

UNCurrents

University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill

Department of Sociology

From The Chair

Our department experienced several significant changes in faculty composition. For the first time, three assistant professors were up for promotion and tenure review simultaneously, and we promoted all three to the rank of associate professor: Kenneth (Andy) Andrews, Andrew Perrin, and Karolyn Tyson. The outside reviews on all three were positively glowing, with the external referees praising us for the quality of our junior faculty. Barbara Entwisle earned the rank of Distinguished Professor, as chosen by a Provost's committee, and we now have eight full-time members of our faculty in chaired positions. We are currently searching to replace Glen Elder who is retiring at the end of this academic year (he will assume a new role as "Research Professor"), as well as looking ahead to replace Ron Rindfuss who is in phased retirement and will be retiring in two years. Thus, we must work diligently to maintain our strength at the full professor level.

We added two excellent assistant professors this year through our recruiting efforts: Neal Caren and Margarita Mooney. Both had postdoctoral positions and so have the advantage of two years of research experience. They are now busy preparing for their fall classes and are eager to develop their teaching expertise. In addition to the two assistant professors, we are bringing on board a postdoctoral fellow for two years, beginning July 1: Sergio Chavez.

Faculty members served not only nationally but also locally, holding many important offices at UNC-CH. Barbara Entwisle finished her term as president of the Population Association of America and Arne Kalleberg began his term as President of the American Sociological As-



sociation. In February, we held a reception for them, plus the outgoing President of the Southern Sociological Society (Judith Blau), at La Rez and celebrated their accomplishments.

At the university level, Ted Mouw won a university teaching award and several won internal awards and leaves.

Lisa Pearce won an appointment for the next academic year to the prestigious Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Palo Alto, California.

We continued to be fortunate in that our faculty have been winning outside awards -- such as the Add Health IV project that Kathie Harris has developed into a major force -- that make it possible for them to buy out of courses, thus releasing funds that we can use to fund our graduate program. In addition to research funding, our faculty have been quite successful at winning university leaves.

With regard to fund-raising, this was a quiet year, as we continued to pursue funding for our existing endowment funds, but did not start any new ones. Of the five new endowment funds begun over the past four years, two are now producing significant income that have allowed us to fund new initiatives, such as sending faculty to teaching conferences and beginning a new departmental workshop series.

This year marks a shift from the old comprehensive exam system to a new system, designed by Larry Griffin and Andy Perrin, that we hope will provide a smoother transition for our students from their master's paper to their dissertation proposal. We have been concerned that the comprehensive exam system slows some students down and is a somewhat artificial activity. In the new system, we are offering students several

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alternatives that correspond more closely to the professional duties that will be required of them.

More than half of our faculty reported publishing papers with current and former graduate students. Thanks to the efforts of our recruiting committee, headed by Philip Cohen, Director of Graduate Studies, we have a new crop of 11 excellent graduate students entering the program this fall, including four with external funding. We also made efforts to involve undergraduate students in various research projects. We had good results from the SPGRE program last summer, and we accepted one of these students into our graduate program for the coming year. We have recruited two minority students to work in the SPGRE program this coming summer.

Finally, under the guidance of Peter Uhlenberg over the past several years, we have stabilized the editorial process of our journal, *Social Forces*. Francois Nielsen will take over on July 1, and we are looking forward to a smooth transition. Changes made by Jane Shealy, the managing editor, have put the Journal on a trajectory to be completely self-sustaining, which is a huge change from just a few years ago, when the department was heavily subsidizing it.

We capped the year with an outstanding commencement celebration on Saturday, May 12th, organized by our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Andy Andrews. We filled the auditorium in Carroll Hall with family and friends of the graduating seniors. We recognized our seven honors' graduates and those graduating with academic distinction.

Overall, this has been an excellent year for the Department of Sociology.

New Faculty Members

The UNC Department of Sociology welcomes two new members to our faculty. Margarita Mooney and Neil Caren join us starting in the fall 2007 semester. Read more about them below.

Neal Caren



Neal Caren arrives from Ann Arbor, Michigan where he spent the last two years at the University of Michigan as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research. Prior to that, Neal received his Ph.D. from New York University in 2005. His areas of interest are in political sociology, social movements, and quantitative methodology. His work has appeared in the *American Sociological Review*, the *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Sociological Methods & Research*, the *Annual Review of Sociology*, along with other journals and edited-volumes.

