On behalf of the Department of Sociology, I wish to greet you once again and highlight items that you can read about in the rest of this newsletter.

As a preliminary note, an expression of gratitude is due for the valuable support many of you extend to support our research and teaching in the department. Especially in these difficult economic times, it is remarkable how many of you continue to provide substantial gifts for our various funds.

Another preliminary is that, despite economic hardships, the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (http://madisoninitiative.wisc.edu/) is making it possible to provide increased need-based financial aid for students and to hire more faculty and instructional support that will improve access to high-demand courses and majors, classroom innovations, and student services. It is a remarkable program for which a lot of credit goes to Chancellor Biddy Martin, and to concerted efforts by faculty, students and alumni. Just when numbers of our peer institutions are making substantial cuts to financial aid and staffing, we are able to increase our endeavors in these areas. There is a price, of course, in terms of increasing tuition for many of our students. These fiscal matters only underline my first preliminary note, which is that our needs and appreciation for private departmental gifts also remain strong.

The further good news is that this fall we are adding four new faculty members, all of them at the assistant professor level. Their interests (read about them in later pages) range from the sociology of law and political economy to demography. Because they freshen the department in many different ways, we are always excited by the arrival of new faculty members. Our philosophy is to provide positions for the very best candidates on the market — regardless of specialty area. Time and again, this approach has provided us with an enormous range of talent that keeps the department exceptionally strong and innovative.

Of course, we think that our graduate and undergraduate students are a good match for faculty in terms of talent, and in this Update, you also can read about a few of our award winners. We have news about alumni, PhD completions and placement, and many other matters that I encourage you to read. I especially call your attention to the address that Andrew Seaborg (class of 1995) gave at our very first Major Event this past fall. It is reprinted on page 6, while information about our second Major Event this coming September is on page 4. Through this event, we are attempting to reach out to our current undergraduates as well as undergraduate alumni, and to connect these groups to one another in meaningful ways. Please join us if you can!

Douglas W. Maynard, PhD
Conway-Bascom Professor and Chair
Welcome New Faculty

Joseph Conti will hold the Chancellor’s interdisciplinary cluster position in Comparative Political Economy. Joe received his PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2008, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at the American Bar Foundation. Through interviews with well-placed actors and a formal model of dispute escalation, his research examines the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization (WTO), focusing on how inequality between states is mediated through the mobilization of WTO legal contexts. As a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the American Bar Foundation, he has been expanding this work in two directions: a study of mechanisms of legitimacy production through the deployment of legal and diplomatic expertise in processes of disputing, and an analysis of the emergence of transnational legal assistance. Prior to receiving her PhD in Sociology, Jenna Nobles’ research agenda is centered on issues of development, family dynamics, and child welfare. Her dissertation (UCLA, 2007) examined Mexican-U.S. migration from the perspective of Mexican households, with a focus on the health and schooling outcomes of children who grow up apart from migrating parents. Her current research includes a study of (a) intra-couple power dynamics and migration decision-making and (b) asymmetries in the health effects of men and women experience as part of the migration process in the Mexican context. Jenna also has been exploring how the social dynamics of a particularly catastrophic event, such as the Indian Ocean tsunamis, shed light on the social causes of health and well-being. She has been conducting fieldwork in the Aceh province of Indonesia, where roughly 150,000 people perished and half a million people were displaced in December 2004.

Undergrad Alumnus Spotlight

Matthew Clifton Minami is a Spring 2008 graduate. Matthew received a BA in Sociology and graduated with honors in the major in addition to obtaining certificates in Asian American Studies and Criminal Justice. During his time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he was a Shriver Scholar. In addition, he served as an intern with the Dane County Public Defender’s Office. He pursued several research opportunities during his undergraduate career, culminating in his senior honors thesis, which focused on programs targeting students of color at the university. After graduation, Matthew accepted a position with Teach for America. He has just completed his first year teaching seventh-grade communication arts at Compton Drew Middle School in St. Louis, Mo., while simultaneously completing courses towards his Masters in Secondary Education. He has found his work with Teach for America very rewarding and is considering staying on past his two-year commitment with the program or possibly working in an administrative position for Teach for America. Additionally, he wants to continue his education and would like to pursue a PhD in Urban Sociology.

PhDs and Placements

Keera Emily Eris Allendörffer — “The Quality of Family Relationships, Women’s Agency, and Maternal and Child Health in India.” Michel Guifflot, Major Professor. Postdoctoral Fellowship, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan (2009-2010). Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (Fall 2010).

Robyn Kimberley Autry — “Desegregating the Past: The Transformation of Public Imagination at South African and American Museums.” Gay W. Seidman, Major Professor. Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. (Fall 2009).

Hui Jung Kim — “Migration Challenges and Multicultural Responses: The State, Dominant Ethnic, and Immigrants in South Korea.” Pamela E. Oliver, Major Professor. Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea.

Insoo Kim — “Bringing the Military Back in Political Transition: Democratic Transition by and for Powerless Groups in South Korea.” Mustafa Emirbayer, Major Professor. Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Korea Military Academy, Seoul, South Korea.


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Don’t Miss the Sociology Major Event!

