



Department of Sociology Newsletter

*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
University of Connecticut*

Andrew Deener Receives Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health & Society Scholars Award

Andrew Deener was awarded a highly competitive and prestigious two-year Fellowship award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The fellowship will allow him to spend two years at the University of Pennsylvania's Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars program. He intends to engage in ethnographic research on food options and choices in Philadelphia.

Prof. Deener's interest is in how and why some neighborhoods have easy access and others lack such access to nutritious foods and other health opportunities



people's choices are shaped and influenced by the structure of the city's political economy. One of the questions he intends to pursue is how people's structural situations may affect their food choices: will people in fact choose nutritional and healthy food if it is available?

and resources, and how

This new project is an extension of Prof. Deener's earlier ethnographic dissertation research in Los Angeles, in which he found homeless people who responded to their challenges in accessing food by developing gardens in public spaces, and immigrants who similarly participated in community gardens. He viewed these as low-income incarnations of the sustainable food movement evident in the farmers' markets and rooftop gardens found in more affluent neighborhoods.

Prof. Deener's rich experience as

an ethnographer will be a tremendous asset in his research. He intends to do participant observation in this project, interacting with people in the neighborhood, learning their daily routines, and identifying the relationship between what they say and what they actually do. He is also quite an experienced interviewer, having interviewed over 150 people for his dissertation research.

We will miss him for these next two years, and we wish him and his family the very best of luck! We look forward to seeing his newest work.



We are delighted to introduce the latest addition to our faculty, Asst. Prof. Elizabeth Holzer, whom we hired as a joint appointment with the Human Rights Institute.

Prof. Holzer earned her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where her

ELIZABETH HOLZER JOINS THE DEPARTMENT

dissertation chair was none other than Myra Marx Ferree.

Elizabeth's areas of interest are Political Sociology, Human Rights, Gender, Law and Society, Social Theory, and Refugee Studies.

Her research explores how and with what consequences people participate in non-violent political actions during humanitarian interventions. Her work has won grants from the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation, Na-

tional Science Foundation, and Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. She spent thirteen months in the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana, where she explored the repression of social protests organized by refugee women from Liberia. She found that humanitarian authority is a form of rule in which seemingly irreconcilable principles of compassion and authoritarianism become fused in what she termed

"compassionate authoritarianism." She intends to extend this research to explore how humanitarian interventions during postconflict democratization can lead people to reassess both risks involved in political engagement and the hope of potential benefits from participation.

Welcome to the department, Elizabeth! We look forward to enjoying a long and productive time together!

SCHOLARSHIP: JOURNAL ARTICLES

Mary Bernstein and Marcella De la Cruz (MA, 2007), "The Hapa Movement: Understanding Identity as a Social Movement Goal." *Social Problems*.

Mary Bernstein and Kristine A. Olsen. "Identity Deployment: Understanding Identity as a Social Movement Strategy." *Sociological Compass*.

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

Deric Shannon, "Articulating a Contemporary Anarch-Feminism," *Theory and Action*.

Deric Shannon, "Theoretical Polyamory: Some Thoughts on Loving, Thinking, and Queering Anarchism," *Sexualities*.

Jungyun Gill, "Constructing and Enhancing the International Adoptive Family Through Communication Technology," in *Marriage and Family Review*.

Bandana Purkayastha, "Interrogating intersectionality." *Journal of Intercultural Studies*.

Mary Bernstein and Nancy Naples, "A Queer State of Affairs: Citizenship and the Pursuit of Relationship Recognition Policies in Australia and the US." *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

Mustafa Gurbuz, "Over the Bodies of the T-Girls: The Headscarf Ban as a Secular Effort to Monopolize Islam in Turkey." *Middle East Critique*.

Mustafa Gurbuz and Gulsum Gurbuz-Kucuksari, "Between Sacred Codes and Secular Consumer Society: The Proactice of Headscarf Adoption Among American College Girls." *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*.

Clint Sanders and Justin Goodman (MA, 2008), "Let freedom ring the doorbell: Accounts of animal rights activists in defense of residential picketing." *Society and Animals*.

Barbara Gurr and Nikki McGary (MA, 2010), "Restricted Access: The Intersections of Reproductive Health, Rights and Policy for Minors and Native American Women." *Journal of The Association for Research on Mothering*, volume 11: 110-121.

Michael Wallace, Andrew S. Fullerton (PhD, 2007), and **Mustafa Gurbuz (doctoral candidate)**, "Union organizing effort and success in the U.S., 1948-2004." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*.

Claudio Benzecry, "Becoming a fan: On the seductions of

opera." *Qualitative Sociology*.

Claudio Benzecry, "Azul y Oro: The many social lives of a football jersey." *Theory, Culture, and Society*.

Simon Cheng and Kathryn Lively, "Multiracial self-identification and adolescent outcomes: A social psychological approach to the marginal man theory." *Social Forces*.

Simon Cheng and Joshua Kulgman, "School racial composition and biracial adolescents; school attachment." *The Sociological Quarterly*.

