

# ***SOCIOLOGY NEWS***

**Department of Sociology  
University at Albany  
State University of New York**

Summer 2007 Volume 5, Issue 1

## **From the Chair**



**Don Hernandez, Chair**

It is a pleasure to report near the end of my first year as Chair that the past year has been very good for the department. Faculty and students earned many honors and awards, recruitment efforts were extensive and successful, and the large turn-over in the office brought new staff who superbly manage the day-to-day activities of the Department.

I am happy to congratulate the following faculty award recipients, Ryan King (2006 Law and Society Association Best Article Award), Karyn Loscocco (Deans' Teaching Award), Steven Messner (named 2007 Collins Fellow), David Wagner (University's 2006-2007 Excellence in Academic Service Award). Steven Messner was also elected Vice President of the American Society of Criminology for the 2007-2008 term, and was selected for a three-year term

as a Deputy Editor for the *American Sociological Review*. Angie Chung was honored by being elected to a three-year term as Secretary-Treasurer of the International Migration Section of the ASA.

Dr. Gil Eyal's presentation of the Department's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Theodore G. Standing Lecture was a success, and the occasion also provided the opportunity to congratulate Joshua Grove (2007 Paul Meadows Excellence in Teaching Award), Shannon Monnat (2007 Paul Meadows Excellence in Research Award), and Daniel Santore (2007 Allen E. Liska Dissertation Award). Additional graduate students who earned important awards were Lindsay Hixson, Erica Hunter, Shannon Monnat, Hideki Mooroka, Daniel Santore (Dissertation Fellowship Awards for 2006-2007 from the Office of Graduate Studies), Jannette Swanson (University's Award for Excellence in Teaching), Enobong Hannah Branch (University's 2007 Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award for the best dissertation in any field in the College), and Karen Tejada (Christine E. Bose and Edna Acosta-Belen IFW Feminist Research Award, through the University's *Initiatives for Women*). Minjeong Kim was one of only seven graduate students nationwide to be selected as a 2007 Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellow in Women's Studies.

The Department devoted much energy to faculty recruitment, and I am delighted that we will be welcoming three new faculty in the fall. Elizabeth Popp Berman comes to us from the University of California, Berkeley, with interests that include Org-

anizations, Work & Professions, Economic Sociology, and Science and Technology Studies. Kate Strully earned her Ph.D. from New York University and joins us after serving for three years as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Post-Doctoral Fellow at Harvard University. She brings interests including Health, Family, Social Policy, and Social Stratification. Sapna Swaroop has a doctorate from the University of Michigan, and served the past three years at the University of Chicago as a National Institute for Child Health and Human Development & National Institute on Aging Postdoctoral fellow. Her interests include Urban and Community Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, and Immigration.

We also will be welcoming a comparatively large class of 17 new, and very well qualified, graduate students. Following on our recent “self-study”, we received this year an External Reviewers Report. We were very happy that the report led with the following overall evaluation. “The department... is on a clear trajectory to excellence, enjoys a solid reputation nationally, provides sound undergraduate and graduate training, functions well organizationally, and shares an enviable collegial atmosphere and camaraderie. It is especially impressive that the department is achieving this in an environment of limited resources.” Drawing on valuable advice offered in the report, and with the strong support of our graduate students, the Department has decided on a major new initiative, a graduate course to enhance the effectiveness of graduate students for their future role as teachers. This course will cover the nuts and bolts of teaching, such as constructing syllabi, managing large classes, writing exam questions, and grading policies, as well as more general theoretical/research material on learning styles, classroom dynamics, and philosophies of teaching.

Turning to other colleagues, we were happy for Christine Pearce in her decision to retire, but sorry to lose her as Assistant to

the Chair, along with two other office staff. These changes did, however, provide the opportunity to bring three effective and wonderful new staff to the Department. Judy Adamchick and Patricia Cavanaugh have picked up many activities quickly and successfully to assure that undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, have the information and resources they need to negotiate the bureaucratic maze and devote their attention mainly to scholarly activities. Stacey Zyskowski, our new Assistant to the Chair, has become a master of the Departmental budgets and of the many complexities involved in assuring that courses, instructors, rooms, and paychecks come together in a fashion that keeps both teachers and students happy and productive. Meanwhile, as the only “long-timer” among the staff, Cathy Rose not only continued to perform innumerable essential tasks with great élan, she also served as an essential “trainer”, resource, and institutional memory for Judy, Patricia, and Stacey, and for myself, as we worked to figure out how to do our new jobs.

