
SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *January 2009*

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of November and December 2008: Courtney Babcock, Rachael Bazzett, Trevor Bullard, Nick Daly, Corrina Edmondson, Caitlin Gormley, Maria Geueke, Brent Hopkins, Adam Leader-Smith, Aphrodite Marmarinos, Elizabeth Maynard, Andrew McCarthy, Christiana McDougal, Elizabeth Murphy, Anna Pakhomova, Luke Pommersheim, Nick Sullivan, Margaret Tisch, and Shannon Weatherup.

Many thanks to STPEC students and staff who assisted with these meetings.

MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Tuesday, February 10th and Thursday, February 12th. Please come into the STPEC office to sign up for a meeting time (the sign up sheet will be posted behind the main desk) and obtain a STPEC Application Form. If you cannot make any of these times please speak to either the Program Coordinator or the Program Director so that they may arrange an alternate time for you.

As always, we're looking for volunteers to help with the new student meetings - it's fun and easy and a great way to meet new STPEC students! Please see Deborah in the STPEC Office if you'd like to help - or just show up at the scheduled times.

T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS WE GOT 'EM!!

We still have some hooded sweatshirts, in a variety of styles and sizes, left from our last 2008 order! The STPEC Office also continues to stock STPEC "Red Star" T-Shirts in adult small, medium, large, XL and XXLs as well as children's medium and large sizes. We also have medium and large unhooded sweatshirts. See a staff person if you'd like to purchase one! (\$10.00 per t-shirt/\$15.00 per hoodless sweatshirt/hoodie prices vary according to size and style)

Save the Date!

Making Connections: Life After UMass STPEC/Women's Studies/Labor Center /AfroAm Networking Event

**Thursday April 2 4:00-6:00 pm
Campus Center (room tba)**

Over 30 alums from STPEC, Women's Studies, the Labor Center and Afro-American Studies will come to UMass to talk with current students about their career/job/grad school experiences and to share information on internships and other career opportunities. Join us for lots of food and informal conversation. These are UMass graduates who look forward to meeting current students to help them think about life plans. We will have a wide range of careers represented from education and law to medicine and social services and much much more. *Co-sponsored by Career Services.*

We Need Student Members to run for the STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!

All long range policy decisions for STPEC are made by the STPEC Executive Committee—and student representatives have an equal voice.

Each regular STPEC course will elect one student representative to the Executive Committee, and one representative each will be elected from the first and second year class. Each representative's job is to collect the concerns of students in his/her class, meet with other elected student representatives to decide on issues to take to the Executive Committee meeting, present those issues at the meeting, and to report back to his/her constituents about what happened.

Elections will be conducted right after add/drop is over. Please consider being a candidate—and help make democracy happen in STPEC!

Other members of the Executive Committee are all the STPEC teaching and office staff paid on a more than one semester basis and faculty associated with STPEC. The Executive Committee meets at least once a semester and can meet more often if its members decide it's important to do so.

STPEC Staff and Instructors for Spring 2009:

Program Director *Sara Lennox*
Chief Academic Advisor and Internship Director
Katherine Mallory
Assistant Academic Advisor *Jay Venezia*
Program Coordinator *Deborah Reiter*
Junior I Instructor *Antonia Carcelén*
Junior II Instructor *Christopher Hamilton*
Junior Writing Instructor *Ethan Myers*

**and a warm welcome to our
senior seminar instructors:**

James Boyce from the Economics Department at UMass Amherst will teach STPEC 491H: *The Political Economy of the Environment*;

Águstin Lao-Montes from the Sociology Department at UMass Amherst will teach STPEC 492H: *Afro-American and Native American Critical Theories and Social Movements*;

Ramón Borges Méndez, from the Public Policy Department at UMass, Boston will teach STPEC 493H: *Research Methods and Social Change*.

UMass SCHOLARSHIPS Alumni Association Scholarships

Leaders in the Making Scholarship

Four \$2,000 scholarships for sophomores and juniors with diverse records of achievement in academics and volunteerism.

