



SocialCircuit

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Welcome to the *Social Circuit*, the College of Social Sciences' newsletter published periodically for its alumni and friends. The faculty and I committed to

keeping you informed of the college's programs and accomplishments, and of the vision that guides us in considering how the rapidly changing world impacts our lives.

More than ever before, the college is uniquely positioned to contribute knowledge that is essential to our success in adapting to the social, political and economic complexities of our emerging global society. Through innovation, discovery and leadership, the college offers "cutting edge" perspectives in understanding human behavior; it cultivates critical thinkers who will become active in, and impart their knowledge to, communities throughout the world.

A distinct assemblage of disciplines focused on human behavior — Anthropology, Economics, Military Science, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology — provides a comprehensive approach to the learning experience. Internationally recognized faculty, along with the college's prominent institutes and centers, further enhance levels of excellence found in a broad range of basic and applied research.

Additionally, Houston's rich social and cultural diversity and its involvement in meeting state, national and international needs provide opportunities that most universities enjoy. Numerous public

and private sector collaborations allow faculty and students to participate in a broad spectrum of behavior settings — schools, community projects, industries, health care centers and all levels of government — which mirror those found in our global society.

As third largest in the university, the college not only offers this high quality education to 3,300 undergraduates and 400 master's and doctoral candidates, it also serves over half the UH student body — more than 16,000 students — each academic year.

As dean, I assure you that this college remains committed to meeting students' needs through teaching and research programs that help us play a meaningful role in our changing world. I enthusiastically invite your participation and guidance in achieving the educational, research and community service goals that define the colleges's academic integrity. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us on the enclosed reply card. Thank you.

Richard Rozelle became Dean of the College of Social Sciences in September 1994. He is a professor of psychology and served as department chair prior to his appointment as dean. He teaches and conducts research in social psychology, organizational behavior, program evaluation and methodology.



Distinguished Political Science Professor Robert Erikson, Ph.D., has been awarded the Dr. Kenneth L. Lay Endowed Professorship in the College of Social Sciences. In endorsing the selection, **Political Science Chair Kent Tedin** said, “Professor Erikson is regarded by many as the foremost scholar in the highly competitive field of voting, elections and public opinion.”

The \$250,000 endowment’s earnings will enable Dr. Erikson to broaden his research of long-term effects of U.S. political trends and public opinion at state and national levels. His knowledge of American contemporary politics benefits students and is shared with the public through publications such as the nationally renowned textbook *American Public Opinion* written in collaboration with Dr. Tedin.

Dr. Erikson’s recent book, *State-house Democracy*, co-authored by Gerald Wright and John McIver, reveals how public opinion influences state policy through elections and politicians’ anticipation of how voters will respond if they ignore opinion. Two upcoming books — *Macropolitics* and *The Spending Game* — delve into the national political scene.

Macropolitics examines American

political trends since World War II, documenting how Washington’s policies (budget cuts, subsidies, etc.) are also often driven by public opinion. The second book, *The Spending Game*, demonstrates the relationship between election outcomes and campaign expenditures.

Dr. Erikson’s professorship is one of two endowed by Dr. Ken Lay who is chairman and CEO of Enron Corp., as well as a former UH Regent and active alum of the college. The professorships, totaling \$500,000, were funded by Enron Corp. and proceeds from the 1993 Social Sciences Distinguished Alumni Dinner at which Dr. Lay was honored by the college’s alumni association.

Department of

ANTHROPOLOGY

Plantation Dig Continues in Brazoria County

For the past ten years, **Dr. Kenneth L. Brown**, professor of Anthropology, has led a dig at a major excavation in Brazoria County, Texas. Work at the Levi Jordan Plantation, the largest pre-Civil War sugar mill in the state, has uncovered new facts about the lives of the plantation’s slaves who later became its tenant farmers.

After the tenant farmers were suddenly forced to vacate the plantation in 1892, leaving all their possessions behind, the area was abandoned. During the succeeding years, the unmortared brick buildings collapsed and periodic flooding left mud deposits completely covering the site. By 1913, there was no visible evidence the slave-quarters-turned-tenant-buildings ever existed.

In 1985, Dr. Brown serendipitously came in contact with the current owner of the plantation who sought his assistance in having it declared a national historic site. She eventually invited him and his assistants (more than 500 undergraduates, graduate students, and volunteers throughout the excavation) to see what they could find.

Because of the plantation’s isolation through the years and the events surrounding the site’s abandonment, the wealth of information and artifacts left by its former occupants is staggering. Only now is a major portion of the data being analyzed for its cultural and archaeological significance.

