This year, **Mary Bernstein** was elected President Elect of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). **Bandana Purkayastha** is the current President of SWS, an organization of feminist sociologists that has worked to challenge gender and race inequalities—in terms of scholarship and inclusion of diverse scholars—in our discipline. Since its founding in 1970, SWS has collectively supported and mentored women into positions of leadership and this year the President of the American Sociological Association and the Vice President for Research for the International Sociological Association are both SWS members. Mary Bernstein’s election is an unique honor for our department. We are the only department in the country that can boast of so many SWS Presidents who continue to shape gender and sexuality studies: **Nancy Naples** (2004-2005), **Manisha Desai** (2007-2008), **Bandana Purkayastha** (2013-2014), and **Mary Bernstein** (2014-2015). In addition, we are the only department in the country with SWS Presidents who have been elected to serve two consecutive terms.

Our national prominence was also enhanced through the disciplinary leadership of **Nancy Naples** who served as President of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS).

**Nancy** and **Bandana** organized significant conferences in Boston (ESS) and Tamaya, New Mexico (SWS) that attracted national and international scholars.
Andrew Deener’s book *Venice: A Contested Bohemia in Los Angeles*, was recognized by the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS). Andrew’s book received an honorable mention for the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award.

This year, the graduate students awarded the 2013 Faculty Mentoring Award to Mary Bernstein. Below is an excerpt from Malaena Taylor, one of the students who nominated her:

“Mary has been my advisor for the past four years, and over this time she has helped me to become a better and more confident scholar. My capabilities have improved by leaps and bounds thanks to Mary’s encouragement and assistance.

Each year for at least the past four years, Mary has been nominated for this award by a different student. I believe that this is evidence of the great value that her mentorship has provided so many of us. I know that she has assisted multiple students in getting publications—whether by advising us on revisions or by serving as co-author—and provided many of us with invaluable research opportunities.

I am astounded that, although she has been nominated many times, Mary has never won this award. It is time for her hard work and dedication to be formally recognized.”

Congratulations to Claudio Benzecry on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Randall Collins (University of Pennsylvania), described Claudio’s book, *The Opera Fanatic*, as “one of the ten major theory books since 2000... Benzecry’s vision of socially prepared solitude opens a way for sociology to do justice to the things people love.”

Another congratulations is in order for Emeritus Professor and Director of the Berman Institute—North American Jewish Data Bank, Arnie Dashefsky! He was the 2012 recipient of the Mandell L. Berman Service Award for his distinguished commitment to the social scientific study of Jewish lives and culture.

Congratulations to Nancy Naples! Nancy was a co-winner (with Mimi Abramovitz) of the 2012 Activist Scholar Award from the Sociology and Social Welfare of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.
Bandana Purkayastha continues to serve in two executive positions within the International Sociological Association (ISA). She is the Vice President of Research Committee on Conflict and Conflict Resolution, and the Secretary and Executive Board Member of Research Committee on Women in Society.

Manisha Desai serves on the board of the thematic group on Human Rights of ISA.

Bandana Purkayastha and Professor Anand Singh, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban, discussed the complexities of studying immigrants of Indian origin in two countries, during her visit to South Africa in December 2012.

Gaye Tuchman, Emeritus Faculty Member, was invited to give public lectures by several universities in Australia. Her talks included, "Pressured and Measured: Higher Education Today" at University of Wollongong and "Life with Metrics: Trends in Higher Education" at Australian National University. Gaye also held a series of talks with faculty and students in Auckland, New Zealand.

Richard Rockwell was invited to the XIX International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology. He presented a paper on Sustainable Cities at the conference on “Decisions at Work: Linking Sustainability, Environmental responsibility and Human Well-being” at Australian National University, Canberra.

Nancy Naples and Mary Bernstein were invited to head a panel discussion in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2013 on "Sexual Citizenship and Reproductive Rights: Creating Dialogue Between Feminist and Queer Politics" at Sabanci University. While in Turkey, both Nancy and Mary participated in the 8th International Meeting Against Homophobia in Ankara, hosted by KAOS-GL, one of the largest LGBTQ organizations in the country.

