A Message From Advising

The Sociology Department at the University of Illinois currently serves approximately 300 undergraduate majors and minors. In recent years, the Sociology Advising Office has begun offering more avenues for student involvement in the department including re-instituting our chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) (the Sociology International Honors Society), facilitating the development of a Sociology Club, promoting student research projects with faculty, and helping students to gain valuable internship experience. We now host an internship fair on an annual basis which allows students to connect with local organizations looking for student interns.

The Sociology Club meets regularly to welcome new students into the major. The club discusses courses, debates social issues and participates in community service in Champaign-Urbana. With new leadership each year, the club takes on a new personality and sets its own agenda.

In the Fall semester, the Sociology Department inducts new members into our Honors Society, AKD. Parents are invited to share in their student’s accomplishments alongside the faculty. As a student organization, our chapter of AKD has been involved in activities such as community service in the Champaign-Urbana area. We plan to continue our tradition of honoring our best and brightest students.

Ruby Mendenhall Wins Leadership Award

This summer, Ruby Mendenhall won the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award from the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute. Her student, Artesha Williams, won the Outstanding Scholar Award in the McNair program for her research on Black males’ sense of belonging on a predominantly white campus.

Mendenhall is well-known for including undergraduates in her fascinating research agenda that includes studies of the earned income tax credit, housing policy, and the impact of violence on the mental health of urban residents.

Ruby Mendenhall meets with McNair Scholars in summer 2012.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS 2012

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARD
SAKINA TAYEBALI
The Student Engagement Award highlights a student in Sociology (usually a Junior or Senior) who has been active in the University of Illinois and/or Champaign-Urbana community. This student stands out for their activism and leadership within the community.

HIGHEST GPA FOR A SOCIOLOGY SENIOR
RYAN DOUGLAS GRILLAERT
This award acknowledges the Senior in Sociology who has attained the Highest Overall Grade Point Average.

BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD IN SOCIOLOGY
JEREMY MARSAN
“The Nature of Maps in Web 2.0: A Case Study of Occupy Wall Street’s ‘User Map’”
The Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award recognizes outstanding achievement in a Sociology student’s research and writing abilities.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN SOCIOLOGY
HOLLY MONENT CURIA
This award is given to a senior who demonstrates involvement with the community, leadership achievements, academic success, and a dedication to sociology.