

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

Greetings from the Department of Sociology and Social Work at UWSP
Spring 2010

As you can tell from the title of this message, we now have a new moniker. Our new name reflects the two majors we now offer. Following many years of hard work, we are launching the new major in social work beginning fall 2010. The first cohort of students in the new major has received acceptance letters welcoming them into the major.

The social work major integrates significant portions of the sociology curriculum including all of the required courses for the sociology major and several sociology / social work cross-listed courses. Our program will be unique not only because it integrates two distinct majors, but also because it maintains the integrity of both disciplines. The Native American and rural component of our curriculum will remain a part of our program. Professor Sonny Smart will be the director of the social work program. Much work remains ahead, not the least of which is the accreditation process through the Council on Social Work Education. This process is currently underway and we expect to be in initial candidacy next academic year.

Our faculty members have been engaged in scholarly activities in addition to their teaching and program development. In the past year Professor Kathy Lamb presented a paper at the American Sociological Association meetings in San Francisco and chaired a session at the Midwest Sociological Society meetings in Chicago. In addition to her research in adolescent mentorship of Latino youth, which she has been researching with Professor Doug Forbes, she is now moving into the study of identity formation of trans-racial adoptees; a new and timely area of research.

Professor Doug Forbes will be on sabbatical next semester researching infant mortality among Native Americans. His work aims to understand the risk profile for Native American infant deaths, and just as importantly whether widely accepted risk profiles that apply to other groups are good predictors of infant deaths among Native Americans. His research will be of significance to public health professionals seeking to find ways to reduce infant deaths.

Professor Amy Boelk completed her doctorate in social work at the



Newsletter Contents

	Page
Message From the Chair...	1
News & Current Events	3
Organization News.....	5
Social Work Internships	6

Editor:

Michael Klapperich

Supervising Editor:

Dorothy De Boer

University of Texas, Austin, this February. Her dissertation focused on interaction patterns of family members during hospice care. Professor Boelk continues her research of the effectiveness of a therapy program for children whose parent committed suicide. Amy also gave birth to her and husband Al's second child last summer.

Professor Bob Wolensky: was on sabbatical in fall, spending much of his time in Pennsylvania studying labor-management conflict in the coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania. During the spring semester he spent half his time as a UW-System Fellow at the Center for 21st Century Studies, continuing his work on his book project focusing on narratives of the Anthracite coal industry. Next semester, he will be leading a semester abroad group to London including an August entry tour focusing on the European Union.

Professor Gary Itzkowitz has completed a number of community research projects through the Community Research Center, including a survey research project studying public opinion on the future of the downtown Stevens Point mall. He makes use of our department's Telephone Survey Center to give our students hands-on experience conducting social science research.

Our most recently hired faculty member, Helena Alden, continues her research on gender identity, and is working on transforming her dissertation research in this area into a book. In addition to her regular repertoire of classes, she will be teaching our research methods classes next fall (a class she has taught many times for our department) while Dough Forbes is on sabbatical.

I have moved into the field coordinator spot for our applied sociology interns. During my first semester back (I did this job some time ago) I was joined by Emeritus Professor Woody Bishop who returned briefly to coordinate the social work internship program during Amy Boelk's maternity leave.

As always, our primary commitment is to our students. Demand for our sociology courses remains strong. Late in the registration period for spring courses, we added a third section of Professor Dorothy De Boer's Juvenile Delinquency course, an immensely popular class. It filled the day after we opened it. Professor Gene Clark will be doubling up on his statistics course offering in fall in order to serve our graduating students during Professor Doug Forbes's sabbatical. Our students continue special projects as well. Last summer we supported Rachelle Fawcett's field research on women in Yemen through the Sociology Support Fund.

