

Letter from the Chair: Howard Aldrich



Welcome to the online version of the North Carolina Sociology Department's annual newsletter. Continuing a practice we began last year, we no longer create a hard copy of the department

newsletter. Instead, at a savings of thousands of dollars and many trees, we make the newsletter available only online. In addition to saving money on printing and postage, we can also present more information utilizing this format. Our newsletter editor, Ben Haven, has worked long and hard to develop our new look, and you can expect further innovations in next year's edition.

The downturn in the nation's economy has seriously affected North Carolina, and for two years in row, the University has taken a cut in its budget. Thanks to the forward-looking strategies pursued by the Chancellor, the Provost, and our Dean, we've been well prepared for the cuts. As painful as they are, they could have been worse were it not for the various endowed funds created over the past seven years. Our six endowed funds continue to be an important source of discretionary funds that we have been using to improve our teaching, support graduate student travel, fund departmental seminars with external speakers, and do other things that make our lives easier. In addition to these sources, we have used surplus funds from our journal, *Social Forces*, to fund faculty members who do not have endowed chairs. Although it is a small amount of money, our faculty report that the funds have made a major difference in their ability to pursue their research projects.

The overhead money coming to us from our

external grants has allowed us to undertake a few construction projects, making space available for faculty projects and improving the graduate student office spaces. We also added a small conference room for informal get-togethers in the entry room to Hamilton 271, formerly used as our departmental library and now used for departmental seminars. Last year, using overhead money, we installed a new projector and screen in the room for our colloquium series and departmental seminars. Please stop by Hamilton Hall, if you are in Chapel Hill, and have a look at the new improvements. It's amazing what a coat of paint and new office furniture will do for an old space!

Although at one time there was talk of either renovating the building or moving to a new location, the economic downturn means that any move out of Hamilton is many years away. Without the overhead money from our grants and contributions from loyal donors, our space in Hamilton Hall would continue to deteriorate.

Sociology continues to be a vibrant discipline, playing a vital role in helping to understand major issues facing the United States and the world. We currently have over 400 undergraduate sociology majors and about 80 Ph.D. students. As one of the top five sociology programs in the United States, we maintain our national standing by being very active: publishing, engaging in service to the profession, and mentoring our junior faculty and graduate students. Our department's achievements are in keeping with its astonishing record, for a social science department, of raising millions of dollars in external funding for research.

I hope you will enjoy this departmental newsletter, and please let us know if you have any information you'd like to contribute to the next one.

Summer 2010

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THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Religion & Resilience in Haiti

How can sociologists contribute to a better understanding of important current events, such as the 2010 earthquake in Haiti? In the aftermath of the earthquake, Professor Margarita A. Mooney followed the news coverage and wrote several essays for a general audience that use the findings of her book, *Faith Makes Us Live: Surviving and Thriving in the Haitian Diaspora* (University of California Press, 2009), to suggest ways that Haiti might be able to recover from this disaster.

In one essay, entitled “Disaster, Religion and Resilience,” written for the Social Science Research Council’s (SSRC) special web forum on Haiti and its ongoing forum on religion and society, *The Immanent Frame*, Mooney posed two questions: What leads to community resilience after a disaster? How can the state and international organizations identify and acknowledge these sources of resilience, thus amplifying the positive effects of disaster relief and rebuilding efforts in Haiti?

In her essay, Mooney argued that the successful development and rebuilding of Haiti requires not just planning

and technical assistance, but knowledge of the moral landscape of a community, both its sources of vulnerability and its sources of resilience. Certainly, hard work does not pay if there are no opportunities available to transform that work into sustained improvements. But the contrary is no less true. In Glenn Elder’s studies of children of the Great Depression and children who grew up in rural Iowa during the 1980s agricultural crisis, not all of those faced with adverse circumstances had the motivation and perseverance to seek out and capitalize on opportunities. For some, the early experiences of deprivation led to increasing vulnerability over the life course, whereas others advanced much further than one would have expected based on their social backgrounds. Thus, resilience occurs when persistent hard work meets opportunity, lifting the disadvantaged out of their precarious social situations. Relief efforts in Haiti must build on this important insight: for resilience to occur, people must have both opportunity and beliefs in self-efficacy and collective efficacy.

Building on insights from her book, Mooney argues that religion is one

source of this resilience. For example, beliefs in self-efficacy can be based on believing that one is a child of God, or that God acts in one’s life to help one overcome difficulties (what Kenneth Pargament has called a “collaborative coping style”). Religious rituals like the Eucharist provide a connection to the sacred and a connection to community. These rituals help to remake the

“The successful development and rebuilding of Haiti requires not just planning and technical assistance, but knowledge of the moral landscape of a community, both its sources of vulnerability and its sources of resilience.”

moral imagination and increase collective efficacy. Thus, Haitians’ religious beliefs enable Haitians to actively shape their environment. Disaster recovery requires productive interactions between material aid and symbolic webs of meaning; it also necessitates flexible encounters between linear technical plans and the cyclical, iterative process of community re-building.

Since the earthquake, Professor Mooney has contributed short essays to the *Miami Herald*, *America* magazine, and the SSRC (see her blog www.margaritamoonney.blogspot.com for links to her essays on the Haitian earthquake). She has participated in one campus forum on Haiti and has helped organize a summer conference at UNC-CH in which senior scholars from the humanities and social sciences will come together to discuss Haiti’s past and future.



Professor Mooney visiting a school in Port-de-Paix, Haiti in 2002

Connecting the Classroom with the Community

The following is Dr. Judith Blau's report about her most recent endeavors at the Human Rights Center.

