

Social Tracks



A PUBLICATION BY THE SOCIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
SPRING 2005

MESSAGE FROM ROBERT O'BRIEN Department Head

This year we had a successful search for a new tenure track colleague. Yvonne Braun will join us from the University of California at Irvine. Her work focuses on development and the environment and her dissertation centers on the social impacts of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project in Africa. As a graduate student at Irvine she was the recipient of several awards including the University of California Office of the President Dissertation Fellowship, the University of California Regents Dissertation Writing Fellowship, and a National Science Foundation Grant. She is also the author of two refereed articles and a book chapter. We welcome her to the department.

The department is a vibrant place and we owe much of our health to our students. This year we have over 500 majors and more than 200 will graduate during this academic year. Nine of our undergraduates have been named to Phi Beta Kappa (the most widely recognized of the national honors societies) and this year we inducted 47 sociology majors into Alpha Kappa Delta (the national honors society for sociologists). Five of our graduate students completed their Ph.D. degree requirements during this academic year and several of them will be beginning university positions in the fall. Our graduate students also have received a number of awards for scholarship and/or teaching.

I recently looked at some old departmental minutes from the 1970s. They noted that the department had no specific course requirements aside from taking introduction to sociology and a certain number of credits for graduation. By the time I arrived in 1981 the department required two core courses: Development of Sociology and Introduction to Social Research. A couple of years later we added Quantitative Methods in Sociology to the list of core courses. Later we required all majors to take some smaller and more advanced courses in the major: the requirement that all majors take four 400-level sociology courses. Last year we initiated a requirement that all of our undergraduate students take the three core courses: Development of Sociology, Introduction to Social Research, and Quantitative Methods in Sociology before taking 400-level courses. The idea behind the change was to allow the department to build on the foundations laid by these core courses when teaching 400-level courses. We have made this latest transition with a little agony and a bit of flexibility. We believe that these changes have made the sociology major more rigorous and improved its quality.

Next year we will face many of our regular challenges. Again we will have 500 plus majors and will teach courses in which

more than 5000 students enroll. We expect that our majors will again do well in terms of graduation and winning awards and honors. Two special projects for next year will be searching for an appropriate person to hire as a senior colleague (Associate or Full Professor) and changing several aspects of our graduate program. Success at both of these tasks will again improve the department.

Ken Hudson will be leaving us after five years on the faculty to take a position at the University of South Alabama. For Ken this is a return home with his mother who has been living with him in Eugene. It may work for him, but it will leave a gap for us. Ken's years of work as a social worker came in handy working with his colleagues and calming our sometimes stormy waters. He also contributed greatly to our curriculum. He knows how to teach quantitative methods in a relevant way to our graduate students. That is a role I will take over next year, and I can only aspire to do as well. Ken will be sorely missed as a colleague and a friend.

FACULTY NEWS

Joan Acker lectured at the University of Stockholm, the University of Oslo, The Swedish Work Life Institute, and Linkoping University over the summer of 2004. Joan was also the keynote speaker at a conference on diversity at the University of Western Australia in Perth. She was selected to be the keynote speaker for the Finnish Women's Studies Association in Helsinki this year and will be the Sociologists for Women in Society feminist lecturer at the University of Minnesota, Morris in October. Before this she will travel to Lake Windermere, Great Britain to attend a workshop of international women and work.

Michael Aguilera has had a productive year. In October his paper titled "The Impact of Social Capital on the Wages of Puerto Rican Migrants" will be published in *The Sociological Quarterly*. Michael (in collaboration with Katharine Donato and Chizuko Wakabayashi) also has a paper coming out in *International Migration* titled "Immigration Policy and the Wages of U.S. Immigrants from Mexico, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic." He just published a paper titled "Deciding Where to Retire: Retirement Location Choices of Formerly Undocumented Mexican Migrants" in the journal *Social Science Quarterly*. He also published an article in *Sociological Focus* titled "The Effect of Legalization on the Labor Markets of Latin American Immigrants: A Gendered Comparison." Michael has a number of papers that are being considered for publication dealing with a variety of topics, including the division of household labor, ethnic solidarity, informal labor market participation, and interracial and intra-racial trust.