I also want to thank Karyn Loscocco for her admirable efforts as Chair of the Teaching Committee, to Dick Hall, Glenna Spitze, and Russ Ward for effectively sharing the role of Director of Undergraduate Studies at various times throughout the year, to Ron Jacobs for his excellent leadership as Director of Graduate Studies, and to the members of the Recruitment Committee, especially Scott South (Chair), for their enormous efforts in guiding the Department successfully through the recruitment of three new faculty members. On a final, personal note, I want to express my deep appreciation to the Department’s three immediate past-Chairs, Steven Messner, Glenna Spitze, and Russ Ward, for their tireless efforts to helping me through my first year as Chair.

**Don Hernandez**  
Chair

## From the Graduate Director



**Ron Jacobs, Graduate Director**

As I near the end of my second year as Director of Graduate Studies, I have developed a deep appreciation for the exceptional quality of our Sociology Department. We have had a very good year with the graduate program, and I am happy to be able to review some of our achievements. First, we continue our production of excellent new doctorates. In the last year Polly Smith, Lori Sykes, Michael Ostrowsky, Marcia Hernandez and Anna Alexander completed their dissertations, and have moved into their professional lives doing research in academe and beyond. We congratulate them on their achievements.

Our graduate students continue to win awards. Anna Branch's dissertation, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Black Women, A Century in the Bottom Class, 1860-1960" was the recipient of the University at Albany's 2007 Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award. This is the third time in the last four years that one of our graduate students has won the university's dissertation prize. Janette Swanson won the University at Albany's 2006-2007 Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dan Santore is the recipient of our department's 2006 Allen E. Liska Award for Dissertation Research. Dan's dissertation will explore the different meanings of intimacy, in a social environment marked by

heightened levels of individualism, a relatively narcissistic culture of self-development, and new gender norms about the domestic division of labor and other household tasks. I would also like to congratulate this year's winners of our department's Paul Meadows Award for Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research. Joshua Grove was the winner of the teaching award, while Shannon Monnat won the award for excellence in research. We had many excellent candidates for both awards, and the awards committee (Ron Jacobs, Richard Lachmann, and Steve Messner) had a difficult time making their final decisions. Minjeong Kim won a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies. And Lindsay Hixson, Hideki Mooroka, and Dan Santore won Dissertation Research Fellowship Awards from the University at Albany. All in all, it was a very rewarding year for our graduate students.

As in past years, our graduate students were active participants in national and regional conferences, demonstrating that graduate training in sociology at the University at Albany continues at the highest level. Also continuing a long-standing tradition, our department remains a place of active student-faculty collaborations. I invite readers to view a list of recent and forthcoming publications that have resulted from this collaborative environment, which can be found on the collaborations page of our departmental website:

<http://www.albany.edu/sociology/socweb/Kudos/studentpublications.htm>

We continue to recruit excellent graduate students into our program. The graduate committee's admissions decisions seem to get more difficult each year, as the average quality of our applicants continues to rise. Furthermore, once we make our admissions decisions our work is only beginning, as we are competing with many of the nation's top programs for the same students. I want to thank all the faculty and graduate students who took time to meet with prospective students. In the end, we had a very

successful admissions season. As the fall semester begins, we will welcome an outstanding class of seventeen new graduate students into our program. These students come from every region of the country, as well as from China, Korea, Taiwan, and Colombia. Bringing a variety of research interests, our new graduate cohort follows our equally outstanding 2006-2007 graduate class, short biographical sketches of whom are included in this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to Emily Margulies (Students of Sociology President) and S.O.S. members for their many contributions to the intellectual and social vitality of our department. I also want to thank Don Hernandez for his sage advice as department chair. Needless to say, the Graduate Program would have ground to a halt if not for the support of Cathy Rose and Stacey Zyskowski; it would probably be impossible to overstate the depth of my gratitude to both of them. Thanks also to College of Arts and Sciences Dean Joan Wick-Pelletier and Assistant Dean Dona Parker, as well as to Dean of Graduate Studies Marjorie Pryse, whose commitment to our graduate program makes it possible for us to build upon the national reputation of our sociology department. Finally, I welcome our new faculty members, Elizabeth Popp-Berman, Sapna Swaroop, and Kate Strully, and thank them in advance for the many contributions they are certain to make to our graduate program.

