

# SOCS Scoop

Marquette University - Milwaukee  
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Department of Social and Cultural Sciences  
A Multidisciplinary Department



## From the Chair

The Department of Social & Cultural Sciences specializes in undergraduate education and thus has no graduate students working as Research Assistants.

However, many of our undergraduate students who desire to obtain research experience can find such opportunities in our department with various faculty members.

These research experiences are vital for students planning to go to graduate school, but the skills learned in research—how to test theories, interview people, synthesize multiple perspectives, interpret data, conduct statistical analyses, writing clearly and so on—are applicable to most professional careers and simply for thinking critically and logically about what one reads in magazines, on the internet, hears on television or out of the mouths of politicians. So in this issue, starting on p. 3, we have highlighted some of the students who are currently working on various research projects.

We also continue our usual columns on faculty news and introducing our part-time faculty. In this issue **Bob Connolly**, a social entrepreneur who teaches our Community Organizing course in SOWJ, and **Bill Lipscomb**, a federal lawyer who teaches two of our CRLS courses—Drugs and Ultimate Penalties courses, introduce themselves.

As always, check out the Alum News column, and let us know what you are doing by emailing me at [roberta.coles@mu.edu](mailto:roberta.coles@mu.edu).

## FACULTY NEWS



**Dr. Angelique Harris**, Assistant Professor in Sociology, was among six faculty chosen by Marquette's Gender and Sexualities Resource Center to receive a \$5,000 fellowship to support

research related to gender and/or sexuality studies. Harris's work is a qualitative study on **AIDS Activism among Black Women in the United States**, for which Harris conducted interviews with about 100 Black women AIDS activists in the United States. She explored the motivations for their activism, the challenges they face in this work, as well as their suggestions for moving forward in combating HIV/AIDS within Black communities.



**Drs. Heather Hlavka and Sameena Mulla** published an article titled "Gendered Violence and the Ethics of Social Science Research" in the journal *Violence Against Women* (17:12; pp. 1509-20). Mulla and Hlavka argued that although "victimhood" is not a universal experience of sexual violence survivors, the practices of formulating research problems and methods needs to be done within an ethic of care, such that doesn't introduce more harm to victims.



**Dr. James Holstein**, Prof. of Sociology, published a revised edition of the **SAGE Handbook of Interview Research: The Complexity of the Craft**.



This new edition emphasizes the dynamic and interactional aspects of the research interview, viewing the interview as a communicative opportunity as much as a data-gathering occasion. In addition, as part of a scholarly debate over a social construction approach, Holstein also published "Theoretical Validity and Empirical Utility of a Constructionist Analytics" in *The Sociological Quarterly*.



**Dr. Rick Jones**, Professor of Sociology, published "Finnish Criminal Policy from the 1960's and Beyond" in *The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*. The article delineates the ways that Finland has

become the model for humanistic treatment of criminals. The Finnish system provides wraparound services for improved re-entry, academic, and vocational opportunities while imprisoned, and makes every effort to foster healthy relationships with family and others in the outside world.

**Dr. Gale Miller**, Professor of Sociology, was elected President of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. As president, Miller plans to undertake a revision of the association's constitution, address mentoring and recruitment graduate students, construct a new web site, and continue upgrading the journal *Symbolic Interaction*.



**Dr. Jane Peterson**, Professor of Anthropology, presented a paper on "Neolithic Women in the Near East" at the Society of American

Archaeology Annual Conference in Tennessee. Peterson examined the mortuary practices and skeletal data sets for evidence of gendered divisions in labor, social identity, and status among Neolithic populations in the Near East. She argued that the rise of agricultural production did not, in itself, provide the 'seed' for widespread gender inequality.

**Dr. Meghan S. Stroshine**, Associate Professor in Criminology & Law Studies, published the article "The Physical Hazards of Police Work Revisited" in *Police Quarterly*. This



study examined injuries to Milwaukee police officers and revealed a decline in officer assaults, other suspect-related injuries, and accidents during the study period from 1996-2008. The decline in injuries may be a function of enhanced training and the increased availability and use of less lethal technology and protective equipment.



