Welcome again from high atop Mt. Oread!

Universities engage the world at every level, from health crises to climatic turbulence, from physics and engineering to linguistics and child development. Yet institutionally, they remain oases of stability. How many businesses last more than a century? The University of Kansas, which is now celebrating its sesquicentennial – 150 years of continuous public service – is older than unified Germany, which was founded in 1871 by Prussia, Bavaria, and other German-speaking provinces which formerly had been independent. KU is significantly older than General Electric, Chrysler, and Exxon. That stability is precious.

Kansas Sociology has also been very stable. When I joined the Sociology Department in 1990, we were commemorating our centennial as a department. Ours, in fact, was the first sociology department ever founded – a fact that reflects the singular role played by the Midwest in the history of sociology as a discipline. While Wisconsin and Chicago have been centers of social inquiry for significantly more than a century, Harvard did not have a sociology-like department until 1931. The history of academic sociology in England dates to the ’60s. But universities in the Midwest, mindful of the social problems that came with the explosive growth of cities and industries along the Great Lakes and the Mississippi, have explored social issues since the 19th century. When I taught our large introductory course “Elements of Sociology” for a decade early in this century, I was able to assign my students a chapter from a text written for that very course by our founding chair Frank Blackmar in 1905 – not for nostalgia’s sake, but because Prof. Blackmar’s analysis remains relevant.

Where does Kansas Sociology stand now? On solid ground. I am pleased to report that, 125 years into our history, KU Sociology is stronger than ever. As you will see from the individual faculty profiles that appear elsewhere in this newsletter, our 20+ faculty members are extremely active as scholars, teachers, and mentors. As representatives of the discipline that takes the entire social world as its province – with the goal of finding concrete solutions to our problems – we are active globally and locally, from Azerbaijan to Uzbekistan, from Baldwin to Wichita.

Our capacity for practical scholarship of this kind was recognized, and greatly enhanced, by the appointment in the spring of our two new Foundation Professors, Drs. Cecilia Menjivar and Victor Agajanian. (See the excerpts, inside, from the press releases that announced their appointments.) These distinguished scholars, who are among KU’s five newly appointed Foundation Professors, will inaugurate and coordinate a new center for the study of immigration and social justice at KU. The research produced by this center will complement and extend the scholarship in related fields that is already generated by KU Sociology faculty and by many of our gifted graduate students.

I am also pleased to announce that, effective this year, a new endowed professorship, the Paul Gibbons Roofe and Helen Waddle Roofe Professorship in Sociology, will be awarded annually to pairs of qualified senior faculty members in the Sociology Department. In 2015-16 this professorship – the intent of which is to support high-caliber scholarship by established faculty members – will be held by Professors Joane Nagel and Robert J. Antonio. Both Joane and Bob, as it happens, are studying climate change, which they have pursued steadily and productively for a good many years now.

Our future. Society at large is facing acute challenges, from inequality and economic malaise to the escalating sectarian insurgencies in Africa and the Middle East.
Message from the Chair

Locally and regionally, fiscal crisis is ever more challenging. The consequence is that many vital needs are unmet and many new problems have arisen. Sociology has a role to play in situations of this kind. Our continuing ability to play that role is not something we take for granted. We invite you to join us as we consider how to think and act most effectively with the resources at our disposal.

Here’s to another good year!

Yours sincerely,

David

Cecilia Menjívar

Specialist on Central American-US Migration joins KU as Foundation Professor

LAWRENCE — A variety of push-and-pull influences — violence, politics and economics — contribute to migration and human mobility. Now, a leading scholar of international migration will bring her expertise to the University of Kansas as a Foundation Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Menjívar’s research focuses on Central American migration to the U.S. and the effects of legal, social and economic exclusion on immigrants’ lives. She also looks at the consequences of the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border for those who risk their lives to cross it. Her fieldwork in Guatemala has led her to write about the effects of various forms of political violence and state terror — institutional, structural, political and gender — on the social realms of Guatemalan women.

Dr. Menjívar will co-lead the creation of a new KU center focusing on migration and social justice. She now serves on a panel convened by the National Academies of Science and the National Research Council that is writing a report on the state of immigrant integration in the United States today.

Menjívar is a prolific author. Two of her six books (Enduring Violence: Ladina Women’s Lives in Guatemala and Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America) have won numerous awards, and she has written over 90 articles and book chapters. The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, she is an active member of many editorial boards and professional organizations, including the American Sociological Association, for which she currently serves as vice president.

Menjívar earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees (the latter in international education) from the University of Southern California. She also earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in sociology from University of California, Davis.

