



## Winter Newsletter 2016



**Robert B. Enright Jr.**

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David Barry

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### A Message from the Chair...

Greetings from the Department of Sociology and Social Work!

As usual, this newsletter features updates on activities of our department's faculty and students. No doubt you are aware of the significant budget reductions which have affected our university system and our campus. Nevertheless, our department remains strong in its efforts to educate our students and develop our faculty members' scholarly and professional skills.

In Fall 2015, our department received authorization to conduct a search to fill a new tenure-track position in Sociology. When filled, we will have 11 full-time faculty members in our department, the highest number of full-time faculty in decades. Our search has begun and we anticipate filling the position during the spring 2016 semester. The incumbent will teach in the areas of Environmental Sociology, American Community, Urban Sociology and Social Problems or Introduction to Sociology.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, a large number of social work students have completed field placements in the last year. Also in the last year, the Sociology field placement program has developed new placement sites and rekindled older sites, including placements at the Portage County District Attorney's office and Justice Works; two settings of particular interest to sociology students who wish to enter careers in law. Summer placements have been as far away as Florida.

This year, Professor David Chunyu and I have been working with United Way of Portage County on their Local Indicators for Excellence (LIFE) report. We have been providing technical assistance on data collection and performing data analysis to assist United Way in preparing their report. (Continued on Page 2...)

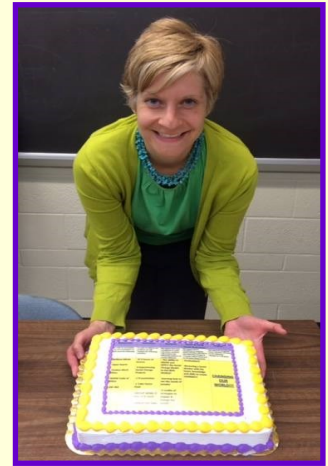


## New Faculty

**Kate Kipp** joined our department this past year as an adjunct lecturer to teach Social Work 362, Social Work Methods: Community Organization and Social Service Administration. Professor

**K**ate Kipp

Kipp earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Welfare from the University of Wisconsin in 1999 and a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin in 2003. Since 1999, Kate has worked for Head Start and a local county child welfare agency. In 2014, Kate became the director of Portage County's Justice Programs.



## A Message from the Chair (Continued)

LIFE is a periodic snapshot of community strengths, challenges, and priorities in Portage County. Our next step is to involve our students in similar community research.

Those of you who visit our office will notice some changes. Pam Olson, who served as our Academic Department Associate for four years has taken a career step away from the university. We are now in the process of combining our administrative support with World Languages and Literatures, our next door neighbor. Our two departments will welcome Karin Hyler into this position at the end of February.

As I write this message, I am in London, leading a group of UWSP students on semester abroad. Our students are studying at Birkbeck College (University of London) and some are doing internships with businesses and agencies across London. While here, I am teaching two UWSP sociology courses, and two International Studies courses, as Professor Amy Boelk serves as interim chair during my semester's absence. I am using this opportunity in England to study the British system of Social Care and the British political system. Our program is a great opportunity for both UWSP faculty, who bring back to our students an international perspective, and for UWSP students, who get to experience life in a large, global city with the numerous cultural and educational opportunities London has to offer. If you are a student, consider going on a UWSP program abroad and don't forget to apply for the Wolensky Family Scholarship, which is directed in the first order to Sociology and Social Work students on semester abroad in London and other locales. If you are an alum or supporter of our program, consider a contribution to the UWSP Foundation to help support this scholarship fund or one of the other Department scholarship funds. As always, we enjoy hearing from you, so send us a message, stop by, or make a call. Until next time, we wish you the best. Cheers.

