Dear friends and colleagues:

Welcome to the Summer/Fall 2014 edition of CWRU Sociology News!

It will quickly become clear as you peruse the following pages that it has been an eventful year so far in the Department of Sociology! A very important and happy headline item is the arrival of our new faculty colleague, Dr. Cassi L. Pittman. Dr. Pittman, whose research examines how minorities manage contemporary forms of racism in a number of domains, will head up Sociology’s undergraduate concentration in Crime and Delinquency. We are also pleased to announce a secondary faculty appointment in Sociology for Dr. Anna Maria Santiago, who is Leona Bevis/Marguerite Haynam Professor of Community Development at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. Dr. Santiago has just completed a term as president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

The Department’s intellectual life was enlivened this past spring by provocative lectures from two distinguished visitors — Professor George Gonos of the State University of New York (SUNY) and Professor Mike Lewis of the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst.

In addition to being a productive time for faculty, this has also been a year of accomplishments for our undergraduate and graduate students. This spring, three sociology graduate students defended their dissertations — Diana Kulle, Melinda Laroco-Boehm and Jielu Lin. This issue also reviews recent accomplishments of other students and alumni, including Honors and Capstone Projects and 11 inductions into Alpha Kappa Delta, the Sociology Honors Society. Additionally, one undergrad senior completed the Senior Capstone course, which is an opportunity to conduct independent research by forming a research question, designing a study, and collecting and analyzing data. As you will see, for faculty and for both graduate and undergraduate students, we have had much to celebrate.

As always, we are interested to hear alumni news. Please keep us informed of any job openings that may be of interest to our recent graduates and students. And if you are in the area, stop by and visit the Department of Sociology!

-Dale Dannefer, Chair
Department Welcomes Professor Cassi Pittman

The Department of Sociology is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Cassi L. Pittman as Assistant Professor of Sociology. Dr. Pittman received her Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University in 2012 and comes to us from Ohio State University where she was the recipient of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr. Pittman’s research focuses on how racial minorities, particularly blacks, manage contemporary forms of racism. Drawing on qualitative methods, her scholarship contributes to core disciplinary questions concerning the significance of race and racial inequality, while also raising new questions pertaining to the intersectionality of race and class and racial minorities’ consumption and economic behavior. As a scholar of race and racial inequality, Dr. Pittman focuses on the attitudes, experiences, and consumption preferences of the black middle-class.

To date, much of Dr. Pittman’s research has examined the underlying social and cultural processes that affect racial minorities’ economic behavior. During her time as a fellow of the Emerging Leader in Economic and Community Development program at Harvard’s Joint Center for Housing Studies, she examined blacks’ experiences in the consumer and mortgage markets. Dr. Pittman’s research has also explored middle-class blacks’ perceptions of mobility and inequality. Her article, “Stop ‘Blaming the Man’: Perceptions of Inequality and Opportunities for Success in the Obama Era Among Middle-Class African Americans” (coauthored with Jessica Welburn) demonstrates that middle-class blacks perceive racism to be an enduring feature of U.S. society while also subscribing to dominant narratives that link individual achievement to mobility.

Among her ongoing projects is a comparative study examining the residential preferences of middle-class blacks and the rationales offered by middle-class non-blacks who live in black neighborhoods. Additionally, she is currently completing a book manuscript tentatively titled Black Privilege. Dr. Pittman defines “black privilege” as the set of social experiences and entitlements that accompany middle-class status for blacks. Her book will demonstrate that while middle-class blacks believe in the possibility of prosperity and of living the “American Dream,” they are not free from racially alienating treatment, even as consumers engaging in the marketplace. When asked what drew her to sociology as a discipline, Dr. Pittman pointed to her Cleveland roots. “I grew up being exposed to people from all different socio-economic positions. I was always curious about race relations, class, and housing. Cleveland is and has been one of the most segregated cities in the country so growing up there has certainly informed my research interests and was one of the reasons I was drawn to sociology as an undergraduate.” She is excited to return in her hometown, particularly at a dynamic moment of growth and development in the city, and she looks forward to drawing on her local community ties to engage in research and service.

