



# Social Tracks

Social Tracks

Spring 2008

## Inside This Issue

New Faculty 2

Faculty News 2

Graduate Program 4

Undergraduate Program 6

Graduate Spotlight 7

## Message From Robert O'Brien, Department Head

In the fall, several new faculty will join the department. Eileen Otis will join us from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she was an assistant professor. Eileen's areas of specialization include gender and economy, labor, global ethnography, and China. She has a number of publications, including one that appeared just a few months ago in the *American Sociological Review*. Aliya Saperstein will join us from the University of California at Berkeley with her Ph.D. in sociology. Her research interests include the measurement of race and ethnicity, comparative racial formation, inequality and mobility, immigration, social demography, social psychology, and research methods. This year we get a "gift faculty member" in Scott Coltrane, who has been appointed the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. His research areas include gender equity and family functioning, with particular attention to the allocation of care work. A fourth faculty member, Elaine Replogle, will be joining us in a part-time position. She specializes in medical sociology, immigration, religion, and the family. This has been a very busy year in terms of faculty searches, and we are pleased to have been so fortunate in the quality of the people who will be joining us.

This year we will award over 200 baccalaureate degrees, about 5% of the total undergraduate degrees awarded by the university. As our students know, we have structured our major to require three core courses before they can take more advanced courses. This system has led to a better experience for our majors (at least from the perspective of our faculty). This year we will award three doctorate and five master's degrees. When we award these degrees, you should be aware that the students have studied for an additional two to seven years beyond their baccalaureate degrees. The department also has nearly 500 majors. This keeps us all busy – students and faculty – but we also have a research mission. I will not attempt an accounting by individual faculty, but simply note that our faculty members have published in our most important journals, won prestigious grants, and have won university and other awards for scholarship this year. This year is not atypical.

The department is in transition. After six years as department head I am stepping down and, in fact, moving into semi-retirement. The university will allow me to teach two courses a year for the next five years. I joined the faculty at the University of Oregon 27 years ago after teaching seven years at California State University at San Bernardino. I have never regretted that decision to teach at the University of Oregon. Eugene is a wonderful place to live; I have had the privilege of teaching successive generations of undergraduate and graduate students; and I have committed and spirited colleagues. Our new department head, Patricia Gwartney, will be taking over the duties of the head. She joined the faculty at the University of Oregon the same year that I did (1981), although this was her first position out of graduate school. The department is in good hands given such a fine set of colleagues.

## Message From Patricia A. Gwartney, Incoming Department Head

This year's commencement ceremony represents a big transition for the University of Oregon Sociology Department, for it is the official retirement day for Robert M. O'Brien ("O'B" to his colleagues). He received his doctorate degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1975, exactly 30 years after his father, Robert W. O'Brien, received a sociology Ph.D. from the University of Washington. After six years teaching at Cal State San Bernardino, he joined this department in 1981, as an associate professor specializing in criminology and statistical methods.

I happen to know all this because I joined the department in the same year, as an assistant professor and a budding demographer. Our tiny offices were next to each other, hidden away on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the PLC building with most of the department on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors. We spent many hours those first few years puzzling out the contours of the department and the university. Our young families went camping and celebrated holidays together. Our professional lives went separate directions for many years, but we have spent the last several again in adjoining offices (big ones now).

Continued on page 2

## Incoming Department Head continued from page 1

O'B is a fabulous scholar, with six books and 82 articles on his curriculum vitae. Some of those articles appear in not-to-miss periodicals, such as the *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, with titles like "Using generalizability theory to estimate the dependability of aggregate-level variables." But one of my favorites, in the *American Journal of Sociology* in 1987, uses a two-by-two cross-tabulation to break myths about the nature of interracial crime. The punchline: far more crimes are intraracial than interracial. Fully 25 of his articles appear in the very top journals, like *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Criminology*, and *Sociological Methodology*, and almost 30 more appear in very good journals, like *Social Science Research*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, and *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Not only is he a fabulous scholar, the university and the profession have benefited greatly from O'B's service. He has headed the department for 17 of the past 27 years, he served as associate dean for the Social Sciences for three years, and he has been elected vice president of the Pacific Sociological Association twice. He is a model of faculty governance, serving on dozens of search committees, review committees, and task forces. His activities with the UO Chapter of the American Association of University Professors have protected faculty members for many years.