Manisha Desai and Bandana Purkayastha were active participants in the International Sociological Association conference in Buenos Aires. This conference attracted over 3000 participants from 77 countries.

Manisha Desai, Bandana Purkayastha and Barret Katuna presented at the SWS sponsored parallel event during United Nations CEDAW conference at the UN in March 2013. Their presentations on violence were made before an international audience.

Manisha Desai participated in a workshop on "Social Movements, Alternative Publics, and Political Dissent” and gave a talk on “Place of Subaltern Women in Knowledge Production in Protest Movements in Gujarat, India,” at the 8th Annual Stockholm Anthropological Roundtable, held at the University of Stockholm.
Emeriti Professor Gaye Tuchman was invited to the University of Wisconsin’s European Union Center of Excellence to participate in an expert group discussion. The discussion was a critique of a book length manuscript about women and higher education in the US and Germany written by Myra Marx Ferree, Alice H. Cook Professor of Sociology and Director, European Union Center of Excellence, University of Wisconsin; Susanne Baer, Judge of the Constitutional Court in Germany and Professor of Law at the Humboldt University; Paula-Irene Villa, Professor of Gender Studies and Sociology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich; Karin Zimmermann, Institute of Higher Education Research (HoF) at Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg; and Kathrin Zippel, Northeastern University, Humboldt Fellow as Guest at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich.

Liz Holzer gave talks at Northwestern University in February 2013 and Mary Washington University in October 2012, entitled respectively, "What Happens to Law in a Refugee Camp?" and "Developing Refugees."

Nancy Naples was invited to University of Pittsburgh’s Sociology Department in March 2013 and Columbia University’s Women and Society Seminar in May 2013 to give lectures on, respectively, “Sustaining Democracy: Localization, Globalization, and Feminist Praxis” and “Sexual Citizenship and Reproductive Rights: Creating Dialogue Between Feminist and Queer Approaches.” Nancy also gave the Presidential Speech at the Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society in Boston, MA on March 24, 2013.

Bandana Purkayastha gave the Presidential Address, “Connecting Circles: Research/Activist Knowledge in the 21st Century,” at the Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting in February 2013, held in Tamaya, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico. Bandana was also invited to colloquia at University of Iowa and Duke University, entitled respectively, “Racialized Transnationalism in the 21st Century” and “Mechanisms of racisms: Reflections on some contemporary processes”

Mary Fischer’s research on stereotype threat was cited in an amicus brief for the Supreme Court case, Fisher v. University of Texas, on affirmative action.

Mary Bernstein was interviewed for and quoted in a June 2013 USA Today article about the DOMA and Proposition 8 Supreme Court decisions, based on her research. The article also cites her co-edited book, The Marrying Kind? Debating Same-Sex Marriage Within the Lesbian and Gay Movement. She was also quoted in a Hartford Courant article about the impact of the Supreme Court rulings on same-sex marriage.

Bradley Wright has been in the news for his research on Christianity. He was interviewed by Radio WSDK 1550 AM (Hartford), KTIS AM 900 (Minneapolis, Fargo, Dulth, Sioux Fall, Madison, Waterloo, Des Moines), and 88.9 Tuscaloosa (Alabama)
Public Engagements

As a land-grant university we have considered public engagement to be one of the significant avenues of contribution to the state and nation. Sociology faculty and graduate students are actively engaged in local health and food initiatives, serving on boards, learning and advocacy networks. Others are invited, on the basis of their scholarship, to address non-academic audiences.

Kathryn Ratcliff is a member of the Executive Board of Eastern Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Eastern AHEC is one of four Connecticut AHEC organizations funded as part of a nationwide program, with the Connecticut office based at the UCONN Medical School. Eastern AHEC runs a variety of programs to improve health outcomes by creating partnerships in education and healthcare, providing support to healthcare professionals and strengthening the quality and supply of healthcare providers. One particular program, the Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC) coordinates with UCONN to expose undergraduate students to health careers through service learning experiences that promote culturally competent health promotion and disease prevention education to medically underserved communities.

