



# Social Tracks

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2007

## Inside This Issue

New Faculty 2

Faculty News 2

Graduate Program 5

Undergraduate Program 6

Graduate Spotlight 7

## Message from Robert O'Brien, Department Head



The department has continued its transition to a new generation of sociologists. Sixty-five percent of our faculty obtained their Ph.D. degrees within the past dozen years, and we will be searching for at least one position in the fall. This year we hired Aaron Gullickson who had been teaching for three years at Columbia University. Aaron will take over my job of teaching a two course sequence in quantitative methods to our graduate students. His work focuses in the area of race/ethnicity and in demography, and he brings with him a \$100,000 National Science Foundation grant. Aaron has also received teaching awards. He will be a fine addition to our department both as a teacher and researcher.

The department continues its essential educational role within the University of Oregon. This year in May, we inducted 38 students into Alpha Kappa Delta, the national honors society for sociologists. We are kept busy (in a good way) by teaching and advising our almost 500 majors of whom more than 200 earned baccalaureate degrees this year. That is about five percent of the total number of baccalaureate degrees offered annually by the University of Oregon. The department will award seven students PhD degrees. For the students earning these degrees, this represents an additional six or seven years of study and research beyond the baccalaureate degree. Our faculty members have worked closely with both our graduate and undergraduate students; this is a major part of our role in the university. Another part of our role is research and scholarship, and we have excelled in those areas building a strong faculty and graduate program in a time of very tight budgets.

The department also received a wonderful endowment from Wayne Woodruff this year that establishes the Dianna May Woodruff Scholarship in Sociology. This \$5000 scholarship is for outstanding undergraduate students in their junior or senior class years in the Department of Sociology with a particular interest in pursuing social work as a career. This year we are awarding one Dianna May Woodruff scholarship and next year we plan to award four. We, and our students, are very grateful for this endowment.

I have now taught at the university level for over thirty years and always at public universities. After this graduation, I will have one more year as a full time faculty member. I believe deeply in the aim of a liberal arts education and in the study in sociology. The University of Oregon mission statement notes the university's "commitment to undergraduate education, with a goal of helping the individual learn to question critically, think logically, communicate clearly, act creatively, and live ethically." These are lofty and commendable goals. My hope is that you have learned these lessons – and if you have – they will serve you and others well.



## Jim Elliott Joins the UO Sociology Faculty



This academic year, I had the good fortune to move to Eugene and join the UO Sociology Department, where I've been settling into my new life in this beautiful, if wet, part of Oregon. The road here has been winding and rewarding. Born in the Midwest and raised in the South, I escaped to UC-Santa Cruz for college, where amidst the redwoods and ocean spray I took an Intro Sociology course that changed my life. It didn't so much provide me with the answers I'd been seeking, but rather opened the door to new questions that I thought were important, rooted ultimately in how we're connected to one another, for better and worse. Thereafter, I became a sociology major, much to the dismay of family, who thought I must be *on* something, which only affirmed that I might be *on to* something.

This calling pulled me to UW-Madison, where I entered grad school, gained new skills, refined old ones, and discovered long underwear. I departed with the department's dissertation award and a promise to my wife Nomia never to write another one again. After two stimulating years as a post-doc at UNC-Chapel Hill, Nomia and I succumbed to the allure of New Orleans, where I became an assistant professor at Tulane University. There I continued to publish on topics of social inequality, urban and community studies, and economic sociology, paying particular attention to workplace dynamics with funding through HUD and the National Academy of Sciences. Life outside the office brought rewarding opportunities to work with students and community organizations through service-learning efforts and special living-learning initiatives.

In 2005, I received tenure and was planning for a short Fulbright stint in Paris when Hurricane Katrina blew into the Gulf. Nomia and I stayed in New Orleans, as we had for prior hurricanes, working and volunteering at the hospital where she was employed. Katrina turned out to be different, very different. After eventual evacuation and a two-month hiatus, we returned to help rebuild, recover, and document. The latter involved a grant from the National Science Foundation to train and deploy roughly 150 students from two universities across six neighborhoods to collect data on residential return, recovery and displacement. Tim Haney, a new graduate student in the department, continues to play an invaluable role in this effort. Currently we are analyzing data from this project for publication. Several related papers are already printed or in press, with more to follow. As we push forward, I'd like to thank my new colleagues and friends at the UO for their hospitality, intelligence and wit. It's good to be here.