Bob Enright



## Current Faculty Updates

**P**rofessor David Barry has continued his scholarship on nationalism, religion, and global identity. Last summer Professor Barry was invited to present a paper (“Rising global attitudes linking dominant religion to national identity and the effects on uncertainty, trust, and confidence toward social institutions”) at the European Sociological Association annual meeting in Prague, CZ. Professor Barry’s forthcoming encyclopedic contribution (2016) continues his efforts in sociological theory. Professor Barry was also a faculty mentor for Cheryl Reichling and her project on global comparisons study abroad programs and Bryan Richmond’s study on religious minorities in Wisconsin. These projects were presented at the 2015 COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium. Professor Barry also remains active as a faculty advisor with the student organization Sociology and Social Work Organization.

**P**rofessor Jess Bowers co-authored a manuscript with Kathryn Jack Maquire, Ph.D., entitled “Marathon County Community Response: Voluntary Services for Families Screened out of Child Protective Services.” This will be published in the journal *Child Welfare* in October of 2015. In addition, Professor Bowers had a poster presentation on this research at the 23rd annual American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) Colloquium in July of 2015 in Boston.

**P**rofessor David Chunyu has continued his research on migration/immigration, urban sociology, and race and ethnicity. In early 2015, his co-authored article on emergent ghettos in early Chicago and New York was published in *American Journal of Sociology*. In addition, he completed and submitted three manuscripts on migration/immigration, including a review report on international migration and two research articles on China’s internal migration, which are forthcoming in *Social Science Asia* and an edited book on urban China respectively. Professor Chunyu also mentored a sociology major, Matthew Teachout of Class 2015, on his research project on the living arrangements of the elderly in Wisconsin, which was presented at the 14th Annual UW-System Undergraduate Research Symposium and the 2015 COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium. While Professor Chunyu was traveling in China during the past summer he conducted field research on Korean migration to the coastal city of Qingdao and the local politics in rural villages in the context of urbanization, which he later presented in the 20th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community in Wausau, WI. Professor Chunyu is currently working together with Professor Enright to assist with the Portage County Local Indicators for Excellence Project, coordinated by the United Way and Ministry St. Michael’s Foundation.



## Current Faculty Updates

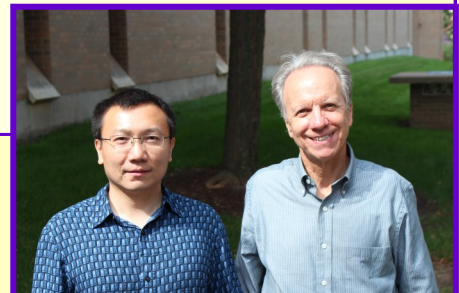
**P**rofessor **Sue Bailey** continues her research with Professor Jess Bowers on the experiences of pregnant women in methadone maintenance treatment. She also presented a talk on Community Health Assessment at the 20th Conference on the Small City in the spring. Currently she is working on two chapters that will be part of an e-textbook on Statistics in the Social Sciences.

**P**rofessor **Dorothy De Boer** continued her interest in teaching and learning. She presented the paper “*Student Knowledge and Service Learning*” at the National Social Science Association Las Vegas Meeting April 13 through 15th. Professor De Boer also presented her paper “Everyone Knows It’s *The Mothers Fault: An Examination of the Guilt and Blame Experienced by Mothers of Adult Mentally Ill Children*” at the Gendered Planet: Ethics, Ecology, and Equity, 38th Wisconsin and Midwest Women’s Studies and 9th LGBTQ Conference October 17 through 18th, 2014. Professor De Boer also was a panel presenter at UWSP FYS instructor training session in May 2015.

**P**rofessor **Bob Wolensky**, Professor Emeritus and Co-director of the UWSP Center for the Small City, helped organize the 20th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community, held October 6 though 7th, in Wausau. The event was organized by the Center for the Small City and the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service at UW-Marathon County. Five departmental members participated in the program: Sue Bailey, David Chunyu, Bob Enright, Krishna Roka, and Bob Wolensky. The Center for the Small City is affiliated with the UWSP College of Letters and Science.

