

## THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO RISE NATIONALLY

“... It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. . .”

Everyone around the country is feeling this one. But we have had a terrific year, despite the effects of the economic downturn. We have continued our rise in the national rankings: The Department was ranked 56<sup>th</sup> in the nation by *US News and World Report*, up from 57<sup>th</sup> place last year and 58<sup>th</sup> the year before.

The Department has also received the **Sociologists for Women in Society's (SWS) Seal of Excellence** for gender equity and scholarship. Only 29 doctoral granting institutions nationally received this award, and the Department was among 18 of the 60 most prestigious doctoral programs in the nation to be so awarded.

We have doubled the amount of external grant money we bring in, and the number of faculty bringing in that money has increased significantly. And we have seen a strong rise in published research. That scholarship includes an increase in coauthored work between faculty and graduate students, a lovely indicator of an increasingly robust mentoring system.

And in spite of the budget restrictions everyone around the nation is feeling, we were able to recruit a very strong and impressive incoming graduate cohort. We are looking forward to continuing to build on these strengths in the coming years. Stay tuned. . . .

## SCHOLARSHIP: BOOKS

Giuseppe Caforio, Gerhard Kuemmel, and **Bandana Purkayastha**, (eds.) *Armed Conflict and Conflict Resolution: Sociological Perspectives*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Press.

**Anjana Narayan (PhD 2006)** and **Bandana Purkayastha**, *Living Our Religions: South Asian Hindu and Muslim Women Narrate Their Experiences*. Bloomfield: Kumarian Press.

**Manisha Desai**, *Gender and the Politics of Possibilities*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield.

**Deric Shannon** (co- editor ), *Contemporary Anarchists Studies: An Introductory Anthology of Anarchy in the Academy* (Routledge).



**Arnold Dashefsky** and Bernard Lazewitz, *Charitable Choices: Philanthropic Decisions of Donors in the American Jewish Community*.

**Gaye Tuchman**, *Wannabe U: Inside the Corporate University* (University of Chicago Press).

Scott Barclay, **Mary Bernstein**, and Anna Marie Marshall (eds.), *Queer Mobilizations: LGBT Activists Confront the Law* (NYU Press).

**Nancy Naples** and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz (eds.), *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men*, by Lionel Cantu (NYU Press).

**Clint Sanders** (ed.), *Between the Species: Readings in Human-Animal Interaction* (Allyn-Bacon).

## SCHOLARSHIP: JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Kim Price**, "Keeping the Dancers in Check': The Gendered Organization of Stripping Work in The Lion's Den." In *Gender & Society*.

**Katie Acosta**, "Lesbianas in the Borderlands: Shifting Identities and Imagined Communities." In *Gender & Society*.

**Mustafa Gurbuz (MA 2008)**, "Which 'Right' Islam?" Response to Amitai Etzioni, "Will the Right Islam Stand Up?" in *Sociological Forum*.

**Simon Cheng**, "Multiracial Self-Identification and Adolescent Outcomes: A Social Psychological Approach to the Marginal Man Theory." In *Social Forces*.

**Maya Beasley** wrote a white paper on counterterrorism for the Department of Defense. The paper was sponsored by the Joint Staff J3, Strategic Global Innovation and Strategy Center and Office of the Secretary of Defense Department of Development Research and Engineering, and written in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security and Air force Research Laboratory as part of a "strategic multilayer assessment project."

**Arnold Dashefsky** and Ira M. Sheskin, "Jewish Population in the US, 2008." In *The American Jewish Year Book*.

**Andrew Deener**, "The 'Black Section' of the Neighborhood: Collective Visibility and Collective Invisibility as Sources of Place Identity." In *Ethnography*.

**Angie Beeman, Davita Silfen Glasberg**, and Colleen Casey, "Whiteness as Property: Predatory Lending and the Reproduction of Racialized Inequality." In *Critical Sociology*.

**William T. Armaline (PhD, 2007)** and **Davita Silfen Glasberg**, "What Will States Really Do for Us: The Human Rights Enterprise and Pressure From Below." In *Societies Without Borders*.

