Dear Sociology Majors and Minors,

I hope your semester is going well and you are looking forward to a relaxing Spring break. In this month’s newsletter, I’ve included links to a couple of fun, sociologically relevant activities you might enjoy during your downtime. As always, if you have events or news you’d like to share, please send it on!

Sincerely,
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Upcoming events in the Sociology department

*Department brownbag, Friday, March 16, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm*

Professor Akihiko Hirose will discuss his current research in a presentation entitled “The Behavior of Cosmopolitan Consumption: Authenticity, Otherness, and Orientalism.” Use this opportunity to get to know the Sociology faculty and your fellow students in a relaxed setting with great conversation! Lawrence Street Center, 4th floor conference room

*Reading Across the Curriculum*

Next fall, the Sociology department will debut its “Reading Across the Curriculum” program, an initiative supported by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students will read a common article in all of the department’s core classes during the 2012-13 school year, and we’ll have various opportunities throughout the year to meet up and talk about it as a department. Faculty will be selecting the common reading later this month, so if you have a favorite book or article you’d like to share with your fellow sociologists, let us know about it!

*American Sociological Association surveys CU-Denver seniors*

The American Sociological Association is fielding a survey of graduating sociology majors across the country to find out what they’ve liked best about their programs and what the discipline can do to prepare students for the labor market and life after college. The survey opened on March 12, and graduating seniors should have received a contact letter by email from ASA. Please do your part as social scientists to help us improve our field and champion our students!
In the words of my grandfather, “What’s going on good, graduating seniors?”

At last count, over 50 seniors are graduating with a Sociology major or minor on May 12. Graduates, let us know your plans! Do you have a job lined up? Going on to graduate school? Are you going to give yourself a well-earned break in a great vacation spot?

Also, I’d love to pull together a “Best of CU-Denver” scrapbook for this year’s graduates. What have been some of the highlights of being a student here? Was there a class that inspired you, an event on campus that you’ll always remember, an internship that set you on your career path, or a place you hung out with friends that just made you glad to be here? Share your best CU-Denver memories with me at paula.fomby@ucdenver.edu, and I’ll put together a virtual scrapbook to highlight them!

Goings-on in Denver

Here are a few activities to keep you entertained during (and just before) the Spring break:

Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives at the Denver Public Library. New York’s Aquila Theater Company will make a stop in Denver on Thursday, March 15 as part of its national tour. See their production of “From Homer to Hip Hop: A Staged Reading of Scenes from Greek Drama” at the Denver Central Library (registration required). Details available at http://denverlibrary.org/blog/ancient-greeksmodern-lives.

If you enjoy sending up the 1950’s ideal of can-do wives vacuuming in high heels or you just want a chance to see what avocado-green kitchen appliances from the 1960s actually looked like, check out “Cocktails and Casseroles: Entertaining in the Twentieth Century,” an exhibit at the Lakewood Heritage Center. The exhibit got a great review here.

Garry Winogrand’s photographs captured American women in public space during a period of extraordinary social change, from the 1950s through the 1970s. See a retrospective of his enduring work at the Denver Art Museum, on display now through September 16. Entrance to the museum is $8 for Colorado resident college students and free the first Saturday of each month.
Sociology in the News

Sociology is everywhere these days! Recent comments by the leading candidates for the Republican presidential nomination about access to college sparked an interesting “Room for Debate” forum at the New York Times on the question “Should College Be for Everyone?”

Charles Murray’s new book “Coming Apart,” about the eroding status of the white working class sparked similarly intense controversy in the blogosphere. Some responses from across the political spectrum are here, here, and here.

Have you been following these issues? Weigh in by emailing me at paula.fomby@ucdenver.edu. If there is enough interest, I’ll see about getting an online discussion thread set up!

Also, check out the press that a local sociologist and her colleague received for their recent publication in the journal Sociology of Education.

Name That Sociologist

Well, I won’t tell Robert Groves, the totally rockin’ director of the U.S. Census Bureau, that no one came forward to name him in last month’s Name That Sociologist contest if you don’t.

Here’s your chance to redeem yourself! Be the first to name this sociologist, and you earn bragging rights in next month’s newsletter:

After completing a double major in Sociology and Economics at Eureka College in Illinois, he began a career in radio and film, becoming well-known for his work in such features as Knute Rockne: All-American and Bedtime for Gonzo. He served as president of the Screen Actors Guild and governor of California before being selected for the role of a lifetime: the 40th president of the United States. He is best-known for promoting a theory of economics that informally bears his name and, many argue, for laying the groundwork that brought about the collapse of the Soviet Union. (I recently attended a faculty meeting where I learned that most college students today are too young to recall what the Soviet Union was. Bonus points for providing a definition that makes me feel not old.) He died in 2004 at 93.