Phoebe Godfrey is the co-founder and president of CLiCK (Commercially Licensed Cooperative Kitchen), a 501c3 non-profit organization run on co-operative values. The goals of CLiCK are to have the kitchen available for local entrepreneurs such as caterers and farmers to rent; to create a community center focused on local food, nutritional and culinary education; to provide job-training skills (such as ServeSafe) and to support cooperative values such as self-help, democracy, equality, and solidarity. CLiCK has applied with the Town of Windham to create a ‘Neighborhood Center’ located in Willimantic, along with the Town of Windham Senior Center. CLiCK has already had a number of UCONN interns/service learners who have helped with research, outreach and publicity and hopes to expand its ability to place UCONN students in service learning positions as it grows.

Susan Eisenhandler is a member on the Board of Directors for a non-profit residential complex for the elderly in Waterbury, associated with Housing and Urban Development. She is also a member on the Board of Directors for the Bristol Community Organization (BCO), a non-profit community action agency. BCO coordinates the Head Start program in the City of Bristol and delivers other major social services to those in need.

Bradley Wright presented his research to members of the general public in various venues. He was a keynote speaker at the National Religious Broadcasters Conference in April 2013, a conference in Nashville with 4,000 attendees. Brad also had a three-day speaking engagement in July 2012 for religious leaders and participants in central Missouri.

Manisha Desai and Bandana Purkayastha were invited by Google Argentina to talk about gender challenges in corporations. The women’s group at Google is planning to work with them around gender issues in the company.

Congratulations to Richard Rockwell on his elected position as President of UConn’s AAUP!
Please Welcome Our Newest Faculty Members!

Ruth Braunstein joins the department from New York University, where she is receiving her doctoral degree in the summer of 2013. Her areas of interest include social movements, political culture, civic life, identity, knowledge, and religion. Specifically, she is interested in how ordinary citizens struggle to assert their voices, values, and knowledge in a public sphere dominated by experts and elites. She has explored this question through research in a range of sites in which citizens identifying as both conservative and progressive develop strategies for challenging prevailing authorities.

She is particularly interested in the ways in which groups draw on religious practices and ideals in the course of this process. Given religion’s complex place in American political culture, some of these efforts are understood as productive for democracy, while others are cast as antidemocratic. Her research steps back from these judgments, and asks instead what these diverse efforts reveal about the gaps between ideals and possibilities of popular democracy.

Although she was born and raised in Georgia, her parents both happen to be UConn alumni, and she is excited to return to her family’s home state of Connecticut.

Matthew Hughey is joining us as an Associate Professor of Sociology and Affiliate Faculty in the Institute for African American Studies. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia (2009) where he served as a research fellow with the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies and held the position of Instructor for the Departments of Sociology, Media Studies, and African American Studies.

Professor Hughey’s research examines the relationship between subjective social meanings and objective asymmetrical social relations, with a focus on racial identity formation, racialized organizations, and mass mediated racial representations.


An active member of his discipline, he serves on the editorial boards for Social Problems, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Ethnic and Racial Studies and he is a Founding Associate Editor of the American Sociological Association’s first journal dedicated to the study of race: Sociology of Race and Ethnicity.

Daisy Verduzco Reyes has a joint appointment with the Department of Sociology and El Instituto: Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies from the University of California Irvine where she recently earned her PhD. Reyes’ teaching and research interests include social movements, race-ethnicity, Latino sociology, and education. More specifically, Reyes is interested in how institutions and organizational settings shape the construction of racial, ethnic, and political identities.

Reyes is working on a manuscript based on her dissertation that explores the ways universities shape Latino student experiences, identities, and political styles. This research is based on two-year ethnography of six student organizations on three
different campuses, and in-depth interviews with students and faculty. She has also conducted sexuality research examining the ways Mexican-origin mothers convey sexual messages to their U.S. born daughters.

When Daisy is not working she enjoys running. She recently ran her first marathon and looks forward to running races on the East Coast.

