Welcome to the Fall 2012 edition of AKRONews, the annual newsletter of the Department of Sociology at the University of Akron.

I am pleased to be starting my first year as Chair of the Department, after having served for the past two years as Interim Chair. I am assisted by Dr. Stacey Nofziger (Graduate Director) and Dr. Valerie Callanan (Undergraduate Director). I am grateful for their help and the myriad ways in which they go beyond the call of duty on a regular basis. Special thanks to Dr. Cheryl Elman for serving as Graduate Director in the spring and to Dr. Kathy Feltey for her second year of service as Interim Director of Women’s Studies. As with last year, Tammy Dixon keeps things running smoothly in the front office, although she no longer has the assistance of Christi Terry. Christi took a full-time position in the Department of Counseling Education. We will miss her, but we are all happy that she has been able to advance her career.

We are especially pleased that Dr. Janette Dill has joined us this fall as an Assistant Professor and she already has several impressive publications (see page 9). Dr. Paul Lipold has returned to our Department as a Visiting College Lecturer and we are glad to have him back. Despite a heavy teaching load, he has still found time to publish (page 12). We are also very happy that Dr. Hyung-Wook Jung has joined us from Korea as a Visiting Professor. Dr. Jung is a Ph.D. graduate of our program and we look forward to featuring his research in our next newsletter.

As you can see from reading the rest of this newsletter, we have been very busy since the previous issue. Highlights include the significant national media attention devoted to research by Dr. Adrianne Frech (p. 5), Dr. Brian Pendleton’s Outstanding Volunteer Faculty Award (p. 2), Dr. Rebecca Erickson’s multiple public lectures (p. 2), Dr. Cheryl Elman’s involvement in an international research project sponsored by the European Research Council (p. 7), Dr. Robert Peralta’s R25 Fellowship, the second edition of Dr. Kathy’s Feltey’s book Cinematic Sociology (co-edited with a Ph.D. graduate of our program, Jean-Anne Sutherland), graduate student Dani Jauk’s chapter in the forthcoming volume of Advances in Gender Research, graduate student Marci Cottingham winning a SSSP graduate student paper award, and the publication of three of my books this year. Be sure to read about what our alumni and current students are doing, including the interview with Hannah Furnas (p. 16), and article by Dr. Dana Williams, and a feature by Veronica Liebchen (p. 22).

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and please stay in touch with us. We love hearing from you. Thanks again to Dr. Takyi for putting this together.
FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Brian Pendleton honored for research efforts

For his many contributions to advancing community health, Dr. Brian Pendleton was honored with a 2012 Outstanding Volunteer Faculty Award — presented by the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED).

Pendleton, a professor of sociology at UA and a research professor of family and community medicine at NEOMED, was one of six individuals honored in early June by the department. NEOMED has more than 2,300 individuals serving as “voluntary faculty members” — including physicians, pharmacists and other health professionals — to work with its students. Currently, there are 11 NEOMED volunteers affiliated with UA.

His work at NEOMED is a natural extension of Pendleton's research interests in the areas of medical sociology, epidemiology, literacy, quantitative methodology, demography and the sociology of children. Pendleton, who joined UA in 1978, has been the primary investigator or co-primary investigator for almost $21 million dollars in grant and contract monies from federal, state and local sources. He also helped launch the Decker Family Development Center in Barberton, and served for 15 years as its co-manager and director of research and evaluation.

“Brian dedicates a significant amount of time in support of research initiatives of the department, the majority of which as a volunteer,” says Dr. Susan Labuda-Schrop, associate director of administration and family medicine, and assistant professor of family and community medicine at NEOMED. “He plays a major role in helping with research design, data analysis and interpretation and dissemination, as well as in helping us to get grant support.” Pendleton has served as a primary investigator or co-primary investigator on several research projects with Labuda-Schrop that were focused on medical care for underserved populations, health disparities based on income, and preventive health and literacy — beginning with the “For Your Health” kiosk project. Launched in 1999, the interactive kiosks were placed in the waiting rooms of clinics for the medically underserved to provide patient education and to study the effect of the kiosk on the delivery of physician counseling in four areas — alcohol intake, exercise, smoking cessation and weight control. In 2006, the project received a Patient Care Award for Excellence in Patient Education Innovation from the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Society for Teachers of Family Medicine.

“It's very nice to be recognized,” says Pendleton, who also is a recipient of both an Outstanding Teacher Award and an Outstanding Researcher Award from UA. “I love working with the people at NEOMED. Of course, this work provides additional research opportunities for UA students, along with medical students at NEOMED.

Dr. Rebecca Erickson

Forum on how to support caregivers:

Dr. Erickson was one of the speakers at a forum titled “Compassion for the Compassionate: Supporting Those Serving Others” on Wednesday, Sept. 5. Becky shared her work on the effects of stress, burnout and compassion fatigue on nurses with the audience and community at large. The forum was hosted by The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation and Heart to Heart Communications at the John S. Knight Center, 77 E. Mill St., in Akron. The event was part of the Morgan Forum Series, which brought together experts in mental health, local professionals and community members.


Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation: Planning Board Member, Forum on “Differentiating Stress, Burnout, and Compassion Fatigue.” Sept. 5, 2012.
FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION II

Dr. Stacey Nofziger

Elected to become a Council member by the North Central Sociological Association. The newly elected North Central Sociological Association officers for 2012-13 began their term at the Business Meeting on April 14, 2012 (Below Standing: Members of the NCSA Executives).

Dr. Matthew Lee

Chair-Elect of the Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section, American Sociology Association.

