Welcome to the Fall 2013 edition of AKRONews, the annual newsletter of the Department of Sociology at the University of Akron.

This has been a busy year and I am grateful for the assistance of Dr. Stacey Nofziger (Graduate Director), Dr. Kathy Feltey (Undergraduate Director), Tammy Dixon (Administrative Assistant), and everyone else that helps out on a daily basis. So many people consistently go beyond the call of duty and it really makes my job a lot easier.

One big change this year is the retirement of both Dr. Cheryl Elman and Dr. Brian Pendleton (see page 5). We will all miss them and we wish them well. For more on Brian, see the Buchtelite story reprinted on page 3.

As you can see from reading the rest of this newsletter, we have had another productive year. Highlights include the significant national media attention devoted to research by Dr. Adrianne Frech (p. 8), coverage of Dr. Rudy Fenwick’s work as head of the Ohio Faculty Council (p. 11), and the activities of our alumni (p. 14 and 18) and graduate students (p. 15 and 17). I am especially pleased to announce that five of our graduate students completed their PhD degrees this year (p. 16). This is the highest number we have had in over a decade. Congratulations to all of them and to the faculty who supported them! I am sure that they will all make a big impact (see p. 18 for a couple of examples, including one graduate who is now a Provost!).

Be sure to check out the feature on Tiffany Everett, who is now in the doctoral program at the University of Georgia (p. 19), which provides another example of how our department has made a positive impact on the lives of students. Another example of this can be found on page 15, which discusses an award that Jodi Henderson-Ross received for “encouraging, empowering, and mentoring undergraduate students.” On page 17 also, we report about the teaching and mentoring award received by Joy Harvell from the Office of Accessibility. In describing her, the student who nominated her said, “She makes sure that everyone has an even chance to understand material.”

On a personal note, I am happy to note that I am the third Akron sociologist to be elected President of the North Central Sociological Association, the others being Dr. Kathy Feltey (2005-2006) and Dr. Irwin Deutscher (1980-1981). My term will be 2014-2015. Our department has a long history supporting this regional sociological association, which provides many opportunities for the professional development of both faculty and students.

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.
RESEARCH FOCUS:

Sobriety and Spirituality are Linked for Adolescents

By Dr. Matt T. Lee

An article that is forthcoming in the Spring 2014 issue of Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly reports that increased spirituality in teens undergoing substance abuse treatment is associated with greater likelihood of abstinence (as measured by toxicology screens), increased positive social behaviors, and reduced narcissism. The lead author of the paper, our own head of department, Dr. Matthew Lee, presented the findings with his co-author Dr. Maria Pagano at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association in New York City this past August.

The paper is the result of a collaboration involving researchers from The University of Akron, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and Baylor University. The John Templeton Foundation funded the study and CWRU’s Dr. Pagano serves as the Principal Investigator. Researchers measured “daily spiritual experiences” independently of “religious beliefs and behaviors.” Co-Investigator Dr. Byron R. Johnson, director of the Institute for Studies of Religion and distinguished professor of the social sciences at Baylor, notes that “although about a third of the teens self-identified as agnostic or atheist at intake, about half claimed a spiritual identity at discharge, a most remarkable shift.”

More important, these changes strongly predicted toxicology, narcissism and positive social behavior, Lee says. “The key message is that changes in spiritual experiences are associated with better outcomes, including lower toxicology, reduced self-centeredness, and higher levels of helping others,” Lee says. “Contrary to the conventional wisdom,” he says, “personality is not relatively fixed by late adolescence, and Axis II disorders such as narcissistic personality disorder can improve. What this means is that belief orientation, like personality more generally, is malleable. Just because an adolescent is not spiritual prior to participating in the treatment project, does not mean that they are incapable of becoming spiritual. Our results demonstrate that if they do become spiritual, they will tend to have much better outcomes.”

Dr. Pagano, associate professor of psychiatry at CWRU’s School of Medicine and also principal investigator for “Helping Others Live Sober,” suggests that “changes in spirituality during treatment may serve as the ‘switch’ that moves youth off of the track of substance dependency and onto the track of recovery and enhanced well-being, thereby countering harmful social trends like youth unemployment and decreased volunteering that have worked against addiction recovery.”

“In other words,” she adds, “change is possible and spiritual experience may be the key. Hopefully our results will encourage other researchers to further explore this thesis.”

A Note from the Editor

This article received over 100 "media hits" within a week of the press release, quite an astonishing achievement and accomplishment! They include for example, UPI, http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2013/11/14/Sobriety-spirituality-linked-for-teens-in-treatment/UPI-34581384447845 and the Times of India, http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/relationships/parenting/Spiritual-teens-abstain-from-substance-abuse/articleshow/25769062.cms

Addendum: Matt was also interviewed for an Addiction Professional magazine for the article. Text is available at http://www.addictionpro.com/article/new-study-identifies-spiritual-change-among-adolescents-treatment
Class assembles as it normally does. Students young and old enter through the doorway, heading to their rightful places in class. The instructor starts warm ups as usual: stretching poses followed by jumping jacks to loosen up their muscles.

