



Greetings fellow alum!

Hello and special congratulations to our newest alumni, the class of 2007! Well done! And welcome to the outstanding group of alumnae you are joining.

I'm honored to be president of the sociology alumni advisory committee. Our alums – whether they completed grad or undergrad degrees, or came from the criminal justice, human services, or sociology sub-specialties – are using their degrees in impressive ways. We work in business, nonprofit organizations, and government, in the United States and abroad; we earn good livings and work for the common good in a myriad of ways through our professional contributions.

Our young organization aims to retain the sense of community we experienced as students, sustaining and extending the mutual support alums can offer students, students can offer alums, and faculty and former and current students can offer each other. Whether it's networking, job help, being on top of key issues we learned about as students, fundraising to help current and future students, this organization is YOURS and we want your voice and involvement.

We already have a vibrant group of alum active in D.C. - we had a super First Annual Wine and Cheese Social and Public Lecture on May 9 – and are hearing from other alum itching to connect and contribute around the country. And our former professors are thrilled to hear about what we do, who we are, and what we think.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please e-mail me at [acline@comcast.net](mailto:acline@comcast.net) or [soc-alum@gwu.edu](mailto:soc-alum@gwu.edu).

Best regards,  
Amanda Cline BA (CJ) 2005,  
President, Alumni Advisory Committee

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The following exciting alum events will be taking place in the next few months:

★ **Alumni Reunion Weekend Lecture (Sept 29)**  
Award-winning Sociology Associate Professor Charis Kubrin and alum Jessica Pollak (MA 06; Research Associate, Eisenhower Foundation) will give a lecture titled *Crime in the News: How Crimes, Offenders and Victims are Portrayed in the Media*.  
4 – 5 pm, Marvin Center Room 309

★ **Meet the CCAS Dean, Peg Barratt (Sept 29)**  
We invite alum to attend the Dean's address to be held from 1.30-2.30 pm.

★ **Brunch with President Knapp (Sept 29)**  
The Sociology department will be hosting a table at the brunch to welcome GW's new president. 11.00am – 12.30pm, Marvin Center. Tickets \$20 – reserve by emailing [Michelle.Hughes@prudential.com](mailto:Michelle.Hughes@prudential.com).

★ **Prof Greg Squires Lecture Series (Sept /Oct)**  
The GW Office of Alumni Relations & Alumni Association will hold three lunch and lecture events featuring Prof Greg Squires: two will be held in Texas in September (Dallas and Houston) and one will be held in South Florida in October.

For questions, comments & suggestions contact us at:

[soc-alum@gwu.edu](mailto:soc-alum@gwu.edu)

Amanda Cline ([acline@comcast.net](mailto:acline@comcast.net))  
Fran Buntman at (202) 994-7465.

The next advisory committee meeting will be on  
September 27, 2007, Phillips 409.

All alumni are welcome – we would appreciate your input! Please RSVP for catering purposes.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIOLOGY CHAIR:

Fellow members of the Sociology Community:

As Chair of the Sociology Department, I am delighted to see the foundations of the Alumni organization being cemented. The Sociology Department - with five degrees in three fields, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Human Services – has top-notch faculty, students, and alum. We cannot lose this talent and the human and professional relationships that go into classes and degrees because students graduate. This alumni organization will allow us all to retain a sense of community, support, and continuity, to build and shape an ever stronger and more vibrant department with students and alumni who just get better and better, more and more impressive and able.

Congratulations on your successes, and continue to keep in touch with us in the future!

Sincerely,

Steven Tuch, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Sociology

## RECENT EVENT REPORTBACK

During May, the Sociology Alum Association hosted its Inaugural Cheese and Wine Lecture. Jon Anderson, a GW alum and public defender, discussed poverty, law and crime in DC. The event was well attended and gave alum a first taste of events to come.



Amanda Cline (President), speaker Jon Anderson, Assoc Prof. Fran Buntman



Audience members enjoy the evening's events

## PROFILING TWO STAR ALUM:

Michelle Hughes was an amazing GW Sociology student (she also had a double major in Econ with a Women's Studies minor) when she graduated Magna Cum Laude in the late 1990s, and has since become a stellar achiever with the Prudential Corporation, which she joined in 1999. She's held numerous positions within Prudential - Financial Services Associate, Fee-based Financial Planner, Bethesda Manager of Financial Services, and more – as well as won numerous company awards including the Life Founder's Bronze Award and the Prudential President's Citation. Michelle is a past board member for the Suburban Maryland Association for Insurance and Financial Advisors and is the current President-Elect for the American Business Women's Association, Capital Express Network. Michelle lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband, Richard, and is an active member of our Soc alum advisory committee. Thank you Michelle, and congratulations!

