

# SOCS Scoop

Marquette University - Milwaukee  
Volume 4 Fall 2010

Department of Social and Cultural Sciences  
A Multidisciplinary Department



## *From the Chair*

The 2010-11 academic year is flying by. We have a wonderful crop of students this year. We highlight two of them on pp. 4 and 5.

This year we also have a new Mitchem Fellow, Gabriela Spears-Rico, visiting our department. See her bio on this page. Last year's Mitchem Fellow, Robert Turner, has stayed on another year as a post-doc fellow. In the spring, he will teach Race, Hip Hop & Sport.

Many of our students, past and current, have taken courses with our adjunct faculty. We have been fortunate to have some long-term part-time faculty who teach in a couple different majors and bring years of "real world" experience to our students. We focus on Drs. Mike Krzewinski and John Hammetter on p. 3.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, sociologist Dr. Ray Hinojosa left our department last year. We are conducting a search for another sociologist and will let you know the outcome of that. We had more than 160 applicants.

Finally, starting on page 2, under "New Faculty Focus," we continue to introduce two of our newer faculty members—Sameena Mulla (ANTH) and Olga Semukhina (CRLS).

We hope you enjoy these updates. If you have any news you'd like to share with us, let me know, we'd love to pass it on.

*Roberta L. Coles*, Sociologist & Dept. Chair

## New Mitchem Fellow



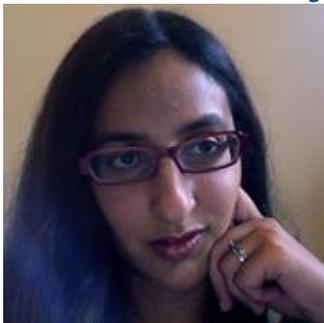
Gabriela Spears-Rico, a doctoral candidate in ethnic studies and anthropology at the University of California—Berkeley, is in residence at Marquette this year on a pre-doctoral

fellowship to complete her dissertation, "Consuming the Native Other: The Touristic Commodification of P'urhepecha Spiritual Performance in Michoacan." Spears-Rico's ethnographic research examines how P'urhepecha artists, dancers and healers perform their identities and negotiate the selling of their culture and spirituality to Mexican mestizo tourists, as well the motivating factors behind mestiza/o consumption of P'urhepecha performances. The project draws largely on fieldwork at numerous indigenous events, along with in-depth interviews and observations.

Herself the daughter of a migrant farm-worker and first generation college graduate, Ms. Spears-Rico will be giving a public presentation on her research in the spring and teaching a course on contemporary Native American "Thought and Culture" in Spring 2011.



## New Faculty Focus



**Dr. Sameena Mulla, Assistant Professor of Anthropology**

How do the cultures of medicine and law collide in U.S. sexual assault intervention?

Forensic science is a growing field in the U.S., and as Americans, we are becoming more familiar with its depiction in popular culture through such television shows as *C.S.I.*, *Law and Order*, *NCIS*, and *Bones*. My first major research project, a 42-month field study in a Baltimore, MD, emergency room, was a far cry from the high tech fantasy world of forensics portrayed in television dramas. Working with nurses who conducted sexual assault forensic examination, often called “rape kits,” I saw that real forensic evidence tells more complicated stories than those depicted on television. Instead, my research asks, “How are our cultural understandings about healing and recovering from sexual assault and rape shaped by our expectations of participation in the criminal justice system? What does it mean for victims that the same person collects evidence and provides them care?” I am nearing completion of a book manuscript, tentatively titled *Forensic Effects*, which answers these questions.

As I bring my Baltimore project to a close, I am embarking on a new study in Milwaukee in collaboration with my colleague, Heather Hlavka, who teaches in the criminology major in our department. Together, we will explore the impact of forensic evidence in the Milwaukee County Court System. We will be analyzing both the outcomes associated with the inclusion of forensic evidence in sexual assault trials, as well as the relationship of forensic evidence to more traditional forms of evidence, such as testimony.

In addition to our own field research in the court system, Dr. Hlavka and I will rely on data produced by SOCS students who are participating in a new program we launched this

year. This program is a student-based court monitoring program, Marquette Legal Education and Research Network, or MLEARN for short. Currently, 50 students from two courses are observing civil and criminal proceedings related to sexual assault and domestic violence. In future semesters, we will extend the court-monitoring option to other courses, including a new legal anthropology course. Our hope is to blend our needs as teachers and researchers by also giving students an experiential-learning option, in which they will observe, collect and analyze data in order to form conclusions about how the court system functions in addressing one of Milwaukee’s most vexing social problems.

