



Fall Newsletter 2014



Robert B. Enright Jr.

A Message from the Chair...

Greetings from the Department of Sociology and Social Work

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Sociology at UW-Stevens Point. Despite the passing of years, the program development, and the many new members of our department, our program continues its traditions of high quality teaching. Within the pages of this newsletter, you will read a great deal of news about our faculty and students. You will read biographies of our new faculty members, Jess Bowers (MSW UW-Oshkosh) and Melanie Duncan (Ph.D. University of Florida).

In the past year we have involved our students in research and supported them in their presentations at the College of Letters and Science Undergraduate Research Symposium. We have taken our students to attend Wisconsin Sociological Association meetings in Ripon College and UW-Whitewater. Several of our faculty (David Chunyu, Krishna Roka, Bob Wolensky, and Bob Enright) presented or worked to organize the Small Cities Workshop last spring.

This fall, our department sponsored a forum on urbanization and social change in developing nations. The forum featured Professors Krishna Roka and David Chunyu from our department, along with professors from geography/geology and political science. The forum promises to be informative and stimulating with a genuine international viewpoint. Most importantly, the forum attracted a large number of students who made insightful comments and raised interesting questions.

In June, our social work program received initial accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education. This is a real boost to our program and is a clear manifestation of the quality of the education our students receive and a testament to the hard work and dedication our faculty have given to build a strong program.

Our programs continue to be vibrant and attract students not only to our majors, but also to our courses that serve the general education program and other majors. Our faculty members continue our department's long-standing record of high quality teaching scholarly activity, and engagement of students. (Continued on Page 3...)

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Supervising Editors:

David Chunyu
 Sue Bailey
 David Barry
 Pam Olson

Editor:

Abby Knutson

Co-Editor:

Amanda Ida



New Faculty

Professor Jess Bowers joined the department this fall as a new social work faculty member. She

Jess Bowers

currently teaches Introduction to Social Work, Social Welfare Policies and Programs, and Social Work Methods: Community Organizations and Social Service Administration. Professor Bowers also coordinates the Social Work Field Education Program. Prior to coming to UW-Stevens Point, Professor Bowers worked as a social worker at Marathon County Department of Social Services in the realm of child welfare. She earned her master's degree in social work through UW-Oshkosh and has completed master's level education and field work in school social work. Professor Bowers also has experience in the field of domestic violence, and she has conducted research on Hmong adolescent girls.



Melanie Duncan

Professor Melanie L. Duncan joined the department as a new sociology faculty member this fall. Professor Duncan received her Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Professor Duncan's research interests include: relationships, families, sexuality, sex education, and law & policy. Professor Duncan currently teaches Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101) and Marriage and Family (SOC 240).



Message from Robert Enright (continued)

I hope you enjoy reading the news about our department. 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 in touch with you.

Wishing you the best,

Bob Enright

Current Faculty Updates

Professor **Sue Bailey** gave an oral presentation entitled "Teaching Statistics On-Line" at the American Public Health Association Meetings, Boston, MA, November 2013. Professor Bailey and new Social Work faculty, Professor Jess Bowers, are in the planning stages of a study of pregnant women with opioid addictions in Wausau, WI.

Professor **David Barry** continues his research on ethno-religiosity, nationalism, and global identity. Last November, he presented a paper ("The conflation of religion and ethnicity and its relationship with intolerance and xenophobia: A case study in contemporary Russia") at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting in Boston, MA. In April, he organized a roundtable on "Global Issues in Sociology" at the Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting in Omaha, NE. This summer, he participated in the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association annual meeting and presented a paper ("The making of world citizens: A study on the relationship between religiosity and global identity") at the Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting in San Francisco, CA. Professor Barry was also a faculty mentor for Casey French, Class of 2014, and his comparative-historical research project on racial stratification in Latin America. This study was presented at the 2014 COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Professor **David Chunyu** continues his research on migration and residential segregation. Last year, he published articles in *Environment and Planning A* and *Social Forces*, and he has another co-authored article forthcoming in *American Journal of Sociology*. He is currently collaborating with demographers at the Renmin University of China to conduct research on internal migration in China as well as to review scholarship on international migration. He also mentored a Sociology major, Ryan O'Loughlin of Class 2014, on his research project on the San Francisco Chinatown in 1880, which was presented at the 2014 COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium. While Professor Chunyu was traveling in China during the past summer he presented his research at the Population, Resources and Environmental Research Institute of Jilin University.



