



**Department of Sociology
and Social Work**



A Message From the Chair — Robert B. Enright Jr.

Greetings from the Department of Sociology and Social Work at UWSP
Fall 2011



Since my last writing, we have had a few changes in our department. In May, Professor Eugene Clark announced his retirement. Professor Clark was our longest servicing faculty member. He came to UWSP in 1968. Over the years, he taught a wide variety of courses, including Sociology of Medicine. He taught the first course in urban sociology. In the recent past, he has focused on Environmental Sociology, Introduction to Sociology, and Social Statistics. In June, Professor Robert Wolensky announced his retirement. Professor Wolensky has been a faculty member at UWSP since 1976 with a long, distinguished publication record. He continues his scholarship on the Anthracite coal industry. He also is a co-director of the Center for the Small City, which will host a Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology workshop in spring.

Despite their retirements, both Professors Clark and Wolensky are continuing their involvement in our department by teaching part-time as adjunct professors: Professor Clark in our statistics course, and Professor Wolensky in our social problems and American community courses. We wish them well as they enter the next phase of their lives.

In October, Jerry Rous, Emeritus Lecturer of Sociology and Social Work passed away. Professor Rous was a member of our department from 1971 to 1981. He served as the Assistant Directory of the Portage County Department on Aging from 1981 to 1993. He returned to UWSP in the Office of Continuing Education as a program manager for Outreach and the Collaborative Degree Program until his retirement in August 2008. Jerry was a wonderful man and an outstanding colleague. A memorial service was held at the UWSP Dreyfus University Center on October 29th. We will deeply miss Jerry.

As you might have guessed, we are in the process of requesting permission to hire new faculty members for the positions vacated by Professors Clark and Wolensky.

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Dorothy De Boer

Editor:
Michael Klapperich



Our goal is to build on the existing strength of our curriculum and to increase our opportunities for hands-on research experience through the Community Research Center, Telephone Survey Center, and Center for the Small City. We'll update you on our progress in our next newsletter.

We also have a new adjunct faculty member teaching Introduction to the Field of Social Work through UWSP's Collaborative Degree Program. May See Yang has joined us by offering this course in Wausau one evening a week. May See was a graduate of our program. Since then, she has gone on to receive a Master's degree in social work from UW-Madison and is currently working on a Ph.D. in social work. She is also a practicing social worker.

The CDP is a degree completion program assist students from UW Colleges to complete a four-year degree by taking upper-level UWSP courses either on a two-year campus, usually UW-Marathon County, or through distance education. Our social work offering is unique because it is a sophomore level course not previously offered on the two-year campuses. Making this course available to UW Colleges students will help transfer students make a smoother transition to our program at UWSP. We anticipate expanding our social work course offerings through the CDP to include Social Welfare Policies and Programs in spring 2012.

Our social work major passed another hurdle last academic year as we had our first Council on Social Work Education Commissioner visit in January. In June, the Commission on Accreditation of CSWE notified us that we had passed Benchmark I. We are well on our way toward preparing for Commissioner Visit II, right around the beginning of spring semester. We are well along the way toward full accreditation in June 2014. If you are others you know are interested in pursuing the bachelor's degree in social work, feel free to contact Professor Sonny Smart, Director of Social Work with questions on our program.

In July, we were joined by Shelley Auer, our new Academic Department Associate. It's Shelley's voice you will hear when you call our department office. We also have an updated website. Shelley and Professor Doug Forbes have been at the helm making changes and updates to our web pages to make them easier to navigate. Visit us on the web at www.uwsp.edu/sociology. You can check out the latest news, see our program offerings, and even click a button to make a contribution to one of our scholarship or support funds.

Last spring we held our department Alpha Kappa Delta/Scholarship reception on campus. We inducted 13 new members into AKD, the International Sociology Honor Students Society. We awarded 5 scholarships. The Sociology and Social Work Organization also awarded a membership recognition award. You can see some of the pictures in this newsletter.

