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Lee Founders Award

Nancy Naples, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at UCONN, was selected to receive the 2014 Lee founders Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP).

The award was established in 1981 in recognition of significant achievements that, over a distinguished career, have demonstrated continuing devotion to the ideals of the founders of the Society and especially to the humanist tradition of Alfred McClung Lee and Elizabeth Briant Lee. The significant achievements may be in the areas of scholarly research, teaching, or service leading to the betterment of human life.

SWS Feminist Lecturer Award

Manisha Desai, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Programs at UCONN, received the 2015 Feminist Lecturer Award from Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). As part of this honor, SWS will sponsor Manisha’s visit to some campuses in the country. From SWS:

The SWS Distinguished Lectureship was founded in 1985 as a way of recognizing members whose scholarship employs a feminist perspective, and of making this feminist scholar available to campuses that are isolated, rural, located away from major metropolitan areas, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, and/or characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship.

Excellence in 2015: Faculty Awards, Graduate and Undergraduate Achievement (and more!)

The 2014-2015 academic year was full of scholarly research, public engagement, and dynamic work by Faculty and students alike. Join us in celebrating the hard work that allows UCONN Sociology to continue its legacy of rigor and academic excellence!
2014 - 2015 Book and Paper Awards


Elizabeth Holzer’s article, “What happens to Law in a Refugee Camp?”, received the *Best Published Paper Award* from ASA’s section on Peace & War. The paper was published in the *Law & Society Review*, 47(4): 837-872. (2013).

Grants and Fellowships Awarded

Elizabeth Holzer received an UCONN Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) for her research entitled “Refugee Activists and the Dilemmas of Humanitarian Rule” for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Kim Price-Glynn received an UCONN Scholarship Facilitation Fund (SFF) for her research entitled “Sharing Caring: Negotiating Motherhood, Child Care, and Labor” for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Bandana Purkayastha was funded by the American Institute for Pakistan Studies (AIPS) to travel to Pakistan to deliver a keynote address on child rights.

Daisy Reyes was selected as a 2015 Faculty Fellow of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.

Michael Wallace was one of four Roper Center Fellows for 2014-2015.

Congratulations to Nancy Naples and Bandana Purkayastha for being selected by the Provost’s committee to receive four year memberships to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)!
Colloquia and Presentations

This year, our department was very active in many professional meetings including the International Sociological Association (ISA) conference in Yokohama Japan, the American Sociological Association conference (ASA), the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) meeting, the Latin American Studies Association conference (LASA), the annual meeting of Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) summer and winter meetings.

INVI TED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS in the U.S.
Claudio Benzecry was a visiting scholar at NYU’s Institute for Public Knowledge during his Spring sabbatical. Claudio was also invited to be part of a special panel on Culture and Media at the annual LASA Conference.

Ruth Braunstein was invited to speak at a joint meeting of the Lower Connecticut valley and Shoreline branches of the AAUW, in conjunction with her 2014-15 AAUW American Fellowship. Ruth also spoke on a panel on campus entitled "You Matter: A Discussion on Identity and Belonging at UConn." Additionally, she was a speaker at numerous events sponsored by the UCONN Humanities Institute, including a roundtable discussion called “Research in the Humanities: Why It Matters & Getting Started” where she was a co-facilitator.

Manisha Desai was invited to speak at many events this year. This includes the University of Virginia Symposium on Gender and Globalization and the Politics of Protest Seminar at the CUNY Graduate Center (4/02). Other presentations include the SWS organized session at the United Nation’s Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the Sociology of Development Conference at Brown University.

Mary Fischer was invited to speak at University of Missouri’s Population, Education & Health Seminar series this past Fall. She also was invited to present on a special thematic panel at the Southern Sociological Society meeting during the Spring.

Matthew Hughey recently presented his work at the Chicago Ethnography Conference, Loyola University-Chicago, Dominican University, Roosevelt University, University of Illinois-Chicago, and Northern Illinois University.

Daisy Reyes was invited to be on an interdisciplinary session called "When did/do Latin Americans become Latino" at LASA this May.

Bradley Wright presented his work on Soul-Pulse to students of University of Missouri-Columbia.

Elected Offices

Mary Bernstein is the now the Past President of SWS. Mary also serves on the publication committee of SSSP.

Ruth Braunstein was asked to serve on the Nominating Committee for the History of Sociology section of ASA.

Davita Silfen Glasberg is the Past President of Sociologists Without Borders.

Matthew Hughey was elected as co-chair of the Division of Racial and Ethnic Minorities for SSSP (2-year term). He also serves on the nominations committee for ASA.

