

Hello Everyone – This greeting should begin with something like "there's a chill in the air," as that would have been my opening line had I gotten around to writing when I had intended -- early fall. But early fall came and went, and it's almost time to close up shop for the winter break. So instead, let me start with sincere wishes for a happy and healthy New Year, and also a happy and healthy holiday season for those with holidays to celebrate this time of year.

My how time does pass, and not just on a semester-by-semester basis. I believe it was in my very first or second of these Alumni Updates that I mentioned Chris Bose's niece starting in an MA program in Art as Applied to Medicine here at the Hop. Well now Chris (1973) tells me her niece Lydia has finished the program and is working at the Medical School as a research assistant/artist – good for you Lydia! And there's another pleasing development to report regarding Chris. Through these occasional mailings, I've managed to help Chris and Bill Sampson (1973) reconnect. Chris and Bill were both Pete Rossi students back in the day. They'd fallen out of contact and now are back in touch. I did likewise for Tom Dial (1986) and Paul Power (1979), a long distance connection indeed, with Tom in DC and Paul 'down under'. Makes me feel almost like a matchmaker, and I'm happy to do the same for others. Our list of email addresses is filled out nicely, so if any of you would like anyone else's address, just ask (BTW – if you can help, I've attached the remaining list of lost alums. And a favor please: if you change email addresses, let me know). For those of you who are first time recipients of these missives, my previous notes are available at the Department's homepage (<http://www.soc.jhu.edu/alumni/>).

I don't want this note to expand like the last one, but I do have a few alum tidbits to pass along and I want to share some pleasing developments in the department, and especially to brag on some of our amazing students. But first to our scattered family.

Shiro Horiuchi (1981) was flattered to find practically a whole page devoted to him in my last note – my pleasure, Shiro! The update here is that he has relocated within the Big Apple to CUNY where he is 50% time at the School of Health Sciences, Hunter College, and 50% time as Faculty Research Associate at the CUNY Research Institute for Demographic Research, teaching Biostatistics and Epidemiology and doing research on longevity and aging.

Sylvia Golombek (1990) , recently elevated to Sr. Vice Prez at Youth Service America, wrote to share news about a new Disney sponsored program of Minnie Grants (cute, eh) of up to \$500 to support youth-led (ages 5–14) service projects. Eligibility is effectively world-wide, so check their website if you're interested. For more information on Sylvia's work, you can track down an article of hers in the Journal of Community Practice (V. 14, Nos. ½, 2006).

Richard Conviser (1970) , whom I still haven't met but still think I would like, wrote that he's off to Mexico in January to lead Dances of Universal Peace in San Migeul de Allende and Cuernavaca. Escaping snowy MO I gather is a side benefit. Richard also mentions a new CD in which he performs original compositions for the violin, available through the CD Baby website or iTunes. That's all I know, so if you're interested, probably you should drop him a note at pitchfixer@mac.com. Via iTunes, there's even time for Xmas if you're in need of last minute stocking-stuffers!

Henry Perry (1977) I gather is on a mission to get back in touch with his academic side. At least that's what I read into his announcement of yet another publication: "Health Equity Issues at the Local Level: Socio-geography, Access and Health Outcomes in the Service Area of the Hôpital Albert-Schweitzer-Haiti," published in the *International Journal for Equity in Health*. Good work Henry, and I like your punchy, pithy titles! We already have a contest going for the longest job title (at present, a tie between Teresa Knott, 1993, and Frank Stluka, 1998); maybe for 2008 we should launch a second on paper titles!

