

**Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)
Northern Arizona University
General Information Fall 2009**

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Undergraduate: Approximately 4500

Graduate: SBS had 363 graduate students enrolled in the various graduate programs spring 09. Anthropology, School of Communication, Psychology and Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) had the largest programs.

Faculty: Approximately 155

SBS highlights:

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) is the largest college at NAU.

- SBS has the largest number of students that complete Study Abroad Programs
- The largest number of students who join the Peace Corps are from SBS
- SBS offers the most online classes (over 24% of online summer classes are hosted by SBS)
- SBS offers an extensive array of internships, work study programs and field site placements
- SBS has a close relationship with the Northern Arizona Non-Profit Initiative
- The NAU Masters in Sustainability Program is housed in SBS
- SBS fosters student and faculty research. For example, all faculty members in the Department of Psychology have published research or presented conference posters with student researchers this year.
- There are more student athletes in SBS than any other college

- SBS offers the only undergraduate public planning program in the State of Arizona; 100% of the public planning grads are placed in private and public planning positions OR graduate schools.
- SBS Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice is identified by Kaplan Publishing's College Guide Book as, "one of the 25 cutting edge schools tied to several of the 50 "hottest career choices".
- The *NAU Most Promising Graduate Researchers* are both in SBS: **Jared Hopkins**, Pre-doctoral MA Program, Department of Psychology and **Katrina Taylor**, PhD Program, Department of Politics and International Affairs
- Eight of the 18 Research awards for *NAU's 2009 Research and Creative Activity Awards* were awarded to SBS students and faculty.
- The Northern Arizona Gerontology Institute has merged with the Institute for Future Workforce Development to create a unit that administers many non-profit organizations including Peace Corps, Americorps, Foster Grandparents and the Senior Companion Program. This new unit is called the Civic Service Institute.

Top 3 Fundraising Priorities:

Student Research

One of the SBS dean's primary goals is to provide an opportunity for every student in the college to participate in some type of research activity – whether assisting a faculty member with their research project or conducting their own research. Internships with non-profits, businesses and other organizations also offer hands-on learning experiences that compliment classroom learning.

Deans Innovation Fund #4224

The Dean's Innovation Fund, allows the college to support a wide range of activities that enhance student experience. The Fund often supports:

- International scholars. For example, Srinivas Krishnan, a well known educator and musician, facilitated a week-long series of interactions with students and faculty, engaging participants in the cultural of India through music, stories, and discussions.
- SBS sponsored living-learning communities, especially the Global Village.
- Activities focused on advancing social justice, engaging diversity, and broadening student experience.
- Advancing SBS's relationships with community partners who provide students with internships and research opportunities and support to SBS departments.

Student Media Center (SMC)

- Will be a working media lab designed to train students in the School of Communication for the rapidly changing environments of reporting and production.
- Will offer students the opportunity to get hands on experience working on print, radio, television, and multimedia web journalism. (Students need to gain experience working with new digital technologies to produce stories a variety of media platforms.)
- Students will work on:
 - *The Lumberjack*, NAU's weekly student newspaper;
 - *NAZ Today*, a live-broadcast nightly television news program serving the university and the Flagstaff region;
 - *KJACK Radio*, NAU's student radio station; and
 - *UTV62*, a channel devoted to student produced television programming.

All of these outlets have an online web presence, as well. Working in the SMC gives students a chance to put their writing, technology and critical thinking skills toward creating multimedia stories that reach audiences near and far, and give them the experiences they will need for futures in the media industries.

Department Points of Interest:

Anthropology

- Kelly Hays-Gilpin, Professor in Anthropology co-authored the book, "Belief in the Past: Theoretical Approaches to the Archaeology of Religion."
- Dr. Hays-Gilpin also established a three year agreement with the Museum of Northern Arizona so students in the anthropology department can have more hands-on experience.
- The anthropology department at NAU is taking more action by being heavily involved in the Health Research Alliance of Arizona to improve the health of Arizona's diverse communities.
- The anthropology department and some of the local tribes are teaming up with the Grand Canyon River Outfitters Association to enlighten the guides and travelers of the Native American perspectives while in the canyon.
- Culturally Appropriate Laboratory Research and Training for Native American Students in Osteology and NAGPRA Human Remains Repatriation
 - NAU Anthropology is creating a culturally sensitive research laboratory and training facility, in consultation with Native American groups, to provide training for Tribal archaeologists and osteological specialists, and for students and faculty working with the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act materials that are being returned to tribal governments and approved repositories.
 - The laboratory facilities will include a culturally designated zone for protecting, analyzing, and treating human remains in both culturally and scientifically valid manner, and will provide culturally appropriate training facilities for students who wish to work with human remains (both prehistoric and current), without violating existing cultural values and views.
- Hopi Footprints Project

- The program is working with Hopi Elders to produce educational programs for Hopi elementary school and high school students. The elders mentor the next generation and pass on critical cultural knowledge about traditional Hopi lifeways. This is a life-changing program for the students who learn to better understand their traditions and culture, preserving tribal knowledge that can be passed on yet again to the following generation.
- Sunnyside Revitalization Project
 - Anthropology faculty and students are actively working with the Flagstaff Sunnyside Community Association to conduct a community needs assessment, including environmental services, community planning and community activities programs for the Sunnyside neighborhood – a largely low-income, Hispanic populated neighborhood.
- NAU-Engineers Without Borders
 - The Department of Anthropology is involved with the NAU chapter of Engineers without Borders (EWB). NAU-EWB is currently partnering with a rural community in Northern Ghana to address local water and medical needs. Dr. Denham and students in the Department of Anthropology are involved in project planning and management, researching community needs and perceptions of development, and ensuring that projects are locally sustainable.
- Native American Infant Mortality Assessment Program

Native American infants 0-3 yrs, and 14-18 year old adolescents are dying at an usual rate in Navajo County, AZ and county health officials do not know why. Anthropology faculty are hoping to gain funding to work with community members to conduct a community health assessment targeted at understanding, then creating community based interventions to lower the infant and child mortality rates in the communities affected.

Criminology and Criminal Justice

- Criminology and Criminal Justice is identified by Kaplan Publishing's College Guide Book as "one of the 25 cutting edge schools tied to several of the 50 "hottest career choices".
- CCJ is home to the Northern Arizona Justice Project (NAJP). The project headed by Robert Schehr:
 - Investigates cases of individuals who may be wrongfully convicted of a crime
 - Students who work on these cases with faculty and lawyers apply the concepts learned in class to real-life cases, trying to prove the innocence of those in jail for crimes they did not commit.
- Neil Websdale's National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project has the potential for identifying in factors involved in deadly domestic violence cases and creating interventions to prevent these deaths. Students are an active part of this research which has attracted funding from the United States Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women.
- The Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) is housed in the CCJ department. Under the direction of Lynn Jones, the Academy is a 40-hour training course for victim advocates that aims to standardize and improve service delivery to Arizona's diverse crime victims, with particular emphasis on overcoming the geographic and cultural barriers unique to the state.
- CCJ provides a vibrant internship program that allows students the opportunity to explore a broad range of career opportunities. There are opportunities for internships in police departments, the prosecutor's offices, victims' services, the public defender's office, juvenile probation, or the courts.
- Faculty have worked on police, courts, corrections and juvenile justice projects in places like Iraq, Egypt, Croatia, Spain, Bangladesh, Australia, and New Zealand.

Ethnic Studies / Women's and Gender Studies

Geography, Planning and Recreation

- The GPR program offers hands-on courses for its students.
 - The GPR program offers the Park Ranger Training Program which lasts 10 weeks and upon completion students attain a certificate that is recognized by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.
- Students are involved in service learning in many of GPR's classes and work with agencies, such as: Grand Canyon National Park, Red Cliffs Desert Tortoise Reserve, Coconino County Parks and Recreation, and the City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation.

Politics and International Affairs

- Faculty member David Schlossberg spent the summer as a visiting scholar at the Princeton Environmental Institute teaching a new course, "Environmental, Ecological, and Climate Justice" as part of their Environmental Studies Certificate Program. He also presented a lecture on April 7, "Climate Justice and the Capabilities Approach: The Flourishing of Human and Non-Human Communities"
- One student from the PIA program will travel to Washington DC to intern for John McCain in Fall 2009 and two other PIA students have traveled this summer to intern with Ann Kirkpatrick.