The College of Letters and Science held the 12th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in April. Two of our students, Matthew Oldenburg and Jessica Richter, represented the department. Matthew Oldenburg's topic was **Pharm Kids** and his faculty mentor was Dr. Robert Wolensky. Jessica Richter's topic was **The Elephant in the Room: Society and Domestic Violence** and her faculty mentor was Dr. Helena Alden. The student abstracts can be read by accessing the following link: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cols/Documents/ResearchSymposium/UWSP-COLS-Symposium2011.pdf>. We continue to draw students to our classes, majors, and minors, owing to both the quality of our teaching and the intrinsic interest our discipline shares. If you are an alum of our program, a friend, or even a current student, drop us a line and tell us what you are doing. We very much like keeping up with you.

Wishing you the best,
Bob Enright



Retirement Announcements

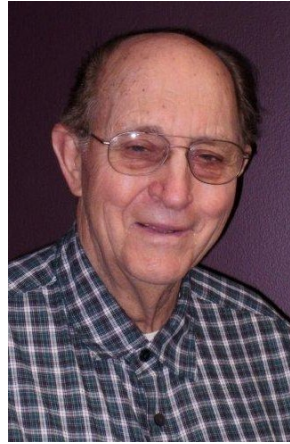
Professor Robert P. Wolensky



Robert P. Wolensky served as Professor of Sociology and Co-director of the Center for the Small City at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point until his retirement on June 1, 2011. He also served as the director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Oral and Life History Project and the UWSP/Central Wisconsin Oral and

Life History Project. Throughout his career, he has authored or co-authored books on the Tropical Storm Agnes flood of 1972, the Knox Mine Disaster of 1959, ladies' garment workers in Pennsylvania, and the Avondale Mine Disaster of 1869. His latest book, *Anthracite Mine Wars*, focuses on labor relations in the mining industry during the early part of the twentieth century. It will be published later this fall. Currently, he teaches SOC 102 on Social Problems and SOC 356 on Urban Sociology as an adjunct professor. As retirement "settles in," he is looking forward to more time for writing, traveling, volunteering, and visiting with children, grandchildren, and friends.

Professor Eugene J. Clark



Gene Clark began his career in Sociology after earning his BA from the University of Montana and his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He began his career as a research assistant at Montana State University and eventually worked his way to professor of Sociology and Anthropology at UW-Stevens Point where he has

worked for over 40 years. While at UWSP, Gene has taught many courses within his field of expertise including introductory courses, Criminology, Urban Sociology, and most recently Social Statistics. Some of his published work includes many papers for sociological associations across the country. After a long career of service to UWSP, he is still teaching as an adjunct professor on campus. When the time comes, he plans to relax and enjoy his retirement filling his time with his hobbies, family, and friends.

**If it's far away, it's news,
but if it's close at home, it's sociology.**

~ James Reston ~



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DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Come and meet... Professor John Natzke

My educational journey began in Wisconsin, and I am delighted to have it continue at UW-SP. I took my BA from UW-RF, completing a double major in Sociology and Psychology. It included a semester of study in Europe, an experience that radically but positively altered my worldview. Following graduation, I moved to the MPLS/St. Paul area where I worked as a Juvenile Officer. This experience piqued my interest in criminology, juvenile delinquency, and deviant behavior. From there I moved to Anchorage, Alaska where I worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Some of my clients were N.A. Indians (Haida, Tlingit and Athabaskan) and Inuit, which stimulated my interest in race and ethnic relations. As my interest in sociology grew, I decided to pursue an MA, and then a Ph.D. in Sociology. Both degrees were taken from Western Michigan University, thanks to a Full Fellowship awarded by the DOE and DOD. I spent the next 31 years at Wilkes University (primary institution) and Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre, PA, offering instruction in Social Problems, Criminology, Juvenile Delinquency, Deviant Behavior, Minorities, Social Psychology and Sociological Theory. I served as Chair for 10 years, and then served as Coordinator of the Criminology Program. A truly innovative Cooperative Education Program allowed us to place majors in high-profile internships, such as the Secret Service, FBI, ATF, PA State Police and PA Department of



Corrections. In 2005, I returned to Wisconsin in order to resuscitate a 100 year old family business. This has been challenging, but I missed the classroom terribly. When Dr. Enright invited me to return to the classroom in 2008, I was honored to oblige.