Judah Ferst BA (HS) 2005 works as the Senior Jewish Campus Corps Fellow for Hillel in Philadelphia. But his undergraduate contribution lives on too, and grows – while cutting! Judah started Buzzing for Change(TM) (B4C), which gets participants to shave or cut their hair to donate to children with disease related hair loss. Over the past four years B4C @ GWU has shaved 616 heads, cut 214 locks, and raised over \$70,000. Recently Judah created the non-profit Buzzing for Change Foundation to take Buzzing for Change to other campuses. The Foundation's board includes seven fellow GW Soc alumni, including Julie Serfass (see inside) and Chris Percopo (BA 05, Human Services). Their website is [www.buzzing4change.org](http://www.buzzing4change.org).

## ALUM UPDATES

Katrina Aitken works in Afghanistan for the British Embassy as a Counter Narcotics Institutions Adviser, before which she worked in Afghanistan for Future Generations, a non-governmental organization (NGO) promoting sustainable development. Jonathan Anderson, BA (CJ) 1998, was a Soros Criminal Justice Scholar at the New York University School of Law, where he received his JD cum laude

in 2001. Jon is an attorney with DC's Public Defender Service and represents indigent clients at trial and on appeal. *Jon was our fabulous and inspiring guest speaker at the alum Wine and Cheese lecture on May 9. Thank you Jon!*

Katie Herman traveled to Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, and Singapore after graduating and now works in sales at Random House in New York. Jill Hertzler, BA (CJ) 1991, received her MSW from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1997 and worked as a hospital based Ob/Gyn Social Worker until 2005. Luckily she's back in the DC metro area - and married to GW librarian Randy Hertzler! Jill is now in the development department of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Jill and Randy have two children, Anna and Lucy. Melissa Sheridan Embser-Herbert got her BA (Soc) at GWU, and struck with the Sociology bug, went on to a Masters, PhD, and JD at various top-notch schools. She is now Chair of Sociology at Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN. Julie Garfield and Kira Golden went traveling after graduating, Julie to Ecuador and Kira to France. Heather Hurwitz won the Hilda Manchester Award for her BA (Soc) in 2001 and then the GWU Shapiro Traveling Fellowship that took her to the University of the Philippines for a Women and Development studies MA. She's now in Columbia University's Sociology Masters program. Matthew Kernkraut is Regional Director for Harvard University's Capital in San Francisco, CA. A Human Services alum, he continues to give the program active and generous moral and financial support. *Thank you!* Tova Mannis works as an eye and tissue bank technician and will be attend medical school in California in the fall. Julie Marshall is a double grad of the Sociology department with both her BA and MA from GWU. She's now in the PhD program at the New School but continues her strong ties with the department by teaching sociology courses to our current students. Tzena Mayersak, BA (CJ) 2004, is an investigator at the DC Public Defender's Service. Meg Northrup got her MA in Soc at GW and will take up her fully funded offer at the University of Virginia. Eugene Pair, BA (Soc) 1992, a jazz aficionado, is principal of the Merritt Middle School in DC. He's currently working with FACULTY MEMBER PAM DAVIDSON on environmental projects in the school. Jessica Pollak, MA (Soc) 06 recently co-authored a paper based on her thesis with FACULTY MEMBER CHARIS KUBRIN and now works in DC for the Eisenhower foundation as a Research Associate for Program Evaluation. They will present their findings at an Alum Reunion Weekend event on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Jennifer Popovic is also an alum from the MA (Soc) program who worked for the Census Bureau until switching careers to become a veterinarian. She begins her training as a vet at Tufts University this fall. Camille Ramos works at the World Bank and Joni Samilin is a Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, DC; Homeland Security is her chief client. Leah Seldin-Sommer worked in research at DC's Children's National Medical Center neuropsychology department before joining the Save Darfur Coalition. In September she will begin her masters in social work at New York University. In addition to being treasurer for Buzzing for Change (see box), Julie Serfass BA (HS) 2006 currently works in research for labor unions and is involved in other volunteering, from hunger to Frisbee! Lily Sojourner is a social worker at Youth Villages, a nationally recognized nonprofit for emotionally and behaviorally troubled children. Bonnie Sultan was recently published in *The Georgetown Journal of Poverty Law and Policy*. After graduating she worked for NAMI in DC on the mental illness and criminal justice, and now is with Family Justice in New York. Juanita Toriello works for Loudoun County as well as continuing to help immigrants though part-time work for an immigration law firm. She's an active alum and member of our advisory board - *thanks Juanita*. Taryn Washkowitz is a registered representative for the Wellesley Financial Group in Equities Business Administrator in Massachusetts. Erin Wallace (MA 06) is the Special Projects and Curriculum Coordinator for the Death Penalty Information Center in DC. Michael Brizendine (MA 06) is a research analyst for DFI International, a DC-based defense and security consultancy firm. John Muller (Soc Minor alum and recipient of GWU's MLK award) is the Executive Director of DC-based DreamCity Theatre Co. DreamCity is a 2007 Mayor's Arts Award Finalist for an Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education. John is teaching drama classes at the FBR Branch of THEARC this summer.

