

# SOCS Scoop

Marquette University - Milwaukee  
Volume 5 Fall 2011

Department of Social and Cultural Sciences  
A Multidisciplinary Department



## *From the Chair*

The department has that “new and improved” look this year. We have a new faculty member in sociology—Dr. Angelique Harris, see page 2 for her bio. We are offering a

few new courses this spring—an anthropology course on law and violence, a sociology course on food & water issues, and a social welfare & justice courses on conflict resolution & mediation. See the opposite column for their descriptions. Finally, several of our faculty are starting new strands of research. Dr. Alex Crampton is working on child custody mediations; Dr. Rick Jones is researching the lower recidivism rates of ex-prisoners in Finland; Dr. Meghan Stroshine is beginning a study on victim advocates; See short descriptions of these studies on pg. 7.

Some of our adjunct faculty do research and publish as well. Bob Greene, who teaches sociology courses, is the author of a high school text and is currently working on his doctoral dissertation, which is on attitude change through Service Learning. SOWJ instructor Raeshann Canady, an attorney with the State Public Defender’s Office, also has a bio on p. 3.

Even some of our undergrad students have had opportunities to do research with faculty members. We highlight a couple of those students on pages 4 and 5.

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

## New Courses for Spring

**ANTH 4931 Culture, Violence & Law.** This course investigates the tension between the law's obligation to address violence between individuals, while simultaneously meting out violence of its own. Theories about law, authority and power will be applied to ethnographic case studies from around the world. The three issues that will be examined cross-culturally are domestic violence (U.S., Jamaica, Ghana, Iran), sexual assault (U.S., Canada, India), and the death penalty (U.S., China, Syria). We will also explore the effect of race and ethnicity on legal redress of violence.

**SOCI 3930 Food, Water & Society** In addition to exploring the social meaning of food and its relationship to social identity and interaction, we will investigate food and water security issues, such as food diversity, seed patents, food distribution, and privatization of water sources.

**SOWJ 4931 Negotiation, Conflict Mediation & Restorative Justice.** This course introduces methods used to promote social welfare & justice through conflict resolution & restorative justice. Cross cultural and historical approaches provide context for understanding U.S.-based approaches now common domestically and abroad. This course also features skill development in problem-solving and facilitating dialogue for direct application to resolve interpersonal and intergroup conflict and harm.

# New Faculty Focus



**Dr. Angelique  
Harris, Assistant  
Professor of Sociology**

I was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts and attended the University of Massachusetts,

Boston (UMB) as a social psychology major. Throughout college I worked in a variety of programs on campus such as the Upward Bound program, Student Support Services, the Reading Writing and Study Skills Center, the Admissions Guaranteed Program, and Directions for Student Potential. I tutored students in sociology, psychology, political science, and history and conducted workshops on note-taking, time management, and writing, while also serving as an undergraduate teaching assistant. As an undergraduate student, I entered the Ronald E. McNair program and worked with a psychology professor examining risk-taking behaviors among college students. During her junior year she entered into the honor's BA/MA program in applied sociology and began taking graduate courses, which enabled me to receive both my BA in social psychology and MA in applied sociology from UMB in 2001.

After graduating from UMB, I entered the sociology doctoral program at the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY) to study medical sociology. I received a competitive three-year fellowship from the Minority Fellowship Program of the American Sociological Association and the National Institute of Mental Health. During her time at The Graduate Center, Dr. Harris also received a Dean K. Harrison Fellowship, a Vaid Fellowship from the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Birdie Fuchs Travel Fellowship. During my third year of graduate school I was selected to be a CUNY Writing Across the Curriculum Fellow. In this capacity I worked with social science faculty in incorporating more writing into course curriculum. In 2005, I was

awarded an additional MA degree in sociology from Queens College.

My dissertation research examined the role of a community-based organization in initiating the Black Church AIDS movement in New York City. My dissertation research was awarded funding from the MAGNET Dissertation Year Fellowship and the Graduate Research Grant Program from the Graduate Center.

While at the Graduate Center, I helped organize three local conferences and one national conference; film festivals, and well as panel presentations. I served as co-chair of the Africana Studies Group, which helped to create an Africana Studies Certificate Program at the Graduate Center. I taught as an adjunct professor at Hunter College, City College, and the College of New Rochelle.

After graduating from the Graduate Center, I accepted a tenure-track position in the Sociology Department at the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), located in Orange County. While there I taught Sociology of Families, Writing for Sociology Students, Gender and Sexualities, Collective Behavior, and Social Interaction. At MU, I will be teaching courses in the sociology of health and illness and social movements. My research examines health disparities within minority populations and explores how groups mobilize to reduce these disparities. I am also interested in the sociology of health and illness, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, religion, and social movements.

