MESSAGE FROM ROBERT O'BRIEN

Department Head

It is good to be back in the department, after serving in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office from 1998 to 2001 as Associate Dean with oversight for the social sciences. I then took my sabbatical during the 2001-2002 academic year. So when I arrived back in the department in the fall of 2002, after a four-year absence from the department, I had to become acquainted with several of my untenured colleagues. Some of them I had only met in the corridors of PLC or in the Dean’s Office when they were interviewed. They are a great set of colleagues without exception. I am now back in the department and in the classroom.

The department remains a hub of activity. It has 500 plus majors, a vital graduate program (more than a half dozen dissertations defended this year alone), a strong peer advising program, and an active undergraduate honors society (Alpha Kappa Delta). Next year we have been authorized to advertise for four faculty positions. I will not attempt to summarize the activities of our faculty – they are reviewed in the Faculty News section of this newsletter, but they are very impressive. We are blessed with a fine faculty, great staff, and dedicated students.

We have had several transitions this year. In the fall Richard York joined our faculty. He comes to us from Washington State University. On his first day on the job he received a letter informing him that his American Sociological Review article was accepted – an auspicious start for a new colleague. We welcome all welcome him to the department.

Barbara Luton retired at the end of March (2003) after serving more than 25 years as our Office Manager. She held that position when I arrived on campus. Her service has been truly remarkable. She ran the day-to-day affairs of the department with a steady and caring hand. She gained the admiration of the faculty, students, and her colleagues throughout the university. That reputation was fully deserved. I will relate just a single story that emphasizes that campus-wide recognition. Several years ago I was talking to the Dean of the College and he suggested that Sociology might consider having an Associate Department Head. He then paused, and said, “Well, you may not need one given that you have Barbara Luton.” The word is that Barbara is enjoying her retirement.

Barbara is deeply missed, but we have hired an exceptional new Office Manager, Shelley Carlson. We stole Shelley from Anthropology where she was serving as their office manager. She has all the skills needed to make the office run smoothly, and she has an infectious laugh and sense of humor. We also have the great advantage of having the remainder of our staff in place: Christopher Blum and Mary Redetzke. They kept the department running smoothly for a three-week period in which we did not have an Office Manager.

Sandi Morgen will be shifting her tenure line to Anthropology. Sandi joined our department in 1991, when she arrived on campus to direct the Center for the Study of Women in Society. She received her PhD from the University of North Carolina in Anthropology in 1982. She has provided fine service to the department and to the university. We will miss this colleague, but we wish her the best in her new home department.

Walt Martin died in the March of 2002. Walt was a member of our department for 35 years and was department head for an eleven-year period. He was also a friend of my mother and father, so I knew him and his wife Beth from well before my teenage years. I have excerpted a bit of from the obituary for Walt that I wrote for the American Sociological Association newsletter.

Walter T. Martin (1917-2002)

Walter T. Martin, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Oregon, died in Eugene of heart failure on March 13, 2002. Aside from a number of visiting teaching positions at other universities, Walt spent his entire career at the University of Oregon. He joined our faculty as an instructor in Sociology in 1947 and moved quickly through the ranks becoming a full professor in 1959. During his tenure at the university, he served as department chair for 11 years from 1957 to 1968. He helped develop the graduate program in sociology in the Department, both as a faculty member and as department chair. He served as the president of the Pacific Sociological Association in 1964-1965. In all, Walt was a member of the faculty for 35 years, teaching his last class in 1982.

His best-known work is that which he coauthored with Jack P. Gibbs on the theory of “status integration and suicide.” He and Gibbs published a book by that title in 1964 and co-edited a book, titled “Theories of Variations in the Suicide Rate,” in 1968. The theory of status integration remains a vital part of the literature on suicide and suicide rates. Martin also published a series of articles with another former graduate student Dudley L. Poston.

Walt guided the sociology department at the University of Oregon as chair until the turbulent era of the late 1960s. One of his many projects in “retirement” was to finish an unpublished work on the history of the department from the early 1900s to the early 1980s. This work was not meant for publication, but was a gift to his department. He cared deeply about the department that he had served so well, and those of us who knew him will miss him.

His wife, two daughters, two sons, and five grandchildren survive him.

