

Hello All --

I've been chastised and I am chastened. The chastizee is Susan Dauber (1993), who over breakfast at the recent AERA meeting in Vancouver blindsided me with a "so what's with the Alumni Updates?" It hit a sore spot, as I'd been stewing over precisely that – what's with the Alumni Updates? I could plead busy, and I certainly have been that, but how many times have I professed fondness for these occasional notes? They indeed are important to me, and it pleases me no end when I hear, as I often do, that they are important to you also. So, a shout-out to Susan for prodding me into action.

Mentioning "updates," I hope everyone is on the distribution list for Dean Newman's quarterly "News from the Dean" mailings. If you're not, let me know and we'll make sure you are added to the list. In the meantime, here is the link to her Spring 2012 newsletter: http://krieger.jhu.edu/about/from_the_dean/index.html. That Kathie is a gifted writer we know from her sociology, but as Dean she really has elevated communications from the Dean's office. Her notes bring to life some of the truly remarkable work being done throughout the school, and I love how she connects it to the undergraduate experience in a way that seems altogether genuine (perhaps because it is!). The current issue centers on Meagan Young, a double major in archeology and civil engineering, and how she came to propose a new explanation for the destruction of an ancient Greek temple, an event that dates back to between 425 and 400 BCE. It is a wonderful read and I recommend it to you.

I'll have more to say of Dean Newman shortly, but first two announcements about the upcoming ASA meeting in Denver. First, there will be a session honoring the career accomplishments of Mel Kohn. My Fall mailing mentioned that Mel is retiring at the end of the current academic year. That is absolutely the case, but for Mel "retiring" may not mean what it would for you or for me. He will continue on as an Emeritus member of the faculty, will retain his office in the department, and will be as active in the intellectual life of the department as he chooses to be. But that doesn't mean nothing will change. Mel's time will be his own (lucky him!) and I am assured it will be put to good use with large writing projects (including an intellectual memoir).

But I've drifted. Back to Denver – I will send around the schedule for Mel's session when it is released by ASA.

The second Denver announcement is sort of related to the first: we will be hosting a departmental reception at ASA. Undoubtedly there will be some nice things to say about Mel; that's the "sort of," but it is not a reception *for* Mel. Rather, it is a reception for the department's alums and friends, which means it is first and foremost *for you*. So yes, this year we are back in party mode! And quite a party it promises to be. With help from our local agents, Richard Miech and Paula Fomby, we have reserved a private room at Tamayo, an upscale Tex – Mex restaurant just a short walk from the convention center. (Some of you may know Richard and Paula. I bonded with Richard, another UNC grad, when he was on the Hopkins Public Health faculty and with Paula when she was working with Andy on his three city project. Both are now at the University of Colorado - Denver). Please do mark your calendar for this very special evening: Friday, Aug 17, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (we'll be sending proper invites later by way of Evite).

Now back to Dean Newman, who does more than just write pretty newsletter missives. I mentioned in my Fall note her strategic planning process that involved each and every Arts and Sciences Department, Center and Program. And it was quite a process indeed! To recap, it involved two visiting committees – the first early on to help with brainstorming, the second toward the end for on-site fact-finding and to react to the Department’s draft “White Paper” (as the reports were called). And there were discussions, lots of discussions – preceding the first visiting committee, continuing after it had come and gone, and then more discussions after the second to react to their report on our report. Lots of work, but toward what end? The end game for the Dean was to prepare four year hiring plans for the Departments.

Yeah, sure no way. That’s crazy; it’ll never happen. Well guess what – our four year plan was presented to me at our spring budget meeting. An uncommon Dean indeed!

The plan provides for four positions, two senior and two junior. You’ll recall there are two senior retirements imminent in the department – Mel’s this year and then mine after the 2013 – 2014 school year. I suppose 2013 – 2014 doesn’t quite qualify as “imminent,” but it falls within Kathie’s four year window and it is quite extraordinary to be able to plan for a senior retirement this far in advance.

Have I mentioned that finances are tight? That hardly need to be said, and it probably won’t surprise either that the Departments have been put on notice that most faculty hires going forward will be at the junior level, and that some openings might not be filled at all. A scary thought indeed, and had Sociology suffered either fate ... well, I don’t even want to contemplate that. Our White Paper argued the case and the visiting committee’s report endorsed our plea, but the Dean controls the purse-strings and it was her call. That she stretched to this extent tells us she is committed to keeping sociology at Hopkins a center of excellence.