Because I spend my professional research life studying serious issues such as violence against women, I enjoy the brightness and energy that students bring to my life. In teaching a range of courses in the anthropology major, including Introductory Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Religion, and Theory and Practice of Anthropology, I find SOCS students to be curious and often full of surprises; their enthusiasm helps me retain a balanced outlook about the world.



**Olga Semukhina, Assistant Professor of Criminology & Law Studies**

In my third year as an assistant professor of Criminology and Law Studies, I am delighted to report that my time at Marquette has been

exciting and productive for both my research and teaching. I have had the opportunity to develop and teach seven criminology courses, of which some are hybrid-learning courses and one is a fully online course. My teaching assignments are closely related to my research interests and cover a broad range of law-related subjects (criminal law, procedure, and evidence) and comparative justice disciplines (international justice and terrorism). During my third year, I continue to assist my department in improving its

criminology and law studies curriculum by developing a new required course on criminal law and procedure.

My research interests can be defined as comparative and international criminal law and procedure with a focus on Eastern European countries, such as Russia. While at Marquette, I have conducted and published research on Russian criminal justice reforms, including the death penalty, plea bargaining, and judicial remand. My particular area of interest in the last three years was a reform of post-Soviet policing in Russia. I partnered with Russian universities (Volgograd Law and Police Academy and Volgograd Public Administration Academy) to collect data and combine it with data collected through my previous studies of court archives and field interviews. Using these data I am preparing a book on the path of post-Soviet policing reform in Russia, and assessment of its future development. My book, "Understanding the Modern Russian Police," is expected to be published in 2012.

This year, I am also launching two new research projects that are based on my interests in comparative socio-legal studies. One project will examine the practice of police abuse in the Southern region of Russia and the ways in which the Russian legal system deals with the victims of police abuse, including undocumented immigrant workers from the former Soviet republics. This project will be based on a two-year data collection process in three sites of Southern Russia and is funded through a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of State. The second project is a study of fifteen former Soviet republics (the members of the USSR) and their efforts to reform post-Soviet criminal procedure. More specifically, I am looking at the issue of pre-trial detention and compliance of legal systems with both international and European standards. The study also examines potential correlations between the level of legal development and the country's indicators such as the membership in EU, and human development and governance indices.

Last, but not least, I am very excited about opportunities to get involved in a number of collegial projects within our department. Dr. Wheelock and I are currently working on a comparative study of punitive attitudes in the U.S. and Russia with focus on immigrants from North Caucasian and Central Asian regions. Next semester, I am planning to get involved in the Marquette Legal Education and Research Network initiative launched by Drs. Hlavka and Mulla, which will provide my students with a great service learning experience and will serve as a basis for a new research project. I am looking forward to participate in these and other new projects that I envision in my career at Marquette.



## ADJUNCT FACULTY

**Dr. John Hammetter**  
**PhD-Anthropology**

Though I was born and raised in Milwaukee, I spent so much of my childhood in Wauwatosa that I've always considered it my home town. I graduated from Pius XI High School and received a B.A. in Anthropology from Marquette University, so I have a good understanding of its students and culture. In 1988, I helped excavate the Philistine city of Ashkelon in present-day Israel. In 1992, I conducted ethnobotanical fieldwork among the Navajo in New Mexico.

I earned my Ph.D. in Anthropology and Geography from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 2002. My dissertation, which drew from the disciplines of social history, landscape architecture, art history, cultural geography, and historical archaeology, represented the first anthropological study of residential yards and gardens. I asked why people endure the pain of transforming the space around their homes into gardens. Simply put, I concluded that both the act of gardening and

## **SOWJ Major Samira Payne in the Spotlight**

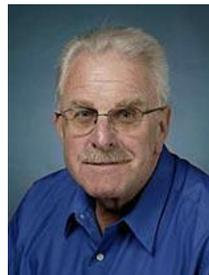


I decided to major in Social Welfare and Justice because I believed it would equip me with the skills to work directly with individuals AND to create positive social change on a larger scale. The experiences and education I have received during my time at Marquette have, without a doubt, provided a solid foundation to achieve my future goals. As part of the Social and Cultural Science Internship Program and the Klezcka Internship Program in the Les Aspin Center, I interned in the Office of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett in the fall of 2009. I've also worked in the Marquette Service Learning Office since spring 2009 and helped to coordinate service learning and reflection sessions and plan the 2010 Midwest Service Leaders Conference. Last spring, I participated in the Marquette Business Plan Competition and wrote a business plan for a boarding school for at-risk youth. I am very interested in social entrepreneurship and applying business principles to solve, rather than manage, social problems. I am an active member of Delta Xi Phi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. and I enjoy crocheting in my free time. After graduating from Marquette this December, I hope to pursue an M.Ed in Counseling and work as a high school guidance counselor. Eventually, I want to pursue a career in secondary education administration.

the appreciation of their garden provide avid gardeners with a primary source of meaning in their lives.

