

Social Tracks

News and Information from the Department of Sociology • University of Oregon • Spring 2009

sociology.uoregon.edu

Doctor of Sociology 2009

Every year the sociology department graduates another outstanding group of graduate students, ready to make important contributions to the field and help improve our knowledge of the world. This year is no exception, with eight students receiving their doctorate.

Mikhail Balaev



Balaev is assistant professor of sociology at Northern Michigan University in Marquette,

Michigan. The emphasis of his publications has been economic conditions in post-Soviet Russia, including an upcoming article in the journal *Sociological Perspectives*.

Maria De La Torre



I will start a tenure-track position as an assistant professor this coming fall. My appointment will be in the justice studies department at Northeastern Illinois University, located in Chicago. I will be teaching courses on immigration policy and law and on social inequality and justice.

Eric Edwards

I completed my dissertation project, "Breast-feeding, Inequality, and State Policy in the United States," in March 2009. My goal is to find a teaching position, made



more difficult due to shrinking state budgets. In the meantime, I will take care of my infant son.

Tim Haney



I recently put the finishing touches on my dissertation, "Off to the (Labor) Market: Women, Work,

and Welfare Reform in Twenty-first Century American Cities," and am beginning to work on restructuring it for publication. In the meantime, my spouse, Sara, and I are moving to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where I have accepted a position at Mount Royal University where I will be teaching Urban Sociology, Introduction to Sociology, Quantitative Methods, Introduction to Sociological Research Methods, and hopefully an inequality course or two. I will also be learning more about Canadian sociology and will be extending my research to address Canadian social problems. No matter where my career

takes me, I will remain forever indebted to the faculty in the sociology department at the UO (particularly Professors Elliott, and Gwartney) for investing so much time in my intellectual and professional development. I also owe a debt of gratitude to my graduate student colleagues who supported my work, challenged my assumptions, and provided both friendship and open ears.

Stefano Longo



Pursuing graduate studies in sociology at the UO has been a very rewarding experience.

In particular, the UO was an outstanding place to engage in studies in environmental sociology. Faculty members and graduate students in the department have been developing important research, making the UO a leader in this field. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to study and research among this distinguished group of accomplished and emerging scholars. In the fall, I will be moving on to a tenure-track



In this issue...

- 2 Message from the Department Head
- 3 Sociology Department Honors
- 4 Focus on Faculty: Ken Liberman, Aliya Saperstein, Eileen Otis
- 6 Faculty News
- 10 Alumni News
- 11 Department News
- 12 Academic Accomplishments 2009



UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

Message from the Department Head

This year the UO Department of Sociology graduates 221 students with bachelor's degrees, two with master's degrees, and eight with doctoral degrees.



Patricia Gwartzney

Much work went into those degrees—by students and faculty members. From students, UO expects two to three hours of study per week for each classroom hour for eleven weeks—about 155 hours per term. Extrapolating to the minimum 180 credits for a bachelor's degree results in about 7,000 hours of studying and classes. About half of our undergraduates work for pay, averaging fifteen hours per week. Many have internships. Some have families.

Professors contribute by locating appropriate readings, building websites, creating assignments and exams, preparing lectures and in-class activities, guiding students' endeavors, and grading. We also participate in faculty governance at the department, college, and university levels. In between, we push back the boundaries of

knowledge with our research. Together, faculty members and students produce a vibrant learning environment.

UO sociology had a notable year, ratifying a constitution and bylaws, hiring two new faculty (see page 10), initiating routine peer teaching evaluations, posting administrative records on an internal website, and surveying students. In one survey, students voiced intense interest in alternative course formats (e.g., online and weekend short courses); watch for those next year. Another found over 90 percent of seniors satisfied with the major; 76 percent believe an instructor or staff member cares about them. The department website (sociology.uoregon.edu) now contains late-breaking news and a departmental history from 1896 to 1990.

We have summoned our graduate alumni—i.e., those for whom we found e-mail addresses (see sociology.uoregon.edu/graduate/phdlisting.php). Our first alumni night at the Pacific Sociological Association meeting this spring garnered thirty-five attendees, with doctorates dating to 1977. Another is planned for the American Sociological Association meeting on August 8, 2009. Undergraduate alumni will

receive a Facebook invitation.

Those wishing to help support their alma mater's teaching and research endeavors may use the enclosed card and envelope. Alumni support would enable us to stimulate the honors programs, and create awards for "best undergraduate paper" and "most inspiring Graduate Teaching Fellow." For research, we need investments in our qualitative research capabilities, specifically, audio transcription stations on mobile carts. These will help researchers transcribe interviews and audio-recorded notes onto computers using automatic voice recognition software, qualitative data analysis software, and digital voice recorders with headsets and foot controls. Each costs about \$4,000.

