Welcome to the Fall 2011 edition of AKRONews, the annual newsletter of the Department of Sociology at the University of Akron.

I am pleased to serve the Department as Interim Chair for a second year. I am assisted by Dr. Kathy Feltey (Associate Chair of Sociology, as well as Interim Director of Women’s Studies), 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. Rebecca Erickson for her many years of excellent service as Graduate Director. As with last year, Tammy Dixon and Christi Terry keep things running smoothly in the front office. Unfortunately for us, Cindy Steinel was reassigned to serve the College of Arts and Sciences as part of a University-wide reorganization of technical support. We will miss Cindy and we appreciate the great help she provided for over a decade. We are also sad that Dr. Rachel Schneider will relocate to Columbus at the end of spring semester. Dr. Schneider graduated from our Ph.D. program and has served us well as a College Lecturer. In fact, she was promoted this fall to Associate College Lecturer.

We are most pleased that Dr. Adrianne Frech has joined us this fall as an Assistant Professor (see page 6). Although she has been with us less than a year, she has already published in the top Sociology journal (American Sociological Review). Not a bad start! We are also happy that Dr. Julie Abi Ghanem has joined us as a Senior Lecturer. Her timely research on military expenditures and economic development is described on page 12. Sociology is also proud to be the new home of the Women’s Studies Program.

As you can see from reading the rest of this newsletter, we have been very busy since the previous issue. Highlights include Dr. Feltey’s prestigious teaching award (see page 2), Dr. Tausig and Dr. Fenwick’s important new book (page 2), and Dr. Callanan’s ground-breaking research being featured in an LA Times article (see page 3). One of our graduate students (Marci Cottingham) was also featured in the national media for her innovative work (see page 14). Daniela Jauk, another graduate student, was elected to as the representative to the United Nations for the national Sociologists for Women in Society and Dr. Jennifer L. Steele successfully defended her dissertation on May 2011 and is now on the faculty at Walsh University (see pages 14 and 16 for other news about our graduate students). Don’t miss the alumni and adjunct faculty briefs on page 12 and you can see pictures of our new graduate students on page 17.

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, 2011

Dr. Kathryn Feltey

Dr. Feltey, associate professor of sociology and interim director of the Women’s Studies Program was honored by the North Central Sociological Association. The NCSA presented Dr. Feltey with the 2011 Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award.

The award recognizes a member who has provided outstanding service to the NCSA, either through a single exceptional activity, activities over an extended period of time or throughout the recipient's professional career.

Dr. Feltey joined the NCSA during her first year as a graduate student. Since then, she has served in many important leadership roles, including council member, vice president and president. She has also been a presenter, chair, organizer, or discussant at 17 NCSA meetings in the last 22 years. She has chaired the Membership Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the Race, Gender, and Ethnicity Committee. She has been a member of the Student Awards Committee, the Schnabel Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award Committee, and the Scholarly Achievement Award Committee. She is a past recipient of the Schnabel Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award.

Dr. Mark Tausig

Dr. Tausig was appointed Associate Editor for the journal: Society and Mental Health. He will serve till 2011. Other appointments:

- Committee on Sections, American Sociological Association, 2010-2012.
- Chair, Committee on Sections, American Sociological Association, 2011-2012

Drs. Mark Tausig and Rudy Fenwick published a book titled “Work and Mental Health in Social Context.” The book was published by Springer Publishers as part of their series on social disparities in health and health care (see picture below).

Dr. Rudy Fenwick

Drs. Mark Tausig and Rudy Fenwick were panelists on a Special Plenary Session on Business Cycles and its Implications for Work Organizations and Health at the Work, Stress and Health Conference, Orlando FL, May.

Fenwick, Rudy, and Mark Tausig served as members of the International Scientific Organizing Committee for the APA/NIOSH/CDC Work, Stress, Health Conference in Orlando, FL, May 2011.

