From the Chair

I am very pleased to be writing my first newsletter column after joining the faculty of American University almost a year ago. The year has been a busy one, not just for me as I have tried to learn all of the responsibilities of being a chair, but for the department as a whole as we move forward with implementing our strategic plan to develop a new research focus on health and society.

In the fall we were busy conducting two successful searches, resulting in the hiring of Michael Bader, who will develop a program of research on residence, mobility, and health, and Randa Serhan, who will take over as director of the Arab Studies program. We launched the new Center on Health, Risk, and Society (CHRS), aimed at building an interdisciplinary group of scholars at AU interested in the social aspects of health and facilitating the development of related collaborative research projects. The department also participated in the development of an innovative BA/BS program in public health that will be launched in the fall. The Department of Sociology will collaborate with the Department of Biology in overseeing the major.

We are proud of our 30 minors and 76 majors, 26 of whom graduated with a BA this spring. As in the past, our majors held a very strong presence at the Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference within the College of Arts and Sciences. Students presented papers on topics as diverse as the challenges facing the partners of individuals in the armed services to an analysis of gender norms as revealed in Czech magazine advertisements. Nineteen students were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociological honor society, and five students were presented awards at our annual Sociology Day in April. Our graduate students have excelled as well. A number of our 21 master's students are entering PhD programs in the fall supported by scholarships. Most of our remaining doctoral students have completed or will complete their degrees over the summer.

In the pages that follow, you will see that our faculty have contributed extensively to the discipline, publishing books as well as articles in some of the top journals in their subfields, successfully competing for grants and contracts, presenting at professional meetings, taking leadership positions in professional organizations, excelling in the classroom, mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, working diligently to serve local, national, and international communities, and winning awards for their work. With mixed feelings, we celebrate two faculty milestones, Esther Chow's retirement and transition to emeritus faculty after 37 years of scholarship, teaching, and service in the department and the discipline, and John Drysdale's retirement after providing three years of vision and leadership as chair and serving an additional year on the faculty, among other things, helping to ease my transition to the position. While we are sad to see them go, you will see that we are setting up a legacy fund to honor them and many of our past colleagues who over the years have given so much to the department and to our students.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of my colleagues for their support, guidance, and extraordinary commitment to the department, in ways big and small. A very special thanks, as well, to Sandy Linden, whose knowledge of the department and university and ability to multi-task has been invaluable to me.

-Kim Blankenship
Dr. Esther Chow Named Professor Emerita of Sociology

Esther Ngan-ling Chow has retired and is now Professor Emerita of Sociology. She has been a member of our faculty for the past 37 years. A feminist scholar, researcher, teacher, and activist, her work and scholarship on migration and citizenship, globalized research on intersectionality, participatory action research, gender and development, and transnational feminist practices is recognized worldwide. She is also recognized as an early pioneer in scholarship on the intersectionality of race, class, and gender, particularly in the case of Asian American women.

Her scholarship has been recognized with numerous awards including the Fulbright New Century Scholar award in 2004-2005, the Stuart Rice Award for Career Achievement (2006), and the Morris Rosenberg Award for Recent Achievement (2002) from the District of Columbia Sociological Society. Dr. Chow's renowned scholarship is matched by a passion for teaching, mentoring, and activism. The Distinguished Faculty Award (2002) from the Office of Multicultural Affairs and International Student Services at American University and the Outstanding Teaching Award (2007) from the Asia and Asian America Section of the American Sociological Association recognize her teaching abilities. Over the course of her career, Dr. Chow has served on master's and PhD committees, mentoring over 100 graduate students. Her mentorship has been recognized by the Mentoring Award (2000) and the Feminist Activism Award (2008) from the Sociologists for Women in Society. Perhaps most notably, the Sociologists for Women in Society recently named a Dissertation Scholarship after Dr. Chow and Mary Joyce Green.

Dr. Chow has also served in positions of leadership in many of the discipline’s professional associations. Her elected positions include member-at-large on the Council of the American Sociological Association, Chair of the Asia and Asian America Section (ASA), and Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society. She was the copresident of the Research Committee 32, “Women in Society” of the International Sociological Association. Dr. Chow has also served as an editorial board member for Gender & Society, International Sociology, Teaching Sociology, and the ASA Rose Monograph Series on sociology and social policy.

