

Sociology Update

Did you know that the following individuals were ALL Sociology Majors?

President Ronald Reagan, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Jackson, Maxine Waters (Los Angeles Congresswoman), **Richard Barajas** (Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court), **Francis Perkins** (first woman Secretary of Labor during FDR's administration of 1933), **Saul Bellows** (Nobel Laureate writer), **Robin Williams, Dan Akroyd** (both actors), **Brian Jordan** (Atlanta Braves), **Ahmad Rashad** (sportscaster) and **Alonzo Morning** (Miami Heat), and **Steve Riggio** (founder of Barnes and Noble)

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UMSL* College of Arts and Sciences* Department of Sociology

Missouri Sociological Association 2006 Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Missouri Sociological Association took place October 20 and 21 at the Inn at Grand Glaize in relaxing Osage Beach, Missouri. The theme of the meeting was "Changing Paradigms in Sociology." The key-note speaker was Dr. Alessandro Bonanno, a professor at Sam Houston University and his keynote address was "Shifting Paradigms: Globalization and the Issue of Legitimation." His discussion probed the issue of social legitimation under globalization and attempted to expose the contradictions and dissatisfaction with the ideology of globalization that has emerged from the political left and the political right. Dr. Bonanno concluded that "globalization contains the conditions for a new legitimation crisis."

In keeping with Dr. Bonanno's globalization theme, on October 21, **Dr. Teresa Guess**, Associate Professor at UMSL, gave a presentation titled, "Changing Paradigms in 'Race' Studies: Whiteness and Otherness." Dr. Guess argued for an "'unraced'" view of human variation in the face of globalization." Both presentations were thought-provoking and stimulated plenty of conversation among student and faculty alike.

In her presidential address, **Linda Benson** (pictured at right), Adjunct Professor at UMSL, spoke of the dramatic changes and impacts brought about by the process of globalization.

Each year the Missouri Sociological Association sponsors an undergraduate and graduate student paper competition. The winners receive a monetary sum, have their paper published in the association's online journal, and present at the meetings. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what sociology students are doing across institutions in Missouri. **Mary Ann Coker**, a graduate student from UMSL, took second place in the competition and presented on October 21. Her paper entitled, "Ripped from the headlines: Will New U.S. Education Law Handicap the Handicapped?" concluded that in spite of parents, governments and other advocates' involvement, collective action from individuals and private organizations is still called for to continue the identification/recognition, equal education, and protection of the civil rights of children with disabilities. Congratulations Mary Ann for a job well done!

The Missouri Sociological Association is an organization that seeks to establish a network of support for sociology practitioners, academicians and students statewide. Membership in the organization is inexpensive and conference attendance costs are relatively low. This year, Dr. Chikako Usui, Chair of the Sociology Department, approved funding that enabled five UMSL students to participate! A special thanks to Dr. Usui. This is the kind of support that helps the MSA meet its mission goal of providing support and developmental opportunities for future sociologists. To learn more about the association or to join, please visit the website <http://cssppr.missouristate.edu/msa/>.



Professor Keel Offers Value Added Sociology

The Department of Sociology has made a dynamic presence on the World Wide Web since the mid-1990s. We were one of the first in College of Arts and Sciences to publish a web page and our work has been used as a model for many other departments and units. Over the past five years we have become even more "virtual" and "on-line."

In 2000, Information Technology Services at UM-St. Louis and the Office of Academic Affairs adopted Blackboard (more commonly known as MYGATEWAY) for use in all courses. **Robert Keel**, Senior Lecturer of Sociology Department, has been a forefront of the technological push. His teaching includes face-to-face instruction, hybrid courses (50% on-line), completely on-line, and video courses. His use of the state of the

Professor Keel Offers Value Added Sociology (continued from page 1)

art technology enables him to reach out to a number of students that would have been unthinkable 10 years ago. Last year alone, Professor Keel taught 1,175 students, responded over 10,000 email messages and discussion forum postings. Professor Keel's website attracts over 8,000 visitors a year and is linked to over 400 web sites world-wide. We are proud that our sociology majors can acquire the latest skills and sophistication in communication technology, that is, valued added sociology!



Robert Keel is pictured (far right) at the IBIE (International Business Internship Exchange) Recognition Ceremony

Why Sociology? Why Me? By Harry H. Bash

There are many ways of freaking out. Sociology is only one of them, but – and pardon my bias – it is perhaps the most fun way, the most enriching way, and the most empowering way!