Overall, the Department of Sociology is healthy and animated. Our faculty publish well and win scarce research grants. Our graduate program is strong, with twenty-five student awards totaling \$103,000 in two years and fully 88 percent of our forty-two doctoral graduates since 2002 in academic positions. Our undergraduates participate in honors programs, and a generous endowment supports a promising undergraduate each year (see page 12).

position in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield. There I will teach courses such as Environmental Social Sciences and Humanities, Sustainable Development, and Environmental Justice, among others, and continue my research on the global food system.

Philip Mancus



I arrived at the University of Oregon in 2003, drawn here because of the department's strong focus in environmental sociology and admittedly because of the allure of the Cascadia bioregion. During my stay I have been honored to be a part of a larger community of individuals who are truly making a difference in this world. Working with Richard York and John Bellamy Foster has been the culmination of an intellectual journey that has taken me from biology to philosophy to psychology and on to sociology. I am grateful for their guidance, the support of the department, and the friends and comrades I have known along the way. I have recently taken a job at College of the Redwoods, Del Norte, teaching in the social sciences. There I plan on continuing my work as an educator, writer, and scholar.

Brandon Olszewski



I graduate this spring, and am currently looking for a research job at a Eugene-based firm in the areas of education or public health. My dissertation focuses on the importance of teacher participation in school reform, and the effects of reform on teachers' work. I currently

teach a class in social order and interaction, as well as an introductory class at Lane Community College. I would like to thank Caleb Southworth and Ken Liberman for their support throughout the dissertation process, and the office staff at the Department of Sociology for being such pleasant and helpful people.

Xiao-e Elaine Sun



I came from China in 2001 to pursue my doctoral study in sociology at the UO. I will become a Ph.D. in June 2009. My dissertation examines the transnationalism of Chinese American scientists as they participate in both American and Chinese science, providing insight into the integration of China into the global community through the mobility of Chinese talent between China and the

U.S. My main area of interest is the sociology of women and gender. I have written three papers that have applied feminist theory to study the gendered reality in China: "The All-China Women's Federation: The Party-State Institutional Articulation of Gender Equality in China (1995 to Present)," "Domestic Violence in Contemporary China," and "The Gendered Division of Child Care between Chinese Couples." Other key areas are international migration and race and ethnicity studies. I have written a couple of papers that explore inequality and racial issues in the U.S., using Chinese immigrants as a case-study group: "The Matrix of Internet Technology and Racial Inequality" and "YJ Chinese Church: Christianity and Racial and Ethnic Dynamics." I will stay in Eugene in 2009 to work on a couple of research articles before starting my teaching career.

Sociology Department Honors

On May 22, 2009, the sociology department saw six undergraduates defend their thesis as part of our yearlong honors course. Students start by attending a course to learn how to develop a clearly conceptualized, well-written proposal and to demystify the research process. Over the course of the rest of the year these students work closely with a faculty advisor to conduct their own research and write a formal research thesis paper. Professor Michael Aguilera coordinates the Senior Honors Seminar and helps guide its students throughout the thesis process.

Pictured left to right:

Maggie Price "The Inter-generational Transmission of Divorce: The Effects of Age at Parental Divorce on Marital



Stability in Adulthood"

Laurie Ewing "Consumer Alienation"

Jamaal Aflatooni "The Assimilation of Iranian Immigrants in Comparison to Other Immigrant Populations"

Anna Satushek "Risk Perception of Lahars [volcanic landslides] in Relation to Other Natural Hazards in Orting, Washington"

Zach Basaraba "Living in Utopia: Intentional Communities as a Means of Promoting Social Justice"

Yusuke Makino "Poverty and Labor Market Outcomes"

Department of Sociology Vision Statement

Faculty members of the University of Oregon Department of Sociology Department are united in seeking to provide a high quality educational program for our undergraduate and graduate students. We seek to equip students with a sound academic foundation that helps them to question critically, think logically, communicate clearly, act resourcefully, and live ethically. Our graduate program further aims to develop thinkers, leaders, and innovators whose subsequent efforts will benefit the human social world and life on the planet. Our research ranges from broad, global sweeps of social change to micro-level social interaction, using an array of theories and methods. We generate new knowledge through our scholarship. The results of our research help people to understand the evolving social, political, economic, technological, and physical environment, to respect the dignity and essential worth of all individuals, to value a diversity of opinions and ideas, and to formulate public policies that reject discrimination, bigotry, and violence.