Jamie Gusrang (PhD 2010) and **Simon Cheng**, "comparing government influences and community involvements on abstinence only programs in 1999 and 2004: An examination of policy shift." *American Journal of Sexuality Education*.

Andrew Deener, "Forging distinct paths towards authentic identity: Outsider art, public interaction, and identity transition in an informal market context." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

Andrew Deener, "The 'black section' of the neighborhood: Collective visibility and collective invisibility as sources of place identity." *Ethnography*.

Mary Fischer, "How do college students find summer jobs? The role of institutional contacts in employment outcomes." *Social Science Quar-*

terly.

Nancy Naples, "Borderlands studies and border theory: Linking activism and scholarship for social justice." *Sociological Compass*.

Nancy Naples, "Teaching intersectionality intersectionally." *International Feminist Journal of Politics*.

Nancy Naples, "Crossing borders: Community activism, globalization, and social justice." *Social Problems*.

David Weakliem and Bradley R. Entner Wright, "Robustness of group-based models for longitudinal count data." *Sociological methods and Research*.

Bradley R. Entner Wright, and **C. Wesley Younts**, "Reconsidering the relationship between race and crime: Positive and negative predictors of crime among African-American youth." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.

Mary Fischer, "Immigrant educational outcomes in new destinations: An exploration of high school attrition." *Social Science Research*.

Kim Price-Glynn, "Nursing Assistants, caring labor, and intersectionality." *Sociology of Illness and Health*.

Jungyun Gill, "A Comparative Framework for the Analysis of International Student Movements," in *Social Movement Studies*.

Colleen Butler-Sweet, "A healthy black identity" Transnational adoption, middle-class families, and racial socialization," in *The Journal of Comparative Family Studies*.



Andrew Gelman and **David Weakliem**, "Of beauty, sex, and power." *American Scientist*.

Gaye Tuchman, "Media, Gender, Nichos" (Media, Gender, Niche). *Media Journalismo*.

Mary Fischer, "A longitudinal examination of the role of stereotype threat and racial climate on college outcomes for minorities at elite institutions." *Social Psychology of Education*.

SCHOLARSHIP: ARTICLES IN EDITED COLLECTIONS

Mary Bernstein 's AJS article, "Celebration and Suppression: The Strategic Uses of Identity by the Lesbian and Gay Movement" was accepted for reproduction in David Snow and Doug McAdams' new edited collection, for Oxford University Press.

Nancy Naples, and **Nikki McGary (MA, 2010)**, "Feminism, Activism and Scholarship in Global Context" in Robert A. Denemark's (ed.) *The International Studies Compendium Project*. Blackwell Publishing, Ltd.

Michael Wallace and David Brady, "Globalization or spatialization? The worldwide spatial restructuring of the labor process" in Terry McDonough, David M. Kotz, and Michael Reich (eds.), *Understanding Contemporary Capitalism: social Structure of Accumulation Theory for the Twenty-First Century Press*. Cambridge University Press.

Andrew S. Fullerton (PhD, 2007), **Michael Wallace**, and Michael J. Stern, "Multilevel models" in Kevin T. Leicht and J. Craig Jenkins (eds.), *Handbook of Politics: state and Civil Society in Global Perspective*. Springer Press.

Claudio Benzecry, "Everything is dirt: Reevaluating the place of cultural status in aesthetic attachment" in E. de la Fuente (ed.), *Philosophical and Cultural Theories of Music*. Brill Publishing.

Mary Bernstein, Anna-Maria Marshall, and Scott Barclay, "The challenge of law: Sexual orientation, gender identity, and social movements," in Scott Barclay, **Mary Bernstein**, and Anna-Maria Marshall (eds.), *Queer Mobilizations: LGBT Activists Confront the Law*. NYU Press.

Mary Bernstein, "The analytic dimensions of identity," in Jo Reger, Rachel Einwohner, and Daniels Myers (eds.), *Identity Work in Social Movements*. University of Minnesota

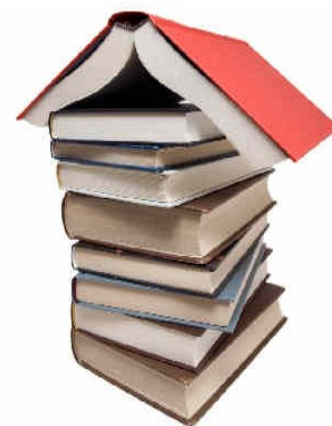
Press.

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.

Nancy Naples, "Policing the borders in the heartland," in Smauel Martinez (ed.), *International Migration and Human Rights: The Global Repercussions of US Policy*. University of California Press.

David Weakliem, "Time series analysis of political change," in Kevin T. Leicht and J. Craig Jenkins (eds.), *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective*. Springer.

Clint Sanders, "Ethnography as dangerous, sad, and dirty work," in Sam Hillyard (ed.), *What's (Still) Wrong With Ethnography?* Emerald Group Publishing.



Clint Sanders, "Colorful writing: Doing and living with a tattoo ethnography," in Anthony Puddephast, William Shaffir, and Steven Kleinknect (eds.), *Ethnography Revisited*. Routledge Press.