As a professor, he is known as a skilled and kind instructor of statistics and as a close mentor of graduate students. In his spare time, he is a community activist in urban design and environmental issues. He rides his bike 18 miles to and from campus almost every day.

We have all benefited from his warm and generous heart. It will be strange not to see his huge grin (he once had the nickname "Crest," as in toothpaste). The department will seem empty without his big laughing guffaw echoing down the hallway or his frequent refrain "it's a good life" as he walks away. He will remain underfoot for awhile, easing out of the department by teaching two classes each year. But most of the time he will be at his new home made of hay bales in a remote little valley in the Utah wilderness.

### Aaron Gullickson Joins the UO Sociology Faculty



I feel very fortunate to join the sociology department here at the University of Oregon and to return to the Pacific Northwest. Having grown up just a bit north of here in the town of Chehalis, Washington, it certainly feels like I am coming home. As an undergraduate, I attended the University of Washington (boo) where, after briefly dabbling in engineering, I decided that I much preferred to study people. After graduating, I began graduate work in both sociology and demography at the University of California, Berkeley. I guess you could say I have a thing for the PAC-10.

Upon graduation, I took a job at Columbia University. My wife, Camille, and I packed up our things and moved to the other coast. We enjoyed New York City for three years, but ultimately decided that we wanted to return to the West Coast and to the tradition of top-notch public research universities, like the University of Oregon. Luckily, the department here agreed and here I am! Most of my work centers around issues of inequality, race, and demography. I am currently working on a large project that examines the social and demographic history of mixed-race in the United States. Two articles on patterns of interracial marriage were recently published, with a couple more on the way. I am currently working on an analysis of racial categorization in the 1880 U.S. Census.



**Joan Acker**, along with Sandi Morgen and Jill Weigt, signed a contract with Cornell University Press to publish their book based on their research on welfare reform in Oregon. In the last year, Joan has had several short pieces published in *Gender & Society*, *Gender, Work & Organizations*, and *Social Problems*. An article is forthcoming in *Sociologie du travail*. This year, Joan gave lectures at both Penn State and University of

Texas at Arlington, and participated in an author meets the critics discussion of her *Class Questions: Feminist Answers* at the Southern Sociological Society meetings in Atlanta. She was the keynote speaker at the launch of a new center for research on diversity and equality at Queen Mary, University of London and at the Gender, Work and Organization conference at Keele University, UK.

**Yvonne Braun** has been enjoying a productive third year at the UO. Her article, "Gender, Development and Sex Work in Lesotho," is forthcoming and she currently has a book chapter in press, "The Promise of Feminist Political Ecology." She also has several articles conditionally accepted for publication,



under revision, and in progress. In addition, she is continuing to work on a book manuscript about her research on gender, development, and environment in Lesotho, Southern Africa. This year Yvonne received several small grants from the Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS) and Junior Professorship Development Fund, and she submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation with Shannon Bell, a

graduate student in the UO Sociology doctoral program, which is currently under review. Yvonne presented different aspects of her research at the American Sociological Association and Pacific Sociological Association meetings this year in addition to organizing sessions for both meetings. She was also invited to present her work in the community through CSWS' Road Scholar Program and to give a presentation of her research on campus at CSWS this spring. Outside of Sociology, Yvonne continues to enjoy an active connection with African Studies, International Studies, and the Gender and Africa and African Diaspora and Social Science Feminist Network Research Interest Groups. This summer, Yvonne looks forward to continuing work on her book, spending time with family, and

starting a vegetable garden.



