

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to our spring newsletter.

I am delighted to report the continuing success of our faculty recruitment efforts. This fall, award-winning ethnographic researcher Timothy Black will join our department as an associate professor of sociology (see page 2). Tim will be teaching courses on urban poverty and qualitative research. Please join me in welcoming Tim to campus and to Cleveland, and look for still more exciting news about new faculty in the Department of Sociology!



Dale Dannefer, Chair

Meanwhile, it has been another season of accomplishment and recognition for our faculty and graduate students. Ellie Stone was awarded a highly competitive grant from the Social Security Administration and she received the Marie Haug Award. She, along with Scott Adams, defended their dissertation proposals this year. As this edition of *Sociology News* goes to press, Tanetta Andersson has just defended her dissertation. Six undergraduate students received departmental awards: Brittany Castle, Jeffrey Nicholas Gaba, Jeanne Li, Lusai Qui, Jinny Ye and Cari Rosoff. For faculty updates, see pages 8-9.

A story on page 3 of this issue pays tribute to Robert H. Binstock, a leading researcher on aging and the policy challenges confronting an aging society. Bob was a cherished colleague and a devoted mentor to students and faculty alike. I want to express our appreciation for his special contributions to his colleagues and students in the Department of Sociology, as well as for his contributions to the national and international discourse on social science and policy.

We are continuing our efforts to expand our relationships with alumni of the Department of Sociology. As part of these efforts, 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! 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 feel welcome to stop by and visit the Department of Sociology!

Dale Dannefer
Chair

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Timothy Black joins the Sociology Faculty

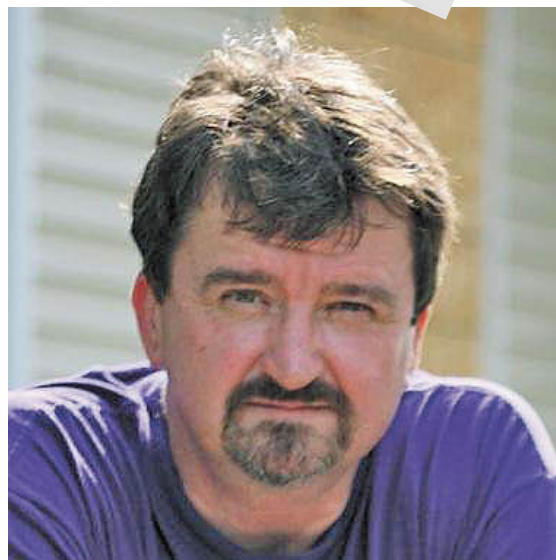
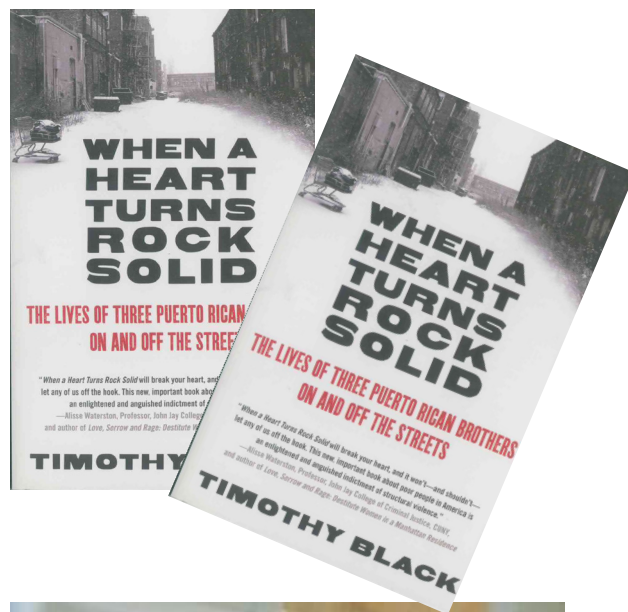
The Department of Sociology is very pleased to announce that Timothy Black will join our faculty in fall 2012 as associate professor of sociology and a faculty associate of CWRU's new Social Justice Institute. Tim, who earned his PhD from the University of Massachusetts in 1994, comes to us from the University of Hartford, where he served as associate professor and director of the Center for Social Research. He is an ethnographic researcher whose work focuses on urban poverty and inequality and their effects on family life and individual opportunities.

