

A Letter from the Chair, Dr. David Hartmann

George Steiner once said of Arthur Koestler, that he “seemed to exemplify Nietzsche’s insight that there is in men and women a motivation stronger even than love or hatred or fear. It is that of being interested—in a body of knowledge, in a problem, in a hobby, in tomorrow’s newspaper.” What a wonderful motivation that is—what a marvelous incitement to explore, to build, to tear apart—the sheer joy of intellectual pursuit.

In the past two columns, I fear I have stressed too much the need for utility in what we think and do. This is a fine sentiment and an important counter to the academic tendency toward self-indulgence - but it does run the risk of misinterpretation, as did Will James’ stubborn refusal to abandon the phrase “cash value” of an idea. The use of an idea or, in Steiner’s version, of a habit of creative synthetic thought, is not necessarily immediate and is often not easily if ever cashable in a prosaic sense. Morton White made exactly this point in discussing James when he said that, “Even his fastidious brother Henry agreed (or said he agreed) with his pragmatism; Henry didn’t fall into a cheap interpretation of it as the ideology of American capitalism, opportunism, and smugness.”

What Steiner is describing and I am recommending is unleashing a felt need to care about the world around us. This caring is, for some people, an emotional and imminent thing, and we are all lucky that such people exist. But for others, it is manifest in a more abstract and

perhaps more dispassionate way. Many people of this sort display what is rightly called a childlike wonder at the world. They are not satisfied with what is offered up as an explanation of the why and how of things. Scientists are, as their significant others will attest, a childish bunch in precisely this way. They continue to be interested in the how and why—they push the limits of explanations, and, again like a precocious child, they insist that others hear and appreciate their insights.

We are in the business of raising such children here in the Department of Sociology—faculty and students raising (encouraging) each other - and the placement, the temporarily safe landing of our articles, our books, our students, ultimately our ideas, is how we feel approval. Someone more psychologically inclined than me might understand the sometimes strident tone of the intellectual through this felt need. I am reminded of Jackson Browne’s great line:

“California’s shaking like an angry child will,
Who has asked for love and is unanswered still.”

I am NOT recommending that we all hug a professor today but do show a little love to your department—continue to take an interest in Steiner’s sense—read on in Sociology and start with this newsletter.

David J. Hartmann
Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology

Group puts Department of Sociology on the Map

Five presenters at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference

Please congratulate our graduate students that are members of the Group for the Study of Religion with their outstandingly successful performance at recent national conferences. In a year and a half, the students presented nearly twenty papers at various professional meetings, and most of them—at national conferences.

We just came back from the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Denver, where our group presented five individual and co-authored papers. Graduate student authors and co-authors included Jake Armstrong, David Barry, Lori Verspoor, and Cindy Vischer. In August, Zhenia Leontyeva presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion.

In April, our group presented five papers at the national Biennial Symposium on Religion and Politics at the Henry Institute (Calvin College). There were also several papers at regional meetings. The strong presence of WMU at the meetings was duly noticed by colleagues, and I received numerous positive comments on our participation from respected scholars in the field.

Our Group has succeeded in putting the WMU Department of Sociology on the map of the Sociology of Religion in this country. Just one indicator of our Group's success at the Denver meeting: I received an invitation for

our graduate students' participation in the analysis and publication of the national Survey on Religion and Public Life (conducted by the Paul Henry Institute at Calvin College). The invitation involves not only access to the excellent dataset, but also some funding opportunities (e.g., possible funds for conference presentations of papers).

Another invitation is for our graduate students' involvement in the work of a research institute for the study of Orthodoxy at Berkeley. This involves research participation leading to co-authored publications.

Presently, our Group for the Study of Religion, Humanity, and Social Change includes (alphabetically) Jake Armstrong, David Barry, Jessica Edel, Zhenia Leontyeva, Lori Verspoor, Cindy Vischer, and Jon Van Wieren.

Faculty members of the Group include (alphabetically) David Hartmann, Vyacheslav Karpov (director), Elena Lisovskaya, and Yuan-Kang Wang. Georgios Loiuizides remains a corresponding member. Information about the group is available at our department's website www.wmich.edu/sociology.