**Ron Jacobs**

Director of Graduate Studies

## **Students of Sociology (SOS)**

SOS had a very busy and successful 2006-2007 academic year. Throughout the year we hosted a series of Brown Bag Lunches on topics such as beginning your dissertation, nonacademic careers, census data, qualitative computer analysis programs and preparing a teaching portfolio. We hosted two panel discussions meant to aid graduate students in their teaching endeavors, the first was co-sponsored by the teaching committee and focused on teaching in a large lecture setting and the second was co-sponsored by the MCAA and was a presentation on teaching to a multicultural audience. We hosted our first graduate student research symposium which gave graduate students a chance to hear about others' work as a chance to practice presenting for professional meetings and conferences. We plan to make the symposium an annual event. Finally, through an effective relationship with faculty graduate students were able to aid in the growth and betterment of the department by being involved in the discussions that took place around the departmental review.

A special thanks goes out to the SOS executive board, China Layne Vice President, Patti Lenihan Secretary, Matt Vogel Treasurer, Tim Vatovec GSO Representative and Laura Milanes Brown Bag Lunch Chairperson. We all look forward to helping the next executive board have a fruitful 2007-2008 academic year. Thank you to all of the graduate students who got involved this year and took advantage of all that SOS has to offer!!

**Emily Margulies**

SOS President

## Undergraduate Corner



**Glenna Spitze, Co-Director,  
Undergraduate Studies**

The undergraduate Sociology program at the University at Albany is thriving, and continues to provide a quality educational experience for its students. It is among the most popular majors on campus, with a current enrollment of over 600 majors, as well as a large number of minors. We also provide space for students who use Sociology courses to meet General Education requirements or for core requirements in their major.

Our departmental graduation ceremony this spring was a very meaningful occasion in the Campus Center ballroom, with around 140 graduating seniors, their families and friends, and the faculty who always enjoy meeting their students' families. We honored our major with the highest grade point average, Christian Yost, as well as the student receiving the Undergraduate Paper Award. This year's award went to Kyle Arnone for his paper "Deal or No Deal: Power, Perception, and Information Gathering in Collective Bargaining," which is based on his honors thesis. Our keynote speaker for the ceremony was Dr. Hayward Horton.

We continue to provide special opportunities for our undergraduate majors and minors. Students who meet minimum GPA requirements are eligible for our Undergraduate Honors Program. This

involves participation in a Research Proposal Seminar in the fall of their senior year, during which they develop a proposal for research to be completed in the spring semester as a Senior Honors Thesis. Students have investigated a variety of topics in creative ways, and find this a useful experience in preparation for graduate school or other paths. Professor Wagner, the program's Director, is looking for ways to enhance this experience and to link it more thoroughly to the University's new Honors College, which focuses on the first two years of their experience here at Albany.

Other opportunities include the Undergraduate Internship program, which has grown during the past few years so that about 25 students per year now participate. Placements are in social service, criminal justice, health-related, education, legal and other organization types in the Capital Region. One of the most popular placements is in the Albany County District Attorney's Office of Community Prosecution where interns work with non-violent criminals who receive alternative sentences to incarceration.

Some undergraduate majors are involved in faculty research through enrollment in independent study with individual faculty, and Professor Wagner is introducing a new course sequence to make this experience available to a larger number of students. His Research Practicum in Experimental Methods will allow students to gain practical experience in the use of experimental methods to test sociological principles while helping Professor Wagner perform one of his own studies. The students will also work as a group to develop and test experimentally an idea of their own under Professor Wagner's guidance. The goal is to create a publishable report with the students in the practicum included as co-authors with Professor Wagner. Students also have an opportunity to be involved in research and community service through Professor Hayward Horton's project, Capitalize on Community.

**Glenna Spitze**  
Co-Director, Undergraduate Studies

## From the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis



**Richard Alba, Director CSDA**

Whew! At my age, I ought to want time to slow down, but this was a year that I thought would never end. The process of renewing our center grant (or, as it is now technically known, our “population-research infrastructure award” or, for the true cognoscenti, an R24 grant) began last summer, and as I write this letter in mid-June, it is almost at an end.

