

November 15, 2007

Upcoming Events:

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Inside this issue:

AKD inductions	2
Coates Award	2
McNally Award	2
AIAD Information	3
Who Got What—'07 & '08 Branches	4

# Army Sociology

## Director's Note

Army Sociology is doing great. Both in terms of both quality and quantity. Lots of cadets, cadets engaging our classes, faculty engaging cadets, lots of faculty, faculty engaged in all types of activities around the academy, the army, the country and the planet. Faculty producing knowledge not just about the Army but other areas as well. It is an exciting time to be studying sociology in and around the Army. We people call or email, I am quick to say there's never a dull moment at West Point. We wanted to produce a newsletter to get information out about what we are doing here. As you can see, cadets are doing service at home and abroad in novel and important ways. From New Orleans to Camp Buckner to Israel to Washington, DC to Qatar to Shea Stadium to the Florida Keys—cadets from Army Sociology are making a difference. Additionally, cadets are not forgoing their studies as they take their studies to fencing competitions to lacrosse meets to the Bataan Death March to Spring Break in Cancun. We also feature the branches of cadets from the classes of 2007 and 2008. Cadets continue to be outstanding in being recognized for their scholarship. On that road, cadets have been traveling to conferences. Four cadets presented at the IUS meetings in Chicago. Our faculty numbers are at an all-time high as well. There are currently eight faculty with advanced sociology degrees at West Point. Faculty have been exceedingly productive as well. Finally, faculty and cadets had an Alternative Spring Break this past Spring and are looking forward to next Spring with possibly two locations.



Eric Wong ('08) and fellow cadets lending a hand to New Orleans Katrina victims.

Firsties Eric Wilson (left) and Cortlandt Armstrong being all they can be in between dominating their fencing "competition".





## The Charles H. Coates Award for Excellence in Sociology

The Dr. Charles H. Coates Award honors a first class cadet majoring in Sociology who best exemplifies excellence in the field of Sociology. This award is bestowed upon the cadet Sociology major with the highest grade point average. This year's recipient of the Coates Award is CDT Roger Kim (Co. B3) of Tenafly, NJ. In addition to this honor, Roger was also inducted into the Alpha Kappa Delta—international honor society—in April 2007. Roger's accomplishments this year represent exemplary achievement in that the Sociology class of 2007 is the largest in USMA history, and arguably one of the most talented to date! 2LT Kim branched armor and is posted to Ft. Lewis.

Jackie Oeser ('08) in Jerusalem on her summer AIAD.

## The Jeffrey A. McNally Award for Excellence in Leadership, Management and Sociology

The COL. Jeffrey A. McNally Award is awarded each year to the cadet in BS&L who demonstrated the highest achievement across the three programs of leadership, management and sociology. COL McNally was Professor of Leadership and Organizational Studies in BS&L where he authored several key documents for the Army and the field of Leadership. The 2007 winner is CDT Sarah E. Dreyfus, Co A1. Sarah was a double major in Sociology and Management while at USMA. She hails from Chesterfield, MO and is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta—the international sociological honor society. Her honors thesis, *The Geography of Poverty and the Impact on Individuals' Sense of Self-Efficacy*, focused on the intersection of population density, social class and individuals' sense of self-efficacy. Sarah is now a 2LT in the medical service corps, posted to Ft. Stewart; currently in Iraq.



Ash Holzmann ('09) received high praise from the gathered crowd for his scant but imaginative Costume during the fall Sosh Run.



Below: Firsties Allison Gould (left), Heather Owey (center), and Amie Foster (right) perfect the Chocolate Covered Peanut Butter Pudge.



Above: Wilson Gaylean ('08) puts the Hooah in Army Sociology—leading the USMA Combat Weapons Team when he isn't reading postmodern theory. Below: Sociology banner on Jefferson Library.



Above: Sociology cadets load up after baking nearly 350 cookies at Dr. Kelty's first annual cookie bake-off.