Val Burris continues to do research on social networks, corporate power structure, and related topics in the field of political sociology. His article, "The Academic Caste System: Prestige Hierarchies in Ph.D. Exchange Networks," was published in the *American*

Sociological Review in spring 2004. Another of his papers, "Interlocking Directorates and Political Cohesion among Corporate Elites," will be published in the American Journal of Sociology in summer 2005. Current work in progress includes a study of public opinion on the Iraq War, research on the politics of the black economic elite, and a network and content analysis of email exchanges within Enron corporation. Val serves on the editorial board of *Critical Sociology* and has recently joined the editorial board of Research in Political Sociology.

Michael Dreiling served as Graduate Program Director for Sociology, coordinating a very successful year for the graduate program. Michael presented research at numerous conferences and meetings in the last nine months. His book project on *Agents of Globalization: Corporate Networks, Trade Policy and the State* served as the theme for two presentations, one as keynote speaker for an interdisciplinary conference on NAFTA in Memphis. Additionally, a paper written with Derek Darves, was presented at the annual Sunbelt Social Network meetings. This paper is being sent for review to *Sociological Quarterly*. Editors for an anthology, *Contentious Politics in North America*, plan to include a chapter written by Michael and Tony Silvaggio, "NAFTA and Transnational Contention: A Decade of Alliance and Conflict over Neoliberalism." Michael was also the recipient for the Rippey Innovative Teaching Award and is a nominee for the Williams Teaching Award this year. Meanwhile, he is hopeful that the summer months will bring progress on gardening, hiking, and his textbook *Social Problems: Meeting Human Needs*.

Patricia A. Gwartney worked on updating her teaching style this year, by participating in several workshops, transferring all of her lecture notes to PowerPoint, and experimenting with techniques of making students more responsible for their learning. She negotiated one book contract this year with Jossey-Bass/Wiley, and the same publisher is evaluating a second book proposal. Both stem from her 12 years founding and directing the University of Oregon Survey Research Laboratory, and both should appear in print in late 2006 or early 2007. An essay entitled "A Demographic History of Oregon" will be published later this year. She and sociology graduate student **Tony Silvaggio** submitted an essay entitled "Quantifying Nature: A Sociological Assessment of Contingent Valuation Survey Methods" for publication. She continues research with **Vik Gumbhir**, a recent Sociology Ph.D., and Tony Leiserowitz, a recent Environmental Studies Ph.D., using affective imagery as a cognitive tool to explain survey respondents' task dedication/alienation. They presented three papers at conferences on different facets of their findings this year.

Jocelyn Hollander published several articles this year including: "Conceptualizing Resistance" in *Sociological Forum* (with Rachel Einwohner); "I Can Take Care of Myself: The Impact of Self-Defense Training on Women's Lives"; and "Challenging Despair: Teaching About Women's Resistance to Violence," both in *Violence Against Women*. Her article with Hava Gordon, "The Processes of Social Construction in Talk," is forthcoming in *Symbolic Interaction*. Together with Ellen Scott and colleagues in the Department of Psychology, she also conducted a study sponsored by CODAC that investigated students' experiences with and thoughts about diversity at the University of Oregon.

Kenneth Liberman has been working on two new books as he heads toward retirement. His *Dialectical Practice in Tibetan Philosophical Culture* was the topic of a special panel at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, and it will be the focus of a second special panel at the July meeting of the International Association for Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis in Boston.

Greg McLaughlan has been on sabbatical this last year, working on a book on Community Politics in Eugene, OR. Greg also helped write Mayor Kitty Piercy's Economic plan for Eugene.

