

Sociology Speaks

2006-2008

The Newsletter of the Sociology Department at Boston College

Message from Chairperson Juliet Schor

It's September 1, 2008, Labor Day, the start of the new academic year, and of course, we are in the midst of a historic election. The excitement generated by Barack Obama's acceptance speech and campaign is palpable as the grassroots demand for change is clearly resonating throughout the political system. A new equation of race, class and gender is coming together, as John McCain's choice of Sarah Palin illustrates. The drama and impending horror of Gustav, expected shortly, reminds us that a human-centered perspective is increasingly inadequate, as our relations with the earth and natural systems grow more problematic by the year. It seems a fitting moment to step back and reflect on the past, present and future of our department and discipline.

Here at Boston College we are in tune with the national move toward change. Indeed, we have been very busy over the last two years, hence this double issue of Sociology Speaks covering

the academic years 2006-07 and 2007-08. On the occasion of a new strategic plan for the university, and new academic leadership in the college and at the Provost level, we were asked to develop a departmental strategic vision. That multi-year process yielded a number of conclusions. First, we reaffirmed our commitment to the core identity of the department as a place that emphasized social economy and social justice, and the study of race, class and gender in a global perspective. In addition, we took stock of our strengths in public and critical sociology, and our commitment to doing work that is socially useful, and in many cases, accessible to a wide audience. We defined three key areas of strength, on which we want to build-critical inequality studies, global sociology, and aging and the life course (ALC). The academic leadership of the university was very pleased with our plan, and they authorized two new hires in these areas (global sociology, and ALC) for this year, with the promise of more to come. These will allow us to branch out into some new areas that we have been very eager to hire in. In the global sociology position we are looking to attract someone in either environmental sociology, global social movements or immigration. In the ALC position, we are hoping to attract a quantita-

tively-oriented scholar to continue building our quantitative wing.

Other exciting things are happening as well. Over the last four years, Robert and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey have made a number of very generous, indeed transformative gifts to the department. (Robert did his Ph.D. here in the 1980s, with Stephen Pfohl, on the topic of *The Meanings of Mental Illness: Lay Interpretations of Bizarre Behavior*.) In addition to funding the Distinguished Visiting Scholars Series, now renamed the Robert and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Distinguished Visiting Scholars Series, their generosity has allowed us to provide a new level of support for graduate students and graduate student initiatives. We have used these funds, supplemented by monies from the Graduate School, to fund summer fellowships for Ph.D. students. Some of this year's topics are studies of Burmese refugees in Thailand, how images of Africa are being used in U.S. popular culture, an ethnography of community technology centers for low-income minority youth in Boston, a national survey of ecological consumer behavior and political activism, and analysis of Congressional hearings on torture at Abu Ghraib.

The Lavizzo-Mourey funds have also facilitated a number of exciting graduate student initiatives, such as the Public Sociology project, which was a collective research and action group that did work on the impact of service learning trips on subsequent activism. Students also organized two major mini-conferences in conjunction with this year's ASA meetings in Boston-one entitled "Human Rights and Action," the other "The Contested Terrain of Consumption." (Full reports will be in next year's newsletter.) There is much more exciting news to share with you, and you will find details in the pages of the newsletter. I'll just mention a few highlights. These include the publication of a number of new books by faculty, including David Karp's *Is It Me or My Meds?* (Harvard 2007), Charles Derber's *Morality Wars: How Empires, The Born Again and the Politically Correct Do Evil in the Name of Good*, (Paradigm Publishers, 2008), Stephen Pfohl's *Left Behind: Religion, Technology and Flight From the Flesh* (CTTheory.net 2007), Sharlene Hesse-Biber's *Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Praxis* (Sage 2007), and the third edition of Paul Gray, John Williamson and David Karp's *The Research Imagination* (Cambridge 2007). This year



PHOTO BY KERRY BURKE

we also celebrated the very first book ever published from an undergraduate thesis at BC, Katherine Adam's *The New Feminized Majority: How Democrats Can Change America With Women's Values* (co-authored with her adviser Charles Derber. Paradigm 2008). Faculty and graduate students won a number of major disciplinary awards in the last two years. Special congratulations to David Karp for his 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award from the section on emotions, to Natalia Sarkisian and Shawn McGuffey, who won best article awards from the race, class and gender, and the sex and gender sections, in 2007 and 2008 respectively, and to William Wood for the best graduate student paper from the theory section in 2007.

My term as chair ended on June 1, 2008. My immediate plans are a year of sabbatical, during which I will be writing on the growing ecological challenges of our time, and

how we can solve them. When I return to departmental service, I hope to build our capacity in environmental sociology, on both the teaching and research fronts. I see it as a cutting edge issue, on which sociology can offer a great deal.

I am thrilled to report that my successor as Chair is Zine Magubane, who is a gifted scholar of race, popular culture, imperial history and gender. Her first book was *Bringing the Empire Home: Imagining Race, Gender and Class in Britain and Colonial South Africa* (Chicago, 2004). She is currently finishing two books—one on African-American motherhood, and a second on the use of Africa in the popular media. She has been teaching post-colonial and classical theory, a core course on Africa, and a course on race and popular culture. Stay tuned for what I am sure will be inspiring and innovative leadership.

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The Boston College Sociology Department Presents
The Robert & Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Distinguished Visiting Scholars Series 2008



Social Justice and the New Globalization

Giovanni Arrighi
The Johns Hopkins
University

Lineages of the New
Asian Age

Walden Bello
University of the
Philippines

The Challenge of
Global Warming:
Solutions from the
Movements of Global
South

Donatella della Porta
European University
Institute

Democracy in
Movements: Visions and
Practices of
Democracy in the Global
Justice Movement

DVSS 2007-8: Social Justice and the New Globalization

by Adam Saltzman

Giovanni Arrighi

Lineages of the New Asian Age; and
Labor Supplies in Comparative Perspective:
The Southern African Paradigm Revisited

The Distinguished Visiting Scholars Series for the 2007-08 academic year, "Social Justice and the New Globalization," began with a public lecture by Giovanni Arrighi on November 13, 2007. Dr. Arrighi's public lecture, "Lineages of the New Asian Age" and his seminar "Labor Supplies in Comparative Perspective: The Southern African Paradigm Revisited" signaled the start of a thought-provoking series.

Dr. Arrighi is a Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. His main interests are in the fields of long-term, large-scale social change and of inequality within and



transformations of the world capitalist system initiated with *The Long Twentieth Century: Money, Power, and the Origins of Our Times* (1994) and continued with *Chaos and Governance in the Modern World System* (1999), co-authored with Beverly J. Silver. His current research focuses on regional differentiation within the global South with special reference to the contrasting developmental trajectories of Southern Africa and East Asia.

In his public lecture, "Lineages of the New Asian Age," Dr. Arrighi presented a brief description of *Adam Smith in Beijing*, in which he describes the rise and fall and rise of East Asian economies and political power in the last 300 years. He stressed the importance of understanding where what he referred to as "the East Asian economic renaissance" is coming from and what its implications are. Dr. Arrighi argued, "When history will be written in a longer

perspective, no single thing will be more important than the economic

renaissance of East Asia." This reflects Arrighi's view that the economic rise of China, in particular, and other Third World countries to an extent, signifies a global shift in power away from the West; away from Europe and the United States. Dr. Arrighi reminds the audience that 200 years ago before the Opium War and the Western control of much of China, East Asia was still the center of a global economy with global networks of trade and investment and money flows. This is not to suggest that capitalism in fact began in East Asia, but that China and other East Asian countries operated as market economies, which produced different effects than capitalist economies. Arrighi asserts that contrary to what Weber believed, capitalism began not from a Protestant Ethic, nor from the establishment of property and capitalist institutions. Rather, capitalism began in Europe as a result of fierce competition over arms production and the seizing of lands and people for colonizing. This created an opportunity for capitalists to assume state control. Beginning in the 19th century, East Asia experienced an eclipse starting with the opening up of China and the Opium Wars. By end of second World War, China had become one of the poorest countries in the world.

At the end of his lecture, Arrighi reminded the audience that China is still poor and that inequality throughout the world is still rampant. Nevertheless, a shift has occurred-and is still occurring-in which East Asia is on a path to emerge as a dominant world power. Power relations, states Arrighi, might be moving in the direction of the poor of the world and away from the US and Europe. The question remains as to whether this shift and the relationship between the masses of the poor and the leaders of these rising economic powers "can actually lead the world in a different direction than the western world has led over the last 300 years."

In Dr. Arrighi's seminar to the Department of Sociology, he focused in particular on the collapse of the Washington Consensus and the unquestioned neoliberal model for shaping global economics. While the Washington Consensus claimed the success of a "one size fits all" model for development, the last two decades have shown this to not be the case. Instead of an economic development model rooted in US/European neocolonial domination, Dr. Arrighi describes the rise of a Beijing Consensus, which affirms the heterogeneity of development; that is, the importance of treating each country differently and embracing alternative development models that do not necessarily maintain the United States and Europe as the dominant center. Instead of the common economic system in which economic networks flowed between the Global South and the Global

North, Arrighi points to the emergence of South-South linkages and stresses their importance for what they show about shifting global power dynamics. Citing one example, Arrighi notes, "the links [between] NAFTA and the rest of Latin America have been stopped and more regional links in South America and Latin America [are taking place]." For Arrighi, these new linkages are part of the larger global shift he described in his public lecture; a shift in which global economic power moves away from US/European hegemonic dominance to become more diffuse among nations of the Global South.

Walden Bello

The Challenge of Global Warming: Solutions from the Movement of the Global South; and Globalization in Retreat

On December 3, 2007 for the second installment of the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series, Walden Bello presented the public lecture, "The Challenge of Global Warming: Solutions from the Movement of the Global South" and the faculty/graduate student seminar presentation, "Globalization in Retreat."

Dr. Bello is the author of numerous books on Asian issues and globalization, including *Dilemmas of Domination: the*



Unmaking of the American Empire (2005). An academic as well as an activist, Bello obtained his PhD in sociology from Princeton University in the US in 1975 and has been a full professor at the University of the Philippines at Diliman since 1997. He has also served as visiting professor at the University of California at Los Angeles (2002), UC Irvine (2006), and UC Santa Barbara (2006). He also taught for four years, 1978-82, at UC Berkeley. He was Chancellor's Fellow at UC Irvine in 2004 and was awarded an honorary PhD by Panteion University in Athens, Greece, in 2005.

As he began his public lecture, Dr. Bello put forth a commonly held critique of the Global South: instituting environmental reforms is a process led by the Global North and made more difficult by countries in the Global South who

are lagging behind in their policies to curb climate change. Taking this statement as a challenge, Dr. Bello based much of his talk on flipping this argument to show that in fact the Global South has in many ways led a movement for environmental change and has largely been hindered by the practices and policies of countries in the Global North. From ministerial and civil society initiatives in Taiwan and Korea that led to drastic cuts in emissions and the establishment of environmentally friendly norms and laws to the grassroots struggles in the Philippines and Thailand where farmers and workers mobilized against damaging hydroelectric projects and unhealthy workplaces, the East and Southeast Asian nations of the Global South have been the setting since the 1970s for progressive environmental change. On the other hand, countries and institutions based in the Global North have consistently worked against a global environmental movement; the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund contributed to growing inequality during the 1970s and 1980s. The neoliberal policies of the United States and to some extent the European Union have furthered a standard of deregulation enforced by an immensely powerful World Trade Organization. In particular the United States' hesitancy to sign the Kyoto Protocol and the presidency of George W. Bush has normalized a practice of non-cooperation. Despite this trend, Dr. Bello asserted, "The fight against global warming will need to be propelled mainly by progressive civil society from the north and mass based citizen movements in the south." It cannot be a one-sided effort, especially when the greatest burden for policy adjustment falls to the Global North.

In his seminar with the Department of Sociology, Dr. Bello argued for a perspective that looks at economic globalization as contested. Dr. Bello enumerated a number of ways that the trend toward neoliberal globalization does not progress linearly toward total unregulated trade and governance by global financial institutions. Rather, the result of neoliberal policies over the last several decades has proven not to alleviate dire poverty and extreme inequality. Nor has it shown itself to be a model for incredible economic stability or success, even for the strongest and most dominant economies. In addition, during times of crisis, there has been competition to shift the burden of adjustment rather than cooperation. Finally, the mass movement of anti-globalization forces has paralyzed a number of summits focused on proliferating neoliberal policies. Protests such as "the Battle of Seattle" in 1999 and Cancun 2003, to name a few, have made clear the enormity and diversity of opposition to the governance of the World Trade Organization and the policies of the world's most powerful economies. Beyond

this, Dr. Bello emphasized the extent to which these mass protests "were all critical junctures in a decade-long global struggle that has rolled back the new liberal project." Pointing to holes in the pro-globalization project and its ideology in reference to the development of the Global South, Dr. Bello referenced growing unrest in China, the supposed "unrivaled manufacturing base of the global economy" and in India, projected by pro-globalization advocates as the up and coming "key pillar of the global information economy." In light of anti-globalization movements and ongoing projects to further neoliberal policies on a transnational level, Dr. Bello called for a "Global Social Democracy," in which "our task is to reinvent the market society to disband, subordinating to the overarching goals of justice, equality, solidarity, and not to forget national sovereignty."

Donatella della Porta

Democracy in Movements: Visions and Practices of Democracy in Global Justice; and Europeanization from Below: Social Movements and Multilevel Governance

Donatella della Porta concluded the Distinguished Visiting Scholars Series on April 7-8, 2007 with a public lecture, "Democracy in Movements: Visions and Practices of Democracy in Global Justice," and a faculty/graduate student seminar presentation, "Europeanization from Below: Social Movements and Multilevel Governance."

Dr. della Porta teaches courses on political sociology, transformations in democracy, social movements and civil society as well as qualitative methods and research designs. She has received a Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales of Paris and a PhD in political and social sciences at the European University Institute in Florence. In 1990 she received a Career Development Award of the H.F. Guggenheim Foundation; in 1997 a Stipendium of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. She has conducted research at Cornell University, Ithaca N. Y, and at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung. Her main research interests concern social movements, political violence, terrorism, corruption, police and policies of public order. On these issues she has conducted investigations in Italy, France, Germany and Spain and is involved in several comparative projects on citizenship and social movements.