There were many reasons why I founded the Human Rights Center of Chapel Hill & Carrboro, a 501.c.3 nonprofit. The chief reason was that our undergraduates are increasingly engaged in the community, the nation, and other countries, thanks to the Campus Y, service-learning courses (through APPLES), and the Social & Economic Justice minor. But I wondered whether or not there was a gap between what many were learning in the classroom and their 'real world' experiences. I discovered a way of closing this gap – a human rights pedagogy, which can be taught from a philosophical, social science, scientific, or historical perspective. In other words, it is a rigorous perspective and also a perspective that legitimizes students' idealism and, indeed, their great desire to change the world.

The Center is located in Abbey Court, a Burmese and Hispanic community in Carrboro. The focal activity at the Center is an after-school program collaborative with Scroggs Elementary School. Weaving around this program are various classes and workshops. The Center was founded in March 2009 and already we have accomplished quite a bit. Both Carrboro and Chapel Hill have adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which we proposed; Abbey Court is now wireless; and many families have received free computers, the result of a collaborative effort between the center, a student group called Techs without Borders, and the public school system.

The heart and soul of the Center are UNC students, many from my classes, but also students from Campus Y groups and volunteers from

other classes. At the end of each semester, Rafael Gallegos and I marvel at how far the students come in a few short months - sophisticated about an epistemology they could not have articulated at the beginning of the semester. Many describe their involvement with the Center as transformative. At the same time, our immigrant and refugee neighbors increasingly trust us, not an easy thing to do for people who experience so much suffering.

As sociologists know, we are all "homo ludens," people who love to play, and indeed, become social through play. Festivals bridge groups through merrymaking, music, and eating. Our students have launched a festival in Abbey Court at the end of every semester. We often discover some of our neighbors are very talented performers, just as some are talented chefs, poets, accountants, painters, woodworkers, and landscapers. Find out more about the Center's activities here:

<http://www.humanrightscities.org/>

Judith Blau is a Professor of Sociology at UNC-CH and Director of the Human Rights Center. Rafael Gallegos is a graduate student at UNC-CH and Associate Director of the Human Rights Center.



Engaged learning is contagious.



Who enjoys homework more - the Scroggs student or the UNC student?



Children and teachers from the Center's after-school program.

Sociology of the Middle East

“UNC Sociology is poised to play a leading role in the development of Middle East sociology.”

The Middle East continues to hold the attention of the public and policy-makers, but it is still somewhat marginal in sociology. The American Sociological Review, the profession's flagship journal, has never run more than 4 percent of its articles on the region in any five-year period (see Figure 1). By contrast, more than half of the journal's articles focus on the United States, and another quarter focus on Western Europe. This puts sociology in the middle of the pack for the social sciences (see Figure 2).

UNC Sociology is active in the effort to raise the profile of Middle East studies within sociology and sociology within Middle East studies. Three years ago, Professor Charles Kurzman helped to found the Middle East Sociology Working Group, an international network that brings together sociological area specialists. This year, as interim director of the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations - the longest-named center on campus! - Kurzman is working to establish UNC's new interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in Middle East studies, which is run jointly with area studies partners at Duke. Kurzman has

a book coming out next year on terrorism, examining the counterintuitive question of why there aren't more attacks, a question that deeply bothers terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda.

UNC is starting to attract graduate students to work on Middle Eastern topics. Ijlal Naqvi is currently doing fieldwork on electrical power and political power in Pakistan (which UNC defines as part of the Middle East). Aseem Hasnain is working on a National Science Foundation grant to study event data on Israeli-Palestinian interactions. Brandon Gorman is writing his master's thesis on how Arab dictators talk about democracy (surprisingly, they talk about it quite a bit). Ali Kadivar is writing his thesis on fissures within the Iranian reform movement - his work has already caught the attention of the Iranian government, whose official news agency denounced him last year as a threat to the regime. David Uthlaut is writing his thesis on the insurgency in Iraq, analyzing survey and attack data collected by the U.S. military. As these students proceed with this work, UNC Sociology is poised to play a leading role in the development of Middle East sociology.

