

SUMMER 2010 UPDATE

MEET US IN ATLANTA!

UCLA ALUMNI RECEPTION
ASA ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2010

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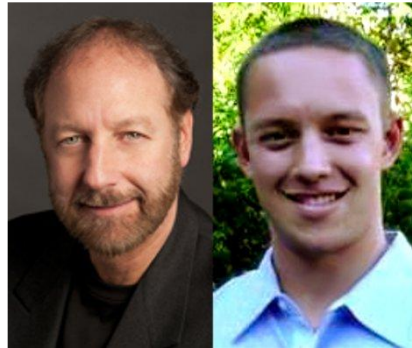
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WORDS FROM MITCHELL + ERIC BERMAN

CLASS
OF
1978



CLASS
OF
2009

"Thirty two years ago, I was an optimistic and energetic graduating UCLA sociology student ready to take on the world. Last year, I had a surreal experience, while watching as a proud father as my eldest son graduated from UCLA with his degree in sociology..."

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"Regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion or social class, there is one simple question that every college student is asked. The dreaded question that I speak of is: 'What... is... your... MAJOR?' For sociology students, simply naming the major does not generally satisfy this inquisitor..."

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MITCHELL BERMAN WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR THE 2010 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY COMMENCEMENT

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

FACULTY MEMBER:



JENNIE BRAND

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GRADUATE STUDENT:



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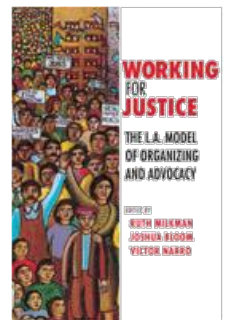
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



BY WILLIAM ROY

Dear UCLA Sociology Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter! We are introducing this newsletter as a way to foster greater community and a sense of inclusion among our far-flung faculty, students, staff, alumni and friends. Despite the formidable challenges we have been facing in recent years and will continue to face, we are excited about what we have achieved and about our future trajectory. We hope this newsletter will communicate the ways we are changing and the reasons for optimism about the future.

If you have not visited UCLA in recently, you may be surprised at the changes to the department. Just in the last three years, we said goodbye to Professors Ken Bailey, Bob Emerson, Ike Grusky, Ivan Light, David Lopez, David McFarland, Manny Schegoff, and Don Treiman who have all retired and we honored the memories of Mel Pollner and Peter Kollock who both passed away prematurely. And the department welcomed Professors Tanya Stivers, who will teach conversation analysis and the sociology of medicine, Suzanne Bianchi, who is a leading demographer of family and gender, Ching Kwan Lee, who studies labor and social classes in China and Africa, Hannah Landecker, who is researching sociology of science, and Jennie Brand, a young PhD from the University of Wisconsin who does demography of education and labor force. Jennie has been our most publicly visible faculty member and has been featured in the news for her findings on the health consequences of unemployment and fresh discoveries on who benefits the most from college. All of these new faculty members do impressive, important, and high quality work, and they exemplify and reinforce the distinctive breadth of sociology as practiced at UCLA.

The 500 pound gorilla in any discussion of how the department is doing is of course the budget. Cuts from the state government have been deep but things are not as bleak as they may sometimes appear from the outside. At the state level, the governor has submitted a budget that would restore some of last year's cuts. But even if last year's cuts are not restored, the sociology department has a solid foundation. Furloughs for staff and faculty are ending and we are still hiring to replace our retired faculty. That is not to say that we are out of the woods. A more apt metaphor would be that we are at a crossroads. Other leading universities, especially endowment-rich private universities, sensing our vulnerability, are increasingly seeking to lure our top faculty and students

away. And retention will be one of our main challenges for the foreseeable future. In the long run, without more endowed chairs for our star faculty, endowed graduate fellowships for our best students, and private support in general, we are vulnerable to losing our position as a top 5 department.

But for the moment let's celebrate how full the glass is. As you can see in these pages, this is an exciting institution with some of the best minds in the academy. Our celebrated academic breadth remains the hallmark of our department. Our research and teaching span the full scale of social interaction from the microanalytic to the global, and the full range of methods from cutting-edge quantitative to virtuosic ethnography. We are fundamentally strong and have the foundation for continued excellence. And we welcome your continued membership in our community.

Best Regards,

Bill Roy

Chair

UPDATE FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE CHAIR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



BY ABIGAIL SAGUY

Congratulations to the class of 2010! Our majors will leave UCLA with a strong background in critical analysis and reasoning, as well as an appreciation for how social context shapes individual behavior and attitudes. Regardless of the ultimate career track they choose, their undergraduate training prepares them to be active citizens and community members who question the status quo and work towards positive change. This year's class was especially strong as evidenced by student projects conducted over the past year in Sociology 195, Ethnography in Los Angeles: Corporate and Community Internships and the Sociology Honors Program.