Beyond the academy, she has worked tirelessly to establish the True Light Foundation for poverty reduction and educational empowerment for children in rural China.

Her publications include more than 40 journal articles, book chapters, and several books including Women, the Family, and Policy: A Global Perspective (1994), Race, Class and Gender: Common Bonds and Difference Voices (1996), Transforming Gender and Development in East Asia (2002), to name a few.

The Department of Sociology’s longstanding recognition as a location for scholarship on intersectionality of race, class and gender, social inequality, migration, family and work, gender and development, globalization, and policy studies has much to do with Dr. Chow’s presence over these years.

Sociology Legacy Fund Established to Honor Retired Faculty and Staff

With the retirements of Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Russell Stone, the sociology department established the Sociology Legacy Fund to honor the contributions to a sociological community--within and outside our institution--of our past and recent senior faculty members and staff. Other fund honorees include John Drysdale, Samih Farsoun, Susan Hoecker-Drysdale, Ken Kusterer, Gert Mueller, Karen Petersen, John Scott, Jurg Siegenthaler, and Austin Van der Slice.

The fund will support AU sociology students in a variety of endeavors related to learning and scholarship. Our faculty has already contributed to this fund, and we are encouraging alumni, current students, and friends to join us in launching this important effort.

In addition to the Sociology Legacy Fund, there are two other funds dedicated to supporting the Department of Sociology. The Kianda Bell Award supports graduate student research and scholarship in the area of social justice. This award was established in honor of Kianda Bell, a doctoral student in the department, who passed away unexpectedly. The second is the Sociology Department's General Fund, which is a discretionary fund that can be used for a wide range of activities.

You can make a gift to the fund by clipping the giving coupon on the back of this newsletter and returning it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.
CHRS Expands AU’s Capacity for Health Research

By Sarah Okorie

The Center on Health, Risk, and Society (CHRS) was launched in August 2010 under the leadership of Kim Blankenship and Monica Biradavolu. The center’s mission is to build an interdisciplinary community of scholars interested in conducting research on the social dimensions of health and health-related risks, especially on their roots in social inequality, and on structural interventions aimed at addressing them.

Currently, the center supports over $5 million in externally funded research mostly related to HIV/AIDS. Two research projects are supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. One project examines the implementation and impact of community led structural interventions to address HIV risk among female sex workers in India, and the other project compiles and synthesizes a range of data to analyze the impact of HIV prevention programming in India. On the latter project, American University is the coordinating institution in a consortium with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Centre Hospitalier affilie Universitaire de Quebec. A third major project is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and focuses on the impact of movement between the criminal justice system and the community on HIV risk and the extent to which it accounts for race disparities in HIV/AIDS.

The center established offices on AU’s Tenley campus and expanded its staff in the past year. Nimesh Dhungana was hired as Research Manager and Amanda Nothaft joined CHRS as Scholar in Residence. In addition, the center supports several research assistants including sociology graduate students Sarah Okorie, Elizabeth Puloka, and Alex Shaheen; and in summer 2011, undergraduate students from institutions across the US will serve as CHRS interns as part of a NIDA funded summer research program.

To build an interdisciplinary community at AU and foster collaborative scholarship on health-related issues, CHRS held weekly “Getting to Know Your Colleagues” seminars at which faculty from across the various schools and departments at AU presented their research. The seminars were also a forum to discuss strategies for grant development, keep abreast of debates in different disciplines, and brainstorm on ongoing health research scholarship needs at the university and beyond. The center also organized workshops for two ongoing projects, Project Parivartan, the India sex worker project (February 2011) and SHARRPP, the criminal justice project (May 2011). The seminars and retreats attracted faculty and students across disciplines and schools within AU (Department of Sociology, Department of Economics, School of International Service, School of Public Affairs, the Kogod School of Business, and the Washington College of Law), from other universities (George Washington University, Howard, Yale, and Duke), as well as health institutions in the larger DC metro area. Many new ideas for analyses and collaborative research projects were generated.

