor.

For Rebecca Laumbattus, a typical work day might include a trip to the Medicaid office, the grocery store and a client's home. Financial counseling and job search assistance also appear on her regular to-do list.

A case manager for Human Support Services, in Waterloo, Ill., Rebecca carries a caseload of 40 clients, each with a unique set of needs and issues. She works with people who have mental illnesses, developmental disabilities and substance abuse issues in addition to those who deal with homelessness and poverty. Daily, she faces challenges with bureaucracy and her clients' expectations.

"You find that everybody expects things to be done quickly as society revolves around instant gratification," she says. "However, social workers know that the world moves at a slower progression than we would like."

The bachelor's degree in sociology that Rebecca earned from Huntington University in 2005 provided her with tools to cope with these complex issues.

"Huntington gave me heart knowledge with brain knowledge," she says. "I learned how to ethically use the Christian principles I adhere to in the rules-oriented, democratically based and all-inclusive world of social services."

Along with her classes at Huntington, two internships helped set the foundation for a lifetime of service to those in need. In January 2003, she served in the Olive Branch Mission, an inner city shelter/chapel for homeless individuals in Chicago. As she cultivated relationships at the mission, Rebecca developed a deeper empathy for those struggling with poverty.

"My time there prompted me to identify the effects of materialism in my life. I truly was able to see individuals in love with God who had not been blessed monetarily," she says.

During the spring semester of 2005, Rebecca worked in the Indiana State House of Representatives for three congressmen in Indianapolis, Ind. She learned how an idea becomes a policy and encountered the action on the legislative floor.



"Huntington gave me heart knowledge with brain knowledge."

"This experience allowed me the opportunity to see how the laws come about that govern the world of social work," she says.

Rebecca also learned from the example of her professors. Dr. Mary Ruthi, professor of sociology, challenged her to apply Christian ethical principles to social problems.

"It was interesting to see how Dr. Ruthi was committed to sociology and its purpose within the church as she has served on many of her own church committees and boards," Rebecca observed. "She truly demonstrated the connections of faith and learning."

Rebecca benefited from relationships with her professors in and outside of the classroom. She views this as a hallmark of a Huntington University education.

# FACULTY & STAFF NEWS & NOTES



• **Dr. Karen Jones**, associate professor of ministry and missions, presented her sabbatical research, “Early Implications from a Questionnaire Administered to Youth Representing

Various Ethnicities and Cultures,” in Denver, Col., at the annual conference of the North American Professors of Christian Education. The research was partially funded by a grant from Group Publishing. This was Jones’ fourth and final year to serve on the executive board of NAPCE. She also facilitated a roundtable networking group of professors of youth ministry while at the conference.

• **Mrs. Susie Burson**, instructor in education, served as an expert consultant for an article on kindergarten issues which was published on Scholastic.com, the online resource branch of Scholastic. Burson was quoted extensively, and Huntington University was mentioned as well. She was quoted in the same paragraph as

Deborah Stipek, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education at Stanford University.

• **Retired Col. Perry Collins**, director of the Huntington University EXCEL program, retained his seat on the Roanoke (Ind.) Town Council in November’s election. Collins was appointed to the town council in October 2005 and currently serves as president.

• The Huntington University Enterprise Resource Center received an Award of Excellence in the best newsletter category at the Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association conference on Nov. 7. **Mrs. Kay Schwob**, director of the ERC, and **Miss Lora Bulla**, assistant director of the ERC, accepted the honor. The contest was established by the MCEIA Board of Governors to recognize outstanding effort in promoting cooperative education and internship programs. Entries were evaluated on readability, appearance and content.

• **Prof. Mike Burnett**, assistant professor of theatre, recently finished designing the scenery for the New American Theater ([www.newamericantheater.com](http://www.newamericantheater.com)) production of Oliver.