With Teresa mentioned, I need a brief digression. The Department had a hugely successful winter/holiday celebration earlier this month. It was held at the Hopkins Club, getting us out from the 5th floor of Mergenthaler Hall, nicely catered, and we had pleasing background music courtesy of a couple buds of mine. The party was well attended, everyone was well fed, and there was lots of lively conversation going -- exactly what you would want. But what elevated it to a really special event is that invitations went out to our alums in the B'more – DC area and several were able to attend: the aforementioned Teresa Knott, Jim Fennessey (1970), Jane Sundius (1996), Henry Perry and Scott Holupka (1992). Henry and Teresa we know about already. Jane is Baltimore-based as Director of Education and Youth Program Development for the Open Society Institute, Scott recently returned to Hopkins as a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Policy Studies, and Jim is Director of Information Systems for the Hopkins JHPIEGO Corporation (his wife Joanne attended also, but she would have been welcome even without Jim, as she is the tech support person on Doris's and my research project. And Jo's daughter Tami also was in attendance, invited owing to her job as BSS Administrative Secretary. The BSS really is a family affair – Tami and my daughter Karen were in day care together when they were four! I won't say how old Tami is, but Karen is about to turn 31.).

The party timing wasn't great – it was held early evening on a weeknight -- but we were delighted that several alums were able to attend and we received lots of nice "regrets" notes from others who couldn't. I'm hoping we can do this every year, and that the turnout will build once we all get into the routine of it.

Julia Sensenbrenner (1999) tried her best to stay under our radar screen, but we found her! Julia is in Seattle now, not China, and she's mainly focused on family (volunteering in school and home schooling one of her sons) and church. (helping with the Sunday school program). She also tutors Chinese students in English, is helping out as an informal dissertation advisor with two friends and is working on a book about social change in China through the experiences of Chinese senior citizens. She says: "I want to capture the experiences of the generation who were teenagers or college students prior to the Chinese Revolution before these fascinating stories are lost forever." Sounds like a very full and fulfilling life!

Now here's a shocker, at least for me: David Ross Gibson (1979) is an Emeritus Prof, retired after 25 years at the UCSF and UC Davis medical schools, where he taught statistics and social epidemiology and evaluated interventions to HIV at the community level. It's not fair that students who went through the Department after I arrived should be happily retired already, but it sounds as though David hasn't rolled up the carpet altogether: he reports that he is working on a book that combines Piaget, Kohn (our very own) and Michael Marmot's work on the British Civil Service, which finds a fourfold difference in mortality between junior support staff and

senior administrators. My retirement plan, when it happens, it to travel and watch lots of college b'ball -- how can I be so shallow! BTW – Ross also helped us track down Jim Lunday (1984) and Patricia Arregui (MA, 1977), both of whom I hope will enjoy hearing from me and write back with tidbits for a future Alumni Update.

And before winding down on the Alum side of this note, I need to acknowledge that I'm not the only one who helps bring together old friends. You have been terrific in helping me locate "lost alums" who are lost no more, and I hope you'll keep up that good work with change of address notices. But more particularly, I want to thank Daryl Matthews for helping me reconnect with Dick Rubin (1971). Dick was with the MD – PhD Program when I arrived, so in a very real sense he helped recruit me to Hopkins. During that time I recall Dick was doing something quite unusual for a Ph.D. sociologist – he wanted to do therapy and by taking advantage of his base and contacts in the Medical School, Dick was receiving clinical supervision. After the Program folded, we lost contact, but in one of Daryl's notes he asked whether the Dick Rubin he had read about in a recent Web posting was our Dick Rubin. I didn't know, but offered to check it out and, lo and behold, they are one and the same! That's pleasing on two accounts: 1) Dick and I have sort of reconnected. We've exchanged emails and it turns out he has an office in the Carlyle on University Parkway, where he sees patients and I see my dentist! And although we've yet to get together, we will (perhaps in the New Year); 2) more importantly, it turns out Dick is quite accomplished, a discovery I'm pleased to be able to share. The Web posting that caught Daryl's eye was announcing Dick's receipt of the American Diabetes Association's 2007 Rachmiel Levine Medal for Service. The accompanying citation tells us that Dick is President of the ADA's Health Care & Education division and on the Association's National Board of Directors. His many accomplishments in the area include "... more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, reviews, book chapters and books, including "Psyching Out Diabetes," "Sweet Kids," "Practical Psychology for Diabetes Clinicians," "The Johns Hopkins Guide to Diabetes," and "100 Tips for Coping with Diabetes." Dick also is an active researcher in this area and holds appointments as Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at Hopkins. That's quite a record of accomplishment. and while it is at a far remove from Marx, Weber and Durkheim, we are proud of Dick and proud to call him one of our own!