The class counts in Japanese while performing traditional karate kicks. Everything seems normal, until the intense fighting begins. The instructor’s heart starts racing out of control, until finally it stops, and the world around him does as well.

A Lucky Man
Brian Pendleton teaches Karate at the City of Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium. He is a black belt and has taught for the past 45 years. Not only is he a talented karate instructor, but he is also a professor of sociology at The University of Akron. He used to run, workout intensively and engage in impact fighting, but his heart no longer allows him to act like he did in his youthful days.

Pendleton suffered from sudden cardiac arrest. The nine-year anniversary of his near-death experience is on April 3. “I was working out at the Natatorium at the time, teaching karate and fighting hard, when my heart just stopped,” Pendleton said. “I was lucky that Joe Fabick had just completed his CPR training a week before I fell.”

He was lucky to be at the right place at the right time. The City of Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium has a strict policy that requires all lifeguards to refresh their CPR training twice a month and all facility managers to train once monthly. Lifeguards are generally the first responders, but Joe Fabick was the facility manager that day. The real lifesaver was Fabick’s implementation of the AED – the automated external defibrillator.

“It sounds bleak, and it is. Unlike most cardiac cases, Pendleton survived. He is part of the 5 percent. To break it down further, according to The University of Rochester Medical Center’s website (urmc.com), “an estimated 250,000 to 450,000 Americans suffer cardiac arrests each year.” Most die before ever receiving medical attention. For Pendleton, it wasn’t a heart attack that he suffered, but rather ventricular fibrillation.

“The atria work with the ventricles. They pump together: push, pull, push, pull. The electrical current tells the ventricles to function. If there is an electrical malfunction, the heart doesn’t work in rhythm. They end up fighting against each other,” Pendleton said. “They think my heart rate may have hit 280 or 290. The heart just screws itself up and says ‘screw this,’ shuts down and stops. It can’t figure out what is going on. It’s all an electrical current, but what led to it is my back artery. It’s completely blocked.”

The reason for the blockage was hyperlipidemia, or more commonly, high blood pressure. If treated in time, high blood pressure is controllable. When uncontrolled, it is related to the risk of major heart events like Pendleton’s.

In addition to high blood pressure, his family has a history of high cholesterol. One of his arteries was completely blocked, but because he worked out so much, his capillaries formed a natural bypass — a corollary bypass. Though his rigorous physical activity may have saved his life, it was only a matter of time before something happened.

There were no warning signs for Pendleton because he couldn’t feel the pain many feel before having heart related problems. Pendleton said he had no carotid pain, arm pain, chest pain or jaw pain. Compared to a heart attack, cardiac arrest victims’ hearts stop pumping blood. The only way to start the heart back up is via an electrical current. This is one of the many reasons he advocates for organizations to purchase and learn to use AEDs.

The Incident
The day began like any other. Pendleton was going to go for a run outside. His wife, Marcie, however urged him to workout at the Natatorium to avoid his allergy problems. It was almost as if she knew something was different about that day and her intuition kicked in. Because of his wife’s suggestion, he happened to be working out at one of the most trained facilities for CPR/AED.
When he came to class, something wasn't right. Pendleton says he has no recollection of actually dying when his heart stopped, but remembers feeling dizzy and falling to the ground.

“They think I was dead before I hit the floor,” Pendleton said. “In class that day was a woman who was a cardiac care nurse; one of our green belts who works at City (hospital). We had the mother of one of our students who is a nurse at children's hospital, and we had a dentist. All of them were well versed in CPR.”

Many people were there to help start CPR, and Joe Fabick came along when he heard cries for help. The AED was with him in the facility jump bag.

“I ended up turning blue. In fact, I was told I kind of looked like a smurf after a while,” Pendleton joked. While those near him started to perform CPR, Fabick hooked up the AED and waited for it gave instructions on what to do next.

Three minutes and two shocks later, Pendleton was breathing again.

To this day, Pendleton’s wife worries about what could have happened to him if he had gone somewhere else before teaching.

“I was scared to death,” she said. “Jerry’s wife called me and said ‘Brian’s down.’”

Jerry Andrea was the head karate instructor at the time. Marcie had no other information to go off of, but she hurried to the Natatorium, where she saw her husband being taken to the hospital; to her surprise, alive and awake.

“The CPR and the chest compressions kept me stable. It took about three minutes for them to get things up again. It too two big shocks from the AED,” Pendleton said. “I came around just as they were putting me on the gurney.