Randy Shed (2008) enjoyed the Florida Keys while serving as a staff member with the Boy Scout's Seabase Adventure Camp, processing scouts, testing and certifying them on water survival tasks and contributing as a mentor and positive role model.

Mary Ford (2008) and Amie Foster (2008) spent approximately three weeks at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC. Together they wrote a report exploring the relationship between combat exposures and perceived quality of NCO and officer leadership.

Jackie Oeser (2008) spent "three amazing weeks in Israel this summer, working with their Military Psychological Center for the IDF (Israeli Defense Force)." She visited several military bases, interviewed Israeli soldiers and commanders, saw check-points and visited all of Israel's borders. She also visited several museums where she learned about the culture and history of Israel, spent weekends at the homes of IDF members, and got to see everything from the Dead Sea to the Old City of Jerusalem.



CDT Andrea Gongaware ('09) on the sand dunes with Qatari classmates during her summer AIAD.

Andrea Gongaware (2009) studied in Qatar for four weeks on a BS&L-sponsored AIAD. While there, she observed an American Politics class composed of six cadets and 15 Middle Eastern students, conducted a series of interviews with all members in the class, visited sites of political and cultural importance such as Al Jazeera, the U.S. Embassy and the souqs (marketplaces), and became immersed in the society through the development of friendships with fellow Arab students. Through this experience, Andrea was able to experience the similarities and differences between Arab and American cultures first hand and realize the benefits of cross-cultural interactions.

## New this Fall!

USMA Sociology Program photo-story was inaugurated this fall showcasing images of current and past faculty, cadets, and friends of the program. Available on YouTube—keywords Army Sociology. Our intent is to update at least annually, so send in your photos—especially those donning your Army Sociology t-shirts around the globe!

Sociology posters were unveiled in the barracks and academic buildings to promote the program and the sociology major at USMA – Copies of the posters are available on the USMA Sociology Program website.

The class of 2010 declared their majors in October and 20 cadets (and counting!) have joined the Army Sociology family. This is the largest cohort to date!

Our growing sociology family necessitated ordering new "Army Sociology" t-shirts to keep up with demand.

## Sociology Major Leads USMA Special Olympics

Cadet Michael Tatz ('07) acted as the cadet lead in coordinating the 2007 USMA Special Olympics. Mike did a masterful job helping to orchestrate this event. As a measure of their appreciation the Orange County organizing committee surprised Mike by flying his family in from the west coast for the event. Mike was deeply touched by this gesture, commenting that it was the first time he was able to see his younger sister compete at such an event. Mike's hard work represents the best in cadet engagement promoting equality, tolerance and fellowship through social action.



CDT Mike Tatz, lead cadet, addressing the assembled crowd at the 2007 USMA Special Olympics



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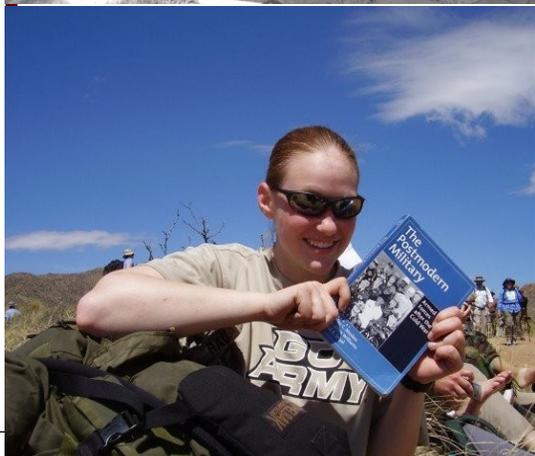
## Who Got What?

