

Dates to remember:

Mar 3: midterm timesheets due

Mar 5: SJS retreat (see page 4)

Mar 17: Frugé applications due

Apr 21: final timesheets due

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# SJ News

## Meet the New Social Justice Scholars!

The Social Justice Scholarship program grows by seven students this year, one first-year student and six current Loyola students. All are committed to the pursuit of social justice, of course, but they bring interests in a wide range of justice issues to the study and pursuit of social justice. *From left to right:* **Wilhemina (Willy) Peragine**, a junior with a double major in sociology and arts, has been involved in Environmental Action, LUCAP, and the Social Justice Council, among others. **Jerina Phillips**, a criminal justice major, is the only first-year student joining the program this year and has worked with several charitable organizations during her high school career in E. St. Louis. **Quinn Dennehy**, a junior double major (sociology/theatre arts) is also involved in many social justice-related campus activities, including Hunger Relief and Habitat for Humanity. **Megan Harvell**, a junior sociology major with a double minor in French and Spanish, is co-chair of LUCAP's Project Esperanza and has participated in at least one social protest. **Jay Alcazar**, a junior majoring in biology, is also involved in LUCAP, the Justice Council, and several other campus organizations. *Not pictured* are **Claire Gallagher**, a sophomore sociology major who has worked on the LUSSO projects at Crocker Elementary and participated in several violence-related campus events, and **Trisha Nieder**, a sociology/English writing double major junior who has participated in numerous social justice activities in the community, (e.g., Hunger Relief, Red Cross, Magnolia School). From planning to organizing to participating in social justice-related events, it's fair to say that each of the new SJSs has an unrelenting desire to work toward social justice alongside others of the same ilk. Welcome!



## A Message from the New Faculty Advisor...

I am delighted to be the new faculty advisor for such an exciting, energetic group of students, the Social Justice Scholars. I look forward to getting to know each of you better and I especially look forward to traveling with you on your journey as you learn more about social justice and the role sociology plays in achieving social justice in our community, our nation, and our world.

We will all be forever indebted to my predecessor, Dr. Emily Drew, for her unquestionably successful efforts in advancing the SJS program into what is it today – a supportive learning community of scholars who are resolutely dedicated to the pursuit of social justice. Please know that my office door is always open to you and I appreciate any opportunity to discuss your social justice pursuits as well as your academic careers with you.

~ Dr. Mennino

*Looking for a good book?*

The Social Justice Seminar is reading:

***Principles of Social Justice***

by David Miller

***Liberation Sociology***

by Joe Feagin and Hernán Vera

## Spring '06 Social Justice Seminar

*All SJSs welcome! We meet on Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 in Monroe 527*

All new SJSs as well as several veteran SJSs are enrolled in the spring '06 seminar, Social Justice in Society. Three of the vets, Liz Martinez, Robin Myers, and Christ Schott, are enrolled in a 1-credit version of the seminar called Social Justice Leadership, and are in the process of designing activities not only for the seminar but also for the entire SJS learning community.

The seminar, typically held during the fall semester, includes a focus on a particular social justice issue as well as an exploration of the connections between sociology and social justice. The Fall '05 seminar was to focus on the social issue of the working poor in New

Orleans, also this year's First-Year Experience topic. However, because of the racial disparities illuminated by Hurricane Katrina and its immediate aftermath, along with the continuing concern of future race relations in New Orleans as well as the rest of the United States, the seminar participants chose to change their focus. We will now study race in post-Katrina New Orleans.

All members of the social justice community are welcome to visit the class and join the seminar discussions as we explore social justice, sociology, and race in New Orleans. Check the syllabus on LORA to find out the specific topic for each week. Hope to see you there!

## Recruitment Time!

*It's that time again!*

The SJS faculty committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup> and recommended that 13 of the 19 candidates from this fall's incoming class be offered the Social Justice Scholarship. As in the past, once we receive the final list of those who were actually offered the scholarship, the members of the current SJS learning community will join forces and do our best to recruit these students.

I have a congratulatory letter ready to go and I'll be asking for volunteers to phone and/or e-

mail each of these students to give them more information about our learning community and to answer any questions they might have about SJS, Loyola, and New Orleans.

Speaking with SJSs currently attending Loyola may be more important than ever before as students and their parents may not only be concerned about the transition from high school to the university and the scholarship requirements but also about the challenges of our post-Katrina environment here in New Orleans.

~ Dr. Mennino

## Frugé Scholarship Applications

Application forms for the Frugé Scholarship, the merit scholarship available to SJSs, are available on the SJS web site. As you may know, this scholarship is was established in 1994 to provide additional incentives to students already actively involved in Loyola and/or community organizations geared toward social activism and social justice.

In the past, the Frugé scholarship has also been used to admit current Loyola students to the program. This year, however, because of the number of current SJSs whose Frugé scholar-

ships will likely be renewed, the faculty committee has decided to reserve the scholarship for merit awards.