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Focus on Faculty

Ken Liberman,
retired professor

From the craggy top of Eaton Peak in California's Russian Wilderness, Ken and I had perspective on the expanse below: the enormous valley before us stretched north toward the Oregon border, and eastward toward the Pacific Crest Trail. Making our way up to such a high place entailed risks and some serious effort. Beginning at Eaton Lake more than one thousand feet below, the journey took us from morning until afternoon. But the view was unforgettable, and we always found time for swims and chats along the way. Certainly, many professors offer their students guidance via academic mentoring. However, I cannot imagine any faculty member has helped promote perspective—or the ability to look at our lives and social world from a higher place—for his or her students better than Ken Liberman.

His retirement is a loss to the university, as it would be difficult to find a professor who cares more about providing students the best possible learning opportunities. Just recently, after turning in my dissertation for committee review, I went down to his office to say hello. When I got there, he could not talk long because he “had to teach in forty minutes and had to finish preparing his lecture.” Now, this was an undergraduate class he has taught numerous times, yet he was working up his lecture anew to make it better. I wish I could say that, at such a late stage in the game, I would be putting the same amount of energy into every lecture.



Left to right: retired professor Ken Liberman; assistant professor Aliya Saperstein at her Ph.D. graduation in Berkeley, California; assistant professor Eileen Otis celebrates her bicycle ride up Crouching Cloud Mountain in Kunming, China.

Beyond his dedication and effort, *what* Ken teaches—such as the seminar on Adorno's *Negative Dialectics*, or his bread and butter, ethnomethodology—offers students an opportunity to rewire their thinking at a fundamental level. Most every class I have ever taken in my twenty-four years of schooling either added to what I already knew or taught me a new idea altogether. In Ken's classes I learned something totally different: how to go beneath what I had learned and unpack the process by which I came to know anything at all. Being his student, Ken taught me to be skeptical about what I thought I knew. The lesson I took with me from all this—“Don't believe everything you think”—is one I hope to hold on to my entire life. Thanks Ken, from all of us you've touched, and I'm sad that future UO students won't get these opportunities I had, for they have been invaluable.

—Brandon Olszewski

Aliya Saperstein,
assistant professor

I arrived in Eugene last summer fresh from my Ph.D. in sociology and demography at the University of California, Berkeley. I followed in the footsteps of my colleague Aaron Gullickson, who also graduated from UC-Berkeley shortly after my arrival. Indeed, Aaron and I have unintentionally been following one another around for quite some time. We both majored in sociology at the University of Washington and graduated with our bachelor's degrees one year apart. We also were one-time rivals for the title of best high school newspaper in the state of Washington. (Of course, my school, Garfield High in Seattle, won!)

Our oddly linked lives diverged briefly when I decided to follow my journalistic skills into a reporting job after college. I first worked at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* covering UW



women's basketball and the then-minor league Seattle Sounders. When the *P-I* tried to turn me into a news reporter instead, I fled for Southern California where I worked for the *Riverside Press-Enterprise* covering UCLA football and men's basketball. I met my partner, Andy, covering Angels' baseball games in my “off-season.” I was his backup, so whenever he had a day off I would go out to the park to cover for him. Of course, our schedules made it especially hard to actually go on dates!

Despite all the fun of covering sports in a large market (I'll tell you about the gender discrimination some other time), I grew frustrated with the superficial coverage I was providing. I wanted to write about how socioeconomic factors helped to determine who played which sports and the racial divides that have emerged by position on many teams. Luckily, I realized my GRE scores had not expired and seven years later, they led me here.

I feel very lucky to be here at the University of Oregon. The

first year as a professor is always challenging—or so I have been told on numerous occasions—but the support from so many in the department has been a tremendous help. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that next year will bring, and to working together to make this department a recognized center of creative, intellectual energy and inquiry on campus.

Eileen Otis, assistant professor

I am pleased as pie to be at the UO, in beautiful Eugene. It's a dream come true to be able to couple a rewarding career in an exciting department with a perfect place to live.

I developed a nascent sociological fascination for the rules of interaction from a young age. I grew up in a blue collar neighborhood in Daly City, California. My first childhood friends were mostly children of immigrants from throughout Asia. We acted like little anthropologists, carefully instructing each other in the social protocols of our respective cultural backgrounds. I marveled at their language skills and relished the fresh, carefully prepared cuisine their parent's so generously shared with me—a nice break from the canned and frozen fare at my house (Sorry mom). My parents worked full time to support their four kids and my grandmother. My mother's challenges navigating the administration of a Teamster-organized trucking company sowed the seeds of interest in gender and labor.

As an undergraduate, I attended UC-Berkeley, where I earned a bachelor's degree

in political science. Upon graduation, I was invited to teach English at Changsha University in Hunan, China. As one of the few Westerners in town, I attracted stares and crowds, but there was an abundance of friendship and goodwill and the teaching stint piqued my permanent interest in the country.

