

Sociology News

Case Western Reserve University Department of Sociology

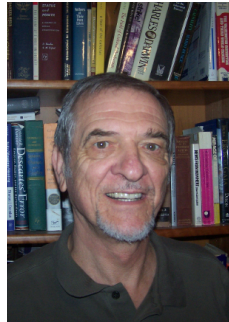
SPRING/SUMMER 2013

Letter from the Chair

Dear friends and colleagues:

Greetings and welcome to our Spring 2013 Newsletter!

As you browse the pages of this issue of *Sociology News*, you will quickly see that it has been a remarkable year for department faculty, students and alumni. This spring marks the completion of the first year of teaching and collegueship for new colleagues Professors Tim Black and Mary Erdmans. Tim and Mary have both become sought-after teachers and mentors by grad and undergrad students alike, and have become valued faculty colleagues as well.



This has also been a season of transition for our long-time colleague Emilia McGucken, who retired at the end of the fall term. As many of you know, in addition to being a valued sociologist and admired teacher, Professor McGucken is also a highly talented artist, and decided to devote more time to her painting. In January, the Department hosted a well-attended celebration in honor of Emilia's many contributions to our department and to wish her the best with her new endeavors in the art world.

Two faculty members, Brian Gran and myself, were on leave this spring term. As a Fulbright scholar, Brian conducted research and taught a course at the Law School of Reykjavik University in Iceland, and I spent a sabbatical studying and working with colleagues at the Center for Survey and Population Research at the University of Manchester in England. You can read brief accounts of both of our experiences in this issue. A lengthier account of Brian's experiences will be a feature article in the upcoming fall newsletter.

This issue also contains some very significant news from alumni of the Department of Sociology, both graduate and undergrad (p. 12). As we expand our efforts to keep up with alumni, we are interested in learning about what you are doing and how your sociological background has impacted your career experiences and choices. Please let us hear from you! Send your news to kar98@case.edu. Of course, we also welcome news of any job openings that may be of interest to our recent graduates and graduate students. And if you are in the area, please stop by and visit the Department of Sociology!

-Dale Dannefer, Chair

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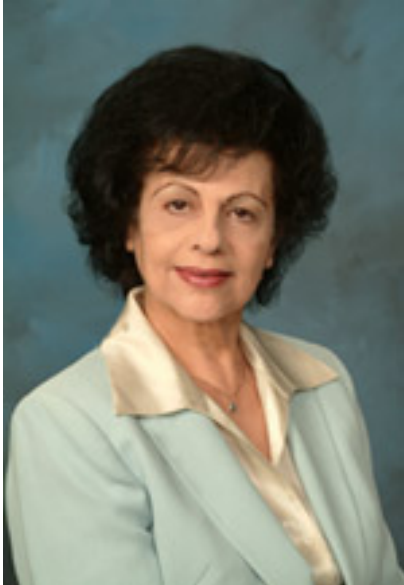
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COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES
CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

Professor Emilia McGucken Announces Retirement

After nearly 12 years of teaching and service in the Department of Sociology, Emilia McGucken announced her retirement at the end of the Fall 2012 semester. From 2004 to 2011, Emilia served as co-director of the undergraduate program, during which time she contributed greatly to the substantial growth of the number of undergraduate majors and minors. She was singularly responsible for the dramatic increase in department majors interested in our concentration in criminology. Among her many other contributions to our undergraduate program, Emilia launched the Sociology Club for undergrad majors and played a leadership role in Case Western Reserve's chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the national honor society of the discipline of sociology.



Emilia received her PhD from Akron University in 1987. She joined our faculty after a distinguished career in the Department of Sociology at Ohio Northern University. At Ohio Northern, she was a five-time winner of the "Top Prof Award" from Mortar Board National Honorary Society, and she also received Ohio Northern's Outstanding Teaching Faculty award.

*.....exceptional career and
invaluable contribution to
our department for
nearly 12 years...*

Emilia joined Case Western Reserve's faculty in 2001. Her talents as a teacher and mentor quickly became recognized by our students; she was nominated four times each for the Carl F. Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the J. Bruce Jackson, MD, Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring. In 2003 she was the recipient of the "Top Prof Award" from Mortar Board.

