

Collective Memory



Spring 2007

uncg sociology

Notes from the Head



As sociologists we often reflect on the fundamentally paradoxical nature of social life, ever changing yet somehow remaining recognizably familiar. The 2006-2007 academic year brought a number of changes to the Sociology Department. Since the last issue of *Collective Memory* we have welcomed new faculty members and registered a record number of undergraduate sociology majors. We added innovative new courses to the

curriculum and were enriched by the presence of international scholars from as far away as Germany and Cameroon. In addition, Steve Kroll-Smith made the decision to re-direct his energies toward teaching and his research into the continuing disaster spawned by Hurricane Katrina. We are grateful to him for his years of service as Department Head and eagerly anticipate the results of that important work.

Assuming the Headship of this extraordinary collective has made me especially conscious of the challenges and excitement associated with transition as well as the comfort and security of stability. UNCG is growing by leaps and bounds. This creates opportunities but also dilemmas, as we strive to keep up with growing numbers of students and rapidly changing technology, while maintaining the high standards of scholarship and sense of community that have always prevailed on the Third Floor of Graham Building.

As I made the physical move from one end of the building to the other, I uncovered in my files an issue of *The Alumni News* from the spring of 1974, nearly a decade before I arrived on campus. Intrigued, I opened it to discover an article by two former (and greatly loved) members of the Sociology faculty, E. M. "Bud" Rallings and David Pratto. The article reported the results of their survey of all students who had graduated with a degree in Sociology since the introduction of the major in 1918-1919. The respondents represented more than a half century (1921-1972) of sociology graduates!

Thirty-five years have passed since those data were collected. How much has changed! Yet there is continuity as well. The average annual salary of new graduates in the early 1970s was only \$5,632.00; however, the "problems" they described would doubtless be familiar to more recent alumni: "physical exhaustion, emotional stress, and scheduling of time between family and job." The conflicting demands on our time have certainly not lessened over the

last century. Fortunately, sociology graduates head off into the world equipped with finely honed sociological imaginations, making it easier to distinguish between their "personal troubles" and "public issues."

Although I have been at UNCG for more than twenty years, my move into the Department Office has provided me with a new vantage point from which to observe our shared terrain. Above all, it has intensified my appreciation of this dedicated and hard-working community of sociologists. It has been a year full of noteworthy accomplishments—by students, faculty, and staff alike. This issue of *Collective Memory* provides us with an opportunity to share some of the highlights with you.

We hope that the newsletter will encourage you to stay in touch with us. The history of sociology at UNCG is now almost 90 years long; however, our memories are only collective to the extent that we construct them together. If you participated in that survey in the early 1970s, this is the perfect moment to let us know where your sociological imagination has led you since the Nixon years. Those of you who are too young to remember that endeavor now have the chance to speak for more recent generations of graduates. How has your sociological training influenced your life? What would you like to know about the Department?

To facilitate our conversations with each other, we now have a dedicated e-mail address: Collective_Memory@uncg.edu. Please write! Fall Fest 2007 will afford us a special opportunity to meet face to face. Mark your calendars for the Sociology Department Reception on Friday, September 28, 2007 from 5-7pm in the Alexander Room of Elliot University Center. In addition to the familiar faces of the faculty, you will have an opportunity to meet representatives of the next generation of alumni. Members of the Sociology Club will be on hand to share news of their efforts and, hopefully, to begin to build social networks for the future. We hope you will be able to join us.

Julie V. Brown

Congratulations!

Phi Beta Kappa initiates **Joshua Aaron Apple** (major in History - HS teaching, minor in sociology) and **Natassaja Chowthi** (dual major in Media Studies and Sociology).

Department Recognizes Students at Honors Luncheon

The Department held its annual Honors Luncheon on Friday, April 27. Faculty recognized students who received a variety of honors and awards from the department. Dr. Ashby Walker, a graduate of the Sociology MA program in 2000, was the guest speaker. Dr. Walker now is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Mars Hill College near Asheville, NC. Her areas of specialty include social psychology and culture, with a focus on cultural aspects of food and eating. In 2005, she published "In the Absence of Food: A Case of Rhythmic Loss and Spoiled Identity for Patients with PEG Feeding Tubes" in *Food, Culture, and Society* based on data collected for her MA thesis here at UNCG (under the direction of Dr. Julie Brown). This paper won the 2004 Alex McIntosh Graduate Paper Competition for contributions to research on food and culture. At the luncheon, she spoke to the students and faculty about "The Value of Sociological Visioning."