I returned on scholarship to the Beijing Foreign Language Institute to study Mandarin just after the 1989 student movement on Tiananmen Square. I joined a campus populated with students from throughout the world. By day I studied Mandarin, by night I listened to students recount their experiences of the Tiananmen movement. I then pursued a master's degree in East Asian Studies at UC-Santa Barbara, and a Ph.D. at UC-Davis. Trained in comparative ethnography, economic sociology and China studies, I wrote a dissertation on the effects of economic reforms on working-class women, focusing on the service sector, a rapidly growing segment of the Chinese economy that is often overlooked in studies of market transition.

After a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, I joined the sociology faculty at SUNY Stony Brook, where I benefited from the department's global emphasis and the many ethnography workshops and conferences. But I found living on the east coast culturally challenging and the resources for a sino-focused sociologist somewhat scarce. I'm thrilled about joining the sociology department here at the UO. I've enjoyed working with my new colleagues and graduate students over the past year.





FACULTY NEWS

Joan Acker has a new book, coauthored with Sandra Morgen and Jill Weigt, *The Reality of Welfare "Reform": Lessons for New Policy*, to be published in December 2009 by Cornell University Press. Her article on race, gender, and class (or intersectionality) will be published in 2009 by Wiley-Blackwell in a handbook on gender, work, and organization. In addition, an article, "From Glass Ceilings to Inequality Regimes," is forthcoming in the journal *Sociologie du travail*. Joan will receive an honorary doctorate from Hanken School of Economics in Helsinki, Finland, in October 2009.

Michael Bernabé Aguilera

published several articles dealing with social networks and ethnic enclaves. He published an article, "Personal Networks and the Incomes of Men and Women in the United States: Do Personal Networks Provide Higher Returns for Men or Women?" in the journal *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*. He has an article that will be published in *Small Business Economics* titled "Ethnic Enclaves and the Incomes of Self-Employed Latinos." He also published a chapter in the *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society* entitled "Ethnic Enclave Theories." In addition, he gave presentations in sociology at San Diego State University, at the American Sociological Association's 2008 meetings, and the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Yvonne Braun has enjoyed a busy year, including being on maternity leave fall term. She published an article, "'How Can I Stay Silent?':

One Woman's Struggles for Environmental Justice in Lesotho," in the *Journal of International Women's Studies* and she has a coauthored article, "Social Impacts of Large Dam Projects: A Comparison of International Case Studies and Implications for Best Practice," in press at *Journal of Environmental Management*. A third article, "Gender, Development and Sex Work in Lesotho," is forthcoming in *Equal Opportunities International*. She also published a book chapter, "The Promise of Feminist Political Ecology," and has a coedited volume on *Globalization and Women* under review. This year Yvonne received travel and research support from the UO Center for the Study of Women in Society and the CAS Junior Professorship Development Fund, and she co-organized two sessions for the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) meetings in addition to serving on the PSA program committee. She was also invited to participate on a panel on Gender and HIV/AIDS in Africa at the FACE AIDS National Conference at the UO in April. This spring, Yvonne taught a new upper division undergraduate course, Sociology of Africa, in which students completed group research projects that were on public display during the African Student Association's Africa Cultural Night.

Val Burris published two articles this fall: "From Vietnam to Iraq: Continuity and Change in Between-Group Differences in Support for Military Action" in *Social Problems*, and "The Interlock Structure of the Policy-Planning Network and the Right Turn in U.S. State Policy" in *Research in Political Sociology*. He also has a book chapter in press, "Corporations, Capitalists, and Campaign Finance" in Kevin Leicht and Craig Jenkins (eds.) *Handbook of Politics: State and Civil Society in Global Perspective*. In August 2008 he presented a paper, coauthored with Clifford Staples, "The Small World of the Global Corporate Elite," at the International Sociological Association conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Michael Dreiling

hosted a conference on nonviolence at the UO in September 2008. Speakers from across the nation inspired local professionals, students, and activists amid workshops and trainings on nonviolence, social change, conflict resolution, and much more. Some in sociology enjoyed the generous gifts of *Coconut Bliss*, a nonviolent, nondairy desert provided to conference-goers. The conference was supported with community and UO resources, including a \$10,000 grant to Dreiling from the Savage Endowment. Some of his research on environmental organizations, authored with colleagues, was published in *Organization and Environment* and he wrote a foreword for his former student (and graduate of UO sociology) Brian Wolf. A book chapter with another former student, Tony

Silvaggio, was published, "NAFTA and Transnational Contention: A Decade of Alliance and Conflict over Neoliberalism," in Jeffrey Ayres and Laura MacDonald's (eds.) *Contentious Politics in North America*. The University of Oregon gave Dreiling two of its most prestigious awards this year: the Martin Luther King Jr. Award and the Hermann Distinguished Teaching Award.