Current Faculty Updates (continued)

Professor De Boer continues pursuing her interest in teaching and learning. She presented the paper "Civic Engagement, Social Justice and Learning" at the UW System Wisconsin Women's Studies and LGBTQ Conference in November and the paper "Student Knowledge and Service Learning" at the National Social Science Association in April. Professor De Boer was selected as a fellow for Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society (AKD). As the AKD fellow she attended and participated in the Alpha Kappa Delta Post-Conference on Teaching and Learning held at the annual Southern Sociological Society meetings in Charlotte, North Carolina in April.

Professor Sonny Smart continues his extensive involvement in child welfare issues with Native American tribes in Wisconsin. He serves as a tribal judge, a sub-committee member on the Wisconsin Tribal judges association for state/tribal judges training, a member on the state Indian Child Welfare Act Codification Advisory Committee, an ex-officio member of state and tribal social service directors committee, and a consultant for state tribal social services agencies for the surrounding area.

Professor Bob Wolensky, emeritus and adjunct faculty, held a Fulbright research fellowship at the University of Exeter, in England, between September 2013 and February 2014, where he worked on a comparative study of tenancy arrangements (that is, the subcontracting and leasing mineral rights) and their impacts on labor relations in the US and UK coal mining industries. The study involved an extension of his research published in *Anthracite Labor Wars: Tenancy, Italians, and Organized Crime in the Northern Coal Field of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1897-1959* (2013). Professor Wolensky is also serving as an honorary fellow at UW-Madison's Institute for Research on the Humanities during the 2014-15 academic year. He is completing a book on garment workers in Pennsylvania.

Professor Amy Boelk continues her scholarship efforts, publishing a book and two book chapters within the past year. Her book, "Losing a Parent to Suicide: Using Lived Experiences to Inform Bereavement Counseling," was co-authored with Marty Loy, Dean of the College of Professional Studies and published by Routledge. One book chapter on the topic of hospice and palliative care in rural communities was co-authored with a colleague from Metro State in Denver, Colorado and is available in "Rural Social Work: Building and Sustaining Community Capacity," published by Wiley & Sons. The second book chapter is on managing family conflict at end of life, co-authored with a colleague at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and available in the "Handbook of Oncology Social Work," published by Oxford University Press. Amy also presented a quantitative component of her research on family conflict at the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Meeting, held in New Orleans this past year.

Amy Boelk, Dean Loy





Amy Boelk, Chancellor Patterson

Faculty Awards

- Department Excellence in Teaching Award:
Helena Alden
- Department Excellence in Scholarship Award:
Amy Boelk
- Department Excellence in Service Award:
Dorothy De Boer
- College Distinguished Faculty Award Nominee:
Bob Enright

Congratulations to **Amy Boelk** for receiving the 2014 University Scholar Award! She is one of the two recipients of the University Scholar Award this year!

Faculty Tenure and Promotions

- **Helena Alden** was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.
- **Amy Boelk** was promoted to Full Professor.
- **Dorothy De Boer** was promoted to Full Professor.

Social Work Program Earns Initial Accreditation

By Amy Boelk

The Department of Sociology and Social Work is pleased to announce that the Social Work Program has passed its initial accreditation with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Attaining accreditation is a significant accomplishment for the department and the campus as a whole. Years of planning, curriculum development, and working with CSWE have taken place in order to benefit our students with an interest in pursuing social work as a career. The department would like to thank all of the students, faculty, administrators, and community professionals who participated in the accreditation process and met with CSWE site visitors. The Social Work Program will come up for review again with CSWE in four years, and then every eight years thereafter.

