Welcome to the Fall 2014 edition of AKRONews, the annual newsletter of the Department of Sociology at the University of Akron.

This has been another 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 for the help of many others. So many people consistently go beyond the call of duty and it really makes my job a lot easier.

As you can see from reading the newsletter, we have had another productive year. Highlights include the Department receiving the “Seal of Excellence” from the national professional organization Sociologists for Women and Society as well as three faculty and one alum receiving the Outstanding Feminist Mentor Award at UA (p. 2). Four faculty received external funding (p. 3), several have given Keynote addresses or invited talks, and our research continues to attract significant national and international media attention. Kathy Feltey’s innovative “Hunger and Homelessness” course incorporated service learning and students awarded a $1,000 grant to a local social service agency (p. 27). I would also like to draw your attention to Janette Dill’s essay on the trade-offs involved in pink-collar work for men (p. 10), Bill Hauser’s interview (p. 19) and the recent successes of our alumni, including Fred Pestello (now President of St. Louis University) and Jeffrey Breese (now Vice President of Manchester University) on pages 17 and 18.

I am especially grateful to Mark Tausig for his generous gift that established a fund to support our graduate students. Mark is planning to retire at the end of this academic year, as is Rudy Fenwick, and we are all grateful for their many years of service. They will be missed, but the good news is that they both plan to remain in contact with the Department and the process to award them Emeritus status is already underway.

I am pleased to announce that four of our graduate students completed their PhD degrees this year (p. 25) and one of our undergraduates served as student responder at the May 2014 commencement ceremony (p. 23). Our graduate students continue to be productive and several have given presentations at conferences, received external scholarships, or contributed to publications (see page 24 for examples). We are glad that five new graduate students joined us this fall (p. 27).

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.
DEPARTMENTAL RECOGNITION

Sociologists for Women and Society [SWS]

Our department was honored as the Recipient of "The SWS Seal of Excellence" by Sociologists for Women in Society as part of their Report Card on Faculty gender Equity and Gender Scholarship for 2012. The SWS Seal of Excellence recognizes departments that demonstrate both a commitment to gender equity among their faculty and support scholarship on gender or intersectional inequality. In 2012, only 22% of departments earned this distinction.

Editor: For lack of space, we were unable to reproduce a copy of the official letter sent to the department (available upon request)!!

Feminist Mentor Awards

Drs. Jodi Henderson-Ross, Matt Lee (Chair), Kathy Feltey, Bill Hauser (Interim Dean, School of Business and an alumni of our PhD program) and Nicole Rosen, (our PhD graduate student) received the 2014 Outstanding Feminist Mentor Award presented by the Committee for Research on Women and Gender (CROW). A very nice ceremony was held on November 11, 2014 to celebrate the mentoring relationships and also present the awards to the recipients.

The Buchtelite ran a story about this today and featured a great quote about Jodi. The story is titled, "CROW gives feminist awards."

Online at: http://buchtelite.com/24825/showcase/crow-gives-feminist-awards/

Editor: As you can tell from the Buchtelite story, our department was very well-represented among the awardees. Not everyone who received the award was mentioned in the story and some of those not mentioned were from other departments. But if we include Bill as one of our own--and we do, then 5 out of the 10 awardees were sociologists. Congrats!!

President of CROW, Rachelle Smith stands with award winners Melinda Newman, William Hauser, Jodi Henderson-Ross, Kameka Fullwood Tate, and Matthew Lee (Nicholas Summers)
FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Valerie Callanan
Val (and Dr. Tom Cook, Mercyhurst University) received a $29,716 research grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Study Title: “Using Court Data to Target Groups at Highest Risk of Injury.” The study will examine if those who die early deaths from suicide, motor vehicle accidents or accidental poisoning are more court-involved at the time of their death than those who are not entangled in the courts. The research is designed to examine special sub-groups, such as military veterans, women and persons of color.

Dr. Janette Dill
Janette was awarded a 2-year subcontract from Georgia State University for a grant from the Hitachi Foundation. Study Title: "Care Team Redesign: National Evaluation Project." This grant will support two course releases and summer salary to allow Janette to work with collaborators to develop survey instruments and interview guides, collect and analyze data, and contribute to manuscripts, among other activities, to help improve patient care.

Dr. Rebecca Erickson
The American Sociological Association’s Committee on Publications has nominated Becky for the position of Editor of Sociological Theory.
Becky and Matt Lee received a $10,000 grant from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation. Study Title: Compassion for the Compassionate: Serving Those Who Serve Others.
Becky was an invited presenter for Driving the Future Conference, held at the College of Nursing, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. March 11, 2014. http://www.kent.edu/nursing/events/driving-the-future/index.cfm

Dr. Kathy Feltey
Kathy’s co-authored paper titled “The Question of Participation: Toward Authentic Public Participation in Public Administration,” which appeared in Public Administration Review (PAR) in 1998, has been selected as one of the 75 most influential articles appearing in the journal since its inception in 1940. More than 3500 articles have appeared in PAR so being selected as one of the 75 most influential is a stellar accomplishment.
The articles are now available on PAR’s 75th anniversary website, http://publicadministrationreview.org/full-list/. Links to the articles will also be featured on PAR Wiley Online http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1540-6210 as virtual issues at different times during 2014 and 2015.
Kathy was also selected as one of the presenters at the 2014 Sociology for Social Studies Workshop hosted by the University of Pittsburgh. The distinguished presenters included: Christian Caron (University of Toronto), Jessica Collett (University of Notre Dame), Nicholas Rowland (Pennsylvania State University-Altoona), & Wynne Wright (Michigan State University).