The project he developed at the University of Michigan examines trends in air pollution stratification by race and class. He recently presented work showing the persistent relationship between neighborhood racial composition and pollution, using EPA data on concentrations of air toxins linked to respiratory illness. Neal showed that at every socioeconomic level, African American and Latino neighborhoods had lower air quality than comparable white neighborhoods. While he found little evidence that local policies to implement "environmental justice" reduced this gap in the 1990s, efforts to clean up the worst polluted areas have disproportionately benefited African Americans, somewhat closing the gap in access to clean air.

Neal's dissertation, "From the Streets to the Voting Booth and Back: Contexts, Institutions, and Political Participation in American Cities, 1979-2003," examined variation in the types and levels of political involvement across big U.S. cities over the last 25 years. In this project, which he is revising for publication, he examines the multiple ways that residents engage in politics, from the conventional routine of voting to more spontaneous eruptions of protest. Using municipal election data collected for this research, along with surveys and other secondary analysis, Neal finds that the structure of local government,

the formal and informal networks among residents and groups, and strength of social cleavages shape the form and level of political participation.

In his third major research area, with colleagues from the University of California-Irvine and New York University, Neal has been exploring media coverage of social movements during the 20th century. Using new data from the *New York Times*, they examine critical questions about patterns of social movement prominence. They provide an alternative interpretation of trends in the prominence of social movements over the last hundred years, based on concepts in political sociology, American political development, and elements of resource mobilization, political process/cycle, and new social movement theories.

Neal is a member of Team Caress, which consists of his partner, Amie Hess; his daughter, Lula Caress; and Sam and Africa, full-time cats.

Margarita Mooney



Margarita Mooney received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology at Princeton in 2000 and 2005, respectively, and a B.A. in Psychology from Yale University in 1995. From 2005-2007, she was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Princeton's Office of Population Research. Her work spans the areas of immigration, religion, race/ethnicity and higher education and has appeared in journals such as *Social Forces*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, and *Social Problems*. She has revised her Ph.D. thesis into book manuscript entitled *Faith Makes Us Live, but Misery Divides US: Haitian Catholicism in the Diaspora*. This manuscript analyzes qualitative data from nearly two years of fieldwork in the Haitian immigrant communities of Miami, Montreal and Paris. She argues that, although religion provides similar cultural tools for Haitians in all three settings, the ability of religious institutions to mediate for disadvantaged Haitian immigrants depends on the local and national political context.

While she was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Princeton's OPR, Mooney analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen, a survey of nearly 4,000 students (roughly equal numbers of White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian) at 28 elite American colleges and universities. Using this data, she co-authored book manuscript entitled, *Taming the River: Negotiating the Academic, Financial, and Social Currents in Selective Colleges* that looks at how studies of different race/ethnicity adjust to their academic and social environments. She is currently working on two articles that explore the adaptation of Hispanic students, specifically looking at how their perceptions of inequality in society and their experiences of discrimination on campus influence their academic performance. Another article she wrote using NLSF data (currently under review) finds that students who attend religious services weekly earn higher grades in college and that religious students report being more satisfied at college.

In between undergraduate and graduate school, she worked for three years at the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress in San José, Costa Rica, as a speechwriter for Nobel Peace laureate and two-time President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias. She also conducted extensive research on the

Margarita Mooney

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Central American peace process of the 1990s, including conducting fieldwork on the implementation of programs designed to re-integrate former combatants into civilian life after the peace accords in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Her non-academic work includes experience as the Sports Editor of the *Yale Daily News* (1993-1994), where her co-editor was Theo Epstein, the current General Manager of the Red Sox. In fact, she defended her Ph.D. dissertation at Princeton on the same day that her long-time friend Theo led the Red Sox back from a 3-0 deficit to defeat the Yankees 4-3 in the American League Championship Series. She believes Michael Jordan is the best basketball player who ever lived and hence considers herself to be an avid fan of UNC-Chapel Hill basketball.