## Faculty Awards

- Department Excellence in Teaching Award: **Helena Alden**
- Department Excellence in Service Award: **Helena Alden**
- Department Excellence in Scholarship Award: **David Chunyu**
- Department Teaching, Scholarship and Service: **Bob Enright**
- Department Eugene Katz Faculty: **Sonny Smart**





## Student Scholarships and Awards

- The 2015 George Dixon Memorial Scholarship: **Shelley Samuel, Kayla Skaletski**
- The 2015 Virginia Fish Scholarship in Sociology: **Katie Blodgett, Katherine Menard**
- The 2015 Gordon Shipman Memorial Scholarship: **Wendy Fletcher, Emily Pritzl**
- The 2015 Wolensky Family International Scholarship: **Christopher Legare**
- The 2015 Sociology and Social Work Organization Outstanding Member Recognition:  
**Jacob Weissman**
- The 2015 Academy of Letters and Science Distinguished Achievement Award:  
**Katherine Menard** — Continuing Student  
**Cintya Bocangel-Villena** — Graduating Senior





## Student Research

**C**heryl Reichling and Bryan Richmond presented their research at the 2015 COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium, with the sponsorship of Professor David Barry. Cheryl Reichling’s research is entitled, “Global Development of Study Abroad—China and the USA.” Bryan Richmond’s research is entitled, “A Comparative Analysis of Religious Minorities: Hindu and Jewish Groups in Wisconsin.”

**M**atthew Teachout presented his research at the 14th Annual UW-System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, with the sponsorship of Professor David Chunyu. Matthew Teachout’s research is entitled “Living Arrangements of the Elderly in Wisconsin: Evidence from the 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year PUMS Data.” He also presented his research at the 2015 COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium.



## Wisconsin Sociological Association Meeting—Fall 2014

**L**ast October, Professor Barry and Professor Duncan facilitated a trip of students to attend the Wisconsin Sociological Association annual meeting at UW-Whitewater. The day-long event included sessions pertaining to the conference theme on globalization. Participating students included: **Ava Barr, Andrea Hamann, Lizzi Makovec, Caleb Pelo, Emily Pritzl, Jessica Quillman, Jacqueline Revord, Bryan Richmon, Mike Sandgren, Kristin Stollenwerk, and Kati Wertschnig**





## UWSP Continuing Education Collaboration

By Amy Boelk

This past year, the department collaborated with UWSP Continuing Education to offer a workshop on substance abuse in rural Wisconsin aimed to educate community health and social services professionals. **Melissa Dotter**, the director of the Marathon County Alcohol and Other Drug Partnership, was the presenter. Department faculty member Sue Bailey facilitated an associated 1 credit course for students interested in attending the workshop and gaining additional insight into heroin use. Twenty sociology and/or social work students completed this course.



## Field Supervisor Recognition

By Jess Bowers

In this year's scholarship and awards reception held on April 10th, the Department of Sociology and Social Work recognized **Laura Kowalski** for her contributions to our Field Education Program. Laura has served as the Program Coordinator at Northwest Journey since they opened in 2002. In her role, she is the on-site administrator for the Journey Day Treatment Program and Outpatient Program for youth. Northwest Journey provides comprehensive therapeutic treatment services for at-risk youth and their families. The organization has been successful at preventing out-of-home placements, creating family stability, and improving social and emotional success in the population it serves. Laura has been a true champion of the sociology and social work field program, and she has been providing supervision to social work interns for a number of years. In fact, there are many semesters that she has multiple interns from our sociology and social work program. Northwest Journey is an agency that has provided our students with wonderful learning experiences. They are able to learn critical engagement skills with youth, and have opportunities to facilitate groups and provide case management to children and families. Thank you so much, Laura, for your commitment to at-risk youth and families, our students, and our sociology and social work program!