**Daniel Winchester**

comes to UConn from the University of Minnesota, where he is receiving his PhD in June 2013. His research and teaching interests include social and cultural theory, religion, subject formation and identity, morality, embodiment, and qualitative methods. Most broadly, his research focuses on the micro-foundations of cultural power and meaning, examining how and to what ends large-scale cultural systems shape (and are shaped by) the subjective thoughts, emotions, perceptions, and personal identities of social actors. To date, he has found religion, in general, and religious conversion, in particular, to be fascinating sites in which to empirically investigate these topics.

When he’s not working on his research or teaching, Dan enjoys hiking, biking, beer (brewing and tasting), racquetball, cooking, and doing just about anything with his partner, Christie, and his newborn daughter, Ella. Dan has lived in various parts of the country including the Midwest, the South, and the Mountain West, but this is his first time living on the East Coast. He’s looking forward to becoming acclimated with the help of his new colleagues.

**WELCOME TO UCONN!**

---

**Visitors to the Department**

**Mary Bernstein** hosted **Apoorva Ghosh** (India) as a Fulbright student researcher in 2012-2013.

**Bandana Purkayastha** will be the senior mentor for a Woodrow Wilson funded mentorship for **Sylvanna M. Falcón**, Assistant Professor Latin American and Latino Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

**Manisha Desai** has successfully proposed **Drs. Nandita Shah and Nandita Gandhi** for the university-wide competitive guest professorship. Drs. Gandhi and Shah who are among the foundational scholars of post independence Indian Gender scholarship will be visiting the department in spring 2014. Thanks to **Nancy Naples** and and **Cathy Schlund-Vials** (AASI) for helping provide some of the funding for these scholars.

**Elizabeth Holzer** is hosting Chinese sociologist **Dr. Yan Chen** for this year. Dr. Yan Chen comes with her husband who is joining researchers in engineering.

---

**Colloquia Series 2012-2013**

Thanks to the Colloquium Committee, **Claudio Benzecry** (Chair), **Jeremy Pais**, **Andrew Deener** and **Caner Hazar**, we had the privilege of welcoming a variety of top scholars to our departmental colloquia series. Our speakers for 2012-2013 were:

**Julia Adams and Jessie Einhorn** (Yale University), **Jason Backfield** (Harvard University), **Richard Alba** (Distinguished Professor, CUNY Graduate Center), **Jamie Fader** (SUNY – Albany), **Helen Marrow** (Tufts University), **Frederick F. Wherry** (Columbia University), **Matthew Vitz** (co-sponsored; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), **Rosana Pinheiro Machado** (co-sponsored; Visiting Scholar at Fairbanks Center, Harvard University)


Bernstein, Mary and Verta Taylor (eds.), The Marrying Kind? Debating Same-Sex Marriage Within the Lesbian and Gay Movement.


Donnelly, Christopher and Bradley Wright. “Goffman Goes to Church: Face-Saving and the Maintenance of Collective Order in Religious Services.” Sociological Research Online.


Godfrey, Phoebe. “I was one of the better interrogators’: Gender Performativity, Identity Transformation and the Female Military Intelligence Officer in the Iraq War,” in Ana Carden-Coyne (ed.) Gender and Conflict Since 1914: Historical and Interdisciplinary Perspective.

Godfrey, Phoebe. “Introduction: Race, Gender & Class and Climate Change.” Race, Gender & Class.

Gurbuz, Mustafa (PhD, 2012) and Mary Bernstein. “Thou Shall Not Protest!: Multi-Institutional Politics, Strategic Non-Confrontation and Islamic Mobilizations in Turkey.” Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change.


Graduate Awards

Allen Hyde and Todd Vachon won the Ronald Taylor Award for their co-authored Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, “Good Jobs and Clean Air? Unions and Environmental Performance in a Comparative Perspective.”

The Outstanding Graduate Student Award was awarded to Ranita Ray. Ranita also won the Ross MacKinnon Graduate Fellowship Award which is given to the student in each CLAS department with the best research record.

Travis Lowe and Trisha Tiamzon won the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship for exemplary research accomplishments.

Trisha Tiamzon is also the winner of the Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award and the 2013 Michael L. Dunphy Scholarship, 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’s research was recognized nationally in 2012. She the first place winner for the Association of Black Sociologists Graduate Student Paper; and received an honorable mention Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Graduate Student Paper award and for SSSP Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship.

