

Inside this issue:

New Research to Increase Access to Healthy Foods in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods	2-3
Dale Dannefer Awarded the 2009 Riley Distinguished Scholar Award	4-5
Continuation Research at the Cancer Survivors Research Program	6
Examining Public and Private Social Policy	6
An Update and Words of Wisdom from Alumna Samantha Sterns	7
Alumna Melissa Scopilliti, Then and Now...	8-9
Introducing the 2009 Cohort	10
Faculty Updates	11
Alumni and Student Updates	12

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

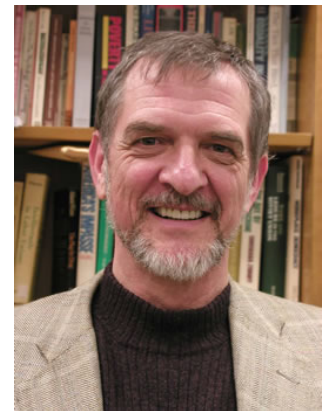
This issue of *Sociology News* marks a departure from recent tradition in that it is our first semiannual edition. As recent issues of this newsletter were going to press, we realized that a wide range of developments – in the domains of research, scholarship and news and recognition of faculty, students and alumni – generate more “news fit to print” than can be contained in a single annual edition.

In this issue, we share news of faculty research projects, both new and ongoing, and other faculty accomplishments and recognition. We introduce our cohort of new doctoral students and celebrate the milestone accomplishment of those who have defended their dissertation proposals. Special congratulations to Robin Shura, who successfully defended her dissertation in August and has just begun work as a postdoctoral fellow at the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina. And also to Karie Feldman, who just defended her dissertation on December 7th!

This issue also features two interviews conducted by members of the department with alumnae. Doctoral student Casey Schroeder interviews Dr. Samantha Sterns, a 2007 Ph.D. graduate who is currently completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Gerontology and Health Care Research at Brown University. And Professor Sue Hinze shares her recent conversation with Melissa Scopilliti, who graduated with a B.A. in sociology in 2002. We will plan to share more about the accomplishments of our alumni in upcoming issues, and we always welcome hearing your alumni news!

With regard to research news, you can read in this issue about the very recent pilot grant funding and planned renewal application of

Professor Gary Deimling's research on the dynamics of cancer survivorship. This venerated program of research has implications for very real “applied” issues of mental health and well-being as well as theoretical issues linked to identity, and we are all glad that Gary's research team has been enabled to continue their work.



Professor Dale Dannefer

We also feature a story on the newly funded Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) at CWRU, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Associate Professor Jessica Kelley-Moore is Principal Investigator of the Center's core project. Based in the School of Medicine, this five-year project brings together researchers and professionals from across the CWRU community to disrupt systemic social processes and conditions that put at risk the health of residents of four disadvantaged Cleveland neighborhoods. The PRCHN is the only center of its kind in the nation that focuses on disadvantaged and traditionally underserved communities.

We are always glad to hear alumni news, and we wish you all a wonderful holiday season. We encourage you to keep us informed of any job openings that you and your colleagues may have that may be of interest to our recent graduates and graduate students. And if you are in the area, stop by and visit the Department of Sociology!

Dale Dannefer
Chair

New Research to Increase Access to Healthy Foods in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods

By Jessica
Kelley-Moore

Case Western Reserve University recently established the CWRU Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN), a collaborative research center to address common health issues in disadvantaged urban neighborhoods in and around Greater Cleveland. Directed by Drs. Elaine Borawski and Sue Flocke from the School of Medicine, the Center has been awarded a five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support its infrastructure and one core research project. Jessica Kelley-Moore is the Principal Investigator of that project, "Increasing Access to Healthy Foods in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods."

As in many urban centers, economic decline and demographic shifts in Cleveland have resulted in a number of disadvantaged neighborhoods that are also food deserts. These are areas having limited or no access to nutritious foods, making it difficult for residents to follow a healthy diet. Residents often purchase their meals in small convenience stores or at fast food restaurants, both of which sell many high-calorie items and few fruits or vegetables. The local food environment directly influences residents' nutrition. While much of the research to date has focused on helping individuals make healthier eating choices as a

means to improving health status, this five-year project will address the structural and informational barriers to healthy food access, altering the food environment so that healthy food choices can be made.