## The Social Work Field Education Program

By Jess Bowers

**D**uring the 2014-2015 academic school year, the Social Work Field Education Program supported a record number of interns in a wide range of practice settings throughout the state of Wisconsin and beyond. As you will note from the extensive list below, students were able to gain experiences in child welfare, medical, hospice, family violence, school, and juvenile correctional settings, to name a few. Many students describe their internships as the cornerstone of their educational experience because of their ability to put the academic foundation and theory they learned in their college classes into direct practice with client populations. As the Field Coordinator, it is exciting to see our students blossom in these settings and emerge from their internships ready to enter the social work field as generalist practitioners. We are incredibly grateful to the wonderful community professionals who partner with our program and commit their time and energy to mentor and guide our students. Students are required to complete at least 400 hours of field placement, as well as the field seminar course.

The following students completed their field education within the last year (fall 2014, spring 2015, and summer 2015). Not only did they learn a lot from their experiences, but they also provided approximately 22,800 hours of service in the community through these experiences.

Congratulations to the following students:

**Kelsey Ballard**- Portage County Specialized Foster Care Program, Stevens Point

**Kelly Bates**- Bethel Health Center, Arpin

**Jamie Baugh**- Mirror Images, LLC, Wausau

**Amber Bellile**- Harbor House, Appleton

**Lauren Biscobing**- Northwest Journey, Stevens Point

**Reanna Blaubach**- Lincoln County Health and Human Services, Merrill

**Cintya Bocangel-Villena**- Family Crisis Center/ Portage County Justice Programs, Stevens Point

**Rylee Bricko**- Wisconsin Department of Juvenile Corrections, Wausau

**Clayton Burt**- Waupaca County Health and Human Services, Waupaca

**Rose Casciaro**- Portage County Health and Human Services, Stevens Point

**Jamie Chariton**- World Endeavors, Jaipur, India

**Ted Conachen**- North Central Health Care, Wausau

**Alexis Collicot**- Waupaca County Health and Human Services, Waupaca

**Dalton Conner**- King Veteran's Home, King

**Brittany Cook**- Ministry Health Care, Mental Health Unit, Stevens Point





**Ginger Egging-** Lutheran Social Services, Homme Home, Wittenberg  
**Wendy Fletcher-** Family Crisis Center, Stevens Point  
**Breanna Freundsuh-** Stevens Point School District, Stevens Point  
**Dawn Henke-** Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project- Minneapolis  
**Amanda Ida-** Portage County Specialized Foster Care Program, Stevens Point  
**Abby Kauk-** The Women's Community, Wausau  
**Todd Kielman-** Lutheran Social Services, Wittenberg  
**Alexis Kniprath-** Choices to Change Inc., Stevens Point  
**David Kriewaldt-** Stevens Point School District, Stevens Point  
**Alanna LeClair-** Family Crisis Center, Stevens Point  
**Chelsea Lessig-** Wood County Head Start, Wisconsin Rapids  
**Kimberly Lizan Lorenz-** CAP Services Head Start, Stevens Point  
**Stephanie Loehrke-** King Veteran's Home, King  
**Colton Maki-** Professional Services Group, Wausau  
**Kristin Mathes-** Frederick Ozanam Transitional Shelter, Marshfield  
**Lauren Moen-** The Women's Community, Wausau  
**Ashley Ninneman-** Lutheran Social Services Homme Home, Wittenberg  
**Samantha Nehls-** Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Wausau  
**Natalie Overman-** ManorCare Pewaukee, Waukesha  
**Andrea Paulin-** Wood County Health and Human Services, Wisconsin Rapids  
**Tara Peterson-** Wood County Child Protective Services, Wisconsin Rapids  
**JennyRae Piton-** Portage County Health Care Center, Stevens Point  
**Taryn Pongratz-** Northwest Journey, Stevens Point  
**Amber Prokopiak-** Boys and Girls Club of Portage County, Stevens Point  
**Cassandra Reigh-** Stevens Point School District, Stevens Point  
**Jacqueline Revord-** Family Crisis Center, Stevens Point  
**Leah Rogers-** Aging and Disability Resource Center, Stevens Point  
**Miriah Rotar-** Wood County Child Protective Services, Stevens Point  
**Jason Rumbaugh-** North Central Health Care, Wausau  
**Lauren Schara-** Portage County Child Protective Services, Stevens Point  
**Emily Schultz-** Shawano County Child Protective Services, Shawano  
**Joelle Shamrowicz-** Aspirus Home Care and Hospice, Stevens Point  
**Vanessa Steinke-** Marathon County Head Start, Wausau  
**Jill VanderLoop-** Ministry Home Care Hospice, Stevens Point  
**Samantha Vanderveren-** Portage County Child Protective Services, Stevens Point  
**Lisa Wangsness-** Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners, Stevens Point  
**Elizabeth Westover-** Boys and Girls Club of the Wausau area, Wausau  
**Hayley Weisman-** Portage County Health and Human Services, Stevens Point  
**Millinda Wozniak-** Wood County Crisis and Legal Services Unit, Wisconsin Rapids  
**Sarah Zblewski-** Waupaca County Health and Human Services, Waupaca  
**Briana Zipperer-** Wood County Crisis and Legal Services Unit, Marshfield  
**Danielle Zurakowski-** Mosinee School District, Mosinee



