



FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

My thanks to the 31 alumni of our Ph.D. program who responded to my request for alumni updates for this newsletter. Clearly, this is a group that likes to stay informed about how everyone is doing. The updates are posted below.

The big news in the Department is the appointment of Katherine Newman as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and as a Professor of Sociology. She began September 1. Although trained as an anthropologist, Katherine has moved intellectually to sociology. Before coming to Hopkins, she was a professor of sociology at Princeton. Prior to that, she was at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. She is one of the leading scholars in the nation on urban poverty, the working poor, and social mobility. She is the author or co-author of nine books and has two more in progress. Katherine wants to expand the size of the Arts and Sciences faculty through fundraising and possibly an increase in undergraduate enrollments. She appears to have the backing of the President (Ron Daniels) and Provost (Lloyd Minor) to devote more University resources to Arts and Sciences. Katherine has already developed a proposal, with the help of a faculty committee, to raise funds for an undergraduate social policy program that would include a semester in residence in Washington, where Hopkins owns a building across the street from the JHU School of Advanced International Studies. Although Katherine won't have a lot of time for research, we have given her an office in the Department and a research assistant so that she can maximize her scarce research time.

Faculty research continues to get attention. Karl Alexander and Doris Entwisle's now-famous finding that disadvantaged students fall behind their more advantaged counterparts during the summer rather than during the school year was featured in a *Time* cover in July, "The Case Against Summer Vacation." (<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2005654,00.html>). And I suppose if I'm doing *Time* stories, I should mention the November 29 issue's cover story, "Who Needs Marriage?" which features writing I have done. (<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2031962,00.html>).

Since the last update, Joel Andreas, an excellent China scholar, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure. He is the author of *Rise of the Red Engineers: The Cultural Revolution and the Origins of China's New Class*, a study of the growth of the technocratic class in China, as well as several well-received articles.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Melanie Arthur (2001) – Left her position at Portland State University a few years ago and took a position at University of Alaska, Fairbanks (calls this her early mid life crisis). Currently, she is up for tenure. Melanie has two children, a daughter who is 2 years old and a son who is 10 months old.

Salvatore Babones (2003) – Is a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at The University of Sydney. He is currently working to build support for a new ASA Section on Development.

József Böröcz (1992) - Was a fellow--on sabbatical leave from Rutgers--at the Institute for Advanced Study / Collegium Budapest during the Spring of 2009. From August 2009 to July 2010, he enjoyed a one-year fellowship at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for Advanced Study at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. He has been back to Rutgers since August 2010. Exactly on the day of his arrival in India, his book entitled, *The European Union and Global Social Change: A Critical Geopolitical-Economic Analysis*, was published (by Routledge UK), followed by a paperback version in mid-August 2010.

Robert Bozick (2005) – Recently took a position as a Social Scientist in the Labor and Population Division at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, CA.

Ben Brewer (2006) – Up for tenure and promotion at James Madison University this year and feeling optimistic. His wife, Alix, has found some interesting and flexible part-time work in research education at University of Virginia Curry School of Education, even though she is trained as a clinical social worker. His twin boys, Max and Nate, are now 4 years old and growing quickly. They are hoping to take a trip up to Baltimore in the next few months.

Mindelyn Buford II (2010) – Has started a new position as an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Northeastern University in Boston, MA.

Richard Conviser (1970) – Left Missoula, Montana in August, 2010, and moved to Fallbrook, California, which is in northern San Diego County. He continues to work as a consultant on the HIV epidemic in Africa, with a focus on capacity building among health professionals. Late last year, he issued a second CD, *One Being Inside All*, of original songs on spiritual texts for soprano with violin and piano accompaniment. (Information about and samples of the compositions on my CDs are available at www.richardconviser.com.) He continues to participate in Dances of Universal Peace as a Dance leader and musician.

Tom Dial (1986) – Two grandchildren were born this year. His grand total of grandchildren is up to eight.

Joyce Epstein (1974)– In the past year and a half, she has had two new editions of her books published. The text *School, family, and Community Partnerships: Preparing Educators and Improving Schools*, second edition, Boulder CO: Westview Press; and the handbook, *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action*, third edition, Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Elena Ermolaeva (1997) – Recently published her book entitled *Unintended Consequences of Human Actions* (University Press of America).

Joseph Gasper (2009) – Jumped head first into a lot of projects across a wide array of areas at Westat. Recently won an AERA Research Grant to continue his dissertation research on high school dropout. He and his wife, Alisha bought a house in Rockville, MD this past summer.

Travis Gosa (2008) – Left Williams College in 2009 to take a position at Cornell University in the Fall of 2009 as Assistant Professor of Social Science at the Africana Studies and Research Center. In addition,

holds Faculty appointments in Education, African Studies, and the Cornell University Center for the Study of Inequality.

Peter Grimes (1996) – Is teaching at Central Michigan University.

Luis Guarnizo (1992) – Will be leaving the chairmanship in the Human and Community Development Department at the University of California, Davis campus, which has reduced the number of FTE faculty by 12%. Luckily, the most recently-approved state budget did not add further reductions to this year's University budget.