Experiencing the process myself has left me with a lot more respect for my predecessors—Stew Tolnay, Scott South and John Logan. Writing the proposal is a bit like writing a short book (but in a very compressed period of time). Luckily, I got a lot of help along the way—from Chip Ensel, Linda Lawrence, Nancy Denton, Glenn Deane and Tim Gage. But like any sociological monograph, what you write in such a proposal depends on the data—in this case, the grants that Associates have garnered, the topics on which they are doing research, and the publications they list. In other words, the proposal does not just come from me and the small circle in the Administrative Core and the Executive Committee involved in writing it, but it depends on the wider intellectual community of Associates that constitutes the Center, many of whom are now outside of sociology.

Happily, the Associates are a productive group, especially in the all-important department of externally funded grants. Their success allowed us to document that our funding base had risen substantially, to nearly \$11 million (in direct and indirect expenditures) per year. Given the departures of John, Jim Jaccard and Terry Thornberry, all in the summer of 2004, that increase was almost a surprise, one that bolstered our confidence—but only briefly.

What was hard for me to imagine beforehand was the psychological roller-coaster ride of the entire process. We all got a lift from the submission of the finished proposal in mid-December, for we believed that we had put together a strong application. But in waiting four months until the review committee met in April, there was ample opportunity for doubts to creep in and gnaw away at our confidence—and they did. At each stage of the process—after the review committee met, for example—we would gain a little information, but not enough to be sure of the outcome; and the doubts would rise again. Finally, in mid-June, after the NICHD Council had met, the phone call came, and the word was definitive: we would be funded for five years.

That feels so good, let me say it again: we’re funded for five years! Really, that success—the first time CSDA has gotten infrastructure funding on the first try—is testimony to the vitality and growing maturity of our researcher community. It also reflects the strong support we have received from the University administration and, in particular, from the Vice President for Research, Lynn Videka.

The center-grant funding will enable CSDA to maintain its core operations in proposal development, grant management and computer and data-analysis support that many colleagues find critical for their research. We even are expanding a bit in the domain of our public infrastructure, for we hired this year a web programmer, Kadriye Vargun, to help us develop more project websites and thereby to bring increased

attention to the research our Associates are doing.

The long-run future of the Center is going to depend on the productivity of the junior faculty who are now getting started on their research careers, and we recognize that we have to invest in them and help them to get the resources they need to establish themselves as productive scholars. One small step we are taking is the creation of a secure network that will allow junior faculty such as Kecia Johnson and Joanne Kaufman to analyze the restricted version of the ADHEALTH data from their offices instead of the Center's cold room.

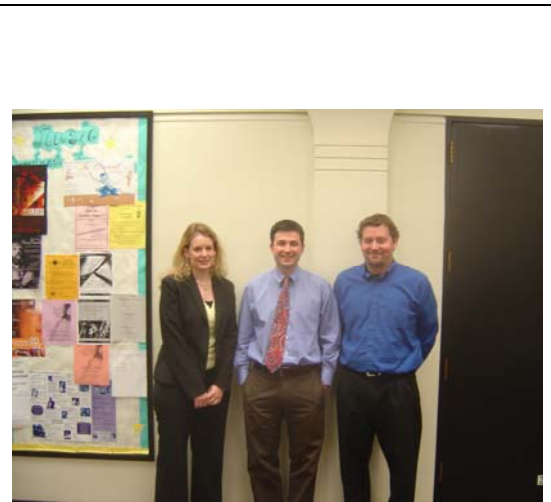
From this perspective, I am especially cheered by the hiring that took place this year in Sociology as well as Anthropology and Economics. In our department, we hired two very talented assistant professors—Kate Strully and Sapna Swaroop—who will make significant contributions to CSDA programs in the not-too-distant future. Their backgrounds are described elsewhere in the newsletter, but let me just note here that Kate, a medical sociologist, was hired on a CSDA-affiliated line given to us through the University's compact planning process in 2005-06 and Sapna, an urban sociologist with interests in segregation, represents a new generation in an area of traditional strength at Albany.

So, as I begin my fourth (and final) year as CSDA Director, I feel considerable satisfaction at the progress we have made during the past three years and considerable optimism about the future. And I am sure glad that this year is coming to an end!

**Richard Alba**  
Director, CSDA

## **The Standing Lecture on the Human Community**

The Sociology Department's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Theodore G. Standing Lecture on the Human Community was presented by Gil Eyal of Columbia University on April 27, 2007 in the Recital Hall of the Performing Arts Center. The lecture, "The Disenchantment of the Orient: Expertise in Arab Affairs and the Israeli State," was followed by a reception in the Futterer Lounge.