They’ve found jewelry, ceramics, flatware, cookware, coins, Confederate buttons and a bayonet, and much more. One of the most intriguing finds is known as the “Conjurer’s Tool

Kit.” Brown believes the conjurer was a woman, the plantation’s folk medicine practitioner and midwife, who played a very important part in plantation life, prior to emancipation and afterwards.

Some of the artifacts, including the Conjurer’s Tool Kit, have such significance that they were chosen as part of a traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution, on tour through 1997.



Dr. Ken Brown leads dig at Levi Jordan Plantation

Center for Public Policy

Established in 1981, the Center for Public Policy (CPP) serves the Houston community as an impartial research organization. The center was designed to identify and evaluate major public policy issues affecting our community by drawing on the research and public service interests of university faculty.

The center's focus is economic, demographic and political research in the eight-county region immediately surrounding Houston. Some current CPP projects include:

Small Area Model – Houston:

The SAM Houston project, headed by **Associate Professor Steven Craig**, is the culmination of a three-year effort to develop a computer model that will predict demographic growth for the

next 20 years in the Houston area. This model will predict changes in population at the census tract level, an accomplishment that no one else in the nation has achieved.

Intelligent Wastewater Systems:

In collaboration with the College of Engineering and the Continuing Education Center, the CPP has received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct a comprehensive study on the renewal of wastewater pipelines. The center will conduct community surveys to determine the level of problem awareness, identify neighborhood leadership and organize focus groups to address wastewater infiltration problems.

Spring Real Estate Symposium:

Every year the CPP offers two sympo-

sia on economic topics of interest to the Houston community. On May 2, **Dr. Barton Smith** will discuss issues pertaining to the real estate industry, ranging from employment predictions for the region, outlook for interest rates, and the prognosis for single, multi-home residential and commercial sectors.

Call 743-3970 for additional information.

The center's focus is economic, demographic and political research in the eight-county region immediately surrounding Houston.

Houston Benefits From Faculty Research

The Department of Economics offers one of the leading Ph.D. programs in the nation and is among the top published in the field. "Over the past ten years, we've gained national recognition as a very serious department of economics," said **Dr. Thomas Mayor**, department chair, "and we continue to place great value on producing academic research that will benefit communities nationally and internationally."

Faculty members are actively involved in research on housing, population and employment topics, and a number of the projects directly benefit the Houston community. In this issue, we feature programs administered by Drs. Paul Gregory, Janet Kohlhasse, and Steven Craig.

For the past three years, **Dr. Paul Gregory**, a Cullen Distinguished professor, has worked with the Graduate School of International Business of the Academy of the National Economy of the Russian Federation to bring nine Russian oil executives to the University of Houston each year. Here they participate in lectures and seminars conducted by Houston area energy and energy-related businesses. Enron, Amoco, Arthur Andersen, NationsBank, Arthur D. Little and Texas Commerce Bank are among Houston area companies who have joined UH in this program.

Associate Professor Janet Kohlhasse chairs the Socioeconomic Committee of the Houston Environmental Foresight task Force, a community-wide effort focusing on environmental issues facing our eight-county region. Kohlhasse's committee

will conduct comparative risk assessments of such environmental issues as air and water pollution and hazardous waste disposal. This effort brings together a diverse team of community leaders and scientists to reach consensus on issues affecting our quality of life.

Undergraduate Internships

In 1994, **Associate Professor Steven Craig** initiated an internship program that gives students an edge in developing work experience and building a professional network. Roughly ten internships in private firms and governmental agencies — such as Enron, Entex, the City of Houston Partnership — are available each semester. Students' interests are matched with those of the participating companies allowing them to gain on-the-job training prior to graduation.

SSAA Needs Your Help

Welcome to the second Social Sciences Alumni Association (SSAA) newsletter. Beginning with this issue, we have joined the College of Social Sciences in a larger publication that aims to keep you informed of activities in the university and the college, as well as the SSAA.

Traditionally, our focus for Spring is the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner which, over the past six years, has raised more than \$1 million for endowed scholarships and professorships. This year, we have chosen to focus on building SSAA membership and will renew our emphasis on the awards dinner in 1997.

We'd like to encourage you to attend every event we sponsor. Let us know by phone (713-743-955), fax (713-743-9560) or letter (Houston Alumni Organization, Attn: Glenn Cook, P.O. Box 230345, Houston, Texas, 77223-0345) if there's a new activity you'd like us to organize. Most importantly, we're asking you to get involved.