Robert O'Brien is finishing up one three year term as Department Head and will start another next fall. This year working with graduate students has filled much of his spare time: he served on three dissertation committees within the department and as an external committee member on four others. He was an external reviewer for two sociology programs: one at the University of Montana and the other at California State University at Los Angeles. It is a wonderful way to meet colleagues and learn about how other departments operate (the good, the bad, and the ugly). Importantly, such reviews can play a positive role for departments. O'Brien also organized the Quantitative Methods sessions for this summer's American Sociological Association meetings.

On the research front, one chapter and one article should appear in print this fall. The chapter is coauthored with Gary LaFree and Eric Baumer, "Is the Gap Between Black and White Arrest Rates Narrowing? National Trends for Personal Contact Crimes, 1960 to 2002." It will appear in, *The Many Colors of Crime: Inequalities of Race, Ethnicity and Crime in America* (edited by Ruth Peterson, Lauren Krivo, and John Hagan). New York: NYU Press. The article (coauthored with Jean Stockard) is entitled, "A common explanation for the changing age distribution of suicide and homicide in the United States: 1930 to 2000," and will appear in *Social Forces*. O'Brien is continuing his work on developing and interpreting quantitative methods, refining methods for working with age period cohort models (with Ken Hudson and Jean Stockard), and working in the area of criminology.

Ellen Scott has published three articles this year including: "Beyond Tokenism: The Making of Racially Diverse Organizations" in *Social Problems* and "Instability in Patchworks of Child Care When Moving From Work to Welfare" in *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. She began a new research project interviewing families caring for children with disabilities, evaluating the conflict between providing care for high needs children and doing wage labor to support the family. She also taught a new course on welfare, low-wage work, and carework.

Jiannbin Shiao published his book, *Identifying Talent, Institutionalizing Diversity: Race and Philanthropy in Post-Civil Rights America* (2005) with Duke University Press, based on ten years of research on the role of philanthropy in establishing diversity as a goal throughout U.S. society. The book has already been noted in both the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, the newspaper of the nonprofit world. With Mia Tuan and Elizabeth Rienzi, J. also published an article, "Shifting the Spotlight: Exploring Race and Culture in Korean-White Adoptive Families" in *Race and Society*, the official journal of the Association of Black Sociologists. In the coming year, Mia Tuan and J. plan to complete the first draft of their book project, tentatively titled, "Choosing Ethnicity, Negotiating Race: Korean Adoptees in America," based on five years of research on the identities and experiences of the first waves of Asian adoptees who are now adults.

Mia Tuan has been busy working on her co-authored book (with Jiannbin Shiao) "Choosing Ethnicity, Negotiating Race: Korean Adoptees in America." She has also been active on campus diversity initiatives, most notably the university's five Year Diversity Action Plan. She is also the incoming director of the Center for Diversity and Community (CoDaC), which will play an important role in facilitating dialogue around issues of Cultural Competency in Higher Education. This year she regrets not being able to attend the Department's graduation ceremony as she will be attending a conference.

Richard York has enjoyed another year in Eugene. He was awarded the Outstanding Publication Award by the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association for a series of articles written with Eugene Rosa and Thomas Dietz. He was elected Chair of the Publications Committee of the E&T Section of the ASA. He has also been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Siskiyou Project, an environmental organization working to protect the Siskiyou-Klamath Bioregion in Southern Oregon and Northern California. He co-edited (with John Bellamy Foster) two special issues of the journal *Organization & Environment* about the treadmill of production theory and environmental sociology. Over the past year, he has published or had accepted for publication articles, essays, and reviews on a variety of topics, sometimes with co-authors, including Brett Clark (current UO graduate student) and Kari Norgaard (recent UO Ph.D.), in *Critical Sociology*, *Gender & Society*, *Human Ecology Review*, *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, *Monthly Review*, *Organization & Environment*, and *Population Research and Policy Review*. He looks forward to hiking and camping this summer with his wife, two beagles, and two dachshunds.