Mark your calendar for the Department of Sociology’s annual fall celebration for undergraduate students and alumni. You’ll have an opportunity to catch up with faculty and fellow alumni and honor this year’s recipients of the Alfred K. Reschke and Andrea Michelle Sperka scholarships. Tom Block, the Chief Operating Officer at the Foley Hoag law firm in Boston, and a UW undergraduate sociology alumnus who was a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Chicago before entering business, will talk about his career and sociology’s contribution to it. After the ceremony, be sure to stick around for great food and conversation!

Sociology Major Event
Thursday, September 10, 2009
4:00–6:00 p.m.
8417 Sewell Social Sciences Building, Madison

Luvella K. and Alfred Reschke Social Sciences Fund

The Reschke Scholarship honors the late Alfred Reschke, a former student and assistant in the Sociology Department at UW-Madison. It was endowed by a generous bequest from his wife, Luvella K. Reschke. 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 course work remaining before graduation. To be considered for a Reschke Scholarship, students must demonstrate outstanding academic performance at UW-Madison 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, services or the ministry.

2008–09 Reschke Scholarships Awarded

Kelsey Marie Genert is majoring in both Sociology and Women’s Studies. She says that studying Sociology has opened up new ways of looking at the world for her: “Kelsey has written about sociology of gender as an undergraduate, and she is already thinking about her graduate research. She intends to study domestic violence in same-sex relationships. She has already facilitated a workshop on this subject at the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender leadership institute.

When Christianna Lynn Mamenga attended her first Sociology class, she knew that her place in academic life was as a Sociology major. She also joined the group pursuing the Concentration in Analysis and Research. Her second major is Statistics. Christianna is very interested in studying adoption statistics, and she wonders why more children are not adopted — whether the cost is too high or the process too long. She hopes that her research may someday influence policy with an end result of more children finding adoptive homes.

Jennifer Louise Rundquist also felt that she found her academic and intellectual home in her first Sociology classes. She is particularly interested in the study of human sexuality and expects to do research about elderly women’s sexuality this year. She has graduate study planned, but not until she has spent a few years teaching for Teach for America.

Amy Christina Soyck, like so many freshmen, had no idea what sociology was. Then she took Joel Rogers’ course and she was a SOC major. Amy has a second major in Geography and she’s working on a certificate in Environmental Studies. Right now, Amy is most interested in helping her community understand and improve its food supply. She has made it her mission to spread the word about organically and locally grown food. She is involved in conversations with the food director of the Memorial Union, and she volunteers at the farmers’ market.

The John L. Gillin Welcome Award, The William H. Sewell, III, Summer Research Award, and The Marwell Fund Award

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

Recipients of the awards for 2008–2009 are Dominique Durt, Zerandrian Morris, Joao Peschanski, David Rangel, and Emma Shakeshaft. Dominique is studying specific dynamics of improvement initiatives in elementary schools having a high proportion of disadvantaged Latino families. Zerandrian questions how social entities influence individual belief systems and how these belief systems are formulated and insculpted into the individual. Joao is investigating hypotheses around the evolution of the organization of the Brazilian Landless Workers Movement from its formation in the late 1970s until 2006. David’s continuing focus is on a social capital project, studying the impact of social capital in predominantly Latino elementary schools. Emma is pursuing the differences in the exchange of cultural capital and social capital between black children adopted by black parents and black children adopted by white parents that might affect children’s academic achievement.

Matias Cocina has the honor of being the first Marwell Research Scholar. He is the recipient of the Marwell Fund Award, established by Gerald and Barbara E. Marwell, as supplementary recruitment funding for graduate training and research in sociology. The department is pleased to have “emeritus” Jerry in residence during the summer, even though he and Bobbie spend the rest of the year in New York, where Jerry is on the faculty at New York University.

Congratulations to all award recipients and best wishes for success in their research projects! We are grateful to the Gillin Family, to William H. Sewell, III, and to Gerald and Barbara E. Marwell for their respective contributions in welcoming new students to campus and for their support of students in their academic research endeavors.
“The Accidental Sociology Major”

Speech by Andrew Seaborg for Sociology Department Major Event (Condensed) September 17, 2008

Good afternoon. I have been asked to share some perspective and perhaps a little wisdom on the subjects of college and sociology and what they have meant to me.

Not too long ago, I was one of you, an undergrad student. I came to the UW-Madison after a year in Japan as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. It was a wonderful, life-changing experience. I loved living abroad. I was fascinated by Japan and couldn’t wait to go back. When I matriculated, my plan was to major in Japanese and International diplomacy. I was able to touch-tone register (Do any of you even remember that?) for my Japanese language classes, but not Poli Sci 181 or any of the international relations classes. I got frustrated. I asked my parents for advice. My dad suggested sociology.

I must confess that at the time I didn’t really know what sociology was beyond general terms, but enrolling in Sociology 181 and the UW’s Honors Program was a great decision. It introduced me to the best this university has to offer. It put me in small classes with great professors who wanted to teach undergrads. It challenged me to work and think in ways I’d never experienced before. I soon discovered that the UW-Madison is a huge city made up of vibrant neighborhoods. By choosing to major in sociology, I put down roots in one of the Madison neighborhoods. By choosing to major in sociology, I put down roots in one of the Madison neighborhoods.