“I grew up being exposed to people from all different socio-economic positions. I was always curious about race relations, class, and housing. Cleveland is and has been one of the most segregated cities in the country so growing up there has certainly informed my research interests and was one of the reasons I was drawn to sociology as an undergraduate.”
Welcome Professor Anna Maria Santiago

The Department of Sociology is very pleased to welcome Professor Anna Maria Santiago as an adjunct member of the Sociology faculty. Dr. Santiago joined the faculty at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences in July 2010 as the inaugural Leona Bevis/Marguerite Haynam Professor of Community Development. Professor Santiago is a specialist in urban and social welfare policy as well as research methodology. Professor Santiago’s research explores the impact of place on the economic opportunities and life chances available to low-income and minority families. Her current project focuses primarily on how federal, state and local housing policies and programs serve as vehicles for community and social development. Professor Santiago has just completed a term as president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Brian Gran highlighted at the Social Science Korea Human Rights Forum

Professor Brian Gran was highlighted on the Social Science Korea (SSK) website for his participation in the 2014 Mini International Conference on Human Rights that took place on July 14 at Korea University. The conference was titled “Theorizing Human Rights: Linking Diffusion and Practice.” SSK is an inter-university research group engaged in multi-year research projects on human rights from a social science perspective, an increasingly popular approach to studying human rights. Brian introduced the Children’s Rights Index (CRI), the first international measure of children’s rights, and provided scores for over 180 countries. Although the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child continues to urge governments to implement all components of the U.N. Convention, Gran argues that U.N. mandates are unlikely to be sufficient for achieving high levels of children’s rights.

Professor Mary Erdmans presents in Poland

Professor Mike Lewis Revisits *The Culture of Inequality* in April Colloquium

In April, the Department of Sociology sponsored a colloquium featuring Michael Lewis, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Lewis lecture, “The Culture of Inequality Revisited: Fear, Fury and Unrelenting Injustice,” was based on his influential book *The Culture of Inequality*. The event started with an informal gathering fueled by pizza and concluded with a question-and-answer period and book signing.

Lewis book, published in 1978 and then republished in 1993, continues to engage sociologists across the world. In 2013, Lewis was invited to give a set of lectures to academic and governmental audiences in the Netherlands. A subsequent conference, organized this fall by the Departments of Sociology of the University of Amsterdam and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, honored Lewis and facilitated formal exchanges between European and American scholars about the cultures of (in)equality and individualism.

As an undergraduate at Brooklyn College in the 1950s, Lewis was active in the youth chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and came under the influence of two faculty advisers, sociologist Charles Radford Lawrence and historian John Hope Franklin. He did his doctoral work at Princeton University and taught at the University of Illinois before joining the UMass faculty. While at UMass, Lewis directed the Community Research Group in the Social and Demographic Research Institute in the Department of Sociology. His publications include seven authored or edited books addressing contemporary issues. He was also the mentor of Timothy Black, Associate Professor in our department.

Professor George Gonos Lectures on Inequality and the Growth of the Temp Industry

The Department of Sociology sponsored a colloquium in February featuring George Gonos, Professor of Sociology at SUNY Potsdam. Professor Gonos talk, entitled “The Temp Industry and the Growth of Inequality,” summarized his research on the rapid growth in employers’ reliance on contingent labor, especially so-called temporary workers. Gonos demonstrated that the rapid growth of temporary work is making an independent contribution to the current growth in economic inequality. Faculty and students had several other opportunities to interact with Professor Gonos during his visit, including an informal social gathering at Dale’s house.

Dr. Gonos’s research has focused on the world of work and labor movements, and especially on the growth of “temp” work and other forms of “non-standard” employment, and the troubles these arrangements create for working families. Preceding completion of his doctoral dissertation, he worked as a community organizer in poor urban neighborhoods, helping to gain representation for them and to secure legal and medical benefits for low-wage workers. It was during this time that he discovered the trend to replace regular employees with disposable workers, a discovery that led to his doctoral research and his continued work today with community groups serving low-income workers. Gonos earned his doctoral degree at Rutgers University, where he was inspired by his study of sociological theory under Peter L. Berger, Irving Louis Horowitz, Erving Goffman and other prominent sociologists.