In my free time, I enjoy being with my lovely wife, Maddy, our 2 miniature Schnauzers-- Zigmeister and his fearless companion, Jibit-- and our 3 rescue cats, Baxter, Petey, and Pidgy. We enjoy reading and concerts, biking and hiking, boating and camping, and traveling to new and familiar places.

From Academic Department Associate, Shelley Auer

Hi - I am the department's new Academic Department Associate, and I am very excited to be back on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus! I graduated from UW-Stevens Point in May 2009 with a BA in English. After graduation, I relocated to Marshfield, WI and worked with the UW-Eau Claire satellite nursing program located in Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital. During my two years with UW-Eau Claire, I learned much about the world of nursing education and came to appreciate the connections made between universities within the UW-System. I also realized I sincerely missed the opportunities and challenges that come with being a part of the UWSP community. I am very excited and thankful to have the opportunity to once again be a part of this community, and I look forward to working with everyone in the Sociology and Social Work department.

Sincerely,

Shelley Auer



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Katrina Arnold - Undergraduate



Katrina Arnold is sociology major who focuses on juvenile concerns. Her minor is child and family studies. Katrina volunteers her time both on campus and in the community. She volunteers with a program called Fostering Hope, a program working with foster care. She also volunteers with Gateway Kids, America Reads, the

Plover Boys and Girls Club, the Stevens Point Teen Center, and is a current member of Alpha Kappa Delta. Katrina also works as a teacher's aide for the CCD classes at St. Stephens and was a founding member of SSWO. Between her own activities and those of her boys, 11 and 15, she keeps very busy.

Her hard work and dedication have been recognized in the form of awards and scholarships. She has twice been awarded the Dean's Distinguished Achievement Award. Katrina has also been a two-time recipient of the portage County HHS Dr. Gus Hangiandreou scholarship along with many other UWSP Foundation scholarships. In addition, she has earned the CPS Dean's Award for Outstanding sophomore in Family & Consumer Sciences.

In the future, she plans to attend University of Wisconsin Green Bay to earn a master's degree in social work.

Kevin Mauthe - Undergraduate

Kevin Mauthe is a fifth year senior at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. His major is sociology and social work with a focus on social work. This semester he is on the executive board for the Sociology and Social Work Organization, which dedicates itself to service work in the community. He is also doing a full-time internship (400 Hours) in the mental health unit at Saint Michaels Hospital here in Stevens Point. He will be graduating in May with his bachelor's degree in social work. His ultimate goal is to get his LCSW and work as a therapist.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"I love our lunches out here, but I always get the feeling that we're being watched."



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NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

2011 AKD Initiation & Scholarship Awards Reception

The Department of Sociology and Social Work's AKD Initiation & Scholarship Awards Reception was held April 2011. The department offers sincere congratulations to all of the recipients.

Scholarship and Award Recipients

- Jessica Grange* - 2011 Dixon Scholarship
- Sarena Jensen and Katrina Arnold* - 2011 Fish Scholarship
- Lisa Bachinski and Ryan Groshek* - 2011 Shipman Scholarship
- Jaclyn Graffagna* - 2011 SSWO Member Recognition
- Ryan Groshek and Clarice Aarthun* - Academy of Letters & Science Distinguished Student Award
- Michael Berg, Laura Carsello, Ashleigh Linsmeier, Martina Spears, Jacylyn Wahl* - 2011 Chancellor's Leadership Award

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Initiates

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Clarice Aarthun</i> | <i>Brittany Dahlke</i> | <i>Brooke Radant</i> |
| <i>Katrina Arnold</i> | <i>Jessica Grange</i> | <i>Jill Raikowksi</i> |
| <i>Christa Bembenek</i> | <i>Amanda Kilponen</i> | <i>Jessica Richter</i> |
| <i>Anna Bergeron</i> | <i>Gaoshoua Lor</i> | <i>Darlene Schoenbeck</i> |
| | <i>Dillon Shiff</i> | |

Faculty Awards

- Helena Alden* - Excellence in Teaching
- Kathy Lamb* - Excellence in Scholarship
- Bob Enright* - Excellence in Service

