Reflections on Recent Job-Hunting
Reported by Joseph Miller ‘13

I recently graduated from Gettysburg with a major in sociology and a minor in elementary education. I had some amazing experiences related to sociological content and methods in and outside of the department, but I always knew that my major would support my minor—my aspiration to teach.

After completing student teaching, I began applying aggressively to traditional public and charter schools in Philadelphia. I did what everyone encouraged me not to do—restricted myself geographically—but, I had my reasons for wanting to live there.

I tried applying online to listed positions for about a month or two, but nothing really seemed to pan out. I remembered that the administrators who performed mock interviews with us during student teaching said that interpersonal communication was the single most important criterion they consider during hiring. Because I believed this criterion matched up with my own personal strengths, I decided to hit the road and begin inquiring in person. I used a Google Maps product to identify all charter schools within reasonable distance of my home and began biking to the various locations to (a) introduce myself (b) ask if I could drop off a resume and (c) see if there were any administrators with whom I could speak simply to find out more about the school. If anyone was available to talk with me, it also turned out to be a great opportunity to showcase my prior experience and pedagogical content knowledge.

I started getting calls from schools where I had visited almost immediately. I ended up getting hired at one school the same day I had dropped off my resume. It just so happened that a position opened up the same day I had dropped in.

Of course my experience in K-12 education likely differs quite a bit from whatever career path you intend to pursue, but I think the lesson remains the same: know what employers in your field are looking for out of their new hires; understand the dynamics of the particular job market; compare and contrast these realities with your own strengths, and then capitalize on what you find in common. Just to make sure that you have not gotten the wrong idea, this does not mean that you will personally find success by peddling yourself door to door. I believed this would be a viable pursuit in this particular job market given the nature of employer’s criteria, as well as the volatility in staffing such large institutions. Make sure you know the nature of whatever market it is that you intend to crack!

Best of luck to you all! Take advantage of as much as you can while you’re at Gettysburg. You should never regret any experience that you have, only those of which you were too afraid to take advantage.

Survey Results of Sociology Majors (Class 2013)
Reported by Nadejiah Towns ‘15

Students choosing to major in sociology are gaining many benefits in their courses, both inside and outside of the classroom. Not only are they learning to
look into the world from various perspectives, but “consider new topics with thought, purpose, and interest”. In studying sociology, students have learned to value their own insights, as well as their peers, in order to “more fully examine the world around [them]”. More than 50% of sociology majors identified conducting research as their favorite part of studying the discipline, while 42% of those students reported assisting professors with research, which they found to be a “very challenging and very helpful for [their] experience.” Time spent between student and professors plays a major role in the experience of sociology majors. For more than 35% of students, “the most important learning experiences [they] have had were outside of the classroom interactions with all of the professors”. Student who take advantage of these relationships “have learned a lot just from talking with professors outside of class about their own experiences as undergrads, grad students, and on the job market, as well as basic life skills.”

The students also have great suggestions for ways to further enrich the sociology experience for future majors. A total of 50% of students in the major expressed a desire for “more engaging opportunities in [the] community around [them]” in hopes to “help get students more involved in applied sociology”. In fact, some are eager to travel outside of Gettysburg to conduct research of their own. Students want to be “exposed to more sociologists in the future” and have discussions that could potentially “create cohesion between the majors and minors so there is a sense of community”. An interest in “more freedom of topics”, such as “a class on social movements” or “business oriented courses” to better “integrate the world of economics with sociology”. If faculty could “link students with alumni for access to internships” students could potentially explore those avenues and put their knowledge to great use.

Students are looking to use their sociology degrees in a variety of fields after graduation. While 36% of students plan to use their sociology background in education, others intend to further their education in graduate schools and some to apply their knowledge in fields such as marketing, human resources and social services.

**Study Abroad and Research Opportunities**

Reported by Miranda Wisor

On October 29, 2013, the Sociological Experience hosted a student-led discussion concerning study abroad and research experiences available to Gettysburg College students. Chad MacLeod and Ethan Budgar spoke about the research they conducted over the summer as part of the Mellon Summer program. The Mellon Summer program provides opportunities for faculty and students to collaborate on research. Chad and Ethan spent their time during the program collecting, organizing, and analyzing data related to their research on domestic work in the United States. Their presentation was titled *Advertising Exploitation: Employers Expectations of Domestic Workers*, which provided an overview of their work to date. They explained that the realm of domestic workers is often referred to as a modern “wild west” because there is very little monitoring or regulation in the field. Their research is still ongoing. Jessica D’Alessandro, Jacey Dold, and Mia Rawleigh were also on hand to discuss their study abroad experiences.

**End of Semester Party**

Reported by Kimberly Longfellow ’16

On December 4th, Sociology Majors and Minors gathered in the Attic to celebrate the end of the semester and upcoming holiday season. Students and professors from the Sociology Department chatted while eating food catered by Tito’s. Students could test their knowledge of sociological trivia as well as their knowledge about the Sociology Department by guessing their professors’ phobias and favorite foods. A raffle was also held where students could win mugs, books, t-shirts, and other neat prizes. Finally, students could decorate a tree with gingerbread men depicting their favorite sociological theories. With such great food and fun, a wonderful time was had by all!
News from Alumni:

Allison Rudolph ’09 has been accepted to the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania in the Quantitative Measurement Division in the program: Statistic, Measurement, Assessment, Research and Technology (SMART).

AWARDS (2012-2013)

Sociology Departmental Honors
Kathleen Ragon

Sociology Banner Carrier at Graduation
Joseph W. Miller

Holly Gabriel Memorial Award
Laura J. Koenig

John M. Colestock Student Leadership Award
Joseph W. Miller

Gettysburg College Senior Prize
Laura J. Koenig

Gettysburg College Student Leadership Award
Briana J. Stetler

Linda Y. Welsh Prize for Excellence in Education
Joseph W. Miller

Earl Kresge Stock Writing Prize - Social Sciences
Emily M. Lindholm

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz Awards in Spanish
Allison L. Brandt

Managing Editor:  Miranda Wisor
Supervising Faculty: Voon Chin Phua and Jean Potuchek