Nancy Naples has been appointed Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, the highest honor that the University of Connecticut bestows on faculty who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and service. She had previously received UConn’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Excellence in Research Award for Social Sciences (2011) and the Humanities/Social Science Alumni Faculty Excellence Award in Research (2008). Her research investigates the relationships between state, market, other social institutions, and citizenship. Most particularly, she has been exploring the dynamics of community activism, globalization, and feminist praxis. She has analyzed the historical construction and implementation of welfare, immigration, and rural economic development, as well as issues related to sexual identity and sexual abuse. Her publications include seven books and 60 journal articles and book chapters. In her most recent book, co-edited with Jennifer Bickman Mendez, is Border Politics: Social Movements, Collective Identities, and Globalization (NYU Press, 2014). Professor Naples holds a joint appointment in Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies where she currently serves as Director.

American Sociological Association Appoints Representative to the International Sociological Association

Bandana Purkayastha has been appointed by the American Sociological Association as the Association’s official representative to the International Sociological Association (ISA) for 2014-2018. Her research on the intersections of gender/racism/class/age; transnationalism; violence and peace; and human rights, bridges scholarship within the US with global conversations on these subjects. Her research has appeared in ten books and thirty-five articles and chapters over the last thirteen years, and has been published in the USA, UK, Australia, Germany, and India. The goal of the ISA is to represent sociologists everywhere and to advance sociological knowledge throughout the world. Members of the ISA currently come from 167 countries; she will represent the ASA and all sociologists in the United States to the ISA community.

Distinguished Early Career Award

Matthew Hughey was selected as the winner of ASA's Section for Racial and Ethnic Minorities' Distinguished Early Career Award. This award is only given once every two years and recognizes exceptional achievement and scholarly contribution to research on the sociology of race and ethnicity. Matthew’s recent books and publications include The White Savior Film: Content, Critics, and Consumption and White Bound: Nationalists, Antiracists, and the Shared Meanings of Race which was a finalist for the 2013 SSSP C. Wright Mills Book award and received an honorable Mention for the 2013 Humanist Sociology Book award.
Andrew Deener’s book, *Venice: A Contested Bohemia in Los Angeles*, received the **honorable mention for the Robert Park Book Award from the Community and Urban Section of the American Sociological Association.** Previous winners include Eli Anderson, and Harvey Molotch. This is the third major recognition for this book since it was recognized by the Eastern Sociological Society, with the Mirra Komarovsky book award (honorable mention), and was recognized as the LA Public Media Best Books about L.A.

Matthew Hughey’s book, *White Bound: Nationalists, Antiracists, and the Shared Meanings of Race*, was one of five finalists (out of 67 nominated) for the **C. Wright Mills Award** from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. This book also received the Association for Humanist Sociology 2013 Book Award honorable mention.

Students Recognize Outstanding Teachers

Claudio Benzecry was awarded the Faculty Mentoring Award this year. Run fully by graduate students, this award recognizes outstanding mentors in the department. The graduate students make a donation to a charity of the faculty members choice.

Ingrid Seemaan was awarded the Faculty of the Year Award by students at the Stamford Campus.

Congratulations!

Davita Silfen Glasberg has been accepted into a Leadership in Higher Education Administration program at Harvard University for this summer.
Congratulations to Andrew Deener on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure!

Brad Wright (principal investigator) and Jeremy Pais (a co-investigator) have been awarded a major grant from The John Templeton Foundation for “Character, Spirituality, and Well-Being: A Large-Scale, Online Study using Experience Sampling Method.” The project is funded from 2014-2016 and it uses respondents’ smartphones to survey them at random times throughout the day about their experiences in the moment regarding spirituality, health, willpower, gratitude, and other social-psychological constructs. The resulting data will be used to describe and explain how these processes work in day-to-day life. You can learn more about it at soulpulse.org.

Ruth Braunstein has been selected to receive an AAUW American Fellowship. This Summer/Short-Term Research Publication Grant will support work on her book manuscript based on her ethnographic fieldwork in a local Tea Party group and a faith-based community organization.

