

Dr. John Kovach, Sociology

Faculty Spotlight

Kovach Cites Class Size, Enthusiasm As Benefits

At the request of an interview from Roger Lee of *The Lions' Eye*, sociology teacher Dr. John Kovach has submitted the following. Dr. Kovach has been teaching at Delco for two years. He spent his first two years of college at University of South Carolina, and graduated from PSU's main campus. He received his MA and PhD from American University. He has wanted to teach since he was a junior in college.

In many ways I think my general philosophy of life reflects the fact that I'm a product of the late 1960's, which is when I started college. To me, that means that I still believe that we can act, collectively, to change this world and make it a better place for everyone.

Part of what I love about teaching is that I get a chance to share my perspective and "turn on" students to what may be a very new, critical, worldview. I thoroughly enjoy witnessing students become empowered as they act on their new knowledge and understanding. That's why I always encourage students to develop projects that involve some application of the concepts we discuss in class, rather than have them complete traditional assignments.

On the personal side, I'm twice divorced and that fact has become somewhat of a joke in my Sociology of Marriage and the

Family classes; that is especially the case when we discuss topics like positive communication styles and conflict resolution in marriage.

I grew up in Hershey, Pennsylvania in a rather apolitical household. This is interesting because politics and political activism are a common thread which seems prevalent in my life. I was greatly influenced by the civil rights movement and Black liberation struggles of the 60s and of course by the Vietnam War. I was actively involved in anti-war activities during my undergraduate years. Later, I withdrew from activism into a serious study of Marx and neo-Marxist thought.

Shortly after I came to Philadelphia in 1980 to set up a drug prevention program for the School District of Philadelphia I was involved in founding the Philadelphia Marxist School. This institution offered courses and sponsored events which served hundreds of students, activities and progressives in the Philadelphia area over a six year period until its demise. I'm still involved in critical politics but I have much less time to devote to these activities. Most of my time is taken up with my current research dealing with urban educational policy and reform.

I enjoy traveling. I've been to Europe and the Caribbean several times. Last June I spent two weeks in Cuba at an academic conference. I hope to return this June to witness some of the changes which have occurred in that country over the last year.

I love teaching at this campus because I like the close relationship that I'm able to develop with individual students. I think that the size of the campus is perfect, especially for students who are just beginning to find their way through the academic maze. I feel privileged to be able to help students along in their journey and be a supportive figure during a crucial period of their development.

I give a lot of myself to teaching and to this campus, but I get so much in return. The enthusiasm in most of my classes is contagious. Students like talking about the types of issues that we deal in sociology on a daily basis — drugs, sex, rock and roll, and a bit more. And I think that students appreciate the fact that I can relate issues and concepts that we discuss in class to some of the may work experiences I've had. These work experiences include: two summers in the Hershey Chocolate Factory; two years as a respiratory therapist in a hospital; a stint as an economic analyst with the National Association of Homebuilders in Washington, D.C.; the project director of a national survey of Indian education needs; and serving as an Assistant Research Director, with an educational research center at Temple University.

Over the next few years I certainly hope to continue teaching at this campus. I'm in in the process of working on a book which deals with the past 30 years of failed educational reforms in the U.S. I also hope to become more involved, in an advisory role, with progressive student groups on campus.

Academic Prizes Awarded

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS:

JUDGE LOUIS A. BLOOM SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]*

Christopher Giangulio

JUDITH DAVIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]

David D. Feiser

ROBERT E. FINUCANE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]

James E. Doolittle

LAWRENCE E. HALLSTROM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]

Sharon J. Cormany

H. LEONARD KROUSE AWARDS OF THE PENN STATE CLUB OF DELAWARE COUNTY [\$700]

Michael O. Hovis

Diana Miceri

Bruce Whiteman

DEWEY LAROSA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]*

Robert Fell

PNC FINANCIAL CORP ENDOWED DELAWARE COUNTY CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]

David F. Rhoades

JANE H. SHEETZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]

Poonam Batra

JOHN D. AND GRETA C. VAIRO SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]

Tuyen S. Truong

GILBERT A. WETZEL SCHOLARSHIP [\$500]

Stephen H. Tryens

PRIZES:

LANDON BURNS PRIZE IN THE HUMANITIES [\$100]

Seta Bedrossian

PENN STATE CLUB OF CHESTER COUNTY [\$1,000]

Angela Deal

RALPH D'IORIO SCHOLAR-ATHLETE PRIZE [\$250]

John W. Snyder

JOAN IMPAGLIAZZO ADULT STUDENT PRIZE [\$300]

William T. Maun

THOMAS MCKELVEY ENGINEERING PRIZE [\$500]

Gregory S. Sternberg

SYLVIA SCHAFFER PRIZE IN GENERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE [\$250]

Youngoak Marousky

W.W. SMITH SCHOLARSHIP [\$2,000]*

Lori Gavin

Joan Impagliazzo

Carol Oglesby

Karen Lyons

Cynthia Pomo

*(Awarded for Fall 1991 and Spring 1992 semesters).

Local Women's Conference Slated

By Joe Damiani

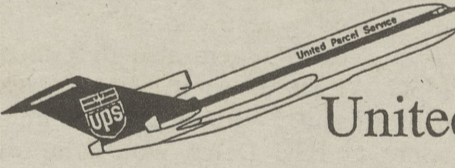
The Delaware County Community College will host an all-day Women's Conference on Saturday, April 25, 1992 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Judge Lisa A. Richette, well-known jurist, author and lecturer.

Penn State Delaware County Campus and the Women's Commission will be represented by Penn State faculty and staff at the information tables. This meeting will be open to the general public. Last year attendance was well over

five-hundred people.

Judge Richette will begin a key note speech at 9:00 a.m. in the "A" Building, 216 Auditorium. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Yale School of Law.

Workshops will begin at 10 a.m. and will continue until 4:40 p.m. Overall there will be fifty-five different workshops, which will cover such topics as: Working Mothers, Women Mentors and Success, Protecting Your Children, Seven Biggest Mistakes of Investing, and Conferring with a Lawyer.



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