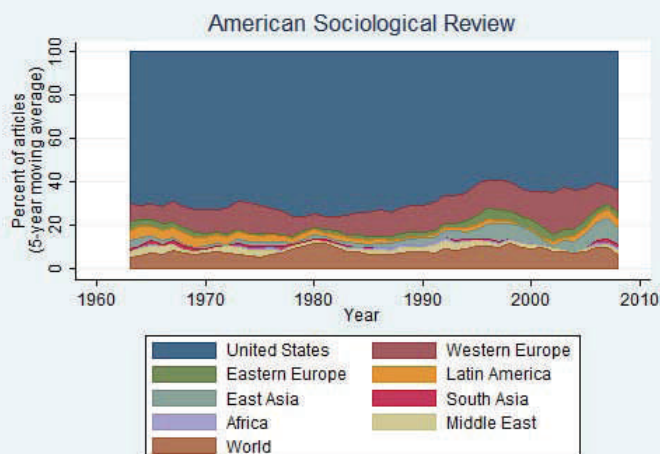


Figure 1

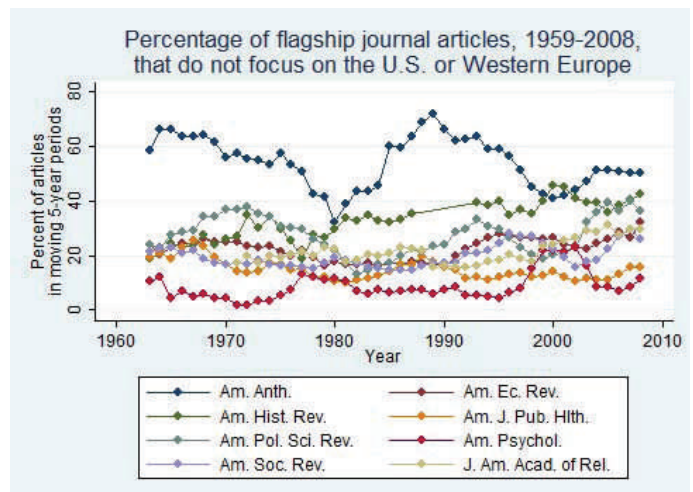


Figure 2

Department Welcomes New Faculty



Our newest faculty Member, **Dr. Yang Yang**, was born and grew up in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. She received her B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature in 1998 from Beijing University, her M.A. in Sociology in 2000 from Ohio State University, and her M.S. in Statistics in 2004 and Ph.D. in Sociology in 2005 from Duke University. Before coming to UNC-CH, she was Assistant Professor at the Sociology Department and Research Associate at the Population Research Center as well as the Center on Aging at NORC at the University of Chicago. Yang will be busy at UNC-CH, splitting her time between the Department of Sociology, the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Carolina Population Center.

Yang's main research interest cross-cuts demography, medical sociology, health and aging, and quantitative methodology. Her overarching goals are to understand the trends in demographic events and key indicators of health and well-being and the patterns

of differences among subpopulations in these events and outcomes. Her perspective, drawing upon theories of social change and social stratification, examines the processes by which individuals unfold with age and are shaped by historical time and social context (particularly cohort). This inherently requires the conceptualization and modeling of cross-level interactions. Her approach is to bring this theoretical perspective to bear on the analyses of data on these topics and development of statistical models and methods.

Yang's recent research comprises four lines of work: demographic trends of health and mortality, social disparities in health and co-morbidity over the life course, sociodemographic differentials in subjective quality of life and longevity, and new statistical models and methods for cohort analysis. This body of research serves as a triage to help locate important (cohort) variations to be explained. It also suggests the importance of biological processes in explaining the susceptibility to disease and mortality because cohort variations largely reflect differential exposures to early life conditions such as malnutrition and inflammatory infec-

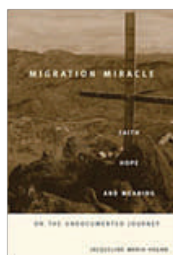
tion in utero, during infancy, and throughout postnatal development and lifelong accumulation of these risk factors. Currently, no comprehensive theoretical and empirical framework exists that jointly and systematically considers social and biological mechanisms linking early life conditions and late life morbidity and mortality from a life course and developmental perspective. Yang is interested in filling this gap by developing a research program on the biodemography of aging that identifies mechanisms at the most precise level of pathogenesis that are affected by social forces and physiological characteristics. In particular, she is interested in sex differences in health and survival that provide a rich opportunity to develop a multisystem approach including: gonadal hormones, inflammation, different components of physiological stress and the environmental forces that have shaped evolution of sex differences in both physiology and behavior. Such an approach lays the foundation for her long-term goal of constructing integrative social and biodemographic approaches to better understand and find solutions to problems arising from reciprocal interactions between a person's social and physical worlds.

Department Welcomes New Postdoctoral Scholar

Dr. Liana Richardson joined the UNC-CH Department of Sociology in July 2010. Richardson completed both a Ph.D. in Public Health and an M.A. in Anthropology at UNC-CH. She also holds a B.A. in Human Biology from Stanford University and an M.P.H. from Emory University. Prior to completing her Ph.D., Richardson worked as an applied research and evaluation consultant to a variety of clients, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Cancer Society, and as a middle and high school teacher.

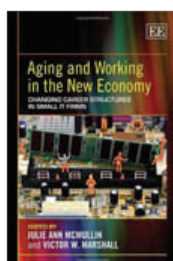
Richardson's primary research interests are found at the intersection of race/ethnicity, place, class, gender, and health, with particular interest in the life course (intra- and inter-generational) effects of racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disadvantage on women's and children's health. For the past 10 months, she has been a postdoctoral scholar at the Carolina Population Center, conducting research on racial/ethnic disparities in adverse birth outcomes and their long-term health consequences. She will extend this research under the mentorship of Dr. Kenneth Bollen and Dr. Kathleen Harris in 2010 – 2011.

Book Publications & Awards



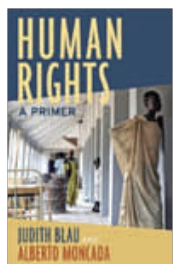
Jackie Hagan — Migration Miracle: Faith, Hope, and Meaning on the Undocumented Journey (Harvard University Press, 2008)

Chosen by the Association for Latina and Latino Anthropologists (ALLA) award committee as winner of honorable mention in the 2009 ALLA Book Award. The committee unanimously agreed that Hagan's book represented a worthy contribution to the scholarship on Latino communities in the United States. They particularly noted its ethnographic depth and transdisciplinary character. Also the recipient of the 2010 ASA Latino/a Section Distinguished Book Award.



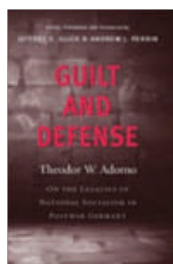
Julie Ann McMullin & Victor W. Marshall (Eds.) — Aging and Working in the New Economy: Changing Career Structures in Small Firms (Edward Elgar, 2010).