### Class of 2007

Name	Co.	Branch
Jacob Absalon	H3	Armor
Abby Arp	E3	Military Police
George Bruchs	H1	Field Artillery
Michael Chen	C2	Medical Service
Alex Clamon	F4	Infantry
Chelsea Cunningham	F3	Engineers
Sarah Dreyfus	A1	Medical Service
Daniel Harrison	A2	Infantry
Roger Kim	B3	Armor
Kevin Kleber	F3	Armor
Melanie Kwan	D2	Medical Service
Miles Murray	D3	Armor
Caroline Nichols	B2	Adjutant General
Luke Pell	E2	Field Artillery
Heather Rau	H4	Transportation
Michael Tatz	F3	Air Defense Artillery

### Class of 2008

Name	Co.	Branch
Cortlandt Armstrong	D3	Armor
Lene Baxter	C2	Quartermaster
Ryan Brence	F1	Air Defense Artillery
Jenna Burneskis	B2	Medical Services
Mary Ford	A2	Quartermaster
Amie Foster	G3	Engineers
Wilson Galyean	C2	Infantry
Allison Gould	B4	Adjutant General
Danielle Hellman	B2	Ordinance
Jackie Oeser	C3	Quartermaster
Heather Owney	B3	Signal
Randy Shed	E4	Infantry
Eric Wilson	A2	Infantry
Eric Wong	D3	Infantry



Below: Class of 2007. Left: Cadets Luke Pell and Heather Rau ('07) bring their text books on spring break to the Caribbean and Death Valley for extra credit.



## IUS quote

## Cadets and Faculty at International Conference on Armed Forces & Society

Sociology cadets and West Point faculty members were well represented through presentations and discussions at the 2007 Biennial International Meetings of the Inter-University Seminar (IUS) on Armed Forces and Society in Chicago, Illinois, October 26-28.

According to Dr. Ryan Kely, sociology professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership, who attended the conference, "The IUS is the only interdisciplinary and international forum for interchange and assessment of research on social and behavioral science issues dealing with contemporary military matters at the intersection of armed forces and society."

This year's conference was the largest in the 47 years of meeting since the IUS was established by renowned military sociologist Morris Janowitz. Over 200 presentations were made on civil-military matters from scholars from around the world with 350 attendees at the three day conference. Dr. Kely, for example, presented some of his research on the effect of civilian contractors on soldiers' perceptions of unit cohesion and soldier retention attitudes.

A major highlight of the conference involved the inclusion of a panel with 13 cadets representing the U.S. military, naval, air force and coast guard academies and the Royal Military Academy of Canada and organized and presided over by Dr. Morten Ender, the Sociology Program Director of BS&L. The organizing theme for the panel was "How Unique Should the Military Academy Be?" Cadets wrote essays leading up to the conference and presented their positions based on three traditional and classic models of how military institutions, in general, should be structured.

The cadets applied the models to their respective military academies. USMA titles included three: "A Relativist Review of the United States Military Academy's Ability to Create Officers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," by cadets Amie M. Foster (USMA Class of 2008) and Allison M. Gould (USMA Class of 2008), "The Long Gray Line in Blue Jeans: A Critique of the Essential Uniqueness of West Point," by cadet David E. White, Jr. (USMA Class of 2009), and "The U.S. Military Academy as a Relatively Unique Institution," by cadet Jacklyn R. Oeser (USMA Class of 2008).

"The variety of perspectives is not what one would have expected," noted Dr. Ender. "The cadets took a variety of positions along the continuum from a uniquely isolated and closed institution to a fairly open academy." For example, Cadet Allison Gould argued for a relativist view, similar to the Canadian military academy model where RMC cadets can opt to live off-post their senior year (it is interesting that not all choose to). "Cadets could benefit from a year of learning independent living skills before we transition to the Army," said Allison. In contrast, USAFA cadet Phillip Zencey and Linden Dahlkemper from the US Coast Guard Academy called for a much more closed and isolated academy that focused exclusively on "fighting and winning in combat."

Cadets responded to a range of questions from the audience including "Why should we have military academies?" to "Why not eliminate ROTC programs and expand the military academy system?"

"Regardless of their positions," said Dr. Ender, "what is important is that future military leaders are reflecting on how our academies are structured and they continue to think about how we educate cadets not so much in a social vacuum but with the larger needs of the political-military-societal context and the future army leaders in mind."

