

# S O C I O L O G Y

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

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Greetings alumni and friends of the UM Department of Sociology. I hope that this newsletter finds each of you well and in good spirits, it is my pleasure to write this greeting and invite you to enjoy updates on our faculty and students.

On campus, summertime activities are underway. As I write this message, the campus is buzzing with the sounds of elementary school children as they participate in UM adventure camps, and middle and high schools girls' basketball student athletes attending a Lady Griz basketball camp. The energy and excitement level is high, and it is a beautiful spring day.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will read highlights from the activities of sociology faculty and students that took place during the 2016-17 academic year.

These excellent contributions and recognitions of the great work done help heighten the profile of the Sociology Department on campus, in the community, and the profession. We are fortunate to have a capable and ambitious faculty and staff whose work in

the classroom and in the research field attracts well-qualified and motivated students. Our students and the important things that they will accomplish are the greatest testament to the value of the liberal arts education that we provide.



DR. DUSTEN HOLLIST

It is a privilege to be able to work at UM and call Missoula home. This past year has presented unique challenges, and unique opportunities to display the value of a sociological perspective. We are committed to advocating for the liberal arts core on our campus, and the continued success of our students as local, state, national, and world citizens. As we prepare for the 2017-18 academic year, we ask that you keep UM and the Department of Sociology in your hearts and minds. We look forward to hearing from you and would love to see you on campus at some point in the upcoming year.

*Dusten B. Hollist*

## SOCIOLOGY INTERNSHIPS—ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017



During the 2016-17 academic year, 36 UM Sociology undergraduates participated in SOCI 498, the service learning Sociology Internship course. These students applied and extended their knowledge of the discipline, while gaining valuable professional experience, earning academic credit, and providing invaluable support to local agencies. Internships participants served an impressive array of institutions, including services for international students, residential mental health care, senior and youth

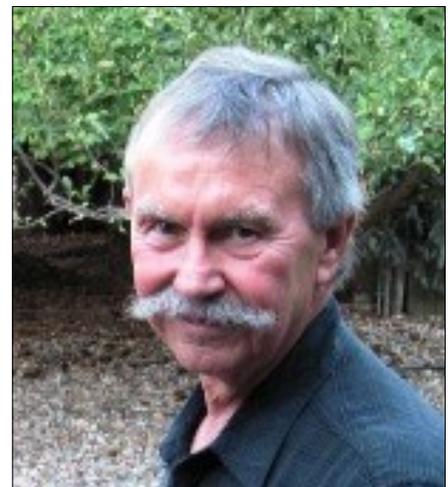
programs, MontPIRG, the Innocence Project, the National Park Service, programs serving victims of intimate partner violence, law enforcement, probation, and pre-release services. Over the course of two academic semesters, these 36 internship participants contributed an incredible 7,015 hours of work to their sponsoring agencies.

UM Sociology would like to thank all of the 2016-2017 student internship participants and their sponsoring agencies for an impressive year!

## FACULTY AFFILIATE SCOTT MCNALL WINS ASA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

At the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association last autumn, Scott McNall, affiliated faculty member of the UM Sociology Department, received a lifetime achievement award from the Association's section on Marxist Sociology.

McNall is an emeritus provost and professor at California State University, Chico. He has authored, co-authored and edited over 20 books, and has written extensively on issues relating to climate change, equality, social class, sustainability, and resilience, including his most recent work, *The Problem of Social Inequality: Why it Destroys Democracy, Threatens the Planet, and What We Can Do About It*, published by Routledge in December 2015. McNall's other book-length publications cover a broad range of topics from Kansas Populism during the latter half of the 20th century to the business of sustainability.



SCOTT MCNALL

## SKYE MCGINTY PARTICIPATES IN KAKEHASHI TOUR



2016 KAKEHASHI STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANTS, MCGINTY (SECOND FROM RIGHT, BACK ROW)

This autumn, Sociology graduate student Skye McGinty received the distinction of being among the 23 UM students chosen to participate in the 2016 Kakehashi Japan Study Tour. The tour is an all-expense paid, ten day intensive guided culture, education and policy exchange program founded by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Foundation. The program is run by the Japan International Cooperation Center, and administered at UM through the Mansfield Center.