This project will use a community-based participatory approach. Researchers, community partners and neighborhood residents will partner to design, implement and evaluate the food environment intervention. In each of the four intervention neighborhoods (East Cleveland, Central, Kinsman & St. Clair-Superior), a Neighborhood Working Group (NWG) will identify both the existing assets and barriers to healthy food access. The NWG will then work with community partners, such as the County Board of Public Health and non-profit agencies, to coordinate healthy food programming in four key points of entry in each



Fresh foods at a local urban neighborhood market.

(continued on page 3)

New Research (cont.)

neighborhood: K-8 schools, food retail establishments, community gardens and community centers. Each point of entry will receive three intervention components: increase in availability of healthy foods, nutrition education and marketing strategies for promoting the healthy foods.

A key innovation of this research is that it coordinates many healthy food programming initiatives that already exist in Northeast Ohio. To date, there has been no systematic, coordinated effort of this kind in a single neighborhood. Examples of potential intervention program components include providing healthier options in school lunches and senior food programs, creating space for fruits and vegetables at retail stores, increasing the number of community gardens and changing the food choices in vending machines in schools. Nutrition education includes schoolchildren receiving lessons on food and culture to make healthy eating fun, food demonstrations in the community gardens and retail stores, and season extension and food preservation programs at the community center. The marketing and branding component of the intervention, designed in conjunction with neighborhood residents, will provide consistent messages and images across all four points of entry, such as window ads for produce in retail stores, school mailings for parents, and posters and banners at gardens and community centers.

The intervention will be monitored and evaluated to determine the overall success of increasing access to healthy foods in the community. Each location will be assessed to determine changes in availability of healthy foods, resident recognition of healthy food branding and participation in intervention programming (e.g., number of community gardeners). Changes over time, such as residents' changes in shopping behaviors, will also be measured. Consistent with the participatory nature of this project, a



Example of a window ad with a simple message on the importance of

secondary goal of the intervention is to train residents and give them the tools to create a sustainable, community-driven program to improve neighborhood health. A toolkit of best practices from the intervention is being created and will be disseminated to community members so they may continue to offer and promote healthy foods in their community.

Three Sociology graduate students are currently working on the project. Christine Schneider is the data manager of the core project, and Melinda Laroco and Kelly Melvin are research assistants. As we begin to launch the intervention, we have been touring corner stores and existing community gardens to learn more about the local food environment. We are also preparing to field-test instruments that measure the total food environment in the neighborhoods. Over the next five years, there will be many opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to work in the community on this project. Students who are interested should contact Dr. Kelley-Moore (jak119@case.edu).

Jessica Kelley-Moore is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology.

Dale Dannefer Awarded the 2009 Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

By Eva
Kahana

“Dale’s conceptual work spans several issues that were significant themes in Riley’s work, ranging from age segregation to recognition of the structural influences that confer cumulative disadvantage on older adults.”

Our department is proud to announce that our chair, Dale Dannefer, has received the prestigious Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award for 2009 from the Section on Aging and the Life Course of the American Sociological Association (ASA). Peter Uhlenberg made the presentation, and students and friends celebrated with Dale after the business meeting.

By the time Dale joined the CWRU sociology faculty in 2004, he was an internationally recognized intellectual leader in the rapidly developing field of aging and the life course. His presentations at both GSA and ASA drew crowds and were greeted with high expectations by those looking for new insights about the fundamental nature of aging in a social context. Following up his landmark ASR article in 1984, where he called attention to the variable contexts within which lifespan development unfolds, Dale continued to challenge limiting assumptions in the field and advocated a greater focus on macro influences. The unanimous selection of Dale by the award committee recognizes his seminal contributions to critical gerontology, furthering conceptual understandings of structural influences in the unfolding of human lives.