Victor Agadjanian

Expert in migration, population health to join KU as foundation professor

LAWRENCE — A world-class demographer whose work illuminates the effects of migration on health will join KU as a Foundation Distinguished Professor. Victor Agadjanian, who was formerly a distinguished professor and founding director of Center for Population Dynamics at Arizona State University, studies demographic aspects of social change in sub-Saharan Africa, the former Soviet Union and Latin America. His research, funded by a variety of agencies, addresses diverse themes, including the causes and consequences of migration; issues of reproduction and reproductive control; HIV and AIDS prevention; gender relations and religious practices. At KU, Agadjanian will co-found and co-direct a center focusing on migration and social justice studies.

Dr. Agadjanian is a prolific researcher and author who has published over 70 articles in more than 20 journals. He chaired the National Institutes of Health Advisory Committee on Priorities for Behavioral and Social Research on HIV and from 2008-2012 he served as a standing member on the NIH review panel on the Social and Behavioral Consequences of HIV/AIDS.

Agadjanian has been a visiting professor and scholar at several international institutions, including Yerevan State University, Armenia; Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique; Institut National d’Études Démographiques, France; and La Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, France. He earned a bachelor’s degree in African studies and Swahili from Moscow State University in Russia, a master’s degree in sociology and applied demography from the University of Southern California and a doctorate in sociology, also from the University of Southern California.
Faculty Activities

Victor Agadjanian directed the Women’s Leadership Program in the Republic of Armenia, a three-year USAID funded project. Implemented in partnership with Yerevan State University, Armenia’s flagship public university, the program sought to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in Armenia by introducing novel university curricula, conducting high-quality policy-focused research, and deploying various outreach activities. As part of the program, Victor led the design and implementation of Armenia Gender Barometer Survey, the first nationally representative survey on gender views, attitudes, and inequalities. He also directed an NIH-funded project titled “Behavioral and institutional barriers to HIV prevention among migrant women in Russia” which involved surveys of female migrants from Central Asia in two large Russian cities. In addition, he coordinated the fourth wave of a longitudinal study of the effects of men’s labor migration on non-migrating household members’ wellbeing and risks in rural Mozambique.

Sandra Albrecht continues her research on gender and the labor movement, focusing on the right to strike.

Bob Antonio’s “Is Prosumer Capital Rising?” appeared this summer as part of a symposium on George Ritzer’s work in The Sociological Quarterly. Bob and Brett Clark completed The Climate Divide in Social Theory for ASA sponsored Climate Change and Society, which will appear later this year. Bob and Brett are now collaborating on another piece for The Cambridge Handbook of Social Theory. Bob contributed an essay to a review symposium in Contemporary Sociology on Thomas Piketty’s Capital in the 21st Century, had his “Piketty’s Pessimistic Bestseller” appear in Discover Society, and recently completed another piece: “The Piketty Thesis and the Environmental Wall: Rentier Society or Post-Carbon Democracy” for a collection on Piketty, The 21st Century, and the Critiques of Inequality. Bob completed extensive revisions of his Marx and Nietzsche essays in the new edition of the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia Of Sociology, published a review essay on Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen’s American Nietzsche, and is currently working on an essay on immanent criticism for the Handbook of Critical Theory. Bob continues to enjoy his undergraduate teaching, and had an especially fine group of graduate students in his spring Modern Social Theory Seminar, who made teaching fun and who were reminiscent of so many excellent students and people who have taken the course in the past four decades.

Kelly H. Chong has been engaged a wide variety of research, teaching, and service activities in the academic year 2014-2015. She recently had a peer-reviewed article, entitled “Asianess Under Construction: The Contours and Negotiation of Pan-Asian Identity/Culture among InterEthnically Married Asian Americans” accepted for publication in the journal Sociological Perspectives. She has just completed a co-authored journal article entitled “New Traditional Man: The Construction and Definitions of Asian-American Masculinity.” She is currently working on the manuscript of her book project Love Across Borders: Asian Americans and the Politics of Intermarriage and Family-Making. During the 2014-2015 academic year, Prof. Chong has been a member of two Distinguished Book Prize Committees for ASA: the Sex and Gender Section and the Asia/Asian-American Section. In April 2015, she also participated in a week-long intensive seminar called “Psychology of Patriarchy,” sponsored by SSRC, held at the School for Advanced Research (SAR) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The papers from the seminar will result in a collected volume published by SAR. She also has a paper forthcoming in an edited volume called The Anthropology of Global Pentecostalism and Evangelicalism, published by NYU. For 2015-2016, Prof. Chong has been selected as a Senior Administrative Fellow at KU. She has also been elected the Secretary of the newly formed Asian/Asian-American Faculty and Staff Council at KU. She will be continuing in her capacity as the Director of Graduate Studies of the Sociology Department.

