Message from the Chair

It has been an eventful year in the Sociology Department, though departmental happenings were sometimes eclipsed by the dramatic political developments at the other end of State Street. Given all of the national media coverage, I'm sure you're already aware of the governor's budget and the ensuing events. Many of our graduate students, motivated by their support of collective bargaining rights, were heavily involved in the protests and occupation of the Capitol. In my role as chair, one practical concern was whether TAs and lecturers would continue to meet their classes. But graduate students and faculty quickly organized a system of colleague coverage, allowing classes to continue without disruption. I remain grateful for the commitment shown by everyone to meeting our teaching obligations during trying times.

The state budget will have important implications for UW-Madison. Under the governor's original proposal, the University would have lost $125 million in state support over the next two years, but would have been granted public-authority status. That provision would have given the university more flexibility to develop its own compensation policies, control tuition revenues, provide financial aid and increase the efficiency of its operations. While public-authority status was subsequently removed from the budget bill, new provisions may provide some additional flexibility for all campuses in the UW System, and UW-Madison bears a somewhat smaller cut in funding. I encourage you to consult the university's website (http://budget.wisc.edu) for more information and the latest developments over the summer.

Given the political and budgetary uncertainty, it's reassuring that the Sociology Department has been authorized to conduct two faculty searches next year. The first, an open-rank search for a criminologist, is the result of a successful proposal to the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU). Consistent with the MIU goal to improve undergraduate access to courses, this hire will allow us to provide more courses in criminology and criminal justice, which are highly demanded by both our undergraduate majors and students in the Criminal Justice Certificate Program. Our second search is for a junior faculty member specializing in demography, health or aging. Authorization for this latter search reflects a strong commitment from the College of Letters & Science to preserve the excellence of the Sociology Department and affiliated research centers in a challenging budgetary environment.

Perhaps the biggest departmental news this year is the change in our graduate funding model. Historically, most of our graduate students have been admitted without funding guarantees. In practice, faculty and center grants have permitted most students to be funded most of the time, but would have been granted public-authority status. That provision would have given the university more flexibility to develop its own compensation policies, control tuition revenues, provide financial aid and increase the efficiency of its operations. While public-authority status was subsequently removed from the budget bill, new provisions may provide some additional flexibility for all campuses in the UW System, and UW-Madison bears a somewhat smaller cut in funding. I encourage you to consult the university's website (http://budget.wisc.edu) for more information and the latest developments over the summer.
Capitol Protests Provide Research Opportunity

In the Sociology Department, we spent the first few weeks coping with disruption, but as the event loomed larger in national and historic significance, students and faculty turned to documenting and researching the protests. Data included websites, protest signs, interviews and observations. Topics of interest included who came to the Capitol, when and how they were mobilized; interactions between protesters, police and politicians; the impact of new social media on coordinating protests; and strategy disputes among the protesters.

Faculty members set up IRB protocols for observation and interviewing by students. Others are working with the Wisconsin Historical Society to raise funds to transcribe and archive 200-plus hours of public testimony. Graduate students collaborated to write an account of the occupation forthcoming in Contexts. Faculty and students wrote accounts of the protests for blogs, newspapers and journals. Special panels on the protests have been organized for several upcoming professional conferences. Your Department remains at the forefront of research on these historic debates as they unfold.

— Pam Oliver and Cameron Macdonald

Sociology Major Events

In 2010, the Department of Sociology further enriched its offerings to the undergraduate community by expanding the annual Major Event into two self-contained events — the Major Careers Event in the fall and the Major Awards Ceremony in the spring. Both events take an expansive view of the undergraduate community and aim to connect current and past sociology majors for the benefit of all.

The Major Careers Event brought five distinguished alumni back to Sewell Social Science to reflect on the place of sociology in their careers in front of a packed room of current sociology majors. The panelists included Linda H. Borchert, an attorney with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Madison; Phil Haslanger, pastor at Memorial United Church of Christ in Fitchburg and a columnist and editor at the Capital Times in Madison; Andrea Koz, Director of Organization and Talent Development at SC Johnson; Lynda Patterson, President and Owner of Association Management Partners Madison; and Michelle Young, the undergraduate adviser at the UW Department of English. Their presentations demonstrated the diverse careers that UW sociology majors have pursued after having been “released into the wild.” In order to provide ongoing career advice to our undergraduates, we will add the Major Career Panel to our repertoire and offer a Major Careers Event every fall in the future.

The Major Awards Event in April 2011 recognized the exceptional achievement of sociology majors at all stages in their education and careers. This year, we awarded four Alfred Reischke scholarships to Nyssa Marie Becker, Lee Albert De Met, Kirsten Louise Pfak and Katrina Jo Roemer. Hattie Mae Griggs won the Andrea Michelle Sperka Award. We congratulated six sociology majors on being elected into Phi Beta Kappa (including Sean Becker, whose speech can be read on the Department’s website), and seven more majors for acceptance into Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Honor Society in Sociology. Finally, the Department of Sociology conferred the 2011 Distinguished Alumnae Award on Nancy A. Mathiowetz, who gave a terrific speech on “The Accidental Sociologist” (excerpt right, and see the Department’s website for the full text).