Bandana Purkayastha and **Anjana Narayan (PhD, 2006)**, "Bridges and chasms: Orientalism and the making of Indian Americans in New England" in Monica Chiu (ed.), *Asian Americans in New England*. New England University Press.

SCHOLARSHIP: BOOKS



Claudio Benzecry, *The Opera Fanatic: Ethnography of an Obsession* (University of Chicago Press).

Claudio Benzecry wrote the introduction for the Spanish language version of the classic *Outsiders*. It was simultaneously released in Argentina, Mexico, and Spain.

Davita Silfen Glasberg and **Deric Shannon** received a contract from Sage/Pine Forge for their book, *Political Sociology: Oppression, Resistance, and the State*. The book is expected to be released in December, 2010.

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

Maya Beasley, received a contract for her book, *Opting Out: Why American is Losing Out on its Young Black Elite* (University of Chicago Press).

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

Davita Silfen Glasberg, **Bandana Purkayastha**, and **William Armaline (PhD 2007)** received a contract with UPenn Press for their edited collection, *In Our Own Back Yard: Human Rights in the US*.

James DeFronzo, *The Iraq War: Origins and Consequences* (Westview Press). UConn Coop hosted a book signing in October.

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

Camille Charles, **Mary Fischer**, **Magarita Mooney**, and **Douglas S. Massey**, *Taming the River: Negotiating the Academic, Financial, and Social Currents in Selective Colleges and Universities*. Princeton U. Press.

Clint Sanders and **Arnold Arluke** (eds.), *Between the Species: Readings in Human-Animal Interaction*. Allyn-Bacon.

Bradley R. Entner Wright, *Christians are Hate-Filled Hypocrites. . . And Other Lies That You've Been Told: A Sociologist Shatters Myths From the Secular and Christian Media*. Baker Books.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Bandana Purkayastha's co-authored book, *Living Our Religions*, was featured in a "Conversations" session at the Eastern Sociological Society's annual meeting.

Bandana Purkayastha, **Angie Beeman**, **Davita Silfen Glasberg**, **Nancy Naples**, **Manisha Desai**, and **Ken Neubeck** participated in the Human Rights in the United States Conference hosted by the Human Rights Institute at UConn.

Manisha Desai was one of the few non-economists invited along with feminist economists who pioneer the field of Women and Development to participate in rethinking the Human Development Index on its 20th anniversary at a United Nations conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

Gaye Tuchman has been invited to address a Plenary Session at the ASA meeting this summer in Atlanta, analyzing the defunding crisis in universities and the acceleration of privatization of the public university.

The department was well-represented at the Eastern Sociological Society's annual meeting in Boston: Eight faculty (**Colleen Butler-Sweet**, **James DeFronzo**, **Anita Garey**, **Davita Silfen Glasberg**, **Nancy Naples**, **Bandana Purkayastha**, **Ron Taylor**, and **Mike Wallace**) and ten graduate

students (**Angie Beeman**, **Jungyun Gil**, **Mustafa Gurbuz**, **Barbara Gurr**, **Jamie Gusrang**, **Barret Katuna**, **Stacy Missari**, **Ranita Ray**, **Trisha Tiamzon**, and **Annie Scola Wisnesky**) presented panel papers.



Bandana Purkayastha, Angie Beeman, and Davita Silfen Glasberg at the Human Rights in the US Conference

GRANTS

Bandana Purkayastha and **Shobha Gurung**, received a grant from the Ford Foundation via the University of Illinois at Chicago for their project, "Dynamics of Gendered/Racialized Labor: Examining the Experiences of Nepali Women in Informal Labor Markets in Boston and New York."

Gaye Tuchman was approved for a Fulbright Scholarship to work in Chile.

Maya Beasley received a Provost's Faculty Development Abroad Grant for her study of "Public International Law: The Hague Academy of International Law." She will be in The Hague this summer.

FACULTY AWARDS AND SABBATICAL ACTIVITIES



Gaye Tuchman has been invited to speak at the Nordic Network in Journalism Studies in Copenhagen next Fall.

Nancy Naples, along with her co-editor Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, won the book award from the ASA Section on Sexualities for their edited collection, *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men*, by Lionel Cantu (NYU Press).

Mary Bernstein (along with coauthor Elizabeth Armstrong) was awarded the ASA's Collective Behavior and Social Movement Section Outstanding Article Award for their article, "Culture, Power, and Institutions: A Multi-Institutional Politics Approach to Social Movements."

Manisha Desai has been awarded a Fulbright Hayes to conduct research in India for 10 months beginning this coming Fall.

Gaye Tuchman was named a Fulbright Specialist in the Field of Communications and was invited to the University of Chile to speak.



AWARD WINNING TEACHING IN SOCIOLOGY

We always knew we had a lot of teaching and mentoring talent in the department, but this year we've gotten quite a lot of well-earned recognition for it.

Kim Price-Glynn has been awarded the 2010 CLAS Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching. The award provides her with \$1000 in support of future teaching activities. She regularly receives one of the highest teaching evaluations in the department, including several perfect scores on the University's evaluation instrument.