Adia Harvey Wingfield (2004) - Won the ASA Race, Gender, and Class section's Distinguished Article Award this year for her paper "Racializing the Glass Escalator: Reconsidering Men's Experiences with Women's Work," which appeared in *Gender & Society* in 2009. She also had a paper entitled "Are Some Emotions Marked 'Whites Only'? Racialized Feeling Rules in Professional Workplaces" published in the May issue of *Social Problems*, and a paper entitled "Caring, Curing, and the Community: Black Masculinity in a Feminized Profession" published in the 2010 issue *Research in the Sociology of Work*. She was also awarded the 2010 Outstanding Junior Faculty Award from the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University, and received \$25,000 in grant funding from the Kauffman Foundation to study racial differences in motivations for entrepreneurship. And she guest-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Race and Policy* called "Race and Policy in the Age of Obama."

Phillip Hough (2007) – Is in his fourth year as a tenure-track assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University's Sociology Department (Boca Raton, FL). He is still writing and researching the topic of labor relations and political violence in Colombia.

Kerri Kerr (2002) -- Is living in Baltimore with her husband and 3-year-old daughter. After stints with RAND and New Leaders for New Schools, she is now working as an independent consultant focused on education policy and research. Her primary focus is helping to conceptualize, manage, and implement a 2-year study commissioned and led by the Gates Foundation to create more robust and valid measures of teacher effectiveness. The study is in its second year of data collection but expects to release early results in late 2010 in time to influence the upcoming ESEA reauthorization discussions.

Mansa Bilal Mark King (2006) – Is an Assistant Professor at Morehouse College and a board member of the Georgia Sociological Association. He published a book chapter based on a chapter from his dissertation, "Fathering in Low-Income Black Families: Studying Father-Figure Flows" in the volume *The Myth of the Missing Black Father*. His research agenda is shifting to the intersection of religion and families. He has drafted a piece on interracial marriage among American Muslims and has conducted some interviews in an effort to examine the effects of religious conversion on family dynamics. Also, he has a work in progress on the social predictors of non-violent Muslim doctrine and behavior when Muslims are a numerical and political minority.

David Kyle (1996) - Has been appointed the executive director of the new Gifford Center for Population Studies at UC Davis (gifford.ucdavis.edu), which supports research and training concerning the nexus of human mobility and climate change.

Barbara Larcom (1990) - Fell and broke her hip a year and a half ago, and the rehab has been gradual. But she can now walk at least three miles at a stretch, and feels great. She continues to enjoy her work with Casa Baltimore/Limay, a friendship-city project linking Baltimore with San Juan de Limay in

northern Nicaragua. She will lead another delegation there in January. She is serving on the national board for the Alliance for Global Justice and helping to raise funds for them. In addition, she is serving on a local board, Research Associates Foundation, which recently launched its small grants program (similar to Resist! but at a local level) for progressive Baltimore-area projects.

Jim Lunday (1984) – Has recently retired.

Allan Mazur (1969) – His daughters are finally spawning a whole new generation – one had an adorable pair of twins, the other had a “delicious” granddaughter.

Kai-Lit Phua (1994) – Currently holds an Associate Professor position in Medical Sociology at the Monash University School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Malaysian campus at Monash University. He teaches medical and pharmacy students medical sociology, basic statistics and public health.

Bruce Podobnik (2000) – Is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He is currently beginning a research project which examines an emergent global social movement that is trying to bring about more sustained attention to global warming threats. He has begun regularly teaching a class on Happiness -- which explores the psychological and social roots of well-being. In addition, he recently took a group of students to Cuba for a semester abroad program, “which was amazing.”

Timmons Roberts (1991) - For a year and half now, he has been directing the Center for Environmental Studies at Brown, where he is now Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies. “It's been interesting and challenging.”

Deirdre Royster (1997) - Joined the New York University Sociology Dept. in January 2009. She is an Associate Professor and has an affiliation with the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Rick Tardanico (1979) -- Served as chair of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at Florida International University from 2002 to 2008, initiating and heading the establishment of the new Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies, which combines sociocultural anthropology, human geography, and sociology with a cross-disciplinary focus on the overlapping themes of identities and inequalities, migrations and diasporas, and nature-society. The department, which includes a PhD program, is part of a new School of International and Public Affairs. He and fellow JHU alumnus Doug Kincaid have worked closely together over the years in programs within the department, the Latin American and Caribbean Center, and international studies in general. He's continuing to do research on inequalities of basic infrastructure in Central American cities, and is beginning to work on sociospatial inequalities and disasters. And he has served as RA to his son Joey, now a freshman biology major and Honors College student at FIU, who recently won the Florida FFA (Future Farmers of America) zoology competition for his funded research project on habitats and moth species.

Cindy Truelove (1989) – Married her partner of over a decade, JaNell Cook, in California on October 23, 2008. She reports that while academic and professional opportunities are her blessings, it is her family life with her spouse and her golden retriever, Abbey, which is life's gold mine. She is working for the California Public Utilities Commission largely cooperating with other state agencies on issues such as water conservation, water use efficiency and energy efficiency, and water and climate change.

Mary Washington (1998) – Was elected on November 4 to the Maryland House of Delegates for the 43rd District of Maryland. Her web site and blog: <http://www.electmarywashington.com/>.

Alice Willard Baker (1999) – Is doing a lot of traveling and no other changes.