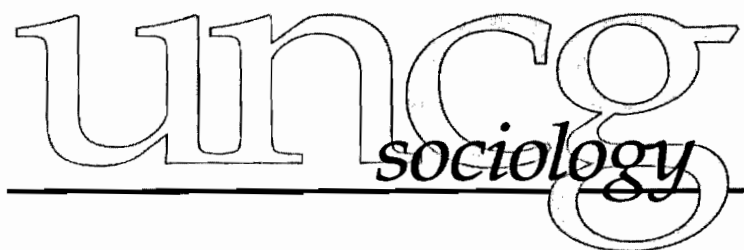


**Spring 2002**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our department newsletter. It is intended to chronicle our many activities and the good work of our graduates.



## **Did You Know?**

The UNCG Sociology Department was established in 1913. Originally called the Department of Rural Life and Economics, its first chair was the sociologist E.C. Lindeman, a leader in redefining race relations in the Greensboro area. With departmental pride and institutional shame, Lindeman was “relieved of his duties” when accused of entertaining black people in his home. Nationally known as a research methodologist, he was quickly hired by North Carolina State University. The next chair, Glen Johnson, established a course on race relations in 1924. This was the only course at UNCG that addressed black-white relations until the 1960s.

---

## **Notes From a Grateful Head**

I’m sitting on the other side of the big desk these days, in the bigger chair. For close to twenty years I sat in the smaller chair that faces the big desk pleading my case for a Tuesday-Thursday schedule, more travel money, or permission to submit a purchase order for a new this or that. I survived my first semester--on the other side of the desk--as the new head of the sociology department at UNCG. The department too appears alive and well. For that, and much more, I’m grateful.

Adapting to life in the bigger chair is both more and less than I anticipated. More because of the public nature of this job. As a solitary, seldom seen research professor at the University of New Orleans, I sometimes imagined myself as an apparition, a shade, visible only to those to whom I chose to reveal myself. As head of a sociology department, I’ve become all too corporeal, tactile, a far more tangible and touchable person. Daily, I appear in the department office, palpable flesh and bone. No specter I; incarnate I am, and ready to work. It feels right being visible, if a bit odd.

But the job is also less onerous and imposing than I imagined it would be. I credit this welcome surprise to several good people. First, the exceptional work of Professor Julie Brown, a gifted interim head, created a legacy of order and reason that any fool could follow. Thank you Julie. Second, the skillful administrative work of Jean Holliday and Julie Capone keeps me out of trouble and attending to what really matters in running a department. Finally, my colleagues in the department are generously contributing their time and many talents to help fashion a culture of academic excellence while graciously accommodating this head’s awkward first steps.

As I write this, six more bodies were unearthed during the excavation of the World Trade Center; bellicose language from the President seems intent on inflaming an already incendiary world; and the FBI reminds us that another terrorist attack is “imminent,” “possible,” “likely,” depending on the day.

What possible sense do we make of senseless acts that at once defy comprehension and demand an explanation? Pierre Van den Berghe noted many years ago that the more momentous the question, the less sociology is capable of providing a definitive answer. He explained the failure of sociology to answer the big questions by calling attention to the partially indeterminate, simply unexplainable, character of human behavior. I recall Van den Berghe’s irreverent portrayal of sociology whenever I am tempted to write about the “significant,” “pivotal,” “vital,” conclusions of my own work.

I’m now more skeptical about Van den Berghe’s observation on the limits of sociology. Not as it applies to my work, which continues to benefit from his wisdom, but as it applies to the chorus of sociologists at UNCG who sought to make sense of this day and its aftermath. In classrooms, impromptu seminars and symposia faculty responded to this tragedy by representing its exquisite horrors while placing it in a broader, historical and political context. I was reminded about something Van den Berghe forgot in his insouciant commentary on sociology: the penetrating insight of a sociological imagination. That inventive, adroit gift of sociology was on prominent display in our department in the days and weeks following the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks.

By way of closing, I am grateful to be given the opportunity to serve as head of this vibrant, imaginative department. I hope I can live up to the high standards I see others setting and meeting around here. I’ll try.

*Steve Hull Smith*



## David J. Pratto Retires

David Pratto, his wife Marlene and three children, Felicia, Alex and Anita, arrived in Greensboro in 1969. They moved from Boulder, where David was completing his doctorate at the University of Colorado. They added a fourth child, Paul, to the family in 1971.