Named one of the best books of the year by the *Washington Post* and *Booklist*

Tim is the author of *When a Heart Turns Rock Solid: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers On and Off the Streets* (Random House, 2009). The book has received both popular and scholarly acclaim. Named one of the best books of the year by the *Washington Post* and *Booklist*, it later won the prestigious Mirra Komarovsky Book Award from the Eastern Sociological Society as well as the Association for Humanist Sociology's annual book award.

When a Heart Turns Rock Solid is based on an unprecedented 18-year study of a network of Puerto Rican men and women from a small New England city. This book well illustrates a distinctive feature of Tim's approach to ethnography, which is his analysis of the connections between macro-structural forces and their consequences in the daily life experiences of his participants.

"My research focuses on economically and socially marginalized populations in an effort to challenge stereotypes and address human suffering," Tim explains. "There are key turning points in history that restructure the social world and reshape our understandings of that world, and I believe we are living through one of those historical moments right now – the Great Recession. I look forward to doing research in Cleveland to see how history is being lived in that particular corner of the world and am eager to join the sociology department and the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve."



“... I look forward to doing research in Cleveland to see how history is being lived here...”

Remembering Professor Bob Binstock

By Dale Dannefer and Eva Kahana

The Department of Sociology, the university and our discipline lost a great teacher, intellect, colleague, and friend with the passing in November of Robert H. Binstock, Professor of Aging, Health, and Society. Although Bob's primary appointment was in the School of Medicine, he held a secondary appointment in sociology and was a long valued contributor to our graduate program. Since his arrival at Case Western Reserve in 1985 as Luce Professor, Bob had a second home in our department, regularly attending departmental events and celebrations, often accompanied by his wife, Martha.

As a pioneer of social gerontology and a leading world-renowned scholar of the politics of aging and health and of aging policy, Bob added considerable luster to CWRU's global reputation for research and scholarship on aging and the life course. His contributions to understanding the intersections of aging, politics and society were both broad and deep. They ranged from his early work on "senior power" in politics (1974), to his brilliant lecture on "The Aged as Scapegoat" (1983), which he delivered upon receiving the Kent Award from the Gerontological Society of America, to his recent book, *Aging Nation: The Economics and Politics of Growing Older in America* (co-authored with Jim Schulz in 2008). His work is permeated by insights about people, politics and society that had escaped others but that rang true immediately when articulated by Bob Binstock.



Bob is perhaps best known to students and young scholars for his writings on aging, health and the anti-aging movement. His early contributions to the development of gerontology as a professional field, and his recognition of aging as an increasingly central issue of social policy, made him a respected and influential figure. Bob was asked to head up the first White House Conference on Aging, and he served as president of the Gerontological Society of America. As senior editor of the *Handbook of Aging and Social Sciences*, he applied the wisdom and experience he had gained throughout an exceptionally distinguished and productive career.

Bob was also deeply committed to serving older adults locally. He was a member of the board and chair of the research and Heller Award committees at Menorah Park Center on Aging. In this as well as in other arenas of activity, Bob remained an active leader even during his final illness.

As the many sociology doctoral students who took Bob's *Public Policy and Aging* course over the years can attest, the opportunity to study with such a dedicated and engaging scholar was a rare privilege, especially since Bob was unfailingly accessible and encouraging, as well as provocative and challenging. His interest in and support of students and junior colleagues extended well beyond course experiences. Bob served on numerous PhD dissertation committees, and as an informal mentor and sponsor to junior colleagues in sociology. As one example, he invited several young faculty members into the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on an Aging Society, in which he played a central planning role. (*continued on p. 4*)

Remembering Professor Bob Binstock

Bob Binstock leaves a legacy of scholarship, leadership and humanity that will continue to reverberate throughout the world — in new scholarly publications that will cite and build on his work, in the offices where legislation shaping aging policy is written, and in many other domains. He will long be remembered with special gratitude and appreciation by the Department of Sociology.

News from the CSRP

The Cancer Survivors Research Program has had a busy year preparing and disseminating the findings from our original R01 and R03 grants on the quality of life of older adult long-term survivors and their family members. This year our work was focused on the potentials for developing supportive interventions that take into account the duration of survivorship. Presentations include an invited keynote talk by Gary Deimling (Holly Renzhofer, Sherri Brown, and Cory Cronin, co-authors) at the Hutchinson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Cancer Survivorship Conference for Clinicians in Seattle this past February. He also was asked to speak on these issues to the faculty and students at the Northeast Ohio Medical University in May.

