

# ***SOCIAL TRACKS 1998***

*A Publication of the Department of Sociology and the Department of Sociology Peer Advisors  
Office*

University of Oregon ◆ Department of Sociology ◆ Newsletter, Spring 1998



## **MESSAGE FROM ROBERT O'BRIEN DEPARTMENT HEAD**

The department is finishing a very successful year. We continued our most important task with style: our teaching mission. Last year sociology graduated more seniors than any other social science department at the University. We did this while maintaining a coherent program that requires all of our majors to take research methods, social statistics, sociological theory, and four 400-level courses. This latter requirement assures us that sociology majors have several small class experiences with our faculty.

The faculty concluded an incredibly productive year in terms of scholarship. Three faculty members published articles in the *American Journal of Sociology*, four books have been published or shortly will be published by major presses, and two of those books received national level awards. Much more can be gleaned from their personal statements in "faculty news."

Ted Gerber coordinated a wonderful series of talks for our symposium series. Not only have our own faculty and graduate students participated in these talks, but several speakers from off campus have been involved. These include Rich Mitchell from Oregon State University, Michael Hout from the University of California at Berkeley, Howard Kimeldorf from the University of Michigan (who was an undergraduate at the U of O), and Jodi O'Brien (not a relative) from Seattle University.

One new colleague will join us next year. Jiannbin Lee "J" Shiao will receive his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley this spring. He already has received masters degrees from Berkeley in both demography and sociology. His dissertation examines the ways in which philanthropic foundations contributed to racial formations in the United States from 1960-1990. How have these foundations responded to and molded the formation of racial and ethnic identities? J. specializes in the sociology of race and ethnicity, political sociology, sociological theory, and Asian American studies. He will join Mia

Tuan and Ken Liberman in being responsible for many of our offerings in the sociology of race and ethnicity, but like both of these colleagues, he will have other areas of specialization as well.



## **Donald Van Houten to Retire**

As of February of this year Donald Van Houten will retire as a professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon. Van Houten came to the University of Oregon in 1968 and began teaching classes in the sociology of work and organization and later incorporated the development of higher education in his teachings. During his years at the University of Oregon he has not only been a valuable professor but has also served as the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences from 1986-1991. He has also been involved as the Sociology Internship Program Coordinator. These activities along with his teaching abilities have made Dr. Van Houten an asset to the Sociology Department at the University of Oregon. Despite his retirement he will remain active in the internship program, as he pursues other endeavors. One project that Dr. Van Houten will take on will be the writing of a book about the politics of gender at the junior college level. This project will be a joint effort with his colleague, Joan Acker. The two have worked together since their landmark 1974 article on research in work and gender.

Van Houten grew up on the East Coast, in New Jersey, where he spent his childhood years. He then attended Oberlin College in Ohio and received his diploma in 1958. After marrying in 1959, Dr. Van Houten worked in Student Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. After three years in this field, he decided that "parenting" students was not among his career objectives and switched to sociology. With his Ph.D. in Sociology, Dr. Van Houten taught at Indiana University for three years before making his final move west to the University of Oregon in 1968.

Now that he will have more time on his hands, Dr. Van

Houten plans to travel in addition to his continued involvement at the University. Although he has lived and done research in a variety of places such as Stockholm, London and Melbourne, he has not completed his travels and hopes to venture back to them or possibly to his favorite, Sengal, Africa. He plans to continue his world traveling but also enjoys his home in Eugene where he has established valuable friends and family ties. Dr. Van Houten will continue his work, travel and maybe enjoy an afternoon at an Em's game, but most of all, he will be missed at the University of Oregon Sociology Department. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him luck and happiness in the future.



## FACULTY NEWS

**Joan Acker** was the plenary speaker at a conference on Gender, Work and Organization at the University of Manchester, England in January, 1998 and will be a plenary speaker at the conference of German sociologists in Freiberg, Germany in September, 1998. Dr. Acker will also be a visiting professor and consultant at Arbetslivsinstitutet in Stockholm, Sweden in May and June 1998.