**Joan Acker** was a keynote speaker at a conference on intersectionality, sponsored by the European Science Foundation, in Vadstena, Sweden. She lectured at Aalborg University, Penn State, the University of Texas at Arlington, and Emory University. Her article, "The Gender Regime in Swedish Banks" (1993), was chosen as one of the four most outstanding articles in the last 20 years published in the *Scandinavian Journal of Management*. In

June 2007, she will give the inauguration speech for a new Centre on Research in Equality and Diversity at St. Mary, University of London. She will also be a plenary speaker at a conference on gender, work and organization at Keele University, England. Joan was recently named to the Alumni Hall of Fame at Hunter College of the City University of New York.



**Michael Aguilera** has several articles due out this year. His article, "The Impact of Anti-Immigrant Sentiment and IRCA on Migration Patterns," will be coming out in September in *City & Community*. He also has "Ethnic Enclave Theories" that will be published in the *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society*. He has been working on several articles on Latino self-employment.



**Yvonne Braun** has been enjoying a productive second year at UO. Her article, "Large Dams as Development: Restructuring Access to Natural Resources in Lesotho," was published last fall and she currently has an article in press, "The Promise of Feminist Political Ecology," and several articles under review. She is also working on a book manuscript about her research on gender, development, and environment in Lesotho, Southern Africa. This year Yvonne received a faculty research grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society and

submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation which is currently under review. In July, she presented her work on gender and environment at the International Sociological Association World Congress in Durban, South Africa. She was also invited to Yale University in November to present her research on the socio-environmental impacts of dam construction on local communities and presented a critical sociological perspective on dam modeling at an OSU sponsored symposium in April. Yvonne also enjoys coordinating the Gender and Africa and African Diaspora Research Interest Group with other African Studies colleagues on campus. This summer, Yvonne will be continuing her work with the support of a UO Summer Research Award.



**Val Burris** was an invited participant at the International Conference on Politics and Interlocking Directorates at the University of Barcelona in the fall and at the Politics Workshop at the Harriman Institute of Columbia University this spring. His article "Fordism and Positivism in U.S. Sociology" appeared in *Social Science History*.



**Michael Dreiling** served a third year as Graduate Director for Sociology, instituting new graduate awards and supporting a transition in the graduate curriculum. Many graduate students have already published their master's papers written under this new curriculum. The Admissions and Awards committee, which he chaired, successfully recruited six new students to our program. This committee also granted numerous awards to students, some with funds generously contributed to our department by friends and alumni in honor of the fine scholarship and teaching by our graduate students. Dreiling continued a collaborative research project with visiting scholar, Professor Tomoyasu Nakamura. With two graduate student co-investigators, Ryan Jonna and Nicholas Lougee, they surveyed a broad spectrum of U.S. environmental organizations. Members of the *Emonet* team attended the ASA meetings in Montreal to share the early results of this survey. Their first paper is now under review. Dreiling also continues work on a book project, *Agents of Globalization: Corporate Networks, Trade Policy and the State*. Some of the research for this book appeared in a co-authored article in *Research in Political Sociology*. Meanwhile, Dreiling is excited about launching efforts for a fall 2008 conference on nonviolence with some support from a grant from the Savage Endowment for International Relations and Peace.



**Jim Elliott** continues to explore his new found interest in the sociology of disasters and vulnerability. He recently completed an NSF grant on this topic and co-authored "Race, Class and Hurricane Katrina," in *Social Science Research*, which became the second-most downloaded social science article in ScienceDirect during the last half of 2006 (2,200+ journals; approximately 11 million users). In addition, he presented research in Montreal, New

York, New Orleans, and Surrey, England, and currently has several chapters and articles under review. In April, he co-organized a two-day conference on Disaster & Migration, which received support from the Social Science Research Council and Oxfam America. Work is now underway to produce an edited volume from the event. Meanwhile, he is working with students and a member of the Resource Innovation Group on campus to document environment hazards and social vulnerabilities throughout Oregon. He will attend an annual workshop on these issues in Boulder this summer.



**John Foster** continues to edit *Monthly Review* (New York). His research is centered on the environment, capitalism, and imperialism. He has published one book and nine major articles since the beginning of 2006. Over the same period he has delivered talks in Mali, Brazil, Mexico, New York, Illinois, California, Oregon and Washington. He has also done numerous

newspaper, radio, film and internet interviews. His recent writings have been published in 18 languages. He is currently serving as head of the Marxist Sociology section of the American Sociological Association.



