

Collective Memory **UNCG** sociology

Spring 2003

Our new name is based on an idea submitted by alumna Kelly Lucey. Thank you, Kelly!

The Harriet Elliott Lecture Series

The average income of the highest-earning 5% of families was 19 times that of the lowest 20% in 1999: in 1979, it was little more than 11 times. The wealthiest 1% of American households now own more than 40% of all assets, including homes and financial investments -higher than in any year since 1929.

The 2003 Harriet Elliott Lectures at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro addressed these and related issues in the program "Inequality in American Life: National Impacts, Backyard Realities," organized by the Department of Sociology.

"On many measures of inequality, America today mirrors the America of the 1920s," said Steve Kroll-Smith, Department Head. "There are comparatively few winners and a vast number of losers in this new Gilded Age."

Dr. Katherine Newman of Harvard University delivered the keynote address, "Rising Tides Lift the Yachts: Inequality in the U.S. and North Carolina." She is the Malcolm Weiner Professor of Urban Studies and Dean of Social Science at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Her 1999 book, *No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City*, won the Sidney Hillman Book Prize and the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. Her other books include *Falling From Grace* (1988), *Declining Fortunes* (1993) and *A Different Shade of Gray: Mid-Life and Beyond in the Inner City* (2003).

A follow-up colloquium from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Alumni House focused on problems of inequality in the areas of crime, health and the environment. It featured scholars from The College of William & Mary, Brown, Wake Forest, North Carolina State and East Carolina universities.



On the Move

The Department of Sociology at UNCG is changing and the changes bode well for our future. Professor Shelly Brown joined us this year and Gwen Hunnicutt will join us next fall. Shelly brings strengths in education, race and ethnic relations, and statistics. A short bio on Shelly appears in this newsletter. Gwen brings a range of skills in criminology and research methodology. For the first time in our history, there are almost as many women faculty as there are men. A good sign. Our department is also changing its curriculum. We are now planning to add one or two additional concentrations to complement our highly successful concentration in criminology. Among the new specialties under consideration are inequality, global development, and culture.

Did you know...

The Harriet Elliott Lecture Series is named for political science professor Harriet W. Elliott, namesake of the Elliott University Center, who served as dean of women from 1935 until her death in 1947. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called her to Washington in 1940 to serve on the National Advisory Defense Commission.

Emeritus Faculty

Dr. **William E. Knox** was honored by the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina Legal Foundation at the 34th Annual Frank Porter Graham Awards Dinner on February 8, 2003 in Durham, NC.

Born in New York City in 1930, Bill Knox's early schooling was in Manhattan with secondary school years spent in New England. In 1955, he graduated Magna Cum Laude with honors in Sociology and Anthropology from Colgate University where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He continued his studies at Cornell as a National Woodrow Wilson Fellow and was elected to Phi Kappa Phi. In 1965, he attained a Ph.D. in Sociology, with minors in social psychology and anthropology. In the meantime, he served in the Strategic Air Command in 1960-63 as a photo-radar intelligence officer. He taught at UNC Greensboro from 1963 to 1994 in the Department of Sociology, and chaired the department from 1990 to 1994, thereafter retiring. His major fields of inquiry are social psychology and the sociology of higher education.

The notorious Communist speaker ban triggered his joining the ACLU and the AAUP in 1963. As The University of North Carolina at Greensboro AAUP Chapter President, he expressed the campus' vehement opposition to the ban to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the UNC system. He helped argue, though to no avail, against the anti-disruption code of the 1970's that is still in force. He successfully spearheaded the faculty's pleading for UNCG to divest itself of shares of stock in companies doing business in the South Africa driven by apartheid.

Diana Towne and Bill Knox were married in 1954. He describes his wife as his greatest supporter, most helpful critic and sharpest editor. According to Mr. Knox, "She puts up with my eccentricities and foibles. I regard her as a more democratic spirit than me." In addition, the pair have three children and six grandchildren.

His service on the ACLU-NC Board as Chair of the Development Committee, was, according to Bill, both challenging and invigorating. He regards the Development Committee's carving out a sensible investment policy for several fiduciary funds as a happy achievement. To have played a small part in the ACLU of North Carolina's rise to a formidable presence in this state has been incredibly gratifying for him.



New Faculty Welcome



Dr. **Shelly L Brown** (Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2000) is the newest Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department.

During my last year of graduate school, I focused the bulk of my efforts on completing the dissertation and very little time searching for employment. I constantly replayed the mantra "if you write it, the job will come." Simultaneously, two job offers came two days before my dissertation defense. Thus, upon leaving Michigan in the summer of 2000 (degree completed), I began a position as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Social Organization of Schools housed at Johns Hopkins University.