Jim Elliott

published two articles during the past academic year: "Places as Recovery Machines: Vulnerability and Neighborhood Change after Major Hurricanes" with Jeremy Pais in *Social Forces*, and "Tracking Industrial Land-Use Conversions: A New Approach for Studying Relict Waste and Urban Development" with Scott Frickel in *Organization and Environment*. He and a colleague are currently working together to produce a special issue for the latter journal, which will examine social inequalities that are reshaping post-Katrina New Orleans. In addition to these activities, Jim and Scott Frickel received a two-year research grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate toxic legacies from past manufacturing sites that are becoming hidden from view by contemporary urban restructuring. Jim also taught his first course on the sociology of disaster at Clark Honors College. Highlights included a field trip to the Emergency Operations Center and a guest presentation by William Sullivan (Oregon hiking guru and UO alum) on Oregon's "greatest natural disasters."

John Bellamy Foster has completed three books in 2008–9: *Critique of Intelligent Design: Materialism versus Creationism from Antiquity to the Present* (2008, coauthored with Brett Clark and Richard York); *The Great Financial Crisis* (2009, coauthored with Fred Magdoff); and *Ecological Revolution: Making Peace with the Planet* (2009). His 2006 book, *Naked Imperialism: The U.S. Pursuit of Global Dominance*, was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award. He was a recipient of the Research Innovation Award from the University of Oregon in 2008. Since the beginning of 2008 he has published two refereed articles, twelve other major articles, and two forewords to books by other authors. Over the last year he has given (or will soon be giving) talks in Australia, Britain, Sweden, China, and Canada, as well as in various locations in the United States. He will be delivering the opening keynote address at the Political Economy of the World System Conference (preceding the ASA Conference) in San Francisco in August. In December he is scheduled to speak in Vietnam. His recent work has been translated into nineteen languages. He continues to edit *Monthly Review* and is working with numerous UO graduate students.

Marion Goldman has an article, "Averting Apocalypse," scheduled for publication this fall in *Sociology of Religion*. She has a forthcoming chapter, "Social Class, Cultural Capital, and Collective Violence," in an edited collection, *Sects and Violence*, published by Oxford University Press. Another article, "Osho and

His Sannyasins," is scheduled for publication in *Religions of the World*. This winter, Marion participated in an interdisciplinary research project, *Ecotopia Revisited*, funded by the Templeton Foundation. She will present a paper, "Collective Religious Violence," at the meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, and another research paper, "Other Voices, Other Listeners: How Feminist Methodologies Changed the Sociology of Religion," at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Patricia A. Gwartney

presented a paper at the Seventh International Conference on Social Science Methodology in Naples, Italy, in September, organized by the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Logic and Methodology (her people!). She spent much of the summer organizing data files and documentation for roughly 200 surveys conducted by the now-defunct Oregon Survey Research Laboratory, now archived in Knight Library's Scholar's Bank. She spent the fall learning her new department head duties.

Jocelyn Hollander

is finishing her first year as graduate program director for the department. She is enjoying working closely with graduate students during orientation, the proseminar (the department's introductory seminar for new graduate students), and various workshops throughout the year. She is also continuing her research on the effectiveness of women's self-defense training. She had an article





FACULTY NEWS

published this year in *Violence Against Women*, "The Roots of Resistance to Women's Self-Defense," and has another forthcoming, "Why Do Women Take Self-Defense Classes?" She is working on a new project with graduate student Katie Rodgers, analyzing newspaper coverage of women's resistance to violence. They presented preliminary results from this paper at the Pacific Sociological Association conference in April. Jocelyn was recently awarded a research grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society for further research on women's self-defense training. She is also at work on the second edition of her book (with Judith Howard and Daniel Renfrow), *Gendered Situations, Gendered Selves: A Gender Lens on Social Psychology*.

Kenneth Liberman



has commenced a new project of research—how professional coffee tasters turn subjective sensory experience into objective, Durkheimian facts. The work of tasters serves as a catalyst for many vital ethnomethodological inquiries. He has taped tasters in Trieste, Brescia, Trento (Italy), Panama, and Eugene, and he will do more taping in Geneva in late June. Two articles ("From Phenomenology to Ethnomethodology" and "The Alterity of the Natural Environment") and one book (*Dialectical Practice in Tibetan Philosophical Culture*) have been translated into, respectively, Portuguese, Italian, and Chinese. A summary of the use of the notion "intersubjectivity" in sociology has appeared in the first issue of *Schutzian Research* (Zeta Books). This year, other articles have appeared in publications by Springer,

Routledge, and Harvard University Press. Also published in January was his long-awaited *Yoga for Surfers*.