**Patricia Gwartney** has a new 333 page book published by John H. Wiley & Sons entitled *The Telephone Interviewer's Handbook: How to Conduct Standardized Conversations*. Based on interviewing-related experimental and observational research, as well as her more than 30 years of experience in survey data collection, this volume will be marketed mainly to research centers and institutes. The publisher expects it will soon be translated

into Spanish.

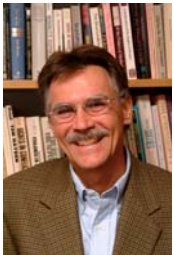


**Jocelyn Hollander** continues to do research on the consequences of women's self-defense training. She was part of an invited panel on self-defense and resistance at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Women in Psychology in San Francisco, and will present another paper, "Paths to Transformation: Self-Defense Training and the Empowerment of Women," at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems this summer. She published "Self-Defense and Violence Prevention," in the *Oregon Sexual Violence Prevention Connection*; and her paper with Hava Gordon, "The Processes of Social Construction in Talk," was published in *Symbolic Interaction* in 2006.



**Ken Liberman** has a study of social phenomenological methods, *Husserl's Criticism of Reason With Ethnomethodological Specifications*, scheduled for release in August by Lexington Books. His ethnography, *Dialectical Practice in Tibetan Philosophical Culture: An Ethnomethodological Study of Formal Reasoning*, is being reprinted this summer in a paper

edition, and his CD-ROM on Tibetan debating is now available on the University of Virginia website. A study of Merleau-Ponty's environmental ideas, "An Inquiry Into the Intercorporeal Relations Between Humans and the Earth," appeared in *Merleau-Ponty and Environmental Philosophy* (SUNY Press), released in May. A co-authored essay (with Harold Garfinkel), "The Lebenswelt Origins of the Sciences," appears in *Human Studies*. Liberman continues to serve on the boards of *Human Studies* and the International Association for Environmental Philosophy.



**Greg McLaughlan** continues to work in the areas of urban, environmental, and social movements sociology. Since 2004, he has served as an advisor to Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, helping to develop a series of urban sustainability initiatives and policies designed to place Eugene at the forefront of a national movement toward new models of environmental sustainability and urban livability. In 2006, Eugene was named the "#1 Green City in the U.S." by the Green Guide, which recognized Eugene's efforts in protecting air and water quality, green design, providing alternative transportation options, preservation of open spaces, support for green businesses and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, among others. He is working on a book manuscript, "Citizen Canines: How Activists Watchdog Transnational Corporations, Polluters, Government Bureaucrats, Land Speculators, and Other Threats to Livability."



**Bob O'Brien** is currently serving as Department Head and teaching the graduate level Introduction to Quantitative Methods. He is serving as Vice President elect for the Pacific Sociological Association and in that position is on the Program Committee and on the Council for the PSA. Another important activity has been working as a dissertation committee head with two of our graduate students who are due to defend their dissertations this spring.

On the research front, he published three articles this year (2007): "A Caution Regarding Rules of Thumb for Variance Inflation Factors," in *Quality and Quantity*; "A Mixed Model Estimation of Age, Period, and Cohort Effects," in *Sociological Methods and Research* (coauthored with Kenneth Hudson and Jean Stockard); and "The Use of Mixed Models in a Modified Iowa Gambling Task and a Prisoner's Dilemma Game," in the *Journal of Judgment and Decision Making* (coauthored with Jean Stockard and Ellen Peters). Three other articles and a chapter appeared in 2006.



**Ellen Scott** has been busy learning her new administrative role as Director of Women's and Gender Studies. This year she also had three papers accepted for publication: with Andrew S. London and Glenda Gross, "'I Try Not to Depend on Anyone But Me': Welfare-Reliant Women's Perspectives on Self-Sufficiency, Work, and Marriage," forthcoming in *Sociological Inquiry*; also with

Andrew S. London, "Women's Lives, Welfare's Time Limits," in Marjorie DeVault, editor, *Embodied Workers in the New Economy*, New York: New York University Press; "In This Labor of Love, We Are Up Against the World: Employment and Carework in Families with Children with Disabilities," forthcoming in Barbara Arrighi and David Maume, editors, *Child Poverty in America Today*. Finally, Ellen is planning to take a brief maternity leave this spring when she adopts her daughter from China.



