

COLORADO COLLEGE

SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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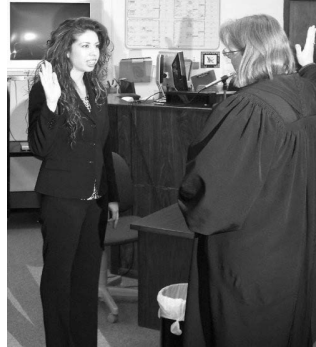
CRESTINA MARTINEZ '06

Crestina Martinez graduated from Colorado College with a degree in sociology in 2006. Now, four years later, Martinez serves as the Costilla County Commissioner in the San Luis Valley. Martinez is the youngest County Commissioner in Costilla County's history and the youngest County Commissioner in the state of Colorado.

Although Martinez describes her childhood as "permeated" by politics, she never thought she would follow in her parents' footsteps and serve her local government. Martinez recalls election nights where she would keep her own tally of the votes, listening to her father read the precinct results to an office full of local citizens. Martinez wished to leave her politically active youth behind and travel upon graduation, but her parents had other things in mind, encouraging Martinez to pursue a summer job with the Costilla County Board of County Commissioners. As Martinez says, "Needless to say, I absolutely fell in love with local government

and rekindled my affection for my native community." Martinez convinced the Board to turn her summer job into a full time job, and after heavy solicitation from community members, formally announced her intention to run for County Commissioner in December of 2007. Martinez was sworn into office on January 13, 2009 (pictured above right) and is excited that her life that has "always been influenced and shaped by politics" has helped her to take a very active role in "shaping and influencing the politics of my community."

When asked how her sociological background informs her day-to-day work, Martinez said, "Politics and sociology are one in the same. My work affects individuals but my focus has to be the community that is comprised of individuals. I think that my sociology background has helped me to look at issues with a broader scope, to look at the greater good of the



community and what is in the best interest of the majority. I think it helps me methodically analyze issues and, to the best of my ability, objectively make decisions that are in the best interest of my community."

Advice for future grads? "As cliché as it sounds, do what makes you happy and be open to opportunity. Opportunity doesn't always mirror what you may have envisioned for yourself but that doesn't mean it can't be transformative. You must be flexible and adaptive but yet grounded in who you are and what impact you want to have on society." We applaud your work, Crestina!

LAURA FOSTER, SOCIOLOGY STAFF ASSISTANT

Laura Foster joined the Sociology Department as Staff Assistant in August 2009. Originally from western Maryland, Laura relocated to Colorado 16 years ago and has worked in human resources, technical recruiting, program management, in veterinary and medical offices, as a test driver in the Colorado mountains as well as in higher education at UCCS and her alma mater, College of Notre Dame in MD. "You get out of it what you put into it in any work environment," Laura said, "but in my experience, the energy and enthusiasm of higher education makes for an inherently exciting place to be!"

In her free time, Laura enjoys reading, camping, fishing, playing piano, guitar and listening to a variety of types of music and spending time with family and friends.

Favorite movies: The Princess Bride and Last of the Dogmen

Favorite book: A Town Like Alice by Nevil Shute

**LOOKING FOR A
2010 SUMMER
COURSE?**

**CONTESTED
MASCULINITIES
SUMMER SESSION**

**OFFERED BLOCK A:
MAY 24—JUNE 15**

**AS A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
NOT JUST OF MEN, BUT OF
MASCULINITIES, THIS COURSE
ADDRESSES GENDER FROM A
SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONIST
PERSPECTIVE.**

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RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Professor Kathy Giuffre wrote an article entitled “The return of the natives: Globalization and negative ties” published in the journal *Poetics* (August 2009). Abstract: The Polynesian island of Rarotonga in the South Pacific Ocean is currently in the midst of an artistic explosion. Using a combination of ethnographic and network data, this paper examines the social structure of artists on the island and finds that it contains elements of both support and hostility. The hostility is mostly engendered by the clique of neo-traditionalist intellectuals who, although of Cook Islands ancestry, have been raised and educated abroad and have returned to the islands bringing with them a new conception of indigenous culture, political power and rights. The particular network structure on the island, however, facilitates the constant interaction of this group with others so that both positive and negative ties remain constantly activated. Acting as scapegoats and prods to each other – as well as supportive members of an art world – the artists on the island have built a network structure which facilitates a hot-house innovative environment. This lends support to the further conclusion that creativity and innovation are enhanced by social structures surrounding the creators.

Professor Gail Murphy-Geiss, with Dana Rosenfeld and Lara Foley, co-authored “Midwifery as Established Sect: An Expanded Application for the Church-Sect Continuum” published in the journal *Community, Work and Family* (Feb. 2010). Abstract: Based on church-sect theory, this paper asserts that midwifery is much like an established sect in relation to its church equivalent: Western medicine. We find that midwifery can endure in this form - as both protest movement and established institution - because of its ability to maintain its central oppositional values while being accepted as a legitimate, if marginalized, profession. Using interview data from 25 Florida midwives, we draw an analogy between the liminal status of midwifery and three of the most important characteristics of the established sect: limited institutionalization, acceptance and opposition, and a unique value set. This comparison sheds light on both church-sect theory and midwifery, which also leads us to suggest that similar analogies be used for analysis across other sub-fields in sociology.