We are excited to have our chapter "Adaptation and Adjustment to Cancer in Later Life: A Conceptual Model" (G. Deimling, K. Bowman, and B. Kahana) appear in the handbook *Cancer and Aging* (Keith M. Bellizzi and Margot Gosney, eds.), published by Wiley-Blackwell.

Gary will present the initial findings from our NIH-NCI P-30-funded needs assessment study, titled "A Coping-Communication Support Intervention for Survivors in Transition: A Needs Assessment" (co-authored by Cory Cronin, Sherri Brown, and Holly T. Renzhofer), at the Biennial Meeting of the National Cancer Institute in June.

Finally, we will be presenting our continuing work on cancer and identity at the ASA meetings this August. A manuscript titled "The Impact of Cancer on Cancer-related Identity Factors and the Self" (Gary Deimling, Sherri Brown, Cory Cronin and Holly Renzhofer) was submitted this month to *Cancer Nursing* for review.

Our plans for the near future include completing our final report on the above P-30 grant and continuing to search for collaborators to work with us on implementing an NCI-funded intervention with older adult survivors based on our needs assessment pilot study. Also, over the summer, we hope to develop a strategy for joint data analysis with the Elderly Care Research Center (Eva Kahana, director) comparing older cancer survivors in our two respective longitudinal studies.

CSRP RESEARCH TEAM:

Project Director: Professor Gary Deimling

Project Coordinator: Sherri P. Brown, MS
Research

Staff: Cory Cronin, MHA; Holly Renzhofer,
MA

Affiliated Faculty: Karen F. Bowman, PhD,
Boaz Kahana, PhD, Julia Rose, PhD.

Mary Ellen Stone Receives Grant from the Social Security Administration and Other Honors



Mary Ellen (“Ellie”) Stone received a Disability Determination Process grant from the Social Security Administration. The grant will 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.

Ellie also received the Marie Haug Student 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. She was elected to serve as a 2012-2013 student representative in the American Sociological Society’s (ASA) Disability and Society Section.

First Conference Presentation

Maggie Waltz and Sara Kennedy presented a co-authored paper with Professor Susan Hinze at the Southern Sociological Society’s Annual Conference, held in New Orleans in March.

Their presentation, “It Can Transform a Workplace’: Understanding the Emerging Profession of Coaching through an Examination of Workplace Coaching Services,” was part of a group of papers examining innovation in the workplace.



From left: Margaret Waltz and Sara Kennedy

They celebrated their successful presentation with beignets at Café Du Monde.



During their visit, Maggie and Sara also enjoyed the ambience of New Orleans, visiting Jackson Square and strolling down Bourbon Street.

Sociology Students Present at NCSA in Pittsburgh

By Mikala Osani, CWRU 2012

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, along with collaborators Nicole Deming (assistant professor of bioethics in the School of Medicine), Adam Perzynski (GRS '08), doctoral student Joshua Terchek, and my fellow student Scott Tillem. Scott and I were part of the Social Research Methods course that Josh taught last fall. Over the course of the semester, our entire class conducted a survey of our peers at CWRU to measure their ethical and moral perspectives. We had hoped to modify previous surveys of ethical stance to make them more user-friendly and more applicable to the lives of college students. By the end of the course, we were pleasantly surprised with the results obtained by our survey.

With help from Adam, Josh and Nicole, we submitted a final project to the NCSA and were accepted to participate in the 2012 meeting in Pittsburgh. Attending the NCSA meeting was a very enriching experience for me. Many different universities were represented at the conference, and the research they presented covered a broad range of topics and prominent social issues. One of my favorite parts of the conference was a segment concerning community-based learning. The presenters described a type of learning which incorporates community service into a research design and methods course. I was inspired by the changes these professors and their students were able to make in their communities and abroad, and I felt that it would be worthwhile to adopt their ideas at CWRU in order to make community service and volunteer work a more prominent part of the curriculum.

I was also impressed by some of the research that had been conducted by students my age. One international student researched the "culture shock" and resulting depression that many students experience when coming from overseas to study in the United States. She used her results to initiate a program at her university to provide advice, assistance and support to future international students. I was proud enough to be included in our research study and given the experience of co-authoring a paper and attending the conference. Seeing that someone so young had overcome her adjustment struggles and was able to use her research to make a difference for others like her, I felt motivated to work toward the same goal in the future. I really enjoyed attending the NCSA conference and was glad to have had the opportunity to represent Case Western Reserve University.