The role of sociology alumni in our departmental life is growing, and that’s a good thing. The success of the Major Career and Major Awards Events proves once more that bringing alumni back to campus is a potent draw for our current undergraduates, bigger and more reliable, one might add, than lectures and free food.

— Felix Elwert

Nancy A. Mathiowetz and Felix Elwert

Development Committee: Moving Toward a Board of Visitors

The UW Sociology Department ranks among the top sociology departments in the country and has done so for a number of years. Maintaining that ranking is challenging in an environment in which the state contribution to UW's budget has declined from 25 percent in 2002 to 18 percent in 2011. Compounding this problem, the department must contend with increasing competitiveness for research dollars and promising students.

This environment required the department to take positive action. In 2009, the department established a Development Committee, with representatives from the faculty (including the department chair), sociology undergraduate and graduate student alumni, the UW Foundation and the Wisconsin Alumni Association. The Committee has developed a strategic plan that identifies its vision, mission and objectives. An overall objective is to help ensure that the department maintains its high-quality teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, its respected and innovative research, and its high international ranking.

The Committee’s work has focused not only on development but on identifying opportunities to link the department to alumni and to each other, to recognize alumni accomplishments, and to create outreach programs to broaden sociology’s audience. At the Committee’s most recent meeting in April, members identified some potential initiatives that will help meet its overall objectives, including:

• Offer an online sociology course to broaden the audience for sociological research.
• Develop a “Summer Institute” program as a one- to two- day seminar that would focus on a topic with broad appeal and feature renowned sociologists.
• Create a Board of Visitors to increase the department’s visibility and create an opportunity to engage more graduates to identify innovative outreach and development programs.

Committee members are enthusiastic about the opportunities for increasing the visibility of the department’s intellectual efforts and sociology’s relevance in today’s world. The Committee welcomes your interest and comments about its efforts. If you have any comments or want further information, please contact James Montgomery, Department Chair at jmontgom@ssc.wisc.edu or Tom Weinath MA’07, PhD’09, an alumnus Committee member, at GoRed75@aol.com.

— Tom Weinath

Excerpt from Speech by Nancy A. Mathiowetz on “The Accidental Sociologist”:

“Let me begin by thanking the members of the department for this award. The University of Wisconsin and, specifically, the Department of Sociology hold a special place in my heart and I’m deeply honored to have received this award. I just want to take a few minutes of your time to reflect on life post-graduation from the University of Wisconsin and this fabulous department. …

Through the study of social processes, sociology helps us to understand more clearly the forces shaping the personal experiences and outcomes of our own lives. The ability to see and understand this connection between broad social forces and personal experiences — what C. Wright Mills called ‘the sociological imagination’ — is extremely valuable academic preparation for living effective and rewarding personal and professional lives in a changing and complex society. That ‘sociological imagination’ provided the foundation for a rewarding professional life for me, and my wish for those of you heading toward graduation this spring is for the same rich experience. Once again, thank you for this kind award.

On, Wisconsin!”
PhDs and Placements

Alvarado, Steven Elias — “The Effect of Neighborhood Context on Children’s Health and Educational Outcomes.” Adam Gamoran, Major Professor. Two-Year Postdoctoral Position at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

Breazeale, Nicole Danielle — “Kicking the Tobacco Habit: Small Farmers, Local Markets and the Consequences of Global Tobacco Standards in Misiones, Argentina.” Jane Collins, Major Professor. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky.


Choo, Hae Yeon — “Citizenship at the Margins: Gendered Migration and Incorporation Regimes in Production.” Myra Marx Ferree, Major Professor. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario.


Novak, Beatrix Sara — “Obesity and Survival Awareness.” Albert Palloni, Major Professor. Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison, Madison, Wis.

Rearick, Kyle David — “Sustaining Development: A Comparative Study of Two World Bank Sustainable Development Projects in Rural Kazakhstan.” Gay Seidman, Major Professor. Consultant with the International Resources Group, Washinton, D.C.


Schall, Carly Elizabeth — “Whither the People’s Home? Nation & Welfare State in 20th Century Sweden.” Chad Goldberg, Major Professor. Postdoctoral Fellow, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Scheuwe, Rebecca L. — “One of These Things Is Not Like the Other: Variation of Organic Regulations in the Agri-food System.” Leann Tigges, Major Professor. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss.

Sharp, Joseph Shane — “Investigations on the Use of Religious Culture to Cope with Intimate Partner Violence.” Cameron MacDonald, Major Professor. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill.


Wiegel, Jennifer Rebecca — “Retail-Led Restructuring of Agri-Food Systems in Developing Countries.” Jane Collins and Jess Gilbert, Major Professors. Organizational Development Officer with World Learning in Nicaragua.

Department of Sociology Awards

Through the UW Foundation and due to the generosity of John L. Gillin and William H. Sowell, the Department of Sociology has the honor of awarding the John L. Gillin Welcome Awards and William H. Sewell Summer Research Awards as supplementary awards to new graduate students who are recipients of University Fellowships and Advanced Opportunity Fellowships (AOFs). Welcome Awards are designed to ease the transition to campus in the fall. Summer research awards are meant to encourage research partnerships with faculty members during the summer. Funds for these awards were first made available in Fall 2006.