As indicated by the public lecture's title, della Porta is particularly concerned with the operation of democracy in what she recognizes as the global

justice movement. In her research, della Porta has looked extensively at social movement process and she suggests that even disparate movements working on a variety of different issues may resonate with a meta-narrative under a broader umbrella of a global justice movement. Through a study of 250 social movement organizations that involved discourse analysis, focus groups, interviews, and participant observation, della Porta examined activist understandings of democracy, politics, and decision-making processes. Importantly, della Porta found that "these organizations... represent experiments, arenas for self-reflexive types of experimentations of different solutions to the tensions which are inherent in democracies-tensions between participation and representation, tensions between consensus and vote." The work and attitudes of activists in global justice movements represent in some senses a criticism of existing institutions. They are not anti-political, asserts della Porta, but they support an alternative mode of doing politics. These conceptions and ways of working are relevant for what they suggest about how to develop on a broader level a different type of practice for governance.

In discussion with the Department of Sociology, della Porta presented her paper, "Europeanization from Below," a work in progress. Dr. della Porta explained that she has long been interested in studying the element of conflict in protest as an independent variable that affects protest participants on a cognitive, affective, and relational level. In examining "eventful protests" that have taken place throughout Europe over the last several years, della Porta is concerned with their capacity for effecting transformative change on a movement. In this way, she locates the utility in the conflicts that arise out of movement protests for what they bring to their movements, pushing them in new directions. Della Porta takes this focus to the level of pan-European protests and argues that conflict during and within such protests engenders an alternative notion of Europeanization that is unmoored from nation-state centered institutions and bureaucracies. That is to say that the conflict and change arising from a European-level protest play a unique role in supporting a grassroots movement toward Europeanization.



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Sociology Departmental Seminar Series

THE BANKS AND THE BELTWAY IMAGE BY JEAN LOVETT



Along with the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Series the department now hosts a very popular seminar series, instituted by Juliet Schor and featuring work by our faculty, our advanced graduate students, and other prominent scholars in the field. The seminars range in subject matter and presentation style, from Jackie Orr's multi-media presentation on the intersection of psychic trauma and global panic to the colloquium on David Karp's book *Is It Me Or My Meds?* The titles below represent departmental seminars given during 2006-8. A schedule of upcoming seminars and a link to archives can be found at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/sociology/research/seminar.html>.

The seminar series is generously supported by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the College of Arts and Science.

Transnational Feminist Translations: Gender Politics in NE Brazil, by **Millie Thayer**, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Democracy by Invitation: The Private Sector's Response to Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil, by **Jeffrey Rubin**, Boston University.

'We Stole the Land!' Immigrant Landtaking on a Dakota Sioux Reservation, 1900-1930, by **Karen Hansen**, Brandeis.

Citizens, Markets, and Transnational Activism: Monitoring sweatshops in South Africa, India and Guatemala, by **Gay Seidman**, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Invisible Elbow and the Invisible Cold Shoulder: Reviewing public sociology from a fractal, movement-building lens, by **Charlotte Ryan**, Lowell University.

The Banks and the Beltway: Three Decades of Washington Politics and Multilateral Development Institutions, by **Sarah Babb**, Boston College.

Recent Social Security Reforms In China, by **John Williamson**, Boston College.

daddy does cybernetics: Diary of a Mental Patient, by **Jackie Orr**, Syracuse University.

The Social Death of Stuff: Accumulation and Discard in the Global Economy, by **Juliet Schor**, Boston College.

Online Research: A Practical Approach, by **Ted Gaiser** and **Jared Del Rosso**, Boston College.

Feedback, Fear, and Fascination: Cybernetic Social Control and Global Capitalist Power, by **Stephen Pfohl**, Boston College.

The Way is the Goal: Ideology and Practice in the German Autonomous Movement, by **Darcy Leach**, Boston College.

Migration and Muslim Identities in the Bangladesh Diaspora, by **Nazli Kibria**, Boston University.

The Political Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu, by **David Swarts**, Boston University.

Hard Evidence: The Vexations of Lincoln's Queer Corpus, by **Charles Morris**, Boston College.

Movies, Madonna, and Malawi: Africa and the New Cult of Celebrity, by **Zine Magubane**, Boston College.

Colloquium on *Is It Me or My Meds?: Living with Antidepressants*, by **David Karp**, Boston College.

Undergraduate Achievements 2006-2008

Scholar of the College is a designation given at Commencement to exceptional students who have excelled academically in their undergraduate studies and who have done substantial, independent work of the highest quality for a significant part of their senior year, under the supervision of faculty scholars. The **McCarthy Prize** is awarded to the Scholar whose project is deemed best in the social sciences.



PHOTO BY KERRY BURKE

Sociology Major **Thomas Laidley** ('08) was designated a Scholar of the College for his thesis, "The Road Paved with Good Intentions: Primed Reactions to Global Warming and the Cognitive Dissonance of American Attitudes." Mr. Laidley was also the recipient of the **McCarthy Prize**. His project was supervised by **Juliet Schor**.

Sociology Major **Patrick Denice** ('08), who was supervised by **David Karp**, was also designated a **Scholar of the College** for his project, "A More Conscious Consumer Class? Consumption Patterns of American Students Recently Returned From Abroad."

Sociology Major **Abe Cho** ('07), supervised by **Paul Gray**, received the **Scholar of the College** award for his project, "Our Home is Gone: Homeless Veterans and the Road Back." Abe also helped to found the Boston chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

The John D. Donovan Award

This award is in honor of Professor Emeritus John D. Donovan. It is ordinarily presented each year to an undergraduate student who submits the best paper written for a course in sociology. In 2007, the Donovan Award was awarded to **Victor S. Broccoli** ('07) for his paper "A Vicious Cycle: Inadequacies in New Jersey's Public Mental Health System." In 2008 the award went to **Alison Manuel** ('09) for her paper, "The GLBT Name Game: The Classification of Sexuality and the Transcendence of the Monolithic Gay Identity."



BC ID PHOTO

Fulbright Fellowship

Jamel Mims ('08) received a **Fulbright Fellowship** to study in China, where he plans a Sociological study of Beijing's hip-hop, urban and street culture.

The William A. Gamson Award

This award was established during AY 2001-02 by the Sociology Department in honor of William Gamson. It is to be given each year to a graduating senior for outstanding academic achievement in sociology. The 2007 Recipient of this award was **Abe Cho**. The 2008 Recipient of this award was **Patrick Denice**.

Sociology Undergraduate Honors Program

Coordinated by Professor David Karp, the Sociology Department Honors Program is composed of a junior-year seminar, SC 550 "Important Readings in Sociology" and a two-seminar Senior Thesis seminar, SC555 and SC556. In AYs 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 the following students participated in our Honors Program:

Class of 2007

Katherine Adam, Kate Ceredona, Margaret Ford, Christopher Laws, Molly McCary, Valerie Mitchell, Melissa Waite

Class of 2008

Sean Carlesimo, Patrick Denice, Thomas Laidley, Katherine Latores, Christa Martens, Daniela Ramirez, Jordan Segal, Danika Sharek, Vladimir Suric

Class of 2009:

Natalie Foy-Claycomb, Cristina Hancock, Stephanie Howe, So Young Kang, Christopher Lee, Allison Manuel, and Nicole Picone

Dean's Scholars:

2007 - Patrick Denice and Danika Sharek

2008 - Nicole Picone

Sophomore Scholars:

2007 - Allison Manuel, Nicole Picone, and Rachel Shapiro

2008 - Kathryn Casey, Claire Duggan, Kari Hulley, Ana Mascagni, Kelly McConnaughey, Anna Rhodes, Richard Rhom, and John Skinner

Advanced Study Grants (ASGs) are awarded to particularly imaginative and independent students for summer projects that promise to accelerate dramatically their progress in the major field of study.

Four Sociology majors were awarded **ASGs**:

Malak Yusuf ('08) studied the social progression and cultural re-development of Afghan female refugees relocated to Pakistan. **Nicole Picone** ('09) studied AIDS orphans in Uganda. **Sarah Popper** ('10) studied University Entrance Procedures: Comparison between Chile and the United States. **Claire Duggan** ('09) was awarded an ASG to conduct a sociological study of the educational system of Senegal, with emphasis on the education of young girls.

Ms. Yusuf and Ms. Picone also were awarded a **Salmanowitz Program grant** to produce films of their project.

Asian American Scholarship



BC ID PHOTO

This award is given to a student who demonstrates superior academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, community service, and involvement with the Asian-American community and Asian-American issues both on and off campus. In 2008, along with all her other achievements, Sociology Major **Malak Yusuf** won this prestigious scholarship.

Published Undergrad Thesis

BC Sociology alumna Katherine Adam ('07) developed her undergrad thesis into a published book, *The New Feminized Majority: How Democrats Can Change America with Women's Values*, coauthored by her advisor, Charles Derber, and published in 2008. She is the first undergraduate in the history of the university to have her undergraduate thesis published as a book. (See page 10-11 for more details.)

AKD Honor Society. Professor Michael Malec coordinated inductions into the AKD Honor Society. The following Sociology Majors were inducted into AKD: Katherine Adam, Karlyn Elizabeth Bolduc, Margaret Brevig, Stuart Childress, Abraham Cho, Margaret Ford, Jacob Holtz, Daniela Ramirez, Danika Sharek, Jessica Sherry, Lauren Sommer, Vladimir Suric, Kari Sveum.

Martin Luther King Scholarship Award

The Martin Luther King Scholarship Award is presented annually to the junior "who reflects King's philosophy in his or her life and work." In 2008, the award was won by Sociology Major **Eric Asuo-Mante**. (See page 11 for more details.)

Person of the Year 2008

Sociology Major **Jessica Young** ('08) is one of five young women who form the Senior Board of Ecopledge, which was recognized by the *BC Heights* as the 2008 "Person of the Year" for its work to raise BC's environmental awareness and sustainability.



Jessica Young and the other women on the senior board helped to found Ecopledge when they were freshmen at BC and the group had only 9 members. Now, four years later, there are 600 students on their listserv and 60 active members. Ecopledge was involved in the creation of several programs to improve the environment at BC, including the Clean Energy Project, annual Harvest Fest celebration, Recyclemania competition in the resident halls, Think Outside the Bottle Campaign, Environmental Film Series, organic vegetable garden, Bulb Brigade, and the installment of trash compactors on campus. Perhaps most significantly, they formed Sustain BC, a project which engaged the BC administration in making BC a more environmentally sustainable institution. This project resulted in the formal creation of the director of sustainability and an official advisory committee to continue to work on these efforts for the school.

"How things work at BC is the same as in the nation," Young said. "Grassroots can try as hard as they can, but without that help from upper administration, we can't get it done. It needs to be institutionalized so it's no longer a group interest, but something everyone cares about." (Summarized from *The Heights* 5/1/08 article by Jennifer Roach.)

Katherine Adam Publishes Undergrad Thesis with Charlie Derber as Co-Author *The New Feminized Majority: How Democrats Can Change America with Women's Values*

By John Skinner

On Wednesday, March 20, the Sociology Department, along with the rest of the Boston College community, celebrated a rare achievement in higher education, the publishing of an undergraduate thesis. Katherine Adam (A&S 2007) presented her book titled *The New Feminized Majority: How Democrats Can Change America with Women's Values* (Paradigm Publishers, 2008) along with co-author and Boston College professor Charles Derber.

Boston College Sociology professor David Karp introduced the two authors, speaking of their tireless work and his witness to their ability and passion that made the book possible. As onlookers enjoyed ice cream and refreshments provided for the event, Karp's sentiments were followed by remarks from Boston College's Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs Donald Hafner, who highlighted the book as an example of the growing strength of undergraduate research work at Boston College. He also used the opportunity to encourage all students to seek out the resources available to them for undergraduate research as Katherine Adam did during her time at Boston College.

The book was just another manifestation of Adam's interest in politics. Adam grew up in Arizona and was politically interested even before college. Once in Boston, however, she began cultivating this interest through involvement with the Democratic Party both in on-campus groups and through work outside of the Boston College community, including an internship in Senator John Kerry's campaign during her sophomore year.



PHOTO BY LEE PELLEGRINI

Katherine Adam and Charlie Derber

Adam is the first undergraduate in the history of the university to have her undergraduate thesis published as a book, a rare occurrence in any university. Undergraduates are rarely published due to their young age and relative lack of experience but Derber was able to guide Katherine and eventually use his expertise as an experienced and widely published social critic to facilitate the transformation from thesis to a perch on bookshelves across the nation.

Adam sought out Professor Derber as her advisor and eventual co-author because of his experience as a prolific writer as well as a reputation as a strong advocate for students and their ideas. Although Adam said that she did not expect her thesis to ever be published as a book, she worked to research and sharpen her ideas with a dedication that carried her through the summer after her senior year. Both Professors Karp and Derber testified to the long hours that Adam spent testing her theories and defending her ideas with a confidence and alacrity that is rarely seen in undergraduates.

The book offers a theory connecting values that can be understood as "feminized," such as empathy, equality, and community, to the broader electorate as a whole. Adam's argument is that the Democratic Party can offer these feminized values to voters, and by doing so, appeal to the majority of Americans.

Adam explained how these "feminized" values offer a contrast to the masculinized values of the current Bush administration. She also addressed how her ideas translate directly into the current Presidential election with special significance due to the inclusion of a serious female candidate who, ironically, faces challenges in portraying feminized values.

Both Derber and Adam alluded to the timeliness of the subject matter and acknowledged how it affected the publication process. The necessity of the timeframe for publication to be pushed prior to the elections was a factor that made finding a publisher more difficult, but the timely subject matter that caused this urgency made the book more attractive for publishing.

feminized values and theory. Adam and Derber took turns answering, both showing a depth of knowledge in the subject and providing thought provoking answers. All participants eagerly congratulated Adam and expressed their awe at her accomplishment.