Bandana Purkayastha completed her term as Past President of SWS in February 2015; she continues her work as American Sociological Association’s representative to the ISA, and serves on ASA’s committee on committees.

Editorships

Our faculty continue to serve in different editorial capacities, including Mary Bernstein, (Deputy Editor, Gender & Society), Simon Cheng and Manisha Desai, (American Sociological Review), Manisha Desai (Feminist Formations, Societies Without Border: Human Rights and the Social Sciences, International Feminist Journal of Politics, Women, Gender, and Families of Color, and the Gender Section of Sociology Compass), Mary Fischer (Sociology Compass), Matthew Hughey (Associate Editor of Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Associate Editor of the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Social Problems, and as Deputy Editor, Humanity & Society), Bandana Purkayastha (Race and Ethnicity, and the Journal of South Asian Diasporas), David Weakliem, Editor (Comparative Sociology).
Phoebe Godfrey continues her work at CLIck in Willimantic.

In June, Kathryn Ratcliff gave the opening remarks to the AmeriCorps Members’ Year End Service Program hosted by the Eastern Area Health Education Center, Inc. (Eastern AHEC). Kathryn continues to serve as president of Eastern AHEC.

Graduate student Nicolas Simon was invited to speak at the Windham Board of Ed meeting after people heard about his service learning course. http://www1.easternct.edu/newsflash/2015/04/10/outstanding-humanitarian-efforts-recognized-at-service-expo/

Simone Cheng has completed 10 years of service.
Kathy Covey has completed 10 years of service.
Mary Fischer has completed 10 years of service.
Kim Price-Glynn has completed 10 years of service.
David Weakliem has completed 20 years of service.

Bradley Wright advised a church in Dallas on collecting and using data about spiritual activities.

Elizabeth Holzer 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 member’s choice.

This year, Matthew Hughey was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure!
Ruth Braunstein’s co-edited book (with Todd Fuist and Rhys H. Williams), *Progressive Religion and Social Activism*, has been approved for publication by New York University Press in the Religion and Social Transformation book series.

Manisha Desai has been offered a contract by Routledge for her book, “Gendered Geographies of Subaltern Struggles in India.”

Matthew Hughey has been offered a contract by Oxford University Press for a textbook on race and racism.

Kathryn Ratcliff has been offered a contract by Polity Press for her book, “Understanding the Social Determinants of Health.”

Claudio Benzecry accepted a position at the Department of Communications and Sociology at Northwestern University in Chicago. We thank Claudio for his service to the department here at UCONN and wish him the very best on his new journey!

On April 6th, the Department of Sociology worked to create a workshop entitled “Crossing National Boundaries.” Guest speakers provided global perspectives on methodologies and research. Panelists were Anurekha Chari-Wagh, Savitribai Phule University-India, Anand Venkatesh, UConn Fulbright Scholar [Economics], and Pallavi Banerji, Vanderbilt University. Attendees were both faculty and students from a wide range of fields.

This event also garnered a diverse amount of support, with the following co-sponsors: the Asian & Asian American Studies program, the Human Rights Institute, India Studies program, & the UCONN UNESCO Chair & Global Human Rights program.
International Engagements

The Sociology department has been actively modeling global engagement in research and teaching (and service). Faculty members (and Graduate Students) have ongoing research projects in Australia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Spain and Turkey.

INVITED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Manisha Desai was very active in International scholar networks this year. Manisha was invited to present at the Center for Gender Research and Gender and Development at the University of Bergen (3/25). Other presentations include a workshop called “Democratizing Democracy in India? State and Social Movements Relationships” at University of Bergen, Norway (3/27) and a paper presentation at the Nordic Gender Research Conference in Copenhagen.

Susan Eisenhandler presented a paper called “A Self-Sown Retirement Community and the Dynamic of Change: getting Closer to Well-Being If Not to Gerotopia” at the Society for Utopian Studies conference in Montreal, Canada (10/23/14). Susan also served as a moderator for a session on Fiction and Philosophy at the meeting.

Graduate student Allen Hyde presented a paper titled “Financialization and the Top 1% Share in Advanced Capitalist Nations” at the European Consortium for Sociological Research Conference in Berlin, Germany in September.

Bandana Purkayastha was invited to several scholarly meetings in Pakistan in November. Bandana delivered the plenary session address, “Theoretical Approaches of Child Rights,” at the Conference on Child Rights, which commemorated the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on Child Rights. Other invitations include a talk on human rights at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies; University of Punjab, Lahore, and a talk called “Negotiating Ethnicity: Experiences of South Asian Americans” at the Center for South Asian Studies at University of Punjab, Lahore. Graduate Student Farhan Yousaf and Bandana also met several government officials and NGO leaders who were engaged in combatting sex trafficking and violence against women.