Through sociology, you can discover that much of what you learned through years of hard and sometimes painful experience is just so much bunk, platitude, superstition or even gibberish; it's anecdotal, it defies generalization, and it may not be borne of our systematic, objective empirical research. Thus, sociology allows you be the first kid on your block to become un-smug, more interesting, and less judgmental. As a result, sociology offers you a legitimate excuse for being creatively tentative, charmingly unassuming, politically incorrect, and potentially alienated from all the "right-thinking" people.

Sociology also helps you to overcome the debilitating stereotypes, the stultifying prejudices, and those comforting myths that we cherish in our society. While this may subject you to scorn or to contempt for disregarding self-evident "truths," and even to charges of having lost touch with reality, sociology allows you to point out that what "they" call "reality" is actually culturally relative, historically dubious, and, indeed, socially constructed. Time-honored myths have guided us toward first achieving and then consolidating the present, through sociology you can devise new myths, more constructive and progressive ones, which provide the impetus for building a preferred future. This, too, will make you stand out and earn the resentment of the kids on your block.

In a more frivolous vein, sociology offers you some neat skills; it allows you to assess the fragments of news, sound-bites, impressions, rumors, "spins," etc. with which we are bombarded on a daily basis, and cut through their slants and superficialities. Thus, sociology provides you with critical thinking skills and a knowledge-base through which you can recognize the relatedness and the reflexivity of such isolated bits of information, how they link up with one another, how they might indicate trends, and how they cohere to form a meaningful whole. All of this will help you to generate what C. Wright Mills called a "sociological imagination," and a Weltanschauung of your very own. If that doesn't make you *persona non grata* on your block, then surely nothing will! Of course if, instead, you prefer to "fit in" – have you considered psychology?

[Dr. Bash's article, "Why Sociology? Why Me?," was originally published in **Sociology Update** in Spring 2001. By popular demand, we are running it again.]

"Sociology also helps you to overcome the debilitating stereotypes, the stultifying prejudices, and those comforting myths that we cherish in our society"

If Comte is the Father of Sociology, then WHO is Harry H. Bash? By Teresa Guess

Officially, Dr. Harry H. Bash, Associate Professor, Emeritus is a retired faculty member in the Department of Sociology at UMSL. To be honest with you, I don't recall when his tenure at UMSL began, but he entered retirement status over 10 years ago. I met Professor Bash as an undergraduate student. He used to have a cartoon on his door that read something like, "It's impossible to get through the Sociology department *unabashed.*" After hearing how "tough" he was in his theory class, I made it my mission to avoid his class. Well, I managed to get through and earn my B.A. in Sociology "unabashed," I thought. The irony is that when I returned to earn my M.A. in Sociology, the first professor I had to face in my first graduate course was none other than Dr. Bash...so he was right...even 17 years later; it was not possible to get through our department "unabashed."

Dr. Bash has probably *unabashed* more sociology students between 1969 and the present day, that there's likely to be few Sociology graduates who have not met his acquaintance. I credit Dr. Bash with infecting me with *sociologease*. Sociologease is like a virus that will not die. Once baptized in the discipline, one never sees the world the same way again. I owe the development of my own sociological gaze to the faith Dr. Bash had in me. At the time, being a member of an underrepresented group, I had little confidence in my academic ability even though I had been well-educated in private school. Dr. Bash inspired in me a dedication not only to scholarship, but to good scholarship. Like his other students, he taught me to stretch my intellectual muscle and insisted that whatever I did in class or on an assignment, I could do better.

Because of the intellectual influence of Dr. Bash on my academic development, I grew up, earned an M.A. in Sociology, earned a Ph.D in Sociology, and now I find myself, not only Dr. Bash's *mentee*, but also his colleague in our Sociology department. Hats off to you, Dr. Bash.

Letters from the Faculty

Kathy Canda Furgason

I have been teaching SOC 3220 Sociological Statistics for 8 years as an adjunct faculty member. Until I retired from my position as Director of Student Services for the College of Nursing at UMSL, I taught only one course per semester for Sociology because I also taught Nursing's statistics course, in addition to many administrative responsibilities. I love teaching this particular course as students often begin the course with a certain "bias" and it is very rewarding when they really enjoy it—they always seem very surprised!

I returned to college when I was 36 to begin a career having nothing to do with higher education and "fell" into this career which I have loved and continue to love. I have many varied interests which currently includes taking care of our brand new "baby;" a 7 week old kitty who is being ridiculously spoiled. We (my husband of 2 years and I) also enjoy bridge, biking, and traveling. Between us we have 11 grandchildren ranging in age from 1 to 16 years--whom we also like to spoil!