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GRADUATE PROGRAM

Comments from the Graduate Program Director – Michael Dreiling

I want to take a moment to acknowledge graduate student recipients of University and Department awards during this last academic year. Many graduate students applied for these awards and fellowships (as well as other outside fellowships, grants and awards). Internally, our admissions and awards committee remarked several times at the quality of graduate student applications for these awards. I look forward to more progress next year. Meanwhile, congratulations to:

Maria De la Torre - Betty Foster McCue Scholarship, a CSWS Graduate Research Award, and a General University Scholarship.

Sandra Ezquerra - Graduate Research Fellow for Oregon University System's (OUS), Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF)

Mark Hudson - Wasby/Johnson Doctoral Research Fellowship

Laura Earles - Sociology *Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Award*

Mikhail Balaev - Sociology *Data Collection and Presentation Award*.

Allison Hurst - Sociology *Data Collection and Presentation Award*.

Joel Schoening - Sociology *Data Collection and Presentation Award*.

The Sociology graduate program currently enrolls 51 students.

Mikhail Balaev, Julie Cherney, Stacey Coleman, Stefano Longo, D. Marie Ralstin-Lewis, Elizabeth Rienzi, Lara Skinner, and Natalie White have completed the Master's Program this year.

Andrea Coukos, Hava Gordon, Vikas Gumbhir, Barbara Sutton, and Brian Wolf have all completed the Doctorate Program and we can now call them Doctor.

In the academic year 2004-05 we welcomed seven new graduate students: **Keith Appleby, Sarah Cribbs, Nathan Erickson, Mark Harmon, David Jaklevic, Kwang-Hyung Park, Ryanne Pilgeram, Wesley Shirley**

Brett Clark and Richard York published the article "The Science and Humanism of Stephen Jay Gould" in *Critical Sociology*. He co-authored with John Bellamy Foster "Empire of Barbarism" *Monthly Review*, 56(7): 1-15.

Khaya Clark presented a paper "Negotiating the Graduate Admissions Process" at the August American Sociological Association Conference. Khaya was also president of "Linking the Historical and Contemporary Constructions of Race and Racism", and Panel Organizer of "Negotiating Childhood and Adolescence: Research and Praxis", at the Pacific Sociological Association. She will be presenting the paper "Direct Evidence for the Primacy of Skin Tone in Children's Racial Categorizations" at the Hawaii International Conference on the Social Science, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Andrea Coukos presented her paper, "Gnostic Christianity, Jungian Psychoanalysis and Libertarian Politics: A Discursive Bricolage and Challenge to American Liberalism and Social Gospel Protestantism (1950-1990)" at the Association of the Sociology of Religion annual meeting in San Francisco, CA. She also co-authored with Ken Hudson the article "The Dark Side of the Protestant Ethic: A Comparative Analysis of Welfare Reform" in *Sociological Theory*.

Laura Earles was awarded the 2004-2005 Sociology Department Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award.

Sandra Ezquerra received a 2005 OUS-SYLFF Graduate Fellowship for International Research from the Nippon Foundation for \$10,000. She also received the Pressman Family International Student Scholarship for \$1,800; a Professional Grant from the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies for \$400; and the 2005 Center on Diversity and Community Graduate Summer Research Award for \$1000. Sandra presented the paper "Plan Puebla Panama: A Case of Globalization against the Environment" at the 2005 Pacific Sociological Association Conference.

Lisa Gonzales with Ken Hudson and Joan Acker presented a paper at the American Sociological Association meeting entitled, "Diverting Dependency: The Effects of Diversion Policy on the Short Term Outcomes of TANF Applicants."

Hava Gordon and Jocelyn Hollander have the article "The Processes of Social Construction in Talk" coming out in the journal *Symbolic Interaction*.