Elected member of the Commission on the Accreditation of Programs in Applied and Clinical Sociology

Appointed to a second term on the editorial board of Teaching Sociology

Invited to present a paper titled, "Love, Unlimited Love, and Spiritual Progress in America" at a conference this June at Sewanee University commemorating John Templeton's 100th birthday, the 40th anniversary of the Templeton Prize, and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Templeton Foundation. Other speakers at the Forum included astrophysicist/NASA researcher Nidhal Guessoum, psychiatrist George Vaillant, psychologist Robert Emmons, and social psychologist David Myers. The proceedings of the conference will be published in a forthcoming edited book.

Chairs/Directors Representative to the Budget and Finance Committee of University Council

Dr. Adrianne Frech

Grant Recipient: “Social Risk Factors for Young Adult Hypertension.” Adrianne Frech, PI. The University of Akron Faculty Research Grant, February, 2012. Awarded, $10,000.

Was a guest on Ray Horner’s WAKR-AM morning show in late August.

Frech, Adrianne. “Race-ethnic and Gender Differences in Systolic Blood Pressure among Young Adults.” Invited lecture to the Bowling Green State University Center for Family and Demographic Research. Bowling Green, Ohio. 12 September 2012.

Dr. Baffour Takyi

Member, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences (CAS); College Tenure and Promotion (RTP) Committee. Promotion to Full Professor Committee (2012-2014)

Vice-Chair, CAS Full Professor Review Committee, 2012

Dr. Brian Pendleton

Received a grant from the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services.
**Dr. Cheryl Elman**

Cheryl Elman, was the invited speaker (April 27, 2012) at the University of Michigan’s Historical Demography Workshop. The paper presented, “Drawn to the Land: Life Course Consequences of Frontier Women’s Settlement” is co-authored by her, Kathryn Feltey, Daniela Jauk (Sociology) and Barbara Wittman (History). This article is forthcoming (2013) in Social Science History. The Historical Demography Workshop at Michigan not only supports demographic research but fosters innovation in historical methods for data analysis.

**Dr. Rudy Fenwick**


**Dr. Kathy Feltey**

Received the Graduate Committee for Research on Women and Gender’s Outstanding Feminist Mentor Award. This award is meant for faculty members who have been instrumental in helping and inspiring students to address oppression in the areas of gender, sex, and sexuality and facilitate social change.

Here is an excerpt from a student’s nomination letter:

“Dr. Feltey has been incredibly generous with her time to her students. This past spring she created a symposium at NCSA on qualitative methods to give students, including myself, the opportunity to present on their class projects in a conference setting. When several students showed interest in taking a feminist methods course this fall, she willingly gave her time to create a seminar class and follow each student through their individualized course plan. She has consistently went beyond the call of duty and incorporated both aging and psychology resources and examples into her courses, in order to relate better to myself and another student in my program. She also fosters a learning environment that encourages students to discuss their ideas and help one another. In a recent feminist methods class, Dr. Feltey had me explain my thesis methods and map it out during class time so everyone could give me helpful feedback. I have never had an instructor so invested in the success of my work, and it seems so much an integral part of how she relates to all of her students. It is for this reason, among so many others, that Dr. Feltey deserves to be recognized for how she impacts not only me, but all of the students she comes in contact with.”

**ON THE MOVE**

Mrs. Christi Terry, our former Office Assistant has accepted a full-time position as Administrative Assistant in the Dept. of Counseling. We wish her all the best.

Mrs. Cynthia Steinel (formerly Saylor) has been re-assigned to the BCAS Computer Support Office. I personally thank her for her support in co-editing this newsletter for the past several years!


**Three New Books for 2012!**

- Godly Love
- Impediments & Possibilities
- The Heart of Religion
- Go Zips!
Dr. Adrianne Frech’s research on working mothers and health was recently featured in countless newspapers around the globe, including well established newspapers and outlets such as the Daily Telegraph (U.K.), the Guardian (UK), the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Huffington Post. Over 50 other newspapers and media outlets in the U.S., and around the world, from varied cities and towns, reported on the said article. In this co-authored article, the authors point out that working moms who strive to "have it all" now can add another perk to their list of benefits — health.

Dr. Frech and her co-authors observed that mothers who work full time are healthier at age 40 than stay-at-home moms. Not only that, these mothers were healthier than those who work part time, or have some work history but are repeatedly unemployed.

In addition to the media coverage to her research, The University of Akron itself produced a nice video interview with Adrianne. If you are interested in what was discussed during the interview, I have provided a link to the YouTube video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CAJG9AIiRg&feature=relmfu

More importantly, AkronNews has reproduced a summary of the said article as reported by a New York Time correspondent by the name of KJ DELL’ANTONIA in the August 23rd 2012 issue of that famous newspaper. We reprint this by courtesy of the New York Times.

"This is not about advice for women," the University of Akron sociologist Adrianne M. Frech said of her latest research, which showed that women who work steadily full-time after the birth of their first child report better physical health than women who don't.

Dr. Frech and her co-author, Sarah Damaske, considered nearly 30 years of data provided by 2,540 mothers as participants in the National Longitudinal Study of Youth. They sorted the women into four mutually exclusive work pathways: "steadily working women, women who pulled back from full-time work following the first birth, women with repeated bouts of unemployment while attempting to work full-time - interrupted work careers - and stay-at-home mothers who did not work for pay and did not seek work."

They found that the steadily working mothers were relatively advantaged before giving birth to their first children, and that the advantages, at least in the area of the women's mental and physical health, did not just continue as they reached age 40, but increased (even when the researchers controlled for other variables). "It's not just that they were advantaged before," Dr. Frech said. "Even when you remove all the statistical noise, there are apparently added advantages from work."

