

AKRONews

The University of Akron
Department of Sociology
Akron, OH 44325-1905

Fall 2008 Issue
Editors: Baffour Takyi
Cynthia Saylor

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR DR. JOHN F. ZIPP

Welcome to the Fall 2008 edition of AKRONews, the annual newsletter of the Department of Sociology at the University of Akron.

The past year has witnessed as much change as any in my 11 years as Department Chair. We added four new faculty members: Drs. Joann Xi, Sarah Swider, Rachel Schneider and Paul Lipold. Dr. Xi completed her Ph.D. at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, where she also worked as a biostatistician in the medical school. Joann specializes in medical sociology and quantitative methods. Dr. Sarah Swider is fresh out of the University of Wisconsin; her primary interests are in gender, work and qualitative methods. With these assistant professor hires, the Department has dramatically increased our portfolio in global studies; both Joann and Sarah are experts in China. Their complementary interests and abilities will greatly strengthen the Department in the years ahead.

Our two other new hires join us as college lecturers. Dr. Rachel Schneider is well-known to us, as she received her degree from UA in 2006. After spending two years at Eastern Washington, we are thrilled to welcome Rachel back. In addition to other duties, she will serve as our coordinator of introductory sociology. Last but not least, we are happy to have Dr. Paul Lipold as a member of the Department. Paul received his doctorate from Florida State University and spent the last several years teaching at John Carroll University.

If these weren't enough, we also have some new faces in the Department office. First, Tammy Dixon came aboard in early January as our Administrative Assistant. Tammy is very familiar to those on campus, as she's worked in History and in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. We also have



a new undergraduate advisor - Jodi Ross. Jodi received her M.A. from us and currently is one of our outstanding doctoral students.

The rest of the newsletter includes a good deal of information about the latest doings of our faculty, students and alums, but there's one project that I'd like to highlight a bit. One of our faculty, Dr. Kathryn Feltey, has joined with colleagues from Anthropology and Education in attracting support from the National Science Foundation to establish an "Active Research Methods Lab." Now in its second year of operation, the ARM

lab serves as a teaching lab for methods courses in Sociology, Anthropology, and Education, along with being a research lab for projects from the campus and the community. Kathy and her colleagues have developed a methods certificate for undergrads and will soon be doing the same for our graduate students. Their eventual goal is to make this a nationally-known lab for qualitative and multi-method research.

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter - thanks again to Dr. Baffour Takyi and Cindy Saylor for putting this together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Zipp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

Dr. Sarah Swider

Tell us about your research interests:



My work is both interdisciplinary and comparative/international. My interests include: Sociology of Work and Labor, Gender, Feminist Movements, Global Inequality and Immigration, Economic Sociology, Political Sociology, Social Movements, and Asian Studies.

Best part about your job:

The best part of my job varies. Sometimes the best part of my job is teaching and making real connections with students, sometimes it is being in the field and collecting data, and sometimes it is the solitude of my home office.

What drew you to your field:

Growing up during the period of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and deindustrialization made me start to look beyond our boundaries for new understandings about what was happening in our country.

What drew you to Akron, OH:

I came to Akron because the school is committed to keeping the door of higher education open to average state citizen. At the same time, the faculty is committed to keeping an atmosphere in which quality research and teaching is a true possibility.

Recommended reading:

Gender and Nation by Nira Yuval-Davis (1997)

Interests beyond your field:

Snowboarding, rollerblading, gardening.



Rachel Schneider, Sarah Swider, Mark Tausig & Brian Pendleton

Dr. Juan Xi

Tell us about your research interests:

My research interests currently focus on migration and migrants: project-induced forced migration in the Three Gorges region in China and English language ability of immigrants in the United States.



Best part about your job:

I have been to the Three Gorges area to interview forced migrants face-to-face. They told me their stories, their hopes, and their sufferings. Outside the ivory tower, I realized the value of social research and I decided to be good at it.

What drew you to your field:

Personal experiences. My hometown is not far away from the Three-Gorges Dam Project. I have been interested in this special population for a long time.

What drew you to Akron, OH:

Department of Sociology in the University of Akron is a dynamic department. I am proud to be part of it. I like the nice summer in Akron (not sure about the winter yet). I like people here. I had heard of "Midwest nice" before I came here, and I have experienced it gratefully.

Interests beyond your field:

I was the champion of the Annual KARA-OK Competition sponsored by Birmingham Chinese Association in 2002. I like music and I practice meditation.



Joann Xi with new graduate student Mary Weaver

Perceived Relationship Unfairness and Suicide

By Dr. Valerie J. Callanan



Suicide continues to be a serious public health issue. It is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, and twice as many people die from suicide as homicide (11.3/100,000 and 5.5/100,000 respectively).

Sociologists played an important role in early suicide research (e.g. Durkheim), but the bulk of suicide research since the 1970's has focused on psychological explanations. These studies suggest that 70-90% of suicide decedents suffered from mental health and/or substance use disorders prior to their death. However, psychological factors cannot explain why suicides vary substantially by age, gender, race/ethnicity, region of the country and other socio-demographic factors. Only research from a sociological perspective can explain these differences.

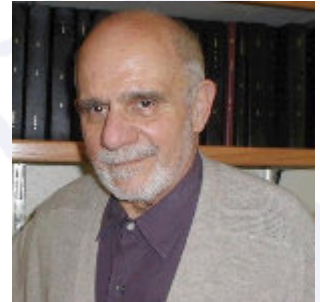
A large subset of suicides consists of those which seem to be responses to failed or unsatisfying interpersonal relationships. Unlike suicides that result from unbearable physical or mental health problems, or knowing that one has a terminal disease, suicides that occur in response to relationship difficulties may be among the most challenging to explain or predict. My colleagues and I have been investigating if one of the most important social norms that guides everyday behavior - the norm of reciprocity - may be a factor. Using suicide notes, we find that a large group of suicides perceived profound unfairness in close interpersonal relationships prior to their death. Some of these individuals felt they had been treated so unfairly by their partners that it made them very depressed or angry. Others were suffering extreme guilt from treating their partners unfairly. We also found that people who killed themselves because of perceived relationship unfairness were far more likely to let others know that they wanted to kill themselves than people who killed themselves for other reasons. We are currently investigating if these findings can be replicated with a sample of suicides from Summit

suggests these are not merely threats.