**Jiannbin Shiao** returned to teaching his regular courses on the sociology of race and ethnicity after a year on sabbatical. He also taught a new graduate seminar on qualitative research methods and a new course in the Honors College on reconceptualizing theories of race/ethnicity in light of recent advances in genetic research, out of which he plans to co-write a paper with his students. His ongoing research with Mia Tuan, on the identities of Korean adoptees, has resulted in papers that will appear in two books, *Color Lines: Exploring the Frontiers of Americas Multiracial Present and Future* (Temple University Press), and *International Korean Adoption: A Fifty-Year History of Policy and Practice* (Haworth Press). They are also working on two other papers as well as the book manuscript for this project, and they will be presenting from their research at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association this summer in New York City. Professor Shiao has also been busy with his new administrative role as the Associate Director of the Ethnic Studies Program.



**Mia Tuan** has had a busy year. As Director of the university's Center on Diversity and Community (CoDaC), she has been conducting research on multicultural organizational development as well as providing professional development training to increase multicultural effectiveness among university faculty, staff, and administrators. She is still working on her book, *Choosing Ethnicity, Negotiating Race*, with Jiannbin Shiao. The book is based on interviews with Korean adoptees raised within white families and explores racial/ethnic identity development amongst this fascinating population. Two articles, co-authored with Jiannbin Shiao, are forthcoming based on the adoption project: "Shared Fates in Asian Transracial Adoption: Korean Adoptee Experiences of Difference in their Families" in *Color Lines: Exploring the Frontiers of Americas Multiracial Present and Future*, edited by Andrew Grant-Thomas and Gary Orfield; and "A Sociological Approach to Race, Identity, and Asian Adoption," in *International Korean Adoption: A Fifty-Year History of Policy and Practice*, edited by Kathy Bergquist, Betsy Vonk, and Dong Soo Kim.)

**Richard York** received the *William Piche Award in Arts and Sciences* from the UO College of Arts and Sciences for "excellence in teaching, superior scholarship, and dedicated service." He continues to serve as co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Organization & Environment* published by



Sage, and he has been appointed a topic editor for the *Encyclopedia of Earth* (<http://www.eoearth.org>). He also continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the *Siskiyou Project*, a non-profit organization working to protect the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion in southwest Oregon. Over the past year, he has published or had accepted for publication, articles in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, *Human Ecology Review*, *Organization & Environment*, *Rural Sociology*, *Social Science Research*, *Sociological Forum*, and *The Sociological Quarterly*. Several of these articles were co-authored with current Ph.D. students (Stefano Longo and Philip Mancus) and a recent graduate (Brett Clark) of the UO Sociology department. He also had a paper co-authored with Stefano Longo presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Human Ecology in Bar Harbor, Maine.

### GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Sociology graduate program currently enrolls 46 students.

#### 2006 - 2007 Departmental Award Recipients:

**Rebecca Clausen, Sandra Ezquerro, and Stefano Longo** - Wasby/Johnson Dissertation Research Award

**Roxanne Gerbrandt** - Graduate Student Teaching Award

**Brandon Olszewski and Elaine Sun** - Data Collection and Presentation Award

**Tim Haney and Ryanne Pilgeram** - Graduate Student Publication Award

**Mikhail Balaev** presented two papers "How International Trade and Militarization Influence Democracy: The Case of Post-Soviet States," at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association; and "Democratization in Post-Soviet States," at the 2007 Joint Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Sociological Society and North Central Sociological Association. Mikhail, with Caleb Southworth, had a joint chapter published in 2007, "How International Trade Ties Influence Democratization: The Case of the Post-Soviet States," in Bruno S. Sergi and William T. Bagatelas (Editors), *Industries and Markets in Central and Eastern Europe*.

**Shannon Bell** was awarded a Graduate Student Research Grant from CSWS to continue her research in West Virginia this summer. The research project is called "Feminism and the Fight against King Coal: Re-building Social Capital in the West Virginia Coalfields." She will be conducting in-depth interviews and participant observation with individuals involved in the network of activists fighting to hold the coal industry accountable for its actions in this region of Appalachia. Shannon gave a presentation at the PSA in Oakland this year called "There Ain't No Bond in Town Like There Used to Be: The Destruction of Social Capital in the West Virginia Coalfields." She will also present her master's paper at the Social Capital Regular Session at the ASA in New York.

