Dr. Judith Golec, Dr. Ray Morrow, and Ms. Lynn Van Reede retire from the University of Alberta in June and July, 2010. They have together contributed at least 100 years of service to the University and our department. We celebrated their years of service and dedication at a well-attended gathering at the Faculty Club on May 13, 2010.

Dr. Judith Golec joined the Department of Sociology in 1980, after completing her doctoral studies at the University of Ohio the same year. She received tenure in 1985 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1994. Her teaching and research interests have been in the sociology of health and illnss. Her graduate courses in qualitative research methods have always been over-subscribed, with students from across campus lining up to enroll. Over the years, Dr. Golec reassured, encouraged, and mentored hundreds of graduate students in her methods classes, and they all remember her as an exceptional teacher. Her imprint on the Department of Sociology will remain long after she retires.

Dr. Raymond Morrow joined the Department of Sociology in 1984, after completing his PhD at York University and then teaching several years at the University of Manitoba. He moved quickly through the ranks and was promoted to Full Professor in 1996. During his academic career, Ray has built an international reputation as a social theorist, specializing in critical theory and methodology, education and cultural studies, and more recently, perhaps in anticipation of retirement, in Mexican studies! Like Judith Golec, Ray Morrow was also an excellent teacher, making social theory interesting and intelligible for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Ms. Lynn Van Reede joined the Department of Sociology in 1984 as Senior Office Services Clerk where she served as administrative support. In 1990 she accepted a title change and officially became Graduate Program Coordinator. Since then she has rolled out the welcome mat for hundreds of graduate students. In addition to her day-to-day administrative duties, Lynn provided airport pick ups and event catering, brought juice and cookies for every defense, and was always unwavering in her dedication and support. PhD student Ashley York said it best, “From the first moment I spoke with you on the telephone last summer, I knew I would find a home here...if for no other reason than the fact that you are a part of it.”

Message from the Communications Committee

The past six months have been a busy and exciting time in our department, and we had no shortage of material to present in this second issue of our Newsletter. We wanted to include additional material on: where recent graduates have found employment; interesting courses taught in the department; dissertation and thesis topics of recent graduates; faculty and graduate student publications; and visiting speakers and department colloquia. But we ran out of space. So here is some information on recent promotions and retirements, on the department’s “decant” to the North Power Plant while our three floors of the Tory Building had asbestos removed, and on the research and field work experiences of some of our undergraduate and graduate students. Have a look at our department website for additional information:

www.ualberta.ca/sociology

Stayed tuned for Issue 3!

Curtis Champagne, Ariane Hanemaayer, Les Hayduk, Amy Kaler, Harvey Krahn, Serra Tinic, and Cristeen Whalen.
Decanting Made Us Stronger...

Pictures capture only part of the joy and merriment of decanting and “recanting”. Those thinking decanting would kill us were proven wrong. Those thinking of decanting as a personality test were proven correct. Those too overwhelmed to think suffered the least.

Sara Dorow reports that: “As I was cleaning out my office in Tory, I ran across a floppy disk of the 5” variety. Tickled that I had discovered this relic, I went down the hall to show Steve Kent, who was waist deep in boxes of cult material. As I held up the truly floppy disk for his amusement, a graduate student in his office looked up and said, ‘What’s that?’ I flashed just then on the first time I saw a computer punch card.” Several people actually excavated computer cards, but I can’t determine if I posted some on my hallway bulletin board out of senility, obliviousness, or as self-reassurance of survivorship! Those unearthing small or large tapes that required mounting by the “computer center” for data storage/retrieval, definitely have some reel computer memorabilia! A neighbor found some ditto copies – you know the things made by turning the crank (maximum of about 60 times) while dreaming whatever wonders the copy-fluid vapors supplied! I won’t snitch on the person who found the ditto master, but I hope my reputation will withstand my admitting my personal archeological dig unearthed a slide rule – still in working order, if anyone knows what “rule” there is to something that slides back and forth!