**Michael Dreiling** is presently working on his book *Agents of Globalization*, a project that delves into the intersecting sources of globalization that arise from the power-circuits and networks of multinational corporations and government elite. If globalization is being made, it can be made differently. Michael is also working on a collaborative study of the U.S. environmental movement and is co-hosting a conference on nonviolence at the University of Oregon, September 11-14, 2008.



This past year, **Jim Elliott** continued his work on a couple of new research projects examining social inequality and urban (re) development. One of these projects focuses on how social inequalities prior to major natural disasters become exacerbated during displacement and recovery. A co-authored article from this project appears in the June issue of *Social Forces*; a co-edited volume will make its way to the Russell Sage Foundation this summer; and several related papers and essays are in process and/or under review. The second project focuses on what becomes of past hazardous industrial sites (and their lingering pollutants) in older U.S. cities, inserting an environmental component into recent research on urban-industrial restructuring and inequality. A co-authored article from this project appears in the summer issue of *Organization & Environment*; a follow-up study in Portland is underway with the help of an undergraduate assistant from the sociology program; and a grant proposal with a colleague at Washington State is in process. In addition to these activities, Jim is presenting research at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America; organizing a session on Space and Place for the 2008 annual ASA meeting; and continuing to serve as an advisory panelist with the National Science Foundation. Out of the office, Jim was seduced by record snowfall and great local skiing.



**John Foster** was a recipient of the 2008 Innovative Research Award from the University of Oregon. He was a finalist this year for the Oregon Book Award for his 2006 book *Naked Imperialism*. John was on sabbatical during 2007-2008, during which he worked on three book projects and a number of articles. He continues to edit *Monthly Review*. His most recent article there is "The Financialization of Capital and the Crisis" (April 2008) on the current economic crisis. He has recently returned from giving talks in Australia on climate and social change and has speaking engagements for the summer and fall in Britain, Sweden, and Venezuela. His book (coauthored with Brett Clark and Richard York) *The Critique of Intelligent Design* (evolving out of a 2007 article in *Theory & Society*) will be published in the fall.



During spring term, **Marion Goldman** was a Visiting Research Scholar at INFORM at the London School of Economics. She worked with the INFORM data base on more than 3,000 alternative religions, interviewed members of new religions in London and in Somerset, consulted with representatives from different governmental and non-governmental organizations in the UK and EU, and presented a paper on "What Twenty Years of Research on New Religions Tells Us About Terrorism," at a major international conference.



John Wiley & Sons published a book by **Patricia Gwartney** entitled *The Telephone Interviewer's Handbook: How to Conduct Standardized Conversations* (2007, 386 pages). Not only is it the first volume to systematize best interviewing practices, it also offers an organizational ethnography of survey research centers. The book is used to train interviewers in academic survey research organizations, state and federal agencies (such as the U.S. Census Bureau), and major public opinion organizations (such as Gallup and Nielson). A recent article appearing in *Race, Gender & Class* represents the first empirical investigation of attitudinal and behavioral responses to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001 by the intersections of gender, race, and social class. Using representative survey data Professor Gwartney collected in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, the article shows that structural positions of privilege cushioned the dread associated with terrorism threats. That is, men, whites, and the upper class tended to voice the most resilience toward terrorist threats. But the insulation afforded by these characteristics was not multiplicative. For example, nonwhite men voiced the most skepticism about the possibility of another terrorist attack, when theory suggests that white men would. In addition, more upper-class women altered their daily lives in response to 9/11 than any other gender-class category, but theory suggests that terrorist threats would affect lower-class women most. She concludes that risk perception theory will improve when developed around the intersections of gender, race, and class rather than theorizing them separately. She thanks her colleagues for their confidence in electing her department head, but wonders when she will get the tiara that goes with it.

