

Greetings from the Head of Sociology: Donna Barnes



The department had a successful 2013-14 academic year. Assistant Professor Anna Zajacova was granted early tenure, a rare accomplishment at UW, because of her impressive record. Our newest hire, Shiri Noy, was the recipient of a PIE/Promoting Intellectual Engagement Award, which is bestowed upon a small group of instructors from a much larger group of instructors who are nominated for the award by their students. This is the second year in a row that Sociology has had a faculty member chosen for the award: Matthew Painter was a recipient last year. For other faculty accomplishments, be sure to read the Faculty News section of the newsletter.

The department's M.A. program continues to produce impressive results. Four students completed their Master's theses since last spring. Among our graduates who entered Ph.D. programs, Ryan Gunderson has completed his Ph.D. and is a Visiting/Temporary Assistant Professor at Michigan State University. Aaron Roussell received his Ph.D. in 2013 and is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University. While our Master's Program is small, we are proud of the career accomplishments of the students that we have mentored. For brief profiles of other alumni, check out the "Where Are They Now" Alumni News section of the newsletter.

I want to thank alumni and friends who have financially supported the Department this past year. Your donations have allowed the department to weather the financial challenges created by past state budget cuts at the university, and your donations also supported department-level awards. I would like to draw your attention to the Student Awards section of the newsletter, which highlights the recipients of the Flittie, Meeks, and Wilbourne Junior Scholar awards.

One final comment: Due to the growing cost of producing and mailing the department newsletter, this will likely be the last printed newsletter that we mail. We hope that you will visit our website (www.uwyo.edu/sociology) to keep track of departmental news.

Best regards,

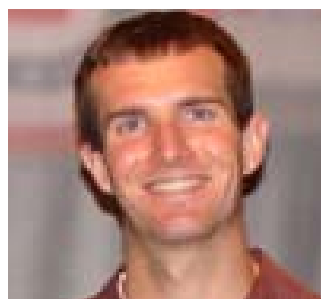
Donna Barnes

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Faculty News



Assistant Professor **Shiri Noy** joined our faculty in Fall 2013 after completing the doctoral program at Indiana University. She has been a wonderful addition to the faculty. She has consistently received strong teaching evaluations in courses that range from the introductory sociology course to the graduate Research Methods seminar. She received the PIE/Promoting Intellectual Engagement Award, which is a student-nominated award for instructors who excel at teaching freshman-level courses. Perhaps most impressively she had an article accepted for publication in one of the top-ranked journals of the field, the *American Sociological Review (ASR)*. This is a rare accomplishment, given that the ASR accepts less than 10 percent of submitted papers. As an “it’s-a-small-world” footnote, her co-author on the ASR article is Tim O’Brien, who was an undergraduate major in Sociology at UW from 2001-2005!

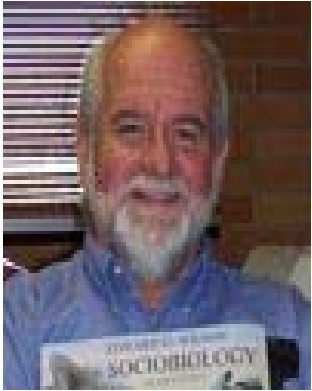


Assistant Professor **Matthew Painter** had three articles accepted for publication this year: “Checkbooks in the Heartland: Change Over Time in Voluntary Association Membership” (with Pamela Paxton) in *Sociological Forum*; “Madam Senator: Growth in Women’s State Senate Representation, 1978–2010” in *Sociological Spectrum*; and “Immigrant and Native Financial Well-Being: The Roles of Place of Education and Race/Ethnicity” in *Social Science Research*, a top 20 journal in sociology. In regard to teaching, he consistently receives strong teaching evaluations from students. He has also taken on more than his share of service responsibilities: He is the department’s representative to the Faculty Senate, he maintains the department website, and he is the new Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department. This year he also became a father for the second time since joining our faculty. He and his wife Jennifer have two daughters, Adrienne (age 5) and Katherine (6 months).