**The department's 2006 Excellence Awards were presented at the annual Theodore G. Standing Lecture. From the left are Shannon Monnat, winner of the Paul Meadows Excellence in Research Award; Dan Santore, winner of the Allen E. Liska Dissertation Award; and Joshua Grove, winner of the Paul Meadows Excellence in Teaching Award.**

## Recognition Ceremony May 2007



**May 2007 Recognition Ceremony**

On Saturday May 19, 2007 the Sociology Department held its annual Recognition Ceremony for spring and summer degree candidates graduating with a major in Sociology. Each student was individually recognized and received a certificate of achievement. This year's ceremony was held in the Campus Center Ball Room. After welcoming remarks by Professor Don Hernandez, the Department Chair, Kyle Arnone, a graduating senior, gave the student address. Professor Hayward Derrick Horton gave the keynote address. Professor David Wagner presented the departmental awards. Christian Yost received the department's Graduating Senior with the Highest GPA award and Kyle Arnone received the department's Best Sociology Research Paper Award. The ceremony was followed by a reception for students, faculty, family, and friends.



**Kyle Arnone, graduating senior with Honors in Sociology and winner of the department's Best Sociology Research Paper Award, will begin the Ph.D. program in Sociology at UCLA this Fall.**

## Congratulations to Our Recent Ph.D. Recipients

### **Enobong (Anna) Hannah Branch**

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Black Women, A Century in the Bottom Class, 1860 – 1960” (Spring 2007)

**Marcia Hernandez** “The Challenges and Rewards of Sisterhood: An Exploration of Women's Experiences in Black Sororities” (Spring 2007)

**Michael Ostrowsky** “Extending Khantzian's Self Medication Hypotheses: An Examination of Low Self Esteem, Depression, Alcohol Use, Marijuana Use and Violent Behavior” (Fall 2006)

## Entering Graduate Students Fall 2006

**Nicole Lamarre** received an undergraduate degree from Wells College, in Aurora, New York, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Spanish. Nicole is pursuing research interests in gender and sexualities while at Albany.

**Jeff Napierala** graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2005 with a B.A. in European Studies, German, International Studies and Sociology with a minor in Mathematics/Statistics. Recently, Jeff has worked on research projects concerning the social networks and self-esteem of homeless runaway adolescents. Jeff is primarily interested in quantitative methodology, demography, urban studies and economic sociology.

**Chris Galvan** grew up in Eagle Lake, Texas, and received a BA in Sociology from Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. Chris's areas of interest include urban sociology, race and ethnicity, and immigration.

**Rachel Caster** is from northern NY and received a BA from SUNY Potsdam with majors in Politics and Sociology and a minor in Psychology. As an undergraduate Rachel was very active in many groups including several honor societies, the AIDS Education Group, and Residence Life. Rachel won the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in 2006. Rachel is interested in race/ethnicity, politics, globalization issues, and poverty/inequality.

**Takeshi Endo** is from Japan and earned a bachelor's degree in Japan Studies from International Christian University, Tokyo. Takeshi's areas of interests are sociology of organizations, work and occupations, and social stratification.

**Michael Barton** comes to UAlbany from Northern Illinois University. Michael received a Bachelors degree in Sociology and Political Science and Masters degree in Sociology. Michael's M.A. thesis project studied changes in rural communities between 1972 and 2002, focusing on changes to social cohesion and social control. Currently, Michael is developing a research agenda studying college campus communities, with a focus on campus crime.

**Brian McKernan** is originally from Southington, CT and attended Saint Anselm College, a small liberal arts school located just outside Manchester, NH. After receiving a BA in Criminal Justice, Brian entered the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Fordham University and received a MA in Sociology in the Spring of 2006. Brian's current research interests include theory and cultural studies, specifically mass media and popular culture.

**Yan Xu** received a BA from the Law School of Nankai University with a minor in Insurance and Risk Management. Yan's primary areas of interest lie in deviance, crime and social demography.

**Gretchen "Molly" Barrett** graduated with honors from Villanova University in May 2005 with a major in Sociology, a concentration in Criminal Justice and minors in Psychology and Political Science. Before coming to Albany, Molly spent a year working in the United States Senate as a legislative correspondent. Molly's research interests include crime and deviance and gender studies.