UNCurrents Department of Sociology

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Recent PhD's

2006

Amanda Elam: Postdoctoral position in Australia at the Brisbane School of Management

Heather Kane: Post Doc at UNC Sheps Center for Health Service Research

2007

Amy Davis: Assistant Professor, College of Charleston, Management and Entrepreneurship Department

Robert Faris: Assistant Professor, UC Davis

Kammi Schmeer: Assistant Professor - Ohio State

Faculty Honors, Awards, & Books

Judith Blau – elected chair of the Marxist section of ASA.

Ken Bollen - received grant from National Science Foundation for “Structural Misspecification in Latent Variable Models: Symptoms, Consequences, and Diagnostic Tests,” grant renewed for “Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation.”

Phillip Cohen - Testified before Congress on gender pay gaps, received National Science Foundation grant for “Management Matters: Consequences of Managerial Composition.”

Barbara Entwisle – awarded Kenan Professorship, received National Institutes of Health R21 grant in collaboration with Ronald Rindfuss for “Modeling Household Dynamics and Land Use.”

Larry Griffin -received Southern Sociological Society Distinguished Lectureship Award.

Guang Guo - received grant from WT Grant Foundation Board of Trustees for “A Replication and Extension of a Study of Peer Impacts On Attitudes and Drinking Behavior,” presented paper at ASA methodology session.

Jackie Hagan - received grant from Community Economic Grant Program, UNC- CH for “Building for the Future: Immigrant Skills Acquisition in North Carolina’s Urban Labor Markets.”

Kathie Harris – received Sociology Department Mentoring award.

Gail Henderson – received grant from National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Arnie Kalleberg - co-edited a book with presidential candidate John Edwards, *Ending Poverty in America: How to Restore the American Dream* (New Press, 2007).

Sherryl Kleinman - published book *Feminist Fieldwork Analysis* (Sage, 2007), Fellow at Institute for Arts & Humanities, spring 2007.

Charles Kurzman- received grant from United States Institute of Peace to study Islamist participation in parliamentary elections, book in press, *Democracy Denied, 1905-1915* (Harvard University Press, 2007).

Victor Marshall – elected a member of the Council, section on Aging and Life Course for ASA.

Margarita Mooney - research featured in *New York Times* Op-Ed column “The Catholic Boom.”

Ted Mouw – received University Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Franciose Nielson – organized & presided over methodology section session of ASA.

Tony Oberschall - in press, *Conflict & Peace Building in Divided Societies: Responses to Ethnic Violence* (Oxford, Routledge, 2007).

Lisa Pearce - received University Research Council Grant, received Junior Faculty Development Grant 2007.

Andy Perrin – Faculty Fellow of the Institute for the Arts & Humanities (fall 2007), received National Endowment for the Humanities collaborative grant for his project “Before the Public Sphere: The Frankfurt School, Public Opinion, and the Group Experiment of 1950”, elected secretary-treasurer of the theory section of ASA.

Ronald Rindfuss – received National Institutes of Health R21 grant in collaboration with Barbara Entwisle for “Modeling Household Dynamics and Land Use.”

Mike Shanahan - in press, with Ross McMillian, *Biography & the Sociological Imagination: Contexts and Contingencies* in Jeffrey Alexander’s *Contemporary Societies Series* (W. W. Norton, 2007), keynote speaker at the 2007 Jacobs Foundation Conference on Adolescent & Youth Adulthood, Schloss Marbach, Germany.

Peggy Thoits – received award for distinguished lifetime achievement from the Sociology of Emotions section of ASA for 2006.

Karolyn Tyson – received grant from National Science Foundation for “School Rights.”

Peter Uhlenberg - received Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award for the section on aging and life course for 2006.

Cathy Zimmer – received Sociology Department Teaching award.

Add Health Wave IV Underway

The pretest for Add Health Wave IV was completed in April and May of this year. The pretest is designed to test all Wave IV data collection procedures and data transfer systems, including tracing and locating systems, the computerized survey instrument, protocols for collecting, packaging and shipping biological specimens, and quality control systems and reports. The pretest was conducted on 300 real Add Health respondents, producing data that will be combined with the remaining 17,000 Add Health respondents who will be interviewed during the main field study in 2008.

