

**Alumni update** July 10, 2006

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Hello Again-- you've been inundated with a flurry of recent e-mails from the department, and I'm afraid I'm the culprit. Effective July 1, I succeeded Giovanni Arrighi as department chair. We've been on a three-year rotation since Alex Portes' term, and Giovanni has concluded (he's now off on a well-deserved sabbatical). As some of you will remember, this is my second stint as chair, having done it previously from 1985 - 1992. This time around it will be 3 years, max!.

The department in good health and I hope to spend the three years largely as caretaker (meaning I hope there will be no crises, but something always seems to happen). However, that doesn't mean I have no agenda. One priority for me is to do a better job keeping in touch of our far-flung network of graduates. That's the reason for the upcoming party in Montreal; it's also what's behind the email blitz.

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I hope you welcome these overtures, but I know we don't want to overshoot the mark and I promise the volume will slow after this one – no more than one per month. In the department we're asking current faculty and students for items of news to post on the department's home page at the JHU website. If you're interested in keeping up with current happenings, that's the place to look (much has changed in recent years, with Doris Entwisle, Ed McDill and Bob Gordon all retired – check it out). I'm also eager to hear what's happening with our alumni, and I hope you'll get into the habit of sending me items of interest (personal and professional) that can be included in future e-mail "updates."

That's one of my two reasons for writing – to explain the recent mailings.

The other is to report the passing of one of our graduates, Anne Wilson, who passed away July 6 after a long struggle with cancer. Anne finished her degree with us in 1980. Tom Dial brought this news to my attention, and I've pasted below Tom's remembrance that he sent to the International Folk Dance group in Bloomsburg, PA, where Anne was on the faculty and active in dance. Here's a link to the folkdance posting about Anne: <http://www.sifd.blogspot.com/>

Best to all – hope to see some of you in Montreal, and I hope to hear from many of you with items of information for our next email update.

Karl

Karl Alexander  
Chair and John Dewey Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410-561-7001/6178  
Fax: 410-516-7590

Tom Dial said...

I'm not a member of the dancing group; I met Anne in grad school at Johns Hopkins. Anne was, quite simply, one of the best people I have ever known. An extraordinary combination of intellect, insight, strong principles, wit, and generosity came together in

her character. I am lucky to have known her, and I will always remember her with fondness and admiration, as I know many others will.