Suicide is a serious health issue - to learn more about suicide warning signs, visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at www.afsp.org or the National Institutes of Mental Health at www.nimh.nih.gov.

Dr. Lloyd Rogler

Throughout each year we sponsor a brown bag lecture series (thanks to Dr. Valerie Callanan for organizing this), and one of the highlights of the last few years was our visit with Dr. Lloyd H. Rogler.



Dr. Rogler is an internationally-known scholar - he is the Albert Schweitzer Professor Emeritus from Fordham University. Considered one of the pioneers in cultural psychiatry, Dr. Rogler's research has taken him from the slums of San Juan, Puerto Rico to the back streets of the South Bronx in his lifelong quest to determine how a person's cultural status influences the development, evaluation, and treatment of mental illness. In the process, he earned countless accolades, including the American Psychiatric Association's Simon Bolivar Award and the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Career Award. In 2006 he was named a "Superstar" in medical research by Columbia University for the amount of grant funding he has received (more than \$15 million from the National Institutes of Health and other sources). The author of eight books and more than seventy academic journal articles, Dr. Rogler's interdisciplinary research is frequently and widely cited. He has served on many national committees for the formulation and execution of public policy affecting minority groups' mental health, including The National Advisory Mental Health Council of the National Institute of Mental Health, and he is the founder of the Hispanic Research Center at Fordham University, which he directed from 1977 until 1990.

Dr. Lloyd Rogler has one other connection to our department; some of our more senior alumni may remember his father, Dr. Charles C. Rogler, who was a

long-time member of our department and former department chair. In 1977, he and his wife, Dr. Margaret F. Rogler, established the Dr. Charles C. Rogler Scholarship. Each year, we are pleased to be able to offer these awards to several outstanding undergraduates (see p. 11 for this year's winners). Having taught and worked with these students over the years I can truly say that this scholarship has helped to change their lives.

NATIONAL ATTENTION and KUDOS

Margaret Poloma

Professor Emerita Dr. Margaret Poloma is one of the leading experts in the sociology of religion. She is especially well-known for her studies of



Pentecostalism. She is the author of numerous books, including Main Street Mystics, The Assemblies of God at the Crossroads, The Charismatic Movement: Is There a New Pentecost?, and just released by NYU Press, Blood and Fire: Godly

Love in a Pentecostal Emerging Church. Given Dr. Poloma's expertise, it is not surprising that, with Governor Sarah Palin running for Vice-President, Dr. Poloma has frequently been called upon by the national media for her insights. Two of the most recent of these are:

Controversial Pentecostal appears at Evangel today, Todd Bentley praised, criticized, *By Peter Smith*.

Examining Palin's Pentecostal Background, by Barbara Bradley Hagerty (*National Public Radio, NPR*).

ON THE RESEARCH FRONT: Faculty Publications, Grants, and Offices

We take this opportunity to congratulate our faculty and students who won grants and awards, published or presented at professional meetings during the past year. Below are some selected achievements during the past year.

VALERIE CALLANAN

Callanan, Valerie J., "Race/ethnic Neighborhood Diversity and Fear of Crime: Examining Black, White

and Latino Differences." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Cincinnati, OH. March, 2008.

Callanan, Valerie J., "Perceptions of Procedural Justice in law Enforcement and the Courts: Do Media Matter?" American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA. November, 2007.

Callanan, Valerie J., Mark Davis and Marie Bozin. "Relationship Inequality and Suicide." North Central Sociological Association. Cincinnati, OH. March, 2008.

CHERYL ELMAN

Elman, Cheryl and Angela M. O'Rand. 2007. "The Effects of Social Origins, Life Events and Institutional Sorting on Adults' School Transitions." *Social Science Research*. 36: 1276-99. (Fall)

REBECCA ERICKSON

Erickson, Rebecca J. and Wendy J. C. Grove. 2007. "Emotional Labor and Health Care." *Sociology Compass* 2(2): 704-733.

Erickson, Rebecca J. and Wendy J. C. Grove. 2008. "Why Emotions Matter: Age, Agitation, and Burnout Among Registered Nurses." *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing* 13(1).

James M. Diefendorff, Rebecca J. Erickson, Alicia A. Grandey, and Jason Dahling. "A Multilevel Analysis of Emotional Labor Among Nurses." Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, San Francisco, April.

Erickson, Rebecca J., and Catherine Koppelman. "The Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships: Decreasing Burnout and Increasing Satisfaction Among Registered Nurses." Presented at the annual meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, St. Louis, Missouri, March.

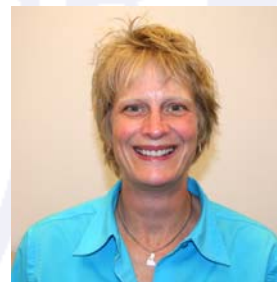
KATHY FELTEY

Chair, Membership, North Central Sociological Association

RUDY FENWICK

Fenwick, Rudy, and Mark Tausig. 2007. "Analysis of the NIOSH 2006 General Social Survey Quality of Work Life." Centers for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. \$24,200. (Principal Investigator).

Fenwick, Rudy, and John F. Zipp. 2007. "Faculty Liberalism and University Corporatism." Pp. 91-107 in



Stephen H. Aby (ed.), The Academic Bill of Rights Debate: A Handbook. Westport, CT: Praeger.