Dr. Adrianne Frech
Adrianne has been elected the new Region V representative for Alpha Kappa Delta!
Adrianne gave two invited lectures at Penn State, one to the Labor Studies department and one to Sociology. The title was “Women’s work pathways across the life course.”
FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Matthew Lee

Matt is the new President of the North Central Sociological Association. (2014-15).

Matt is serving as the Chair of the Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association, 2013-14.

Matt has been appointed the Interim Chair for the Anthropology and Classical Studies Department.

Becky and Matt received a $10,000 grant from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation for a project titled “Compassion for the Compassionate: Serving Those Who Serve Others.”

Dr. Robert Peralta

Dr. Peralta was the keynote speaker at a public lecture titled: "Sociological Perspectives on Alcohol Use and Alcohol-Related Interpersonal Violence: Why Gender, Race, and Sexuality Matter.” The lecture was organized by Hiram College’s Center for Literature and Medicine and the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation on February 6 at Hiram College, Hiram, OH.


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 a leading force in advancing scientific understanding of all aspects of drug abuse.

Rob won the Outstanding Faculty Mentoring Award. The award was presented to him by the Department’s Alpha Kappa Delta chapter.

Dr. Baffour Takyi

Baffour was invited to serve on the Reader’s Committee of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. The Washington Fellowship is the new flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). President Obama launched YALI in 2010 to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. This summer, the Washington Fellowship will bring 500 young leaders to the United States for academic coursework and leadership training and will create unique opportunities in Africa for Fellows to put new skills to practical use in leading organizations, communities, and countries.

He also served as one of the external academic program reviewers for the University at Binghamton’s (SUNY) African Studies Department.

Dr. Juan Xi

Juan's research on migration and health continues to attract the interest of scholars in her field. She has just been invited to attend two conferences this fall: one at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the other at the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung—New York Office. Her expenses are being externally funded by the latter group, which will organize a conference on Displacement in collaboration with the Displacement Research & Action Network, an initiative of the Program on Human Rights and Justice at MIT.

Dr. Jodi Henderson-Ross

Jodi received the SAGE Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award to support her travel to the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA).
Other Noteworthy News about Faculty

Several faculty members in our department, including Drs. Becky Erickson, Adriane Frech, Janette Dill, Rudy Fenwick, and Mark Tausig, have had their papers serialized in the University News. These papers are reproduced in this newsletter.

**Dr. Jodi Henderson-Ross**

Jodi has joined the Department as a College Lecturer.

**Dr. John Zipp**

I’m happy to report to you that our former chair and colleague, John Zipp, has returned to the department after five productive years in administration serving as an Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. We all welcome him back to the department!

**Dr. Mark Tausig**

I am happy to announce the creation of the Dr. Mark B. Tausig Fund. This Fund was established this year through a generous gift from Dr. Tausig to The University of Akron’s Department of Sociology. The Fund is designated to support graduate student development. This gift represents the unique appreciation Dr. Tausig has for the department’s faculty, staff, and students. In over 30 years of service Mark has shown an exemplary commitment to student success, and the establishment of this annual fund continues that commitment through philanthropy.

**Dr. Cheryl Elman**

Cheryl retired in the summer of 2013, becoming Emeritus Professor. She 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 sociopolitical 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.

**Extramural Research Grants**

Elman, Cheryl. "Racial differences in Women's Fertility in the Turn-of-the-20th Century American South." Rockefeller Foundation Archives Grant-In-Aid, awarded February 2013. This grant funded several weeks of Rockefeller Archival residence and travel 2013-2014.
New Research Finds that Sobriety and Spirituality are Linked for Adolescents.

By Dr. Matt Lee

An article 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, two-thirds 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.”

Editor’s Note:

This article received over 100 "media hits" within a week of the press release, quite an astonishing achievement. The include for example, UPI, http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2013/11/14/Sobriety-spirituality-linked-for-teens-in-treatment/UPI-3458138447845 and the Times of India, http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/relationships/parenting/Spiritual-teens-abstain-from-substance-abuse/articleshow/25769062.cms

He 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
Nurses Driven Primarily by the Desire to Help Others Are More Likely to Burn Out.

By Drs. Rebecca Erickson, Janette Dill and Jim Diefendorff

Being motivated primarily by the desire to help others may not always be a good thing, according to a recent study.

Researchers from the University of Akron have found that nurses who are driven mainly by a desire to help others, rather than by enjoyment of the work itself or the lifestyle it makes possible, are more likely to burn out on the job.

Nursing is still a female-dominated occupation, and being female is associated with being caring, nurturing, and altruistic. Therefore, the desire to help others is often assumed to be the "right" motivation for entering the field.

"We expect women to go into these jobs because they love the people that they're caring for, and this is their primary motivator," Dr. Janette Dill, one of the study authors and an assistant professor of sociology, said in a statement.

Dill added that if that cultural assumption can be changed, she says, more men might be attracted to nursing and "might not necessarily feel that their whole self has to be devoted to their patients -- that they can value their job for other reasons as well."

For the study, researchers collected and analyzed survey data from more than 7000 registered nurses in Northeast Ohio. About 90 percent were white females.

They found that nurses who pursue their career for reasons other than or in addition to the desire to help others find the job to be less stressful. That results in less burnout, better personal health, and high job commitment.