Life Member Scholarship for Internships

Two \$2,000 scholarships given to exceptional sophomores or juniors to help defray the cost of a summer, unpaid, away-from-home internship.

Michael W. Morris Scholarship

One \$2,000 scholarship for a student from Lawrence or Lowell, MA.

Senior Leadership Award

Twenty-five \$500 savings bonds will be given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the campus community.

Students must be nominated by faculty or staff.

**Deadline for most scholarships is
Friday, February 13, 2009**

For more information go to UMassAlumni.com/students or visit Memorial Hall.

ADD/DROP NOTES

For the Spring 2009 semester most STPEC courses will remain on-line. Only STPEC Independent Studies and Internships will be off-line.

★ If you *cannot* add a class using SPIRE you may request the course by filling out a STPEC Course Add Request Form (available from the STPEC office). If you are on a wait list, be sure to **go to the class you are requesting**. You will need to have attended the first two class meetings in order for us to consider your add request.

If a course is less than 75% full at the time of your request we will put you immediately into the course. For courses which are over 75% full, requests will be prioritized according to the following guidelines:

1. Special Needs Students (ie. a Junior who is going abroad for a year and who needs to graduate on time).
2. Seniors will have priority over Juniors who will have priority over Sophomores.
3. Students with the same graduation status will be prioritized on a first come first serve basis.

★ To register for an Independent Study, fill out a STPEC *Independent Study Form*.

★ To register for an Internship, fill out an *Internship Study Contract*. For more instruction on fulfilling the STPEC **Internship requirement**, please see page 5.

If you are filling the Internship requirement this semester, don't forget that we offer an accompanying course, **STPEC 494A: Praxis**, taught by Katherine Mallory, our Internship Director. To register for STPEC 494A please talk to Katherine in the STPEC Office.

★ Be sure to give your completed form(s) to Deborah Reiter, STPEC's Program Coordinator (you may leave it/them in her mailbox if she is not available in person).

INCOMPLETES IN JUNIOR SEMINAR I:

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a *pre-requisite* for all other STPEC courses except for Junior Writing. You will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have *completed* STPEC 391H. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to this policy please come and talk to an Academic Advisor about your situation.

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR SPRING 09!

STPEC 197I: *Intro to STPEC* - Katherine

Mallory, Sam Calero, Jay Venezia

meets Wednesdays 4:00-6:30 pm

2 credits, graded

Schedule # 16558

This seminar is intended for students who are just beginning the STPEC major, whether as first year students or transfers. This class will be geared toward useful conversations like what is the STPEC Program really, how to read and use theory, who are we that we care about social justice, and community building. Through horizontal discussion sections and field trips, 'Intro to STPEC' will engage students in a non-conventional learning atmosphere that challenges students to critically look at the relationship between our actions and theory.

This class will be co-taught by Katherine Mallory, STPEC Chief Academic Advisor, Sam Calero, STPEC senior and Jay Venezia, STPEC Assistant Academic Advisor.

This class is open to STPEC majors only.

STPEC 296D: *Slavery Today* - Steven Hoeschele

meets TueThur 2:30-3:45

3 credits, pass fail only

Schedule # 18558

This course will thoroughly examine real situations of contemporary slavery throughout the world, with approximately 60% of the geographical focus being on Africa. We will begin with a recent historical analysis of slavery and culminate with plans to end slavery once and for all by asking critical questions about modern political economy and drawing connections from past slave trades to 21st century trafficking.

With a student-facilitated approach to learning, we will research in depth several specific examples of today's slavery. We will study labor slavery and social servitude such as Mauritania's peculiar form of slavery and its cultural sources. We will examine human trafficking as well as sexual slavery with either religious roots or purely capitalist underpinnings. Students will see the horrors borne of war as they appear in Sudan and through child conscription.