The Add Health cohort is aged 24-32 at Wave IV. The scientific purpose of the Wave IV Research Program is to study developmental and health trajectories across the life course from adolescence into young adulthood using an integrative approach that combines social, behavioral, and biomedical sciences in its research objectives, design, data collection, and analysis. When Wave IV data are combined with existing longitudinal Add Health data over 10 years of respondents' lives beginning in adolescence and extending through their transition to adulthood, Add Health will provide unique opportunities to study linkages in social, behavioral, environmental, and biological processes that lead to health and achievement outcomes in young adulthood.

During both the pretest and the main study, Add Health will collect survey data on the social, economic, psychological, and health circumstances of our respondents using a 90-minute CAPI/CASI instrument administered on a laptop computer, geocode information, anthropometric measurements, and biospecimens. Topics included in the survey instrument include demographic information; relationships with parents, siblings, and peers; self-reported health status; diet; exercise; tobacco, alcohol, and drug use; education; labor market activity; mental health; sexual behaviors; family and union formation; daily activities; and history of mistreatment by adults. New to

the survey in Wave IV are three assessments of cognition (assessments of memory, processing speed, and executive function). Biospecimens are collected to assess biological markers of future chronic health conditions and disease and include DNA, blood spots for assays of metabolic, inflammation, and stress processes, and saliva for cortisol.

Preliminary results from the pretest indicate that the quality of the survey data is outstanding, although the pretest ran a little long which will require some additional cuts of survey items. Compliance rates for biospecimen collection were over 98% (i.e., agreeing to provide blood spots, DNA, and saliva for cortisol). Add Health respondents are committed to the longitudinal study, demonstrated by continuing low refusal rates for participation in the study. The difficult aspect of carrying out Wave IV is locating respondents who are in a highly transitional life stage and with whom Add Health last had contact 5-6 years ago. An innovative feature of the pretest included an IIV Study (intra-individual variability study) in which the complete biomarker collection was conducted twice on a randomly-selected subset of individuals one week apart. These data will be used to estimate the reliability of biomarker measures to help inform improvements or cuts to the biomarker collection in the main study for those measures with low reliability. The integration of biological measures into a social science longitudinal study in a national field setting is what makes Add Health Wave IV stand apart from peer studies in the field. Add Health Wave IV data will be made available to the broader scientific community as soon as data collection is completed, and data files and documentation are cleaned and ready for use, some time in early spring 2009.

---Kathie Mullan Harris

Digital Preservation Award From Library of Congress

Imagine there was a single copy of a book that many social scientists considered highly influential in the information it contained and the impact it has had on our nation. Imagine this book was kept in the office of a soon-to-be-retired professor who was not quite sure where in the office it was located and that the book was likely to be discarded when she retired. Most of us would be outraged. But if you substituted “digital data set” for “book” in the preceding description, you would come close to describing the lack of safeguards for some data sets that have helped to define the social sciences and public policy.

The Data-PASS project has as its goal the identification and archiving of such data sets. Ken Bollen (Sociology & H. W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science) is the Principal Investigator for UNC. The institute’s partners in the Data-PASS project are the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan, the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Connecticut, the Henry A. Murray Research Archive and Harvard-MIT Data Center, and the National Archives and Records Administration. The project is supported by an award from the Library of Congress through its National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP).

The project’s goal is to ensure the long-term preservation of holdings and materials not yet archived. It seeks to acquire and preserve data at-risk of being lost to the research community, from opinion polls, voting records, large-scale surveys, and other social science studies.

“There is a wealth of information that has not yet been archived,” says Ken Bollen. “We have had success in updating the Odum Institute’s collec-

tion of Harris Public Opinion Data and in locating State Polls that were not archived, but there are lots more data sets out there.” For instance, as part of the project it was determined that less than 20% of social science projects funded by NSF and NIH that involved data collection had made arrangements to archive the data. Private research organizations often receive grants and contracts that involve the collection of social science data, but often do not deposit data in archives. According to Bollen, “We are making a dent in the problem, but we need to change the norms and expectations about preserving social science data at the conclusion of a project. We need to design data collections efforts with that in mind.”

A positive spin-off of the project is the partnership that has developed among the major social science archives that are part of the Data-PASS project. One of the most exciting outcomes is the development of a common web site through which researchers can search these social science archives at one location. In addition, the project is developing an online data analysis tool.