**Cassandra Carter** earned her B.A. from UAlbany and was awarded a M.A. in Fall 2006. Cassandra's current research interests are race/ethnicity(inequality), families, and the black church.

**Suzanne Pennington** received a M.A. in Sociology from Ohio University (2006) in Athens, Ohio. Suzanne completed a B.A. in Sociology and Women's Studies at Miami University (2002). Suzanne's main academic interests include sexuality and gender studies.

**Jeremy Pais** is a transfer student from Tulane University. Jeremy earned a M.A. in sociology at Tulane. Jeremy's broad areas of interest include urban sociology, race and ethnic stratification, and spatial demography. Jeremy is currently researching the effect of changing labor markets on the emergence of atypical immigrant destinations.

## Graduate Student News

**Gabriel Aquino** and **Tamara Smith** have both accepted tenure-track positions as sociologists at Westfield State College in Massachusetts.

**Enobong (Anna) Branch** defended her dissertation "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Black Women, A Century in the Bottom Class" in March 2007. She received the University's Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award for this research. Anna will be joining the Sociology faculty at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst this fall.

**Carolyn Corrado's** recent publication, "Analyzing Gender and Race Representations in Magazine Advertisements," appeared in *Teaching the Sociology of Gender:*

*A Collection of Essays, Syllabi, Projects, and Assignments, Websites, and Bibliographies*, edited by Amy Blackstone and Betsy Lucal. (Washington, D.C.: American Sociological Association Teaching Resources).

**Carolyn Corrado and Tamara Smith** were invited to present a workshop, "Prepping Your First Class" at the 2007 Eastern Sociological Society Meetings.

**Mishel Filisha** is writing three entries on "Herbert Marcuse," "Valerie Solanis," and "Virtual Bodies." for *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* (Sage Publications).

**Erica Hunter** has a recent publication with Danielle Hidalgo and Kristen Barber entitled, "The Dyadic Imaginary: Troubling the Perception of Love as Dyadic." The article appeared in the *Journal of Bisexuality*. She also defended her dissertation proposal entitled "Doing Engagement: Couples and Commitment to Marriage" in May.

**Reese C. Kelly's** recent publication, "Gay Marriage: Why Now? Why at All?," is in *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies: Original Essays and Interviews*, edited by Steven Seidman, Nancy Fischer and Chet Meeks. He is also writing two entries on "Transvestite," and "Queer Studies," for *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* (Sage Publications).

**Minjeong Kim** was selected as one of seven 2007 Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellows in Women's Studies nationwide. She was also elected Student Representative for Sociologists for Women in Society.

**China Layne** presented two papers entitled "China's Minority Populations in Xinjiang Province: Economic and Social Comparisons" and "America's Manufacturing Cities and Deindustrialization: Twenty Years Later" at the 2007 Eastern Sociological Society meetings. She also received the 2007 Graduate Student Organization Distinguished Service Award.

**Shannon Monnat** defended her dissertation proposal in May. Her proposal is entitled, "The Color of Welfare Sanctioning: A Multi-Level Analysis of Benefit Reductions and Case Closures Under Welfare Reform".

**Michael Ostrowsky** accepted a tenure-track position at Southern Utah University beginning Fall 2007.

**Bryan K. Robinson** has a forthcoming publication with **Erica Hunter** entitled, "Is Mom Still Doing It All? Reexamining Depictions of Family-work in Popular Advertising." The article will appear in the *Journal of Family Issues*.

**Dan Santore** defended his dissertation proposal in March. His proposal is entitled, "Exploring a Culture of Intimacy: Individualism and Solidarity in Heterosexual Relationships". At the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Theodore G. Standing Lecture, Dan received the Allen E. Liska Dissertation Award. In addition, he was awarded a University Dissertation Fellowship.

**Jannette Swanson** is the 2007 recipient of the University at Albany's Excellence in Teaching Award for Teaching Assistants.

**Tamara Smith** was elected Chair of the Career Development Committee for Sociologists for Women in Society (2007-2009).

**Karen Tejada** presented a paper entitled "Building Political Capital: The Case of Salvadoran Immigrants" at the 2007 Eastern Sociological Society Meetings. She was awarded a grant from the Individual Development Awards Program and received the Christine E. Bose and Edna Acosta-Belen IFW Feminist Research Award. In addition, Karen recently defended her dissertation proposal.