David Weakliem was invited to speak at St. Petersburg State University (Russia).

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR FINDS HOME AT UCONN

Dr. Anurekha Chari-Wagh is spending a year at UCONN on a Raman Post-Doctoral fellowship, working with Bandana Purkayastha. The C.V. Raman Fellowship is a highly competitive fellowship awarded by the Government of India. It allows outstanding scholars to spend a year working on research with a mentor of their choice. During her fellowship at UCONN, Anurekha has been working on several research papers and a book manuscript on Wages, Credit and Land Rights in Globalizing India.

Outside of UCONN, Anurekha is an Assistant Professor of Sociology, at Savitribai Phule Pune University in India and faculty at Associated Colleges of Midwest (ACM) Pune where she is the coordinator of sociology papers Sociology of India and Sociology of Gender. Anurekha specializes in the areas of gender and development, with special focus on rural development programmes (access to wages and microcredit for women in poverty) and land rights for women. She has published on these issues in national and international journals and chapters in edited books.

Anurekha has been teaching sociology since 2001, her visit to UCONN is one of many visits to universities around the world. This includes University of Uppsala, Sweden; University of Deusto, Spain; Jagiellonian University, Poland; among others. Anurekha was also awarded a research fellowship by Georg-August
In my Honors Society in Global Perspective course this past spring semester, I invited three guest speakers: Anurekha Chari Wagh of the Department of Sociology, Savitribai Phule Pune University in India, Daniela Jauk of the University of Graz in Austria and Jolly Lux of Guiding Light Orphans. Anurekha, Daniela, and Jolly emphasized the importance of recognizing the interdependence of the global community and the need to understand systemic challenges and inequalities.

Anurekha Chari Wagh challenged my students to think deeply about their learning experience in the United States and how classrooms vary between India and the United States. Students learned that language diversity in India made for a challenging classroom environment where students were not always fluent in the principle language of the lecture. In addition, she discussed the consequences of the privileging of Western knowledge production and how that has characterized her scholarly experience.

A little later on in the semester, I was pleased to host Daniela via Skype. Daniela focused on her dissertation research that explored challenges, such as access to funds and visas, that feminist activists and scholars confront as they organize at the United Nations, specifically at the annual Commission on the Status of Women. Furthermore, in her presentation entitled, “Doing global sociology – from the Austrian countryside to the United Nations and back,” Daniela outlined how students can also engage themselves in international learning and activism.

Lastly, Jolly Lux of Guiding Light Orphans presented her work in establishing health programs in Uganda that range from assistance for HIV/AIDS orphans to the establishment of an epilepsy clinic. Jolly spoke about how she moved to the United States and then went back to Uganda and learned of the pressing needs. In particular, she saw a need for non-governmental programming to assist people who could not access basic health care due to transportation challenges or a lack of availability of prescription drugs at the area pharmacies, for example. Jolly addressed her journey of learning about how she could best give back to the local needs of her former community. She also inspired a few students to get involved with her work. I had a class full of many pre-med students who were particularly drawn to learn more about Jolly’s work and how they might be able to assist in the future.

My students were exceptionally excited to welcome these speakers to class. Through these presentations, I was able to further solidify course concepts and stimulate further interest.”
Mary Bernstein was quoted in several presses as the Supreme Court heard the arguments about same sex marriage.

Mary’s research “Benchmarking Diversity: Social Movement Outcomes in the Workplace,” was also featured on a UCONN blog this past August.

August 19th, 2014: http://clas.uconn.edu/2014/08/19/lgbt-advocacy-within-companies-works/

Ruth Braunstein was featured on the UCONN blog in June 2014.

June 24th, 2014: http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/06/building-a-diverse-organization-one-prayer-at-a-time/?utm_source=DailyDigest

Additionally, Ruth’s work with the Office of University Communications concerning the August 2014 issue of American Sociological Review resulted in media coverage.


Noel Cazenave was featured on WNPR discussing civility and free speech at UCONN.


Simon Cheng’s article, “Measurement, Methods, and Divergent Patterns: Reassessing the Effects of Same-Sex Parents” (Social Science Research 2015), was summarized and promoted by Philip Cohen from the Family Inequality blog. Due to this research, Simon was also interviewed by Miranda Blue from Right Wing Watch on May 3, 2015 and Jesse Singal, senior editor from New York Magazine, on May 4, 2015.