David and Marlene have been important to UNCG and the Greensboro community for the past thirty years.

David retired from a distinguished thirty-year career at UNCG in May, 2000. He served as Department Head from 1988 through 1990, and again from 1994 until his retirement. In his second term as head he guided the planning and implementation of the Criminology Concentration in the Department's undergraduate and graduate programs.

During his years at UNCG David was appointed or elected to almost 100 university, college, and departmental committees, published over 20 scholarly papers and about that many book reviews. He also wrote 30 technical reports or monographs and completed well over 35 funded research projects on topics as diverse as the conduct of judges, toxic waste disposal, and health care. He served as an adjunct professor of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine and helped evaluate the parallel medical school curriculum. He taught more than 17 different courses, chaired 17 masters' thesis committees, chaired two dissertation committees in Educational Administration, and served on 29 other masters' and doctoral committees in other departments. Not insignificantly, David led the way as the Department actively promoted and adopted computer technology. He was consultant to the Computer Center as early as 1973.

He also served in countless editorial, consulting, advisory and elected positions in many organizations, including the American Sociological Association, the Southern Sociological Society, the North Carolina Sociological Society, Sigma Xi, North Carolina Family Life Council of Greater Greensboro, the Association for Research in Education, and the National Council of Family Relations. In recognition of these contributions, David received The Gladys Strawn Bullard Award for his service to the University, and the Distinguished Contributions to Sociology Award of the North Carolina Sociological Association.

In one of his most well-known research projects, he and other sociologists documented that children with two working parents did not automatically suffer the emotional damage that is so often attributed to "latchkey" families. As a

sociologist David appreciated the power of institutions and their capacity to absorb an individual's time and energy. But he also appreciated the resilience that individuals could muster when compelled to respond to institutional pressures. This vision informed his approach to living and made its way into his teaching, service and research. We miss David and wish the very best for him.

## ACTIVITIES

Dr. Elijah Anderson, the Charles and William L. Day Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of



Pennsylvania, presented a lecture, *On Welfare Reform*, at the Annual Sociology Colloquium on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Faculty, staff and students had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Anderson at a reception following his talk. Dr. Anderson is the preeminent writer on the sociology of black urban street life and the author of the now classic, *A Place On the Corner: A Study of Black Street Corner Men* (1978,

University of Chicago Press). His second book, *Streetwise: Race, Class and Change in an Urban Community* (1990, University of Chicago Press) won the 1991 Robert E. Park Award of the American Sociological Association. His last book *Code of the Street, Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City* (2000, W.W. Norton Press) originated as a cover story for *The Atlantic's* May 1994 issue. *The New York Times* review of the *Code of the Street* notes, "Anderson's work is strongly reminiscent of the early work of W.E.B. Dubois." Indeed, Professor Anderson recently authored a new introduction to the reissue of Dubois' *The Philadelphia Negro*.

Professor Anderson has also written several influential essays, including "Of Old Heads and Young Boys: Notes on the Urban Black Experience" (1986) and "Sex Codes and Family Life Among Inner City Youth" (1989) commissioned by the National Research Council's Committee on Family Life Among Inner City Youth. And recently co-authored a memorable and timely collection of essays with Douglas S. Massey published by the Russell Sage Foundation and titled *Problems of the Century, Racial Stratification in the United States* (2001).

He is the recipient of the coveted University of Pennsylvania Lindback Award For Distinguished Teaching and an associate editor for the journal *Qualitative Sociology*. Professor Anderson is also director of the Philadelphia Ethnographic Project. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy Of Political and Social Science and a member of the National Research Council's Panel on Understanding and Controlling Violent Behavior. Finally Elijah Anderson is the current vice-president elect of the American Sociological Association.

## The NC Journey of Hope

The Sociology Club sponsored Mr. George White, speaking on *From Violence to Healing* on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Mr. White is a member of The NC Journey of Hope, sponsored by People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. On February 27, 1985 George White and his wife Charlene were shot repeatedly by an armed robber at his place of business in Enterprise, Alabama. George held Charlene in his arms as her life slipped away. Their children were only 12 and 5 at the time. Sixteen months later, George was charged with the capital murder of his wife. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to life in prison. His conviction was overturned in 1989 and he was released from prison, but remained in legal limbo until 1992, when proof of his innocence was finally brought forward. Mr. White now travels to advocate the repeal of the death penalty.