Sabbatical Adventures by Eva Kahana

Sabbaticals afford a wonderful opportunity to focus on research and writing projects that call for a sustained time commitment. They also enable scholars to learn about new areas of research that are not directly applied to specific projects. My sabbatical last spring allowed for reaching these goals and also provided some unexpected opportunities to pursue new research directions. It also proved to be a busy time. Our NIH grant proposal, which was recommended for funding last fall, missed the funding line by one point when the government shut down last September. So, our Elderly Care Research Center team worked hard to prepare a new R01 research proposal for an intervention to help older adults age in place.
In addition to addressing both challenges and opportunities that came up unexpectedly during my sabbatical, I was able to devote quality time to my book project, *The Graying of Disability*. This project is particularly exciting as I am collaborating with my son Jeffrey, who is a lawyer and historian. I am focusing on proactive adaptations of older adults who develop disabilities late in life, while Jeff is focused on the policy context that frames disability among elders of today. Unlike journal publications, book projects allow the authors to reflect on the way their own professional and life experiences shape their thinking. I could thus tell the story of crafting a gerontological career of 50 years in the context of our family’s experiences with my late mother’s disability and our own encounters with illness experiences. I could also explore how those lived experiences resonate with our longitudinal studies of successful aging. We hope to address the important question of convergence and divergence between gerontology and disability studies in understanding the “Graying of Disability.”

### What I Did on my Spring Vacation

*by Jessica Kelley-Moore*

As the fall semester gears up, I am pleased to have the opportunity to jot a few notes about my spring sabbatical. As I planned my sabbatical time, I remained aware of the burnout that many professionals in other fields experience with no such opportunity to break away, and this made me more thankful for this time, and keen to use it to its fullest. For me, it was a time to engage in a diversity of intellectual pursuits that cut across many different projects and collaborations. I describe a few of them below.

**Throw myself into a project without knowing exactly where it would end up.** A long-running project that includes Jielu Lin, Tirth Bhatta and Dale Dannefer scrutinizes a growing number of claims in the research literature regarding the “long arm” of childhood circumstances as an influence on adult health. As a team we had already developed a novel statistical approach to solve an analytic problem in this literature, but the sabbatical time was when I immersed myself in the theoretical, statistical and empirical literatures to fully understand the extent of the problem. We submitted this paper for review during the summer and have outlined its follow-up manuscript, which will likely be the template for an upcoming grant proposal.

**Deepened ongoing collaborations, particularly abroad.** I have been involved with two international teams of researchers, work funded in part by a seed grant through International Affairs at CWRU. The first is a seven-country research network headed by Chris Phillipson, studying the co-occurring phenomena of population aging and global urbanization. I organized a symposium for the upcoming GSA meeting to highlight this cross-national work. The second team consists of investigators from the English Longitudinal Study on Aging with whom we are comparing patterns of cumulative dis/advantage in wealth and functional health in the U.S. and England.

January/February, I spent 2 weeks in Amsterdam and the University of Manchester working with investigators on both projects (and snuck in trips to the Curry Mile and British Museum for fun!).

**Some things never change.** Throughout my sabbatical I continued my duties as Associate Editor of *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* and my responsibilities on the three additional editorial boards on which I serve (*Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Journal of Aging and Health*, and *Research on Aging*). I was also very pleased to shepherd two doctoral students, Melinda Laroco-Boehm and Jielu Lin, through successful dissertation defenses. Congratulations again, Melinda and Jielu! I also participated in a two-day symposium exploring the state of racial health disparities on the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Finally, I completed or advanced several small projects, the likes of which we all swear we are going to finish “as soon as everything calms down.” Upon reflection, I think that I need a sabbatical from my sabbatical!
Plans for a Reinvigorating Semester Sabbatical by Gary Deimling

For much of the past two decades I have been conducting NIA and NCI (National Cancer Institute) funded research on life threatening illness and cancer survivorship in later life after establishing the Cancer Survivor Research Program (CSRP) in our department. With the completion of those grants, I now have the opportunity to consolidate and integrate the results into a larger, comprehensive manuscript. Also, a considerable amount of data has yet to be analyzed from the six waves of interviews with nearly 500 cancer survivors and family members. My upcoming fall semester sabbatical will allow me to move forward on these initiatives.