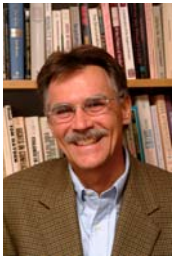


**Jocelyn Hollander** continues her research on women's self-defense training, examining both its effectiveness for preventing violence against women and its consequences for women's broader lives. Her article "The Roots of Resistance to Women's Self-Defense" will be published in the journal *Violence Against Women*, and a series of additional articles are in progress. She presented papers based on this research at the Annual Meetings of the Pacific Sociological Association, the Association for Women in Psychology, and the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She is also working on the second edition of her book (with Judith Howard and Daniel Renfrow), *Gendered Situations, Gendered Selves: A Gender Lens on Social Psychology*.





**Ken Liberman** was elected chair of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy, which will hold an international conference, Thinking Through Nature, at the UO on June 19-21 of this year. He will lead a post-conference backpacking trip. Ken's newest book, *Husserl's Criticism of Reason, With Ethnomethodological Specifications*, was published in the fall by Lexington Books, and his *Dialectical Nature in Tibetan Philosophical Culture* was recently reissued in a paperback edition by Rowman & Littlefield. In 2008, six articles will be published, including "Aboriginal Education" (Harvard U.P.), "The Reflexivity of the Authenticity of Yoga" (Routledge), "Sophistry In and As Its Course" (Springer), "Thinking as a Public Activity" (Ashgate), "Larry Wieder's Radical Ethno-Inquiries" (Human Studies), and "Husserl's Phenomenology of Scientific Reason" (Human Studies).



**Greg McLaughlan** continues to work in the areas of urban, environmental, and social movements sociology. Since 2004, he has served as an advisor to Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy. Greg has co-authored with Mayor Piercy a series of urban sustainability initiatives and policies designed to place Eugene at the forefront of a national movement toward new models of environmental sustainability and urban livability. In 2006, National Geographic's *Green Guide* named Eugene the "#1 Green City in the U.S.," recognizing Eugene's efforts in protecting air and water quality, green design, providing alternative transportation options, preservation of open spaces, support for green businesses and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, among others. He is a frequent speaker and consultant to local and state elected officials and nonprofit organizations on urban sustainability issues, and received the Eugene Mayor's Community Service Award in 2008, for co-chairing a city committee and conducting a major policy study on revitalizing Eugene's downtown core.



**Bob O'Brien** is finishing his last term as Department Head and heading toward semi-retirement. He will remain active in the department, teaching two quarters a year, working with students, and doing research. Professionally, he currently serves as Vice President of the Pacific Sociological Association, is on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Criminology*, and reviews fifteen or more manuscripts a year for various professional journals. On the research front, a forthcoming article will appear in *Social Forces*: "Race Differences in Cohort Effects on Nonmarital Fertility in the United States" (coauthored: Jean Stockard, Joanna Gray, and Joe Stone). *Social Forces* will feature a comment on the paper and their reply, entitled "The Robustness of Cohort Effects in Age-Period Tables." An article coauthored with Ken Hudson and Jean Stockard entitled "A Mixed Model Estimation of Age, Period, and Cohort Effects" appeared in print in *Sociological Methods and Research* (2008). Two other refereed articles

appeared in 2007.



**Jiannbin Shiao** continued as the associate director of the Ethnic Studies Program, for which he chaired a successful faculty search in Transnational Caribbean Studies. He published a major article from his research on the identities of Korean adoptees in the American Journal of Sociology titled "Korean Adoptees and the Social Context of Ethnic Exploration." His paper on "The Genomic Challenge to the Social Construction of Race," provoked intense discussion at a faculty seminar at the Center on Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality Studies and was also accepted for presentation in the Biosociology session of the American Sociological Association meetings in Boston this summer. Lastly, he will be on leave from Oregon in 2008-09 to teach at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.