I hold a Masters of Science in Finance, Investment & Banking from the UW-Madison. When I graduated from college, I planned to pursue a PhD in a tremendous work ethic. They broaden your perspective, hones a fundamental skills you need to succeed, no matter what you do.

When I was an undergrad, I spent a ton of time reading, analyzing data, writing reports, and communicating conclusions. Well, guess what? No matter what you do professionally, it will be based on reading, analyzing, writing, and speaking. The skills you acquire as an undergrad are more important than your major. If you do well at Madison, you can go to any grad school in the world. You can study law, art, music, medicine, education, business or whatever you want. You'll take the skills and maturity you acquire here and build on them. That's what I did.

I encourage you to make the most of the certificate just gives you even more opportunities before you. It's available at http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/. More information is available at http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/. What is my career advice for all of you? It's that is.

In closing, perhaps the most important thing I can suggest to you is this: Maintain absolute integrity in everything you do. Stated simply: Always tell the truth. Be genuine. Do your homework. Come prepared. Demonstrate, don't tell. Lead by example. Don't take shortcuts; they never pay off in the long run. Own up to and learn from your mistakes then make sure you never repeat them.

Do the things you know you should: Exercise. Eat your veggies. Respect others. “He who walks in integrity walks securely.” That’s always been my favorite Proverb. Going through life with a clear conscience is priceless.

The real world and age 36 probably seem like ages away to you, but both will come faster than you can imagine. I encourage you to make the most of your time here at Madison. You are acquiring the tools you need to succeed by studying in this department. You have amazing opportunities before you. It's up to you to capitalize on them.

Thank you.
Center for German and European Studies (CGES)

As interim director for the Center for German and European Studies during Myra Mass Ferree’s sabbatical leave, Marc Silberman (Department of German) guided the Center into its new funding cycle. This began with the public “re-launch” event on September 30, 2008, recognizing the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and its continuation grant for 2008-2012. Dean Gilles Bouquet and Director Silberman were especially proud that the UW’s new Chancellor, Biddy Martin, who completed her PhD in German studies here in 1985, kicked off the event. Equally important guests were Ulrich Groszhus, DAAD Deputy Secretary in Bonn, and Sara Lennox, German Studies Association President and professor at U-Mass, Amherst, who gave the keynote address. In spring 2009, CGES welcomed two additional notable individuals. First, German Ambassador Klaus Schmicht graced the campus with his second visit of the year for a public talk entitled “The Transatlantic Agenda — a German Perspective.” Second, for the Wisconsin Film Festival in early April, CGES invited Berlin-based film director David Assman to present his recent feature-length documentary Football under Cover, which follows the preparations for a match between two women’s soccer teams from Berlin and Tehran. In 2008-2009, CGES — one of 18 Centers of Excellence sponsored by the DAAD around the world — planned 15 events, awarded nine faculty and nine graduate student research awards, and provided nine graduate students with one-semester research assistant positions.

Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)

Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS), an applied research center and field laboratory for high-road economic development, continues to support progressive policy innovation in the state and nation. COWS’ sustainability work grew this year. New projects include: Efficiency Cities, a network to support city-scale energy retrofit programs; Emerald Cities, a partnership with leading national organizations to build high-road cities; and Clean Energy Corps, a service, training, and job creation proposal. COWS also has helped connect Midwest labor leaders to the new energy economy.

The Center for State Innovation (CSI) provides state executives with evidence-based progressive policy options. A relatively new project at COWS, CSI has already established a strong reputation and conducted several trainings and face-to-face meetings nationwide. Likewise, COWS’ Mayors Innovation Project has convened scores of mayors to share innovative concepts for their cities.

COWS continues to build stronger labor markets and education and training systems. Working with leaders from the Technical College and Workforce Development systems in Wisconsin, COWS is promoting career pathways for working adults and stronger links between training and jobs. Research this year has helped draw a clearer picture of changes in the state economy and strategies for improving it.

Given the current economic and environmental crises, COWS will continue to develop and support progressive policies that strengthen communities and help secure a more equitable and sustainable future for us all.

Havens Center

The major ongoing activity of the Havens Center is the Visiting Scholars Program, which brings distinguished scholars and activists to UW-Madison to lecture and lead seminars on their work. Among the scholars who visited in 2008-2009 were Julie Guthman, Uriel Leviatan, Dorian Warren, Marta Soler, Bill Fletcher Jr., Ethel Brooks, Jeannette Cowie, Jorge Duany, Raquel Flores, and Juan Flores. Periodically, the Center offers an integrated series of lectures linked to a graduate or undergraduate seminar. In the spring of 2009, the Center offered two such series, one on Latina History and Politics co-taught by Ben Marquez (Political Science) and Francesca Scarano (History) and a second on Labor and Working Class History in the U.S. co-taught by Will Jones (History) and Jane Collins (Sociology).

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Havens Center. Among the more significant events planned for 2009-2010 is a series of seminars on Hip-Hop Scholarship, produced in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives and the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate. The course and accompanying series will involve some of the top young Hip-Hop intellectuals, scholars, and artist practitioners from across the United States. In addition, in April 2010, the Havens Center will be presenting its award for Lifetime Contribution to Critical Scholarship to Noam Chomsky.