**Roberto Velez Velez** has accepted a visiting position in the Sociology Department at Bard College beginning fall 2007.

**Yue (Angela) Zhou** presented the following papers entitled "Collective Efficacy, Disorder, Social Control and Household Victimization in Urban China Neighborhoods" at the 2007 Eastern Sociological Society meetings and "Preference for Number of Children and Compliance with Birth Control Policy in Rural China" at the Population Association of America Annual Meetings.

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## Faculty News

**Glenna Spitze, Glenn Deane, and Russ Ward** have received an NIH grant entitled "Sibling Influences on Parent-Adult Child Relations." Among Glenna's recent publications are (with **Katherine Trent**) "Gender differences in adult sibling relations in two-child families" in *Journal of Marriage and Family* and (with Mary Gallant and Thomas Prohaska) "Help or hindrance? How family and friends influence chronic illness self-management among older adults," forthcoming in *Research on Aging*.

**Richard Alba** and **Nancy Denton** are contributing a US perspective to the renewed debate in France on ethnic and racial categories in census and other population data. The French daily newspaper *Libération* recently published a petition, signed by numerous French social scientists and intellectuals, to affirm the long-standing prohibition of the collection of ethnic and racial data. Subsequently, the paper interviewed Alba on the US experience with such data (the interview appeared in the March 7 edition). In addition, Alba and Denton have written an article on that experience for the *Revue française de sociologie*.

**Chris Bose** completed her three-year term as chair of the Women's Studies Department spring semester. **Gwen Moore** is moving into her seat, chairing the department from 2007-2010.

**Angie Y. Chung** recently released her book *Legacies of Struggle: Conflict and Cooperation in Korean American Politics* (2007) with Stanford University Press. Her book chapter "Re-assessing Ethnic Political Solidarity: A Case Study on Bridging Organizations in Koreatown" in *Negotiating*

*Space: New Asian American Communities* (ed. Huping Ling) has been accepted for publication with University of Hawaii Press. She will be teaching a course on Korean Americans and Social Problems at Korea University for the third consecutive year this summer. She also received a stipend from the Office of International Education to develop institutional linkages with Korea University and embark on an exploratory research project on the return migration of Korean American juvenile delinquents to South Korea.

**Hayward Derrick Horton** accepted the appointment of Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for the University at Albany. In this capacity, he will assist departments in realizing their diversity goals. He also will facilitate a campus-wide focus on the enhancement of master's programs. Horton traveled to China in late March and lectured at the People's University of Beijing and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He presented workshops on "An Introduction to Critical Demography." The lecture tour was an overwhelming success and he plans to return to China in the near future to offer short graduate seminars on Critical Demography and Public Sociology. Pictures from his China Tour will soon be available on his website: [www.albany.edu/~hdh](http://www.albany.edu/~hdh).

**Kecia Johnson** was invited to present research on the impact of incarceration on the earnings trajectories of African American, Latino, and white men at a conference sponsored by the Urban Studies Program at Brown University in March.

**Ryan King** received the Law and Society Association Best Article Award.

**Richard Lachmann** edited a special issue of *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. This past year he delivered lectures on “How to Lose a War” and “The Decline of the United States as a Dominant Power” at the University of California-Berkeley, Emory University, NYU and in Moscow.

**Zai Liang** visited several key universities located in western parts of China as part of a new initiative for Urban China Research Network, in the summer of 2006. Western China is an exciting location for sociological research; potential topics include migration and poverty alleviation, issues related to China’s minority nationalities (counted over 100 million in China 2000 census), and public health issues (AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases). In April 2007, Liang was invited to a symposium at Yale University and he presented research on the well-being of migrant children in China. His research projects continue to draw attention from the media and public. As recently as February, he was interviewed and quoted by the NYC based Council on Foreign Relations about China’s floating population.

**Karyn Loscocco** is a recipient of the 2006-2007 College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Teaching Award.

**Steve Messner** is Vice-President Elect of the American Society of Criminology. He presently serves as a Deputy Editor for the *American Sociological Review* and as an editor of the *International Journal of Conflict and Violence* and on the editorial boards of *Asian Journal of Criminology* and *Homicide Studies*. During the past academic year, he published several studies on capital punishment, youth suicide, social trust, firearms, and homicide. He also published an essay on “lessons learned” conducting victimization research in China and an

interview-based essay on Robert K. Merton. In April, he presented an invited address on Institutional-Anomie Theory and cross-national variation in homicide rates at the Symposium on Violence Research held at the University of Bielefeld in Germany. He received the University at Albany’s 2007 Collins Fellow Award.