-Submitted by Dr. Vyacheslav Karpov
(Director)

Alumni News

GRAD WRITES THIRD BOOK

Dawn L. Rothe (Ph.D. '06), has just published her third book, *State Criminality: The Crime of all Crimes* (Lexington Press, 2009). Ron Kramer wrote the Foreword to the book. Dawn was also recently elected chair of the Division of Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

New Graduate Students Welcomed at a Lunch Reception

We are excited to have six new students in our master's program. Amanda Graziano, from Clarkston, Mich.; Eric Gustafson, from Howard, Oh.; Karolina Jedrzejczak, from Sterling, Mich.; Marc Kittleson, from Mason City, Iowa; Valerie Nebbeling from Lansing, Mich.; Tasha Turner, from Kalamazo, Mich., B.S. from our Department Spring '09



New Ph.D. students, Lisa Sanders (left) and Matthew Klepac (right) both received their M.A.s from Eastern Michigan University. They are both teaching for us this fall, and they happen to be married to each other! Welcome Lisa and Matthew!



Kudos to recent A.B.D. Graduate Students

Kelly Faust, A.B.D., passed her Gender and Feminism Area Exam last spring. Michelle Fether-Samtouni, A.B.D., passed her Race and Ethnicity Exam last spring. Michael Gillespie, ABD, passed both of his area exams last spring in Methodology and Social Theory. Ladel Lewis, A.B.D., passed her Social Problems Area Exam in November. Adrienne Trier-Bieniek, A.B.D. passed both her Gender and Feminism Area Exam and her Race and Ethnicity Area Exam. Jon VanWieren, A.B.D. passed his Comperative Sociology Area Exam and his Theory Area Exam.

Area Exams Successfully Completed this Summer and Fall:

Joseph Abbott, Applied Theory
Michael Berghoef, Social Theory: Culture
Carrie Buist, Gender & Feminism

Jessica Edel, Gender & Feminism
Curt Hosier, Social Problems
Lisa Kruse, Criminology

Sociologists On the Road



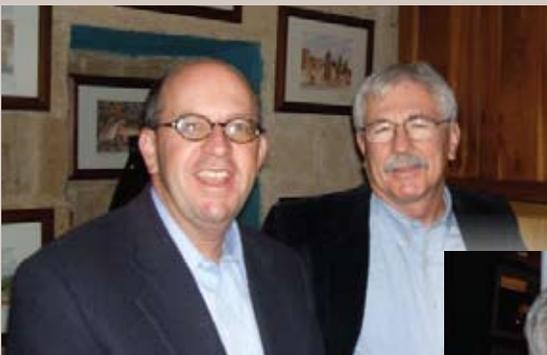
Dr. Susan Caringella traveled to Greece this summer to participate in the 3rd Annual International Conference on Sociology in Athens, Greece. She presented a paper, "International Considerations on Rape Reforms".

She will also be participating in the 4th Annual International Conference on Sociology in Athens in May 2010 in conjunction with a Mini-Conference on Violence Against Women.

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu presented a paper, "Situational patriarchy: Gender relations among Taiwanese immigrants," at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in San Francisco in August 2009.

Dr. Yuan-kang Wang presented "The Chinese World Order and War in Asian History," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Toronto, Canada (Sept. 3-6, 2009).

Dr. Susan Caringella, Dr. Greg Howard and Dr. Ron Kramer traveled to the University of Malta in October and made a presentation for a conference Migration: Criminological Implications, followed by planning meetings on our joint master's program. Dr. Caringella presented, "War at the Border and Rape by Patrol Agents: The Fallout for Mexican Immigrant Women." Dr. Howard presented a paper he co-authored with Lisa Kruse, Ph.D. candidate, "Mobility, Surveillance Technology, and Border Control." Dr. Kramer presented, "Bombing Civilians: A Socio-historical Account."



Drs. Corder and Kramer.



Drs. Corder and Susan Hoffmann.



Drs. Caringella and Kramer.

