

Alumni Update 9/2006

Hello Everyone – I promised an occasional note, and I'm a man of my word.

First, a Mary Washington report. Sadly, Mary fell a bit short in her quest to be the first Hoppie sociologist in the state legislature, finishing fourth against a unified ticket of three popular, well-financed incumbents. Mary waged a vigorous and spirited campaign, and along the way garnered much favorable attention – she was endorsed by the City Paper, the Afro-American, and a number of ministerial alliances. I saw Mary just the other day on campus. She's holding her head high, and rightfully so, and I suspect this near-miss won't be Mary's last foray into the political arena. BTW— Mary's event at the New Haven lounge was a great success and great fun, with a good showing from her Hopkins buddies – Jill Ashman (aka Jacobsen, 1998), Cory Heyman (1999) and Chris Whitmore (1998) came over from the DC area; Pam Bennett, Stefanie DeLuca, Katrina McDonald and I were there from the department, along with Amy Lutz, a former CSOS post-doc.

It was good to see so many of you in Montreal, and at our first ever DAN –Alternative reception. We had a terrific turnout (despite the hotel's switching our room at the last moment!), good food, and good conversation. What's not to love? We'll do another in New York, and I hope we can make it happen every year!

Willie Jasso (1975) and Joyce Epstein (1974) win the prize for the earliest Ph.D.s in attendance. I don't believe the sixties were represented, but all other decades were present and accounted for. I'm sure I'm missing people, but from memory there were: Larry Griffin (1976), Aaron Pallas (1985), Bob Manning (1989), Jeff Kentor (1998), Salvatore Babones (2003), and Ho-Fung Hung (2004), along with a healthy presence of current graduate students and faculty from the department. A special word of thanks is due Salvatore, who helped with planning and even managed to save us a few \$\$\$ by spiriting contraband soda and water across the border.

Not everyone who wanted to attend was able of course, but even the “regrets” were welcome, in that they allowed us to reconnect and get a bit of news. Chris Bose (1973) had hoped to stop by, but her busy schedule didn't allow. She did, though, respond to my request for some news, and it's impressive news indeed – Chris is President of SWS and Chair of the ASA Committee on Publications, has a new book out with Stanford Press (*Global Dimensions of Gender and Carework*), and she writes with pride that her niece, an MA student in Medical Illustration at JHU, was recently awarded the Netter Prize. Adia Harvey (2004) also sends greetings to all. Adia has just relocated to Georgia State, and with publications in *Gender and Society* and the *Journal of Black Studies*, she seems to be doing quite well – good for you Adia! Dave Baker (1982) spent last year as a Fulbright New Century Scholar and recently completed a three-month stay at Martin-Luther University's Center for Higher Education. Toward the end of July, Carol Underwood (1993) reported she was about to head off for a 14 month research excursion to Baku, Azerbaijan, so she had good reason for skipping Montreal. When Carol is on this side of the world, she often can be found at the JHU School of Public Health, where she is a senior associate at the Center for Communications Programs. Cory Hyman

(1999) would like all his friends to know that he's struck out on his own, leaving AIR to open his own firm, Surya Associates International, an international educational consulting firm. Tony Lee (2001) is starting a post-doc in the Arnold School of Public Health at UC, Columbia, after which he hopes to return to the East coast (good luck Tony). Things seem to be going well for Bruce Podobnik (2000) also. Bruce reports that he has been awarded tenure and elevated to Chair at Lewis and Clark and that he loves living in Portland. And last, but as they say, certainly not least, Jill Ashman (aka Jacobson, 1998) proudly reports the acquisition of two advanced degrees: the MRS and the MOM. When Jill's not doing that important work, she is a health statistician for the feds (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, HIV/AIDS Bureau in the Division of Science and Policy's Data and Evaluation Branch – did I get that right?).

There's news to share about happenings in the Department too, but for most of that you'll have to go to the Department's website – I want to encourage that. But as a tease, I will mention that we're pleased to welcome our newest member of the Faculty, Rina Agarwala. Rina is just finishing up her degree at Princeton. In fact, she's so "just" that she's heading off later this week for her final defense. To find out more, .... you know where to go!

OK—those of you who've made it this far obviously want to stay connected. I know more "tidbits" than I've shared (Mark King's (2005) wedding in Africa, for one), but I'm only reporting things sent in for distribution. If you've enjoyed hearing about some of your friends from days gone by, be assured, they'd like to hear about you too. So, please, please, please send me your notes. And we're all friends, so everything's appropriate -- personal and professional.

I'll do another of these probably sometime in November, but before then I may ask for your help locating lost alums. In the meantime, stay healthy, be productive, and try to help make the world a better place.

Cheers to All—

Karl

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