**Richard York** was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2007. He received the 2007 *Outstanding Publication Award* from the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association for a series of three articles co-authored with recent UO sociology Ph.D. graduate Brett Clark. This is the second time he has received this award. The first time was in 2004, for four articles from a different research program. He continues to serve as co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Organization & Environment* published by Sage, and as a topic editor for the *Encyclopedia of Earth* (<http://www.eoearth.org/>). He also continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the *Siskiyou Project*, a non-profit organization working to protect the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion in southwest Oregon. Over the past year, he has published articles in or had articles accepted for publication in *Conservation Biology*, *Human Ecology Review*, *Monthly Review*, *Rural Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science Research*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Theory*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, and *Theory and Society*. Several of his recent publications have been with UO graduate students Rebecca Clausen, Stefano Longo, and Philip Mancus.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Sociology graduate program currently enrolls 43 students.

### 2007 - 2008 Departmental Award Recipients:

**Shannon Bell and Tim Haney** - Wasby/Johnson Dissertation Research Award

**Brandon Olszewski and Sarah Cribbs** - Graduate Student Teaching Award

**Stefano Longo and Xiao Sun** - Data Collection and Presentation Award

**Sandra Ezquerro** - Graduate Student Publication Award

**Shannon Bell** has continued her research on the social impacts of the coal industry on rural Appalachian communities over the past year. She presented last summer's interview research at the Pacific Sociological Association conference in April with a talk entitled "Our Roots Run Deep as Ironweed: Women and the Fight for Environmental Justice in the West Virginia Coalfields." In addition, she presented her work at the Appalachian Studies Association annual meeting in March. Shannon is looking forward to her dissertation research beginning this summer, in which she will employ an activist research methodology called Photovoice. Her project, "Mobilizing for Environmental Justice in the West Virginia Coalfields: Addressing the Challenges of Cognitive Liberation through Photovoice," will be made possible through the Wasby-Johnson Award and a grant from The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation.

**Rebecca Clausen** was awarded the Best Student Presentation, from the American Fisheries Society in November for "Global Fisheries Under Pressure: Social Structural Drivers of Fishing Down the Food Web." She presented at the annual American Sociological Association meeting in New York "Global Biodiversity Decline of Marine and Freshwater Fish: A Cross National Investigation of Social and Ecological Influences" and "From Agricultural Crisis to Metabolic Restoration: Cuba's Organic, Socialist Approach to Food Production." Rebecca will publish, along with Richard York, "Global Biodiversity Decline of Marine and Freshwater Fish: A Cross National Analysis of Demographic, Economic, and Ecological Influences" in *Social Science Research*. They also have published "Economic Growth and Marine Biodiversity: Examining Social Structural Influences on Marine Trophic Level Decline," in *Conservation Biology*. Rebecca successfully held her dissertation defense this April and is off to the Department of Sociology, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO as an assistant professor.

**Sarah Cribbs** completed a year long internship with the Lane Coalition for Healthy Active Youth (LCHAY) and is half way through an internship with the "Personal Best: Youth Leadership Camp," as part of the Blacks on Track Team, a subcommittee of the 2008 Olympic Trials Local Organizing Committee. Sarah received a summer grant to conduct her dissertation research from the proposed Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies. The syllabus and course exercises created by Katie Rodgers and Sarah from their "Sociology of Sport" course was accepted for the 5th edition of the *Sociology of Sport: Syllabi and Teaching Resources*.

**Roxanne Gerbrandt** accepted a tenure track position in the Department of Sociology at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

**Clay Grantham** participated in the panel "The Triple Crisis" at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference held at the University of Oregon Law School from March 6th - 9th.

**Tim Haney**, with Melissa Abelev and M. Bess Vincent, had the paper, "The Bottom Line: An Exercise to Help Students Understand How Social Inequality is Actively Constructed," published in *Teaching Sociology*. Tim's paper, with James Elliott and Petrice Sams-Abiodun, "Cumulative Disadvantage and Vulnerability: A Study of Two New Orleans

Neighborhoods Before, During and After Hurricane Katrina," received a Revise and Resubmit at *Social Problems*. Tim was also the recipient of the Wasby-Johnson dissertation award for 2008.