The center also sponsored (or cosponsored) guest speakers. Dr. Alan Greenberg, Director of the DC Developmental Center for AIDS Research (DC D-CFAR) spoke in September 2010. The DC D-CFAR promotes DC-based HIV/AIDS research and aims to develop the next generation of HIV/AIDS investigators in Washington, DC. His talk covered DC D-CFAR’s upcoming goals, mission, and ideas for future research. In October 2010, Dr. Jeanne Flavin (SPA/MS ’91; CAS/PHD ’95), Associate Professor of Sociology at Fordham University, read excerpts from her book Our Bodies, Our Crimes: The Policing of Women’s Reproduction in America and facilitated a discussion on reproductive justice. Her book won the 2010 Sex and Gender Section Distinguished Book Award from the American Sociological Association.

In the coming year, CHRS hopes to develop additional resources in support of research on the social dimensions of health, including an extensive Web site, a library of software, internships, and bibliographic resources. It will also continue to organize a seminar series and bring guest speakers to AU. To learn more about the center and its activities, or to become involved, please visit the CHRS Web site at american.edu/cas/sociology/chrs.
**FACULTY**

**Monica Biradavolu** joined the faculty in July 2010 as Assistant Research Professor in Sociology and Assistant Director of the Center on Health, Risk, and Society (CHRS). She helped assemble a team at CHRS and worked to bring together faculty from across campus whose research interests are in health. She continues her work on Project Parivartan, a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded research project in southern India based at CHRS. She is a coauthor on three papers published in the last year which appeared in *Social Science and Medicine, AIDS Care, and Public Health Reports*. She presented a paper at the International Sociological Association’s 17th World Congress of Sociology meeting in Sweden.

**Kim Blankenship** has almost completed her first year as chair of the department and director of the new Center on Health, Risk, and Society (see related story). Among other things, she successfully transferred three grants supporting large, collaborative HIV/AIDS related research projects (see related story) and collaborated with a colleague at Temple University’s law school on a project for the United Nations Development Program reviewing evidence and interventions related to gender-based violence and HIV risk and prevention. She presented at various professional meetings and published eight articles in *Social Science and Medicine, Public Health Reports, Sexually Transmitted Infections, AIDS Care*, and other journals, many of these in collaboration with current or former post-doctoral fellows and graduate students. In the fall, she participated in the Social and Behavioral HIV Prevention Research Think Tank organized by the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A major purpose of the workshop was to identify new ways of bringing social science perspectives to HIV/AIDS research (this effort to seriously embrace social science in HIV/AIDS research at NIH is a welcome change). This summer, she has been awarded a small diversity supplement to her NIDA grant, which will allow her to support three undergraduate students on paid internships and, hopefully, in the process, encourage them to pursue careers in substance abuse/use research.

**Andrea Malkin Brenner** continues in her role as undergraduate advisor, honors coordinator, and AU Abroad advisor. Dr. Brenner also continues to oversee the undergraduate student internships in sociology. This year she served on the editorial review board for *SOC*, an introductory sociology textbook published by McGraw Hill. Dr. Brenner is actively involved with The Barker Foundation, Maryland’s oldest adoption agency and serves as a member of their board of trustees and as the chair of their program evaluation committee.

**Esther Ngan-ling Chow**, now Professor Emerita, coedited the book, *Analyzing Gender, Intersectionality and Multiple Inequalities: Global, Transnational and Local Contexts* to be published by Emerald Press. She also collaborated with Lin Tan of the Women’s Studies Institute of China (All China Women’s Federation) and coedited a Chinese book, *Gender Equality and Social Transformation in a Global Context* (Beijing: Social Sciences Academic Press). She continues mentoring several doctoral students and supervising their dissertation research during this academic year.

**Alan Dahl** continues to teach Critical Social Thought and in the fall 2011 will teach a new course, Power, Politics, and Society. His current research (with Natalia Ruiz-Junco) investigates the role of emotions in the Bread and Roses strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1912. Their paper “Milltown Emotions” was accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the International Society for Research on Emotions in Kyoto.

