THE SUBCULTURE
News from Sociology at Gettysburg College
September 2009

Sociology minors Melissa Gagermeier & Douglas Berkowitz in Bangkok, Thailand, where they presented a paper on “Multicultural Tourism in Singapore” with Prof. VoonChin Phua, July, 2009, based on surveys they conducted in Singapore.

PIZZA PARTY – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Glatfelter 001, Sociology majors, minors, and maybees meet to hear students talk about offcampus experiences, meet (old and) new faculty, and schmooze over pizza.

SOCILOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY have become two separate departments as of July 1, 2009. Outgoing Chair Prof. Jean Potuchek is on sabbatical for 2009-2010. Prof. Julia Hendon is the new Chair of Anthropology, and Prof. Charles Emmons is Chair of Sociology.

SUMMER RENOVATION: Glatfelter 003 transformed from a classroom into three offices:
G003A (Prof. Emelio Betances, Sociology)
G003B (Prof. Amy Young, Anthropology)
G003C (Prof. Craig Lair, Sociology)

NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

CRAIG LAIR:
“When I was given the opportunity to come to Gettysburg College as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the fall of 2008 I was very excited. When I was given the opportunity to remain at Gettysburg College in the tenure track position I was truly delighted. For me, the College is a wonderful place where I can combine my passions for teaching and research; where the collegiality in the department and on the campus as a whole is truly remarkable; and where I have the opportunity to work with an exciting student body.

“My formative years were spent in the Midwest: I was born in Minnesota, attended grade school in Iowa, and spent my high-school years in the suburbs of Chicago. After high school I moved out west to attend college at Arizona State University. At ASU I began taking sociology courses right away and knew I wanted a career in this field. Initially, I thought this would take the form of becoming a high-school teacher. However, after forming a relationship with a faculty member there, he revealed another possibility that I had not considered before: graduate school. Not really knowing what graduate school involved, or what to look for in selecting a school to attend, I, as it turns out fortuitously, chose to go to the University of Maryland because of its strength in the area of sociology I was most fascinated by: social theory.

“At the University of Maryland I was able to study social theory, social stratification (another of my interests), and something that was new to me at
the time but which I have come to love – the sociology of work. I was (CONT. on BACK)

CRAIG LAIR (cont.)

fortunate enough to be able to work with a number of faculty members who helped me develop as a sociologist. Foremost among these persons was George Ritzer, a man famous for his theory of McDonaldization, who gave me an opportunity to work on a variety of projects including a forthcoming work on outsourcing. This work explores how businesses, governments, and individuals and families (the latter being the subject of my dissertation) are increasingly handing over tasks they have historically performed themselves to businesses.

“I graduated from UMD in the spring of 2007. In the fall semester of 2008 I came to Gettysburg College. The rest, as they say, is history in a place full of history.”

MICHAEL GIBBONS is a one-year sabbatical replacement for Prof. Jean Potuchek.

“My name is Michael Gibbons, and I am thrilled to be here at Gettysburg College. My doctorate (2002) is from the University of Notre Dame. I have taught at St. Olaf College, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Evansville. My academic interests are Culture, Social Psychology, Energy and the Environment, Rural and Urban Communities, and Sociology of Medicine, specifically the pharmaceutical industry.

“Prior to joining Gettysburg College, I worked for a custom research and consulting firm that served clients in the pharmaceutical industry. In that capacity I worked on global and domestic, qualitative and quantitative projects in all roles. Projects included opportunity assessment, concept testing, messaging, patient flow, prescriber decision-making, and wargaming. Methodologies were mostly qualitative, including ethnography, as well as some quantitative work. The treatment areas I worked on were very broad with a focus on biologics for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and Crohn’s disease. A second focus was on extending indications for atypical antipsychotics and emerging treatments for schizophrenia, bipolar, and other personality and mood disorders. I wrote for company publications and published an article with a colleague in the Journal of Medical Marketing.

“I have worked closely with students on several research projects. One was a methamphetamine demand study for a city/county government client, and another was a socioeconomic development study researching Akureyri, a town in Northern Iceland. Both of these projects included undergraduate research teams with students taking on various levels of responsibility. I also oversaw several students’ research projects, including one still ongoing at the University of Akureyri. My work has been published in tmm – an Icelandic journal of culture, and the Journal of Mundane Behavior and Teaching Matters.

“My wife Barbara and I have two elementary age daughters. As a family we are enjoying Gettysburg. Meanwhile, I am looking for trails to ride, and more rockclimbing in the Michaux Forest (and wherever else I haven’t found yet).”

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS - just 2 of many:

DEBORAH RAPUANO, who is on medical leave this semester (Jason Singh, Visiting Assistant Professor is filling in for her), has published “Working at Fun: Conceptualizing Leisurework,” in Current Sociology 57.5 (September 2009): 617-636.

In Irish music pub sessions that are structured to attract tourists, the majority of musicians are participating in a leisure activity. But as pub sessions are increasingly commercialized, the profit motive becomes primary for pub owners. This makes problematic the leisure activities of musicians who believe they are playing music for fun, when they are in effect working to increase the profit of pub owners. The study looks at a form of leisure that takes on certain characteristics of work.

EMELIO BETANCES’ book The Catholic Church and Power Politics in Latin America: the Dominican Case in Comparative Perspective (Rowman and Littlefield, 2007) has now been published in Spanish by Funglode (Fundacion Global Democracia y Desarrollo), Santo Domingo, 2009.

“Emelio Betances analyzes the particular circumstances that allowed the Church in the Dominican Republic to accommodate the political and social establishment: the Church offered nonpartisan political mediation, rebuilt its ties with the lower echelons of society, and responded to the challenges of the evangelical movement. The author’s historical examination of church-state relations in the Dominican Republic leads to important comparisons that broaden our
understanding of the Catholic Church in the whole of Latin America.”