Bandana Purkayastha has been selected by the UConn Alumni Association for the 2010 Faculty Excellence Award in Graduate Teaching. Stu-

dents frequently report that her mentorship in and outside the classroom are vital to their development as scholars. She will receive her award at the Alumni Association's Annual Awards Ceremony in October.

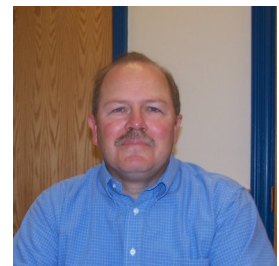
In addition, she has also been awarded the American Sociological Association Asian American Section Teaching Award. She regularly teaches several courses that are cross-listed with Sociology and Human Rights.

Barb Gurr received UConn's Institute for Teaching and Learning Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award. She has taught several challenging and popular Women's Studies courses with rave reviews, and will be teaching

in the Sociology Department this year.

Mike Wallace received the Graduate Students' 2009-2010 Faculty Mentoring Award. Graduate students are grateful for his strong commitment to their development as scholars, helping them work towards publication of their work. As part of the award, the students make a donation to a charity or non-profit organization of the recipient's choice in his or her honor, and Mike has chosen Chicago-based Interfaith Worker Justice.

Congratulations to you all. We are quite proud of you, and delighted to have such a talented faculty in the classroom and beyond. Our students are indeed fortunate to have you.



Clockwise from top left: Prof. Kim Price-Glynn, Prof. Bandana Purkayastha, Prof. Mike Wallace, and Barbara Gurr



GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Mustafa Gurbuz and **Travis Lowe** were co-recipients of the 2010 Ronald Taylor Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Papers.

Nikki McGary received the 100 Years of Women Scholarship Award from the Women's Center in recognition of her commitment to the well-being of women and girls both on and off campus.

Deric Shannon has been awarded the department's Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Barbara Gurr was awarded University of Connecticut Women's Studies Program Susan Porter Benson Graduate Research Paper Award.

Miho Iwata was awarded a competitive travel grant from the ASA to present her work on Japanese –Brazilians.

Deric Shannon's published paper, "Articulating a Contemporary Anarcha-Feminism" won the Graduate Student Paper of the Year Award from the Peace Studies Consortium.

Barbara Gurr received the 2010 Michael L. Dunphy Scholarship Award which recognizes an academically outstanding sociology graduate student with scholarly interests in any or a combination of the fields of American politics, society, culture, and history.

Chandra Waring won the award for Best Graduate Student Paper from the Association of Black Sociologists for her thesis research on biracial college students.

Barbara Gurr received the UConn Women's Studies Program Marita McComiskey Distinguished Graduate Career Award for Feminist Praxis.

Deric Shannon was named "Emma Goldman Fellow" for 2010 by the Anarchist Studies Initiative at SUNY-Cortland for work in gender, sexuality, and feminist studies and activism. This was for his publications in "Theory in Action" (--Articulating a Contemporary Anarcha-Feminism--) and the European journal "Sexualities" (--Theoretical Polyamory: Some Thoughts on Loving, Thinking, and Queering Anarchism --with Abbey Willis).

Jamie Gusrang has been awarded the department's Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

Deric Shannon has been awarded the Ross MacKinnon CLAS Graduate Fellowship.

Mustafa Gurbuz and **Shweta Majumdar** have been awarded the CLAS Dean's Graduate Fellowships.

Shweta Majumdar was awarded a second Human Rights Graduate Fellowship for her research on South Asian Queers and the intersectionality of "race" and sexuality. No one has ever received this award twice.

Sergio Mobilia's MA research on Argentine gay/bisexual Bears received the 2010 Tinker Foundation Award and the Rainbow Center's 2010 Lavender Graduation Distinguished Student Research Award.

Barbara Gurr received the Society for the Study of Social Problems Lee Student Support Fund Scholarship. She also received Honorable Mention from SSSP's Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division Graduate Student Paper Competition for her paper, "From Margin to Center: Native American Women, Reproductive Health Care, and Reproductive Justice."

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Janet M. Fierberg Award

Kyle Barrette

Brenna Harvey

Shirley Fraser (Social Work)



Above: Kyle Barrette receiving his award from Noel Cazenave.

Left: Brenna Harvey receiving her award from Noel Cazenave.



Phi Beta Kappa

Tawney Boulanger

Krista D'Amelio

Brenna Harvey

Jamie Lai

Ashley Lasso

Francis Lavelle

Angelina Nelson

Jennifer O'Neill

Leah Salomoni

Jacob Truebig

Helen Zincavage

Graduate School

Acceptances

Krista D'Amelio: Columbia University

John Bailey: University of Maryland

Kyle Barrette: University of Wisconsin-Madison

UNDERGRADUATE THESES

HONORS THESES

Hannah Thornton-Smith (thesis: “Contemporary College-Age Male Attitudes Toward Topics of Women: A Comparative Analysis of the US and South Africa”) (Supervised by **Bandana Purkayastha**). She will be going next to the Marshall Islands in the World Teach Program.

