

# Collective Memory



Fall 2009

# uncg sociology

## Notes from the Head



This has been another banner year for the UNCG Sociology Department. As you peruse the pages of this year's *Collective Memory*, I am confident that you will be as impressed as I am by the dedication and accomplishments of both faculty and students. Of course, this has also been a year of challenges—for UNCG as well

as for our state, nation, and world. The Sociology Department has not been immune to the economic crisis, as evidenced by the fact that this year's newsletter is only available in electronic form. You probably found it in your e-mail inbox. You can also find it on the Sociology Department's web page: [www.uncg.edu/soc](http://www.uncg.edu/soc).

One of the highlights of the academic year was our annual Honors Luncheon. This year's speaker was Dr. Nkrumah Lewis, who received a BA in Sociology at UNCG and is now a faculty member at Winston Salem State University. Dr. Lewis offered the honorees an inspiring vision about the significance of sociology in these troubled times. Below are a few excerpts:

"Throughout the course of your lives, you will be asked on a great number of occasions, what is sociology? ....Inevitably upon your successful matriculation and graduation, someone in your family will offer altruistic congratulations, and then ask you in a very intelligent manner, 'What you gonna do with that?' I wish for you to simply reply by paraphrasing the words of Mahatma Gandhi, 'I will be the change that I wish to see in the world.'

"...The world awaits your introspection. It is you, the sociologist that can finally provide the one thing societies the world over long to know. 'Why?' People seldom like to hear sociologists talk, because ultimately the status quo will be disrupted. If we begin to expose hidden rationales from practical application of the implications of

our research, we begin to affect agendas. There is not one discipline on this campus that does not involve a sociological component. My greatest tool of recruitment for new sociologists is to tell people that it matters not what your major is, in all of your comings and goings, doings and seeing, you will be performing sociology. We are the great arbitrators of humanity. We provide a perspective that is simply not native to others.

"...We have become the greatest of all by being the least of all. It is our service to humanity that separates us from philosophers and critical thinkers. I beseech you this day not to look upon the earth and its inhabitants with disdain because we seemingly wallow in our socially constructed filth. You are challenged to simply speak the rationality of peace in the face of purposeless violence, educate others in hopes of depreciating stigma, appreciate and practice subjectivity, hold fast to what is ethical, good and true, knowing always that many truths exist. Do not think outside of the box, think as if there is no box, contemplating what your life's contribution might be and work with all diligence to make tomorrow a place of anticipation and not dread. I have committed myself to a creed that serves as my signature on all out-going correspondence. It says: ***It is my destiny to refute the notion of impossibility.***

At the students' request we have posted the entire text of Dr. Lewis's speech on the Sociology Department website. We hope that you can find a moment or two to read his thoughtful reflections. Don't be surprised if you find yourself with renewed motivation to respond to the charge to "Be the change you want to see in the world."

As always, we look forward to hearing from the widely dispersed UNCG sociology community. Please send your news to: [collective\\_memory@uncg.edu](mailto:collective_memory@uncg.edu) so we can include it in next spring's newsletter.

Juli V. Brown

## Focus on Faculty

**S**teven R. Cureton is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at The University of North Carolina-Greensboro. The book *Hoover Crips: When Cripin' Becomes a Way of Life* was published in 2008. The second book *Night-Krawlers* is still in the data collection phase as the intent is to directly observe the subculture of violence in certain North Carolina nightclubs for ten years. I started collecting data in 2002, so I'm in the seventh year. My research interests have not changed as I remain interested in African-Americans' life chances and life course outcomes, gangs, street corner politics, norms and ethics governing lifestyle decisions, the impact of family dynamics on behavioral outcomes, and the significance of race for college and professional sports. My most recent publication entitled "Something Wicked This Way Comes: A Historical Account of Black Gangsterism Offers Wisdom and Warning For African-American Leadership" is forthcoming in the *Journal of Black Studies* (November 2009).

In terms of teaching, I continue to teach Deviance, Juvenile Delinquency, and Contemporary Gangs. I have added two new courses to the sociology and criminology concentration curricula, African-American Social Thought and African-American Perspectives on Crime, respectively.