I also spent 23 years in the Air Force, in both active duty and reserves, retiring in 2005. I was stationed in many different places during my military career—Germany, England, Spain, Turkey, Panama, and the United Arab Emirates, to name a few. I also traveled extensively on my own whenever possible, once going to Nepal for a month. While in these places I conducted informal ethnographic fieldwork through observation, participation, and inquiry, all of which characterize the anthropological enterprise. So I bring a great deal of personal experience into the classroom in addition to formal training.

For fun I read, bike, canoe, and run; I've run 104 marathons since May 1989. I also enjoy camping: my friends and I have gone camping each January for the last thirty years and we go several times a year when it's not so cold. We have built a log cabin, a teepee, and a wigwam while enjoying life in the great outdoors. I have more experience than most in ways of life other than the one I grew up in. My wife, Karen, and I have been married since 1995 and have been adopted by several cats along the way.



### **Dr. Mike Krzewinski, (aka Dr. K.) PhD- Urban Studies**

I grew up in Milwaukee, leaving the city only for a few years to join a monastery and later the U. S. Army Reserves. Upon return I shortly began a 33-year career in law enforcement with the Milwaukee Police Dept. I started as a police officer in the inner city and then went undercover investigating drugs, gambling, prostitution and pornography. After five years of that assignment, I was promoted to "Detective" and spent 13 years investigating sex crimes and pornography. I eventually became a Lieutenant of Detectives, Captain of Police and eventually Deputy Inspector-Director of Training. During these supervisory years I was involved in

## Criminology Student Porchia King in the Spotlight



Born and raised here in Milwaukee, I graduated from Rufus King high school and was accepted into Marquette University and the Equal Opportunity Program in the spring of 2007. I have always been interested in crime and the law. As a child, when most kids were watching cartoons I was watching *Judging Amy*, a show about a children's court judge who was passionate about achieving justice for hurt or abused children. Hence, my passion has been to work as a juvenile defense attorney and hopefully someday be a judge in juvenile court.

I am now a senior with a Criminology and Law Studies major and a minor in sociology. I also intern at the Milwaukee public defender's office assisting attorneys with current criminal cases. This has definitely solidified my interest in the criminal justice system. "On the side" I am also a full-time employee as an Assistant Manager at The Men's Wearhouse. In my rare spare time, I like to play tennis and spend time with my fiancé and our two dogs. I will be graduating in May 2011 from the College of Arts and Science, and I hope to attend law school after graduation. I have been fortunate to receive two scholarships from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to help me complete my education at MU. I look forward to the day when I can repay the favor by giving a scholarship of my own to another deserving student.

narcotics, property crimes, arson investigations, gang crimes and research and development. While working with the MPD, I completed my bachelor's & master's degrees at Marquette, which piqued my interest in teaching. I viewed most of my professors as having only book knowledge and little experiential knowledge and wanted to fill this void. I enrolled in the Urban Studies doctoral program at UW-Milwaukee. My dissertation examined "The Historical Development and Effects of Affirmative Action on the MPD."

At first, I taught classes at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Marquette University, Concordia University, The Chicago School of Psychology and U W- Milwaukee, but eventually, I focused only on Marquette and UW-M, and I am now finishing my 25<sup>th</sup> year teaching at MU and 15<sup>th</sup> at UW-M. I teach both sociology and criminology courses, but my favorites are deviance, criminology, criminal violence & criminal investigations.

I've retired from the MPD, but I keep teaching because the students keep me young and nothing makes me happier than to hear from former students and meet with them over a Grey Goose and good food. When I'm not teaching, I have had the privilege of traveling to Tanzania, Kenya, Egypt, China, Russia, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Portugal and Spain as well as a few side trips in the USA. But my pride and joy are my three sons and six grandkids who I love to spoil.

## Alumni News Bytes

2010

**Brian Forman** (ANTH) is teaching English to middle school students for a year in Korea. He says he can't get enough of the Korean cuisine.

**Stephani Guertin** (SOCI) is working with Grassroots Soccer, a youth organization in South Africa that uses soccer as a means to educate youth about AIDS. Stephani blogs about her experience at: <http://stephguertin.blogspot.com/>.

**Danielle Kopesky** (SOC1) is currently working toward a Doctor of Physical Therapy at Marquette University.

**Kaley Mullin** (SOC1) works as a Specialist in the Insight & Innovation department at Periscope, a new ad agency in Minneapolis. She writes research reports and blogs about current trends and their relationship to larger cultural trends and marketing. Some of her work can be seen at [www.periscope.posterous.com](http://www.periscope.posterous.com).