MATTHEW LEE

Margaret M. Poloma, Stephen G. Post, and Matthew T. Lee.

“The Flame of Love: Scientific Research on the Experience and Expression of Godly Love in the Pentecostal Tradition.” John Templeton Foundation. \$2,326,362 over three years. (Co-Principal Investigator and Project Director).



Jeannine Gailey and Matthew T. Lee. 2008. “Influences and the Assignment of Responsibility for Wrongdoing in Organizational Settings.” *Sociological Focus*, 41: 71-86.

Lee, Matthew T., and Jeannine Gailey. 2007. “Who is to Blame for Deviance in Organizations? The Role of Scholarly Worldviews.” *Sociology Compass*, 1: 536-551.

STACEY NOFZIGER

Nofziger, Stacey. “Delinquent outcomes for youth in the Child Welfare System: A comparison of in-home, foster, and kinship care placements.” Faculty Research Grant, University of Akron. \$8,000. (Principal Investigator).



Nofziger, Stacey. 2008. “The ‘Cause’ of Low Self-Control: The Influence of Maternal Self-Control.” *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 45(2): 191-224

Stein, Rachel and Stacey Nofziger. 2008. “Adolescent

Sexual Victimization: Choice of Confidant and the Failure of Authorities.” *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 6(2): 158-177

BRIAN PENDLETON

Pendleton, Brian F. Drug Free Communities Support Program. SAMHSA & Community Partnership. \$27,449. Received 1-31-08. (PI).

Pendleton, Brian F. UA Alcohol Abuse Reduction Initiative. Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Studies. \$25,000. Received 7-2-07 (PI)

ROBERT L. PERALTA

Peralta, Robert L. 2007. “College Alcohol Use and the Embodiment of Hegemonic Masculinity among European American Men.” *Sex Roles*, 56:741-756.

Peralta, Robert L. 2008. “Alcohol allows you to not be yourself:” Toward a structured understanding of alcohol use and gender difference among gay, lesbian, and heterosexual youth.” *The Journal of Drug Issues*, 39: 373-400.

MARGARET POLOMA

Poloma, Margaret M. 2006. “Old Wine, New Wineskins: The Rise of Healing Rooms in Revival Pentecostalism.” *Pneuma: The Journal for Pentecostal Studies* 28, 1: 59-71.

Poloma, Margaret M. 2007. “The Symbolic Dilemma and the Future of Pentecostalism: Mysticism, Ritual and Revival.” Pp. 105-22 in Eric Patterson and Edmund Rybarczyk (ed.) The Future of North American Pentecostalism in the United States. Pp. 105-22. Lanham, MD.:Lexington Books.

SARAH SWIDER

Swider, Sarah. 2006. “Working Women of the World Unite? Labor organizing and transnational gender solidarity among domestic workers in Hong Kong” pp. 110-140, in *Global Feminism*, edited by Myra Marx Ferree and Alil Mari Tripp (NYU Press).

Swider, Sarah. Book review: Shahid Yusuf, Kaoru Mabeshima, Dwight Perkins, Under New Ownership Privatizing CHINA’s State-owned Enterprises (Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press and The World Bank: Washington, D.C., 1994) in *Journal of Chinese Political Science*. Volume 2. Number 1. April 7, 2007.

BAFFOUR K. TAKYI

Takyi, Baffour K. and Stephen Obeng Gyimah. 2007. “Matrilineal Family Ties and Marital Dissolution in Ghana.” *Journal of Family Issues* 28:682-705.



Stephen Obeng Gyimah, Baffour K. Takyi and Eric Yeboah Tenkorang. (2008). “Denominational affiliation and fertility behavior in an African context: An examination of couple data from Ghana.” *Journal of Biosocial Science* 40: 445-458.

MARK TAUSIG

Tausig, Mark, Janaradan Subedi and Shree Subedi. 2008. Sociological Contributions to Developing Bioethical Standards for Medical Research in Very Poor Countries. *Advances in Medical Sociology*, 9:301-322 Edited by Barbara Katz Rothman, Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong and Rebecca Tiger. Elsevier:London.

Tausig, Mark, Michael J. Selgelid, Sree Subedi and Janardan Subedi. 2007, "Taking sociology seriously: A new approach to the bioethical problems of infectious disease." Pp. 167-178. In The View From Here: Bioethics and the Social Sciences. Edited by Raymond G. De Vries, Kristina Orfali, Leigh Turner and Charles Bosk. Blackwell: Oxford, UK.

JOANN XI

Hwang, Sean-Shong, and Juan Xi. 2008. "Structural and Individual Covariates of English Language Proficiency." Social Forces 86:1079-1104.

Xi, Juan. 2007. Age Differentials in Anticipation of Involuntary Migration: Psychological Stress and the Three Gorges Dam Project. China. Saarbrucken, Germany: VDM Verlag Muller.

Curtis, Jeffrey R., Juan Xi, Nivedita Patkar, Aiyuan Xie, Carolyn Martin, and Kenneth Saag. 2007. "Drug-Specific and Time-Dependent Risks of Bacterial Infections among Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients Exposed to TNF- α Antagonists." *Arthritis and Rheumatism*: 4226-27.

Hwang, Sean-Shong, Juan Xi, Yue Cao, Xiaotian Feng, and Xiaofei Qiao. 2007 "Anticipation of Migration and Psychological Stress and the Three Gorges Dam Project, China" *Social Science and Medicine* 65:1012-24

Xi, Juan, Sean-Shong Hwang, Xiaotian Feng, Xiaofei Qiao and Yue Cao. 2007 "Perceived Risks and Benefits of the Three Gorge Project." *Sociological Perspective* 50(2):323-337.