The theme of the night was one of empowerment. Adam serves as an example of the ability of undergraduates to provide insightful and influential research. Professors like Charles Derber and Donald Hafner are available and more than willing to help undergraduate students reach for the lofty accomplishments of someone like Katherine Adam. All of the speakers alluded to *The New Feminized Majority* as more than just an undergraduate thesis, and instead as a work that could play an important part in shaping the current political climate of the United States and hopefully illuminate issues to many citizens. This type of work is truly something that should be a source of pride for Adam and the university as well as an example for all undergraduates of the power that they have to wield their ideas at a place like Boston College.

Sociology Junior Eric Asuo-Mante Wins the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship

Text adapted from *The Heights* article written by Joseph Zaleski 2/14/2008.

On February 12, 2008, Eric Asuo-Mante won the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship at the 26th annual awards banquet honoring the civil rights leader.

Asuo-Mante spent the first 16 years of his life in Ghana before moving to Manchester, Conn. He is a junior majoring in sociology with a pre-med concentration, and is a member of the executive board of the AHANA Collective Theater, Dance Marathon, and the African Students Organization. Asuo-Mante hopes to pursue a BA/MA five-year program in sociology at BC before continuing on to medical school.

In his acceptance speech, he referenced King's legacy by saying, "Martin Luther King sacrificed his life to ensure the freedom of generations yet unborn."

Asuo-Mante also discussed the great strides made in race relations due to MLK's involvement in the civil rights movement, noting that a black man is now a serious contender for the presidency.

The MLK, Jr. Memorial Committee was founded in 1982 with the intent of sponsoring an annual dinner in honor of the icon, featuring both a noted guest speaker and the presentation of a scholarship to a BC junior of African descent.



Mike Malec, Eric Asuo-Mante, and Juliet Schor

Students interested in this award must apply, and the committee judges them based on extracurricular activities focused on social justice, their cumulative GPA, an essay written about MLK's influence in their lives, and an interview, according to Rosanna Demarco, the co-chair of the committee.

The MLK, Jr. Scholarship covers 75 percent of the winner's senior-year tuition.

The banquet hosted a wide array of guests and other speakers, including Domenic De Leo, the committee co-chair; Keynote speaker Andrea J. Cabral; 2007 MLK Scholarship recipient Jacqueline Grant; and Hubert Walters, musical director for the Voices of Imani Choir, which sang "Oh Happy Day" and "By and By."

The final speaker was Father Leahy, who discussed the relationship between education, inspiration, and positive change.

Graduate Student Awards 2006-2008

Boston College **Dissertation Fellowship**: The Graduate School awards several Dissertation Fellowships to advanced doctoral students in order to enable the most motivated candidates to dedicate themselves full-time to dissertation work. The recipient in 2007 was **Anders Hayden**, whose dissertation (tentatively titled *A Changing Climate: A Political Economic Analysis of Evolving Debates*) is in progress. **Chiwen Bao** received the Dissertation Fellowship in 2008 to work on her dissertation (tentatively titled *Exploring the Reproduction of Racial Inequalities in an Era of "Testocracy"*).

Gustavo Agosto-Dafonseca received a **Diversity Fellowship** for 2008.



Joelle Sano



Autumn Green



Michelle Gawerc



Esteban Calvo Bralic

Boston College **Presidential Fellowships** are awarded to particularly promising new students for a period of five years. **Michelle Gawerc** was a Presidential Fellow from 2006-2008.

Michelle Gawerc also received a **Research Fellowship from the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School** in 2008 as well as the **Visiting Research Fellowship from the Harry S. Truman Center for the Advancement of Peace** at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Benedict Alper Graduate Fellowship: This fellowship, funded by a generous endowment from former faculty member Ben Alper, is given annually to one of our PhD students demonstrating engaged critical scholarship and use of critical thinking toward social justice issues. The student must also demonstrate both academic achievement and financial need. The 2007 recipient was **Joelle Sano** and the 2008 recipient was **Autumn Green**.

Severyn T. Bruyn Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Social Economy and Social Justice: In 2007 **Gretchen Sisson** received the Severyn T. Bruyn Award for her paper "The Power and Uses of Sonogram Imagery in Contemporary Visual Culture." The 2008 recipient was **Esteban Calvo Bralic** for his paper "Work to Retirement Transitions and Happiness: Linking Public Policies, Social Structures, and Private Troubles."

Donald J. White Award for Teaching Excellence: The 2007 recipient was **Deb Piatelli** and the 2008 recipients were **Masa Higo** and **Joelle Sano**. All three received the award after receiving exemplary ratings from their students in their classes.

Tanya Price received the 2007 **Contribution to the Community Award**, which is presented to the student who demonstrates exceptional commitment to the Boston College community.

Michael Cermak received the 2007 BC Graduate Student Association **Men and Women for Others Award**.

Michael Cermak also won the **Award for Culturally Relevant Education in Ecological Economics**, presented by the US Society of Ecological Economics, 2007.

William Wood received the 2007 **Shils-Coleman Award for Graduate Student Paper in Social Theory**, presented annually by the Social Theory Section of the American Sociological Association (see page 14 for more details).

Amy Finnegan received a **Summer Fellowship from the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation** for work on her dissertation, *The Perception of Negotiation and Nonviolent Action in Northern Uganda*.



Amy Finnegan



Mike Cermak



Dana Cervenakova



Chiwen Bao

Dana Cervenakova received the **IWM Junior Visiting Fellowship** from the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

Chiwen Bao was awarded **Honorable Mention** in the **Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships Program**.

Autumn Green received the **Special Award in Recognition of Extraordinary Contributions to Harvard Law School and the Greater Cambridge Community** from the Harvard Law School Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs.

Masa Higo took part in the **Research Fellowship Program** at the Sasakawa Foundation for Social Research. He was also a co-winner of the **International Scholarship Award** given by the British Council for Economic and Social Research, as well as a participant in the **Social Science Research Fellowship Program** at the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare of Japan.

Susan Legere received **Honorable Mention** at the 2008 Short Film Festival for Independent Latino Filmmakers, sponsored by the Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies of Central Connecticut State University and the New Britain Museum of American Arts, Central Connecticut State University. Her work profiling the lives of three immigrant workers at Boston College was featured in multiple newspaper stories on and off campus, including the *BC Chronicle* and *The Heights* (see page 15 for more details about her film).

Esteban Calvo was awarded (with Kelly Harvestick) a **Research Grant** by the US Social Security Administration for "What Makes Retirees Happier: Cold Turkey or Phased Retirement?" The grant totaled \$97,000 and was administered through the Boston College Center for Retirement Research. Esteban was also awarded a **Research Expense Grant** from the Office of the Provost to study "Retirement and Well-Being: Examining Characteristics of Life Course Transitions" (with Natasha Sarkisian).

William Wood Awarded 2007 ASA "Shils-Coleman" Prize for Social Theory

By Stephen Pfohl

Sociology Ph.D. candidate William Wood was honored as the 2007 recipient of the prestigious Edward Shils-James Coleman Award of the American Sociological Association for the best student paper in social theory. This is a highly competitive award, presented annually for a paper that makes a "profound contribution" to the theoretical study of social life. William Wood's paper, "(Virtual) Myths" was initially published in the journal *Critical Sociology* in 2005. A slightly expanded version of the paper was subsequently included in the 2006 book *Culture, Power and History: Studies in Critical Sociology*, edited by Stephen Pfohl, Aimee Van Wagenen, Patricia Arend, Abigail Brooks, and Denise Leckenby. As part of the Shils-Coleman Award, Wood received a \$300 cash prize, as well as round-trip airfare and travel expenses to attend the meetings of the ASA in New York City, where the award was presented.



PHOTO BY JEAN LOVETT

"(Virtual) Myths" crafts a spiraling series of poignant sociological meditations on power at the intersections of two distinct but related forms of mythic spatialization—the imperial mapping of supposedly "discovered" geographical territories and the clinical-scientific mapping of the human body. While different, the parallel histories between these two modes of spatialization are considerable. Each begins in the early modern capitalist-colonialist period with the production of visual spatial images—the explorer's map and the anatomist's diagram. These new global technologies of power simultaneously objectify and "naturalize" the socially situated realms of physicality they claim to represent. Each does so, moreover, not as forms of intimate or immanent knowledge, but as distancing gestures performed in the service of conquest and commerce. In this sense, early modern cartographers constructed supposedly neutral maps of the world that were devoid of ecological, cultural, and spiritual significance.

The putatively objective work of early modern map makers placed them at odds with indigenous peoples the globe over, including the Amerindian peoples of the "New World," who viewed human life as bound to and animated by the sacred geographies to which it belonged. A related form of distancing was produced by modern anatomists, who diagramed the human body devoid of holistic connections to lived relations to others and the environment by which it finds sustenance. In this, as Wood's essay convincingly argues,

the body of the earth, as well as the human body itself, became relationally unanchored, only to later be reterritorialized on discursive terms that speak the languages of profit and endless self-preservation. In this, the earth is transformed into property to be possessed, while human bodiliness becomes the dissected object of the clinical gaze.

The economic containment of both the earth and our bodies are, in Wood's critical sociological allegory, magnified exponentially with the historical invention of digital technologies in the late twentieth-century. In analyzing this digital cultural turn, "(Virtual) Myths" explores how the abstractions of high-speed imaging systems supplant earlier modes of technological objectification and the exploitative profits they promise. Here, the resistive physicality of land fades before the bright lights of boundary defying cybernetic simulations, just as the fleshy body disappears before the electronic lightning of coded bioinformatics and the discourse of genetic manipulations. With nearly every aspect of spatiality today wed to the relentless global circulation of finance capital, Wood's disturbing history of our collective cultural present leaves us with no easy-to-read map of how to exit from the powerful technological confines in which so much of contemporary society is ensnared. It leaves us, instead, with a critical sociological challenge concerning how to urgently reconstruct cultural senses of space that optimize, rather than subordinate, our natural historical relations to the vicissitudes of the earth, the human flesh, and a sustainable relation between these two natural realms.

In praising the analytic sophistication of William Wood's award winning paper, a press release from the ASA describes Wood's manuscript as fitting well with Theory Section chair Karin Knorr-Certina's call for an examination of 'extreme theory' at the 2007 meetings. This is because "(Virtual) Myths" "takes on a largely under-examined sociological issue and makes a profound contribution towards basic conceptualizations of why this issue matters and how it can be studied." As one member of the award committee put it, "The cultural logic [of Wood's paper] is so well captured that it is able to make a convincing argument that geographical mapping of the pre- and colonial era is related to our contemporary mapping of the genome -and that both are practices of control and ordering of the Western culture based on technological/scientific rationality." Honorable mentions for the 2007 Shils-Coleman Award were given to Gabriel Abend of Northwestern University, Stefan Kluseman of the University of Pennsylvania, and Isaac Reed of Yale University. The 2007 Shils-Coleman Award committee members included Dustin Kidd, Chair of Temple University, Vida Bajc of the University of Pennsylvania, and JoAnn Brooks of Bentley College.

Susan Legere Makes Film About Immigrants Working at BC

Originally published in the *BC Chronicle* on 10/18/07 by Staff Writer Ed Hayward

Well before immigration policy jumped to the forefront of America's domestic policy debate in the spring of 2006, Susan Legere, a doctoral student in sociology, saw a story to tell in the experiences of the immigrants who work the jobs that make Boston College run on a daily basis.

Now, against the backdrop of a fiery political debate, Legere's five-year project has produced a 50-minute documentary, "Immigrant Reflections," which chronicles the experiences of three campus service workers who are immigrants to the US.

This Saturday, Oct. 20, the film will debut at the Boston Latino International Film Festival, where Legere and her subjects will also take part in a discussion about the film and the issues it raises.

Legere describes the project as an opportunity to learn more about people who might otherwise go unnoticed on campus. "Here are people we see every day, but don't really see," Legere says. "They make the place run, but they are in the background. So this is a chance to learn more about these people."

The novice filmmaker, herself a first-generation college student, says the stories of the three subjects all reflect a common theme. "I think each one is a striking example of upward mobility and an incredible work ethic," she says.

- Brigida "Vicky" Miranda is a native of Guatemala who works full-time in Dining Services. She and her husband, Cristobal Hernandez, who also works on campus as a security attendant for the Boston College Police Department, have two daughters. Miranda is now a student in the Woods College of Advancing Studies.
- Jorge Chacon, a native of Peru who had earned an accounting degree before immigrating to the US in his mid-20s, works in Facilities Services. He and his wife have two sons, one of whom graduated from the Carroll School of Management in 2007.
- Manuel "Manny" Alves, a native of Cape Verde, moved to Boston when he was 10. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, he was a campus shuttle bus coordinator for Boston Coach before receiving a promotion to supervisor. He and his wife have a daughter.

In the film, the three subjects recall their journeys to the US, reunions with parents who spent years establishing their new homes, and the challenges they faced across issues of language, race and class as they settled in their new country.

Despite hardships, Chacon is grateful for his adopted coun-

try. "This country gave me a lot of opportunities to be something. The main thing it gave me: the chance to prove to me [that] I'm good."



Susan Legere, Manuel Alves, Jorge Chacon, Brigida Miranda

Miranda and Chacon recall encountering rude or indifferent behavior from some students, but note that those who greet them by name or say "Thank you" for their efforts can make their day.

When she got the idea for her project, Legere, encouraged by Prof. Pamela Berger (Fine Arts), turned to the Jacques Salmanowitz Program for Moral Courage in Film, directed by Prof. John Michalczyk (Fine Arts), where she received technical advice and access to the equipment necessary to make the documentary.

Michalczyk says the documentary succeeds in exploring the largely unseen dimensions of immigrants' lives in Boston and at Boston College. "She does a very, very fine job in terms of tapping the resources of these individuals who can give us a better understanding" of the lives of immigrants in the Boston area, he says. "We're considered an ivory tower and we sometimes never reflect on people who come here who have these challenges. I think her documentary will help us come to a new understanding."

For Legere, the project amounted to learning by doing: securing subjects, conducting interviews, wielding the video and sound equipment. She did enlist the help of professional editor Eric Kaighin of Living Reel Productions, and received a \$500 grant from the University to defray some costs.