It is indeed fitting to see Dale receive the Riley award, as he played an important role in carrying forward, modeling, and even critiquing theoretical approaches of Matilda White Riley, who had been his mentor. Dale’s conceptual work spans several issues that were significant themes in Riley’s work, ranging from age segregation to

recognition of the structural influences on the meaning and social significance of age. The latter formulation, which has been refined and contextualized in Dale’s work, has generated both national and international interest. Dale has also directed his probing conceptual lens at many other issues that intrigue him.

Dale’s reputation and influence as a life course theorist have increased over time, and he has a growing following among sociologists of aging and the life course. Indeed, numerous scholars are building on his theoretical exposition of the concept of cumulative disadvantage in their research. This formulation offers useful links to classical sociological theory in the work of Robert Merton. Dale’s formulations also allow for research designs that can put the construct to empirical test. It is heartening to see an expanding cadre of sociologists using Dale’s ideas as the conceptual underpinning for their research projects. With growing interest by sociological and gerontological scholars in health disparities, Dale’s theoretical formulations offer welcome guidance for projects that seek to unravel the complex social influences that shape and perpetuate health disparities in the U.S. and abroad.

It is important to note that Dale’s scholarly analysis transcends his most widely cited focus on cumulative disadvantage. He has consistently cautioned colleagues in the scholarly community to refrain from simplistic orientations that homogenize age or social groups. He warns us about the dangers of “essentialism” and calls for appreciating the diversity within age

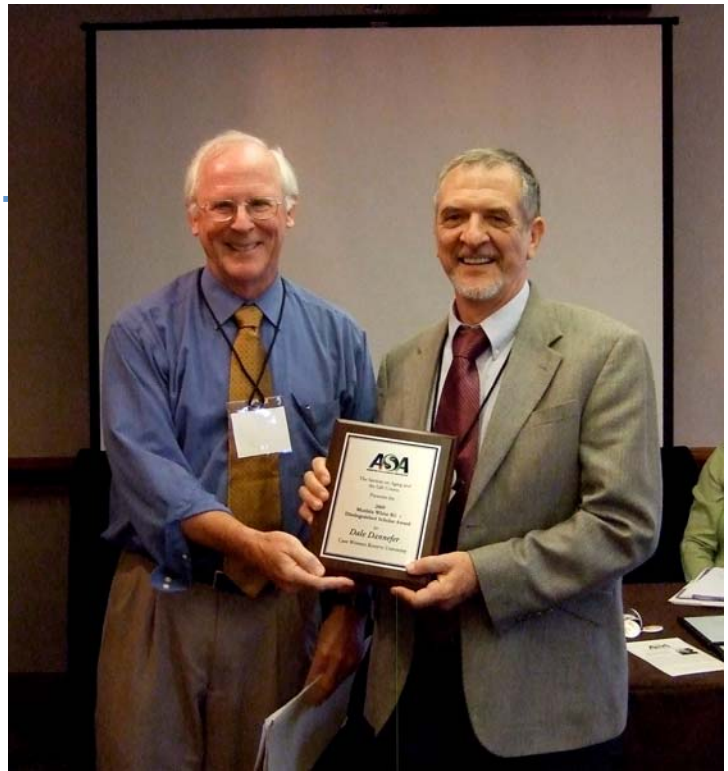
(continued on page 5)

Dale Dannefer (cont.)

cohorts and thereby developing a more textured understanding of patterns observed in research on the life course.

Dale has engaged in productive collaborations with other major life course scholars nationally and internationally and is co-editor, with Chris Phillipson, of the forthcoming *International Handbook of Gerontology*, being published by Sage. In the process of writing a chapter for this volume, I experienced firsthand the intellectual rigor Dale demands both of himself and of others. His astute critiques attest to his exemplary grasp of the field of sociology of aging and the life course and his insightful interpretation of scholarship in this field. In addition, in an era of globalization, Dale has utilized scientific advances being made internationally and also brings his intellectual contributions to international audiences. Another valuable dimension of Dale's innovative scholarship is his interest in bringing sociological insights to topics generally tackled by other disciplines, ranging from biology to psychology. His astute analysis of the social dimensions of cognitive changes throughout the life course is just one example.

