



Sociology & Social Work Newsletter

Summer 2008

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Letter From The Chair

Well, another year has come and gone. Given how fast the year went by, I am forced to conclude that I have either been extremely busy or I have been having fun. Perhaps it has been a bit of both. During the past year the Sociology Program completed its Seven-Year Review. I am pleased to say reviewers were impressed with how congenial and supportive faculty are toward one another and the dedication and concern they show toward our students' education. As you will see throughout this newsletter, both the sociology and social work programs have maintained a very active agenda.

Dr. Sara Aleman left our department to become the director of the Ethnic Studies. Caprice Schneider, our administrative assistant, became the administrative associate in the Athletic Training Education Program. Finally, after 35 and 21 years of service, Drs. Gerald Hughes and Charlotte Goodluck have retired. Although we regret their exodus, we wish these friends and colleagues all the best in their future pursuits.

With the departures, come additions. First, Dr. Mark Hudson, currently at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania, will join us in the fall as assistant professor. He will teach courses in environmental sociology and globalization. Dr. Mara Fridell will join us next year as a visiting assistant professor, teaching courses in gender studies. She will also have teaching assignments in Honors and Women and Gender Studies. We are anticipating Dr. Natalie Cawood will join us as a visiting assistant professor in Social Work. She will teach the courses previously taught by Charlotte Goodluck. Finally, Hilary McDonald became the department's administrative assistant in February. Hilary is an excellent addition to our office staff and has proven herself to be a great fit in the department.



Another change will occur in July with my departure as chair of Sociology and Social Work. Serving as chair for the past four years has been an interesting and rewarding experience. Needless to say, my job as chair was made much easier by excellent faculty and staff support. As I still enjoy teaching, I now look forward to returning to the classroom. The new department chair will be Dr. Kooros Mahmoudi. Kooros represents an excellent choice for the department's leadership position. It should come as no surprise to those of you who know him that he was the unanimous choice by the faculty. His appointment will ensure the department's reputation for excellent teaching, scholarly productivity, and genuine concern for students will remain intact. Congratulations Kooros!

On that note, I will bring this letter to a close and ask that, when you get a chance, drop us a line at ssw@nau.edu.

Warren Lucas

Notes from the Graduate Coordinator's Desk

by Janine Minkler



The graduate program has been thriving with the help of creative, energetic graduate students and committed faculty. Graduate students express a wide variety of interests and talents, including bringing innovative methodological processes to their thesis and internship projects. Their work also examines a range of sociological themes as indicated

by their thesis titles. Congratulations to recent and upcoming graduates of the program whose thesis/internship projects include:

Melanie Bertram, "The Construction and Deconstruction of Female Body Image: Middle Age American Women's Perspectives."

Damien Contessa, "The Wolf of Our Mind—Changing Perceptions of the Mexican Gray Wolf."

Myra Ferrell, "Activistas Mamacitas: An Exploration of the Inspirations of Activist Single Parents."

Sarah Flett, "Women's Studies and Gender Studies: The Power of a Name and the Trend to Name Change."

Hari Gautam, "Participatory Development Approach: A Case Study of the Patle Khola Water Supply Project, Makawanpur, Nepal."

Matt Hornbeck, "Pick Up Artist—The Musical: Developing Individual and Group Meaning through Pop-Cultural Presentations."

Jesse McKee, "The National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative: An Internship Manuscript."

Patrick McManus, "Performance with a Purpose: Men and Online Games."

Jami Ryba, "The Effect of Immigration Rights Organizations on the Labeling of Immigrants."

Faculty continue to be highly engaged with our graduate students, serving on thesis and internship committees, supervising independent studies, and participating in the Pacific Sociological Association Conference and practice session as part of an ongoing interest in supporting professional development opportunities for our graduate students.

It's been a full year with recruitment efforts, a program self-study, and new course development. We look forward to a new group of highly-motivated graduate students in the fall.

Undergraduate Awards

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences held its Celebrating Student Achievement awards ceremony on April 18, 2008 at the new High Country Conference Center on north campus. Janine Minkler and Rebecca Garrison served as the department's award presenters. Congratulations to all!