## Alpha Kappa Delta Initiates

By Dorothy De Boer

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 in AKD is limited to undergraduate and graduate students in sociology who have maintained a record of high academic achievement. Currently, there are more than 115,000 members in Alpha Kappa Delta and over 650 chapters. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s chapter Nu had 23 new initiates in 2015 inducted in the spring ceremony.



2015 AKD initiates:

- Katie J. Blodgett
- Dawn Henke
- Leah Reineccius
- Shelby Bowe
- Nicole J. Krokosz
- Joelle E. Shamrowicz
- Dana Buettner
- Abby L. Laronge
- Katie E. Stanger
- Rika D. Calvin
- Christopher Legare
- Savannah Vanden Berg
- Iris Carufel
- Kathryn M. McNiel
- Danielle M. Walkowiak
- Jamie S. Chariton
- Mallory McGivern
- Lisa M. Wangsness
- Steven Dziedzic
- Kelly L. Orth
- Millinda M. Wozniak
- Wendy Fletcher
- Sue Osness



## Phi Alpha Field Trip

By Amy Boelk

In April, Professors Jess Bowers and Amy Boelk, along with a group of 17 social work students went to Madison for the National Association of Social Work Wisconsin Advocacy Lobby Day. Students and faculty heard from former congressman David Obey and learned about a variety of legislative issues pertaining to social work. Participants also received training on lobbying techniques and met with legislators to discuss issues of importance to the social work community.



## Phi Alpha Initiates

By Amy Boelk

Phi Alpha is the main social work honor society nationwide with over 110 chapters, and our chapter is Sigma Alpha. The purpose of Phi Alpha is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideas. 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 four required social work courses, have achieved an overall GPA of 3.0, and have achieved a 3.25 in the social work major. Last year's officers for Phi Alpha were Kelsey Ballard (president), Lisa Wangsness (vice president), and Alanna LeClair (treasurer). They worked to get Phi Alpha recognized as a student organization, develop a social work program Facebook page, and organize the Lobby Day trip to Madison.