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Joan Acker has been completing a book on conceptualizing class from a feminist political economy perspective. The book is titled *Class questions; some feminist answers*, and will be published by AltaMira Press. An article, “Gender, capitalism, and globalization,” has recently appeared in *Critical Sociology*. She was one of the main speakers at a conference on gender, work, and globalization in Bremen, Germany, and a keynote speaker at a conference on “embodied work” at Syracuse University during the last year. In May, 2004, she will give several seminars in Stockholm, Sweden and Oslo, Norway. In July, she will be a keynote speaker at a conference on diversity at the University of Western Australia at Perth. In addition, she has been selected to be the Sociologists for Women in Society feminist lecturer for the year 2005.

Val Burris has his most recent article, “The Academic Caste System: Prestige Hierarchies in PhD Exchange Networks,” published in the American Sociological Review in April 2004. The paper shows that the status inequalities among academic departments are rooted primarily in networks of association and social exchange (what were once called “old boy” networks), and only secondarily in differences in scholarly productivity. This summer Val will present a paper at the American Sociological Association meeting in San Francisco titled, “From Vietnam to Iraq: Continuity and Change in Attitudes to War in the Post-Vietnam Era.” His other current research focuses on the impact of interlocking directorates on the politics of corporations and corporate elites.

Lawrence Carter will present a paper, “Demographic Entropy in Mortality Forecasts of the Oldest-Old: Differentials by Race and Sex for the US,” at the 2004 annual meeting of the International Symposium on Forecasting in Sydney, Australia from July 4-7.

Michael Dreiling took a sabbatical leave for the spring term 2004. Last year, Dreiling enjoyed working with students, teaching courses and learning how to tear out and replace floors in his home. He also received a Rippey teaching Award for the fall terms of 2004 and 2005 and is a finalist for the Williams Fellow teaching award. He is writing a textbook titled *Social Problems: Meeting Human Needs*. He is also completing a chapter entitled “NAFTA and Transnational Contention: A Decade of Alliance and Conflict over Neoliberalism” to be included in an edited collection next fall. He is also completing a paper on the Fortune 500 and trade policy in the USA with Derek Darves. Anticipating spring and summer baseball, he is wildly excited about coaching his son and other 2nd graders at the sport.

John Bellamy Foster remains Coeditor of *Monthly Review* for which he has authored or coauthored more than 20 articles over the last three years, and is President of the *Monthly Review* Foundation. He also continues to serve as Critical Essay Editor and Archives Editor for the journal *Organization & Environment* (published by Sage). His most recent book, *Ecology Against Capitalism*, was released last year. At present he is working with Robert W. McChesney on a book to be entitled, *The Big Picture: The Political Economy of the Media*, to be published in December 2003. John’s work continues to receive growing attention abroad. His recent publications have been translated into ten languages. He has just completed a new preface to the Persian edition of Marx’s *Ecology*. Over the last year he has given talks in London, England, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Lausanne, Switzerland, along with New York, Chicago, Toronto and Burlington, Vermont. He will be giving talks at Reed College in Portland and the University of Wisconsin at Madison in June and September. Last summer the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association presented him with their 2002 Distinguished Contribution Award. He was recently elected as a Council Member for the Environment and Technology Section.

Lynn Fujiwara has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the Institute of American Cultures at UCLA for the academic year 2003-2004. She will use this time to complete research for her book project *Sanctioning Immigrants: Asian Immigrant Women and Welfare Reform*. She has also been awarded a 2003-2004 Junior Professorship Development Award. This past year she has written an article “Immigrant Rights are Human Rights: Challenging the Discourse of Welfare Reform” that she is currently revising for submission to Social Problems. She has delivered several papers this past year: “Asian Immigrant Women Mobilize Against Welfare Reform: Participatory Research and Grassroots Mobilizing” at UC Santa Barbara and the Pacific Regional Association for Asian American Studies Conference, “TANF and the Gendered Racial Politics of Motherhood and Citizenship” at the 2003 PSA Meeting. At the ASA meetings in Atlanta 2003, she will be a panelist at a plenary titled “Culture, Health, and the Politics of Immigrant Motherhood” featuring critical race scholar Dorothy Roberts. Within the university she has been an active citizen through her participation in the founding of the Faculty and Staff of Color Coalition, as well as a member on the Child Care and Family Support Committee.