An examination of the political economy behind contemporary slavery and trafficking is in order, scrutinizing wage slavery and debt bondage. We will ask what effects NGO's, multilaterals, and national

aid agencies have had on either alleviating or worsening slavery in its many forms. Students may never again look the same way at certain products—like chocolate, coffee, bricks, rugs, and charcoal—which may have been made by slaves' hands.

This class will be facilitated by Steven Hoeschele, STPEC student. For more information please contact Steve at stevenh@student.umass.edu. This class is open to all students on SPIRE.

*In Honor of
African-American History Month
Traces of the Trade:*

A Story from the Deep North

Wednesday, February 4, 7 - 9 p.m.

Bartlett Hall Auditorium, Room 65

In this critically acclaimed film, this Northern family discovers that their ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Join them as they come face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England's hidden enterprise. The questions the DeWolf descendants face are shared by all of us: What is the legacy of slavery? How does Northern complicity change the equation? What's owed for the actions of our country's ancestor's? What would repair - spiritual and material - really look like? What would it take?

A conversation with filmmaker and family member Katrina Browne; and family member Holly Fulton and her husband, William Peebles, follows the screening of this powerful and deeply personal story. The Women Film Critics Circle has honored Browne with its "Courage in Film making" award, citing the documentary as one of the three best of 2008. Read more at www.tracesofthetrade.org.

Sponsored by: the Women of Color Leadership Network, the Health Education of University Health Services, the Committee for the Collegiate Education of Black and other Minority Students, and Every-woman's Center, with support from the Sociology Department, the Student Government Association, Student Bridges and the Black Student Union.

HUMANITY IN ACTION 2009 Summer Programs

Humanity in Action is pleased to call for applications for its 2009 Core Summer Programs in Denmark, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, and the United States. These 5-week programs foster an on-going transatlantic dialogue on domestic minority and human rights issues among university student leaders.

Application Deadlines vary by country, for the US it is February 12, 2009. All programs will be conducted in English. <http://www.humanityinaction.org/>

International work grants

The INTEREXCHANGE FOUNDATION

<http://www.interexchange.org/grants/details.html>

The InterExchange Foundation Grant Program was established in 2006 to provide grants to young Americans who wish to help further cultural awareness through meaningful work abroad experiences.

While international education is currently dominated by academic programs with thousands of students studying abroad annually, the number of participants on work, internship and volunteer abroad programs remains comparatively low. By providing financial assistance to eligible recipients, the InterExchange Foundation aims to do its part in encouraging young Americans to pursue work and life experiential programs abroad.

14th Annual Conference on Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, Creative and Public Service Activities

All students are welcome to participate!

When: Friday, May 1, 2009, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Campus Center, UMass, Amherst

Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Public System of Higher Ed and Commonwealth College at UMass, this conference is an excellent opportunity for you to showcase your work in a professional setting. Present your research and creative work in oral or poster presentations to fellow students, faculty and invited guests. Presentations can be based on your thesis research, creative work, independent study, community service or study abroad. All undergraduates are eligible to apply - you do not need to be a Commonwealth College student to participate.

For more information and an application form go to:

<http://webapp.comcol.umass.edu/msc/>

The deadline for applications is March 2.

Want to help us

RUN THE STPEC PROGRAM???

Do you...

- ★ want to have a voice in your major?
- ★ yearn for democracy?
- ★ want something GOOD to put on your resume?

In addition to being a unique academic program in terms of critical focus, we have one of the few consensus-run majors in the nation, where staff and students create the program along side one another. Interning in the STPEC office staff is one way students can help create a participatory major, supporting a community conducive to critical thought and social change, as well as contributing to continually rethinking and revising our major. Office staff duties and projects reflect the needs of the program and the interests of the students and include attending weekly staff meetings, assisting with STPEC office work, working on program publications like the STPEC newsletter, organizing student events, and making weekly program decisions. STPEC office staff members also learn useful skills like consensus decision-making, meeting facilitation, peer-advising and mentoring, and negotiating bureaucracy.