**2009**

**Jillian Boor** (CRLS) is now an intelligence analyst for the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbors. She helps investigate organized crime on the docks of New York and New Jersey.

**Gretchen Geertz** (SOC1) is serving her second year as a Jesuit Volunteer in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where she teaches third and fourth graders.

**Gina Vangelisti** (ANTH) works as a collegiate services specialist for Sigma Kappa Sorority at its national headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. She provides collegiate women leadership education, promotes self-confidence and serves as a resource for chapter members. She was a founding member the Sigma Kappa chapter at Marquette.

**2008**

**Courtnee Jordan-Cox** (SOC1) completed her master's in strategic communication at Villanova University and has been working as Special Assistant to the Director of Student Services at Rowan University in Camden, New Jersey.

**Daniel Koska** (ANTH) is working for Cramer-Krasselt, an advertising/public relations firm in Milwaukee.

**2007**

**Christine Beck** (SOC1) returned from traveling and working in Europe and has now taken a job as Administrative Coordinator with Van Beek Accounting in Portland, Oregon. She is greatly

enjoying the many creative communities Portland has to offer.

**2004**

**Anna Hoenack** (SOC1) is working as a Recruiter with the American Cancer Society in Mendota Heights, MN. She will soon begin work on her Master's in Non-Profit Administration. She is also actively involved in Habitat for Humanity of the Twin Cities.

**2001**

**James Koch** (CRLS) recently completed his Master of Science in Criminal/Social Justice at Lewis University. James is a detective with the Vernon Hills (IL) Police Department, and specializes in juvenile and computer crimes. James also teaches and presents on a variety of criminal justice related subjects.

**Kerry McGinnis** (SOC1) is currently working on her second master's degree. This one is Educational Leadership; the first was in Special Education. Kerry teaches at a high school for students who have cognitive disabilities and "loves being a teacher!" She says fondly, "Marquette was such an exciting time in my life. I feel blessed to have been part of such a special community."

**1993**

**Lisa Tillman** (CRLS) completed a PhD in Communication at the University of South Florida and is now Associate Professor and Chair of Critical Media and Cultural Studies at Rollins College in Florida.

**1978**

**Brian Binash** (SOC1) has owned several homebuilding and land development companies. He and his wife Irene live in Texas and run a philanthropic foundation with an emphasis on the homeless and Christian education. Brian has also been heavily involved nationally on Energy Efficient and Green Building for residential housing.



## Faculty Development News

**Dr. Louise Cainkar**, Assistant Professor of Social Welfare & Justice, was awarded a Council on American Overseas Research Centers Senior Fellowship for her new transitional study on second-generation American Muslim youth. The fellowship will support four months of research in the Middle East in Spring 2011. Her book *Homeland Insecurity* also received an award for Outstanding Adult Non-Fiction from the Arab American National Museum.

**Dr. Roberta L. Coles** was promoted to Full Professor of sociology.

**Dr. Olga Semukhina** recently received a 2-year grant from the U.S. State Department, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, titled "Enhancing Human Rights, the Rule of Law, Civil Awareness and Participation in the Southern Region of Russia" to examine the problem of police abuse in Russia.

## Milestones

**Drs. Roberta Coles** and **Jane Peterson** celebrated their 15<sup>th</sup> year at Marquette.

**Adjunct Kimberly Bohat-Jensen**, Director of Marquette's Service Learning Office, gave birth to son Benjamin Joseph Bohat on October 3, 2010. Ben will be the third son for Kim and her husband Bart.

## Student Awards

Four seniors (one for each major) were awarded the Outstanding Senior award in May 2010. They were:

- ✚ Brian Forman in ANTH
- ✚ Jennifer Cossyleon in CRLS
- ✚ Amanda Wolfe in SOWJ
- ✚ Claire Niemet in SOCI

Each received the award for their high academic performance and demonstrated leadership throughout their years at Marquette. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

## Speakers & Events

For this year's McGee Lecture, we held a forum on Race and Housing in Milwaukee, co-sponsored with the Institute of Urban Studies and the Department of History. Sociologist Matt Desmond from Harvard spoke about his research on housing evictions in Milwaukee, and Historian Patrick Jones from University of Nebraska reviewed the history of the open housing movement in Milwaukee. The Directors of the Milwaukee Fair Housing Council, William Tisdale and Carla Wertheim, also presented data about ongoing housing discrimination in Milwaukee. A video of the forum is available for viewing at the department website:

<http://www.marquette.edu/socs/index.shtml>

### *Let's Hear From You*

The Department welcomes news from alumni and friends. Let us know what you have been up to, personally and professionally. Send news or milestones to [roberta.coles@mu.edu](mailto:roberta.coles@mu.edu). You can also contact us on our website: [www.marquette.edu/socs](http://www.marquette.edu/socs)