This edited book reports on the project, "Workforce Aging in the New Economy: A Comparative Study of Information Technology Firms." Using qualitative and quantitative data from over 40 small and medium-sized IT firms in the U.S., Canada, Australia and the UK, the study examines the intersection of workforce aging and the restructuring of the IT workforce, an industrial sector that exemplifies New Economy work. The analysis is supported by mixed-method and comparative case study analysis. UNC Sociology graduate student Sara Haviland, and former PhD Jennifer Craft Morgan also co-authored two of the ten chapters.



Judith Blau & Alberto Moncada — Human Rights: A Primer (Paradigm, 2009)

Achieving human rights is an ongoing struggle. The progressive realization of human rights for all depends on international, national, and local laws. Human rights are realized on the ground, in praxis and reciprocally, in deeply democratic communities and societies. This primer introduces the history of international negotiations and treaties on human rights, explains the basic social, political, and legal principles underlying treaties and conventions, offers a critical framework for understanding how and why the U.S. decides against participation in many international agreements, and suggests new pathways for building international consensus in an era of environmental, social, and economic challenges.



Theodor W. Adorno; translated and edited by Jeffrey K. Olick & Andrew J. Perrin — Guilt and Defense: On the Legacies of National Socialism in Postwar Germany (Harvard University Press, 2010)

Beginning in 1949, Theodor W. Adorno and other members of the reconstituted Frankfurt Institute for Social Research undertook a massive empirical study of German opinions about the legacies of the Nazis, applying and modifying techniques they had learned during their U.S. exile. They published their results in 1955 as a research monograph edited by Friedrich Pollock. The study's qualitative results are published here for the first time in English as *Guilt and Defense*, a psychoanalytically informed analysis of the rhetorical and conceptual mechanisms with which postwar Germans most often denied responsibility for the Nazi past.

Kenneth Bollen Elected Chair of AAAS Section on Social, Economic, and Political Sciences

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, "Triple A-S" (AAAS), is an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing science around the world by serving as an educator, leader, spokesperson and professional association. In addition to organizing membership activities, AAAS publishes the journal *Science*, as well as many scientific newsletters, books and reports, and spearheads programs that raise the bar of understanding for science worldwide.



Selected Faculty Activities, Awards, & Honors

Kenneth Andrews was recently awarded a \$5000 grant by The University Research Council for a project titled "How the US Became Dry: Ethnicity, Religion, and Movement Organizations in the Diffusion of Prohibition, 1876-1919." The grant period is two years, from May 1, 2010 - April 30, 2012.

Judith Blau was invited to serve a five-year term as a reviewer for the European Union's European Research Commission. She was also elected the 2010-2011 chair of the American Sociological Association Section on Human Rights.

Philip Cohen was promoted from associate to full professor in the fall of 2009. His article, "Housework and Social Policy," was selected as one of the 20 best articles in the annual Rosabeth Moss Kantor award for excellence in work-family research competition. The purpose of the award is to raise awareness of excellent work/family research among the scholar, consultant, and practitioner communities; to foster debate about the standards of quality for work/family research; and ultimately to raise those standards. Finally, the award identifies the "best of the best" on which to base graduate education and future research. The nominees were selected via a very rigorous process: a committee of over 35 leading scholars from 12 countries examined over 2000 articles published in 75 leading English-language journals from around the world.

Guang Guo is currently researching gene by social-control interactions for delinquency and crime via a Na-

tional Science Foundation grant that provides funding for genotyping genetic polymorphisms in 60 genes that are implicated in aggressive behavior and that have been identified in mice transgenic or knockout studies. He is also studying genetic predispositions, social contexts, and longitudinal binge drinking, a study funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Guo is PI for a William T. Grant Foundation major project entitled "A Study of Peer Impacts on Health Behaviors and Attitudes" which was designed to investigate joint social and genetic effects on health behaviors and attitudes in a college campus setting, taking advantage of a 'natural experiment' of randomly assigning roommates that avoids the confounding effects of residential choice.

Larry Griffin was the keynote speaker for the Inter-University Sociology Symposium at Belmont University in Nashville, TN, on April 16, 2010. The symposium celebrates the best undergraduate research in sociology at Fisk, Tennessee State, Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities. The keynote speech is the final event that highlights the day's events and further celebrates sociological research and contributions to the discipline.

Victor Marshall was a witness before the Canadian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, testifying and answering questions concerning policy recommendations for service innovation for Canadian veterans. Dr. Marshall is a member of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group, and for the past thirteen years has chaired the Gerontological Advisory Council, both of which provide policy advice to Veterans Affairs Canada.

Three UNC-CH Sociology Faculty Awarded National Institutes of Health Challenge Grant

Guang Guo, Kathleen Mullan Harris, and Michael Shanahan were awarded a NIH Challenge Grant worth one million dollars over the course of two years, starting in October 2009. It was a nationwide competition among 23,000 teams of researchers in all fields at the NIH. Roughly 200 grants were awarded. The title of the grant: Genetic/Epigenetic Markers, Social Contexts, Lifecourse and Risky Health Behavior. This grant supports efforts to investigate risky health behaviors in a framework that incorporates genetic variation, epigenetic factors, and social contextual factors.

Graduate Student Awards

Michael Gaddis received the 2010 Odum Award for outstanding graduate paper from the Southern Sociological Society for his master's paper, "What's in a Relationship? Examining Race, Class, and Contact Time as Determinants of Social Capital in Mentoring Relationships." This paper also received an honorable mention from the American Educational Research Association's Sociology of Education Special Interest Group.

Raj Ghoshal was awarded a dissertation improvement grant of \$6,435 from the National Science Foundation for the project, "Local Variations and National Collective Memory."

Brandon Gorman was awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Summer 2010 and the 2010-2011 academic year. He will be studying advanced Arabic.