JOHN ZIPP

Grauerholz, Liz, and John F. Zipp. 2008. "How To Do the Scholarship of Teaching." *Teaching Sociology* 36: 87-94.

Fenwick, Rudy, and John F. Zipp. 2007. "Faculty Liberalism and University Corporatism." Pp. 91-107 in Stephen H. Aby (ed.), The Academic Bill of Rights Debate: A Handbook. Westport, CT: Praeger.

GRADUATE STUDENTS: NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

FALL 2008 GRADUATE STUDENTS

Lia Chervenak, Darlene Forrest, Justin Oldaker, Jared Rosenberger, Mary Weaver, Robyn White, Loni Yatsko, and Kyle Zellman.

AKD NEWS Update

AKD STUDENT AWARDS:

Outstanding Paper: Angela Adkins
Outstanding Student Service Award: Mary Laske
Outstanding Student Award: Aya Kimura
Outstanding Student Teaching Award: Jodi Ross
Peer Mentor Award: David Skubby

Other AWARDS:

Women in Higher Education: Daysha Lawrence, Teresa Huzyak, Mary Laske
ITL Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching: Jodi Ross
NCSA Graduate Student Paper: Mary Laske



Women in Higher Education Luncheon: Seated: Daysha Lawrence, Nicole Martin, Lauren Mostardi, John Zipp. Standing: Lindsay Matousek, Kathy Feltey, Teresa Huzyak, Mary Laske, Jessica Headley

GRADUATE STUDENT ALUMNI

Congratulations to Aya Kimura-Ida and Rachel Stein for successfully completing and defended their dissertations and starting new assistant professor positions Fall '08 semester.

DR. AYA KIMURA-IDA – Dr. Aya Kimura Ida - Her dissertation, "Discrimination, Group Identity, and Mental Health: A Comparative Study of African Americans, Caribbean Americans, and European Americans," examined the role of group identity in coping with discrimination across racial and ethnic groups. Part of this dissertation will be presented at an annual meeting of Pacific Sociological Association in April 2009. Her other areas of interest include social psychology, mental health, and race and ethnicity. Aya just began her job as an Assistant Professor at California State University - Sacramento in the Fall 2008 and is teaching social psychology and sociology of health and illness. She currently serves as a faculty co-advisor for Alpha Kappa Delta and Sociology Club.

DR. RACHEL STEIN— Her dissertation entitled "The Individual and Structural Levels of Routine Activities/ Lifestyles Theory: A Cross-National Perspective of Victimization" examined burglary, robbery, and assault victimization across thirty-seven developed and developing countries. Her other research interests include the portrayal of women offenders in film and how the social construction of these women offenders emphasizes the double stigma of women in the Criminal Justice System. Rachel is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Sociology and Anthropology at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. She teaches Criminology and Juvenile Delinquency, which are foundation courses for the students majoring in Criminology at WVU.

Congratulations to MA recipients: Marie Bozin, Brittany Buffington, and Teresa Huzyak.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Huzyak, Teresa. "Work and Domestic Violence: Examining Spillover Among Women." North Central Sociological Association. Cincinnati. March 27-29, 2008.



Huzyak, Teresa. "Children and the Production of Gender." North Central Sociological Association. Cincinnati. March 27-29, 2008.

Behrman, Carolyn, Teresa Huzyak, and Carolyn Spivak. "Applying Community-based Research and Service-Learning to Examine Change." Engage to Learn, Learn to Engage Poster Session, Hosted by University of Akron Institute for Teaching and Learning. Akron. April 29, 2008.

Lawrence, Daysha. "Childhood Victimization and Adolescent Delinquency: A Test of Social Control Theory." North Central Sociological Association. Cincinnati, OH. March 27-29, 2008.

Slusser, Suzanne. "Gender Empowerment, the Global Economy and the State: Exploring the Relationship between Economic Dependency, State Strength, and Women's Empowerment." Annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association. Section on Sociology of Gender Session I. March 2008.



Stein, Rachel E. "A Micro- and Macro-Routine Activity Theoretical Approach: Exploring Cross-National Victimization." Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 2007.

Teasdale, Brent, Rachel E. Stein, and Mary Laske. "A Multi-level Perspective on Race/Ethnicity and Substance Abuse." Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 2007.

Stein, Rachel E. "Assault Victimization in the United States, the Netherlands, and Northern Ireland: A Routine Activities Approach." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 2007.

Stein, Rachel E. and Stacey Nofziger. 2008. "Adolescent Sexual Victimization: Choice of Confidant and the Failure of Authorities." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 6(2):158-177.

Williams, Dana M. 2007. "Where's the Honor? Attitudes on the "Fighting Sioux" Nickname and Logo". *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 24 (4), December: 437-456.

Williams, Dana M. 2008. "Anarchists and Labor Unions: An Analysis Using New Social Movement Theories". *Working USA: The Journal of Labor and Society*, 11 (2), June.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

My Fulbright Scholar Experience, by Daniela Jauk, Ph.D. Student

Why Akron?

An experience-fairytale by Daniela Jauk (Austria), about the question she was most frequently asked.

Long time ago, namely in 2005, I started looking into Fulbright grants for studies in the U.S. Having been "anti-Americanist" politically in my youth (very trendy that time), I came to understand that there is no better place to study sociology nowadays, and that ignorance makes no sense in our effort to work towards positive social change. I finally was awarded a grant in 2006, passed the (painstaking) GRE, and was awaiting generous offers from Universities now. Having lived in a small town (Graz, second largest town in Austria, 250,000 people) I was ready for New York City, Chicago, L.A.!