Mary Fischer and Jeremy Pais were awarded two small grants from UConn.

Mike Wallace was awarded a Roper Center Faculty Fellowship, which he will hold for two years.

Elizabeth Holzer has been awarded a Human Rights fellowship for Fall 2014.

Sociologists for Women in Society has awarded our department the “SWS Seal of Approval for Faculty in Gender Equity”!

Phoebe Godfrey is president and co-founder of CLiCK, Inc (Commercially Licensed Co-operative Kitchen). The organization has secured a building in Windham, CT through a generous, anonymous loan and was awarded a $100,000 matching grant, an additional loan and a line of credit from Community Economic Development Fund. CLiCK was also recently awarded a $25,000 USDA grant. Additionally, CLiCK continues to make community connections including UCONN Engineers Without Borders to potentially develop a gray water system, ECSU Center for Sustainable Energy to get solar panels, and members of Storrs Congregational Church to assist as part of their commitment to sustainability. A PhD student from the CUNY Graduate School will also be doing her dissertation on CLiCK’s role in community economic development among Latinos.

More information is available at: http://www.clickwillimantic.com

Dan Winchester, who joined us last year, will be leaving to join the faculty at Purdue University, where he and his partner have tenure track positions. We thank Dan for a wonderful year and wish him (and Christy) the very best for the future.
Mary Bernstein was invited to Brandeis University to give a talk entitled “How the Right Usurped the Queer Agenda: Frame Co-optation in Political Discourse” in October 2013.

Ruth Braunstein has been invited to present her research at the Religion and Politics Colloquium at Yale in March.

Susan Eisenhandler has been selected to attend a seminar for faculty, “Moral Dilemmas and Moral Choice in the Holocaust: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Pius XII as Case Studies in Religious Leadership,” sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Bandana Purkayastha was the invited keynote speaker for an interdisciplinary international conference, held (this year) at the management school at Simmons College, Boston, on Intersectionality on June 29-July 1, 2013. She spoke on “Intersectionality: Challenges and Provocations.”

Welcome to Christin Munsch!

Christin earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Cornell University in 2012 and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University's Clayman Institute for Gender Research. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Furman University specializing in family, quantitative methods, work and occupations, social psychology, and gender. The overarching goal of her research is to identify the ways in which contemporary, dual-earner families organize interaction based on a traditional, breadwinner-homemaker model and the consequences of this mismatch for individuals, relationships, and the reproduction of inequality. This goal has generated two strains of research. First, her dissertation work considers the meaning and significance of breadwinning and investigates the effects of economic dependency in married and cohabiting heterosexual partnerships. In a second line of inquiry, she examines the “flexibility bias” and the ways in which penalties for flexible work vary by family structure.

Mary Bernstein, President, continues to lead Sociologists for Women in Society.

Claudio Benzecry was elected to the Council of the Culture Section of ASA and will continue this post through 2016.

Manisha Desai was elected to lead the Human Rights section of ASA. She was also elected to serve on the Council on the section on Development.

Bandana Purkayastha was elected to the Committee on Committees of the ASA. She continues to serve as Vice President of International sociological Association’s research committee on conflict and conflict resolution, and Secretary Treasurer of the research committee on Women in Society. She is also on SWS’s Council as Past President.

Daisy Reyes was elected to the Board of Directors of the Sociology of Education Association.

Mary Bernstein continues as Deputy Editor of Gender & Society and an Advisory Board Member for Social Problems.

Claudio Benzercy continues his position as Associate Editor for both the American Journal of Culture and Apuntes de Investigacion del CECYP.

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Elected Offices:

Milestones in Service:

Davita Glasberg completed 25 years of service.

Kathryn Strother Ratcliff completed 30 years of service.

Brad Wright completed 15 years of service.
**International Engagements**

The Sociology department has been actively modeling global engagement in research and teaching (and service). Faculty members have ongoing research projects in Argentina, India, and Turkey.