**Rebecca Willman**, "Coming Out When You're Not Really In: Coming Out as a Teachable Moment." In *Feminism & Psychology*.

**Andrew Deener**, "Forging Distinct Paths Towards Authentic Identity: Outsider Art, Public Interaction, and Identity Transition in an Informal Market Context." In *The Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

**Michael Wallace, Andrew Fullerton (PhD, 2007)**, and **Mustafa Gurbuz**, "Union Organizing Effort and Success in the US, 1948-2004." In *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*.

**Amanda Moras**, "Paid Domestic Work: Resisting an Employer Identity." In *Journal of Workplace Rights*.

**Amanda Moras**, "Color Blind Discourses in Paid Domestic Work: Foreignness and the Delineation of Alternative Racial Markers." In *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

**Maura Kelly**, "Women's Voluntary Childlessness: A Radical Rejection of Motherhood?" In *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

**Maura Kelly**, "Virginity Loss Narratives in 'Teen Drama' Television Programs." In *Journal of Sex Research*.



Ana Pomery, Guillermo Rebello-Gil, John Foster, and **Amanda Moras**, "Latinidad and Masculinidad in Hollywood Scripts." In *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Melanie Hinjosa Sberna and **Amanda Moras**, "Challenging Colorblind Education: A Descriptive Analysis of Teacher Racial Attitudes." *Research and Practices in Social Sciences*

**Claudio Benzecry**, "Becoming a Fan: On the Seductions of Opera." *Qualitative Sociology*.

**Kim Price**, "Caring Labour, Intersectionality, and Worker Satisfaction: An Analysis of the National Nursing Assistant Study (NNAS)". *Sociology of Health and Illness*.

J. Craig Jenkins, **Michael Wallace**, and **Andrew S. Fullerton (PhD 2007)**, "A Social Movement Society? A Cross-National Analysis of Protest Potential." *International Journal of Sociology*.

**Michael Wallace, Casey Borch (PhD 2007)**, and **Gordon Gauchat**, "Military Keynesianism in the Post-Vietnam War Era: A View from the American States." *Journal of Political and Military Sociology*.

**David Weakliem** and **Brad Wright**, "Testing Semi-Parametric Models." *Sociological Methods and Research*.

**Brad Wright**, "The Effect of Race on Crime." *Journal of Research on Crime and Delinquency*.

**Wes Younts**, "Reconsidering the Relationship Between Race and Crime: Positive and Negative Predictors of Crime Among African American Youth." *Journal of Research on Crime and Delinquency*.

## SCHOLARSHIP: ARTICLES IN EDITED COLLECTIONS

**Susan Eisenhandler**, "The Rose and the Thorn" in James W. Ellor (ed.), *Handbook of Methods in the Study of Religion, Spirituality and Aging* (Routledge).

**Deric Shannon**, "'As Beautiful as a Brick Through a Bank Window': Anarchism, the Academy, and Resisting Domestication," in *Contemporary Anarchist Studies: An Introductory Anthology of Anarchy in the Academy*.

**Claudio Benzecry**, "El amor por la opera. Una tipología explicada." In F. Monjeau (ed.), *Historia del Teatro Colon*.

**Mary Bernstein**, Anna-Marie Marshall, and Scott Barclay, "The Challenge of Law: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Social Movements." In Scott Barclay, **Mary Bernstein**, and Anna Marie Marshall (eds.), *Queer Mobilizations: LGBT Activists Confront the Law*.

**Mary Bernstein**, "The Analytic Dimensions of Identity." In Jo Reger, Rachel Einwohner, and Daniel Myers (eds.), *Identity Work*.

**Bandana Purkayastha**, "Building a Fabric of Peace: Notes From the Field." In Giuseppe Caforio, Gerhard Kuemmel, and **Bandana Purkayastha**, (eds.) *Armed Conflict and Conflict Resolution: Sociological Perspectives*. (Amsterdam: Elsevier Press).