Ethnography in Los Angeles: Corporate and Community Internships fuses analytical training with civic engagement, as students are given the opportunity to “practice” sociology beyond the university setting. Throughout ten weeks, under the supervision of graduate student ethnographer Forrest Stuart, students learn ethnographic methods, which include research data gathering through observing, recording, and analyzing the phenomena they find most compelling. This work has culminated in a number of exceptional papers this year. In one project, a student created a list of common phrases used by callers to a domestic violence help-line that provide a clearer picture of the caller's situation. The paper reframed certain aggressive statements that callers sometimes make as ways of asking for help that might otherwise be misunderstood as rude. Her work was developed in response to “burn out” plaguing the help-line's employees when they encountered seemingly hostile clients who in reality just had trouble verbalizing what kind of help they needed. Another student, interning for the Alliance for Children's Rights evaluated the organization's current restructuring efforts. He discovered obstacles in the organization's bureaucratic structure that were making it hard for staff attorneys to provide their impoverished clients with effective legal representation.

Our Honors Program is another way in which we highlight the research talent of our undergraduates. The Honors Program is a 4-quarter sequence, run by Professor Zsusza Berend, during which students conceptualize, research, analyze, and write-up original empirical research. They present their findings at the end of the year as part of a one-day conference. This is truly an exceptional academic experience, which has led to some exciting projects over the years. This year, a study of women in a battered women shelter found that all the women in this shelter had escaped from their abusive husbands through

the help of strangers, co-workers, clients, or very distant relatives and not close friends or family. Because these “helpers” had nothing to gain or lose by helping as a close family member or friend might, they were able to hold up a mirror to these women in which they saw their situation in new light. Other research topics included how people spend their commuting time and how they feel about it, how 7th-graders balance being a good student with being a teenager, how conflicts are generated, negotiated, and resolved during pick-up basketball games, and how people tell their stories through food at Overeaters Anonymous group meetings.

These studies and others highlight the creativity and professional competence of the students graduating this year and there is no doubt that this class will surely prove itself to be successful in whatever endeavors they undertake.

Congratulations Class of 2010!

UPDATE FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE CHAIR OF GRADUATE STUDIES



BY STEFAN TIMMERMANS

The graduate program is the heart of our department and ours is a heart pulsing with excitement. Graduate students support faculty research, conduct their own original research, teach undergraduates, and replace retiring faculty at universities across the country. This past year, we funded working groups in the area of family, gender, ethnography, religion, migration, and work-labor-and social movements. These student-initiated working groups combined with the comparative social analysis seminar, bring speakers to campus and are a forum for faculty and graduate students to present their work.

Both job placement and recruitment of prospective students went well this year. In what surely must be the worst year of the academic job market, many of our graduate students found prestigious post-doctoral positions and tenure track jobs. This is very important because the national ranking of our department depends partly on where we place our graduate students who wish to pursue careers in academia. We were also successful in attracting some of the top prospective graduate students to join our department. Our acceptance rate traditionally hovering around 30% shot up this year to 50% for an intellectually and culturally diverse incoming cohort.

For all the good news about the graduate program, I am sad to report that Marlies Dietrich, our long-time graduate program administrator, retired at the end of June 2010. It is impossible to exaggerate Marlies' role in steadying and nurturing our graduate program. Graduate students and faculty have benefited from Marlies' love for order, transparency, equality, and fairness. Marlies' strength has been to anticipate possible concerns and solve them as win-win situations for everyone involved. We are extremely grateful for her many years of dedication to the graduate program and the department in general. She will be sorely missed but we wish her all the best, gardening and enjoying nature in Palm Springs.

Dissertations filed in 2009-2010

Kate Hee Young Choi

International Migration and the Educational Attainment of the Next Generation: Demographic Processes at Work in the Renewal of the Populations in Two Countries

Jennifer Flashman

You've Got a Friend: Adolescent Friendship Choices, Dynamics, and Implications for Future Stratification

Elizabeth Joniak

"On the Street" and "Of the Street": The Daily Lives of Unhoused Youth in Hollywood

Jooyoung Lee

Rap Dreams

Noriko Milman

"PAY ATTENTION!": How Teachers and Students Construct Attentiveness in First Grade Classrooms

Gabrielle Raley

Between Art and Advertising: The Production, Organization, and Culture of Commercial Art

Renee Reichl Luthra

The Immigrant Second Generation in Germany

Kevin Riley

Governing Speed: Amphetamine Use among Truck Drivers and the Making of Deviance

Kristin Surak

Nation-Work: Making Tea, Making Japanese

Iddo Tavory

Off Melrose: Sustaining Orthodox Jewish Life in a Secular Space

Placements in 2009-2010

Leisy Abrego, Assistant Professor, UCLA
Department of Chicano and Chicana Studies