- Their expenses are offset by department scholarships: The Morey Award and the Vaughn award. The Morey award offers \$3,000 and the Vaughn award offers \$1,000.
- Dr. Lori Poloni-Staudinger received the Fulbright Fellow Award for Austria.
 - The award will allow Lori the opportunity to teach international relations at the Diplomatic Academy. She will also have the opportunity to continue conducting research involving responses by European women's movement and environmental movement activists to changing political opportunity structures.
- Students in the "Political Economy of Food and Hunger" classes were involved in raising awareness on the NAU campus about the hunger issues in Arizona and around the world.

Psychology

- has more students than any SBS program
- One-third of all NAU graduating Psychology seniors participated in at least one semester of research guided by a faculty member
- The **Psychology Undergraduate Research Center** opens Fall, 2009 in the Raul Castro building. This space will allow students to participate in faculty-directed research, initiate their own research, and collaborate with faculty on joint-research projects.
- The psychology department fosters student and faculty research: all faculty members in the Dept of Psych have published research or presented at conferences with student researchers this year.
- Psychology students who participated in individualized research projects with faculty members scored better on critical thinking skills compared to those who did not engage in undergraduate research.
- Nearly 40% of graduating Psychology seniors participated in at least one major extracurricular academic departmental activity (research, fieldwork, or Psi Chi/Psychology club).

School of Communication

Departments within the School of Comm: advertising, electronic media and film, journalism, merchandising, photography, public relations, speech communications, and visual communications

Advertising / Public Relations: **Lindsey DellaDonna**, an Advertising and Public Relations major, was awarded a Gold Axe Award and a President's Prize in fall 2008.

Electronic Media and Film: When the local television station, KNAZ stopped broadcasting local news last year, students and staff began producing NAZ Today. Local news is now broadcast from the Communication Building four nights a week during the school year to the Flagstaff community.

- In fall, 2008, one of the news stories from NAZ Today tied for first place in the Region 6 National Broadcasting Society audio and video student competition. Students **Maria Hechanova** and **Dave Wilson** submitted their feature news package on the Tozan Kiln, which is located on south campus.
- NAU alum and writer of the box-office hit Prom Night, Joe Cardone, regularly mentors students in the EMF program. He's even helped several students obtain jobs in California's film industry.

Journalism: Assistant Professor **Peter Friederici** completed a two-week Western Enterprise Reporting Fellowship in spring 2009 at Stanford University's Bill Lane Center for the Study of the North American West. Friederici's research focused on new strategies for dealing with fire in the wildland-urban interface.

- Professor **Lea Parker** presented a peer-reviewed paper and conducted survey research on the topic of *Controversial Classroom Topic Taboos* for the Freedom of Expression Division of the National Communication Association at the organization's annual convention in San Diego in November.

Merchandising: Professors **Judy Everett** and **Kris Swanson** and their students presented the "Runway to Wonderland" fashion show and silent auction in November. This is a bi-annual event produced by students and proceeds go to the Merchandising Leaders of the 21st Century Scholarship.

- Two Merchandising majors, **Tiffany Carlyon** and **Marci McIntyre**, received Gold Axe awards in fall 2008.

Photography: Photography faculty have displayed their work across the country and internationally, and have won awards for their images.

- Professor **Gene Balzer** has four photographs of Mesa Verde National Park on display in the Historic Market Square in Krakow, Poland.

- Assistant Professor **Laura Camden** exhibited, "[Mennonites in Texas: The Quiet in the Land](#)," at Bethel College in Kansas. Camden also had a photograph she submitted to the eighth annual juried photo exhibit, "High and Dry: People and Places of the World's Dry Lands" selected for an honorable mention and displayed at the International Cultural Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.
- Associate Professor **Sam Minkler** shows some of his works at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City. He also had a photo featured on the Web site of the photography conference, "Visual Sovereignty," at the University of California, Davis in April. The conference featured more than 30 of the world's foremost American Indian, Australian Aborigine and New Zealand Maori photographers. The photo is being published in a book of images.

