

CLJ Communiqué



Penn State University: Sociology Department, College of the Liberal Arts

Volume 16, Issue 2

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"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change." ~Carl Rogers

Please take a few minutes to read through the CLJ Communiqué—it contains important updates and information related to advising, academics, and enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities. You should receive two newsletters during the fall and spring semesters via e-mail—please let us know if you don't.



Advising Hours

FALL AND SPRING ADVISING HOURS

WALK-IN HOURS:
MONDAY/WEDNESDAY
1:00-4:00 PM
FRIDAY 8:30-11:00 AM

ALL OTHER
ADVISING BY
APPOINTMENT ONLY

You can schedule an appointment by going to www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/

**A note about making appointments: When scheduling an appointment, please be sure you make your appointment with your assigned Sociology advisor. If you schedule an appointment with a different Sociology advisor, you may be asked to cancel the appointment and reschedule with the advisor you have been assigned.*

Contacting your advisers

Karen Sones

(klo1@psu.edu)
317 Oswald Tower

Melissa McBrayer

(mbm25@psu.edu)
316 Oswald Tower

Julie Willits

(jaw300@psu.edu)
315 Oswald Tower

Phone number: 814-865-2217



Work Study

Position

The advising offices are looking for a work-study student for the spring semester. If you've been approved for work-study funding and are a dependable, organized, and personable student, we'd like to talk with you! Work-study duties include filing and providing general office support for the advisers. If you're interested, please send a cover letter and your résumé to Karen at klo1@psu.edu as quickly as possible.

Role of the advisers

The Crime, Law, and Justice and Sociology advising offices are available to help you clarify requirements and choices, feel more at ease with Penn State's bureaucracy, empower you to take charge of your education, and assist with career planning.

The undergraduate advisers can:

- Help you with class scheduling
- Help you create a long-term academic plan

- Explain College and University requirements
- Help you decipher your degree audit reports
- Advise you in planning an internship, externship, or study abroad experience
- Provide information on support services available at the University
- Keeping your long-range plan up-to-date
- Bringing in a draft schedule
- Thinking about career possibilities that we can explore together

You can enhance your advising by:

- Reviewing your audit and listing questions

The final responsibility for fulfilling major, College, and University requirements is yours. Students who self-advise may run the risk of discovering that they haven't met all graduation requirements! Don't let this happen to you.



CLJ Communiqué

E-mail Policy

To E-mail, or

Not to E-mail

There has been a significant increase in e-mail interactions with students. Below are a few guidelines to follow when you write an e-mail to one of us, and to decide when you should:

Include your name, a greeting (ex. Hi Melissa), and your ID number. Please do not use text message lingo. We can't understand your emails if

they include partial words. This is something you should get used to—your future employers will expect the same.

We are happy to answer quick questions via e-mail. We will not, however, replace an advising meeting with e-mail correspondence. For example, discussing possible courses for the next semester is something that you should do in person, not through the computer. If we feel that something is too difficult to explain through email, or a

reply would be too extensive, we'll ask you to come in and speak to us personally.

Please limit your e-mails. If you have several questions, send them all at once. Avoid sending multiple e-mails on the same day. We'll do our best to answer your questions as quickly as possible, but we might not be able to answer them on the same day. We also do not answer e-mails during vacations, holidays, or on weekends.

Law School

Considering law school? If so, contact the pre-law adviser, Ed Wangler (ejw15@psu.edu), at the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). He is located in the Grange Building, and can be reached at 865-7576.

Visit www.psu.edu/dus/prelaw/ for Pre-Law information including LSAT prep courses, law school resources, and other upcoming events. Also check out www.lsac.org to get more information regarding law school.

Withdrawals

Those who are experiencing significant difficulties this fall may consider withdrawing for the semester. The last day to withdraw from the fall 2011 semester is Friday, **December 9, 2011**. After this date, no student

will be permitted to withdraw. You can easily process a withdrawal using eLion at <https://elion.psu.edu>, but please consider talking to Karen, Melissa, or Julie about your plans first.

Alpha Phi Sigma

Applications for Alpha Phi Sigma, the national criminal justice honor society, are available outside of room 315 Oswald Tower. To be eligible, CLJ majors must have completed a minimum of four CRIM courses, have an overall grade point average of 3.2 as well as a major grade point average of 3.2. For more information about Alpha Phi Sigma, contact the APS president, Alexandra Solt (aps5182@psu.edu).

Summer Internship Information

If you're considering a summer internship, the internship dates are planned for **May 16–August 10, 2012**. Be sure to contact Tisha Edor (tth5005@psu.edu) by **January 25** regarding summer internships. Following are key deadline dates:

January 25

Indicate your intent to complete an internship by this date and e-mail **Tisha Edor (tth5005@psu.edu)** to let her know your plans.