NAT is a professional equity theatre in Rockford, Ill. The show received favorable reviews, and the design was even mentioned. “Mike Burnett’s scenic design – employing four stage wagons that are rotated into various combinations to change settings – is very effective and gives director Christy Montour-Larson a wonderfully flexible platform.” The show runs through Dec. 31, 2006.

• Huntington University’s RichLyn Library hosted **Prof. Bryan Ballinger**, assistant professor of digital media arts, for the fall “Focus on Excellence” colloquium on Nov. 13. A nationally recognized illustrator, Ballinger presented “An Artistic Journey: From Child to Adult, and Back Again.” A question-and-answer session followed his lecture.

• **Dr. Tom Bergler**, assistant professor of ministry and missions, and **Dr. Dave Rahn**, professor of youth ministries, participated in a Consultation on the Christian Formation of Youth sponsored by the Lilly Endowment on Nov. 7-8. The purpose of the consultation was to explore the state of research on youth ministry and to suggest future directions for research.

## Meet Matthew Ruiz Instructor in Exercise Science



Mr. Matthew Ruiz began at Huntington University as instructor in exercise science in the fall of 2006.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training and exercise science from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., and his Master of Science degree in exercise science and sport studies from Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. He also is a candidate for a Ph.D. in kinesiology from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minn.

Prior to coming to Huntington, Ruiz taught at Springfield College and the University of Minnesota.

## HUNTINGTON TO ENHANCE MAJOR *Exercise science to become applied exercise science*

Huntington University students previously had to choose between two concentrations in the exercise science program, but changes in the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation Management will give them the best of both worlds.

The current exercise science major offers concentrations in pre-professional fitness as well as personal and community fitness. This major will be replaced by applied exercise science in the fall of 2007, and both concentrations will be streamlined into the program.

“At the very heart of what the students are learning is how to apply exercise science to students’ areas of interest, whether that be physical therapy, graduate school in exercise science, or personal training, so the proposed name is actually a more precise descriptor of what the students will study,” said Matthew Ruiz, instructor in exercise science.

In addition, an exercise science minor will be added. The minor would be available for students who are interested in working in a fitness setting such as a YMCA. This minor would be ideal, for example, for a recreation management major who also wants to become a personal trainer at a health club.

“These changes will achieve our intention to provide a quality Christ-centered education that will prepare our students for professional/graduate schools or career-related interests,” Ruiz said.

The 128-credit applied exercise science major will include 59 credits in the applied science curriculum, 53 credits in the core curriculum, six credits from January Terms and 10 elective credits. To further strengthen the core, students will take anatomy and physiology II, one business course (from a choice of three), one recreation management course (from a choice of three) and one “other sciences” course (from a choice of four).



# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

**Basketball:** Huntington University earned 11 first-place votes to top Oregon Tech's three and Mid-America Nazarene's two to claim the No. 1 spot in the NAIA Division-II Men's Basketball Rating on Dec. 6. The Foresters' ranking marks the program's first appearance at the pinnacle after rising as high as number two on two previous occasions, the last being this season's preseason poll. Huntington is 11-1 on the season. Freshman forward Jenna Donaldson scored 24 points on 9-12 shooting to lead the Foresters to a 79-64 win over Indiana University South Bend on Dec. 9. The women's basketball team is 6-4 on the season.



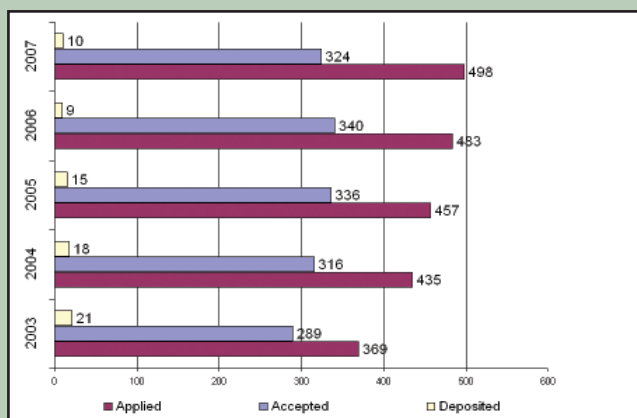
Men's basketball senior Alex Kock earned Athlete of the Week honors for two consecutive weeks in December for his outstanding efforts during competitions.