Tom Taylor, who is one of our paramedics, who is also one of our black belts – I looked up at him and said, ‘Well hi Tom. Why weren’t you in karate today?’”

When Pendleton woke up, he wasn’t completely with it. Marcie had arrived at the Natatorium at the time they were leaving; Pendleton even commented on her appearance there.

Pendleton felt good enough to continue working out that evening.

“The cardiologist, who was the attendant that afternoon, asked me how I was doing. I felt good enough to challenge him to a stair climb,” he said. “I mean, I felt pretty good for what happened.”

While at the hospital, Pendleton received an intracranial cardiovascular defibrillator (ICD). This device works as a personal AED. It is hooked up to his heart and recognizes when the heart beats are too high or if his heart stops. When this happens, it then transmits a shock to the heart. Pendleton’s ICD has gone off just once.

“About a year after the event, I was working out more heavily than I should have, and my heart rate hit about 197,” Pendleton said. “And that’s when that puppy went off.” Pendleton was at least glad to know that the device worked.

Post-Cardiac Arrest

Adjusting to life after the incident wasn’t too difficult for Pendleton and his wife. They already ate well, but now they have cracked down on their food intake more strictly. Breakfast consists of yogurt while lunch is a bag of veggies, generally broccoli. Marcie says they eat a lot more fish and cabbage than they used to.

Every once in a while, the two will have a less healthy meal, dessert, or an alcoholic beverage of their choice, but it’s about 80/20, Pendleton said.

“Eighty percent of the time we eat healthy, twenty percent we can indulge,” he said.

When asked what he misses the most, his reply wasn’t food or drink. He misses the intense workouts.

“I love dripping in sweat and working out till you feel faint, like overcome by heat exhaustion,” he said.

Pendleton still teaches karate at the City of Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, but will retire from The University of Akron this spring. He advocates all people to invest in an AED, and is working to have them placed all around the university campus as well as around the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

“If you live,” Pendleton said, fighting back tears, “you begin wondering, ‘Why me?’ You know there are 14-year-old kids who die from this stuff and stay dead. And some live through it, but you begin to wonder, ‘Why me?’”

Although life will never be the same, he has learned one valuable lesson: Appreciate the time and the life we have. “I have learned to really appreciate life. I recognize it every day and I appreciate it every day,” Pendleton said. “My first thought every morning is that I’m alive.”

Despite the incident that happened nine years ago, Pendleton and Marcie are thankful to wake to another day and see the other’s face lying next to them.

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**ON THE MOVE 1**

**Dr. Cheryl Elman**

Cheryl is the second senior faculty member in the department who also retired this year. Her retirement celebration lunch with the faculty was held at Bricco on May 22. She has been appointed a professor Emeritus in the department. Cheryl now lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and has been appointed Scholar in Residence at Duke University (2013-2016). She is housed in the History department; she is especially interested in US socio-political environments in the early 20th century and their health-related, family-related and other effects on people living in this period. She is having fun learning about digital humanities techniques, especially historical mapping, and working on two ongoing projects: turn-of-the-twentieth-century frontiers, from the perspective of women, and the early 20th century health transition.

**ON THE MOVE 2**

**Dr. Brian Pendleton**

Brian retired from our department this academic year. His retirement celebration took place on May 13, 2013 at the Martin University Center. He is now a professor Emeritus in the department.

**Other News**

**Extramural Research Grants**


Brian was featured in a new book authored by Dr. Wendy Walsh titled The 30-Day Love Detox. Dr. Wendy Walsh’s new book just came out... she hosts some shows on HLN and Discovery network and has a PH.D in clinical psychology... Brain is quoted with some pretty well-respected people on the inside cover (a past Pulitzer Prize winner and celebrities) and Dr. Pinsky from CNN on the cover.
ON THE RESEARCH FRONT:

Faculty Publications, Grants, and Offices

Dr. Emily Asencio


Asencio, Emily K., Monica Oliva, and Michael Steiner 2013. “Self-Esteem, the Fear of Crime, and the Decision to Protect Oneself Against Victimization.” Sociological Forum


Grant

♦ Emily received funding through the BCAS Faculty Scholarship Award. Congratulations Emily!

Presentations

Asencio, Emily K. and Brian Straka “Housing Foreclosures, Neighborhood Change, and Youth Crime.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Valerie Callanan

Dr. Valerie Callanan, associate professor, was one of the co-authors of “Alcohol and the Risk of Violent Victimization and Injury” in R.N. Parker and K.J. McCaffree (eds.), Alcohol and Violence: The Nature of the Relationship and the Promise of Prevention. Lexington Press, 2012.