Dr. Brian Pendleton

Dr. Pendleton (PI) received a $21,795 grant from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. The Prime Award is provided through a federal SAPT Block grant from SAMHSA and will be used for his project titled “The University of Akron Alcohol Abuse Reduction Initiative [#99-8485-HEDUC-P-11-0100].”

Dr. Valarie Callanan

Dr. Callanan was the recipient of the 2009-2010 Faculty Mentoring Award presented by the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honorary Society at the 2011 Banquet and Awards.

Dr. Callanan received a Faculty Research Grant for $10,000 to collect preliminary data that will lead to the resubmission of a larger $300,000 grant proposal to the National Institute of Justice.

Dr. Callanan’s research on gender and suicide was cited in the Los Angeles Times (http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-men-women-suicide-20110830,0,2002990.story) and on the WJW-TV (http://www.fox8.com/health/la-heb-men-women-suicide-20110830,0,5545194.story).

[See Next Page for a reprint of the LA Times article] 

Dr. Callahan has been promoted to an Associate professor as of this semester! Congrats!

[Picture of Dr. Callahan]
ON WHY MEN AND WOMEN MAY CHOOSE DIFFERENT SUICIDE METHODS

A study looking at differences in suicide methods between men and women found that while women are less likely to shoot themselves in the head than men, there may be specific reasons why they choose to die that way.

Researchers from the University of Akron and Ohio State University examined 621 suicides that occurred from 1997 to 2006 in Summit County, Ohio. In addition to looking at methods of suicide and what led up to them they also divided the data by gender to see if men's and women's means to suicide were different.

Men were almost twice as likely as women to use a method that disfigured their face or head. Several theories have been given for this phenomenon: that women are more concerned with their physical appearance, even in death; that women aren't as familiar with guns as men are; and that women don't want to upset their loved ones who might find their disfigured bodies.

But in exploring the data, the researchers discovered two things that were linked with the likelihood of women shooting themselves in the face or head: having prior suicide attempts and experiencing stressful events leading up to the suicide.

"The findings suggest that women who have earlier unsuccessful suicide attempts may later try again using more lethal methods," the authors wrote. "This counteracts gendered assumptions that attempts by women are merely cries for help."

By examining differences in suicide methods between men and women, they added, better prevention strategies can be developed.

Copyright: Jeannine Stein, LA Times, August 30, 2011

Men nearly twice as likely as women to use a method that disfigures the face or head when taking their own lives

Women who commit suicide are more likely than men to avoid facial disfiguration, but not necessarily in the name of vanity. Valerie Callanan from the University of Akron and Mark Davis from the Criminal Justice Research Center at the Ohio State University, USA, show that there are marked gender differences in the use of suicide methods that disfigure the face or head. While firearms are the preferred method for both men and women, women are less likely to shoot themselves in the head.

Although a number of studies have looked at gender differences in suicide risk, few have examined gender differences in suicide methods. Understanding gender differences in suicide methods has important implications for suicide prevention efforts. Callanan and Davis examined the medical examiner's files of 621 suicide cases in Summit County, Ohio in the US, covering a 10-year period (1997-2006). They found that women were significantly less likely than men to use suicide methods with the potential to disfigure the face or head. Indeed, men were nearly twice as likely as women to have used such methods.

The researchers also found that for every one-unit increase in blood alcohol level, the odds of using a disfiguring method increased by nearly 10 percent. Gender, age, stressful life events and prior suicide attempts all predicted the use of methods that disfigure the face and head.

The authors conclude: "To suggest that women are less likely to shoot themselves in the face or head because they are more concerned about their appearance than men is to minimize the significance of the act of suicide. What we do know is that those experiencing stressful life events are at far greater risk of employing an especially lethal method of suicide than those not experiencing such events."


Dr Baffour K. Takyi

Professor Takyi joined 13 expert group members from around the world to present his work on African families at a United Nations Expert Group Meeting held at the UN in New York between June 3-6.