Having a long-standing interest in the study of person-environment interactions, I am particularly appreciative of Dale's work in the area of nursing home reform. His recent paper in the *Journal of Aging Studies*, "The Concept of Care and the Dialectic of Critique," moves beyond traditional approaches of critical developmental and social theory to explore the role of action research in creating new opportunities for frail elders who are relegated to living in long-term care facilities. He thus combines a healthy dose of social critique with an optimistic orientation toward possibilities for collective action. Indeed, Dale's enthusiasm



Peter Uhlenberg and Dale Dannefer

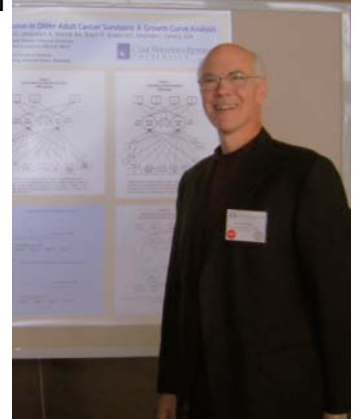
for bringing his theoretical insights to social action adds unique impact to his scholarly contributions.

Our department has been particularly enriched by Dale's scholarship, as he is a committed mentor to graduate students. He encourages them to tackle complex concepts in framing their own evolving research agendas. Even as he guides their research, he supports and respects their independent thinking. We congratulate Dale on this well-deserved honor and are proud to have a leader who can serve as an intellectual role model to faculty and students in our department.

Eva Kahana is the Robson Professor of Sociology, Nursing, Medicine, Applied Social Science and Humanities in the Department of Sociology and the Director of the Elderly Care Research Center.

Continuing Research at the Cancer Survivors Research Program

In October, Professors Gary Deimling, Karen Bowman and Julia Rose received a new grant from the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. Their project, “Feasibility Research to Inform the Development of a Coping and Communication Support Intervention for Older Adult, Long-Term Cancer Survivors,” will survey 60 survivors and explore the needs, preference for engagement and feasibility of implementing a Coping and Communication Support (CCS) intervention. This project will take the CCS intervention developed by Professor Rose for use with advanced cancer patients and adapt it to the needs of older long-term survivors, a population that has not received much attention in the past with respect to coping and communication support. Research indicates that long-term survivors have continuing cancer-related symptoms and health worries. The planned CCS intervention will meet the needs of this group of survivors. Data derived from the pilot study will play an important role in the preparation of a renewal application for the research team’s current National Cancer Institute cancer survivorship grant to be submitted next fall.



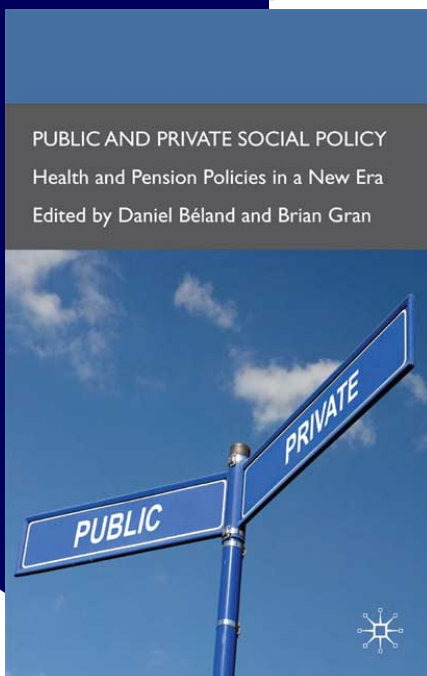
Gary Deimling

Gary Deimling is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Director of the Quality of Life After Cancer Research Program.

Examining Public and Private Social Policy

In November 2008, Brian Gran published *Public and Private Social Policy: Health and Pension Policies in a New Era*, co-edited with Daniel Béland. Exploring the increasing involvement of the private sector in social policy, this collection examines the complex relationships between public and private sectors from an international perspective. The changing roles of, and the relationships between, public and private social benefits is one of the most important social policy issues of our time. Comparative research can offer unique insights into understanding the changing boundaries between public and private efforts to provide social benefits. Such awareness is especially crucial today, as pushes for market-based social policy are strengthening in a number of advanced industrial countries. This volume makes a major contribution to contemporary policy debates, offering a systematic analysis of the public-private dichotomy for social policy and covering four continents and two policy areas: health care and pensions. It provides a comparative analysis of major insights found in the recent social policy literature and stresses the complex and changing nature of the public-private dichotomy.