## Book Signing

The UNCG Bookstore hosted a book signing on November 5, 2002 to celebrate the publication of *Wrongly Convicted: Perspectives on Failed Justice* edited by Dr. Sandra Westervelt and Dr. John A. Humphrey. The book has been called "A very powerful addition to the debate on capital punishment." (George Kelling, author of *Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities*.)



## Rebirth of the Sociology Club

The Sociology Club was revitalized in the Spring of 2000 under the faculty supervision of Aqueil Ahmad. During the Spring and Fall of that year, two outside scholars gave lectures. The first election of student officers took place in the Fall of 2001. All sociology majors and minors were allowed to vote. They elected a president (Jack Adams), a vice-president (Katie Crow) and a secretary (Ryann Hyer). The Club responded vigorously to the events of 9/11 by sponsoring or supporting three largely attended events - two lectures and one interdepartmental symposium in collaboration with the College of Arts & Sciences. Planned activities for this semester include lectures, one feature film with sociological content, a job fare, a Club website [<http://www.uncg.edu/student.groups/sociologyclub>], and a competition to select the Club logo. The first business meeting took place on February 1.

## Area news

# UNCG professor warns of backlash

By Kelly Hall  
STAFF WRITER

As pride in the United States continues to swell in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a local university professor said patriotism is more than displaying a flag or singing a song.

"To be patriotic is really to be tolerant of other racial and ethnic groups," said professor Paul Luebke. "That tolerance is what made the United States unique."

Luebke held a public lecture entitled "Resurgent Patriotism and Backlash Against Arab-Americans" at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Friday.

Luebke is a sociology professor specializing in political sociology. He is the author of two books on North Carolina politics and is also a member of the North Carolina General Assembly.

"Is backlash legitimate? No, it is absolutely not legitimate," he said. "It is not legitimate to label an entire group. It is a disgrace to label an entire group in the name of the flag."

He cited the assault of a Lebanese student at the university and the murder of an Arab-American working at a gas station in Arizona as hate crimes committed in revenge of the at-

tacks.

The UNCG student who was attacked left the university and returned to Lebanon. Luebke said the attackers were described as two white males but were never found.

"He was attacked for no other reason than the color of his skin," Luebke said.

He added that in the days immediately following the attacks

**LUEBKE**

**"It is a disgrace to label an entire group in the name of the flag."**

anyone of middle eastern descent was treated as an outsider. Luebke reminded students that that is not what America stands for.

Luebke compared the current tensions to that of World War I when Germans were discriminated against and World War II when Japanese-Americans were incarcerated on the West Coast.

But he said society has drastically changed since that time.

"The civil rights movement has forced people to rethink how easily someone can be labeled," Luebke said.

Kelly Hall can be contacted at 888-3536 or [khall@hpe.com](mailto:khall@hpe.com)

## Arranging the Fragments: Our Post-9/11 World

Sponsored by the Department of Sociology and the College of Arts and Sciences, a symposium entitled *Arranging the Fragments: Our Post-9/11 World* was presented on November 14, 2001. This well-attended symposium focused on the historical, political and religious dimensions of terrorism. Participants included Laura Linder, Broadcasting and Cinema, Paul Luebke, Sociology, Stephen Ruzicka, History, and John Sopper, Religious Studies. Aqueil Ahmad of the Sociology Department acted as Moderator and discussant. Topics presented included: "Framing the Terror: The News Media's Response to September 11," "The Aftermath of September 11 in National Politics: Foreign Policy Consensus and Domestic Policy Conflict," "The Terrorist's Koran," and "Are We in a Holy War Against the Muslims?" Worth Lancaster of the Department of Sociology acted as symposium coordinator.

## Faculty News

Professor Steve Cureton is finishing a book on black male gangs in Los Angeles. He has interviewed gang members in Los Angeles and observed gang-related activities on several occasions. Steve's innovative work promises to challenge many of the prevailing assumptions about black gangs in America. His recent chapter, "Introducing Hoover: I'll Ride for You, Gangsta" is narrative sociology at its best.

Proficient in German (and learning Italian), **Professor Bill Markham** spent his latest research leave as a Visiting Scholar at Humboldt University in Berlin (1999-2000). Bill also received a Fulbright Fellowship last summer to visit several German cities and discuss problems in the management of urban environments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Professor Markham will present a paper at the International Sociological Association next summer in Brisbane, Australia. Bill is currently the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Professor David Mitchell** recently completed the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Directory of Unpublished Experimental Measures* published by the American Psychological Association. David is finishing a tenure as Director of Graduate Studies.