#### AND SOME OF OUR FABULOUS SENIORS:

Sajana Ballal (HS) will join Teach for America in New Orleans, teaching special education in an elementary school. Samantha Dworken (Soc and Speech & Hearing Science) will join the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York as a paralegal, with law school planned in the future. Melissa Doman is going to continue her education by traveling to Israel and Europe and then plans to work in marketing in the DC Metro Area. Jennifer Fried has been admitted to the New

York University's Graduate School of Education while Craig Gelberg (Soc) has been accepted to medical school at GW. Leighanna Kilgore will go on to her Masters in Social Work at Case Western University. KaLea Kunkel Lehman wrote a study on how military academies like West Point may better prepare future officers for irregular warfare (like that in Iraq) through greater emphasis on liberal arts and humanities education. Trihn Nguyen (CJ and Political Science) will begin her masters at the Elliott School of International Affairs, and Jaime Spilken will also stay on at GW to complete her MPA as part of the five-year Human Service-Masters of Public Administration program. Jessica Stellenwerf will work as a Development Specialist for the National Institute for Metalworking Skills and Melissa Tyborowski will remain at GW to complete her Criminal Justice masters. Claire Whitlinger, a star Sociology student whose senior thesis was about the Igbo Women's War of 1929 in Nigeria, has a full scholarship to do her PhD at Michigan. Sara Richman is staying on at the Department of Defense working in a program to help military and overseas citizens vote, and is planning to apply to grad schools for a Masters of Education.

#### SENIORS, RECENT GRADS, AND LAW SCHOOL – AGAIN – SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL GROUP!

Tim DeBruyn (CJ) received law school funding, as did Arthur DeFelice (CJ and Political Science, 2006) has received a full scholarship to Roger Williams University in Rhode Island, in addition to being offered places at numerous top law schools. Before going to Law School he took a year off to pursue some non-academic goals, including organizing and riding in a cycling trip from Rhode Island to Washington DC to raise money for Alzheimer's patients and their families. Rachel Drucker (CJ) is probably going to New York Law School, but is still contemplating other New York area law schools. Matthew Goldstein (CJ) is off to Rutgers Law School and Alexander Tuffuor (CJ) another alum advisory committee member and volunteer extraordinaire – *thank you Alli!* – is also still deciding which of many great law schools to attend. Joel Vago (CJ) received full scholarship to St. John's Law school, and Ashley Washington (Soc) is off to the top-ranked University of Michigan Law School for a JD. Meanwhile, many recent alums continue their JDs – a random two of note are Farah-Lise Rousseau at the University of Southern California and Michael Dobson who remained at GW for law school.

## SOME STAFF UPDATES

Steven Tuch spent the 2006-07 academic year serving as Interim Assistant Vice President for Special and International Programs. He also spent most of June and July in Krakow, Poland collaborating with colleagues at Jagiellonian University. He becomes the new chair of the department on August 1, succeeding Greg Squires. Michael Wenger received the prestigious Bender Teaching Award for 2007, and was one of five lecturers nominated by the Minority Student Association of the MSSC for its Best Educator award. Richard Zamoff reports that this year the Jackie Robinson Project hosted a celebration of the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's integration of major league baseball. The Project hosted a number of events, among them an on-going exhibit in the Media and Public Affairs Building, and a day long celebration held on April 12, where the first Jackie Robinson Society Community Recognition Award was presented to Frank Robinson, former manager of the Washington Nationals and the first African American manager in major league baseball. Daina Eglitis has been selected as the 2006-07 recipient of the CCAS Excellence in Undergraduate Departmental Advising Award, and has been granted a Fulbright Grant to Latvia for the Fall of 2007. Charis Kubrin lists her two biggest achievements this year as running a marathon, and spending three months as a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Criminology at Oxford University. She is serving as the President of the District of Columbia Sociological Society for the 2007-08 term. Greg Squires has published two books this year: "Privileged Places: Race, Residence, and the Structure of Opportunity" (co-authored with Charis Kubrin) and "There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class, and Hurricane Katrina" (co-edited with Chester Hartman) Greg also received the Stuart A. Rice Award for Career Achievement of the District of Columbia Sociological Society.

See more about the faculty and their achievements on our newly-updated website  
[www.gwu.edu/~soc](http://www.gwu.edu/~soc)

FILL IN YOUR ALUM INFO AT  
<http://www.gwu.edu/~soc/alumni/index.cfm>