Lynn Davidman, in November, 2014, published her book, Becoming Un-Orthodox with Oxford University Press. The book has received a great deal of media attention: it has been featured in NY MAG-Science of Us, the Huffington Post, the New Republic, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Publisher’s Weekly, and it was also picked up by Le Monde in Paris, and a few other European papers. Last week she appeared on cable TV, in an interview focused on her book. Princeton University’s Center for the Study of Religion featured an author-meets-critics
Faculty Activities

Session on the book on November 12, 2014; a similar session was held at the annual Society for the Study of Religion meetings. In the fall of 2015 Lynn is on sabbatical and has been invited to spend it at the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University.

Brian Donovan's book, *Respectability on Trial: Sex Crimes in New York City, 1900-1918*, is on track to be published by State University of New York Press in 2016. The book examines sex crime trials in New York City during the so-called “First Sexual Revolution.” Donovan uses over 16,000 pages of trial transcripts to illuminate the clash between older and emergent notions of sexual respectability during a volatile period in U.S. cultural history.

Prof. Donovan at the 2015 Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony

David Ekerdt was fortunate in having had leaves from teaching thanks to the E. Jackson Baur Professorship as well as a spring sabbatical. The time was put to use preparing a new paper with Sociology PhD student Aislinn Addington based on their research about the selling of belongings by older adults as they relocate (*Journals of Aging Studies*). Other publications included a chapter in the *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology* outlining a life-course theory of possessions as a “material convoy”; a paper, “Gerontology in Five Images,” about integrating multidisciplinary content when teaching about aging (*The Gerontologist*); and a paper on retirees’ use of routines to solve the task of time use after retirement (*Ageing & Society*). The sabbatical afforded opportunities to spend time with research partners in Hong Kong and in Germany who are collaborating on a multi-method study of elders’ views of time and the future, a project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. Dave also stepped up his public teaching with a course on the politics of Social Security for KU’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and he presented during CLAS Mini College offerings for alumni in January (about longevity) and June (about aging and possessions).

Shirley A. Hill took a giant step in the Fall 2014 semester ... into phased retirement! She spent that semester teaching medical sociology on the Edwards campus and is now developing her first online class—Wealth, Power, and Inequality—to be taught next fall. Bringing together her long-standing interests in families and medical sociology, Shirley is currently working on a book on health practices and health care in African American families. A chapter of that book will be presented this summer at the Association of Black Sociologists meeting. She is also pleased to have co-authored extended encyclopedia articles with Professor Tracey LaPierre and graduate student Emily Jones on the status of women in the field of medicine, and with graduate student Andrea Gomez-Cervantes on politics and families. Shirley serves on the American Sociological Association’s Minority Fellowship panel, the University of Kansas Sabbatical Leave Committee, and is library liaison for the Department of Sociology.

ChangHwan Kim has published three journal articles in the past academic year, “Are Asian American Women Advantaged? Labor Market Performance of College Educated Female Workers” (with Yang Zhao) in *Social Forces*; "New Color Lines: Racial/Ethnic Inequality in Earnings among College Educated Men" in *The Sociological Quarterly*; "Interregional Mobility and Socioeconomic Status in South Korea since 1990: An Analysis Focusing on the Seoul Capital Area" in *Korea Journal of Population Studies*; and one book chapter titled "The Generational Differences in Socioeconomic Attainments of Korean Americans" in Second-Generation Korean Experiences in the United States and Canada, edited by Pyong Gap Min and Samuel Noh. Currently he is working on a conditionally accepted paper by *Sociology of Education*. Over this summer, he will wrap up two research projects funded by the National Institute of Health and the Spencer Foundation. Kim will organize a one-day mini-conference on Korean society one day before ASA. He is currently serving as President of the Association of Korean Sociologists in America. In the next academic year, Professor Kim will be on sabbatical leave. He will visit South Korea for his research on labor market inequality in South Korea which is funded by the General Research Fund at KU.