While in the postdoctoral position, I was able to continue my research interests in the area of race and education. I began my research concentration on the effects of poverty and race on education in the early years to try to understand when, why, and how the educational gap in achievement begins and widens as students continue through the educational process. Although I enjoyed the research atmosphere at Johns Hopkins, I realized that something was missing. I missed teaching and interacting with students; I wanted to be back in the classroom.

After my interview with UNCG, I knew I wanted to be here. I officially joined the UNCG faculty in August of 2002. I am presently doing what I love best, research and teaching. During this past year, I have taught courses in Race and Ethnic Relations (Soc 227) and the Introduction to Sociology (Soc 101). Next semester I will begin teaching Introduction to Methods and Research (Soc 301). In the near future I plan to set up the course on the Sociology of Education and develop a graduate course on Comparative Minority Relations.

Support from the department and a UNCG New Faculty Research Grant have helped me continue my research focus is on the influence of race, poverty, and school composition effects on the achievement of students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grades. Currently, I am examining the effect of poverty on the early learning outcomes of children by tracking their reading achievement from the beginning of the kindergarten year to the end of the first grade year. The goal is to report to what extent, if any, a student's poverty status influences his/her kindergarten year, summer, and first grade rate of learning for reading achievement. I also intend to explore how the social composition of the school impacts the academic performance of individual children. For the next few years, I plan to continue this line of research by examining the achievement of students at various grades throughout their educational experience up through the twelfth grade.

Faculty

Rebecca
Adams



Since 1999, when I was promoted to Professor, I have been dividing my time between pseudo-administrative tasks and my normal teaching, research, and service responsibilities to the department. All of this will change at the end of this semester when I will begin a 15-month research assignment during which I will have an opportunity to finish my monograph on the Deadhead community.

During the academic year 1999-2000, I served as Assistant to the Dean of Continual Learning, trying to bring about cultural and structural changes on campus to encourage the responsible development of distance education courses and programs.

I also recently chaired the SACS Self-Study Steering Committee, which oversaw the efforts of over 100 faculty and staff as they examined the way UNCG operates to determine whether we are in compliance with the rules of our accrediting body. The results of our efforts are available on the SACS web page (sacs.uncg.edu). I am particularly proud of Chapter 7 of the Self-Study Report, which summarizes what UNCG needed to do to come into compliance and describes 60 additional proposals for ways in

which UNCG could improve beyond what is required of us. Note that I was not the only member of the Sociology Department who was involved. Ken Allan chaired the Educational Support Services Committee and Bill Markham served on the Administrative Processes Committee. Jean Holliday served on the SACS staff advisory committee. In addition, Cindy Dollar (BA '99 and MA '01) and George Sanders (MA '02) served as graduate student representatives to the Steering Committee and Teddy Weathersbee-Kardash, George Sanders, and Jenny Berggren served as SACS Graduate Assistants.

During my research assignment, I will finish writing a book about the social and cultural foundations of the fan community surrounding the former rock band, the Grateful Dead. I began this project in 1989 when I took my methods and theory students on the Grateful Dead Summer Tour. Or maybe the project really began when Matt Russ (BA '87), now owner of Tate Street Coffee Shop, saw me at a show in Hampton, Virginia in 1986, and convinced me that studying Deadheads would further my theoretical agenda. Though a co-edited book (with Robert Sardiello, MA '90, and including chapters by Brent Paterline, MA '93, and Stephanie Jennings, BA '96 and MA '01) and several articles and chapters have already resulted from this project, I am very pleased to have an opportunity to write

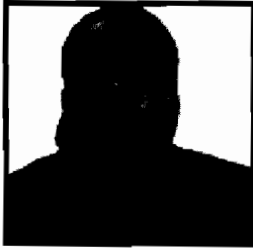
a monograph.

Things have been happening on the home front as well. I continue to spend my free time gardening and reading mystery novels instead of decorating our home and bringing it up to middle-class standards. My husband, Steve Iliff, is now computer programming for a company in Southern Pines, driving to work some days and tele-commuting others. My daughter, Hadley, is now 15 years old and is attending Early College at Guilford. As a sophomore next year, she will be taking Guilford College courses as high school electives. She continues to take piano lessons and plays swinging tenor in the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Grade III Bag Pipe Band. She is about to receive her Learner's Permit, so as my husband and I always say when she enters a new developmental phase, it will once again be "the end of life as we know it."