In addition to presenting their ideas cadets attended other sessions including those by West Point faculty members. They included panels by Dr. Don Snider, USMA's Department of Social Sciences and Colonels Donna Brazil and Patrick Sweeney from BS&L titled "Forging the Warrior's Character at West Point;" Civil-Military Relations: Fifty Years after *The Soldier and the State* chaired by Dr. Don Snider and LTC Suzanne Nielsen (Social Sciences); and a session titled "Complicated Loyalties" organized by Dr. Elizabeth Samet (English). Conference papers included "Citizen Soldiers and Civilian Contractors: Effects of Military Outsourcing on National Guard Soldiers Returning from Deployment" by Dr. Ryan Kely (BS&L); "Force versus Diplomacy? An Alternative Explanation as to Why Europe and the United States Tend Towards Different Approaches," by MAJ Jonathan S. Dunn (Social Sciences); and "The Intersection of Race and Military Affiliation on Attitudes toward Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq," by

Dr. Morten Ender. The IUS conference occurs every two years. It regularly attracts people across West Point's academic and USCC departments... more than any other conference in the world" noted Dr. Ender.

Professor John Allen Williams, a political scientist at Loyola University Chicago and President of the IUS, commented that West Point faculty have long been among the most prominent Fellows of the IUS and their scholarship done now on the banks of the Hudson stands out as cutting edge thinking on military professionalism. "It is especially good to see the increased participation of West Point cadets in our biennial conference," he said, "where they join students from the other US service academies and the Royal Military College of Canada. These young people are the future of the Army and our country, and we greatly appreciate sharing ideas with them."

All cadets were treated to complementary signed copies of the book *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq* by Thomas R. Ricks, military correspondent for *The Washington Post* and keynote speaker at the conference banquet.



## Alpha Kappa Delta 2007 Inductees

AKD is the International Sociological Honor Society. Undergraduate members have achieved an overall GPA of 3.0 and maintain this same standard in their sociology major as well. Additionally, each member must be at least a junior and rank in the top 35% of their class academically.

The purpose of AKD is to promote human welfare

through the association of a fellowship group interested in developing scientific knowledge that may be applied to the solution of social problems.

The keynote speaker for the 2007 induction ceremony was MAJ Remi Hajjar. MAJ Hajjar is the current director of the TRADOC Culture Center located at Ft. Huachuca. He discussed his thoughts on

the importance of understanding social and cultural patterns to successful officership.

Congrats to:

MAJ Keke Langkamp  
MAJ Darcy Schnack  
CDT Amie Foster  
CDT Allison Gould  
CDT Roger Kim  
CDT Jackie Oeser  
CDT Eric Wong



Fun picture of Chicago—Jackie and Amie in tower or with CHICAGO in lights in background.

## Record Breaking Number of Sociology Faculty at USMA!

The 2007-2008 academic year brought together the largest concentration of sociology faculty ever at USMA. We eagerly welcomed LTC B.D. Durant back from a 12 month tour in Iraq last year. Majors Keke Langkamp, Darcy Schnack and Bill White provide enormous energy and fresh academic insight. Dr. Bruce Keith is spearheading the first sociologically focused methods course in BS&L, part of the pay off of our increasing number of majors! Dr. Ender (Program Director), LTC Irving Smith, and Dr. Ryan Kelty

round out the program as the permanent sociology faculty. Recruitment for new sociology majors has skyrocketed this year as a result of the teamwork of our faculty and upper class cadets. Faculty research interests include military families, education, Iraqi youth attitudes, race and veteran status attainment, interaction of soldiers and civilian contractors, and political participation.

GO ARMY SOCIOLOGY!



Back: Dr. Kieth, MAJ Langkamp, MAJ Schnack, MAJ White, LTC DuRant. Front: LTC Smith, Dr. Kelty, Dr. Ender.