In April 2009, IRP released the first-ever “Wisconsin Poverty Report,” which provides current data on poverty levels and trends for the entire state of Wisconsin, including child poverty and rising food insecurity. In summer 2009, IRP hosted the Robert Lampman Memorial Lecture, in conjunction with the Summer Research Workshop. This year’s speaker was IRP affiliate Invar Garfinkel (professor and co-director of the Population Research Center at Columbia University), who presented “The American Welfare State: Laggard or Leader?” For 2010, IRP is planning a special 20th Anniversary Summer Workshop session with invited Nobel laureate economists as speakers and other special events. For more information about IRP, you can visit: http://www.irp.wisc.edu/.

Holtz Center

This past year has been an exciting and eventful one at the Robert F. and Jean H. Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies. Perhaps most centrally, our proposed undergraduate certificate — Integrated Studies in Science, Engineering and Society — was approved by the University Academic Planning Council and will begin accepting students in the fall. Although open to all undergraduates, the program is especially focused on providing engineering undergraduates with an integrated liberal arts education, while simultaneously supplying them with the intellectual tool to critically contemplate their professional practice and the place of engineering and technology in society. Beyond this milestone, we held the second part of our public-oriented climate change program in the fall and attracted some 300 people who discussed the practical implications and politics of climate change with a set of nationally recognized authorities on the topic.

In addition to these new developments, the Center’s mainstay programs have remained vital. We have about a dozen graduate PhD minor students at any one time, and our basic undergraduate and graduate offerings fill up in the semesters in which they are taught. Finally, our lecture series and our bi-weekly brown bag seminars buzzed this year with intellectual energy. Our brown bags on topics from the history of blood to open source biology drew audiences from colleges, schools and departments from across campus.

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Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP)

The Institute for Research on Poverty began the 2008-2009 academic year with a new but very experienced director, Timothy Smeeding, Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs at the La Follette School of Public Affairs and Director Emeritus of the Luxembourg Income Study. The Institute continues some of its most successful programs, including the Summer Research Workshop, several seminar series, the broad-audience Focus newsletter, and conferences and volumes on poverty-related issues. A new volume, Changing Poverty: Policies to Reduce Poverty in the Twenty-First Century, is forthcoming from the Russell Sage Foundation in August 2009. IRP has launched some new traditions as well, including production of a new Fast Focus electronic-only summary of recent research.

Rural Sociology

Beginning in fall 2009, the Department of Rural Sociology will have a new name. Recognizing that the term “rural” is confusing and misleading to many students, citizens, and colleagues at the UW and beyond, the faculty in Rural Sociology sought a name that better encompasses the breadth of our work and that will attract students. After much discussion, we settled on the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology. Our department today is made up of an interdisciplinarily-oriented group of scholars who explore topics ranging from sustainability and globalization to environmental justice and community development. This fall we will add a new colleague to our number. Laura Senier will come to Madison from Brown University where she received her PhD in sociology. Senier will be an assistant professor with a joint appointment in Community and Environmental Sociology and Family Medicine. Senier was hired to explore questions of community and rural health. Her dissertation explored genetics, professionalization and public health.
Annual Teaching Awards

Each year the department recognizes the contributions of faculty, teaching assistants, and lecturers who excel in the classroom. Their passion and commitment is reflected in the glowing praise of their students and respect of their peers. This year’s winners are all unique in their approach to teaching. They have one thing in common, however: a deep and abiding commitment to excellent classroom instruction.

Christine Schwartz is this year’s recipient of the Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching by a member of the Faculty. Students in Christine’s courses were often surprised by their engagement with material they were dreading: “Prof. Schwartz is great! Considering the subject is math based, she makes it interesting.” “She made learning and this material very accessible.” “Prof. Schwartz is great! She’s doing.” We do too. Thank you, Christine, for your contributions to teaching and learning in Sociology.

Nicole Breazeale is this year’s recipient of the Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching by a Teaching Assistant. Since 2005, Nicole has taught a variety of courses in the Sociology Department. These include Sociology 210: Survey of Sociology, Sociology 360: Statistics for Sociologists I, Sociology 120: Marriage and Family, and Sociology 140: Introduction to Rural Sociology and Development. In every course, Nicole’s student evaluations contained both impressive numerical ratings and passionate written comments about her performance. Students described Nicole as “knowledgeable,” “caring,” “helpful,” “understanding,” “friendly,” “responsive” and “energetic.” One student even prophetically stated, “I would not be surprised if Nicole won an award for the best TA in the sociology department.” Thank you, Nicole, for the effort and care you have brought to your teaching work in the Department.

Peter Hart Brinson is this year’s recipient of the Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching by a Lecturer. Since his start at UW-Madison in spring 2007, Peter has consistently received admirable remarks from his students. One student was “not looking forward to taking this class” but was pleased, like many others, that “Peter made learning and this material very interesting.” Another student said: “You’ve inspired me so much, and I’ve discovered a love for methods because of you.” Students noted that he “had a contagious enthusiasm for the subject,” and “he went to great lengths to help us understand the material.” Many students have remarked, “He obviously loves what he’s doing.” We do too. Thank you, Peter, for your contributions to teaching and learning in Sociology.