Anna Zajacova received early tenure & promotion to the rank of Associate Professor this year. Early tenure is rarely granted at UW, but it was strongly supported in her case due to exemplary performance in all dimensions of her job. In terms of teaching, she has earned such accolades as “definitely one of the best professors I have ever had” and “I love her class.” In terms of research, at the time that her tenure packet was created in Fall 2013, she had published twenty-two refereed articles since coming to UW in Fall 2009. An important aspect of the tenure process is the external review process where reviewers outside of the university objectively assess the research record of a tenure candidate. The external review letters for Professor Zajacova were exceptional for two reasons: First, the reviewers were all highly-regarded faculty at top-ranked doctoral programs. Second, they unanimously concurred that her research record was exceptionally strong. One external reviewer stated that her “pace of publication is nothing short of breathtaking,” and another called her “one of the rising stars in the field of social demography.”

Faculty News (continued)



Professor **Richard Machalek** is co-editor with Jonathan Turner and Alexandria Maryanski of *Evolutionary Analysis in the Social Sciences*, a book that is forthcoming from Paradigm Publications. It consists of original essays on a wide variety of topics relating to evolutionary analysis. In addition to his role as co-editor, he wrote (with Michael Martin) a chapter—“Throwing New Light on an Old Path: Using Sociobiology to Enhance the Sociological Imagination”—for the book. He also contributed an invited essay, “Sociobiology and Sociology: A New Synthesis,” (with Michael W. Martin) to *The International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Finally, he co-chaired (with Tim Crippen) the Evolution, Biology, and Society section of the American Sociological Association.



Professor **Malcolm Holmes** (with Brad Smith) published “Police Use of Excessive Force in Minority Communities: A Test of the Minority Threat, Place, And Community Accountability Hypotheses” in the highly-ranked journal *Social Problems*. He also was invited to contribute a refereed chapter “Crime and Race/Ethnicity” to the *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Given his past research on police brutality, he was also asked to submit an opinion piece on the police controversy in Ferguson, Mo. His essay, “What’s Really Wrong With Ferguson (with Brad Smith as co-author) was published on the website <http://www.nationaljournal.com>.

Student News



Alpha Kappa Delta is the international honorary society for sociology. The AKD chapter at UW, which was established almost twenty years ago, recognized its new inductees at the Graduation and Honors Award Banquet held last April. This year five sociology majors were inducted, and eight majors received their Honor Cords to wear during the A & S Commencement ceremony.

Gage Clark was this year’s recipient of the **Flittie Scholarship**. This scholarship recognizes academic excellence among our undergraduate majors. The faculty selects the recipient from a pool of majors who are seniors and have a 3.5 or higher grade point average in their sociology courses.

Student News (continued)

Jessica Dooley was the recipient of the first **Wilbourne Junior Scholar Award**, which is funded through the Wilbourne Excellence Fund established by Amy and John Wilbourne. It will be awarded annually to an undergraduate major in Sociology who has standing as a Junior (i.e. has at least 60 credit hours, but not more than 90 credit hours). The primary purpose of the award is to recognize a junior who has not only done well academically, but has a demonstrated record of service to UW and/or the community.



This year the department gave **Meeks Summer Research Awards** to three graduate students: **Amanda Harper**, **Sydney Moller**, and **Chris Stout**. These awards are made possible by the Meeks Memorial Fund, an endowed fund established in honor of Chet Meeks, an undergraduate sociology major at UW who completed a Ph.D. in sociology. He was an assistant professor at Georgia State University at the time of his death from cancer in 2008. Amanda's research focuses on the framing strategies of the Waterkeeper's Alliance, a major social movement organization that works to protect our water resources. Sydney's research seeks to explain why women have intended pregnancies while living in abusive relationships. Chris' research concerns the role of race in video games.



Where are they now? Alumni News

Lisa Dilks (M.A. 2008) earned her Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. She is now an assistant professor in sociology at the University of West Virginia.

Premchand Dommaraju (M.A. 2005) completed his doctoral work at Arizona State University and is an assistant professor at the Nanyang Technological University, a research-intensive university in Singapore that is ranked in the top 100 of world universities.

Ryan Gunderson (M.A. 2011) completed the doctoral program at Michigan State University last spring and is a visiting/temporary assistant professor in the Department of Sociology for the current year.