**Darren Wheelock**, Assistant Professor in Criminology & Law Studies, published "Managing the Socially Marginalized: Attitudes Towards Welfare,

Punishment and Race" in the *Journal of Poverty*. Using national survey data, Wheelock finds a significant relationship between punitive attitudes towards welfare and punishment; that is, public opposition to welfare expenditures is associated with support for more punitive crime control policies.

### **Two-Week Study Abroad Course Offered May 2013**

Dr. Rick Jones and Finnish colleague Dr. Ikponwosa Ekunwe will be leading the course on Comparative Crime and Punishment, which will focus on the contrasting styles among the U.S. (harsh), Finland (gentle) and Estonia (moderate). Appropriate for students majoring in sociology, criminology, social welfare and justice, and

## SOWJ Student Anna Feely Wins 2012 Pedro Arrupe Award



Last year you may have noticed Anna Feely, likely the only bald woman walking across campus. She shaved her head for the St. Baldrick's child cancer fundraiser and donated her hair to Locks of Love.

Growing up in Colorado, Anna was introduced to service through her parents who took her with them to serve meals at local missions. After high school Anna volunteered two years in the AmeriCorp's Los Angeles CityYear program, whose goal is to reduce high school dropout rates.

After transferring to Marquette, she knew the SOWJ major's focus on social justice was the best fit for her interests. While at MU, Anna has worked in the Service Learning office and volunteered at St. Francis of Assisi on Milwaukee's north side, and with VOICE, a student peer education group focused on violence prevention. She also facilitated a week-long Marquette Action Program trip to the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Reservation in South Dakota where students served in the Red Cloud Indian School. Currently, Anna is interning at Project Ujima, which is a hospital-based violence intervention program working with young victims of violent crimes. These various experiences have illustrated to Anna that institutions of higher education can make a positive impact in their communities, and have helped her decide on a career working with youth.

To see Anna up close and personal, view MU's interview with Anna:

<http://www.marquette.edu/as/video-anna-feelyv.shtml>

political science, or any students with a career interest in criminal justice, the course offers students opportunities to tour prisons in Finland & Estonia and talk with prison officials, former prisoners working with offenders. If interested, contact OIE.

## Student Research & Honors



Senior **Curtis Hinca** (CRLS) was awarded the 2012 Jay Balchunas Memorial Scholarship, an annual award funded by Don and Mary Kay Balchunas, and CRLS junior **Amber Powell** was awarded the 2012 Journal Foundation Francis D. and Jane Keogh Kelly Scholarship.

**Abdul-Hameed Al-Nassar**, a senior in Journalism and an ANTH minor, spent two weeks this past summer excavating 3<sup>rd</sup> Century theater square in Macedonia.



Sociology major **Jonathan Neidorf** has been working with **Dr. Olga Semukhina** researching

the practice of pre-trial detention law in the European Court of Human Rights. As a part of this research, Jon analyzed instances of violations across countries and presented a paper titled "Modern Law of Pre-Trial Detention in Former Republics of Soviet Union: Analysis of ECHR Practice" in September at the Midwest Criminal Justice Association meeting held in Chicago.

**Nikhita Navani**, a senior PSYC/SOWJ major, has been working with **Dr. Alex Crampton** researching Milwaukee's court mediation program. Among several responsibilities, Nikhita has interviewed parents before and after their mediation sessions. She also has been working with **Dr. Angie**



**Harris**, coding and transcribing data for research on Black Feminist AIDS activists.

**Tommy C. Walls, Jr.**, SOWJ major, worked with **Dr. Paul Dedinsky**, Assistant District Attorney at Milwaukee Public Schools and an adjunct in the department, this past summer through the McNair program. Their study was



part of an assessment Milwaukee's restorative justice program, called the Community Conferencing Program (CCP), which sponsors mediation of face-to-face dialogue between offender and victim as a means of avoiding incarceration for the offender and enhancing healing for the victim. Walls interviewed past victims having them (1) describe their cases, (2) express their needs as victims and (3) reveal their satisfaction with the CCP.