Our meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the new Alumni Center on campus. You are always welcome. Please join us in becoming more responsive to the needs of all College of Social Sciences alumni.



Houston Alumni Organization's new home, the Athletics/Alumni Center

Frontier Fiesta Is Back With a Roar

Frontier Fiesta is once again a tradition at the University of Houston. 1996 will mark the fifth year since students and alumni resurrected this grand event after a 30-year hiatus. Activities will include saloons and dance halls that offer variety shows and musical entertainment. Carnival booths will line the streets of Fiesta City, across Calhoun Road from Entrance #1. Live music on stage and plenty of food and drink will make Frontier Fiesta great entertainment.

The Houston Alumni Organization will host Reunion Hall where visitors can mingle with fellow alumni and meet new friends. Also featured will be entertainment for all ages, so the whole family should stop in to visit. One of the best events is a series of barbecue and chili cook-offs. The SSAA Board has talked about entering a team this year and needs your participation. If you're interested in joining the team, call board member **Rick Chapin**, the SSAA Frontier Fiesta Chairperson, at 320-8940.

Frontier Fiesta is scheduled for April 18-20, 1996. When you visit Fiesta City, be sure to look for our SSAA banner and stop by to say hello. We'll even give you a taste of our sure-to-be-award-winning vittles. Y'all come!

Speakers Series Features Distinguished Faculty

The Social Sciences Alumni Association (SSAA) hosted **Drs. Richard Murray** and **Barton Smith**, nationally-recognized experts in their fields, in the association's first speakers series presentation last October. The event was held in the new Alumni Center on campus.

Dr. Murray, professor of political science, discussed the past, present and future roles of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the effect the speaker is likely to have on government and politics in the U.S.



Dr. Barton Smith and dean Richard Rozelle enjoyed the Speakers Series last October

Previewing his 1995 economic report to Houston area business leaders, Dr. Smith, professor of economics, included his assessment of the impact of losing the Houston Oilers to Nashville, as well as a general business outlook.

Watch this publication and your mail for information about future speakers of similar standing and expertise discussing equally timely, significant and enjoyable topics.



Social Sciences Alumni Touch All levels of Society

We, the University of Houston College of Social Sciences Alumni, take great pride in the impact we have on the world around us. The opportunity to make a difference may have been what steered us toward the social sciences in the first place. We reach into almost every sphere of our society. We're the product of a great urban university. We represent a compelling reason for students to choose UH as their alma mater — we're part of the human force that is adapting our society to the changes that are constantly sweeping through it.

We count among us business leaders and innovators, lawmakers and judges, medical practitioners, social service professionals, educators, administrators, philanthropists, and tireless volunteers. Our representatives include:

- Debra Danburg, *Texas legislator*
- Steven A. Hall, *executive vice president, Houston Alumni Organization*
- Don B. Henderson, *Texas legislator*
- Kenneth L. Lay, *chief executive office, Enron Corporation*
- John J. and Rebecca B. Moores, *philanthropists*
- Leonard Rauch, *chair, Texas Higher Education Board*
- Harrell Rodgers, *professor, University of Houston*
- Tony Sirvello, *career public servant for Harris County*
- Jodi Topper, *medical technologist, Methodist Hospital*

Graduates of the college are involved in all levels of our society. Individually we're a force to be reckoned with; together we can move mountains. Come join us — the College of Social Sciences alumni of the University of Houston.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 17, 1996	SSAA Board meeting , 6:30 p.m. at Alumni Center
April 18–20, 1996	Frontier Fiesta — Continuing the tradition — activities include variety shows, carnival booths, live musical performances, barbecue cook-offs, and a scholarship competition. Join us at HAO's Reunion Hall in Fiesta City across Calhoun Road from Entrance #1.
May 15, 1996	SSAA Board meeting , 6:30 p.m. at Alumni Center Alumni interested in serving on SSAA Board of Directors should notify the Houston Alumni Organization, Attn: Glenn Cook, P.O. Box 230345, Houston, Texas, 77223-0345, prior to the May 15th meeting.
June 19, 1996	SSAA Board meeting , 6:30 p.m. at Alumni Center
July 17, 1996	SSAA Board meeting , 6:30 p.m. at Alumni Center
August 1996	SSAA Board retreat , date to be announced
September 18, 1996	SSAA Board meeting , 6:30 p.m. at Alumni Center

Are You Involved Yet?

If you aren't involved with UH in some way, why not? There's something for everyone here and volunteering as an alumnus gives you the opportunity to step back into college life — almost like being a student again.