**Scott South** recently received a grant from NICHD to study the spatial dynamics of neighborhood effects on adolescent behavior (Kyle Crowder, Co-PI). Scott is included in the Institute of Scientific Information’s list of highly-cited researchers. His recent work has appeared in *Sociological Quarterly*, *Social Science Research*, and *Sociological Inquiry*.

**Dave Wagner** received the University at Albany Award for Excellence in Academic Service in April. Dave chaired the Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing for the University Senate the past three years. He also was the originating chair of the IRB Policy Committee for the Council on Research. He is now serving on the Provost’s Task Force on Undergraduate Writing Instruction. Dave received both the University and Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching in 2004.

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## Welcome New Faculty

### **Beth Popp Berman**

Beth Popp Berman received her Ph.D in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley in May 2007; she is interested in organizations and institutions, economic sociology, and the sociology of science. Beth is currently preparing a book manuscript based on her dissertation, which asks why research universities have transformed their relationship to the marketplace in the last few decades, encouraging faculty to build close research relationships with industry and even become entrepreneurs. Her work on university patenting is being published in *Social Studies of Science* and elsewhere; she also contributed to David Kirp's book *Shakespeare, Einstein, and the Bottom Line: The Marketing of Higher Education* (Harvard University Press). Her past research, published in *Theory and Society*, explored why some groups of professionals are able to organize themselves successfully into associations—a necessary step in gaining power and control over one's occupation—while others are not. Beth is looking forward to teaching courses on Organizations in Society and the Sociology of Science this year at UAlbany.

### **Kate Strully**

Kate Strully comes to Albany from Harvard University where she was a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from New York University in 2005. Kate's research uses physical health as a way of exploring the non-economic consequences of class structure, individual mobility, and social segregation. In past work, with Dalton Conley and Neil Bennett, she investigated familial patterns of low birth weight as a means for understanding the intergenerational inheritance of socioeconomic status and health (*The Starting Gate: Birth Weight and Life Chances* (University of California Press, 2003). Kate's more recent work focuses on the relationship between employ-

ment and health. Her dissertation, for instance, investigated the health consequences of involuntary job loss. In current work, she is investigating how work-based welfare state policies in the U.S. (namely, the Earned Income Tax Credit) may impact child health—on one hand, these programs have lifted many children out of poverty, but on the other employment may also constrain parents' (particularly single mothers') time, negatively affecting the home environment. Kate's most recent research is concerned with how health "externalities" (i.e., the effects of one person's health behaviors on other people's health) may contribute to racial disparities in health outcomes.

### **Sapna Swaroop**

Sapna Swaroop joins the department after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Population Research Center at the University of Chicago. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 2005. Her teaching and research interests include urban sociology, racial and ethnic relations, immigration, social demography, and quantitative research methods. Sapna's research is motivated by an interest in understanding how community contexts shape the availability of social, psychological, and institutional resources that affect individuals' well-being. One line of her work examines how living in a poor neighborhood influences participation in various aspects of local social life, such as involvement in community organizations, informal exchange among neighbors, and close social relationships. Another line of research explores how residents of racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods evaluate their quality of life, including neighborhood satisfaction, trust and social cohesion, and perceptions of discrimination. Her most recent work has begun to investigate the dynamics of social life in immigrant and Latino neighborhoods in Chicago and has started to assess how community social resources are linked to individuals' mental health in these neighborhoods.



**Cathy Rose**



**Stacey Zyskowski**



**Judy Adamchick**



**Pat Cavanaugh**

## **Departmental Staff News**

Most of you know Cathy Rose, who has been in the department for almost nine years now. New to the department is Stacey Zyskowski, Assistant to the Chair, who joined the department this past Fall, coming to us from Undergraduate Advisement. Also new to the department are Judy Adamchick and Pat Cavanaugh. We are deeply grateful for the hard work of all the staff and for all they do for the department, faculty, and students.

### **We'd Like to Hear From You!**

Comments, submissions, information updates should be mailed to: Department of Sociology, AS351, University at Albany, SUNY, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222

Visit our website:  
[www.albany.edu/sociology](http://www.albany.edu/sociology)

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