During the luncheon, several students were surprised with announcements that they had been selected for departmental scholarships and awards. The faculty recognized five students who were chosen to receive the **David and Marlene Pratto Scholarship**. This scholarship was established by the Pratts in recognition of outstanding work by undergraduate Sociology students. David Pratto was a faculty member in the Sociology Department from 1969 to 2000, serving as chair of the department for many years prior to his retirement. Marlene Pratto received her Masters degree in education from UNCG in 1985 and worked for twenty years in the University's Office of Computing and Information Services.

The five winners of the Pratto Scholarship for the fall of 2007 are:

Jennifer Horton Larissa Manon Courtney Roberts
Samantha Taulker Brittany Spears

The faculty also announced the graduate and undergraduate student winners of the **Carolyn and Donald Allen Sociological Theory Prize**, given each year to the most outstanding theory students. Each recipient receives a \$100 award. The undergraduate recipient for the 2006-07 year is: **Patrick Kegan Fleming**. The graduate student recipient is: **Elizabeth Blake**.

Finally, the faculty recognized all new inductees into Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society. Undergraduate student AKD inductees must have completed at least 12 hours in the Sociology major with both an overall GPA and Sociology GPA of 3.0 or above. Graduate student inductees must have completed at least 15 hours towards their Sociology MA with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Each new inductee receives a certificate of recognition, an honor cord to wear at graduation, and a one-year subscription to *Sociological Inquiry*.

Undergraduate student inductees include:

Lori Anthony-Cummings	Danelle Darrow	Katherine Mariategui
Melissa Belyeu	Crystal DeLoatch	Preshus Mixon
Christopher Byers	Eva Erbskorn	Emily Morgan
Christine Calabria	Kegan Fleming	Courtney Roberts
Elizabeth Campbell	Margaret Green	Megan Roland
Karen Campbell	Catrina Joy Harris	Justin Sengstock
Jessica Clark	Jennifer Horton	Agnes Szarka
Daniel Corey	Marisa Jerez	Samantha Taulker
Vanessa Crisp	Nicole Lambrecht	Calvin Woody

Graduate student inductees include:

Rebecca Conway Joseph Quinn
Brandi McCullough Marshica Stanley

Sociology Club is Reinvigorated

The UNCG Sociology Club was reestablished in August of 2006 under the leadership of Club President Jennifer Horton and faculty advisor Ken Allan. Given the Sociology Department's addition



Sociology Club members at the NCSA meeting

of the Concentration in Social Problems in a Global Society, the Club members decided to devote their efforts to local and global social issues.

The first event sponsored by the Club was a University-wide clothing drive for Hurricane Katrina victims. They collected more than twenty boxes of clothes for victims. In February, the Club collected research about domestic and dating violence for a table they managed at the screening of the "Vagina Monologues" on UNCG's campus. In March, they developed and hosted a Sociology Career Fair for all Sociology majors. They welcomed four speakers who offered helpful advice for career tracks in Sociology. They also participated in UNCG's African Human Rights Week and hosted a screening of a documentary about Ugandan children who are abducted to serve as child soldiers. Club members researched the historical context of the social problem and led a detailed discussion after the movie. The Club also held several fundraisers at Boston Market with proceeds going to aid a Ugandan organization.

Throughout the year, Club members participated in monthly coffee debates at the Green Bean, discussions that faculty often attended as well. And for the first time in many years, Club members traveled to the North Carolina Sociological Association meetings, held in Wrightsville Beach. The Sociology Department allocated monies from the Enrichment Fund to underwrite their attendance.

leadership in the University and broader communities.

Katie is a graduating senior majoring in Sociology with a concentration in global social problems. She is a member of the Sociology honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), a University Marshall, and a past recipient of the Georgia C. Moore Service and Leadership Award. Katie's activities include being founder and co-leader of STAND (Students Taking Action Now in Darfur), Community Outreach Coordinator for the African Services Coalition of Americorps, Food Assistance of Greensboro volunteer, and volunteer for Centro de Accion Latino. Katie has interned at both the Guilford County Department of Public Health and Jamkhed International in Carrboro, NC. After graduation, Katie will be working for a year with Partners in Health in Lima, Peru, assisting with the development of the SaludInfantil program for children. She then plans to return to graduate school to