Dr. Thomas VanValey is living out the presentation he is making at the Lily Conference on College Teaching at Miami University. The session is with Jeanne Ballantine and the title is "Retired but not Retiring." Given all his activities below, it's no surprise Tom is an expert.

Tom made several presentations at the ASA meetings in San Francisco. Along with Earl Babbie they presented the results of the ASA Task Force on Teaching Ethics Throughout the Curriculum three times: to the Chairs' Conference; to the ASA Honors students; and in a separate workshop. He was also a panelist in a workshop titled "Are the Sociological Titles You and Your Students Need in Your Institution's Library?" And finally, he was a member of the didactic seminar, "Protection of Human Subjects in the Social Sciences," with Felice Levine and John Kennedy.

In early September the Portage Community Survey was put in the mail. Responses have been pouring in to the Kercher Center ever since. Several of our graduate students (John Chew, Shannon Vlcek, and Marc Kettleson) will also be working on this project, which Tom VanValey administers. The results should be available and published in early November.

The first week of October, Tom attended the AACSB meetings in San Antonio to present a paper (co-authored with Megan Mullins, Ph.D., '06) titled, "IRBs in the Social and Behavioral Sciences," plus he made another presentation on the results of the ASA Task Force on Teaching Ethics.

And he calls himself retired?



Accolades to our two new FULL Professors!



Dr. Charles Crawford (right) and Dr. Elena Liskoyva were promoted to full professors this year. Please be sure to congratulate them.

Dr. Crawford was a Panel Chair and Presenter, at the 46th annual meetings of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Boston, MA, March 2009. Title, "Dilemmas in Mentoring and Supervising Criminology Graduate Students."



Sonnad Subash is recovering from yet another heart surgery out east at his sister's home. He is doing well and getting his strength back. He hopes to be back in the Kalamazoo area in a few weeks.

Sociologists for Women in Society has awarded the Sociology Department “The SWS Seal of Approval for Gender Equity!”

This award recognizes departments that excel in creating a climate that is welcoming to women and gender scholars. In 2008 only 26 percent of departments have more than a quarter of their faculty working on gender or intersectional inequality. These departments have earned SWS’s Seal of Approval for their gender scholarship. The seal of approval was also awarded to departments for gender equity if the graduate department had 40 percent or more women faculty. Finally, “The SWS Seal of Excellence is awarded those departments that have shown a commitment to both the presence of women faculty and importance of gender/inequality scholarship. These departments are likely to be the most gender-and-women-friendly in our discipline. We congratulate them on their hard work in generating an inclusive scholarly community.”

Wedding Bells are Ringing



- Lori Verspoor, MA student was married to Tom DeVries on Nov. 7, 2009 at the Vos Chapel (Kuyper College) in Grand Rapids, Mich.
 - Adam Bell, MA was married to Jessica McCrumb on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 at Clear Lake in Dowling, Mich.
- Congratulations to Ph.D. candidate, Lisa Kruse on her engagement to Josh Bunch. They will be married on Jan. 4, 2010 in Mexico.

Faculty Receive Grants

Dr. Chien-Juh Gu received a Junior Scholar Grant (\$20,000) from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for her project, “Gendered transition and gendered struggles in the process of settlement.” This project has received \$30,000 in research funds. In this study, she uses the life history method to examine major changes in gender relations at different phases of settlement and how they affect immigrant women’s psychological well-being. She has completed the data collection and anticipates finishing this research in summer 2010.

Dr. Zoann Snyder (right) received a Faculty Assessment Grant for 2009-2010 for her project “Assessment and Sociology Seniors”

Dr. Yuan-Kang Wang received a FRACAA Award for \$10,000 for a project on “Hierarchy and Asia’s Regional Order”.



Great Expectations

Congratulations will be due by the time this newsletter gets published as we welcome three new members into our department.

Dr. Angie Moe (left) and her husband Aaron Aba are expecting a baby girl in mid November.

Michelle Fether-Samtouni, Ph.D. candidate (right) and her husband Hichem Samtouni are expecting a baby boy in early November.

Assistant professor, Frank Tridico and his wife Rita are expecting a baby boy on the same due date as Angie and Aaron!



