

It's true, the best laid plans do sometimes .... oops

It was Friday, Dec. 21<sup>th</sup>, my last day at the office before a week of family R & R, and right at the top of my "to do" list for the day was an end-of-year Alumni Update. If you doubt me, ask Terri – the department's current version of Binnie and Mary Ann, and every bit as devoted (for a glimpse of the threesome, see the attached photo – Binnie and Mary Ann were on campus recently for a retiree luncheon, which presented a rare opportunity to preserve for posterity 40+ years of Sociology's awesome Departmental Managers!). Linda Burkhardt works the front office. She is my usual go-to person for these mailings, but she was off for the Holidays, so first thing in the morning I asked Terri if she had access to the Alumni distribution list (she does and I don't). Then tragedy struck – a crashed computer with a fried mother board, and with it went all my little 'this & that' tidbits for my note. No big deal (certainly not now, with the computer up and running again and my files restored!), as I was looking forward to a week of concentrated family time anyway.

Ah yes, family time! The two boys – Brian and Chris – came in from LA and our third, daughter Karen (and family), is B'more-based. That all went well, until it stopped going so well. Brian and Chris were on staggered schedules, with Brian arriving and leaving first. He left on Wednesday, then Thursday morning (the very next day!) checked in from the emergency room of Cedar Sinai in LA – an attack of appendicitis (the trip back apparently precipitated a flare-up), a partially collapsed lung and pneumonia! So much for the week between Xmas and New Year. Being a dutiful dad, I hurried off to LA later that morning for 5 glorious days of bedside support, a bit of nursing, and lots of apartment cleaning and shopping. He's fine now, and so am I, but it was far from how Kathy and I had scripted it.

All that's by way of explanation for something that didn't need explaining: why the late holiday missive? I've got that covered with what I am sure you will agree are irreproachable excuses, so now, onto business.

I've now tried twice to coax job descriptions from those of you working outside academic sociology, and with some success. The attached directory compiles what's arrived to date, and it confirms that lots of you are doing altogether interesting things that aren't necessarily branded "Sociology." It's a fine starter set, but I know full well there's lots more to add and I'm hoping this third try will be the one that lights the fire. You'll see that I've included email addresses for follow-up, but only when permission to do so was explicit. I suspect more of you are open to having others be able to reach you, but I don't want to overstep, so make it clear in what you send me whether it's ok to include your email address.

BTW – Susan Dauber (1993) is not included in the compilation, although I did have her in the first draft. Susan has just hung out her shingle as an independent consultant after stepping down from her position in major grants with the Spencer Foundation. After taking some time to decompress, she will be exploiting her built up reserve of human, social and cultural capital – instead of giving out \$\$\$'s, she'll be helping folks win those humongous awards and do high quality research. She has a name -- Bluestocking Research – a draft mission statement, and a website under development, but no clients to this point, so I figured it best to hold off until she at least has made her first buck! And I have to confess, that the "Bluestocking" allusion went over my head. She helped educate me, so I now know the background, but I wonder what others might read into it? Let's play the game – send along your best guesses, without peeking behind the curtain – no Google searches! And as an incentive, let's play for an hour of Bluestocking Research consultation. I can't commit for Susan, of course, so if she declines to play, you can have me for an hour or so of a brainstorming – now there's an incentive!

Back to my compendium of nonacademic career paths in Sociology. Please do add to the set. Before it was just an idea; now it's tangible. It is certain our graduate students will benefit from having a clearer sense of the possibilities that await, but not just that. It also should be of interest to, and a resource for, many of you. Ron D'amico's (1978) blurb invites inquiries about jobs and I've already sent him the vita of one of our advanced graduate students. Also, I forwarded along a job announcement for a position at Howard, in D.C., that I thought might be of interest to Estelle Young (2001).

I've never reached out this way before, but I often get announcements of jobs for recent PhDs (and even advanced ones) or post-docs, but I've never known what to do with them – sending all of them to everyone would make me a massive annoyance, and I can't possibly know how to pick and choose. I'm thinking now that a good approach might be post announcements (and whatever) at an Alum page on the Department's website. That seems straightforward and serviceable -- anyone who is interested can look to see what's there. I'll take it up with the IT folks at this end and, barring hidden obstacles, there should be an announcement in an upcoming Alumni Update – stay tuned.