Vikas Gumbhir co-authored with Patricia Gwartney and Anthony Leiserowitz the paper "Task Dedication, Task Alienation, and What Data Collection Instruments Mean to Respondents." Vik has also accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at Gonzaga University, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Allison Hurst co-authored with Ellen Scott and Andrew London "Instability in Patchworks of Child Care When Moving from Welfare to Work."

Brandon Olszewski had "Forgiveness of an Ex-Spouse: How Does It Relate to Mental Health Following a Divorce?" published in the *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*: Rye, Mark S., Chad D. Folck, Todd A. Heim, Brandon T. Olszewski, and Elizabeth Traina. Vol. 41(3/4).

Brandon also presented a paper at the Pacific Sociological Association this year entitled "Praxis, Children, and Community: A Framework for Understanding Commitment" for the panel on "Negotiating Childhood and Adolescence: Research and Praxis" for the Family, Marriage, Adolescence, and Childhood group.

Paul Prew has accepted a tenure track position at Worcester State College, Department of Sociology, Worcester, Mass.

D. Marie Ralstin-Lewis published the article "The Continuing Struggle Against Genocide: Indigenous Women's Reproductive Rights" in *Wicazo Sa Review, Journal of Native American Studies*.

Elizabeth Rienzi published an article with Jiannbin Shiao and Mia Tuan "Shifting the Spotlight: Exploring Race and Culture in Korean-White Adoptive Families."

Barbara Sutton finished her Ph.D. in December 2004 and accepted a position as a Research Associate at the UO Center for the Study of Women in Society. She will be presenting her paper, "The Bodily Scars of Neoliberal Economics: A Feminist Analysis" at the American Sociological Association annual meeting. She presented the following papers in 2005: "Women's Embodied Experiences of Privilege and Inequality in Argentina" (Pacific Sociological Association, April 2005); "We Don't Have Racial Problems: Racism, Whiteness, and Racialized Femininity in Argentina" (UO Center on Diversity and Community, April 2005); and "Body politics and Women's Consciousness in Argentina," UO Center for the Study of Women in Society (January 2005).

Lora Vess organized and presided over two panels on Environmental Health & Justice at this year's PSAs

Brian Wolf has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at Colorado State University at Pueblo.

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UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Comments from the Undergraduate Coordinator – Eleen Baumann

Our 2005 graduates are a remarkable group. It has been a pleasure to work with them as an instructor and as Departmental Undergraduate Advisor. Below is a brief overview of their accomplishments. Space restrictions do not allow me to fully convey the tremendous range of abilities, talents, and contributions of these students.

Of the 200+ majors graduating this year, nine are members of Phi Beta Kappa; 13 received University Honors; 26 were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, an international Sociology Honors Society founded in 1920; and four received Departmental Honors. Students receiving Departmental Honors completed a thesis based upon original research of their own design. Their topics included health care for baby boomers, criminal justice policies, gender identity, and educational policy.

The department offers ten concentration options that allow students to tailor their coursework to reflect their interests within sociology. Numerous students completed concentrations in areas such as crime and delinquency; environment, population and society; and race, ethnicity and social change. Other students, taking advantage of the many offerings in the College of Arts and Science, completed second majors in Psychology, French or Spanish or a minor in areas such as Women's Studies, Business, or Substance Abuse Prevention.

Internships offer students an opportunity to combine knowledge from their coursework with practical experience. Dr. Leslie Hall, Internship Coordinator, supervised over 60 students in diverse organizational settings. Students gained valuable experience in governmental offices such as the District Attorney, Youth Services, and Human Services. Some worked in programs offering services to

homeless teens, victims of domestic violence, and children in foster care. Others focused on expanding athletic opportunities for wheelchair-bound teens or providing services to the Latino community.

Academic advising plays an important role in student success. All tenured and tenure-track faculty serve as official student advisors to over 500 majors. Beyond offering advice about university and departmental requirements, faculty help students fashion a meaningful academic plan. Student peer advisors are an essential part of the department's support system for majors. These advisors consult with students about the nuts and bolts of departmental requirements.