Dr. Rudy Fenwick

Dr. Janette Dill


Dill, J., and Rebecca J. Erickson are launching a new collaborative project with faculty in psychology and at NEOMED on “Issues of Emotion and Well-being among Medical Students.” The project will largely be funded by NEOMED with some contribution from UA. ($12,554).

Grants

Janette was awarded a $10,000 summer research fellowship from the UA Faculty Research Committee. The award will be used for her research on “Men in the New Economy: Wages and Job Stability among Men in Health Care. There were 52 applications and only 14 projects were funded. This makes our department look very good. In fact, Sociology has a long history of success with the FRC awards. It’s more evidence of our strong productivity.

Dill, J., and Rebecca J. Erickson are collaborating on a series of studies with faculty members in psychology and at NEOMED on “Issues of Emotion and Well-being among Medical Students.” This project will largely be funded by NEOMED with some contribution from the University of Akron ($12,554).

Janette received a travel grant to extend the project that she completed with her summer Faculty Research Grant. Her project was titled: “Men in the New Economy: Career Trajectories among Men in Low-Wage Service Jobs.” Funding for the workshop comes from an NSF grant to The Triangle Census Research Network.

Dr. Stacey Nofziger

Does Protecting the Family Hurt the Child? Comparing Outcomes for Maltreated Children at Home and in Foster Care?” This was the title of Dr. Nofziger’s presentation given at the Jack Burke Research and Economic Development Center in January of this year. This event was hosted by Penn State Behrend’s B.A. and B.S. in Psychology degree programs, its Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy certificate program, and by the student Psychology Coalition with support from the Susan Hirt Hagen CORE (Community, Outreach, Research and Evaluation, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Student Activity Fee.


Below Left (Pic):
From the AKD Banquet
Dr. Adrianne Frech


Adrianne was the invited speaker at The University of Akron Research for Lunch Series on 16 January 2013. Her lecture was titled. “Social Risk Factors for Young Adult Hypertension.”

Dr. Frech was also the keynote speaker and discussant on a public event organized by the Northern Kentucky Forum held at Ft Mitchell, KY (May 23rd). The title of the Forum was "Babies versus Boardrooms: Tough Choices for Modern Families." See next page for the poster/flyer for the program

Adrienne and some colleagues from graduate school hosted a panel on innovative strategies in studying wealth and health at the Midwestern sociology society meetings in Chicago, IL

Presentations

Frech, Adrianne. “Wealth accumulation among single mothers.” Annual meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA.

In The News

Adrienne’s research has hit the New York Times. This appeared online on Sunday: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/26/opinion/sunday/when-numbers-mislead.html?src=recg&_r=0

Adrienne was featured in the New York Times (again) on her work on working mothers. See http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/02/opinion/sunday/coontz-the-triumph-of-the-working-mother.

She was also a guest on WCPN-FM’s Sound of Ideas program. This interview is available online at http://www.ideastream.org/sol/entry/55844.

Adrienne’s research was also featured in the BCAS’s College’s Annual Report!

Way to go Adrianne and Congrats!!!!

Below Right (Pic) : From the AKD Banquet
Dr. Kathryn Feltey


Dr. Feltey has been elected the new Vice President of the Akron-AAUP!

Kathy organized a Feminist Methods Panel Discussion (co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and the Active Research Methods Lab) on Wednesday, April 10, in Olin Hall 276.

Dr. Cheryl Elman


Presentations


Dr. Juan Xi


Presentations


Xi, Juan, Sean-Shong Hwang, and Yue Cao. “Prospective Coping, Risk Perception, and Depressive Symptoms among the Three Gorges Project-Induced Relocatoes” International Conference on Development-Induced Displacement and Resettlement. Oxford, U.K.
Dr. Rebecca Erickson

Allison, Gabriel, S., Rebecca J. Erickson, James M. Diefendorff, and Gail E. Bromley. 2013. “A Multilevel Analysis of the Relationships between the Practice Environment Scale of the Nursing Work Index and Nursing Outcomes.” Research in Nursing and Health. DOI: 10.1002/nur.21562


♦ Dr. Erickson was appointed to a 3 year term on the American Sociological Association’s Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award Selection Committee.

♦ Editorial Board - Social Psychology Quarterly (3 Year Term)

Grants

Dill, J., and Rebecca J. Erickson launched a new collaborative project with faculty in psychology and at NEOMED to study issues dealing with Emotions and Wellbeing. Their project on “Issues of Emotion and Well-being among Medical Students” will be funded by NEOMED with some contribution from UA ($12,554).

Erickson, R., Janette Dill, James Diefendorff & Jennifer Wessel received a Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences seed funding award for the project, “Emotions, Socialization, and Well-being among Medical Students.”