The Data-PASS project has already had nearly three years of funding and recently received word that the project will be funded for another 18 months.

If you know about important, endangered data sets, feel free to contact Ken Bollen (bollen@unc.edu).

Cohen Takes Gender Gap to Capitol Hill

Associate Professor Philip Cohen testified before the U.S. Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee on April 12, for a hearing entitled "Closing the Gap: Equal Pay for Women Workers."

Cohen was invited to "speak to the existence of the wage gap, its causes, and its impact on women, society, families, and the economy," according to email from the committee staff. In response, he prepared a written statement and delivered a short oral presentation to the committee before taking questions from senators Hillary Clinton, Tom Harkin, and Patty Murray.

With Democrats in the majority, members Hillary Clinton and Tom Harkin took the opportunity to hold a hearing on their proposed bills to address gender discrimination in the workplace. The majority members' staff also invited the president of an advocacy organization and a legal expert on gender. The Republican minority, meanwhile, brought a litigator who specializes in defending corporate clients from discrimination lawsuits.

Clinton has proposed the "Paycheck Fairness Act," while Harkin's is the "Fair Pay Act." Both bills would increase costs to employers for discrimination and narrow allowable defenses to discrimination lawsuits. The most far-reaching reform, in the Harkin bill, would permit challenges to pay differences for jobs that are "equivalent" – that is, similar but not identical. That might open the door to many more anti-discrimination lawsuits, and force employers to consider differences in compensation between jobs dominated by male versus female employees. Also, both bills would improve data collection from employers and permit more analysis of workplace practices.

At the hearing, Cohen described a pattern of stalled progress toward gender equality in the United



States, according to such indicators as the gender gaps in pay and employment rates, job segregation, and the division of housework between husbands and wives. He argued that new legislation against discrimination might help spur broader changes in the direction of gender equality. In the questioning that followed, Clinton and Harkin pursued the role of gender segregation and pay differences between male- and female-dominated occupations as a source of the gender gap in pay.

The corporate defense attorney argued that the gender pay gap usually results from different skills, training, and choices made by men and women – and suggested that an appropriate response from government would be increased support for education and job training. A recent editorial in *Fortune* magazine called Harkin's bill "absurdly misguided, injecting the federal government into the most routine pay decisions." The prospects for both bills in Congress are uncertain, but the issue could factor into the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, as Senator Barack Obama has co-sponsored the Harkin bill, but Clinton has not.

"Ultimately, eliminating the wage gap will require both integrating men and women more into the same occupations, and eliminating disparities within occupations and jobs," Cohen said in his written statement. "The pressure [the Harkin bill] brings to bear on employers might reduce the wage gap by calling into question practices that segregate men and women into different jobs – and that reward similar jobs differently."

Philip Cohen's prepared statement is available at: http://help.senate.gov/Hearings/2007_04_12/Cohen.pdf

Misc. Faculty Activities

Anne Hastings, Senior Lecturer

In May, I joined the Dean, faculty and graduate students from UNC's School of Social Work for my first trip to China. My interest was to observe, read and investigate further the unintended consequences of China's One-Child Policy. While in China, most of our time was spent with students, administrators, and faculty of East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai. While there, I was able to conduct an "observational" selective-sample study of over 550 children, from infancy to mid-teen years. My research goal was to observe the number of boy children as opposed to girl children at different sites and in public places to assess, on a limited scale, the impact of the one-child/small-family policy. As reported often by research scientists in China, my observations of young children also reflected a changing sex-ratio demographic among the generation born since implementation of the One-Child Policy. That is, there are more males than females at almost all age levels.

In addition to the changing sex ratio, though, there were many faculty and social workers in China who reported on another phenomenon, as an unintended consequence of the policy. And this consequence involved the internal relationship dynamics in Chinese families. The Chinese referred to many of the one-boy families, for example, as families who were raising "little emperors," meaning that since many families are limited to one child, many prefer boys as that one child, and with only one boy, ever, in the family, there is tremendous doting on that one boy, along with high expectations for his future.