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

### 2012

**Alyssa Gruhn** (ANTH/PSYC) started graduate studies in Occupational Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh this fall.

**Sarah Lauer** (SOCI) spent her summer after graduation performing guitar and singing at local restaurants and coffee shops. This year she started the physical therapy graduate program at Marquette.

**Caitlin O'Brien** (ANTH) recently took a job with the International Institute of Wisconsin (IIW), an organization that assists newcomers to the country with immigration and social services and helps organize cultural events in Milwaukee.

**Chris Powell** (CRLS) has started graduate studies in criminology at the University of Illinois-Chicago campus.

**Mara Schlieff-Trampush** (SOWJ/SOCI) is in grad school pursuing a master's in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and interning at Dane County Human Services. She received a full scholarship, and says "life's amazing!"

**Katie Steffan** (ANTH/HIST) started her master's in the Public History program at UW-Milwaukee this fall. She is still actively involved with the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear in Milwaukee, which was part of the recent DoorsOpen event sponsored by Historic Milwaukee.

**Rhaoda Thao** (CRLS) moved to Washington, D.C. and is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**Eilish Tucker** (ANTH/PSYC), last year's Anthropology Outstanding Senior, has entered a PhD program in Anthropology at Case Western Reserve and received a fellowship that fully funds her studies.

### 2011

**Kenisha Haywood** (SOCI) is working as an Independent Living Specialist at Aunt Martha's Youth Social Service in Chicago and working toward a degree in massage therapy with the goal of opening her own wellness center with services for low-income clients.

**Megan O'Connor** (SOWJ/POSC) spent her college career as an Intern in Mayor Tom Barrett's Office, where she became passionate about the City of Milwaukee and desired to become a public servant. After graduation, she was selected as a White House Intern in Washington, D.C., where she worked in the Office of Presidential Correspondence. She analyzed the content of incoming correspondence and selected sample letters for daily Presidential review. Currently, Megan is working for Milwaukee Alderman Michael J. Murphy as a Legislative Assistant. She is happy to live and work in the city she fell in love with during her four years at Marquette.

**Nicole Thompson** (SOCI/SPAN) is currently teaching Spanish at St. Francis High School, just outside Milwaukee.

**2010**

**Kara Foster** (CRLS/SOCI) completed a one-year master's program in criminal justice at University of Cincinnati. Since January 2012, she has been working as a Community Supervision Officer for Bexar County in San Antonio, TX.

**Marlis Muschal** (ANTH) worked in cultural resource management for two field seasons at the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois and the Medicine Bow-Routt Forest in Colorado for the U.S. Forest Service. She just started her graduate work in archaeology at the University of Iowa in Great Plains archaeology.

**Erika Ruhl** (ANTH/German/Hist) is currently in the Anthropology/Archaeology PhD program at SUNY Buffalo. After graduating from Marquette, she spent 8 months working with the Swiss Neolithic collection at the Milwaukee Public Museum and then served 10 months as an AmeriCorp volunteer with CityYear Milwaukee, tutoring and mentoring 7th grade students at Alexander Mitchell Integrated Arts School.

**Brian Sara** (ANTH) worked for two years in a Milwaukee software firm as a consultant, but recently moved to Colorado to attend the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where he will pursue an M.A. in International Studies with a concentration in U.S. Foreign Policy.

**2009**

**Caitlin Duane** (SOWJ) recently became a Community Resource Specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA.

**Gretchen Geerts** (SOCI/THEO) recently started as educational assistant in the Title One Preschool program at McKinley Elementary in Appleton, WI. She will be working with small groups of children on English comprehension.

**Robert Mochel** (SOWJ) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio, with a concentration in Juvenile and Family Law. Robert currently works as an Assistant State Public Defender at the Office of the State Public Defender - Milwaukee Juvenile and Mental Health Office. Robert recently married **Christine Diedrick** Mochel, also a 2009 graduate majoring in SOWJ and communications. Christine also graduated Summa Cum Laude from Capital University Law School

**2003**

**Jewel Camacho** (SOCI) is currently working as a Product Sales Manager at DFS (Duty Free Shoppers) in Guam. She and her fiancé Keith Leon Guerrero will be married in April 2013.