When my colleagues and I first received NCI funding in 1998 I had nearly completed a manuscript on life-threatening illness in later life. Grant management, proposals to continue funding, publication of research articles, and department responsibilities put that manuscript on the “back burner.” My hope is to rejuvenate and refocus that now “long-lost” manuscript by integrating our research findings with the latest research by others in psycho-social oncology. The sabbatical will make it possible to have extended in-person collaborations with scholars at the University of Connecticut and Michigan State University.

Another sabbatical activity will be to explore the feasibility of a joint research venture between the Cancer Survivor Research Program and the Elderly Care Research Center (ECRC). We hope to merge and analyze our respective longitudinal data sets on older adult cancer survivors. When I began my funded research collaborating with Drs. Eva and Boaz Kahana at the ECRC, we purposely included common instruments and data elements in our individual studies. The potential merged data can provide a broader demographic and geographic base and a larger sample increasing the statistical power of analyses. Importantly, the ECRC data includes a large number of older adults who have not had cancer. This provides the opportunity to construct a matched comparison group so we can examine differences between older adults who have not been treated for cancer and those who have. I have scheduled a visit to the Office of Cancer Survivorship (OCS) at the National Cancer Institute toward the end of the sabbatical to explore the possibilities of funding to support this joint project. The director of OCS, Dr. Julia Rowland, has also asked me to present a colloquium there on our most recent findings.

In addition to the above research agenda, I also plan to transform a course I have taught as a SAGES seminar on technology and social change into a departmental offering. Responses to that course suggest a strong interest from science and technology students to our department as a 200-level Sociology course that could help them meet their core requirements. Hopefully, they may then consider Sociology as a second major or minor.

Finally, in the area of community service I hope to reconnect with a local agency that works with cancer patients/survivors and their families. I had served as a member of that agency’s professional advisory board during its founding and would now like to explore with them ways that services and programs can be configured to meet the unique vulnerabilities of older cancer survivors.

Check back in the next issue of our department newsletter after I return in the spring to hear about my progress on all of the above initiatives.

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.
The sociology graduate program at Case Western Reserve provided me with a research foundation that I have drawn from throughout my career. After completing several gerontology courses as an undergraduate, I decided that I wanted to study gerontology and that I wanted to do so at Case, in part due to the great professors whose classes I had already taken. Two professors, Dr. Eva Kahana and Dr. Gary Deimling, were especially influential in my education.

Dr. Kahana’s mentorship began in a class where she had assigned a literature review paper but offered an alternate assignment—the opportunity to analyze data from paper interviews from older research in a storage closet. I was one of the few in her years of teaching who took her up on the offer. I hand-entered a sample of questionnaires collected back in the 1970s, analyzed the results and applied the findings to a theoretical model. I’ve always appreciated Dr. Kahana’s big-picture approach, and this research became the dataset for my dissertation.

With Dr. Deimling, I worked on the Quality of Life of Older Adult Long-Term Cancer Survivors project and learned every step of the research process: participating in team meetings, applying for grants, coordinating research samples, setting up instruments to scan in the surveys, helping clean and analyze data to create presentations, and manuscripts and even photocopying and scanning. I learned that to be successful, no job is too lowly and that photocopying is sometimes the most essential task, especially for a grant proposal.