We're also proud of Julie Kim, a third year graduate student, for persevering through the onerous naturalization process to obtain U.S. citizenship and of Katrina McDonald for her appointment to the State Humanities Council – there's a lovely picture posted in the Department of her with Gov. O'Malley on the occasion of her induction. Those are marvelous accomplishments both!

Now I want to tell you about some of our current students. That they are an accomplished group will come as no surprise and in previous notes I've mentioned some of their presentations at professional meetings. Our students, we know, learn how to do research at a high level. That's been foundational in the Department for many years – you who are receiving this letter are proof positive. But many students also are highly accomplished in the classroom, and that doesn't get nearly the recognition it should. When most of you were here, students rarely had the opportunity to teach independently. That's still true today, but increasingly our advanced students are finding creative, even entrepreneurial, ways to secure teaching opportunities and the department has been helping when it can.

I date the beginnings of this to the 2001 – 2002 academic year, when we were asked by the Dean's office to recommend a student to the Writing Seminars for a new course "Writing in the Social Sciences." We suggested Adia Harvey (2004), who did such an outstanding job she was invited back for a repeat performance the following year. Then for two more years, a variant of that course was covered by Bedelia Richards, who added a second course: "Expository Writing: New Immigrants and the Politics of Race" (Bedelia, BTW, just this week filed her dissertation with the library, so I suppose that means we can add 2008 by her name – congratulations Bedelia!). Adia moved on to offer "Women and Activism" under the auspices of the Program on Women, Gender and Sexuality, followed, again, by Bedelia, with "Film (Mis)Representations of African American Diaspora Women," taught in the Africana Studies Program.

Intersession offerings were added to the mix during the 2005 – 2006 academic year, with Laila Bushra teaching "Representations of Colonial India" and Phil Hough (2007) "Latin America in the World System." That same year Jake Lowinger and Laila also offered spring semester courses and Jake, Bedelia and YingYi Ma (2007) taught in the summer school.

In 2007 – 2008 additional names were added to the mix, with Christian Villenas teaching "Sociology of Disability" as a Dean's Teaching Fellow, Travis Gosa teaching "Hip Hop Generation" in Africana Studies, Mindelyn Buford co-teaching the Department's Qualitative Research Practicum with Katrina McDonald, and several intersession/summer offerings: Joe Gasper, "School Violence" and "School Crime and Criminal Justice;" Mindelyn Buford, "Charm City Politics" (a new Freshman Experience offering) and Caitlin Cross-Barnett, "Fiction's Truth: Race, Class and Gender in the Contemporary Short Story."

That's quite an impressive record and quite a variety of course offerings. And I can tell you that all these courses were carefully vetted, designed in conjunction with faculty sponsors/mentors, and extremely well received. I want to add a bit about Christian's teaching as a Dean's Teaching Fellow, a program to support advanced students teaching in the area of their dissertation research. I don't remember exactly when this competition was introduced, but it is fiercely competitive and after several fruitless years of failed attempts, we essentially gave up on the program (the Humanists, we believed, had a strangle-hold on it). But last year Christian determined to give it a go, and we were all quite thrilled when he was announced as a winner. Here's a link to a Newsletter write-up on his course:

<http://media.www.jhunewsletter.com/media/storage/paper932/news/2007/11/08/NewsFeatures/Undergrad.Study.Finds.Disabled.Access.Poor-3089079.shtml>

Christian had his students work in teams to assess disability access into and through buildings on campus. I attended their poster session and the quality of their work blew me away – it was really quite remarkable. And I understand from Christian that there has been a bit of follow up through the Dean's office. What a wonderful contribution; what a wonder experience.