*In the course of her teaching career,
Professor McGucken was nominated
multiple times for undergraduate
teaching and mentoring awards.*



Emilia McGucken and Dale Dannefer

Professor Emilia McGucken Announces Retirement (continued)

Equally important is the esteem with which students regarded her. A constant presence in the department, with an open office door, Emilia would often meet with several students at a time—especially those interested in her research or substantive specialty in criminology. She was in constant demand as a mentor and spent dozens of hours weekly advising students and writing reference letters for those applying to graduate and professional school. She also involved undergraduates in her research on bullying in schools, a topic that she was passionate about and which has since drawn a great deal of national attention. She sponsored many independent studies, honors projects and individual capstones in sociology.



Eva Kahana, Gary Deimling and Emilia McGucken

On Jan. 18, the department held a well-attended reception to recognize Emilia's exceptional career and invaluable contributions to our department as a senior instructor.

As we attempt to fill the gap left by Emilia's departure, faculty and students alike are reminded of her special enthusiasm and commitment to our department. We know she will bring that same enthusiasm to her work in art and art education, another of her passions. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.

Mary Erdmans Discusses Life Stories: "That's Not Who I Am"

The Department of Sociology sponsored a lecture on April 10 by Mary Erdmans titled "'That's Not Who I Am': Negotiating Identities in Life Story Narratives." In her talk, Mary discussed ways that study participants construct their identities in life story interviews. She described the interview as a performance, as narrators (participants) construct a re-presentation of their lives for the listener (interviewer). When scholars analyze or interpret these life stories, they are examining not only the performance, but also the macro-social and micro-interactional factors that influence the performance. In addition, when scholars retell the stories (in publications and presentations), they are also performing—for other scholars or for the public—and consequently need to be attentive to the politics of representation, or how their performances are created for an audience.

To illustrate how representations are negotiated in these performances, Mary used examples from three of her studies. The first study was based on life story interviews with five women who were co-authors and could edit their own stories, resulting in more transparent negotiated representations of how they saw themselves and how she saw them. The second study was based on life story interviews with 108 teen mothers, and the third study is a content analysis of the television reality show *16 and Pregnant*. Mary illustrated how, in the latter two studies, the stories told (or the performances given) were part of an effort to manage the stigma of being teen mothers. In all three studies, the women were constructing an image of themselves that is in conflict with the image that is constructed of them by the author, the larger society, or the producers of a television show. The main point of her talk was to consider how these conflicts get negotiated in the process of doing research. A meet and greet with refreshments preceded the lecture.

Urban Health Initiative by Melinda Laroco Boehm

The aromas of baked chicken, oven-roasted vegetables, sautéed vegetables, lemon juice, dried herbs, and seasonings fill the room. The sounds of participants asking portion-control questions and cooking today's recipes echo in the kitchen of the community center. By the end of the two-hour class, Chef Pat, class participants, and members of our department will be laughing and enjoying the fruits of today's labor: stir-fried vegetables with lean chicken and oven-roasted vegetables.

Last fall an exciting community collaboration took place between the Department of Sociology, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), Ohio State University-Extension (OSU-E), and the Buckeye Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) initiative. We were able to bring free, healthy cooking classes to residents of low-income housing. With Jessica Kelley-Moore spearheading the initiative, I was honored and excited to coordinate this project funded through CWRU's Urban Health Institute in the School of Medicine. The aim of the project was to develop a cooking-based nutrition education curriculum targeted to low-income adults who care for children.



Tables and ingredients were prepped by our amazing team each week.

Their suggestions included learning cooking techniques like sautéing; making “healthy” versions of family favorites; and using healthy substitutes like whole wheat flour successfully. Notably, the focus groups insisted that ingredients of the recipes be obtainable from the neighborhood stores, which can be a challenge if residents depend on smaller convenience stores for food purchases.

In order to better understand obesogenic food practices in urban neighborhoods, I first conducted focus groups with low-income Cleveland residents who had recently completed the USDA Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), an 8 week nutrition education class taught through OSU-E. Since the classes just focused on nutrition education, focus group participants discussed what should be included in an experiential component, namely cooking classes that would complement the EFNEP curriculum.



Chef Pat and participants work together to sauté vegetables.

Urban Health Initiative by Melinda Laroco Boehm (continued)

Armed with the focus group findings, our multi-disciplinary team created an experiential cooking module that complemented EFNEP's curriculum. Most dishes were drawn from the USDA healthy recipe database, which means that they meet federal nutrition guidelines and have been validated for low-income populations. However, in response to the focus group findings, some recipes were modified slightly by the dietitian on our team for greater crowd appeal or ease of preparation. The most popular dishes were banana split oatmeal, enchilada casserole, and oven-baked fried chicken.



