

Sabbatical Leave Proposal for Dr. Marie Butler- Professor of Sociology Spring 2015

1. Statement of Purpose:

There are two purposes for this sabbatical: a) implement an alumni tracking system for Sociology majors, enhancing the current transfer model curriculum, and b) research activities that include a publishable quality paper based on the dissertation on Irish Marriage Practices, as well as the development of a course syllabus for Global Studies 101, co-listed as Sociology 121, Sociology: A Global Perspective. The two greatest needs of the sociology program at Oxnard College are 1) see how our students have been doing academically and professionally after leaving OC, and 2) to strengthen the Global Studies, Soc. Of Family and Sex Roles courses by showing how research on marriage practices will help our students succeed in their goal of a major in Sociology.

The mentoring/alumni tracking project allows the Sociology department to reach out to graduates/transfer majors and evaluate their experience at Oxnard College, as well as bringing alumni back to campus to mentor current majors enhancing the college mission of academic transfer and systematic program feedback to ensure program excellence and continued improvement. Two benefits of these activities are student centered research, and professional development in the discipline of sociology. The research component complements the alumni tracking project by advancing the professional development of the faculty member who can relate research results to students through the courses taught including Intro Sociology, Research Methods, Marriage and Family and Sex Roles. The publishable quality paper touches on topics of the family, colonialism, political economy, women's status in a developing economy and immigration. Much of the effort will go into developing a course syllabus for Sociology: A Global Perspective, the course offered as Global Studies 101. This class will be offered in subsequent semesters alternating with Political Science and Anthropology. The result of the research will be shared with students in a public forum sponsored by the Sociology Club, as well as class lectures. Students who share their faculty members' research are inspired to attend professional conferences where similar research is presented. Several students have already attended the California Sociological Assn. conference, and the Pacific Sociological Assn. conference. The Sociology Club regularly attends the local Intercollegiate Sociological Consortium meetings, funded by CSUN through a grant with community colleges in the area. Oxnard College sociology department is a member.

2. Rationale

The value to the community, the department and the discipline is two-fold. Students in the Research Methods course will participate in the planning of the alumni tracking questionnaire design and implementation, by providing input on questions that would be meaningful, the Sociology Club will sponsor a Speaker's Series for returning alumni as well as an Alumni

Conference which will invite area students to return to campus and share their experience at 4-year colleges, and their own research activities. There is a minimal of expense in this kind of activity, with the club getting donations of food and donating their time in organizing the meeting.

The research activity provides Professional Development for the faculty member as well as all students in the Sociology curriculum where the information will be shared. Faculty research is often presented in the speaker's forum for the public and general community, as well as students in the discipline. The Transfer Model Curriculum encourages Sociology majors to transfer to 4-year colleges and universities, and a major purpose of preparing students for this transition is to engage them in research activities as part of the competencies required of them in higher education.

3. Implementation

- a. Initial steps to implement the Monkey Survey (this is a survey online which is free to anyone, and students can provide input on the questions appropriate to graduating students) as part of the activities in the Research Methods class. This includes planning and input from students who will be made aware of the on-going project. Beginning in the Spring, 2015, activities during the sabbatical period include reaching out to former alumni, following an extensive analysis of the questionnaire/survey results, work on the current website for the Sociology Dept.as it is updated, with a link provided for the Sociology Club and an Alumni Registry. It is anticipated that a snowball sample of Alumni will be used to locate other graduate transfers, and in consultation with the Registrar's Office, develop and employ an exit questionnaire for Sociology majors as an additional source of data for the Registry. The faculty member will design the finished questionnaire, analyze data and locate students who have transferred to CSU or UC, or are working in the community while on sabbatical leave, utilizing the results of the survey. The updated website will provide a registry for Soc. Majors, similar to "Linked" and they will be asked to remain in contact. Information on Soc. Club activities will be posted, including pictures, a Speaker's Series for Alumni will be organized, in addition to a Mentoring Conference. Communication with the Soc. Club members will continue by email as the registry is completed. The Mentoring program will become an ongoing activity of the Soc. Club similar to the current ICSA (Consortium for Soc. Faculty) which OC students have been attending for two years. Planned activities will begin implementation in the Fall of 2015, with supervision conducted online.
- b. Projected Results include a website for Sociology, which includes an on-going "registry" of majors, transfer information, alumni/mentor conference and speaker's series sponsored by the Sociology Club. Project Timeline includes the following activities and allotted time:

Alumni Tracking Questionnaire

Jan-Feb, 2015-Administered and Analyzed

Website and Registry Developed	Jan-Mar, 2015
Plan Mentoring Conference	March, 2015 (Conducted online)
Plan Mentoring Ongoing Activities	April, 2015
Club Planning for Speaker's Series	April, 2015 (Conducted online)
Research Activities Conducted	Spring, 2015, from January – May

Research activities include reorganizing material from the dissertation and will require additional research at area libraries including USC, UCLA and LMU. Planning for the submission will take place during the sabbatical. It is anticipated that the focus will be on the Effects of Globalization on Women's Marriage Practices; whereas it is completed, submission can then be made to the Journal of Marriage and Family, or Sociological Abstracts. The most important purpose of faculty research is to remain current in the area of concentration and to inspire and share information with students.

- c. Dissemination Plan- The Sociology Club is very active on campus and has recently become involved in putting on activities for the campus community, including the One Book, One Campus speaker's forum. Alumni will be invited back to campus to share their activities as well as research they are currently engaged in. For example, Monica Valencia, has received two scholarships at USC for her research which will fund her future research and Ph.D. degree. She continues to maintain ties to the Dept. at OC and the students in the Soc. Club, which is the inspiration for this project. I continue to advise her on her research on the Oxnard immigrant population, and presenting her research.
- d. The research on Global Marriage Practices will be presented at one of the speaker's series lectures, sponsored by the Sociology Club during the Fall, 2015. Results of the research will be shared with students in the appropriate courses in the Sociology curriculum for many semesters.

4. Past Contributions to the District

- a. Scholarly papers have been presented at the Pacific Sociological Association, in addition to the work of organizing sessions on Gender and Education. Presentations on research on Gender have been made at international conferences in both Dublin, Ireland, London and Aix de Provence. Current work continues on the Transfer Model Curriculum as primary reviewer for the Academic Senate of California for Sociology curriculum at the state level.
- b. Service to the Department of Social Science include Academic Senate representative for 3 years, past member of the Budget Committee, former Dept. Chair, representative to the local union, district curriculum committee, community outreach to Family Workers providing training for para-professionals, Title III

Mentoring Coordinator for OC, in addition to supervision of student observations in local elementary schools and social service agencies.

5. Length of Service and Past Sabbaticals Awarded

- a. Employed full time in a faculty position at OC since 1990.
- b. Past sabbatical leave taken in 1997 and 2005.