But the generous offers did not come. In fact for weeks it looked like I would get no place in a sociology Ph.D. program at all. I had been a good student in



Austria, I had worked as a social worker, as community organizer, and artist. I was with the department of sociology in Graz for several years as a project manager of international sociology

projects. Why would nobody want me? I was desperate. I was desperate until I met Keith Doubt from Wittenburg University. His positive feedback about a short presentation at a Fulbright seminar made me tell him my story. Within four days I was connected to the heart of North America, to Ohio, and on the table, respectively in my inbox, there was an offer from the University of Akron.

I had never heard about Akron before, but I was stunned by the faculty I found on the website Kathy Feltey, and even a local SWS chapter. She had been NCSA president and seemed to be a perfect fit for me, from a distance at least! “Akron is in the middle of nowhere,” I rationalized before my departure, “it will be more than boring. But you go there to study, you don’t need to go out and have fun.” I was prepared for what I thought would be “the real U.S.” Back then I did not know about Akron’s fantastic libraries, its local art scene, and its compelling charm.

Having started my second year here, I admit I don’t know if there is something like “real U.S.” What I know is that it is real “awesome” (a word I learned quickly) for me here. I am very thankful and feel blessed that fate dropped me in this particular supportive place. Kathy Feltey turned out to be the most wonderful advisor one could wish for, my professors so far were amazing to me, my officemates and colleagues were the most wonderful companions in our shared quest. I am stimulated by academic opportunities (like attending local conferences as ICQI 2007, SWS Winter meeting 2007) I’d never have in Europe, found open doors in activist groups like SWS or CROW, and will never forget how my sociological community collected money for a new bike, after I had an accident shortly after my arrival.

My goal is clear: I want to stay in Akron and I want to complete my Ph.D. here. I want to give back what I received so far from colleagues, but also from faculty.

It turned out to be so much more that I expected. I found a home in a nice house with a wonderful friend. It is so much more than an effective academic environment, but it is also that. So hopefully the story goes on like this: And she continued to live and study happily in rubber city ever since....

“Rethinking Community, Rethinking Space” Copenhagen, Denmark By Angela Adkins, PhD student

Recently, I was very honored to have been selected as the second place winner of the 2008 Carl J. Couch Internet Research Award for my paper “The Presentation of Self in Internet Forums—Face Work without being Face-to-Face.” As a Couch Award winner, I was invited to present my work in October 2008 at the annual meeting of the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR), an international cross-disciplinary association for scholars in the field of Internet studies.



The 9th Annual AoIR conference was held in beautiful Copenhagen, Denmark, and hosted by the IT University of Copenhagen, the country’s youngest university, in conjunction with the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Copenhagen, the oldest university in Denmark. The attendees represented scholars from 15 different countries and multiple disciplines including sociology, anthropology, communications, history, political science, marketing, and education.



This year's conference theme "Rethinking Community, Rethinking Space" focused on how the emergence and distribution of Internet technology is reinventing the concepts of "place" and "space" as important aspects in the formation of community and social activities. I was so impressed by the breadth and depth of ongoing research in the field, covering a diverse range of specific topics from online research methodologies and ethics to social networking to urban mobility and surveillance. Presenting my own work as a graduate student was an excellent experience, even if a little daunting at first—I had not expected such a large audience for the session! Yet, the presentation went well and the discussion was lively; I received much useful feedback and direction for future research. While there, I was able to engage with fellow graduate students from Finland and Sweden, as well as some a little closer to home from the University of Iowa and Indiana University. And thanks to the ease of digital contact, we have since discussed collaborating on a future research venture together. All in all, it was really amazing to spend this time meeting and learning from so many research colleagues who share my interest in studying the social impact of the Internet.

Of course, I was also able to play tourist while in Copenhagen, taking in famous sites such as the Little Mermaid, Tivoli Gardens, Rundetaarn (the Round Tower), Amalienborg Palace, and Strøget—the world's longest pedestrian shopping street. The city is simply incredible, a vibrant mix of history and modernity coupled with welcoming and friendly people. Definitely a place I would love to visit again! Attending the AoIR conference was a wonderful professional and personal



experience, and I was proud and honored to represent the University of Akron. My sincere gratitude goes to the Department of Sociology, the Graduate School, and the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences for making this fabulous opportunity possible for me.

The 2nd Interdisciplinary Gender Symposium of GradCROW - a rewarding success across states and disciplines.

By Daniela Jauk, PhD student

The Graduate Committee for Research and Scholarship on Women (CROW) is an Interdisciplinary group established by feminist scholars and students of the University of Akron. It was founded in 2005 for the purposes of disseminating information, sharing ideas, and facilitating discussion among graduate students interested in research and scholarship on women. With Kathryn Feltey - who significantly participated in the foundation of CROW - and Jodi Ross as long term successful president of this interdisciplinary committee CROW is deeply anchored in our department. The biennial symposium (the first one was held in 2006) was thereby again great 2008.



Dr. Judith Lorber

"I liked best the setup and efficiency of the symposium, it was comfortable and low stress," "it was my first time presenting, thanks for his opportunity, "A nice variety of topics and disciplines," and "wonderful keynote!" were some of the comments on the light yellow evaluation surveys we got back from our presenters after the second Graduate CROW (Graduate Committee for Research and Scholarship on Women), which took place in the Student Union on April 3rd and 4th 2008. Judith Lorber, our keynote speaker, already filled the Student Union Theatre when she pictured "A world without Gender;" the following day of presentations, discussions, and an informal Q and A with Prof. Lorber was a success as it attracted students as well as community members.