Dr. Mark Tausig


♦ Deputy Editor, Society and Mental Health

Presentations

In The News 1

Dr. Rudy Fenwick

Rudy, who is also the head of the Ohio Faculty Council, was quoted in a recent Inside Higher Ed article on faculty workload. (See below)

Hours in the Classroom

By Carl Straumsheim

Ohio Governor John Kasich, a Republican, has proposed in his budget bill that boards of public colleges and universities be given the ability to unilaterally increase the workloads of faculty members.

The proposed change modifies the state code that governs the function of boards at public institutions. Should the budget pass, the code would state that boards “may choose to modify [colleges’] faculty workload policy” to require all full-time faculty members to teach one additional course in one of the next two academic years. The increased workload then becomes the new minimum for faculty members to maintain. Faculty members at most public colleges and universities are unionized, and have workload provisions in their contracts, but the proposal would permit the boards to ignore those provisions.

The budget bill requires legislative approval, but both houses of the General Assembly are controlled by Republicans.

The proposed change is the latest in a string of policies or proposals that Kasich has argued will save taxpayer funds and make institutions more effective, but which faculty members say will damage higher education.

“Because it first of all gives universities a choice of raising it or not -- and if you raise them, you have to raise them across the board -- that really puts a great constraint on university administrations,” said Rudy Fenwick, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Akron.

Minimum workloads vary between Ohio’s universities. In the sociology department at Akron, Fenwick said faculty members are required to teach at least two courses per semester.

Meanwhile, the University of Toledo is considering raising its minimum workload to four courses per semester. Ohio State University has already decided that, if the legislation passes, the institution will not use it to raise workload levels, The Columbus Dispatch reported.
Matthew T. Lee


Maria E. Pagano (PI), Byron R. Johnson (Co-Leader), and Matthew T. Lee (Co-Leader) were awarded a Templeton Trust Foundation grant of $1,271,585 for their “Character Development Through Service and Reduced Recidivism: Project SOS (Service to Others in Sobriety).”

♦ Matt is the President-Elect of the North Central Sociological Association. He will serve as President for 2013-2014

♦ Matt has been appointed as a Non-Resident Research Fellow at Baylor University’s Institute for Studies of Religion, one of the most significant centers for the scientific study of religion in the world. The ISR has 25 Resident Fellows and 70 Non-Resident Fellows. It provides opportunities for collaborative projects and other forms of support.

♦ The Religious Communication Association selected an article published by Margaret Poloma and Matthew T. Lee in 2012 in the Journal of Communication and Religion as the "Article of the Year." The national organization is affiliated with the National Communication Association (NCA).

♦ Margaret Poloma, a professor emeritus of sociology, and Matt Lee, professor and department chair, were honored for their article, "Prophetic Prayer as Two-Way Communication with the Divine," at NCA’s annual meetings in Washington, D.C.

Presentation


In the News

A Solon Patch.com story on Godly Love research by UA sociology researchers Matthew Lee and Margaret Poloma is available at http://solon.patch.com/groups/healthy-wellthy-and-wise-/p/love-delivers-healthy-makeover_5586d85c.
Dr. Robert L. Peralta


Awards

♦ Dr. Peralta was the recipient of this year’s AKD, Akron Chapter, Faculty Award.
♦ Rob has also been approved for Associate Membership in the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) by the Credentials Committee and the Board of directors of CPDD. CPDD is the oldest organization dedicated to research in addictions; it has been a leading force in advancing scientific understanding of all aspects of drug abuse.

Grants


Presentations


♦ Rob was the keynote speaker at a public lecture organized by Hiram College’s Center for Literature and Medicine and the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation on February, 6 at Hiram College. His paper was titled: "Sociological Perspectives on Alcohol Use and Alcohol-Related Interpersonal Violence: Why Gender, Race, and Sexuality Matter.” See: http://www.hiram.edu/images/pdfs/center-litmed/peraltaposter2.pdf

Dr. Baffour Takyi

♦ Baffour was the keynote speaker for the University of Akron’s African Student’s Association get together held at the Student Union on April 8, 2013. The theme of this year’s meeting was "A piece Of Africa." Between 300-400 students from Akron and Kent, guests, and other well-wishers from NE Ohio attended the event.
♦ Baffour was a nominee for the Faculty Mentor of the Year Award. The award was presented at The 9th Annual UA Student Innovation Symposium (UASIS) on Thursday, April 11, 2013. All nominees were recognized during the symposium awards luncheon.
♦ Baffour was featured in Dr Anthony Ephirim-Donkor’s new book on African Spirituality and published by the University Press of America.

Presentations

Baffour was an invited speaker at this year’s Michigan State University's African American and African Studies Fall speaker's series. The theme of this year’s lecture series was "Interrogating the Study of the African Diaspora." He spoke on the contemporary African immigrations to the United States, what others call the neo-diaspora.