The department hosted two sets of visiting scholars this year (and is preparing for three other scholars from India and Ethiopia for 2014-2015). Dr. Yan Chen from China spent a year at the department, hosted by Elizabeth Holzer. Thanks to funding from multiple resources, we were able to bring her for a year. We also hosted Dr. Nandita Gandhi and Dr. Nandita Shah, co-directors of Akshara Women’s Resource Center in Mumbai, India, thanks to Manisha Desai. During their stay they conducted research for revising the introduction to their highly regarded 1991 book *Issues at Stake: Theory and Practice in the Women’s Movement in India*, which will be reprinted digitally. They also gave a public lecture: The Changing Nature of Activism in the Women’s Movement in India.

We were also ‘home’ to several graduate and undergraduate students: Tamara MacKinnon (New Zealand), Eszter Bihari (France), and Sidsel Sorensen (Denmark). Eszter was here the whole year. Rebecca Fletcher, an undergraduate student from the University of Glasgow (Scotland), enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses; she also gathered data for her MA dissertation at UCONN.

One of our highlights was a bridging-the-distance pedagogical approach used by Visiting Assistant Professor Shweta Adur in her class—Society in Global Perspective. Dr. Robinson Ochara from the University of Nairobi spoke to the students about globalization, structural adjustment, and poverty in Kenya. Aditya Bandopadhyay of India—the first Asian and third queer person in the world to testify before the UN Commission on Human Rights—spoke about LGBT rights in India and other countries, and the Indian Supreme Court’s recent legal recognition of a third gender. Despite continuing technological challenges, the students enjoyed the Skype lectures. One student’s response was: “I have never experienced this type of (Skype) lecture before and thoroughly enjoyed them. Each guest provided a unique perspective on the material we learned and brought the issues into reality. UConn can definitely use this as a selling point as I have never heard of another university doing this for undergraduates.” Another student wrote: “it is very helpful to hear about these global issues from someone who is directly involved with it or affected by it. For us, something happening in India or Africa seems so far away but hearing about it via Skype from someone experiencing it firsthand really puts in into perspective and provides for a greater understanding of it.”


Mary Bernstein and Nancy Naples attended a conference in Bordeaux to give talks at the University of Amsterdam and at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Universite D’Europe.

Manisha Desai was invited, along with a group of international scholars, to launch and collaborate in the Civic Innovation Research Initiative at the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague, in October 2013. She will be working on Gender and Sexuality in Development.

Bandana Purkayastha continues to serve on Presidency University’s international expert group. She was invited to the University of Hyderabad, India for a three day University Grants Commission (India) funded trip to deliver colloquia on her work on Intersectionality and Transnationalism, and sociologies of human rights. Bandana continues to serve an external examiner and PTR reviewer for multiple international universities.
Sociologists in the News

Mary Bernstein’s book *The Marrying Kind?: Debating Same-Sex Marriage Within the Lesbian and Gay Movement*, co-edited with Verta Taylor, has been receiving a lot of press attention. The Hartford Courant and USA Today quoted Mary on the same-sex marriage court decisions. She was also recently interviewed by the Associated Press. This article was picked up in over a dozen newspapers and other outlets including U.S. News and World Reports and the Huffington Post.


Mary Bernstein and Nancy Naples were featured in a *New York Times* story by Cara Buckley on October 25, 2013 about some gay and lesbian couples’ decisions not to get married.


http://www.salon.com/2014/05/17/fox_news_divisive_race_strategy_how_oreilly_hannity_and_coulter_intentionally_tore_america_apart/

Here is a three-part radio interview with Matthew about the book:


Matthew’s 2010 *Social Problems* paper, "A Paradox of Participation: Nonwhites in White Sororities and Fraternities," was also cited in *USA Today* for the October 2, 2013 article, "End racial bias in fraternities, sororities."

http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/10/02/greek-life-sorority-alabama-racist-segregation-column/2912373/

SoulPulse, the project of Brad Wright and other sociologists and psychologists, is gaining a lot of national attention. An *Associated Press* story was run by sources such as the Seattle *Times*, *Washington Post*, and *ABC News*. Brad was also interviewed by *FOX Connecticut* and numerous radio stations about the study.