McGinty, who was not able to study abroad as an undergrad, learned about the Kakehashi Tour from Sociology professor Kathy Kuipers, and became excited about the prospect of getting to experience Japanese culture and social dynamics first hand. Skye admits that she knew very little about Japan when she first applied, and that was partly why she found this opportunity so attractive.

Once in Tokyo, the UM group

was joined by students from other national and international universities. After exploring the Tokyo, students traveled to several rural regions, including Kumamoto, Missoula's sister city.

McGinty indicates that her time in Kumamoto was especially rewarding. The prefecture has a substantial agricultural sector, and is located at the base of Volcano Aso, one of the most active volcanos in the region. Kumamoto experiences regular typhoons, and was recently devastated by two massive earthquakes.

McGinty said that at the time of her visit, seven months after the earthquakes, only surface damage was visible, which she attributes to the resilience and optimism of the Kumamoto residents.

McGinty notes that despite not knowing much Japanese, her interactions with the locals were overwhelmingly positive. She also notes that several individuals, including a tour guide, felt compelled to point out with admiration how tall she is.

When asked about advice she might give to others interested in studying abroad, Skye encourages everyone to investigate the various options available to them, since there are many opportunities outside of the conventional study abroad model. She recommends starting the application process early, and not being afraid to use resources like the Writing Center and professors who can act as mentors. For those interested in Japan, McGinty recommends visiting the Sky Tree in Tokyo for its beautiful views of the city, and trying horse meat, a delicacy in the Kumamoto region.

McGinty, who graduates with an M.A. in Sociology in Spring 2017, is also pursuing a Masters' in Business Administration. As part of her MBA program, Skye will continue her travels by participating in an intensive, two week summer school program in international business at the Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu, Romania. We wish her the best of luck with all her future plans.

## 2016-2017 SOCIOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES

### Michael Burawoy: “Whose University? Reflections on the Public University”

The UM Sociology Department was honored to host Berkeley professor Michael Burawoy, whose lecture “Whose University? Reflections on the Public University” kicked off the 2016-17 Sociology Speaker Series on February 23rd. Burawoy, a well-known theorist and prodigious author, specializes in sociological Marxism. He has served as both the American Sociological Association, and the International Sociological Association. He is best known for his work *Manufacturing Consent: Changes in the Labor Process under Monopoly Capitalism* and for his advocacy of public sociology.

Burawoy’s lecture focused on the crises facing public higher education. The talk was presented in collaboration with the Anthropology, History, Communication Studies, African American Studies Departments, Forestry’s Society and Conservation Department, and by the College of the Humanities and Sciences. The event was extremely well attended, and the audience included interim UM President Sheila Stearns, interim Provost Beverly Edmond (who was generous enough to introduce Burawoy), and H & S Dean Chris Comer and Associate Dean Jenny McNulty.



BURAWOY SPEAKING TO BERKELEY STUDENTS

### Justin Denny: “Families, Communities and Health Disparities: Implications of Contextual Incongruence”



JUSTIN DENNEY

The second lecture offered by the Sociology Speaker Series this spring was given by Justin Denney, UM alumnus, associate professor at Rice University, and director of the Kinder Institute Urban Health Program. Denney’s lecture, “Families, Communities and Health Disparities”, was co-sponsored by the Institute of Health and Humanities, and took place on March 16th. Denney discussed how he has been collaborating with colleagues at the Texas Medical Center to utilize large, disparate datasets to study social inequalities and their impact on health outcomes.

Denny also presented at a colloquium, “Building Collaborations in Health Disparities Research”, hosted by the Social Science Research Laboratory on Friday, March 17th. The colloquium provided an opportunity to for local medical practitioners and researchers to network and discuss methods of combatting healthcare inequalities.

# PROJECT TACKLES CULTURE OF SHAME, SUPPORTS SUSTAINABILITY IN THE BANGLADESH GARMENT SECTOR



In his role as Deputy General Manager in the Bangladesh Ministry of Industries' Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation, Rahman plans to coordinate with garment manufacturing businesses in Bangladesh to convince them to produce sanitary napkins using garment fabric waste as filler. The napkins could then be distributed for free to women working in garment factories to enable them to work during their menstrual periods. The project would benefit employers by reducing days off taken

DR. SOBIESZCZYK AND MAMUNUR RAHMAN; BANGLADESH (BELOW)

**Contributor: Dr. Teresa Sobieszczyk**

Menstruation is a taboo topic in Bangladesh. The vast majority of women and girls in Bangladesh don't have access to disposable sanitary pads and instead use rags, usually torn from old saris. They have to wash the rags several times a day in a small clay pot or plastic tub, oftentimes inside the latrine. A culture of shame forces them to dry the rags in well-hidden and possibly dank or dusty place in their home, which leads to a significant proportion of infections associated with female reproductive health. The lack of safe, absorbent, disposable pads keeps many young Bangladeshi women out of school, university, and the workplace for several days a month.