Rachel Leventhal-Weiner was awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship by the Graduate School for her dissertation proposal entitled "Surviving Main Street: Spatial Stratification of Student Outcomes in Rural, Urban and Suburban Contexts".

Three students were supported by prestigious Fulbright Fellowships: Rodrigo Figueroa, Farhan Yousaf, and Adane Zawdu.

Lwendo Moonzwe had her dissertation research supported by a NIMH grant during the fall semester. She also received funding from the NIMH to present the findings of her dissertation to the community where she conducted her research (the Kanyama Settlement located in Lusaka, Zambia) and to representatives from various Government Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations and Community-Based Organizations.

Miho Iwata who was awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship by the Graduate School for Spring Semester.

Koyel Khan, Ruth Hernandez and Farhan Yousaf were awarded competitive Human Rights grants from the Human Rights Institute, UCONN, for their research in India, Mexico, and Pakistan. This is Farhan’s second human rights grant.

Two students, Chandra Waring and Kamryn Warren, were supported by Outstanding Multicultural Scholars Program fellowships. Six additional students, Denishia Harris, Ruth Hernandez, Lwendo Moonzwe, Latisha Nielsen, Sheila Pierre, and Nya Stephens, were supported by Multicultural Scholars Program fellowships.

Several students were winners of the Emeriti Faculty Travel Awards to support their travel to scholarly conferences. They are: Travis Lowe, Josef Ma, Sheila Pierre, Nicolas Simon, and Adane Zawdu.

Based on their research records, the following students were supported by Predoctoral Fellowships from the Graduate School throughout the academic year: Chris Donnelly, Rodrigo Figueroa, Allen Hyde, Barret Katuna, Josef Ma, Nikki McGary, Nicholas Simon, Malaena Taylor, Trisha Tiamzon, Todd Vachon, and Chandra Waring.

The following students received special summer Dean’s Graduate Fellowships in the Social Sciences for their accomplishments: Erika Del Villar, Devon Goss, Brenna Harvey, Gregg Mills, Roseanne Njiru, Heidi Obach, Derek Samson, Rachel Sloan, Meral Tunador, Lauren Van Derzee, Abbey Willis, Stephen Wulff, Farhan Yousaf, and Adane Zawdu.

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards

We are very proud of our many undergraduate and graduate students who received awards and fellowships for their academic, research, and teaching accomplishments. Congratulations to all of the students listed below for their accomplishments and the positive recognition they bring to our department.
Caner Hazar has been accepted to the Summer Institute on Sexuality, Culture and Society 2013 at the University of Amsterdam.

Three grad students have been awarded Dissertation Fellowships for 2014: Kuo Hsun (Josef) Ma, Roseanne Njiru, and Travis Lowe.

This year we have had one of our most active years in job placement in recent memory as several of our graduate students and former graduate students accepted new positions.

Shweta Adur will be teaching at UConn as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

Gordon Gauchat (PhD, 2011) moved from a post doctoral position to a tenure track assistant professor position at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Melissa Lavin (PhD, 2011) accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at SUNY Oneonta.

Lwendo Moonzwe accepted a position at ICF International in Fairfax, Virginia.

Ranita Ray accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Deric Shannon (PhD, 2011) accepted a tenure track appointment at Oxford College of Emory University.

Tim Stablein, (PhD, 2009), moved from a post doctoral fellowship at Dartmouth to a tenure track assistant professor position at Union College in Schenectady, New York.

Chandra Waring accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at University of Wisconsin at Whitewater.

Christine Zozula accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at University of Rhode Island.

Graduations

Denishia Harris, MA, “Dressing to the 9’s: Black Women, Fashion, and Identity.”

Shweta Majumdar Adur, PhD, “Negotiating Sexuality and Ethnicity: Queer South Asians in the U.S.”

Cheryl (Smith) McFarland, PhD, “The Changing Structure of Health Care Organizations: Examining Physician-Hospital Integration and Its Impact on Healthcare Utilization and Quality of Care in Metropolitan Areas.”