**Professors Sandra Westervelt and John Humphrey** recently published a timely and evocative book. *Wrongly Convicted, Perspectives on Failed Justice* (2001, Rutgers University Press) is a collection of original essays by eminent writers on the many and varied failures of the American criminal justice system. This book follows Sandra's highly acclaimed, *Shifting the Blame, How Victimization Became a Criminal Defense* (1999, Rutgers University Press). Finally, Sandra is working on yet another book that will examine the life-histories of imprisoned people, many on death-row, who were found to be wrongly convicted.

*Village Voices, Gender and Action in Community Politics* will undergo a final revision before **Professor Jill Fuller** submits it for review. Jill recently organized a session at the Girl's Real Lives Conference sponsored by UNCG's Women's Studies program. Four of her former students are presenting papers on the provocative film, *Barbie Nation*.

**Professor Aqueil Ahmad** gave the keynote address to the Science and Society section of the Indian National Science Congress in January 1998. June 2000 saw Aqueil in another part of the world participating in Cuba's International Conference on Social and Political Thought. He is currently working on the development of a new, and timely course, to be offered this fall: *Terrorism in a Global Society*.

**Professor Rebecca Adams** continues her groundbreaking work on the Grateful Dead fans by organizing an evocative freshman seminar on this socio-

musical phenomenon. In addition, Rebecca is Chair of the University Steering Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, an imposing obligation.

Working on a new and timely project on Latino immigration in North Carolina, **Professor Paul Luebke** is examining one of the significant links between the state and global social change. His book *Tar Heel Politics 2000*, to quote Ed Williams of the Charlotte Observer, will "change the way you think about North Carolina politics."

Aside from his work on a new book, tentatively titled, *Contours of Human Reality*, **Professor Ken Allan** is designing our first Web-based sociology course. Ken was nominated for the 2002-2003 College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award. Professor Allan chaired a highly successful search committee for a new assistant professor.

**Professor Julie Brown** recently returned from Russia where she is working on the problems of health and illness in post-Soviet society. Her co-authored manuscript, *Living Sick, Dying Healthy, Health and Social Inequality in Urban Russia*, is the first sustained discussion of this topic since the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Professor Brown speaks fluent Russian, by the way. Julie recently assumed the duties of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Finally, **Steve Kroll-Smith** recently co-edited *Illness and the Environment, A Reader in Contested Medicine*. He is currently writing a book on environmental conflicts for Sage Press. Steve will give the 2002 College 8 Lecture on the Environment at the University of California at Santa Cruz this May.

### New Faculty Appointments:

Professor Shelly Brown recently accepted an invitation to join our department. Currently a post-doctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University, Shelly received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 2000. Her dissertation, "Does School Racial Composition Matter? The Effects of Race and Racial Composition on High School Students' Perceptions and Success" is an evocative look at the role race plays in student achievement and motivation. Her areas of interest include the sociology of education, race and ethnic relations, and research methods. Shelly promises to add several important dimensions to our program. Welcome Shelly!

## William T. Markham



For the last several years, I have been pursuing a new and interesting (to me at least) line of research. The project builds on some of my previous studies of organizations and volunteer groups, but it adds environmental sociology and an interest in Germany to the mix. I had been studying German as a hobby for years and had traveled to Germany, Switzerland, and Austria often, and I had always been interested in environmental problems. So when I finished my last research project, a national study of the Junior League, I decided to take on a study that would be something new and different and would bring all these interests together.

The first step in the process was to get my German up to speed, so I applied for and received a grant from the German government to spend the summer of 1999 in Dresden, Germany taking an eight week course in German. This was an interesting experience in itself because I was 10 years older than the teacher and about 30 years older than the rest of the students, who came from 11 countries scattered around the world. I also applied for and received a year's research leave from UNCG, which I spent as a Visiting Scholar at Humboldt University in Berlin in 1999-2000.

Last summer I was able to continue my research with two more grants. I received a Fulbright Fellowship to take part in a seminar about German urban problems and urban planning, a topic closely related to my research. With a group of American professors from all over the U.S., I visited six German cities, where we heard presentations from city planners about urban and environmental problems and toured the cities. Later in the summer, I spent five weeks working at the Museum and Archive for the History of Environmental Protection in Germany, which has many of the historical records of the organizations I'm studying. The museum is in a castle on a mountaintop overlooking the Rhine. This made working in the dusty attic with all the documents a bit hard to take, but I managed to stick with it and still find time for some hikes in the hills. I also made several side trips to interview leaders of state chapters of the groups I'm studying.

