

SOCIOLOGY DEPT.



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

While this is just the second installment of our newsletter, we're already trying something new: posting it on the Department's Webpage. Rather than going to the expense of printing and mailing, we thought the Internet might be the perfect medium to share news from the Department of Sociology.

On May 12th, at the 110th Annual Commencement of The University of Montana, 102 students were awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. At our Departmental ceremony, we had students write a short statement of what they found meaningful in their college career or what their future plans are. It was gratifying to hear so many students thank the Sociology faculty and staff (i.e., Shari). Parents, classmates, and friends also received their due appreciation. Future plans included careers in law enforcement, non-profit administration, therapeutic casework, law school, graduate school, and even the NFL! We also had seven students graduate with a

Masters of Arts Degree. Their thesis titles are listed in the column to the left.

The school year was demanding, but much was accomplished. This newsletter highlights some of the most significant achievements of sociology faculty and students.

Most summers bring a lull in activity which gives us a chance to catch up, but this summer is different due to staffing changes. Professor Romero resigned this past spring to take a position at Boise State University. We greatly appreciate his three years of work at UM. He will be missed greatly by both students and colleagues. Some of you will be shocked to hear that our one-and-only Administrative Assistant/Academic Advisor, Shari Linjala, retired on June 29th. Shari has devoted 23 years to the Department. It's an understatement to say that she has been the glue that holds the Department together— planning course offerings, keeping budgets, assisting faculty, advising students, checking each and

every graduation application. How do we even begin to thank Shari for her years of devotion and her very capable efforts in administering the Department? On Friday, June 22nd we had a full day of celebration for Shari's exceptional contributions, including a campus open house and a dinner party. How is the Department going to hold it together without her? Stay tuned for progress reports!

Beyond tuition and state support for higher education, the Department of Sociology increasingly relies on donations to support scholarships and student research, and for improvements not included in a very tight budget. If you would like to give a gift to the Department, please do so by using the information highlighted later in this newsletter. We greatly appreciate your continued support and commitment to the Department!

Best Regards,
Jim Burfeind

THANKS, SHARI!

Academic Advisor/ Administrative Associate for the Department of Sociology Shari Linjala retired on June 29, 2007. Shari came to the department 23 years ago and has been its heart and soul ever since.

Her position evolved steadily from ditto machines to computers, ledger sheets to spread sheets, from secretarial duties to coordination of the academic advising program. Each expansion of duties made her more valuable to faculty and students. Her career was characterized by resourcefulness, innovation, professionalism, astounding

multitasking capabilities, and good humor. In recognition of her work, Shari won the *Outstanding Staff Award* in 1998 and a bonus in 2005 for compiling a new policy guide for the department. She recently coordinated the *Heart of Steele Campaign*, a fundraiser for Joanne Steele, the Women's Golf Coach at UM.

Friends and family from in and outside the department helped celebrate Shari's career with two events (one of which was a complete surprise to Shari). Her constant smile and willingness to help will be truly missed by all!



Former Fish & Wildlife
Agent Lucinda Schroeder

Congratulations to This Year's Outstanding Seniors!

Award for Academic
Excellence
Stacy Gander

Award for
Contributions to
Academic Programs
in Sociology
Shawn Griffin

Award for
Outstanding
Performance in
Applied Sociology
Terri Russell

Mortarboard Awards

Gregory Burfeind
(General Sociology)

Brandy Fortier
(Criminology)

Sarah Kester
(REaCH)

CRIMINOLOGY CLUB NEWS

SCHROEDER SPEAKS TO CRIM CLUB

Lucinda Schroeder, author of *A Hunt for Justice—The True Story of a Woman Undercover Wildlife Agent* (Lyons Press), spoke to members of the Crim Club in October about her experiences as an agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the 1970s, Schroeder was the first female Fish and Wildlife Agent to carry a firearm, blazing a new trail for women in federal law enforcement. She spoke to the club about her experiences running sting operations designed to catch poachers.

Schroeder's talk was just one in a long list of events for the club this year. Just a year after gaining official recognition as a student organization from ASUM, President Terri Russell

and Crim Club organized a full slate of activities. In addition to social events including bowling and ice skating, the club held several fundraisers and sponsored tours of the state crime lab and state prisons. The tour of the prison had a profound impact on many of the club's members, according to Russell. "Every person, when heading back to Missoula afterwards, expressed a deep appreciation for their freedom and a sadness for those caught in the life of crime," she said.