Recipients of the awards for 2010–11 are Monica Cuevas, Garrett Grainger, Michael Halpin, Martina Kunovic, Hannah Kathleen Miller and Jess Valentine. Monica is addressing the disproportionate placement of students of color into special education programs in U.S. public high schools. Using the Filipina movement as a case study, Garrett’s project seeks to understand the dissemination of strategies, tactics and framing throughout disparate LGBT communities. Michael’s study aims to explore HIV prion in Nicaragua.

Undergraduate Spotlight

Allyse Marie Pfeil is a spring 2011 graduate with a BA in sociology. She has been on the Dean’s List all four years and was accepted to Phi Beta Kappa. Within sociology, she is interested in issues dealing with racial and ethnic minorities, international development policies and their social impacts, and sex and sexuality.

Allyse has studied Spanish and Portuguese, and spent her entire junior year abroad in Lima, Peru. Within a year, she hopes to be in Rio de Janeiro, volunteering for Instituto Dios Irmãos, perfecting her Portuguese and learning about the way of life and music in the favelas. Someday, Allyse hopes to do professional translation from Portuguese to English, and perhaps return to school to get a PhD in sociology or anthropology and women’s studies.
**News from the Research Centers**

**Center for German and European Studies**

In 2010–11, Myra Marx Ferree headed the Center for German and European Studies (CGES), which has a mandate to support faculty and graduate student research on Germany and Europe, as well as studies that place Germany in the context of global and regional change. CGES supported one sociology research assistant in the spring (Pilar Gonalons-Pons, who is researching the expansion of paid domestic work in Europe, especially Spain, based on immigrant labor). CGES also funded several sociology faculty in their research on European issues, particularly Chad Goldberg and Ioan Ernakoff. CGES divides its focus between contemporary social science issues such as immigration, gender equity, education restructuring and governance, and timeless issues of theory and humanities research in history, language and arts. Ferree will be finishing her term as CGES director this summer, but will remain involved in European studies by taking on the leadership of the European Union Center of Excellence, which is up for renewal this year (it is funded by the European Commission) and focuses more on social, economic and political issues of European integration.

**Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)**

Since its founding 20 years ago, COWS (Center on Wisconsin Strategy) has worked in a range of policy areas, including work, wages and human capital formation, clean energy, and transportation. Highlights of the past year included publication and promotion of Greener Skills, a follow-up to our 2008 Greener Pathways. COWS also continued work with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, the Wisconsin Technical College System and other state leaders in the design and promotion of sectoral partnerships around the state. In 2010, COWS was ranked among the top 15 national organizations in workforce development (www.myphilanthropedia.org/top-nonprofits/national/workforce-development).

COWS continues to be a go-to source on the Wisconsin economy and workers in it. The State of Working Wisconsin 2010, released on Labor Day, the monthly Wisconsin Job Watch and papers on public employee compensation and the effects of the proposed budget repair bill have all contributed to the ongoing struggle in the state over the economy, public workers and the shape of the Wisconsin budget.

This year, the State Smart Transportation Initiative recruited transportation executives from 20 states to help support the development of breakthrough innovations in transportation policy. The Efficiency Cities Network hosts a webinar every two weeks and has convened over 900 representatives to share best practices. The Center for State Innovation held its third annual meeting of state policy directors as well as numerous webinars on policy topics. Finally, COWS’s Mayors Innovation Project brought together mayors from across the country for its annual meeting in January and recently launched a technical assistance program for member cities.

**Institute for Research on Poverty**

The Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) continued to conduct interdisciplinary poverty research with core funding from the U.S. DHHS/ASPE, to serve as a repository for research on poverty in Wisconsin, and to provide a richer education and requirements for the major to advance of the name change, we did considerable work restructuring and promoting the requirements for the major to face deep budget cuts this year. Among the sociology faculty at WCER, Sara Goldrick-Rab received new funding from the Gates Foundation to continue her research on need-based financial aid, and Adam Gamoran received an NCHD grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to supplement his research on social capital and child development. Also, Geoffrey Borman won a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences to assess the benefits of self-affirmation exercises to reduce stereotype threat among middle schoolers. Sociology graduate students are centrally involved in all three projects, as well as in a variety of ongoing studies throughout WCER’s $40 million operation.

**Program, which is run by IRP Associate Director of Research and Training, Katherine Magnuson. The Institute also disseminates research findings using its website, which features a huge searchable database of IRP publications, Focus newsletter and Fast Focus research brief, and several electronic mailing lists.**

**Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies**

The Holtz Center continues to be a vital space for interdisciplinary conversation, research and education. We are now in the second year of our undergraduate certificate program, Integrated Studies in Science, Engineering and Society. IRP seeks to prompt students to examine the relationship between science, technology and society and offers engineering students a means to develop an integrated liberal arts component to their education. Our Science and the

**Wisconsin Center for Education Research**

Highlights of 2010–11 at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) included prominent contributions from sociologists. WCER’s Interdisciplinary Training Program (ITP) in Education Sciences welcomed Tom DiPrete as a new member of its steering committee. The ITP counted 17 sociology graduate students among its fellows this year, and Steven Alvarado is the ITP’s third fellow from sociology to complete his degree. ITP students apply discipline-based knowledge to pressing problems of policy and practice in education, using methods that permit conclusions about cause and effect. Among the sociology faculty at WCER, Sara Goldrick-Rab received new funding, which is run by IRP Associate Director of Research and Training, Katherine Magnuson. The Institute also disseminates research findings using its website, which features a huge searchable database of IRP publications, Focus newsletter and Fast Focus research brief, and several electronic mailing lists. **Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies**