Greg McLaughlin continues to work in the areas of urban, environmental, and social movements sociology. Since 2004 he has served as an adviser to Eugene mayor Kitty Piercy, and has coauthored with Mayor Piercy 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 the *National Geographic* Green Guide website named Eugene the number one green city in the United States, recognizing 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. Greg is a frequent speaker and consultant to local and state elected officials and nonprofit organizations on urban sustainability issues, and received the Eugene mayor's community service award in 2008 for cochairing a city committee and conducting a major policy study on revitalizing Eugene's downtown core.

Robert O'Brien



began a phased retirement this year. He taught two courses—the graduate methods seminar in the fall and the required undergraduate quantitative methods course in the winter—and will continue to teach twice a year for the next four years. The passion

for teaching is still there. On a professional level, he served as vice president of the Pacific Sociological Association and is currently chairing their Committee on Committees. O'Brien also serves on the American Sociological Association's Dissertation Awards Committee. He has four journal publications scheduled for this year: "Can Cohort Replacement Explain Changes in the Relationship between Age and Homicide?" (*Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, coauthored with Jean Stockard); "Schooling, Marriage Delay, and Nonmarital Fertility: An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis of Adult Women" (*Social Forces*, coauthored with Jean Stockard, Joanna Grey, and Joe Stone); "The Robustness of Cohort Effects in Age-Period Tables" (*Social Forces*, coauthored with Jean Stockard, Joanna Grey, and Joe Stone); "Still Separate and Unequal? A City-Level Analysis of the Black-White Gap in Homicide Arrests since 1960" (*American Sociological Review*, coauthored with Gary LaFree and Eric Baumer). In addition to these traditional duties, he had the pleasure of serving as chair or cochair of three dissertations and as a committee member on half a dozen others dissertations (outside and inside the department). All this and time enough to enjoy Utah in the spring; it is indeed a good life.

Eileen Otis



has published two articles: "The Dignity of Working Women: Virtuous Professionalism and the Labor Politics of Localization in China's City of Eternal Spring" in *American Behavioral Scientist* and "The Two Faces of Luxury: Gender and Generational Inequality in a Beijing Luxury Service Workplace" in *Creating Wealth and Poverty*

in *Post-Socialist China*, edited by Deborah Davis and Wang Feng and published by Stanford University Press. She also published a review essay, "Socialist Market Inequality," in *Contemporary Sociology*. She has just submitted an essay entitled "Cultures of Service: From Emotion Work to Culture Work" to the editors of *The Handbook of Cultural Sociology*, which will be published by Routledge within the next year. Eileen has submitted for review a book manuscript based on her work on global service in China. She also traveled to China in October to continue research on her project examining the organization of labor in China's global mega-retail stores. She completed an article based on this research and submitted it to be included as a book chapter in a volume about the organization and politics of mega-retail stores in China, edited by Anita Chan.

Aliya Saperstein



coauthored a paper, "How Social Status Shapes Race," published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in December 2008. The article demonstrates that how Americans identify themselves by race and how others perceive them racially is influenced by their social position. So, for example, people who went to prison or lost their jobs were more likely to subsequently be seen as and identify as black than otherwise similar people who did not experience those events. The research received national media coverage in *USA Today*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and on KCBS-FM in San Francisco, among other outlets. It was also covered internationally by the Dutch national science website Kennislink as well as media outlets

in the U.K., Germany, and Brazil. Saperstein recently received a Junior Professorship Development Award from the UO to continue this work, and she has another article, "Different Measures, Different Mechanisms: A New Perspective on Racial Disparities in Health Care," forthcoming in volume 27 of *Research in the Sociology of Health Care*.

Ellen Scott



received a \$100,000 grant to evaluate the impact of a substantial change in child-care subsidy policy in Oregon. She is working with graduate students Ann Leymon and Katie Rodgers to conduct in-depth interviews with subsidy recipients. Scott and co-principal investigators at Oregon State will design and field a survey instrument to further examine child-care subsidy policy impacts. She is further involved with child-care research through her work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services working group on child-care decision-making and as a member of the advisory board for the Urban Institute project on child-care choices. Other research includes in-depth interviews with families caring for children with disabilities, which will be the focus of her sabbatical work next year, and a collaborative project with UO graduate students and faculty members on time use in academia. Scott recently participated in the University of Oregon conference, Racial Formation in the Twenty-first Century; organized a panel for the Carework Conference, to be held in August 2009; and, with colleagues Andrew London and Colleen Hefline, she will present a paper on material hardship among former welfare recipients at the American Sociological Association meetings in

August. Scott continues to head the women's and gender studies, newly departmentalized, and she is looking forward to sabbatical next year.