Larry Irons

I received my Ph.D. in Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis. My current research interests in sociology focus on two areas: socio-technical systems and the sociology of catastrophe/terrorism. The impact of mobile communications and ubiquitous computing on social relationships and institutions is my most recent reading and research topic. A concern for socio-technical systems also informed a series of research projects that Robert Keel and I collaborated on regarding distance learning in secondary and post-secondary education in Missouri. My interests in catastrophe and terrorism developed from recent consulting for companies designing and developing online learning programs. The most significant project outsourced the design, development, and support of a blended learning program for a Masters Degree in homeland security policy offered at the Naval Postgraduate School.

John Perry

I like UMSL students because they are usually working and going to school and they bring the perspective of their work to class. (I teach nights so I don't have the typical out-of-high school student). I have taught at Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ; Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ; and UMSL. At Pima I was in the criminal justice department and at Embry Riddle in the Aviation Law department. I have an undergraduate degree in sociology, a graduate degree in law (JD) and a graduate degree in counseling (MA). I have been a mediator since 1980, first as a lawyer-mediator and then as a therapist-mediator. I worked for the St. Louis Family Court mediating child custody disputes before becoming a therapist/mediator at Care & Counseling where I have been since 1992, first as a resident then as a staff member. I teach a professional ethics class at Care & Counseling to post-graduate students and also teach a sexual harassment seminar to new priests in the Episcopal Diocese. I have done work on a Ph.D. but ran out of money. I continue as a student in the second year of the Advanced Psychodynamic Psychotherapy program at the St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute. I practice therapy and mediation three days per week at the Ladue and 270 Office of Care & Counseling and two days per week at the Tower Grove Park Office of Care & Counseling.

Herm Smith

Although most of you may think I'm retired, I prefer to think of myself as on permanent sabbatical. I am actually busier than ever, but now I focus on my "invisible college" of affect control theorists, instead of department meetings and teaching. Since retiring four years ago, I have primarily continued my research focus on trait and emotional attributions among Japanese, Taiwanese, and Mainland Chinese. The Internet has made it easy to correspond and work daily with my colleagues within and outside the USA on this research. In addition to my publications, I have manuscripts out for journal review, mostly with my colleagues Jar-Der Luo at Tsinghua University in Beijing, Shuichirou Ike in Tokyo, and Andreas Schneider at Texas Tech.

The article, "Introduction to Special Issue of Best Papers from the Third Joint Japan-America Mathematical Sociology Conference." *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, in press, is a result of my co-sponsoring the Third Joint Conference on Mathematical Sociology in Sapporo Japan a year and a half ago. This gave me the opportunity to meet old colleagues and introduce American mathematical sociologists to Japanese culture. (Sapporo and Hokkaido are famous for sake, unique cuisine and hot springs spas that were on my hit list to show off.)

I taught an advanced course in social psychology for the department two years ago. One result of that course was that a former graduate student, Joanna Pacyna and I compiled a 2000-word dictionary of Polish stimuli to replicate and extend my cross-cultural interest in affectual meaning. I am applying for grants as we speak to complete this project. Polish would be our first Slavic language lexicon and is unique among the major languages because it is unusually inflected with gender. For example, all Polish emotion words come in two forms (male anger, female anger, etc.) for which we have a 2 x 2 design for testing for main and interaction effects of gender of word versus gender of rater.

Outside of Academe, my retirement allowed me the pleasures of a 21-day self-supported private trip a year ago down the Grand Canyon. Photos of this and other recent excursions can be found on my web site at: <http://www.umsl.edu/~hsmith/travels.html>

My youngest son, Erik was "re" married in a Hindi wedding in Bombay two years ago allowing my wife, Mary, and myself the luxury of visiting the Taj Mahal, the oldest site of the origins of Buddhism (one of my many Japanese interests) at Aurangabad, Delhi, Goa, and of course Mumbai (to be politically correct). We also had the luxury of 40 days to visit New Zealand's north and south islands in February 2005. I only wish we'd had more time! In between trips, I have continued to serve on several dissertation committees so you will see me around the university occasionally.



Herm Smith

Letters from the Faculty (continued from page 3)

Susan D. Tuteur

Though my Ph.D. from the University of Chicago is in Sociology of Education, for the past 4 ½ decades, my special interest has been Sociology of Medicine. Teaching is my primary passion. I have taught at the University of Maryland, Montgomery College, Belleville Area College, and Washington University. I have been teaching at UMSL since 1994. Classes I have taught include: Social Theory, Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, Sociology of the Family, and Sociology of Health (previously Sociology of Medicine).