I'm beginning now to write some papers about the research. I've presented papers at international conferences in Geneva and Cambridge and will be going to Australia to present a paper at the International Sociological Association meetings next summer. It's been interesting to meet sociologists from around the world and learn about the environmental problems and movements in their countries

The next step in my research is to find some grant money to hire research assistants to help me look at the U.S. environmental organizations. So far I know these groups mainly from being a member of most of them. Once that's done, I hope to pull all of my findings together in a book. But that's several years in the future. Beyond that? Well I started with Italian 101 last semester and am moving on to 102 this coming semester. I'll see what develops.

## Sandra Westervelt



An assistant professor in the department, specializing in the sociology of law, I received my BA in English and Sociology from Furman University in 1990 and my MA and PhD in Sociology from the University of Virginia in 1996. My first book, *Shifting the Blame: How Victimization Became a Criminal Defense* (1998), examines the development of a new criminal defense strategy – popularly called the “abuse excuse” – that received a great deal of legal and public attention in the mid-1990s. I traced the first successful use of this strategy, which I call the “victimization defense strategy,” to the use of the battered woman’s self-defense strategy in the late-1970s and early-1980s.

Since the publication of this book, my work has focused on the issue of wrongful conviction, culminating most recently in the publication of my second book, an edited book with UNCG sociology professor John Humphrey – *Wrongly Convicted: Perspectives on Failed Justice* (2001). This book brings together articles written by some of the most influential lawyers and social scientists working on the wrongful conviction problem, including Elizabeth Loftus, Hugo Bedau, Michael Radelet, Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld. I am currently working on several articles that discuss the role of race in the wrongful conviction of innocent people and am beginning a new project that examines the lives of wrongly convicted individuals after their exoneration and release from death row.

However, my greatest achievement is the recent birth of my first son over the summer – Andrew Miles (“Drew”) Westervelt. My husband Van and I continue to enjoy watching Drew grow and discover the world around him. I also love to show his pictures to any former students who might venture by my office.

## **New and Improved—Check out our web page: [www.UNCG.edu/soc](http://www.UNCG.edu/soc)**

In an effort to better keep in touch with our sociology community, the Sociology web page has been reworked to make it more user friendly and up-to-date. One exciting feature is the Alumnae Section. We want this part of our web site to serve as a connection between the department and our graduates. We especially want to know where you are and what you are doing. You can help by sending us a short description of your career (and other) achievements since leaving UNCG. Even better, come to the department in person, meet our future graduates, and describe how you have used the sociological perspective to your own advantage. E-mail us at: [s\\_krolls@uncg.edu](mailto:s_krolls@uncg.edu).

## **Enrichment Fund**

The department was pleased to be able to support [in part] travel and conference costs for three graduate students this year to the Southern Sociological Society annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. Funds for this support came from the Sociology Enrichment Fund. The enrichment fund is used to supplement travel costs and to underwrite functions such as the annual installation of honor society students and Commencement activities for the department.

## **Commencement**

Commencement ceremonies for the department are planned for Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. This year graduates and their families will join us for festivities in Foust Park. The winners of this year's Donald and Carolyn Allen Theory Prize will be announced. Last year Dr. Julie Brown presented the Prize to Robert F. Solomon, Jr. The prize was established by Dr. David Pratto and Marlene Pratto upon the occasion of David's retirement. The prize honors those students who have excelled in sociological theory. One undergraduate award each semester and one graduate award are available each year. [Those wishing to support the Pratto's financial contributions to this fund may do at the Office of Development, UNCG.]

## **Scholarships and Awards**

Glenn Jeremy Ireland was awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> David and Marlene Pratto Scholarship

Ryann Allyn Hyer was the recipient of the Mereb Mossman Endowed Scholarship.

Cheryl Andrews and Jerwayne Cook won the UNCG Student Excellence Award.

Hassani Monsanto was awarded one of two Student Employee of the Year Awards.

## **AKD Induction of New Members**

Patricia Warren and Kecia Johnson, doctoral students at North Carolina State University, spoke on "Earning the Ph.D. in Sociology" at the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society Induction Ceremony and luncheon on April 24, 2002. This year twenty-seven students were inducted into the society.