Brian Gran is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology.



An Update and Words of Wisdom from Alumna Samantha Sterns

By Casey Schroeder

I recently had the opportunity to interview Dr. Samantha Sterns, who received her Ph.D. in sociology from Case Western Reserve University in May 2007 and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Gerontology and Health Care Research at Brown University. She chose Brown for her fellowship, she says, because “their focus is on long-term care and public policy, two areas I wanted to pursue.”

In her postdoctoral fellowship, Samantha works with her mentors, Professors Susan C. Miller and Susan Allen, and their work has been in the areas that prompted her choice of the Brown program. She described conducting cognitive interviews on a National Institute of Aging (NIA) grant entitled “Long-Term Care in America.” As part of this grant, Samantha interviewed nursing home administrators to determine whether the survey questions addressed intended topics. In addition, she and her colleagues wrote a white paper that warned Rhode Island politicians of risks associated with moving low-care patients from their nursing homes into the community without appropriate social services. Samantha has analyzed Rhode Island Department of Health data from an Individualized Care Pilot, a program that educated surveyors on the resident-centered care movement. She is also the Co-Principal Investigator on a study of the effectiveness of a care-partner model in a Rhode Island nursing home, and she has submitted an article for peer review on the complexity of culture change practices in United States nursing homes. Samantha is currently writing two manuscripts based on data from a large, national hospice dataset that integrates Minimum Data Set and hospice claims data on nursing home decedents in 2006, comparing health, demographic data and length of stay for nursing homes’ hospice patients who began their hospice care in the community vs. those already admitted to the nursing home.

Samantha’s postdoctoral fellowship will end in January 2010. Afterwards, she would like to conduct aging, health and/or long-term care research. She is interested in research that may have an effect on public policy and impact people’s lives.

After Samantha told me all about her current projects, I asked how graduate school prepared her for her experience as a postdoctoral fellow. She replied, “The coursework and mentorship provided at Case in the Sociology Graduate Program gave me a very strong conceptual and empirical grounding that has subsequently helped me develop ideas using a sociological framework.” Specifically, she mentioned her work with Professors Gary Deimling and Eva Kahana. Her work with Professor Deimling provided her with practical analysis application as well as the opportunity to work on many posters, presentations and manuscripts. This offered her experience in every aspect of the survey research process. Her mentoring by Professor Eva Kahana helped her refine her ideas into what ultimately became her dissertation. She feels the dissertation process of forming an idea, shaping it into a manageable project, and ultimately finding results and writing the final manuscript, helped her develop skills she has continued to use as a postdoctoral fellow.

Finally, the all-important question I asked Samantha was: What advice do you have for grad students who are currently working on their dissertations and will be in the job market soon? Samantha encourages students to look at all their options. Graduate students may feel that being a professor at a college or university is their calling; however, there are many opportunities that can be as rewarding and productive. As a postdoctoral fellow, she feels that the skills you learn as a doctoral student are transferable beyond the traditional academic market, and many public sector and government jobs are looking for candidates who have a Ph.D. in any field.

Casey Schroeder is a current graduate student in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Sociology.



Samantha Sterns

By Susan Hinze

Where are They Now?
An Undergraduate Alumna Update

Alumna Melissa Scopilliti, Then and Now...

Melissa Scopilliti was a double major in Sociology and Psychology from 1998 to 2002. While she was at CWRU, Melissa earned three departmental awards in sociology: the Schermerhorn Award for Outstanding Continuing Student, the Lefton Award for Excellence in Sociological Studies and the Davis Award for Demonstrated Commitment to Sociology. Melissa was also a star athlete while here. As pitcher on the softball team, she earned numerous honors in the sport, and also won the Emily Russell Andrews Award for Senior Female Athlete Demonstrating Scholarship, Leadership, Participation and Service.