When not teaching, I enjoy travel – Asia, Africa, North and South America. I also enjoy the arts – opera, theatre, music, and the visual arts. In the summer, the mountains in Colorado provide a cool, relaxing respite for my otherwise peripatetic life.

Faculty Publications

Harry Bash

"If I'm So White, Why Ain't I Right? Some Methodological Misgivings on Taking Identity Ascriptions at Face-Value." *Critical Sociology* 32:675-697, 2006.

Teresa Guess

"The Social Construction of Whiteness: Racism by Intent, Racism by Consequence." *Critical Sociology* 32:649-673, 2006.

Larry Irons

"Hurricane Katrina as a Predictable Surprise." *Homeland Security Affairs* 1, no. 2 (Fall), 2005/ <http://www.hsaj.org/?article=1.2.7>.

Catastrophe Preparation and Prevention for Law Enforcement Professionals. (Co-authored with Baldwin and Palin) McGraw-Hill. 2006.

Robert Keel

Comprehensive Evaluation of MYGateway Use by Faculty and Students (with Bielema, Irons, Wilmarth, and Harris). Information Technology Services and the Center for Teaching and Learning, Report of WS 2005. UMSL, August 2005. <http://www.umsl.edu/technology/mgwhp/mgwinfo.html>

George McCall

"The Fieldwork Tradition." In *The Sage Handbook of Fieldwork* (edited by Hobbs and Wright). London: Sage, 2006, p.3-21.

"Symbolic Interaction," In *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories* (edited by Burke). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2006, pp.1-23.

"Gender and Violence in Cape Town Township." In *Rethinking Masculinities, Violence and AIDS* (edited by Gibson and Hardon). Amsterdam: Het Spinhuis, 2005, pp.146-174.

Herman Smith

"Guilty Americans and Shameful Japanese? An Affect Control Test of Benedict's Thesis." In *Purpose, Meaning, & Action: Control Theories in Sociology*. (co-authored with Y. Miow-Lin) (edited by Fararo and McClelland). Praeger, 2006.

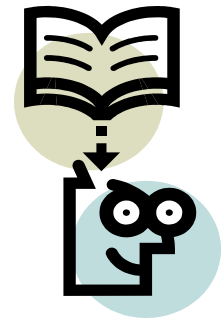
"Social versus Self-Directed Events among Japanese and Americans: Self-actualization, Emotions, Moods, and Trait Disposition Labeling." (co-authored with Francis) 84:821-830,2005.

Chikako Usui

"Japan's Frozen Future: Why Are Women Withholding Their Investment in Work and Family?" In *Japanese Women: Lineage and Legacies* (edited by T. Tsuda). Lexington Books, pp. 37-62, 2006.

"Japan's Demographic Future and the Challenge of Foreign Works." In *Local Citizenship in Recent Countries of Immigration* (edited by Tsuda). Lexington Books, pp. 37-62, 2006

"Asian Sociology" in *The Handbook of 21st Century Sociology* (edited by Bryant and Peck). Sage Publications, 2006.



George McCall, Professor Emeritus by Tomoko Yanese

Professor George McCall received his Ph.D in Social Psychology from Harvard University in 1965 and joined the Department of Sociology at UMSL in 1972. Dr. McCall has published more than 15 books and 100 articles and book chapters. In 2004, Dr. McCall retired after 32 years of service at UMSL. Although he no longer teaches full-time, he is busier than ever with his own research, supervising dissertation/thesis students, and consulting.

According to Dr. McCall, one of the most memorable studies he conducted took place in Johannesburg, South Africa. He states that, "During 1992, as part of my evaluation of the Community Dispute Resolution Trust in South Africa, I commissioned a local opinion firm to conduct a survey of Alexandra, a township in Johannesburg. That township was then locked in open warfare between the partisans of the United Democratic Front

(which held many of Alexandra's slum houses) and those of the more conservative Inkatha Party (which had possession of the other houses, and more strategically, of the formerly integrated multistory hostel for industrial workers). Exchanges of gunfire were more or less constant occurrences and bombings of houses happened at least daily, so that interviewing a representative sample of adult respondents in this severely polarized township was difficult at best." He also said that he was deeply worried about the difficulty and, thus, formulated backup plans. However, thanks to a temporary truce, the well trained interviewers worked relentlessly and successfully managed to complete a highly representative survey just before the truce fell apart and shooting resumed. He then went on to submit his evaluation report and to publish some of the survey results in an article published in the *International Jour-*

nal of the Sociology of Law.