Richard York



while on sabbatical in the 2008–9 academic year, pursued a variety of research projects. He published his first book (with John Bellamy Foster and Brett Clark), *The Critique of Intelligent Design: Materialism vs. Creationism from Antiquity to the Present*, with Monthly Review Press. He has also published a variety of other works, including articles in *Conservation Biology*, *Human Ecology Review*, *Monthly Review*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Rural Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Research*, *Sociological Theory*, and *The Sociological Quarterly*. He continues to serve as coeditor of the peer-reviewed journal *Organization and Environment*, published by Sage, and as the environmental sociology topic editor for the *Encyclopedia of Earth* (www.eoearth.org). In 2008 he was guest coeditor of two special issues of *Monthly Review* focused on ecology and society. He was recently elected to serve as the chair of the Policy and Research Committee of the environment and technology section of the American Sociological Association. He continues to serve on the board of directors of the Siskiyou Project, a nonprofit organization working to protect the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion in southwest Oregon. He gave invited presentations in Victoria, Canada, and Lund, Sweden, and participated in the National Science Foundation workshop on sociological perspectives on global climate change in Washington, D.C.





GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Shannon Bell wrapped up her dissertation field research in southern West Virginia in May. She used the activist research methodology of "photovoice," with forty women living in five coal-mining communities examining challenges to grass-roots mobilization in the environmental justice movement of the Appalachian coalfields. Shannon recently received a Spivack Community Action Research Award from the American Sociological Association (ASA) to fund the printing of books of her research participants' coal-related photo-stories to reveal the consequences of mountaintop removal mining and coal waste contamination on southern West Virginia communities. These photovoice books will be used by the grass-roots coalition Sludge Safety Project and other West Virginia-based environmental justice groups for legislative lobbying on the state and national levels. Shannon has been awarded a UO Doctoral Fellowship for 2009–10 and a student research grant from the Center for the Study of Woman in Society.

Matthew Clement had an article accepted by *Rural Sociology*, "A Basic Accounting of Variation in Municipal Solid Waste Generation at the County Level in Texas, 2006: Groundwork for Applying Metabolic Rift Theory to Waste Generation." It will appear in a forthcoming issue.

Matthew Eddy was awarded a scholarship sponsored by the Woodenfish Project to study Buddhism at Fo Guang Shan Monastery in Taiwan. At the 2008 annual conference of the Social Scientific Study of Religion, Matthew presented original research on seventy juvenile offenders: "Tracking the Role of Religion among Juvenile Delinquents in the Pacific Northwest."

Hannah Holleman has had a busy year doing research, writing, and working on collaborative projects. This fall she completed her final term of service as coeditor of *From the Left*, newsletter of the Section on Marxist Sociology of the ASA. She also co-coordinated (with Emilio

Hernandez Jr.) and will continue to help with the Social Justice Leadership Institute for UO students, and the Oregon Young Scholars Program (OYSP), founded by Carla Gary, a pipeline initiative founded for underrepresented high school students in Oregon. With the help of Tung-yi Kho, environmental sociology was introduced as a new program for OYSP last summer. Hannah organized the Martin Luther King Jr. Awards committee and ceremony, and learned a lot about the great work people are doing on the UO campus. In other venues, she continued work with Naomi Klein until winter and continues research with Professor Robert McChesney (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) through grant support. She was invited to present a workshop at the 2009 Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán nationals, held in Eugene, Oregon, dealing with both the need for young activists to study political economy and how activists have struggled in times of crisis. Hannah coauthored "The U.S. Imperial Triangle and Military Spending," with John Bellamy Foster and Robert W. McChesney, and "The Sales Effort and Monopoly Capital," with Robert W. McChesney, John Bellamy Foster, and Inger L. Stole, in *Monthly Review*. She has a forthcoming article for the same magazine, "Police State Spending in an Age of Crisis," with Robert W. McChesney, John Bellamy Foster, and R. Jamil Jonna.

Elizabeth Rienzi, with Mia Tuan and Jiannbin Lee Shiao, has a chapter in press, "International Transracial Adoption" for the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Asian American Issues*. In addition, she had a paper accepted at this year's annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association.

