

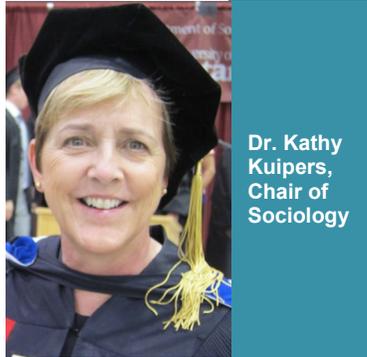
View from the Chair

We're nearing the end of winter session, and the view out my window is, in a word, frozen. The mountains to the west are violet-blue and covered with snow. Inside, we have wrapped up fall semester (I hope), with grades turned in, and students advised for spring. We're busily preparing for spring semester with an orientation coming up for transfer students, letters of recommendation to write, and other tasks to catch up on. We're anticipating a semester of exciting courses!

If you've communicated with our office lately, you may have noticed a new voice in the department. Jessica Anderson joined us in October, as the Administrative Associate, and we are delighted that she is here. She comes with an MA in English, considerable writing and editing skills, and solid experience in managing an office. Jessica has taken control of the many office tasks, from tending to our temperamental copy machine, to learning the online systems for finance and academic advising. She also manages the departmental website and our Facebook page, and I encourage you to visit both to see the changes she's made. Welcome, Jessica!

One of Jessica's tasks has been to publish our newsletter. For this issue, she had assistance from one of our star graduate students, Elliot Moore, who helped to plot out the issue, and wrote many of the articles. Thank you to Jessica and Elliot for creating such an interesting and well-researched newsletter!

In this issue, we highlight our stu-



Dr. Kathy Kuipers,
Chair of
Sociology

dents (Laura Obernesser, Peter Donaldson, former graduate student Jessica Ulrich-Schad, and our Criminology Club), our courses (the new GLI freshmen seminar), and our research (conference presentations, publications, and research groups). We also feature our visiting scholar, Ly Quoc Dang, and his interesting project to save the bats in the Bat Pagoda in Soc Tran, Vietnam. The bats that inhabit the Pagoda, as you will see in the photo, are big (up to 1.5 meter wingspan), and saving them involves changing perceptions of them through education about their beneficial attributes. Sociologists at work!

Spring semester we begin a new lecture series thanks to a generous donation from one of our faculty affiliates, Dr. Scott McNall. Watch for more news on that in the next issue. Please keep in touch, and visit us when you are in Missoula!



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Rural Sociology Conference

The annual meeting of the Rural Sociology Society was in New Orleans, LA this past July, and the UM Department of Sociology was well represented. In attendance were faculty member Teresa Sobieszczyk, graduate student Laura Obernesser, and alumna Jessica Ulrich-Schad.

Dr. Sobieszczyk presented her paper "Modeling Sustainable Tourism Development: A Case Study of Mango Bay Resort, Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam." The paper is based on research conducted in Southern Vietnam during Sobieszczyk's 2012-13 Fulbright grant.

Laura Obernesser presented her original research study, "Ideologies of Motherhood among the Rural Poor" with her co-author, Dr. Elizabeth Seale, Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York - College of Oneonta. Preliminary findings of this study suggest that low-income mothers living in poverty hold more "traditional" ideologies of motherhood, and emphasize the importance of full-time at home mothering.

Dr. Sobieszczyk also met with her former student, Jessica Ulrich-Schad, at the conference. Jessica earned her Master's degree from the Sociology Department in 2009, and recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of New Hampshire, where she focused on social theory, research methods, and community and the environment. Her dissertation is titled "Migration, Views on Development, and Community Making in Rural Recreation Counties in the U.S." Dr. Ulrich-Schad is already well published, including her recent article in *Rural Sociology*, "The Role of Community Assessments, Place, and the Great Recession in the Migration Intentions of Rural Americans." She presented two papers at the Rural Sociology Conference on the predictors of views on development in rural recreation counties and was also elected chair of the Environmental Research Interest Group. Dr. Ulrich-Schad just started a post-doctoral fellowship at Purdue University, where she is conducting field research on the attitudes and behaviors of farmers towards various conservation practices.



Above: Sociology professor Teresa Sobieszczyk with former student Jessica Ulrich-Schad, in front of St. Louis Cathedral, the French Quarter, New Orleans; Across: members of the SPRG

ASC Conference

This year's annual meeting of The American Society of Criminology was held in San Francisco, California November 19th to the 22nd. Several faculty members and graduate student from the UM Sociology Department attended, including professors Dustin Hollist, Jim Burfeind, Jackson Bunch, adjunct instructor and research assistant Patrick McKay, and graduate students Danny Action, Ally Guldborg and Ashley Cossairt.