The club also worked together with UM's Office of Public Safety to organize its Student Police Academy. The SPA is designed to increase campus support for and understanding of the Police

Department by teaching students about police operations, the Department's capabilities, about the realities of Emergency response, and by providing a forum for police-student dialogue.

The club, currently advised by Professor Dan Doyle is open to any student with an interest in criminology. On graduating this spring, club president Terri Russell handed the reigns over to senior sociology major Lisa Colyer. For more information about the club's members and activities, please visit the club's website at www.umt.edu/criminologyclub/.

SOBIESZCZYK'S INNOVATIVE "SILK ROAD" COURSE

This spring, Professor Teresa Sobieszczyk collaborated with Professors Sarah Halvorson (Geography) and Kimber Haddix McKay (Anthropology) to develop a team-taught course on Gender and Development in China and Central Asia. The course received funding from a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Title VI Program aimed at strengthening the University of Montana's program linking China and Central Asia.

The course attracted 38 students from many disciplinary backgrounds, including five foreign exchange students and ten graduate students. As a

part of the course, nurse and founder of the Mongolian Medicine Project, Sas Carey, presented two guest lectures and screened her film, "Gobi Women's Song," on nomadic Mongolian women's health and lifestyle. The course featured a "poster conference" in which students presented their own research on gender and development issues in the region.

"The best thing about teaching the course was the diversity of students of various ages, disciplines, and national backgrounds," said Sobieszczyk.

OTHER FACULTY NEWS

Celia Winkler was awarded a year-long sabbatical to conduct research on the social gospel movement of the 1920s.

Lyn Macgregor was on leave during Spring Semester after having her first child, a beautiful girl named Caroline.

Dusten Hollist and coauthors published a paper on the compounded risks for delinquency faced by youth from poor families who live in poor communities in the *Journal of Youth and*

Adolescence. He also published an article in the *Journal of Drug Issues* on family influences on marijuana use together with Professor Emeritus **Bill McBroom**.

Rob Balch's article "The Rise & Fall of Aryan Nations" appeared in the *Journal of Political and Military Sociology*. He continues to involve students in his research on unconventional religious groups, taking 12 students to a symposium of a ritual magic group in Port-

land, and to a conference of the Church Universal & Triumphant in March.

Dan Doyle, Dusten Hollist, and Jim Burfeind conducted research at the Missoula County Detention Center on the connection between drug use and crime

Kathy Kuipers was elected editor of the newsletter for the Social Psychology section of the American Sociological Association.

SOCIOLOGISTS WORK TO IMPROVE CAMPUS SAFETY

Professors Dan Doyle, Dusten Hollist, and first-year graduate student Sarah Puckett have begun collecting data for a new Campus Safety and Sexual Encounters Survey, examining the prevalence of sexual assault at the UM, both on the main campus and at the College of Technology. The survey also examines the context of such victimizations and the degree to which students are aware of and use services designed to deal with them. Sponsored by the University Committee on Student Assault and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the goal of the study is to enhance campus safety and develop better pro-

gramming to prevent and respond to sexual assault.

The study follows up results from a similar survey of female students in the Spring of 1992, which found in that year, 6.6% of respondents experienced at least one incident of unwanted attempted sexual intercourse and 4.2% experienced at least one incident of unwanted completed sexual intercourse. Risk of victimization was greatest for younger students early in their college careers. Most incidents (69%) took place in the context of a social activity, and in 83% of the incidents, the victim was acquainted with the assailant. Most incidents (64%) involved the use

of drugs and/or alcohol by the assailant. In about 46% of the cases, the victim was using drugs or alcohol. While about 76% told someone about the assault, it was most likely a friend. Only 5% contacted the police.

The administration responded to the original survey by improving services for assault victims, including opening what is now the Student Assault Resource Center (SARC). "I am hopeful that [now] more students are aware of the availability of services and more willing to tell someone they have been assaulted," said Doyle adding, "I don't know if this is how it will turn out."

WORKSHOPS SOCIALIZE SOC GRAD STUDENTS

How do I choose a thesis topic and advisor? What kinds of research are faculty members doing? Should I join a professional organization? These are some of the questions addressed in the department's monthly grad student workshops.