The following individuals were inducted into Phi Alpha at the department's spring reception:

- **Katlin Aldridge**
- **Kasey Dillingham**
- **Dawn Henke**
- **Julie Kramer**
- **Alex Maves**
- **Katherine Menard**
- **Jason Rumbaugh**
- **Savannah Vanden Berg**



- **Sue Osness**
- **Katie Rabas**
- **Joelle Shamrowicz**
- **Jill Vanderloop**
- **Halyley Wiesman**
- **Millinda Wozniak**
- **Danielle Zurakowski**
- **Jess Bowers**  
(honorary member)



## Sociology and Social Work Organization

The Sociology and Social Work Organization (SSWO) participated in many events and volunteer opportunities last year. This club offered their help at the Salvation Army often, cooking and serving meals to the residents. They also worked to raise money for the Salvation Army by bell-ringing during the fall months. SSWO participated in Make a Difference Day, raking leaves for elderly individuals in the Stevens Point community. Relay for Life was another significant event, where SSWO raised more than \$2,000 toward the fight against cancer. The group also went on two major trips to the Wisconsin Sociological Association annual conference at UW-Whitewater and the Jane Addams Hull-Home Museum in Chicago to enrich their understanding of the fields of Sociology and Social Work.



SSWO made and served dinners for the residents of the Salvation Army throughout the year



The club raked leaves for the elderly on Make a Difference Day



## Sociology and Social Work Organization

Last February, SSWO sponsored a day-trip to visit the Jane Addams Hull-House museum in Chicago, IL. The museum commemorates sociologist Jane Addams, who was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace prize for her direct efforts on immigration and policy reform. Plans to establish and expand this trip to an annual event have already begun.

Participating faculty and students included:

- Professor David Barry
- Professor Melanie Duncan
- Lauren Biscobing
- Alyssa DeCleene
- Shanice Dison
- Steve Dzedzic
- Dawn Henke
- Cassie Schanck
- Savannah Vanden Berg
- Samantha Vanderveren
- Hayley Wiseman
- Laurie Yetter
- Danielle Zurakowski



SSWO made a trip to the Jane Addams Hull-House to learn about the history of Social Work



## Alumni News

### **F**ormer Students of the Department of Sociology and Social Work



**Jamie Winn:** *UWSP graduate in 1998 with a Sociology major; currently teaching elementary school in Wisconsin Rapids and performing with the Sweet Lips comedy troupe.*

**Susan Hansen:** *UWSP graduate in 2001 with a Sociology major; now teaching Sociology at North Central Technical College, Wausau; she also serves as the Community College Outreach Manager (adviser) for Bellevue University (Bellevue, NE), Wausau; about to finish her Master's degree in Educational Psychology.*

**Megan Hurion:** *UWSP graduate in 2004 with a Sociology major; MA in Sociology from UW-Milwaukee; currently employed as a Family Navigator-Counselor at "The Relief Nursery" in Eugene, Oregon; also teaches trauma-informed yoga classes at The Trauma Healing Project in Eugene.*

**Connor Daugherty:** *UWSP graduate in 2013 with a Sociology major; currently working as the store manager of Stefans Soccer Company in Madison.*



Robert Butler, a former student in our program, came to UWSP in last October. He spoke to classes on topics related to diversity, African American issues, and graduate work in social work. He is pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work in Arkansas.



## In Other News

- Supporting the First Year Seminar (FYS) of the General Education Program, Professors Barry, Chunyu, and De Boer offered 3 FYS courses in Fall 2015:
  - Professor Barry: 1 section of “Understanding Society through Science Fiction”
  - Professor Chunyu: 1 section of “Unwelcome Strangers: Immigrants in the U.S.”
  - Professor De Boer: 2 sections of “Violence in American Society”
- The Sociology and Social Work department continued its faculty teaching brown-bag series, organized by Professor David Barry. The series takes place multiple times each semester and has covered topics that include technology in the classroom, public sociology, and assignment evaluation and course assessment.
- The 21st Conference on the Small City and Regional Community will be held on October 19-20, 2016, at Winona State University in Minnesota. Co-sponsored by UWSP’s Center for the Small City and WSU’s Department of Sociology, the theme will be: “Criminal Justice in the Small City.” For further information please contact Professor Bob Wolensky in 451 CCC, [rwolensk@uwsp.edu](mailto:rwolensk@uwsp.edu).