Faina Dookh (thesis: “From Connecticut to Capetown: Obstacles and Aspirations to Enter College”) (supervised by Bandana Purkayastha). She will be teaching in Bridgeport as a Teach for



SENIOR THESES

Jacqueline Cahill, “The Women’s Rights Movement in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Law: A Road to Development.” Supervised by **Mary Bernstein**.

Kerrie Canavan, “The Case of Universal Health Care: Lessons From Katrina.” Supervised by **Kay Ratcliff**.

ALUMNI AND EMERITI ACTIVITIES

Steve Harvey (MA) is running as a candidate for the Colorado House of Representatives in 2010.

Denise Anthony (PhD, 1997) was awarded a three-year NSF grant for her research.

Ken Neubeck organized and participated in a panel on local human rights organizing around the nation at the Human Rights in the US conference at UConn. Ken also returned to campus in April for an Economic Justice Symposium at the Human Rights Institute.

Nechama Tec was invited by the Secretary General of the United Nations to give the keynote address at the UN General Assembly International Day of Commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust, marking the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Nechama’s book, *Defiance*, was the inspiration for the feature movie of the same title.



Jim DeFronzo gave a talk about his new book, *The Iraq War*, at the UConn Coop in October.

AROUND UCONN

Davita Silfen Glasberg has been appointed to the Executive Board of the UConn chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Maya Beasley was appointed to membership on the Faculty Standards Committee of the University Senate.

Gaye Tuchman was appointed to membership on the Diversity Committee of the University Senate.



Gaye Tuchman has been elected to a three-year term in the University Senate.

Kay Ratcliff has been appointed to the University Senate Student Welfare Committee.

Gaye Tuchman has been appointed to the University Senate Faculty Standards Committee.

AROUND THE DISCIPLINE

Mary Bernstein was elected Chair of the Sexualities Section of the ASA, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the ASA.

Bandana Purkayastha was elected Vice President of Research Committee 01 of the International Sociological Association.



Claudio Benzecry is guest-editing a special issue of *Qualitative Sociology* (with Monica Kraus of Kent University in England) on "Knowledge in Practice," scheduled for release in August, 2010.

Manisha Desai was appointed to the *Sociology Compass* 'user crew,' an advisory board helping to shape the development of the journal.

Sergio Mobilia was appointed co-editor of the newsletter of the ASA Section-in-Formation, *Sociology of the Body and Embodiment*.

Trisha Tiamzon and **Nya Stevens** represented UConn in a University initiative to reach out to students of color for recruitment to the graduate program.

IN THE NEWS

Mary Bernstein participated in a panel for the Dublin (Ireland) radio show, "Culture Shock" on the LGBT/queer movement, which aired June 26th.

Claudio Benzecry's work continues to attract media attention. He was interviewed about his research by *La Nacion* (the second national newspaper of Argentina). The piece was on the cover of a Saturday edition. Two German newspapers (from Frankfurt and Cologne) did feature stories based on



his *Qualitative Sociology* article. *The Washington Post* also featured his work in an on-line discussion of opera lovers.

Bandana Purkayastha was interviewed in the *Hartford Courant* on Asian American immigrants, particularly those from India, whose strong educational achievements prior to migrating to the US places them in a stronger position than their European counterparts.



GAYE TUCHMAN'S NEW BOOK RAISES DEBATE

Prof. Gaye Tuchman's newest book, *Wannabe U: Inside the Corporate University* (University of Chicago Press) is creating quite a stir.

The book is an ethnographic analysis of a major Research Intensive Doctoral Granting University in its quest to rise in the national rankings as determined by U.S. News and World Report, increasingly adopting a corporate model of the University as an organization. It documents in rich detail the process by which the University forges ahead toward that holy grail of higher national ranking. The route to that goal, as the University's Board of Trustees frame it, is to make the institution as much in the image of a business enterprise as possible, including the hiring of professional administrative/corporate leaders, emphasis on enhanced revenue streams (such as external grants), and the production of mission statements and five-year plans that are less about the academic mission of liberal education and more about what will make the U.S. News and World Report indicators rise.

To that end, the University has become obsessed with measurable indicators produced in constant audits and metrics of "accountability." Tuchman notes that this road map has increasingly sacrificed the cherished values of intellectual and independent pursuit of knowledge for knowledge's sake, faculty governance, and critical thinking in the classroom. Instructors are encouraged by the metrics by which they are constantly evaluated to "teach to the metrics instruments" rather than teach to the goal of intellectual pursuit. Among those metrics of program quality and value are measures of post-graduate employment, transforming the University from an institution of higher learning to one of vocational training.

Among the corporate policies and practices she found are a shift in the professional vocabulary used to describe the university's mission, where students are now "consumers," teaching and research are "inputs," learning is an "outcome," and education is a "product." The effectiveness of teaching and research is evaluated in "assessments," using "metrics" to measure these; increasing loss of faculty governance in favor of administrative power; increasing reliance on non-academics for upper-level administrators; and an alarming escalation of the reduction of regular, tenure-track faculty by attrition and increasing reliance on the revolving door of the temporary contingency labor of adjuncts and Assistant Professors in Residence. Tuchman argues that this shift to the corporate model, done in the service of scrambling to rise to the ranks of the top 25 Universities nationwide according to U.S. News and World Report, has warped the academic mission of education and threatens academic freedom, both in the classroom and in research.

