

It has been a privilege to begin my term as Chair of the Sociology Department this fall. We have had an


Dr. Erica Toothman received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida State University. She joins us as a Permanent Instructor.

Dr. Emelda Curry received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from USF. She joins us as a Visiting Instructor in ISS and Program Development Coordinator.

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bers of the university community.  
We would love to have you join us.

Paradoxically, the countries of the former Soviet Union whose educational system was purportedly based on Marxism to this day systemically avoid teaching or engaging feminist or queer theory. Under the former Soviet ideologies, women did not require "equality"

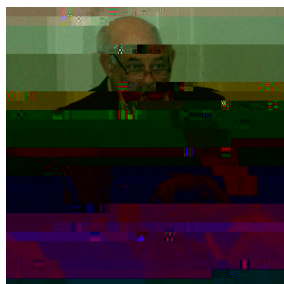
largely misogynist and homophobic. As a result, Dr. Sara Crawley (along with several other faculty from the U.S. and Western Europe) was invit-

ed to participate in a 3-year project to engage the literatures in feminist and queer theory to 30 scholars from the post-Soviet region (coming from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Armenia and Albania). Having completed 5 of the planned 6 trips to Ukraine and Hungary, Dr. Crawley has developed strong collegial bonds with the members of the project who have all developed an impressive scholarly interchange of ideas. One of many outcomes of this project was the Fulbright fellowship awarded to Olga Plakhotnik, an organizer of the post-Soviet project, to USF's Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies Departments in Spring 2013.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, top researchers from universities across the U.S. gathered in St. Petersburg to discuss some of the most important issues facing Latinos today.

The conference "

," organized by Dr. Elizabeth Aranda, Chair of the Sociology Department, gave public voice to ongoing research examining how social policies at federal, state, and local levels have affected many segments of the Latino population.



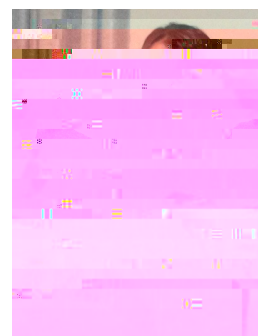
*Eric Eisenberg, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, welcomed the conference participants and members of the community.*

Panelists were among the top researchers in their fields who focus on communities of Latinos in both old and new places of settlement.

The day closed with two keynote speakers, Cecilia Menjivar, Cowden Distinguished Professor at Arizona State University, and Ediberto Roman, Professor of Law at Florida International University. Both speakers emphasized the need for broad-based immigration reform rather than a piece-meal approach. They brought to the forefront of the discussion how the current state of legal uncertainties for many Latino/a immigrants has made everyday life much more difficult for this population, even in their own communities.

The conference included research presentations from several USF researchers including Sociologists Aranda and Elizabeth Vaquera and Anthropologists Heide Castaneda and Angela Stuesse.

Sociology students were key to the success of the conference. Special thanks go to Fransheska Andaluz, James B. Ryan and Crystalee Valentin for volunteering their time and



*Dr. Elizabeth Aranda delivers the opening remarks at the conference.*

energy! The conference proceedings will be published in 2014 in two peer-reviewed special issues of the *American Behavioral Scientist*. Stay tuned!



On Friday October 18, the Department of Sociology held its first interdisciplinary graduate student conference at the USF Marshall Center, hosting 32 presenters from local and out-of-state universities, from USF to



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mittee and did an outstanding job representing our undergraduates at committee meetings, at several "Stampede for Success" recruitment events, and serving as a liaison to the Sociology Club. He consistently sought out our most demanding classes and positioned himself as a leader, pushing both himself and his classmates forward. He is also heavily involved in numerous student groups and social movements including SPEAK (Students Protecting the

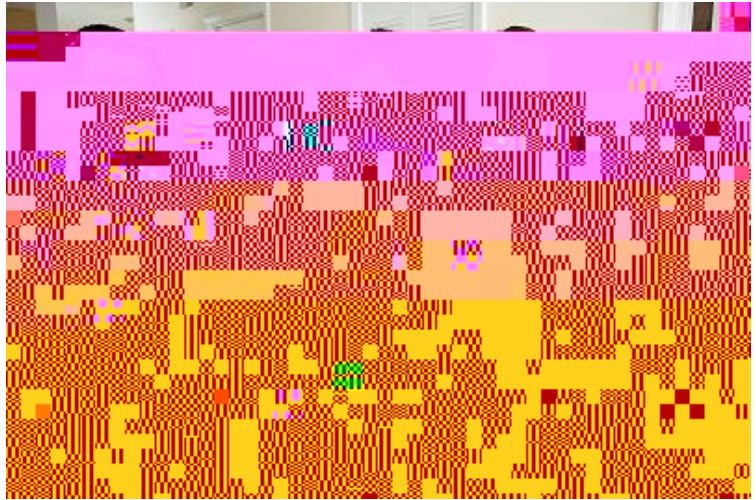
Environment and Animals through Knowledge), Food Not Bombs, the Industrial Workers of the World



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*Drs. Gurbuz, Hordge-Freeman, and Crawley with their respective sociologists-in-training.*