"I think this is a fantastic opportunity made available by BC," says Legere. "If you have the interest to make a documentary about an important social topic, the opportunity is there for you."

Graduate Degrees Awarded 2006-2008

Ph.D. degrees

Michael Anastario (2007) *An Analysis of Violence Victimization and Women's Mental and Reproductive Health in Two Internally Displaced Populations*. Eve Spangler, Advisor.

Abigail Brooks (2008) *Growing Older in a 'Surgical Age': An Analysis of Women's Lived Experiences and Interpretations of Aging in an Era of Cosmetic Surgery*. Stephen Pfohl, Advisor.

Kristen Drummey (2008) *The Role of Cultural & Economic Capital in Education 1972-2002*. Juliet Schor, Advisor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE ANASTARIO

Michael Anastario

Robert Levine (2007) *The Effects Of Organizational Democracy On Organizational Social Capital*. Juliet Schor, Advisor.

Delario Lindsey (2008) *Controlling the Spectacular World City: A Discursive Analysis of Inclusion and Exclusion in the Making of Giuliani's New York*. William Gamson, Advisor.

Joyce Mandell (2008) *Before, During And After Bricks And Mortar: Network Organizing As A Community Development Strategy*. Paul Gray, Advisor.

Deborah Piatelli (2008) *Stories Of Inclusion? Power, Privilege And Cross-Difference Organizing In A Contemporary Peace And Justice Network*. Charles Derber, Advisor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEB PIATELLI

Deborah Piatelli

William Wood (2007) *Asking More of Our Institutions: The Promises and Limits of Restorative Justice in Clark County, WA*. Stephen Pfohl, Advisor.

Titles and abstracts of PhD dissertations since 2004 can be viewed on our website at bc.edu/sociology/grad/dissertations.html.

M.A. degrees

Chiwen Bao (2008) *Exploring the Reproduction of Racial Inequalities in an Era of "Testocracy."* (Interim degree) Juliet Schor, Advisor.

Karen Barone (2007) *Reality Consumption: Television's Guide to Class Mobility.* Juliet Schor, Advisor.

Brad Bauerly (2007) *U.S. Organic Crisis And The Discursive Legitimation Of Imperial Expansion: Examining The Concordances Of The Periods 1872-1900 And 1975-2003.* Charles Derber, Advisor.

Esteban Calvo Bralic (2008) *Gradual Retirement, Sense of Control and Retirees' Happiness.* (Interim degree) John Williamson, Advisor.

Jonathan Christiansen (2008) "Takes more than guns to kill a man." *History and Narrative in the Resurgence of the Industrial Workers of the World.* William Gamson, Advisor.

Jared Del Rosso (2007) *'The Secret Hiding in My Pants': Men's Bodies in Masculine Eyes.* (Interim degree) Steven Pfohl, Advisor.

Kristen Drummey (2007) *The Effects of Kin Care.* (Interim degree) Natasha Sarkisian, Advisor.

Xiaoman Gao (2008) *Exploring a Pervasive Social Problem in Contemporary China -Violence Against Wives.* Eve Spangler, Advisor.

Autumn Green (2007) *To Strive for More: Women, Welfare, Higher Education and the Interplay of Narratives in the Lives of Low-Income Women.* (Interim degree) Lisa Dodson, Advisor.

Colleen Nugent (2007) *Conceptualizing the Sexualization of Girlhood through Online Public Discourse.* Steven J. Pfohl, Advisor.

Johanna Pabst (2007) *Consumer Cyborgs: Technology Product Advertising and Body Border Crossing.* (Interim degree) Juliet Schor, Advisor.

Natalie Rosado (2008) *An Unwritten Narrative: The Resilience of Young Puerto Rican American Girls.* David Karp, Advisor.

Joelle Sano (2007) *Teaching Inequality: The Portrayal of Social Class and Morals in English Language Learner Children's Books.* (Interim degree) Paul Gray, Advisor.

Matt Williams (2007) *The Bush Administration, Debt Forgiveness and Development Regime Change.* (Interim degree) Sarah Babb, Advisor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN CHRISTIANSEN

Jonathan Christiansen

Alumna Sister Anne Munley, IHM, Ph.D. Becomes President of Marywood University

by Jared Del Rosso

On July 1, 2007, Sister Anne Munley, IHM, Ph.D. began her presidential tenure at Marywood University. Her inauguration took place on October 19, 2007.

Sister Munley received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston College in 1981. Her dissertation, *Death Returns From Exile: A Hospice Experience*, was an early contribution to the sociological study of the hospice model. According to Professor John Williamson, Sister Munley's dissertation director, there were, as she began her dissertation research, "only two hospice inpatient facilities and a handful of hospice organizations in this country."

Immediately, the dissertation impresses for its length; "At 633 pages," says Professor Williamson, "it was by far the longest dissertation that I have ever directed. I keep a copy in my office right behind where I sit. I pull it down when talking to a student about how long the dissertation needs to be. I always say, 'Please keep it a lot shorter than this.'" But *Death Returns from Exile* was also, according

to Professor Williamson, "one of the earliest social science books on the hospice model, introducing a number of important concepts and insights for the analysis of hospice care." Peter Berger, a reader for the dissertation, was sufficiently impressed by the study to advocate on its behalf to the editors of Basic Books. In 1983, the study was published as *The Hospice Alternative: A New Context for Death and Dying*. Reviewing it in *The Annals of the American Academy*, Helen Sheehan writes, "Using her skills as a sociologist and her special insights as



[HTTP://CWIS.MARYWOOD.EDU/WWW2/PRWEB/PRESS/INAUGURATION/PHOTOINDEX.HTM](http://cwis.marywood.edu/www2/prweb/press/inauguration/photoindex.htm)

a member of a Roman Catholic religious order, Anne Munley covers certain dimensions of the hospice world in greater depth than the handful of earlier works on the hospice" (1984:218); specifically, Sheehan highlights Sister Munley's representation of "Pennwood Hospice," her "discussions of the segregation of death in modern society," and her "analysis of the differences between the hospice in England and America" as notable contributions that the book makes to sociology and the field of hospice studies. The skills and insights that Sheehan points out - that of a sociologist and that of a member of a Roman Catholic religious order - appear to have motivated Sister Munley's work since leaving Boston College. Examples of this are many, but perhaps two recent ones will suffice.

In 2004, Sister Munley collaborated on "Understanding and Counteracting Trafficking in Persons: The Acts of the Seminar for Women Religious." The document offers an analysis of the trafficking in persons within a context of "the geopolitical transformation of the last two-decades," including the globalization of the world economy and the "increased connectivity" amongst the world market, as well as "welfare networks, criminal syndicates and the world's disadvantaged" (2004:1). At the same time, the document offers significantly more than its analysis: it is written as "one of the instruments for women religious who are active or who are willing to become active in countertrafficking efforts associated with prevention activities and victim assistance" and is based on training courses held in Italy, Albania, Nigeria, and Romania (2004:1).

Making in an Interdependent World." Throughout the address, Sister Munley situates Marywood University's educational mission within a global, sociological context. This effort to link sociological analysis with the values, practice, and mission of Catholic higher education are most poignantly stated in a passage that comes near the end of the address, in a section she titles "A Time for Solidarity."

This world needs a critical mass of people who can extend community beyond national borders and make this century a century of global solidarity. The choices that we make shape us. In an interdependent world we need to see the connection between "the good life" and "life that is good for all." The Roman philosopher Cicero suggested that there are three divisions of moral goodness: "*The first is the ability to distinguish truth from falsity.... The second... is the ability to restrain the passions.... And the third is to behave considerately and understandingly in our associations with other people*" (*On the Good Life*, 128). All of these elements are present in the mission of Marywood. Their actualization in the lives of our students is a goal to which we must be ardently committed. Marywood University has a great deal to contribute to cultivating moral capital for the life of the world.

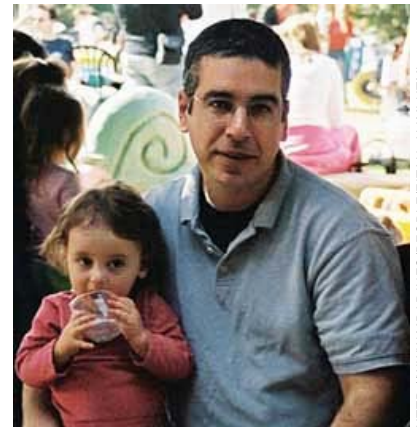
To read Sister Munley's inaugural address and see more pictures of the Marywood University Inauguration ceremony, go to <http://cwis.marywood.edu/www2/prweb/press/inauguration/address.htm>.

Alumni Updates

Michael Anastario (Ph.D. 2007) was hired as a Research Associate at the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine, and subsequently appointed as Assistant Professor of Military and Emergency Medicine.

Eitan Y. Alimi (Ph.D. 2004), Professor of Political Science at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Alimi published extensively in 2006 and 2007; an abbreviated list includes:

- o "Israeli Sociopolitical Arena and Palestinian Politics of Contention" in *The British Journal of Political Science*, 37(3), 2007.
- o "Discursive Contention: Palestinian Media Discourse and the Inception of the "First" Intifada" in *Harvard International Journal of Press and Politics*, 12(4), 2007.
- o "The Dialectic of Opportunities and Threats and Temporality of Contention" in *International Political Science Review*, 28(1), 2007.
- o "Knowing Your Adversary: Israeli Structure of Political Opportunities and the Inception of the Palestinian Intifada," with William Gamson, and Charlotte Ryan, in *Sociological Forum*, 2006.
- o "Contextualizing Political Terrorism: A Collective Action Perspective for Understanding the Tanzim" in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 29(3), 2006.



[HTTP://WWW.MRAP.INFO/PEOPLE/EITAN_ALIMI.HTML](http://www.mrap.info/people/eitan_alimi.html)

Ulrike Boehmer (Ph.D. 1997), Assistant Professor at Boston University. In 2006, Boehmer published "Cancer and Sexual Minority Women" with Deborah J. Bowen and Marla Russo. The chapter appeared in *The Health of Sexual Minorities: Public Health Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Populations* (Springer). She also co-wrote and published several articles in 2007. A few of these include:

- o "Relaxation response with acupuncture trial in HIV patients: Feasibility and participant experiences" in *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* (with Bei-Hung Chang, Yue Zhao, and Elizabeth Sommers).
- o "Retention challenges for a community-based HIV primary care clinic and implications for intervention" in *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* (with Sharon Coleman, Judith Bradford, and Judy Tan).
- o "Overweight and obesity in sexual minority women: evidence from population-based data" in *American Journal of Public Health* (with Deborah J. Bowen and Greta R. Bauer).
- o "Breast Reconstruction following Mastectomy for Breast Cancer: The Decisions of Sexual Minority Women" in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* (with Rhonda Linde and Karen M. Freund).



[HTTP://WWW.ICPSR.UMICH.EDU/FENWAY/PEOPLE/IMAGES/BOEHMER.JPG](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/fenway/people/images/boehmer.jpg)

Alumni Updates

Janet Boguslaw (Ph.D. 1999), Senior Research Associate at the Poverty and Hunger Center at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. In 2006, Boguslaw published "Non-Income Poverty" and "Social Insecurity" (with J.L. Brown) in *Encyclopedia of World Poverty* (Sage). In 2007, she co-published "Business, Poverty, and Corporate Citizenship: Naming the Issues and Framing Solutions" in *Journal of Corporate Citizenship* with **Mary-Ellen Boyle** (Ph.D. 1997).

Anthony Buono (Ph.D. 1981), Professor of Management and Sociology at Bentley University. Buono has published and presented extensively (see his Bentley web page for a more complete list). His most recent books are *A Primer on Organizational Behavior*, co-authored with James L. Bowditch and Marcus M. Stewart (7th edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 2008), and *Socio-Economic Intervention in Organizations: The Intervener-Researcher and the SEAM Approach to Organizational Analysis*, co-authored with H. Savall (Information Age Publishing, Greenwich, CT, 2007). A few of his recent journal articles and book chapters include the following:

o Kerber, Kenneth W, Buono, Anthony F. "Enhancing Change Capacity: Client-Consultant Interaction and Emergent Change [Migliorare le capacita di cambiamento nella relazione cliente-consulente aziendale]," *Symphonya: Emerging Issues in Management - Management Consulting and Global Markets*, vol. 2007, no. 1, www.unimib.it/symphonya, 2008.

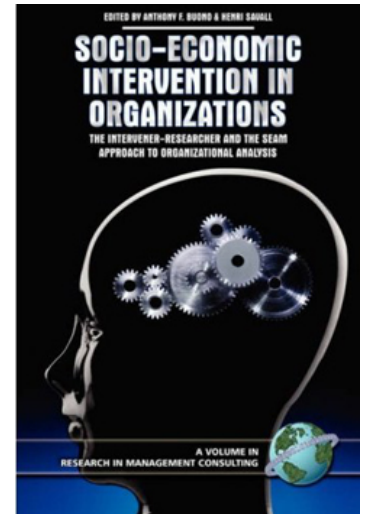
o With Kenneth Kerber, "The Challenge of Organizational Change: Enhancing Organizational Change Capacity," *Revue Sciences de Gestion*, 2008.

o "Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers," in *Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society*, "Preface," in *Mastering Hidden Costs and Socio-Economic Performance*, 2008.

o "The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA)," in *Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society*, 2008.

o With H. Savall, "SEAM in the Context of Merger and Acquisition Integration," in *Socio-Economic Intervention in Organizations*, 2007.

o "Beyond the MBA Ethics Course: Institutionalizing a Commitment to Ethics and Social Responsibility," *MBA Innovation*, 2006.



Mary Ellen Boyle

Mary-Ellen Boyle (Ph.D. 1997), Associate Professor at Clark University. In 2006, Boyle was the recipient of the 2006 Faculty Research Award from the Poverty, Class and Inequality Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Danielle Egan (Ph.D. 2000), Associate Professor of Sociology, St. Lawrence University. In 2006, Assistant Professor Egan was named the Frank P. Piskor Faculty Lecturer for 2007, and the following spring she delivered a campus lecture on "Producing Pathology through the Pedagogy of Purity: Childhood Sexuality and the Social Purity Movement."

