MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

It has been my intention to resurrect the department newsletter for some time. The goal of this newsletter is to keep all of us (and our alumni and others) up-to-date with department milestones, events, and successes. This year, being our anniversary year, seems like the ideal time to initiate the annual newsletter. Hopefully, the newsletter, and its content, will evolve over time. This issue contains an article on the Department's 50th Anniversary, brief articles on retiring department members, a summary of recent student and faculty award winners, and a list of department faculty publications for 2016. The department has a lot to celebrate this year!

Happy reading. – Tracey L. Adams

SOCIOLOGY CELEBRATES ITS 50TH

The Department of Sociology at the University of Western Ontario was founded in 1966. There were sociologists at Western before that time, but they were housed elsewhere in the university. In 1962, economist Grant Reuber became Head of Economics and Sociology. He hired more sociologists, especially demographers whom he saw as compatible with economists. As the number of sociologists grew, they requested their own department, according to Reuber (see the Social, Fall 2016). Reuber helped to shepherd this new department into existence. The new sociology department was approved late in 1965, and opened its doors in 1966-67 with Dr. Jack Kanter as the first department chair. In the beginning, the department had five faculty members, and offered an undergraduate major and a Master’s degree in Sociology. The focus of the undergraduate program was broad, requiring faculty members to teach outside their field of research. The department expanded in size dramatically over the next few years: there were 14 faculty members and 2,400 course registrants by 1969/70. The department continued to grow through the 1970s, and began a PhD program in Social Demography in 1978. The full PhD program followed in 1990. The number of department faculty has decreased in recent years, down from a high of 30 in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Through the years, however, the department has been recognized for its research excellence, especially in the areas of Demography, Social Inequality, and Health & Aging.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the department held a dinner reception on October 1 on campus at the Wave. An Open House featuring pictures and displays from years past occurred that afternoon. Approximately 100 former and current faculty and students attended the Anniversary party, including several of the “first five” faculty members in the department: T.R. Balakrishnan, Richard Osborn, and George Jarvis. The event culminated with the announcement of T.R. Balakrishnan’s donation to support a department colloquium series.

Overall the anniversary event was a great success, with a good time being had by all.

50th Anniversary celebration
BALAKRISHNAN DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN POPULATION DYNAMICS AND INEQUALITY

Thanks to a generous donation provided by Professor Emeritus T.R. Balakrishnan and Lois F. Leatham, the Faculty of Social Science has been able to establish a speaker series to bring in well-known researchers.

The inaugural lecture, “Segregation and the Perpetuation of Poverty,” was given Dec. 1 by Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Douglas Massey, Professor of Sociology at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, President of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences.

For more about this gift, read the Faculty of Social Science news story: “Donation from Professor Emeritus creates Sociology speaker series.”

Would you like to be included in the email notification list for this speaker series? Contact socevent@uwo.ca.

JERRY WHITE – RETIREMENT

After almost 30 years at Western, Professor Jerry White is retiring this June. Dr. White started at Western in 1988, after completing his Ph.D. at McMaster under the supervision of Carl Cuneo. Jerry left an appointment at the University of Toronto, Scarborough to join the Centre for Administrative and Information Studies (CAIS) in the Faculty of Social Science at Western. In the mid-1990s, CAIS was closed and Jerry joined the Sociology Department.

I recently interviewed Jerry and asked him about his career highlights. One highlight was joining the Sociology department, which he described as “an amazing place with lots going on.” Here he had the chance to pursue many different interests in sociological research. Jerry also loved being in the undergraduate classroom, and was gratified at the recognition he received through teaching awards including the Pleva and Bank of Nova Scotia Teaching Award. He found working with fantastic graduate students particularly rewarding. Another highlight involved the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference Series that Jerry organized in 2002, 2006 and 2009. These conferences brought researchers, Aboriginal leaders, and policy leaders together. The final conference in 2009 had over 1600 delegates from 26 countries. The conferences led to a ten-book series based on original research. The International Indigenous Policy Journal grew out of the conferences; it has been a significant and meaningful contribution. Jerry also found his time as department Chair, between 2002 and 2006, very rewarding, and was especially proud of the excellent hires made during his term. Moreover, as Senior Advisor to the Provost, Jerry played a large role in establishing many inter-disciplinary initiatives.

One of Jerry’s greatest memories of his time as Chair involved canoeing down the Grand with new faculty members. Unfortunately, cold, snow, and a driving wind turned a pleasant paddle down-river into a bit of an ordeal for all involved, but it was a memorable experience.

In retirement, Jerry is looking forward to working on a book series on international indigenous policy, and continuing to edit the International Indigenous Policy Journal. He is also looking forward to spending more time playing guitar with his blues band.

Jerry considers pursuing sociology, and a career as a professor, the best decision he ever made. He will truly be missed, and we wish him a happy retirement!

http://news.westernu.ca/2017/04/white-let-make-mistakes/

DENISE STATHAM – RETIREMENT

Denise Statham has worked at Western for over 40 years, serving the last few decades as our Graduate Affairs Assistant. Denise has helped to guide, support, and advise generations of Sociology graduate students, and she has kept the graduate program running smoothly and efficiently. She is a pleasure to work with, and we will miss her.