As a side note, I, along with "research assistants" (really, they were grad students and faculty from UNC) were unable to identify the gender/sex of five infants only. For the other 545+ children we observed, in different sites around Shanghai, the children's clothing, hair styles, and even their shoes were as gender-typed by color and material as children's clothing in the U.S. The Chinese students and faculty seemed surprised at my findings of an obvious difference in the numbers of boys and girls at various ages, though the Chinese students were with us, also, through much of the observational time period. The Chinese female student with whom I spent the most time, and with whose parents I dined one evening, asked me numerous questions about what it was like to raise three boys in the U.S., and the mother, in front of her daughter, commented that she had always wanted a boy (but would have been fined if they had had a second child). Since the intention behind the One-Child Policy was to reduce the fertility rate and control the population of China, those two factors have been successful. The policy's unintentional impact on the family lives of the Chinese population are now being dealt with, and most of the social workers with whom we spoke and studied seemed very aware of the upcoming social problems with the elderly, spoiled teenagers, skewed sex ratios, and other issues.

Jacqueline Hagan, Associate Professor

In 2006, Hagan received a UNC International First Year Course Development Grant. She used part of the funds from the grant to develop several activities for students in a spring 2007 first year seminar on Immigration in Contemporary America. Part of the course focused on the social implications of recent large-scale Latino migration to North Carolina. During this segment of the course, Hagan brought in writer Paul Cuadros to discuss *Home on the Field*, a journalistic account of intergroup relations among youth in Siler City. Hagan also took her students on a day field trip to Smithfield Packing in Tar Heel, North Carolina, a major employer of Latino immigrants and the largest pork slaughterhouse in the world. Students observed first-hand the central role that newcomer immigrants play in the state's food processing industry. At the plant, the students interviewed management on a series of issues, ranging from intergroup relations, worker safety, and labor issues, including management attitudes towards collective bargaining. After a tour of the plant, the students traveled to Fayetteville, where over lunch they met with Smithfield workers and representatives from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW), who is trying to organize Smithfield's largely African American and Latino workforce, who complain of worker mistreatment by management and unsafe working conditions. In June 2007, management-worker relations became so tense that local clergy mediated negotiations and Presidential hopeful, John Edwards, met with worker representatives.



Alumni Notes & News

Following are notes and news sent to us by UNC Sociology alumni. We would like to keep up with your accomplishments, awards, teaching appointments, or anything else you would like to share with us. Please see the submission form in this newsletter to submit items for our next newsletter.

Joseph Gerteis, PhD 1999, won the Best Article award from the Political Sociology section of ASA for 2006.

Fred Emil Katz, PhD 1961, published an article on the Holocaust in the eleven-volume *Encyclopedia of Sociology* (Blackwell, 2006). Says Katz, “[P]rofessionally and scientifically, sociologists have been largely silent about the Holocaust, yet we can offer unique insights about it and, in turn, the Holocaust offers some important contributions for our discipline.” Additionally Dr. Katz is currently preparing his ninth book for publication.

Mairead Moloney, MA 2005, was awarded the Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship. This is jointly awarded by Sociologists for Women in Society, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, & the American Sociological Association, for a student who began her career in a community college or technical school. The award is based on: commitment to teaching; research and/or activism in social inequality, social justice, or social problems, with a focus on gender and/or gerontology; service to the academic and/or local community, including mentoring; and high quality research and writing in the proposal and letter of application.

Maloney is currently supported as an NRSA doctoral fellow in the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research and is also associated as a graduate student member of the Workforce Aging in the New Economy project of the Institute on Aging.

Sarah McCarthy, BA 2003, a former undergraduate Odum Award recipient, received her MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health this spring. She will continue her studies in pursuit of a PhD in public health.

Pam Paxton, PhD 1998, is a member of the methodology section council of ASA and a member of the editorial board of *Sociological Methodology*.

Linda Renzulli, MA 1998, PhD 2001, received the Richard B. Russell award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at the University of Georgia, where she is currently a faculty member. **Ian Conlon**, former Renzulli student and current UNC Sociology graduate student, said of Renzulli, “[She] does not merely teach sociology, she creates sociologists.”