Linda Evans (Ph. D. 1977) along with Kevin G Powers and Robert Mantell, obtained the first recognition by a Massachusetts appellate court, in *Cappucci v. Boston University*, that an employee who reasonably believes his or her employer is engaging in racial profiling is protected by Massachusetts' anti-discrimination statute, M.G.L. c. 151B (retaliation for opposing discrimination and intentional interference with an advantageous relationship). She is the author of "Massachusetts Payment of Wages Law - G.L. c. 149. §§ 148-150," *Massachusetts Employment Law* (2008, 2006, & 2003).

Michele Garvin (Ph. D. 1981) was named as part of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2004-2008), The Best Lawyers in America (2003-2007), Lawdragon 3000: Leading Lawyers in America (2006), and Massachusetts Super Lawyers "Top 50 Women" (2006).

Kelly Joyce (Ph.D. 2001), Assistant Professor at College of William and Mary. In 2008, Joyce published *Magnetic Appeal: MRI and the Myth of Transparency*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. In 2007, she co-published "Technology, Science, and Ageism: An Examination of Three Patterns of Discrimination" in the *Indian Journal of Gerontology* (with John Williamson and Laura Mamo). In 2006, she published "Graying the Cyborg: New Directions in Feminist Analyses of Aging, Science, and Technology" in *Age Matters: Re-Aligning Feminist Thinking* (Routledge, with Laura Mamo) and "From Numbers to Pictures: The Development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and the Visual Turn in Medicine" in *Science as Culture*. She also presented "Theorizing the Fungal Body: Gender, Sexuality, and Candida Overgrowth" with Shashwat Pandhi at the Society for the Social Studies of Science annual meeting in November 2006.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE GRANT
([HTTPS://WWW.WIMALUMNI.COM/?FALL08_12](https://www.wimalumni.com/?fall08_12))

Kelly Joyce

Dr. Joyce also received the following honors as well: Sharpe Service-Learning Faculty Fellow, College of William and Mary, 2007-8, Faculty Summer Research Grant, College of William and Mary, Summer 2007, Sharpe Community Partnerships Program Research Grant, College of William and Mary, 2006-7, and Honorable Mention Winner, "From Number to Pictures," IEEE Life Members' Prize in Electrical History, sponsored by the Society for the History of Technology, awarded 2007.

Patricia Leavy (Ph.D. 2002), Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Gender Studies at Stonehill College. In 2006, Leavy published "Ally McBeal as a Site of Postmodern Bodily Boundaries and Struggles over Cultural Interpretation: The Hysteric as a Site of Feminist Resistance" in *Searching The Soul of Ally McBeal: Critical Essays* (McFarland Publishers), "The Matrix of Eating Disorder Vulnerability: Oral History and the Link Between Personal and Social Problems" in *Oral History Review* (with Lauren Sardi), and "The Mass Marketing of Disordered Eating and Eating Disorders: The Social Psychology of Women, Thinness and Culture" in *Women's Studies International Forum* (with Sharlene Hesse-Biber, Courtney Quinn and Julia Zoino).



More recently she's published *Method Meets Art: Arts Based Research Practices* (Guilford Publications: NY, 2008) and *Iconic Events: Media, Politics, and Power in Retelling History* (Lexington Books,

Lanham, MD. 2007). She's also co-edited two books with Sharlene Hesse-Biber, *Handbook of Emergent Research Methods* (Guilford Publications, New York, NY. 2008) and *Feminist Research Practice: A Primer* (Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA. 2007).

James A. Meehan (Ph.D. 1996) was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology at Curry College.

Janine Minkler (Ph.D. 2000) was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Northern Arizona University.

Kathleen Odell-Korgen (Ph. D. 1997) published *The Engaged Sociologist: Connecting the Classroom to the Community*, Second Edition, with J. White (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge, 2007 and 2009). Articles co-authored with E. O'Brien include "I'm Colorblind But What Are You, Anyway?" in *Electronic Journal of Sociology* (<http://www.sociology.org/contents.html>), and "It's the Message, Not the Messenger: The Declining Significance of Black-White Contact in a 'Colorblind' Society" in *Sociological Inquiry* 77, 3:356-382.

Alumni Updates

Michael Rustad (Ph.D. 1981), Professor of Law and Co-Director of Intellectual Property Law Concentration. Rustad published extensively in 2006, including:



- o "Neglecting the Neglected: The Impact of Noneconomic Damage Caps on Meritorious Nursing Home Lawsuits?" in *Elder Law Journal*.
- o "Harmonizing Internet Law: Lessons from Europe" in *Internet Law* (with Thomas H. Koenig)
- o "The Negligent Enablement of Trade Secret Theft" in *Santa Clara Computer & High Technology Law Journal*.
- o "Reforming the Economic Espionage Act: An Empirical Study" in *Santa Clara Computer & High Technology Law Journal*

In 2007 Michael published "Hate Torts' to Combat the Organizational Roots of Evil" in *American Behavioral Scientist* (with Thomas H. Koenig). He also published several books in 2007, including

- o *Everyday Law for Consumers* (Paradigm Publishers)
- o *Understanding Sales, Leases, and Licenses in a Global Perspective* (Carolina Academic Press)
- o *Tort Law: Cases, Materials, Perspectives* (4th edition) (with Thomas C. Calligan, Jr., et al, LexisNexis)

David Toscano (Ph.D. 1979) was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2006, representing County of Albemarle (part); City of Charlottesville.

Lee Garth Vigilant (Ph. D. 2001) published "I Am Still Suffering: The Dilemma of Multiple Recoveries in the Lives of Methadone Maintenance Patients" in *Sociological Spectrum*, 28(3), 2008. He also wrote, with John B. Williamson, "The Sociology of Socialization" (Vol. 1) in *21st Century Sociology: A Reference Handbook*, edited by Clifton D. Bryant and Dennis L. Peck. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Aimee van Wagenen (Ph.D. 2006) recently became the Program Manager for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Population Research Center with The Fenway Institute.

William Wood (Ph.D. 2007) was appointed as a tenure track Assistant Professor of Sociology at California State-Fullerton.

Meinhofer Award for Faculty Excellence Launched by the Worcester UniverCity Partnership

The Worcester UniverCity Partnership, "a coalition of public and private organizations working in cooperation with central Massachusetts colleges and universities to explore and implement partnerships that increase the positive impact of higher education in the city and the region, especially in the area of economic development," launched a Meinhofer Award for Faculty Excellence to continually honor Bill Meinhofer's work. According to the website, "Nominees are judged on their sustained efforts to link scholarship to significant needs in the greater community; the impact of their work on campus as a result of community engagement efforts; measurable successes in establishing campus-community collaborations; their engagement of students in community-based collaborations; and their use of creative and innovative approaches to teaching and research." Armand W. Carriere, executive director of the Worcester UniverCity Partnership, said "This award acknowledges Bill's legacy and his ability to bring the resources of the classroom to bear on urban issues, big and small." For more information on the award and the program, see <http://www.wpi.edu/News/Releases/20078/kruegermeinhofer.html>.

In Memoriam: Bill Meinhofer (Ph.D. 2001)

In January of 2007, Bill Meinhofer, Sociology Ph.D. (2001), died after a battle with cancer. He was founding director of the Donelan Office of Community-Based Learning at the College of the Holy Cross, founding chairperson of the Community Engagement Committee of the Colleges of Worcester Consortium, and member of the Boards of Directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts, the Worcester Working Coalition for Latino Students, and the Henry Lee Willis Community Center. He was also a very active member of the BC community during his graduate studies here, as Bill Gamson describes in his memories of Bill:

Sometime during the early 1990s, when MRAP was increasing its community outreach efforts, I heard about a Latino activist with the unlikely name of Meinhofer. He had founded an important Latino social agency in Boston and had an intellectual bent. Partly at my urging, he decided to apply to the Ph.D. program at BC and soon became a crucial member of MRAP.

Bill's extensive experience and contacts in fund raising activities, his quantitative and computer skills, his mature judgment and interpersonal skills, his general wisdom and savvy, and his strong commitment to an engaged scholarship made him indispensable to the MRAP project during several crucial years. He was an integral part of our community media fellows program, sponsored by the Boston Foundation, in which we funded media fellows from eight grassroots social action groups in the Boston area, providing regular workshops and meetings with journalists. The objective was to help them to integrate a media component into their organizing and public education work.

Bill went on to write his dissertation on this attempt at university-community collaboration. He showed how the program affected each of the eight organizations. Using multiple outcome measures, he was able to illuminate the prior conditions that enhanced certain outcomes and those whose absence made certain outcomes unlikely to last.

I also had the pleasure of having him as an enthusiastic teaching assistant in my Social Conflict course. In it, we made heavy use of learning group exercises and game simulations and Bill readily took to

this mode of teaching. I can still remember his amusement at the intense and passionate engagement that normally passive students exhibited during their involvement in SIMSOC and other exercises, some of which he participated in developing.

Bill's dissertation, *Community Organizing and the Strategic Utilization of Media: A Pilot Study of University-Community Partnership*, was completed in 2001, with Bill Gamson as his advisor. Meinhofer then went on to the faculty of Holy Cross, which hired him after a nationwide search as the founding director of their new community-based learning program.



HOLY CROSS WEBSITE (SEE END OF ARTICLE)

Bill remained in contact with BC, writing Mike Malec only a few weeks before his death. His email doesn't mention his illness, focusing instead on his happiness with his job and his gratitude to the BC Sociology graduate program for preparing him for it. "My work here is the dream job of a lifetime for me," he wrote, and later added, "The calling was there when I first arrived at BC but the BC Sociology department gave me the skills, critical thinking abilities and confidence to make this work my life's vocation."

On the Holy Cross tribute page to Meinhofer, Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J., president of Holy Cross, said "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Bill Meinhofer, as much for who he was as for what he did. He was a great friend to many, always caring, upbeat and generous. He deserves all the credit for building our very successful community-based learning program from a handful of courses to about 90 courses involving some 850 students each year. He also made major contributions to many of our other community involvements. There is no way to express adequately how much Bill Meinhofer meant to Holy Cross."

To read the Holy Cross memorial to Bill Meinhofer in its entirety, see <http://www.holycross.edu/publicaffairs/features/2006-2007/meinhofer>.

NAWCHE Transitions:

The National Association for Women in Catholic Higher Education

By Kim Bachechi

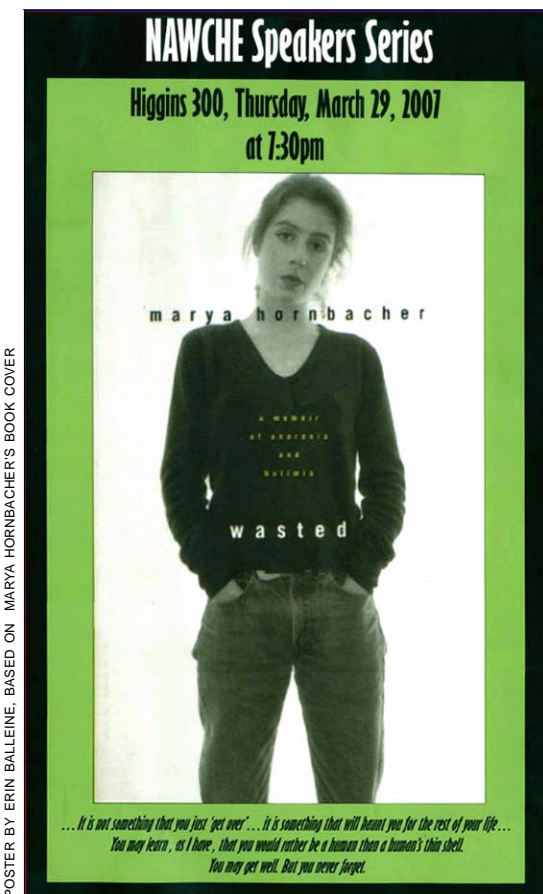
In the last two years NAWCHE, the National Association for Women in Catholic Higher Education, has continued to thrive under the leadership of Sharlene Hesse-Biber, Professor of Sociology and Director of Women's Studies. With a growing membership roster, new programs and a successful conference in New York during June of 2008, NAWCHE's strength as a network of academics continues to build. While the goals of our organization began with, and still include, support for women in Catholic higher education, creation and distribution of work for justice in the academy, and facilitation of an ongoing forum for women to have a voice on issues that are unique to women in Catholic higher education, we have continued to work on expanding and simultaneously refining our mission to further push for social equality for all people in the academy, with an increased focus on support for issues surrounding race, class, gender, age, and sexual preference.

We are also working to be more globally inclusive and in service to that goal, our ninth conference, titled Making Connections IX: Crossing New Horizons: Envisioning Women's Studies and Women's Issues in an International Context, focused on addressing the multiplicity of issues affecting woman that emerge from globalization, including healthcare, education, international labor practices, and the often gendered face of migration. Our keynote speaker for the conference

was Liza Featherstone; known for her work exposing Wal-Mart, as well as her work supporting sweat-free labor practices, her conference presentation focused on the complexities of feminist ideology as it permeates the current political election and how its impacts reverberate both nationally and internationally. NAWCHE also spotlighted filmmaker Aishah Shahidah Simmons, who presented "NO! The Rape Documentary," which explored the international reality of rape and other forms of sexual assault through first person testimonies, scholarship, spirituality, activism, and cultural work of African-Americans. And of course, there were an array of panels, which ranged from, "Building Global Consciousness in Introductory Women's Studies Courses" to "Globalization and Gender Ideology in a Lebanese Village."

Here at Boston College NAWCHE continues to work on its speaker's series as well. The 2006-2008 academic years saw us able to bring Marya Hornbacher, author of *Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Anemia*, T. Deenan Sharpely-Whiting, author of *Pimps Up, Ho's Down: Hip Hop's Hold on Young Black Women*, and Susan Faludi, author of *The Terror Dream* to the Boston College campus to speak. Most recently, we were proud to present M. Gigi Durham whose book, *The Lolita Effect*, explores the early sexualization of young women in the media. And finally, we hosted a presentation by C.J.Pascoe, whose 2007 book *Dude, You're a Fag* explored the construction of masculinity in America's high schools and who has recently finished a Digital Youth project exploring how social networking sites, Second Life, and other cyber-worlds are affecting young people's relationships.