And there is more good news to report: it seems Christian's success this year has helped open the door for others. The Department's two 2008 -2009 Dean's Teaching Fellow applicants have been selected for funding: Mindelyn Buford, "The Power Elite: The Sociology of Privilege;" and Dan Pasciuti, "The City in Time and Space: Historical Sociology of the Urban World." And in two internal competitions, this past fall Lakshmi Jayaram offered "Gender and Contemporary Society" and next semester Travis Gosa will be teaching "The Hip Hop Generation; Its Power,

Identity and Social Change" as the Department's very first Doris Roberts Entwisle Graduate Teaching Fellow.

These are accomplished students all. Their experiences teaching are extremely worthwhile in themselves, but they also help supplement the Department's financial aid, which is especially critical in the 6th year and beyond after students have exhausted their eligibility. Funding for some of these teaching opportunities was provided by the Dean's office from salary funds recovered when faculty received external fellowship support or took leaves of absence without pay, as occasionally happens. The money is there, but it doesn't necessarily revert back to the Department. However, our current Dean, I am happy to be able to report, has been quite responsive to our requests and we are grateful for that. But the Entwisle Graduate Teaching Fellowship is a different kind of animal. It is being funded this year by an anticipated budget surplus in our budget. Doris has been a mainstay of the Department since the sixties. She is "sort of "retired now as an Emeritus faculty, but also holds the title Research Professor to continue with our now 25 year collaboration on the Beginning School Study project. When Doris first went into phased retirement way back in 1998 (how's that for a long "phase"!), she absolutely refused to allow the Department to make any kind of fuss over her – that's the kind of person she is, as many of you know. Well, that has been a sore spot for years, and when the idea arose to self-fund a teaching package, using it as a vehicle to recognize Doris was a "no brainer." And as a bonus, it was a great treat for me that we managed to spring it on her as a surprise at one of our fall semester faculty meetings,– announcing Travis as the recipient of an award she didn't know existed. This is one of the few times I can remember Doris at a loss for words!

I believe I mentioned in my last note that the Department is trying to ramp up student aid packages and help when we can beyond the five years we commit to everyone. We've also restructured financial aid to allow for a semester without a work obligation at the dissertation stage. The Entwisle Teaching Fellowship is a nice gesture, but also a big step for us. Unfortunately, funding isn't guaranteed and it is doubtful we'll be able to award one every year. The Department hasn't had a fundraising drive since we passed the hat to refurbish the Coleman Seminar Room and I'm not initiating one here. But I will say that an endowment to fund the Doris Roberts Entwisle Graduate Teaching Fellowship is one of two \$\$\$ items on my personal wish-list for the Department. The other is a fund to support student research during the summers. If anyone would like to help on either of these fronts, you know where to find me.

I also need to tell you about a not-quite-student. Nazish Zafar was admitted this past fall but asked to defer her enrollment in order to continue with a project she initiated as an undergraduate: The Napkin Project in Brazil, which uses messaging on low cost napkins to promote breastfeeding and infant health. Here's a link to this wonderful project, which has the potential for use throughout the world: <http://thenapkinproject.googlepages.com/> Needless to say, we deferred Nazish's enrollment and look forward to her joining us next year.

Let me conclude with a personal reflection. I am not religious, but this time of year encourages introspection and I find my thoughts drifting toward our young men and women in uniform. Some of you know that I am a (mildly!) disabled veteran, the result of injuries sustained in the Army Reserve when I was in graduate school (for those into such things, I was a cannoneer with

an 8" howitzer unit – that's the diameter of the shell, not the size of the gun, which was quite large indeed). I am also a member of Veterans for Peace. Whatever you might think of the policies that have our troops in harms way in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world, they are there doing their duty, the vast majority with honor and at great personal sacrifice. It troubles me that I haven't been doing more, so as a New Year's resolution I have decided to sign over my monthly disability check, in perpetuity, to a nonprofit helping homeless and/or disabled vets (seriously disabled -- not like me). I've identified a couple candidate organizations and in my next note I should be able to report which one I've selected. So here's my parting thought: let's try to prove Robert Putnam wrong -- whatever your means, find a worthy cause that moves you and try to make a difference.

Peace, and Best to All.

Karl