**Volleyball:** On Nov. 11, The Mid-Central College Conference announced its volleyball post-season awards with four Huntington University Foresters included on the list of honorees. Forester junior Stephanie Stearns appeared on the First Team and repeated as the Libero of the Year. Senior outside hitter Amy Wilson and freshman setter Alyssa Schroeder both earned Second Team honors, and senior outside hitter Renee Biberstine was an honorable mention selection.

**Cross Country:** Sophomore harrier Nick Johnson competed in the NAIA Cross Country National Championships held in Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 18. Johnson, an exercise science major from Huntington, Ind., finished 98th of 255 runners with a time of 26:28.25. Johnson earned an individual berth in the championship as a result of his 11th place finish in the regional event with a time of 25:41.

For news and up-to-date results of Forester Athletics, visit [www.huntington.edu/athletics](http://www.huntington.edu/athletics).

## ADMISSIONS UPDATE



The chart above summarizes the number of prospective students who have applied and been accepted to Huntington University for the fall 2007 semester. The bars represent year-to-date comparisons over the past five years.

## ADVANCEMENT NEWS

Through November, Huntington University has raised \$201,422 toward the University Fund for 2006-2007. This is dead even with last year's numbers. Areas of note include HU Foundation unrestricted giving (which is 108 percent ahead of last year) and parent unrestricted giving (which is 107 percent ahead of last year). Overall fundraising, through November, is up by 31 percent, thanks in large part to a \$215,000 scholarship gift received in November.

## AROUND CAMPUS...

- On Oct. 27 and 28, students from Huntington University presented a short animated film at Wheaton College's "LEAST" festival. "LEAST" features student artists responding to poverty and AIDS through theater, photography, dance, film, visual arts, music and writing. **Nuria Bagley**, a postgraduate student pursuing a second bachelor's degree; junior **Tyler Welker** of Wooster, Ohio, and sophomore **Brian Thompson** of Maplewood, Minn., created "Boxed" in their Principles of Digital Animation II class, taught by **Steve Leeper**, instructor in digital media arts. "Boxed" follows a girl coming home from school. She watches two of her friends get off at their homes, which are both depicted as upper-middle class. As the bus stops the third time and she gets off, the audience assumes that she has arrived at a house similar to the other children's homes. Instead, when the bus pulls away, it is revealed that the girl lives in a much poorer community of cardboard boxes.

- Huntington University received special recognition for outstanding support and partnership from Pathfinder Services, Inc. **Dr. G. Blair Dowden**, president, was presented with a plaque at the organization's annual community recognition dinner on Nov. 4. Pathfinder Services celebrated its 40th anniversary at the event, which featured keynote speaker Kim Peak, the inspiration behind the 1988 movie "Rain Man."

- On Oct. 2, Huntington University senior **Josh Clark** released his first book titled "Take My Intentions: Poems of a Man in Progress" from PublishAmerica. The 120-page paperback is an accumulation of most of the poems Clark, an English major from Archbold, Ohio, has written over the last year and a half. Clark's book may be purchased at bookstores around the country and on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com for \$16.95.

- Huntington University recognized the 19th annual World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. Along with several Christian colleges and universities nationwide, Huntington students hosted activities throughout the day to raise awareness among students, faculty and staff. The event was planned by the student group, Acting on AIDS, an initiative of World Vision. Activities included a prayer meeting on the campus mall, information opportunities at meal times at the Habecker Dining Commons and the Huntington Union Building, and a project called "Life at Stake." Stakes holding cards of information regarding a child affected by AIDS were put up across campus. The goal of the project was for students to take a card and commit to pray for the individual child throughout the day and beyond.