Recently, I interviewed her about her work since graduating from CWRU and attending graduate school at the University of Maryland (College Park), where she finished her Ph.D. in Sociology in the Spring of 2009.

How did you find your way to Sociology?

I started as pre-med, but I was not energized by the coursework. I took an Introduction to Sociology class, and it really opened my mind to a lot of the social processes occurring in the world around me. I ultimately decided that I wanted to pursue a graduate degree in sociology.

I worked closely with Dr. Sue Hinze, and she advised my senior honors thesis. The honors project provided me with research experience that helped prepare me for graduate school. For the project I examined equity in college coaching by developing and emailing a survey to coaches in the Midwest (n=643). My main findings were (1) female coaches and the coaches of women's teams reported lower job satisfaction, less

access to practice facilities and higher levels of stress, (2) even after controlling for age, the coaches of women's teams planned to stay in their job for less time than the coaches of men's teams, and (3) gender of the sport was a major predictor of disadvantage, independent of the gender of the coach. The project won first place in the Alpha Kappa Delta national paper competition, resulting in scholarship monies for graduate education.

The small size of the department at Case is really a benefit that helps enhance interaction between graduate and undergraduate students. Graduate students in the department helped me design and pre-test my honors thesis questionnaire and gave me a basic tutorial in SPSS. I also took a graduate-level class, which provided insight into life as a graduate student.

How was the Graduate Student Experience at Maryland?

I attended UMD because they had faculty I was interested in working with, and strong Demography and Gender, Work, and Family (GWF) programs. I found that the graduate students who were most integrated in the department were students who developed close ties to a faculty member. I highly recommend researching the names and interests of faculty when deciding on graduate schools. While there is no guarantee that they will stay at the same university, mentioning their names in application cover letters will help personalize your application. It may also be useful to contact them in advance and notify them of your interest in their research (they may even be on the admissions committee).

I spent my first year (continued on page 9)

Melissa Scopilliti (cont.)

as a teaching assistant and was a research assistant (under John Iceland) for the next five years. The proximity of UMD to Washington, D.C. provided me with good summer research opportunities. I interned at the Population Reference Bureau and worked several summers at the Census Bureau. These internships helped develop my C.V., gain research experience and build connections with professionals in the field.

My master's thesis was on fertility (parity and timing) and women's wages later in life (under the advisement of Dr. Joan Kahn). My Ph.D. was on residential segregation and the neighborhood economic conditions of immigrants and racial minorities (under Dr. John Iceland).

What is your “best advice” to undergraduates?

Take advantage of opportunities at Case. If you are interested in the research of a faculty member (or graduate student), volunteer to help them with their research. The experience will help you decide whether you want to pursue an advanced degree and will build up your resume.

What is your “best advice” to graduate students?

I think motivation and structure are often issues graduate students face. I found it useful to remind myself “why” I was pursuing a graduate degree, and to set up intermediate goals. It is also important to develop the skills that are valued for the professional path you want to take (i.e. teaching, research, grant writing, publishing, programming). Also remember that fellow graduate students will become your colleagues and can be good connections when you graduate.

Publications tend to be highly valued regardless of whether you take a teaching- or research-focused path. Learning the skills to navigate the publication process can be daunting. Try to work with a faculty member (co-author) for your first publication if at all possible.

My last piece of advice is to try to obtain a work-life balance. It is easy to be consumed by graduate school. I found it really important to stay involved in non-academic activities. I set up a schedule where I blocked off sections of time for personal activities. Not only did it improve my mental and physical well-being, but the structure helped me be more productive when working on school-related tasks.

What is post-Ph.D. life like?

I began working at the Census Bureau during my last year of graduate school, so the transition was relatively smooth. I work at the Census Bureau in the Population Division with the Immigration Statistics Staff. I focus primarily on the production of our estimates of net international migration, a component of change included in the official population estimates. I also review and analyze data on the foreign-born population, and I am leading some research teams as part of our 2010 demographic analysis. The Census Bureau has an internship program for students (age 18 or older). More information can be obtained from www.census.gov. I can be contacted at melissascop@gmail.com.