Pictured at Right...From left to right, Jess Bowers, Sonny Smart, Amy Boelk.





Workshop on Serving Military Veterans and Families Offered

By Amy Boelk

Cate Gitter, adjunct faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Social Work and Director of Social Services and Spiritual Care Services at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, facilitated a workshop this past spring entitled "Understanding the Impact of Military Culture and War on Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families." The workshop included discussion of special topics such as PTSD, military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, unemployment, homelessness, and criminal justice issues. The workshop was offered through UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education and aimed to serve local community professionals with continuing education needs. Fourteen UW-Stevens Point students also participated in this workshop.



Field Supervisor Recognition

By Amy Boelk

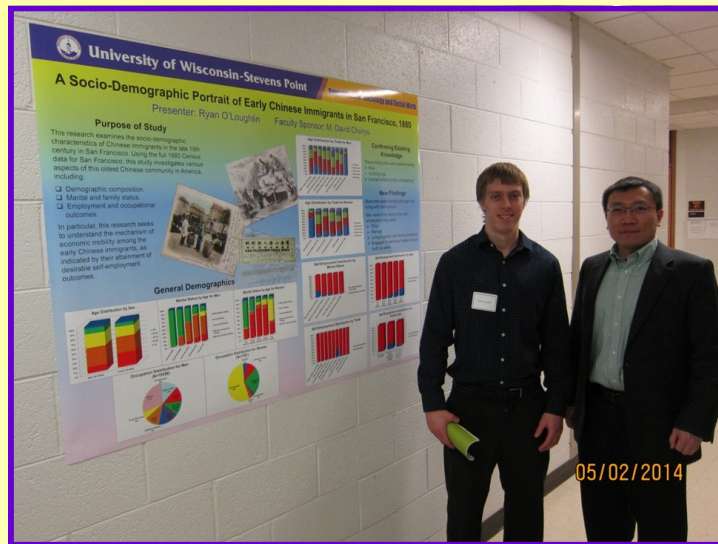
At this year's scholarship and awards reception held on April 18th, the Department of Sociology and Social Work recognized Teresa Kovach for her contributions to our Field Education Program. Teresa is the Child Protective Services Supervisor at Portage County Health and Human Services, where she supervises social workers who do this important work in our community. Teresa has been providing supervision to social work interns for a number of years, both prior to the development of a social work major and since. Though she truly does the work of at least two people, has regular staffing and policy changes to respond to, and faces the pressures associated with responding to child maltreatment in our community, she has consistently taken on a student every semester in her unit, including most summers. She is known by students to provide an excellent experience in which they get many opportunities to practice their social work skills, and her placement is one of the most consistently sought after by students. Teresa demonstrates dedication to the professional development of the students she takes on. Additionally, Teresa guest lectures about Child Protection in Amy Boelk's intro to social work class almost every semester, and she also speaks regularly to Sonny Smart's Child Welfare class. Thank you so much, Teresa, for your dedication to our students and to families in our community!