One of the difficulties in graduate school is meeting the many requirements for a doctoral degree. I found that many of my classmates did not like these “hoops”: coursework with professors who were not their favorites, three comprehensive exams, working with four people on their dissertation committees, and having to complete two oral defenses. Fortunately, I was able to navigate these requirements and came out a stronger person. What the professors do not teach you, but is such an important lesson, is that these hoops are a practice run for life. Whatever career one chooses there are ALWAYS hoops to jump through—there will always be some policy or some entrance criterion that seems very illogical or unnecessary—but in order to get that job or get that paper through the approval process, you need to jump through the hoops. The Department of Sociology's hoops provide a great practice run where at least you have supportive people along the way who want you to succeed.

My advice is to not fight these hoops but instead to embrace them and figure out the best way through with the help and support of the others around you. It is a skill that you will need during your professional career.
Alumni Spotlight (continued)

After leaving Case and moving to Syracuse to be with my fiancé, I had the opportunity to teach college courses, something I was not able to do while at Case. Out of two fellowship offers, I chose the postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Community Health at Brown University. There I had a terrific experience in which I was able to explore the culture change movement in nursing homes, research nursing home hospice, conduct research and analyze data for local groups, and write a white paper, among other opportunities. I also learned about the many opportunities for jobs outside of academia, and applied to positions in both the private sector and the government.

At the ASA meeting’s employment service, I met a recruiter from the U.S. Census Bureau. Soon after, the recruiter contacted me about an interesting opportunity in the Aging Studies branch in the Population Division. There, my research experiences in graduate school—working on my dissertation and many research presentations and papers—provided me with the skills I needed to do background research, create tables and figures, to write up drafts for the “65+ in the United States: 2010” report. Additionally, having gone through the many hoops required to get through graduate school, I was able to weather the many hoops required to get a report published at the Census Bureau. That report has just been released (June 2014). Recently I switched to the Industry and Occupation Branch at the Social Economic and Housing Statistics Division, where work is centered on questions raised by the American Community Survey and other surveys about the workplace.

Sociology alumna Kim Foreman speaks at Spring Sociology Student Ceremony

Kim Foreman (CWRU 2001), Associate Director of Environmental Health Watch (EHW) in Cleveland, presented the keynote lecture at the Department of Sociology’s annual Student Awards Ceremony. Kim graduated with a degree in Sociology (honors) and a minor in chemistry. During her 15 years with EHW, she has focused on environmental justice issues and adverse outcomes of environmental exposures both indoors and outdoors, that disproportionately impact poor and minority communities. She has developed, implemented and managed various local, direct service, and grassroots projects, worked on national projects, spoken at local and national conventions, participated in radio programs and been interviewed by the Plain Dealer.

Over the past two years, Kim has successfully planned and implemented the Race, Food and Justice Conference (along with other events) in partnership with Case Western Reserve’s Social Justice Institute and Rid-All Green Partnership. In 2013 she completed the Deep Green and Healthy Homes-Occupant Interview Study for the Case Western Reserve Prevention Research Center PEER Research Fellows Program.

Kim serves on several boards and committees, including the City of Cleveland Climate Action Plan Advisory Council, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress Economic Opportunity Advisory Committee, Cuyahoga County Board of Health’s Equity Institute In Birth Outcomes, Healthy Eating Active Living Advisory Council, City of Cleveland Office of Minority Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health’s PLACE MATTERS, Common Good Ohio Board of Directors, Healthy House Advisory Council Outreach & Advocacy Committee Member, and the Neighborhood Leadership Cleveland Graduate Class #18. She is also the president of the Rid-All Green Partnership Board.