The researchers also found that nurses who are highly motivated by both the lifestyle the job provides and the ability to interact personally with patients are more satisfied with their employer and less inclined to leave their current job. The findings were presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

See:

http://www.uakron.edu/im/news/what-causes-nurse-burnout/
In an already stressful workplace, Great Recession's health effects hard to find.

By Drs. Mark Tausig and Rudy Fenwick

The Great Recession of 2007-2009 had little direct effect on the health of workers who survived the waves of job cuts that took place during that period, according to paper presented by Drs. Mark Tausig, professor of sociology, and Rudy Fenwick, an associate professor of sociology at this year’s Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, CA (August 19th 2014).

That’s the good news.

The bad news may be the reason: Increased workloads and less satisfying job duties, the highly stressful byproducts of corporate restructurings during previous economic downturns, had by 2007 become the new normal in the workplace. Because of this long-term trend, workers who remained on the job during the Great Recession were already accustomed to coping with stressful environments that posed a threat to their health.

Tausig and Fenwick based their conclusions on data collected in the biennial General Social Survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center. Their new findings contrast with their earlier research into how the 1974-1975 recessions affected workplace survivors.

Forty years ago, recession-ravaged companies sought efficiency not only by laying off workers, but also by reconfiguring the jobs of those left standing. Back then, the new experience of more work and less say in decision-making stressed those still on the payroll, Fenwick and Tausig reported in a 1994 study.

Now, they say, the demands imposed by global competition have altered work routines to the point that they mimic the effects of a recession in an earlier era. Therefore, the already rising workplace stress levels could have affected employee health independently of the fallout from the Great Recession.

The researchers also point out that the Great Recession did not affect all workers equally – younger, less-educated, and non-white workers bore the brunt of layoffs. The recession’s primary effect on health was that those groups of workers were the ones most likely to suffer the health consequences of unemployment.

"We argue that that's probably an indicator of the growing inequality in society," Tausig said.

And as companies sought more cost savings to survive the Great Recession, the makeup of the remaining workforce shifted to include more involuntarily part-time and as-needed workers.

Part-time and contingent work give employees less say over their work schedules and create more job insecurity, the researchers say – factors also related to poor health.

See:
Pink-collar jobs often a tradeoff for men

By Drs. Janette Dill, Kim Price-Glynn and Carter Rakovski

Is a man without a four-year college degree better off trying to land a well-paying but insecure job in traditionally male fields such as manufacturing or construction, or should he consider lower-paying but steadier employment in a female-dominated field?

Janette Dill, and her colleagues try to answer that question in a new study presented at the 109th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. “It’s such a hard labor market if you don’t have a college degree,” Dill says. “You’re just really shut out from jobs that pay a decent wage.” While manufacturing has been declining for decades and construction is highly cyclical, healthcare continues its steady rise. The healthcare and social assistance sector will add 5 million jobs from 2012 to 2022, accounting for nearly one-third of all job growth, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects.

Dill and sociology professors Kim Price-Glynn, of the University of Connecticut, and Carter Rakovski, of California State University-Fullerton, analyzed U.S. Census Bureau data to compare how low-skill men in male-dominated occupations fared in comparison with men in “frontline” healthcare jobs that do not require a four-year degree and are dominated by women (nursing assistants, administrative workers, and others).

They found that although male frontline healthcare workers earned less than male blue-collar workers, the blue-collar workers were more likely to be laid off. “It’s sort of a trade-off,” Dill says. “You can either go into manufacturing and make higher wages, but you may lose your job, or you can go into healthcare and have a higher degree of job stability.”

Still a stigma

The researchers found no evidence that men were leaving male-dominated occupations for frontline healthcare jobs. The lower pay, along with the stigma men may feel doing “women’s work,” are among the reasons.

However, frontline allied healthcare jobs — surgical technicians and the like, which require a two-year degree or equivalent, involve more technical expertise, and pay more than traditionally female-dominated healthcare jobs — are a different story. “We see a high rate of growth of men going into these occupations,” Dill says.

In 2001, men made up 17 percent of frontline allied healthcare workers. By the end of the decade, it was 26 percent.

The authors raise the possibility that for men without a four-year college degree, frontline allied healthcare jobs may be the ticket to a stable middle-class lifestyle they pay better and are more stable than blue-collar work.
Valerie Callanan

Dr. Callanan spoke at a special session of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) 2014 in San Francisco in honor of Austin T. Turk, who died earlier this year. One of the founding leaders of conflict criminology, and a past president of ASC, Dr. Turk’s influence on the field of criminology was profound. In the session “Honoring the Contributions of Austin T. Turk: Continuing the Discourse,” sponsored by the Section on Critical Criminology, Dr. Callanan spoke of Austin’s influence on her scholarly work, and on her life as a mentor and a dear friend.


Presentations

Elman, Cheryl, Juan Xi and Linda A. Wray. Heterogeneity in Educational Pathways: Effects on Level and Change in Self-Rated Health Status by Late Life.” American Sociological Association Annual meeting, San Francisco, August, 2014

Rebecca Erickson


Invited Talks


Erickson Rebecca J. Cleveland Clinic, Women in Healthcare Forum, General Session address, September 19, 2014, Cleveland, Ohio.

Erickson Rebecca J. Hospice of the Western Reserve Annual Conference, Keynote address. August 22, 2014, Cleveland, Ohio.

Kathy Feltey

Feltey, Kathy. “Primary Texts and Film Resources for Social Studies” at the Pitt Sociology for Social Studies Workshop at the University of Pittsburgh on October 20, 2014.