Stacy Missari, PhD, “Sexual Empowerment for All? Exploring the Connections Between Social Inequality and Expectations of Sexual Pleasure from Adolescence to Young Adulthood.”


Lwendo Moonzwe, PhD, “Women’s Empowerment and Sexual Risk in Zambia.”

Ranita Ray, PhD, Against the Odds: Urban Youth, Poverty, and “Success.”

Chandra Waring, PhD, “Beyond ‘Code-switching’: The Racial Capital of Black/White Biracial Americans”

Congratulations to everyone and best wishes for long and productive careers!
**Undergraduate Awards**

This year’s Janet M. Fierberg Award for Academic Achievement in Sociology and/or Social Work was awarded to **Sonya Poulin** and **Madelyn Briggs**.

---

**Obituaries**

Many sociology retirees will have known **Ben Magubane**, who worked with some of our grad students before his retirement in 1997 from the Anthropology Department. His obituary is available at this address:  [http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/04/emeritus-professor-of-anthropology-bernard-magubane-dies/](http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/04/emeritus-professor-of-anthropology-bernard-magubane-dies/)

---

**A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MARTY FIERBERG**

**Arnold Dashefsky and Jeffrey Shoulson**

Marty and Janet Fierberg represent an authentic UConn love story. They met at UConn and married two weeks after graduation in 1948. Upon graduation, Marty went into his father’s contracting business. When his father died five months later, Marty took over the business. By 1975 when Marty quit the business, the firm was the second largest in Connecticut. Both Marty and Jan remained close to UConn in the years since their graduation. This is the 34th anniversary year of the Janet M. Fierberg Scholarship Award, which is bestowed annually on students interested in Sociology and Social Work. Marty served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the UConn Foundation. In addition, Marty served as president of the Hebrew Home and Hospital, president and life director of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation, charter member of Beth El Temple and as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Hartford, Mt. Sinai Hospital and the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center. On October 6, 2012, Marty passed away at the age of 88. We remember him with affection and gratitude. In addition to his devoted wife, Marty is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Michael Fierberg and Elyse Gellerman, and his daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Morris Morgenstein, along with three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

---

**Excerpt of Obituary from The Hartford Courant**

Isaac Martin "Marty" Fierberg of West Hartford, beloved husband of 64 years of Janet (Merliss) Fierberg passed away on October 6, 2012 at the age of 88. In addition to his devoted wife, he is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Michael Fierberg and Elyse Gellerman of Denver, CO and his daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Morris Morgenstein of Avon, CT. Survivors also include three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Marty leaves his brother, Jed Fierberg, and is predeceased by his brother, A. Arthur Fierberg. Born in Hartford, he was the son of Elsie (Sillman) and Morris A. Fierberg. He was a graduate of Weaver High School and the University of Connecticut School Of Engineering. Marty served in the US Army Signal Corps during World War II in the US, Italy and Austria. In 1948, Marty joined his father in a small plumbing and heating business, The Morris A. Fierberg Company. During the next twenty-five years he built the business into the largest mechanical contracting business in central Connecticut, installing plumbing, heating, air conditioning, sprinkler systems and electrical work in many of the large commercial buildings in the greater Hartford area. During his business career, he started many businesses including MAFCO Electric Company, Constitution National Bank, Mechanical Maintenance Company, among several others. Marty was a past president and life director of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation, the President of the Hebrew Home and Hospital and President of the University of Connecticut Foundation. Marty, together with his wife Janet, endowed the Fierberg Lecture Series in Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut. Marty was also a member of Beth El Temple and a past member of Tumble Brook Country Club and the Boca Grove Country Club. He was a member of MENSA and Intertel. Marty was a good and caring man, a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He believed in being philanthropic with both his time and his resources. He was a man of character known for his quick wit, kindness, generosity and business acumen. He will be missed by the many people he touched during his lifetime.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Jayme Schwartzman Amarone and her husband Andy Amarone welcomed their new son, Dominic Amarone, on June 20 2013. He weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces, and measured 19 inches long.

Milestones in Service

Lynne Goodstein completed 10 years of service at UConn.

Thank You!