Each class taught at least two healthy recipes involving healthier cooking techniques such as baking or sautéing in lower-fat oils versus frying.

Although a number of cooking curricula already exist, our endeavor had two important strengths: (1) the cooking curriculum was designed as a complement to EFNEP's nutrition education, which has already been validated for low-income and low-literacy populations; (2) by offering the cooking curriculum in conjunction with the EFNEP classes, we benefited from the established methods for recruiting low-income qualified participants. The pilot classes were conducted at the community center in Woodhill Estates, a CMHA property in the Buckeye-Shaker-Larchmere Neighborhood with a newly developed community demonstration kitchen.

These classes serve as an example of community members teaming up to improve urban health outcomes. Participants who completed the course were enthusiastic about the healthier recipes and cooking techniques they could share with their loved ones, especially during family gatherings. Because of the success of this pilot program, we are currently working to fund more healthy cooking classes in Cleveland urban neighborhoods. Special thanks to Kaitlyn Barnes who helped with food preparation and the post-class feedback session. Our project was featured twice on WVIZ ideastream. The main story can be viewed at www.ideastream.org/health/entry/52260.

Jessica Kelley-Moore Receives International Travel Grant

This past year, Jessica Kelley-Moore received a travel grant from the university's Center for International Affairs. She is part of an interdisciplinary team, headed by Chris Phillipson of Manchester University and funded by the Economic and Social Research Institute (U.K.), that is studying issues related to the co-occurring global trends of population aging and urbanization. By 2030, two-thirds of the world's population will reside in cities. And in urban areas in high-income countries, at least one-quarter of their populations will be age 60 or older. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched an initiative in 2007 for nations to develop "age-friendly cities," but there has been little systematic research about what age-friendliness actually is, how it may differ across cultural contexts, and how it can be implemented in different types of urban models (shrinking manufacturing cities versus expanding global cities).

The investigators in this International Network on Population Aging and Urbanization represent eight countries, and include sociologists, social workers, geographers, urban planners, and architects. The Network has met in Berlin, Manchester, and Brussels thus far, with additional meetings scheduled for Milton Keynes (UK) and Amsterdam. The team has examined a range of topics, including the use of participatory action research with older adults to solve design barriers in urban communities; the impact of gentrification on affordability of housing and service provision for older adults; and changing social dynamics between older, established residents and younger immigrant populations in neighborhoods (including cross-generational/cross-national caregiving).

Members of the network have presented or will be presenting research at international meetings, including those of the International Association for Geriatrics and Gerontology (IAGG) and the British Society of Gerontology. Kelley-Moore has submitted a symposium for the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) meeting in November on the social structural, economic, and policy forces that influence the age-friendliness of cities. The symposium draws on research from four countries: Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United States.

Support the Department of Sociology

Please consider supporting the Department of Sociology as we continue building on our achievements. You can contribute to our success by making a tax-deductible gift to the department. Your gift allows us to continue to offer opportunities for our students to excel academically and to conduct important research. You can give online at giving.case.edu.

Department of Sociology Hosts Healthy and Successful Aging Conference

The Department of Sociology, in collaboration with the University of Georgia and the Elderly Care Research Center at Case Western Reserve, hosted an exciting conference last August on the topic of successful aging. This meeting of peers was part of a National Institute on Aging (NIA) R13 project grant to examine the public health impact of healthy and successful aging. The multidisciplinary team that received the NIA grant is made up of scholars from the fields of anthropology, human development, nursing, psychology, sociology, and geriatric medicine. The team is led by Principal Investigator Leonard Poon from the University of Georgia and includes our own Eva Kahana as one of its members.

The conference was held on the Case Western Reserve campus in the recently named Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Community Studies Center. The two-day event was particularly rewarding and allowed current graduate students, as well as faculty from the Department of Sociology, the opportunity to participate in discussions of potential innovations and new directions for successful aging.



Conference speakers included department Chair Dale Dannefer whose talk was titled “Opportunity Structures and Personal Agency: The Social Regulation of Health and Successful Aging,” and Eva Kahana, who discussed interdisciplinary approaches to interventions for successful aging. Case Western Reserve faculty members Peter Whitehouse, Linda Noelker and May Wykle served as discussants.

Papers based on the conference have been submitted for potential publication in a forthcoming special issue of *The Gerontologist*. The Department of Sociology was delighted to host this exciting event and looks forward to the further contributions this team will make to our better understanding of healthy and successful aging.