http://foxct.com/2014/01/20/professor-taking-pulse-of-nations-spirituality/

Many thanks to the Colloquium Committee for bringing some of the discipline’s top scholars to our departmental colloquia series! These speakers were: Elijah Anderson (Yale University), Julian Go (Boston University), Ann Morning, (NYU), Glen Elder (UNC), Kimberly Hoang (Boston College), and Van Tran (Columbia University). The Sociology Department also co-sponsored two talks by Pawan Dhingra (Tufts University) and Yen Le Espiritu (UC San Diego).
Publications

Graduate students are marked with *.


Benzecry, Claudio. 2014 “What Did We Say They’ve Said? Specifying the Many Roles of Symbolization in Ethnographic Analysis.” *Ethnography* (Special Issue on Between Theory and Social Reality).


Park, B.C. Ben, Jeong Soo Im, Kathryn Strother Ratcliff. 2014. “Rising Youth Suicide and the Changing Cultural Context in South Korea,” *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention.*


Kamryn Warren has been awarded a Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, which will enable her to conduct fieldwork in Nepal this summer for her dissertation project entitled “Intersections of Forced Migration and Transnationalism: Lived Experiences of Refugees.” Kamryn’s major advisor is Elizabeth Holzer.

Erika Lorenzana del Villar was awarded a 2014-15 START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) Research Award. The award is given by START (housed at the University of Maryland) and funded by the Dept. of Homeland Security. Winners receive $5,000 in funds to dedicate towards research expenses and professional development experiences to support their work in the area of terrorism studies. Professor Ron Breiger of the University of Arizona, who is an official START mentor, will serve as her mentor for the grant year. Erika’s major advisor is Davita Silfen Glasberg.

Rebecca Barton has also been accepted to the Summer Workshop Training Program at UC-Berkeley’s Center for Ethnographic Research.
Some of our graduate students presented at the American Sociological Association meeting in New York City this past August:

**Del Villar, Erika Mae Lorenzana,** "Terrorism as a Social Movement Tactic: The Case of the Abu Sayyaf Group in the Philippines"

**Donnelly, Christopher,** "Democracy and Bombs: How Human Rights and Economy Impact the Frequency of Terrorist Bombings"

**Goss, Devon R,** "Am I Trans Enough? Experiences of Transnormativity"

**Hyde, Allen,** "Good Jobs and Clean Air? Unions and Environmental Performance in a Comparative Perspective"

**Katuna, Barret Mary,** "Rules vs. Rights? Social Control, Dignity, and the Right to Housing in the Shelter System"

**Ma, Josef,** "Is Sexual Empowerment Harmful? The Effects of Expectations of Sexual Pleasure on Long Term Outcomes" and "Inequality Bytes: Examining the Effects of Institutional Context on Students' Digital Usage"

**Taylor, Malaena,** "Call Me an Ignorant Freak: How TV News Framing Furthers Social Movement Goals"

**Vachon, Todd,** "Good Jobs and Clean Air? Unions and Environmental Performance in a Comparative Perspective" and "Inequality Bytes: Examining the Effects of Institutional Context on Students' Digital Usage"

Graduate students (and faculty) were also well represented at the Sociologists for Women in Society, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Power and Equality mini conference, BOS-CONN Conference, and the Human Rights mini conference.

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**Allen Hyde** won the Ross MacKinnon Graduate Fellowship and has also received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award!

**Allen Hyde** and **Roseanne Njiru** were awarded the Dean’s Non-Work Semester Award.

**Farhan Yousaf** was awarded the American Institute of Pakistan studies (AIPS) International Travel grant.

**Miho Iwata** was awarded an ASA Travel Grant to present her paper at the ISA conference in Yokohama, Japan in July 2014.

**Barret Katuna** been selected as one of Connecticut’ Women’s Education and Legal Fund’s (CWELF) “40 Women for the Next 40 Years.”