The 2nd Graduate Gender Symposium showcased graduate student scholarship which seeks to explore and understand the various and often contested meanings of gender. From “Lesbian Representations in Erotica” to homeschooling the thematic range of contributions was amazing, and Kathy, Jodi and I discussed quite a while how to structure them. Finally we found a framework of four sessions (Bodies that Matter”, “Representations of Gender”, “Law & Order”, “Between Self & Other”) for the 20 presenters from around the region. In fact we met colleagues from all over Ohio, Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania, who presented and discussed their work across diverse methodologies and disciplinary perspectives (sociology, history, philosophy, gender studies, English, anthropology, arts administration, women’s studies, law school, communication, gerontology). The Graduate Committee for Research on Women/Gender at the University of Akron thereby attempted to provide a supportive environment in which to create and sustain a community of graduate students preparing for life-long careers as scholars and teachers dedicated to critically analyzing gender and its discontents.

The goal worked out, as we explored in the feedback, and we are looking forward to the symposium 2010, which will most likely be spearheaded by the new CROW-president Stephanie Cunningham (psychology), who was a huge backbone in this year’s endeavor. As a fresh international student I was most humbled when Jodi Ross opened up CROW for me and proposed me as symposium’s coordinator. What a great inclusion, what a wonderful opportunity, definitely not only a line on my vita. I did it not alone. I had wonderful support. Besides the core team of Stephanie Cunninham, Kathryn Feltey and Jodi Ross I want to thank Marie Bozin and Mary Laske from our department for their help. Special credits go to Rosa Githiora (PAUS, new vice president of CROW) and Marcy Trew (Women’s Studies). Without our web goddess, Cindy Saylor, we would not have the website <https://www.uakron.edu/pages/groups/crow/index.php> , on which you find the abstract book and program, and soon also the keynote address as mp3-download and pictures. Stay tuned for the next CROW events!

Sociologists for Women in Society, (SWS) Local Branch, Joint Ph.D. program - joint SWS-Power!

By Daniela Jauk, PhD student

Team 2008/09: Daniela Jauk (president), Marie Bozin (vice president), Mary Laske (treasurer)

The year 2008 started with a new plan: The SWS-chapters of Kent and Akron decided in a kick off meeting to work together more closely. A long list of ideas came up at our first meeting in January 2008, a blog was soon established <http://www.sws-akron-kent.blogspot.com>, and we moved on with an activism



Mary Laske, Take Back the Night '08

almost every month of this year. We warmly invite you to visit our website and learn about women’s history month, [Take Back the Night](#), [Walk a Mile in her shoes](#) - concrete actions for change we sponsored and participated in. Jodi Ross (esteemed former president of SWS Akron), Marie Bozin, and Daniela Jauk from Akron had the possibility to attend the national meeting of SWS in Las Vegas together with their Kent-sistahs Kelly Mac Arthur and Michelle Jacobs (president SWS Kent). We all felt really supported in our activist strategy since community activism was also the emphasis of the lectures and workshops offered. What a wonderful surprise that we met our (then) incoming faculty member Dr. Sarah Swider and had a lot of insightful discussions and fun with her and Rachel Schneider, who is also back in Akron now! We are very happy that Sarah is our new faculty advisor now, since Dr. Feltey has a most deserved leave.



Marie Bozin, Kelly McArthur, Dani Jauk, Jodi Ross, & Michelle Jacobs—SWS Meeting, Las Vegas

The SWS year 2008/09 started with a success: The joint chapters of Akron and Kent applied for the Feminist Lecturer Award for Kent State University and got it! We are more than happy that distinguished stratification and inequality researcher, Dr. Cecilia Ridgeway from Stanford University, will visit us on campus. Thanks to the creative minds of the members in attendance at our kick-off meeting and because of Dr. Ridgeway's acceptance to give a lecture, we decided to organize an entire "gender lecture series." Our progress on this event is well underway, so mark your calendars: February 26th, Dr. Betsy Lucal, Akron; March 6th, Dr. Cecilia Ridgeway, Kent.

As with our meetings we want to try to make the lectures more accessible to diverse persons who could be interested in SWS and gender studies in general (that includes explicitly persons with children and persons beyond academia). We also have continued to support and participate in activism such as Take Back The Night and are looking forward to an exciting year, which starts out with lively listserv-discussions, a bigger team, a lot of motivation, and pleasant anticipation so far. Come visit our blog <http://www.sws-akron-kent.blogspot.com>, and leave us comments and ideas, join the listserv, meet us - many ways to be part of an empowered SWS-Akron chapter!

The Sociology Undergraduate Mentoring Program

The Mentoring program commenced in Spring, 2008 with the goal of assisting undergraduate students with courses, general academic advising, and preparation for graduate school. The Motto: "We've just been there, so we understand and can help" means that as graduate students, the mentors are able to better relate to the stress, anxiety, and pressure of college life and offer guidance through this tumultuous time. In essence, after filling out an interest form, undergraduate sociology majors/minors are paired with



sociology graduate students who share the same areas of interests. The pairs then decide how to proceed with their mentoring relationship (i.e. when to meet, forms of communication) and what is expected from one another.

In its early stages, the idea of this program started with Daysha Lawrence (Program Coordinator, second year M.A.) who received outstanding support from the faculty and staff, including Dr. John Zipp (Department Chair), Dr. Rebecca Erickson (Graduate Chair), and Jodi Ross M.A. (Academic Advisor) all who either distributed the information to their students or allowed program representatives to speak to their students directly. The program was received enthusiastically by the graduate students as well. Jennifer Steele (Co-Activities Coordinator, second year PhD) and Virgil Russell (Co-Activities Coordinator, first year PhD) worked closely with Ms. Lawrence and are major contributors to the success of the program.

Currently, there are 18 graduate students who have volunteered to be mentors and 22 undergraduates who have signed up for the program. So far, one of the students (mentee) who graduated last Spring is now a graduate student in the UA Sociology Department. Additionally, a group of mentors were able to assist a recent graduate network and set up interviews in her desired field. The mentoring program has been an overwhelming success and is looking forward to what the future holds.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

SOCIOLOGY MAJORS: PROFILE & HIGHLIGHTS

'08 Rogler Scholarship winners: Kathy Kiser And Jennifer Schartiger

Women in Higher Education—2008 Undergraduate Honorees: Nicole Martin, Lauren Mostardi, Lindsay Matousek, and Jessica Headley.