February 15

Letters must be sent to three possible internship sites by this date. Send an e-mail to **Tisha Edor** with the names of the three sites.

April 11

Placements should be finalized by this date. Send an e-mail to **Tisha Edor** with your internship site placement. We will then send a letter to your internship site with information and instructions about your internship duties/activities.

For more information about the internship process, go to the departmental Web site: www.sociology.psu.edu/undergraduate/internships.shtml. Tisha Edor (tth5005@psu.edu) is the internship coordinator. Karen, Melissa, and Julie are available to discuss the internship process, how an internship fits into your academic plan, potential sites, and answer questions you have about internships.





Graduating Seniors

Seniors, you're in the home stretch. The fall graduation ceremony for the College of the Liberal Arts is scheduled for Saturday, **December 17, 2011** at 12:30 p.m. in the Bryce Jordan Center. Tickets are not required for family and friends to attend the ceremony. However, we recommend you and your supporters arrive early to find your seats. Caps and gowns can be purchased at the Penn State Bookstore.

Any last minute questions about the ceremony? Be sure to check out this Web site:

<http://commencement.psu.edu/future.html>

Congratulations!

Stay Tuned!

Seniors will be receiving an email from the department to participate in the senior survey. This is to allow the department to get some general information about the graduating class. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes and participants will be entered into a drawing to win a \$20 gift certificate to the Bookstore! Seniors, don't miss out on this opportunity!!

Spring Scheduling Tips

Spring scheduling has begun, so please review your audit and consider the degree requirements that you still need to satisfy. Below are a few scheduling tips to keep in mind:

- CRIM 250W is required for most of the 400 level CRIM courses.
- CRIM 250W must be scheduled and successfully completed before

you are permitted to complete an internship.

- Strive for some balance in your schedule. In other words, don't load up on 400-level CRIM classes if you can help it.

As always, please feel free to contact Karen, Melissa, or Julie about any scheduling concerns.



Still Need a CRIM Course?

The following CRIM courses are still open for the spring semester:
SOC 012, CRIM 482

Student Spotlight– Brieana Mitchell – Centre County Youth and Service Bureau

I secured an internship this semester with the Centre County Youth Service Bureau at their girl's group home. A typical day for me would be transporting the clients to and from school, attending any medical appointments and court appointments. I was also given the opportunity to supervise visits between clients and their family members.

My main motivation for obtaining this internship was to be able to see the other side of the juvenile process and understand that this life is more than case numbers and facts. I got to meet with the people behind these papers and it helped me to gain an understanding of what they go through in their home life, in placement and when they are placed back into their homes. I learned a bit about the corrections aspect of the Criminal Justice system and the work it takes on the part of case workers, probation officers, and attorneys to keep their client on the right track.

My main advice for anyone trying to obtain an internship through this company is to always ask questions. There are many rules and regulations that must be adhered to by clients and staff, and knowledge of these terms make life a bit easier for everyone. The internship overall was a great 'foot-in-the-door' experience and will definitely help me on the path of a career in juvenile advocacy law.

CAREER NEWS:

This year's People to People Fair will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. The People to People Fair is geared towards service-oriented careers which includes agencies related to Sociology and Crime, Law, and Justice majors. We will be sending more information to you as the date approaches.

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Alumni Hall - HUB-Robeson Cultural Center





Julie Willits

Fun Fact.....Did you know?

Julie Willits is the new academic advisor in the Sociology and Crime, Law, Justice Departments. As a former middle school and high school counselor, she is enjoying the experience of working with a different student population here at Penn State. Before coming to work at Penn State, she was a stay-at-home mom with her 5-year-old son, now in Kindergarten. Outside of work, she enjoys fun activities with her son like going to the new children's science museum, setting up playdates, spending time at the library, or playing "cars." When she has that rare personal "free time," she enjoys skiing, reading, walking, scrapbooking, and going to the beach.

The Justice Association

The Justice Association is an organization with the primary goal of educating students about careers in the Criminal Justice field. Many meetings consist of guest speakers who speak about their professions and answer questions. It is a great way to establish contacts and gain insight about possible career paths. Notable speakers from the past have included the FBI, CIA, Secret Service, and State College Police Department. Our next meeting will be on the Monday after Thanksgiving break, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. in 127 Henderson South. The guest speaker will be Professor Michele Vollmer, a professor from the Dickinson Law School, and Dean Pritchett from Admissions. We are involved in THON, and will most likely be participating in the next canning trips. In the spring semester, JA will be taking a tour of Rockview prison and sitting in on a court hearing. Meetings are held every other Monday night in 127 Henderson South. Contact Jordan DeMatto (jrd5241@psu.edu) with any questions.

Important Semester Dates At-A-Glance

December 9	Withdrawal deadline
December 9	Classes end
December 12-16	Final exams
December 17	Fall commencement
January 9, 2012	Spring semester classes begin



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