Regarding service, I find myself doing more and more motivational speeches for at-risk youth and consulting on capital murder cases involving gang members. Finally, the Hoover Crip publication is generating enough attention and in fact has raised more significant questions that need answers; therefore, it is highly probable that a second book on Hoover will be on the horizon.

Socially, I am still the family man you all remember. My live-in nephew Russell has graduated and moved on to technical school in the Maryland area. My daughter, Nia, is now 10 and is seriously involved in competitive cheerleading, which I now believe is a sport. My new nickname is "cheer-dad." Debbye and I have added a dog, a male boxer, named Soprano to the family, and we are moving into our nineteenth year of marriage.



## New Faculty



Sarah Daynes

When I was a child, I was sure of two things: I was an intellectual, and I would become a zoologist. I devoured books – everything that I could get my hands on. I also spent hours looking at maps in the atlas of the *Encyclopedia Universalis*, delighting in the names of foreign cities and villages, or sitting in the grass, ravished by the paths and activities of busy ants. I was a dreamy child; it was the seventies, I was schooled in the extremely progressive *Ecole des Bois*, in the middle of a pine forest and right across from one of the most beautiful vineyards in the world. Children there were of all sorts: mentally challenged, handicapped, exceptionally bright, with foreign names – or not; it was a small world filled with tolerance, which valued difference and independence; it was not only free of discrimination: difference was simply the rule, *any kind of difference*, as would be dear to Stuart Hall. Of school days, I have only memories of playing; and yet, I realized when entering junior high in public school how well I had been educated. It was a world in which the life of the mind mattered. Not knowledge, not

possessions, not competition; but curiosity, ideas, and a respect for all living things.

Then I read Simone de Beauvoir. I was twelve or thirteen, and deep inside I could feel that life is worth living only because of the words that inhabit it, the ideas that provide it with texture, *the life of the mind*. It is my childhood who made me who I am today; not high school, not undergraduate studies, not graduate studies, not my Ph.D. dissertation advisor: simply, elementary school. I have no conversion (to sociology) narrative, no defining point as I entered grad school or did fieldwork for the first time. Since the beginning, as a little girl, I knew that there was only one thing that mattered in life: becoming, like Simone de Beauvoir, an independent, free thinker, a woman who had thoughts, who believed in words and lived with them. Like Jorge Luis Borges, I imagined that paradise had to be a kind of library; I entered college knowing I would pursue a doctorate – in psychoanalysis, philosophy or anthropology, it didn't matter; what mattered was *thinking*. I would live with books, I would lead my life with ideas – was there any other way?

I am very much the little girl I was then. I remained faithful to what I knew at the time. Although I have not become a zoologist – but perhaps it is a missed vocation! I am still fascinated by ants, the behavior of my cat, or the

Sunday evening *Nature* documentaries. And I still devour books – there is always a pile of novels on my bedside table, a new one to be started as soon as another is finished. I defended my dissertation in 2001, on a very sunny day of June, with open windows and a marching band playing in the courtyard – it was the annual "Day of Music" in France, a very auspicious sign for a Ph.D. thesis on memory and reggae music! Just a week later, I flew to New York City for summer teaching and a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University. I had no intention to stay – and yet eight years went by, on a second post-doc and then as a faculty member at the New School for Social Research. For me, joining the department of Sociology at UNCG has meant leaving a beloved, unique city; but it has also enriched my life in countless ways: I gained a backyard and front porch, the sound of crickets at night, and the beauty of springtime in Greensboro; above all, I gained wonderful colleagues, a warm university environment, and the joy of teaching in a public institution. Public education is something dear to my heart. Like the immigrant students I taught once at the City University of New York., UNCG students make me proud of who I am: a professor, someone who believes in the importance of thinking. It is my mind, insatiably curious, that I bring to the classroom.

## Faculty Briefs

After completing four years as Sociology's Director of Graduate Studies, **Rebecca Adams** served this year as Chair of the Faculty Senate and as Chair of UNCG's Strategic Planning Committee.

**Ken Allan** is in the process of revising three of his textbooks for second editions. His new book, *A Social Theory Primer: The Craft of Citizenship*, is due out later this year.