**Bette Dickerson** has been very busy during her sabbatical year. During the winter break, she led an Alternative Break trip to Cape Town, South Africa (see story, with undergraduate student Jenna Lenskold, on the sociology Website). She developed a community-based service-learning program based in South Africa for AU and will take the first group of students this summer. Additionally, she is a member of the newly formed AU Alternative Breaks Haiti Compact and is developing avenues for college students to contribute to rebuilding efforts by working with partners in Haiti. In February, she presented three papers at the Eastern Sociological Society, one with doctoral student Tekisha Everette. She coauthored an entry in *Gender and Women’s Leadership: A Reference Handbook* (SAGE Publications) with Jill Brantley and Pat Lengermann, scholars in residence.

**John Drysdale** completed his term as department chair in summer 2010. He gave a plenary session speech on strategic planning in academic departments under stress at the chair’s conference of the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta. He published an entry on Max Weber in *The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology*. He served as Past-President of the District of Columbia Sociological Society in 2010-2011.

**Susan Hoecker-Drysdale**, Scholar in Residence, has published a revised and expanded chapter on Harriet Martineau and her contributions to sociology in the *New Blackwell Companion to Major Sociologists*. She has served as the chapter representative for the AU Alpha Kappa Delta chapter from 2009-2011. She chaired the Stuart A. Rice Award for Career Achievement for the District of Columbia Sociological Society from 2009-2011. She is currently writing *The Feminist Tradition in Sociology* under contract with Blackwell.

**Susan McDonic** has a book chapter, “Juggling the Religious and the Secular” in *Family, Friend or Foe: Religion and Philanthropy* (University of Indiana Press), forthcoming. Her current interests broaden and deepen her research focus by beginning an exploration into Buddhist International development processes and philosophy. She has strengthened her ties with the Tibetan Diaspora, traveling to Northern India as the faculty advisor on the Alternative Break Program and acting as faculty contact for Students for a Free Tibet. As an academic and beginning filmmaker she also filmed and produced a promotional video for The Tibetan Hope Center, a local NGO in Northern India that caters to the needs of the exile community.

**Michelle Newton-Francis** was elected to the council of the Body and Embodiment section of the American Sociological Association where she is also serving as chair of the graduate student best paper
award. She continues serving as an editorial board member and referee for Teaching Sociology. This spring, she received an AU online course development grant to develop the department’s first online course which she will teach this summer. In addition to revising her dissertation chapters for publication, she is currently working on a coedited volume with Salvador Vidal-Ortiz tentatively titled Discovering Social Research: Readings and Reflections.

Celine-Marie Pascale’s new book, Cartographies of Knowledge: Exploring Qualitative Epistemologies was just released. She has published two articles in Barataria: Revista Castellano-Manchega de Ciencias and Sociological Routes and Political Roots. She was a guest presenter at the Eastern Sociological Society and presented papers at the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the International Sociological Association (ISA). This summer, she will present research from her new book on qualitative epistemology at the ASA. She continues to serve as President of the ISA Research Committee on Language & Society; in this capacity she is helping to establish a new sociology journal on sociological studies of language. Pascale will serve on the editorial board of Current Sociology Monographs of the Sage Studies in International Sociology book series.

Natalia Ruiz-Junco is working on a book on social theory and emotions. Her work on Spanish social theorist George Santayana was published this spring in the journal Studies in Symbolic Interaction. In addition, a book chapter on autoethnography, coauthored with Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, appears in the edited book New Directions in Sociology: Essays on Theory and Methodology in the 21st Century. She presented at the European Sociological Association’s Social Theory conference in Prague, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the Eastern Sociological Society. Ruiz-Junco received a CAS Mellon Faculty Development grant to travel to Kyoto to present at the International Society of Research on Emotion along with Alan Dahl. She continues to serve as sociological theory editor of the American Sociological Association Digital Library TRAILS (Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology).

Rachel Robinson became an official affiliate of the department and over the past year has enjoyed participating in the activities of the new Center on Health, Risk, and Society. After finishing fieldwork in Senegal and Nigeria, she has been analyzing data and writing text for her book, Intimate Interventions, which details the relationships between efforts to prevent pregnancy and to slow the spread of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. As part of this project, she wrote about the institutional history of the United Nations Population Fund in support of an expert working group hosted by the Center for Global Development.