Jeffrey Jacquet (M.A. 2005) completed his doctoral work in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University and is an assistant professor at South Dakota State University in Sociology and Rural Studies.

Chuck Koeber (M.A. 1993) completed a Ph.D. at the State University of New York, Bingham-ton. He is an Associate Professor of Sociology & Associate Dean at Wichita State University.

Candace May (M.A. 2006) completed a Ph.D. at Colorado State University and is now an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Sandy Root-Elledge (M.A. 2003) is working at the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) and is currently its Interim Director.

J.D. Rottweiler (M.A. 1992) earned his Ph.D. from the University of Utah. He is President of Cochise College, a multi-campus community college in Arizona with 14,000 students.

Aaron Roussell (M.A. 2007) completed the doctoral program in Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California, Irvine. He is now an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University.

Annette Tezli (M.A. 2004) completed the doctoral program in sociology at the University of Calgary and is currently an instructor in that department while she is on the market for a tenure-track position.

Akiko Yoshida (M.A. 1995) completed the Ph.D. program at the University of Oklahoma and is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater.

Alumni News (continued)

Sherri Sasnett (M.A. 2013) is in the sociology doctoral program at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She published an article this year out of her M.A. thesis. The article, “Are the Kids All Right? A Qualitative Study of Adults with Gay and Lesbian Parents,” was published in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

Annette Tezli (M.A. 2004) completed the doctoral program in sociology at the University of Calgary and is currently an instructor in that department while she is on the market for a tenure-track position.

Akiko Yoshida (M.A. 1995) completed the Ph.D. program at the University of Oklahoma and is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater.

Recent Graduates of the Sociology Masters Program

Four graduate students have completed their Master’s theses, the final step in earning their M.A. in Sociology, since Spring 2014. A brief description of each of their thesis projects is provided below:



Linus Callahan wrote an interesting thesis (“Dual Status: The Evolution of Legislative Exemptions for Deviant Behavior”) in which he explored legislative exemptions for the ceremonial use of peyote by members of the Native American Church and legal brothel prostitution in Nevada. These exemptions confer a dual status, both deviant and protected, to the exempted. He explored the major arguments in court documents and legislative records for and against the creation of such exemptions and probed the social consequences of these exemptions.



In his thesis, “Strategic Frame Transformation via the Use of Rhetorical Tactics: The Case of Intelligent Design,” **Phil Heusser** explored the temporary success and subsequent decline of the intelligent design creationism movement. His inquiry relied heavily on Framing theory, a major contemporary social movement theory, particularly its concepts of strategic framing and frame transformation.

Graduates of the Sociology Masters Program (continued)



In her thesis project, **Janelle Rottweiler Simpson** explored the effect of serving in the military on family size (“The Military Effect on Fertility and Family Size”). After documenting that military personnel had larger family sizes, she used propensity score analysis to explore whether the differences in fertility were attributable to the military or attributable to the fact that the military usually appeals to a specific population.



The thesis project of **Ana McCormick** (“Food insecurity among Immigrants and Racial/Ethnic Minorities in the United States”) focused on the lingering problem of food insecurity, defined as having insufficient access to quality food. Using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, she investigated the relationship between food insecurity in the U.S and race/ethnicity and immigrant status.

Donor Information

The department is very appreciative of financial donations. Past donations have helped fund guest speakers; the activities of our student club, OASIS (Organization of Active Students Interested in Sociology); merit scholarships for sociology majors; research scholarships for graduate students; and student participation in regional professional conferences.

The easiest way to make a donation is with a credit card through the secure online web link: www.uwyo.edu/giveonline. When designating the gift recipient, select the College of Arts and Sciences. Then specify that the gift should be directed to the Department of Sociology. If you wish, you may further direct your donation to one of our special funds: The Flittie Fund; the Meeks Memorial Fund; or the Wilbourne Excellence Fund. If you prefer, you may call the Foundation’s toll-free number: (888) 831-7795 to charge a donation to your credit card. If your preference is to write a check; please make your check payable to the UW Foundation/Dept of Sociology and send it either directly to the UW Foundation, 222 South 22nd St, Laramie, WY 82070 or to the Department of Sociology, Dept 3293, University of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Ave, Laramie, WY 82071.

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