Six Sociology Undergraduate Students Receive Departmental Awards

Lusai Qui and Jeanne Li received the **Schermerhorn Award**, which recognizes outstanding students in sociology. Jinny Ye received the **Mark Lefton Award** for excellence in sociological studies. Brittany Castle received the **Stella Berkeley-Friedman Award**, which is given to a graduating senior for the highest academic achievement in the study of sociology. Jeffrey Nicholas Gaba and Cari Rosoff received the **Robert C. Davis Award** for demonstrated commitment to sociological studies.

Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to New Members of Alpha Kappa Delta

Bradley Powell, Jielu Lin, Katherine Mary Borsh, Jinny Ye, Erica Ebeling and Lindsey Sova were initiated as members of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society, Iota Chapter of Ohio, at Case Western Reserve University on May 2, 2012. Congratulations to all!



From left: Gary Deimling, Erica Ebeling, Lindsey Sova, Bradley Powell, Katherine Brosh and Emilia McGucken

Faculty Updates

Dale Dannefer published “Enriching the Tapestry, Expanding the Scope of Life Course Concepts” in the *Journal of Gerontology Social Sciences* (67b: 221-225, March 2012). In May, he delivered an invited lecture “Structure, Meaning and the Constitution of (Non) Retirement,” at the Conference on Nonretirement at the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Susan Hinze was recently awarded an ADVANCE Opportunity Grant through the ACES+ Initiative to fund her proposal: “The Birth of a New Profession: The Case of Professional Coaching.” The grant will support data collection, transcription services, and expenses associated with presenting at the Inaugural Work Family Research Network Conference in New York City, June 14-16. Sue and Heidi Taylor, a former student who is now an associate professor of sociology at Bates College, presented a paper titled “Resituating Human Rights and Sociology: Medical Sociology” at the Southern Sociological Society in March, with Brian Gran as discussant. In addition, Sue, Maggie Waltz and Sarah Kennedy presented a paper titled “‘It Can Transform a Workplace’: Understanding the Emerging Profession of Coaching through an Examination of Workplace Coaching Services” (see page 5). With co-authors Jielu Lin and Tanetta Andersson, Sue published “Can We Capture the Intersections? Older Black Women, Education and Health” in the January issue of *Women’s Health Issues* 22(1): 91-98. Finally, as part of her research on professional coaching, Sue recently completed an intensive training program at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland and was named a Gestalt Professional Certified Coach (GPCC).

Faculty Updates

Eva Kahana is on a core team of nine gerontologists, each with more than 30 years of research experience who have initiated an online forum called “Healthy & Successful Aging: A Public Health Mandate” (<http://healthyandsuccessfulaging.wordpress.com/>). Funded by the National Institute of Aging, the forum invites individuals to comment on five concept papers exploring the concept of healthy and successful aging. Eva, along with Boaz Kahana, submitted one of these papers, “Interventions to Promote Successful Aging.” The team also plans to hold workshops, webcasts and conferences to determine future directions for research. The first of these conferences is scheduled for August 12-14.

Eva also has had several publications since the last issue of *Sociology News*. The most recent is an editorial, “Rethinking the Scope of Advanced Care Planning for Older Adults,” in the *Journal of Gerontology and Geriatric Research*. She co-authored “Proactive adaptations and successful aging: a longitudinal study of stress exposure and quality of life” with Jessica Kelley-Moore and Boaz Kahana, published in *Aging and Mental Health*. She also co-authored “Expanding the time frame for advance care planning: Policy considerations and implications for research” (with Jeffrey Kahana and Loren Lovegreen) published in *Geriatrics*, and “The impact of transportation support on decision making about driving cessation among community-dwelling older adults” (with M. Choi and K. Adams), published in *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*.

Jessica Kelley-Moore began a two year term as Associate Editor of *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* in January of this year. She was recently named a 2012 Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. Jessica is also part of an international collaboration that was recently funded by the Economic Social Research Council (Chris Phillipson, P.I.; University of Keele) to study “Population Aging and Urbanization: Developing ‘Age-Friendly’ Cities.”

In addition, Jessica published “Proactive adaptations and successful aging: a longitudinal study of stress exposure and quality of life,” co-authored with Eva Kahana and Boaz Kahana (*Aging and Mental Health*) and “Loneliness Among Disabled Married Older Adults: Does Marital Quality Matter?,” co-authored with David Warner (*Journal of Social Science and Behavior*).

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 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.