**Brett Clark** has two publications forthcoming with Richard

York: "Alfred Russel Wallace, The Restoration of Nature and Biogeography: An Introduction to Wallace's 'Epping Forest,'" in *Organization & Environment*; and "The Problem with Prediction: Contingency Emergence, and the Reification of Projections," in *The Sociological Quarterly*. Brett has also published two articles with John Foster: "The Environmental Conditions of the Working Class: An Introduction to Selections from Frederick Engels's 'The Condition of the Working Class' in England in 1844," *Organization & Environment*; and "Florence Kelley and the Struggle Against the Degradation of Life: An Introduction to a Selection from Kelley's 'Modern Industry,'" *Organization & Environment*.

**Khaya Clark** with C. Tate has under review "Measuring Modern Racial Prejudice in a Multiracial World: New Methods and New Constructs," *The Psychology of Modern Prejudice*.

**Rebecca Clausen**, with twelve other participants from around the country, traveled to Cuba as part of a delegation to study the social organization of their successful sustainable agriculture program. The trip was sponsored by the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and the Global Exchange program. She has shared what she learned through a community presentation (4/21/07, sponsored by Committee in Solidarity With The Central American People) and an article in *Monthly Review*. Rebecca also, with support from the Sociology department, brought Karl Marx to the UO. The play "Marx in Soho" was a big hit both with sociology students and the community. Dissertation field work took Rebecca to British Columbia and Alaska for four months to study the social transformation of the salmon fishing industry. She published: "Robert Bullard and 'Eugenics'" in *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*, edited by Paul Robbins; Skladany, M., Clausen, R., Belton, B. 2007. "Offshore Aquaculture: The Frontier of Redefining Oceanic Property" *Society and Natural Resources*; Clausen, R. 4/11/07. "Straight from the Billionaire's Mouth." *MRzine* [mrzine.monthlyreview.org/clausen110407.html](http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/clausen110407.html). Rebecca also has two fisheries papers, co-authored with Richard York, currently under review.

**Laura Earles** has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, ID.

**Sandra Ezquerro** is currently in the Philippines as a visiting SYLFF Research Fellow at Ateneo de Manila University (The Philippines), gathering data for her dissertation. Sandra has received the following awards: OUS-SYLFF Fellow Mobility Program Grant for Doctoral Research at Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, the Philippines. Nippon Foundation, Tokyo for \$8,000; Wasby/Johnson Sociology Dissertation Research Award, UO Sociology, Eugene for \$6,000. She has had several articles published "Hacia un análisis interseccional de la regulación de las migraciones: la convergencia de género, raza y clase social," in *Santamaría*; "Los retos epistemológicos de las migraciones transnacionales," Barcelona, *Anthropos*; "Incorporando el Estado: sobre la construcción institucional de los cuerpos de las trabajadoras migrantes," CD-Rom del libro de Actas del V Congreso Nacional sobre la Inmigración en España; A book review of *Laurel Schwede, Rae Lesser Blumberg and Anna Y. Chan, Complex Ethnic Households in America. Journal of Official Statistics*. In addition, Sandra will present the paper "Embodying the State in the Context of Migration: On National

Heroes, Docile Workers, and Compartmentalized Bodies," at the 2007 ASA conference and has presented the paper "Incorporando el Estado: sobre la construcción institucional de los cuerpos de las trabajadoras migrantes," at the V Congreso Nacional sobre la Inmigración en España; the paper "Un análisis interseccional del Estado: Políticas laborales e inmigratorias y sus efectos sobre las trabajadoras domésticas Filipinas en San Francisco, California," at the I Jornadas sobre movilidades y alteraciones sociales contemporáneas: Los retos epistemológicos de las migraciones transnacionales, organized by Institut Català d'Antropologia.

**Tim Haney** received a "Revise and Resubmit" (with positive reviewer comments) on his paper "The Bottom Line: An Exercise to Help Students Understand How Inequality is Actively Constructed," (coauthored with M. Bess Vincent and Melissa Abelev, both at Tulane), submitted to the journal *Teaching Sociology*; and his paper "Broken Windows and Self-Esteem: Subjective Understandings of Neighborhood Poverty and Disorder," is awaiting publication in the journal *Social Science Research*. Tim also has two book chapters being published, "Families and Hurricane Response: Evacuation, Separation, and the Emotional Toll of Hurricane Katrina," (coauthored with James R. Elliott at Oregon and Elizabeth Fussell at Tulane) in the book *The Sociology of Katrina: Perspectives on a Modern Catastrophe*, published by Rowman and Littlefield; and "The Irrationality of Rational Bureaucracy: Daily Life and Continuing Struggles in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," being published in the book *Hurricane Katrina: Storytelling Sociology*, by Cambridge Scholars Press. Tim is also in the process of coauthoring two additional empirical papers on Hurricane Katrina with Jim Elliott.