**ALUMNI Briefs**

**Dr. Bill Hauser (PhD, 1979)**

Bill, who is also the associate marketing professor and interim assistant dean in UA’s College of Business Administration, is quoted in a FOX Business story on what junk mail reveals about its recipients. Text is available at [http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2013/03/13/5-things-your-junk-mail-says-about/](http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2013/03/13/5-things-your-junk-mail-says-about/).


Bill is quoted in an Akron Beacon Journal story on baby boomers living to reach centenarian status. Text is available at [http://www.ohio.com/lifestyle/hone-mcmahan/more-people-living-to-100-1.450410](http://www.ohio.com/lifestyle/hone-mcmahan/more-people-living-to-100-1.450410).

**Dr. Stephen Ayidiya (PhD, 1991)**

- Stephen is the coordinator for a Presidential Special Taskforce in Ghana to help implement the president’s priority projects.
- Elected Board Member, University of Development Studies governing council in Ghana.

**Dr. Lawrence Kannae (PhD, 1993)**

- Lawrence was appointed to serve on the Vice Chairman of Ghana’s Public Service Commission by the President of the Republic of Ghana. Congrats!!

**Dr. Robert Denton**

Rob produced two Office of Victims of Crime sponsored Webinars in November. Audience primarily victim advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors hosted/produced in conjunction with National Criminal Justice Training Center.

- IMPACT ON FIRST RESPONDERS: Law Enforcement/Veterans as Cops, November 28th: Focus: Productive/Counterproductive Buffers of BATTLEMIND issues.
- Rob who serve as the executive director of the Victim Assistance Program will be stepping down as the a Victim Advocate. This was reported by the Akron Beacon Journal

**Dr. Jared Rosenberger (PhD, 2013)**

Jared has accepted a tenure track Assistant Professor position in Sociology at Murray State University in Kentucky. Congrats!

**Dr. Marci Cottingham, (PhD,2013)**

Marci is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Center for Bioethics and Department of Social Medicine at the University of North Carolina. Congrats!
GRADUATE STUDENTS: NEWS & Highlights 1

Publications and Presentations

Daniela Jauk


Marci Cottingham

Cottingham, Marci, Rebecca J. Erickson, James M. Diefendorff, and Gail E. Bromley. “The coming Effect of Manager Exclusion on Turnover Intention and Quality of Care.” Forthcoming in Western Journal of Nursing Research.

Marci’ Cottingham’s single-authored paper, “ Recruiting Men, Constructing Manhood: How Health Care Organizations Mobilize Masculinities as Nursing Recruitment Strategy” will be published in the December issue of Gender & Society.

Marci paper entitled, “Learning to ‘Deal’ and ‘De-Escalate’: How Men in Nursing Manage Self and Patient Emotions” was the winner this year’s “first Alpha Kappa Delta’s national graduate student paper award.

Marci also authored the second most-downloaded teaching resource on the Trails website in 2012 (the teaching resource for ASA).

Jodi Henderson-Ross

Jodi has been recognized by the Committee for Research on Women and Gender for being "an amazing instructor" and "an outstanding feminist mentor." She received her award at a ceremony on Nov. 12 that recognized her for encouraging, empowering, and mentoring undergraduate students.

Monica Merrill

Merrill, Monica, Robert Peralta, and Lia Chervenak Wiley. 2013. "How Does Race Affect the Construction of Criminal and Deviant Identities: The Role of the Media." Presented at ASC Atlanta, GA. November

Kelsey Risman

Kelsey won a $300 grant from the graduate school for her early work on her master's thesis.
Recent Alumni
From The Department

Congratulations to our recent PhD recipients. The following graduate students successfully completed and defended their dissertation during the academic year.

PhD Graduates, 2013

Jared S. Rosenberger
Chair: Dr. Valarie Callahan

Michael Rickles
Co-Chairs: Drs. Matt Lee and Richard Serpe

Marci Cottingham
Chair: Dr. Becky Erickson

Daniela Jauk
Chair: Dr. Kathy Feltey

Elizabeth Grossman
Dissertation Topic: “An Examination of Putnam’s, Coleman’s, and Bourdieu’s Conceptualizations of Social Capital and the Structural Differences Across Class, Race, and Gender Groups.”
Chair: Dr. Becky Erickson
GRADUATE STUDENTS NEWS & Highlights 3

Joy Harvell
Joy Harvell, was the recipient of the “Faculty Spotlight” recognition award. The Faculty Spotlight recognition was designed to honor faculty members who demonstrated excellence in teaching and service provision specifically to students with disabilities. She was nominated by a student registered with the Office of Accessibility. In describing her, the student stated that, “she makes sure that everyone has an even chance to understand material.”