Dr. Teresa Sobieszczyk (Sociology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies) recently partnered with Humphrey Fellow Md-Mamunur Rahman from Bangladesh, to begin grappling with this menstrual hygiene issue. Mr. Rahman was at the University of Montana for four months of intensive English training before moving on to his Humphrey fellowship site at Michigan State University. He is especially concerned with recycling, sustainability, and women's health issues and is developing a special project to link the three areas.

by women workers and upcycling scrap materials, thereby reducing waste. Moreover, access to safe, disposable sanitary napkins would enable the workers themselves to increase their wages by avoiding taking several days off each month during their periods. Menstrual hygiene efforts such as the project planned by Mr. Rahman will go a long way towards reducing the stigmatization of menstruation, which is hampering young Bangladeshi women's achievement, and will lead to more sustainable business practices at the same time.



## DR. KUIPERS WINS WILLIAM REYNOLDS AWARD, ELECTED VP OF PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

UM Sociology congratulates faculty member, Dr. Kathy Kuipers, the 2017 recipient of the College of Humanities and Sciences' William Reynolds Award for Excellence in Teaching Across the Curriculum. The Reynolds award acknowledges superior teaching in both upper and lower division courses, student advising and mentorship, and accessibility to students beyond normal office hours. Kuipers, along with the other H & S award recipients, was honored at the fifth annual H & S Dialogue event on April 28th. Kuipers' scholarship focuses in the area of Inequality of Social Justice ; she is affiliated with the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies program, the African American Studies program, and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative. She also serves as the Sociology Department's Graduate Studies Director, and has been instrumental in establishing Alpha of Montana, UM's chapter of the national sociological honors society Alpha Kappa Delta.

Last November, Kuipers also received the distinction of being elected vice president of the Pacific Sociological Association. Her term as VP will begin in April 2018, but her duties as VP-Elect began with this year's meeting on the PSA Council. Kuipers will serve as a voting member on the council for three years. She will also serve as Chair of the Committee on Committees during the 2018-19 term, the body that makes appointments to the other committees of the Association.

The Pacific Sociological Association is the oldest regional sociological association in the U.S.. Kuipers has been involved with the PSA since she was a graduate student at Stanford, and has been actively serving and presenting at the annual conferences since she began employment at UM. She previously served as the Chair of the Publications Committee, which oversees production of the organization's journal, *Sociological Perspectives*. She has also served as a member of the Program Committee, the PSA Council, the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities, and the *Sociological Perspectives* editorial board.



DR. KATHY KUIPERS

Kuipers' long history of presenting at the PSA includes many presentations given in conjunction with graduate and undergraduate students she has collaborated with over the years. Graduate student Skye Summers attended the last PSA Conference with Kuipers, and presented research related to her thesis project, which focuses on exotic dancers' attitudes about motherhood.

Kuipers indicates that she is excited about getting to meet with sociologists from around the nation, and especially about working with Elaine Bell Kaplan, a faculty member at University of South Carolina, who will serve as president during Kuipers term as VP. Kaplan's scholarship focuses on structural conditions that restrict opportunities for racial and ethnic groups, particularly inner-city children and youth. Kuipers anticipates that under Kaplan, the PSA will pursue a program related to these sorts of inequality and social justice concerns, and she is pleased to be able to expand her knowledge and lend her expertise to such a worthwhile endeavor.