The recommendations and papers stemming from the meeting were used in writing the 2011 Report of the Secretary-General in preparation for the Observance of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Apart from his presentation titled “Transformations in the African Family: A Note on Migration, HIV/AIDS and Family Poverty Alleviation Efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa,” he also served as a moderator for a session on anti-poverty policies on families in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Dr. Rebecca J. Erickson

Elected, Chair of the UA Graduate Council’s Student Policy Committee for 2011-2012.


Dr. Robert L. Peralta

Associate Professor Peralta was the keynote speaker at the 2011 University of Wisconsin System AODA Symposium held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI on October 12. This year’s symposium focused on the intersection between alcohol and other drug abuse, violence, inequality, and identity.

See: https://charge.wisc.edu/uwsa/aoda2011.asp

Dr. Adriane Frech

Assistant Professor Adrianne Frech’s research was cited by several of the media outlets. For further information, check the following links:


http://jezebel.com/5808187/what-being-a-single-mom-++-or-getting-married+++-does-to-your-health

http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20110603/sc_livescience/singlemomshavepoorerhealthinmilife

Adrianne’s research on mothers in the workforce is noted in a Huffington Post story. Text is available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-damaske/all-due-respect-to-norman_b_1105078.html (see next page for a reproduction of this news).

Dr. Frech also received an Honorable Mention for the 2011 Roberta Simmons award for Best Dissertation in Medical Sociology at the 2011 ASA meetings.
Mom Is Buying and Making Thanksgiving Turkey This Year

As the holidays approach, more moms than ever are both buying and making the turkey that will be on the table Thanksgiving day. Last week, the Census published a report showing that 73% of new mothers aged 20 and older (and 76% of those 22 and older) worked during their pregnancies. Of those working, 80 percent returned to work within a year after giving birth.

Not only are more moms working during pregnancy and soon after their first birth, but they are also increasingly returning to work once their children are school-aged. Preliminary results from a study I am conducting with Professor Adrienne Frech at the University of Akron suggests that only 10% of mothers remain out of the workforce until their youngest is 12, according to data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979.

As the holidays approach, it is often speculated that working brings moms guilt about whether they will have time to do it all -- manage work, family and all of the holiday events. But my research suggests that working may mean something else to moms and their families: greater consumer confidence at the holidays.

In my study of 80 randomly sampled women from New York City, I found that working increased women's confidence about their family's financial situation, regardless of their class position. While working and earning an income certainly increased the family's overall economic well-being, it also increased the women's sense of the family's financial security. Women who worked explained that it gave them an increased sense of self-reliance and independence.

We've known for a while that women are the main consumers in the family. But women who work may feel more comfortable in that role, as my respondents did. Irene explained, "When you go out to make a salary, you can go out and buy whatever [you] want, because [you] earned it."

Angela worked part-time and she concurred, telling me, "Not that I treat myself all the time but it makes me feel a little more at ease to say that we could. I could do some extra stuff and not feel like I'm just taking my husband's money."

Even women who worked for low-wages explained that working gave them the ability to spring for the occasional pizza or child's toy, because of the greater sense of economic security that came with paid employment. Maritza, a mom who worked full-time making $20,000 annually, said, "My first paycheck -- I said, 'Wow.' It felt good."

All due respect to Norman Rockwell, but it's time to repaint the portrait of America and show an accurate picture of family and holidays. Mothers are more likely than not to be earning part of the family income this year. And our best shot to improve our economy around the holidays (and throughout the year) may be to promote programs that support women's continued employment. Greater access to paid maternity leave (the Census reported that only 50% of moms have this) and universal childcare for pre-school age children would be a step in the right direction.

This holiday, let's be thankful for our mothers and our fathers and all they do to raise the children of this country. And let's take our thanks a step further by recognizing that American parents feel squeezed at work and at home and by developing federal and workplace policies that address the challenges parents face now that most adults in families are working.