Nurullah Ardic, Assistant Professor, Sociology, City University of Istanbul, Turkey

Kate Hee Young Choi, Postdoctoral Associate, Office of Population Research and the Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Princeton University

Meera Deo, Assistant Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego

Kurtuculus Gemici, Assistant Professor, National University, Singapore

Jennifer Flashman, Awarded a 3-year Prize Postdoctoral Fellowship at Nuffield College, Oxford

Robert Jansen, Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows

Bongoh Kye, Postdoctoral Associate, Cornell Population Program, Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center at Cornell University, NY

Stephanie Limoncelli, Assistant Professor, Loyola Marymount University

Jooyoung Lee, Robert Wood Johnson foundation Health and Society scholar at the University of Pennsylvania for 2009-2011

Gabrielle Raley, Assistant Professor, Knox College, Galesburg, IL

Claudia Solari, Postdoctoral Associate, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Kristin Surak, Sainsbury Postdoctoral Fellowship at SOAS (University of London)

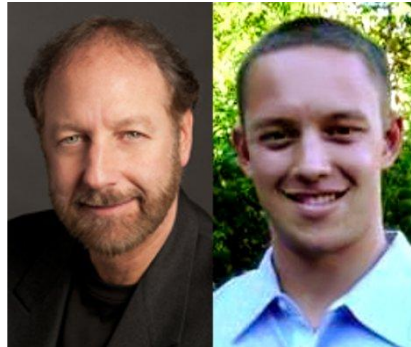
Iddo Tavory, Assistant Professor, New School for Social Research, New York

Veronica Terriquez, Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of Southern California

TWO GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI

The Value of Studying Sociology from the Perspective of a Father and Son
Who Graduated from the Department

CLASS
OF
1978



CLASS
OF
2009

MITCHELL BERMAN, CLASS OF '78

"HAINES HALL MEMORIES"

Thirty two years ago, I was an optimistic and energetic graduating UCLA sociology student ready to take on the world. Last year, I had a surreal experience, while watching as a proud father as my eldest son graduated from UCLA with his degree in sociology. The years between and the times could not be more different. June 2009 was in stark contrast to June 1978; but, the challenges remain, the tools endure. Haines Hall still stands and represents distinct memories of bustling hallways of on-rushing students (late for class of course), and classes that ultimately gave me the tools to be successful in business.

My experiences dealing with and understanding human beings have been critical to my success, whether participating in internships and jobs in public service, beginning my business career in cable TV at HBO/Cinemax, starting up companies in international markets, or launching new endeavors harnessing the power of new technologies in Silicon Valley. Over the course of time, I realized that it was not about the text book outlines of business management that was important; rather, it was the activity and understanding of human behavior and interaction in all its forms that helps determines one's success.

Sociology was my platform for success, no matter where I was in the world. The study of human behavior within the family, with friends, with co-workers, within the community, the world – gave me a bridge to do anything I ultimately wanted to do. It gave me the tools and framework for understanding how human beings interact in all aspects of life.

I can still recall one of my favorite sociology classes at UCLA called “Normal Environments.” We had to walk around with a tape recorder (I know I’m dating myself), and have conversations with friends and or co-workers -- listen intently to their speech patterns and then transcribe every “you know,” every “like,” and every “uh” they uttered. What this class did was teach me how to listen. Listening to others and hearing inflections of voice is one of the most important skills I ever learned.

Classes like “Normal Environments,” and others from 32 years ago, was critical to my success, whether as a legislative aide in public service, as a marketer in business, or as a CEO. My UCLA memories may have faded somewhat over 32 years, but the lessons learned have not.

Long live Haines Hall!

ERIC BERMAN, CLASS OF '09

"THE DREADED QUESTION"

Regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion or social class, there is one simple question that every college student is asked. The dreaded question I speak of is:

“What...is...your...MAJOR?”

For sociology majors, simply naming the major does not generally satisfy the inquisitor. Now, don't get me wrong, I am extremely proud to be sociology major, as I will explain shortly; but, the problem I have always encountered is the slew of questions and statements that follow my answer of “Sociology.” Does this sound familiar: “Really? Hmm, well, what do you plan to do with it? Do you want to become a social worker? Oh, you must want to become a teacher! Is that it? So noble of you! Wait, what exactly is sociology again?”

Sociology is broad; because of this, it is a perfect major for those who are unsure of what career field they want. Some individuals, particularly parents who are forking out the cash for expensive college educations, frown upon the choice of sociology as a major due to the fact that it does not directly correlate to a career choice. This is an extreme misconception, one which I would like to clear-up.