The Chancellor has recommended to the Board of Trustees that **Shelly Brown-Jeffy** be awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in the Sociology Department

**Sarah Daynes** completed several projects during her first year at UNCG. Her book *Desire for Race*, co-authored with Orville Lee, was published by Cambridge University Press in November 2008. In January, with colleagues Cyril Isnart and Alexander Riley, she finished a translation and critical edition of essays by French scholars Robert Hertz, Henri Hubert and Marcel Mauss; it is entitled *Saints, Heroes, Myths and Rites: Classical Durkheimian Studies of Religion and Society*, and was published in the Yale Cultural Sociology Series at Paradigm Press in August 2009. She swears she will never do translation work again. Finally, her third book, *The Politics of Hope: Time and Memory in Reggae Music*, will be published by the University of Manchester Press in early 2010.

**Jenifer Hamil-Luker** continues her research on the predictors and consequences of imprisonment. She led an Honors College seminar in which she and 17 undergraduates critiqued current U.S. penal policies and proposed alternative solutions to mass incarceration. Hamil-Luker published a book chapter examining how early life employment decisions impact earnings trajectories and socioeconomic inequality in later life, presenting her research in Bamberg and Leipzig, Germany.

The Chancellor has recommended to the Board of Trustees that **Gwen Hunnicutt** be awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in the Sociology Department. Gwen spent most of her time this year teaching six courses. In addition to her usual lineup, she added two new courses: Sociological Perspectives on Gender and Collective Violence and Nonviolence in Global Perspective. Her research continues to focus on gender violence, theory development, and interdisciplinary violence studies. She is currently working on a book that extends ecofeminist theory to our understanding of gender violence. She is also launching a project that explores masculinity, aggression and empathy in social context. Gwen published a paper in May, 2009 titled, "Varieties of Patriarchy and Violence Against Women: Resurrecting 'Patriarchy' as a Theoretical Tool," which appears in the popular women's studies journal, *Violence Against Women*.

**Steve Kroll-Smith** was appointed Katrina Project Director for the Social Science Research Council. He will oversee six funded research projects on the recovery of the Gulf Coast and New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. He also received a \$172,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to examine recovery in two historic New Orleans' neighborhoods. He shares this grant with two colleagues at The University of New Orleans. Kroll-Smith will speak to the Department of Sociology at the University of Coimbra, Lisbon, Spain in June. Finally, he continues to edit *Sociological Inquiry* with the indispensable help of Ms. Julie Capone, Associate Editor.

Equality NC Foundation honored Associate Professor and State Representative **Paul Luebke** as the recipient of its Legislative Leadership Award for his years of leadership on equal rights. The award was presented at the 2008 Equality Conference & Gala in Durham. Executive Director Ian Palmquist announced, "It's appropriate that we're honoring one of Durham's most committed leaders in his hometown. All North Carolinians should appreciate his hard work for justice."

**Bill Markham's** new book on German environmental organizations appeared last August. You can read a little more here: <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=MarkhamEnvironmental>. Bill is now working on a new project on environmental organizations in Cameroon. He and a Cameroonian colleague presented a paper about the organizations at an International Sociological Association meeting in Barcelona last fall. Bill has been selected for a Fulbright fellowship to spend a month in Cameroon this summer or next.

**Sandra Westervelt** was given honorary membership in the University Marshals! This honor was in recognition of her commitment to academic excellence and service to students at UNCG.

## Female Death Row Exoneree Visits with Students



Photo by Michael S. Green

In 1990, Sabrina Butler was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death in Mississippi for the felonious abuse and death of her nine month old son. She spent approximately three years on death row and another two years in the local jail awaiting a retrial before being acquitted at a second jury trial in 1995. Of the 135 people in the United States who have been exonerated of crimes and released from death row, Butler remains the only female.

From the night of her son's death until her acquittal many years later, Butler told police the same story. She told them that

she found her son unresponsive in his crib, that she took him immediately from her apartment and began searching for help from neighbors, and that she finally found someone to aid her and began CPR on her son in attempts to revive him. She told of how at age 17 she did not know that the type of CPR used on adults is not the same as that used on infants and how she now realizes that her attempts to save her son may have only exacerbated the underlying medical condition at the root of his illness. However, this story was never told at her first trial because of the failures of her assigned defense counsel and the overzealousness of a local prosecutor bent on painting her as a monster and abusive mother.