**Clint Sanders**, "Colorful Writing: Doing and Living with a Tattoo Ethnography." In Anthony Puddephat, William Shaffir, and Steven Kleinknecht (eds.), *Ethnography Revisited* (Routledge).

**Michael Wallace** and David Brady, "Globalization or Spatialization? The Worldwide Spatial Restructuring of the Labor Process and its Consequences." In Terry McDonough, Michael Reich, and David Kotz (eds.), *Social Structures of Accumulation: The Political Economy of Growth and Crisis* (Cambridge University Press).

**Andrew Fullerton (PhD 2007)**, **Michael Wallace**, and Michael J. Stern, "Multilevel Models in the Study of Politics: Concepts, Methods, and Applications." In Kevin T. Leicht and J. Craig Jenkins (eds.), *Handbook of Politics: State and Civil Society in Global Perspective* (Springer).

**Nancy Naples**, "Policing the Borders in the Heartland" in Samuel Martinez (ed.), *International Migration and Human Rights: The Global Repurcussions of US Policy* (University of California Press).

**Nancy Naples**, "Reflections on a Feminist Career" in Alice Ginsberg (ed.), *Evolutions of American Women's Studies: Reflections of Triumphs, Controversies, and Change* (Macmillan, St. Martin's Press).

**Bandana Purkayastha**, **Mangala Subramaniam (PhD, 2003)**, **Manisha Desai**, and Sunita Bose, "Gender Scholarship in India: A Partial Review." in Christine Bose (ed.), *Global Gender Research: Transnational Perspectives* (Routledge).

**Andrew Deener**, "The Decline of a Black Community by the Sea: Demographic and Political Changes in Oakwood," in Darnell Hunt (ed.), *Black Los Angeles: Race, Community, and the American Dream* (NYU Press).

## RESEARCH GRANTS

The department's grant funding totaled more than a half million dollars:

**Maya Beasley** was awarded a Department of Defense grant of \$250,000 for her work on counterterrorism.

**Nancy Naples** and **Mary Bernstein** were awarded a major NSF grant (\$162k) for their project, "Family Policy, Social Movements, and the Law."

**Arnie Dashefsky's** grant for the Jewish Data Base continued this year.

**Mary Fischer** received a grant of nearly \$35,000 from AERA (American Educational Research Association).



**Bob Broadhead** received an NIH grant of \$110,000 to continue his research on HIV prevention.

**Claudio Benzecry** was awarded a Small Faculty Grant from the UConn Research Foundation for "The Operatic Fanatic: Sociology of an Obsession."

**Mary Bernstein** was awarded a Small Faculty Grant from the UConn Research Foundation to complete her edited collection, *Queer Mobilizations: LGBT Activists Confront the Law* (NYU Press).

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

**Lisa Bogardus** presented her work at the 26th Annual Qualitative Analysis Conference in Waterloo, Canada.

Thirteen faculty members and eight graduate students presented papers or served on panels at the ASA conference in Boston this year. Among the faculty were **Mary Bernstein, Simon Cheng, Jim Defronzo, Anita Garey, Davita Silfen Glasberg, Phoebe Godfrey, Amanda Moras, Kim Price, Bandana Purkayastha, Ruth Simpson, Lisa Troyer, Michael Wallace, David Weakliem, and Brad Wright**. The graduate students were **Gordon Gauchat, Jungyun Gill, Jamie Gusrang, Tom Hochschild, Maura Kelly, Shweta Majumdar, Tom Volscho, and Christine Zozula**.



Sociology Department members clearly had a wonderful time sharing scholarly interests as well as enjoying each other's company at the SWS meeting in Savannah, GA this year. L-R: Angie Beeman, Manisha Desai, Rebecca Willman, Helen Raisz (Trinity College and Central Connecticut State University), Sergio Mobilia, Bandana Purkayastha, Chandra Waring, Ranita Ray, and Barret Katuna.