There are two main views others hold of sociologists: they are either noble individuals who want to solve social issues, or the more popular opinion, they have absolutely no clue what they want to do after college. To this I say, “So What?!” The New York Times writer, Kate Zernike commented upon the topic of major selection, and its importance in her article, “Making College ‘Relevant,’” she explains “they [students] are so focused on picking the perfect major that they don't allow time for self-discovery, much less late blooming.” College is a time for self-discovery, and sociology as a major permits this self-discovery to the highest degree.

As a recent UCLA graduate who has entered the world of job searches and networking, there have been a few aspects of my own education, as a sociology major, which I strongly believe have separated me from the masses: my capability to understand a multitude of issues on both a macro and micro level and my ability to relate to all-people regardless of social class, age, gender, ethnicity, religion and background. These are not just skills for a particular career but are valuable life-skills, which I proudly credit to my studies as a sociology major. It is up to us, the Sociology graduates, to bring value to our major.

AWARDS & HONORS

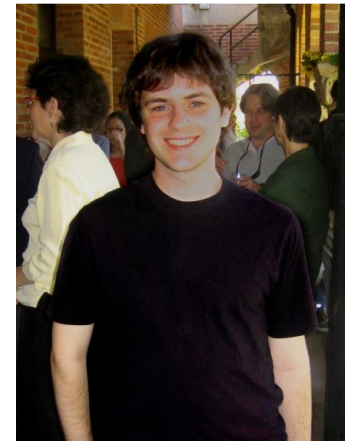
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

HONORING THE DEPARTMENT'S MOST
OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANTS



Vice Chair of Graduate Studies Stefan Timmermans announcing the Excellence in Teaching Award recipients at the 2010 Year End Party

KYLE J ARNONE
KJERSTIN ELMEN-GUYS
SHAWN HALBERT
ERIKA LAMOUREAUX
TARA MCKAY
SARAH MORANDO
JOHN O'BRIEN
COREY O'MALLEY
CAITLIN PATLER
ISAAC SPEER
FORREST STUART
SYLVIA ZAMORA



Peter Kollock Memorial
Graduate Teaching Award
Winner Isaac Speer

TWO SOCIOLOGY FACULTY ELECTED TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Rogers Brubaker and Robert Mare were both elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences over the past two years. Membership in the academy is one of the highest honors given to a scientist in the United States. Among the academy's most renowned members have been Albert Einstein, Robert Oppenheimer, Thomas Edison, Orville Wright and Alexander Graham Bell. There are currently more than 2,000 active academy members, of whom nearly 200 have been awarded the Nobel Prize. The election of this year's UCLA members, who are among 72 new members from across the U.S. and 18 foreign associates from 14 countries, brings the number of current UCLA academy members to 37.



Rogers Brubaker has written widely on social theory, immigration, citizenship, nationalism, and ethnicity. Brubaker has critically engaged prevailing analytical stances in the study of ethnicity and nationalism and sought to develop alternative analytical resources. His most recent book, *Nationalist Politics and Everyday Ethnicity in a Transylvanian Town*, co-authored with Margit Feischmidt, Jon Fox, and Liana Grancea, was published by Princeton University Press in 2006.



Robert Mare is a distinguished professor of sociology and statistics and he focuses his research on the connection between demographic processes and social inequality. He is currently working on a study of the causes and consequences of mixed-income housing and neighborhoods in Los Angeles and Chicago.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS NOMINEES

THESE CAMPUS WIDE AWARDS HONOR INDIVIDUALS WHO BRING RESPECT AND ADMIRATION TO THE SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING

MIGNON MOORE, DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD NOMINEE



Professor Moore’s distinctive quality as a teacher is her combination of intellectual rigor and human compassion. In her words, she combines “high expectations, high levels of support and warmth, and a firm structure.” Professor Moore splits her teaching between Sociology and the Department of Afro-American Studies, where she has a joint appointment. Her teaching focuses on the intersection of three fundamental social relationships: race, gender, and family. These are highly complex and emotionally charged topics that intersect in non-intuitive ways. Professor Moore has a talent for showing students that these are issues of knowledge as well as feeling, method as well as intuition, open-mindedness as well as commitment.

MARK JEPSON, DISTINGUISHED LECTURER AWARD NOMINEE



At a time characterized by information overload, Dr. Jepson helps students develop analytical tools to think critically and evaluate competing claims. He typically begins his lectures with open-ended propositions, using students’ comments as starting points through which to introduce sociological concepts and theories that shed new light on their experiences. He provides his TAs with structure, while also giving them respect and autonomy. Teaching assistants report that they learn a great deal about teaching from Dr. Jepson and feel appreciated and respected as valued members of a teaching team in the process.