Focus on Faculty



Stephen J. Sills

I graduated from UNCG in 1991 with a BA in Spanish, a teaching certificate, and a desire to see the world. After working for a year in Randolph County as a middle school Spanish teacher, I was off to the Northwest to work first for the YMCA then for the Seattle Public Schools. While diverse, exciting, and certainly more cosmopolitan Greensboro at that time, Seattle was still not the world I was seeking to explore. Within a few years, I "retired" from teaching Spanish at the high school level and set off as a vagabond through Latin America. I traveled by third-class train and dug-out canoe in Mexico, "chicken bus" and enduro motorcycle through Guatemala, horseback and a retired Aeroflot "puddle-jumper" in Honduras. I climbed Olmec and Mayan ruins, explored jungles and cloud forests, was held-up by a guerilla army, learned to scuba dive, and spent time with the Bribri people.

When I returned in 1996, after more than a year of these adventures, I found it hard to settle back into my former life as a school teacher. I was addicted to the study of cultures and peoples and knew that there was much more to learn. So, I became an English teacher in Taiwan after seeing an advertisement in the paper: "foreign teachers wanted, North American accent, degree required." I arrived in Taipei a few weeks later and then was sent by the owner of the school to work in his Bushiban (cram-school) in Kaohsiung, the capital of the industrial South of Taiwan. I was treated, for the most part, as a privileged guest. I was paid a salary that was more than twice that of local teachers, provided with a housing stipend, and given yearly travel funds

Westervelt Launches New "Miscarriages of Justice" Course in Spring '07

Professor *Sandra Westervelt* launched a new course entitled "Miscarriages of Justice" in the Spring of 2007, the first of its kind in an undergraduate program in NC. The development and implementation of the course was supported by an Advancement of Teaching and Learning Grant

provided by the Teaching & Learning Center at UNCG.

The course examines the causes and consequences of the wrongful conviction of the innocent within the American criminal justice system. The course provides Westervelt with an opportunity to integrate her current research interests with teaching. For the past several years, she and colleague Kimberly Cook (UNCW) have been engaged in a study of the post-release experiences of death row exonerees, having completed indepth personal interviews with 18 death row exonerees around the country. Westervelt and Cook primarily are interested in the obstacles exonerees face, the coping strategies they use to negotiate post-exoneration, and the factors that relate to their abilities to adjust post-release. The course incorporates audio-taped interviews with exonerees from this research in addition to classroom visits from two death row exonerees with whom Westervelt and Cook have worked in the past. The design of the course provides students with an opportunity to engage the subject matter on a more personal level by introducing them to the actual voices of wrongly convicted innocents. Two death row exonerees gave guest lectures in

for returning to the US.

It was during this first stay in Taiwan that I began to read about the plight of Filipino laborers in the Kabayan! section of the English weekly Taiwan News. This page was written by Filipino contract workers. I was surprised by the disparity in treatment between those of us from Western nations and the workers from developing countries. The Filipino factory workers and domestic workers were subjected to discrimination, mistreatment, strict governmental controls, and were paid about half the salary of local workers. Moreover, I learned that they had to borrow funds to pay "placement agents" for the opportunity to work in Taiwan. Awareness of this inequality led me to want to study about labor migration.

I returned to the United States in late 1998 after a year and a half in Taiwan and another eight month tour of Central America. I applied for graduate school and was accepted at Arizona State University in the Sociology Department. My goal was to learn all I could on migration, immigrant incorporation, and transnationalism. After interviewing more than thirty undocumented about migrants, and studying data from the Mexican Migration Project (D. Massey and J. Durand) I wrote my Masters' Thesis on transnational Mexican communities in Phoenix Arizona. Finally, in 2002, after completing my course work and comprehensive exams, I returned to Taiwan to formally study Philippine labor migration to Taiwan. I spent seven months accumulating more than sixty hours of videotaped interviews and observations and conducting a survey of 380 factory workers. From these data, I wrote a dissertation and have published several journal articles.

After completing my degree, I decided to become an applied sociologist. I was hired by the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University, first as a Research Associate and then as Director of Evaluation Research. In this capacity I oversaw a team of four

investigators working on nearly two-dozen projects, including evaluations of social and health service agencies, school reform initiatives, and educational program evaluations. I was fortunate to work closely with immigrant-serving social service agencies such as the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (A.C.C.E.S.S.), the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC), and Yad Ezra Kosher Food Pantry.