Melissa Scopilliti

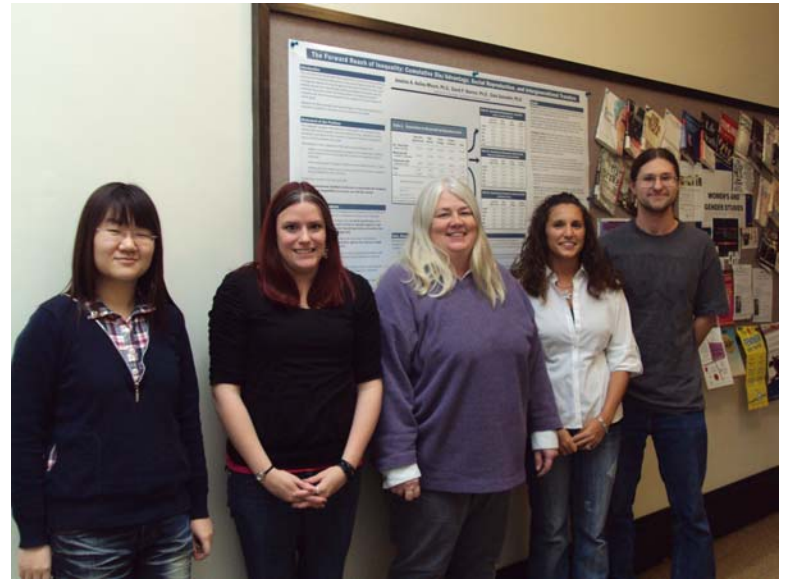
Introducing the 2009 Cohort!

Pei Zhang graduated from Zhengzhou University with a B.A. degree in Public Administration. During her undergraduate years she participated in many extra-curricular activities and volunteered at a nursing home in her hometown. She also likes novels, music and chatting with people. She is looking forward to her brand new chapter of life at CWRU and Ohio.

Sara Kennedy graduated with her B.A. in Psychology from Indiana University, Bloomington in 2005 and completed her Master's degree in Sociological Practice at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne in August 2009. She has worked as a Research Specialist at Allen County Community Corrections, a research assistant and a social worker. She is excited to be a part of the Ph.D. program at Case and glad to be living in the same city as her dad.

Sandra Lynne Dunkin (Sandy) graduated from the University of Cincinnati (UC) with a Bachelor's in Social Work (BSW) in June 2009. She was a Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program scholar at UC from September 2007 to June 2009. She has lived in Ohio for the past 10 years. She raised two children in northern Michigan, and has two wonderful grandchildren. She lives in Cleveland Heights with her dog, Mac. She enjoys working with the faculty in the Sociology Department's Ph.D. program at CWRU.

Kelly Melvin graduated from Hiram College with a B.A. in Psychology, and then from Youngstown State University this past summer with an M.S. in Criminal Justice. She grew up in Greene, Ohio, but currently lives in Vienna, Ohio, with her husband and his daughter. Kelly is a member of the Academy



Pei Zhang, Sara Kennedy, Sandy Dunkin, Kelly Melvin & Stephen Steh

of Criminal Justice Sciences, Alpha Phi Sigma, and Phi Beta Kappa. In her free time she coaches softball, shows Quarter horses, spends time with her friends and family, and goes to concerts or watches movies. Another fun fact is that Kelly used to do research with Capuchin monkeys in the Psychology lab at Hiram.

Stephen Steh received his Associate's degree in Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement from Lakeland Community College in 2005, a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement Administration from Youngstown State University in 2007, and a Master's in Criminal Justice from Youngstown State in August 2009. He grew up in Mentor, Ohio, but has spent many years in Youngstown. He is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, a member of Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society and former President of the Youngstown State Chapter, and a member of the Ohio Identification Officers Association. In his free time Stephen enjoys listening to music, playing guitar, watching movies and hanging out with friends and family. He has spent the last few years as a research and teaching assistant at Youngstown State and looks forward to continuing his research at CWRU.