Kari Kozlowski received the Weiss Fellowship in Urban Livability for the 2009-2010 academic year. This fellowship was given through the graduate school. She was also named the Senior Fellow for the Weiss Urban Livability Fellows for the 2010-2011 academic year, which grants full tuition remission and the standard graduate student stipend for one academic year.

Beth Latshaw received a Rose Laub Coser Dissertation Proposal Award honorable mention for her proposal, "What Makes Men Mother and Mop? Constancy and Change in the Care Work Performed by American Men." This award is given annually for an outstanding doctoral dissertation proposal in the area of the family or gender and society by the Eastern Sociological Society. She

also won a Poster Award at the Population Association of America's annual meeting.

Autumn McClellan received the Suzanne R. Dirr Tutor Recognition Award, given to outstanding tutors who work with the Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes.

Andrew Payton received a Dissertation Completion Research Fellowship from the UNC-CH Graduate School for 2010-2011.

Tuneka Tucker was selected to receive a 2010 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. The fellowship program helps ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforces its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in the U.S. and abroad.

Ashton Verdery was awarded a National Science Foundation Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) for the 2010-2011 academic year. He also won the National Science Foundation's Award for Communications Excellence in their IGERT Poster Challenge.

Amber Wells was selected to receive the Virginia Association on Aging Student Research Scholarship Award, given by the Southern Gerontological Society.

Andrew Payton and Alexis Silver receive E.K. Wilson Award

The Wilson Award for Excellence in Teaching is given to a UNC-CH Department of Sociology graduate student in honor of Everett K. Wilson, a scholar who devoted his entire career to the advancement and dissemination of sociology as an intellectually challenging and broadly relevant discipline. In 1968, Wilson came to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He had already established himself as an outstanding pedagogue and scholar. He designed and was the initial coordinator of the Department's first-in-the-nation formal program for teaching graduate students how to teach sociology.

In response to winning his award, Andrew said: "Receiving the Wilson Award is a great honor for me. Coming from a liberal arts background, I place special emphasis on high-quality teaching. In

fact, one of the primary reasons I elected to attend UNC was the opportunity to start teaching earlier in my professional career. The recognition is therefore greatly appreciated. In addition, I hope to return to the liberal arts environment after I graduate and thus I further appreciate this award because it may be helpful in my job search."

In response to winning her award, Alexis said: "I was so appreciative that the faculty awarded me with the Wilson teaching award. Making connections with students and learning to present sociological material in innovative and accessible ways has been one of the most rewarding aspects of graduate school for me. I spend a lot of time preparing and planning my classes, and having the faculty's vote of confidence means a lot to me."

Shawn Bauldry receives Odum Award

The Odum Award for Excellence is given to a UNC-CH Sociology graduate student who has successfully defended a dissertation proposal and completed all comprehensive examinations in a timely manner and with excellence; who plans to be on the job market in the fall of the year that the award is given to the student; and who has a record of creativity, productivity, and professionalism that holds exceptional promise for a career of distinction.

In response to winning his award, Shawn said "It was an honor to receive this award. The excellent mentorship of the faculty in this department have given me a deeper understanding of sociology and an appreciation for how to do research."

Incoming Graduate Cohort

Briana Bond

BA: University of South Carolina - Columbia
 MA: University of South Carolina - Columbia
 JD, MSPH: Tulane University
 Area of Interest: Social Movements

Joseph Bongiovi

BA: University of Notre Dame
 MA: Cornell University
 Areas of Interest: Organizations and Work

Christopher Elliott

BA & MA: University of Mississippi
 Areas of Interest: Organizations and Work

Sarah Gaby

BA: Brandeis University
 Area of Interest: Social Movements

Risa Griffin

BA: Kenyon College
 Areas of Interest: Inequality and Stratification

Jonathan Horowitz

BA: Grinnell College
 Area of Interest: Social Movements

Atiya Husain

BA: University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
 Area of Interest: Social Movements

Bo (Jane) Lee

BA: Duke University
 Area of Interest: Family

Sarah (Sally) Morris

BA: Furman University
 Areas of Interest: Inequality and Stratification

Richard Perry

BA: Millsaps College
 MS: University of Wisconsin - Madison
 MA: California State University - Fullerton
 MA: University of California - San Diego
 Area of Interest: Culture

Kivan Polimis

BA: Princeton University
 Areas of Interest: Demography/Population Studies

Doctorates Awarded in 2009 - 2010 Academic Year

Daniel Adkins

Research Assistant Professor
 Virginia Commonwealth University

James Hull

Postdoctoral Fellow
 Brown University

Younoki Lee

Postdoctoral Fellow
 University of California - San Francisco.

Matthew Ezzell

Assistant Professor
 James Madison University

Beth Latshaw

Assistant Professor
 Appalachian State University

Undergraduate Awards, Activities, & Programs

Undergraduate Southern Sociological Society Presentations

In April, Sociology Department undergraduate students John Muñoz, LaChae Stull, and Sarah Summers presented at the Southern Sociological Society's annual meeting held in Atlanta. The Sociology Department and the Office of Undergraduate Research helped to fund their trips, which gave them the opportunity to present for the first time at an academic conference.

All three presented work from their honors theses and represented the Sociology Department of UNC well. John's presentation, "The Impact of Environmental Organization on Sustainability," was presented in the Climate Change and Environmental Policy: Local, National, and International Contexts paper session. Sarah's presentation, "Growing Eden: Barriers to Culture Change in Long-Term Care Facilities," was presented in the Caring for Elders: Places, Poli-

cies, and Practices paper session, while LaChae's presentation, "Colonialism and the African Identity: As Told by the Literature Voices of the Nations," was presented in the Group Identity and Collective Memory paper session.