Courtesy: Sarah Damaske, Author, 'For the Family? How Class and Gender Shape Women's Work.'
Online at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-damaske/all-due-respect-to-norman_b_1105078.html
An interview with Dr. Adrianne Frech

**Dr. Frech** earned her Ph.D. in sociology from The Ohio State University in 2009 and did a two year post-doctoral research at Rice University in Texas before joining our department. Since joining the department, she has given a talk on how to recruit students from low socioeconomic status (SES) and non-white students into medical research at NEOMED (formerly NEOUCOM).

She was recently recognized by the Medical Sociology Section for the award for honorable mention for outstanding dissertations defended within 2 years prior to the meeting in August 2011. Her research focuses on the relationships between family transitions, employment, and mental and physical aspects of health, with a focus on long-term trajectories of well-being.

**SOCNews Editor: Welcome to our department. If you don’t mind, I will like to ask you a few questions that our readers would love to know about you!**

**Dr Frech:** Sure I will be glad to do so!

**SOCNews:** What drew you to Sociology when you were a student?

The first thing that drew me to Sociology was that it included things that economics and political science did not do--a focus on the consequences of inequality for mental and physical aspects of well-being. Economics in particular seems to accept social inequalities as a given, and not inherently problematic. Sociologists acknowledge that large inequalities are often problematic in societies.

**SOCNews:** Why Akron U? In other words why did you decide to join our faculty?

I feel so lucky to be here at UA. The faculty have been warm and welcoming ever since my initial interview, and I think it's important to feel like part of a community in the workplace. I immediately felt that UA was different from many other departments in that the faculty and graduate students seem to genuinely like one another and help each other out. On top of this, the faculty are all accomplished researchers. I get the best of both worlds by being around really smart & productive colleagues who are also genuinely warm and friendly people.

**SOCNews:** Can you tell us something about your research: past, present and future plans?

My previous research placed a strong focus on the mental health consequences and benefits of marital transitions. Since my time at Ohio State, I've broadened my research by looking at both physical and mental aspects of health all across the life course. I expect to continue to focus not just on young adults, as I have in the past, but also older adults, children and teens, and the middle-aged. I also look less at just marriage now, and have started to examine the relationships between work and living away from parents along with marriage and cohabitation.

On a lighter note, Dr Frech recently purchased a house in Cuyahoga Falls where she tells me that she is really enjoying running and hiking in the area parks with her husband. She thinks it's really wonderful to return to her native Ohio after their time in Texas!

**SOCNews readers and the whole department take this opportunity to welcome you to UA. We hope you enjoy your stay here in Akron.**
TRANSITIONS and HAPPEININGS!

Dr. Baffour K. Takyi

Ended his tenure as the director of UA’s Pan African Studies (PAS) program. Takyi was appointed the Director of PAS in Fall 2005.

On another note, Professor Takyi was appointed a member of the College of Arts ad hoc college committee on Interdisciplinary and Global Education Initiatives.

Dr. Mark Tausig

Professor Tausig, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Sociology Professor has been appointed the interim chair of UA’s Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies (PAUS).

New Graduate Director

Dr. Stacey Nofziger is the new director for graduate studies. She can be contacted at: sn18@uakron.edu

On another note, Dr. Nofziger is the proud mother of Zach Evan Nofziger. He was born on July 19th at SUMMA hospital.

Dr. Kathy Feltey

Associate chair of our Department, Professor Kathy Feltey has been appointed the interim Director for UA’s Women’s Studies program.

The Program offers an Undergraduate Certificate and Minor and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies.

She previously served as the Director of the same program in the late 1998-2000.

Dr. Juan Xi

Dr. Juan Xi, spoke about China’s one child policy during UA’s China Week activities this year. Her presentation took place at the Students Union Ballroom B on October 12.

Dr. Adrianne Frech

Recently gave a talk on Recruitment of low-SES and non-white participants into medical research at NEOMED (October 19).
FACULTY RESEARCH

EMILY ASENCIO


VALERIE CALLANAN


CHERYL ELMAN


Presentations


Elman, Cheryl and Linda Wray. 2011. “Early Life Health Status, Attainment Trajectories and Later life Health.” Presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual meeting, Boston, MA.