Not surprisingly, that result (which was presented Monday at the American Sociological Association's annual conference and will be published in December's Journal of Health and Social Behavior) has the media calling Dr. Frech and her colleague in search of career advice for women."
I worry that it's being misinterpreted as researchers saying that stay-at-home-moms made bad choices," Dr. Frech said.

The authors don't want their work seen as a judgment on an individual woman's choice to work or stay home. For most women, Dr. Frech argued, the positive relationship between full-time work and health is less about "choices" than about "constrained choices."

Other recent research has shown that a majority of women (62 percent in 2009) prefer part-time work and that part-time employment can have benefits for mothers and families when compared to other alternatives. That apparent dichotomy did not surprise Dr. Frech.

"It makes sense that women will look for part-time work when they become parents," she said. "They're choosing within the constraint of we as a society expecting women to be the primary caregiver, and considering added challenges. But we asked 'what selects women onto these different paths?' Women aren't all equally able to find full-time work."

Looked at as a segment of society, rather than as a segment of the upper middle class, "the kind of woman who works part-time is a different kind of woman," Dr. Frech said. "She's more likely not to have worked a full-time job at all before she gave birth. She's more likely to have barriers of transportation or language."

Many such women are steered onto different "work pathways" by their histories and their resources. It's those differences, often determined by culture or policy that Dr. Frech said she believes set women up for the later health and other advantages that correlate with the ability to stay consistently in the work force. Worse off with respect to their health were the women whose work pathway reflected the least autonomy, even within constrained choices: those women who experienced repeated bouts of unemployment while looking for full-time work. The researchers write:

The women who followed interrupted work pathways were the most disadvantaged group before becoming pregnant. Life course scholars have long argued that the disadvantages that individuals face early in life compound over time, often with deleterious effects on health and well-being.

But in order to consider what creates inequities of opportunity among all women, we need to keep research like Dr. Frech's from getting lost as we defend our own choices. Amid balanced coverage of this research comes the inevitable provocation." Let the Mommy Wars Begin Anew," trumpets a headline on "Take Part." ForbesWoman asks (at the end of a more balanced piece) "What kind of mom are you? Better yet, is there a point in defining it?"

"What kind of mom are you?" is a question that only a woman with access to education, transportation and child care gets to answer for herself. For most women, this research emphasizes, the question is what kind of mom you had the opportunity to be, and how those opportunities helped shape not just your parenting, but your health. But neither is the question we really need to be asking. What can we change to allow all women a better chance at real choices, and how?

A shorter version of this post appeared in The Times on Aug. 23 on Page D2 of the New York City edition.
**Dr. Cheryl Elman**

Cheryl Elman is the U.S. Investigator in a 14 nation cross-national eduLIFE team studying “Lifelong Learning and Consequences for Educational Trajectories of Adults and Labor Market Returns” (P.I. Dr. Hans-Peter Blossfeld). She is provided, through the European Research Council, the agency sponsoring this grant, with a funded research assistant and international travel support to meetings.

The current, first phase of the eduLIFE project involves detailing, in national samples, lifetime formal schooling and on-the-job training patterns within each of the 14 nations for the purpose of estimating the national labor market consequences of lifelong learning.

The project team will then compare the within-nation findings across nations. More specifically, research questions are: 1) does learning that extends beyond early adulthood improve job security, job quality and/or foster job promotions and wage gains in years beyond added schooling and on-the-job training? and 2) what institutional arrangements, such as national funding and policies that articulate lifelong learning and work careers, best facilitate positive outcomes in lifelong learning?

Dr. Elman is using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79) for the U.S. analysis. She is examining, in a cohort of adults now reaching age 50, the relative impacts of formal schooling, total years and type; of on-the-job training, total years and type; and the life course timing of both forms of human capital, on the work-related outcomes noted above. The 14 countries represent four very different modern, political economic regimes: Liberal states (U.S., Great Britain and Australia); post- Socialist states (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary and Russia); Social Democratic states (Denmark, Finland and Sweden) and Western and Southern European states (Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Spain). Different as they are, all countries share critical problems: they have aging societies, relatively high rates of youth and older age unemployment and a need to increase or maintain national economic productivity. One path toward solving these linked problems involves improvement in adult human capital and employability.

This unique study is viewed by the European Research Council as an exploratory first wave in what will be a multi-wave cross-national series of studies about lifelong learning and labor market outcomes. At the first meeting, hosted by the Institute for Longitudinal Educational Research (INBIL) at the Otto-Friedrich University of Bamberg, Germany in March 2012, the research team began by reporting on the status of lifelong learning and employment in their respective countries, with an intent to uncover and tackle problems pertaining to coordination of study designs and measurement metrics when comparing future findings. For example, some nations have extensive job (re)training policies and, in line with this, collect on-going (longitudinal) population-level data about lifelong learning and employment.

In contrast, other nations, such as the U.S. and Australia, have limited policy and uneven on-going survey coverage of age groups; some nations have little policy and/or no longitudinal data for analysis at all. To facilitate the eduLIFE study, some national investigators are narrowing potential samples while others are building databases from multiple data sources; all are designing their studies in ways to maximize the comparability of the national samples.