Thus far this year (academic year, that is) happenings in the Department have been dominated by our faculty searches – the junior Global Social Change search has come to a spectacularly successful conclusion and I hope to be able to say the same of our senior Sociology of Education search sometime this spring.

As regards the Global Social Change hire, Michael Levien will be joining the faculty this summer. Michael is wrapping up his dissertation research at Berkeley, working with Peter Evans and Michael Burawoy. From the 100-plus applications for this position, three were invited to campus to interview. All three were well received, but Michael emerged as the department's consensus first choice and we are thrilled that we, in turn, turned out to be his first choice (I am not at liberty to name names, but he had other offers, quite attractive ones). I think the best way to introduce Michael to you, and to convey how we see him fitting in, is through the following excerpt from the letter we submitted to the Deans and the Academic Council requesting his appointment:

“Levien's dissertation research examines how dam construction and the establishment of special economic zones aimed at attracting high tech and financial service firms in two different stages of Indian development led to diverging modes of land dispossession, as well as different impacts on the livelihoods of local peasants stripped of their land. It is based on years of fieldwork that combines documentary research, local household surveys, and community ethnographies in India. The dissertation makes groundbreaking contributions to theories about the role of agrarian relations in the development process. It also addresses the increasingly pressing issue of land grab as developing countries are incorporated into global capitalism.

Levien's publication record is very impressive ... he published six papers (five single authored, one co-authored with a fellow graduate student with Levien as first author) in high impact journals in various fields. These journals include *Development and Change* (one of the top-rated journals in development studies), *Politics and Society* (the top journal in political sociology), *Journal of Agrarian Change*, *Journal of Peasant Studies* (both top journals in agrarian studies), *International Sociology* (the official journal of the International Sociological Association), and *Economic and Political Weekly* (the most prestigious social scientific journal in India). He also has several high-quality papers in preparation or under review ... [and] his dissertation project is evolving into ... a successful monograph ... [that] promises to have a wide readership, including scholars in political sociology, economic sociology, development studies, and Indian studies, among others.

Levien's research has been recognized with major research fellowships (including one from the Social Science Research Council and one from the American Institute for Indian Studies) and publication awards (including one section award from the American Sociological Association). The caliber of his research is superb. Beyond the dissertation research, Levien's plans include a study of land grab processes in different developing countries comparatively, as well as a study of the financing and socio-political impacts of infrastructure projects in India and elsewhere.

.... His hire ... research fits one of the hiring priorities outlined in the Department's White Paper of 2011, specifically:

A scholar who studies the political economy of India in global perspective. With this addition, we would have an outstanding concentration of expertise on the world's two most populous countries, which, in turn, are having a major impact on the dynamics of global social change. It would also facilitate comparative and relational work on China and India, for which there is already substantial interest among our faculty and graduate students."

That's none too shabby, I trust you will agree, and I am sure too that you will want to join me in sending a hearty Hoppie welcome to our newest colleague!

The Education search isn't as far along, but we are making good progress. From a stellar list of candidates, four have been invited for campus visits, which we hope to schedule in February. I can't mention names, but I can tell you that the Search Committee, the Sociology faculty, and both Deans (Newman of Arts and Sciences and Andrews of the School of Education) were impressed by the caliber of the applicant pool overall and by those recommended by the Search Committee for campus interviews. You'll remember that this search is for my successor and it is intended to maintain Sociology of Education at the high level expected of Hopkins Sociology. Partnering with the School of Education is for us a novel twist, but the experience thus far augurs well – for this hire, as well as for additional cooperative ventures down the road (you'll recall that this partnership accelerated the current search by a year AND is paired with a junior search to follow, a search that would not have been possible otherwise).

And, there is yet a third search in prospect – for a Social Policy hire, to be launched this spring. It's all very exciting, and for me very pleasing – knowing that I will be leaving behind a strengthened Department is the ideal way for me to slip into retirement.

That's enough looking inward for this note. It's time to turn the lens around.

It is now January 3, so I think it safe to share the good news that effective January 1, Aaron Pallas (1985) became the Arthur I. Gates Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. A well-deserved shout-out to Aaron!