Organized by Professor Kathy Kuipers, grad student workshops are designed to integrate students into the department and give them the tools they need to navigate our masters degree program successfully. This year, topics also included managing the psychological challenges of graduate school, international opportunities for grad stu-

dents, and giving professional research presentations. The workshops convene in the late afternoon, and are followed by a happy hour gathering at one of the fine watering holes near campus, where students, faculty, and significant others can socialize informally.

The best thing about the workshops, according to first-year REACH student Patrick Bixler is the opportunity "to learn what others are interested in and socialize outside the confines of the typical academic setting."

STUDENTS STUDY MANLINESS

What does it mean to be manly? Three students, with Professor Kathy Kuipers, tried to better understand masculinity in Montana and got hands-on experience doing social research. Lacey Frey, Stephanie Dursma and Rebecca Malek began by reading existing research on masculinity and learned, among other things, that stereotypical masculinity is often linked to notions of rural life and vice versa.

Students then mined an unusual data source to investigate what manliness means to Montanans. The students reasoned that obituaries would feature

individuals' positive characteristics—characteristics that might be part of an idealized masculine identity. The students read a random sample of men's obituaries from newspapers from across the state. Together, they developed protocols to protect the confidentiality of the individuals whose obituaries they read, and formed a code book listing themes and concepts related to masculinity and coded obituaries for them. The team found that hard work, military service, providing for family, and risky behavior were the positive "male" characteristics appearing most often. The research continues in the fall, when the goal will be to

see how definitions of masculinity in Montana have changed over time and across age cohorts.

The project is linked to an experiment that Professor Kuipers is running with second-year graduate student Sarah Moesser, testing the hypothesis, based on existing literature, that male students will attempt to overcompensate in their masculine behavior to demonstrate their masculinity when it is challenged, and that men from rural backgrounds will do so more than urban men. The data for that experiment will also be collected in the fall of 2007.

First-year sociology graduate student Patrick Bixler is one of the UM students whose blog is featured in the Voices section of the UM website. Read about Patrick's experiences at www.umt.edu/voices/bixler.



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*Please visit the University of Montana Foundation to make
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*Gifts can be designated for use by the Sociology Department
at the time of giving.*

We deeply appreciate your support.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT TRAVIS WINSLOW, CLASS OF 1997

"Keep your options open, and be willing to take a chance," is Travis Winslow's advice to current sociology students and recent grads. The strategy has worked for Winslow, whose career path in law enforcement has taken him places he did not anticipate as an undergraduate. A native of Troy, MT, Winslow received his sociology degree with the criminology option, and a law degree from the University of Oregon. "I was interested in law enforcement all my life, but I was so fixated on the FBI. There were all these other agencies I'd never heard of until the day I applied, basically." One of those other agencies was the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, where Winslow accepted his first job. Work at the real NCIS bears slim resemblance to its depiction on CBS's TV show about the agency, says Winslow. "You don't solve a crime in an hour, and you don't go around shooting at people every week." However, working

at a smaller agency allowed Winslow to take on tremendous responsibility very quickly. Winslow received his own first case assignment, an embezzlement of over \$2000,000 from a non-profit agency, after his first month on the job. (And yes, the perpetrator was ultimately caught and convicted.)

Winslow's initial cases at NCIS focused mostly on white-collar crime such as credit card crime and embezzlement. After 9/11, however, his job changed dramatically. "We spent three weeks digging through the rubble at the Pentagon, pulling out plane parts, pulling out body parts," he recalls. After the terrorist attacks the focus of the agency shifted, and Winslow spent the rest of his six years with the agency in counterterrorism and counterintelligence. The job took him and his wife, Kate, also an NCIS agent, to the Far East, Australia, and the Middle East allowing them to experience a number of other countries,

and to work with their law enforcement counterparts there.

The birth of their first child, Madeline, in 2005 made the couple think about settling down near Kate's family in Florida, and Winslow left NCIS to work as the Director of Corporate Maritime Security for Carnival Corporation, a job that requires coordinating with the numerous cruise lines owned by Carnival on security issues. The irony that a native of a landlocked state might end up working in maritime security is not lost on Winslow, who finds that the job requires both knowledge from his criminology background and his law education to create security policy designed to protect ships from pirate or terrorist attacks. Winslow follows events and sometimes ships themselves all over the world. "It's a great job, and I count myself lucky to be in this position," he concludes.