Patricia A. Gwartney completes her tenth and final year (she hopes) as Director of Oregon Survey Research Laboratory (OSRL). This year, she oversaw OSRL’s organizational re-structuring, staff upgrading, and subsequent improved professionalism. Since Gwartney founded OSRL in 1992-93, the lab has conducted over 225 research studies, bringing over $3 million to the University of Oregon, mainly in small grants and contracts. The results of an OSRL study were published in Harvard Law School’s Negotiation Journal (Volume 18, Number 1, pp.51-74) entitled, “Measuring the long-term impact of a community consensus-building process, using content analysis of public documents,” by P. A. Gwartney, L. Fessenden, G. Landt. Gwartney also completed a dozen technical OSRL reports. With fewer administrative duties next year, she looks forward to completing several methodological papers using OSRL data.

Jocelyn Hollander spent fall term 2003 in Siena, Italy, teaching for the Northwest Council on Study Abroad. She taught two classes, one on the sociology of gender and one on the sociology of food (a class she will teach at the UO in 2004-05). Her paper “I Can Take Care of Myself: The Impact of Self-Defense Training on Women’s Lives” was published in the journal *Violence Against Women* earlier this year. Two other papers are forthcoming: “Conceptualizing Resistance” will appear in *Sociological Forum*, and “The Social Contexts of Focus Groups” will appear in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* later this year. She is on sabbatical in 2004 and is working on her research on the consequences of women’s self-defense training.

Kenneth Liberman is lecturing in India on a six month assignment as Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Mysore. Ken’s ethnography about practices of formal reasoning, *Dialectical Practice in Tibetan Philosophical Culture: An Ethnomethodological Inquiry Into Formal Reasoning*, will be published in June by Rowman & Littlefield. It includes a multimedia CD-ROM that presents videos of public philosophical debating by Tibetan Buddhist monks, in the form of five interactive tutorial sections. The book-with-CD will be released officially at the ASA in San Francisco this August. Ken has also been invited by the Fulbright Office in India to give the initial address at the Orientation Conference for Indian Fulbrighters heading to the US.

Greg McLauchlan served as president of the University Senate. His current research focuses on relationships between globalization, community economic development, and environmental sustainability. He combines sociology with journalism in writing frequent op-ed columns for newspapers, and is co-organizing with...
Arlene Stein a special session on media and public sociology for next year's American Sociological Association meetings.

Sandra Morgen will be moving to the anthropology department at the University of Oregon as of July 1st, 2003. She thanks those faculty members, staff and students that she has worked closely with over the past twelve years for their collegiality, good work and friendship over the past twelve years. Her article "The Anthropology of Welfare 'Reform': New Perspectives on U.S. Urban Poverty in the Post-Welfare Era" will be published in the 2003 edition of the Annual Review of Anthropology this September. In May she served on a plenary panel at the annual meeting of the National Council for Research on Women, talking about "The Politics of Economic Security: The Global, National and Local Intensification of Insecurity."

Robert O'Brien served as Department Head this year (the first of a three-year term). His main scholarly work has been co-authored with Jean Stockard. They published a joint authored article in the American Sociological Review that appeared in December of 2002 entitled, "International comparisons of cohort effects on suicide rates: the role of contextual variables." In the same month, they had an article entitled, "Cohort variations and changes in age-specific suicide rates over-time: explaining the recent increase in youth suicide," published in Social Forces. These two articles are part of a continuing project in which they provide a common explanation for shifts in the age distribution of both homicides (offenses and deaths) and suicides. A single authored article entitled, "UCR Violent Crime Rates, 1958-2000: Recorded and Offender-Generated Trends," is scheduled for publication in Social Science Research. It demonstrates much of the supposed steep increase in violent crimes reported in the Uniform Crime Reports from the mid 1970s to the early 1990s was not due to changes in the rate of crime commission.

Jiannbin Shiao is publishing Identifying Talent, Institutionalizing Diversity: Race and Philanthropy in Post-Civil Rights America with Duke University Press in the next academic year. In the book, he explains the leading role large philanthropies have played in establishing diversity as a goal throughout American society in the post-civil rights era. He spent this past year finishing the book. He also continued analyzing the life stories of Koreans adoptees with his collaborator, Professor Tuan, for their study, "Asian Immigrants in White Families" from which they will write a book. They presented findings from their research at the conference on "The Korean Diaspora" at the University of California at Berkeley and wrote a paper with their student, Elizabeth Rienzi, on the childhood experiences of Korean adoptees. Professor Shiao began the academic year supervising the redesign of the sociology department web-site with Professor Southworth and organizing a paper session on "Asian American Institutions and Identities" at the American Sociological Association's 2003 conference in Atlanta. He also chaired the department's curriculum committee and ended the year by beginning a third book project on social segregation and interracial intimacy.