Adia Harvey (2004, and 2012 recipient of ASA's Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section's Distinguished Early Career Award for exceptional scholarly contributions to research on the sociology of race and ethnicity (!)) will be visiting the Department this spring for a talk on her latest book *"No More Invisible Man: Race and Gender in Men's Work"* (Temple University Press). And if time permits we may have a chance to talk with her about the second edition of *"Yes We Can? White Racial Framing and the Obama Presidency"* (co-authored with Joe Feagin and published by Routledge).

These mailings are one way to stay connected; another is the occasional opportunity to host visits (in my last note I mentioned our fall panel on doing sociology outside the academy). We're excited about Adia's visit, and have discussed setting aside at least one speaker spot annually for an Alum. But it doesn't have to be formal – if you'll be in the area and would like to stop by, please do – I guarantee a warm reception!

In fact, that's how my luncheon later this month with Gudmund Hernes (1971) came about (and a big thank you to Richard Conviser (1970) for catching, and correcting, my butchering of Gudmund's name!). And what a luncheon it promises to be – we'll be joined by Binnie Bailey, Doris Entwisle, Paul McFarlane (1970) and, hopefully, Jim McPartland (1968; the "hopefully" is because Jim is recuperating from by-pass surgery). I can't guarantee that kind of royal reception for everyone, but give us a bit of advanced notice and we'll do our best.

Tom Dial (1986), a recent retiree and grandfather to enough kids to field a baseball team, was kind enough to send in this link to a writeup on Patricia Arregui (1977):  
<http://www.minedu.gob.pe/DelInteres/palmasmagisteriales/detalle.php?cod=5>.

Tom is a good friend; at least I consider him one, and I believe the feeling is mutual. In fact, Tom was one of the first to trek over from DC for a "doing sociology" session, to talk about his work as the go-to person for research at the NEA. It's for that reason that I accept his link to Patricia's award at face value. But ... if I were the cynical type, I might think this a clever trap. Tom I believe knows I've been doing a self-study of Spanish now for several years, making agonizingly slow progress (in my own defense, I don't put as much time into it as I should – that's on the agenda for how to use some of that glorious retirement time!).

So, can he rise to the occasion, you ask? Well, thank goodness for cognates: Patricia has been recognized by the Peruvian Ministry of Education with a lifetime achievement award for her career contributions to the science and practice of education. This is a high honor indeed, presented at a ceremony at the National Museum this past December. The Grado de Amauta is their highest level, or grade, award.

That's wonderful recognition, and we are proud as proud can be of Patricia, but it falls just a tad short of *Essence Magazine's* mention of Mary Washington (1998) as potential Presidential material: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/drmarylashington/8145420986/in/photostream>!!! We've had this posted on our website for a while, but probably not everyone has noticed it. *Essence* could well be on to something – time will tell – but for now we can take pride in the fact that one of our Alums is in the Statehouse. And who knows, some day we might be able to say we knew her when (and, if I recall correctly, take some pleasure in having made her squirm just a bit at her GBO!)

I try not to clutter these notes with attachments, but here's one that cannot be denied: Mansa Bilal Mark King (2006) proudly presents his daughter Binta (born October 29, 2012) to his extended Sociology family. Hearty congratulations indeed!

Remember Tom's 9 grandkiddies? That's a large number indeed, but not the Departmental record. Paul Power, from down under, leaves Tom in the proverbial dust with 10!. Here is how he puts it, along with an update on his charitable foundation:

I was particularly interested to read the brief section about Tom Dial and his 9 grandchildren. We are actually one up on that, with ten of them, aged from approaching thirteen to three and a half. Three of them are just turned or on the point of turning 6 and, when together, they create one of the most amusing things in our lives. Their conversations are more akin to a trio of 55 year-olds discussing their political views. Separately, each of the ten is delightful, great company and a source of constant joy. Together, they are a lesson in how to get on well in groups, which itself is a continual source of amazement.