I have written numerous articles and a book, *AIDS, Sexuality, and the Black Church: Making the Wounded Whole* on these topics. I'm currently writing a book on writing within the discipline of sociology, and I'm also in the process of collecting data and interviews examining AIDS activism among Black women in the United States.



## ADJUNCT FACULTY BIOS



### Raeshann Canady, JD, Instructor in Social Welfare and Justice.

Growing up, I couldn't decide whether I wanted to be a teacher, social worker or lawyer.

I never dreamed I would eventually become all three. I received bachelor degrees in sociology and psychology at the University of Michigan, but I did my master's degree in social work. The professor of an ethics course suggested I consider law school as well.

Since I was born and raised in Milwaukee, and am extremely close to my family, I returned after graduate school to begin my career. I started as a case manager with the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare and, while I learned a tremendous amount, I eventually yearned to utilize the therapeutic skills I had acquired during graduate school so I became the treatment director at a residential treatment center for boys.

Shortly after I began in that position, I started the part-time law program at Marquette. I worked during the day and went to school at night and on the weekends. I went on to work as a therapist at a day treatment center for boys and girls and as a social worker at Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee.

When I started law school, I thought I would simply use the degree to be a better advocate for children but then I met Howard Eisenberg, who was the Dean of the law school. After taking a criminal law course with him, witnessing his extraordinary passion, I was convinced that representing poor people in criminal proceedings was the right path for me.

I took a slight detour after law school, working in an administrative position for a child advocacy agency and it was in that position that I met Professor Deborah Crane, who encouraged me to apply for a teaching position at Marquette. I left the child advocacy agency to work at the

Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office. I have been with that agency ever since, starting as an Assistant State Public Defender in 2005 and becoming an Attorney Manager in 2009. During my time at the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office I have had the privilege of representing children in abuse and neglect proceedings, juveniles in juvenile delinquency proceedings and adults in mental health commitments, revocation proceedings and misdemeanor and felony criminal cases.

I am a member of the office's Homicide Practice Group, Revocation Team and the Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court Program, and I am the head of the Domestic Violence Practice Group and Raise the Bar, a training and mentoring program for young lawyers. In addition to being an attorney and adjunct faculty member at Marquette, I am an adjunct faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where I teach Cultural Diversity, and I am the President of the Board of Directors at Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. In my little spare time, I love going to Las Vegas.

### Bob Greene, Instructor in Sociology

I started my life giving happiness and even financial help to my family. My sister and I were the first twins born in Passaic County, New Jersey, in 1955.

As a reward, my mother received \$500.00 in free merchandise from Speigel's department store for her bundles of joy.



After graduating from high school in 1973, I attended Fordham University for two years. In 1978, I moved to Denver, CO, returned to college and completed my undergraduate degree from Metropolitan State University in Denver. After leaving Denver in 1986, my wife and I moved to Illinois where I began my teaching career at a small, rural high school in Mount Sterling, IL, where I taught my first sociology classes. However, the "culture shock"

of rural living motivated me to complete my master's degree.

I took a year off from teaching to complete my master's degree from Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL, majoring in American history with a minor in Twentieth Century European history. By the time I left Illinois, my family had three new members, my two sons and my daughter. We moved to Madison, WI, and one year later I began teaching high school sociology, psychology, and history at Greenfield High School. I remained there for thirteen years, although on the side I began teaching college sociology at Milwaukee's Alverno College in 1998.

Although I entered the doctoral program and completed my course work in Urban Studies at UW-Milwaukee, I transferred to Capella University, an online university that is also the answer to the trivia question, "what is the second largest university in Minnesota?" I am currently working on my dissertation, which focuses on service learning in higher education and transformational learning theory. I am interested in whether the experience of service learning enhances the likelihood that students will be transformed as a result of that experience. My experiences in teaching at Marquette and using Service Learning in my classes created my interest in that question.

I am the co-author of the high school sociology text, *Sociology and You*, which now is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition and thirteenth year of publication. In addition, my simulation game, *Harmonyville: A Simulation for Understanding Racial and Residential Segregation* was published in 2006 in the American Sociological Association's *Innovative Techniques for Teaching Sociological Concepts*.

I love gardening, landscaping, reading, taking walks, and watching the Brewers, Packers, and college basketball. After twenty five years of teaching, I still enjoy what I do and don't see myself retiring anytime soon



## SOCI & McNair Student Monique Driver



Marquette Super Senior Monique Driver, who grew up in Kenosha, WI, says she's fascinated with people and society and that passion is what hooked her on sociology. .

This past summer she was able to be part of the McNair undergraduate research program, an experience that stretched her. "I learned a lot about grad school, research, and I never had to work this independently before or be so personally invested in a project," she said.