Jodi Henderson-Ross

Jodi had a teaching resource (“Measuring Crime”) accepted on TRAILS (Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology), a peer-reviewed teaching resource database organized by the ASA.

Henderson-Ross, J. “Using Dogs to Sniff Out Informal Social Control: Socio-Cultural Observations of a Gentrifying Neighborhood,” Annual Meet-

Rudy Fenwick

Presentations


Adrienne Frech

Frech, Adrienne. 2014.”Pathways to Adulthood and Changes in Health Promoting Behaviors.” Advances in Life Course Research 19:40-49

Presentations


Adrienne Frech and Sarah Damaske. 2014. Trajectories of unemployment and men’s and women’s health.” International Conference on Social Stress Research, Vancouver, British Columbia. 10 June.
Matthew T. Lee


Presentations

Johnson, Byron R., Maria E. Pagano, and Matthew T. Lee “Helping Substance Dependent Youth with Social Phobia through Service.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, San Francisco (November).


Lee, Matthew T. “Grant Writing.” North Central Sociological Association conference in Cincinnati, OH (April).


Stacey Nofziger


Robert L. Peralta


Presentations


**Baffour Takyi**


**Presentation**


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**Mark Tausig**


**Presentations**


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**Juan Xi**


Elman, Cheryl Linda Wray and Juan Xi. 2014. “Fundamental resource dis/advantages, youth health and adult educational outcomes.” Social Science Research. 43: 108-126

Cao, Yue, Nicole DiPiro, **Juan Xi**, and James S. Krause. Forthcoming. “Unmet Expectations of Adjustment and Depressive Symptoms among People with Chronic Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury.” Rehabilitation Psychology. DOI: 10.1037/a0036868.


**Presentations**


Stephen Sweet to Edit Teaching Sociology

by John Zipp, University of Akron

Teaching Sociology has been very fortunate to have had a series of outstanding editors, and their legacy will continue with the appointment of Stephen Sweet as TS’s next editor. Steve embodies the very definition of a teacher/scholar, and he already has considerable editorial experience that will benefit TS enormously. As he wrote in his editor application, “My vision is to continue to advance Teaching Sociology as the primary venue for the scholarship of teaching and learning, as well as the venue in which broader theoretical and political discussions concerning pedagogy, curriculum, and the centrality of teaching in the profession are made visible.”

Steve is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology and Department Chair at Ithaca College. Steve received his undergraduate degree at SUNY-Potsdam (1985) and his M.A. (1989) and Ph.D. (1994) at the University of New Hampshire. After stints at SUNY-Potsdam and Sloan Work and Family Careers Institute at Cornell, he joined Ithaca College in 2002.

At the risk of a good deal of oversimplification, Steve has made major contributions to teaching in three notable areas: “radical pedagogy;” research and teaching work and the family; and teaching data analysis and quantitative literacy. In each of these areas, he has engaged our colleagues through publishing important papers (e.g., five papers in Teaching Sociology, including one that has been reprinted and been the subject of published comments), books (his Data Analysis with SPSS is in its fourth edition and has helped scores of undergraduates across the last 15 years), materials for ASA’s TRAILS (Teaching Resource and Innovations Library for Sociology), and through countless workshops and presentations on teaching for a wide range of professional associations.

Given that Steve already has served for nine years on TS’s editorial board, including co-editing a special issue on cultivating quantitative literacy (2006), it is easy to see why he is a great choice for its next editor. Beyond Teaching Sociology, his editorial experience also includes guest editing for the journal Community, Work and Family and co-editing the Sloan Work and Family Encyclopedia (2007-2010). His most recent book, The Work-Family Interface (2014), includes submissions from 22 authors, and his co-edited book, The Work-Family Handbook (2006), contains 34 chapters written by leading scholars in the field.

Steve will be joined by Associate Editor Michele Lee Kozimor-King, who will manage book and film reviews. Michele is an associate professor of sociology at Elizabethtown College and has a record of meritorious teaching and dedication to innovative instruction, mentoring, and professional development of students. She has been the advisor on more than 20 award-winning student research papers and multiple student publications. She and Steve have a successful track record of working together on teaching presentations and other related initiatives. Michele’s goal is that books and films will be accepted and solicited from academic publishers and film distributors within two years of the date of publication or release. In addition, advanced undergraduate students at Elizabethtown College will assist Michele in identifying potential books and films from the latest catalogs.

Credits American Sociological Association: http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/mayjun14/ts_0514.html
Manchester’s new VP, academic dean brings leadership, strategy

Jeffrey R. Breese (PhD, 1993).

Manchester University has found its next academic leader in our own alumni Dr. Jeffrey Breese of Rockhurst University in Kansas City. Breese, whose academic specialty is sociology, comes with considerable leadership and strategic planning experience in liberal arts education. He has served two years as interim chief academic officer for Rockhurst. Breese began his new post as MU vice president and dean for academic affairs on Aug. 1 on the North Manchester campus.

"Dr. Breese understands and respects our Mission," said MU President Jo Young Switzer. "We look forward to his seasoned leadership during this challenging time in higher education."

At Rockhurst, Breese developed and implemented an Office of Institutional Effectiveness and led the University’s recent re-accreditation process. He also has served as dean of its School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

He was associate dean for the School of Education and Human Services of Marymount University in Arlington, VA. He taught at the University of Tampa and served nine years on the faculty of Saint Mary’s College, where he collaborated with students on publications and cultivated an interest in experiential and service learning.

"This would fit squarely with Manchester University’s approach to engaging students in meaningful and impactful learning experiences,” he told the MU search committee. "This would fit squarely with Manchester University’s approach to engaging students in meaningful and impactful learning experiences,” he told the MU search committee.