Overall, it has been an exciting and productive past two years for NAWCHE; our multi-faceted growth leads to anticipation of what the future will bring. We always welcome feedback, and encourage anyone who might be interested in joining our organization to contact us by email at nawche@bc.edu or by phone at 617-552-4198.



POSTER BY ERIN BALLEINE. BASED ON MARYA HORNBACHER'S BOOK COVER

With Charlotte Ryan continuing to provide crucial leadership from her current base at UMASS/Lowell, the weekly Wednesday morning MRAP seminar has continued to thrive, providing support and feedback for its regular members and visitors.

The membership has expanded in recent years, with some familiar and some new faces in the group. Betsy Leonder-Wright (now with the non-profit activist organization, Class Matters) was one of the originators of the seminar back in the early 1980s when she was an M.A. student. As a new Sociology Ph.D. candidate and returning MRAP member, she brings long years of activist experience to help keep us all grounded. In addition, another early 1980s MRAP participant, Kathy Lasch, participated during her BC visiting scholar stint in the Fall, 2006. A number of relatively recent Ph.D.'s, including Darcy Leach (Michigan) and Kate Kellogg (MIT) have become valued regulars, and longtime member, Kevin

Carragee (Presentation Foundation and Suffolk University) also continues to participate on a regular basis. A long-time MRAP partner, the Grassroots Policy Project (GPP), directed by Richard Healey and Sandra Hinson, has moved from Washington, D.C. to the Boston area, facilitating a continuing collaboration.

The weekly seminar continues to serve as a combination of an incubator for its members' ideas and publications and - on occasion - as a place to brainstorm with activists on the strategic problems they face, or to meet with

The Media Research Action Project is co-directed by Professors William Gamson and Charlotte Ryan. Its organization mission states, "MRAP's mission is to strengthen communication for social change. We work with under-represented and misrepresented communities to identify and challenge barriers to democratic communication, to develop proactive messages and strategies, and to build ongoing communications capacity."

journalists. It also functions as the planning and organizing center for group actions. An abbreviated list of MRAP highlights over the past couple of academic years includes the following:

- We developed a new game-simulation workshop, "Bridging the Academic-Activist Divide," which was the focus of a plenary session at a two-day conference at Hofstra in August of 2007. The conference on "Movement Cultures, Strategies, and Outcomes" was sponsored by the Collective Behavior and Social Movements section of the ASA. The exercise was used again at the annual meeting of the Association of Humanist Sociology in Boston in November, 2008.
- We also continued to develop and articulate the "participatory communication model," working in close partnership with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).
- The seminar did further testing, revision, and dissemination of the Global Justice Game, developed by Bill Gamson and extensively tested in courses by MRAP regular Matt Williams. The game is available at: www.globaljusticegame.mrap.info.
- We continued to develop MRAP's relationship with organizations involved in efforts to achieve an end to the Israeli occupation and a negotiated and just two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- The major new development during the past academic year has been the increasing involvement of the seminar in the immigration issue. In the fall term, MRAP had a session with Greg Maney (Hofstra University) and Nadia Marin-Molina (Workplace Project), who are working with immigrant rights groups on Long Island. During the spring term, the group held a session hosted by the Grassroots Policy Project in Cambridge (Richard Healey and Sandra Hinson) with several different Boston area groups concerned with immigration issues. The list of participating organizations included MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant Rights Alliance), Centro Presente, Progressive Communicators Network, Political Research Associates, United for a Fair Economy, Center to Support Immigrant Organizing, and others.

With regard to immigration, MRAP discussions have focused on two especially challenging issues:

- 1) How does one respond to the "Jumping the Queue" frame, and
- 2) How does one build and sustain an alliance between Latinos, African Americans, and labor groups on this issue?

MRAP expects to continue its work on the immigration issue with multiple sessions during the coming academic year and through the development of an Immigration Game that can be used by the participating groups to raise consciousness and develop effective framing strategies.

Public Sociology at Boston College

by Emily MacMillan and Jean Lovett

In the fall of 2006, a few sociology graduate students decided to do something about their struggles with feeling disconnected from the "real world" during the beginning of a graduate career. After talking among themselves about their ideas they developed a workshop, open to the department, to discuss the formation of a graduate student group devoted to public sociology, socially engaged and transformative. This was followed by a series of weekly meetings that were open to all but predominantly attended by interested sociology grad students and faculty. From the beginning, the concept generated both excitement and disagreement, as the meetings took the form of conversations and debates about which aims to accomplish and the best strategies to achieve them. Perhaps the first experience with the "real world" of activism was with this process - sometimes messy, often exciting, and just as often irritating - of group collaboration and decision making.

The first year involved on-campus collaboration with activists in the Media Research Action Project and the Global Justice Project, as well as individual commitments to community, state, national, and international organizations. It also included an outreach to local high schools. For instance, Emily MacMillan and Mike Cermak designed and implemented a workshop on the interplay between educational institutions and structures of oppression. They gave the workshop, in two sessions, at a high school in Roxbury, where the students were very interested in activism at BC, how activism develops on undergraduate campuses, and what college students can do/have done in response to instances of oppression and racism.

The primary emphasis of the group in the second year has been the development of an experimental graduate course on public sociology, led by Visiting Professor Darcy Leach. The course combined discussions of readings and theories of public sociology with a research project examining questions about student activism, somewhat similar to those raised by the students at Roxbury. This combination permitted the group to come to a better theoretical and practical understanding of public sociology. The categories of readings studied include the debate around public sociology, methodology and feminist grounded theory, current research on service learning and activism, theories on combining academia and activism, and case studies of public sociology. As a group, they worked together on the creation of the reading list and syllabus, and during the semester there were student-led sessions during class.

The other half of the course revolved around a group research project that focused on discovering how undergraduate students perceive service and activism, and what activities and factors lead to their participation in both service and activism, or in service alone. More specifically, they worked on determining how attending an international service trip does, or does not, contribute to a student's participation in activism after the trip is over. The project was spread out over the academic year: during the fall term, they developed a set of questions, submitted their research proposal to the IRB, established contacts with Arrupe International Programs (part of BC's Campus Ministry which oversees service trips), and interviewed 24 Boston College undergraduate students who had gone on service trips. Class discussion were devoted to readings like Burawoy's on public sociology, as well as to practical issues that emerged during the course of the project's development, with Darcy providing perspective and a range of resources. The interviews were transcribed over spring break, and in the spring term they learned how to code the data, did the literature review, and analyzed the data. They wrote the article in summer and submitted it to the *Journal of College Student Development*, a journal selected after much discussion as the best choice to target the audience they really wanted to reach.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MALEC

Boston College undergrad students on service trip to Nicaragua

The article described the four main observations which resulted from the research:

- 1) Students who return from service trips have a feeling of dissonance. In most cases they've had a profound experience which leaves them with a desire to respond in a meaningful way, but they don't know what to do.
- 2) Most often, this urge to act turns into the attempt to raise awareness of social problems in other people.
- 3) Students tended to valorize service as a way to address social change, and they were more ambivalent about social action. They didn't have a clear idea of activism, but in general seemed to perceive of it as protest politics.

4) Within the context of service trips, students are constructing identity projects, and service makes for an easier identity than activism. Consequently, service work tends to displace activism in the population of students concerned about social welfare and social change.

The group remains interested in the project. They believe that their final results, or even preliminary results, may enable them to work constructively with trip leaders and organizers as they make improvements to the trips and to the preparations that students go through prior to the trips.

At the same time, individual members of the public sociology group have continued to work for change within the university, and to ally themselves with activist organizations both within and outside of the academic setting. An abbrevi-

ated list of relevant organizations is given below, along with a brief description of each and the name of the grad student who serves as both liaison and participant. The range of interests of the group, combined with its structure and processes - the necessarily changing roster of members, their use of both consensus and individual projects to achieve social objectives, and the shift in group aims as a result of both debate and experiences with the "real world" - make it a particularly fluid and often surprising organization, that continues to evolve and to exert influence in a number of ways.

Members of the Public Sociology group during 2006-2008 have included Mike Cermak, Jonathan Christiansen, Amy Finnegan, Aideen Gleeson, David Harker, Darcy Leach, Susan Legere, Emily MacMillan, and Shelley White.

Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) <http://www.ace-ej.org/>

Mike Cermak

ACE is an environmental justice organization that has several ongoing projects such as a T rider's union to stop transit injustice, the Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project that develops youth to facilitate conferences and learn to be activists. They take action on most current EJ issues such as the proposed Chelsea Diesel Power Plant.

Boston Mobilization <http://www.bostonmobilization.org/>

Mike Cermak

This organization is involved in numerous activist fronts including the peace and environmental justice movements. They act as an organizing and support force for many protests across the city. They also have a Youth Empowerment Project that gives workshops on anti-racism, anti-violence and environmental justice topics.

Cambridge Women's Center www.cambridgewomenscenter.org

Autumn Green

A safe woman-only space in Cambridge. Provides drop-in space to just hang out, use computers, cook, read, as well as free meeting space for women's events and/or groups (they have a very nice room for children for events that require childcare services). They present themselves as an anti-racist community center for women -- working for women's rights and against all forms of oppression. They also have a lot of LGBT activism centered there. NOTE: Because it's a woman's safe space the women's center does not allow men on the premises (all children are welcome).

Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy <http://www.mccormack.umb.edu/cwppp/>
(located at the John McCormack graduate school of public policy UMASS Boston).

Mike Cermak

They do a lot of awesome participatory action research projects that work to connect grassroots community needs and state-wide public policy. The project I worked on is on access to higher education for welfare recipients, I don't know all the other projects but I do know that there is also one that works directly with incarcerated women and also many others. (They have a lot of interns working there and it might be a good opportunity for other students to get involved.)

Community Church of Boston www.commchurch.org

Autumn Green

Jason Lydon Church Director: 617-266-6710

Technically a Unitarian church, however their approach is heavily focused on social justice and entirely rooted in community. It's as much an activist collective as it is a church. In addition to lecture style Sunday services centered around diverse social justice related topics (and devoid of any mention of God) they also host community events and provide meeting space for events/activist projects/exhibitions/etc.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center <http://www.ebnhc.org/>

Dave Harker

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has been a vital part of the East Boston community for over 35 years. They provide easily accessible, high-quality health care to all who live and work in East Boston and the surrounding communities, without regard to age, income, insurance status, language, culture, or social circumstances. Specifically I worked with the Education and Training Institute, which establishes career ladders for the health center's existing and future professionals, managers, and leaders, and provides the education and skills training needed for individual growth and advancement.

Free the Children www.freethechildren.org

Shelley White

Leaders Today <http://www.leaderstoday.com/>

Free the Children (FTC) is the world's largest network of children helping children, having involved over a million young people in its campaigns and projects. Its mission is to "free young people from the idea that they are powerless to bring about positive social change." Campaigns include School Building; Alternative Income; Health, Water and Sanitation; and Peace Building. Leaders Today is FTC's sister organization, which provides leadership training and service trips for young people interested in creating positive social change. I was Director of Programs for FTC USA in 2001 and continue to help with projects.

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) union

Jonathan Christiansen

Their website is www.iww.org; Starbucks union website is www.starbucksunion.org

I am doing research on their campaign to organize Starbucks stores for my Social Justice class and I am also a (semi)active member. The IWW is not a traditional labor union such as the AFL - CIO who support the ultimate goals of capitalism and capitalists and separate workers by trade or industry. Instead the IWW aims to create One Big Union for all workers of the world who can organize and take over the means of production and end wage slavery once and for all.

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) <http://www.noahcdc.org/>

Mike Cermak

This organization is a social and environmental benefit organization that works on real estate development, community building and housing services. They have a youth outreach program that works to increase awareness of environmental issues and engage the youth in service related work.

Physicians for Human Rights www.phrusa.org

Shelley White

US Campaign to Ban Landmines <http://www.banminesusa.org>

Physicians for Human Rights mobilizes health professionals to advance health, dignity, and justice and promotes the right to health for all. Campaigns include Health Action AIDS, Darfur Survival Campaign, Campaign Against Torture, Health and Justice for Youth, and Campaign to Ban Landmines. I used to intern at PHR with the current director of Health Action AIDS, the former director of the Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Pine Street Inn www.pinestreetinn.org

Susan Legere

Pine Street Inn provides shelter and job training to homeless men and women. Susan is involved in fundraising efforts.

ROAD (Reaching Out About Depression) <http://www.bc.edu/schools/lsoe/outreach/road.html>

Autumn Green

Cambridge Health Alliance Community Affairs Dept. http://www.challiance.org/comm_affairs/comm_affairs.shtml

Director: Linda McMaster, 617-591-6909, also BC students interested in ROAD might contact Lisa Goodman in the Lynch School (goodmanlc@bc.edu) as she has done most of the student recruitment from BC. Most students come out of the counseling psychology MA program.

Urban Ecology Institute (UEI) <http://www.urbaneco.org/>

Mike Cermak

This organization is part of BC, but it works in the Boston Public Schools, developing environmental education in the classroom. They work with the AmeriCorps VISTA program and train teachers to use their curricula that are both classroom and field based. They also host numerous youth and community conferences related to environmental issues.

Global Justice Project

Nick Salter and Katrina Quisumbing King: Getting radical

By Tim Mooney. Originally published in the Thursday, May 3, 2007 edition of *The Heights*

From its annual distribution of "Freshman Disorientation" packets to its Career Fair protests, the Global Justice Project (GJP) has consistently proved to be the most outspoken, radical activist group on campus. Since the group lacks University recognition - or even a hierarchical structure - one activist pointed out that "GJP is a strange thing to say you are a member of."

But the lack of formal leadership positions has not stopped Nick Salter and Katrina Quisumbing King, both A&S '07, from taking regular and visible roles in the GJP's activities. Working behind the scenes in meetings and at public demonstrations, Salter and King have been instrumental in giving a voice to liberal, social justice-based issues both within and beyond the borders of Chestnut Hill.