For her research, Monique conducted a study, under the supervision of Dr. Jones, on the role of sports in African American communities, specifically how and why young African American males are socialized to focus on sports as a path out of a low-income neighborhood and lifestyle. Monique interviewed eight current or former athletes and found that most of them were encouraged by parents, guardians ,or coaches to pursue sports, often at the expense of academics, from an early age. Consequently, a majority of them were offered college scholarships for sports but could not meet the academic requirements and had to start their careers at junior colleges. When they transferred into a four-year college, they experienced role strain between their athletic and academic roles. Only one of her respondents was able to secure a position in professional sports, and some of the others were unprepared to do anything other than sports.

Monique hopes to expand on this research in her upcoming capstone course, and sparked by Dr. Richard Jones's Sports in Society class, Monique now thinks she would like to go to graduate school to study sports psychology and become a counselor . She hopes to work in an Athletic Department of an elite college or university and be an advocate for Student Athletes so that they leave college with a meaningful degree and marketable skills .

## CRLS & McNair Student Khanh Tran



Marquette Junior Khanh Tran is a first-generation college student. Although now from Milwaukee, Khanh was born in Vietnam. When Khanh started at MU, he thought he'd major in psychology, but after taking the CRLS introductory course with Dr. Krzewinski, he decided that criminology and law, along with philosophy, would be an interesting combination to prepare him for law school.

Khanh then took the Criminal Court Process course with Robert Rondini, a Milwaukee attorney who teaches part-time in CRLS. "I only got a B in the course, but I learned the most in this course," says Khanh. In fact, shortly after taking that course, Khanh put all that knowledge to practical use, as he was called to jury duty and served as the foreman of the jury.

Last summer Khanh entered the McNair program, which enables first-generation college students to do research with faculty members. Working with Mr. Rondini, Khanh explored the existing research on relationship of early puberty in boys to gang recruitment. He found that gangs tend to target boys who are bigger, isolated, and more aggressive. Early puberty often contributes to boys being bigger, having acne and looking and acting different than their peers, which lowers the self-esteem and isolates them. The older boys in gangs then take them under their wing, first by befriending them through informal activities and then testing them for their "gang-worthiness."

Overall, Khanh says that his McNair experience was a "life-changing" one, giving him invaluable academic skills and networking opportunities. "It was very different than the usual teacher-student relationship. I would recommend it for anyone who is eligible."

Khanh hopes to get both his J.D. and a PhD, practice law related to healthcare, and eventually become a judge or a professor.

## Whatever Happened to...? (Alumni News)

### 2010

**Lisa Breitzman** (SOCI/EDUC) is teaching 9-12 History and Social Problems at Wrightstown High School in Wrightstown, WI. She is also the JV soccer coach for both boys and girls and a co-advisor for our B.R.I.D.G.E. club (Building Respect in Diversity Generates Equality, a diversity club within our school that sponsors various cultural and social diversity events).

**Brian Forman** (ANTH) recently completed a year teaching English in Korea—greatest experience of his life!—and has moved to Utah to work with Elements, a wilderness therapy program for boys 13 and 17 years old who are coping with substance abuse, family conflicts, defiance, ADHD, depression and other psychological difficulties. The boys live and work in the wilderness for 12-16 weeks.

**Claire Niemet** (SOCI) is starting her second year in Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Her placement this year is at Catholic Charities Housing Transitions Program in Portland. I work with single, homeless women without children in their care. The purpose of HTP, as it is abbreviated, is to assist homeless women find and secure permanent, subsidized housing. In Portland the Housing First Model is practiced. The Housing First philosophy practices the notion that vulnerable, homeless people will be more successful in other facets of their lives (i.e. drug treatment, employment) once they get off the streets into a stable housing situation. Listening to my coworkers, it seems like securing housing was the first step for some of the women toward rebuilding their life.

### 2008

**Valerie Pastwa** (SOCI) has been working as a Legal/Medical Advocate in the Sexual Assault Service Center at Guardian Angel Community Services in Joliet, Illinois.

## 2007

**Jamil Lott** (SOCI) has been the program director of the Evening Learning Center, a program for youth on juvenile probation in St. Paul, Minnesota. The program serves more than 70 youth, connecting them to community resources.

**Emily Ploch** (CRLS) obtained paralegal certification and relocated to Denver for a paralegal job at a small law firm in Centennial, CO, that specializes in family and plaintiff employment law. Emily is active in her community through the St. Thomas More Catholic Church Young Adult Group.

**Sara Unertl** (CRLS, SOCI) is working as a Special Education teacher in Boston, MA. In 2011 she graduated with a Master's in Education from Simmons College. Her specialty is working with children with autism, and her degree is in Severe Special Needs. In the fall, she plans to start an advanced training program to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She volunteers with Marquette University as a co-chair for the Boston Alumni Club and plans events throughout the New England area for fellow alums.

