

SPRING 2016 Mid-semester News

Sociology and Criminology

Celebrate our Distinguished Graduating Seniors and Department Marshals

Join us in celebrating our Department Marshals and Distinguished Graduating Seniors.

Every year a Student Marshal is selected to represent all graduating seniors in Criminology and Sociology during commencement. Part of the honor of a Student Marshal is recognition in the commencement bulletin and during the program, as well as attending a special reception held earlier that day.

We are proud of all who were nominated and are pleased to announce that Michael Banerjee has been selected to serve as the 2016 CRIM Student Marshal. Student Marshals must select a Faculty Marshal to accompany them during commencement, and we're happy to announce that Mike has asked Dr. Lecinda Yevchak to take on this role. After graduation, Michael plans to attend law school and is currently deciding between Stanford and Harvard.

Megan Wisniewski has been selected to serve as the SOC Student Marshal for 2016 and has asked Dr. Jennifer Van Hook to serve as her Faculty Marshal. Megan is applying for fellowship positions and jobs in the field of demography in the hopes of culminating more research experience to further prepare her for graduate studies in Sociology and Demography. Her long-term goal is to become a faculty member and teach Sociology at the college level.

We are also honoring one student from each department as the distinguished graduating senior. Nicole Solano from Criminology and Jael Charles from Sociology have earned that honor for the 2015-16 academic year.

Congratulations to Mike, Megan, Nicole and Jael!!!

The Trooper Dickson Award

The Trooper Dickson Award is a new scholarship that is awarded to an outstanding Criminology undergraduate in the amount of \$2200 for a single academic year. The scholarship was created in memory of Bryon Dickson, one of our alumni, who was killed in the line of duty. We're pleased to announce that Harrison Collins is our inaugural award recipient! Harrison will be recognized at an awards ceremony in April. Trooper Dickson's family will be in attendance at this ceremony as well.

CAS Open House

Communication Arts and Sciences is hosting an open house on April 7, 2016. CAS is a great place to learn about written and verbal communication. If you are looking at a career that will involve using your writing skills (grad school or law school to name a few) you will want to attend this event and learn more.

CAS ANNOUNCEMENT:

Good communication doesn't just happen – it comes from thoughtful, precise planning and a deep understanding of how communication works (or doesn't work).

The Department of Communication Arts and Sciences offers a major and five minors for students who seek to understand how to craft, analyze, and study messages that unfold in personal, professional, public, and global contexts.

The CAS Open House is just the place to learn more about our academic offerings. Meet award-winning faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates who have chosen CAS and are loving it.

Please join us on April 7 from 11:30-1:30 at 133 Sparks!

RSVP here: <https://goo.gl/hslz2N>

(So we know how much pizza to order)

Transfer credit evaluation tool

Are you considering taking classes at another institution over the summer? If so, please use the transfer credit evaluation tool to determine how your class will be evaluated by Penn State. Visit the following web page and follow the directions either for finding an equivalent to a PSU requirement, or for determining how a class from another school will be received by admissions.

https://admissions.psu.edu/my_admissions/tas/

Once you have an evaluation of your course be sure to print the results and save them until your course work is on your Penn State transcript. With the changes in systems happening all over Penn State it is not a bad idea to hold onto your evaluations. Think of them as your receipt.

Once your class is complete be sure to have the school you were visiting send an Official Transcript with that class and its grade on the transcript.

One final thought - always be aware of the competency policy when bringing in transfer credit. Have this discussion with your adviser prior to studying anywhere other than University Park.

Late Drop Deadline

The deadline to drop a class using late drop credits will be **April 8, 2016**. You are still limited to a total of 16 late drop credits over the course of your Penn State career. This means that if you late drop a three credit class you will have spent three of your 16 credits and have 13 credits left. The late drop policy will be changed starting with the fall semester, but for now, you **MUST** follow the current policy. Please see your adviser if you have any questions, especially if

dropping a course will bring you below 12 credits, the minimum to be considered a full-time student.

Be sure you have scheduled your advising appointment to plan for fall

Remember that we are now using LionPATH to register for fall classes. Degree audits, however, are still on eLion. This means that after you register on LionPATH you will have to manually write the courses on your eLion degree audit until the LionPATH version becomes active at the start of the fall semester.

If you need help with this process please bring a copy of your degree audit and your fall schedule to an appointment with your adviser and we can help you merge those two documents. It is a little extra work today, but it will be worth it when you start to look at scheduling next semester.

Fall Scheduling - What if it's full?

At this point everyone should have learned their way down the LionPATH. You should be able to put courses in your shopping cart and you should have read about the Wait List. If any of these things remain a mystery, please stop by drop-in advising hours and speak with an adviser.