Scholarship	Recipient
Vicki K. Brown-Carpenter Memorial Scholarship	Tina Adams Caroline David Angela Waters (Yuma) Lluvia Brito Margo Nelson
Sociology Department Scholarship	Candace Linn Chris Duarte
Edward E. Walker Sociology Scholarship	Kirsten Mora Nicole Kuhn
Kanan Family Endowment	Nicholas Bilyk Tina Johnson
Virginia Rae Kurner Memorial Scholarship	Robin Bronson Debi Nelson Emily Neuman

Marie Adell Monbleau Memorial Scholarship	Melissa Kiehlbaugh
Louise Child Spence Scholarship	Samantha Clark

Honor Students

Social Work Student of the Year:	Carlos Rodriguez Laurene McGlothlen (Yuma)
Social Work Senior of the Year:	Jaymie Lopez
Sociology Student of the Year:	Rose Sutton
Sociology Senior of the Year:	Linda Barker Christopher Griffin

Teaching in Spain by Anne Medill



After teaching in Alicante, Spain for the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) program this past spring, I have become more aware of the importance of teaching students to have a global orientation when evaluating and responding to a range of issues. For example, water shortages are impacting Spain much like the Southwest United States.

They are however developing alternative responses that we can learn from. One major strategy is a rigorous conservation program which includes active education programs for all children in school.

They also have all of the social issues to grapple with that we do as Americans but again their responses have been different. Gay marriage is recognized and gay partnerships have the same rights as heterosexual partnerships. Women who have been in abusive relationships are given small living stipends for several months and support services in order to begin living independently. Students attend university for free and they participate in the selection of the University leadership through a vote. There are other examples of different responses to social and environmental issues that have made me reevaluate some of our approaches. I would encourage all students and faculty to participate in a study abroad experience because it did increase my critical thinking skills through an immersion process.

Hughes and Goodluck Retire



Gerald Hughes, PhD is retiring after 35 years of teaching in the sociology department. During his tenure he has taught thousands of students, served on numerous graduate committees, and offered significant contributions to the university and community.

One of the first web-based teachers at the university, he contributed significantly to the department's efforts in this area. He served as sociology graduate coordinator for four years and as internship coordinator for many years. An active member of the community, he served on several boards including Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flagstaff and Coconino County Victim/Witness Services.

He has kept an active and diverse research agenda, presenting numerous papers at sociological conferences, with his research on obesity published in the *Journal of Social Problems* and has been reprinted in several textbooks on deviance. Most noteworthy was his coauthored (Degher) article on "Identity Transformation" that appeared in four editions of *Constructions of Deviance*.



Charlotte Goodluck, PhD, professor of social work, has been a faculty member in the Social Work Program since 1987. Charlotte is originally from Window Rock and is half Navajo. She was the coordinator of the Social Work Program for five years and the accreditation process was completed under her leadership.

Charlotte has taught across the social work curriculum and has an emphasis in Native American issues. She has conducted national research on Native American Children's Well-Being Indicators and Strengths Perspectives sponsored by the National Indian Child Welfare Association and Casey Family Programs. Currently Charlotte is the Director of Community Outreach for the Native American Cancer Research Partnership. Her research included working with both the Hopi and Navajo Nations regarding women's breast and cervical cancer trends, attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge rates. Charlotte has been an active member of many local, tribal, state, and national organizations as well as non-profit agencies providing training, consultation and research.

Charlotte has decided to retire from NAU and relocate to Portland, Oregon, where she will become the Director of a new BSW Program at Portland State University, School of Social Work.

Social Work Program News by Rebecca Garrison

This has been a year of accomplishments, challenges, and change for the social work program. Our achievements and management of challenges were possible due to the partnership, dedication, inspiration, passion, energy, and contribution of students, field instructors, advisory board members, community agencies, and faculty. We would not have been able to function without the competent and dedicated contributions of adjunct faculty Karen Briley-Balkan, Kelly Brown, Natalie Cawood, Mary Erhart, Melinda Hoyungowa, Ruth Kunzelman, Katherine Meyer, and Martha Scranton.