## **AKD Inductees**

Vera S. Alves  
Cheryl D. Andrews  
Jerwayne D. Cook  
Marissa L. Curry  
Michelle L. Davis  
Daryl B. Florance  
J. Scott Floyd  
Lucas M. Gilstrap  
Antoine F. Hardy  
Tracy H. Holshouser  
C. Sterling Howell, II  
Kristy L. Humble  
Ryann A. Hyer  
Glenn J. Ireland  
Mildred R. James  
Christopher J. McLoughlin  
Carra M. Miskovich  
Lauren A. Mizwa  
Alicia S. Parks  
Amber Key Reed  
Meredith A. Schwartz  
Bronwen E. Sellers  
Patricia H. Shroyer  
Schenika L. Silver  
Marshall P. Sullivan  
Margaret A. Vaughn

**Dean's List  
Spring 2001**

Stephen Brosnan  
Jennifer Carmen  
Joya Chakravarty  
Rebecca Cleary  
Jerwayne Cook  
Marissa Curry  
Michelle David  
Sonya Desai  
Kelly Doss  
Tabitha Hicks  
Kristin Hine  
Kristy Humble  
Jessica Humphries  
David Joyce  
Jeanne Markwardt  
Patrick Parsons  
Crystal Patrick  
Victor Sanchez  
Bronwen Sellers  
Patirica Shroyer  
Margaret Vaughn

Rhonda Walker  
Glenn Ireland  
Rachel Jessup  
David Joyce  
Heather Lanagan  
Joshua Lariviere  
Sarah Love  
Beth Malcom  
Jeanne Markwardt  
Karen Martindale  
Benjamin Moses  
Patrick Parsons  
Crystal Patrick  
Kyle Pope  
Brandy Propst  
Christina Ramos  
Kathleen Reid  
Victor Sanchez  
Yousef Sansour  
Sarah Tebbit  
Melissa Trembley

**Dean's List  
Fall 2001**

Jack Adams  
Lindsay Albert  
Tiffany Allen  
Cheryl Andrews  
Rochelle Bellamy  
Rebecca Britt  
Jennifer Brown  
Krista Calcote  
Rebecca Cleary  
Jerwayne Cook  
Marissa Curry  
Michelle Davis  
Rafael Duque  
Lucas Gilstrap  
Vertreace Grady  
Tabitha Hicks  
Kristin Hine  
Kristy Humble  
Jessica Humphries  
Ryann Hyer

**Writing Sociology: Always Good Fun**

**“Anything is better than not writing clearly” Somerset Maugham opined. To test Maugham’s opinion, consider the following sentence from a respected scholar of comparative literatures and sociology at Berkeley:**

*The move from a structuralist account in which capital is understood to structure social relations in relatively homologous ways to a view of hegemony in which power relations are subject to repetition, convergence, and rearticulation brought the question of temporality into the thinking of structure, and marked a shift from a form of Althusserian theory that takes structural totalities as theoretical objects to one in which the insights into the contingent possibility of structure inaugurate a renewed conception of hegemony as bound up with the contingent sites and strategies of the rearticulation of power. (Professor Judith Butler, from the journal *Diacritics*, 1997.)*

Be honest, was this sentence hard to read? What does it intend? What do you know about capital, power, and the ideas of time and contingency after reading this sentence? Anything is better than not writing clearly, indeed.

To help you to become the writer you want to be, allow me a few observations on how to write real good:

Remember to avoid alliteration. Always. Also avoid cliches like the plague. But don't rely on comparisons, either. They're as bad as cliches. Oh, and note I just used a contraction. Remember, they aren't necessary. Never generalize. Forbear exaggeration it is a billion times worse than understatement. Ask yourself, who needs rhetorical questions? Beware, even if your mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed. Always be more or less specific. Limit parenthetical remarks (however relevant) they are (typically) unnecessary. And, finally, the passive voice is always to be avoided.

Keep these few real good ideas in mind and you too will write 1000 times better, always.

From the desk of : Steve Kroll-Smith

## *What's in a name?*

Help us name the Newsletter.

Send your suggestions to Steve Kroll-Smith:  
s\_krolls@UNCG.edu

The winner will receive (in town) a gift certificate to Tate Street Coffee or (out of town) a UNCG coffee mug to use while enjoying the latest copy of the ??????????. The winner will be notified in the Fall.