**Hannah Holleman**, with Rebecca Clausen, wrote "Biofuels, BP-Berkeley, and the New Ecological Imperialism" for MRzine that was republished by the United Nations Environmental Programme, Organic Consumers Association, Share the World's Resources and others. It was also translated into three different languages and posted on environmental and activist sites. Hannah and Ryan Jonna are revising a manuscript for *Rural Sociology* entitled: "The Autocracy of Accumulation: U.S. Congress, Biofuels and Ecological Irrationality" (alternative title: "Autos and the Autocracy of Accumulation: Biofuels and the Devouring of People and the Planet.") They also published a book review in *Monthly Review*. Hannah is a co-editor of *From the Left*, the newsletter of the Section on Marxist Sociology of the ASA and helped design and maintain the section's website.

**Stefano Longo** has an article forthcoming, with Richard York, in *Human Ecology Review* entitled, "The Human Ecology of Water: An Exploratory Macro-Comparative Analysis." He is pursuing his dissertation research on the Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery in Sicily and is completing field work with his second visit during the spring and summer of 2008.

**Philip Mancus** presented a paper on environmental justice and local food systems to the Working Class Studies panel at the Pacific Sociological Association's annual conference in Portland this year. He also is coauthor with Richard York on an article forthcoming in *Sociological Theory* titled "Critical Human Ecology: Historical Materialism and Natural Laws."

**Brandon Olszewski** published his first sole-authored article in 2008, entitled "El Cuerpo del Baile: The Kinetic and Social Fundamentals of Tango." It will be printed in *Body and Society*, 2008. The article is based on original data collected about tango dancing and, loosely following the tradition embraced by David Sudnow, Maxine Sheets-Johnstone and Greg Downey, describes the interconnected movements, music and social norms of tango. He also presented a talk, "Intimate Activism: The Revolutionary Potential of Appalachian Music," at the PSA conference on April 10<sup>th</sup>. He is currently working on a submission to *Sociology of Education* based on his dissertation work, which deals with the impacts of privately funded high school reform on teachers' work.

#### New Graduate Students for 2008-2009:

**Miriam Abelson**, BA, Sociology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California  
Areas: social movements, gender

**Amy Braksmajer**, BS, Applied Social Sciences, Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York; M.P.H., Sociomedical Services, Columbia University, New York, New York  
Areas: gender & sexuality; medical sociology

**Matthew Clement**, AB, Spanish, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine; MA, Sociology, University of Houston, Houston, Texas  
Areas: environment

**David Dominguez**, BA, Sociology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California  
Areas: political economy

**Matthew Friesen**, BA, Communication Arts and Bible and Religion, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas; MDiv, Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana  
Areas: religion

**Christopher Hardnack**, BA, Sociology, California State University San Marcos, San Marcos, California; MA, Sociology, California State University San Marcos, San Marcos, California  
Areas: Marxism, political economy

**Elizabeth Miller**, BA, Public Policy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; MA, Sociology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Areas: methods, inequalities

**Jessica Schultz**, BA, Anthropology, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minnesota; BS, Social Studies: History, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minnesota; M.Ed., The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.  
Area: immigration, education, population, development, environment

**MeCherri Tarver**, BS, Sociology, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Alabama  
Areas: race, class, gender

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

### *News from the Undergraduate Program Director – Eleen Baumann*

What a challenge to discuss the accomplishments of our 2008 graduates in this limited space. It has been a pleasure to work with many of them as an instructor and as departmental undergraduate advisor.

Of approximately 200 majors graduating this year, three are members of Phi Beta Kappa; three received University honors; 39 were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, an international Sociology Honors Society founded in 1920; and three received Departmental Honors with diverse topics that reflect the breadth of the discipline of sociology.