Mia Tuan returned this year after a restful sabbatical, during which time a second daughter, Cleo, joined her family. She has a new Harvard University Press book coming out next year. Co-written with Larry Bobo (professor at Harvard University), its title is, "Prejudice in Politics: Group Position, Public Opinion, and the Wisconsin Treaty Rights Dispute." She is finishing another book with Jiannbin Shiao on Korean adoptees raised within White families. Shiao and Tuan presented findings from their adoptee study at the Korean Diaspora Conference at UC Berkeley.

Richard York has made substantial progress on his research over the past year. From his project examining driving forces of environmental impacts he published a methodologically focused article with his colleagues Gene Rosa and Tom Dietz in Ecological Economics titled "STIRPAT, IPAT, and ImPACT" and has another one forthcoming, "Tracking the Anthropogenic Drivers of Ecological Impacts," in the international environmental science journal Ambio. With Gene Rosa he also published a theoretically focused article, "Key Challenges to Ecological Modernization Theory," in Organization & Environment. From a related project examining influences on national consumption patterns, he published two articles: one in Population and Environment titled "Cross-National Variation in the Size of Passenger Car Fleets," and another in Ecological Economics with Marcia Gossard titled "Cross-National Meat and Fish Consumption." He has also made progress on a different project that examines theoretical and methodological issues related to historical research. He looks forward to a summer of research and recreation. 

GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Sociology graduate program currently enrolls 55 students.

Eric Edwards, Andrew Jones, Derek Darves-Bornoz, Sandra Ezquerra, Juyeon Son and Vikas Gumbhir have completed the Master’s Program this year.

Martin Montoya, Ulricke Mueller, Kari Norgaard, Donna Widner, Lamece Baligh, Burt Burraston, Alan Lumnas, Jill Weight, and Tracey Dumas have all completed the Doctorate Program and we can now all call them Doctor.

In the academic year 2002-03 we welcomed seven new graduate students: Mikhail Balaev, Julie Cherney, Khaya Clark, Amy Miller, Donna Ralstin-Lewis, Yolanda Reyes, and Natalie White.

Bert Burraston has accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at Brigham Young University, Sociology Department in Provo, Utah.

Brett has also had reviews published in Monthly Review, Organization and Environment, and Critical Sociology.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Comments from the Undergraduate Coordinator – Eileen Baumann

During my first year as undergraduate coordinator, it has been a pleasure to learn about the remarkable talents and interests of our students. Some of our majors took advantage of the wealth of disciplines offered at the University, combining their study of sociology with second majors as diverse as foreign languages (French, Spanish and Japanese), Dance, English, or Environmental Studies.

Our majors are an accomplished group. With 252 students graduating this year, nine are members of Phi Beta Kappa, 14 received University Honors, 39 were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, a national sociology honors society, and 8 received honors in Sociology. Professor Mia Tuan has been a significant force behind the Department’s Honors program. After completing an honors seminar taught by Dr. Tuan, eight honors students designed and conducted an original research project with the aid of two faculty advisors. Their theses represent a tremendous accomplishment for an undergraduate.

Other students completed a concentration option that allowed them to tailor their coursework to reflect their interests within sociology. Numerous students completed concentrations in one of the ten options including crime and delinquency; environment, population and society; and race, ethnicity and social change.

Over 80 majors opted to combine their academic courses with practical experiences as interns in diverse organizations. Internships are one of the important resources offered students to complement their academic coursework. The students were ably guided by Dr. Leslie Hall, Internship Coordinator. Students worked in diverse settings including the District Attorney’s Office, Lane County Parole and Probation, schools throughout Eugene from elementary through high school, various social service agencies and programs at the University.

The Department recognizes the importance of academic advising for a student’s success. All tenured and tenure-track faculty serve as official student advisors to our 584 majors. Peer advisors are an essential element in the support system for our majors. The peer advising office is open many hours a week where trained students make intelligible what to some majors appears to be an arcane scheme of University requirements. Our many thanks to Prof. Michael Dreiling who so skillfully served as Undergraduate Coordinator for the last four years. Michael was consistently available to students to answer questions about transfer courses, major requirements and the like. The numerous students who visited with him received sage advice and a cheerful welcome.