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.
Graduate Student Awards

The Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fund
(to women for study abroad)

Minzhi Ye

The Graduate Dean’s Instructional Excellence Award
(to graduate teaching assistants in recognition of providing outstanding instruction to students at the university)

Mary Ellen Stone, Margaret Waltz

The Marie Haug Award
(to graduate students who have distinguished themselves in studies of aging)

Jielu Lin

The Graduate Student Appreciation Award
(recognizes students who make a difference on our campus and/or in the Cleveland community)

Dawn Aliberti, Timothy Goler, Bradley Powell

The College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship
(provides dissertation support for Fall 2014)

Margaret Waltz

Special Congratulations

Relebohile Morojele was a recipient of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowship. (p.11)

Cory Cronin was an award nominee for Best Paper Based on Dissertation by the Health Care Management Division. (p.10)

Casey Albitz was a recipient of a grant from The Humility of Mary Housing Ministry and The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland. (p.10)

Jielu Lin received a National Institute of Health Postdoctoral Intramural Research Training Fellowship (p. 11)

Graduate Student Updates

Casey Albitz was recently awarded a $10,000 grant from The Humility of Mary Housing Ministry and The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland in support of her research on homeless youth and young adults and the cyclic nature of U.S. poverty. The grant will enable her to conduct a feasibility study concerning construction and implementation of a Self-Sufficiency Center in one of the Humility of Mary Housing facilities. She will study best practices in education and employment services for homeless individuals and interview current and prior residents of three housing assistance facilities. This opportunity arose from prior research Casey undertook as part of Professor Tim Black’s Qualitative Methods/Field Research course where she conducted an ethnographic study on homeless men who had aged out of the foster care system and were currently residing in a Humility of Mary Housing facility. Casey was also named a 2014 Cuyahoga County Public Policy Fellow. As a Public Policy Fellow, she will conduct a project that focuses on young people who age out of state care.

Tirth Bhatta presented “Long Arm of Parental Education? Early Childhood Influences on Functional Limitations among Older Adults in India” with Professor Jessica Kelley-Moore at this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting.

Cory Cronin’s paper “Examining the Affordable Care Act Through the Lens of Institutional Theory” was nominated for Best Paper Based on Dissertation by the Health Care Management Division of the Academy of Management. Each year, the Division honors members for excellence in teaching, research and service to the Division. Awards were presented at the Academy of Management Annual Meeting held the first week of August in Philadelphia, PA. Cory presented “The Changing Landscape of Ohio Hospital Organizations: 1972 to 2012” at this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting.
**Graduate Student Updates (continued)**

**Michael Flatt** presented “Institutionalized Homophobia in U.S. Tissue Donation Politics” and “Hormones Are Where It’s At: Biodentical Hormones, Menopausal Women, and Anti-Aging Medicine” at this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting.

**Melinda Laroco-Boehm** presented “Nutrition Literacy Programming and Issues Surrounding the Conceptualizations and Definitions of Healthy” at this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting.

**Jielu Lin** has been selected by the National Human Genome Research Institute to receive a National Institute of Health (NIH) Postdoctoral Intramural Research Training Fellowship for 2014-2017. As a Postdoctoral Fellow, Jielu will extend her research on life course health disparities by incorporating a systematic investigation of the role of epigenetics in generating late-life health disparities. Her disciplinary training in Sociology will enable her to make contributions to this line of research by empirically specifying and testing current hypotheses of how gene-environment interactions produce social patterning in diseases. To complete this work, she will receive intensive training in public health genomics and collaborate with scholars in public health, epidemiology and gerontology at NIH.

This fellowship also provides Jielu with intensive methods training in social network analysis, which she will integrate with her expertise on generalized latent and mixed modeling. Her goal is to create novel approaches to examining life course gene-environment interaction in panel studies of older adults. In addition, Jielu will be involved in various ongoing research projects at the Social and Behavioral Branch and make contributions to studies of the impact of social context on coping responses and the development of effective family-based interventions to encourage communication among family network members about genetic risk information.

Along with **Jessica Kelley-Moore** and **Dale Dannefer**, Jielu presented “Patterns of Wealth Inequality with Age in the United States and England: Does Social Context Matter?” at this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting.

**Relebohile Morojele** was a recipient of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowship. The AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. During the award year, recipients will pursue graduate studies and community projects to empower women and girls.

Relebohile also presented a paper titled “Educational Migration: The Experience of Graduate Students in Transnational Families” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association held in Cincinnati in April.