The department was well-represented at the SWS conference in Savannah in February. **Bandana Purkayastha** (Deputy Editor of *Gender & Society*) and **Manisha Desai** (Director of Women's Studies) attended with 6 of our graduate students. **Ranita Ray** and **Rebecca Willman** each presented papers. **Chandra Waring** and **Angie Beeman** attended as part of their SWS Award. Also attending were **Sergio Mobilia** and **Barret Katuna**. **Sergio, Barret, and Ranita** will now serve on the International Committee; **Barret** will serve on the UN Subcommittee; and **Chandra** and **Angie** will serve on the Sister-to-Sister Task Force.

Sixteen graduate students and four faculty members presented papers or served on panels at UConn's 21st Annual Conference on Women and Gender, "Ecofeminism in a Transnational World." The faculty were **Manisha Desai, Phoebe Godfrey, Nancy Naples, and Bandana Purkayastha**. The graduate students were **Mary Burke, Gordon Gauchat, Dina Giovanelli, Barbara**

**Gurr, Jamie Gusrang, Miho Iwata, Maura Kelly, Shweta Majumdar, Nikki McGary, Jayme Schwartzman, Deric Shannon, and Rebecca Willman**.

Four faculty and seven graduate students presented papers or served on panels at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore. The faculty were **Maya Beasley, Anita Garey, Davita Silfen Glasberg, Amanda Moras, and Michael Wallace**. The graduate students were **Katie Acosta, Medora Barnes, Ayanna Bledsoe, Gordon Gauchat, Rachel Leventhal-Weiner, Lwendo Moonzwe, and Lauren Sardi Ross**.



**Bob Broadhead** presented his work with Alexandra Dtsenko on HIV intervention projects at the 20th Annual Intervention Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, Bangkok, Thailand. He also presented his work with Oksana Datsenko, Oksana Matiyash, Luidmyla Shulga, Pavlo Smyrnov, Valerii L. Volkanevsky, **Gordon Gauchat**, and **Casey Borch (PhD 2007)** at the 5th European Conference on Clinical Social Research on AIDS and Drugs, Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Claudio Benzecry** presented his paper, "Becoming an Opera Fan: Seductions of Opera," at the First ISA Sociology Forum, International Sociological Association, Barcelona.

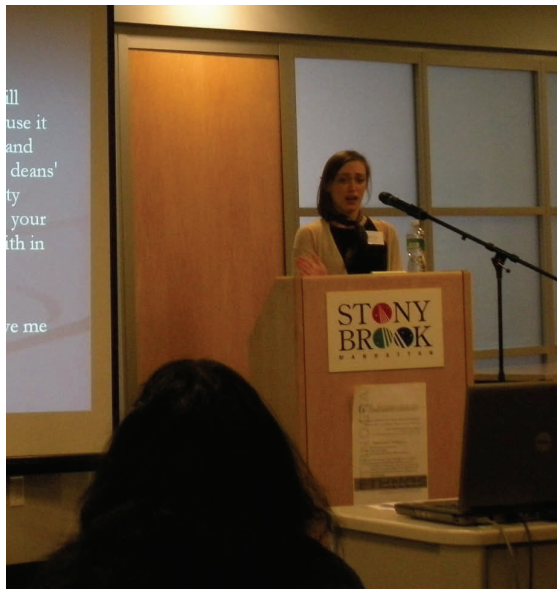
**Arnie Dashefsky** presented his paper, "Crossing Boundaries and Jewish Journeys: Interfaith Marriage in the US" at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion. He also presented his paper, "The Distancing Hypothesis Reassessed: Israel Attachments in Local Community Studies" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies.

**Andrew Deener** presented his paper, "Sanctifying Neighborhood Identity: Oakwood as a 'Black Neighborhood'" at the Yale University's Urban Ethnography Conference.

**Susan Eisenhandler** presented her paper, "Yes, in My Backyard—A Buddhist Temple Moves into the Neighborhood: Responses from Residents of a Retirement Community" at the Gerontological Society of America.