At the second trial, her lawyer finally presented her side to the jury and provided all of the evidence and witnesses to back it up, evidence and witnesses available but not used in the first trial. The second jury acquitted Butler in under an hour.

On April 20, Sabrina Butler discussed her case and the difficulties of her life

after exoneration in a talk to 50 Sociology students and faculty. Butler was brought to UNCG by Dr. Sandra Westervelt as part of her seminar on Miscarriages of Justice. Over the past three years, Westervelt, in conjunction with the Sociology Department and Sociology Club, has hosted talks by six exonerees as part of her ongoing efforts to bring attention to the issue of wrongful convictions and the struggles that characterize the lives of exonerees after their release from prison. Butler followed her afternoon open forum with faculty and students with a discussion with students in Westervelt's Miscarriages of Justice class. She concluded her visit to North Carolina the following day with a lecture at Wake Forest University Law School, hosted by their new wrongful conviction clinic.

For more information about this story, see the front page story in the April 28 edition of *The Carolinian*, UNCG's student newspaper, at <http://media.www.carolinianonline.com/>.

## Sociology Department Colloquium: Spring 2009

### Global Citizens, Periclean Scholars, and YOUR role in creating a more just world for all

Dr. Tom Arcaro is a professor of sociology and director of Project Pericles at Elon University. Project Pericles is designed to raise the level of civil engagement and social responsibility among students. Faculty and students make regular trips abroad to study and serve communities facing an array of social issues, most recently HIV/AIDS. Dr. Arcaro is the recipient of numerous awards and has authored several publications, most notably, *Understanding the Global Experience*.



"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

Pericles

## *Department Celebrates Top Students*

The Department held its annual Honors Luncheon on Friday, May 1 to celebrate new initiates into Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the International Sociology Honor Society, and other students receiving top departmental and University awards. This is a highlight of the academic year and a favorite among faculty who look forward to the opportunity to honor our best students. Over 60 students, faculty, staff, and guests attended this year's event. We have some wonderful Sociology students, and we are thrilled to be able to celebrate their accomplishments and successes!

Dr. Nkrumah Lewis, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Winston-Salem State University, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Lewis received his BA degree in Sociology from our department before going on to a PhD at Virginia Tech. Before beginning his new position at Winston-Salem State, he taught for us as a lecturer and was much loved by the students. He inspired many students to become Sociology majors! Many of those students are now graduating, and we thought it only fitting that he inspire them one last time as they conclude their academic careers. He did not disappoint, as many students and faculty noted his address was among the most moving and exciting they had heard.

While traditionally a ceremony to honor AKD initiates, the Honors Luncheon was recently expanded to recognize students receiving an array of top awards around the University. Students receiving AKD honors must be Sociology majors who have completed at least 12 hours of Sociology and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA overall and in Sociology classes. Other award winners include students recognized by UNCG's oldest on-campus honor society, the Golden Chain Honor Society, and by the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. We also celebrated students who received the University's top service and leadership award, the Georgia Cooper Moore Service and Leadership Award, as well as those recognized by the top academic award, the Student Excellence Award. This is an award given each year to students chosen by faculty as "the best of the best" at UNCG.

At this year's event, the Sociology Department revealed three new Sociology Prizes to be given each year to the top students in the three academic tracks in Sociology – the general Sociology program, the Criminology concentration, and the Global Social Problems concentration. These prizes are made possible by the generous contributions of David and Marlene Pratto, for whom the prizes are named. All award and scholarship winners are listed below.