The sometimes in-your-face nature of this movement has made some students and administrators uncomfortable. Salter and King, however, defend the GJP's intensity as an important addition to the campus discourse and a valuable approach to publicizing often-overlooked issues of social justice.

"I think activists on this campus are pretty civil," says King. "At other universities, they barge into offices and chain themselves to desks. On this campus, the ROTC building was lit on fire and burned down in the 1970s. We talk a lot, but in terms of the things that we do, I think we are pretty respectful of the administration and students."

"Strong activism is important because students may be apathetic and not educated about issues," says Salter. "Part of being an activist is about waking people up to realities. I don't think you can do that with just films and lectures. The point is to challenge people in their daily lives."

Salter points to the GJP's die-in at the Dustbowl and Career Fair protests to illustrate his point: "These are people who are going to lunch and not thinking about the war," he says. "In the Career Fair protests, these are people who are looking for jobs. I think it's important to encourage students to think critically about what they've learned at BC and if they want to put that toward building bombs."

The GJP has always sought to root its demonstrative action in academics. Salter and King are quick to note that many on-campus activists are among the most distinguished scholars among Boston College undergraduates.

Salter has been awarded a prestigious Truman fellowship, which he plans to defer to work in the interim. King will be working on a fellowship from the Center for the New American Dream to study the effects of pollution on marginalized communities.

Despite their academic achievements, Salter and King have had to fight for the right to protest. The GJP made headlines at the fall 2005 Career Fair, when its protest of U.S. military contractor Raytheon was cancelled by administrators shortly before the event.

Both say that the University misses the mark in such actions. What has been absent from dialogue with administrators, they say, is an understanding of the great pedagogical value of protest.

"The University does not recognize the academic and intellectual component of activism and demonstration," says Salter. "I've been threatened with suspension multiple times, and most recently, delaying my degree as a result of being a student leader who's an activist on this campus."

"The GJP believes that protest and actions are a form of dialogue," says King. "It's a way of furthering a conversation about a specific subject. It's a way you can do education outside the classroom."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. CLARK (THE HEIGHTS)

Feminist Missionary

David Karp Interviews Sharlene Hesse-Biber

DK: What year did you get your Ph.D.?

SHB: 1976, at University of Michigan. I was an undergrad and a grad student there. When I finished, I was heartbroken - I loved being there. It was a mecca for me, of just the most incredible set of knowledge experiences.

DK: Michigan was of course a very quantitative university, and your earliest work was in demography. And now you're writing about feminist epistemology. So you've traveled an interesting evolutionary road and maybe you could just play out a little bit of how you understand that intellectual evolution.

SHB: You're correct, Michigan is a very quantitative place. As an undergrad, of course, I got the whole range of courses, and what amazed me was the sociological perspective - the ability to take my own situation and the situations of others around me, and use a set of sociological ideas and concepts to understand the social reality. Statistics was used a lot in my courses and I always felt a bit uncomfortable settling in on a percentage as if it really could make me understand what it was that I was supposed to understand. I remember being drawn to courses with names like Social Problems - looking really at the problems of those oppressed groups of which I felt I was a member. (laughs)

DK: So you were slightly non-normative for Michigan.

SHB: Yes, I was non-normative for Michigan. But I gravitated to those professors who were quantitative but who were very interested in qualitative issues, like Charles Tilly, who was my mentor and who did stuff like social networks and a lot of historical analyses. He allowed me to pursue my interest in getting at meaning. For example, I did my dissertation on rural to urban migration in Sweden. The Swedish population register allowed me to actually track migrants who moved from the country to the city and back again. I was interested in why people went back to their village, why they didn't stay in the city. And of course this was not a standard demographic concern at that time in the field of demography. Those concerns were with large scale demographic movements, and people were not normally interviewed; what demographers concentrated on were rates of migration. Not that I didn't do rates of migration, but I kept asking what motivated people.

DK: So you did in depth interviewing?

SHB: Yes, with returned migrants, because Sweden is one of the few places that actually tracked people who moved from one area to

another. The first thing I did when I was in Sweden was go to Swedish language school, I actually got a Swedish language diploma there. I wasn't good enough to really do intensive interviews, but several grad students at the University of Stockholm got interested in my research project, and they helped with the interviews. Then I was able to get someone who translated movies from Swedish to English to help me translate the results.

DK: See, I got my first surprise, because I had the idea that you had done a more quantitative dissertation.

SHB: It had numbers in it, but the question really in my mind had to do with motivation. What I basically did was go into that migration stream, to find out why some stayed and some left, and to examine how we can better tweak migration policy from the perspective of those that experience this policy. Because the Swedish government at that particular point said it was taking the interests of the people into account, but nobody bothered to ask the migrants themselves. I later published my dissertation as a book, and in addition, my dissertation findings were published in a Swedish sociology journal (in Swedish) and my ideas on migration policy also formed the basis of an op-ed piece for *Dagens Nyheter*, the leading daily newspaper in Sweden.

DK: There's so much work to do in sociology because of that kind of myopia. You know, it's amazing - it's not to be contrary to the numbers stuff, but to not be asking how people are thinking and feeling about these things seems like such a strange omission. How do you explain that?

SHB: I think people are so caught up in this positivistic paradigm of scientific thinking - not that scientific thinking isn't important, but as a feminist researcher I would say that it's only part of knowledge building. Gathering macro data is important, but if you then try to extrapolate how people are feeling from that macro data, you're really committing all kinds of fallacies and reducing people's feelings into a set of variables. The title of my dissertation was *Migrants as Actors*. At that time I think it's one of the few dissertations that really tended to those issues - what I call the micro migration issues of the day - kind of ironically, at a quantitative school.

DK: See, I thought when we began this conversation that I was going to hear something about abrupt shifts away from demography into something that was really quite different. But now it sounds like there has really been continuity.

SHB: Absolutely. It's not that I wasn't involved in large scale studies, and several faculty members offered me a piece of their survey research projects - you know, you can analyze this and get your dissertation and you'll be out of here in two years. And I didn't want to do it. My reason for being in school was not to get in and get out. I felt I had this respon-

sibility - I don't want to sound too corny, but to do something to help people (laughs). I've got to see if I can make a difference somehow or other, and I carry that with me, I think.



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DK: Yes, you are exceptionally hard working. We will not put discuss how many hours you're here when other people are watching I Love Lucy or something, but it just seems to me that your work ethic has more than just an air of being a hard worker. It feels almost like you have some kind of mission. Would you connect with the word "mission"?

SHB: I think I would connect with the word mission. Someone recently asked me about NAWCHE (National Association for Women in Catholic Higher Education), "Why do you do this year after year?" In part, this is the way I practice my spirituality. It's a way that I can give and make a difference for women in higher Catholic education, many of whom are having a hard time.

DK: When was NAWCHE founded and what prompted it?

SHB: In 1990. I started realizing that I didn't want to have to go back every year to one of my deans at that time for money for the Women's Study program. I put an ad in the newspaper for someone to volunteer to work in the Women's Studies program over the summer, and Susan Reamer answered the ad. She was in her late 40s, her kids had just left home, and she was looking to make a difference in people's lives. She and I ordered 3500 college catalogues and she methodically went through every single name of any female that had any position in any Catholic college in the county, and we created a database. Literally, the organization began one college catalogue connection at a time - raising consciousness, raising money enough to have a conference, and from there it grew.

DK: So was NAWCHE the product of a kind of feminist consciousness that you already had in 1990, or did the NAWCHE experience propel you into some of the more feminist kind of writings, or was it some kind of dialectical development?

SHB: I think it was a dialectic, although much of my research

predates NAWCHE. When I came here, one of the things that I was very interested in doing was combining work and family, as a female professor at a school that was fairly male dominated at the time. And I thought, if I'm experiencing this, a lot of other women like me must be experiencing it, and so I started taking my demographic interest in migration and populations and so on and created a course called Women and Work. This was many years prior to NAWCHE. That first book I did with Mary Frank Fox, *Women at Work*, came out in 1984, the next book with Greg Lee Carter, *Working Women in America: Split Dreams*, came out in 2000 and was revised in 2005. When Mary and I started the first book, we looked at the literature and found that if you went to the index of marriage and family books you'd find no men. And when you went to any book on work, all you found was men and no women. Even though the reality of women's lives is that most women needed to work and were working at low paying, dead-end jobs. There were few researchers who bothered to look at the intersections of class and race in women's lives.

DK: I think the theme of this might be myopia, sociological myopia. I don't want to get too much into sociology blame - I mean, you can look at a lot of areas where there are blind spots for long periods of time before somebody says, "Hey, wait a second," and it's that "Hey wait a second" moment that leads to often really good work.

SHB: It's the uncovering of a long standing omission. I feel that I uncover and dig at subjugated knowledge. This is not easy work, because some people don't want you to uncover anything. You have to take risks, you have to realize that your work may not be published where you'd like it to be published, that your work may be trivialized, that you may not get tenure, because you're not doing things that are not considered to be mainstream. It also tends to upend people's paradigms of knowledge building, when you start saying positivism is not the only way to go, or when you start saying we need to think of these questions and not these. I often think that you do have to have a certain emotional makeup and a certain passion to do this, because if you don't believe in what you are doing, you will get mowed down. And I've seen people get mowed down.

DK: I was wondering about your mentoring, because in my mind at least you carry an enormous amount of energy to that. Is mentoring, and maybe particularly mentoring women, is that part of your mission?

SHB: Yeah, it's the giving back part. I have several students that I know who are first generation college students and I particularly want to make sure that they're going to do okay. Although I must say that BC is doing a much better job at dealing with first

Karp interviews Hesse-Biber, continued

generation students. As you know, my parents never went to college. I grew up in a very poor family, and was expected to go to work once I finished high school. I remember one of my favorite high school teachers, Mr. Golden, asking me what college I was going to. I told him I wasn't going and he said, "Well what's the matter? You're on the honor roll and I just assumed that you'd be on your way." And I said, "Well, not really." He said, "So, why don't you apply?" I said, "Well, I don't know anything about it." (laughs) Literally, I didn't have a college counselor, I had no one to mentor me... The interesting thing is that when I look back on those hard times, I would still not trade in my life circumstances growing up for a better economic outcome. I have gained a unique perspective now - that of insider/outsider; being both. This perspective is truly a gift. Having the ability to assess many sides of a situation, asking questions that others don't ask or don't want to ask, provides one with enormous creative potential to view the world through multiple lenses.

DK: Your productivity has been enormous in the last 10 years - mind boggling actually, with books and articles on qualitative methods as well as publications that explore feminist issues. I remember asking you once about this, and you started talking with extraordinary enthusiasm about the ideas surrounding methods. When most people talk about methods, they think about things like control groups and experimental groups, but for you, methods has an excitement around the questions that you have been raising. So could you talk a little bit about what it is that you're bringing to the methods conversation?

SHB: I have been interested in methods since I was in Michigan, looking at methods as tools for understanding social reality. For me, those tools are flexible, they're fluid, they're fun to work with. If you look at them not as a series of dry tasks to get over with in college but as a set of techniques, of getting at answers to your questions, they become alive, they become helpers, they become ways in which you can transcend very difficult circumstances. I'm very interested in emergent methods, in emergent technologies. I'm interested in how it is that we can get at the social reality that is multiple, that is layered, that is subjugated. And one of the ways that we get at it is through these tools.

DK: But you also have to become skilled at using your tools.

SHB: That's right. So, getting people involved in this means that you start your work about methods with stories, and then show how the tools can be used to uncover meaning. I do it in class, and I also start with a story in my chapters in my co-

authored book, *The Practice of Qualitative Research* with Patricia

Leavy, who was a graduate student in our department. As the title indicates, it focuses on practice. We integrate theory and methods instead of considering them separately, and illustrate their appropriate use through stories. So, for example, in my mixed methods chapter, I have a story that I took from the *New York Times* about the tsunami that flooded the Philippines, leaving massive loss of lives and destruction of property. It was a very moving story, and in this chapter I asked as how we can, as researchers, begin to understand the aftermath of this tragedy. What would be some questions we would want to ask about the impact of the tsunami on the population? How would we go about getting this information? This is an issue ideally suited for a mixed method design, because we want to get at meaning, but we also want to know the extent of the damage, we need to have some statistical data on how many towns and villages were decimated, how many people died, how many people were injured. We need both, qualitative and quantitative, while maintaining our perspective in the use of quantitative methods.

DK: This goes beyond the old idea that you find of triangulation. The kind of thing you're talking about goes beyond checking our measurements by using more than one method to see if they converge - not that that's unimportant, but you're talking about something much grander than that.

SHB: Positivists would look at mixed methods primarily as a means to triangulate their data. There's got to be a correct answer, and if two different studies don't measure up, then something's wrong. and it's not valid. In fact, if the qualitative data don't match the quantitative, they usually throw out the qualitative results! But if you're a multiple reality person, you can live with multiple realities, and there are, in this catastrophe, multiple realities that we need to get at. There's the reality of the destruction, even though we can have differences of opinions on that, and there's the reality of the experiences. In order to help folks, we need to have both, in the service of social change, in the service of helping out, and so on.

DK: So, is that part of the mission? To get more dialogue, to get people be more appreciative of how these things complement each other? How they can be used to deal with problems that perhaps haven't been attended to?

SHB: Right. For example, I'm interested in a lot of feminist research. I've done several books, and one of my goals of feminist research is to convey that what distinguishes feminist researchers is not the methods they use. For many years, the only good methods are qualitative methods, feminists would say. You couldn't use the tools of the master to dismantle the master's house. I would say you're using the master's tools but not using the master's questions. And, as a matter of fact, they're just tools. They're neither feminine nor masculine. They're neither patriarchal, nor radical feminist. They're tools.

But in the hands of the questions, they come alive. So why would feminists avoid using quantitative methods? A perfectly wonderful tool for feminist ends! You know, that's my question in a lot of the books I do. Why not use these methods?