In the past year we have broadened our course offerings with the assistance of a host of adjunct faculty we welcomed to fill in for faculty on leave. Among this group is Cate Gitter who taught Social Welfare Policy, Rural Social Work, Community Organization and Social Service Administration, and a new special topics course in Gerontological Social Work. John Natzke Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Wilkes College in Pennsylvania and a Wisconsin Native, taught Introduction to Sociology. During the fall semester, we were also joined by Melissa Nelson of St. Michael's Mental Health Unit (Social Work Case Work and Group Work), and Donna Calhoun, of the Portage County Aging and Disability Resource Center (Introduction to the Field of Social Work). In the spring, Karl Pnazek of CAP Services taught a special topics course in Community Conflict, Mark Rossano offered Social Aspects of Substance Abuse, and Janet Dehn of UW-Marinette offered Sociology of Mental Health online through the Collaborative Degree Program. Professor Emeritus Kirby Throckmorton continues to serve Continuing Education with his online statistics course. We thank our adjuncts for their high quality teaching and the variety of course offerings they are able to provide our students.

We granted scholarships to three students this year: Michelle Mullen-Burkart (George Dixon Scholarship), Kristin TeWinkle (Virginia Fish Scholarship), and Katrina Mijal (Gordon Shipman Scholarship). Thanks once again to you who have contributed to our scholarship funds and our Sociology Support Fund. Through these funds we are able to provide support and encouragement to our students in their academic work.

Please continue to send us messages on events in your life or just to say hi. We enjoy hearing from you.

Wishing you the best,
Bob Enright



NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS



Professor Kathleen Lamb

Professor Kathleen Lamb
Associate Professor of
Sociology



Professor Kathleen Lamb is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. An Ohio native, Professor Lamb received her B.A. from Bluffton University in Ohio in 1997, an M.A. in Sociology from Bowling Green State University in 2001, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Bowling Green State University in 2005. Professor Lamb was just awarded tenure through UWSP administration, and is awaiting to hear the final decision on tenure through the UW system Board of Regents. Currently in her sixth year at the University, Professor Lamb teaches courses in introductory sociology, marriage and family, adolescence, childhood, and cross-cultural perspectives on the family. Her current research focuses on links between mentoring during adolescence and civic and political participation during young adulthood among Latino youth. Her related current research project examines the impact of concentrated economic disadvantage and neighborhood collective efficacy on having a mentor during adolescence, with a focus on rural youth. An ardent traveler and foodie, Professor Lamb was coordinator for the 2007 fall semester abroad to Poland and East-Central Europe, and has journeyed to Ireland twice as well. In her free time, she enjoys running, cooking, going to the gym, reading, gardening, spending time with friends, planning her next travels, and spending time with husband Todd Good, who is employed in the College of Letters and Science at UWSP.



NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

Professor Amy Boelk

Professor Amy Boelk is Associate Professor in Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. A northern Minnesota native, Professor Boelk earned her Bachelor's of Social Work at UW-Eau Claire in 1996 and her Master's of Science in Social Work from UW-Madison in 1997. Professor Boelk successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Family Conflict at the End-of-Life: An Examination of the Experiences of Hospice Primary Caregivers and Hospice Professionals" in February and officially graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2010. Currently in her ninth year at UWSP, Professor Boelk teaches core courses in social work and coordinates the Social Work Internship Program. Her specialty areas within social work are end-of-life care, aging, and health care. Along with her dissertation research on family conflict at the end-of-life, Professor Boelk is also currently working on research on the topics of hospice care in rural communities and recovery from parental suicide. As a member of the department's Social Work Program Committee, Professor Boelk is currently helping to launch and attain accreditation for a social work program here at UWSP. In her free time, Professor Boelk enjoys traveling, outdoors activities, music, reading, and spending time with family and friends. Her husband, Al, is the swimming coach at UWSP, and they have two children, ages 5 and 10 months.

Professor Bob Wolensky

During 2010 Spring Semester, Bob Wolensky has served as a visiting fellow at UW-Milwaukee's Center for 21st Century Studies on a half-time basis. He worked on a research project related to the study of place and time. Currently, he is completing a book on industrial relations in the coal mining industry during the 1920's and 30's; called *Mine Labor Wars*. The volume will be published next spring.