- Fifteen Huntington University students immersed themselves in urban culture through

the 10th annual Urban Plunge on Nov. 3-5, sponsored by the Joe Mertz Center for Volunteer Service. The Urban Plunge provides students an opportunity to work in a different environment than many of them have ever fully experienced. Students met with three organizations and not only learned about but actively participated in urban ministries. They worked at the Jonquil Hotel, a transition home for families where they assisted with a Saturday morning children's program and helped to paint and clean the facility. In addition, the students met with Gordon McLean and the Metro Area Youth for Christ. There, they met four ex-gang members, heard their testimonies and went with them on a tour of the city. The students also spent an evening with Emmaus Ministries, learning more about the ministry's outreach to male prostitutes.



Elissa Bridges, Sean Giggy, Kristi Thompson and Brinnan Imel enjoy artwork created by children from the Jonquil Hotel.

# CAMPUS CALENDAR

# December/January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			13 Semester Exams/9 am	14 Semester Exams/9 am M Basketball/7 pm (H) Residence Halls Close	15 Faculty/Staff Open House at the Dowdens'/8-11 am	16 M Basketball/3 pm (A) W Basketball/1 pm (H)
17	18	19 M Basketball/ 7:30 pm (A)	20	21 M Basketball/7 pm (H)	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 W Basketball/1 pm (A)	28 M Basketball/7 pm (H)	29	30 M Basketball/3 pm (H)
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 Foundation Breakfast/ 7:45 am W Basketball/ 5 pm (A)	<i>For a detailed calendar of campus events, visit <a href="http://www.huntington.edu/calendar">www.huntington.edu/calendar</a>.</i>		

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

I was recently invited by a resident assistant to watch and discuss the movie “The Village” with a group of men from his floor. The movie tells the story of a community of people adversely affected by pain and suffering in their lives and as a result, they chose to withdraw from the world to live on a nature preserve in a community totally isolated from society. The community was modeled after an 18th century village with no modern conveniences. To keep the people isolated, the elders fabricated a story of evil that existed beyond the woods. They even created beings that were seen at times and who had to be appeased. As long as the people respected the boundaries set up around the community, the evil presence would not bother them and would only occasionally show itself to keep the inhabitants in line. There was no other need for legal authorities, and the people were more than willing to self-govern until jealousy led to a violent act, and they had to seek assistance from outside the community.

The conversation revolved around the “bubble effect” and how similar the village in the movie was to Huntington University. That is, the University by its mission is an intentional community of scholars

and learners who seek to be Christian in word and deed. Many students refer to Huntington University as not being the real world, but I would contend that unlike “The Village,” we engage the issues and try to grapple with important topics within the context of a Christian community. The Philosophy of Education states that, “The University recognizes that, as a Christian institution, it must make itself not a refuge from the contemporary world but an encounter with the world and creative response to it. Students are challenged to think through the relationship between their Christian faith and their academic pursuits. These challenges should include unsolved problems and open questions, as well as issues for which satisfactory solutions have already been worked out.”

Rather than using fear tactics to get students to embrace a concept, we encourage students to probe the topic from different perspectives. Sometimes, we find unusual correlations, but rather than shying away from these understandings, we continue to seek a resolution of conflicting ideas. And there are times when we end up with more questions than answers. But learning that ambiguity can also lead us to understanding is important.



Dr. Norris Friesen  
Vice President and Dean of Huntington University

The movie “The Village” really did not provide a good response to the world’s problems. Jesus said that, “I have not come to condemn the world, but that the world through me might be saved” (John 3:17). As Christian scholars, we have a responsibility to challenge the world’s assumptions and to provide them with a radical alternative. In reality, isn’t that what the story of Christmas is all about? I hope you have a blessed Christmas filled with grace and peace.