Both Dr. Bunch and Patrick McKay presented at the conference. Dr. Bunch presented "Self-Control Strain, and the Link between Violent Victimization and Offending," which was co-authored by Dr. Jody Clay-Warner and Dr. Ronald Simons, faculty of the University of Georgia's Sociology Department. Patrick McKay's presentation was on validating the "Back on Track" instrument that is used to assess risk of recidivism in juveniles in Montana, and how risk factors for recidivism differ across race and gender groups.



Criminology and Social Psychology Research Groups

The department would like to recognize its two research groups this fall: the Criminology Research Group (CRG) and the Social Psychology Research Group (SPRG).

The CRG, lead by Sociology Professors Dusten Hollist, Jackson Bunch, James Burfeind, Daniel Doyle, Research Associate Patrick McKay and SSRL Administrator Chuck Harris, began holding weekly meetings in the fall of 2009, in the Social Science Research Laboratory (SSRL). The group is founded upon the belief that learning through applied research is an essential component of the Sociology student experience at the University of Montana, and from its inception, it has involved graduate and undergraduate students in grant funded research.

In the spring and summer of 2014, members of the CRG wrote, or co-wrote, eight proposals requesting research support for projects. Four of these proposals received funding. The awards, all from agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice, total nearly \$800,000. These projects involve collaboration with state-level partners at the Montana Board of Crime Control and the Office of the Court Administrator for the Montana Supreme Court. The work associated with these awards will take place over the next two years.

At present, the CRG is comprised of eleven research assistants. These include graduate students Daniel Acton, Ashley Cossairt, Gabe Downey, Ally Guldborg, Amy Lommen, Elliot Moore, Peter Ore, and Taylor Tillman. Undergraduate students on the team this year are Abby Hobza, Hailey Powers, and Maelee Samsel. Each

of these students has provided valuable contributions to the work taking place.

Established this past fall, the SPRG was organized by Professor Kathy Kuipers to provide her students with a forum in which to discuss and get feedback on their own research from like-minded scholars. The group meets every Friday morning (with donuts), and members take turns presenting their research projects. Some participants are in the beginning stages of research design, and the group brainstorms about their projects, while others describe their data and receive input on their analysis and results. Since there are no other social psychology faculty in the department, SPRG presents an opportunity for Dr. Kuipers and students alike to get feedback on their work, and to prepare for conference presentations or strengthen written work.

While one goal of the group is to support and encourage each other in the presentation of their work, members are also working on grant proposals to solicit funding for research projects, and for travel to present their findings at academic conferences.

SPRG is currently composed of graduate students Dustin Satterfield, Laura Obernesser, Tyson Kuntz, and Peter Ore, as well as undergraduates Robert Howe and Damion Barnett. Chuck Harris, (SSRL) also contributes brainstorming advice to projects and research designs.

This is an excellent time to be working in social science research, and the CRG and SPRG are proud to represent the Department of Sociology, the College of Humanities and Arts, and the University of Montana in this capacity.

McNall Lecture Series

This exciting opportunity begins this semester with guest speaker, Dr. Janja Lalich (University of California, Chico), expert on extremism, cults, and coercive influence.

Date: TBA

Above: Laura Obernesser;
Across, clockwise from left: The Bat Conservation Education Project releases 7 bats rescued from a Soc Trang City restaurant; Project participants wear t-shirts with the slogan "Working Together to Save the Bats"; Dang assisting with the Clean Water Supply project in Can Tho City.

Graduate Student Profile: Laura Obernesser

This semester, graduate student, Laura Obernesser started conducting a qualitative project to explore the experiences of mothers who seek services at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Missoula. Laura, who is originally from New York, conducted a series of interviews dealing with motherhood identity in her undergraduate career at the State University of New York College at Oneonta. Her graduate thesis explores motherhood identities, responses to identity threat, and emotion work through a methodology that combines in-depth interviewing and ethnographic observations.

While conducting her research, Laura has also been working together with the YWCA to assist women who seek their services on-site. Laura shares her experiences of conducting qualitative studies with other students, and her thesis committee chair Kathy Kuipers, via participation in the Social Psychology Research Group.