**Larry Carter** announces his new publication: Tayman, Jeff, Schafer, Edward & Carter, Lawrence (1998) "The Role of Population Size in the Determination and Prediction of Population Forecasts Errors: An Evaluation Using Confidence Intervals for Subcounty Areas, *Population Research and Policy Review* 17: 1-20.

Professor Carter presented his paper, "Initial Condition Sensitivity in U.S. Mortality Forecasts: Instability from Nonstationary Innovations," at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Chicago, April 2-4, 1998.

**Michael Dreiling**, now in his second year, has developed a technique for examining, graphically, the three-dimensional properties of his corporate network data. Some preliminary, "virtual reality" versions can be viewed on the web at <http://www/~dreiling/atest.htm>. Dreiling also urged his dissertation advisor, Howard Kimeldorf, to visit Oregon this Spring. Howard Kimeldorf, a professor of sociology at the University of Michigan, is also a U of O alum who graduated in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Kimeldorf presented a talk on his second (forthcoming) book on syndicalism in the U.S. labor movement.

**John Foster** is busy coediting the Journal *Organization & Environment*, in the field of environmental sociology. He is also coeditor of a special issue of *Monthly Review*, "Hungry for Profit: Agriculture, Food and Ecology" to appear in July. Building on some of his earlier work, he has been asked to write an introduction to the twenty-fifth

anniversary edition of Harry Braverman's Labor and Monopoly Capital and is delivering a plenary address at a conference on Braverman and labor process studies in Binghamton in May. John is giving lots of talks all over, related to both macro and micro issues. His latest request—to which he has acceded—is from the Oregon Micrological Society (the mushroom people), who want him to talk on society and the old growth forest (and of course mushrooms). He is therefore planning to do a brief crash course on fungi. Learning never ceases.

**Ted Gerber** received a grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct a survey of employment, income, and attitudes in Russia during January and March 1998. He will use the data to analyze how economic reforms have shaped the experiences of the population. This research will supplement and update his article (co-authored by Mike Hout), "More Shock Than Therapy: Market Transition, Employment, and Income in Russia, 1991-1995," which will appear in the July 1998 edition of the *American Journal of Sociology*.

**Patricia Gwartney** continues to direct the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory. OSRL conducts about 40 research projects per year and employs 90 people, over half of whom are UO students, rigorously trained in survey methodology. OSRL reached the million dollar mark in cumulative revenues in its fifth year. Professor Gwartney was recently elected to the Pacific Sociological Association's Council. She continues research and writing on issues related to the family and race/sex inequality.

**Jocelyn Hollander's** book, Gendered Situations, Gendered Selves: A Gender Lens on Social Psychology, written with Judy Howard, has won an outstanding Academic Book Award from *Choice*, the journal of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

**Bob O'Brien** continues to chair the Department of Sociology, and his teaching duties have focused on undergraduate and graduate level courses in quantitative methods. During the year he had a co-authored article (with David Jacobs) appear in the *American Journal of Sociology* entitled, "The Determinants of Deadly Force: A Structural Analysis of Police Violence." He also has a forthcoming article in *Social Science Research* and a chapter on crime and victimization data that will appear in Joseph Sheely's text Criminology. He has been nominated for President of the Pacific Sociological Association and promises to report on the results next year- if he wins.

During the past year, **Arlene Stein** has been conducting fieldwork on conflicts over sexual and racial diversity in small Oregon communities. Her book, Sex and Sensibility was nominated for several national book awards. Recently, she traveled to Philadelphia, Miami and San Francisco to give talks about her work.



## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

### Phi Beta Kappa News

Seven sociology undergraduate students were elected to the Alpha of Oregon chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious honorary society in the nation. The society honors students whose undergraduate academic records fulfill the objectives of a liberal arts education.