Breese has authored 16 peer-reviewed journal articles in sociology and edited Doing Sociology: Case Studies in Sociological Practice. He received his doctorate at University of Akron, master’s at Ohio University and bachelor’s degree at Youngstown State University, all in sociology.

Manchester University offers more than 60 areas of academic study to almost 1,400 students in undergraduate, master’s degree and four-year professional Doctor of Pharmacy program.

See: http://www.manchester.edu/News/NewDeanBreese.htm

Rachel Stein (PhD, 2008)

Rachel Stein, one of our alumni, has just won the Eberly College Outstanding Teacher Award from West Virginia University. This also makes her eligible for the WVU Foundation Awards for Outstanding Teaching. The Eberly College’s Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes the distinctive contributions of our best teachers. This is a very big honor as it shows the quality of our graduate students.

Eligibility requirements for this award include: Exceptional teaching: mastery of the subject; success in inspiring the spirit of inquiry and curiosity in students; excellent classroom presentation; contributions to student success and achievement in subsequent academic work or after graduation; distinguished work in advising students, directing independent study, theses, and dissertations; publications or other presentations of teaching methods or content; range of teaching/mentoring students in introductory through advanced contexts.

Others focus on innovation, curriculum design; innovative teaching methods; and integration of faculty research with classroom content.
ALUMNI Briefs 2

Fred P. Pestello (PhD., 1985; M.A., 81)

Saint Louis University’s new President is our own alumni Fred P. Pestello (Ph.D., 1985; M.A., 1981). Fred is currently the President of Le Moyne College (2008-Present). He served as Provost and Senior Vice President for Educational Affairs, University of Dayton between 2001 and 2008.

Jeannine A. Gailey (PhD, 2005)

Jeanine, who is currently Associate Professor at Texas Christian University published a book titled: The Hyper(in)visible Fat Woman. The book was published by Palgrave/MacMillan. Congrats!!!

Shiela Venkataswamy (M.A.)

Shiela is now on the faculty at McHenry County College in Chicago. This year, she won the NISOD Excellence in Teaching award. NISOD is National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development. Her daughter graduated from high school this year and is now a student at the Case Western Reserve - Biomedical Engineering department. Her son is also joining the Midwestern University (Chicago) to work towards a degree in medicine.

Michael Rickles (PhD, 2013)

Our department has a history of PhD graduates working in applied settings. The most recent example of this is our own Dr. Michael Rickles (PhD 2014) who has landed a job with the Metro Department of Health in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dani Jauk (PhD, 2013) with her Daughter Amani!

Editor: We enjoy hearing from you (our alumni) so please keep in touch and update us of your achievements!
Featured Alumni 1
(Graduate Students)

Bill Hauser (PhD, 1979); Interim Assistant Dean, Business School, UA

More business schools are integrating corporate responsibility and civic involvement into their traditional curricula.

Editor’s Note: The article reproduced here was originally written by Heide Aungst and appeared in the Jan/Feb 2014 Issue of InsideNews. NE Ohio’s Business Magazine
Online at: http://www.ibmag.com/Main/Archive/Social_Pursuits_12517.aspx

For a long time, George Sample didn’t have a name for it. It was just something he felt inside, a sense about what was right. Then, while getting his MBA at John Carroll University, he took a required class in corporate social responsibility and understood what he’d been feeling all along.

“It’s not just the role of business to turn a profit, but also make sure they’re supporting the community that they’re in,” Sample says. As a junior at John Hay High School, Sample had worked at the Cleveland Clinic through a partnership the health care system had set up with the school.

“My senior year, I spent the whole year with the computer department,” says Sample. When he graduated from John Hay in 1998, he went on to study computer science at John Carroll. Today, he is the manager of organizational and employee development at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Looking back, Sample knows if it hadn’t been for the Cleveland Clinic’s dedication to enriching the education of the students at John Hay, just down the street from its main campus, he may not have had such a clear path to higher education and ultimately success in business.

And that’s why he serves on boards and committees such as the United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland and the Greater Cleveland Partnership’s Commission on Economic Inclusion. At John Carroll, he recently completed a term as president of the alumni board and as a member of the board of directors.

He encourages employees to do the same because he believes in the importance of building relationships and giving back to the community.

While it isn’t new for companies to invest in their local communities or support initiatives that benefit certain causes, what does seem to be shifting is how business schools are incorporating such philosophies in the curriculum.

Some Northeast Ohio universities offer entire classes on topics such as social ethics, social entrepreneurship or corporate social responsibility. Some weave those ideas into the regular curriculum. Others offer hands-on opportunities or internships to work with a business to contribute to the greater social good. And some even offer minors or entire degrees in related areas such as sustainability or nonprofit management.

Nationally, there has been an explosion of nonprofit courses and degree programs. About 295 colleges and universities offer some type of training in the field — up from 19 in 1990, says Stuart Mendel, assistant dean of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and director of the Center for Nonprofit Policy and Practice at Cleveland State University.
Mendel also is president-elect of the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council, which is headquartered at Cleveland State and links 45 member institutions dedicated to promoting research and education in the nonprofit and philanthropy sectors.

In Northeast Ohio, Case Western Reserve University offers a master’s in nonprofit organizations; John Carroll has a master’s in nonprofit administration that undergraduate students can complete along with their bachelor’s degree by adding a fifth year of classes; and Cleveland State offers a master’s in nonprofit administration and leadership.