Elman, Cheryl, Kathryn Feltey, Barbara Wittman and Daniela Jauk. 2011. Drawn to the Land: Life Course Consequences of Frontier Women’s Settlement.” Presented at the Social Science History Association meeting, Boston, MA (November).

Chair, Membership Committee. American Sociological Association. Section on Aging and the Life Course.

REBECCA ERICKSON

Editorial Boards - Social Psychology Quarterly


KATHRYN FELTEY

Presentations
Elman, Cheryl, Kathryn Feltey, Barbara Wittman and Daniela Jauk. 2011. Drawn to the Land: Life Course Consequences of Frontier Women’s Settlement.” Presented at the Social Science History Association meeting, Boston, MA (November).

RUDY FENWICK


Presentations

ADRIANNE FRECH


MATTHEW T. LEE


Presentations


STACEY NOFZIGER


Military Expenditure vs. Economic Development

Dr. Julie Abi Ghanem
Senior Lecturer of Sociology

A significant number of studies examine the relationship between military expenditure and economic growth in the world. However, little attention has been given to
ROBERT PERALTA


Presentations


BRIAN PENDLETON

Workshop


Roundtable Leader

Roundtable, “Wellpoint Grant, Processes, and Patient Education Opportunities”. Ohio Association of Free Clinics Annual Conference. Columbus (Oct.).

MARK TAUSIG


Presentations


BAFFOUR TAKYI
**JUAN XI**


**Presentations**


**JOHN ZIPP**


**Ginny Smerglia**

ALUMNI & ADJUNCT FACULTY

Dr. AnneMarie Scarisbrick-Hauser

Dr. Scarisbrick-Hauser, an alumni and also Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the Department, was interviewed on Chanel 3 TV on the 10 year anniversary of 9/11. Dr. Scarisbrick-Hauser, did research as a member of the only non-responder team, awarded a rapid response grant from the Natural Hazards Center in Colorado, permitted at the crash site in Shanksville, PA on 9-11 ten years ago.

Their research was published in a special edition of the Natural Hazards Center research journal. She and Nancy Grant were issued special invitations to attend the ceremonies for the dedication of the Flight 93 memorial site and the memorial service with the families last weekend.


Please Note: Dr. Nancy Grant was the principal investigator for this project.

Dr. Keba Sylla

Dr. Keba Sylla was one of the candidates who contested to become a Cleveland Heights City Council member during the November 8 elections. Born to Senegalese parents in Paris, France, Dr. Sylla has taught a number of courses in the department for the past couple of years. They include Juvenile Delinquency, Corrections and Criminology. He has also worked at the Institute of Health and Social Policy at the UA. In addition, Keba worked on block grants dealing with health issues in Cleveland regarding at risk populations. From 2001-2002, he worked with the Upward Bound program at Tri-C.

Keba argues that making residents feel secure and safe is paramount in accomplishing all the goals city leaders and fellow candidates have. He would convene a town hall meeting to address the economic and financial challenges facing the city—if elected.

Publications


Dr. Rachel Z. Schneider

Dr. Schneider, will be leaving us as at the end of the academic year. She is joining her husband who has been transferred to Columbus, OH.

In the picture above: Alumni Drs. Rachel Schneider (left) and Jean Ann-Sutherland (right).
the relationship between military expenditure and economic development in the Arabic countries. Dr. AbiGhanem’s research addresses the debate about the nature of the relationship between military expenditure and human development and how to achieve the gains of peace, as well as the options that Arabic countries have in their quest for adequate security and sustained human development.

The paper investigated this relationship by examining variables related to military expenditure and human development in the Arabic countries. The study showed that military burdens in the Arabic countries are not determined only by the economic factors, but also by the geopolitical situation in the area and several political variables, such as regime type, institutional freedom, political freedom, and political stability. Furthermore, achieving peace dividend and sustainable development is not related only to a decrease in Arab military expenditure, but also to other concerns, such as: eliminating poverty, creating jobs, sustaining livelihoods, etc. Nevertheless, developing the capacities for good governance and establishing a democratic political system underpin all these objectives.