Graduate Student Brenna Harvey’s research was featured by The Guardian this March.


Additionally, her co-authored presentation from the American Men’s Studies Association conference (“Bronies and the Discursive Construction of Abject Masculinity Online”) was mentioned in the Washington Post.

Matthew Hughey’s studies on Greek-life and racial inequality being cited in The Washington Post.

Shortly after this feature, Matthew was interviewed by CNN.com, Inside Higher Ed, O Globo (Brazil), Huffington Post, the Associated Press and The Christian Science Monitor to discuss the incident that occurred at U of Oklahoma earlier this Spring. In March, Matthew also recorded in a video segment that aired on Al Jazeera America and appeared live on CNN hosted by Don Lemon.

Additionally, Matthew wrote an op-ed on the topic for The New York Times.

Christin Munsch has received significant media attention this past year. Christin’s infidelity research attracted some media attention and has been covered by numerous news sources, including UCONN TODAY.
February 8th, 2015:  http://fivethirtyeight.com/datalab/38-percent-of-women-earn-more-than-their-husbands/
June 1st, 2015:  http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2015/06/study-economically-dependent-spouses-more-likely-to-cheat/

Christin also published a blog post with Tristan Bridges, Kjerstin Gruys, and C.J. Pascoe in The Society Pages on gender bias in student evaluations. The blog has since been published in The Pacific Standard and re-posted on Sociological Images, the Gender & Society blog, Reddit.com, and a number of other venues. The post will be published a forthcoming gender reader that Lisa Wade, Doug Hartmann and Chris Uggen are putting together with Norton entitled Genders and Society.

Additionally, Christin’s work on gender and the labor force was also featured by the Greenwich Time this year.

Kim Price Glynn’s research on men in pink collar jobs was featured in Science digest.

Bandana Purkayastha was interviewed by Voice of America (in Bangla) on her views on the 2015 Human Rights Watch report.
More info here:  http://asianamerican.uconn.edu/faculty/core/bandana/new-and-noteworthy/

Bradley Wright & Michael Wallace’s research on religious discrimination in the hiring process was featured by UCONN, among other outlets (Washington Post, Huffington Post, and more). The UConn Today article featuring the research has received over 4,000 social media shares!
June 16, 2014:  http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/06/great-resume-too-bad-about-your-religion/
June 19th, 2014:  http://live.huffingtonpost.com/r/segment/religion-study-job-discrimination-muslims/-539fbaf02a760c83d000011

Additionally, two of their previously published articles were used in an amicus brief filed on December 9, 2014 before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case “Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Petitioner, v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores, Inc.”

**Articles used:**


Publications

Graduate Students are marked with *


Cheng, Simon and Brian Powell. 2015. “Measurement, Methods, and Divergent Patterns: Reassessing the Effects of Same-Sex Parents.”

Cheng, Simon, Josef (Kuo-Hsun) Ma* and Stacy Missari. 2014. The Effects of Internet Use on Adolescents’ first romantic and sexual relationships in Taiwan.” International Sociology.


Publications (continued)

Katuna, Barret. 2015. “Perpetuating Inequality Through the Canons of Disciplinary Knowledge” in Disrupting the Culture of Silence edited by Kris De Welde and Andi Stepnick (co-editors).


**Graduate Student Updates**

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**Devon Goss** received a *Predoctoral Fellowship* from El Instituto.

**Kuo-Hsun (Josef) Ma** won the *CLAS Deans Graduate Fellowship*.

**Caner Hazer** was awarded a graduate research grant from UConn's Human Rights Institute to conduct his research.

**Ruth Hernandez and Todd Vachon** both were awarded *Graduate Dissertation Fellowships* from the Graduate School.

**Malaena Taylor** received a *Fall 2014 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship*. Taylor was also awarded a student travel grant from the American Association for Public Opinion Research to attend their 2015 annual conference.

**Kamryn Warren** has been awarded a *Fulbright dissertation* grant to conduct her research in Nepal on the Llohtschampa refugees—Bhutanese of Nepali origin—Nepal. Kamryn also received the *Human Rights Institute’s Graduate Research Fellowship* for 2015-16.

**Farhan Yousaf** was awarded a travel grant from the Eastern Sociological Society. Farhan, a Fulbright scholar, received a competitive travel grant from *American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)* to present his work to the British Sociological Association conference. He received another grant from AIPS for his work on organ trafficking, and a travel grant from ESS for the March 2015 conference.

**Awards**

- **Allen Hyde** and **Erika Del Villar** were both won the *Outstanding Student Teaching Award* this year.