Noteworthy

*Rebecca Adams
Wins Teaching Award*

Rebecca was this year's recipient of the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award for Tenured Faculty, a prestigious acknowledgment of her outstanding contributions to the classroom. As this year's recipient, Rebecca will give the commencement address to the fall graduating class in December 2003.



Steven Cureton

Since coming to UNCG I've enjoyed considerable freedom in both the classroom and in my own research. Since the fall of 1997, I have developed new and re-designed old courses. The Sociology of Deviance, for example, was re-designed to include an emphasis on racial images of Blacks. The course was cross-listed with African-American Studies. Contemporary Gangs (Soc 425) is a new course that was added to the curriculum for Criminology Concentration students. I also developed an experimental course on African-American Social Thought (Soc 364) that I hope will become a permanent part of the curriculum. I envision developing and adding to the Criminology Concentration curriculum another new course tentatively titled, African-American Criminology.

My research agenda includes three quantitative pieces on race and discretionary justice. These articles appear in *African-American Research Perspectives* (1999), *Journal of Black Studies* (2000), and *Journal of Criminal Justice* (2001). I also published two "fun" articles concerning the significance of race in predicting life chances.

My sincere passion for the moment, however, is the phenomenon of Black male gangs. I am fortunate to have access to the Hoover Gangster Crips from South Central Los Angeles. A book on the social and cultural world of this gang will be published by Southern Illinois Press. Tentatively titled *Hoover Gangsta Crips :HGC Representing that True Blue Era*, this project introduced me to the wild side of sociology: ethnographic research. I plan to remain on this qualitative path long enough to complete a second book on Black female gangs to complement the *Hoover Gangsta Crips*. Making the lives of gang members visible to the wider public is an important part of this research. I suspect I'll be at it for some time to come.

Noteworthy

***William T. Markham
Awarded a Fulbright***



William T. (Bill) Markham was selected as a Fulbright Fellow by the German-American Fulbright Commission for the year 2003-2004. He will teach and conduct research at The University of Essen in Essen Germany. [Bill speaks fluent German.]

He continues work on his book on German environmental organizations and presented a paper on this topic at the International Sociological Association meeting in Australia last summer.

Bill and Samantha Ammons, a former UNCG graduate student, have a paper based on her thesis forthcoming in *Sociological Spectrum*.

*The Department
Commencement
Ceremony will be held at
12:30 in the Music
Building Recital Hall on
Friday, May 16, 2003
immediately following
the University Ceremony
at the Coliseum. Light
refreshments will be
served after recognition
of each graduate.*

Southern Sociological Society

The department was well represented by current students and recent graduates at the annual meeting of the SSS in New Orleans in April. Papers presented included:

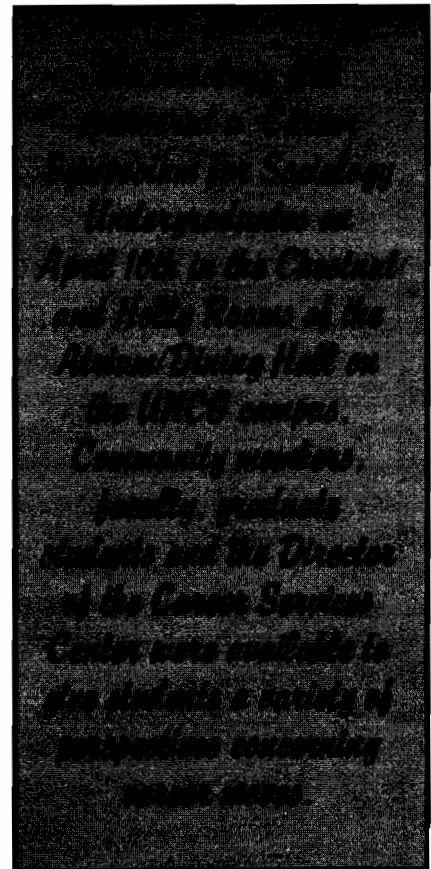
Shannon Burroughs, "Crisis and Reform in a Government Agency: Factors Affecting Employee Perceptions of Change" (with Bill Markham).

Sterling Howell, "The State of Terrorism Theory and Research in Pre- and Post-9/11/01 Sociological Literature" (with Aqueil Ahmad).

Meredith Huey, who is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia, "Substance Abuse Treatment Philosophy and the Adoption of Pharmaceutical Innovations: An Organizational Approach", (with Sarah Henderson and Paul Roman, both of U.G.A.)