FORREST STUART, DISTINGUISHED TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD WINNER



Drawing from a recent movement to revive “public sociology,” Forrest Stuart teaches from a deep conviction that sociology needs to be personally and politically relevant for students. He considers students less an audience to be taught the standard cannon as a privileged community of people who are implicated by sociological knowledge. Mr. Stuart wants to take knowledge back to students and demonstrate how the struggles in their lives and the lives of those around them are socially produced and can be modified through collective action. Although Mr. Stuart is motivated by social action, his teaching has strong pedagogical purposes and is not a form of social activism. In fact, students comment how Mr. Stuart likes to play devil’s advocate and keep them on their toes by examining, for example, power relationships from all perspectives and reach counterintuitive positions.

OTHER AWARDS & HONORS FROM 2009-2010

Anthony Alvarez

+ John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

Amada Armenta

+ NSF Dissertation Research Award for Law and Social Science
+ UCSD Comparative Center for Immigration Studies Dissertation Fellowship

Marie Berry

+ SSRC program in the Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Contentious Politics Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship

Gustav Brown

+ Lemelson Fellowship for Indonesian Studies
+ Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

Yuval Feinstein

+ Elise M. Boulding Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA Peace, War, and Social Conflict section for the paper "War that Feels Good: A New Explanation for the Rally-Round-the-Flag Phenomenon"
+ Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA Sociology of Emotions section for the paper "War that Feels Good: A New Explanation for the Rally-Round-the-Flag Phenomenon"

M. Antonio Guzman

+ Kawahara Fellowship from the Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies

Jaeun Kim

+ Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Mignon Moore

+ Elected Chair of the Race, Gender and Class section of ASA

Sarah Morando

+ CSW Paula Stone Research Fellowship focusing on women and the law
+ UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment Graduate Student Mini-Grant

Anthony Ocampo

+ John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

Chinyere Osuji

+ Poster Award, Population Association of America Annual Conference
+ IAC Predoctoral Fellowship, UCLA Bunche Center for African American Studies

Caitlin Patler

+ National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2009-2014
+ Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Diversity Fellowship, 2009-2014

Rocio Rosales

+ John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

Elena Shih

+ SSRC program in the Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Contentious Politics Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship
+ UC Pacific Rim Advanced Graduate Research Fellowship

Thomas Soehl

+ SSRC program in Multiculturalism, Immigration, and Identity in Western Europe and the United States Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship
+ Two-year fellowship in Advanced Quantitative Methods in Education Research funded by the Institute of Education Sciences

Forrest Stuart

+ ASA Minority Fellowship
+ UCLA Charles E. and Sue K. Young Graduate Award for 2009-2010 for academic achievement, research and university citizenship
+ UCLA Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award

Iddo Tavory

+ Suzanne Langer Prize for Best Student Paper of the ASA Culture section for the paper "Everyday Morality--Street Danger and Moral Density in a Jewish Orthodox Neighborhood."

Stefan Timmermans

+ Elected Chair of the Medical Sociology Section of the ASA

Juli Simon Thomas

+ Two-year fellowship in Advanced Quantitative Methods in Education Research funded by the Institute of Education Sciences

DONATIONS

Gift from Elena and Gregg Davis

Elena and Gregg Davis, of Houston, Texas, recently made a gift to the department to support research on homelessness in America. In making the gift, the Davis Family stated, "It is our sincere hope that this gift represents the beginning of a relationship with the UCLA Sociology Department that can lead to such advancements for humans, specifically regarding the American homeless." Avid philanthropists, the Davis' are following in the footsteps of their beloved parents. Elena Davis founded the "I AM WATERS Foundation," a nonprofit dedicated to providing fresh, clean water to the homeless. With her personal passion, Elena became interested in the research that the department was doing on homelessness and wanted to support the efforts in the field. The department is grateful for the Davis' gift and looks forward to their continued engagement.

Giving Back & Getting Involved

With cuts to state funding continuing to impact the Department of Sociology and the university, access and achievement will depend more than ever on the generous support of our alumni and friends.

Giving back can be thought of in terms of citizenship. We must volunteer to sustain the institutions that enhance our quality of life. It can be thought of in terms of legacy. The students of tomorrow deserve the same opportunities and access to a top public university as those of today. And it can be thought of in terms of responsibility. By giving back and supporting the Department of Sociology, you ensure that the department continues to deliver a world class college education to the people of California.

If sociology teaches anything, it is that no person is an island; we all depend on each other. Please click on [this link](#) and consider making a gift to the Department.

Alumni and friends who are, or wish to become, Chancellor's Associates may now direct their annual gifts to the UCLA Department of Sociology and retain all of the benefits that have traditionally been given to Chancellor's Associates. For information, visit <http://www.uclafund.ucla.edu/leadership/index.html>

SOCIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION UPDATE



The Sociology Undergraduate Association (SUA) was formed by a committed group of sociology majors who wanted to create events aimed at helping sociology students prepare for life after UCLA and develop close relationships with faculty and graduate students. The organization has grown year and after year, and this year, the SUA had its most active and successful year ever.