'08 Outstanding Undergraduate Award recipients: Angela Adkins and Lindsay Matousek



My McNair Scholar Experience, By Wesley Wilkins

My first year in the McNair Program was a learning experience. I remember reading and writing extensively on my research project each day. Dr Baffour Takyi, my mentor, would tell me “the paper is good but go deeper into your findings”. Although it was frustrating at first, I soon realized how research methodology and analysis works. I persevered to complete my first year of the program and won an award that motivated me to work even harder the next year.



My research was entitled, “HIV/AIDS and the African American Community: Transmission, Impact, and Survivorship”. In my first year I did a study that compared African Americans to other racial/ethnic groups with HIV/AIDS. I found this research experience enlightening and I enjoyed investing, exploring, and analyzing the information. For the second year, I did a comparative study of African-American males and females infected with this disease, that I collected from several sources.

My second year in the program was productive and gratifying. I was motivated to do great work on this project from day one as I had a better understanding of how to integrate concepts and theories into my research. My mentor also was beginning to see my growth as an independent researcher. Even my peers noticed a change within me as well. It paid off when I was awarded first place for best research paper this summer.

The best part about being in the McNair program was meeting other scholars from different schools. During my first year, we attended conferences held in Tennessee, New York, Michigan, California, and Maryland. Scholars from numerous institutions presented their research on topics that fascinated us. It was exciting to be around individuals with high aspirations to attend graduate school and who wanted to make a positive mark in society. I will continue to stay in contact with one scholar who I plan to work with in the near future.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

DR. FRED P. PESTELLO NAMED PRESIDENT OF LE MOYNE’S COLLEGE

On July 1, 2008, UA (MA ‘81 and PhD ‘85) alum Dr. Fred Pestello was named as the 13th President of Le Moyne College (Syracuse, NY). Founded in 1946, Le Moyne College offers a program of liberal arts, sciences, pre-professional studies, and graduate programs in education, business administration, physician assistant studies, and nursing. Recognized 16 consecutive years by U.S. News & World Report for its quality and value, Le Moyne is one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, and the first to open as a co-educational institution. Dr. Pestello is the first non-Jesuit permanent president in Le Moyne’s 62-year history.



Dr. Pestello spent the last 24-year at the University of Dayton (UD). He began his time there as a sociology professor, and served from 1993 to 1997 as chair of UD’s department of sociology, anthropology, and social work. From 1997 to 2000 he was associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. Since 2001, he has served as provost and senior vice president for educational affairs at the university. One more note: Fred’s wife, Dr. Fran Pestello, is also a UA doctoral alum and she currently is the chair of the department of sociology, anthropology and social work at UD.

SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGE LIVES

Many students today cannot afford the cost of a college education and rely on the availability of scholarships to pursue their dream of achieving a college degree in their field of interest. The University of Akron is proud of its top-notch Department of Sociology, whose alumni and friends are especially mindful of students’ needs.

A scholarship in your name can be established for as little as \$10,000. For information on contributing your support or for making a donation of any denomination, please contact:

Kim Morgan
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The University of Akron
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY FAST FACTS

The next time that you are at a party and are at a loss for conversation, maybe one of these “fast facts” from the UA Department of Sociology will come in handy.

Did you know that ...

- At the broadest level the substantive focus of the Department is on public health and community well-being. *Every* full-time faculty member has or is actively working on some topic relevant to either or both public health and community well-being. This includes research on such varied and important social issues as: alcohol and drug abuse; suicide; domestic violence; preventive medicine; work and physical/mental health; homicide; victimization; juvenile delinquency; economic development; family planning; aging and health; altruism; and HIV/AIDS.
- According to the most recent data from the National Science Foundation, the UA Department of Sociology ranks 25th among all sociology departments in the nation in R & D expenditures.
- In a typical year, more than 1 in every 10 UA undergraduates takes Introduction to Sociology.
- We have more than 350 active undergraduate majors.

- The Department has long supported what has become the “Akron Advantage,” as more than 60 percent of our undergraduate majors successfully complete an internship before graduating.
- Nationally, students earning a B.A. in Sociology increased roughly 41 percent between 1990 and 2004 (Psychology increased by 35 percent, and Economics and Political Science saw slight declines over the same time period). There is particular demand for criminologists; the US Department of Labor forecast a 29 percent increase in demand for criminal justice professionals (most of our majors are in sociology/criminology and law enforcement).
- More than 60 different undergraduates have participated in our research assistantship program was established for sociology majors, providing the opportunity for hands-on research experience under the mentorship of individual faculty.

ALUMNI BRIEFS

WILLIAM ANDERSON ~ BA '60. Dr. William A. Anderson, associate executive director in the Division on Earth and Life Studies at the National Academy of Sciences, participated in a week-long visit to Iran in June with a U.S. delegation sponsored by the institution to explore possible future collaboration between the U.S. and Iran in the area of earthquake research. During the visit, the U.S. team participated in a workshop and seminar at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, both of which were attended by experts in the fields of earth science, earthquake engineering, and the social sciences. The meetings focused on topics related to earthquake risks in the two countries and possible collaborative efforts that could reduce those risks in the future. The team visited research organizations in Tehran and also had the opportunity to explore the historic city of Isfahan. As a sociologist, Anderson, who is retiring soon, has had a long career of conducting and administering social science and related interdisciplinary research on the social and economic consequences of natural hazards and disasters.

SANDRA BEAUREGARD~ BA '89. Sandra is employed with Family Services of Western Pennsylvania in the ParentWISE Program in Greensburg, PA.