**Andrew Jones** has accepted a position in the Department of Sociology at California State University, Fresno, starting Fall 2007. He defended his dissertation July of 2006 and attained his PhD on September 9, 2006.

**Stefano Longo** received the Wasby/Johnson Sociology Dissertation Research Award to pursue dissertation research during the summer of 2007. In the past year, he presented research with Richard York at the XIV International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology, Bar Harbor, ME, "Agricultural Exports and the Environment: A Cross-National Study of Fertilizer and Pesticide Consumption." An article from this presentation is forthcoming in *Rural Sociology*. He also had an article published in *Human Ecology Review*, co-authored with Nicholas Malone (Department of Anthropology) titled "Meat, Medicine and Materialism: A Dialectical Analysis of Human Relations to Nonhuman Animals and Nature."

**Philip Mancus** had two pieces published this year, "Nitrogen Fertilizer Dependency and Its Contradictions: A Theoretical Exploration of Social-Ecological Metabolism," *Rural Sociology* and the book review, "A History of World Agriculture," by Marcel Mazoyer and Laurence Roudart, (translated by James Membrez) *Critical Sociology*. Philip has a review essay coming out in 2008 (with Richard York, lead author) "Diamond in the Rough: Reflections on Guns, Germs and Steel," *Human Ecology Review*.

**Joel Schoening** has accepted a position as assistant professor of Sociology at Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

**Lara Skinner** was awarded the Center for the Study of Women in Society Graduate Student Research Award for her dissertation research on "Urban Sustainability and Social Equity."

**Juyeon Son** had several conference presentations, including session organizer for "Issues in Immigrant Experiences and Health" and session moderator for "Author Meets Commentators: Ivan Light: Deflecting Immigration: Networks, Markets, and Regulations in LA," PSA annual meeting, Oakland, CA; poster presentation, "Immigrant Differences and Their Impact on Physical Health," Annual Conference of International Studies Association, Chicago, IL. She received two awards last year: the Wasby/Johnson Dissertation Research Award, Department of Sociology, and a Graduate Dissertation Research Grant, Center for the Study of Women in Society. Juyeon has accepted an offer from University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, for a tenure track assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, starting this fall.

**Ann Strahm** accepted a tenure track position in the Department of Sociology at California State University-Stanislaus.

#### New Graduate Students:

**Martha Camargo**, BA, Spanish, Knox College, Galesburg, IL  
Areas: demography, race and ethnicity

**Cade Jameson**, BA, Liberal Arts, Eugene Lang College, New School University, New York, NY

Areas: environment, suburban development

**Shih-Chi Lin**, BS, Psychology, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan; MA, Sociology, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan

Areas: social stratification, quantitative methods

**Jesse Lowe**

BA, Sociology, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY

Areas: statistics, demography

**Jennifer Roark**

BA, American Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

Areas: criminology, gender

**William Wishart**

BA, College Scholars Program, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; MA, Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Areas: environment, political economy

#### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

**News from the Undergraduate Program Director – Eleen Baumann**

Our 2007 graduates are impressive. In this limited space I can provide only a brief summary of their accomplishment. Of the more than 200 majors graduating this year, 10 are members of Phi Beta Kappa; 13 received University Honors; and 38 were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, an international Sociology Honors Society founded in 1920.

5300 students enrolled in 60 undergraduate courses during the 2006-2007 academic year. Students could select from courses ranging from social inequality to ones that provided a sociological insight into such timely topics as disasters, sustainable development, immigration, and salmon.

Internships offer students an opportunity to combine course-based knowledge with practical experience. Students gained valuable experiences in criminal justice (parole and probation), social service (homeless shelters, relief nursery, women's shelters), and mentoring (the ASPIRE program for high school students). Other students worked in nonprofits such as United Way and in advocacy organizations such as those increasing recycling efforts.