Academy of Letters and Science

- Karl Pnazek* - Community Award

The Sociology and Social Work Organization

The Sociology and Social Work Organization (SSWO) is a student organization dedicated to service in the community. Last year we helped families in need around the holidays, participated in Make a Difference Day and took an educational prison tour. This year, we are planning more community events with the help of our enthusiastic members. Our first event was our participation in Empty Bowls in Stevens Point. We are also going to serve at the Salvation Army by cooking a meal and sponsoring a holiday basket through Operation Bootstrap as well as many other social service activities. Check us out of Facebook at UWSP SSWO.

2011-2012 SSWO Officers

- | | |
|---|---|
| President: <i>Jaclyn Graffagna</i> | Vice-President: <i>Amanda Kilponen</i> |
| Secretary & Treasurer: <i>Jessica Grange</i> | Public Relations: <i>Kevin Mauthe</i> |



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The Social Work Internship Program

Amy Boelk, Field Coordinator

The Social Work Internship Program has had another successful year with student interns broadening their knowledge, sharpening their skills, and making great contributions within a variety of local, social service organizations. All social work interns now must complete 400 hours of internship experience and most do so over the course of two semesters. The Department of Sociology and Social Work is fortunate to have fostered strong collaborations with local social workers and organizations to offer students this opportunity for professional development. The following students should be commended for their successful completion of an internship in the following organizations this past academic year. We sincerely thank the community professionals involved with making our internship program a success.

AGENCY	INTERNS
<i>Family Crisis Center</i>	Marsha Brey Ashley Hamaker Melissa Lecker Gaoshoua Lor
<i>Portage County HHS, Child Protective Services</i>	Ben Janssen Sarah Peterson
<i>Portage County HHS, Mental Health</i>	Ashley Hoople
<i>Marathon County Social Services, Juvenile Justice</i>	Sarah Beranek
<i>Children's Service Society of Wisconsin</i>	Ong Vang
<i>Wisconsin Veteran's Home</i>	Jill Raikowski

AGENCY	INTERNS
<i>Aspirus Wausau Hospital & Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice</i>	Clarice Aarthun
<i>St. Michael's Hospital, Mental Health Unit</i>	Michelle Berdan Kaitlyn Wyngaard
<i>Community Care of Central Wisconsin</i>	Abby Habek Julie Henrichs
<i>Ministry Behavioral Health</i>	Shannon Gignac
<i>Women's Community</i>	Ashley Thraen
<i>Big Brothers Big Sisters</i>	Michelle Mullen- Burkhart Courtney Cornell
<i>Portage County Health Care Center</i>	Chelsea Waldvogel
<i>St. Clare's Hospital</i>	Holly Purcell
<i>Aging and Disability Resource Center of PC</i>	Ashley Linsmeier
<i>Colonial Manor Medical and Rehab. Center</i>	Ber Yang
<i>Wood County Birth to Three Program</i>	Rachel Schroeder
<i>Wood County Unified Services</i>	Tanya Franke
<i>Bridges for Youth</i>	Elodia Geffers
<i>Ministry Home Care, Hospice</i>	Jolene ZeRuth



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SOCIAL WORK NEWS & UPDATES

Program Candidacy

After much work, the Social Work Program Committee completed the first phase of the Council on Social Work Education accreditation process. We were granted the status of a program in candidacy on June 14th 2011. We will be submitting three more benchmark documents for the years of 2012, 2013, and 2014. The first year is the most critical part to be submitted. Our final year will be June of 2014. By this time we will have submitted our four benchmark documents and completed the commissioner visits. At that time, we will be recommended for full accreditation to the Council on Social Work Education accreditation board.

Once our program is accredited, students wishing to apply for the MSW may apply for advanced standing. This will allow them to complete the program within a shorter period of time. Many students can complete the program in one year.

Social Work Honor Society, Phi Alpha

Now that we are in candidacy, we are eligible to apply for acceptance into the Social Work Honor Society – Phi Alpha. The purpose of Phi Alpha is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. The National Social Work Honor Society seeks to foster high standards of education of social work through the recognition and promotion of scholastic excellence and fellowship among social work students. Students' academic achievements bring credit to themselves and the social work profession.