The push to increase external grants at the University warps research agendas from "what is an intellectually interesting question, and where can we get some support to pursue that question" to "what do the deep pockets of research and development agencies want us to find out and how do we deliver it to them." As such, the mission statement and five-year plan emphasizes the areas most likely to be the current and near-future darlings of the granting agencies rather than embracing other, highly productive and creative but often-unfunded or underfunded re-

search agendas. And the pursuit of grants often intensifies the University's "cozy relationships" with corporations and the government, who provide substantial grant money. While those relationships may certainly bring in substantial revenue to the University, it also has the unfortunate effect of interfering in the curriculum, as granting agencies dictate research agendas, which in turn, shape the content of courses and programs offered.

The scientific management of the University as a corporate entity not only damages core academic values, but also erodes faculty governance as a mechanism to protect and ensure those values as the mission of the University. The Faculty Senate, where faculty governance once reigned supreme and held the University's vision to the core liberal education academic values, has morphed into a University Senate now dominated by representatives of the Administration and top administrators themselves. The administrators are no longer likely to be academics who have grown up through the faculty ranks at the University, who appreciate and harbor loyalty to the institution and its liberal education values; rather they are increasingly career bureaucrats who, like their corporate brethren, embrace a loyalty to the market, jumping every few years from one institution to another, never staying anywhere long enough to witness the damage to the academic mission their corporatization of the University produces.

The overall effect of this increasing corporatization of higher education means the

slow but certain erosion of post-secondary liberal education (including those disciplines that may not produce massive numbers of employed graduates but which are nonetheless vital to well-rounded intellectual development), the pursuit of knowledge as inherently valuable, and the value of independent and critical thinking.

Locally, the strongest buzz, among both the press and the campus, was whether the book was a thinly-disguised critique of UConn and its administrators. That parlor game missed the point, however: The book emphasizes that unfortunately what she found at Wannabe U is not a unique or unusual aberration among Universities. Rather, Tuchman argues that Wannabe U is a cautionary tale, an illustration of a far wider and increasingly standard process afoot at most if not all major Universities in the U.S. And there is evidence that it is happening abroad as well, in many European, Australian, and Canadian Universities.

The book was launched at a book signing event hosted by the UConn Coop and has generated much debate and excitement, both in the US and abroad. It was the focus of an Author Meets the Critic panel at the ESS meeting in Boston, and was featured in several articles in the Hartford Courant, Times Higher Education in the UK, and *Ensino Superior* in Brazil. Prof. Tuchman was also interviewed on Colin McEnroe's radio talk show. She continues to be in demand to discuss her book, and will be presenting a paper and leading a Plenary talk at the ASA meeting in Atlanta this summer.

MILESTONES

Arnie Dashefsky: 40 years of service

Bob Broadhead: 30 years of service

David Weakliem: 15 years of service



Arnie received his award—a University of Connecticut clock—for devoting over 40 years of service to UConn

COMINGS AND GOINGS: LIFE EVENTS AND DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES



Amanda Moras, Assistant Professor in Residence, has taken a position at Central Connecticut State University.

Mary Bernstein completed her second term as Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Bandana Purkayastha is now serving in that position. Thank you, Mary, for a terrific job. Welcome to the challenge, Bandana. We're certain you're up for the challenge and more!

Richard Rockwell has stepped down as Associate Head and Scheduler after a grueling five years during which the job became far more complicated and demanding than ever, thanks to the budget crisis. Thank you, Richard, for a tremendous job well done! **Kay Ratcliff** will be stepping in to the position this summer. Welcome aboard, and best of luck, Kay!

Kay Ratcliff is stepping down as Director of Undergraduate Studies after a superb five years of service. Thanks, Kay; you'll be a tough act to follow! **David Weakliem** has graciously agreed to step into the position beginning this summer. Best of luck, David! We're confident you're going to be terrific.

NEW FACULTY ARRIVALS, TENURE, AND PROMOTIONS



Prof. Mary Fischer has received tenure and been promoted to Associate Professor.

Prof. Bandana Purkayastha has been promoted to Full Professor.

***Congratulations,
Bandana and Mary!***



Prof. Elizabeth Holzer has joined the department as a joint hire with the Human Rights Institute.

Prof. Colleen Butler-Sweet joined us this year as Asst. Prof. in Residence.

***WELCOME TO THE
DEPARTMENT!***

RETIREMENTS

Prof. Ronald Taylor has retired after 37 years in service to the University. He most recently served as Vice-Provost of Multi-cultural and International Affairs, and was Head of the Sociology Department in the 1980s. He continues to teach in the Department, much to the delight of our students.

The department took up a collection and will open a Professional Development Fund at the Foundation to support untenured faculty and graduate students for conference presentations and similar professional development opportunities.



Above: The basement lounge was completely packed with well-wishers, family, friends, faculty, grad students, and staff to celebrate Ron's long and illustrious career here at UConn.