Daniela was elected to the following positions in 2011:
Representative to the United Nations for the national Sociologists for Women in Society.
Member, International Committee of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)
Students Representative, "Body and Embodiment" Section of the American Sociological Association.


- Selling Welfare Reform: Work-First and the New Common Sense of Employment, by Frank Ridzi


Presentations


In the picture above: Lori Hale, Kasey Lansberry and Nicole Rosen

Do you eat more when dining with a man or a woman?

The answer, it turns out, depends on gender, according to research by our own Marci D. Cottingham and her co-authors.

In a co-authored paper by our own student Marci Cottingham and her colleagues at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, they studied the ways men and women eat when they are together and when they are apart. They observed that the sex of the people around us leads us to consume more or less food. This paper has been cited in several news outlets in the US and around the world, including the National Public Radio (NPR) and ABC News.

The NPR interview was by Vedantam, Shankar for its Morning Edition. October 4.


Gender of Eating Companions Influences How Much People Eat, Says Study!!!

It's not just the company we keep that influences how much we eat. A new study suggests it's the sex of the people around us that leads us to consume more or less food. Researchers from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the University of Akron found that the average number of calories college students consumed varied depending on whether they ate with men, women or a mixed-sex group.

"What we found was that on average, when men were eating with women, they tended to purchase more calories than their counterparts who were eating with other men. Women tended to purchase fewer calories when with men as compared to when they're with women," said Marci Cottingham, a co-author of the study and a graduate student at the University of Akron. The study's lead author, Molly Allen-O'Donnell, a graduate student at Indiana University, sat at an eatery on the Indiana campus during lunch and dinner times over a 10-day period. She observed what foods students bought and who their dining companions were. "We observed them in a campus eating environment, during routine meals and just looked at the amount of calories purchased," said Cottingham.

Food Plays Big Role in Forming Impressions: The results, she explained, suggest that food strongly influences the impressions people form of each other. For White, college-age females, eating less is a way to seem more feminine when men are around, and for college-age males, eating more when around women is a way to appear more masculine. Men, whether unconsciously or consciously, don't want to be seen as light eaters, especially in front of women. "The theory is you're more aware of gender when you're with the opposite gender and may want to prove your gender more," Cottingham said. "In a mixed group, women may think they're being judged if they eat more calories," said Keith Ayoob, associate professor of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y. "It's also possible that women are eating more calories when they're with each other because they're more relaxed, or people may eat fewer calories in groups because they're enjoying the social aspects of the meal and aren't focused on eating," Ayoob said.

Alex McIntosh, a sociology professor at Texas A&M University in College Station, has done extensive research on eating behavior. He said it's a well-known idea that food helps form strong impressions of people in a variety of situations. "I've had undergrads talk to me about eating on dates and in particular on the first day, if you're a female, some students reported even when given the opportunity to eat, they don't, and if they do, they eat far less than they ordinarily would because of the impression it makes," he said.

Can Findings Help Shape Healthier Eating Habits?"Much attention has been given to the increase in obesity among both children and adults in the United States, as well as to eating disorders among young people, particularly women," the authors wrote. "Those who are trying to address these concerns should consider the importance of the role of gender and social context in developing solutions and meeting needs."

Because of the power of social relationships, they should be considered when educating the public about better nutrition. "The impact of others is, of course, the logic behind nutrition education in schools, integrated into school meals and can offer opportunities in communities," said Connie Diekman, director of university nutrition at Washington University in St. Louis. But giving people the nutritional information they need is also key, because even though people may eat less or eat healthier around certain groups of people, they may not make the same when they're alone. "Restraining themselves when in a group doesn't mean that's all the food they're going to consume," said Ayoob. "People may eat very sparingly in a group and then hit the ice cream and chips at home."