**Roseanne Njiru** received the

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**Chris Donnelly, Allen Hyde, Sheila Pierre, and Farhan Yousaf** received Doctoral Dissertation grants from the UConn Graduate School.

The Ronald Taylor Award was given to **Todd Vachon** and **Josef Ma** for “Bargaining for Success: Examining the Relationship between Teacher Unions and Student Achievement” and **Roseanne Njiru** for “Political Battles on Women’s Bodies: Post-Election Conflicts and Violence Against Women in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Kenya.”

**Nicholas Simon** has been awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

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Hernandez have been awarded El Instituto's Pre-Doctoral awards.

**Erika Del Villar, Devon Goss, Caner Hazar, Allen Hyde, Miho Iwata, Josef Ma, Malaena Taylor, Todd Vachon, Kamryn Warren, Abbey Willis, and Farhan Yousaf** were awarded 2014 Sociology Emeriti Awards grants for graduate student travel to professional meetings.
Professor **Claudio Benzecry** co-organized The BOS-CONN Symposium on Qualitative Sociology, a conference for the Sociology Graduate Students of Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, and the University of Connecticut. It was held May 21st, 2014 at Boston University and showcased qualitative research by graduate students. Ten UConn students attended with six of them presenting — **Brenna Harvey, Kamryn Warren, Denishia Harris, Trisha Tiamzon, Adane Zawdu, Erika Del Villar.**

**Caner Hazar** has been accepted for a weekend seminar on rights and the security state at George Mason University on his research about LGBT activism. **Caner’s** paper has also been accepted for presentation at the "Queer Places, Practices, and Lives" conference to be held on May 16-17, 2014, at Ohio State University.

**Farhan Yousaf** presented a paper at the "Southwest Conference Against Trafficking," hosted by the National Women's Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation (NWCAVE) in California on January 17-19, 2014. **Farhan** also presented a paper, "Gender-based Violence and Trafficking in Women," at the annual meeting of the British Sociological Association on April 24, 2014 at Leeds University, UK.

**Grad Students’ Presentations (continued)**

**Job Placements**

**Shweta Adur** has accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at Cal State Fullerton.

**Miho Iwata** accepted a tenure track assistant professor at Towson University.

**Barret Katuna** will be teaching at UConn as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

**Travis Lowe** accepted a tenure track assistant professor at University of Tulsa.

**Christine Zozula** will begin her tenure track assistant professor position at University of Rhode Island.

**Graduations**

**Christine Zozula, PhD**, “Meaningful Punishment: Community Courts and Constructions of Crime.” (Benzecry)

**Barret Katuna, PhD**, “Breaking the Glass Ceiling?: Gender and Leadership in Higher Education.” (Glasberg)

**Miho Iwata, PhD**, “The Racial Landscape in Japan.” (Purkayastha)

**Brenna Harvey, MA**, “What ‘The Talk’ Tells Us: Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Men’s Sexual Learning.” (Bernstein)

**Kamryn Warren, MA**, “We Do What We Can: Creating Success in a New England Refugee Resettlement Agency.” (Holzer)

**Ruth Hernandez, MA**, “Rompiendo Fronteras: Transnational Motherhood, Activism and Theater in Tlaxcala, Mexico.” (Desai)

**Natalie Umsted, MA**, “The Art of Commerce: Self-Stratification on Etsy.” (Tuchman)

**Devon Goss, MA**, “I Wasn’t Supposed to Notice It: Transracial Adoption and Colorblind Racism.” (Purkayastha)
We are fortunate to have recruited a very talented incoming cohort for the 2014-2015 academic year. Be sure to welcome them when they arrive in August!

**Ordoitz Galilea** obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology from UPNA in Pamplona, Spain and an MA, also in Sociology, from the New School for Social Research. He is the recipient of both Erasmus and Fulbright scholarships, among other academic awards. His main interest resides in the intersection between culture and power structures, analyzing how cultural meanings and symbols are utilized in order to create, maintain or change relations of power and self-perception. His current research is an ethnographic account of the festival of San Fermin and its nature as a space of ideological contestation for dissenting notions on national and community identity, morality, gender inequality or xenophobia.

**Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrino** graduated with an MS in Sociology from Mississippi State University in 2014; previously she graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Sociology from the University of Puerto Rico. Her thesis examined the relationship between representations of Puerto Rican identity and representations of their social roles in the United States and Puerto Rico using articles from the 1950s published by the New York Times. Her current research interests include racial and cultural identity of Latin American immigrants and color-blind racial discourse in the media. Bianca is also a passionate FC Barcelona fan and avid traveler.

**Emma Lesser** earned her BA from Simmons College in May 2014. She graduated magna cum laude, with departmental Honors in Sociology, and as an Honors Program student. Emma is most interested in race theory, Jewish identities, and multiracial feminisms. In her undergraduate Honors thesis (funded by the Hazel Dick Leonard fellowship), Emma used qualitative, grounded interviews to explore racial identity construction and collective belonging among Mizrahi, Sephardi, and Ashkenazi Jewish women. She has presented her work at Brandeis University and Simmons College. Emma was a research assistant in the Women’s and Gender Studies department at Simmons for two years and a T.A. for the Chair of Sociology. She is passionate about teaching and fostering intellectual communities. In her spare time, Emma enjoys playing violin, being with her family, and being involved in social justice-oriented Jewish communities.

**Matthew Rogers** graduated magna cum laude from St. Michael’s College with a B.A. in Sociology. His research interests include masculinity and its impact on both education and violence. At the undergraduate level he conducted original research and a thesis on the role of masculinity in random school violence in the last decade. Moving forward, he hopes to expand this research, as well as examine masculinity’s role in the classroom more broadly.

**Michael L. Rosino** graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology and the University of Cincinnati with an M.A. in Sociology. His Master’s thesis research, which has yielded an article under review for publication, examines discursive processes of interpretation and social learning within an online community. His most recent work, co-authored with Matthew W. Hughey, proposes a new theoretical approach to the racialized discourses and practices of the “War on Drugs.” His primary scholarly interests include culture, media, race and ethnicity, qualitative methodology, sociological theory, and sociology of the internet. He is also a cat owner.
William Armaline (PhD, 2007) has been invited by the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri to speak at the 11th Annual Teacher Conference in July 2014. The theme is "Equal Rights for All: Civil Liberties in the USA" and the conference will be attended by high school history teachers from all over the country. Bill will present on *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard: Injustice and Resistance in the United States* (coedited with Davita Silfen Glasberg and Bandana Purkayastha) and include references to its relevance today and how this may be taught in a high school classroom.

Congratulations to Emeritus faculty member Arnie Dashefsky on the publication of the 2013 American Jewish Year Book, a critical resource for information about the current state of the American Jewish community. Arnie has co-edited this important project for a number of years and we are delighted that even with his retirement he continues to devote his time, energy, and expertise to this essential work. Arnie and his co-editor, Dr. Ira Dashefsky, recently participated in a reception and panel marking the publication at the University of Miami, where they were also joined by UConn CLAS Dean, Jeremy Teitelbaum.

Tom Hochschild's (PhD, 2011) research on cul-de-sacs which was the basis of his dissertation continues to receive great publicity. The latest coverage is from The Atlantic: CityLab and The Australian Herald Sun.

Anjana Narayan PhD, 2006) was awarded promotion with tenure at California State University at Pomona. After a year in India, Anjana, her partner Shashi, and daughters, Nandita and Mallika, live in Southern Los Angeles.

Steve Ostertag (PhD, 2008) has accepted an offer as assistant professor of sociology at Tulane University. He has been teaching at Tulane as non tenure-track faculty. The Dean's Office also nominated him for a national award associated with teaching an exceptional service-learning course.