This experience for undergraduates is best summed up in John Munoz's words: "The Southern Sociological Society's Conference in Atlanta provided an exceptional opportunity for me and my colleagues to meet sociology scholars from across the south. I was able to network with a sociology faculty member who expressed interest in the presentation of my research. Additionally, a board member of a sociology journal encouraged me to seek publication as a result of my presentation at the Southern. Combined with the feedback on our work we received at the Southern, the conference will prove invaluable as we progress through our academic careers."

Management and Society Curriculum

The UNC Management and Society Curriculum is an interdisciplinary major that offers students a special emphasis on the social context of management actions as well as governmental policy with respect to labor, industrial psychology, industrial sociology, worker education, and human resource management. A curriculum in Industrial Relations was first offered at both the graduate and undergraduate levels at UNC in 1947. The Graduate School later dropped the curriculum, leaving only a Bachelor's degree program in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1999, the name of the curriculum was changed to Management and Society, and it was integrated into the Sociology Department's administrative structure in 2005-2006. Since 2007, the program has been directed by the Sociology student advisor to provide guidance.

Continued on page 11

Phi Beta Kappa Initiation

The Sociology Department would like to recognize the following Sociology and Management and Society majors who were initiated into the Alpha of North Carolina Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa during the Spring 2010 Semester:

Chelsea Nielsen
Maria Callimanis
Jessica Barber
Emily Black
Catherine Ittner
Anne Morrison

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 and sciences since 1776.

John Munoz receives Odum Award

The Howard Odum Undergraduate Award was established in 1967 in honor of Professor Howard Odum, who founded and first chaired the UNC Sociology Department. Odum was a pioneer in American sociology and a major influence on the discipline. The Department faculty selects the recipient of the annual award on the basis of grade records and other demonstrations of academic talent and accomplishment as an undergraduate.

Upon receiving the award, John had this to say: "Receiving the Howard Odum Undergraduate Award has been the highest honor bestowed upon me to date. I take great pride in the fact that I was chosen for this award by members of the UNC-Chapel Hill Sociology faculty. It is truly an honor to be recognized for all of the time and effort I have undertaken by the Sociology faculty here at UNC because they serve as sources of both guidance and inspiration."

Alumni News & Notes

Steve Allman, a 1975 UNC-CH Sociology major and UNC-P Counseling M.A., is a North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselor currently employed with the North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Robert C. Murray recently retired as President and CEO of Mission Road Ministries after 30 years of service to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Tyson Brown (Ph.D. 2009) has accepted a tenure-track position, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in the Department of Sociology at Vanderbilt University. He says that Vanderbilt has hired three more medical sociologists studying health disparities.

Sharon Christ (Ph.D. 2008) has

accepted an offer for an assistant professor position at Purdue University. It is a joint appointment with the Department of Child Development and Family Studies and the Department of Statistics - Sharon also received an M.S. in statistics from UNC. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Developmental Science at UNC.

John Hipp (Ph.D. 2006) recently earned tenure at the University of California - Irvine Department of Criminology. He has now won the Ruth Shonle Cavan Young Scholar Award. This award, established in 1997, is given by the American Society of Criminology to "recognize outstanding scholarly contributions to the discipline of criminology by someone who has received the Ph.D., M.D., LL.D. or a similar graduate degree

no more than five years before the year of the award. The award may be for a single work or a series of contributions, and may include co-authored works."

Lisa A. Pellerin (Ph.D. 2000) was promoted to associate professor at Ball State University in 2006, and in August of this year, was appointed Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Harriet Presser (M.A. 1962) received her PhD in 1969 from the University of California, Berkeley. She has won the ASA Jessie Bernard Award. The award has been given for thirty years in recognition of scholarly work that "has enlarged the horizons of sociology to encompass fully the role of women in society."

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nce to undergraduates considering or participating in the major.

The major remains one of the largest undergraduate degree programs at UNC with 182 majors in January 2010. Many ambitious students double-major in disciplines such as psychology, sociology, economics, communications, exercise and sport science, history, religion, political science, biology, music, romance language, and international studies. Majors in the curriculum acquire an understanding of the conceptual foundations of interpersonal and institutional relations and how these foundations can be applied in the workplace.

The 2010 Management and Society graduation ceremony brought together over 130 students, family, and friends to honor graduating seniors. This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Margarita Mooney, discussed the integral nature of work in life and challenged graduates to remember the lessons they learned at UNC, both through their Management and Society coursework and in cultivating relationships to form communities. Dr. Mooney also discussed the changes in the labor force, the impact of the economy on work and life, and the important role that Management and Society students can play in shaping the future workforce.

If you would like your alumni news included in the next issue of our newsletter, please fill out the "Alumni Notes" form on the last page of the newsletter. Include pictures, extra pages, and contact information as needed.

We are always interested in what our alumni have accomplished.

In Memoriam

Amos Hawley: Pioneer in Human Ecology

Amos Henry Hawley, 69th President of the American Sociological Association, died in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on August 31, 2009 at the age of 98. A seminal theorist, Amos helped revitalize macrosociology in the 1950s and 1960s via his reformulation, extension, and codification of human ecological models. He left an indelible imprint on our discipline by his writings and those of many of his students. Always dignified, yet modest, his brilliance was intellectually catalytic for others as he provided conceptual clarity to complex system structures and processes at the community and societal levels.