**Christine Zozula** presented her work at the SUNY-Stony Brook 6th Annual Student Ethnography Conference.

**Andrew Deener** was one of three faculty invited as commentators.



Christine Zozula presented her work at the SUNY-Stony Brook 6th Annual Student Ethnography Conference.



Andrew Deener was an invited commentator at the SUNY-Stony Brook 6th Annual Student Ethnography Conference.

**Nancy Naples** presented her Presidential Address, "Crossing Borders: Community Activism, Globalization, and Social Justice," at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She also gave an invited lecture, "Women's Activism and Globalization," at St. John's University, and "Women's Community Based Activism and Globalization," at the Center for Urban and Global Studies at Trinity College.

**Bandana Purkayastha** presented her paper, "Interrogating Intersectionality: Contemporary Globalization and Racialized Gendering in the Lives of Highly Educated South Asian Americans and Their Children," and her paper with Margaret Abraham, "Pitfalls and Possibilities of Action Research in Addressing Domestic Violence," at the International Sociological Association in Barcelona. She also presented her paper with Shobha Hamal Gurung, "Dynamics of Gendered Labor: Experiences of Nepali Women in Informal Labor Markets in Boston and New York," at the Conference on Low-Wage Work, Migration, and Gender at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

**Clint Sanders** presented his paper, "Conducting and Living with a Tattoo Ethnography" at the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Boston.

**David Weakliem** presented a paper at the Workshop on Social Divisions and Political Choices at Nuffield College, Oxford.

## FACULTY AWARDS

**Nancy Naples** received the UConn Alumni Association Faculty Excellence Award in Research (Humanities/Social Sciences).

**Clint Sanders** was accepted as a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Davita Silfen Glasberg** was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest national honor society.

**Claudio Benzecry** was nominated to be a Faculty Fellow at the Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University.

**Ingrid Semaan** was recognized for Excellence in Program Development in Women's Studies at the International Conference on Girls at Southern Connecticut State University.

**Bandana Purkayastha** received the Graduate Students' Faculty Mentoring Award. This is a student-initiated and student-run award given to the faculty member they believe provided the best professional mentoring for them. It is the second such award to Bandana. Clearly she is highly valued by the graduate students!



## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

**Gordon Gauchat** and **Mustafa Gurbuz** were co-recipients of the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

**Lauren Sardi Ross** received the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

ceived the Roper Center Mitofsky Award for Excellence in Public Opinion Research for her paper, "The Impact of Social Capital on Gender Differences in Health." Mike Wallace was her faculty advisor.

**Tom Volscho** and **Barbara Gurr** were selected as Graduate Student Mentors for the 2008 Northeast Alliance Summer Research Program for Minority Students at UConn.

**Lisa Bogardus** received the Ron Taylor Award for her paper, "The Bolt Wars: Defining Cultural Norms in the Social World of Rock Climbing."

**Angie Beeman** received the Women's Studies Teaching Excellence Award.

**Chandra Waring** and **Angie Beeman** received Minority Graduate Student Scholarships for the SWS conference.

**Angie Beeman** received the Racial/Ethnic Minorities Graduate Scholar Award given by the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Eight undergraduate majors were initiated into Phi Beta

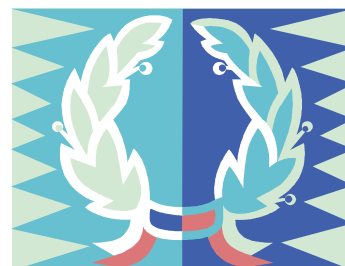
**Gordon Gauchat** received the Hogan Graduate Summer Research Award.

**Dina Giovanelli** received the 100 Years of Women Scholarship Award from the Women's Center.

**Chandra Waring** received the

Best Student Paper Award from the Association of Black Sociologists for her paper, "The Racial Remix: How Biracial Americans Conceptualize and Situationally Reconceptualize Race."

**Annie Scola Wisnesky** re-



## UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Kappa: **Nicholas B. Arnsten, John Christopher Bailey, Christopher Michael Donnelly** (who will be joining us in the Fall as a graduate student), **Joshua James Faucher, Laura Lynne Gasiorek, Samatha Grayeck, Lindsey Rachel Itzkowitz, and Megan Mary Vena**. Well done and kudos to all!