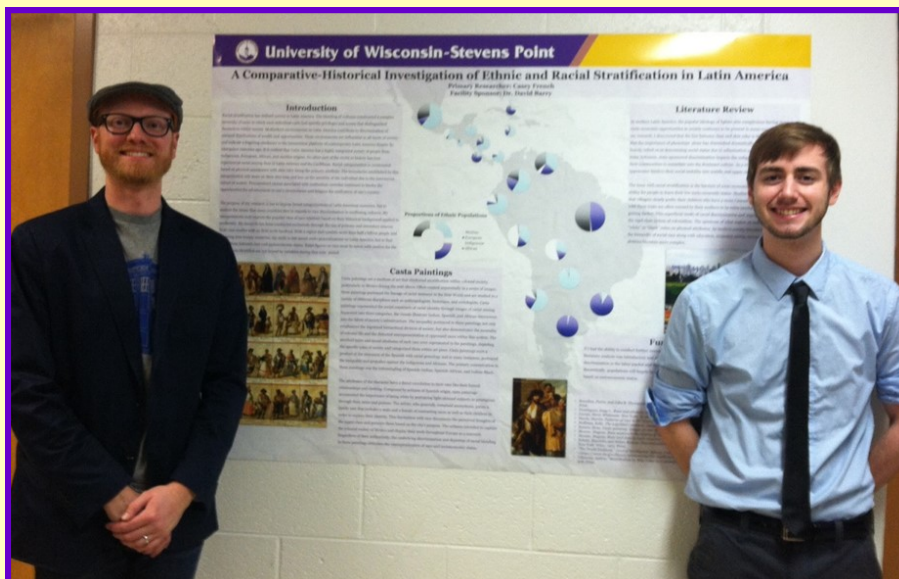


Student Research

Casey French (International Studies) and Ryan O’Loughlin (Sociology) of the Class of 2014, presented their research at the 2014 COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium, with the sponsorship of Professor David Barry and Professor David Chunyu respectively. Casey’s research is entitled “A Comparative Historical Investigation of Ethnic and Racial Stratification in Latin America,” and Ryan’s research is entitled “The Socio-Demographic Portrait of Early Chinese Immigrants in San Francisco, 1880.”



Ryan O’Loughlin, David Chunyu



David Barry, Casey French



Scholarships/Student Awards

The 2014 George Dixon Memorial Scholarship: Kristin Mathes, Matthew Teachout
The 2014 Virginia Fish Scholarship in Sociology: Ashley Bloczynski, Jenny Rae Piton
The 2014 Gordon Shipman Memorial Scholarship: Michael Mathias, Michael Sandgren
The 2014 Wolensky Family International Scholarship: Rika Calvin
The 2014 Academy of Letters and Science Distinguished Achievement Award:
Caitlin Lindsay – Graduating Senior; Amanda Ida – Continuing Student
The 2014 Chancellor's Leadership Award: Caitlin Lindsay, Kelsey Thompson
The 2014 Sociology and Social Work Organization Outstanding Member Recognition: Zoë Page

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates

The purpose of Alpha Kappa Delta is to acknowledge and promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities that will lead to improvement in the human condition.

Alpha Kappa Delta is a non-secret, democratic, international society of scholars dedicated to the ideal of Athropon Katamanthanein Diakonesin or "to investigate humanity for the purpose of service." Membership is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members from active chapters who meet our minimum standards. Currently, there are more than 115,000 members in Alpha Kappa Delta and over 650 chapters. Members from UW-Stevens Point are:

Amber Bellile
Valerie Budd
Steven Dziedzic
Julie Kramer
Alexandra Graun
Michael Mathias
Sydney Maves
Elizabeth Parks
Lynsey Piper
Jacqueline Revord
Vanessa Steinke
Matthew Teachout
Garret Tutland
Kati Wertschnig



Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates



Phi Alpha Initiates



Phi Alpha Initiates

Phi Alpha, the main social work honor society nationwide, has over 110 chapters. UW-Stevens Point's chapter is Sigma Alpha, and the current officers are Lynsey Piper (president), Kelsey Ballard (vice president), and Alanna LeClair (secretary/treasurer). At this year's scholarship and award ceremony held on April 18th, the department inducted its third group of students into Phi Alpha. The purpose of the Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. To be eligible for Phi Alpha, students must be accepted into the social work major, have completed at least 4 required social work courses, have achieved an overall GPA of 3.0, and have achieved a 3.25 in the social work major. Students receive a certificate and an honor cord, which they can wear at graduation. The following students were inducted this past year:

- Lauren Biscobing
- Andrea Brocken
- Jamie Chariton
- Justine Cleveland
- Wendy Fletcher
- Amanda Ida
- Erik Larson
- Stephanie Loehrke
- Nicholas Mason
- Natalie Overman
- Cody Pangrazzi
- JennyRae Piton
- Shari Quella
- Jenna Riggs
- Marlee Sickinger
- Stacie Squire
- Vanessa Steinke
- Daniel Thompson
- Garret Tutland
- Lisa Wangsness
- Elizabeth Westover
- Briana Zipperer