Also, nations differ in the statistics they collect about school participation and employment and/or have different standards of educational and occupational attainment (for example, degrees and equivalents or occupational categories). The team, at the first meeting, worked out a series of definitions about lifelong learning and metrics for comparisons to help bridge measurement differences, based on the ranges of national indicators available. Finally, nations differ in funding levels and in policies that facilitate adult learning, employment assistance for those ‘changing track’ in later life and the conditions of work. Employment outcomes such as wages and job security reflect these national policies and so these effects must be “controlled” in comparing outcomes due to lifelong learning. The team is working on institutional (national) metrics to capture cross-national differences. At the next meeting, in Florence, Italy 7-11 November 2012, hosted by the European University Institute, Dr. Elman will share the U.S. NLSY results; the other investigators will present their own preliminary national findings. National findings and reports will then be finalized and published as a group, with commentary by international labor policy experts, to facilitate the comparing findings across nations.
Second, I wanted to be a professor because it gives me the opportunity to conduct research on topics that I find interesting and important. I enjoy the research process – from number-crunching to writing – and I like contributing to a broader research conversation.

Editor: What drew you to your field?

JD: I initially became interested in work and occupations in the healthcare sector after working as a social worker in a nursing home right after I graduated from college. I saw the challenges faced by the nursing assistants in this setting (both at work and in their personal lives) and became interested in this often overlooked group of workers. More generally, I became more and more interested in the world of work as I entered the labor market after college and my personal experiences began overlapping with larger cultural trends, such as more women entering the work force and growing job insecurity.

Editor: What drew you to Akron, OH?

JD: I moved to Ohio when I was a freshman in high school and have been looking forward to moving back to be closer to my family (my parents live about an hour south of Akron). My husband and I (and two boys) moved to Akron from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and while I will miss the sunny warm winters, I enjoyed escaping the oppressive heat and bugs of the North Carolina summer.

Editor: What current research are you working on?

JD: I have a couple of different projects in progress. First, I am using the Study for Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to look at career trajectories among low-wage healthcare workers over time. Second, I am using a large qualitative dataset to look at partnerships between healthcare organizations and community colleges in building career ladders for low-wage healthcare workers. My co-authors and I are exploring what factors contribute to successful partnerships. And last, I am just starting a new project examining job satisfaction and health outcomes of men in traditionally female service occupations (again, particularly in the healthcare sector).

Editor: What are your future plans?

JD: To change the structure of work in the United States? I guess that is a bit ambitious :) 
Editor: Thanks for your time and all the best!!

NEW FACULTY MEMBER

Dr. Janette S. Dill

Dr. Dill joined our Department this Fall. Janette received her Ph.D. in Sociology (2011) from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She also worked on a National Research Service Award post-doctoral fellowship at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. Her research interests include the sociology of work and occupations, the labor market, and medical sociology. Her current projects explore the career trajectories of members of the healthcare workforce, the dynamics of partnerships between healthcare organizations and educational institutions, and the work experiences of men in the service sector. She has published in such outlets as the Journal of Applied Gerontology, the Journal of Aging and Health, and Social Science and Medicine.

An Interview with the Editor

Editor: Could you please tell us about your research interests?

JD: Broadly, I am interested in work and occupations in today’s economy – and how the changing labor market and organizations are shaping the experience of work. More specifically, I am interested in low-wage workers, particularly in the healthcare sector, and the career trajectories of low-wage workers. Sociological questions that drive my research include: How is work changing today? How do organizations shape the experience of work and careers? How does work shape the life course of individuals?

Editor: Best part about your job?

JD: I am just a few weeks into this job, but I wanted to be a professor for two reasons: first, I love having the opportunity to share sociological concepts and ideas in the classroom. For me, sociology courses were an introduction to a whole new way of thinking about the world, and I am excited to share the “sociological imagination” with students.
**FACULTY RESEARCH**

**EMILY ASENCIO**

**Presentations**


**VALERIE CALLANAN**


**Presentations**


**JANETTE DILL**


**CHERYL ELMAN**

**Presentations**


Elman, Cheryl, Linda Wray and Juan Xi. 2012. “Early Life Health Status, Attainment Trajectories and Later Life Health.” Gerontological Society of America meeting, Boston.


**REBECCA ERICKSON**


**Presentations**


Editorial Board - Social Psychology Quarterly
**RUDY FENWICK**

**Presentations**


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**ADRIANNE FRECH**


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**Presentations**


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**MATTHEW T. LEE**


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**KATHRYN FELTEY**


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**Presentations**


ROBERT PERALTA


Presentations
National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse Meetings, San Diego, CA., Sept.

BRIAN PENDLETON


BAFFOUR TAKYI


MARK TAUSIG


Mark Tausig: Deputy Editor, Society and Mental Health

Presentations

JUAN XI


Cao,Yue, Sean-Shong Hwang, and Juan Xi. 2012. “Project-Induced Displacement, Secondary Stressors, and Health.” Social Science and Medicine 72:1130-38.


Presentations
Cheryl Elman, Linda Wray and Juan Xi. 2012. “Early Life Health Status, Attainment Trajectories and Later life Health.” Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA
**ALUMNI & ADJUNCT FACULTY Briefs**

**Virginia Smerglia**

Seifert & Smerglia. 2012. Tellmia: Short Stories for Active Adults.

**Dr. Keba Sylla**


**Presentations**

“Addressing the Revitalization of Ohio’s Small Towns and Urban Centers in an Era of increasing Rhetoric about the Government’s role in Political Discourse.” Miami University, Ohio September 2012


**Dr. Dana Williams**

Dana Williams is quoted in a Salon article about ethnic mascots. Online at [http://www.salon.com/2012/03/07/ethnic_mascots_are_never_winners/singleton/](http://www.salon.com/2012/03/07/ethnic_mascots_are_never_winners/singleton/)


**Dr. Paul Lipold**


**Dr. Cheryl McFarland**

Cheryl Smith (now McFarland), M.A (Sociology, U-Akron) defended her dissertation, earning her Ph.D. from UConn. Congrats!!