Jared S. Rosenberger & Mike Steiner

Nicole Rosen

Entering Graduate Students
On behalf of the department, we welcome the following students to the 2013 incoming class. They are: Breaanna Stewart, Katherine Newton, Marcello Mulhollen, Courtney Blue, Jason Greenaway, and Daryl Turrentine

A Letter From Austria, Europe
Dear Sociology Department (My home for 6 years (2007-2013)),
I am taking this opportunity to write a couple of lines to thank you all - students, faculty, janitors, colleagues of all sorts - from the bottom of my heart for getting me through the strange, rough, awesome, beautiful, gross journey that is grad school. After graduating in July under the guidance of my beloved advisor Dr. Kathy Feltey with my dissertation on UN gender policy, I left Akron in the beginning of August for Austria, my home country.

Since my graduation I have been able to publish my first chapter of the dissertation (“Invisible Lives, Silenced Violence: Transphobic Gender Violence in Global Perspective.” In: Advances in Gender Research, Vol. 13, Emerald Publishing. Editors: Marcia Segal and Vasilikie Demos. Pp 111-136). I have also submitted my second chapter to a journal after it got rejected by a top tier journal (that is our business, right?). In spring 2014 I will be teaching a couple classes on qualitative methods and global gender policy here at the University of Graz, Austria that has an excellent gender sociology program.

My love and main focus though is on my most important "project" these days: My daughter Amani Maria Evelyn who was born on December 4th 2013. And yes, she was "made in Akron" and is half a Buckeye. I plan to be back in Ohio in two years’ time after getting visa requirements out of the way and live with Amani and her dad Steve. But in the meantime: Come put on your Lederhosen, and visit Austria!

Yours,
Dani
Lada Gibson-Shreve

Provost and chief academic officer named at Stark State College

(North Canton, OH – July 11, 2013) – Lada Gibson-Shreve, PhD has been named provost and chief academic officer at Stark State College. She joined the College in 1993 as a faculty member and has served in a variety of administrative positions, most recently as Stark State’s dean of liberal arts. In her new role, Gibson-Shreve will provide leadership and strategic vision to all academic functions of the College, including the learning support services necessary to ensure the diverse populations of the college achieve student success. She also will collaborate with business, industry, and community agencies to continually align College programs with the workforce needs of the region.

“I look forward to serving as provost and chief academic officer and to working with my colleagues to ensure that SSC continues to be a great college focused on our mission,” she said. “It’s through our teamwork that greatness will be achieved at Stark State.” Rising in rank from instructor to full professor and from program coordinator to department chair, she also served as dean of the general studies division and dean of the arts and sciences division. In addition to those duties, Gibson-Shreve has led the College through the accreditation process with the Higher Learning Commission of North Central Association since 2006. She continues to serve as a peer reviewer for the Association.

Gibson-Shreve earned a doctorate in sociology in a joint program of The University of Akron and Kent State University. At Marshall University she earned a master’s degree in sociology and a bachelor’s degree in business management. She also has experience as an adjunct faculty member at UA and as a lecturer at area medical facilities. Gibson-Shreve lives in Jackson Township with her husband and their sons.

Marci Cottingham, PhD (2013)

An example of "student success" at UA

Marci received two prestigious national awards while here at UA. Her paper entitled, "Learning to 'Deal' and 'De-Escalate': How Men in Nursing Manage Self and Patient Emotions" won the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Emotions Section graduate student paper award. This paper was also selected as the “first place” winner of Alpha Kappa Delta's national graduate student paper award.

In addition, her solo-authored article entitled, “Recruiting Men, Constructing Manhood: How Health Care Organizations Mobilize Masculinities as Nursing Recruitment Strategy” is forthcoming in Gender & Society, the official journal of the national organization “Sociologists for Women in Society.” This journal is ranked #1 out of 38 in Women's Studies and #7 out of 138 in Sociology. This is quite a remarkable achievement for a graduate student.

Marci also authored the second most-downloaded teaching resource on the American Sociological Association's teaching website (TRAILS).

Not only that, her previous research on gender and meals, which we featured in last years newsletter, continue to receive national media attention. Here is a link to a story from ABC News about this her paper:


Marci is a great role model for other students and her efforts are helping to realize UA's aspirations to achieve distinction (and KSU as well, since we have joint doctoral program). At minimum, she should be featured in the alumni magazine. But there is a lot more we could do to promote her work (and UA) more broadly. There are relatively few experts on male nurses and it is an interesting and newsworthy topic. I would be happy to give you more details about Marci and her work.
Undergraduate Students’ Corner and Spotlight (Featured Alumni)

Tiffani Everett (B.A., 2005)

A letter from Tiffani Everett.

From the Editor’s Desk:

Tiffani earned her B.A (Summa Cum Laude) in Sociology from the University of Akron in 2005.