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**Department of Community and Environmental Sociology**

Deep budget cuts continue to threaten. With the change in our department name, our population of undergraduate majors has grown dramatically. In advance of the name change, we did considerable work restructuring requirements for the major to provide a richer education and more programmatic flexibility to our students. By next spring, we hope to offer our newly structured capstone course for our graduating seniors. Beyond our undergraduate program, we held our first annual Slesinger lecture this year. Named in memory of former UW Rural Sociology Professor Doris Slesinger, we aim to use the lectureship to bring speakers to campus to address issues that concerned Slesinger, a medical sociologist, much of whose work focused on the health issues faced by migrant farm laborers. This year’s lecturer was Steve Wring from the University of North Carolina, who spoke about “Community-based Public Health Research and Environmental Justice.” It was a packed year, but it ended on an especially high note when the Social Studies Divisional Committee recommended that Samer Alatout be promoted to associate professor with tenure.
Kathryn DuPre Lumpkin Award 2009–10

Kathryn DuPre Lumpkin received her PhD from the Department of Sociology in 1928, and she spent her career as a professor of sociology at Wells College with a focus on social justice. The Lumpkin Award is granted each year for the best dissertation of the previous academic year, as determined by a Sociology faculty committee. All dissertations defended during the 2008–09 academic year and nominated by two faculty members were considered.

The best dissertation honor went to Matthew Desmond for his dissertation entitled: “Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty.” Matt’s dissertation combined ethnographic fieldwork, an original survey and documentary analysis to explore the causes, dynamics and consequences of eviction and, more broadly, to plumb the workings of poor neighborhoods and the low-cost housing market. His dissertation committee included his major professor, Mustafa Emirbayer, and professors Robert Hauser, Ruth Tolgyes, Felix Elwert, Jane Collins and Ten Sneeden from the La Follette School of Public Affairs. Matthew is currently a junior fellow at Harvard. Remembering Andrea Michelle Sperka

Michael and Carol Sperka

Throughout her undergraduate years, Andrea carried a demanding academic schedule while working to help meet her educational expenses. In addition, Andrea often served as a volunteer, including working with homeless children in Madison and in South Africa. It is in Andrea’s spirit of helping others that Carol and Michael Sperka created this fitting tribute. Recipients of the Andrea Michelle Sperka Fund exemplify the outstanding qualities that Andrea possessed and serve to keep the memory of this bright and talented young woman alive.

The recipient of the 2010–11 Andrea Michelle Sperka Scholarship is Hattie Griggs, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and social work and a criminal justice certificate in spring 2010. Last fall, she began the accelerated MSW program at UW. She has served at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services and became a court-appointed special advocate on behalf of neglected and abused children. She hopes to one day establish an agency dedicated to youth who have been neglected or involved with the criminal justice system.


Assistant professor Felix Elwert (with graduate student Elizabeth Wray-Field) won the 2010 Gunther Beyer Award for the Best Paper by a Young Scholar in the Field of Population Studies (under age 35) from the European Association for Population Studies for their paper entitled “Multi-Stage Mortality Selection and the Poverty Puzzle.”

Ivan Ermakov received the 2010 European Academy of Sociology Best Book Award for Ruling Oneself Out (Duke University Press, April 2008).

Myra Marx Ferree was appointed to the WAF Distinguished Professorship in honor of Alice H. Cook.

Ted Gerber was awarded a Kellett Mid-Career Award from the Graduate School.

Chad A. Goldberg was offered a one-year membership at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, a fellowship at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, and a Resident Fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at UW-Madison, all for the 2011–12 academic year, to support work on a new book about modernity and the Jews in social theory. He accepted membership at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study and declined the other offers.

Sara Goldrick-Rab was named a William T. Grant Scholar in 2010. The William T. Grant Scholars Program supports promising early-career researchers from diverse disciplines, who have demonstrated success in conducting high-quality research and are seeking to further develop and broaden their expertise.

Cameron L. Macdonald won the Sociology Department’s Excellence in Teaching Award and University Housing’s Honored Instructor Award in 2010.

Forty-five of Alberto Palloni’s students and colleagues came together this spring to honor his contributions to the field of demography by donating to make him a Population Association of America Honored Member. Palloni joins other distinguished demographers so honored, including former UW Sociology faculty members Larry Bumpass, Judith Seltzer and Robert Mare.

Vicki Sekel won a Letters and Science Classified Staff Excellence Award.

Richelle Winkler received the Walter Terrie Award for Best Applied Demography Paper by the Southern Demographic Association in 2010.