**2002**

**Katie Gregory** (ANTH) is working in the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office in her native Florida.

**Megan Humitz** (CRLS) has been working for two years as an investigator for United States Investigation Services (USIS), conducting background checks.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY BIOS



### **Bob Connolly, Social Welfare & Justice.**

I am a 1971 graduate of Marquette and I have a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. For 10 years I was an organizer for the Industrial Areas Foundation's (IAF) network of community organizations. IAF's mission is to teach leaders and organizers the skills needed to build broad, diverse organizations in the civil sector of society, so that ordinary people have a greater voice in shaping democratic societies. IAF is the oldest and largest international association of broad-based community organizations. It was founded

by the late Saul Alinsky, the "godfather" of grass roots organizing.

Currently, I am also a small business owner and professional fundraiser. I own the James Company, which helps religious and secular congregations and non-profits raise money across the U.S. I also am a volunteer leader with Common Ground, the IAF affiliate in Southeastern Wisconsin. Common Ground is an alliance of 47 congregations, schools, small businesses, non-profits, unions, and neighborhood associations. We address social issues such as foreclosures, affordable health insurance, school reform and a host of local issues. "Marquette University for Common Ground" is the campus group member of Common Ground.

I teach the SOWJ class on the Community Organizing. I love teaching that course because it gives me the opportunity to show people that they are not powerless. If they learn how to organize other people, they can change the world. Throughout the years of teaching the course, I have found several students who are now pursuing careers as professional organizers. For instance, Kathleen Patron, a former student of the class is now working for Common Ground.



### **William Lipscomb, Criminology & Law Studies.**

I grew up in Milwaukee, the 10<sup>th</sup> of 12 children. I graduated from the University of Virginia with a BA in History in 1982. At Virginia I was fascinated by American Studies, and especially by the history of race relations in the South. I delved deeply into the works of Faulkner and C. Vann Woodward. My interest in southern history and race relations has been a jumping off point for my career and my teaching.

My day job is that of a federal prosecutor. Before being appointed as an Asst US Attorney in 1989, I received a law degree from the University of Wisconsin and soon after began a 3-year stint as a prosecutor in Seattle, Washington, and have since served as a prosecutor in state and federal

courts for more than 25 years, handling more than 120 jury trials.

Most of my career as a prosecutor has been focused on gang, drug, and gun cases. I came to the US Attorney's Office in Milwaukee just as the crack cocaine epidemic and the surge of gun violence that came with it, hit Milwaukee. I have prosecuted hundreds of gang members and drug traffickers under federal drug, gun, and racketeering laws. In putting these prosecutions together, I have interviewed hundreds of gang members and major drug traffickers.

I have served as the manager of the US Attorney's narcotics unit as well as the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force in the eastern half of Wisconsin; I also chaired the Executive Board of the Milwaukee High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area – a consortium of federal, state, and local law enforcement agents and prosecutors. From 1996 through 2000, I coordinated the Milwaukee Safe Streets Initiative, implementing a \$2.5 million dollar federal grant to address gang crime in Milwaukee through coordinated enforcement, prevention, and reentry efforts. For the past 2 years, I have worked on a federal reentry program called "START," applying a drug-court model to the reentry of high risk gang and drug offenders from federal prison into the Milwaukee community.

I bring these interests and experience into the classroom. I teach a Drug Crime and Policy class in which we ask essential questions about legalization and how to achieve a more thoughtful allocation of scarce resources between law enforcement, prevention, and treatment. I also teach a class called "Ultimate Penalties" that explores the evolution of the use of the death penalty and life in prison over the last 200 years. Ultimate Penalties is a mixture of moral philosophy, social history, legal history, race relations studies, and restorative justice practice. I conclude each semester with an exploration of the idea and practice of forgiveness and restorative justice. I look forward to continuing to learn with my students at Marquette.