As you know, if you remember anyway, I retired from full-time work some 5 years ago, but circumstances conspire to prevent me from retiring completely. The company for which I worked for the last 15 years of my full-time employment (Hay Group) continues to ask me to do things on a casual contract basis and that helps to keep my mind active and alive. Also, my wife Kim and I established a not-for-profit organization about 4 years ago and that keeps us both quite busy. Called The Sunflower Foundation (Australia) Inc. (see [www.sunflowerfoundation.com.au](http://www.sunflowerfoundation.com.au)) it is dedicated to providing support for the education of marginalized indigenous girls and young women in Australia and overseas. Actually, most of our grants have been awarded to overseas projects in the past two years. We have a small but dedicated committee that assists us, but we are constantly trying to recruit new helpers here – we are not getting any younger and the work of running a charity is quite onerous. I turned 72 this past June and Kim is now 70, but we still have a few years in us, I think.

That's it for now. We'll have more faculty news when I write later this spring, and I trust we'll also have a greatly expanded data base on Alums working outside academic Sociology – I hope to see my inbox overflowing over the next weeks, so please don't disappoint.

A Happy New Year to all, and my sincere wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013.

## Directory

### JHU Sociology Alums Working Outside Academic Sociology

(Jan. 2013)

#### **John Curtis (1992; jcurtis@aaup.org)**

I work for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). In a very real way, I and my colleagues work for you and all other faculty members, graduate teaching assistants, postdoctoral fellows, and academic researchers. I've been at AAUP since 2002, first as Director of Research and, since 2006, as Director of Research and Public Policy. I direct the annual AAUP Faculty Compensation Survey, which compiles data on full-time faculty salary and benefits. I carry out research on the academic labor force, primarily the increasing use of contingent appointments; gender equity in academic employment; and institutional finance. I also oversee our government relations program, and for good measure I coordinate our office computer network!

I consider what I do to be very much applied sociology, both quantitative and qualitative--well, except for the computer network part, which is an outgrowth of my inherent geekiness. In my work I use academic research methods in order to carry out an advocacy agenda. I consider it very important that the work I do be objective and reliable, as a basis for effective advocacy to an audience of media, legislatures, and the academic community.

We have a relatively small staff, about 35 in the national office, and my Department at the moment consists of two individuals. (My research assistant is also a sociologist, a graduate of the U of Maryland, College Park.) So there are not many employment opportunities. I've always thought there might be a possibility to work with graduate students, and we do occasionally take on an unpaid intern. With those caveats, I would be happy for you to give out my contact information, which is below.

#### **Ron D'Amico (1978)**

President and Senior Social Scientist at Social Policy Research Associates (SPR). SPR is a contract research firm located in California with about 60 employees that conducts policy evaluation and research studies for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, and Justice, among other clients. Among my current studies, I am serving as Principal Investigator for a DOJ-funded random assignment study of a prisoner reentry initiative, and for a DOL-funded random assignment study of a government initiative to provide job training and reemployment assistance to the long-term unemployed.

We are always on the lookout for sharp researchers, so please feel free to send resumes our way (In fact, we recently hired a Hopkins M.P.P. grad, a student of Burt Barnow. We are currently embarking on a search for someone with strong econometric skills and experience with applied research, so let me know if anyone comes to mind

#### **Joe Gasper (2009)**

Senior Study Director in the Health Studies Sector at Westat, an employee-owned statistical and survey research company based in Rockville, MD. He is currently working on several research studies across a variety of areas including labor, nutrition, and military health.

Westat has a summer internship program for minority graduate students. Other less formal opportunities may be available. I will keep the department in mind if I hear of other openings.

### **Sylvia Golombek (1990)**

Sr. Vice President at YSA (Youth Service America) – an organization that promotes the civic participation of children and youth in various forms: leading public awareness campaigns on different issues; providing direct service to meet social needs; participating in advocacy efforts; or working through philanthropy. We work internationally mobilizing hundreds of thousands of youth in schools (through a service-learning approach) and in community-based organizations in more than 100 countries and disburse \$1M+ per year to support youth-led community improvement projects. My primary responsibilities (aside from management) include leading the design and implementation of the organization's strategic plan, monitoring progress towards program goals, overseeing evaluation methods, and contributing a sociological perspective to guide our current and future efforts in youth participation.

*Internships:* We offer (unpaid) internships year-round during which students are assigned specific projects. Right now, for example, we have two undergraduate students working on aspects of our school-based service-learning programs and a third year doctoral student focusing on evaluation of youth development programs who will help us introduce some changes in our evaluation of selected programs. The students do not need to be in our office, but since we are in DC we are close enough for occasional face to face meetings when necessary throughout the internship.