ALEX GLADIS ~ MA '77. My University of Akron experience has served me well over my career. Although I have served as the Director of Adult Education at La Roche College for 3 years, Dean of Continuing Education at the Community College of Beaver County for 22 years, and now I am Director of an Off-campus operation for Butler County Community College in Pennsylvania; I love teaching Sociology and Anthropology. Since being a TA at Akron U. in 1975, I have not missed a semester of teaching over the years.

WENDY GROVE, PHD '06. Wendy is employed with the Ohio Department of Health, in the Bureau of Early Intervention Services as Health Planning Administrator. Recent publications:

Grove, Wendy J. C. 2008. "Remembering Patients Who Die: Exploring the Meaning Conveyed in Notes to the Researcher." *Illness, Crisis, and Loss* 16(4): 321-333.

Rebecca J. Erickson and Wendy J. C. Grove. 2008. "Emotional Labor and Health Care." *Sociology Compass* 2 (2): 704-733.

N. JANE MCCANDLESS ~ MA '83, PHD '85. Jane is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology & Criminology program at the State University of West Georgia in Carrollton, GA.

JAMES R. PEACOCK ~ PHD '96 ~ James is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. James was also recently elected to the board of Directors of the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

PEGGY C. STEPHENS (TONKIN) ~ BA '95, MA '97, PHD '99—Peggy is a Project Director for the Institute for Health and Social Policy at the University of Akron. Recent publications:

Sloboda, Z., Pyakuryal, A., Tonkin, P., Teasdale, Stephens, R.C., Grey, S. (2008). Reports of substance abuse prevention programming available in schools. (Forthcoming) *Prevention Science* (DOI 10.1007/s11121-008-0102-0).

Sloboda, Z., Tonkin, P., Pyakuryal, A., Teasdale, B., Hawthorne, R., Marquette, J., Williams, J. (2008). Implementation fidelity: The experience of the Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Study.

(Forthcoming) *Health Education Research*.

Alemagno, S.A., Stephens, P., Shaffer-King, P., Teasdale, B. 2008. Prescription Drug Abuse of Adolescent Arrestees: Correlates and Implications. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*. Vol. 15, Issue 1.

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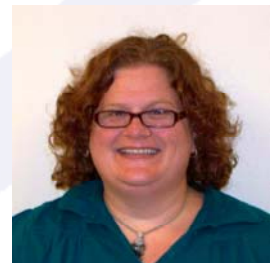
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WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS



TAMMY DIXON



JODI ROSS

IN MEMORIAM

Gay Capouch Kitson



A long time faculty member, Dr. Gay Kitson, died July 21, 2008 after a four-year battle with multiple myeloma. Gay joined our faculty in 1989, specializing in Sociology of the Family and Medical Sociology, and retired in 2003.

Prior to her tenure at UA, Gay worked at Case Western Reserve

University from 1968 to 1989, where she was an associate professor in the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology, and Family Medicine and Psychiatry in the School of Medicine.

Gay made important substantive contributions to the sociology of the family, especially with respect to how women cope with the violent deaths of loved ones, and family life adjustments following divorce. Her research was supported by grants from a variety of sources and included six projects funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institute on Aging.

Her book, *Portrait of Divorce: Adjustment to Marital Breakdown*, won the 1994 American Sociological Association Family Section's William J. Goode Book Award for the most outstanding book-length contribution to Family Sociology. In the words of one reviewer, "This is the very best that social science has to tell us about how it happens that couples divorce, and what happens to them afterward."

Gay contributed to the discipline and to academia in a number of other ways. She held editorial positions in several journals, specifically, Editor of *Sociological Focus*, 2001-2004, Guest Editor for a special issue of *Journal of Family Issues*, 1989, and Associate Editor for *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 1981-1993, and also for *Journal of Family Issues*, 1989-2008. Gay also served as President of The National Council on Family Relations from 2003-2005), a 4,000 member multidisciplinary professional organization that is

focused on family research, policy, and practice, and Chair of the Family Section of the American Sociological Association, (1995-1996).

Gay was not only an exemplary researcher; she also was an outstanding mentor for many graduate students and younger faculty. She encouraged her students to attend professional meetings and went beyond that, spending time shepherding them once they were there, for example, introducing them in an in-depth way to the various scholars that they encountered. Having Gay for a professional role model was surely a great asset for her students.

Even with her laudable professional career, Gay had many interests outside the profession, one being the theater. She also had a long-term interest in the British royal family and made a solo trip to London for the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Gay, too, was an avid reader for enjoyment, and, last but not least, she had a great appreciation for fine dining. She could always be counted on to have done the necessary research to identify the best restaurants in whatever location we happened to be meeting.

Born in Chicago, Gay was raised in Libertyville, IL. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from Northwestern University and Masters and Doctorate degrees in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Gay was a dedicated scholar who will be missed by her many friends and colleagues. Those wishing to remember her may send contributions to the Ireland Cancer Center of University Hospitals of Cleveland, 11100 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44106.

(This is a modified version of the obituary appearing in the American Sociological Association's newsletter, FOOTNOTES; the original was written by *Cynthia Beall*, Case Western Reserve University; *Alan Booth*, Pennsylvania State University; *R. Frank Falk*, University of Akron; *Sharon Houseknecht*, Ohio State University.





CALLING ALL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY ALUMNI

We want to hear from you! Please visit our [alumni website](#) and join our [Alumni Society](#) for Sociology Graduates. Please fill out the questionnaire online to help us gain information on your activities and accomplishments, and the information you provide might be included in the next annual AKRONews. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your news with faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. You may also choose to drop us a line. Thanks for your continued interest.

AKRONews is a publication of the Department of Sociology, University of Akron. Its purpose is to provide news concerning the activities of the Department, including teaching, research, scholarship, and service.

Contributions and comments are welcomed.
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