Credits: Kim Carollo, ABC News (October 5)

Presentations


Addendum: Extra Media Coverage: Cottingham and Colleagues Research on Eating!!


Congrats to our 2011 graduants and recent alumni members!! We are proud of you!!! Keep in touch and let’s hear from you wherever you may be!!

PhD Graduates
Dr. Jennifer L. Steele (May 2011)
Advisor: Dr. Robert Peralta

Dr. Richelle Dykstra (Dec 2011)
Advisor: Dr. Becky Erickson

MA Graduates
Lori A. Tuttle
Monica Oliva

Michael Steiner
Kyle Zellman
Dissertation award recipient announced

The 2011 Barbara J. Stephens Dissertation Award was given to David Skubby at the annual AKD banquet. David’s dissertation topic is: “A History of Medical Practices in the Case of Autism: Foucauldian Perspective.”

The Barbara J. Stephens Dissertation Award was established in 2003 to provide financial assistance to graduate students at The University of Akron conducting dissertations in the areas of health and social policy research.

Friends and family of Barbara J. Stephens created the award to honor and remember the impact she had on the lives of others during her career. Each year collaborating departments select student applicants who are reviewed by a selection committee at UA's Institute for Health and Social Policy. The award is to be used for dissertation research expenses and is based on the academic merit of the proposed project.

Publications:


Meet Our Fall 2011 Graduate Students

Kelsy Risman

Mike Maul

Kristin Santos

Rania Issa

Lenzy Jones

Will LeSeur

Corey Stevens

In the picture above: Alumni Drs. Rachel Schneider (left) and Jean Ann-Sutherland (right).
**2011-2012 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

A.K.D.: Adrianne Frech  
Associate Chair: Kathy Feltey  
BCC: Erickson (Representative), Matt Lee (Alternate)  
CBT: Rachel Schneider  
Educational Development: Juan Xi  
Graduate Studies: Satecy Nofziger (Chair in Fall), Cheryl Elman (Chair in Spring), Rob Peralta, and Baffour Takyi  
Publicity: Baffour Takyi  
RTP chairs: Brian Pendleton (Full Professor) and Cheryl Elman (Associate Professor and Retention)  
Sociology Club: Emily Asencio  
Undergraduate Studies: Val Callanan (Chair), Rudy Fenwick, and Brian Pendleton

**CHARLES C. ROGLER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

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.

**AKD Announcements**

The date and location for the Silent Auction has been set. The Silent Auction will take place on March 11th in RM 335 of the Student Union. The room is free to rent and should allow AKD to raise a much larger amount of money to fund the end of the year banquet and donate to Access House of Akron. There will be a cash bar at the event, and despite the location change the event will function in the same way as previous years.

Donations for the silent auction are now being accepted. If you have a donation to submit please see Mike Steiner who is in charge of donation collection and all other auction related issues.

Locations for the end of the year Banquet are still being scouted, but the date is tentatively set for Friday, April 20th 2012. Expect details to be finalized by the end of the month.

**In the picture above:** Drs. John Zipp (Associate Dean and former Chair of the Department and Becky Erickson.

**In the picture below:** Drs. John Zipp (Associate Dean and former Chair of the Department and Becky Erickson.

**In the picture above:** Drs Juan Xi (UA Sociology) and Manacy Pai (Kent State University Sociology).
AKD NEWS and Updates

AKD would like to thank everyone who attended the 2011 banquet.

The 2011-2012 representatives are the following:
President: Mike Steiner 
Vice President: Peter Barr 
Secretary/Treasurer: Nicole McEroy 
Service /Social Chair: Joy Harvell

AKD STUDENT AWARDS 2011

Outstanding Paper: David Skubby
Outstanding Student Award: Jen Steele
Outstanding Student Teaching Award: David Skubby
Peer Mentor Award: Lia Chervenak Wiley
Faculty Mentor Award: Dr. Becky Erickson
Outstanding Undergraduate Award: Hanna Furnas

NEWS FLASH!!!!!!