Jessica Hulick, "A Queer Problem: Issues Facing GLBTQ Youth."

The Enrichment Fund provided travel scholarships for five graduate students.



AKD News

"Local Roots, Global Routes: Imagining Sociological Possibilities" was the topic of an address by Dr. Wanda Rushing (MA, UNCG '81) to members of Alpha Kappa Delta at the initiation ceremony for new members on April 25, 2003. Dr. Rushing is a faculty member in the Department of Sociology and at the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis.

Jennifer Alban
 Rochelle N. Bellamy
 Kimberly Roganne Black
 Rebecca Britt
 Kristen L. DiLuca
 Kelly Rae Doss
 Felicia Faison
 Alma D. Fulton
 Phillip Lee Goldston
 Vertreace Grady
 Leah K. Harris
 Kristin Ashley Hine

Gene Huller
 Jessica Rae Humphries
 Kathleen Martin Barnhardt Irvin
 Hope H. Jenks
 Helen Jechow
 James Jolliff, IV
 Joshua Ryan Kelley
 Dianna Jolin Kennedy
 Tameia J. Loggins
 Jennifer R. Maxson
 Dalene P. McMillan

Crystal Anita Patrick
 Kanawha Perry
 Jackson Michael Pitts
 Elizabeth A. Raber
 Yousef T. Sansour
 Malaika Stubbs Wilson
 Elizabeth Lauren Talley
 Melissa Meredith Trembley
 Courtney Van Hoome
 Kimberly Elizabeth Williams
 Frances Elizabeth Yancey
 Amanda Zimmerman

Remembering David Pratto

Professor Emeritus David Pratto graduated from this life surrounded by his family on Oct. 4, 2002.

Throughout his life, David celebrated his roots as the son and grandson of Italian and Hungarian coal miners and ranchers. David was born on Nov. 2, 1938, in Aguilar, Colo., where he worked as a youngster on a sheep farm. He liked to tell tales of sheep ranching. He was an altar boy who traveled to the missions of southern Colorado weekly. A Star Boy Scout and a drummer in the band, he graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Trinidad, Colorado and served as a radio specialist in the U.S. Navy 1956-59. He attended Diablo Valley College (California) and the University of Colorado where he earned a B.A. (1963) and Ph.D. (1972) in Sociology.

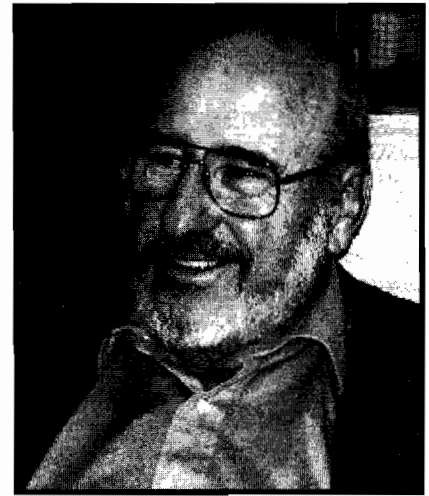
He was a loving and generous husband and father. Family and children as well as community were paramount in his personal and professional life and the Pratto home has always been a place of hospitality for family and friends.

David served the students and faculty of the The University of North Carolina at Greensboro as Professor (1969-2000), as Head of the Sociology Department (1988-90; 1994-2000) and as Chair of the UNCG Faculty Senate. He was a sought after mentor for young faculty and students, and a respected counselor of faculty and administrators. In 2000, he was awarded the Bullard Award for Excellence in Service to UNCG and the Distinguished Contributions to Sociology Award from the North Carolina Sociological Association. He authored numerous scholarly papers, articles and reports addressing a variety of topics and groups including family studies, adolescence, alcoholism, dual clergy marriages, Roman Catholic priests, "latch key" children, medical school curricula, the court system, water resources in Greensboro, and N.C. competency testing. He served various professional organizations in Sociology and Education and was president of the North Carolina Sociological Association and the North Carolina Association for Research in Education. He was an early advocate for, and was instrumental in implementing, computer based instruction in the university classes. He was especially devoted to the development of the next generation of student scholars, establishing scholarship funds at UNCG, the University of Colorado, and Trinidad (Colorado) State College. The Pratto Family Life Scholarship is awarded to students of the Good Beginnings for Teen Parents program.