It is a phased plan, and the first phase starts immediately. At our May faculty meeting we will sign off on a position description for a pre-tenure appointment in the broad area of global social change (our new construction of what many of you will recall, affectionately I trust, as the Program in Cross-National Sociology and International Development). The search will be conducted in 2012 – 2013 and if all goes well our new junior colleague will arrive in time for the fall semester 2013. That’s position #1.

In 2013 – 2014 we will launch a search for a senior appointment in Social Policy. That position description won’t be in hand for a while, but we know it will include a strong urban thrust. You may recall from our White Paper that the department’s intent going forward is to be more self-consciously urban-centric, and to focus more of our work on B’more -- as a natural laboratory, but also to try to make what we do useful locally. Steve’s Plank’s work with BEREC is a good model, and I expect there will be others. President Daniels seems serious about rehabilitating the Hopkins image locally, and in a way that’s more than simply window-dressing. This doesn’t mean everyone in the department will be doing Baltimore focused research all the time, but over time this new thrust should be discernible. If it isn’t, then we aren’t staying true to the plan.

There is a larger context for this. The University’s next major capital campaign is to be named The Urban Century, signaling the campaign’s fund-raising priorities. Arts and Sciences already has secured the resources to launch a DC-based Program in Social Policy for undergraduates, one that

could eventually include a graduate component. It is a cooperative venture involving Sociology, Economics, and Political Science and all three departments already have realized tangible benefits in the form of new faculty lines. Going forward, we are well-positioned to work with the Dean, the Provost, and the President in helping advance their Urban Century agenda. Social Policy, that's position #2.

The third position, we have decided, will be in Sociology of Education. That search – a senior search - will coincide with my retirement at the end of the 2013 – 2014 academic year. It was an easy decision for us to commit to maintaining SoE as a core specialization – it is hard to imagine Sociology at Hopkins without Sociology of Education? Still, nothing can be assumed, and having that written into our White Paper was a large step in assuring not just continuity, but also disciplinary leadership in the field.

That leaves position #4, and indeed it is left, as we've yet to set priorities for that hire. The thinking instead is to hold off until we know what has happened with the other three. We are a small program, and will remain small. That makes every appointment critical and waiting on this last position gives us a bit of flexibility in deciding how best to use the opportunity. So stay tuned, there will be more to be said on that front as time goes by.

This whole process has kept us busy (not making excuses, mind you), and on top of that there have been several developments focused on undergraduate programming. I've already mentioned the Social Policy Program, which has paid off already in a new faculty position. This is intended for undergraduates, who will spend a semester or a year in DC attending seminars, taking classes, and doing internships. At the Homewood end, it is an collaboration between Sociology, Economics and Political Science (Andy and Stefanie are representing Sociology on the planning committee). The program is expected to attract some strong new majors into the department.

Planning also is underway for a dual BA – MAT program in partnership with the School of Education. There are details still to be worked out, but the intent is to pack both degrees into a four year program, with much of the junior and senior years at the School of Education. Those who survive what promises to be a grueling schedule will be awarded with a BA, a Master's of Teaching, and a guaranteed job. This is not expected to be a large program, but a good many UG's develop an interest in teaching along the way and until now the only option for most has been the Teacher for America path. Sociology will likely emerge as the Homewood administrative home for Teach Hopkins and I've offered to help coordinate the program.

We also find ourselves having to ramp up coverage of medical sociology in a big way, a response to an external shock: in 2015 the MCAT will include, for the very first time, a section on the social and behavioral sciences. The content will be bread-and-butter psychology and sociology and the Dean's office anticipates it will trigger a "tsunami" of enrollments in Sociology (Dean Newman's phrasing). Talk about meetings! The folks in the Pre-Professional adviser's office, in UG advising, and on the Pre-Med planning committee are in a real stew over this, and for good reason. I've learned that entering Arts and Sciences and Engineering classes typically include in the vicinity of 625 self-described pre-meds and the expectation is that most of them – indeed the vast majority – will land in Sociology for at least one class.

We offer 3 relevant classes: Intro Soc, Medical Soc, and Population, Health and Development, the last two covered by Public Health faculty. In the good old days (up to and including this year), all three have been offered once annually, with enrollments in the vicinity of 100. So yes, we are anticipating a big hit, and beginning with next year's entering class, as they will be the first cohort to take the new MCAT. In response we have received resources from the Dean's office to offer Medical Sociology fall and spring and to double enrollment in the Pop course. We also will lift the enrollment cap on Intro. That should help us gauge demand and might prompt us to offer it fall and spring also, beginning in 2013 – 2014.