Numerous sociology students have managed to complete additional majors and minors during their time at the university. Sociology has been combined with philosophy, women and gender studies, substance abuse prevention, business administration, and Spanish, just to name a few. Many students take advantage of alternatives to traditional classroom courses offered by the department. Students have completed internships in the community at nonprofit social service organizations (Womenspace, White Bird, St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelter, Headstart), with government

agencies (parole and probation) and in civil liberties advocacy groups. Also, faculty have supervised students in individual reading and research courses.

What can you do with a sociology major? A great deal it appears. Our students plan advanced work in nursing, criminal justice, law, social work, public health, recreational therapy, accounting, and education. Many have jobs lined up in a wide variety of occupations and organizations - public relations, musical recording, investments, childcare, social service work, Peacecorps and Americorps. Some have the travel bug, heading to Europe, New York, and southern California. Other grads are eager to move on, but are a bit vague about their immediate plans.

Sociology is a fundamental part of the undergraduate experience for thousands of students throughout the university. Over 8000 students who enrolled in our nearly 75 undergraduate courses learned how a sociological perspective adds to their understanding of numerous aspects of social life including food, sport, animals, microinteraction, mass media, population, law, and environment.

The Sociology Department faculty and staff congratulate the Class of 2008 and wish them success in their endeavors. Please keep in touch and send updates on your activities to sociology@uoregon.edu.

### Latin Honors for Sociology Undergraduates

Graduating with Latin Honors this spring are the following sociology undergraduate majors:

**summa cum laude:** Norah Jean Al-Wetaid and Janet Christina Stubblefield

**cum laude:** Sarah Elizabeth Purvis

### Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates New Members

The AKD initiation ceremony this year honored 39 new members of Alpha Kappa Delta, the national Sociology Honor Society. Drs. Leslie Hall (Peer Advising Supervisor) and Robert O'Brien spoke about the department and the history of AKD. After the ceremony, initiates enjoyed refreshments and congratulations with family, friends, and faculty.

This year's initiates are: Jamaal Gibson Aflatooni, Jordan Lindsay Aldrich, Mary Elyse Beckman, Ashley Nichole Benefiel, Molly Ann Bisset, Elizabeth Ja Breen, Jennifer Helser Bliss, Laura Elizabeth Bocko, Christine Ann Basseur, Jennifer Marie Dalton, Alice Marie Ditter, Rebecca Marie Elkins, Holly Emery-Walen, Veronica Barbara Faber, Jacqueline Shannon Gamble, Abbie Lin Haigh, Timothy John Harrington, Elisabeth J. Jarvis, Alexandra Daniela Jugariu, Rochelle Maureen Kremer, Jenna Renee Krichbaum, Amber Rene Lippel, Audra Ruth Mahoney, Megan Catherin Maloney, Jazz McGinnis, Kate Allison Merrifield, Julian David Michels, Olivia Gardenia Ordaz-Rogers, Vanessa Rachael Paster, Carly Dianne Rachocki, Caleb Thomas Rice, Melody Ann Ross, Anna Carlene Satushek, Heather Elizabeth Simcox, Alicia Lanae Teller, Ariel Jane Vee, Sarah Elizabeth Veitch, Justin Williams Wiley, and Bethel Dawn Zuber.



## Graduate Spotlight



Shannon Bell is a third year Ph.D. student who moved to Oregon after spending five years in the coalfields of Southern West Virginia engaged in community organizing around issues of public health. Over the course of those five years, Shannon came to see that the coal industry was responsible for tremendous social, environmental, and economic devastation in rural coalfield communities, affecting everything from residents' health to the structural integrity of their homes. As a resident of West Virginia, she also came to see the political corruption that kept power in the hands of the coal companies, allowing them to largely ignore or overturn the few environmental protections that have been passed to protect the Appalachian ecosystem.