Moving On

Jeremiah Coldsmith has accepted a tenure track position at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Jeremiah has provided outstanding service to our department as an Assistant Professor in Residence for three years. His new position allows him to return to a part of the country he is very familiar with, as Pitt Johnstown is where he took his undergraduate degree. Congratulations, Jeremiah! We will miss you!

INTRODUCING THE 2013-2014 INCOMING COHORT

We are fortunate to have recruited a very talented incoming cohort for the 2013-2014 academic year. They will bring with them a diverse range of experiences and research interests. Please make them welcome when they arrive in August!

Chong-suk Han graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and received his MA in Social Relations (Sociology and Anthropology) from the University of California, Irvine. His thesis focused on the relationship between Korean store owners and Latinos employed at Korean-owned stores and was awarded the Robin M. Williams Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. He also worked as a research coordinator for a CDC-funded research project examining HIV risk behaviors among gay Asian and Pacific Islander American men. He is particularly interested in the intersection of race and sexuality as well as the impact of racism on gay men of color.

Joonghyun Kwak graduated with a MA in Sociology from Sogang University in South Korea. His MA thesis was an ethnographic study of college graduates’ job seeking activities and the recruiting processes of major firms in South Korea. He has extensive experience in survey research. He worked for two years designing and analyzing various surveys, public opinion polls, and panel surveys. He also has conducted and analyzed exit polls in presidential and general elections in South Korea. He is interested in stratification, work and organizations, quantitative methods, and comparative studies of labor markets between the U.S. and South Korea.
**Kathleen (Katie) Ragon** graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Sociology from Gettysburg College. She presented her senior honors thesis, titled “The Minimum Wage, Decent Wages, and Time Sovereignty in the European Union,” at the 2012 International Labor Process Conference in Stockholm, Sweden and the 2012 Eastern Sociological Society meeting in New York City and it was published in *The Cupola* at Gettysburg College. Katie’s experiences as an undergraduate student sparked her interests in low-wage work and sexual assault prevention activism. She is also interested in quantitative methodology, stratification, political economy, and gender.

**Matt Ray** graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a writing minor from Lee University. In his undergraduate research, he studied the relationship between higher education and religion. He presented this research at the Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium 2012 at Emory University, and this research paper earned him the H.Y. Benedict Fellowship from the Alpha Chi National Honor Society for 2013. He is also a recipient of the Outstanding Scholars Program Graduate Fellowship from the University of Connecticut. His research interests are social stratification and inequality, social policy, and quantitative methods.

**Jordan Rees** graduated summa cum laude from the University of South Alabama with a BA in Social Work and a minor in Sociology. At USA, she worked as a research assistant in Criminal Justice and was awarded Social Work Student of the Year for academic excellence and leadership. She graduated from the University of Alabama with a MA in Social Work, receiving several scholarships. She has practiced social work for five years. She is currently assisting on a research project on how labor markets affect family structure. Her research interests are stratification, labor markets, and religion as it relates to gender inequality.

**Jason Slappe** graduated with honors from the University of North Florida with a BA in Sociology. From 2012 to 2013, he worked as a research assistant at the North Florida Center for Community Initiatives, an applied sociology research center. During this time, he assisted with several evaluation research reports as well as several research papers. His main research interests are political economy, social movements, and stratification. He is particularly interested in studying the intersection of race, social class, and geography. His recent work has been comparative research on labor market conditions and poverty.

**Deronta Spencer** received his BA and MA in Sociology from the University of South Carolina. His research interests are sociology of education, sociology of the family, social stratification, and social mobility. His M.A. thesis compared differences in parental involvement in the college preparation process for first and non-first generation college students. Using an original survey of 1,095 USC students, he finds that first generation students receive less parental involvement and emotional support than non-first generation students. He is a recipient of the Outstanding Multicultural Scholars Program Graduate Fellowship from the University of Connecticut. He enjoys music, movies, reading, and making new friends.