News from the CSRP

The Cancer Survivors Research Program (CSRP) has submitted its final report for the NCI P-30 grant. The report, “A Coping-Communication Support Intervention for Survivors in Transition: A Needs Assessment,” was co-authored by Gary Deimling and Cory Cronin. CSRP continues to pursue grant support for a psychosocial intervention based on the findings in its report.

While CSRP explores possible funding, project staff and affiliated researchers continue moving forward on a number of manuscripts. One manuscript under review, led by recent Case Western Reserve sociology graduate George Kypriotakis, will utilize growth-curve modeling with CSRP longitudinal data from its prior R01 to examine trajectories in psychosocial outcomes, including anxiety, depression and cancer-related worry. Holly Renzhofer is taking the lead on a manuscript examining perceptions of disability among older, long-term survivors, based on her recent Gerontological Society of America (GSA) presentation.

Sherri Brown is taking the lead on a manuscript that identifies the measurement of and the relationship between cancer and non-cancer health-related worries. This manuscript is based on a recent CSRP presentation at the American Psycho-Social Oncology Society. She also continues to collaborate with Gary in revising their manuscript on identity, stigma and cancer.

Casey Albitz and Holly Renzhofer are sharing the lead on a manuscript that examines communication and disclosure of cancer-related health issues by survivors and family members. Casey is also working with Gary on a manuscript that identifies the role that personality plays in adjustment to cancer. Finally, Cory Cronin is working on developing a manuscript related to our needs assessment project methodology and findings derived from our presentation at the National Cancer Institute Biennial Meetings.

Our chapter entitled “Adaptation and adjustment to cancer in later life: a conceptual model” was recently published in *Cancer and Aging: Research and Practice*. (Keith M. Bellizzi and Margot Gosney, eds. Wiley- Blackwell). This chapter summarizes the findings of our longitudinal study and integrates those findings into the literature in this area. We anticipate that this handbook will become the key reference in this area of research.

The CSRP research team consists of Professor Gary Deimling, project director; Sherri P. Brown, project coordinator; Casey Albitz, Cory Cronin and Holly Renzhofer, staff; and Karen F. Bowman, Boaz Kahana, and Julia Rose affiliated faculty.



Left to right: Casey Albitz, Sherri Brown, Kara Monnin, Holly Renzhofer and Cory Cronin

Sociology Student Achievements Ceremony

On May 1, the department held its 2013 Sociology Student Achievements Ceremony. Thirteen students were initiated into Alpha Kappa Delta, the Sociology Honor Society; nine students were recipients of undergraduate awards; three students were accepted into Phi Beta Kappa; and 2010 alumnus Donte Gibbs spoke on “Life After Case: Notes from a Sociology Major in the Real World.”

Spring 2013 Undergraduate Awards

The Schermerhorn Award
Joseph Gabriel and Jennifer Hines

Mark Lefton Award
Ellen Marie Alexander, Luke Nantz, and Laura Supple

The Stella Berkeley-Friedman Award
Katherine Borsh and Kara Monnin

The Robert C. Davis Award
Alia Green and Moranda Harb

Spring 2013 Department Honors in Sociology

“Parent, Sibling, and Overall Family Functioning Effects in Families with Children with Cancer”
Kara Monnin

“Working-class Chinese Attitudes toward Homosexuality”
Luke Nantz

Spring 2013 AKD Initiates The Iota Chapter of Ohio

Ellen Marie Alexander
James Sunghoon Cho
Timothy Darren Goler
Hu Sul Heo
Jaewon In
Giselle Shauna-Kay Jarrett
Sara Renee Lynch
Kara Suzanne Monnin
Luke Terrance Nantz
Paulette Ann Sage
Sarah Elizabeth Shick
James William Silay
Julia Kay Wolf

Spring 2013 Phi Beta Kappa Members

Ellen Marie Alexander
Katherine Mary Borsh
Melinda Wolboldt

“Lastly, remember me...a young man whose family and other adults questioned his decision to major in sociology. A young man whose terrifying first ride on an airplane was because of Case. A young man who did not understand Case or himself. A young man who struggled internally and academically at times. A young man who stayed true to his morals and values and accomplished a little bit here and a little bit there...all with a smile on his face. A young man who did not just walk the weather-beaten path of college...but he created his own. A young man who realizes this is only the beginning of what God has in store for him. Thank you.”