- **Todd Vachon** was awarded the *Outstanding Graduate Student Award*. Todd also won the *Ross MacKinnon Award*.

- **Nicolas Simon** has recently won Eastern Connecticut State University’s service learning award.

- **Chriss Sneed** was awarded the inaugural *Rainbow Alumni Award* from Spectrum at St. John’s University.

- **Meral Tunador** is the recipient of the 2014 *New Haven Pride Center David Knapp Scholarship* for his research on LGB young people’s transitions to adulthood.

- **Abbey Willis** was awarded the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department’s 2015 *Teaching Excellence award*.

Fulbright recipient **Kamryn Warren** was also accepted to the UCLA NEH Summer Seminar “The Cross-Border Connection: Immigrants, Emigrants, and their Homelands” with full funding! Congratulations!
In August, Graduate Student Kathleen Ragon organized the first annual Sociology Grad Olympics. The event brought together faculty, seasoned graduate students and the 2014 first year cohort for a day of competition, games and fun!

Graduate Presentations

Presenter marked with *

Every year, graduate students (and faculty) are very active at professional meetings and conferences such as ASA, SWS and ESS, among others.

Graduate research featured at the American Sociological Association meeting in San Francisco this past August:

Aspen Chen*, “Studying the Nativity effect on Academic Outcomes for Young Children: Effects of Family Practices and Resources.”

Erika Lorenzana Del Villar*, “Redress for Victims of Terrorism: The Right to Reparations in the War on Terror.”

Devon Goss*, “I Wasn’t Supposed to Notice It: Transracial Adoption and Color-Blind Racism.”

Josef Ma* (Co-Presider) and Todd Vachon, “Does Economic Growth Benefit Internet Use? Comparing Students’ Digital Access and Internet Literacy across 41 Countries.”

Greg Mills* (Co-Presider), “The Unique Impact of Watching Television on Third Grade Reading Achievement for Language Minority Students.”

Professor Mary Bernstein*, Apoorva Ghosh* and Malaena Jo Taylor*, “Benchmarking Diversity: Social Movement Outcomes in the Workplace.”

Qiong (Miranda) Wu* and Professor Michael Wallace, “Workers’ Earnings in Contemporary China: Class, Labor Market Structure and Social Networks.”

Todd Vachon*, Professor Michael Wallace and Allen Hyde, “Globalization, Regionalization, and Union Decline in 18 Affluent Democracies during the Neoliberal Era.”

Graduate research featured at the Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting in DC this February:

Devon Goss, “Mail-Order Brides, Lesbian Lovers, and Interracial Couples: Public Perceptions to Transracial Familial Intimacy.”

Ruth Marleen Hernández, Kamryn Warren* and Brenna Harvey*, “Teaching and Learning with Our Subjects: Reflexivity, Knowledge Sharing and Research-Based Education Efforts.”

Chriss Sneed*, “We’re Here, We’re Queer, Get Used to It: Queering Race, Class and ‘Community’.”
Graduate Presentations (continued)

Graduate research featured at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting this February:


Kamryn Warren*, “Intersections of Forced Migration and Transnationalism.”

Ruth M. Hernández*, “Rompiendo Fronteras: Transnational Motherhood, Activism, and Theatre in Tlaxcala, Mexico.”

Caner Hazar* (Presider), “Gender Performance as an Everyday Strategy in Turkey.”

Devon R. Goss* and Professor Matthew Hughey, “Adoptionalism: Transracial and International Adoption and the Dominance of American Exceptionalism and Neo-Colonialism.”

Michael L. Rosino* and Professor Matthew W. Hughey, “Colorblind Critiques: Racial Discourse in Mass Media Debates on the “War on Drugs.”


Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrino, Emma Lesser*, and Professor Matthew W. Hughey, “Post-Racial or Diverse Streaming? Racial Diversity in Orange is The New Black, House of Cards and Hemlock Grove.”

Muhammad Arshad and Farhan Yousaf, “Violence against Children: A Case Study of Pakistan.”

Farhan Yousaf*, “Organ Trafficking and Commodification of Human Bodies.”

Todd Vachon*, “Green Unionism? Examining the Relationship between Union Membership and Environmentalism.”

Abbey Willis*, “Identity as Selectivity Filter: One Step Toward a Political Economy of Compulsory Monogamy.”

John Bailey* and Brenna Harvey*, "Don’t be so autistic": Bronies and the Discursive Construction of Abjact Masculinity Online.