We wish you all the best Denise!
IN MEMORIAM: ISABEL BOWRON

Former Sociology department staff member, Isabel Bowron, died on Monday Apr. 17. Isabel worked in the Sociology department for many years. She served as an undergraduate counselor for quite some time, not only helping thousands of Sociology undergraduates navigate the program and its requirements, but also supporting faculty teaching in the undergraduate classroom. Sociology Department Chair, Tracey Adams, recalls: “I had the privilege of knowing her both in my roles as student and faculty member, and remember her as being wonderfully supportive, and funny.”

We remember her with gratitude and fondness.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

In July 2016, Dr. Anders Holm (lately of the University of Copenhagen) joined the department as Full Professor. Dr. Holm does research in education, stratification, and intergenerational mobility. He is currently teaching courses in Social Stratification and Quantitative Methods.

In January 2017, we welcomed Dr. Anna Zajacova (lately of the University of Wyoming) to our faculty at the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. Zajacova’s research examines issues in population health, health inequalities, and social determinants of health over the adult life course. This fall she will be teaching courses in Health and Statistics.

FACULTY AWARDS AND MILESTONES

Congratulations to Anabel Quan-Haase and Laura Huey on their promotions to Full Professor, and to Rachel Margolis who achieved promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

Dean Bob Andersen has won the 2017 Canadian Sociological Association Outstanding Contribution Award. The award will be presented at Congress May 30, 2017.

Laura Huey has been designated a Faculty Scholar. The Faculty Scholars Award honours and celebrates outstanding scholarly achievements at a critical point in the career of a Faculty Member. Winners must demonstrate excellence in scholarly research that has international impact.

Laura Huey has also been appointed a Senior Research Fellow with the Police Foundation, an American-based organization that seeks to help the police be more effective in their work, and better serve their communities. This is an exceptional honour recognizing Dr. Huey’s expertise in evidence-based policing, police education and training. For more about the Police Foundation and Laura’s appointment see www.policefoundation.org/team_detail/laura-huey-ph-d/

Anton Allahar received a 2017 Western Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. See the Faculty of Social Science news story: “Recognizing 40 years of engaged education.”

Rachel Margolis, in collaboration with researchers based in four European countries, has received a large grant to study “Care, Retirement and Wellbeing of Older People across Different Welfare Regimes.” For her part of the project, Margolis will receive €160,000 over three years to conduct research in two areas: (1) patterns of caregiving and their impact on the wellbeing of older adults and (2) social participation of older adults, and the increasing population of adults aging without close kin.

Rachel Margolis also recently won a SSHRC grant for her project “Aging Alone? Older Adults without Close Kin.”

Michael Haan recently won a SSHRC partnership development grant to establish research partnerships with municipalities for students. He also won SSHRC Presidential Innovation Funding for his participation in the European Union’s Joint Programming Initiative on Migration and Demographic Change.

Anabel Quan-Haase has a new SSHRC Insight grant for her research entitled “Trajectories of social activism: The role of social media.”

Kim Shuey won a Faculty of Social Science Internal Research Grant to begin a new program of research investigating ways in which families leverage existing resources to resist and refuse participation in educational institutions.

Anna Zajacova won a Sam Clark Faculty Research Award for her project entitled “Disability Trends among Canadian Adults by Educational Attainment.”

Jerry White’s research on Urban Indigenous Communities will be featured by the COU in their Research Matters series.

Tess Hooks is the winner of CAUT’s Bernice Shrank Award recognizing outstanding contributions to the enforcement of academic staff workplace rights through grievance/arbitration. Tess will receive her award this fall.

Congratulations to those department members on the 2015-16 Teaching Honour Roll: Kate H. Choi, Michael Gardiner, and Wolfgang Lehmann.
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

James J. Teevan Undergraduate Sociology Essay Award: Carly Williams, “Reconsidering Elements of Early Literacy: Habitus and an Affinity for Learning.” (Soc 4450F)

Robert K. Merton Undergraduate Criminology Essay Award: Holly Meaney, “Female Harassment in the RCMP: Explaining the Phenomena” (Soc 4451F)

CSA Outstanding Graduating Sociology Student, Honours, 2017: Sagi Ramaj

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

CSA Outstanding Graduating Sociology Student, MA, 2017: Hillary Peladeau

CSA Outstanding Graduating Sociology Student, PhD, 2017: Nicole Etherington

CPAH Best Paper Award 2017: Eugena Kwon, PhD Candidate, “The racial/ethnic disparities in Leisure-Time Physical Activity among women: The association between nativity, social network, and physical activity awareness”

Ellen Nielsen Award: Awish Aslam (MA), Nicole Etherington (PhD)

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS 2016

Teresa Abada


Tracey L. Adams


Anton Allahar


Robert Andersen

Kate H. Choi
Ingrid Connidis

James E. Côté

Michael Gardiner

Anders Holm

Laura Huey


Wolfgang Lehmann
Wolfgang Lehmann (ed.), Education and Society: Canadian Perspectives, Oxford University Press.


Wolfgang Lehmann, “They really drill it into you to go to university”: Influences on working-class students’ decision to go to university,” in A.E. Stich and C. Freie (eds.), The working classes and higher education: Inequality of access, opportunity and outcome, Routledge.

Charles G. Levine
Rachel Margolis

Julie McMullin

Anabel Quan-Haase
Anabel Quan-Haase, Technology and society: Inequality, power, and social networks 2nd ed., Oxford University Press.


Scott Schaffer

Kim Shuey

Andrea Willson
Anna Zajacova


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