Among their many events was the “Thanksgiving drive” which encouraged students to donate clothes and food to the Los Angeles Homeless Shelter and the Kaplan-Graduate Seminar, which gave students the opportunity to learn about the necessary tests required for graduate school. SUA also worked to build a stronger relationship with the department’s graduate student teaching assistants by hosting a “Tea with the TAs.” The event gave students an opportunity to build a stronger relationship with Teaching Assistants over casual conversation and tea and to ask questions in a more relaxed setting.

On the career front, SUA has launched a Mentorship program (in its first year of implementation) which pairs undergraduate students with graduate students who have similar research interests as them. SUA hopes to also start working with departmental alumni to expand the mentoring program. If you have an interest in getting involved, please contact Eric Nakano at enakano@support.ucla.edu.

SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

SGSA is wrapping up a great year! We are especially proud of our recruitment efforts during the prospective student weekend in March. The student panels, diversity dinner, trip to the Getty Center, and graduate student party were all great successes and only contributed to the quality of scholars joining us in 2010-2011. We look forward to a highly talented and diverse incoming class.

SGSA has also recently put on a number of important programs. In May, four of our most successful colleagues spoke to us about their experiences on the job market and the wide array of challenges associated with moving into the world of professional academia. Recently, we had our annual townhall meeting in which faculty and students discussed issues surrounding teaching and TAing, the budget, diversity, and many other elements of graduate student life. Results from a graduate student questionnaire were also presented. The feedback received in the questionnaire should prove to be a valuable resource as we continue to address the challenges of graduate student life in 2010-2011.

A number of our graduates have expressed passion for serving as president next year and with the SGSA elections complete, we look forward to great leadership and community in the coming years.

FACULTY MEMBER IN THE
SPOTLIGHT:

JENNIE
BRAND



UCLA Professor Making Waves with Research on College
Education and Job Loss

Since coming to UCLA, Professor Jennie Brand has been making headlines with her groundbreaking research on social and economic inequality. Her most recent study, which analyzes access to higher education and its impact on social mobility, found that the highest economic return to a college education is among students who were least likely to go to college. In the case of women, Brand found that the economic value of a college diploma is twice that for women from economic disadvantaged backgrounds as women from privileged backgrounds.

This study follows on the heels of another high profile research project that Brand completed earlier this year on the social pain of job loss. In that study, she found that the impact of losing a job causes a social disconnection that can last a lifetime. Workers who had experienced one involuntary job loss in their lifetime were 35 percent less likely to volunteer or participate in social and community organizations. While the reasons for this are unclear, Brand attributes it to a number of factors including downward economic mobility, depression, and a sense that the social trust needed to participate in such organizations has been violated. With nearly 10 million workers having recently experienced a job loss, her work couldn't come at a more critical time. Brand's research has been featured in U.S.A. Today, the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, and BusinessWeek, and has given policy makers and community groups new ideas on how to reach out to and work with the unemployed.

Brand has always been passionate about the subject of social and economic equality and hopes that her research will shed new light on the issues of inequality. "I've always been drawn to studying disadvantage populations," said Brand. "What propels me is the hope that people gain knowledge from my research and can think of new ways of tackling an issue."

Brand comes from a long line of Bruins even though she herself received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin. A southern California native, most of her family attended UCLA and her father was a student of Professor Haines, whom Haines Hall, where the Sociology Department is housed, is named after. In her free time, Brand enjoys spending time with her two young children and her husband and exploring new areas of Los Angeles.

GRADUATE STUDENT IN THE
SPOTLIGHT:

IDDO TAVORY

BY STEFAN TIMMERMANS



Grad Student Iddo Tavory Furthering Knowledge on LA's
Orthodox Jewish Community

Members of the graduate admissions committee look for “red flags” in the files of prospective students. One such red flag is meandering from discipline to discipline. Iddo Tavory was interested in zoology, entered college to study philosophy and psychology, became dissatisfied, and only discovered sociology quite late. His MA project at Tel Aviv University studied a New Age Community called The Rainbow Family of Living Light. He wanted to explore the relationship between nature and nationalism but ended up focusing on individualism and solidarity formation. Another shift. He either was someone who could not make up his mind or someone with broad intellectual tastes. Should we admit him?