This May, Malaena Taylor presented at AAPOR’s annual meeting. Taylor’s presentation was entitled “Do Polls Drive the News or Does News Drive the Polls? A Meta-Analysis of Polling Questions and Big News Stories.”

Farhan Yousaf chaired a session on Trafficking at the UNESCO Global Human Rights Conference on Trafficking sponsored by UCONN.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS!

Graduate student Caner Hazar organized the first annual feminist/queer killjoys workshop for WGSS. This interdisciplinary workshop connected students from around the university. Two Sociology and Feminist Studies Certificate students, Brenna Harvey and Chriss Sneed, presented their research.

Brenna Harvey discussing her research this at the “Feminist/Queer Killjoys” workshop.
This Spring, Professor Michael Wallace organized the Urban Sociology Research Symposium, featuring research from his Metropolitan Communities course. Graduate presenters included:

**Allen Hyde**, “Immigration and Local Labor Market Quality in Metropolitan America.”

**Joonghyun Kwak**, “Globalization and the Transformation of Occupational Structures in the U.S. Metropolitan Areas.”

**Angran Li**, “Economic Globalization, Labor Market Transformation, and Immigrant and Native Worker Skills in the U.S. Metropolitan Areas.”

**Greg Mills**, “The Housing Crisis and Family Formation: The Effects of the Housing Price Crash on Fertility, Marriage, Cohabitation and Divorce.”

**Heidi Obach**, “The Young and the Creative? Attracting Young, College-educated Residents to Metropolitan Areas.”

**Jordan Rees**, “Thriving or Surviving? The Impact of the Great Recession on Urban Health.”

**Jason Slappe**, “Income, Race, and Place: the Distributional Effects of Inequality on Household Income.”

**Deronta Spencer**, “The Long-Term Effects of Elementary School Segregation on Poverty Rates of Young Black and White Adults.”

**Miranda Wu**, “The Impact of Immigration on the Quality of Life in US Metropolitan Areas.”

**D. Matthew Ray**, “Mobility for Whom? Local Mobility Structures and Stratification of Earnings and Poverty.”

Graduate students (and Faculty) were also well represented at MASSCON Symposium on Qualitative Sociology held at Boston college on May 13th, 2015.

**UCONN Presenters included:**

**Ordoitz Galilea**, “The Life of the Party: Organizational Structures and Role Transitions in the Peñas of the Festival of San Fermin.”

**Devon Goss**, “Mail-Order Brides, Lesbian Lovers, and Interracial Couples: Public Perceptions to Transracial Familial Intimacy.”

**Brenna Harvey** and John Bailey, “‘Pony is for Sexual’: Bronies and the Discursive Construction of Abject Masculinity Online.”

**Sylvia Pu**, “Migration, Middle Class, and Professional Development: How Chinese Graduate Students in the U.S. Re-stabilize a Sense of Selfhood.”

**Kamryn Warren** and **Brenna Harvey**, “Queer Pathways: Identity and Belonging Among LGBTQ Forced Migrants not Claiming Sexuality-Based Asylum.”

Sociology graduate students supporting the Graduate Union (GEU-UAW) demonstrations on campus. Shortly after, the GEU-UAW celebrated a tentative 3 year contract with the University.
The following undergraduates were nominated for Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and widely known honor society in the United States for their excellence in the classroom and in the University community:

Karina Barra-Arrendondo (Major in Sociology)
Rebecca Barton (Double Major in Sociology and Women's Studies)
Nicole Brown (Double Major in Psychology and Sociology)
Nicole Kesner (Double Major in Sociology and Psychology)
Devin Samuels (Major in Sociology)
Colleen Schmalberger (Double Major in Math and Sociology)
Alyssa Zabin (Double Major in Psychology and Sociology)

Undergraduates Lilian Kayano and Emily Recalde were both winners of the Janet M. Feinberg Award.

Emily hopes to become a professional licensed medical Social Worker. She was recently accepted to UCONN’s Master’s of Social Work Community Organization program for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Lilian wishes to gain a social work education to gain knowledge about social discrimination and how to fight for the well-being of populations needing to be served. She was also accepted into the Masters of Social Work program here at UCONN.
This year, the undergraduate program hosted many exciting events, programs and invited speakers. Here, we outline just some of these programs.

Lynne Goodstein invited lawyer Ms. Suzy Storey and all four members of the legal team, plus Bonnie Jean Foreshaw, the prisoner who received clemency last year, to her classes on September 22nd.

On March 31st, the Sociology Department collaborated with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Center for Career Development, HDFS and Psychology Departments to host a Career Panel that featured UCONN Sociology alumni, among other speakers.