Contribute online at www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu. Checks should be made payable to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, indicating to which of our various funds your gift should be allotted, and mailed to: University of Wisconsin Foundation 1848 University Avenue, P.O. Box 8860 Madison, WI 53708-8860. Questions may be addressed to Jennifer Karlson, Director of Development, Jennifer.Karlson@uwfoundation.wisc.edu (608) 262-7225

Your Gift Matters

The Department of Sociology depends on the generosity of alumni and friends to ensure the continued excellence of our programs and research. 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 or groups directly to the department are processed through the University of Wisconsin Foundation. Your gift is tax-deductible.

General Department Support Department of Sociology Commencement Fund

Rural Sociology Frederick H. Buttell Fund Archibald D. Haller Lecture Fund A. EugeneHAVENS Memorial Fund J.H. Kolb Fund

Contribute online at www.uwfoundation.wisc.edu. Checks should be made payable to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, indicating to which of our various funds your gift should be allotted, and mailed to: University of Wisconsin Foundation 1848 University Avenue, P.O. Box 8860 Madison, WI 53708-8860.

Questions may be addressed to Jennifer Karlson, Director of Development, Jennifer.Karlson@uwfoundation.wisc.edu (608) 262-7225

Faculty and Staff Awards for 2008–09

Marcia Carlson received a five-year NIH R01 grant in 2008 to study the “Trajectories and Consequences of Nonmarital Fathering” in the U.S. using three nationally representative data sets.

Jane Collins received the American Anthropological Association’s Prize for Distinguished Achievement in the Critical Study of North America. In September 2008, John DeLamater organized the Social Psychology Centennial Celebration, a conference to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the publication of the first two books titled Social Psychology in 1908 by E. A. Ross (UW-Madison) and William McDougall. Participants included Glen Elder, Shelley Correll, Mitch Duneier, Yuri Miyamoto, Terri Orbuch and James House.

Felix Elwert and Elizabeth Wrigley-Field received a Poster Award from the Population Association of America for their poster “Race Crossover in Mortality Accented by Covariate Adjustments.”

Mustafa Emirbayer is the chair-elect for the Theory section of the American Sociological Association.

Ivan Ermakoff is the recipient of a 2009 SSRC — Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF) Award for the elaboration and the development of a research field focused on the etiology and consequences of state violence. The SSRC DPDF Program assists graduate students in the humanities and social sciences to formulate research proposals for their doctoral dissertations within interdisciplinary research fields of the humanities and social sciences. His book, Ruling Oneself Out. A Theory of Development: An Experimental Study" (which she co-directs with Douglas Harris) from three foundations: Spencer, William T. Grant and Smith Richardson.

Robert M. Hauser has been awarded three grants from the National Institute on Aging: A five-year continuation of the Center for Demography of Health and Aging (2009–14); a five-year award for home interviews with siblings of graduates in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study; and a three-year program of projects for continuing research on the life course, based on the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study. He delivered an invited Distinguished Lecture at the Meetings of the American Educational Research Association in San Diego (April 2009) and the invited keynote address at Meetings of the Research Committee on Social Stratification, International Sociological Association, Beijing, China (May 2009). He is also serving as advisor to the Institute of Social Science Survey, Peking University. During the spring term, 2008–09, Hauser was visiting fellow at the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, in Washington, D.C.

Tom Heberlein received the Rural Sociological Society’s Excellence in Research Award in 2009.

Marcia Loveman received an “Exceptional Service Award” from UW-Madison College of Letters and Science for contributions to undergraduate teaching in the First-Year Interest Group program (FIGs) in 2008.

Ruth Turley received several awards in 2008–2009: an NICHQ R01 Grant for “Social Capital and Children’s Development: An Experimental Study” (Co-Principal Investigator with Adam Gamoran); Honored Instructor Awards from University Housing, University of Wisconsin, in recognition of invaluable contribution to student learning; and Dr. Brenda Plassler Award of Excellence from the University of Wisconsin for having a positive impact on the lives of TRIO students (low-income, first generation college students). She was also selected by student members of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society Board to be the Faculty Honorary Member.

John Stevenson, Associate Director of the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC), received the College of Letters and Science Academic Staff Mid-Career Achievement Award. The award recognizes John’s contribution to building the UWSC as well as his service within the university. John completed his BA in Sociology and the Concentration in Social Psychology in 1988. He has worked at the UWSC since 1994 and has served as associate director since 1999.
Summer 2009  |  www.ssc.wisc.edu/soc

Kathryn DuPre Lumpkin received her PhD from our department 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 2007–2008 academic year and nominated by two faculty members were considered for the award.