Jurg Siegenthaler, Professor Emeritus, continues working in the area of social policy analysis where he remains active in community advocacy. He reports that in his “retirement,” he has served as treasurer of the Friends of the State Park organization, mounted several historical exhibits on community organizations, and helped plan and run the annual Labor Day Bread and Roses Festival in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He also coauthored a study of the Works Progress Administration in 1930s Massachusetts and has consulted on the design of pension plans.

Salvador Vidal-Ortiz was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in 2011 while completing his Fulbright award in Bogotá, Colombia. He coedited a special issue of the journal Iconos: Revista de Ciencias Sociales, titled “How is Queer Thought of in Latin America?,” published by FLACSO—Ecuador (the Spanish acronym FLACSO stands for the Latin American Faculty in Social Sciences, a group of research centers in over a dozen Latin American countries). His coedited book The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men received both the American Sociological Association’s Sociology of Sexualities Best Book Award and an Honorary Mention from the Latin American Studies Association’s Latino Studies Section. He is currently compiling a coedited book titled: Latina/o LGBT Activism in the US and Puerto Rico: A Social History. He was an alternate to a Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Dr. Vidal-Ortiz will be on a partial sabbatical during the academic year 2011-12.

Dr. Chenyang Xiao continues to publish on China and the environment in the journals Population and Environment and Society & Natural Resources. Using data from the Gallup “Health of the Planet” and “Earth Day” surveys, he is investigating, in one manuscript, the relationship between environmental concern and attitudes toward science and technology in the US, and in another, explaining gender differences in concern for environmental problems. Yet another project focuses on public understanding and attitudes toward global climate change in the US and China. Because this particular research requires a new cross-national survey, he is preparing a grant proposal seeking funding. This summer, he will conduct a pilot study in China to test the survey instrument.

In keeping with her interest in gender in post colonial societies, Gay Young participated in the day-long seminar on economics, politics, and violence in contemporary Mexico organized by AU’s Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. She will present another aspect of that research at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association this coming August in Las Vegas as part of the section on Global and Transnational Sociology. Her interest in feminist challenges to conventional constructions of gender continues to take various forms. The manuscript “Not winging it at Hooters: Conventions for producing a cultural object of sexual fantasy,” coauthored with Michelle Newton-Francis, is under review at the journal Social Problems. She continues as the advisor to the DC young feminist collective, Visions in Feminism. She served as the faculty advisor for the Alternative Break trip to the West Bank and Israel this past May; the theme is youth empowerment for peace.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Lori Sommerfelt won the prize for best oral presentation by an undergraduate in the social sciences at the Robyn Rafferty Mathias Student Research Conference for her research “Views of Gender in a Transitioning Society: A Content Analysis of Czech Magazine Advertisements.”

Katherine Streit received an honorable mention in the same category for her research “Against All Odds: Social Factors & Urban Education - Southeast DC’s Most Gifted Graduating Seniors.”
GRADUATE STUDENTS

Erica Austin was hired as a program analyst for the National Park Service where her duties include serving as the liaison for Girl Scouts of America, data management, and coordinating public outreach efforts for the youth programs division. She has launched an empowerment conference for young women of color ages 13-18. The conference is designed to inspire creativity, confidence, and civic responsibility through education in life skills and leadership training.

Sarah Okorie was acknowledged in the US Conference of Mayor's annual Hunger and Homelessness Survey for her assistance with research and writing for the City Profile section of the 2010 Hunger and Homelessness Survey.

Kaleema Sumareh, along with Professor Bette Dickerson, is a member of the Older Adults and HIV work group of the DC Department of Health’s HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD & TB Administration (HAHSTA).

ALUMNI

Tammy Anderson (PhD ’01) received the Charles Horton Cooley Award from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction for her book Rare Culture: The Alteration and Decline of a Music Scene. She is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware.

Robert Armstrong (BA ’73) retired in 2009 from the State of Maryland after 27 years in the area of addictions counseling. He obtained his master’s degree in psychology at Towson University in 1982 and his license as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor in 2002. He is currently director of his own addiction treatment program in the Baltimore area.

Hamid Awaludin (PhD ’98) currently serves as the Indonesian ambassador to the Russian Federation.

Connor Brooks (MA’10) has been accepted to Oxford University and will start the master of science program as a precursor to their doctor of philosophy program in sociology through Nuffield College.