**Dr. Jean-Anne Sutherland**


**Dr. Bill Hauser**

Bill Hauser, an alumni and associate professor of marketing in UA's College of Business Administration, is quoted in an Akron Beacon Journal story on business connections between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Cleveland Browns. See text at [http://www.ohio.com/sports/browns/behind-every-browns-player-is-a-pittsburgh-company-1.333403](http://www.ohio.com/sports/browns/behind-every-browns-player-is-a-pittsburgh-company-1.333403)

**IN MEMORY: Chris Sutcliff (1972-2011)**

On a sad note, we want to report that our alumni member and former Clark and Lewis Associate Professor Chris Sutcliff passed away unexpectedly Sept. 28, 2011. Chris earned his baccalaureate degree in Sociology from Butler University in 1995. He earned a Master’s degree in Sociology from Indiana State University in 1998. He completed the coursework required for a doctorate in Sociology at The University of Akron in 2002, but discovered that his real passion was teaching college-level students and not research and publishing so he left the program.

Chris began teaching at Lewis and Clark in the fall of 2003, and was on the Sociology faculty at Cleveland State University and Lorain County Community College prior to joining L&C. During his teaching career at Lorain County, Cleveland State and Lews and Clark Community College, Chris developed and taught 13 different courses. At Lewis and Clark he taught Introduction to Sociology, Cultural Awareness in the Classroom, Social Problems and Race and Ethnicity. He taught face-to-face courses and online courses. He believed that sociology as a discipline can help students become better informed and more observant about the world. He facilitated students’ learning about how society operates and brought sociology to life for the students in his classes. As one of his students said, “He taught the course around our experiences.” It was through their experiences that he helped them to understand the larger social processes.
Featured Alumni

Editor: In his second year as an Assistant professor at Valdosta State University, Dr. Dana Williams continues his research work on social movements. Dana was featured in the spring issue of Contexts (an ASA sponsored general interest journal), along with other "leading social analysts" like William Julius Wilson, Ruth Milkman, and Benjamin Barber on the Occupy Movement that swept the country last year. He is also a co-author (with Jeffrey Shantz) of a forthcoming book titled “Anarchy and Society.” Below is a reproduction of his article that appeared in the Context magazine. Congrats for making us proud!!!

The Anarchist DNA of Occupy
by Dana Williams (Contexts 2012 11: 12)

Occupy has drawn inspiration from many of 2011’s insurrectionary episodes, including Egypt’s Tahrir Square, Spain’s indignatos, and Puerto Rico’s student strikes. Also important has been Latin America’s horizontalism and zapatismo. But, the most immediate inspiration for Occupy is anarchism. This should surprise only the oblivious: many activists have noticed that American youth are influenced by anarchism more than by Marxism. The first manifestation of this influence is the emphasis upon anti-authoritarianism. There are no leaders (or, more radically, everyone is a leader). Anti-authoritarianism gives Occupy a strength and resilience not enjoyed by most movements. Like a multi-headed hydra, when Occupy’s enemies attempt to chop-off one head — arrest a certain individual — others take their place. No one is in a position to order anyone else around — everyone must participate in all decisions. Corporate media simply can’t understand this paradigm and it’s frustrated by Occupy’s disavowal of spokespersons.

Occupy’s next debt to anarchism is a procedural structure and aesthetic. For OWS, direct, participatory democracy is the order of the day. Lacking official leaders, consensus-building is the only feasible option. Every General Assembly (GA) attendee must be able to accept a decision. The task is assisted by multiple working-groups that meet regularly to discuss nitty-gritty issues. Facilitation guarantees that everyone’s voice is heard, and hand-gestures visually involve everyone. These techniques have popped-up in countless post-1960s anarchist projects. The results of this process can be seen in leaflets circulated at Occupy Oakland, characterizing several of the GA decisions as anarchistic in character: rejection of government endorsements and political parties, equal treatment of GA speakers, preventing police from entering the encampment, and solidarity with striking workers and students.

The movement’s militancy derives from its name. In contrast to other movements, Occupy attempts to reclaim public space, to confront others with its presence, and to stay in the news. Its impatience with polite lobbying or voting has an anarchist flair. Historically, anarchists have encouraged citizens to seize (and decentralize) political power, peasants to occupy private estates and collectivize them, and workers to take over the means of production. Occupy plays with anarchist notions of expropriation and seizing ill-gotten property for individual and collective needs.

How does Occupy aim to accomplish such goals? Anarchists participating in the movement seek to keep it radical, pragmatic, and uncontrollable by authorities. Occupy Wall Street’s active militancy ensures this: daily protest marches and actions attempt to create constant disruption of business-as-usual, while remaining unpredictable. The movement’s prefiguration attempts to (as advocated by the Industrial Workers of the World) create a new world in the shell of the old. Occupiers provide for all their own needs. Instead of entrusting one’s life and daily requirements to corporations or the state, people do it themselves: creating sleeping arrangements, free meals, classes and workshops, a multi-thousand volume library, sanitation, first aid, and security. In this respect, the Occupy movement is utopian and practical — a better world can be created, not in the distant future, but right now.

Occupy has already enjoyed many victories, convincing countless people of the potential for radical social change. The mass media is now running stories on capitalism, social inequality, and direct democracy. Someone ought to thank Occupy for accomplishing in a few short months what sociologists have been unable to achieve over decades. Copyright: ASA: see also http://ctx.sagepub.com/content/11/2/12)

Addendum!!!!