The best dissertation honoree went to Andrea Michelle Sperka for her dissertation titled “A New Tool for Democracy: Citizen Deliberation in the British Columbia Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform.” Her dissertation committee included Amy’s major professor, Erik Olin Wright, and professors Pamela Oliver and Ivan Ermakoff, as well as Lewis Friedland (Journalism and Mass Communication) and Katherine Kramer Walsh (Political Science). Andrea is now a postdoctoral fellow in the Political Science Department, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Andrea Michelle Sperka Award

Throughout her undergraduate years, Andrea carried a demanding academic schedule while working to help meet her educational costs. In addition, Andrea often served as a volunteer, including her work with homeless children in Madison and in a township in South Africa. The Andrea Michelle Sperka Fund was established by Carol and Michael Sperka in memory of their beloved daughter. Andrea was a senior when she tragically lost her life in an automobile accident in Botswana after completing her studies abroad. 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 Award will exemplify the outstanding qualities that Andrea possessed and will serve to keep the memory of this bright and talented young woman alive.

The first winner of the Andrea Michelle Sperka scholarship is Chloe Novak. Ms. Novak is a senior in sociology doing honors in the liberal arts. In addition to her demanding class load, she has worked at the office of admissions as director of the Wisconsin admissions volunteers. She has taught English as a second language through the Minnesota literacy council and worked with immigrants at the international institute of Minnesota. These experiences have helped her decide that she wants to continue working with immigrants after graduation.

Student Awards

Özlem Altıok has won the 2009 Eugene A. Havens Award. She will be using the funds to conduct dissertation fieldwork in Turkey in the fall.

Michelle Chezaa is one of 11 graduate students campus-wide receiving a 2009 Graduate Student Peer Mentor Award from the Graduate School. She was nominated by students in her graduate program, and nominations were evaluated by a committee composed of members of the Multicultural Graduate Network and the Graduate Student Collaborative.

Hae Yeon Choo has been awarded a Hyde dissertation research award from the women’s studies research center.

Wendy Christensen has been honored by the department of gender and women’s studies with a Mary Washburn Willets Award for excellence in the social sciences.

Alicia Dean won a Small Grant Award from the department to conduct research in Chicago.

Matthew Desmond’s book, On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters garnered two awards: the UW Genevieve Gorst Herffuth Award for outstanding research in social studies and the Max Weber award for distinguished scholarship from the ASA section on organizations, occupations, and work (OOW). Matt will be honored at ASA on August 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the OOW reception and awards ceremony. Matt was awarded a Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship from the National Research Council of the national academies and a 2009 graduate student peer mentor award from the graduate school. He was appointed a University of Wisconsin System Institute on race and ethnicity graduate scholars associate.

Peter Hart-Brinson has received a doctoral dissertation improvement grant from the National Science Foundation for his dissertation research on “The Cultural Foundations of Attitudes about Same-Sex Marriage.” He also received two teaching awards. He was awarded the department of sociology award for excellence in teaching by a lecturer and was named “honored instructor” by Chadbourne Residential College at UW-Madison.

Elizabeth Holzer was awarded a 2009–2010 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation to complete her dissertation entitled “I Am Only Looking Up to God: Protest, Repression, and Homecoming in a West African Refugee Camp.”

Nicole Burdick Kraus received an international field pre-dissertation award from the UW division of international studies for research in Moscow during summer 2009.

Katherine (Kate) McCoy had the lead article in the winter 2009 contexts journal. Her article, “Uncle Sam Wants Them,” was featured on the cover of the journal. Kate also was selected as a 2009 LAS teaching fellow for her work as a TA and lecturer.

Heather O’Connell won a blue ribbon at the April 2009 population association of America meeting in Detroit for her paper entitled “The Legacy of Slavery and Race Inequality in Poverty in the South.”

Fabian Pfeffer won the David Lee Stevenson Graduate Student Paper Award 2008 from the American Sociological Association’s section on Sociology of Education for an article based on his master’s thesis. For his dissertation project, he has received a dissertation research award from UW’s institute for research on poverty for the academic year 2008–2009. And he has been awarded a Spencer dissertation fellowship for 2009–2010.

Carly Schall has received a Fulbright IE Grant for dissertation research in Sweden during the 2009–2010 academic year.

Rebecca Schewe was awarded an NSF dissertation grant and she has received from the college of agricultural and life sciences a senator Robert Caldwell fellowship for 2009–2010.

Yan Yu received the 2009 Dorothy S. Thomas award for the best student paper from the population association of America. Her paper was titled “Recent US Trends in Body Weight and Mortality.”

Kate Zaman received a FLAS fellowship from the global studies program for 2009–2010.

John Zinda received a Social Science research council dissertation proposal fellowship support to preliminary research on the making of national parks in southwestern china.

In Memoriam

Heather Hartley PhD’99 died on October 4, 2008. She wrote her dissertation on “The influence of managed care on certified nurse-midwives: An evaluation of health system change,” with Pam Oliver as her major professor. She taught in the Sociology Department at Portland State University, which is honoring her as part of their new campus walk of the heroines park (see: http://www.who.pdx.edu/phase1/index.html).

Kristin Barker PhD’93 is organizing a memorial gathering during the 2009 meetings to honor Heather Hartley. 7:30–8:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 8, at the Parc 55 Hotel (room TBA).