Matthew Desmond

The best dissertator honor went to Matthew Desmond for his dissertation entitled: “Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty.” Matt’s dissertation combined ethnographic fieldwork, an original survey and documentary analysis to explore the causes, dynamics and consequences of eviction and, more broadly, to plumb the workings of poor neighborhoods and the low-cost housing market. His dissertation committee included his major professor, Mustafa Emirbayer, and professors Robert Hauser, Ruth Tolgyes, Felix Elwert, Jane Collins and Ten Sneeden from the La Follette School of Public Affairs. Matthew is currently a junior fellow at Harvard.
In Memoriam

Warren Kubitschek, age 56, died on April 3, 2011. Warren did his graduate work in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, and he joined the University of Notre Dame as a professional specialist in 1985. During his time at Notre Dame, Warren published many papers in leading sociology journals and made numerous contributions to the field of education. He served as a project manager for several large-scale data collection efforts led by Maureen Hallinan, most recently, the Chicago School Study. As a member of the Center for Research on Educational Opportunity at Notre Dame, Warren worked closely with many graduate students and faculty during his career. He was an exacting critic whose kindness, warmth and good humor made him an invaluable colleague and friend. He will be greatly missed. (Submitted by alumna Dr. William Carbonaro)

Your Gift Matters

The Department of Sociology depends on the generosity of alumni and friends to ensure the continued excellence of our programs and resources. We invite you to help us achieve our goals for the future by contributing to any of the following funds. All contributions made by private individuals are tax deductible, and the contributions are used immediately to support Dominican students in need. Contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

- Andorra Michelle Sperka Fund
- CDE Mentors Fund
- Farming and Food Systems
- In Memoriam Fund
- Luvella and Alfred Reschke Undergraduate Scholarships
- MacCoby-Wallace Graduate Student Award
- Malt and Walker Funds
- Robert and Lorraine Chinnering-McCann Graduate Student Award
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- Sage Endowed Fellowship for Research
- Sage Sustainability Encyclopedia Volume 11: Sustainability and Culture
- Sage Sustainability Fund
- William H. Sewell Graduate Student Award

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(608) 263-0522

Alumni News

Vern Baxter MS’78, PhD’84, professor of sociology at the University of New Orleans, is working with colleagues on a book about recovery from Hurricane Katrina in two New Orleans neighborhoods. He is also part of a study of the impact on the city’s middle class of closing Avondale Shipyard in New Orleans.

Marilyn Bensman BA’46, who was married to Joseph Bensman MA’47, was appointed NG0 representative to the U.N. by the National Conference on Family Relations after retiring from academic sociology in 1993. She has worked with the U.N. ever since, working particularly with the U.N. NGO Committee on the Family, of which she serves as vice chair.

William Biely PhD’76 has been involved with analysis for the Wal-Mart discrimination case at the Supreme Court. See http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/02/business/02walmart.html.


Jennie Brand MS’03, PhD’04 received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at UCLA in July 2010. She will also begin as associate director of the California Center for Population Research (CCPR) at UCLA in July 2011.

William Carbonaro MS’96, PhD’00 is associate professor of sociology at the University of Notre Dame. He was recently named the 2011 Notre Dame Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) of the Year. The awarding committee noted that “Bill has had a greater impact on his graduate program than has any other DGS.”

Virginia Teas Gill BA’95, MA’98, PhD’95 was recently promoted to full professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Illinois State University.

Mae Gordon was recently promoted to full professor in the Department of Health Policy & Community Health in McLean, Va., working on strategies to incorporate nondiscrimination standards into community health planning processes as a framework for greater public accountability in community-level health care delivery. This strategy will bridge the invisible divide between medical care and public health, so that the population within a geographical area can be served in the most efficient, effective and equitable way.

Kary W. Hyre MS’67 retired in October 2006, after 18 years as Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. He is credited with drafting and successfully asking WA State Legislature to pass the first Assisted Living Residents’ Rights statute in the country. He became the full-time ombudsman/chaired member at St. John’s Episcopal Church; he directs four choirs and coordinates instrumental assemblies; and he oversees St. John’s Concert Series. He lives in Olympia, Wash.

Douglas Jackson-Smith MS’90, MA’91, PhD’95 was promoted to professor of sociology at Utah State University (where he has worked since 2001). He has an active research agenda focused on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to studying complex human- environmental systems. He recently served on a National Academies of Sciences committee that wrote a book on sustainable agricultural systems, and was co-author of a recent article published in Science that calls for transformation of markets and policies to facilitate a shift toward greater sustainability in the U.S. farm and food system.

Susan E. Johnson MA’65, PhD’74 has now retired and is living on Whidbey Island north of Seattle. She is working part time as a water commissioner for her neighborhood, currently working on emergency planning for the water district. She is also playing bridge and doing Tai Chi.

Chaitanya Lakkimsetti PhD’10 received the Best Dissertation Award from the Law & Society Association.

Paula Lantz MS’91, PhD’91 will be assuming the role of professor and chair of the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. in August 2011.


Lynn Magdel PhD’90, MA’96 is happily retired in Buffalo, N.Y. She is using her sociological knowledge for alternative transportation advocacy, peace activism and all the other things she had to give up during her time in academia.

Terri Orbuch MA’83, PhD’88 was interviewed by the Wisconsin Alumni Association for the Badger Career Network. Orbuch is a professor, researcher and therapist in Michigan who has become known as “The Love Doctor” for her role turning science about relationships into practical advice for couples. The interview is at http://www.wualumni.com/item/08/OrbuchInterview.aspx.