Dr. Robert Denton

Produced two Office of Victims of Crime sponsored Webinars in November 2012. Audience : Primarily Victim advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors. Hosted/Produced in conjunction with National Criminal Justice Training Center
Where are they Now: A Decade+ Review of Our PhD Recipients, 2000-2012

This is an update to our of our previous report on our former students as to what they are doing right now! This time, we limit our observations to the past decade and more.

2012
Skubby, David — Postdoctoral Scholar, NEOMED

2011
Dykstra, Richelle – Slippery Rock University, PA
Steele, Jennifer – Walsh University, OH

2010
Pryor, Erin – Belmont University, TN

2009
Blount, Stacey – Fayetteville State University, NC
Slusser, Suzanne – Valdosta State University, GA
Williams, Dana – Valdosta State University, GA

2008
Clough, Lynn – Summa Health System
Kimura, Aya – Sacramento State University
Noh, Marianne – Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Western Ontario
Stein, Rachel – West Virginia University

2007
Prohaska, Ariane – University of Alabama

2006
Zimmerman (Schneider), Rachel, Columbus, OH
Sutherland, Jean-Anne – University of North Carolina, Wilmington

2005
Bemiller, Michelle – Walsh University
Gailey, Jeannine – Texas Christian University
Grove, Wendy – Ohio Department of Health

2004
Bouchet, Nicole - FEMA, Dept. of Homeland Security
Swami, Shobhana - India

2003
Secrest-Graham, Susan

2002
Adhikari, Surrendra - Chief Evaluator and Regional Project Coordinator, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Studies
Broughton, Christopher – Cleveland School District
Hendrickson, Darren – Eastern Illinois University

2000
Nichols, Laura – Santa Clara University, CA
Warner, Susan – Cedarville University, Ohio
Wernet, Christine – University of South Carolina, Aiken

Some Observations and Analysis of Our PhD Program
by Dr. Kathy Feltey

Though our data are somewhat limited (for a variety of reasons), Kathy tracked down some of our recent PhD recipients and reported that, overall, we as a department should be proud of our program! This is how she sums up her findings:

1. Our students get jobs!!! Not only that, they get "good" jobs - tenure track in universities and colleges; research positions in universities (Harvard!) and government and business

2) Our students become leaders (President of a University, Vice-Presidents, Deans)

3) Our students are contributing to global education/economy (India, Iran, Ghana, Guam)

4) Many of our students are in medical or medical-related schools, departments, agencies (medical school faculty; mental health; alcohol and drug; gerontology)

5) Our highest "production" of Ph.D. years were in the 1990s - 8 in 1991 and 7 in 1993. A couple of things to note about this: we had 18 tenure-track faculty in the early 1990s; we had 3 full-time staff (an administrative asst. and 2 full-time secretaries); and our graduate students were primarily working as research assistants (rather than T.A.s).
GRADUATE STUDENTS
NEWS & Highlights

Publications and Presentations

**Jauk, Daniela**
A chapter Dani has written for her dissertation has been accepted for publication in a volume in the Advances in Gender Research Series. The title of her chapter is "Invisible Lives, Silenced Violence: Transphobic Gender Violence in Global Perspective."

**Daniela, Jauk. 2012:** Session organizer “The Unhappy Marriage of Religion and UN politics.” Midwestern Sociological Society, Annual Meeting.

**Daniela, Jauk. 2012:** UN delegate for Sociologists for Women in Society, 56th session of the CSW, NYC (Feb).

**Cottingham, Marci D.**

Marci Cottingham's paper, "Dude, You Need to Get into Nursing": Mobilizing Masculinities as Recruitment Strategy," won the SSSP Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division Graduate Student Paper Award.


**Erickson, R., Marci Cottingham, Mike Steiner, and Jim Diefendorf. 2012.** “The Power of Two Faces: Examining Identity Processes within a Social Structure and Personality Context.”

**Mike Steiner. 2012.** “The Effects of Immigrant Status on Structural Overlap.” (Mike was a Round Table Presider and a discussant)

**Hale, Lori**

**Nicole Lise Rosen**
Jessica Headley and Nicole Lise Rosen. Poster Presentation: Educational Research Exchange at Kent State University on Friday, April 20. Title of Poster: “Infusing Feminist Teaching Ideals and Strategies into the Classroom and Beyond.”


**Joy Harvell**
**Harvell, Joy. 2012.** "Emotional Consequences of the Identity Verification Process among Nurses" (Joy was a Round Table Presider and a discussant).

Above: Monica, Jared, Peter and Lia @the ASA Meeting, Denver Colorado, August 2012
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

In this issue, our annual newsletter, we spotlight one of recent alumni students: Hannah Furnas (BA, 2011). Hannah graduated last year and is now a graduate student at the Pennsylvania State University. In her honors thesis, she used data from the 2008 Ghana Health and Demographic Health Survey to examine the links between women’s economic conditions and their experiences with domestic violence. Her advisors and mentors for this project were Drs. Becky Erickson, Kathy Feltey, Brian Pendleton, Baffour Takyi and Emily Ascencio.

Editor: What have you been doing since graduating from the University of Akron?

After graduating from the University of Akron I entered into graduate school at Penn State. I am currently working on a dual-title PhD in Sociology and Demography. I am a research assistant and I am working with my professor on a large dataset from Malawi looking at youth decision making concerning HIV/AIDS. My research area of interest is HIV/AIDS and fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Malawi and Ghana, so my assistantship appointment fits perfectly!

Editor: In what ways did your experiences at UA help prepare you for graduate studies and your current job?