Laura plans to graduate this spring, and to continue her research by pursuing a doctorate degree directly after.

Peter Donaldson: Outstanding Undergraduate

Peter Donaldson, an undergraduate in the Sociology Department's Inequality and Social Justice option, has been active in several of the University of Montana's programs to promote diversity and assist students in financial need.

Peter started as a temporary employee with the University's TRiO Student Support Services program in 2010, and is now working with TRiO full-time while finishing his degree. TRiO is a federally funded program aimed at increasing enrollment, retention and graduation rates among low-income students, first generation students and students with disabilities. Peter's determination to help students in Montana achieve their educational goals has also led him to participate in the Montana College Access Network, and the state association of TRiO programs. Among other worthwhile tasks, Peter is currently working to bring

together a Holiday Food Box Program for students and families in need, and is overseeing the Book Loan Program, funded through the generous support of the Grizzly Riders alumni organization, which provides assistance with textbooks to low-income students.

Peter was recently recognized by professor Daisy Rooks for his leadership role in DiverseU (formerly the Day of Dialogue), a one-day series of educational events aimed at promoting dialogue about the importance of diversity and community. Peter has played an important role in the event for several years, beginning as a volunteer and serving as co-chair for the last two years.

Peter plans to graduate in Spring 2015 and hopes to continue his work with TRiO while pursuing a Master's degree and researching social barriers to receiving education.



In November, Dang participated in the 2014 Southeast Asia Conference's session on Water, Sanitation and Health; his presentation was titled, "Water and Sanitation: Basic Concepts and Practices in the Mekong Delta."

Dang has also been busy with the Bat Conservation Education Project, orchestrated through Can Tho University, which focuses on bat rescue, habitat preservation, and education. Saving the bats involves changing public perceptions of them. The Project refutes ideas about bats being harmful to visitors of the bat pagoda in his home province of Soc Trong, Vietnam. and teaches about their positive aspects.

Catching Up with Ly Quoc Dang

For those who have been wondering what Ly Quoc Dang (Can Tho University) has been up to since his visit to Missoula in September, here is a brief update. Dang was introduced to the Department by Dr. Sobieszczyk, who co-taught with him during her 2012-13 Fulbright in Vietnam. Last fall, Dang was able to come to Missoula, where he attended the Department's back-to-school barbeque, visited several classes, met with representatives from the Mansfield Center, and gave a number of lectures, including one to Dr. Sobieszczyk's Introduction to Development Sociology course.

Dang led a few days of UM's Winter session course in Vietnam this January, where he talked about the regional impact of climate change. He also has big future plans, including opening a souvenir shop affiliated with the Bat Conservation project, and establishing a female operated eco-friendly farm in his hometown.



Criminology Club Bake Sale (2014)

Criminology Club

The University of Montana's Criminology Club was off to a running start Fall semester. Club members have continued building new opportunities for students and the public to learn about various aspects of Criminology, and have expanded the range of club activities to compliment the club's interdisciplinary nature. This semester, the Criminology Club hosted a tour of the Montana State Crime Lab, given by Emily Wemlinger, the Quality Assurance Manager of the Forensic Science Division. The club also hosted a presentation given by Dr. Gary Dale, State Medical Examiner. During Spring semester, Criminology Club will be touring both the Old Montana Prison and the current State Prison to learn more about how the facilities and the institution has changed over time.

The club recently held elections for it's officer positions. Sarah Clark was elected club president; she is an undergraduate majoring in Resource Conservation, with a strong interest in both Criminology and Forensic Science. Prior to her term as president, Sarah participated in a public Criminology and Forensics book club, which she hopes will function alongside the Criminology Club. Other exciting plans that are being made include establishing a members' newsletter, creating a prison pen pal program, organizing documentary film showings, and fundraising for several affiliated local non-profit agencies.

GLI: "Who Am I? Identity and the Social World"

This fall, as part of the Global Leadership Initiative, the Sociology Department offered "Who Am I? Identity and the Social World," an interdisciplinary seminar taught by Professor Kuipers. This course focuses on two key social psychological concepts—identity and identification—and their relationship to behavior.

"Who am I?" is not the typical Sociology course in that it draws on non-sociological literature to illustrate sociological concepts. Students read *Winter Wheat* by Mildred Walker as they discuss how identities are shaped by place and family. The book focuses on a young woman growing up on a dryland wheat farm in central Montana in the early 1940's, and how her identity is strengthened when she goes east to college. Students read and discuss James Welch's *Winter in the Blood* about a young, Native American man's search for identity in his ties to his ancestors and family. *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka draws on the story of "picture brides" coming to the U.S. from Japan to meet their husbands and the identity they share. These considerations are linked to discussion on shared identity as Americans in a global society.