Sonny Smart giving closing remarks at the Spring 2014 Department Banquet





Sociology and Social Work Organization

The Sociology and Social Work Organization (SSWO) was involved in many volunteer and fundraising opportunities this past year. The group helped prepare and serve meals at the Salvation Army for the guests at the shelter, and also rang bells to raise money for the Salvation Army. They had a significant turnout for Make A Difference Day and members helped rake yards for the elderly in the surrounding community. They also helped fundraise for Relay for Life throughout the year, raising nearly \$2,000 through personal fundraising in addition to the SSWO cupcake bake sale. The organization has recently elected new officers, which are stated on SSWO brochure.



Make a Difference Day: SSWO members raked leaves for the elderly in the community.



SSWO helped raise money for the Salvation Army by bell-ringing throughout the fall.



SSWO meets at the Hope Center every semester to make and serve a meal for the residents at the homeless shelter.



Alumni News

Sabrina Johnson graduated from UW-Stevens Point in 2000 with a Philosophy major and Sociology minor. She returned to campus and graduated again in 2002 with a sociology major, and history and women’s studies minors. In 2008 she received an M.S. in Environmental Studies--Advocacy and Organizing from Antioch University in New Hampshire. After serving in various capacities in different organizations she recently assumed the position of Service Area Organizer with the Wisconsin AFL-CIO. Based in Wisconsin Rapids, her territory includes Central Wisconsin. Sabrina can be reached at sjohnson@wisafclcio.org, and is very willing to meet with students and faculty and also speak to classes and conferences about the American labor movement, why she has chosen a career in it, and other related topics.

The following Social Work students who graduated this year have started their MSW programs:

- Robert Butler (University of Arkansas), Justine Cleveland (UW-Oshkosh), Marlee Sickinger (UW-Madison), Anna Thao (UW-Milwaukee), and Kelsey Thompson (UW-Milwaukee).

Three earlier alums have also started their MSW programs this year:

- Aubrey Giordana (University of Minnesota), Bethany Reque (UW-Madison), and Megan Blackburn (UW-Madison).



**David Barry, Sue Bailey,
Robert Enright**



David Chunyu, Krishna Roka, David Barry, Dorothy De Boer, Amy Boelk, Melanie Duncan, Bob Enright, Pam Olson, Jess Bowers



Wisconsin Sociological Association Meeting-Fall 2013



From Left to Right...Bob Enright, Katherine Menard, Allie Schjoth,
Kati Wertschnig, David Barry

The Social Work Field Education Program

By Amy Boelk

The Social Work Field Education Program continues to thrive, with placements in a variety of practice settings, with a variety of client populations, and in numerous communities across the state and beyond. As their “capstone” experience, social work students truly gain valuable knowledge, skill, and experience through this aspect of the curriculum. We are fortunate to partner with dedicated social service professionals who give of their time and energy to mentor and guide emerging social workers. Students must complete at least 400 hours of field placement, as well as the field seminar. The following students completed their field education within the last year (fall 2013, spring 2014, and summer 2014) and are deserving of special recognition. They learned a great deal, and they also collectively provided over 12,400 hours of service in the communities served by their host organizations. We wish to extend thanks to the associated organizations and supervisors listed below for their commitment to our program, students, and to social work education. We also extend thanks to other professionals within the organizations below who have served as additional mentors, resource people, and educators to our students. The students, internship organizations, and their supervisors are listed in that order.