### **Marilynn Katatsky (1972)**

Senior V. P., Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. An investment management consultant is a fee-based advisor with specialized training in creating optimized efficient portfolios (asset allocation) and select, evaluate, monitor, etc money managers. A wealth Advisor is a financial advisor who takes the whole person/family into account and builds wealth and tax planning solutions that meet individual needs, does a lot more than just manage money...Stays up at night worrying a lot about people....

I would love to have an intern, if a student is interested in this ...I really should be segmenting my clients and doing more analysis of who they are etc so that I can focus on particular sub-groups/segments. I also should be surveying clients to get a better understanding of how we are servicing them and/or what we might be missing. I need to be doing more focused marketing etc, too.

### **Kerri Kerr (2002; kerri.a.kerr@gmail.com)**

Education Research & Policy Consultant, providing high-level consulting to non-profit organizations on research, evaluation, knowledge management, and strategic planning. Project work includes serving as lead technical expert on the management team for several large-scale national research studies; leading organizational strategic planning

processes; conceptualizing, managing, and implementing evaluation, measurement, and learning strategies; serving as a liaison between clients and evaluators; and serving as a senior advisor on data and accountability activities. For the past four years has served in a senior management role on the Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Project for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

I do sometimes hire interns or students who can carry out some basic analysis for me. And fine if folks want to contact me to network.

### **Bei Liu (2006)**

Program Officer and Associate Research Fellow, China Development Research Foundation (CDRF). CDRF is a Beijing-based policy advocacy and research organization, founded by and affiliated with the Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC)--a think tank directly advising for the state council in China. I am mainly in charge of a pilot program of early childhood development that includes nutritional interventions, early education and home visitation for preprimary school-age children under 6 in the poor rural areas in China. Drawing on the CDRF pilot program, the Chinese central government has started national programs of child nutrition improvement and preschool education in 2012. The early childhood development program will continue social experiments and perform rigorous impact evaluation to better national policy making as well as enhance international collaborations in 2013.

### **Susan Manning (2002)**

I started a job in October as a survey statistician at the Census Bureau (after 8 years at home with the kids). I'll be rotating through different areas of the agency before settling into a permanent position.

### **John Ralph (1978)**

Program Director for Data Development. NCES, Dept of Education. The Data Development Program annually fields 2-4 nationally representative quick-turnaround surveys on topics of interest to education policymakers. For example, we currently have two surveys on dual credit/dual enrollment course taking in high school and college in IES review and scheduled for release in January. Perhaps more helpful is this link: <http://ies.ed.gov/pdf/20126002.pdf>

Though public, I suspect this biennial report to Congress is not widely read. It contains a reasonably comprehensive summary of the main projects and surveys underway in NCES and across IES. It also includes a revealing list of grantees (mostly academic) and contractors (who conduct our surveys) along with the dollar amounts of their funding. Some predoctoral and postdoctoral programs and their funding are included.

### **Eileen Rudert (1984)**

My agency, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, does indeed accept student interns. An internship offers not only a great opportunity to learn about civil rights but to see how politics affect work in a federal agency. The Commission is a very small agency, currently with 35 to 40 employees. Internships are unpaid (unless they are arranged through one of our Commissioners). Undergraduates (generally juniors and seniors) are assigned to my office.

Typically we give them the duties of conducting internet research and/or drafting reports on the civil rights issues our Commissioners have chosen to study.

Although we very rarely perform data analyses at a level that would interest graduate students, our Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is currently designing a potentially data intensive project that staff must complete within 6 months. (The issue concerns women in the military.)

**Estelle Young (2001; [estellemyoung@gmail.com](mailto:estellemyoung@gmail.com))**

*Co-Director for College Success, Baltimore Partnership for College Access and Success, Greater Baltimore Urban League.* I oversee, manage and coordinate college engagement component of project to foster college-going aspirations, promote academic achievement, and increase opportunities for college student engagement through various peer leadership activities. The Baltimore Partnership includes the Greater Baltimore Urban League (lead partner), Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy, EYE Development, and Coppin and Morgan State Universities. Prepared successful \$50,000 proposal from the Walmart State Giving program to underwrite pilot. we just posted 3 VISTA positions -- which might be a match for one of your students.