Robert Brooks (PhD ’98) is associate professor and chair in the Department of Criminal Justice at Worcester State University in Massachusetts. His book, Cheaper by the Hour: Temporary Lawyers and the Deprofessionalization of the Law was published by Temple University Press.

Carimanda Baynard (MA10) is the director of charitable programs for a nonprofit organization where she oversees grant/financial management, public relations, event coordination, and corporate communications.

Anna-Britt Coe (BA’89, MA’98) received her PhD in sociology (2010) at Umeå University in Sweden, where she also teaches part-time. Additionally, she is conducting comparative research in their department of epidemiology and global health on youth organizations that are engaged in activism on sexual and reproductive health in Ecuador and Peru.

Terezinha de Lisieux Q. Fagundes (PhD ’00) was a consultant and country project representative for the John Hopkins University’s Center for Communication Programs, funded by USAID in Maputo, Mozambique. Currently in Brazil, she works at the Institute of Collective Health at the Federal University of Bahia, working on health and education and communication for health research (mostly on evaluation); she is also teaching and offering technical assistance for the health sector. She has embarked on post doctoral studies in health education and health communication evaluation.

Rosemary Erickson (PhD ‘94) is a forensic sociologist and president/owner of Athena Research Corporation. She is a nationally recognized expert on crime and security and often serves as an expert witness. Her chapter, “Target Selection by Criminal Groups and Gangs” for the Handbook of Forensic Sociology and Psychology by Stephen J. Morewitz and Mark Goldstein is forthcoming later this year.

Esther Fafard (MA ’09) has been accepted into the PhD program in sociology at Notre Dame.

Jennifer Fish (PhD ’03) is currently chair of the Women’s Studies Department and an associate professor at Old Dominion University. She was awarded the “Woman of Distinction” Award for Education by the YWCA of Hampton Roads. This award is based on community leadership and civic engagement.

Jeanne Flavin (PhD ’95) is associate professor of sociology at Fordham University. Her book Our Bodies, Our Crimes: The Policing of Women’s Reproduction in the United States (NYU Press, 2009), won the distinguished book award from the Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association. She presented a talk on her book at AU in fall 2010.

Jan Marie Fritz (PhD ’78) received the 2010 American Sociological Association’s Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology.

Melissa Gouge (MA ’11) will be attending George Mason University (GMU) in fall 2011 to pursue a PhD in sociology. She received the prestigious Presidential Scholarship at GMU; only one is awarded to the College of Humanities & Social Sciences each year.

Enrique Pumar (PhD ’99) will be the new chair of the Department of Sociology at Catholic University. He has been named contributing editor in sociology to the Library of Congress Handbook of Latin American Studies. He is completing a book, The Hispanic Presence in the Washington Metropolitan Region: Studies on Immigration and Urban Development and an article for Sociological Forum.

Eliz Storelli (MA ’09) presented a paper at the International Sociological Association meetings and is currently teaching and finishing coursework in the PhD program at Boston College.

David R. Updegraff (PhD ’79) retired as President of St. Mary’s School for the Deaf after a 35 year career including 20 years at Gallaudet University. Since then he traveled the country in an RV.
for a few years, and has settled permanently in Tucson, Arizona. He owns Success Plus Coaching, which provides career transition and retirement coaching.

Jennifer Rothchild (PhD ’02) is associate professor of sociology and anthropology at the University of Minnesota Morris. She received the 2011 Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award which honors individual faculty members for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education.

Michael Weinberger (BA ’07) received his master’s degree in community planning from the University of Maryland in 2010. He currently works for the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. In this capacity, he works with multiple departments on improving issues of congestion and transportation management. He resides in Silver Spring, Maryland, and says that he tries to use his sociological imagination every day.