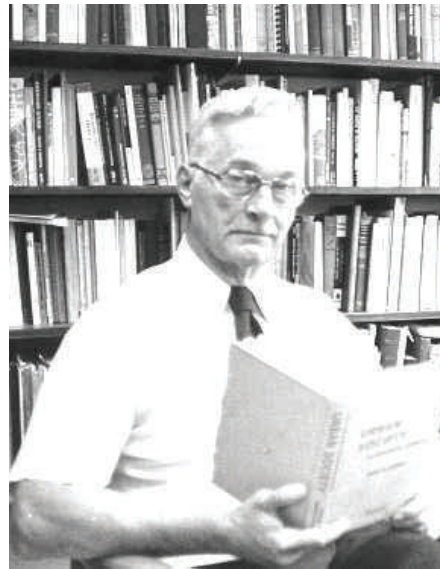
Amos came of age in the Great Depression where he dropped out of the University of Cincinnati for a life as a hobo. He rode boxcars to the West and panned for gold in Oregon. He even stowed away on a Japanese freighter heading to Asia before being discovered and sent back.

After his stint riding the rails, Amos returned to the University of Cincinnati where Professor James Quinn introduced him to sociology and human ecology. Amos also encountered Roderick McKenzie, a renowned visiting professor from the University of Michigan, who impressed him with his theories of urban hierarchies and metropolitan dominance. McKenzie convinced Amos to follow him back to Ann Arbor, where he became McKenzie's protégé. When an untimely illness and early death took McKenzie from Michigan in 1940, his protégé succeeded him. There, Amos rose through the ranks from instructor to professor and served as chair of the department from 1951 to 1962.

Michigan Sociology was in its heyday during Amos' decade as chair, leading the way with its Survey Research Center, Center for Group Dynamics, Population Center and Detroit Area Study. It also had many distinguished faculty ranging from social psychologists to demographers, a number of whom had strong personalities and radically different takes on what should be central to the disci-

pline. Gerhard Lenski (Amos' close colleague at Michigan and UNC) noted that all the ingredients for a department blow-up were in place. Yet, Amos effectively served as leader and social glue holding everything together as Michigan's Department of Sociology prospered.

In 1966, Amos departed for Chapel Hill becoming Kenan Professor of Sociology at UNC where he remained a highly active scholar and graduate student mentor until his retirement in 1976. Soon afterwards, he took to writing fictional short stories, many of them incorporating his keen observations over the years of academic lifestyles. To the surprise of a number of us who always thought of Amos as being steadfast and reserved, some of these short stories have elements of intrigue and even risqué behavior.



It was his more than 100 scholarly works, though, for which Amos will be most remembered. His academic career is best defined by an early book, *Human Ecology: A Theory of Community Structure* (Ronald Press, 1950). That book remains the most comprehensive statement of the ecological approach to social organization. In many ways, it was a major departure from previous work in sociological human ecology. Amos was able to distill prior research and field observations of human ecologists into a codified theatrical framework which explained characteristics of social organization as

the product of a population adapting to its environment.

By strengthening human ecology's intellectual ties to the field of ecology, Amos led human ecology away from reliance on biology and the early Chicago-School urban sociology. Despite drawing on the historical work of George C. Homans, he also moved human ecology firmly into the realm of macrosociology. Amos believed that the structure of organizations—be they communities, societies or formal organizations—had overwhelming influence on individual behavior and superseded individual influence, with real power in the organized system. It was, therefore, his understanding system structure and its macro drivers that occupied the majority of Amos' scholarly efforts.

His presidential address entitled "Cumulative Change in Theory and History" (*American Sociological Review*, December 1978) is a good illustration. Amos argued that although individual societies rise and fall over the long wave, human society tends to progress through cumulative advances and transferability of technology and economic organization. The result is societal growth measured in terms of system complexity, energy and products consumed, territory covered, and population supported.

A precursor of his conceptualization of societal growth was his models of ecological (system) expansion. Extending the works of Charles Horton Cooley and Roderick McKenzie, he explicated (and quantified) how socio-spatial system expansion occurs through advances in transportation and communication technology that integrate dispersed populations and their economic organizations over ever-widening territories. An outcome of the expansion process is the formation of hierarchies of places (at the local, national, and global levels) characterized by competitive-cooperation.

Interestingly, Amos was among the few American scholars in the 1950s and 1960s who dispassionately engaged Marx. After considering the predictions

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In Memoriam

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of Malthus and those of Marx about the relationship of the size of a population to available resources, he came down firmly on the side of Marx, finding corroboration for the principle that access to resources is limited in the first instance by social organization. While certainly not a Marxist scholar, he felt an affinity for some of Marx's theorizing and revisited the issue several times in his career, most recently in "Human Ecological and Marxian Theories" (American Journal of Sociology, 1984).

Amos' calm manner belied his sharp, original mind, which frequently inspired curiosity and originally among many of his students, from demographer Donald Bogue to organizational ecologists Michael Hannan and John Freeman. Hannan and Freeman's classic article "The Population Ecology of Organizations" (American Journal of Sociology, 1977) began as a paper in Amos' UNC graduate seminar. Howard Aldrich,

current chair of UNC's Department of Sociology, contends that this article changed the field of organization studies forever.

Amos contributed as much to practice as to theory, and he was as accomplished in the field as in the classroom. He served on the advisory committee for the 1960 United States census and on numerous National Academy of Sciences committees and boards (1960-1978). Amos also was a demographic adviser for the government of Malaysia (1973-74), directed the census of Aruba in 1960, and was an adviser to the prime minister's office in Thailand (1964-65). He conducted field studies of populations and urban land use in Japan, the Philippines, and elsewhere.