He was a board member and advisor to many community organizations including the Family Life County, Greensboro Youth Council and was the first male to join the League of Women Voters in Greensboro. He was an active member of the University Catholic Community and St. Pius X Church. As an advocate for the marginalized members of society, he could be counted on to speak out on social and community issues and to participate actively in seeking change. He especially supported faith community advocacy of social justice in the U.S. and developing countries; he strongly advocated the use of micro lending (Grameen Banks) as a self help strategy for the very poor in developing countries.

David loved all things Italian, the country and its culture: its language and food, its art and music (especially opera). He was the recipient of a Fulbright Hays fellowship to study Italian society and he enthusiastically shared his interest in Italy with family, colleagues and friends. In 2001 he traveled to Italy to attend the Verdi Gala in Parma.

Thanks to the people of many persuasions and communities here and around the world who prayed and thought positively for David and his family. Thanks to friends and family for all their good works.



Faculty Briefs

Aqueil Ahmad presented papers at two conferences: "In Search of Global Identities, with Reference to the North Atlantic Region," conference on Citizens, Nations & Cultures: Transatlantic Perspective, Maastricht, the Netherlands, 16 -19 October, 2002; and "State of Terrorism Theory and Research in Sociological Literature," SSS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 26-29 March, 2003 (with Sterling Howell.)

Ken Allan has busied himself this past year with writing an undergraduate theory textbook and putting two distance learning courses on line.

Julie Brown (and Nina Rusinova) were invited to write an article on health inequalities in St. Petersburg for a special issue of the *Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology*. The issue commemorates the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. She has also published articles on alternative medicine and on social inequalities in access to health care in Russia.

Shelly Brown received a New Faculty Research Grant, A summer Excellence Award and a UNCG External Proposal Development Initiative grant (with

Ceola Ross Baber, Linda Wightman, Jewell Cooper, and Joanne Chesley, all in the school of Education)

Cindy Dollar (MA '01), **Tina Long** (MA '01) and **Donald Woolley** (MA '97) have joined the department as faculty after their tenures as graduate students.

Dan Fisher continues to successfully build the Internship program for undergraduates. Another contribution to the curriculum includes a "Speaking Intensive" section of his "Marriage and the Family" course.

Jill Fuller has been revising her book manuscript on gender and action in community politics. She served as moderator for a session of the Harriet Elliott Lecture Series and presided for a session on "The Household Division of Labor" at the Southern Sociological Society Meeting in New Orleans this spring.

Paul Luebke was interviewed on the CBS Evening News on New Year's Day and again the following day on the CBS Early Morning Show, discussing Senator John Edwards' chances of capturing the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004. On Friday, January 3, KMOX News Radio in St.

Louis interviewed Luebke, asking him to compare the relative strengths of Edwards and Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt as presidential candidates.

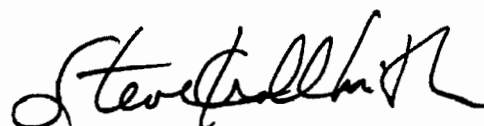
David Mitchell (with Bert Goldman) has recorded a presentation on tape and DVD for presentation at the International Conference on Innovation in Higher Education in Kiev, Ukraine (sponsored by the US Department of State, Iowa State University, and the Nizhyn State Pedagogical University). It is part of an on-going longitudinal study of student retention and its relationship to students' willingness to make changes during their time at college.

Steve Sherman offered an excellent op-ed piece to *The Carolinian* concerning the strength of the US in the global community. See the March 31st issue for complete text.

Sandra Westervelt successfully negotiated the promotion and tenure process this year. She also received a grant from the Associate Provost for Research to study the life paths of those individuals who have been wrongly convicted, exonerated, and released from death row.

Notes From a Grateful Head, The Art and Science of Sociology

The late sociologist Pierre Bourdieu once remarked in passing that facts are modernity's most seductive tropes. I suspect he meant this provocation to kindle outrage among those who ascribe to a realist version of things. Whatever his intent, he does us a service by calling attention to the importance of rhetoric in accomplishing this task we call sociology. Of course we write rhetorically, to persuade. And the best among us are blessed with what we might call figurative abundance; Erving Goffman comes immediately to mind in sociology. But it was not mere writing that Bourdieu was referring to. His claim is more goading. To wit, our methods, the tools of our trade, are themselves tropes, figurative displays of 'truth.' Is it seduction or science we do as sociologists? Perhaps we do both. Perhaps our methods are adequate to say something meaningful about the world beyond our office doors; perhaps we should call this science. And perhaps our methods and our writing create something meaningful about the world beyond our office doors; perhaps we should call this rhetoric, or more tellingly, art. Imagine a capstone course in our curriculum titled: The Art and Science of Sociology. What would it look like?



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