**Brittany Van Roo** (CRLS) went on to get her J.D., with a focus on sports law, from Marquette Law School. She moved back to Illinois, passed the bar exam and was sworn in on May 5th. Currently, she is working as a law clerk for the personal injury firm of Hupy and Abraham, and she got married on October 1 to Nicholas Alexenko, another Marquette alum.

## 2007

**Greg Entwhistle** (SOCI) is working on his Master's in Public Policy (MPP) at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

**Ben White** (ANTH) finished his Masters of Public Health in winter 2009 and is now a full-time epidemiologist at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in Denver, where he works on emerging infections, Legionnaire's disease, and foodborne illness outbreaks. He also is involved in GIS health-

related projects, mapping rabies and other zoonotic diseases for the state public health veterinarian. In his free time, he enjoys all things Colorado--mountain & road biking, trail running, snowboarding, & cross country skiing.

## 2005

**Ryan Seebruck** (SOCI) is a PhD student in sociology at the University of Arizona, currently on a Fulbright fellowship at Shizuoka University (Japan) conducting his dissertation research. His dissertation examines the relationship between the organization of education labor markets and educational inequality, particularly how the distribution of teachers across a district affects students' access to high quality teachers, and the subsequent effects this distribution has on student performance as well as teachers' job satisfaction.

## 2004

**Phensy Vongphakdy** (SOCI/SOWJ) is teaching theology at St. Joan Antida high school in Milwaukee.

## 1993

**Bridgette Baldwin** (CRLS) is a Full Professor of Law at Western New England University. In addition to receiving her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin School of Law, she received her Ph.D. in Law, Policy and Society from Northeastern University in 2010. Her dissertation was titled *Wisconsin Works? Race, Gender and Accountability in the Welfare Era*.

## 1971

**Bob Connolly** (SOCI) is owner/partner of The James Company, a fundraising consulting firm that manages fund appeals for churches and church-related organizations. Prior to joining The James Co, Connolly served as project director for the Industrial Areas Foundation, founded in 1967 by Saul Alinsky to train professional organizers and leaders of U.S. churches, businesses, and labor organizations. He currently teaches an annual SOWJ course on community organizing at Marquette and in April 2011 served as a panelist at the MU Health Care forum to advocate for healthcare reform.

## Faculty Research: Publications & Presentations

**Dr. Alexandra Crampton**, Asst. Prof. in SOWJ, is studying the efficacy of mediation in child custody cases, exploring whether or not third-party mediation is an empowering process that helps disputants identify problem and solutions. As part of her research, she is interviewing mediators and observing mediation sessions.

**Dr. James Holstein**, Prof. of Sociology and former editor of *Social Problems* journal, organized a panel of editors to advise scholars on the process of publishing research in refereed journals. He also chaired a session on "Life through a Postmodern Lens." Both of these were for the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in August.

**Dr. Richard Jones**, Assoc. Prof. of Sociology, travelled to Lithuania, to present on "Human Rights and Prison Policy." He also co-edited a book--**Global Perspectives on Re-Entry**. Using an international perspective, the book focuses on the struggles facing ex-prisoners and strategies used in various parts of the Western world to solve these problems.

**Dr. Gale Miller**, Professor of Sociology, traveled to Lodz, Poland, in June to conduct a 2-day seminar on Social Constructionism and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy, and deliver a talk on the "Unreal World of Problem-Solving: The Dialectic of Theory and Practice" at a conference in Prague, Czechoslovakia. In September he gave a plenary talk at the European Brief Therapy Association and participated on a panel on the Evolution of Solution-Focused Therapy theory.

**Dr. Sameena Mulla**, Asst. Prof. of Anthropology, presented a paper titled, "AIDS, Addiction and Sexual Assault: Local Geographies of Patient-Victim Compliance," on a panel at the Law & Society Association meeting in San Francisco in June. She will present it again in Glasgow, Scotland, to British and law enforcement.

**Dr. Meghan Stroshine**, Assoc. Prof. in CRLS, is conducting research on burnout, compassion fatigue & secondary trauma among victim advocates. She will be surveying victim advocates in all 72 Wisconsin counties to see what factors—eg. gender, race, education, type of crime, organizational support—contribute to or hinder advocate burnout.

**Drs. Darren Wheelock & Olga Semukhina** (with Nicolai N. Demidov) published the article "Perceived Group Threat & Punitive Attitudes in Russia and the United States" in the *British Journal of Criminology*. This article compares the sources of punitive attitudes in American and Russia, finding that perceived group threat is a key predictor in both countries.

**Dr. Richard Zevitz**, Assoc. Professor in CRLS, presented on risk factors and predictors of sudden death through suicide, drugs and natural causes in jail facilities at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Assn. conference in Chicago.

### *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)