Sociology Well Represented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting

Graduate Students and Faculty members were busy presenting papers, chairing sessions, attending committee meetings and sitting on panels November 2-6, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA. The theme was Criminology and Criminal Justice Process. Those participating were:

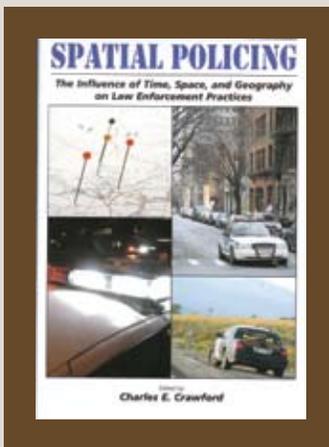
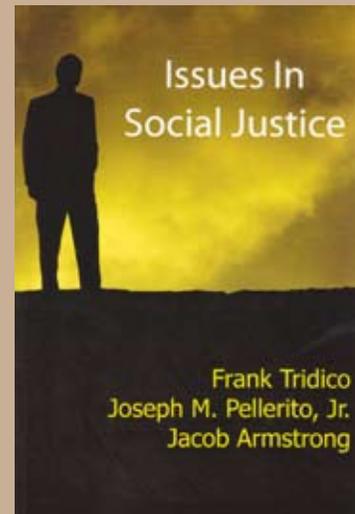
Elizabeth Bradshaw, Ph.D. candidate
 Carrie Buist, Ph.D. candidate
 Dr. Susan Caringella, professor
 Dr. Susan M. Carlson, professor
 Jacquelynn A. Doyon, Ph.D. candidate
 Kelly Faust, Ph.D. candidate
 Michael Gillespie, Ph.D. candidate
 Dr. Ron Kramer, professor
 Lisa Kruse, Ph.D. candidate

Collaboration on a New Book:

Two of our faculty members and many of our Ph.D. students were involved in producing a new book, "Issues in Social Justice," Landon Elsemere Press, 2009, edited by: Frank Tridico, Joseph M. Pellerito, Jr. and Jacob Armstrong (Ph.D. candidate).

Other contributors from the Sociology Department:

- Chapter 1—Religion and Homosexuality (Frank Tridico, Jacob Armstrong and David Barry)
- Chapter 2—Sexuality and Identity: An Exploration of the Discrimination Faced by members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community by Carrie Buist and Andrew Verheek.
- Chapter 3—Human Trafficking (Darrick Brake)
- Chapter 5—The Role of the Automobile in American Culture by Joseph M. Pellerito, Jr., Frank Tridico, and Catherine Lysack.
- Chapter 6—Public Space and Criminal Justice by Dr. Charles E. Crawford
- Chapter 9—Collective Behavior and Models of Conflict by Frank Tridico and Charles E. Crawford
- Chapter 10—Terrorism by Charles Quist-Adade, David Barry and Meghan Kenney
- Chapter 13—The Evolution of Privacy—Frank Tridico



New Books Published by Faculty, Alumni and Graduate Students:

- Dr. Emily Lenning (Ph.D., '07), Sara Brightman (ABD), and Dr. Susan Caringella, professor of Sociology authored a book, "A guide to Surviving a Career in Academia: Navigating the Rites of Passage," published by Routledge, Publication Date: July 31, 2010 (available for pre-order).
- Dr. Yuan-Kang Wang authored "Harmony and War: Confucian Culture and Chinese Power Politics" (New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming 2010).
- Dr. Charles Crawford (Editor) 2009, "Spatial Policing: The Influence of Time, Space, and Geography on Law Enforcement Practices." Carolina Academic Press. (Insert picture of cover)
- Dr. Greg Howard and Elizabeth Bradshaw (Ph.D. candidate) co-authored a chapter titled "Surveillance and Urban Public Space" (pp 159-184) for the book above.

Yes, I want to support the WMU Department of Sociology!

As our student numbers continue to grow, in a time when state funding is increasingly restricted, the support we receive from friends and alumni is vitally important. Such funds are used to take advantage of new or unbudgeted opportunities in order to enhance the teaching or the research of the department.

Thank you for considering a gift to the WMU Department of Sociology.

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