Ranita Ray (PhD, 2013) was featured in an interview in the Las Vegas Weekly paper about upward mobility, the working poor and why school isn't always the great equalizer.
Emeritus faculty member Clinton Sanders was given the 2013 "Mentors Excellence Award" by the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction at the August 2013 meetings in NYC (Clint has now won all of the major SSSI awards and the book award twice). Clint has also accepted an offer to be the "Cecil H. and Ida Green Honors Chair Professor" in the sociology program at Texas Christian University.

Publications:


Presentations:


Tuchman, Gaye. March 2014. “Corporate Universities and the Bottom Line: Disenfranchising Faculty” (being transformed into a chapter for Sheila Slaughter’s new book, due July 1) at University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK.

New Beginnings!

Josef Ma married Kuan-Chen Su on December 28, 2013 in Taipei, Taiwan.

Andrew Deener and his wife Alana welcomed a new baby boy, Echo Sage, on November 29, 2013.

Barret Katuna and her husband Benjamin welcomed twins, Hans Edward and Henry Elliot, shortly after Barret defended her dissertation on April 1, 2014!
We Appreciate Your Generosity!

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.

There is a fund at University of Connecticut Foundation which makes it possible to contribute directly to the Department of Sociology.

To contribute to the fund:

You may make a tax-deductible donation 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 by using the name and number of the fund.

Thank you!

*22735: Sociology Department—Unrestricted Find: “To be used for the unrestricted support of the Sociology Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.”
Our team of faculty, staff, and graduate students continue to make UConn’s Sociology Department a great place to be. Without our collective commitment to excellence, collegiality, and commitment to outstanding professional standards, none of our accomplishments would have been achieved.

A sincere thanks to all those whose work contributes to the department and university. Kathryn Ratcliff, for managing our scheduling and serving on numerous university committees, Mary Fischer, for running the graduate program and serving on numerous committees around the University, Richard Rockwell, for serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies while he served as President of AAUP in a very crucial year, Lynne Goodstein, for taking on the position of Undergraduate Director (2014-2016), Arlene Goodwin for the department operations and building matters, Kathy Covey for graduate and undergraduate program support, Devon Goss for helping with the undergraduate program, Rachel Eldracher and Samantha Strazza for their help with office support through the year, Allen Hyde for serving as the representative of the graduate students, Todd Vachon, who will lead the graduate students in 2014-2015, and last but not least, Meral Tunador for her work through summer assisting Arlene and Kathy.

Thank you on behalf of the department!

— Bandana Purkayastha, Department Head

Newsletter design by Meral Tunador

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**In Touch With History**

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As sociologists, we are well aware of the inhumane conditions that structured the segregated lives of African Americans (and other people of color) in the United States. Decades of organizing and sacrifices led to the passage of this landmark act in 1964. Emeriti faculty Ronald Taylor was one of the students who organized to desegregate lunch counters in the South. Ron narrates an interesting story of their group’s first attempt to reach the lunch counters at a department store. Taking advantage of the fact that African Americans were not familiar with the store, the manager met them, and led them through many passages, telling them to continue. The group found themselves in the lot behind the back door! Ron and his group returned to their appointed task soon after. Ron was also part of many other organized efforts to ensure equality for all people in the U.S. during the Civil Rights movement. Ron served as the University’s first Multicultural Provost and spent his career trying to “identify practices that make a difference in sustaining diversity in institutions.”

In 1942, an order of the President put Japanese Americans (two-thirds of whom were American citizens) in internment camps. Quakers from the Mansfield area, who objected to this form of discrimination, arranged to bring a few students from camps to UCONN. Terry Yatsu came from Tule Lake camp to Storrs in 1944 and earned her BA with a major in Sociology/Psychology in 1947. Another well-known conscientious objector, Gordon Hirabayashi — who later became a sociologist — challenged the United States curfew and relocation orders. This spring, his nephew Lane Hirabayashi (UCLA) presented his new book, Hirabayashi’s biography — A Principled Stance — at UCONN, and was pleased to hear the ASA’s Human Rights section had named their book award after his uncle (and two UCONN sociologists, Silfen Glasberg and Purkayastha, along with Armaline (PhD 2007), were the winners of the first Hirabayashi award.)