Students particularly enjoy examining their own personal identities by creating genograms, charts diagraming the biological, cultural, and interpersonal relationships among family members across several generations. Students also collect ethnographic data on someone who is from a different culture than their own and share results in two exciting sessions of IGNITE talks, where each student gives a 5-minute presentation using 20 Power point slides. It takes practice to time one's talk to match the slides. And students experience a lot of satisfaction presenting. They learn about how others see them and about the social construction of American identity.

Social Sciences Research Lab Remodel

After years of careful planning, the Social Sciences Research Laboratory (SSRL) is being remodeled. The lab, directed by Dr. Burfeind of Sociology, serves as a shared research space for the social sciences. The renovations, made possible by a recent grant through the Department of Anthropology, began during winter session, and are moving along quickly.

Chuck Harris, the Systems Administrator of the SSRL, envisions that the remodel will provide space for new hardware, including a Breuchmann 3D scanner, obtained through a grant from the National Science Foundation, and a smaller classroom area with facilities to accommodate video-conferencing, or to serve as a space to record lectures and demonstrations. The renovated area will also include the office space for Jodi Todd, CHS Dean's office Grant Support Specialist. We hope that the remodel of the SSRL will be completed during Spring Semester.

Faculty Updates:

- **Robert Balch:** Professor Emeritus Balch presented his paper, "Crises of Charismatic Legitimacy and the Genesis of Extreme Behavior: The Case of Heaven's Gate," at the October conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Indianapolis. Dr. Balch also made an appearance at the American Academy of Religion in San Diego in November, where he gave a short talk on Heaven's Gate, and participated in two informal sessions with representatives of the FBI, one on Heaven's gate and the other on the Aryan Nations.
- **Jackson Bunch**—Dr. Bunch has had two articles accepted for publication this year: he acted as the lead author of an article appearing in *Criminal Justice and Behavior* (co-authored with Jody Clay-Warner and Jennifer McMahon), and as second author of an article that was accepted for publication in *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* (co-authored with Katie James and Jody Clay-Warner). In collaboration with Dr. Dusten Holist, Dr. Bunch is working on four federally funded research grants, and awaiting a determination on three proposals. Dr. Bunch, along with other members of the Criminology Research Group, has been involved with in developing a victim survey, intended to assist the Missoula Police Department with responses to sexual assaults.
- **Kathy Kuipers**—Dr. Kuipers published an article with co-author, Laura Obernesser in the *American Sociologist* (Volume 45, Issue 2) titled "Challenges in Governance for the PSA as a Regional Sociological Association."
- **Daisy Rooks**—Last summer, Dr. Rooks was invited to participate in the Mansfield Center's Project on American Democracy and Citizenship, a convention for secondary school teachers from an array of

countries, who spent several weeks in Missoula learning about American culture, politics and education. Professor Rooks delivered the lecture, "The Transformative Potential of Experiential Education in Montana and Beyond." Dr. Rooks attended a scholarly writing retreat at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, where she worked on an article about labor-environmental coalitions in rural areas that she is co-authoring with Diane Matthews (former UM Sociology M.A.).

Two of Dr. Rooks' papers were recently accepted for publication: "Becoming a 'Pusher': Gender and Personal Transformation during Union Recognition Campaigns", (co-authored with Robert A. Penney) will be forthcoming in *Working USA*, and "Brilliant, Bored or Badly-Behaved?: Media Coverage of the Charter School Debate in the U.S.", which Dr. Rooks co-authored with Carolina Bank-Munoz, will be forthcoming in the *Teachers College Record*.

- **Teresa Sobieszczyk**— Dr. Sobieszczyk's paper, "'Good' Sons and 'Dutiful' Daughters: A Structural Symbolic Interactionist Analysis of the Migration and Remittance Behavior of Northern Thai International Migrants," is being published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2015, as a part of a peer-reviewed book, *Transnational Labour Migration, Remittances and the Changing Family in Asia*, edited by Lan Anh Hoang and Brenda Yeoh. She presented versions of that paper at the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast Conference in Portland, and as an invited paper at the International Workshop on Transnational Labor Migration, Remittances, and Changing Family Structures and Relations in Asia, held at the National University of Singapore.



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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