The Janet M. Fierberg Scholarship Award winners this year were **Christopher Donnelly, Mia Freedenfeld, and Stephanie Jacobs** (Social Work).

## ALUMNI AND EMERITI ACTIVITIES



**Nechama Tec's** book, *Defiance*, was featured in a *Daily Campus* article discussing the book's transference to the screen in a feature film starring Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, and Jamie Bell. The book documents the story of the largest armed rescue of Jews during the Holocaust.

**Prof. Florence Maatita (PhD 2003)** was granted tenure and promoted to Assoc. Prof. at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

**Beth Merenstein-Frankel (PhD 2004)** was granted tenure and promoted to Assoc. Prof. at Central Connecticut State University.

**Ken Neubeck** participated in an Economic Justice Workshop hosted by the UConn Human Rights Institute. He currently lives in Eugene, Oregon, working as a Human Rights activist.

**Steve Harvey (MA)** is now in Law School at the University of Colorado, and interned at Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network. He has published his first sociologically-inspired novel, *A Conspiracy of Wizards*.

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## AROUND UCONN

**Gaye Tuchman** was appointed to the Faculty Standards Committee of the University Senate.

**Kay Ratcliff** and **Davita Silfen Glasberg** were appointed to the Advisory Committee for the University of Connecticut Undergraduate Public Health Initiative.

**Davita Silfen Glasberg** has been appointed to the Provost's Commission on the Status of Women, and serves on the Family Roles Subcommittee.

**Kay Ratcliff** was elected to the Faculty Senate and serves on the Chair of the Senate's Standing Committee for Student Welfare.

**Mike Wallace** was a panelist at the CLAS first Interdisciplinary Forum on Poverty and Economic Inequality. **Davita Silfen Glasberg** chaired the forum.

**Gaye Tuchman** has been appointed to the Diversity Committee of the University Senate.

**Clint Sanders** was a panelist at the CLAS third Interdisciplinary Forum on Studies in Popular Culture.

**Davita Silfen Glasberg** and Off Yer Rockers performed at the Stamford Campus Town Hall Meeting and Presentation of Stamford Campus Awards and at UConn Coop for their annual fundraiser for the Covenant Soup Kitchen.



## AROUND THE DISCIPLINE

**Mary Fischer** was elected to the Council of the Community and Urban Sociology Section of the ASA.

**Gaye Tuchman** was invited to contribute to the SSRC web site on the implications of the demise of newspapers for democracy.

**Claudio Benzecry** has been appointed a member of the Editorial Board of *Qualitative Sociology*.

**Barret Katuna** serves as an SWS Representative to the United Nations, and on the SWS Discrimination Committee.

**Mary Bernstein** was elected Council Member of the Collective Behavior and Social Movement and the Sexualities Sections of the ASA.

**Manisha Desai** was elected to the American Sociological Association's Committee on Nominations .



## DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS



There was much to celebrate at the end of the year! Here (in foreground) Nya Stevens and Danielle Livernois (graduating undergrad assistant) share some food and levity. Behind them (left to right) are Katie Acosta, Annie Scola Wisnesky, Clint Sanders, Chandra Waring, Maura Kelly, Dina Giovanelli, and Travis Lowe.



Newly-minted Dr. Katie Acosta receives a gift to remember us by as she leaves for her new tenure-track position at Tulane University. Don't forget us, Katie!



Noel Cazenave, Chair of the Awards Committee, announced the Fierberg Scholarship Awards winners at the Department End of Year Celebration.





## IN THE NEWS

**Susan Eisenhandler** was interviewed in the *Hartford Courant* about a survey project concerning what people would say if they could speak with the church. The survey was done by the North American Mission Board .

**Mary Bernstein** was interviewed in the *Hartford Courant* about Connecticut's new law legalizing same-sex marriages. She was also featured in an article in the Colombian newspaper, *El Espectador*.