## GRAD STUDENT EXPLORES GENDER IN THE WORLD OF TABLE TOP GAMING

Sociology is a discipline that has relevance in every arena of life, and no one knows that better than graduate student Rachel Just. During the last year, Just has been working on a project to examine gender dynamics within the world of fantasy role-playing games, like Dungeons and Dragons. Her project evolved out of a conversation with Dr. Daisy Rooks, who knew Rachel was interested in gaming, and approached her about assisting with a Gaming and Diversity exhibit at the Mansfield Library. Just decided to focus on table-top role playing games, since there is relatively little scholarship about it, and since gaming (including video and tabletop gaming, and cosplay) is becoming an increasingly mainstream activity. Just chose to focus on the aspect of gender, since as a woman, she has had both positive and negative experiences, and wanted to see how other women's experiences would compare.

Last August, Just attended Gen Con, a tabletop gaming conference, to interview women about their perceptions of gender experiences within the games. Rachel characterizes these women as open, deeply invested in the tabletop gaming subculture, and excited to talk about their experiences.

Participants indicated that the expressive potential of D&D was one of their most important reasons for playing the game. Some of the women Rachel spoke with said they had experi-

enced restrictive expectations about their behavior in the workplace. These women expressed frustrations about how these expectations affected their behavior, and about their inability to challenge them. Their participation in gaming culture served as a way to express their frustrations, instead of risking censure by speaking out in the workplace. Just gives the example of one interviewee who works in the male-dominated tech industry, and often faces discrimination at work based on her gender (being criticized for asserting herself, being considered incompetent in comparison to male counterparts, having her opinions discounted). Subsequently this individual chooses to release her frustrations through role-playing games like D&D. "I can't say what I want to say to my coworkers, so I'll just kill some ogres and be happy with it", which allows her to adhere to behavior norms at work, while also having an ability to have a sense of control over her situation. However, some of the women Just interviewed identified instances where their in-game personas were subjected to restrictive behavioral expectations similar to those they ex-



GAMING DICE

perienced outside the game, for example exclusion, and unsolicited sexualization of their characters. These experiences limited their ability to find a release for workplace frustrations through gaming.

Rachel's research suggests directions for future scholarship, like analysis of other populations participating in the gaming subculture who experience empowerment through role-playing that subvert biases or constraining social norms. Just also suggests that it would be beneficial to view this empowerment through the lens of symbolic interaction, to assess how in-game interactions create larger meaning in the lives of participants. Just speculates that this research topics will be increasingly popular as the 'geek and gaming' subculture becomes increasingly mainstream. "What I'm ultimately saying," Rachel jokes, "is that geeks may take over the world; be prepared."

## ZAIRA SANROMAN WINS STUDENT DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to Sociology major Zaira Sanroman on receiving a 2017 Student Diversity Leadership Award! Zaira is a junior at UM, who is pursuing a double emphasis in both Criminology and Inequality and Social Justice. She was nominated for the award by Sociology professor Rayna Sage, who observed Zaira's involvement in organizing UM events to raise awareness and engagement around diversity issues, including The Tunnel of Oppression, DiverseU, and the Understanding Power and Privilege Speaker Series, while Zaira was a student in her Sociology Research Methods course. Sage said she has a great deal of admiration for Zaira, because she is a young woman who does not stand by and wait for others to take action, but eagerly seeks out opportunities to be involved, and to connect with those interested in bringing about positive social change. This Spring semester, Zaira was also involved with the two day safety and empowerment workshop, Feel Empowered at UM, and in with the Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Sanroman, along with her fellow Student Diversi-



SANROMAN (LEFT) WITH DR. RAYNA SAGE

ty Leadership Award recipients, was honored at an award ceremony held May 2nd in the University Ballroom.

## DR. DOYLE FOSTERS CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA



UNIVERSITY OF GONDAR, GONDAR CITY, ETHIOPIA

Last spring, Dr. Dan Doyle was anticipating a long-planned sabbatical trip to northern Ethiopia, to teach courses on Criminology and Criminal Justice at the UM affiliated University of Gondar. His wife Marje Doyle, a retired librarian, intended to travel with him, and to provide service in the University's library. Doyle has been helping faculty in Gondar's Sociology Department to develop a Criminology Program, particularly UM affiliated faculty member Molalign Belay, who visited the

University of Montana last summer, after completing a Mandela Fellowship in Washington DC.