Yet it’s the integration of social missions into for-profit companies that has changed nonprofit management education, says Rob Fischer, director of the Case Western Reserve program.

“It’s not, ‘Hey, I want to start a nonprofit.’ It’s ‘I want to accomplish this thing for society,’” Fischer says. “So you’re seeing more fusion of the for-profit and nonprofit aims with the same structure and that creates new mechanisms for the sustainability of that work.”

The buzzword in academics and business today is “social enterprise.” But how that’s taught can differ in schools of business, social work or public policy because the definition also differs in the for-profit, nonprofit and philanthropy worlds, says Mendel.

“Nonprofits will look at social enterprise, and they’ll think it’s their mission. The mission of a nonprofit is to fill a gap in society or to provide some need,” Mendel says. “Foundations and philanthropy feel they’re social innovators.”

Alternatively, he says, for-profit business will implement programs to shrink their environmental footprint or perform community service. That’s why rather than teach a single course on corporate social responsibility, many business schools infuse the concept into the regular curriculum.

It’s an important part of the business world and of industry,” says Jennifer Johnson, associate professor of marketing at Kent State University. “Even for the majority of our students who are still pursuing jobs and careers in the for-profit industries, they’re engaged with the nonprofit industries and the service industries and socially responsible business practices throughout their careers.”

While bottom-line growth remains a priority, many companies are measuring their impact on society and the environment as well. “There was a big shift that went on in the ’90s,” says Johnson. “There was an understanding that if we wanted to have more ethical practices in industry, we had to be teaching our business students to behave in a more ethical and responsible way.”

Bill Hauser, assistant dean and associate professor of marketing in the College of Business Administration at the University of Akron, says that ultimately customers are more loyal to companies that they can trust — those that show they care about their community, the environment or social justice — not just that they operate with integrity.

“You’re supposed to be ethical, but it doesn’t necessarily mean you’re going to go out and help someone else,” Hauser says. Businesses have moved from looking inward at the integrity and ethics of the business itself to today’s outward initiatives to help others and the environment — and business schools have had to keep up with teaching about the trends.

That transformation started in the ’90s when John Elkington, a leader in the movements of corporate responsibility and sustainability first coined the term “triple bottom line,” which evaluates a company’s performance as it affects profit, people and planet.

Businesses recognized that there’s more to being a good corporate citizen than making money. A truly successful business also will take care of the environment and pay attention to social justice issues. In other words, a profitable company dumping pollution into the local river or using child labor overseas in its manufacturing plant would fail from a societal cost-benefit analysis.

Tina Facca-Miess, assistant professor of marketing at John Carroll, integrates the triple bottom line into her classes by examining case studies of companies that build their businesses this way. She cites Toms, for example, the popular shoe company that has marketed to high school and college students with its one-for-one business model. For every pair of shoes Toms sells, it gives a pair of shoes to a person in need in 60 different countries — allowing consumers to feel good about their purchases. “We’re in business to change lives,” Toms promotes on its website.
Looking at innovative business models, such as Toms, as a way to solve problems appeals to the millennial generation, says Facca-Miess. “The idea is to teach them to do more than just fundraising,” she says. “We’ve got to figure out how to solve problems. That’s what’s so fun about younger students. They’re innovative. They can think outside the box and come up with solutions.”

In his classes, Hauser cautions his students that a critical component of a business enterprise is to understand the community or country where you will be implementing a program. “Many people in business think solely of ethics when you mention social responsibility,” Hauser says. “There are actually two components of social responsibility. The first is ethics. The second is sensitivity to other people, groups and cultures.”

Hauser tells his students that it is just as important to understand the culture of different areas of the United States as it is other countries. Still, international travel is an integral part of how many students get to experience other cultures and giving back on an international scale.

“The more globalized business has become, the broader the stakeholders,” says Kent State’s Johnson. “It’s no longer about simply being socially responsible in your own country, but understanding how the impact of your decisions affect people in other countries, affect people in developing countries, and affect the global environment as a whole.” That mentality resonates with today’s current generation.

That mentality resonates with today’s current generation.

“Students today are aware that they are at the top of this pyramid and two-thirds of the world are at the bottom of it, and how lucky they are, and it’s their responsibility to give something back,” says Facca-Miess who takes John Carroll students to Honduras for an immersion experience in which they teach business skills to deeply impoverished people.

“I see that as a major trend in the future, more one-on-one communication,” she says. “We’re going to build relationships with people who are less fortunate, and as we build those relationships, that’s when things can really be nurtured and things can really change.”

That mentality resonates with today’s current generation.

In international markets, social entrepreneurship is a concept that picks up where corporate social responsibility leaves off. Often, a social entrepreneur will start a business as a way to solve a pressing issue.

“What resonates with them is ‘How can I leave the world a better place than when I came in?’” Facca-Miess says. In fact, many experts say that student demand is driving the new academic emphasis on teaching the side of businesses doing good.

Case Western Reserve’s Fischer credits the generation raised on community service initiatives often required to graduate from high school. “You have this generation of students who are in school now who are really into social media and interacting and civil society, and all of that lends itself to wanting to give back,” Cleveland State’s Mendel adds.

Douglas Brattebo, director of Hiram College’s Center for Engaged Ethics, says that today’s students question everything when they go out into the work world.

“Students hunger for a sense of overarching meaning and purpose that encompasses both their personal and work lives,” says Brattebo. “The idea of compartmentalizing work as merely something that provides money so a person can engage in meaningful activities in all the other aspects of life does not make sense to any of them.”