Roughly 5000 students enrolled in the 70 undergraduate courses offered during the 2004-2005 academic year. Topics ranged from general courses on social stratification and American society to special topics focusing on welfare and work, juvenile delinquency, non-violent social change, cults, and a topic of interest to many locally, salmon.

Graduate Teaching Fellows are an indispensable part of the instructional team, particularly in courses with large enrollments. When leading discussion sections and talking with students during office hours, GTFs offer undergraduates valuable academic and personal support. Students routinely give our departmental teaching staff high marks on course evaluations. This year, Laura Earles received the University's Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Award.

The Department's capable office team of Chris Blum, Mary Redetzke and Shelley Carlson is essential to our instructional success. Students attest to Chris' ability as Undergraduate Coordinator. He deals with every kind of undergraduate predicament from course registration problems to art project design complications. Mr. Blum is known for his effectiveness, willingness to go the extra mile, and a *wry* sense of humor.

Our graduates will make substantial contributions to our communities. For some, the future is uncertain. Others have definite plans for graduate work, travel, and teaching. They will work in diverse occupations -- in parole and probation, in public relations, as nurse practitioners and EMT/paramedics, and as clerks for attorneys. Several graduates will be teaching English in Japan, South Korea and France. One student will take part in the Teach for America program, while another will be teaching HIV/AIDS prevention in Africa. Our graduates are accomplished and caring.

The Sociology department faculty and staff wish the class of 2005 all the best in their future endeavors. We hope they keep in touch.

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Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates New Members

The Peer Advisers put on a nice AKD induction program on May 9. 47 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 speaker for this year was Vik Gumbhir, a graduating doctoral student of the Sociology department.

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

This year's initiates are: Stacey Axling, Ashly Barth, Julie Bell, Nell Best, Anne Brotherton, Chris Cain, Amanda Crepps, James Crittenden, Katie Crosman, Maeghan Culver, Ben Deines, Camillo DePaolo, Marie Doeneka, Brennan Edwards, Brynne Eidlin, Sarah Estes, Michelle Frank, Jeremy Gibons, Colin Gilmore, Chelsea Gorrell, Jessica Gutierrez, Naomi Hernandez, Sean Keith, Robert La Font, Nathaniel Link, Karena Madsen, Noah Martinson, Shannon McLean, Christy Mercer, Flynnne Olivarez, Andrea Peruzzi, Jesse Pethtel, Melissa Relyea, Alexa Saleeby, Marcia Sandford, Jaimee Scheffler, Anthony Selvey, Roger Snell, Abigail Steichen, JulieAnn Steinberger, Katherine Strelloff, Jennifer Surdyk, Eduard Tabor, Tiegan Tidball, Winston Tripp, Ethan Walsh, and Amber Woods.

The Peer Advisers who helped with mailing, setting up, and hosting the event include: Sarah Estes and Katie Coombes, Thanks also to Chris Blum, Mary Redetzke, and Shelley Carlson in the department office for their assistance.

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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: Emily Beeks, Mariah Castle, Marie Doeneka, Kristina Kahl, Stephanie Moseley, Katherine Ryding, Amenee Siahpush, Winston Tripp, and Tiffany Wilson.

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Latin Honors for Sociology Undergraduates

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

Summa cum Laude: **Colin Gilmore, Andrea Griggs**

Magna cum Laude: **Kristina Kahl, Kennon Kuykendall, Stephanie Moseley, Katherine Ryding**

Cum Laude: **Emily Beeks, Mariah Castle, Tobias Hill-Meyer, Amenee Siahpush, Katherine Strelloff, Winston Tripp, Tiffany Wilson**

Sociology undergraduates receiving Department honors are:

Honors: **Natalie Darves-Bornoz, Brianne Major-Skipworth, Paitra Sharp**

High Honors: **Tobias Hill-Meyer**

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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.

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!

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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.



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