Next Year’s (2012) Speaker for our Annual Awards and Banquet will be Dr. Patricia Yancey Martin from Florida State University. The tentative date for the awards will be April 20, 2012.

Janet C. Fisher Endowed Scholarship

The Janet C. Fisher Endowed Scholarship Fund was founded in 1994 with the express purpose of assisting students within the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Department of Sociology. This endowed scholarship is provided by the estate of Janet C. Fisher, a native of Canton, Ohio. Janet Fisher was a 1985 graduate of the University. She wished to thank the University for the fine education she received and which helped contribute to her success. Scholastic achievement and leadership characteristics are the criteria for the award. Scholarship award of $1,000.

North Central Sociological Association Student Paper Competition 2011

Two divisional awards: (1) Graduate Student Division and (2) Undergraduate Division. The maximum length of a paper is 5,000 words. An abstract of no more than 100 words must also be included. Papers with multiple authors will be considered provided that all authors are students in the same division category. Deadline: January 14, 2011. Contact: Carolette Norwood, Department of Africana Studies, University of Cincinnati, P.O. Box 210370 Cincinnati, OH 45221-0370; Carolette.Norwood@uc.edu, Subject line: NCSA Student Paper Competition.

Undergraduate Advising

From this now onwards, all "administrative" advising is now the responsibility of the "BCAS Undergraduate Student Academic Affairs and Services Office":

Room 448 CAS; phone 972-7880; fax 972-7222; bcasadvising@uakron.edu
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT

2011 Rogler Scholarship Winners  ($1,000 each)
2011 Rogler Scholarship Winners  ($500 each)
2011 Fisher Scholarship Winners ($500 each)

- Hannah Furnas
- Joshua Snyder
- Courtney Modie

Congrats to you all for a good job done!!!

Below: The Editor of SOCNews and Professor Chand Midha (Dean, CAS) (right) at this year’s Office of Multicultural Development’s Scholarship Awards and Banquet held at the Student Union on Oct 21st.

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION

All Sociology/Criminology & Law Enforcement majors are required to complete an internship. Students must have completed a total of 64 credits with at least 12 credits in Sociology before starting an internship. Plan to make your initial contact with the Center for Career Management (CCM) located in Simmons Hall, Room 301 or call (330) 972-6586.


The McNair Scholar’s Program

Dr Takyi and his student Ms. Sara Lute (Psychology Dept.) during the 2011 Summer MacNair Scholars’ Presentation at the Students Union. Sara’s research was on posttraumatic stress among veterans and victims of domestic violence.

Please Encourage your students to participate in this summer funded and also prestigious research based

Hannah Furnas’s Honors Project

Hannah is a sociology major and also an honors student. She is currently working on her honors thesis in which she is analyzing the 2008 Ghana Health and Demographic Health Survey to look at the intersection of economic conditions and domestic violence in Ghana, Africa. She plans to present her final paper at the NCSA meeting and also submit it for publication in the future.

Her advisors and mentors for this project are Drs. Becky Erickson, Kathy Feltey, Brian Pendleton, Bafour Takyi and Emily Ascencio.
In the picture are some of our current graduate students, 2011-2012

(Please Note: The names are not in order) Jamie Chapman, Michael Maul, Danielle Shaw, Jared Rosenberger, Will LeSuer, Lenzy Jones, Marci D. Cottingham, Monica Oliva, Corey Stevens, Lia Wiley, Kelsey Risman, Kasey Lansberry, DeMario Brantley, Nicole Lise Rosen, Nicole McElroy, Rania Issa, David Skubby, Kristen Santos, Daniela Jauk, Jodi A. Henderson-Ross, Marquita Mitchell, Michael Steiner, Marie Bozin and Lori Hale
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
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MEET OUR HARDWORKING OFFICE STAFF!!!

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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:

Dr. Baffour K. Takyi [Editor]
btkyi@uakron.edu or 330-972-6887

We encourage you to visit our website at

www.uakron.edu/sociology