Applications are due on March 17, 2006. SJSs who entered the program via the Frugé scholarship are not eligible for this merit scholarship. As in the past, the faculty advisor will solicit feedback from existing SJSs regarding the scholarship applications. The SJS faculty committee will make the final decisions regarding the Frugé scholarship awards by mid-April.



## February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>SJS Seminar</i>	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 <i>SJS Seminar</i>	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 <i>SJS Seminar</i>	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 <i>SJS Seminar</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Lundi Gras</i>	28 <i>Mardi Gras</i>				

## Schedule of Events

- 2/2 — SJS Seminar, *Social Justice Defined*, 3:30-5, MO 527
- 2/9 — SJS Seminar, *Social Justice Defined*, 3:30-5, MO 527
- 2/16 — SJS Seminar, *Social Justice Defined*, 3:30-5, MO 527
- 2/23 — SJS Seminar, *Liberation Sociology*, 3:30-5, MO 527
- 2/27 — Lundi Gras Holiday!
- 2/28 — Mardi Gras Holiday!

## The Spotlight is on...Joe Olivier

*“Spotlight on...” is a new feature of the SJ News. Each issue will highlight the social justice activities of a different SJS. This month, Joe Olivier who spent the Fall '05 semester studying in El Salvador, describes some of the social justice activities he was involved in while the rest of us were dealing more directly with Hurricane Katrina and her aftermath. At least his exile from New Orleans was planned!*

Way before Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc in the New Orleans region, I had decided to spend last semester abroad in El Salvador. The program, called “Casa de la Solidaridad” (“Solidarity House” for you non-Spanish speakers), was an easy pick for me because it offered something other study abroad programs typically do not: a structure for building relationships with people living and working in marginalized communities, who typically earn less than \$2 per day.

My praxis site was a cooperative named after one of the slain Jesuits of 1989, Ignacio Martín-Baró (who was actually a prominent sociologist). It houses a sewing academy, a dental clinic, a children’s psychology clinic, and a bakery. There I learned how to sew using foot-powered sewing machines and I also learned how to make false teeth in the dental clinic.

The real lessons learned; however, weren’t skirt-making or teeth-handling, but were ones I learned from the members of the co/op. I came away with the experience able to find hope in a world that continually breaks our hearts (because of its poverty, its racism, its injustice). If we are going to do this work of social justice, we must be able to find hope or we will end up burning ourselves out. So I challenge you all to connect with people who are suffering, because by doing so we can learn so much about our world, but also about ourselves.



Joe Oliver (front and center left, white shirt) with a group of Salvadorans and Gringos in the basement of the National Cathedral, where Oscar Romero is buried

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*The Social Justice Scholarship (SJS) Program began in 1994 as an avenue through which Loyola University New Orleans could actualize its Jesuit tradition of academic excellence and the pursuit of social justice. Social Justice Scholarships are awarded to incoming students who exhibit a high level of academic promise as well as a demonstrated commitment to community service and activism. Once in the SJS program, students must major or minor in sociology, where they critically analyze social problems and solutions.*

*In 2003, Ms. Marjorie Frugé endowed a scholarship at Loyola, the Msgr. Edward David Frugé Scholarship of Social Justice, to be used to support such social justice effort. Her donation allows a modest supplement to the scholarships of existing Social Justice Scholars. This award is merit-based and attempts to honor the consistent social justice work and leadership of outstanding SJS students.*

## Coming Attractions—The Leadership Students are Planning:

### ***“Fall” Retreat on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>***

The SJS retreat, which was to be held during the fall semester, is being organized by the seminar leadership students Liz Martinez, Robin Myers, and Christi Schott. The seminar will be on **Sunday** afternoon, **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, from noon to 4 in the Danna Center’s Octavia Room. Our guest speaker will be Sister Layla. The inaugural SJS retreat held during the fall ’04 semester was a resounding success and this semester’s retreat promises to be even better!

The details are still in the works but you can plan on a great talk by Sister Layla, scrumptious treats, an assort-

ment of those break-the-ice activities that were so popular at the last retreat, and some mundane administrative activities from your faculty adviser. In addition, there’ll be lots of information about how SJSs can help with the rebuilding and hurricane relief efforts in the city. Stay tuned for details!

### ***A Visit from Erica Krause***

Erica Krause, as most of you know, is a former Social Justice Scholar who graduated in May 2005 and is now employed at the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, a nonprofit organization that compiles demo-

graphic and other information about neighborhoods. Sometime during March, Erica will be giving a talk on neighborhood statistics pre- and post-Katrina.

### ***Katrina Tour***

A bus tour of the devastated areas of the city with Dr. Bob Thomas of Environmental Communications is in the works. This tour will be just for SJSs and will be followed with a discussion about Katrina-related race issues.

### ***Pot Luck!***

The popular pot luck will be back, probably in April.