Top bookshelves were a challenge – moreso to those who had not practiced tree-climbing in their youth – but ladders constituted the safety-officer-approved method. There were no reports of anything other than stiff muscles from packing all those boxes, though rumor has it that only one flat-toe resulted from an encounter with a full book-cart. Downsizing had been “suggested” by move-marshals Curtis Champagne – and was actually practiced, especially during the final-panic when the number of full paper-recycle bins increased dramatically. The daily-odds of Gord Laxer not managing to get his office packed on time rose progressively as move-day approached. Thankfully I did not bet against him!
Because It Wasn’t Quite Enough To Kill Us!

The North Power Plant convinced everyone that the University really is more than 100 years old – how else to explain the rivets, cedar-beam ceiling, and “experienced” bricks! The friendly, but puzzled, faces of the maintenance crew became familiar as they struggled to keep the warm air from rising – leaving those on the main floor to freeze, though not in the dark. The penthouse cells – I mean mezzanine cubicles – came with free music after about 4:00 PM most days but after 1:00 PM Fridays. Everyone was free to think of this as coming through the wall from Dewey’s, or as piped in through the heat ducts, but no one was free to choose the style or volume. The only alternative was ear-phones, or better yet head-phones. The basement washrooms didn’t receive the free music but compensated with the sounds of buzz-saws, routers, and planers and the occasional whiff of worked-wood from the mysterious shop hidden behind the locked and forbidden door.

No one voiced any warnings for those next into the breach (Economics, then Anthropology) though there was a suggestion that if you take notes you might be able to turn a tidy profit from the unexpected things you learn about your colleagues during cube living! No wonder everyone is smiling in the pictures. We all expect the move back to Tory to retain the camaraderie without pouring old w(h)ine back into new offices!

- Les Hayduk
(Photo credits to Donna Fong)
Nostalgia for socialism is one of the most perplexing cultural responses to the end of the cold war. Two decades after the collapse of European socialism, the matter of how to write the history of the recent past continues to be a difficult topic in public and private realms, especially in Germany. Anne’s dissertation project explores this subject from the perspective of museums dedicated to everyday life in East Germany. With the exception of one, these museums are located in the former East. They tend to be small in size, not professionally curated and display consumer products as well as other aspects of material culture of the everyday. Often, visitors encounter recreated rooms, such as living rooms, kitchens and children’s bedrooms. Anne is interested in the types of stories the museums tell about life in East Germany and how people go about telling them. One of the main aims of the project will be to examine how the museums’ narratives overlap and diverge from dominant historical interpretations. Anne has travelled to Germany this summer to conduct research for her project. She plans to interview museum visitors, curators, owners and employees to help her think about commemorative practices in post-socialism.

Corus Scholar: Ashley Elaine York

Ashley Elaine York is the inaugural Corus Entertainment PhD Fellow in Television Studies at the University of Alberta.

Her previous publications include “The Heroines of ‘The Godfather’ Saga: Kay Adams and Connie Corleone” Recorder 41:31-35 (and the 2009 William E. Brigan JPC Award winner, “From Chick Flicks to Millennial Blockbusters: Spinning Female-Driven Narratives into Franchises” [JPC 43.1, pp. 3-25 [Lead article]). Ashley presented “Millennial ‘Female TV’: Redefining the Culture of Production in the Post-Network Era” at the Console-ing Passions International Conference on Television at the University of Oregon in April 2010. Her current research examines the role that contemporary woman-centered dramas play in the effort to rebrand fledgling networks in the post-network era.

PhD Student Profile: Anne Winkler

Tyler is travelling to Malawi (one of the smaller countries in the southeast part of Africa) to interview Malawians from 18 to 30 years old with a high school education or more to discover what they feel can be done in terms of policies, economics, and behaviors to decrease the spread of HIV/AIDS in their country. He feels this study will bring to light a different perspective on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, and especially in one of the most heavily affected countries.

To read about Tyler’s research trip and his experiences as a volleyball coach in Malawi (Tyler was a member of the U of A 2009 CIS Champion Volleyball team!), visit his blog:
http://tylermyroniuk.blogspot.com

MA Student Profile: Tyler Myroniuk

MA student Tyler Myroniuk is conducting research in Malawi this summer.
PhD Student Profile: Julie Hudson

Areas of research interest: Equity in educational participation, school-to-work transitions, labour market and regional effects on attitudes towards and participation in post-secondary education.

While completing my dissertation, I have also had the opportunity of working as a research assistant in the Population Research Laboratory on various interesting projects.