My experience at the University of Akron prepared me in a multitude of ways for my current graduate studies. The individual attention given to me by each faculty member in the sociology department helped me immensely, particularly in the graduate school application process and with building a strong honor’s thesis. There are also a good number of research opportunities at the University of Akron as an undergrad. I was able to work on two qualitative datasets with faculty as well as receiving in-depth advice on the quantitative aspects of my Honor’s Project. These were both very important in my acceptance to graduate school!

Editor: What advice would you give to current sociology students at UA?

My greatest piece of advice is to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available to you within the department. The faculty and graduate students in the sociology department were a HUGE source of support for me as I navigated the graduate school application process and attempted to narrow my research interests. Additionally, the opportunities to work on research projects are there, so capitalize on these opportunities during your time at Akron! Always take advantage of office hours, even if it is a small question. It will benefit you to get to know your professors. Getting to know the faculty and their research inspired me to pursue my PhD. The friendly and helpful faculty at Akron challenged me to explore the discipline of Sociology and to see where it could take me career-wise.

Editor: What are your future plans/goals?

I plan to spend the next 5 years at Penn State working toward my PhD. Once I have successfully defended my dissertation I hope to pursue a career in non-academic areas of research, such as private research institutes or development agencies. I plan to continue my research on population health and fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa through publishing articles, presenting at conferences, and traveling for research.

Editor: Thanks for your time. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

PS: At the time of going to press, Hannah had submitted an NSF grant for funding to continue on her research. We salute you for your hard work. Editor
THE 2012 AKD BANQUET AND AWARDS

Keynote Speaker

Professor Patricia Yancey Martin of the Department of Sociology at Florida State University was the keynote speaker for this year's AKD awards and induction ceremonies. The ceremonies took place at The Quaker Hotel Ballrooms on campus and was well attended. Professor Yancey Martin's talk was titled "Social Justice and Gender Violence: An Issue for Organizations?"

Students and Faculty members who won various awards were presented with their certificates and special awards by various faculty members. Also inducted were members of the new class of AKD members.

Award Recipients, 2012

Outstanding Service Award: Nicole McElroy
Outstanding Student Teaching Award: Lia Chervanek Wiley
Outstanding Graduate Student: Peter Barr
Peer Mentor Award: Peter Barr
Faculty Mentor Award: Dr. Matt Lee
Barbara Stephens Dissertation Award: Marci Cottingham
Outstanding Undergraduate: Hannah Furnas

Above: Dr. Matt Lee (Department chair) presenting his annual report and welcoming the guests.

Above: Dr. Becky Erickson with Marci Cottingham, recipient of the Stephens Dissertation Award.

Above: Nicole McElroy with her certificate for being the voted the outstanding graduate student service recipient.
Below: AKD President Mike Steiner delivering his 2012 presidential address

Above: AKD Members Kelsey, Corey, and Rania chilling out!!

AKD NEWS and Updates

AKD Officers for 2012-13 are:
Nicole McElroy - co-president
Will LeSuer - co-president
Corey Stevens - vice president
Kelsey Risman - treasurer
Joy Harvell - social chair
Kasey Lansberry - student mentor
Rania Issa - attends joint faculty meetings
Peter Barr - attends faculty meetings
Lia Chervenak - Represents graduate students at faculty meetings

Above: Dr. Elman handing Lia Wiley the "Outstanding Student Teaching Award" certificate!

Above: Dr. Frech, Peter Baar, and Dr Lee: Presentation for best graduate student award!

Visit Akron!
GRADUATE STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTS 2


Fall 2012 Graduate Students
We welcome the new class of graduate students to our program

Fritz, Eric  B.A. Hanover College 2010; Sociology. Interests: Social Psych, Medical, Organizations

Lamptey, Enoch  B.A. University of Ghana 2006; Sociology; MSc-London School of Economics. Interests: gender, inequality, Development and Globalization


Niehous, Laura.  BA, University of Evansville. Interests gender.

Congrats to our recent graduants and alumni members! We are proud of you!!! Keep in touch and let’s hear from you wherever you may be!!!

PhD Graduates

Dykstra, Richelle

Skubby, David

MA Graduates

Brantley, Demario
Thesis: “Unraveled Pieces of Me: A Sociological Analysis of Former African American Slave Women’s Experiences and Perceptions of Life in Antebellum Arkansas.” Chair: Dr. Kathy Feltey

McElroy, Nicole
Thesis: “The Holy Spirit is moving and we’re not paying attention': Social Change, Organizational Dilemmas and the Future Sustainability of Women Religious.” Chair: Dr. Matt Lee

Harvell, Joy
Thesis: Examining the Identity Verification Process among Registered Nurses.” Chair: Dr. Becky Erickson

Below: Some of our graduate students and Dr. Peralta at the ASA Meeting, Denver, CO. Aug 2012.
Above: Some photos from the AKD Bowling Night

Below: Dani chilling out at the SWS Meeting

Below: Some photos from the AKD Bowling Night

Above: Some students from one of our Introductory Sociology classes (in front of Olin Hall)

Above: Some photos from the AKD Banquet

Up: Some photos from the SWS Meeting

Above: Some photos from the AKD Bowling Night
The Charles C. Rogler Endowed Scholarship was founded in 1977 by Charles C. Rogler, Professor Emeritus of Sociology (1949-1962). His wife, Margaret F. Rogler, Emeritus Assistant Professor of Marketing (1948-1972) and son Lloyd Rogler support and continue his efforts for the scholarship. Academic excellence and financial need are the criteria for the award. Scholarship award of $1,000.

Just In: News In Brief!!