Faculty Updates

Brian Gran became a member of the Science and Human Rights Coalition of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Currently, he is working on the Coalition's council and pursuing other projects that focus on the intersection of science and human rights.

Susan Hinze recently delivered an invited lecture, "Questioning Race(ism) and Class(ism) in Physician Decision-Making" at Research Rounds at Northeastern Ohio Colleges of Medicine & Pharmacy, and with students **Rachel Bryant** and **Nicole Hofert**, she presented "'Guyland' and Student Attitudes Toward Marriage: The Case of Case Western Reserve University" at the Research Showcase in April. In her role as Co-Director of Women's and Gender Studies, Professor Hinze hosted a visit by Joan Williams, Distinguished Professor at Hastings College of Law, University of California. The visit was co-hosted by the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women and the Women Faculty of the School of Medicine.

Dale Dannefer was elected chair of ASA's Section on Aging of the Life Course. With student co-authors **Robin Shura** and **Rebecca Siders**, he presented papers at the meetings at ASA and GSA. He recently co-authored several publications in collaboration with Shura and Siders, as well as an article with **Antje Daub**.

In July, **Dale Dannefer**, **Eva Kahana**, **Jessica Kelley-Moore**, **Bob Binstock** and **Gunhild Hagestad** presented papers at the International Association of Gerontology meeting in Paris. Dale's paper was coauthored with Paul Stein and with doctoral students **Rebecca Siders** and **Robin Shura**, and **Gunhild's** paper was coauthored with her doctoral student, **Katharina Herlofson**.

After her presentation at the IAG in Paris, **Eva Kahana** presented an invited colloquium at the University of Cologne, Germany. In September, Professor Kahana was quoted in a *Columbus Dispatch* article on the health-care reform debate. Professor Kahana was also busy at GSA, presenting at three symposia on proactivity and successful aging.

Jessica Kelley-Moore is continuing her research in the areas of aging and disability, and health disparities and neighborhood influences on health. She and her students presented several recent papers on these topics. At the ASA annual meeting, Jessica, Dale Dannefer and **Jielu Lin** presented a paper examining variability in age-based disability trajectories. **Melinda Laroco** and Jessica presented a paper on the use of community-based participatory research approaches to identify barriers to healthy eating in disadvantaged neighborhoods. At the meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Jessica and **Jielu Lin** presented two papers on the racial and socioeconomic patterns of late-life health disparities.

In the summer, **David Warner** was selected to be a visiting scholar at the National Center for Family and Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University where he started research on marital quality and mental health among older adults. He was also appointed as Research Affiliate at Bowling Green's Center for Family Demographic Research. Professor Warner presented "Transitions, Trajectories or Timing? Untangling the Effects of Family Structure on Young Adults' Attitudes toward Marriage" (with Kathryn Henderson and Glen Elder) at the ASA meeting in August, and "Marriage and the Retirement Life Course" (with Mark Hayward and Melissa Hardy) at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in April.

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.

Alumni and Student Updates

Congratulations!

Doctoral Graduate

Robin Shura successfully defended her dissertation, "Intercountry Adoption: A Theoretical Analysis," on Friday, August 28, 2009.

Prospectus Defenses

The following graduate students successfully defended their Prospectuses and are now working towards completing their dissertations!

Michael Flatt, April 28, 2009

"I'm sorry to have to ask you this, but..." Institutionalized Homophobia in Tissue Donation

Casey Schroeder, September 21, 2009

"Let's Talk about Sex...Or not: Doctor-Patient Communication about STD Prevention"

Robert Peterson, November 16, 2009

"The Implications of HIV Framing on Testing and Disclosure: Examining the Role of Community Based Organizations in Addressing the Public Health Crisis"

Recent Dissertation Defense

On December 7, 2009, **Karie Feldman** successfully defended her dissertation, "Post-Parenthood Redefined: Race, Class, and Family Structure Differences in the Experiences of Launching Children."

VISIT US ONLINE!

To learn more about the department or upcoming events, go to www.case.edu/artsci/soci

We'd like to hear from you!

Email us at debra.klocker@case.edu to share any news, job leads or comments.



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Sociology
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
<http://www.case.edu/artsci/soci>