Current Projects: My current research focuses on the relationship between educational aspirations among Canadian youth and their educational participation by age 19 years.

PhD Student Profile: Laura Templeton

Why do highly-skilled visible minority immigrant women consistently emerge as economically vulnerable when compared to other highly-skilled immigrants? My dissertation addresses this question by considering how barriers to women’s economic well-being, such as gender roles within the domestic home and occupational sex segregation in the labour market, intersect with other social processes, including the racialization of recent migrants to Canada. With access to the University of Alberta’s Statistics Canada Research Data Centre, I am able to address my research question with data from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants in Canada.

PhD Student Profile: Temitope Oriola

Temitope (Tope) Oriola is a PhD candidate (Criminology) and Izaak Walton Killam Scholar at the Department of Sociology, University of Alberta. His on-going doctoral research is titled ‘Criminal Resistance? The Politics of Kidnapping of Oil Workers in Nigeria’. Tope investigates the phenomenon of kidnapping in the oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria as a repertoire of protest and concurrently as criminal expropriation. His doctoral research highlights the intrinsically complex interplay of transnational oil corporations, business and political elites, top military brass and armed insurgents in the festering crisis plaguing the Nigerian rentier petro-state. The research draws on social movement scholarship, political economy, history, failed/failing states, and political sociology inter alia.

He is also involved in research dealing with taser (stun gun) use by the police in North America and (counter) terrorism. Tope’s works appear in refereed journals like Critical Studies on Terrorism, African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies, Canadian Journal of Youth and Family, among others. He is a member of the editorial board of the African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies, an international peer-reviewed journal based in the United States.
Craig Campbell’s latest project, Treasure City, is an examination of a thrift store run by an anarchist collective.

2009 Space & Culture / SGSA Annual Theory Retreat

The 2009 Space & Culture Research Group/ Sociology Graduate Students Association Annual Theory Retreat occurred at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation, Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta. It was attended by faculty members Dr. Rob Shields and Dr. Jan Jagodinski (Department of Secondary Education).

10 students from the departments of Sociology, Education and Art&Design took part in responding to a call for papers. Heidi Bickis and Andriko Lozowy shared the work of organizing the event and responding to queries from students and faculty.

While at the BCBC the group participated in a variety of activities ranging from artful interpretations as introductions to their own textual works, sharing their papers and concerns, asking and responding to questions, as well as taking part as collective members of the group through cooking, exploring the grounds of the provincial park, flying kites, swimming (mid-Sept), and singing campfire songs.

To say the least, this second annual retreat was a huge success with a focus on time well spent, towards time gained. Each participant arrived with their own document and was afforded the opportunity to gather and collect wide-ranging insight through the sustained focus of the weekend as an academic and collegial event.

Where Are They Now? Dr. Craig Campbell

Craig Campbell, PhD Sociology, U of A, 2009 is Assistant Professor of Folklore and Public Culture in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin. He is happily teaching courses of his own design (Photographic Image, Archive & Ephemera, Intermedia & Aesthetics, Practices of Looking) and continues his work on arts-based research and cultural history in Siberia.

His latest project is located in Austin. Titled Treasure City, it is an examination of a thrift store run by an anarchist collective. Treasure City blends the study of material culture and commodity circulations with the mundane public articulations of radical philosophical positions. He recently curated a major exhibition of ethnographic installation art in Philadelphia (Ethnographic Terminalia), delivered a guest lecture at Rice University in Houston, and participated in the Archive & Everyday Conference at McMaster University. He does not miss the May snow in Edmonton.
Another Successful SSHRC Year

This past year, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) once again recognized the high quality scholarship taking place in our department. Three undergraduate and first-year MA students (Amy MacDonald, Kelly Struthers Montford, and Camille Tokar) won SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships, while three PhD students won SSHRC doctoral fellowships: Ariane Hanemaayer received a SSHRC Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship while Patrick McLane and Bryan Sluggett received SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships. In addition, PhD student Barbara Milmine received the prestigious SSHRC Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (one of only two such SSHRC awards received by U of A students this past year). Faculty members were also successful in the SSHRC Standard Grant competition; Dominique Clément, Amy Kaler, and Harvey Krahn each received a three-year SSHRC Standard Research Grant.