When I found that my alma mater was looking for a Sociologist to teach in the Global Social Problems concentration, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to apply. As a result of globalization, Greensboro has changed dramatically since I left in the early 1990s. It has, like most places, become incorporated into the global web of interconnections and interdependencies. I feel that the position here affords me the opportunity to develop a research program that allows me to combine my desire for applied work in the local community with international work on labor migration and labor rights. Currently I have funded projects focusing on immigrant access to fair housing in Greensboro, on the study of the depictions of migrants in local media, and I continue to study the largely female labor migration from the Philippines to Taiwan. This year I received the UNCG Summer Excellence Award, the New Faculty Award, Kohler International Travel Funds, a Grant from the Center for Creative Inquiry, and the Lloyd International Honors College New Course Development Award. With financial support from the UNCG Office of Research and Public/Private Sector Partnerships, I will be returning to Taiwan this summer to complete a short documentary on the everyday lived experiences of female labor migrants in Taiwan. This documentary project will consider the various social, cultural, political, and economic aspects of Taiwan as a receiving context and observe how women migrants from the Philippines negotiate impediments to their incorporation into Taiwanese society.

class, discussing their experiences before, during, and after their wrongful incarcerations. Shabaka Brown, a Florida exoneree, discussed his experience of coming within 15 hours of his own execution and his efforts to maintain hope while in prison. Kirk Bloodworth, a Maryland exoneree and the first death row inmate in the U.S. to be exonerated using DNA, focused on the numerous errors that occurred in his case, leading to his wrongful conviction, and the enormous stigma he battled when he was exonerated and returned to his small hometown on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Bloodworth also gave a public lecture in the evening followed by a reception that was attended by over 150 students and community members.

Westervelt and the students capped off the course by viewing the HBO premier of "The Trials of Darryl Hunt" which documents the wrongful conviction and 18 year journey to exoneration of Winston-Salem native Darryl Hunt.

Westervelt hopes to make this course a permanent fixture in the rotation of Criminology classes offered within the Criminology Concentration in the department.



Students Win Top Honors

Two Sociology students – **Katie Mariategui** (left) and **Jennifer Horton** (right) – have been awarded top University honors this spring. Katie Mariategui was named a winner of the Student Excellence Award given annually by the Lloyd International Honors College's Honors Council. This award is given to those students who are "the best of the best" at the University and who demonstrate creativity and originality of thought; motivation, initiative, and perseverance; analytic, synthetic, and critical thinking skills; and the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Jennifer Horton has received the Georgia C. Moore Service and Leadership Award given annually to three students who demonstrate distinctive commitment to UNCG through their meritorious service and

2007 Colloquium Series

The True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA

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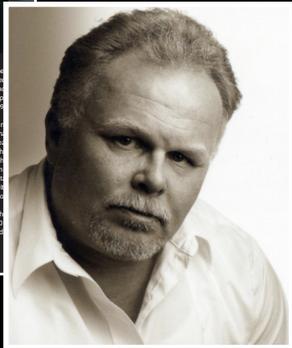
Kirk Bloodworth will discuss his harrowing experience with the criminal justice system and his struggles to survive after his exoneration. Bloodworth also will sign copies of his book *Bloodworth: The True Story of One Man's Triumph Over Injustice* (with Tim Junkin). The public is welcome.



Thursday, April 12, 2007
New Science Building
Room 201
7:00pm
Reception Following

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In 1985, Kirk Bloodworth was convicted of the rape and murder of 9-year-old Dawn Hamilton and sentenced to life in Maryland's gas chamber. He spent his time throughout his trial and during the nine years he spent in Maryland's toughest penitentiary, Fall 4 in the 1990s, while reading a book about newly emerging DNA technology. He realized that this technology could not only be used to accurately identify the guilty but it also could potentially reveal his innocence. After fighting the DNA testing of the evidence from both crime scene, state and federal labs, concluded that the DNA did not match any evidence from the crime scene of 1993, he became the first person in the United States to be exonerated and released of a capital crime on the basis of DNA technology. Almost a decade later, on September 5, 2001, Maryland's State Attorney announced that a DNA match had been made in the case, identifying the actual offender after almost 20 years. Kirk's story has influenced a renewed sense of urgency on May 20, 2004 to the murder for which Bloodworth had been wrongfully convicted.