Do you have news to share? We want to hear from you! Please send updates to socio@american.edu

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### Congratulations to Our Newest Alumni

#### Undergraduates (Majors and Minors)

- Samantha Acebal
- Madison Bannon
- Kathryn Bohri
- Abra Burkett
- Andrew Carson
- Tia Chang
- Taylor Cowey
- Staci Cox
- Alexandra Dobin
- Sarah Fugate
- Jennifer Gardiner
- Donna Gatesman
- Molly Gray
- Nirvana Habash
- Taryn Hochleitner
- Caleb Huey
- Kurt Karandy
- Abigail Kizer
- Laura Klinestive
- Catherine Konvalinka
- Shelby Legel
- Christopher Lewis
- Megan Lorenzen
- Steven Osisek
- Jill Ravey
- Natasha Roberts
- Emmalyn Smith
- Kathleen Smyth-Hammond
- Lori Sommerfelt
- Rusty Sticha
- Katelyn Stoner
- Katherine Streit
- Alyssa Trempus

#### Graduates

- **Ben Adelman**
  MA Project: Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Website Attributes and States’ Rates of Children’s Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP

- **Fanta Aw**
  PhD Dissertation: Building a “National Civilization” at Home and Abroad: International Students and Changing U.S. Political Economy

- **Sarah Bernal**
  MA Project: We’ve All Been There: Linguistic Maneuvering and the Marginalization of Disclosure

- **Tom Brenneman**

- **Conner Brooks**

- **Maria Bryant**
  PhD Dissertation: Puerto Rican Women’s Roles in Independence Nationalism: Unwavering Women

- **Kiersten Cooley**
  MA Thesis: Understanding Recidivism Among Juvenile Offenders: Perspectives of “Experts” in Polk County, Iowa

- **Joanna Dees**
  MA Thesis: Intersectionality of Race, Gender, Sexuality and Class: Black Gay and Lesbian Business Owners in the United States

- **Tekisha Everette**
  PhD Dissertation: The State of Race: An Examination of Race and State Development of Public Policy

- **Rahmney Flowers**
  MA Project: Elder Black Women in the Sociology of Sexuality

- **Tara Mancini**
  MA Thesis: The Role of Social Location in Shaping Johns’ Perceptions and Reported Treatment of Female Sex Workers

- **Hon McBride**
  PhD Dissertation: Mother-Daughter Physicians: A Qualitative Study of Maternal Influence on Daughters’ Family, Career, and Leisure Choices

- **Shannon Post**
  MA Thesis: Homonormativity and Queer Resistance: LGBT Activists’ Marriage Discourses

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The newsletter is edited by the communications committee: Monica Biradarolu; Michelle Newton-Pradis; Salvador Vidal-Ortiz
Help Us Nurture Sociological Imaginations

I want to support the AU Department of Sociology with a gift of $_______ to the:

☐ Sociology Legacy Fund
☐ Sociology Department’s General Fund
☐ Kianda Bell Award
☐ CAS Dean's Discretionary Fund
☐ Other (please specify) __________________________

☐ My check is enclosed (please make payable to American University).
☐ Please charge my gift (circle one): Visa MasterCard American Express Discover
Card # ___________________________ Exp. ________
Signature____________________________________

Name ________________________________ Home Address ___________________________________
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Mail to: Dave Wiemer, Assistant Director of Development
American University, College of Arts and Sciences
4400 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-8012

Questions? Call 202-885-2986 or e-mail Dave Wiemer at wiemer@american.edu.

Transitions

This is an exciting time for the department, especially with the new area of emphasis in the sociology of health.

In fall 2011, the department welcomes Dr. Michael Bader (PhD, University of Michigan) and Dr. Randa Serhan (PhD, Columbia University) as Assistant Professors of Sociology. Dr. Bader currently holds a post-doctoral position at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars program at the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include causes and consequences of health disparities, research methods, residential mobility, and neighborhood contexts. He will teach a graduate course titled Health and the City in the fall. Dr. Serhan will lead the Arab Studies program. Most recently, she has served as Assistant Professor of Sociology at American University of Beruit. Her research interests include immigration, citizenship, youth in the Arab world, collective action, and state-building. She will teach the very popular Arab Societies course.

Many of the exciting changes referenced above are happening due to the extraordinary leadership of Dr. John Drysdale. Our department will deeply miss him, as he is now retiring after serving as department chair for three years, and teaching the 2010-2011 academic year with us. Joining him in retirement is his life partner Dr. Susan Hoecker-Drysdale, who has been a Scholar in Residence and faculty advisor to the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Society since 2007.

We also bid farewell to Dr. Ibtisam Ibrahim. She leaves the position of director of the Arab Studies program at AU, after leading its development for three years.