BA Criminology Students In The Community

Chelsea Hawrelak, a 4th year Criminology student, entered the program with work experience related to high-risk youth and a strong aspiration to work with women living high-risk lifestyles. Chelsea recently completed a field placement with the RCMP’s Project KARE, the investigational unit created to examine the deaths of missing persons identified as participating in high-risk lifestyles in the Edmonton area. As a result of her placement she has been hired as a summer student with Project KARE. Chelsea says about the BA Criminology Program, “It has helped me to realize my desire to complete a Masters in Sociology focusing on addictions and Aboriginal youth involved in street prostitution.”

Jeremy Lukan, a 4th year Criminology student, recently completed a placement with the YOUCAN (Youth Organizing to Understand Conflict and Advocate Non-violence) Centre. YOUCAN was designed to teach youth ages 16-25 the skills required for peaceful resolution of conflicts they face in their daily lives. Jeremy feels his placement has given him more insight into the lives of at-risk youth and hopes to work with a similar population upon graduation from the BA Criminology Program.

Welcome Postdoctoral Fellow Daniel Trottier

Daniel Trottier is looking forward to arriving at the Department of Sociology in the Fall when he will commence a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Kevin Haggerty on part of the SSHRC funded New Transparency Project. While at the U of A he will help coordinate a workshop in 2011 on the surveillance consequences of 9/11.

Daniel is currently completing his PhD in the Department of Sociology at Queen's University. His doctoral research focuses on the emergence of new surveillance practices through social media. Under Dr. David Lyon’s supervision, he has conducted a series of semi-structured interviews to assess the impact of sites like Facebook on relations between individuals, institutions, and corporations. Previously Daniel has taught undergraduate courses on information and communication technologies as well as surveillance studies. Daniel completed his BA (Hon) at McGill University, and MA at Concordia University.
Announcements

Awarded Tenure and Promoted to Associate Professor: Dr. Lisa Strohschein

Lisa Strohschein investigates the effects of family dynamics on health and well-being, including how the loss of intimate relationships, whether through separation, divorce or death, affects the lives of children and adults. Currently, Lisa is supported by a SSHRC-funded project to chart the family structure histories of a nationally representative sample of Canadian children and to evaluate the effects of stability and change in family structure on their health and wellbeing. She is also co-investigator on a CIHR grant worth approximately $800K to understand how the intersection of work and family demands influences the health of Canadians.

Promoted to Full Professor: Dr. Kevin Haggerty

Kevin D. Haggerty’s research interests revolve around issues of surveillance, risk, policing, governance and security. He is editor of the Canadian Journal of Sociology and book review editor of the international journal Surveillance and Society. Kevin is a member of the executive team for the $2.5 million New Transparency Major Collaborative Research Initiative. He has authored, co-authored or co-edited Policing the Risk Society (Oxford University Press) Making Crime Count (University of Toronto Press) and The New Politics of Surveillance and Visibility (University of Toronto Press). He has recently co-edited (with Minas Samatas) Surveillance & Democracy (Routledge—Cavendish).

Last, but far from least...

Dr. Alison Dunwoody is the recipient of a 2010 Faculty of Arts Contract Instructor Award, and has been nominated for the University's William Hardy Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Congratulations, Alison!

Dr. Michael Haan resigned from our department effective June 30, 2010. Michael has been awarded a Canada Research Chair in Population and Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, a position he will take up on July 1, 2010. We wish him all success in his new position.

Any other tidbits? Have a bit of news to share? Let Cristeen know via email at cristine@ualberta.ca

Mission

The department is committed to: (a) providing an exceptional learning environment that encourages critical thinking, develops communication skills, promotes community awareness and involvement, values discovery-based learning, rewards excellent teaching and mentoring, and leads to enhanced employability for students; (b) creating a rich research environment that encourages theoretical inter-disciplinarity and methodological diversity, promotes innovation, and values collaboration; (c) shaping scholarly and public policy debates through publication and presentation of research findings in the highest quality venues by faculty and students; and (d) creating a satisfying working environment for staff, faculty, and students based on collegiality, respect for diversity, and efficient and effective use of resources.