**Alicia Smith** presented a paper titled “Black Girls Run: A Modern Day Social Movement” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association held in Cincinnati in April. She was also chosen to participate in a workshop at Texas A & M University in June. The workshop was part of a two-day conference, “Measuring the Diverging Components of Race in a Multiracial America,” co-sponsored by the American Sociological Association Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline.
Graduate Student Updates (continued)

Margaret Waltz presented a paper titled “A Place to Wait: An Ethnography of Medical Waiting Rooms” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association held in Cincinnati in April.

Minzhi Ye was a recipient of the Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship for her planned dissertation on community-based long-term care service delivery in China. She plans to conduct fieldwork collecting geographic information on long-term care services for elders in the Jing’an District of Shanghai. Minzhi plans to begin another research project, in collaboration with Dr. Eva Kahana, interviewing staff members in community-based social service centers for elders in Shanghai.

Congratulations to Diana Kulle, Jielu Lin, and Melinda Laroco-Boehm for successfully defending their dissertations!

Faculty Updates

Tim Black contributed an article to a recent collection on long-term sociological studies. His contribution, “From a Study to a Journey: Holding an Ethnographic Gaze on Urban Poverty for Two Decades,” is the lead essay in *Open to Disruption: Time and Craft in the Practice of Slow Sociology*, edited by Anita Ilta Garey, Rosanna Hertz, and Margaret Nelson. Other contributors includes authors Annette Lareau, Mary Romero, Linda Burton, Carol Stack and Marjorie DeVault. The book was released in May by Vanderbilt University Press.

Black also received two grants this year, one from the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve University ($7,500) and the other from the St. Luke's Foundation ($20,000) to initiate a study on masculinities and fatherhood at a local community-based corrections facility. This research project will examine perceptions and practices of masculinity among a group of incarcerated fathers participating in a fatherhood program. Using observations and interviews in the first phases of the project, researchers will explore a range of masculinities, including conventional forms of masculinity that emphasize the provider role in the family; street/protest forms that attempt to preserve autonomy and mastery through criminal behavior, social distance, or appearances of control and strength; and alternative forms that promote family and community advocacy and solidarity.

At this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting, Tim presented “Blurring the Boundaries of Ethnography: Intimacy, Theory, and Politics” on a Presidential Panel titled Finding Our Way: Making Theoretical Sense Out of Ethnographic Data. Tim also organized and served as presider for an Author Meets Critic session on *The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American Dream* by Randol Contreras and he served as critic at another Author Meets Critic session on *Doing the Best I Can: Fatherhood in the Inner City* by Kathryn Edin and Timothy J. Nelson.
Faculty Updates (continued)

In March, Dale Dannefer presented a lecture “Trial by Fire: Science, Faith and the Discipline of Sociology” at Wheaton College. He also consulted with faculty members in Wheaton’s Department of Sociology. Along with Robin Shura (PhD ’10), Dale also conducted a workshop, “Age and the Workplace” at the Benjamin Rose Institute in June.

At the American Sociological Association annual meeting, Dale presided and presented a paper co-authored with Jessica Kelley-Moore and Jielu Lin at a roundtable of the section on Aging and the Life Course.


Mary Erdmans presented two papers at U.S. conferences this spring. The first, “In America forever or only a short time: Brotherhood of Dispersed Solidarity Members,” was presented at the annual meeting of the Polish American Historical Association held in Washington, DC in January. The second, “Teen Pregnancy and Statutory Rape,” was presented at a Mini-conference on Reproduction at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society held in Baltimore in February. Mary also presented two papers at conferences in Poland this summer (p. 3).

At this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting, Mary organized a session titled “Families that Challenge and are Challenged by Our Times” for the Section on the Sociology of the Family. Locally, Mary gave an invited talk “The ‘Problem’ of Teen Mothers” at the Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch in April. She also participated in a panel discussion on “Polonia in Cleveland and the Journey of Julian Stanczak” held at Western Reserve Historical Society in March. The discussion examined the long history of Cleveland’s Polish immigrant community, with particular emphasis on the post war migration of individuals like Julian Stanczak who came to play a major role in art and culture within and outside that community.