Brattebo teaches an undergraduate course at Hiram called the Ethics of Making Money in which students read the book Money and the Pursuit of Happiness: In Good Times and Bad by Richard Trachtman. The course examines “the tension between an employee’s sense of ethics and profit-driven imperatives of the corporation and the rise of corporate social responsibility,” he says.

The heart of the course, however, entails beckoning students to take all of this knowledge and look inward to come to terms with their own attitudes about and relationships with money and the roles that will play in their plans for life — in their work, their family dynamics, and their overall happiness,” he explains. In the field of social responsibility, the link between money and happiness must be examined because employees of nonprofits generally make less money than those working for a for-profit company, especially at the entry level.
“You’re asking people to make an investment in their career, in their passion for the world, and then accept what’s ultimately a lower salary than they might get if they went a different direction,” Fischer says. It’s a sacrifice they’re willing to make because of the intangible benefits of being in organizations that care deeply about a mission.

“I think they all want to be on a trajectory of leadership in organizations and enhanced compensation,” he says. “But in the short term, they’re willing to have a big effect without the big paycheck.” And, students are more discerning when choosing companies to work for. George Sample recently co-founded John Carroll’s Diverse Alumni Network, and through it works frequently with current students.

“Students want to know what their companies stand for; how they’re helping the community; or how they serve those whose mission it is to serve,” Sample says. In fact, those are questions he looked into when he joined the sewer district in 2012 after receiving his MBA from John Carroll. He discovered the organization has a socially responsible mission to protect Lake Erie and an initiative that provides opportunities for small, minority-owned, and women-owned business to get some of the district’s construction business, which contributes to the region’s economic health. “The tagline of John Carroll is ‘Men and Women for Others,’” Sample says. “You’re going to get an education, but you’re also here for the greater good to make sure we can help out those who are less fortunate than we are.”

Alumni Briefs 4

A Letter to the Chair, Dr. Matt Lee

As you know, I am honored and proud to have received all three of my degrees from the Sociology Department. The skills learned in the Department of Sociology at UA have strongly influenced my entire career from postdoctoral research on TV ads and student drinking behavior, being a desegregation analyst for St. Louis Board of Education, a senior researcher/grants writer for a military contractor, head of market research for two Fortune 500 companies and a Senior Vice President/Director at a bank.

Now as the interim assistant dean in business, associate professor in Marketing and past co-creator and director of an institute and research laboratory, I have even more ways to demonstrate how useful sociology is to business. I only mention this to demonstrate that there are many, many ways for your sociology students to practice those skills that they have learned from an excellent department and faculty. Thank you for considering me as one of your own. Bill.

Editor: Bill Hauser is the Interim Assistant Dean of UA’s School of Business

Publications

Marci D. Cottingham (PhD, 2013)


Rachel Stein (PhD, 2008)


Rachel Stein, one of our alumni, has won the Eberly College Outstanding Teacher Award from West Virginia University. This also makes her eligible for the WVU Foundation Awards for Outstanding Teaching.
Featured Alumni: Undergraduate Spotlight

I also have signed a contract with a food service company. I am the first person from my department to have a job. I am the Clinical Nutrition Manager of a 200+ bed long-term care & skilled care facility in East Cleveland...10 minutes from Case, and they are going to be paying for my masters! (Another thing I wouldn't have thought about doing without the two of you!).

I am the student responder for the College of Health Professions commencement ceremony. I wanted you both to know that it is mostly you that I am referring to in my speech. Thank you so much for everything.

Veronica

Editor: Veronica was selected as the student responder for the May 2014 UA commencement activities.

life-affirming experiences!

By Veronica Leibchen (B.A., 2014) (Summa Cum Laude), Sociology and Dietetics

Dr. Takyi & Dr. Erickson,

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to the both of you. Thanks to all that I have learned from the two of you, I won our department’s United Way grant to start a food pantry at CANAPI in Akron. In fact, I even wrote a research component into it that is going before IRB this summer, and the grant and research is going to be presented at some hunger conferences around the country over the next year. And, I’m starting a community nutrition grant-writing consulting side business! Because grant-writing is just like research! I never knew!

Anazette Hudson (B.A., 2010)

Anazette Hudson who was an honors student and majored in Sociology has been accepted into the TESOL/Literacy & Second Language Studies graduate program at the University of Cincinnati this fall. She is currently in South Korea teaching.

Editor: It's always nice to get an update from a successful graduate.
Some Scenes From our 2014 Xmas Party
GRADUATE STUDENTS’ NEWS Brief

Publications, Presentations & Recognitions


Joy Harvell

Joy 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.”

Melody Sherard-Redman

Sherard-Redman, Melody. 2014. Presided and presented at a round-table session on Crime, Law and Deviance at the San Francisco ASA Meeting. Her paper was titled; "The Effects of a Modern Day Peculiar Institution: Mass Incarceration and the Exclusion of the Black Family.”

Peter Barr

Peter received an ICPSR Clifford C. Clogg Scholarship in Sociology to participate in the 2014 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research.

The Clogg Scholarships are awarded annually to a handful of outstanding potential graduate students in sociology and political science in memory of the late Clifford C. Clogg, a prominent sociologist and social methodologist.

Peralta, Robert L., Jeannette Wade, Juan Xi, Peter Barr and Jennifer Steele. “Alcohol Abstinence: The Role of Socio-cultural Attitudes in Race-Based Alcohol Use Disparities among College Students.” Presented at the National Hispanics Network on Drug Abuse Meeting, El Pas, TX Sept.