-Donte Gibbs

Graduate Student Updates

Kaitlyn Barnes was awarded the Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship. The fellowship will fund her trip to the University of Oxford, United Kingdom this September to present at the 2013 British Society of Gerontology (BSG) Annual Conference, “Global Ageing: Implications for Individuals and Society.” Kaitlyn’s paper, co-authored with Dr. Edward H. Thompson, Jr., is titled “Older Men’s Blueprint for ‘Being a Man.’”

Tirth Bhatta received a grant for student research from Case Western Reserve University chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. His research will focus on the construction and validation of the altruism scale. Tirth published a paper, “Getting ready for school: Piloting universal pre-kindergarten in an urban county,” in the *Journal of Education for Students Placed At Risk* (JESPAR). The paper was co-authored with Robert L. Fischer, Lance T. Peterson and Cynthia Coulton, all from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. Tirth was also invited to participate in the Stanford Workshop in Biodemography this past May. This workshop brought together scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. Tirth received substantive and methodological training on addressing unobserved heterogeneity in a range of outcomes, including health.

“Participation in this workshop exposed me to different disciplinary perspectives on a research area that I am interested in,” Tirth says, “and hence encourages me to apply a multidisciplinary lens to my own research”

Alicia Smith participated in the 2013 North Central Sociological Society annual meeting held on April 5 in Indianapolis. Her paper presentation, co-authored with Bradley Powell and Mary Erdmans, was titled “The Management of Stigmatized Identities on 16 and Pregnant.”



Ellie Stone received a Disability Determination Process grant from the Social Security Administration. The grant will continue to support her dissertation research, which examines the application for Social Security Disability Insurance and the interaction of self-identified work limitation with the availability of personal resources and occupation accommodations in determining labor force exit timing and type.



Eva Kahana with Tirth Bhatta, recipient of the Marie Haug Award

*Congratulations to **Tirth Bhatta** and **Gregory Graham**, recipients of the Marie Haug Award, which is presented annually by the University Center on Aging and Health to graduate students who have shown exemplary performance in their gerontological studies.*

Faculty Updates

Tim Black gave four talks this academic year in Massachusetts and Connecticut on his book, *When a Heart Turns Rock Solid*. He spoke at Springfield College, Western New England University, and the Western Massachusetts Substance Abuse Providers Association, and was the keynote speaker at a conference at Eastern Connecticut State University. Tim's article "From a Study to a Journey: Holding an Ethnographic Gaze on Urban Poverty for Two Decades," will be published later this year in a book on long-term ethnography titled *Open to Disruption: Practicing Slow Sociology* (Rosanna Hertz, Anita Iltis Garey and Margaret K. Nelson, eds.). Other contributors to the book include Annette Lareau, Carol Stack, Mary Romero, Linda Burton and Pamela Stone.

Dale Dannefer delivered a Distinguished Scholar Lecture in February at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and another talk in March at the University of Manchester. He also delivered an invited talk at the American Sociological Association's (ASA) 2012 annual meeting at a special symposium of the Section of Aging and the Life Course. The symposium, "What's in a Name? Perspectives on 'Age', 'Aging' and 'Life Course,'" was organized by Rick Settersten. In collaboration with Jielu Lin, Dale published a chapter titled "Contingent Aging, Naturalization and Intellectual Hope" in *Ageing, Meaning, and Social Structure: Connecting Critical and Humanistic Gerontology* (Jan Baars, Joseph Dohmen, Amanda Grenier, Chris Phillipson, eds.), published by Policy Press. A recent article in *The Gerontologist*, "Culture Change in Long-term Care: Participatory Action Research and the Role of the Resident," written by Dale, Robin Shura, Rebecca Ann Siders, was selected for inclusion in a new volume of *Researching Social Gerontology* (Malcolm Cutchin, Candace Kemp and Victor Marshall, eds.)

As a Fulbright Scholar, **Brian Gran** conducted research this spring on Iceland's independent children's rights institution and visited the Law School of Reykjavik University, where he taught a course on children's rights and social policy. *The Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights*, which Brian co-edited with David Brunnsma and Keri Iyall Smith, was published by Paradigm Publishers. In January, as a council member of the Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Brian served on a panel on a child's right to enjoy benefits from scientific progress and its application (REBSPA).

