Welcome to Dr. Buffy Smith!

**Buffy Smith** earned her B.A. in Sociology at Marquette University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She currently teaches Race and Ethnicity and Social Problems. She will teach a new course in Social Stratification in 2005-2006. Dr. Smith’s primary research interests include examining racial, gender, and class disparities in the higher education system and the role of mentors in educational success.

**Mandatory Meeting!**

**Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement Majors**

The annual Law Enforcement Information Session will be held on Tuesday Oct. 5 at 11:45 in 160 MHC. This is a mandatory meeting for anyone who is planning to attend a Law Enforcement Skills Program in the summer of 2005. If a student is interested in being a licensed peace officer in the state of Minnesota and has never attended one of these meetings before, they are welcome to come to learn about this process. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Dr. Susan Smith-Cunnien at SLSmithcunni or x2-5637.

**Tour the New BCA**

**September 30 1:00 pm**

Don Peterson, adjunct faculty member of the Department, law enforcement consultant, and former agent with the BCA will direct a tour of the new headquarters of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. For additional information about signing up for the tour contact EFUhrich via e-mail prior to September 28.

**Student Research Projects**

**Nick England** used an opportunity to observe and interview members of the Minnesota State Highway Patrol for a study of officers’ perceptions of the impact of budget, legislative and judiciary constraints on their job performance.

**Michael Grey** has an internship with the John Kerry Presidential Campaign.

**Amanda Kaiser** has begun a review of family life education in government, religious, and school organizations. She will be reviewing published materials and interviewing experts in the field.

**Gabe Nelson** (recently returned from a semester in Prague) has begun a study using content analysis of attitudes toward the death penalty held by family members of murder victims.

**Velnisha French-Williams** is investigating research findings and how this information might be used to modify the NAACP and City of St. Paul agreement on racial profiling.

*Interested in an independent study or research project?*

Contact your advisor or another faculty in Sociology & Criminal Justice.
ASA Honors Program

Laura Dusek ('04) participated in the American Sociological Association’s Honors Program in San Francisco in August. For additional information about the ASA Honors Program, as well as Department and University financial support for majors who want to participate, please contact your UST advisor or visit the ASA website at www.asanet.org/student/honors/index.html. Application deadline to participate in the 2005 program is Feb. 2005.

Also Seen at the ASA...

Gabriel Acevedo (BA UST '99, PhD. Yale expected '04)
Joyce Bell (BA UST '98, PhD University of Minnesota expected '05)
Jeannette Larshus (BA UST '97, PhD SUNY-Albany expected '05)

Sociology Graduates . . .

Headed to Graduate School
Valerie Clark ('04) Sociology, Pennsylvania State University
Laura Dusek ('04) Sociology, Ohio State University
Karen Kaphingst ('00) Public Health, University of Minnesota

And to employment
Stuart McCann ('01) U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
Stuart graduated top in his class for the border service

And recently returned
Morgan Bassett from reserve duty in Iraq

News about Sociology and Criminal Justice Alumnae?
Check out the Department website www.stthomas.edu/sociology for news about other recent alumnae. Consider submitting your own piece of news!

Faculty Notes

Mr. Jim Bruton’s book, The Big House: Life Inside a Supermax Security Prison, was on the St. Paul Pioneer Press list of top 5 nonfiction reads this summer. Dr. Meg Wilkes Karraker studied immigration in Western Europe in Marseilles, Paris, and Berlin for two weeks in June. Dr. Buffy Smith’s paper, “Rethinking the Mission of Academic Mentoring Programs in Higher Education,” received the prize for the outstanding paper on education from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Dr. Susan Smith-Cunnien is Treasurer of Sociologists of Minnesota. Dr. Lisa Waldner published Politics of Change: Sexuality, Gender, and Aging by Elsevier Science. Dr. Bill Kinney has a chapter in that volume, “Life Satisfaction and Late Life Liberal Activism: Activity, Continuity, and the Role of Identity Politics.”

Do you have news you would like to see in SocNotes? If so, please e-mail Ellen Uhrich, efuhrich@stthomas.edu, Department of Sociology Administrative Assistant