Erik Parker PhD’94, founder and executive director of the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP), died suddenly in August 2007 while vacationing in North Carolina. He reportedly collapsed while swimming in the ocean. Parker, 45, who was affiliated with the UW-Madison Center on Wisconsin Strategy, started the WRTP in 1998. WRTP is a Milwaukee-based non-profit collaboration among employers, unions, and community agencies. He is survived by his wife Denise Dowell, his parents, and a sister and her family.

Alma Taabue, wife of professor Emeritus Karl Taabue, died on March 2, 2009 of pneumonia and advanced Parkinson’s disease. She had been a part-time demographer in our department and copy editor for the American Sociological Review. She studied black and white housing and educational patterns and wrote scholarly articles on desegregation and a book on racial segregation. Alma received her PhD from the University of Chicago, where she met Karl. Despite her academic achievements, Alma was best known in Madison for her leadership in youth soccer arena over more than three decades. Alma also worked with the Dane county chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Amy Lang receives Kathryn DuPre Lumpkin Award for Best Sociology Dissertation, 2007–2008

Amy Lang received the 2009 Eugene A. Havens Award. She will be using the funds to conduct dissertation fieldwork in Turkey in the fall.

Michelle Chezaa is one of 11 graduate students campus-wide receiving a 2009 Graduate Student Peer Mentor Award from the Graduate School. She was nominated by students in her graduate program, and nominations were evaluated by a committee composed of members of the Multicultural Graduate Network and the Graduate Student Collaborative.

Hae Yeon Choo has been awarded a Hyde dissertation research award from the Women’s Studies Research Center.

Wendy Christensen has been honored by the Department of Gender and Women's Studies with a Mary Washburn Willets Award for Excellence in the Social Sciences.

Alicia Dean won a Small Grant Award from the department to conduct research in Chicago.

Matthew Desmond's book, On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters garnered two awards: the UW Genevieve Gorst Herffuth Award for Outstanding Research in Social Studies and the Max Weber Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work (OOW). Matt will be honored at ASA on August 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the OOW Reception and Awards Ceremony. Matt was awarded a Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship from the National Research Council of the National Academies and a 2009 Graduate Student Peer Mentor Award from the Graduate School. He was appointed a University of Wisconsin System Institute on Race and Ethnicity Graduate Scholars Associate.

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Kate Zaman received a FLAS Fellowship from the Global Studies Program for 2009–2010.

John Zinda received a Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Fellowship Support to preliminary research on the making of national parks in southwestern China.
Flavia Andrade PhD’06 in fall 2008 was named the first woman in the University of Illinois Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, after a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago.

Mark Berends PhD’92 has recently moved from Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College to take a position at Notre Dame as Professor of Sociology and Director of Notre Dame’s Center for Research on Educational Opportunity (CREO).

David Bills PhD’81 just accepted the editorship of the journal Sociology of Education, and he continues to serve as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Academic Affairs in the College of Education at the University of Iowa.


David Brown PhD’74, Professor of Development Sociology, Cornell University, has been awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service.

Nancy Dunton PhD’79 has been promoted to Research Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She is the Principal Investigator for the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators, to which 1,400 hospitals across the U.S. send data on characteristics of the nursing workforce and patient outcomes.

Gregory C. Elliott PhD’77 has recently published a book on his research into the importance of “mattering” (the extent to which we believe that we make a difference in the world around us) entitled Family Matters: The Importance of Mattering to Family in Adolescence (Wiley-Blackwell). The book investigates the role of matting to family for adolescent anti-social and self-destructive behaviors, based on data from the 2000 Youth at Risk Survey.

Mami Fuji MS’94 received a law degree at Lewis & Clark Law School and is currently working as an attorney in Portland, Ore. Her practice focuses on employee benefits and estate planning.

Elizabeth Fuselli PhD’98 and Scott Frickel PhD’00 have both earned tenure and are now Associate Professors in the Department of Sociology at Washington State University. Scott is also the Co-Director of Graduate Studies.

Archibald O. Haller PhD’54 (Rural Sociology Professor here 1965–1998) arrived at the University of Wisconsin in 1951 to work with William Sewell. After finishing his doctoral he continued as a postdoc with Sewell until 1956, after which he taught Sociology at Michigan State University until his return to Madison as a professor. In 1967, he began a continuing research program on Brazil, to learn about societal stratification systems and how they vary. He has pursued this issue on Brazilian data with students and colleagues ever since, resulting in at least 36 peer-reviewed articles, 16 doctoral theses and 12 masters theses. Since leaving UW in 1998, he has taught or lectured at meetings at McGill University, Ohio State University, and several Brazilian universities — including four years at the Federal University of Minas Gerais and briefly at the Federal Rural University of Amazonia. In 2007, he was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Social Science Honoris Causa by Ohio State University. He notes that “[h]is greatest joy has always been working with graduate students and with senior colleagues.” Today, he and his wife, Cristina, live in Tucson where he continues to write on the theory of societal stratification by power.

Janet Hankin PhD’74 is Chair of the Department of Sociology at Wayne State University (Detroit, Mich.) and Chair of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA.

Angela J. Hattery PhD’96 reported the publication of her most recent book, entitled Intimate Partner Violence, Latham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield.