The Social Work Field Education Program Continued

| Student | Associated Organization | Supervisor |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Megan Blackburn | Stevens Point School District | Lynette Simonar and Teresa Wahl |
| Samantha Fletcher | Wood County Social Services Resource Unit | Chris Hanten |
| Bethany Reque | Aspirus Regional Cancer Center | Wendy Schulz |
| Lydia Van Thiel | Portage County Health and Human Services Child Protection | Teresa Kovach |
| Justin Burton | Portage County Health and Human Services Child Protection | Teresa Kovach |
| Emily Pagel | Brown County Human Services Ruth Helf Family Center | Debbie Foss |
| Stacy Platt | Stevens Point School District | Joe DeBauche and Lynette Simonar |
| Laura Yach | School District of Nekoosa | Rod Winters |
| Keela Patterson | Wisconsin Veterans Home at King | Jennifer Shaw |
| Alexandra Graun | St. Michael's Hospital Mental Health Unit | Michelle Nelson |
| Nicholas Mason | St. Michael's Hospital Mental Health Unit | Michelle Nelson |
| Kelsey Thompson | Aging and Disability Resource Center Adult Day Center | Sharon Anderson |
| Garrett Tutland | Community Care of Central Wisconsin | Leslie Ross and Mimi Rethaber |
| Anna Thao | Portage County Health and Human Services Specialized Foster Care | Julie Wallace |
| Sarah Swearingen | CAP Services Family Development Center | Jen Stroupe |
| Marlee Sickinger | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Donna Lang |
| Paige Mesenberg | Northwest Journey Day Treatment Center | Laura Kowalski |
| Lynsey Piper | Portage County Health Care Center | Stephanie Inman |
| Paige Smola | Marathon County Social Services Specialized Foster Care | Sarah Schwalbach |
| Justine Luetschwager | Catholic Charities | Andrea Hoffman-Vosburgh |
| Brehanna Skaletski | Green Bay School District | Christine Voice |
| Robert Butler | Gordon Parks High School | Shelly Fountain |
| Shari Quella | Fox River Nursing & Rehab Center | Rebecca Groleau |
| Michael DuPont | Cedar Lake Health and Rehab Center | Melissa Searle |
| Elizabeth Kienert | Aging and Disability Resource Center | Louise Percival |
| Jennifer Mathis | Community Care of Central Wisconsin | Connie Kuczmariski |
| Stacie Squire | Family Works, Inc. | Noell Chambers |
| Hannah Nolte | Taycheedah Correctional Institution | Barbara Zink |
| Erik Larson | Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice | Christina Osborn |
| Sue Osness | Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice | Rhonda Britz |
| Emily Blonigen | Portage County Health and Human Services | Teresa Kovach |



In Other News

- Professor Helena Alden takes a 2 year part-time position as a Dean's Fellow.
- Supporting campus Diversity/inclusivity efforts, Professor Alden and Professor De Boer participated in the Whistling Vivaldi reading circles as part of the UW-Stevens Point's new Inclusive Pedagogy Project.
- Professor Sonny Smart, along with Spanish Professor Elia Armacanqui-Tipacti, presented a lecture entitled "Importance of Indigenous Languages: Ojibwa and Runasimi (Quechua)" in the Portage County Library on April 8, 2014. It was the seventh of the eight-part 2013-14 Community Lecture Series sponsored by the College of Letters and Science at UW-Stevens Point.
- Professor Bob Wolensky and Professor David Chunyu served on the planning committee of a Center for the Small City workshop on "Planning and Design in Small Cities and Towns," held at UW-Stevens Point on April 15-16, 2014. They both chaired panel sessions at the workshop.
- Supporting the First Year Seminar of the General Education Program, Professors Bailey, Barry, and Chunyu submitted course proposals for Fall 2015, and all were accepted. Professor Bailey's proposal is entitled "Your 'Self' goes to College," Professor Barry's proposal is entitled "Understanding Society through Science Fiction," and Professor Chunyu's proposal is entitled "Immigration and American Society."
- To enhance the faculty's focus on teaching and learning, starting in Fall 2013 the Sociology and Social Work Department has implemented a faculty teaching talk series. This teaching talk series took place once a month and covered topics from technology in the classroom, student evaluations, to academic writing.
- Last October, Professor Barry and Professor Enright facilitated a trip of students to attend the Wisconsin Sociological Association annual meeting at Ripon College. Participating students included Katherine Menard, Allie Schjoth, Christina Wardall, and Kati Wertschnig. The day-long event included sessions pertaining to the conference theme on social, cultural, and political consequences of the global financial crisis.