We did admit him (no one else did, we found out later) and we have not regretted our decision. Iddo ended up a graduate student with an unusually strong sense of sociological identity as a micro-sociologist interested in experience and social interaction. Jack Katz hired him for his epic study of Hollywood neighborhoods. Iddo studied a neighborhood of Orthodox Jews in the Beverly-La Brea area. Once he reconciled himself with the irony of being a non-religious Israeli studying Orthodox Jews in Los Angeles, Iddo threw himself into the fieldwork, wondering how this community maintained its religious identity among the temptations and secularism of the hip neighborhood. The project morphed into his PhD research, where Iddo investigates both the micro-negotiations of everyday religiosity and the historical background of the community and its institutional strongholds. Each research project comes with unexpected fringe benefits. Iddo’s involvement led to several marriage proposals (which he declined).

Iddo has a knack for cultivating collaborators, finding them among his peers and faculty. His publication record includes articles on qualitative methodology, religion, urban life, social theory, and even flirtation, in first-rate journals. He has been an active participant in the ethnography and sociology of religion working groups for several years and valiantly failed to start a phenomenology discussion group. But it’s not all theory and research. Iddo also has become a connoisseur of Japanese culture and developed a penchant for stray cats. We have been fortunate to spend the past five years with him and wish Iddo the best at the New School for Social Research, where he will start working as an assistant professor.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

ERIC
KIM



BY TERRI ANDERSON

Undergraduate Leading the Way in Exploring Social Media and Sociology

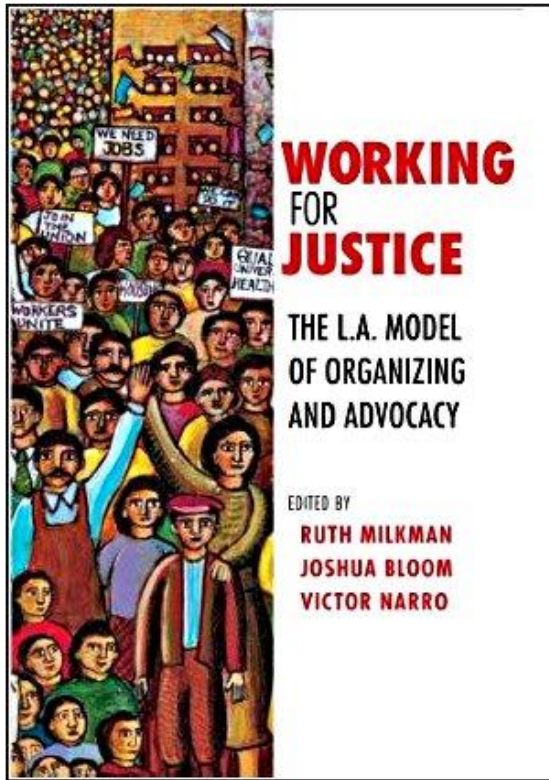
Eric Kim is a passionate person. It's impossible to meet him, to really engage him in interaction, and not feel his enthusiasm for life - which of course permeates his academic work, as well as everything else he does. I first met Eric in Fall 2008, when he was my student in Sociology 130, Self and Society. Eric was one of the most vocal students in the class of 150, and I literally always knew that I could count on him for curiosity, involvement, and perceptive (and courteously shared) insights. Following this class, Eric's interest and involvement in Sociology deepened.

He has written a research paper on a continuation school in Venice with Professor Bob Emerson and Rachel Fretz through the Sociology Immersion Program; worked with Jack Katz as a research assistant for Jack's upcoming book on Hollywood; and under my supervision, taught his own 20 student seminar, "Sociology of Facebook and Online Social Networks," in the UCLA Sociology Department, through the innovative and exclusive Undergraduate Student Initiated Education (USIE) program. Only 15 undergraduates per year are chosen to participate, and Eric was this year's only student from the Sociology department. Eric is also very nearly a published author. He contributed to the 4th edition of the underground classic, "This Book Is Not Required," by Inge Bell, with Bernard McGrane, John Gunderson, and me, Terri Anderson (which should be in print for the Fall quarter).

Kim's interest in social media also extends outside of the classroom. Kim currently interns with Demand Media and was recently offered a job from AKMG, an online advertising agency where he will be the Online Marketing Coordinator after he completes his studies. Despite his heavy academic and professional schedule, Kim manages to find time to pursue his passion for photography, and he co-founded The Photography Club at UCLA, of which he is also the President. Kim is one example of how undergraduate students within the department are pushing new boundaries of sociology on the technological frontier.

You can view Kim's photographic work at <http://erickimphotography.com>

PUBLICATION IN THE SPOTLIGHT:



Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy

This year, members of our department completed a multi-year collaborative project, culminating with the publication of the book *Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy*. The book is co-edited by a professor and graduate student from our department – Ruth Milkman and Joshua Bloom, along with Victor Narro of the UCLA Labor Center. Graduate students in our department wrote six of the substantive chapters – Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Caitlin C. Patler, Chinyere Osuji, Maria Dziembowska, Joshua Bloom, and Forrest Stuart.