So, if you would like to participate in making the present and future of your STPEC major through ADVISING, ENVISIONING, COLLABORATING and WORKING with our educational counterparts, you should talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

All STPEC Office Staff meetings are mandatory for all office staff members!

The first staff meeting will be on Thursday, February 5 from 1:00-2:00 pm in the STPEC Office (E-27A Machmer Hall). If you cannot make this meeting but would like to participate in Office Staff you MUST contact Deborah beforehand and provide a schedule of times you are and are not available so that we can plan for future meetings accordingly.



All About the STPEC Internship Requirement (STPEC 498Y)

All STPEC majors are required to complete a 3 or more credit graded internship with a grade of C or better.

If you have not yet completed this requirement, you can do so by registering for STPEC 498Y, section 1. Your faculty sponsor will be Katherine Mallory, STPEC's Internship Director. *You are responsible for finding your own internship placement, and having it approved by Katherine prior to registering for the course.*

Grades for the STPEC Internship requirement are based on your written analysis of your experience and observations. We therefore recommend that you complete at least one semester in the STPEC program before registering for an internship, so that you have an analytical framework to use as the basis of your written work.

Occasionally we accept prior internships or internships completed through other departments for the required internship. In order for such a course to count, it must be graded, worth three or more credits, and involve at least 100 hours of work.

Regardless of how you plan to fulfill your internship requirement, **you must have Katherine's prior approval. Please don't wait until your final semester** to talk to Katherine, or you may find that you have to stick around for an extra semester!

Want to get more out of your Internship experience? Want some extra help writing your Internship paper? We strongly recommend **STPEC 494A: Praxis**. This is a two credit graded optional course offered to help students further explore the relationship between theory and practice. This class is intended for students who are either currently fulfilling or have recently completed their STPEC Internship requirement and offers practical guidance on writing the Internship paper. To register please speak with Katherine.

Internships as Electives

We welcome and encourage STPEC students to do internships beyond the 3 credits required for the major. The University allows you to count up to 15 internship credits toward graduation. You can earn up to 15 credits in one placement, or you can complete two or more smaller internships. Students doing elective internships may work with the Faculty Sponsor of their choice.

Student Bridges Program

Student Bridges is a student-initiated outreach program that connects UMass students with local community-based organizations and schools through tutoring-mentoring partnerships, college awareness activities, and policy advocacy. The program has primarily partnered with schools and programs in the Holyoke-Springfield area.

Student Bridges offers Community Service Learning Courses, Internships, Independent Studies & Volunteer Opportunities

We offer a 4-credit course (with Honors options) with a community based learning component which meets Tuesdays from 7-9pm, in addition to individualized internship and independent study opportunities. Internships could include multimedia projects, public relations, website and technical support, grant writing, and organizing efforts that support educational access and equality. For more information: visit www.studentbridges.org - 306 Student Union - 413 545-7676 – studentbridges@gmail.com

**Attend the "Holyoke Bound" Orientation
Saturday, 2/28/09 from 10-3:30 at Peck School,
1916 Northampton Street, Holyoke MA.
Pre-register by 2/20/09 at
holyokebound@gmail.com**

This orientation, open to all students from the Five Colleges interested in working, interning or volunteering in the Holyoke area, will include presentations on the history of Holyoke, the community's assets, and students' and community members' experiences working in the city. Information will be provided about opportunities for students and student organizations to work, volunteer, intern and/or collaborate with Holyoke schools and programs. Free food from local restaurants and transportation from the Five Colleges

**IMPACT: National Student Conference on
Service, Advocacy and Social Action
Washington, DC March 6-8, 2009**

This year's IMPACT Conference will be held at University of Maryland, University College in Washington, DC, on March 6-8, 2009. This conference is a gathering of socially responsible students, individuals, and companies who are part of a global network for social justice. The weekend will be full of skill building, networking, and socializing opportunities. <http://www.impactconference.org/>