The Heart of Religion:


In a time when religion is at the root of much controversy, it often is difficult to uncover its true meaning. Different denominations offer their own definitions, bringing conflicting ideologies and beliefs into society. Is there a common ground underneath the differing values, beliefs and laws? Two University of Akron researchers asked that very question and found interesting results.

Sociology professors Matthew Lee and Margaret Poloma have taken their findings and turned them into "The Heart of Religion: Spiritual Empowerment, Benevolence, and the Experience of God’s Love." The book looks at religious experience and how that relates to the true heart of religion: love.

Through 1,200 random surveys and 120 interviews, Drs. Lee and Poloma found that religious experiences influence the lives of individuals and have noticeable impacts on society. Their research showed that 81 percent of people have experienced God’s love, which they then spread to the world. "This love provides the energy to do a great deal of benevolent work — for friends, family, community and the broader world,” they argue.

The McNair Scholar’s Program

The Department continued its rich tradition of mentoring our undergraduate students. This year is no exception as three faculty members donated their time to serve as faculty mentors for our McNair Scholar’s Summer program. The McNair Scholars program is a collegiate achievement program that mentors qualified scholars towards graduate school. In addition, the program provide an opportunity for undergraduates at the junior and senior levels to participate in research experience.

Scholar: Veronica Liebchen (Sociology & Dietetics), University of Akron
Mentor: Dr. Baffour K. Takyi

Scholar: Michelle Agloye, Denison University (Sociology & Anthropology)
Topic: An Analysis of Health and Well-Being Among Registered Nurses
Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Erickson

Scholar: Marquita Williams, Denison University (Sociology & Anthropology)
Topic: The Relationship between Masculinity and Disadvantage among Ethnic/Racial Minority males attending a Batterers’ Intervention Program: Theoretical exploration of family and work dysfunction among IPV perpetrators.
Mentor: Dr. Robert Peralta
Undergraduate Students Spotlight: Research

“Ethnic Disparities in Preterm Birth: The Role of Nutrition.” By Veronica Liebchen

Over the summer, I was afforded the opportunity to participate in the McNair Scholars Program. The McNair Scholars Program exposes select undergraduate students to serious research experience and assists them in the process of applying for graduate school. The goal of the program is to assist underrepresented populations—first-generation and minority college students—in achieving academic excellence at the highest level possible, obtaining doctorate degrees. This program was introduced to me by Dr. Baffour Takyi, who was also gracious enough to be my faculty mentor on my summer project.

Throughout the summer of 2012, I learned many things about the research process. A few of the things that I learned were how to adapt to a technical writing style, how to work with data in SPSS, how to create fluidity in a project, and how to cohesively use the existing literature to solidly create a case in which my project would be useful to both the existing body of research, and future research. Beyond getting undergraduate experience with research that many students do not have the luxury to be exposed to, I felt very fortunate to get the benefit of one-on-one time with a faculty member. One-on-one time with Dr. Takyi created an opportunity for me to extend my current knowledge and expand my understanding of basic research skills—from how to completely comprehend jargon within the literature to improvement of my thinking and writing skills tenfold.

For my project, I examined ethnic group dietary intake patterns and hypothesized that they may have something to do with the reported ethnic group disparities in preterm births (PTB). To test my hypothesis, I analyzed data from the 2007-08 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The survey is designed to gather information about a broad range of health and nutrition issues in the United States. The data carries a lot of weight as its findings are used to influence policy such as the establishment of baseline standards for overall health indicators (cholesterol and blood pressure, for instance) as well as specific health indicators for medical conditions in seventeen major categories, from eye disease to reproductive patterns and complications.

My sample was restricted to women aged 20-49 and who were U. S. citizens (n=837). I then compared the various ethnic groups on their usual dietary patterns and nutrient intake. Among my findings were the observation that African-Americans often exceeded the required mean macronutrient intake. However, their micronutrient intake was usually below the mean of all those surveyed. This suggests that in comparison to the other ethnic groups, African-Americans may have a less “nutrient dense” diet. Indeed, of the 7 out of 8 minerals, and 6 out of 12 vitamins examined, African-Americans had the lowest intake of these nutrients. Overall, I observed that African-Americans were more deficient than Hispanic or Caucasian-Americans in nutrients known to contribute to PTB, and in micronutrients overall. This disparity among child-bearing women is important in our understanding of women’s health status going into the gestational period.

In addition to all of the things that I learned, I am most proud to say that, thanks to both Dr. Takyi and the McNair Scholars Program, I was able to mature as a student and as a person. I was also able to identify my strengths and weaknesses, and more importantly for me, I was exposed to a world of academia that, as a first-generation college student, was unknown to me. The McNair Scholars Program introduced me to a world of future possibilities that I was not fully aware that existed for me. I am grateful to both the program and Dr. Takyi for the experience.
SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGE LIVES

Many students today cannot afford the cost of a college education and rely on the availability of scholarships to pursue their dream of achieving a college degree in their field of interest. The University of Akron is proud of its top-notch Department of Sociology, whose alumni and friends are especially mindful of students' needs.

A scholarship in your name can be established for as little as $10,000. For information on contributing your support or for making a donation of any denomination, please contact:

Department of Development
The University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-2603
330/972-8255
ghv@uakron.edu

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AKRONews is a publication of the Department of Sociology, University of Akron, Akron OH 44325-1905. Its purpose is to provide news concerning the activities of the Department, including teaching, research, scholarship, and service.

Contributions and comments are welcomed. Please direct all correspondence to:

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btkyi@uakron.edu or 330-972-6887

We encourage you to visit our website at:
www.uakron.edu/sociology