Evan Stark MA’67 is transitioning into retirement from Rutgers, where he directs the public health program and teaches the core PhD seminar on political theory. In retirement, he will continue his practice as a forensic social worker and will work on a historical study of disease and capitalism. His most recent book is Responding to Domestic Violence: The Integration of Criminal Justice and Human Services with Eva Buzawa (Sage, 2011). Two of his four sons are now launched, the other two are launching, and his grandson is learning Chinese. He lives outside of New Haven, Conn., in a suburban forest.

Kevin Wehr MS’98, PhD’02 was promoted to associate professor two years ago. He’s published three books and in 2004, he published his dissertation, “America’s Fight Over Water.” Two years ago, he published Horraces on Two Wheels, an ethnography of bicycle messengers. Last year, he was general editor for the Sage Sustainability Encyclopedia Volume 11: Sustainability and Culture. His book, DIY Loss of Control and Self-Reliance in the 21st Century, is forthcoming this fall. He’s also active in his statewide faculty union as chapter president.

Since his retirement in 2009, Eldon L. Wegner MA’65, PhD’67 has been devoting his main activities to senior advocacy organizations. He serves on Hawai’i’s Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs and the Long-Term Commission appointed by the Legislature. He notes that he is “doing a lot of international travel and singing[n] in two choral groups. Life is good.”

Mark D. Whitaker MS’00, PhD’08 recently published his second book, Ecological Revolution (2009), a book on the comparative history of state-led environmental degradation versus oppositional regio-environmental social movements in China, Japan and Europe. He received a travel grant to present this environmental sociological research at the International Sociological Association’s meetings in Göteborg, Sweden. He is now assistant professor in the Sociology Department of Kookmin University in Seoul, Korea. He notes that “spring in Korea is beautiful.” You can follow him on twitter at @whiteskullontop or at http://os obsolete.blogspot.com.

Richelle Winkler MS’04, PhD’10 is starting a new position as assistant professor in the Environment and Energy Policy Program at Michigan Technological University this July.

David Yamane MS’94, PhD’98 continues as chair of the Sociology Department at Wake Forest and has joined Keith A. Roberts as co-author of Religion in Sociological Perspective, 5th ed.

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Questions and concerns should be directed to: Dani Luckett, Development Specialist
dani.luckett@supportuw.org
(608) 263-0522
to all incoming students beginning with the 2011–12 cohort. Our new funding model will necessitate some reduction in the size of entering cohorts, especially in the short term given the department’s commitment to not hurt our current students during the transition. But based on current research funding levels, the department should eventually be able to support entering cohorts of 18 to 20 students in steady state.

The department recently hosted a Festschrift conference and celebration dinner to mark the retirements of Bob and Tess Hauser. Please see page 13 for details and photos. I am grateful to all of the faculty, alumni, staff and friends who organized and participated in these wonderful events. The many tributes at the dinner highlighted not only the enormous scholarly contributions but also the generous mentorship and warm friendship provided to all by Bob and Tess. In further appreciation of their careers, the Robert M. and Taissa S. Hauser Fund has been established at the UW Foundation to support graduate training and research in sociology. Initiated with a generous donation from a former student, the fund presently has over $100,000 and continues to grow through further donations. Please visit the departmental website (http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/hauser/) to leave a message for the Hausers or to contribute to the fund.

Luvella K. and Alfred Reschke Social Sciences Fund

The scholarship supports outstanding undergraduate students in the Department of Sociology. Up to four scholarships of $2,000 each are awarded annually to students majoring in sociology who have one or two semesters of coursework remaining before graduation. To be considered for a Reschke Scholarship, students must demonstrate outstanding academic performance and financial need. According to the terms of the bequest, preference is given to students whose future plans include teaching or working in the social sciences, social services or the ministry.

Luella K. and Alfred Reschke Scholarship Winners

Kirsten Ptak is a Sociology and Gender & Women’s Studies major. In the past four years, Kirsten has become committed to working toward social justice and has gotten involved working in various social service agencies. She plans to pursue a master’s in social work. Kirsten is also one of six winners of this year’s prestigious Louise Trosell Award.

Katrina Roemer is double majoring in Sociology and Spanish. Her areas of interest include gender relations and deviant behavior. She is currently researching the implementation of Title IX in colleges and universities under Professor Myra Feemre. After graduation, she hopes to attend graduate school and perhaps conduct research in a Spanish-speaking country.

Nyssa Becker completed her degree in Sociology (with honors) and Biology. She felt pulled to study sociology, and after three years, the subject continued to intrigue her. “Even in daily life,” she says, “I find myself applying sociological theories or wondering what a certain sociologist would say about an event.” Nyssa hopes to attend graduate school in the fall.

Lee De Met hopes that whatever he does after graduation will be directed at improving our society, and he has learned that it is absolutely possible to create meaningful change on a smaller scale. He believes the advantage of sociology is that it encourages the pursuit of a career aimed at changing the overlapping social structure, rather than one that operates within the status quo.

Bob and Tess Hauser Retirement Celebration

On Saturday, May 21, nearly 200 colleagues, students and friends gathered in Madison to celebrate the work of Robert and Taissa Hauser. Bob retired from the Sociology Department this past summer after 41 years of service. Over the course of his career, Bob has made unparalleled research and mentoring contributions to the field, including publishing over 120 books, book chapters and articles and mentoring more than 40 doctoral students. With Tess, he ran the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey from 1980 to the present.

