

Cher Ami

The Unofficial, Not-So-Regular Newsletter of the JSU Sociology Program

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Goodbye and Good luck Dr. McCain!

On Tuesday, June 28th, Dr. McCain gave his final exam in SY 310, Marriage and Family, and packed his last things and drove off to Mobile, where he and his wife Gail have bought a home. Dr. McCain came to JSU in the fall of 1975, and was instrumental in the Sociology Club, Alpha Kappa Delta, and the Career Fair. A diligent and tireless worker, Dr. McCain was another in a long line of Sociologists who have contributed to JSU's Sociology program. One could find Dr. McCain in his office by 7:30 every morning and he would leave around 5:00 every afternoon, including similar hours over the Christmas holidays and summers. Dr. McCain was the kind of professor who reviewed and updated his class notes regularly. He was by far the most prepared professor I have ever had the pleasure to meet. He did much of the behind-the-scenes work for the Sociology program, often keeping everyone informed regarding issues surrounding the program, the students, the university, and well, . . . everywhere. And in typical Dr. McCain fashion he left with a simple note on the chalkboard on the third floor hallway that read: "Goodbye. Thank you all for 30 wonderful years, Hugh McCain." His sincerity and caring nature will be greatly missed by us all.

But what will also be missed will be hearing Dr. Friery hollering out: "Huge Face!" and "McChin!" Or the many notes Dr. McCain had a habit of writing to all of us when he wanted to get a message to us. His lunches were fabulous, most of the time consisting of a hot dog with cheese-whiz. Strangely enough, those things did not kill him. And while he did get much better at allowing all of us to 'hug' him over the years, it was fun to see just how dark red he could turn when someone would 'try' to hug him. Also, the little dance of moving into his personal space to see how far he would back up was

pretty fun.

In May, there was a retirement party for both he and Donna Smith, a Social Worker who also is retiring. Dr. Friery presented Dr. McCain with a rocking chair, and did a job only Friery could do in being the host of the retirement party for his colleague of 30 years. The one thing that stood out was how much Dr. McCain is loved by everyone. Even he got a little choked up and could not talk momentarily.

So all that is left to say at this point, is goodbye and good luck Hugh. Thanks for being a great colleague, mentor, and most of all, friend. We will all miss you. Expect visitors from J'ville regularly not simply because we want to see you, but because we want to go to the beach!!!!

State of the Program

Over the past three years we have seen a tremendous growth in the Sociology program. There has been an increase of over 60% in majors during this time. We do expect this trend to continue. Along with the increase in majors, our MFAT scores have increased about 25% as well. This past spring in Senior Seminar, two of the scales students were tested on addressed the issues of Social Responsibility and Social Caring. As was expected, the class scored in the 90th percentile. Good job everyone.

Advisement Changes for the Fall

During the fall semester, we will be announcing in the Sociology classes for students to meet face-to-face with their advisors. There have been some changes in the College of Arts and Sciences and we need to make you aware of these changes. Each Sociology major will now have a file with an updated DAR; Sociology program checklist; as well as a Benchmarks For Success Form. So be aware of this announcement some time in September. For those that had Dr. McCain as their advisor, Dr. Deshotels will be picking up his advisees.

New Course Added to Catalogue

Beginning in the Spring of 2006, a new course, SY 365 Drugs and Society will be offered. The course will be taught by our new Sociologist Dr. Tina Deshotels (more on

Dr. Deshotels in the fall edition). The course is a bridge course between SY 320 Deviant Behavior, and SY 364 Medicine and Society. The course is ear marked to be taught on a regular basis every Spring. Based on what Dr. Deshotels has shared with me regarding the course, it should be a lot of fun, and of course very educational.

Closing Comments

This is the first edition of the Sociology program newsletter. The expectation is that this will come out once a semester, to not only tell you what's happening in the program and the department, but also provide you an opportunity to write something yourself. For alumni, it would be great to hear from you and let us know how you are doing. In the fall edition, we will get to learn about Dr. Deshotels, as well as some info on my trip to Italy this summer.

Ciao tutti e a presto

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