Below: Emeriti friends Jerry Heiss and Hal Abramson joined us to celebrate Ron's retirement. Here, they chat with Arnie Dashefsky. In the background are Dean Jeremy Teitelbaum and Davita Silfen Glasberg.



GRADUATIONS

COMPLETED MAs

Dinur Blum

Barbara Gurr

Nikki McGary

Sergio Mobilia

Lwendo Moonzwe

Nya Stevens

Chandra Waring

Lori-Anne Wisnesky



COMPLETED DOCTORATES

Medora Barnes

Angie Beeman

Jamie Gusrang

David Kremelberg

Lauren Sardi Ross

NEW JOBS

Angie Beeman accepted a tenure track Asst. Prof. position at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Maura Kelly accepted a tenure track Asst. Prof. position at Portland State University in Oregon.

Lauren Sardi Ross accepted a tenure track Asst. Prof. position at Quinnipiac University.

Natalie Peluso has accepted

an Asst. Prof. position at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She also received an offer from Castleton State College in Vermont.

Gordon Gauchat has accepted a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to work with faculty mentors at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research.

David Kremelberg accepted a post Doc at SUNY-Stony Brook.

Sergio Mobilia has accepted a job with Google Inc. Sergio will be the Senior Project Manager for Spanish-Language Localization in Latin America. (He will be one of the key people in developing and facilitating searches in "normal Spanish" which reconciles the varieties of Span-



ish used in Latin American countries). He will be leaving for Buenos Aires at the end of May.



2010 INCOMING GRADUATE PROGRAM COHORT

Denishia Harris graduated from Florida International University in December 2009 with a major in Sociology and a certificate in African and Africana Studies. She has been on the Dean's list in 2008 and 2009. She participated in the competitive Institute for Recruitment of Teachers program at Philips Academy at Andover. Her most recent research project is "Women in Red: African Descent Women and the CPUSA (Communist Party USA)." Denisha states "The scholarship of Jane Adams, Franz Boaz, Pierre Bordieu and WEB Dubois have assisted in cultivating my passion for the discipline and my analyses of race, education, social movements, and social stratification.... I am eager to contribute a new and innovative voice to (the) program and ultimately the academy."

James Hogan graduated from University of Michigan-Flint where he graduated with a 3.98 GPA. He moved from a concentration in Business to Sociology. He coauthored a paper on the assessment of capstone courses in higher education; this paper was published in *Sociology of Teaching*. Nominated for the University's Maize and Blue award, James is consistently described as an outstanding student by his professors. James states "My main passion is exploring gender identities adopted by people interacting in online situations."

Josef Kuo Hsun Ma, is moving to

UCONN from the PhD program in the National Taiwan University. His MA thesis was entitled "Close to Paternal or Maternal Parents: Marital Power in the Relationships of Adult children to Aging Parents and in-laws." He has served as a research assistant at Academia Sinica for a panel survey of Taiwanese youth. Josef has published two journal articles, and is scheduled to read a paper at a Regular Session of the Asia and Asian American at the American Sociological Association conference in Atlanta. Josef's explanation of his interest in social inequality is: "I witnessed how much children in destitute families (in China) cherished their limited educational resources... (w)hen I returned to Taiwan, the news....that a large number of children from low income families could not afford their daily meal plan in school was unbelievable to me since Taiwan has a GDP per capita of US 30,000."

Sheila Pierre received her MA from Humboldt State University; her thesis was entitled "Shifting from Student Access to Student Departure—Minority and non-Minority Retention in Higher Education." She served as the graduate research associate for the Office of Student Affairs and has helped to institutionalize a mechanism for monitoring patterns and trends in campus diversity. She has presented papers at the Pacific Sociological Association, and at local conferences at Humboldt University. Sheila is fluent in creole French, French

and Spanish. Sheila is a member of several professional organizations including American Sociological Association, Association of Black Sociologists, and Sociologists for Women in Society. Sheila states "For a long time I struggled to find an area of study that would allow me to realistically evaluate the situation in Haiti... sociology..gave me a framework through which I can analyze my social world. I strive to obtain a more complete understanding of the structures that keep wealth, power, and certain privileges concentrated in the hands of a minority."

Nicolas Simon earned his MA in Sociology and Geography from the Universite de Caen Basse-Normandie. His Master's research is on the causes of neighborhood relationships. Nicolas has extensive experience teaching sociology and languages (French and Spanish). Nicolas has been teaching Sociology at several universities in Connecticut. He has presented papers at the New England Sociological Association Conference and the Connecticut State University International Education conference. He is a member of the American Sociological Association and the Association Francaise de Sociologie. Nicolas states "The major question...which always shapes my research interests is: how can we live together?"

Natalie Umsted graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. She was an honors scholar and

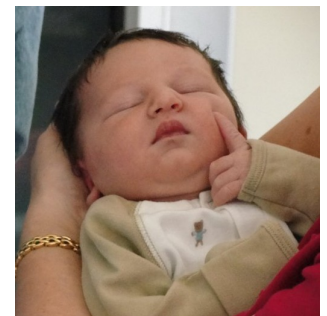
on the Dean's List. Natalie won the Iowa Sociological Association Steve Weiting Award; this award is given to the student who best combines theory and research. Her undergraduate honors thesis is entitled "Wandering Socially: Impact of Community and Technology on the Modern American Hobo." Natalie has presented papers at the Mid-South Sociological Association conference, University of Northern Iowa Current Research on Women forum, and Iowa Sociological Association Annual conference. Natalie describes her research interests as comparative/historical sociology, the sociology of gender, culture and technology."