One program that's fun and does not require a lot of time is EXCEL, a mentoring program administered by the office of the Dean of Students. EXCEL pairs students — usually freshmen — with upperclassmen, staff, or alumni to provide them direction or advice when they need it. Call **Dean Ed Berry** at 743-5470 if you're interested in participating in EXCEL.

If you were a member of a Greek letter group as a UH student, consider volunteering with your undergraduate chapter on campus. Both social and professional chapters welcome alumni involvement. Contact the College of Social Sciences at 743-4000 regarding professional groups and campus Activities at 743-5180 for Greek groups.

Perhaps you'd like to help start something brand new. The SSAA Board has discussed presenting lunchtime seminars to acquaint social sciences undergraduates with potential careers in the field. If you'd like to participate in this kind of program, call **Dave Kohler** at 747-0964.

Another option is to join SSAA as a member of its board of directors. All that's required is membership in the Houston Alumni Organization and a letter describing your background, availability, and why you want to serve on the board. This year, letters of interest should be submitted prior to the May 15th board meeting. Send them to: Houston Alumni Organization, Attn: Glenn Cook, P.O. Box 230345, Houston, Texas, 77223-0345.

ROTC's First Female Commander

"I knew I was going to need some form of discipline to succeed [at working and going to school full-time]," said **Kelle Do**, an undergraduate in the College of Social Sciences, of her motivation for joining the ROTC program in the college's Military Science Department. Do not only succeeded, she excelled. Last Spring she was named commander of her ROTC cadet class, the first female to do so in the program's history.

The 22-year-old senior's responsibilities as commander center on leadership, including monitoring a cadet class of 72 undergraduate students. Whether it's making sure cadets run no less than two miles every weekday morning at 6:30, administering labs on the proper

execution of marching commands or helping cadets rappel down a rope from a height of 100 feet, Do must guarantee all cadets are prepared for their next challenge.

"Her ability to lead and communicate with the cadets is outstanding," explains **Captain Brian McMurry**, assistant professor of military science. "She is basically responsible for everything that happens or fails to happen."

Five subordinate classmate officers help Do with battalion recruiting, logistics and supplies, training and special activities. Cadets are allowed to choose a two- or four-year program to assume a position as a commissioned officer in the United States Armed Forces. "We take special interest in each cadet, making sure they get academic counseling and keeping track of their college suc-

cess." said **Major Mark Jones**, professor of military science and the program's director.



Kelle Do, UH's first female commander, is now a commissioned officer

Ranks Sixth Most Productive in the Nation

An annual study by the State University of New York at Stony Brook has ranked the UH Political Science Department sixth most productive (in terms of research and publications) and eighth in overall effectiveness for the past ten years. "Our political science team is very visible at all levels — locally, nationally, and internationally — and our graduates have both academic and job-related expertise," said **Dr. Kent Tedin**, department chair.

"This is also true of our graduate program in public administration (MPA) — one of our true success stories locally and statewide," continued Tedin. Since 1973, the MPA program has provided graduate degrees for alumni who now have

influential careers with public employers such as the City of Houston, METRO, M.D. Anderson Hospital, Harris County, H.I.S.D., and the F.B.I. "Several alums are household words in the political arena," said **Mike Loftin**, one of the first MPA alums and current assistant director of Houston's Housing & Community Development program. As an evening instructor, Mike also brings his practical expertise to current MPA students. "Most of the 60 to 70 students enrolled at any one time are an interesting mix of traditional students and successful government and community professionals. The program is well known by public professionals as a great resource for obtaining an advanced degree."

Political science faculty are involved in research on topics of national concern such as political

parties, interest groups, lobbying, economic policy, and elections. Dr. Robert Erikson, Kenneth L. Lay Distinguished Professor, is co-authoring a book entitled *The Spending Game* utilizing his research on the effects of campaign spending on election outcomes.

Internationally, faculty and students are doing long-range work on eastern and western Europe, Russia, and Africa. **Distinguished University Professor James Gibson** is investigating political tolerance in South Africa, as well as cultural effects on the growth of democracy in Russia. **Associate Professor Ray Duch** — currently a visiting professor at Stanford University — is examining political effects of the new free market system in Russia and eastern Europe.

Impacting Critical Urban Problems

The Psychology Department continues to increase its community impact through the study and treatment of psychological, social and educational problems. Faculty and graduate students perform services and research at the Psychological research and Services Center (PRSC). As part of the center, the two-year old Victim's Resource Institute (VRI) has successfully treated over 300 children and family members victimized by violent crime. Led by **Professor John Vincent**, director of clinical training, VRI collaborates with and receives referrals from the Houston Police Department.