Academic advising plays an important role in student success. Faculty help students create a meaningful academic plan and assist advisees with plans for employment or graduate work. Peer advisors offer additional support to majors.

Graduate Teaching Fellows along with dedicated office staff are indispensable components in our instructional efforts. Students routinely give departmental faculty and GTFs high marks on course evaluations. This year Roxanne Gerbrandt received the Sociology Department's Graduate Student Teaching Award.

Sociology helps prepare students for advanced work in diverse areas. Some graduates are moving on to advanced training in sociology, psychology, teaching, law, dispute resolution, business administration, regional planning, addiction counseling and social work. They will work in diverse occupations – in law enforcement, business, banking, and youth organizations. Several graduates will be teaching English in Japan and another will be part of the Teach for America program. Their aspirations cover the range from training for the 2008 Olympics to opening a patisserie. Our graduates will make considerable contributions to our communities.

The Sociology department faculty and staff congratulate the class of 2007 and wish them success in their future endeavors. We hope they will send periodic updates on their activities and accomplishments to sociology@uoregon.edu.

#### Latin Honors for Sociology Undergraduates

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

**summa cum laude:** Rebekah Lynn Young

**magna cum laude:** James Robert Crittenden, Benjamin Alex Doidge, and Molly Elizabeth Montgomery

**cum laude:** Kathleen Rea Bruns, Amber Kathleen Fauson, Mary Fiedler, Andrew Phillip Harmon, Claire Susanna Whitley Herbert, Cynthia Diane Karpowicz, Marlene Joy Monette, Kelly Ann Nardo, and Anthony Wayne Selvey

#### Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates New Members

The AKD initiation ceremony this year honored 38 new members of Alpha Kappa Delta, the national Sociology Honor Society. Associate Professor James Elliott gave a wonderful talk and Drs. Leslie Hall (Peer Advising Supervisor) and Robert O'Brien spoke about the department and the history of AKD. After the ceremony, initiates enjoyed refreshments and congratulations with family, friends, and faculty.

This year's initiates are: Holli Arnold, William R. Burton, Kristen H. Bösold, Kelly Caldwell, Melissa Collier, Chris Courtney, Kristen Curtis, Benjamin A. Doidge, Hayley Farb, Stefanie Gordon-Forbes, Patrick LeFebvre Hains, Anthony Steven Halligan, Jessica Hulett, Jesse C. Jans-Neuberger, Cynthia D. Karpowicz, Venus Killen, Tiffany Lee, Larry Linebaugh, Melanie Maidens, Jinny McKenzie, Gwendolyn C. Moore, Megan Neiger, Stephanie Nicholls, Alexa Pinney, Sarah Purvis, Shannon Robb, Jason Robertson, Allison Smith, Ashley Sohler, Andrew Sowers, Nancy J. Stevens, Janet C. Stubblefield, Mollie Treadwell, Jessie Ann Unger, Gloria Daisy Venegas-

### Graduate Spotlight



Khaya Clark is in the fifth-year cohort and busily working on her dissertation entitled "The Development of a Racial Attitudes Index, Grades K-3." In 2006-2007, Khaya received a Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$12,000) from the National Science Foundation (Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics program) and the American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship (\$15,000) to assist with the development of her internet-based attitudes instrument.

One problem with current racial attitudes tests is that test properties and formats serve to confuse the issue of whether children's attitudes rest on ingroup preference (preference for one's racial group) or outgroup bias (derogation toward racial groups outside of one's own). The Racial Attitudes Index (RAI) has been developed to disentangle the limitations of existing measures of racial attitudes. Clarifying the form of children's racial attitudes will expand the social scientific understanding of this topic and inform educational interventions designed to impact emerging racial attitudes and behaviors. A total of 495 children in grades K-3 will participate in Khaya's study.

The analysis of Khaya's dissertation data has moved her into the terrain of psychometrics and sophisticated scaling techniques. Apparently, when she is not busy reading about crazy statistical techniques, she finds time to have a bit of a life. Khaya enjoys making jewelry, spending time with friends and family, hiking, and cycling.

Khaya hopes to defend her dissertation in April 2008, and extends her thanks to Dr. Patricia Gwartney, Dr. Chuck Tate and her dissertation committee for their input, feedback, and support in thinking through this project.



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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!

#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

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 email news to:  
[sociology@uoregon.edu](mailto:sociology@uoregon.edu).

You can also mail it to us at:  
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