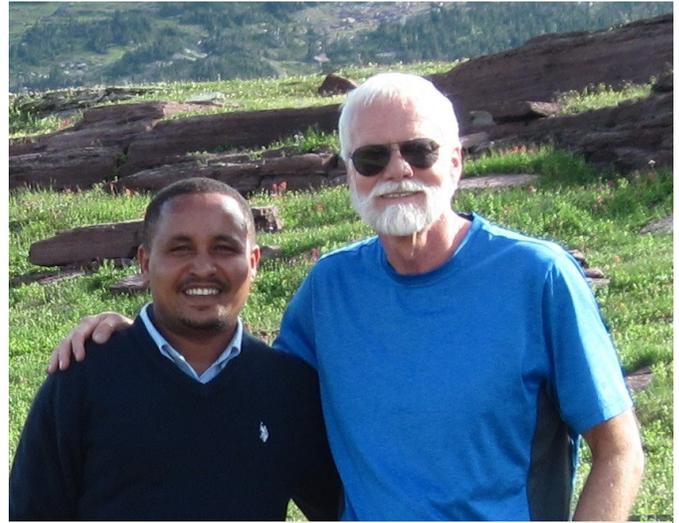
In late August, however, the U.S. State Department issued an alert discouraging travel to the Amhara region, the location of Gondar City, due to ongoing civil unrest. There was news about violent protests, and the University of Gondar was

even forced to shut down for a time. The Doyles had no choice but to indefinitely postpone their trip.

Faced with the prospect of needing to provide resources to the fledgling Criminology program from a distance, and in such a way that they could be utilized once the program was again viable, Dr. Doyle began work with the technicians at UM to record a series **(continued next page)**

of lectures on Criminology and the U.S. Criminal Justice System. Topics include the civil rights of prisoners, adjudication, sentencing and reform, and alternatives to incarceration. The 25 part lecture series was provided to the University of Gondar's Sociology faculty for later use.

Dr. Doyle continues to work towards improving relations between UM and the University of Gondar, but is not certain when he will be able to travel to the region. The political situation in Amhara has stabilized, and efforts to develop the Criminology Program at the University have resumed. The Doyles anticipate a potential visit in the winter of 2017.



DR. DOYLE (RIGHT) with UM AFFILIATED FACULTY MOLALIGN BELAY

## SOCIOLOGY ALUM TEACHES NUTRITION IN BROWNING, MT



SCHREIBER CONDUCTING APPLE SALAD TASTE TEST

Sociology alum Graham Schreiber (class of 2015) is working to translate his lifelong passion for healthy foods into a vehicle for positive change. Schreiber is one of 215 FoodCorps service members working across the United States to connect schools to healthy foods, and to raise awareness among students about the importance of quality nutrition and how to obtain it. FoodCorps is a private/public partnership non-profit in the Americorps network that serves in 18 states.

Graham is working with schools in Browning, MT. This is the second year that FoodCorps has

existed in Browning, which like many reservation towns, experiences high rates of diabetes and other diet-related diseases. Graham's responsibilities include: taste testing new recipes in the school cafeteria that use as many local, healthy ingredients as possible, managing the school garden and using it as a productive learning space for students to receive hands-on education. Graham also leads cooking and nutrition lessons in the classrooms to provide students the tools they need to form healthy habits around food and eating.

In many ways, Schreiber has inherited his passion for sustainable, healthy foods. His mother works as a dietitian, and for years his father ran a restaurant where the focus was on supporting local farmers and bringing organic, high-quality ingredients from farm to table. Graham says that he realized early on how lucky he was to have a background that provided the fundamental skills of growing and preparing healthy food, and that this motivates his efforts to disseminate nutrition education. Graham also credits the UM Sociology program with providing him the knowledge and skills to assess his work with the humility, critical thinking and a broader historical perspective, which have been instrumental in shaping his successful approach to FoodCorps duties.

To learn more about FoodCorps, visit <https://foodcorps.org>.

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## MAKE A GIFT...

Contributions from Sociology alumni and friends fund a variety of departmental initiatives, from student scholarships and assistantships, to faculty development and program enhancements. We are working to raise money to fund graduate and undergraduate travel to academic conferences, and there's more work to be done to renovate our conference room.

To help support the Sociology Department, click the "Make a Gift" link on our website: <http://www.cas.umt.edu/sociology/support.php>

Private philanthropy, as evidenced by the 144 privately funded scholarships in College of Humanities and Sciences, truly does make a difference. Thank you for remaining connected to the Department of Sociology and for your support.

## PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

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