Margaret Sery Young, PhD 1976, passed away May 31, 2006. She was 67. After graduating from high school, Young joined the School Sisters of St. Francis and continued her education, graduating from both Alverno College and Loyola University. As a radical nun in the 1960s she worked with other Catholic leaders to organize the Milwaukee Transit Strike. She later worked in Chicago with Saul Alinsky, the “Father of Community Organizing,” and civil rights activist the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was one of eight nuns who organized South Side Chicago residents to lawfully and peacefully shut down the Chicago City Hall telephone system until Mayor Richard J. Daley relented and restored weekly garbage service to the South Side. She left the order in 1966 and taught for two years at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN before pursuing her PhD with UNC Sociology. After graduating, she taught for six years at Guilford College in Greensboro and then animal social behavior at North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine in Raleigh for fourteen years before retiring in 1994 (from *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*).

Alumni Interview: Dr. Stephen Lippmann

Dr. Stephen Lippmann earned his masters and PhD at UNC's department of Sociology. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



How did your teaching experiences at UNC Sociology prepare you for your position at Miami University with its strong focus on teaching?

Good teachers are made, not born. My experiences in the Ph.D. program at UNC prepared me well for a position with a heavy emphasis on undergraduate education. The graduate seminar in teaching sociology provided a useful introduction to many of the issues that an aspiring teacher must consider, and I am learning that such a course is not an opportunity that all Ph.D. students have.

Practically speaking, this course got me thinking about constructing a course syllabus, how to manage a classroom, and other nuts-and-bolts issues. Pedagogically, it challenged me to think about what kind of teacher I wanted to be, and how assignments and in-class time could help me to work towards these goals. The emphasis on active and cooperative learning exposed me to new methods and helped me to rethink the role of the time my students and I spend in class.

The graduate program also provided ample opportunities to teach my own courses, which allowed me to put the lessons learned in the seminar into practice, and work out many of the kinks that new teachers will inevitably experience. Of course, I still encounter many of these kinks, but I feel much better able to work through them now.

What can a student do to prepare themselves for a position at a university with as much emphasis on teaching as there is research?

Although teaching and research activities are in many ways complementary, they also compete directly for one's time. Therefore, effective time management strategies are of utmost importance (as they are in any faculty position). I think that new faculty who are expected to divide their time and energy somewhat equally between these two activities must be reflective and honest with themselves about their work habits and styles, and develop techniques, habits, and strategies that allow them to devote sufficient and uninterrupted time to teaching and research without letting one bleed too heavily into the other.

What has been one of the most rewarding teaching experiences in your career?

Teaching is rewarding for a lot of reasons, but I find the immediate, direct, and observable impact that teaching can have on students' worldview and intellectual development most rewarding.

Student Awards and Honors

Daniel Adkins - NRSA Fellowship NIH- National Institute of Mental Health for "Gene Environment Interaction in Adolescent Depression"

Tyson Brown - awarded dissertation completion fellowship for 2007-08

Tim Cupery - received Harvey Fellowship

Matt Ezzell - inducted into UNC's Honor Society "Order of the Golden Fleece", Boka Hadzija Award for 2006-07, Wilson Teaching Award

Ken Kolb - received Blumer Award of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction for "Symptahy Work: Identity Management Among Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Agency Staff"

Gerald Lackey - NRSA Fellowship NIH - National Institutes of Mental Health for "Immigrant Social Networks and Mental Health"

Dohoon Lee - awarded dissertation completion fellowship for 2007-08

Mairead Moloney - awarded the Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship

Christopher Riddick - Spencer Education Science and Policy Scholar

Demetrius Semien - Wilson Teaching Award, Elon University Pre-Doctoral Minority Fellowship, ASA ADK General Minority Fellowship

Steve Vaisey - Odum Award, Charlotte Newcombe dissertation award

Undergraduate Honors

The Sociology Department would like to recognize the following Sociology majors who were initiated into the Alpha of North Carolina Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa during the Spring 2007 semester:

Sherry limay Ho
Jacob Lepie Rosch
Samual John Yancey

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest undergraduate honors organization in the United States. The society has pursued its mission of fostering and recognizing excellence in the liberal arts & sciences since 1776.