Continuing his field research, Dr. McCall will travel to South Africa next summer to conduct a study examining how the treatment of tuberculosis among the Bushmen of eastern Namibia is handled, not only by medical clinics but also by the indigenous healers. Bushmen are an indigenous population of the Kalahari Desert, which spans South Africa neighboring Botswana and Namibia. He will meet with Diana Gibson and Kathy Nelson from the University of Western Cape to discuss data exchanges and research collaboration. Despite the presence of dangers, hardships and challenges, Dr. McCall enjoys conducting studies in wildlife.

Congratulations!!!

Sociology Student Awards 2006

Ray Collins Alumni Award— Anthony Shull

Outstanding Minor— Steve Landsness

Outstanding Junior— Lisa Eitel

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant— Rachel Craft and Kelley Harris

Sociology Alumni Scholarship— Mary Ann Coker



Alumni Notes



Linda L. Lindsay B.A., Sociology (1969) has published two books, "Gender Roles," published in 2005 by Prentice Hall, and "Preventing Ethnic Conflict: Successful Cross-National Strategies," written in collaboration with Irwin Deutscher and published by Lexington Books in 2006. Congratulations Linda on your magnificent accomplishments!

Pat Peck B.S., Sociology and Social Work (1988), MPPA (1994), is a social services consultant for the Jennings School District. She serves in this role part-time after officially retiring in 2004. She resides in St. Peters, MO. Well done Pat! Keep up the hard work.

Todd Appel B.S., Criminology and Criminal Justice, B.S. Sociology (1994), is a transportation specialist at YWCA St. Louis Head Start in Overland, MO. Best wishes on your position at the YWCA.

Takako Nomi, M.A., Sociology (2002) entered a Ph.D program in Educational Theory and Policy at Penn State University. There, she focused on Sociology of Education and research methodologies as the areas of her research. She completed her Ph.D in just four years in August 2006 and was offered a position as senior research analyst at the Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR) at the University of Chicago. The CCSR, founded in 1990, conducts research in public schools in Chicago investigating the problem they face and mechanisms of improvement. Dr. Nomi's current research includes the consequences of curricular reforms on high school student outcomes, such as test scores, high school completions, postsecondary transitions, and college completions.



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www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/sociology

**We are grateful to all those who gave gifts of cash
to the Department of Sociology. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT**

Join Our Invitation List!

Please e-mail chikako@umsl.edu with your name and e-mail address. You will be notified of upcoming Sociology Department events.

Greeting From the New Department Chair, Chikako Usui

I became chair of the Department of Sociology at UMSL in Fall 2006. The Department includes four full-time and seven part-time faculty members. We offer two undergraduate sociology degrees (BA and BS), minor in sociology, and MA in sociology. We teach 90 majors and minors and train over 20 graduate students per year. We are award-winning teachers, published scholars, and conscientious community participants. We are proud of our energetic group of majors, minors, and graduate students. We have an outstanding group of alumni and our prominence in the St. Louis Metropolitan region looks set to grow in the years ahead.

The Department of Sociology is committed to playing our part in Chancellor's vision of making UMSL the finest university in the St. Louis region. We offer curriculum that features a strong liberal arts orientation with a central core of theory and research methodologies, along with a range of topics and a variety of analytic tools. We will keep you informed on our progress during this exciting time of change.

From the Sociology Office

Dr. Nancy Shields, the previous Sociology Department Chair, is enjoying her sabbatical for 2006-07 focusing on her research and book publication. We thank Nancy for her outstanding service during the past six years!!!

We are very pleased **Dr. Larry Irons** has joined us as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociology to teach SOC 4380: Selected Topics in Social Policy in Winter/Spring 2007. His course offers a critical social perspective on catastrophic events, high-risk technologies, and homeland security policies. Dr. Irons is an expert on U.S. vulnerabilities, disasters, and security issues. In addition, he has a long track record of business practice, teaching, and research in sociology of innovation, socio-technical systems, and organizational communication. Please extend a warm welcome to Dr. Irons.

Retannical Russell left the Sociology Department to take up two internships for Winter/Spring 2007 to complete her M.A. in communication. Retannical will be missed by the faculty and students. .

Tomoko Yanase, sophomore in international business at UMSL, has joined us as an office/research assistant in Fall 2006. She is very energetic and brings sunshine to the office.

We are pleased to announce that **Sara Baalman**, who just earned her M.A. in sociology at UMSL, has agreed to assist the office until the Sociology Department finds a regular administrative staff.