Shannon moved to Oregon in the fall of 2005, but the rural coalfield communities stayed with her. She has returned to West Virginia the past two summers to research the social impacts of coal and the environmental justice movement that has risen up to fight irresponsible mining practices in the coalfields. This summer she is looking forward to beginning her dissertation research, which will last through the spring of 2009, and will employ the activist research strategy of "Photovoice" in six coalfield communities. Her project, entitled, "Mobilizing for Environmental Justice in the West Virginia Coalfields: Addressing the Challenges of Cognitive Liberation through Photovoice," involves providing cameras to a total of 96 participants and holding regular group reflection sessions to engage participants in critical discussion about the issues and concerns represented in their photographs. Through using data gathered from questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and participant-produced "photostories" (photographs with narratives), this research seeks to facilitate and then to analyze the process of cognitive liberation at the individual and group levels. Non-academically, Shannon's hope is that this research will help provide social movement organizations with tools to mobilize citizens against the injustices of the coal industry.

In 2008 Shannon received the Wasby-Johnson Dissertation Award and a grant from The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation to support this research. She and her dissertation chair Yvonne Braun have also applied to additional funding sources that are still under review. Dr. Braun and Shannon's other committee members – Richard York, Ellen Scott, Michael Dreiling, and Carol Silverman – have been extremely supportive and helpful in her research endeavors.

Shannon would like to say she is extremely grateful to have ended up in a department with such an amazing group of colleagues. Her faculty mentors and graduate student peers continually inspire her with the meaningful and important work that they do. She wants to thank her peers and mentors for their support, encouragement, and friendship.



Tim Haney is finishing his second year as a graduate student at the University of Oregon, fifth year overall. Tim came to UO sociology by way of Tulane University and Hurricane Katrina. He holds a master's degree from Tulane and a bachelor's degree from Ripon College (WI). His areas of interest include poverty and inequality, employment and labor markets, quantitative methods, urban sociology, and the sociology of disaster, particularly post-Katrina New Orleans.

Tim's dissertation is titled "Off to the (Labor) Market: Women, Work, and Welfare Reform in 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Cities." It focuses on the employment and job quality of formerly welfare-reliant women in four U.S. cities. Whereas previous research on the barriers to employment faced by welfare leavers assumes that each barrier is of equal importance in limiting employment (i.e., health, childcare and family responsibilities, access to transportation, domestic violence), the goal of Tim's research is to discern which are most important and for what employment outcomes. Furthermore, very little research takes the neighborhoods in which disadvantaged women live into account. Thus, by acquiring a census tract number for each participant in the longitudinal data, Tim created a multilevel dataset, which will help to unravel how residential location and neighborhood characteristics play into the relationship between personal obstacles and employment in the post-welfare reform era. Tim will be using one of the 2008 Wasby-Johnson awards to continue writing over the summer.

Tim's previous work appears in *Social Science Research*, *Teaching Sociology*, *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, two edited volumes, and he has current research under review by *Social Problems* and *Sociological Spectrum*.

When not doing sociology, Tim spends his time hiking and exploring the Oregon coast with his spouse, Sara, taking care of his African pigmy hedgehog, Roux, and his bearded dragon, Niles.

Tim wishes to thank Jim Elliott, Ellen Scott, Patricia Gwartney, and a number of his graduate student colleagues for their feedback and support.



## UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Department of Sociology  
1291 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1291

Phone: 541-346-5002  
Fax: 541-346-5026

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Eugene, OR  
Permit No. 63

look for us on the web!  
[sociology.uoregon.edu](http://sociology.uoregon.edu)

### Thank You Alumni!

#### **SOCIOLOGY HONOR ROLL**

Thank you to all those who responded so generously to the UO Foundation and specified your contributions for Sociology. We are able to use these badly needed funds to support our teaching and research mission. Much of what we accomplished this year would not have been possible without your support.

We hope that when the University of Oregon Alumni Telefund calls, you can join the ranks of previous contributors, and designate your contribution to the Sociology Department. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

We would be pleased to hear how and what you are doing. If you are a graduate of the Department of Sociology, University of Oregon, please email news to:  
[sociology@uoregon.edu](mailto:sociology@uoregon.edu).

You can also mail it to us at:  
Department of Sociology  
1291 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1291