The Phi Alpha Honor Society is a national honor society for social work that fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. A chapter here at UWSP would be for social work students who have demonstrated academic excellence and who are willing to recognize the value of community involvement. Phi Alpha is a national honor society for BSW students with a GPA of 3.00 or higher from at least one term of their program. Chapters can set their own GPA standard. We plan on working on this membership during the coming school year and apply for the 2012-13 school year.

Social Work Program Committee and Commissioner Visit

We would like to extend our most grateful appreciation to Bob Wolensky for his willingness to serve on the committee. Bob retired this last June, and we wish him the best. We would also like to welcome Doug Forbes as our newest committee member taking Bob's place.

We will be having our second CSWE accreditation commissioner visit on Jan 25 and 26, 2012. Our commissioner will be coming from Marshall University located in Huntington, West Virginia.

IN MEMORIAM

A Reflection on the Passing of Jerry Rous *Bob Wolensky, Professor Emeritus of Sociology*

When I arrived in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at UWSP in 1976, Jerry Rous was one of the first persons I met. Along with being fellow accordionists, who played together and traded music, we shared a common interest in teaching sociology. We agreed on the importance of media, student participation, and other innovative means of teaching Introductory Sociology, Social Problems, and other classes. Jerry also taught Social Organization. Teaching was one of his passions which made him an outstanding teacher in a department known for excellent teaching.

We discussed at length how documentaries and other educational films (videos were a few years away), audio recordings, film strips, and other media helped contemporary students learn. These were primary elements in his teaching. We believed that students would respond better to innovative teaching rather than traditional lectures. For example, Jerry did things like read excerpts from “Barbie” books in order to present concepts on gender, marriage, and family. We further believed that students needed to be more active in the classroom; that is, as teachers we wanted more verbal “output” from students. Because we knew they were receiving plenty of “input” through the traditional lecture method, Jerry was a leader in having students participate in class discussions, make presentations, and comment on each other’s papers and presentations. He was determined to go beyond, “Any Questions?”

On the social side, Jerry was a prime mover in the annual student-faculty picnic held each spring at Bukholt Park. He would bring the volleyball and net, and pick up the quarter barrel of Point Special back in the days when 18 was the legal drinking age. He and his wife, Patti, hosted many department dinners and picnics at which great food was sometimes accompanied by live music. He was also a convener of the regular student-faculty seminars at Ella’s, Novak’s (now Partner’s Pub), and Northside Bar.

Jerry had one advantage over other department members. He understood and communicated so well with students because he was born and raised in a paper-making, working class family in Nekoosa. He knew the people and the culture of Central Wisconsin. He spoke the dialect and knew local norms and values. These traits couldn’t help but enhance his teaching, advising, and other work with students.

Of course, all of this would not have been possible without dedication and enthusiasm, and Jerry had plenty of that. His tenure in the 1970s and early 1980s was in the midst of a socially and politically conscious time. Broad, powerful social movements focusing on civil rights, poverty, gender, war, and the environment were fresh in our minds. We thought we could make a difference. The possibilities for continued societal improvement were in the air. Like most young faculty, Jerry was hopeful of his students’ abilities, as C. Wright Mills wrote, to understand the social world and their own biographies, while also striving to improve things.

Jerry left the department in 1981, after earning his MSW from UW-Madison. He already had an M.A. in Sociology from Illinois State University. He became the assistant director, as well as the transportation director, of the Portage County Department on Aging. He spent over a decade there and, in 1993, returned to UWSP as an administrator in Continuing Education. He organized classes and programs for various campus units, and taught again for the Department of Sociology. He was again a presence on the fourth floor of CCC, and elsewhere at UWSP until his retirement in 2008.

If Jerry had remained on campus, I have little doubt that he could have helped build the new Social Work major. His influence is still felt in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, the Portage County Department on Aging, and UWSP Continuing Education. He is indeed missed for his teaching and administrative abilities, for his collegiality, for his warm personality, and, by some, for his accordion playing.