Todd Vachon has long been a public sociologist. He was a candidate of the Socialist Party of America for the Congressional 2008 elections. He has served as a Commissioner for Colchester Housing Authority, Co-Chair of the Citizens for Reform of Media and Entertainment, Commissioner of the Fair Rent Commission. His writing on homelessness, corporatization of the media, and health care proposals have been published in CT newspapers. Todd states "I would like to conduct inquiry-based research to determine the links between neo-liberal economic policy, systemic racism, and inequality in the US and the world."



NEW FAMILY ADDITIONS

Jadon Luke, born on March 30, 2010 to (9lbs 1oz!) **Nikki McGary** and Nate Teodoro. Congratulations, Nikki and Nate, and Welcome to the World Jaden Luke. When will he be ready to edit papers?



SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT EVENTS

We began the year with a department picnic at the Lion's Club Soccer Field and Pavilion in Mansfield. A good time was had by all!. Thank you, Wes!



Nya Stevens, Alex Thompson, Allen Hyde, Nate Teodoro, and Donyelle Stevens.



Nate Teodoro, Donyelle Stevens, Chandra Waring, Sergio Mobilia, Niki McGarry, and Miho Iwata.



Wes Younts



Nate Teodoro, Donyelle Stevens, Chandra Waring, Sergio Mobilia, Niki McGarry, Barret Katuna, Miho Iwata and Bandana Purkayastha



Richard Rockwell, Bandana Purkayastha, Gaye Techman,, Davita Silfen Glasberg, and Ron Taylor.

THANK YOU

This has clearly been a productive year for the department, in spite of the challenges we all faced in a rough economy. Of course, none of our accomplishments could have been achieved without the incredible collegial commitment and leadership of faculty and the tremendous administrative support we have from our talented, highly professional, and indispensable staff.

Richard Rockwell is stepping down as Associate Head and Scheduler after serving the department for five years. He has been tireless and patient in the Herculean task of crafting complex schedules that satisfy the registrar's notion of even distribution of courses over days and times, faculty preferences for courses and schedules (as well as rooms), and myriad constant changes up to and beyond the first day of classes. And always with good cheer! It's a huge and difficult job, requiring one to keep track of several moving pieces at once, and we are ever grateful and thankful for his terrific service. **Kay Ratcliff** will be taking over the position at the end of the summer.

Despite her many administrative and organizational talents, Kay cannot be both Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Head/Scheduler simultaneously. She is stepping down as DUS to take over as AH after years of indispensable service in stewarding the undergraduate program. She has done a masterful job of dealing with the more difficult, complicated cases of advising, evaluating transfer credits, developing better ways of managing overenrolls and endless requests for permission numbers, pressures for more Honors courses, and maintaining the integrity of our undergraduate

program. She has done a masterful job, for which we are most thankful. **David Weakliem** will be taking over as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Thank you, Kay, for providing David with a wonderful roadmap of the job!

Mary Bernstein has completed her second term as Director of Graduate Studies and returned to the classroom. She did a terrific job of stewarding the program through fundamental changes that made the program more rigorous and demanding. Our graduates are getting offers for tenure track jobs at good institutions, even in one of the worst markets in memory. Our incoming classes have been impressive in their qualifications, and the program is continuing to thrive and grow. Thank you, Mary, for a wonderful job well done! **Bandana Purkayastha** has taken over as DGS and has already hit the ground running, accepting a new, highly impressive incoming class of graduates.

Arlene Goodwin has remained undaunted and unflappable, as always. Without her, we would easily overspend our budget. Because of her careful, eagle eye we have avoided any number of crises yet remained able to afford all of our major expen-

ditures. In addition, this year she helped us revamp our search process by uploading a HuskyCT site with all our submission materials, including tapes of the job talks candidates gave, allowing everyone to access the files from anywhere in the world. This was a huge job for Arlene, making her job more challenging while making everyone else's job easier. We cannot thank her enough! And even as we're writing this annual newsletter, she is busy compiling our individual annual reports into a single document, no small feat by any means. Thank you, Arlene, for being the gifted rock of this department!

Kathy Covey continues to be the central nervous system of the Undergraduate and Graduate Programs. She is the front lines of admitting new majors, securing plans of study, organizing the administration of the graduate program, and administering the admissions process. This year she helped Bandana reorganize our numerous file systems of graduate information into a single data base, which has made everyone's job so much easier in the graduate program. Thank you, Kathy, for your incredible attention to detail and your good cheer when all else looked grim!

Chelsea Martin was our student worker this year, without whom we would have been lost. Because of her wonderful commitment to working for us we were never left without access to the copy room or mail room. She has been a fabulous addition to our administrative staff in the front office. Thank you so much, Chelsea!

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer. The Fall will be here before we know it!