Those affected by depression can get help at PRSC's Depression

Research Clinic directed by **Professor Lynn Rehm** who created the 12-week Self-management Therapy program.

In the past five years, this program has proven effective for nearly 80 percent of its clients. Both Dr. Rehm and **Dr. Gordon Paul**, a Cullen Distinguished Professor, have been named as national experts in the areas of depression and schizophrenia by *Good Housekeeping* magazine.

In addition to clinical services, the department is reaching out to the community via public schools. Strategies to reduce teenage smoking, drug use, AIDS, and other harmful disorders are key priorities of the Social Psychology/Behavioral Medicine research and Training Group directed by **Dr. Richard Evans**, a distinguished university professor and director of social psychology. With

\$4 million from the National Institutes of Mental Health. Evans' group is embarking on a five-year program to prevent addictive behavior in 18,000 middle and high school students through new "social psychology-based" curricula and teaching methods.

According to Professor Marco Mariotto, department chair, "UH psychology programs rank among the very top in the Southwest, and within the top 20% nationwide."

Community Focus: Blues and Immigration

Understanding and serving the Houston community is an integral part of the curriculum development in the Department of Sociology and is the focus of **Dr. Janet Chafetz**, department chair, and 13 highly respected faculty members. Collaboration with more than 50 local and national service and research agencies involves students in internships, scientific studies and volunteer roles that emphasize a realistic understanding of human life.

Blues-N-Kids

Summer Grant Program

Dr. Joseph Kotarba participated in a program that reflects the department's commitment to education and cultural enrichment in the Houston community. Funded primarily by the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris

County, the Blues-N-Kids program entertained and educated more than 1,200 inner-city children and adults on the Gulf Coast blues tradition through the summer of '95, including several presentations to project Row Houses. Dr. Kotarba also led discussion with groups of high school teachers at the UH College of Humanities, Fine Arts and Communication about ways teachers can use blues in their lessons on history, English and social studies.



Enthusiastic youngsters relax with Dr. Joe Kotarba at the Blues-N-Kids program

Immigration Research

The college's new Center for Immigration Research, directed by **Associate Professor Nestor Rodriguez**, is the first such center established in the Houston area to investigate the major issues surrounding immigration. "We're at ground zero in terms of daily contact with the issues of immigration," said Dr. Rodriguez. The work being done by Dr. Rodriguez, **Associate Director Jacqueline Hagan**, other faculty and graduate students has implications not only for the city and state, but the entire country as well, especially in the area of governmental immigration policy.

Social Exchange

Retired from the Department of Sociology: **Dr. Sol Tannenbaum** and **Dr. Zena Blau**. Acquired in the Department of Psychology: **Associate Professor Linda Acitelli**, cognition and communication in personal relationships; **Assistant Professor Kevin Krull**, child neuropsychology; **Assistant Professor Beth Manke**, behavior genetics and the development of emotions; **Professor Lois Tetric**, job satisfaction and occupational safety and health. Acquired in the Department of Sociology: **Assistant Professor Mary Curry**, African/Caribbean religious studies; **Assistant Professor Karl Esbach**, racial/ethnic self-identification. UH students **Marjorie Brown**, **Ramiro Martinez II** and **Sheletta Markat Smith** have been chosen as Mickey Leland

Congressional Interns on Capitol Hill in Washington. Each will earn 15 credit hours during the semester-long internship. The program is coordinated in Washington by **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee** of the 18th Congressional District. In addition to UH students, Texas Southern University students also participate in the program. Looking for an innovative way to earn a degree? UH presents “**TV With Class,**” a new distance learning program which broadcasts junior and senior level courses on PBS (Channel 8, KUHT) and/or cable. Social Sciences now offers TV courses towards a bachelors degree in Psychology. Call (713) 395-2810 or 1-800-OUR-UHTV for information.

CPC Exceeds Goal

The University of Houston System recently concluded its six-year creative Partnerships Campaign raising \$358 million — \$8 million over goal!

Our college raised more than \$3 million for increased scholarships, student services and faculty support. Lead donors included **Ken Lay, Enron Corp., John Walsh** and **Don Sanders** whose gifts totaled more than \$650,000. Many thanks to former dean **Harrell Rodgers** and our alumni and friends who helped make the campaign a huge success.

If you would like information concerning gifts to the college, ranging from annual contributions to major gift estate planning, please contact **Peggy Bush**, director of development, at 743-4016.

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