**Bandana Purkayastha's** new book with **Anjana Narayan (PhD, 2006)**, *Living Our Religions*, was featured in an article in *The Advance*.

**Mary Fischer** was featured in a *UConn Advance* article about her research on the benefits for students of racial diversity on college campuses.

**Bob Broadhead** was featured in *UConn Advance* and *Daily Campus* articles about his research in AIDS prevention programs in Russia and Southeast Asia.

**Bandana Purkayastha** appeared on NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams. She was

interviewed on a piece on cross-cultural love.

**Angie Beeman** and **Chandra Waring** were featured in an article on biracial identity in the Huffington Post.

**Mustafa Gurbuz (MA 2008)** was interviewed on EBRU TV (a nationwide channel) on the similarities between the Gandhi and Gulen movements.

**Arnie Dashefsky's** research on Jewish/Christian interfaith marriages was featured in an article in the *UConn Advance*.

**Davita Silfen Glasberg** was quoted in an article in the *Republican American* on young voters in the presidential election.

**Claudio Benzecry's** work on opera fans was featured in a Reuters article that was picked up by more than two dozen media outlets around the world, including the US, Australia, Canada, China, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, UK, Italy, India, Brazil, and Romania.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



**Bandana Purkayastha** was a panelist for the Connecticut Department of Health on Racial Health Disparities: Improving Data Gathering Procedures, at the Legislative Building.



## COMINGS AND GOINGS: LIFE EVENTS AND DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES

### *New Faculty Arrivals, Tenure, and Promotions*

**Prof. Andrew Deener** joined the department as an Assistant Professor. He specializes in Urban and Community Sociology. Welcome to the Department!

**Prof. Simon Cheng** was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations, Simon. Well done!

**Prof. Ron Taylor** has stepped down as Vice Provost of Multicultural Affairs and is returning to the Sociology Department faculty. We warmly welcome Ron back to the department after a stupendous job at OMIA!

### *Happy Anniversary at UConn*

**Kay Ratcliff**, 25 years

**Davita Silfen Glasberg**, 20 years

**Brad Wright**, 10 years

## Changing Faces

**Ruth Simpson**, Assistant Professor in Residence, left for a Post-Doc at Brown University in the Fall, and has now accepted a tenure track position at Bryn Mawr. Best of luck, Ruth!

**Mary Bernstein** finished her second term as Director of Graduate Studies, which completed her full appointment in that position. She has done a superb job steering the program through tough economic times and challenging programmatic changes. Under her direction, the graduate program has grown and become more rigorous and the student body more diverse and academically impressive. The department has flourished with her direction

of the program. Thank you, Mary, for your commitment and excellent job. We wish you the best as you now turn your considerable intellectual energies on your NSF grant with Nancy Naples!

Please welcome the new incoming Director of Graduate Studies, **Bandana Purkayastha**. It was clear that Bandana was up to the job in the year she served as Acting DGS while Mary was on research sabbatical in Australia. After careful consultation with the graduate students and the faculty, Bandana emerged as the clear candidate to take on the challenge of the new DGS. We are confident that she will do a tremendous job.

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## Graduations and New Jobs

### New Jobs

**Katie Acosta**, Tulane University

**Medora Barnes**, John Carroll University

**Tom Volscho**, CUNY-Staten Island College

### Completed MAs

**Michale McFarland**

**Sarah Medina**

**Miho Iwata**

**Sicelo Makepela**

**Ayanna Bledsoe**

**Justin Goodman**

**Latisha Nielsen**

**Jayme Schwartzman**

**Travis Lowe**

**Lisa Bogardus**

**Rachel Leventhal-Weiner**

**Krysten Brown**

**Lwendo Moonzwe**

### Completed PhDs

**Tim Stablein**

**Katie Acosta**

**Tom Volscho**



## 2009 INCOMING GRADUATE PROGRAM COHORT

**Christopher Donnelly**, BA University of Connecticut (Political Science and Sociology). Christopher has been awarded a UConn New England Scholar Award and the Janet M. Fierberg Award, and has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha National Honor Societies. He's interested in Sociology of Crime and Deviance, Social Theory, and Political Sociology.