DK: I think you're quite right, there's nothing inherent about the tools, but the tools do have a history. And so I can understand that in the context of that history there would develop ideologies that would be run contrary to using those tools. But you're bringing us full circle. So, is part of your mission to liberate methods from ideology?

SHB: Well, to liberate methods in a way that we get out of this quant/qual divide. It's not about quant/qual. It's about your research questions. And then there's the role that technology plays in this. It provides even more interesting tools to get at what we want.

DK: Let's talk a little about that, because that's been a significant part of your approach to methods too. You've been literally an inventor.

SHB: I co-invented Hyper-Research, a computer-assisted software tool to analyze qualitative data, as well as Hyper-Transcribe, a software program to help you transcribe your data without leaving your computer, using your computer as your transcriber.

DK: Hyper-Research was among the very first of these inventions to do this. When was it developed?

SHB: Yes, that was 1980/1981. I just wanted a way to analyze my qualitative data, so I wouldn't have one room in my entire house devoted to interviews on the floor, and cutting and pasting text - I thought there had to be a better way. I approached two of my colleagues in IT here at Boston College and we began working together, first for one hour sessions and then, as they became more intrigued, three hour sessions after work. We had a prototype within a year or two and went commercial. And now, you know, there are new technologies not just for analyzing but for collecting data, that are like the beginnings of the Panopticon. So it's got its down side.

DK: What about your more recent work?

SHB: I'm very interested in my current project. You know, I've done this work on fitness and culture, and the culture of thinness. And I've done it by looking at college age women and the issues that they confront when they transition from high school to college, and asking what makes college such a vulnerable time for them. Why do the rates of eating issues seem to increase in this age group and among this specific group of women? I call it a cult of thinness in part because I think college is a semi enclosed environment with many cult-

like aspects to it.

DK: Is that where the word cult comes from? I'm interested in the use of metaphors and analogies as a way of pushing along sociological thinking and so on, and the title of your book, *The Cult of Thinness*, is very striking in that respect. Just how literally do you mean the word? Was it something arrived at inductively, something about the way women talked about eating issues that seemed kind of quasi-religious?

SHB: It did come out inductively in the interviews. People talked about sin, and talked about good food and bad food, said things like "I fell from grace today, I went off my diet." They used the words "sinner" and "saint." I actually interviewed two members of religious cults that were in the cult at least 25 years and got out, and asked them about what it was like for them to be in a cult. That's how the 2nd edition of the book starts. I began with a conversation with one of these women and juxtaposed it to a conversation I was having with one of my interviewees, and the similarities were amazing.

DK: You know, whenever I talk in my classes about doing research or doing the sociological imagination and so on, I do say that one measure of that, for me, is people sort of recognizing something as a problem before other people see it. There are a few books that I always have in my head that reflect this, that are ahead of the curve. Of course these days everybody's writing about eating disorders, but you really did the first version. And you're expanding on this now by looking at some cultural variations?

SHB: Yes, right now I'm looking at women of color who attend predominantly white schools, and the impact of that transition in terms of their identity issues, in terms of body image issues. I've now interviewed 35 individuals and three focus groups and will do more. And I'm telling you, David, the stuff is absolutely amazing to see! I would love to also interview some of the Caucasian students about their perceptions of African-American students on campus. That would be another thing I'd like to do.

DK: Sounds like another whole career. You know, years ago, somebody published a book called *The Passion of Michel Foucault*. I'm thinking we could entitle this interview *The Passion of Sharlene Hesse-Biber*.

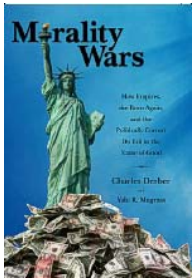
SHB: Really? Maybe. Well, we keep on trucking, Dave.

DK: Well, Sharlene, all I can say is, it's really lucky that both of us are so young, and have so many years ahead to pursue these passions.

SHB: Yeah, I hope so! Thank you very much, David.

Faculty Updates 2006-2008

Faculty updates are often taken (in some cases word for word) from *The Boston College Chronicle*, a bi-weekly publication for faculty and staff.



Professor **Charles Derber** published *Morality Wars: How Empires, The Born Again and the Politically Correct Do Evil in the Name of Good*, with Yale Magrass (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2008). He co-authored, with Katherine Adam, *The New Feminized Majority: How Democrats Can Change America with Women's Values* (Paradigm Publishers, 2008). See page 10 for more details on the book with Adam.

Derber was also involved in two forums: one in January of 2007 which examined corporate responsibility, "Partnerships, Power and Profits: Global Visions of Corporate Responsibility," and another in January of 2008 which highlighted the role of grass roots in politics, "Activating Democracy: How Grass Roots Movements Can Revolutionize Politics." In the former, he shared a panel with corporate social responsibility experts Laury Hammel, David Halley and Luca Majocchi. In the latter, he shared a panel with Massachusetts Lt. Governor Tim Murray, Dario Franceschini, deputy secretary of the Italian Democratic Party, and Giovanni Moro, president of FONDACA and the son of Aldo Moro, the Italian prime minister slain in 1978 by a militant Communist group.

Research Professor **Lisa Dodson** co-presented "Family Ties and Blind Policies: Mothers and Children Climb Together" at the national Civil Rights Project held at UCLA.

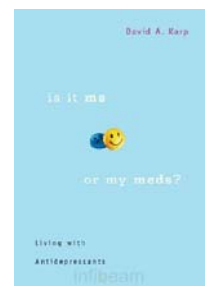
Associate Professor **Eva Garroutte** has continued work on her multi-year, \$489,780 NIH grant for research on Health Communication with American Indian Elders, and received a \$15,000 Research Incentive Grant from BC. She also served the second year of her Mentored Research Scientist Development Award from the National Institute on Aging. In 2008, she was appointed to the editorial boards of the *American Indian Quarterly* and the *Journal of Native Health and Aging*.

She also gave two prominent talks. In 2007, she was the featured speaker of a University of Colorado at Boulder lecture series on "American Indian Identities," where she gave an autobiographical presentation. (A version of her talk, entitled "What Had to be Done," appeared in the Winter 2008 *Boston College Magazine* and can be viewed at http://bcm.bc.edu/issues/winter_2008/.) That same year she was invited to present "Health Research in American Indian Communities" as part of a panel of national experts on Native American health for a conference on the topic at Harvard University.

Associate Professor **Paul Gray** presented an invited talk on "Participatory Evaluation Research in Business" at the School of Management, University of Bath, England.

Professor **Sharlene Hesse-Biber** co-edited *The Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Praxis* (Sage 2007), which was one of several books selected as a Critics Choice Award Winner by the American Education Studies Association. The book was also named among the Outstanding Academic Titles for 2007 by *Choice* magazine. A few of her appearances in the media include her discussion of the issue of polygamy on the Dr. Keith Ablow show in October of 2006, her interview in the *Christian Science Monitor* on the glass ceiling in corporate America (February of 2007), and her appearance on *CBS Sunday Morning* talking about her study of tattoos.

Professor **David Karp**'s *Is It Me or My Meds? Living with Antidepressants* (Harvard University Press, 2007) was nominated for the best book of the year award of the American Sociological Association's Section on Mental Health. David was also profiled in the *Chronicle* on 9/8/2006 in an article called "Antidepressants and the Self."



An op-ed by Associate Professor **Zine Magubane** on the controversy surrounding radio host Don Imus' use of racially-

charged language in referring to the Rutgers women's basketball team was published by the *Boston Globe*. She also discussed the subject on WBUR-FM's "Here and Now." The *Chicago Tribune* published another op-ed by her on how celebrity charity efforts may send the wrong message about Africans.

Associate Professor **Michael Malec** received a "Distinguished Service Award" from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport. The award was in recognition of more than 25 years of service to the organization.

Malec was also quoted in the *Delaware News Journal* regarding the exposure that universities receive from athletic successes, and the effect this has on admissions.

Assistant Professor **Shawn McGuffey** was named to a multi-year Ford Foundation grant entitled the "Black Sexuality Project." The project had four components; Shawn was involved in one on African Americans and sexual violence. He conducted interviews, trained interviewers, and did data analysis in a comparison of existing psychological models of rape survivors with the social psychology of African-American rape survivors. The interviews took place in four major metropolitan areas along the eastern seaboard, and resulted in a new means of understanding rape for African-American survivors, the Racial Appraisal Processes.



Professor **Stephen Pfohl** published *Left Behind: Religion, Technology, and Flight from the Flesh* (CTheory Books 2006), which “explores the social genesis and impact of the *Left Behind* books, the social technologies they deploy, and their accompanying media offshoots. In so doing, [he] tries to shed modest light on key elements of the religious imagination mobilized for political purposes by supporters of George W. Bush and Republican Party organizers” (quotes taken from the book).

He gave a live online lecture on the book at the CTheory Live symposium: Religion, Technology & Terrorism, which took place at the Pacific Centre for Technology and Culture, University of Victoria. The lecture can still be viewed at <http://www.pactac.net/pactacweb/web-content/videoscroll5.html>.

Stephen is an Editorial Board Member of both Digital Futures Book Series and CTHEORY.

Associate Professor **Leslie Salzinger** is an Editorial Board Member of both *Sociological Theory* and ASA Rose Series in Sociology.

Assistant Professor **Natalia Sarkisian** received a \$27,000 research grant from the Sloan Center on Flexible Work Options and published four journal articles and one book chapter.

Sarkisian won the 2008 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award from the ASA's Race, Gender, and Class section for her article "Extended Family Integration among Euro and Mexican Americans: Ethnicity, Gender, and Class," published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 69, 1 (February), 40-54. The article was co-authored with Mariana Gerena and Naomi Gerstel.

USA Today cited research by Assistant Professor Natalia Sarkisian on the effect of marriage on social networks. She was also quoted by the *Boston Globe* for a story on "speedsitting," a new trend in screening potential babysitters.

Professor **Paul Schervish** and The Center on Wealth and Philanthropy received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for \$600,000, to extend over three years, along with \$94,500 from Calibre financial investment firm, to continue their survey of wealth, values, and philanthropy. During the course of the year, the Center also completed its multi-year grant from the Lilly Endowment, which provided funding for the book, *The Will of God and Wealth*, to be published by Indiana University Press.

Schervish was interviewed by numerous media outlets regarding the focus on philanthropy of billionaires Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, New Hampshire Public Radio, WBZ-AM's "Lovell Dyett

Show," and the *New York Daily News*. He was interviewed by the *Irish Times* regarding philanthropy in Ireland and by the Associated Press for a story on celebrity activism, which was published by MSNBC, the *Philadelphia Daily News*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Ottawa Citizen* and *Vancouver Sun*, among others. Schervish was quoted by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* regarding forthcoming wealth transfer prospects and baby boomer inheritances. Also, a study by the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy on wealth transfer in the Washington, DC area was reported in a front-page story in the *Washington Post*, while Schervish was interviewed about the report on Washington Post Radio. The story also was covered by the Associated Press. More about CWP's many media citations and other activities could be found on their website at the <http://www.bc.edu/research/cwp/>.

Professor and Department Chair **Juliet Schor** was named the 2007 Friedson Lecturer at NYU's Sociology Department, Villanova's Fritz Nova lecturer, the Farajollah and Maryam Badie Arfaa Lecturer at Drexel University, and the Hays and Margaret Crimmel Lecturer at St. Lawrence University.

She had several mentions in the media and multiple professional talks. Her research on overworked Americans was referenced by the *Buffalo News*, and she was cited by the *Los Angeles Times* for a story on worker productivity. She discussed the cost of the modern trend toward frequent buying and discarding of clothing in the cover story of *Los Angeles City Beat* magazine. She was featured in a December 2006 issue of the *Chronicle*, in an article entitled "Committed to Change: Juliet Schor sees link in her academic and social missions." In 2007, she discussed the environmental and financial impact of the holiday season with the National Public Radio Program "Here and Now," and penned an op-ed for the *Boston Globe* on the same subject. She was quoted by the *New York Times* for a story on "tweens" - children between the ages of nine and 14 - shopping and consumerism, and by the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* regarding allocation of the planet's resources. Her research regarding food marketing to children was cited by *Business Week*. The *Boston Globe* interviewed her and part-time faculty member John Dacey (LSOE) for a story on the trend toward no-gift children's birthday parties.

John Williamson served as Chair of the 2007 Program Committee for the Gerontological Society of America, Section on Social Research, Policy, and Practice. He's also on the Executive Board of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Aging RC11, International Sociological Association (2006-2010), serves as a member of the Executive Board, Research Committee on the Sociology of Aging RC11, International Sociological Association, and is Chair-elect of the Social Research, Policy and Practice Section of the Gerontological Society of America, 2006-2007.

Jean Lovett, Managing Editor of *Sociology Speaks* and Administrator of the Sociology Department, had a photography exhibit entitled "A Dilettante's Tour of Boston" which hung at the main library in Newton for a month in 2007. She was later interviewed about the exhibit by Commonwealth Journal (a distributor to multiple radio stations).



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Sociology Speaks Managing Editor: Jean Lovett; **Writers:** Jared Del Rosso, Bill Gamson, Ed Hayward (*Chronicle*), Jean Lovett, Emily MacMillan, Tim Mooney (*The Heights*), Stephen Pfohl, Adam Saltsman, Juliet Schor, John Skinner, Joseph Zaleski (*The Heights*); **Photographers:** Kerry Burke, Suzanne Camarata, Michael J Clarke (*The Heights*), Debbie Grant (*William and Mary website*), Jean Lovett, Michael Malec, Lee Pelligrini, Ian Thomas (*The Heights*); additional photos from Michael Anastario, Esteban Calvo-Bralic, Mike Cermak, Dana Cervenakova, Jonathan Christiansen, Amy Finnegan, Michelle Gawerc, Autumn Green, Sharlene Hesse-Biber, Deborah Piatelli, and Joelle Sano, and from the following websites: Colleges of Worcester Consortium, Holy Cross, ICPSR, Marywood University, MRAP, and The Right Livelihood Award (urls given with individual photographs); **Artwork:** Erin Balleine, Jean Lovett, John Skinner; **Editors:** Jacqueline Hennrikus, Jean Lovett, Michelle White