Incoming Student Cohort

Name	Interest	Undergraduate University
Janette Dill	aging/lifecourse, medical	Wheaton College
Emily Dixon	family, social demography	Cornell University
Yilan Fu	social demography	Peking University - China
Steven Gaddis	social stratification	UGA - Athens
Yi Li	social stratification	Nanjing University - China
Allison Matthews	race/ethnicity	Howard University
Mark Nichols	demography	UC - San Diego
Mark Noble	political soc., theory	UNC - Charlotte
Cheryl Roberts	social stratification	University of Virginia
Ashton Verdey	demography & human ecology	McGill University - Canada
Amber Wells	work & occupations	University of Rhode Island

Fundraising for Sociology

Many of you have given generously to support the department's gift fund, as well as other special funds that we have set up over the past few years. I would love to have the opportunity to meet personally with each of you, to thank you for what you have made possible. In the interim, let me use this newsletter to express how much your gifts have meant to us.

I can give you a few examples of the ways your gifts have benefited our department. Several of the students in our undergraduate honors seminar recently had papers accepted for presentation at a conference in Wilmington, North Carolina. We were able to obtain funding from the Undergraduate Honors Office to pay for their transportation, but this funding did not cover their hotel bills. Using

our discretionary funds from the annual gifts to our department, we were able to ensure that they could spend the night at the conference site, thus getting a chance to not only present their papers but also attend other sessions. Similarly, for our graduate students, we are now able to provide up to \$250 per student to attend professional meetings where they present their papers.

For faculty, our discretionary funds have enabled us to continue our speaker series, after the College told us they no longer have funds to support the series. In April, for example, we brought in one of our former students, Stephen Lippmann, who now teaches at Miami University of Ohio. A note on him appears in this issue of our newsletter. He spoke about his recent book project, as well

as what it is like to teach at a university that greatly values undergraduate teaching. In addition, we were able to pay the travel costs of a faculty member to attend a teaching conference last year, utilizing money from the Rachel Rosenfeld Fund. None of these activities would have been possible without the support of our loyal donors.

As you know, for many decades, surveys have ranked our department as one of the top five sociology departments in the United States, and our journal, *Social Forces*, has been ranked one of the best sociology journals. For much of our history, we were able to maintain our excellence through state funding and research grants. However, in recent years, state funding has steadily declined and we are increas-

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ingly dependent upon the generosity of private donors.

Over the past five years, we have lost one faculty member to an outside offer, and have nearly lost four others. Over the next five to 10 years, we face the prospect of continual raiding by universities that can provide discretionary research funds to their faculty, and we need to be able to compete with them. Thus, a top priority for the department is to raise funds for what we call the Carolina Sociology Fund for Faculty Excellence, a fund begun through the efforts of Glen Elder and Ray Mack. Small grants from this fund will be used to provide seed money for faculty research projects.

As an example of what outside funding can do, let me mention another endowed fund set up for

discretionary expenditures: the Jack W. Daum Fund for Sociology. We have used the income from this fund to support a new program of faculty workshops. The workshops involve faculty and students holding a yearlong series of meetings organized around a central theme, with course credit for the graduate students. We tried a pilot project this past year on culture and politics and it worked beautifully. We will have two such workshops in the coming year.

Some of our needs could be met through gifts to our expendable funds, such as through the annual giving program, but we would also like to increase the amount in our endowment funds, to ensure the continuity of these programs over the years.

Given the obvious importance of these outside funds for our department's intellectual health

and growth, you may want to consider remembering the department in your estate planning. For example, a bequest to our new "Carolina Sociology Fund for Faculty Excellence" would help to ensure the continued pre-eminence of our Department. A bequest would help us build an endowment that will provide essential resources to recruit and retain outstanding faculty. Brook Alexander, our development officer in the College, could provide you with more information about making bequests. His phone number is 919-843-0345

Or, please get in touch with me directly; I would be happy to talk with you about alternative ways to support and enhance the department. My number is 919-962-5044.

-- Howard Aldrich

Donation Form

Date _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ payable to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Please allocate my gift to: Sociology Department

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Alumni Notes

UNCurrents would like to know what our alumni are doing. Please fill out the form below to let us know about your current position, exciting award, or any other news worth sharing. We will publish this information in the next issue of **UNCurrents**.

Send to: **UNCurrents:** Department of Sociology
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