The celebration on May 21 began with a conference entitled “Living in a High Inequality Regime,” organized by Bob’s former students Alar Maelken and David Gruisky and featuring research by former students of the Hausers. Among others, Deshaw Fager presented on the recent decline in incarceration rates; Yu Xie analyzed earnings in science over the past five decades; Megan Sweeney described variation in marriage entry during the 20th century, and David Gruisky described a recent decline in rates of mobility. A reception and dinner followed the conference, with Adam Gamoran serving as master of ceremonies. Thin Visite, a band featuring former Hauser student BillBreil and Hauser relatives Mickey and Cole Silvers, provided the music. During dinner, a number of Bob’s former students and colleagues spoke about the significance of his commitment to careful research and comprehensive mentoring. Dick Campbell, just weeks from retirement himself, recalled Bob’s early days as a teacher and scholar. Yossi Shavit, traveling from Israel, spoke about late nights with Census data output, Debbie Carr about working through the weekends at the Hausers’ home, and Sam Lucas about Bob’s penchant for getting to the heart of the matter. Yu Xie reminded those present that being outspoken is an asset when the evidence supports one’s position. Long-time colleagues Hal Winsborough and Jerry Manwell enlivened the crowd with recollections of Bob’s role in the Department. Rob Mare captured Bob’s significant methodological contributions to Sociology and Michael Feuer underscored the challenges of the position Bob has taken “in retirement”— serving as the executive director of the National Research Council’s Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences in Washington, D.C. The celebration concluded with reflections from Bob, who reminded the audience that even an illustrious career is not exclusively marked by successes, and in the end, perseverance advances social science.

— Jenna Nobles

Harold Garfinkel Faculty Fellowship in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis

In April of this year, Harold Garfinkel, the founder of ethnomethodology, and emeritus professor of sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles, died at the age of 93 at home in Pacific Palisades, Calif. Over a long and illustrious career, Garfinkel introduced to the field of sociology the study of social structure as it exists in the taken-for-granted aspects of everyday life and interaction. His classic 1967 book, Studies in Ethnomethodology, has been continuously in print for over 40 years. Ethnomethodology continues to inform many major areas in sociology including theory, sociology of science, social problems, social psychology, gender and countless others. Most especially, Garfinkel and ethnomethodology influenced the development of Conversation Analysis.

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Professor Garfinkel had a long history of involvement with the UW Department of Sociology. In the fall of 1988, he spent a week in the department, working intensively with faculty and graduate students and giving a well-attended public lecture. In 1990, he spent the spring semester as a Brittingham Visiting Professor in our Department, teaching a seminar in ethnomethodology, presenting his research in a departmental colloquium, and delivering a prestigious UW University Lecture. In March of that semester, a group of scholars from across the U.S. assembled for a weekend Ethnomethodology Roundtable. More recently, in April 2004, Professor Garfinkel returned to UW to give a Theory@Madison presentation; once again, he enthralled a capacity crowd. In all of these visits, Professor Garfinkel was available for endless informal consultations and conversations. In the fall of 2010, Professor Garfinkel and his wife of 66 years, Atlene Garfinkel, generously established a Faculty Fellowship in Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis for the Department of Sociology at UW-Madison. The purpose of this gift is to support research and studies among faculty and graduate students in ethnomethodology and in the related field of conversation analysis. A New Garfinkel Laboratory for Ethnomethodological and Conversation Analytic Research has been set up as well. The laboratory holds lecture transcripts, archival resources and data, along with computers for working with these materials.

— Doug Maynard

“Chair’s Message” continued from page 1
Loka Ashwood (with her co-author, agroecology student Noelle Harden), won the Student Research Paper Award from the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society for their paper on “Landscape Agroecology: Pathways for Collective and Individual Multifunctionality.” She also received the Philanthropic Educational Organization Scholar Award, a competitive annual award of roughly $15,000, which will facilitate her dissertation work.

Richard Aviles received an honorable mention from the Ford Foundation for his predoctoral fellowship application.

Sung Ik Cho received a small Villas Research Travel Grant for 2010–11 ($600), funded by UW Graduate School. He also received a pre-dissertation travel award ($3,500) from Remaking the Developmental State Collaborative for summer 2011 (Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy, UW-Madison).

Hae Yoon Choo was the first author of an article, along with her advisor, Myra Marx Ferree, which won the 2011 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award, by the Race, Gender, and Class section of the ASA. Their article, “Practicing Intersectionality in Sociological Research: A Critical Analysis of Inclusions, Interactions and Institutions in the Study of Inequalities,” was published in the journal Sociological Theory in 2010.

Christina Diaz won a Ford Predoctoral Fellowship, which provides three years of support for individuals who are working toward a PhD or ScD. Her research examines the intergenerational transmission of health among migrant families, and her broader interests include migration, family demography and health.

Madeleine Fairbairn received two fellowships (for 2011–12) for her dissertation research, which examines large-scale farmland acquisitions by private investors in the wake of the food and financial crises of 2007–08. One is the Louis and Elsa Thomsen Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship and the other is the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship.

Jeremy Fiel received a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation in April. His research is about understandings of recent changes in school segregation.