Faculty and instructional staff have offered 70 undergraduate courses for the department. The 6,033 students who enrolled in the department’s classes had a wide range of topics from which to choose, including classes in health and medicine, environment, political economy, family, religion, and ethnicity to name a few. Graduate Teaching Fellows were an indispensable part of the instructional team particularly for courses with larger enrollments. Their efforts through leading discussion sections and holding office hours offered both educational and personal support to students who often are their first years at the university. Students acknowledged the instructional skills of our departmental teaching staff giving generally high marks on course evaluations. This year, several faculty and graduate teaching fellows have received awards for their outstanding teaching. The Department’s capable office team of Chris Blum, Mary Redetzke and Shelley Carlson contributes greatly to our instructional success.

When our students leave the university they go on to make substantial contributions to the community. For some graduates the future is uncertain. Others have clear aspirations including plans for graduate school and later work as educators, social workers, attorneys, school counselors, and marriage and family counselors. Three students reported they hoped to become golf professionals—perhaps reflecting a desire to move to warmer climes. Several plan on positions within law enforcement while others will apply their knowledge to the world of business. Many graduates have told us that even if there is no direct link between their major and their later occupations their exposure to the sociological experience has altered the way they view the world and their connection to it. For educators there is no greater reward than to know we have made a difference in our students’ lives.

Our majors depart with what I hope is the best of a liberal arts education. The Department wishes them well in their future endeavors.

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates New Members

The Peer Advisers put on a nice AKD induction program on May 17. Forty-eight new members of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), a national Sociology Honor Society, were initiated.

AKD emphasizes student interests in intellectual activism and sociological issues. It provides the opportunity to become more involved in the field of Sociology and is one of the first steps to introducing members to the professional community of sociology. The speakers for this year were past graduates of the Sociology department:

After the ceremony, initiates enjoyed refreshments and congratulations with family, friends, and faculty.


The Peer Advisers who helped with mailing, setting up, transporting food, and hosting the event include: Natalie Brainerd, Melissa Chun, Sara Hazel, Elizabeth Paluga, Katie Coombes, and Jennie Pearson. Thanks also to Chris Blum, Mary Redetzke, and Shelley Carlson in the department office.
Phi Beta Kappa News

Congratulations to the following sociology majors who were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious honor society in the nation: John Patrick Baur, Meghan Marie Besonen, Carrie Louise Boulton, Angela Lyn Cherbas, Katie Lynn Howard, Kayoko Matsui, Crystal Maye Middlestadt, Elizabeth Anne Rogers, Kathryn Louise Rose.

Latin Honors for Sociology Undergraduates

Graduating with Latin honors this spring are the following sociology undergraduate majors:

Summa cum Laude: Thea Erin Albright, Erin Kathleen Beaudry, Casey Graden Coulombe, Andrew Joseph Kohnen, Nathan Charles Deane Sutton

Magna cum Laude: Andrew James Eickman, Ashley Elizabeth Schenkein

Cum Laude: Megan Ellen Barckert, Brenda Kay Heintz, Matthew Dawson Mc Kinnon, Stephanie Marie Moseley, Mary Bliss Newton, Nathaniel Clark Oester, Heather Raquel Shaffer, Emily Claire Short, David Brian Starke

Sociology undergraduates receiving Department honors are:

Honors: Katie Howard, Kayoko Matsui
High Honors: Levi Strom, Steven Huerta, Sarah Johnston, Autumn Green, Jack Baur
Highest Honors: Nicole Paige West

ALUMNI NEWS

Cindy Miller Aron (1974) was elected to the board of directors for the American Group Psychotherapy Society.

Matthew Johnson (1993) has left his private law practice to work for the Public Land Authority in the Republic of Palau.

Wendy Ng (PhD 1989) was just promoted to Full Professor at San Jose State University.

Celia Winkler (PhD 1996) is a tenured professor at the University of Montana and has recently published Single Mothers and the State: The Politics of Care in Sweden and the United States.

SOCIology HONOR ROLL

Thank you to all those who responded so generously to the UO Foundation and specified your contributions for Sociology. We are able to use these badly needed funds to support our teaching and research mission. Much of what we accomplished this year would not have been possible without your support.

REMEMBER! We hope that when the University of Oregon Alumni Telefund calls, you can join the ranks of previous contributors, and designate your contribution to the Sociology Department. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Let Us Hear From You

We would be pleased to hear how and what you are doing. If you are a graduate of the Department of Sociology, University of Oregon, please send your news to the Department of Sociology, 1291 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1291, or you can also e-mail news to sociology@oregon.uoregon.edu.
CONGRATULATIONS

AND

BEST WISHES

TO

ALL OUR

GRADUATES!