One new component to the scheduling system is the Wait List. Students will no longer be emailed a notification to sprint to the nearest computer to arm wrestle open seats away from their fellow students. In the new system you will be assigned a space in a virtual line. The first open seat goes to the first student on the Wait List. Faculty, staff, and advisers will not be able to add students via a drop/add form. You will be automatically added to classes where you have opted to be on the Wait List. Advisers are working on a way to help students in truly emergency situations. But be warned, "I really like Dr. Whomever!" is not an emergency situation. Add yourself to a Wait List if you wish to schedule a full class. We will be monitoring the length of the Wait Lists, so occupying that space is what will let us know there is a problem.

Applying to walk in the May graduation ceremony

Students who are exceptionally close to graduating in May are eligible to **apply** to walk in the May ceremony. Remember that you will not actually graduate and you will not receive a diploma until all requirements have been met.

To apply to walk in the ceremony you must complete the Request for Permission to Participate form available from your adviser. In order to be considered you must be within 2 classes (8 credits) of meeting the graduation requirements and you must have those courses scheduled. The courses may be scheduled at Penn State or elsewhere (be aware of the competency policies). You will be notified by the dean's office once they are able to determine how many spaces they have available for non-graduating walkers.

You will still need to add yourself to the graduation list for the semester you will actually finish, either Summer or Fall. Diplomas are only created three times each year - once for each graduation date.

Spring Graduating Seniors:

Seniors, you're in the home stretch. The graduation ceremony for the College of the Liberal Arts is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bryce Jordan Center. If your family and friends ask about needing tickets to attend, please tell them that tickets are not required for the ceremony. However, we recommend you and your supporters arrive early to find your seats. Any last minute questions about the ceremony? Be sure to check this web site: <http://commencement.psu.edu/future.html>.

Plan to attend the Graduation Open House April 5-8 in 7B Sparks Building (The Penn State Learning Center). This is where you will get your nomenclator card - and the nomenclator card is what will be used to read your name as you walk across the stage at graduation. That is a very important part of the process. Be sure to complete the senior survey before coming to the open house. You will find details at <http://bit.ly/May16Grad>. There will be entertainment and prizes each day. Stop by 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Friday.

You've worked hard, and it's time to acknowledge the end of your undergraduate career at Penn State and the beginning of the next phase in your lives. We'd like to celebrate with you and your families, so please plan to join us at our departmental reception before the graduation ceremony, on the lawn in front of the library; the time will be announced soon. Faculty and staff will be on hand to congratulate you and wish you well. Enjoy some food, fellowship, and fun before we head to the Bryce Jordan Center for the ceremony.

You're Invited!

What: Departmental Reception

Who: SOC and CRIM graduating seniors and their families

When: Saturday, May 7, 2016 - Time and location will be announced soon! Hope to see you there!

COME BACK TO CAMPUS EVENT

Each semester, in conjunction with the CARE FAIR the departments of criminology and sociology invite alums to come back to campus and chat with our students. This event takes place in the HUB and is a chance for students to ask questions and chat with professionals in their target fields. This spring we were lucky that many of our returning alums were looking for students to participate in internships at their places of employment.

These successful alums have careers in federal government, the legal system and policing, just to name a few. For a link to the bios of the participants please visit here: <http://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/cbtc/development-workshop>

The next Come Back to Campus event will be October 26, 2016. Please be sure to join us for the excellent networking opportunity. If you are thinking one of these career fields seems appealing, why not take a few moments and sit down with a Penn State grad who is living that career? Learn first-hand what it is all about.

Our colleagues in the Career Enrichment Network will host several events leading up to Come Back to Campus. These events will help you to prepare a great resume, master networking skills and learn how to follow up after the event. More information about these events will be communicated to you in September.

Summer Graduation

Summer graduation will be August 13, 2016. There is only one graduation date for summer. It doesn't matter if you took classes during Maymester, first session or second session. If you plan to graduate this summer, please make sure you activate your intent to graduate on eLion between May 9-June 17. This will send an alert to the department and the Dean's office to review your degree audit and ensure you have earned that diploma.

Summer Internships

If you are planning to complete an internship this summer: GREAT!! Please be sure Amy Schmoeller, als63@psu.edu, room 211 Oswald, is aware of your plans. Either e-mail Amy or stop by and visit her. She is also the person you ask about earning academic credit for your internship experience. Amy also needs to track non-credit internships so please be sure she is aware of your summer plans, even if you are not completing an internship for credit. Your adviser can help you determine how to best use internship credits, but Amy plays an important role by helping you to earn those credits.

Important Spring Dates:

Late Drop: April 8

Withdraw: April 29

Commencement: May 7



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