**Qiong (Miranda) Wu** received her MA in Sociology from Western Michigan University where she received the Outstanding Graduate Scholar award twice. She has presented her research at several academic conferences including meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society and the Michigan Sociological Society. She has lived and studied in Northwestern China, Southwestern China, and eastern China for years, where she found great economic disparities among different regions in China. Her interests focus on inequality, social stratification, and market transition in China. Her MA thesis was a quantitative analysis of the influence of the state and market factors on income inequality in urban China.

---

This fall we will have three international graduate students visiting our department. They are **Tamara MacKinnon** (New Zealand), **Eszter Bihari** (France), and **Sidse Sorensen** (Denmark). They will be taking graduate courses in Sociology and they will certainly bring diverse international perspectives. They will have spaces in grad student offices and you will be seeing them around the department. Please make them feel welcome.

---

**WELCOME TO UCONN!**
There is a new fund at the University of Connecticut Foundation which makes it possible to contribute directly to the Department of Sociology.

Private support provides an edge for excellence. It allows us to reward top scholarly effort and to competitively recruit students and faculty. Please consider making a donation to the department.

**How to contribute to the fund:**

You may make a tax-deductible donations to the department by making a check payable to the “UConn Foundation” or “University of Connecticut Foundation” and writing “Sociology Department - Unrestricted Fund 22735”* in the memo field or on the face of the check. You may also give through the [UConn Foundation’s website](https://www.uconnfoundation.org), by using the name and number of the fund.

**Thank you!**

---

*22735: Sociology Department--Unrestricted Fund: "To be used for the unrestricted support of the Sociology Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences."*
THANK YOU!

We have a great team of faculty, staff and graduate students. None of our accomplishments could have been achieved without our collective commitment to excellence, collegiality and commitment to outstanding professional standards.

**Kathryn Strother Ratcliff** continues to do an outstanding job as Associate Head and Scheduler. This is a monstrous job, requiring the juggling of multiple schedules, faculty interests and skills, graduate student teaching abilities and schedules, and room availabilities. Scheduling requires an ability to keep track of many moving pieces that simultaneously shift right up until the day preregistration begins—and often thereafter! Kay has been unflappable in creating a carefully developed schedule for the department.

**Michael Wallace** finished his position as Director of Graduate Studies. Mike ably managed the multiple needs of the graduate program and he and the graduate program committee have selected an outstanding cohort of eight incoming graduate students. Mike worked with Bandana, Kay, and Richard to ensure the strength of our graduate program.

**Mary Fischer** is stepping into the position of Director of Graduate Studies. It is a complex job and we are grateful for your service and thank you in advance!

**Richard Rockwell** is serving as the Director of Undergraduate Studies and has been a steady and important factor in maintaining the undergraduate program. He has worked with Bandana, Kay, and Mike on the Planning Committee to ensure a full and diverse program, serving the needs of not only our undergraduate majors and minors, but of the entire university in our offerings of Gen. Ed. and W seats.

**Arlene Goodwin** has remained consistently invaluable, as always. Without her, we would easily overspend our budget, and get mired in multiple crises. Arlene has been steadily guiding us smoothly through the changes in the building and the department. She has taken additional significant tasks such as supervising office moves and making sure the work on Manchester Hall is being accomplished smoothly. Her work makes all of our lives easier. Thank you, Arlene, for being the gifted rock of this department!

**Kathy Covey** continues to be the spine 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. In addition she constantly acts as a mentor to graduate and undergraduate students who are bewildered by the paperwork they have to complete. Thank you, Kathy, for your incredible attention to detail and your good cheer when all else looked grim!

**Rachel Eldracher, Samantha Strazza,** and **Katie McNamara** were our student workers this year. We truly appreciate their help with copying, scanning, and all the other “little” activities that made our lives so much easier through the year. Rachel was in Italy for the Spring 2013 semester, and will be returning in the fall, along with Sam. Katie will be interning during the summer.

**Meral Tunador** assisted with a variety of tasks in the office this summer, including the design of this newsletter.

**Devon Goss** helped us tremendously with our sociology undergraduate students this academic year.

**Trisha Tiamzon** and **Allen Hyde**, we appreciate your work as the past and current head of our wonderful graduate students.

**Thank you on behalf of the department!**

—Bandana Purkaystha, Department Head