The students elected from sociology are Kevin Nathan Aaron, Susan Jean Eicher, Jennifer Ann Freeman, Maria Constanza Paladino, Stephanie Eddi Presley, Jaimie Linette Simon, Patti Maurine Weiss

### Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates New Members

On February 21, 1998 the University of Oregon Chapter of The Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honors Society initiated 27 new members in the Knight Library Browsing Room. The University of Oregon has only recently reactivated its chapter of the international AKD Honors Society established in 1920. At the induction each new member received a certificate and order form for the official AKD journal *Sociological Inquiry*. The ceremony was also attended by Sociology Department head Robert O'Brien, graduate students and faculty.

Professor Richard Mitchell from the Oregon State Sociology Department and the Regional AKD representative delivered the keynote speech. The talk described Mitchell's experience in researching the Freeman culture in the United States. He vividly described the rituals and teachings of the Freeman and gave an eye-opening account of their philosophy. Mitchell's speech was so stimulating, in fact, that he has been invited to return to give the keynote speech at the Sociology Department graduation ceremony.

AKD emphasizes undergraduate interests about intellectual activism and sociological issues. As a national honors society, it provides the opportunity to become more involved in the Sociology Department by publishing papers and establishing networks. It is one of the first steps in its members' introduction to the professional world.

The new members are:

Minda Anne Aikman, Heather Ann Allen, Ellen Anifantis, Karina Hinton Bestor, Shonna Sedgwick Butler, Chris Carl Cone, Heather Renee Cranor, Shelby Edwards, Kristin Jill Eicher, Lea Kathryn Goulet, Christina Michelle Habr, Kelly Irene Heflin, Erica Hoekelman, Mary Reid Holmes, Ryan Edward Hoxie, Suzanne Marie Hughes, Tammy Lynn Lundgren, Sukey Lupton, Rene Diane Mcguire, Autumn Wind Olson, Maria Constanza Paladino, Alyson

Richmond, Karen Rosenblum, Michael Charles Saltz, Lauren Elinka Juliette Souza, Bridget Kathleen Taylor, Heather Mae Thiel

### Latin Honors for Sociology Undergraduates

*Oregon Hall Student Affairs*

Each year the University of Oregon acknowledges their top students by awarding them the Latin honors Cum Laude (top 10%), Magna Cum Laude (top 5%) and Summa Cum Laude (top 2%). During the 1997-98 academic year, seven sociology majors have demonstrated their academic excellence by being awarded these honors:

Summa Cum Laude: Gregory Jon Benner

Magna Cum Laude: Shonna Sedgwick Butler, Maria Constanza Paladino

Cum Laude: Jessie Rose Bergland, Heather Renee Cranor, Jennifer Ann Freeman, Kindra Darlene Windish

### Honors Program in Sociology

The following people received their undergraduate degrees with departmental honors:

Ellen Anifantis  
Shonna Sedgwick Butler  
Jasmine Eve Freese  
Lea Kathryn Goulet  
Alice Chamberlin Wheeler



## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Lynne Isaacson** (Ph.D. '98) has accepted a postdoctoral research position at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Rural Sociology, as director of the Rural Ministry Project, a Lilly grant to study rural churches.

**Martin Orr** (Ph.D. '92) has accepted a tenure track position in the Department of Sociology at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho.

**Nathan Rousseau** (Ph.D. '93) has accepted a tenure track position in the Department of Sociology at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio.

**Dee Southard** (Ph.D. '98) has accepted a tenure track position in the Department of Sociology at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington.

→ **Phil Zuckerman** (Ph.D. '98) has accepted a position as ~~Visiting~~ <sup>tenured-track</sup> Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Pitzer College in Claremont, California.



**Let Us Hear From You**

If you are a graduate of the Department of Sociology, please let us know how you're doing. Send your news to Department of Sociology, 1291 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1291. You can also send e-mail to the department by writing *sociology@oregon.uoregon.edu*.

REMEMBER! When the University of Oregon Alumni Telefund calls you, it is possible to designate that your contribution go to the Sociology Department. We hope you will do so.

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