Speech Communication: Instructor **Marie Baker-Ohler** and Professor **Brant Short** were part of the project team that won a Glendale Community College "Innovation of the Year 208-2009" award for their project "GCC/NAU Communiversity: Seamless Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication." The program offers students a seamless community college-university degree path offered completely on the GCC campus.

Visual Communication: **Kimberly Melhus**, assistant professor of visual communication, presented "Design for Aging Eyes: A Look at Fast-Food Outdoor Menu Displays" at the third International Conference on Design Principles and Practices in Berlin. The conference, held in February, brought together researchers, teachers and practitioners to discuss the nature and future of design.

General School News: Twenty-two School of Communication graduate and undergraduate students presented research papers at the annual Arizona Communication Association Conference on Oct. 18 at Arizona State University's West Campus.

Kurt Lancaster, assistant professor of digital media, reported from the Democratic National Convention for the *Christian Science Monitor*. Lancaster produced videos of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Illinois Senator Richard Durbin, Valerie Jarrett, a senior Barack Obama adviser, Jerry Kellman, a community organizer who hired Obama in the 1980s, former Massachusetts and Gov. Mitt Romney. Lancaster used the same techniques and equipment he uses while teaching NAU's new interactive storytelling class.

- The **NAU forensics team**, directed and coached by School of Communication faculty and staff members, consistently did well in tournaments including Ivy League teams. In January, NAU had two teams ranked nationally among the top 10 debate teams.
- School of Communication Gallery: An exhibit in the School of Communication gallery last September highlighted a multimedia fusion of installation, sound, video and experimental illustration. "Arizona Digital Media Investigations" is an exploration of digital media art by faculty members across the country.
- The gallery provides a venue for students and faculty to display their creative works. It is also used for exhibits of nationally- and internationally-known visiting photojournalists, photographers and artists.
- Student Media Center: Faculty and students are working together on media convergence. *The Lumberjack* newspaper, KJACK radio, UTV62 and NAZ Today are headquartered out of the "Student Media Connection," the attention-getting media center on the first floor of the School of Communication.

Sociology and Social Work

Social Work Program

- As part of the BSW degree requirements, students receive over 400 hours of valuable hands-on job experience in a human service agency.
- This year social work students contributed 24,500 clock hours of community service through extracurricular volunteer and course specific service learning activities.
- The BSW degree is designed to prepare students to assist people and communities experiencing some of life's most difficult challenges – poverty and discrimination, unemployment, mental and physical illness, disability, abuse, and addiction.
- The generalist social work for which we educate is geared to practice with rural and Indigenous populations of the Southwest; and, focused on addressing poverty, structural racism, and oppression; providing leadership in promoting human rights and social and economic justice; and service with vulnerable and underserved populations locally, regionally, and globally.
- Social Work students earn credit for completing an internship of a minimum of 480 clock hours in a human service agency.
- Graduating seniors consistently identify the strengths of the NAU Social Work Program as the faculty, the relationship they

develop with their peers, the ability to apply course content through practice and service learning opportunities, the relevancy of the courses to life and professional practice, and the open communication between and among faculty and students.

- The NAU BSW program is offered on the Mountain and Yuma Campuses, and in Tuba City, Arizona; and is the only BSW degree program serving the rural northern high plateau and far southwestern areas of Arizona. NAU Social Work Program has a long-standing tradition of community service and preparing competent professional social workers for generalist practice with Native Americans, Hispanic, and disenfranchised and vulnerable populations of the southwest.

Sociology Programs

- Currently, there are over 250 students enrolled in Sociology degree programs.
- Of the 73% of our program graduates (surveyed one year after graduation) who pursued employment after graduation, 75% secured their first job while in school or within one month of graduation.
- The department has developed many partnerships with community organizations to facilitate placing students as interns. Students intern with state, county, city, private and non-profit organizations, including Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth, Four Corners Upward Bound, Flagstaff International Relief Effort, Flagstaff Shelter Services, Victim/Witness Services for Coconino County, and Northland Family Help Center.
- Professor Yvonne Luna was awarded “Teacher of the Year” in April 2009 by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.