The Sociology Department held the annual Commencement reception in the Student Union on May 10th, 2015. Congratulations New Graduates!
### Moving Forward!

#### Graduations

Christopher Donnelly, PhD, “The Virtual Vanguard: White Supremacism, the Internet, and Social Change.” (Bernstein)

Travis Lowe, PhD, “Subjective Economic Insecurity in the United States: Perceived Precarity in the New Economy.” (Wallace)

Roseanne Njiru, PhD, “Nipe-nikupe: A Multi-level Perspective of Gender and HIV Prevention in Heterosexual Marriages in Kenya.” (Purkayastha)

Lauren Van Derzee, MA, “The Effects of Student Involvement in Afterschool Extracurricular Activities on Childhood Obesity.” (Cheng)

Caner Hazar, MA, “Male Homosexuality in Interaction: Categorizations, Strategies, and Different Orientations toward Sexual Categories in Turkey.” (Bernstein)

Angran Li, MA, “How Much is Too Much? Debunking the Effects of Parental Over-Involvement at Home.” (Cheng)

Heidi Obach, MA, “Labor For Whom? The Effects of Paid and Unpaid Labor on the Four-Year College Enrollment of Male and Female Students.” (Cheng)

Sylvia Pu, MA, “Migration, Global Middle Class, and Professional Development: How Chinese Graduate Students in the U.S. Restabilize a Sense of Selfhood.” (Benzecry)

Meral Tunador, MA, “I'm like Three-Fifths of an Adult!: Investigating the Transitions to Adulthood for LGB Second Generation Latinas/os and Asian Americans” (Naples).

Stephen Wulff, MA, “Queering the State?: A Relational View of LGBTQ Hybrid Organizations and the “Shadow State”.” (Bernstein)

#### Job Placements

Christopher Donnelly, PhD, currently works at the State of Vermont Department of Mental Health as a Mental Health Analyst II.

Greg Mills, MA, accepted a statistician position with the American Community Survey Office at the US Census Bureau in Suitland, MD, which starts in June 2015. Greg will be defending his dissertation proposal this fall.

Roseanna Nijru, PhD, returned to Kenya where she is negotiating a new job.

Meral Tunador, MA, graduated in December 2014 after defending their master’s thesis here at University of Connecticut. Meral then accepted the Program Coordinator for Sexuality and Gender Diversity at Brandeis University. There, he oversees the Gender and Sexuality Center while advising and advocating for student groups.
**2015 Incoming Graduate Student Cohort**

Carol Ann Jackson graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a minor in Women's Studies from Quinnipiac University located in Hamden, CT. She was inducted into the AKD International Sociology Honor Society and awarded various awards both at her university and outside for academic achievements. She has research interests in urban education, social stratification, race and ethnicity, hip-hop culture, and sociological theory. Throughout her academic career, much of her time and research has been dedicated to issues in urban education and the lived experiences of youth in under-served communities.

Cristina Khan holds a MA in sociology from American University, where she completed an 18 month ethnography of racialized erotic labor in the North East as the empirical work for her thesis, foregrounding body and embodiment theory. She has several in-progress publications and has presented at both the American Sociological Association annual meeting as well as the Society for the Study of Social Problems annual meeting. Her research interests include qualitative methodologies, Latino Studies/racialization, body/embodiment, and erotic labor.

Zachary Kline graduated summa cum laude from West Chester University of Pennsylvania with a BA in Sociology. He received his department's Outstanding Sociology Student award for his involvement in faculty research, completion of personal research presented at regional conferences, and leadership in the department. His current research focuses on corporatization of the university, specifically finding out what it means for undergraduates. He is especially passionate about theory and is generally interested in political, environmental, and economic sociology. He seeks interdisciplinary perspectives to his research questions.

Jordan Moses graduated summa cum laude with a degree in sociology, with concentrations in public sociology and criminology from Ramapo College of New Jersey. Upon graduation, he received the Outstanding Achievement Award in Sociology. His research titled “Effects of Demographic Factors on Attitudes about Gun Control,” focused on how spatial relationships to gun violence impact people’s views on gun control and was presented at the Eastern Sociological Society’s 2015 meeting. During his senior year, Jordan interned at Bruno Associates Inc. where he researched grants for public school districts, municipalities, and non-profit organizations. His senior project was titled “Students’ Attitudes on Economic Mobility: Comparing Domestic Students to International Students.” His research interests include economic stratification, attitudinal research, governmental policies concerning the welfare state, and poverty and the life cycle.