All these developments in undergraduate programming oblige us to work hard to maintain the UG – Graduate balance that has been, and continues to be, critical to our sense of mission. We will do that, I promise, but there also are some silver linings. The need for additional TA support in the classroom may oblige the Dean's offer to increase the department's financial aid allocation, all these new students taking sociology could conceivably yield us a few new majors, and Emily Agree will be joining the department as our first ever Research Professor. Emily will be transferring from her faculty base in the School of Public Health. She is a card-carrying PhD sociologist, specializing in aging and social gerontology. If you Google her, you will find that she has achieved considerable eminence for her research in that area. The department for many years has shied away from building an in-house capability in medical sociology, preferring instead to rely on our Public Health colleagues for coverage of elective course offerings in that area. Emily is one of those. She has held a joint appointment with us for many years and was penciled in already to cover Medical Sociology in 2012 – 2013. Now it will be two sections and possibly a third elective.

The ramping up of courses in the service of pre-meds is need-driven, but Emily's coming along with it is a big bonus. In addition to her teaching, she will be the department's liaison to the Public Health major, as well as to the East Baltimore campus more generally. At the same time, the Research Professor appointment will allow her to continue her program of research under grants that will follow her, as well as her involvement with the Pop Center and the Center for Population Aging and Health, which she directs. So, a hearty welcome to our newest colleague, Emily Agree!

That's a lot said about undergraduate programming, but everyone I trust understands that our major is important to us. We are small, but high quality – at our mid-day commencement reception, 7 majors will be inducted to the department's AKD chapter (the international sociology honor society). That's an historic high for us, and we are proud of them and of their accomplishments. But we are heavily invested in our graduate program also, and there is much to brag on there as well. I could list presentations and publications, but this note already is overly long and I fear that would tax everyone's patience. So let me capture it this way, through the notes of congratulations that have gone out in the department this year:

3/28/2012 - Congratulations to Erdem Yoruk – he has accepted an offer as assistant professor at Koç University in Turkey and will be starting this Fall.

3/27/2012 - Congratulations to Felipe Filomeno – he will be starting this fall as assistant professor of International Politics at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil.

3/9/2012 - Congratulations to Peter Rosenblatt - he has accepted a tenure track assistant professor job at Loyola University Chicago and will start this fall.

2/12/2012 - More good news to share. Astra Bonini has received a Postdoctoral Fellowship from Columbia University starting in September 2012 with the interdisciplinary Committee on Global Thought co-chaired by Joseph Stiglitz and Saskia Sassen.

2/3/2012 - Congratulations to Kevan Harris - Kevan has received a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University starting in September 2012.

4/15/2011 - More good news from the Sociology family - Yin Yue has accepted a tenure track assistant professor position in the School of Public Economics & Administration at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics starting this Fall.

4/14/2011 - Caitlin Cross-Barnet (2010) has great news - she has accepted a 2 year Visiting Assistant Professor position in sociology at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster PA.

That's none too shabby, and that it runs against the current of one of the tightest job markets in memory makes it all the more impressive.

I hadn't intended to dwell to this extent on news from the inside, but when I sit down to work on one of these mailings, I never know exactly what direction it will take. As you can tell, it has been a busy year, with much to report. The bottom line is that your Sociology program continues to thrive and you can expect more good news as we move forward with our four year hiring plan. But it cannot end here, as a number of you were kind enough to check in with tidbits of news.

This from Adia Harvey (2004):

"My 2010 paper "Caring, Curing, and the Community: Black Masculinity in a Feminized Profession", published in Research in the Sociology of Work, won the Outstanding Author Contribution from the Emerald Literati Awards for Excellence. I also have a 2011 publication in Critical Sociology and papers forthcoming in Qualitative Sociology and Race, Gender, and Class in 2012, and my third book, Changing Times for Black Professionals, was published by Routledge in 2011. Finally, I am now Deputy Editor of Gender & Society, which I am pleased to say was ranked 4th in the discipline in 2010, behind only AJS, ASR, and ARS."

Did you catch that, her THIRD book. I'm still kicking myself for not being able to make the party her parents organized to celebrate the arrival of the second, but perhaps I can make the fourth! I wrote back to her that "I am proud beyond words for all that you have accomplished." Well, I guess that's not strictly true, as I did put it in words, but you get the drift – Adia has done extraordinarily well and we indeed are proud of her!