The book examines eleven case studies of recent low-wage worker organizing campaigns in Los Angeles, including occupationally-oriented organizing among

day laborers, garment workers, car wash workers, security officers, janitors, taxi drivers, hotel workers and makes the case for a distinctive "L.A. Model" of union and worker center organizing.

The project was based on an innovative approach to collaboration between scholars and practitioners. As Dan Clawson, a sociologist and labor expert on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst comments: "If there is to be a paradigm shift toward public sociology, *Working for Justice* could serve as the exemplar. Community leaders and activists helped shape the questions that scholars pursued, provided access academics can rarely achieve, reviewed drafts and offered feedback, and in the process enriched scholarship and advanced theory."

The book, published by Cornell University Press, has received glowing reviews and is available for purchase on Amazon and at most bookstores.

FACULTY TRIBUTES

MELVIN POLLNER, 1940-2007

Melvin Pollner, who explored the assumptions communities share about what is true and false, in part by observing activities in courts of law, psychiatric units and other places where at least two sides of a story are put forth, died Nov. 2, 2007 of lung cancer at UCLA Medical Center. "Mel Pollner trained a generation of sociologists to think anew about how we build our sense of reality and community," colleague John Heritage said. Pollner's main theory, Heritage explained, is that "all of us live inside a kind of bubble, like the Earth's atmosphere, only made up of beliefs, knowledge and assumptions" that help define what is real and unreal, good and bad. The "bubble" theory applies to the world community as well as to individual societies, religions and other groups.

Born Oct. 13, 1940, in New York City, Pollner attended the Bronx High School of Science and earned a bachelor's degree from the City College of New York. He went on to earn a master's degree from UC Berkeley and a doctorate from UC Santa Barbara. He joined the UCLA faculty in 1968.

PETER KOLLOCK, 1959-2009

Peter Kollock, a professor in the Department of Sociology, died Jan. 10, 2009 in a motorcycle accident near his home in Calabasas. Trained as a social psychologist in experimental methods, he was an exceptional teacher who provided his students with the analytical tools and life wisdom to reach new levels of personal and social understanding. A native of Zaragoza, Spain, he graduated from the University of Washington and spent his entire academic career at UCLA, coming here in 1989. He studied personal relations through the theory of social exchange, which models how people rationally negotiate their relations with each other. His research examined factors that encourage or discourage the emergence of cooperation, community and trade in situations where group members can gain by cooperating, but also are tempted to behave selfishly. In 1993, he co-edited with Jodi O'Brien the first of several editions of "The Production of Reality: Essays and Readings in Social Psychology," a widely read volume on how people make sense of the ordinary world. In recent years, he had studied the social dynamics of markets, especially derivative and futures markets. A scholarship teaching award at UCLA honoring his legacy has been set up in his name. Alumni and friends are welcome to make a gift in his memory by contacting Eric Nakano at enakano@support.ucla.edu.

VALERIE OPPENHEIMER, 1932-2009

Valerie Oppenheimer, a UCLA sociologist whose pioneering research documented the post-World War II surge of married women into the U.S. workforce and the ramifications of work on marriage, died Nov. 2, 2009 at her Holmby Hills home two weeks after having a stroke and heart attack. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Vassar College in 1954, Oppenheimer attended UC Berkeley, earning a master's in 1962 and a doctorate in sociology in 1966. She taught at UCLA from 1968 until she retired in 1994. Oppenheimer was the recipient of two of her field's most prominent prizes. In 1979, the American Sociological Association honored her with the Jessie Bernard Award, which recognizes achievement in "scholarly work that has enlarged the horizons of sociology to encompass fully the role of women in society." In 2009, she became the inaugural recipient of the Harriet B. Presser Award from the Population Association of America, a biennial award honoring a record of sustained contribution in gender and demography.

LUCIE CHENG, 1939-2010

Lucie Cheng passed away January 27, 2010 in Taipei, Taiwan. Lucie made significant research contributions to the study of Chinese Americans, the globalization of women's paid employment, the migration of highly trained workers to the U.S., deconstructing the image of Asians as the model minority, and the history of Asian immigrants in the U.S. Her 1979 article in *Signs*, "Free, Indentured, and Enslaved: Chinese Prostitutes in 19th Century America" is widely considered a classic that helped to shape sociological thinking on gender and immigration. Lucie joined the UCLA Department of Sociology in 1970 after earning her PhD from the University of Hawaii. She served as Director of the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA from 1972 to 1987, the founding Director of the Center for Pacific Rim Studies at UCLA (begun in 1985), and the Chair of the Asia and Asian American Section of the American Sociological Association from 1991 to 1994. After retiring from UCLA, she was Founding Dean at the Graduate School for Social Transformation Studies, Shih Hsin University.

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