## Sociology Making a Difference in New Orleans: Alternative Spring Break 2007

The Lakeview Civic Improvement Association (LCIA) of New Orleans hosted 12 cadets and two faculty from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point from March 9 through March 17, 2007 to lead a major cleanup and replanting project focused on green spaces in the Lakeview community entitled "Operation Sudden Impact"—all following the devastation following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

The cadets—David Mudek and Eric Young ('07); Jenna Burneski, Mary Ford, and Danielle Hellman ('08); Gilbert Coyle, Austin Cross, Bo Kim, and Logan Vaughan ('09); and Jeremy Singletary and Joy Turner ('10) and LTC Irving Smith and Dr. Morten Ender, Sociology Professors in the Department of Behavior Sciences and Leadership volunteered to visit New Orleans during their 2007 spring break to provide nine consecutive days of help to the community in its rebuilding efforts.

Cadet Jeremy Singletary reflected on his experiences in New Orleans saying, "Seeing the brown spots on buildings where the water settled was a real sight. I have also met many interesting people and in talking with them I amazed that they came back to rebuild. I do not know why they love this place, but I admire them for it."

Bari Landry, President of LCIA commented, "When we were informed by the local Army Corps of Engineers office that a group of West Point cadets planned to come to our City during their spring break for a week of community service instead of heading to the beach for a week of relaxation, we immediately welcomed them with open arms and developed an action plan that would have a tangible "sudden impact" on our neighborhood. We marshaled the efforts of a significant number of local volunteers to assist the cadets in their project to maximize the positive results we expect from their labors. We also solicited contributions from local businesses for the trees, shrubs and materials needed for the project. Local residents are providing lodging, transportation and meals for the cadets while they are here as none of them are from the New Orleans area. We hope to show in small part our sincere gratitude to

these generous young men and women while they are volunteering to help New Orleans for this short period of time."

Al Petrie, Chairman of the Green Spaces Committee for LCIA added, "Our neighborhood was always known for its beautiful neutral grounds and the destruction that occurred due to the wind and flooding from Katrina was heartbreaking. Since late 2005, LCIA has focused a significant part of its efforts on cleaning up and restoring our green spaces in Lakeview. We have already invested funds raised from last year's Lakeview Fest and previous donations from local businesses to buy trees and plants to restore several areas of Harrison Avenue and Canal Boulevard with labor provided by hundreds of volunteers."

This project was a collaborative effort of LCIA, the City of New Orleans Department of Parks and Parkways, Parkway Partners and the Lake Area Beacons of Hope. Cadets and faculty working with local residents and volunteers from around the country planted 1,280 trees, plants, and bushes, removed stumps from fallen live oaks, and assisted with the rebuilding of local non-for-profit business. Cadets and faculty also toured the most devastated areas of New Orleans, visited the homes of families rebuilding after the floods, conducted sightseeing excursions to cultural sites in and around New Orleans, and explored the local social centers of the city.



Other highlights of the trip included being featured in the local newspaper—*The Times Picayune*, receiv-

ing a Proclamations from the City of New Orleans City Council in City Hall, visiting the World War II Museum in New Orleans, meeting a New Orleans relative of Col. Sylvanus Thayer, and being treated to a concert by legendary and world famous jazz musician Ellis Marsalis.

Sociology Professor Dr. Morten Ender noted a high point of the trip stating, "Over traditional red beans and rice, I got to meet the great, great, great nephew of Col. Sylvanus Thayer, Dr. Ralph E. Thayer. Turns out he's Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning and Public Administration and the former Dean of the School of Urban and Regional Studies of the University of New Orleans. He has been actively involved in the long community recovery in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. As a teacher of West Point's marriage and family course, I find it especially interesting and pleasantly novel that the "Father of the Military Academy" had no children of his own, but that the family legacy through his nephew has remained in the domain of engineering—changed however, from structural engineering to social engineering."

Four cadets on the trip will receive three credits in PL399: Behavioral Sciences & Leadership Practicum—a Spring Advanced Individual Academy Development credit option offered through BS&L's Sociology Program for work related to service-learning.

Cadets will have focused on sociological readings about the sociology of disasters, kept a reflective journal during their experience, and will write a research paper to complete the project.

## Quote from New Orleans Trip