At the United Nations, he recently participated in a discussion on human rights indicators, sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. Earlier this summer, Brian was interviewed by local TV news stations on the Ariel Castro abductions, offering perspectives of service providers, law enforcement, and nonprofit agencies who are on the streets looking for victims. He reminded the TV anchors that the women were children when they were first abducted and that they spent their childhood as victims. Consequently, as we think about how to prevent trafficking and abductions, it is crucial to keep in mind that they are young people.

BA Alumni Updates

Donte Gibbs, BA Sociology '10, MSASS '12, had the honor of serving as commencement speaker for the 2012 diploma ceremony at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve. He also had the honor to be a guest speaker at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) conference "Your Voice, Your Power," held in Columbus last July.

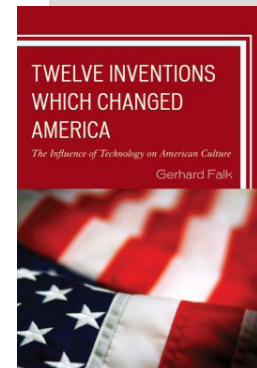


Donte is an East Cleveland Police Athletic League (PAL) mentor, a board member at Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation, and Director of Youth Engagement for the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI). He recently received the Movers & Shakers Award from the Cleveland Professional 20/30 Club, which recognized him as one of the Top 25 Young Leaders in Northeast Ohio under the age of 30.

PhD Alumni Updates

Gerhard Falk, PhD 1948, professor of sociology at Buffalo State College, published his 22nd book, *Twelve Inventions Which Changed America: The Influence of Technology on American Culture*, this past February.

Dr. Falk has been recipient of the State University of New York (SUNY) Research Foundation Award for Excellence in Scholarship, the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the State University College at Buffalo Award for Excellence in Creativity.



Send us your news

We are continuing our efforts to expand our relationships with alumni of the Department of Sociology. We are interested in learning about what you are doing and how your sociological background has impacted your career experiences and choices. You can send news to kar98@case.edu; please let us hear from you.

Congratulations to **Lynn Falletta, PhD '11**, and her husband, Sam, on the birth of their daughter, Gabriella Evelyn Falletta, on April 4, 2013. Gabriella weighed in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 inches long.



PhD Alumni Updates (continued)

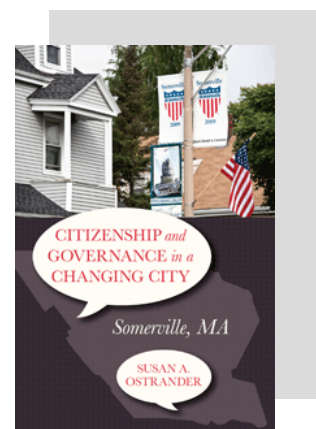
Georgios Kypriotakis, PhD '12, was recently awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Texas' MD Anderson Cancer Center in the Department of Behavioral Science. He will begin this two-year appointment in July.

Julian Montoro-Rodriguez, PhD 1994, and Dale Lund are the funding directors of the new Center on Aging at California State University San Bernardino (centeronaging.csusb.edu). The center is a university-wide, interdisciplinary unit sponsored by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Sociology (CSUSB).

The center's main goal is to unite people and resources to respond to the needs of a rapidly aging population in Southern California. It will sponsor a collaborative "Healthy Living, Healthy Aging" Conference November 14-15, 2013. For details visit healthyagingconference.org.

Susan Ostrander, PhD 1976, professor of sociology at Tufts University, recently published *Citizenship and Governance in a Changing City: Somerville, MA* (Temple University Press). Susan shows that beneath current high levels of engagement by Somerville residents lies a struggle about who should be the city's elected leaders and how they should conduct the city's affairs.

It is a struggle waged between diverse residents—relatively new immigrants and a new middle class—trying to gain a foothold in democratic participation, and the city's political "old guard." The book provides useful lessons for many midsize urban communities.



Noah Webster, PhD '11, was recently featured in a Q&A on the Member Spotlight page of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) website.

"It is through hearing first-hand the vivid life experiences of older adults from diverse socioeconomic and racial/ethnic backgrounds that I have gained a great appreciation for and desire to continue conducting gerontological research to help improve the lives of older adults," Noah said."

In the course of the Q&A, Noah mentioned that he has recently been selected to participate in the National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment program based on his proposed research agenda on the interplay among social relationships and health disparities. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. To read more of the Q&A visit www.geron.org/Membership/member-spotlight/1467.

*Congratulations to **John Schumacher, PhD 2000**, and **Julian Montoro-Rodriguez, PhD 1976**, both recently elected fellows by the Gerontological Society of America (GSA).*