Stuart Riepl graduated with a MA in Sociology from DePaul University. His Master’s research project examined the flexibility of identity among 1.5- and second-generation immigrants. Stuart’s interest range from immigrant incorporation to social stratification and urban sociology. He has worked as a research assistant on the Immigrant Youth Organization Project, which explored the roles of immigrant organizations in the incorporation processes of immigrant parents and youth. Stuart’s main responsibilities included cleaning and coding interview transcripts and preparing annotated bibliographies. He enjoys spending time outside and being active.

WELCOME TO UCONN!
**Alumni and Emeriti News**

**Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology**

**Eleanor Lyon**, Faculty Emeritus, has been awarded ASA’s Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology. This annual award honors outstanding contributions to sociological practice. The award recognizes work that has facilitated or served as a model for the work of others, work that has significantly advanced the utility of one or more specialty areas in sociology and, by so doing, has elevated the professional status or public image of the field as a whole, or work that has been honored or widely recognized outside the discipline for its significant impacts, particularly in advancing human welfare.

**Diane Margolis** is now affiliated with the COHOUSING Research Network. CoHos/US focuses on the development and awareness of cohousing initiatives in the United States. See more info: [http://www.cohousing.org/node/2021](http://www.cohousing.org/node/2021)

**C. Wesley Younts**, former Assistant Professor at UCONN, accepted a position as Associate Professor (Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice) and Director of the Center for Social Research at University of Hartford this past August.

**Josef Gugler**, Professor Emeritus, celebrates the publishing of a new edited volume titled *Ten Arab Filmmakers: Political Dissent and Social Critique*.

**Good News and New Beginnings!**

**Erika Del Villar** welcomed a new addition, Julia Maxine Del Villar, who arrived at 11:30 am on February 19, 2015.

**Farhan Yousaf** and Asma welcomed baby Arham, who was born in April.

**Todd Vachon** was proud to report that his daughter Marley (age 9) was one of three winners of the Invention Convention in her school and competed in a state-level competition hosted here at UCONN this spring, his son Toliver (age 7) came in second place overall for his age level in the CT state gymnastics finals in April and lastly, Ebba (age 5) performed at a ballet performance at the Hartt School’s Millard Auditorium on June 6. His partner, Genea, also accepted the position of Chief Legal Officer for Community Health Services in Hartford in October.

**Brenna Harvey**, graduate student and comedian, is also delighted to share that the comedy theater she and others worked to fundraise for, will be opening in the fall. See more info here: [https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/seateaimprov/sea-tea-improvs-comedy-theater-in-hartford-ct/description](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/seateaimprov/sea-tea-improvs-comedy-theater-in-hartford-ct/description)
A Farewell

This year, we say goodbye to a colleague and friend. **Al Cohen** was a former faculty member here in Sociology. He retired in June 1988.

Born June 15th, 1918 in Boston, Al Cohen received an M.A. in Sociology from Indiana University and then a Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University in 1951. While in graduate school, Al was mentored by Edwin H. Sutherland and Robert K. Merton, who shaped his research and theoretical foundations for years to come.

Aside from teaching, Al was known as a criminologist whose major works feature his subcultural theory of delinquent gangs. In his book, *Delinquent Boys: the Culture of the Gang* (1955), Cohen tied theories of normal learning and social structure together. There, a general theory of subcultures came to be. He taught at Indiana University for 18 years before finding a home here at University of Connecticut. In 1993, Al was awarded the *Edwin H. Sutherland Award* from the American Society of Criminology for his intellectual contributions to the field of criminology, both in terms of theory and research.

Thank you!

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, Lynne Goodstein, for serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Arlene Goodwin for department operations and building matters, Kathy Covey for graduate and undergraduate program support, Lauren Munyard, for her work as the Undergraduate Advisor, Abby Marchinkoski, for helping with the undergraduate program, Alyssa Karnauchov for her help with office support through the year, Todd Vachon, for serving as the representative of the graduate students in 2014-2015, and last but not least, Chriss Sneed for their help in designing this newsletter and assisting Arlene and Kathy throughout summer. We also thank all the people in different departments, programs, and offices with whom we worked with throughout the 2014-2015 academic year.

Thank you on behalf of the department!

— Bandana Purkayastha, Department Head

Newsletter Designed by Chriss Sneed
We Appreciate Your Generosity!

“What I loved most about being a Sociology major has been the variety of classes that approach many different aspects of life from a sociological perspective. This major gave me room to think freely and be enlightened about various topics by accepting a new point of view.”

- C. Murray, ’15 Graduate

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.

*22735: Sociology Department—Unrestricted Fund: “To be used for the unrestricted support of the Sociology Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.”