Enoch Lamptey


Jeannette Wade

Peralta, Robert L., Jeannette Wade, Juan Xi, Peter Barr and Jennifer Steele. “Alcohol Abstinence: The Role of Socio-cultural Attitudes in Race-Based Alcohol Use Disparities among College Students.” Presented at the National Hispanics Network on Drug Abuse Meeting, El Pas, TX Sept.

Wade, Jeannette. “Overexposed: The Case of African Americans and Fast Food.” Meeting of the Association of Humanist Sociologists: Cleveland, OH
Professor Kathryn Feltey and Graduate Teaching Associate Marcella Mulhollem incorporated a “Pay it Forward” service-learning/philanthropy project into a Special Topics Sociology class on Hunger & Homelessness in the Spring 2014 semester and awarded a $1000 grant to Mobile Meals. For more information on this project, click [here].

Kristen Santos


Racheal Pesta

PhD Graduates, 2014

Dr. Jodi A. Henderson-Ross

Jodi successfully defended her dissertation titled "Informal Social Control in Action: Neighborhood Context, Social Differentiation, and Selective Efficacy" on February 28th. Her committee members were Drs. Kathryn Feltey (Chair), Matthew Lee, John Zipp, Tiffany Taylor, (Kent State University), William Lyons and Brent Teasdale (Georgia State University).

Editor: Jodi is currently a College Lecturer in our department.

Dr. Lia Chervenak Wiley

Lia successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled, “Alcohol Use Trajectories & The Transition into Young Adulthood: An Examination of Crime, Sex, and Gender,” on Thursday, March 20th at 8am in CAS 124. Her committee members were Drs. Robert L. Peralta (Chair), Cheryl Elman, Adrienne M. Frech, Richard E. Adams (Kent State Sociology), and Dawn M. Johnson (UA Counseling Psychology).

Dr. Elizabeth Grossman

Dissertation Title: “An Examination of Putnam’s, Coleman’s, and Bourdieu’s Conceptualizations of Social Capital and the Structural Differences Across Class, Race, and Gender Groups.”
Chairs: Dr. Becky Erickson

Dr. Monica Merrill

Dissertation Title: “Defensive Behaviors on College Campuses: The Role of Fear, Perceived Risk, Perceived Motivation and Past Exposure to Sexual Victimization.”
Chairs: Dr. Emily Ascencio

MA Graduates, 2014

Kelsey L. Risman

Thesis Title: “Individual Empathy, Person-Organization Fit, and Patient Care Quality: The Moderating Effect of Cohesion.”
Chair: Dr. Becky Erickson
FROM OUR ARCHIVES
THE 2014 AKD BANQUET AND AWARDS

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Ruth D. Peterson (Professor Emerita) at Ohio State University in Columbus, and former Director of the Criminal Justice Research Center (from 1999 to 2011) was the keynote speaker for this year’s Annual AKD Award and banquet.

Dr. Peterson’s research focuses on community conditions and crime, racial and ethnic inequality in patterns of crime, and the consequences of criminal justice policies for racially and ethnically distinct communities. With Lauren J. Krivo, Peterson co-authored Divergent Social Worlds: Neighborhood Crime and the Racial-Spatial Divide (Russell Sage Foundation 2010). With Lauren J. Krivo and John Hagan, she was the co-editor of The Many Colors of Crime published by New York University Press (2006). Her presentation dealt with some of the findings from her research with Lauren J. Krivo on Crime.

AKD Officers, 2014-15

- President: Marcella Mulhollem
- Vice Presidents: Breanna Stewart & Katie Newton
- Treasurer: Courtney Blue
- Social Chair: Laura Niehaus
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Adrianne Frech

Award Recipients, 2014

Outstanding Graduate Student: Marci Cottingham
Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award: William LeSuer
Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award: Jeannette Wade
Patricia Conley Peer Mentoring Award: William LeSuer
Faculty Mentor Award: Dr. Robert Peralta
Barbara Stephens Dissertation Award: Kasey Lansberry
Departmental Awards and Scholarships for Graduate Students

THE BENJAMIN ROSE INSTITUTE RESEARCH AWARD

This award is awarded yearly to a qualified applicant with an interest in gerontology, family, health and life course issues. Under the award, the recipient have the opportunity to fulfill their research assistantship at the Benjamin Rose Institute, an internationally known gerontology research center in Cleveland, Ohio. This award is generally offered to Ph.D. student, but a qualified second year MA may be considered.

THE ROGLER MERIT ASSISTANTSHIP

The Rogler Merit Assistantship is a 12-month Ph.D. assistantship, named "The Rogler Merit Assistantship" may be awarded yearly on a competitive basis by the Department Chair in consultation with the Graduate Studies Committee. Students who have successfully completed their comprehensive exams and have started work on their dissertation proposal or the dissertation itself are the most appropriate applicants for this award. The assistantship recognizes students who have excelled in their course work, exams, and departmental and disciplinary activities. This assistantship is a signal honor that also assures summer funding for teaching and student-directed research. It is awarded depending on the committee’s decision about the availability of a worthy recipient.

THE BARBARA J. STEPHENS AWARD

This award provides financial assistance to graduate students conducting dissertations in the areas of health and social policy research. It was set up by Professor Dick Stephens (Emeritus) in memory of her wife who passed away in —. 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.

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.

THE MARK B. TAUSIG AWARD

This Fund was established in 2014 through a generous gift from Professor Tausig to the Department. The Fund is designated to support graduate student development.
DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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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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FACULTY RESEARCH

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:

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

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