I am sharing some quotes from an email sent by Tiffany to Dr. Peralta about her experiences in our department during her undergraduate days here at the University of Akron. Tiffani is finishing her PhD at the University of Georgia, Athens. More significant, she has already secured a tenure track job at Arkansas Tech University. Enjoy reading what she says about our program!

From Tiffani:

"I think back to my days in the Akron Sociology department so fondly – you all were so instrumental to my professional success, but more importantly, to my personal success. I became a much wiser, mature, responsible, and thoughtful person as a result of the amazing faculty in the department, and I am truly eternally grateful for my experiences."

"I was heavily influenced by Nancy Miller and Frank Falk. They were like surrogate parents or grandparents to me, and I still keep in touch with them (though it's been several months now).

I honestly can't imagine where I would be or WHO I would be if I had not transferred to Akron and not been placed in to Dr. Zipp's intro course because psychology was full! :) I didn't have a clue what sociology was, much less any idea that it could dramatically change the course of my life."

"Please pass on my best regards to the folks in the department there. Doctors Erickson, Feltey, Fenwick, Nofziger, Pendleton, Peralta, Takyi, Tausig, and Zipp were all around when I graduated.

I had courses with Erickson (actually research hours -- and we still keep in touch), Feltey, Fenwick, Nofziger was the soc club advisor and I was president, Tausig, and Zipp -- funny how I can remember all of that! :)

From Tiffani:

Epilogue by the Chair of our Department: Dr. Matt Lee

As you can see, Tiffani’s "Akron Experience" was a very good one. She has not forgotten all of the mentoring she received here. This is just one student and I know that we do a lot for many students. We should feel good about the impact we are making on the lives of the next generation of leaders.

As Tiffani says, it's not just "where" she is that we have impacted, we have shaped "who" she is. So as you are slogging through the sometimes thankless task of grading this week, don't lose sight of the positive impact that you are having on the lives of real people.
UA SOC DEPARTMENT: IN PICTURES

(Below: Dr. Matthew Painter, University of Wyoming and Dr. Adrianne Frech at this Year’s PAA Meeting)

Below: Members of the Oak Park Gang at one of this year’s AKD Events
UA SOC DEPARTMENT: IN PICTURES

Below: Members of the Oak Park Gang at one of this year’s AKD Events

Below: Some of our graduate student’s at this year’s SWS Annual Meeting
THE 2013 AKD BANQUET AND AWARDS

Keynote Speaker

Dr Lisa Wade, Associate Professor of Sociology at Occidental College and Founder and Co-editor of Sociological Images was the keynote speaker for this year’s AKD awards and induction ceremonies. The ceremonies took place at The Martin Center on campus and was well attended. Her presentation was titled: "Anatomy of an Outrage: Female Genital Cutting and the Politics of Acculturation."

In her address, she talked about requests from Somali immigrants to “circumcise” both their daughters and their sons, which in turn led to doctors at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle to consider offering a procedure in local clinics. The “nick” would consist of a one-centimeter incision in the clitoral hood of young girls. This lecture tells the story of this provocative idea and the vitriolic battle between feminists and physicians that ensued. In addition to being fascinating in its own right, the tale has important lessons. In particular, it illuminates the power of and problems with politicizing “culture,” with important implications of interest to anyone who cares about building multicultural democracies.

To listen to her speech given at the banquet and induction ceremony titled “Sociology is Awesome”, go to the societypages.org (see the link below):

⇒ http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2013/05/07/sociology-is-awesome-an-akd-induction-ceremony-speech/

Award Recipients, 2013

- Outstanding Service Award: Corey Stevens.
- Outstanding Teaching Award: Nicole Rosen
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Jared Rosenberger
- Peer Mentor Award: Daniela Jauk.
- Faculty Mentor Award: Dr. Robert Peralta
- Barbara Stephens Dissertation Award 1: Lia Chervenak Wiley
- Barbara Stephens Dissertation Award 2: Daniela Jauk
- Alumni Dissertation Award : Jamie Chapman
- Outstanding Undergraduate: Adam Pittman
UA SOC DEPARTMENT: IN PICTURES

Sample Pictures From the AKD Banquet

Right: The Editor & Enoch Lamptey

Left: Profs. Dick Stephen & Matt Lee (our Chair)

Right: Profs. Dick Stephen, Rob Peralta and one of the invited guests exchanging ideas at the banquet!!
FROM OUR ARCHIVES:

Some of our former graduate students posing in front of our building (Olin Hall). Can you identify or name any of them??????

Below: Some of our current graduate students at the 2013 AKD Banquet and Awards: Left: Enoch Lamptey, Middle Left: Rania Issa, Middle Right: Racheal Pesta, and Right: Joy Harvel
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:

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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.

We’d Like to Hear From You! Comments, submissions, information updates should be mailed to:

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