Incoming Faculty

Jill Harrison and **Ryan Light** will join the Department of Sociology in the fall of 2009. Both are in the final stages of completing their Ph.D. degrees at Ohio State University. Harrison is an ethnographer whose research examines how globalization affects work and organizations in the U.S., now focusing on the declining Louisiana shrimp industry. Light's research uses network analysis to examine patterns of power, inequality, and resistance in the everyday lives of American slaves, as revealed in their own words in over 600 historical narratives. It is rare for an academic department to have the good fortune of finding a married couple emerge independently among the top handful of job candidates out of about 270 applicants. Their distinct specialties will add strength and scope to our offerings to students.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

News from Eleen Baumann, Ph.D., Undergraduate Adviser

Sociology is a fundamental part of the College of Arts and Sciences. More than 6,000 students from throughout the university have enrolled in sixty-five undergraduate courses offered by the department. Sociology offers valuable preparation for careers in fields involving investigative skills and working with diverse groups, such as journalism, politics, public relations, business, and public administration. From our varied course offerings, students could choose to study global issues (globalization, Mexican migration, environmentalism) or national issues (labor movements, prisons, drugs, education, health care). Courses such as World Population and Social Structure provide students with a macro-level perspective, while courses such as Introduction to Social Psychology or Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis allow students to explore social life at a more basic level of interaction.

Of our 220-plus graduates, many have completed additional majors and minors to complement their work in sociology. Sociology has been combined with business administration, psychology, natural science, math, Spanish, women and gender studies, ethnic studies, environmental studies, and substance abuse prevention.



Many students participate in volunteer internships to contribute to the community and to develop skills for their career. Internship placements included local schools, social science research organizations, law enforcement agencies, protective services for the elderly, community development in Argentina, and child development work in Germany.

Students often ask me, "What can I do with a degree in sociology?" They are often surprised to discover that our majors travel along diverse paths after graduation. We have graduates who will work in law enforcement, business, health care (nursing, health-care administration, natural medicine), education (K–12 teaching in social sciences and

is somewhat unclear, but they are entering their search with optimism and determination even in the face of economic challenges. [Go to asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/careers_and_jobs/sociology_a_world_of_opportunities](http://asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/careers_and_jobs/sociology_a_world_of_opportunities).

It has been my pleasure to work with many of our graduating seniors as adviser and instructor. I have watched them grow in knowledge and experience. The faculty and staff members of the department offer congratulations to the Class of 2009 and wish them success in their future endeavors. We hope our graduates will keep in touch and update us on their activities. Remember, future generations of majors will continue to ask that question: What can I do with a sociology major? Drop us a line at sociology@uoregon.edu and let us know what you did with it.





UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
1291 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1291

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Undergraduate Academic Accomplishments 2009

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates Forty-three

Alpha Kappa Delta, the national sociology honors society formed in 1920, celebrated more than eight decades of University of Oregon participation by inducting forty-three new members during a recent ceremony. Patricia Gwartney spoke on the history of the society and the UO Department of Sociology's participation with it, followed by John Foster, who discussed the current economic crisis as well as sociology's response to it and to previous economic crises. After the ceremony, initiates and their families enjoyed refreshments and the congratulations of their family, friends, and faculty and staff members.

This year's initiates: Emily Ann Adams, Brittany A. Bertrand, Nathaniel William Costa, Lyndsey Leigh Crandall, Bethany Anne Denny, Cassie Diamond, Allyson Lynn Falconer, Lars Mikael Fineman, Andrew Douglas Finley, Max Louis Forer, Whitney Fujii-Doe, Jessica Jermaine George, Colette Gillies, Zachary Wayne Hicks, Emily Kathleen Higgins, Margarete Anne Jaeger, Zachary Robertson Jensen, Molly Jane Kitchel, Kelsey Lynn Kotsovos, Ruby Flame LaGuardia, Yusuke Makino, Joanna Marie May, Elisabeth Michelle McBee, Kelley Anne McNutt, Michael Anthony Michel, Ellis Martin Montague, Jacquelyn Helena Mroz, Madeleine Michelle Nava, Geoffrey Franklin Palachuk, Nickalus J. Pettet, Andrea Noelle Powell, Dawn Coleen Preble, Robin Kathleen Reader, Alicia Claire Reinhart, Shereen Rosemary Rodrigues, Natalie Ann Rombach, Hannah Rebekah Salerno, Brandy Marie Shaver, Evan Connor Thomas, Amy Elizabeth Vandenburg, Hilary Carol Wells, Lisa Marie Wheeler, and Rindi Jolene Zavodsky.

Phi Beta Kappa

The following sociology students were inducted into PBK this year:

- Kerry Elyse Davis
- Jazz McGinnis
- Ellis Martin Montague
- Melody Ann Ross



Latin Honors

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

- Molly Jane Kitchel, *summa cum laude*
- Susan Diane Burton, Kerry Elyse Davis, and Ellis Martin Montague, *magna cum laude*
- Jessica Jermaine George and Amber Rene Lippel, *cum laude*

Diana May Woodruff Scholarship

2007–8 Nathaline Frener

2008–9 Kacie J. O'Shannon