Fall 2007 was a productive semester. A new cohort of 27 students began at the Yuma campus under the leadership of Bill Pederson. In Flagstaff, social work students in Anne Medill's SW 423 class contributed 567 hours in agency and community service activities associated with homelessness, respite services, substance abuse, fund raising for private human service agencies, and recreational and educational activities for children, youth, family, and aging members in northern Arizona. It also marked the beginning of Dave McKell's year-long sabbatical of travel and discovery.

In the spring, Anne Medill began teaching in Spain at the Universidad de Alicante (see related article) and Charlotte Goodluck resumed her role as director of community outreach for the Native American Cancer Research Partnership. Bill Pederson developed a Mexico immersion course to be offered in the winter 2008 session.

As always, Mary Damskey has been instrumental in advising students and tending to our program needs. During the academic year Mary was responsible for placing and monitoring 12 students who contributed over 6000 clock hours of service in community agencies.

This year was also highlighted by a positive program review. The Program Assessment Report was evaluated by the University Assessment Committee in January and praised as, "Excellent job! Very nice data and usable return on assessment efforts. The senior survey provided good results for the department to use in multiple ways." The process affirmed the strengths of faculty and their relationship with students, field placements and other service learning and volunteer opportunities, advocacy for social and economic justice, curriculum, and quality of instruction. Recommendations for improvement include adding content in the Flagstaff campus courses related to Hispanic/Latino populations and increasing service learning and real life activities throughout the curriculum.

After a 21-year career with the Social Work program, Charlotte Goodluck is retiring to assume the position of Director, BSW Program, Portland State University. Our joy for Charlotte and congratulations are filled with both excitement for her journey and sadness at our loss. We will miss her thoughtful, visionary, and wise presence in our program and celebrate her achievements and contributions as a colleague. Her legacy of leadership, service, teaching, and scholarship remains a foundation of our program.

We are proud to announce a BSW degree program located in Tuba City, Arizona beginning fall 2008. The program, in collaboration with Dine College, is funded by the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation, Distance Learning, and the Department of Sociology and Social Work.

As for me, I have been the social work program coordinator for two years. This has been an exciting year and I have had the pleasure of working with everyone. I wish you all a great summer.

Recent Publications

Our faculty have been very productive this year in publishing research. We have created a new link on our web page to showcase their work. Please visit nau.edu/sociology and go to "Recent Publications" on the faculty and staff page.



Graduate Student Presents Innovative Thesis



Matthew B. Hornbeck received his MA in Applied Sociology this spring, based on his outstanding thesis entitled "Pick-up Artist: The Musical, Encouraging Public Discourse and Social Change through

Pop-Cultural Sociology." Hornbeck investigates the research question: "how can pop-cultural mediums, such as a musical, be used to promote sociological knowledge and ultimately encourage social discourse and ideological change?" To answer, he wrote an original musical instilled with sociological concepts such as symbolic interaction and hegemonic masculinity, attended call back auditions to secure actors/singers from the theater department, secured a stage and musical director, and performed in the staged reading.

In addition, he conducted two focus groups analyzing interpretations of pop culture with production participants. Using problematic expressions of masculinity as a case study, Hornbeck finds the potential for social change in the construction of culture and social meanings expressed in the focus groups. He plans to present an encore performance, with the goal of competing regionally and nationally to take his sociological musical on the road.

Alumni Profile

Paul Morgan, Class of 2007

Paul Morgan graduated with a BS in Applied Sociology and Psychology in 2007. He is now in his first year of the PhD program in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. His current emphasis areas are in the sociology of culture and organizations, occupations, and labor. In addition to his studies and research, Paul is a teacher's assistant and enjoys leading discussion sections of large undergraduate courses.

"My time as a student of sociology at NAU is one that I'll always remember fondly. At any given moment, there were always faculty around who would be happy to take time out of their schedules to sit and just chat with me. This is a luxury which I have recently discovered does not exist at many other universities. It is this close contact which thoroughly prepared me for my graduate studies. Even if I had not stayed in academia, the education I received from the sociology department is one which would have prepared me for anything." *Paul Morgan*

Alumni Updates/Contributions

Please use the enclosed envelope to send the department your updates and/or financial contributions. You can also visit us at our website at nau.edu/sociology or email us at ssw@nau.edu.