Nikki Graf received the Alan Kerckhoff Award from the Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (of the International Sociological Association) at their conference in April in Essex, U.K., in recognition of her paper “Mothers’ Employment in Male-Dominated Occupations and Adult Children’s Occupational Attainment.” She also received the HYe Dissertation Research Award from the Center for Research on Gender and Women at UW-Madison in 2010.

Hanna Grol-Prokopczuk was awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Dissertation Grant and a Holz Center for Science and Technology Studies Travel Grant to support research for her dissertation, which examines how physicians and survey researchers attempt to measure chronic pain.

Michael Halpin received the Sir James Loughhead Award of Distinction from the government of Alberta, Canada, as well as a fellowship from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Alexander Hanna received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which provides three years of funding. He also received a Foreign Language Area Studies fellowship from Global Studies and African Studies, which provides one year of funding to study Arabic. Finally, he is the recipient of a Graduate International Fieldwork Award ($3,000), offered by Global Studies and the International Institute, which he will use to go to Egypt and study the use of social media during the Egyptian revolution.

Matt Hollander was awarded a one-year dissertation development fellowship from the National Science Foundation. His dissertation research focuses on the use of directive-response sequences in the Stanley Milgram obedience-to-authority experiment. The funding will be used to purchase books and pay for transcription of recordings of Milgram’s original experimental sessions.

Annabel Ivens received a Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council for the summer of 2011. She was also granted the Graduate International Fieldwork Award from UW-Madison Global Studies and the Nave Field Research Grant from the Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program, UW-Madison. Both awards are to conduct research in Chile and Peru during the summer of 2011. She received an Honorable Mention for the 2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Matthew Kearney was awarded a Humanities Exposed Scholarship for 2010–11 to continue studying Russian language and society. She and her co-author, Professor Yoshiko Herrera, presented their article “Xenophobia and Nationalism in Russia” at the Association for the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University. Nikki will present her paper with Professor Ted Geen on Xenophobia in the Russian Federation at the 2011 ASA.

Martina Kunovic was awarded a University Fellowship, a UW Villas Welcome Award, a Gillin Welcome Award and the Sewell Summer Research Award. She also received the Fulbright Canada-U.S. Traditional Student Award, and the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Martina plans to use her summer research funds to carry out pre-dissertation research in Cuba.

Hyun Sik Kim’s paper entitled “Consequences of Parental Divorce for Child Development” was selected to receive the graduate student paper award from the ASAS family section this year. The paper was published in the American Sociological Review in June 2011.

Greg Kromsdorfer won the SAGE/ Pine Forge Teaching Innovations and Professional Development Award from the American Sociological Association Section on Teaching and Learning (which will provide him with funds to attend the ASA Teaching Innovations Preconference this August).

Nicole Butkovich Kraus received a Foreign Language Area Studies award for 2010–11 to continue studying Russian language and society. She and her co-author, Professor Yoshiko Herrera, presented their article “Xenophobia and Nationalism in Russia” at the Association for the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University. Nikki will present her paper with Professor Ted Geen on Xenophobia in the Russian Federation at the 2011 ASA.

Aliza Luft was recognized as an Honored Instructor by the students of University Housing for her work in Sociology 210: Survey of Sociology. This writing-intensive course satisfies the university’s Comm-B requirement. She was further honored by being selected by the College of Letters and Science as a Comm-B TA Fellow, and she will help train new Comm-B TAs this fall.

Mytoan Nguyen was awarded the American Sociological Association Minority Predoctoral Fellowship for 2011–12. She is also completing her Kauffman Community Entrepreneurship Award project in service learning, which broadly connects underrepresented youth at East High School’s GEAR UP after-school program with UW-Madison.

Matthew Nichter and Adrienne Pagac received Peer Mentor Awards from the university-wide Graduate Student Collaborative in April 2011 in recognition of their efforts to help fellow students.

Lauren Schudde received the Institute for Research on Poverty’s Dissertation Research Award, which will provide support for work on her dissertation, “Affording Success: The Causal Impact of Financial Constraints on the College Experience,” for 2011–12.

Jessa Valentine received the University Fellowship, the Gillin Award, and the Sewell Summer Research Award, all of which supported her work throughout the 2010–11 academic year and over summer 2011. In her research, she explores the links between migration and educational trajectories in both sending and receiving communities.

Catherine Willis received the first annual Award for Excellence in Community-Based Graduate-Level Teaching or Research from the Morgridge Center for Public Service ($1,000). This award was created to give special recognition to a graduate student who has shown outstanding initiative and effort, including developing a partnership with a community organization to address a social issue.

Elizabeth Wrigley-Filed (with Felix Elwert) won the 2010 Gunther Beyer Award from the European Association of Population Studies for their paper “Whose Mortality Decelerates? Multi-Stage Mortality Selection and the Poverty Puzzle.” This award is for the best paper in the field of population studies by young scholars.

Trevor Young-Hyman received the Lewis O. Kelso Fellowship from the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations. The fellowship, for the 2011-12 academic year, supports doctoral research on worker ownership, economic democracy and democratic capitalism. He will use the support to pursue a dissertation on worker ownership and innovation in U.S. automated manufacturing.

Kate Zaman received a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship from the Center for Southeast Asia to study Bengali this summer ($2,500, plus tuition). She also received an academic year FLAS from the Center for Southeast Asia to study Indonesian ($15,000, plus tuition) during the 2011-12 academic year.