Erin Hatton PhD’07 is currently a visiting professor of Sociology at SUNY-Buffalo, after staying home for a year with her newborn son (Felix Day Hatton). After next year, her position will “go tenure track,” meaning that she will become an assistant professor at that time. Also, her dissertation book is currently under contract with Temple University Press and will hopefully be on the bookshelves by late next year.

Norman Jensen PhD’00 has accepted an assistant professorship at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. Besides teaching introductory sociology each semester, Paul teaches sociological theory, a thesis proposal writing course, and several new courses including “Community Organizing for Social Change” (COSC). In this course, Paul and his students organized Stetson’s first “deliberative opinion poll.” The poll resulted in Paul’s receiving the Stetson Campus Life Award for COSC as a service for leadership, and a third for “faculty appreciation.” For more information about COSC and the deliberative poll, visit: stetsonspdp.pbwiki.com.

Kent C. Kelling MA’69 is a professor in the Russell Sage Program from 1965–67, receiving a Sociology MA after a JD. He also was a research associate at the Institute for Research on Law and Poverty. After graduation, he was a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and with New Haven Legal Assistance. After getting involved in helping to plan a clinical program at Yale, he accepted a teaching fellowship at Harvard Law, doing research and teaching. In 1970, he accepted a teaching position at Vermont Law School, where he has been ever since. He is technically emeritus since 2008 but continues to teach. He writes that “his sociology background has been invaluable in [his] teaching and writing.”

Paul Lacheler PhD’07 is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Stetson University in Deland, Fla. Besides teaching introductory sociology each semester, Paul teaches sociological theory, a thesis proposal writing course, and several new courses including “Community Organizing for Social Change” (COSC). In this course, Paul and his students organized Stetson’s first “deliberative opinion poll.” The poll resulted in Paul’s receiving the Stetson Campus Life Award for COSC as a service for leadership, and a third for “faculty appreciation.” For more information about COSC and the deliberative poll, visit: stetsonspdp.pbwiki.com.

John Landes PhD’95 (and also ID), was promoted this past academic year to be the Ida Loeb Professor at the University of Missouri Law School. He has been at Missouri since 2000 and has been the director of their Master of Laws (LLM) Program in Dispute Resolution since that time.

Susan Mannion PhD’03 was recently awarded tenure and promotion at Utah State University. However, as of July, she will be leaving her current position to move permanently to Sacramento, Calif... to be with her husband and daughter. She will continue on at Utah State as an adjunct associate professor while she pursues academic positions and consulting projects elsewhere.

Kelly Musick PhD’00 moved in the fall of 2008 from the University of Southern California’s Sociology Department to Cornell University’s Department of Policy Analysis and Management.

Michael Quentin Patton PhD’73 reported the recent publication by Sage of the 4th edition of his book Utilization-Focused Evaluation. The book is used in over 300 universities worldwide.

Laura Sanchez PhD’92 has been promoted to full professor at Bowling Green State University.

Kwang-Yeong Shin PhD’88 teaches at Chung-Ang University in Seoul, Korea.

C. Matthew Snipp PhD’81, formerly a professor in the UW-Madison Rural Sociology Program, has been named the Burnet C. and Mildred Finley Wohlford Professor of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford, where he is also Director of the Center for Comparative Studies of Race and Ethnicity and the Director of the Secure Data Center for Stanford’s Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS).

Ken Spanner PhD’77 will be stepping down as the Director of Duke University’s Markets and Management Studies Program (a post that he has held for 15 of the past 20 years) and will become Chair of the Department of Sociology at Duke in July 2009.

Andrew Szasz PhD’82 has been at UC-Santa Cruz since 1986, where he is currently Chair of the Sociology Department. He continues to work in the area of environmental sociology. His recently published book, Shopping Our Way to Safety, was one of 10 finalists for the C. Wright Mills prize last year; the book has been selected for an “Author Meets Critics” session at this year’s ASA meetings. He has started a new project to understand how various faith communities in the U.S. (have or have not) responded to the issue of climate change. He is married to Wendy Strimling MAG’81. Wendy is a Deputy County Counsel for Monterey County. Their three children, Aaron, Emily and Justin, are all thriving.

Kevin Wehr PhD’02 has just earned tenure at California State University at Sacramento. In addition, he published a book in 2004 entitled America’s Fight Over Water: The Environmental and Political Effects of Large-Scale Water Systems. Another book scheduled to come out this summer is entitled Hermes on Two Wheels: The Sociology of Bicycle Messengers.

Mark Whitaker PhD’08 has been a Professor in the Sociology Department of Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea, since 2007 and is the department’s first non-Korean professor. His teaching includes Environmental Sociology, Comparative World Regional Sociology, Latin American Regional Sociology, Social Movements, Political Sociology, and History of Social Science Methods. He presented a talk in Beijing, China in July about his first book (published in 2005), which is on green constitutional engineering and entitled Toward a Bioregional State. He has just published a second book entitled Ecological Revolution: The Political Origins of Environmental Degradation and the Environmental Origins of Asian Religions; China, Japan, Europe (2009).
New Books by Sociology Faculty

Bert N. Adams has contributed to the Encyclopedia of Human Relationships, edited by Harry Reis and Susan Sprecher, SAGE, 2009.