### *Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society*

Hannah Angel	Whitney Cohn	Christopher Giampino	Jaynene Langlais	Ashley Smith
Jerry Arnold	Breann Cox	Scott Grether	Steffon Leggett	Tiffany Swepson
Eric Baker	Sarah Daynes	Katelin Griffin	Taylor MacPherson	Elizabeth Terry
Brandie Banks	Amy Dilworth	Danyeale Hensley	Jenifer McCrea	September Ward
Brian Boyleston	Christine Edwards	Sarah Hosman	Tina Nguyen	Tiffany Watson
Colleen Brady	Christine Farley	Taishika Knight	Stefanie Rumple	Kara Weinacht
Erin Briley	Brooke Faust	Adam Korn	Daniel Sellers	Lauren Wilburn
Brittney Christian	Leah Garrard	Michael Kress	Adrienne Siler	

### *Golden Chain Honor Society*

Leah Garrard  
Kirsten Kinne  
Angaza Mayo-Laughinghouse  
Casey Strange  
Calvin Woody

### *Phi Beta Kappa*

Leah Garrard  
Robert Norris  
Laura Shay

### *Weil Scholarship*

Erin Briley  
Taishika Knight  
Taylor MacPherson

### *Student Excellence Award*

Taishika Knight  
Robert Norris  
Casey Strange

### *Pratto Scholarship*

Aneliese Dar

### *Georgia Cooper Moore Service & Leadership Award*

Kirsten Kinne

### *David and Marlene Pratto Sociological Prize Winners*

*Most Outstanding General Sociology Student*  
Jenifer McCrea

*Most Outstanding Criminology Student*  
Robert Norris

*Most Outstanding Global Social Problems Student*  
Leah Garrard

## *Alumni News*

**Danyeale Hensley** was accepted to UNC CH law school.

**Jen Horton** has decided to attend the University of Michigan in the Fall to study in the field of Environmental Justice. "I already have a research position lined up with Dr. Dorceta Taylor doing research pertaining to environmental sociology. She is actually working on research for Barack Obama's environmental team. Obviously, I am more than thrilled to be working under her. I just got back from visiting the school and I am very excited about the school and the resources I will be offered while attending. My tentative plan is to eventually receive a PhD in Sociology; however, I am not sure if that will be in Michigan's department or elsewhere. Thanks to all of you for helping me during my undergraduate career. I would not have had the motivation to continue on to graduate school had it not been for the support I had during my undergrad. "

**Robert Norris** for the soc/crim prize. He got full funding at NC State and Albany SUNY. He decided to go to Albany (just ranked as 2nd behind Maryland in crim/cj PhD programs).

**Devon Scott** Hey, I hope your spring semester is going well! So far I have heard back from two of my four schools. I have been accepted into the programs at NAU [NAU is Northern Arizona....big crim MA program and an innocence clinic. Ray Michalowski is there.... ] and GW. GW has already offered me an assistantship with a support package and I won't know about any financial aid offers from NAU until March.  
<mailto:descott@uncg.edu>

**Bart Tooms** is still playing basketball for Upstairs Weert in The Netherlands.

**Nathan Triche**, who studied hours of in-car video as part of a master's thesis in sociology and criminology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, was quoted in the Dallas Morning News article "In-car video more likely to clear police officers accused of misconduct, experts say".

"No one likes being closely supervised," said Triche, a five-year veteran deputy with the Guilford County sheriff's department in North Carolina. "You wouldn't want a camera set up on the side of your office, monitoring how you speak to people on the phone. You're going to end up with people feeling like they're micromanaged."

Read the complete article at: [In-car video more likely to clear police officers accused of ...](#)  
Dallas Morning News - Dallas, TX, USA

### *New arrivals*

**Julie Midkiff**, who teaches the iSchool SOC 201 course with Linda Carroll, Emily Hendricks and Jenny Berggren, had a healthy baby girl at Women's Hospital on March 3, 2009.

**Anne Peddycord** had her baby. William Cooper Pope was born March 19, 2009 at 5:03p.m. His weight was 9 lbs and 20 1/2" in length.

**Tina Long Spach**, M.A. delivered a beautiful healthy baby girl on Friday, March 6th at 2:01 pm. Her name is Annalee Alspaugh Spach She weighed in at 8 lbs , 2 oz!! And she looks a lot like her big brother.

### *Addendum*

We do apologize for the belated appearance of this edition of Collective Memory. Budgetary constraints forced us to delay publication and to distribute the newsletter in email form only. We hope to return to wider distribution in future years. In the meantime, we ask for your continued support and understanding. We are all working harder with fewer resources, and we greatly appreciate the moral and financial support of our far-flung, yet loyal, UNCG Sociology family.

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THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**



***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](mailto:Collective_Memory@UNCG.edu).