With students Bradley Powell and James Silay, Mary worked on a campus climate survey for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) students and faculty. Look for the results in the next issue.

Brian Gran is currently working on a project about geo tagging for a consortium that includes the United Nations.

In February, Brian helped coordinate a two-day event, titled “Human Trafficking?”, sponsored by CWRU’s Social Justice Institute and Inamori Center in recognition of the United Nations World Social Justice Day. The first day featured the film Dying to Leave which chronicles the worldwide boom in illicit migrations and human trafficking, including to the United States, through the voices of those experiencing the ordeal. The second day featured “Modalities of Labor Exploitation” and “Trafficking: Voices, Frames & Strategies,” two discussions that challenged preconceived notions of exploitation.

In May, Brian was an invited keynote speaker for the Alpha Kappa Delta initiation ceremony at Cleveland State University. In addition, his advisee Bronte Miller placed first in the SOURCE Intersections Competition for her oral presentation, “Conceptualizing Health, Illness, and Cancer: Sociocultural Perspectives of Chinese and American Students.”

Susan Hinze was one of a few University faculty to receive special commendations from Provost Baeslack for five years of great teaching. Congratulations Sue!

At this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting, Eva Kahana, along with Boaz Kahana and Kaitlyn Barnes, presented “Promoting Successful Aging among Older Adults with Disabilities: Empowerment through Interventions.” She also presented “Proactivity as an Evolving Roadmap for Successful Aging” with Boaz Kahana and Jeong Eun Lee.
Faculty Updates (continued)

Jessica Kelley-Moore was an invited presenter in March at the CWRU Law-Medicine Symposium, “Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: Putting an End to Separate and Unequal Health Care in the United States 50 Years After the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” Jessica’s talk was titled “How Symbolic Racism Shapes Political Support for Public Health Initiatives.” In June, Jessica traveled to the University of Manchester to continue collaboration with the International Network on Population Aging and Urbanization as the group prepares a cross-national proposal for the EU Horizon 2020 initiative. She was also recently appointed to another term as Associate Editor of the Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences.

At this year’s American Sociological Association annual meeting, Jessica presented “Patterns of Wealth Inequality with Age in the United States and England: Does Social Context Matter?” with Dale Dannefer and Jielu Lin and “Long Arm of Parental Education? Early Childhood Influences on Functional Limitations among Older Adults in India” with Tirth Bhatta. She also participated on the editorial board for the Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

Jennifer Karas Montez received one of six awards from the December 2013 round of submissions to the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) sponsored by the American Sociological Association and the National Science Foundation. With the award, she will continue her research project “Explaining Inequalities in Women’s Mortality across U.S. States.” FAD provides seed money to PhD scholars for innovative research projects and scientific conferences that advance the discipline through theoretical and methodological breakthroughs.

Jennifer also presented “Work-Family Context and the Longevity Disadvantage of U.S. Women” at this year’s annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Alumni Updates

Gerhard Falk (PhD 1948), Professor of Sociology at Buffalo State College, published his twenty-third book, The German Jews in America: A Minority Within a Minority. The book is based on the Sapir–Whorf hypothesis and focuses on refugees who fled from Nazi tyranny in the 1930s, immigrated to America, and succeeded despite immense obstacles. He has also written a new manuscript titled Drinking Alcohol: The Alcohol Culture in America to be published soon.

Susan Ostrander (PhD 1976) is now Professor Emerita at Tufts University’s Department of Sociology, where she has been on the faculty since 1980. Her recent publications include “Agency and Initiative by Community Associations in Relations of Shared Governance: Between Civil Society and the Local State,” which appeared in the October 2013 issue of Community Development Journal. She also contributed a chapter, “Putting a New Theory of Philanthropy Into Practice: Challenges and Opportunities,” to Sociologists in Action on Inequalities: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality by Shelley K. White, Jonathan M. White and Kathleen Odell Korgen, published by Sage Press in 2014.