The 18th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community

This conference will be held in the Dreyfus University Center in April 2011. Bob Wolensky and Ed Miller, Political Science, co-directors of the Center for the Small City, will organize the meeting. They initiated the first conference at UWSP in 1978, and 12 of the 17 prior events have been held on campus. Next year's gathering will focus on sustainability in small cities and towns.



ORGANIZATION NEWS

The Community Research Center

The Community Research Center (CRC) provides community based research for agencies in our community. Gary Itzkowitz, Professor of Sociology, is the Center's director. His over 20 years of experience and many completed projects allow him to achieve the goals he has set for the CRC. The Center often uses the help of students to conduct the research using the phone center on campus. In the past, the CRC has done projects for Head Start, Health research, Community needs, Housing programs, Educational programs, Juvenile Justice programs, Aging programs, and many others. Most recently the Community Research Center completed surveys for the city of Stevens Point, the Portage County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition, the Stevens Point Police & Fire Commission, the Taylor County Transportation Coalition, and Community Care of Central Wisconsin. Also completed was a three year program evaluation for the Prestige Protein Economic Development Project in Wood County. The CRC is also working on a series of ongoing studies for Wood County Head Start as the students' progress through the public schools.

The Sociology & Social Work Organization

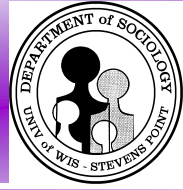
The Sociology and Social Work Organization has been active on the UWSP campus since the 1987-88 school year. The organization is a great way to meet other students who have similar interests. The Sociology and Social Work Organization (SSWO) is very proud of the work we have been doing over the past school year. Each year we always take part in Make a Difference Day in October. Another project we worked on was The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. This was a cooperative effort between SSWO and Mrs. Aldrich's Kindergarten class at Jefferson Elementary School. Together we were able to collect 128 new pairs of pajamas for kids. Another project we took part in was sponsoring a local family during the holiday season and buying presents for the children and providing them with a meal for Christmas. This year we also had the opportunity to take a trip to Destiny Point in Rudolph, which is a home for women who are working through different issues in their lives. We were excited to work on events for the spring semester. One event which we did was to partner with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and spend a night with the kids tie dying t-shirts.

If you are interested in learning more about SSWO feel free to contact either of the next year's Co-Presidents, Rachel Schroeder (rschr686@uwsp.edu) or Sarah Peterson (spete134@uwsp.edu).

Officers for the 2009-10 school year:

Co-Presidents– Rebecca Powell and Rachel Schroeder
Secretary– Jenny Schubert

Treasurer– Sarah Peterson
Public Relations Coordinator– Katrina Mijal



The Social Work Internship Program

By Amy Boelk, Internship Coordinator

Students within the Social Work Internship Program have demonstrated great success over this past academic year, developing their knowledge, skills, and sense of professionalism as they contributed to their host agencies and the larger community. Internship sites encompassed work with a range of clients, social issues, and professional work settings. Students typically cite their internship as a major growth and professional development experience, but it is also often a very stressful and time intensive experience. The following students are commended for their work, as are their supervisors and colleagues for their guidance and mentoring.

AGENCY	INTERNS
Aging & Disability Resource Center	Morgan Booth Katie Calnin
Family Crisis Center	Marsha Brey Chelsea Stoltz Mehgan Reither
Portage County Health & Human Services (CPS)	Andrea Cisewski
Portage County Health & Human Services (Foster Care)	Jamie Nunn

AGENCY	INTERNS
Wood County Birth to 3	Melissa Kissner
Wood County Social Services	Danielle Goska Casey Shover
Stevens Point School District	Sara Crotteau
Community Care of Central Wisconsin	Kristin Gennaro
St. Michael's Hospital, Mental Health Unit	Crystal Miller Rebecca Powell
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Michelle Mullen-Burkhart Mark Cahlamer
Colonial Manor Medical and Rehabilitation Center	Emily George
Stevens Point Care Center	Ashley Linsmeier
Aspirus Wausau Hospital	Kayla Kastenmeier
WI Department of Corrections, Community Corrections	Mindy Koenig
Ministry Home Care, Hospice	Andrea Ziolkowski