Book Feature: **Professor C.J. Pascoe**, co-author with the Digital Youth Project

Conventional wisdom about young people's use of digital technology often equates generational identity with technology identity: today's teens seem constantly plugged in to video games, social networks sites, and text messaging. Yet there is little actual research that investigates the intricate dynamics of youth's social and recreational use of digital media. *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out* fills this gap, reporting on an ambitious three-year ethnographic investigation into how young people are living and learning with new media in varied settings—at home, in after school programs, and in online spaces. By focusing on media practices in the everyday contexts of family and peer interaction, the book views the relationship of youth and new media not simply in terms of technology trends but situated within the broader structural conditions of childhood and the negotiations with adults that frame the experience of youth in the United States.

Integrating twenty-three different case studies—which include Harry Potter podcasting, video-game playing, music-sharing, and online romantic breakups—in a unique collaborative authorship style, *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out* is distinctive for its combination of in-depth description of specific group dynamics with conceptual analysis.

This book was written as a collaborative effort by members of the Digital Youth Project, a three-year research effort funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and conducted at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Southern California.

2009 ALUM: PIG CASTRATION, BIG CORPORATIONS, AND EXTENSIVE PASSPORT USE

Alexa Dougherty spends her days in a cubicle at Fidelity Investments in Boston. She is working for the Vice President of human resources in IT, learning lots about both human resources and technology issues.

Tabitha Hrynick is teaching English in South Korea for a year and a half, after which she plans to travel through Southeast Asia before returning to Denver to seek employment.

Kelsey Pullar is living in Madrid with a couple Spanish guys while she works on her TEFL certification. She has been traveling through Spain and parts of Europe and plans to return to the United States sometime this Spring.



Fall.

Becca Cohen is currently living in Denver with several CC graduates. She is working full time as a Mental Health Counselor at a residential treatment center for at-risk teens.

Brittany Linton is obtaining her doctorate in counseling psychology at the University of Texas in Austin. Brittany's research primarily focuses on assessing the mental health needs of the LGBT community as a whole, in addition to looking at adolescents struggling with their sexual identity, queer families, and children of queer families. She tries to keep sociology strong though by continuously calling into question social factors that LGBT individuals face that the



psychological community doesn't always take into consideration when creating therapeutic treatment plans.

Ashley Young is working at Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo as the Educational Interpretive Keeper. Poo, food and training! Through a guided learning method called interpretation, Ashley helps the youth of Colorado Springs connect to the wildlife in their own backyard.

Sophie Kauffman recently returned from four months of travel, exploration and WWOOFing in southern Chile and Argentina. While abroad she castrated pigs, cut sheep toenails, built a compost-



ing toilet and solar shower, baked bread in a solar oven, hitch-hiked up and down some of the southern-most highways in the world, and planted potatoes with gauchos. After returning home to the Pacific Northwest, she has since relocated to Northern California to enjoy redwoods, wineries, and that famous marine fog.

JJ Osterweil has been working as the Personnel Director for Gold Arrow Camp in the amazing Sierra Nevada. JJ spends her time interviewing and hiring camp counselors



from around the world (and just returned from hiring counselors in New Zealand and Australia) for the 2010 summer! After finishing out the 2010 season with Gold Arrow Camp, JJ plans on traveling to South Africa to work at a camp for children who have been affected by AIDS.

Krystle Richman is (attempting to) close the achievement gap in Kailua Kona, Hawai'i with Teach for America.

Duncan Forbes is the Program Manager at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, serving as a Board Member at Family Connections, and struggling to make a life in Colorado Springs that doesn't revolve around CC.

Sarah Diefendorf is finishing her time as the paraprof for the sociology department here at CC. She is gearing up to say goodbye to Colorado and head to Seattle, where she will begin a PhD program in sociology at the University of Washington this fall.

Lauren Hughes will be heading to Penn State in the fall to begin a PhD program in sociology.



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NEW AKD INDUCTEES 2009



Alpha Kappa Delta welcomes the following new members:

Alyssa Aldaz '11	Nate Kerr '10
Ariella Epel '10	Britt Landis '11
Tristan Dickison '11	Jordan Maze '11
Christina Holmes '11	Ellen Palazzo '11
Marlia Keeley '11	Julia Sick '11
Gioia Garden '11	Ellie Smith '11

DANIEL P. O'CONNOR GRANT AWARD WINNERS 2009-2010

Liana Scobie	New Economics Foundation "Festival of Interdependence"
Ariella Epel	Entering Eyeth
B Torres	Replication of <i>Dude You're a Fag</i> research in Mexico
Lis Najmy	Gender Inequality, Female Sexuality, and the Implications of Sex Trafficking in Thailand
Anaïs Gude	Aging in Beijing Parks

OTHER EXCITING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Drew Foster '08 will begin a PhD program in Sociology at Michigan University this fall

Michael Fowler '06 is currently finishing a MA in Classical Archaeology at Tufts University, and will be attending Columbia University in the Fall, where he will pursue a PhD in Art History and Ancient Architecture

Michael Freeman '10 will be working for the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation and the University of Washington as part of the Post-Bachelor Fellowship Program.

Anais Gude '10 won both the Grand Prize and an Honorable Mention in the ACM Off-Campus Photo Contest for her photographs entitled "Working on Manhood" (Grand Prize) and "Iron Fist", which can be viewed here: http://www.acm.edu/features/ACM_Photo_Contest_2009_10.html

Emily Moore '12 will be interning with the National Center for Health Statistics in Washington, D.C. for the summer

Joanna Sylwester '08 will be attending law school at the University of Washington this fall

Anna Wool '08 will be attending law school at the University of Colorado this fall