Marilyn Katatsky (1973) is an accomplished PhD alum of a quite different sort. In response to one of my very first Alumni Updates she wrote back to say she had outgrown Sociology and maybe we shouldn't be bothering. Well, I couldn't let her off the hook that easily, and since then we've become best buds -- Kathy and I have visited Marliyn and hubbie in Annapolis and they've returned the favor here in B'more. Indeed, she's now so tied in with her Sociology side that they helped push the Entwisle endowment drive over the top. Marilyn is an investment adviser with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and here's an excerpt from her latest note:

“Bought a gorgeous home on the Bay, really, really on the Bay with a swimming pool, the works, must invite you and Kathy, but our furniture is still at the other house awaiting a buyer.

Just back from the Barron's Women's 100 Winners Circle...still not among the top 100 women financial advisers in the country but in the top 200 is still pretty good, considering I started out as a sociologist!!!”

Ok, so she still turns up her nose, but I'm working on it, and beneath it all Marilyn is a delight!

Our good friend Tom Rodriguez (2000) has relocated to the left coast, where he has a teaching intensive position at CSU-Stanislaus. By all accounts, it is keeping Tom quite busy: *“our semester ends in a couple weeks so i'm now gearing up for finals in my courses on 'social inequalities' and 'classical sociological theory,' both of which i've enjoyed teaching very much. As soon as i come up for air i'll be preparing two new courses for next semester: 'sociology of education,' for which i'll use some of the concepts i learned in your soc of ed class (e.g., 3 scenarios of academic tracking), and 'sociology of men and society,' one of the most under-studied areas in sociology.”*

When Tom was looking to relocate, we discussed how his passion for teaching has ratcheted up over the years, and I'm thrilled for him that he has found his way to a good place for that. Maybe seeing this mention will jog an update on his fiancee's job prospects in the area -- that was very uncertain when his note arrived last fall.

And have you heard that Travis Gosa (2008) and Jessie are proud parents – a little boy Isaac, but probably not so little any more, as that was last August. Travis – you never sent the promised link to a photo gallery. Maybe this public shaming will get some action!

And do you remember my photo contest? Well, I got it altogether wrong. Patricia Arrigui (1977) tells me it was at Ricky and Debbie's, not Doris's:

“Halloween 1980! The party was held at Ricky and Debbie's, near my place in Mt. Washington. We danced to Rocky Burnette's "Towing the Line"! Never made it to Doris's parties, that I can remember... probably trick or treating with my three kids... now I wonder how I made it, writing papers next to the washing machine in my basement, drinking cough syrup to stay awake through Sunday night before Raf Stolzenberg's assignments were due on Mondays....My original "cobort" doesn't appear in the first picture I sent, this is the second one, after I returned from the UK and did the Ph.D. coursework and dissertation proposal -- went ABD, however...”

And I'm attaching another one with myself as some kind of giant bat, our very gracious hosts, Debbie and Ricky in Pilgrim outfits, and Pam Walters on the right.... by the way, "Pachi" is my nickname...”

I'm forwarding along the picture she included -- Ricky and Debbie are precious!



Pachi, Debbie Holtzman and Ricky - Halloween 1980

It's a relief to no longer be passing the hat, but many of you welcomed the opportunity to give back during the Entwisle drive and we are grateful. We also receive contributions as part of the JHU annual campaign. Here is an excerpt from a note sent by Phil Vilaro (1997), wanting to make sure his and his wife's gifts get to the right place:

"Thank you for these updates. I enjoyed reading the White Paper and learning about the current state of the department and its future direction. Your notes help me feel connected to the department despite the great time that has passed since I was a student there.

My wife and I are committed to supporting our alma maters as much as we can. It would be helpful if you could send out a reminder about how to contribute directly to the department scholarship fund. While I have been giving to JHU for years, it was only when you sent out an appeal last year that I designated our gift to the department. Keep up the great work!"

The dollars of course are appreciated, but even more so the sentiment. We now have instructions from development on how to make sure your donations find their way to Sociology and I will happily pass them along to any and all – just ask.

And there is another development to mention along similar lines. This time I cannot name names as I am sworn to secrecy (this despite my plea to go public). One of your number has provided for a very large bequest to the department in his/her estate planning -- large, as in the seven figure variety. I hope it will be many years before we cash in -- and I mean that sincerely -- but this is a truly extraordinary gesture of support for the department. It will be preserved in perpetuity as endowment and the payout will be used in support of the graduate program. This is an uncommon gesture to be sure, but I've rec'd inquiry over the years from a couple of others about estate planning and if anyone is of a mind to leave that sort of legacy, let me know and we can work together with the folks in development to make sure every single dime lands in Sociology!

Ok, enough said. That's it for now. Hope to see lots of you in Denver. And please do send me tidbits for future mailings – I'll try to reform my ways and do these at least quarterly.

Cheers, and Best to All,

Karl