**Rodrigo Figueroa Valenzuela**, MA, Universidad Catolica del Peru (Economics and Sociology), BA Universidad de Chile (Sociology). Rodrigo is a Fulbright Award winner, and is currently a Professor and researcher at the University of Chile Santiago. His interest is in Economic Sociology.

**John Fournier**, BA Eastern

Connecticut State University (Sociology). John was an Honors student and a research assistant at Eastern. He has presented a paper with Prof. William Lugo at the SSSP conference in Boston.

**Allen Hyde**, BA University of Alabama Birmingham (Sociology and History). Allen was a Sociology Honors stu-

dent, and received the UAB Department of Sociology Undergraduate Research Award and the UAB Department of History's Outstanding Student Award. He has presented his work at the Southern Sociology Society's annual conference. His interests are Society and Communities, Political Sociology, Social Theory, and Inequality and Stratification.

**Elizabeth McBride**, BA Connecticut College (Sociology). Elizabeth has received the Ruby Jo Reeves Kennedy Memorial Award, the Charles "Bud" Church Teaching Ward for Social Justice, and the Doug Feeney Memorial Award. She was an invited speaker at two symposia. Her interests are Labor Studies and White Working Class

Studies.

**Malaena Taylor**, BA University of California-Santa Barbara (Women's Studies). Malaena has been awarded an Outstanding Scholar Award from UConn's Graduate School. She was an Honors student at UC-SB. Her interests are Culture, Work, and Sex and Gender.

**Alex Thompson**, BS, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse (Sociology). Alex was a Sociology Honors student, winner of the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition of the Wisconsin Sociological Association, and a member of Eta Phi Alpha Honors Society, Alpha Kappa Delta International Honors Society, and the Golden Key Honors Society.

His interests are Socialization, Deviance, and Identity.

Please welcome this impressive incoming cohort. They are our newest addition to a strong and rising program. They are certain to fit right in!



## New Family Additions

Sadie Annabelle Weiner was born on March 9, 2009. Her delighted parents are **Rachel Leventhal-Weiner** and David Weiner.

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD  
SADIE AND ROWAN!**



Rowan Paige Seale was born on March 25, 2009. Her proud parents are **Mary Fischer** and Sid Seale.

*Thank You*

We wish to extend our warmest and most sincere thanks to Arlene Goodwin and Kathy Covey, without whom we could not have survived this most trying year. While we are fully aware that the economic crisis has hit everyone around the country quite hard, that was small comfort while we struggled to adapt to a frozen and shrinking budget. But Arlene, our Resident Budget Maven, tirelessly worked her amazing magic to help us to craft a workable and useful budget—no small feat! She

has always kept us from overspending our budget, a huge asset in this critical time. She stayed two steps ahead of all of us in staying current in the moving targets that are bureaucratic rules at UConn and Federal and State laws. Her efforts prevented many of us from making terrible mistakes in paperwork (State, Federal, and UConn, all in triplicate!) crucial to our research, travel, and employment, in spite of our best efforts to thwart her from doing so! And all the while maintaining good cheer and sanity. Kathy, our In-

**Katie Acosta** (PhD 2009) and **Steve Ostertag** (PhD 2008) were married on June 7, 2008.

**Claudio Benzecry** and **Monique Rivera** were married on September 27, 2008.

## Weddings & Commitments



**Congratulations! We wish you all the best and much love!**

repid Program Assistant, performed wondrously as she developed and improved spread sheets to track our students, both undergraduate and graduate, through the programs. That information was indispensable to our ability to function.

Both Arlene and Kathy were vital in the Herculean task of gathering crucial data for the mass of reports and proposals we needed to make to justify our share of the budget pool. We could not have succeeded without

them. Arlene and Kathy, we don't say it nearly often enough, but we greatly appreciate both of you, and we would be utterly lost without you!