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The Feminization of Migration in Africa: Nigerian Women in Cameroon

The Department of Sociology Colloquium Series presents:

The Feminization of Migration in Africa: Nigerian Women in Cameroon

Dr. Eunamat Fonjong
Department of Women and Gender Studies
University of Buea
Buea, Cameroon

Alexander Room
Ellis Hall University Center
Tuesday, April 3, 2007
3:30 pm
Reception preceding at 3:00



Dr. Fonjong is the author of *From Rural Space through Non-governmental Efforts in Northwestern Cameroon: The Challenges of Non-governmental Organizations in Anglophone Cameroon*. Her research interests include environment and community management of natural resources, development issues in agrarian society, globalization and female migration in Africa, the role of NGOs in Africa, poverty and the alleviation of poverty in Africa, program planning and project design.

Co-sponsored by: College of Arts & Sciences, Women and Gender Studies Program, International



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Immigration Policy and Family Reorganization: Experiences of Salvadoran and Guatemalan Immigrants

The Department of Sociology Colloquium Series presents:

Immigration Policy and Family Reorganization: Experiences of Salvadoran and Guatemalan Immigrants

Dr. Cecilia Menjivar
Assistant Professor
School of Social and Family Dynamics
Program in Sociology
Arizona State University

Friday, March 23, 2007
2:00 p.m.
Hofmann Hall, Main Building
Reception following



Dr. Menjivar's research focuses on the effects of large scale social structures and social change on the lives of individuals who live in hostile and violent environments. Her research shows that such adverse contexts stem from various forms of exclusion—legal, social, economic—and from institutional, symbolic, and political violence. Specifically her research focuses on two areas: first, the effects of legal and economic exclusion on various spheres

of social life, including social networks, family, gender relations, religious participation, and transnational ties among Central American immigrants in the United States, and second, the militarization of the U.S. border and its effects. Dr. Menjivar is the author of *Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America* and co-editor of *When States Kill: Latin America, the US and Technologies of Terror*.



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Faculty Briefs

Gwen Hunnicutt spent the last academic year on a project that investigated fatal versus non-fatal outcomes among children in high risk environments in North Carolina. She is currently writing a grant proposal seeking federal funding to continue this study at the regional level.

Steve Kroll-Smith published *Volatile Places: Communities and Environmental Controversies* (Sage Press) with Valerie Gunter. He was awarded a faculty research grant to begin a comparative study of the 1906 earthquake and fire in San Francisco and the 2005 flooding of New Orleans. His paper on first-responders to Hurricane Katrina was accepted by the *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*. Kroll-Smith and department heads from Anthropology and Communication are currently preparing a professional certificate program, formerly titled: "Community Preparedness and Extreme Events." He continues to edit *Sociological Inquiry*.

Rebecca Adams has been serving as a member-at-large on the Council of the American Sociological Association and was an Advisory Editor on George Ritzer's recently published *Encyclopedia of Sociology* (Blackwell). She recently published an article in *Personal Relationships* entitled "Gender-of-Author Differences in Study Design of Older Adult Friendship Surveys" with several of our alumnae: Jenny Berggren, MA; Lindsey Docherty, BA ; Kara Ruffin, BA ; Cynthia Pfaff Wright, MA .

Bill Markham's new book on nature protection in eight European countries and the U.S., coedited with a colleague in the Netherlands, will be out soon. Bill wrote the chapter on Germany and coauthored the opening and concluding chapters. Bill travelled to Germany in October to present a paper at the German Sociological Association meetings. He coauthored the paper with Dr. Christine Hannemann, a Berlin sociologist who was a Visiting Scholar at UNCG last summer. Bill also wrote a successful proposal for money from the West African Research Association to bring a Cameroonian professor to UNCG for the last six weeks of the Spring 2007 Semester. Bill will be a Visiting Scholar at his University in Cameroon for two weeks in May.

Alumni News

Joe Quinn (MA '07) has been accepted into the PhD program at Florida State University.

Kelly Lucey (B.A. 2000 in Sociology and German, MS in Technical Communication from NC State) is currently residing in Richland, Washington. She is working for Bechtel National, Inc. on the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant Project as a Business Analyst for the Employee Concerns Program. Bechtel is designing, building and commissioning a complex of treatment plants to convert dangerous waste into stable glass.

Keeping in Touch

We'd love to hear from you. Keep us up-to-date or request your newsletter via E-mail at: Collective_Memory@UNCG.edu .