For his many contributions to population studies, Amos was elected president of the Population Association of America (1971-72). In 1990, he received the Robert and Helen Lynd Award from the American Sociological Association for his research and scholarship on commu-

nity and urban sociology. Also that year, Cornell University honored Amos with an award for outstanding achievements and contributions to sociological human ecology. At UNC, The Amos Hawley Distinguished Professorship is named in his honor.

Amos' final request characterized his modest and generous persona. He asked that no funeral or memorial service be held and that any memorial contributions be made to a fund for the benefit of graduate students in the Department of Sociology at UNC. This fund has now been established and designated by UNC as The Amos Hawley Memorial Fund.

*-Dr. John D. Kasarda
Director, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, Kenan-Flagler Business School, UNC-CH*

Reprinted from obituary in ASA Footnotes, www.asanet.org/journals/footnotes, November-December 2009, Volume 37, Issue 8

In Memoriam

Dr. Donald "Don" D. Smith
UNC-CH Sociology Ph.D. 1964

Professor of Sociology at Florida State University from 1965-1980, and later Professor of Mass Communications and Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Iowa, Dr. Smith's students and studies defined his life.

Born in Beaver City, NE, he attended Hastings College and was a graduate of Holdrege High School, Syracuse University, the University of Nebraska, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the USAF Russian Language

School, the USAF Institute of Technology, Bryn Mawr College Russian Center, and Indiana University (Bloomington) Slavic & East European Languages Program. Dr. Smith was also a Senior Fulbright Lecturer at Tashkent State University, Uzbekistan.

A veteran of the Korean Conflict, he served with the U. S. Air Force, Office of Strategic Intelligence and the USIA in Europe.

Don's other enduring loves were his family, for whom he was the ultimate teacher, experiencing life with diverse cultures, and enjoying nature and music.

He is survived by Norma, his wife of 54 years and best friend since age 13; two children, Kevin Smith of Tallahassee and Dawn McConnell with son-in-law Keith McConnell of Tampa; three grandchildren, Trevor McConnell, Jordan Smith & Caitlyn Smith; many cousins, nieces and nephews; and innumerable students around the world who shared his love of study.

Excerpted from obituary in the Tallahassee Democrat, www.tallahassee.com, originally published on February 17, 2010

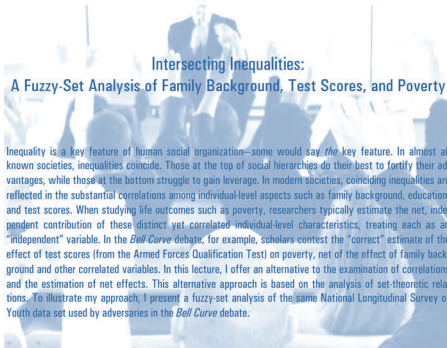
Charles Ragin Delivers 2010 Doris Selo Lecture

The Doris Selo Memorial Lecture Series Presents
Social Forces Visiting Scholar
Charles Ragin, University of Arizona

Date: 4/21/2010

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Hamilton Hall, Room 271



Charles Ragin, Ph.D. '75, recently returned to the Department of Sociology on April 24, 2010 to deliver the annual Doris Selo Memorial Lecture. Entitled “Intersecting Inequalities: A Fuzzy-Set Analysis of Family Background, Test Scores, and Poverty,” his presentation examined an innovative approach to measuring separate but overlapping factors contributing to poverty.

Ragin earned his degree the same year that Doris Selo, an advanced graduate student in the Department,

lost her courageous battle with cancer. In memory of Doris, her friends and family established a fund that, with supplemental contributions from the Department, has sponsored lectures focused on her concern for human welfare and the social conditions affecting it. The opportunity to invite visiting scholars to honor her memory has always been a highlight of the Department's spring calendar.

2010 Fundraising for Sociology

UNC's Department of Sociology faces a daunting challenge of maintaining excellence and its position of leadership in education, research, and service in these difficult economic times. If you live in North Carolina, you may have heard about the state budget cuts that threaten our ability to teach and nurture our students, support faculty and student research on critical issues, and reward excellence in teaching and research. To meet that challenge, we depend upon the contributions and commitment of alumni and friends of the Department.

UNC receives less than one third of its funding from the State of North Carolina (in the best of times, less now) and thus private support is critical to our success. Please help us train students, advance research and shape the future. Your tax-deductible contribution provides our students with encouragement and financial support. It gives our faculty the resources to increase our understanding and knowledge of human communities and helps to maintain a distinguished reputation for the department.

Howard Aldrich

Department Chair



Notes on Departmental History

In November 1939, Howard Odum and Guy B. Johnson, two UNC-CH Sociology professors, invited Langston Hughes to speak at Gerard Hall.

[Hughes] interest in Chapel Hill may have been piqued by the fact that one of his most controversial poems, "Christ in Alabama," had been published in September 1931 in *Contempo*, a magazine edited by two former UNC students ... A month after the publication of his poem, Hughes submitted a letter to Odum expressing his interest in visiting "the most progressive white University in the South." ... Hughes' lecture was a success and was well received. But it ignited a quietly brewing storm that would not erupt until weeks later.

Excerpted from The Chapel Hill News, www.chapelhillnews.com, originally published on February 21, 2010

To read more about this story, click [here](#).



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- ☐ **Management and Society Curriculum Gift Fund (#1059)**—This fund is used to provide for the educational and research objectives of the Management and Society Curriculum of the Department of Sociology.
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If you have questions about giving to Sociology or would like additional information, contact Ali Kroeger, Assistant Director of Capital Gifts, Arts and Sciences Foundation, at ali.kroeger@unc.edu or 919/843-3919.

Alumni Updates

UNCurrents would like to know what our alumni are up to. 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.

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