Prof. Shirley Hill with Doctoral graduate Carrie Wendel-Hummell, May 2015!
**Faculty Activities**

**Cecilia Menjívar** is starting as faculty member in the Department in Fall 2015. In this past year she published several articles, including some with current or former students, such as “Bound by Inequality: The Social Capital of Older Asian and Latinos in Phoenix, Arizona” with Haruna Fukui (Ethnography); “The Context of Return Migration: Challenges of Mixed-status Families in Mexico’s Schools” (Ethnic and Racial Studies) with Dulce Medina; and “Medicalization of Emotionality in DTCA: Techniques Used to Expand the Antidepressant Market” (Sociological Inquiry) with Jennifer Arney. She co-edited a special issue of the American Behavioral Scientist (with Elizabeth Aranda and Katharine Donato), “The Spillover of Immigration Law,” and co-edited the book (with Daniel Kanstrom), Constructing Immigrant Illegality: Critiques, Experiences, and Responses (Cambridge University Press). Also, the Spanish version of her book, Enduring Violence: Ladina Women’s Lives in Guatemala, was published in Guatemala. Menjívar received a John S Guggenheim Fellowship to write a book based on her research on immigration to Phoenix, and spent a week as a visiting scholar in the Center for Gender & Leadership, Yerevan State University, Armenia. She gave the 2015 Albert Morris Lecture in the Department of Sociology, Boston University, and presented her research on state responses to gender violence in Honduras at a special panel of the Latin American Association Meetings in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She received the 2015 Public Sociology Award from the ASA International Migration Section. And in August 2014 she began a term as Vice-President of the ASA. One of her duties in this capacity is to introduce ASA President Paula England for her presidential address at the 2015 meetings in Chicago.

**Joane Nagel’s** book, Gender and Climate Change: Impacts, Science, and Policy, is being published with Routledge this fall. The book examines the ways that climate change differentially affects men and women and the role of masculinity and militarism in climate science and policy. Her research for this book has led to her next project on the military funding of U.S. science; a paper outlining her preliminary findings, “The Militarization of American Science,” will be presented at the 2015 ASA annual meeting, and she recently published a paper on this topic in Peace Review, “Gender, Conflict, and the Militarization of Climate Change.” This is the last year for Joane’s Kansas NSF EPSCoR project on “Climate Change in Indigenous Communities,” a collaboration with Haskell Indian Nations University designed to foster and support tribal college students’ graduate studies in STEM disciplines.

And finally, shifting for a moment into the first person, this last year has been a difficult one for me. My dear husband of 32 years, Mike, died unexpectedly from a heart attack in July 2014. Many of you met Mike, and many have sent condolences. Your words of support and sympathy have meant so much to me. Thank you.

**Mehrangiz Najafizadeh** has been continuing her research on gender issues and just completed another period of summer fieldwork in the Republic of Azerbaijan. During the past academic year, she continued to be active in various aspects of KU’s area studies programs including the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Center for Global and International Studies. During fall semester 2014, Mehrangiz was the recipient of two University teaching awards: the Mortar Board Outstanding Educator Award from the Torch Chapter of the Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society, presented by Chancellor Gray-Little in November, and the University of Kansas Panhellenic Association Faculty Member of the Month. During the year, Mehrangiz presented a research paper, in absentia, at the conference “Intersections of History and Literature in Central Asia” in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, a second research paper on gender and religion in Soviet Azerbaijan at the Thirty—Second Third World Studies Association Conference in Denver, and a third research paper on the portrayal of Azeri women in late 19th and early 20th century Azerbaijan at the 24th Annual Conference of the Global Awareness Society International in Philadelphia. Mehrangiz also continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia). Finally, Mehrangiz published an article, “Poetry, Azeri IDP/Refugee Women, and the Nagorno-Karabakh War” in the spring issue of the Journal of Third World Studies and an extensive entry (9,048 words), “Sources and Methods: Azerbaijan, Women and Social Change in the Post-Soviet Period,” in the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures.

**Prof. Najafizadeh conducting research on gender and social change in Azerbaijan, Summer 2015**
Faculty Activities

Ebenezer Obadare received contracts for two new books. The first, forthcoming from University of Rochester Press, is titled Repertoires of Dissent: Humor, Silence and Civil Society in Nigeria. The second, to be published by Palgrave-Macmillan, is a co-edited volume (with Wale Adebanwi of the Program in African-American and African Studies, University of California, Davis) titled Governance and the Crisis of Rule in Contemporary Africa: Leadership in Transformation. Professor Obadare also published several journal articles, book chapters and review essays, including “Sex, Citizenship and the State: Islam, Christianity, and Emergent Struggles over Intimacy in Nigeria” Review of African Political Economy, 42/143: 62-76 (2015). His “The Muslim Response to the Pentecostal Surge in Nigeria: Prayer and the Rise of Charismatic Islam,” which draws on material from his SSRC-funded study of convergences and fusions between Pentecostal and Islamic prayers and other devotional forms in the western part of Nigeria, will appear in Journal of Religious and Political Practice in spring 2016. Professor Obadare’s current project is a study of the social visibility and political influence of Pentecostal pastors in Africa. The project, which will see him undertake field research in Nigeria and Ghana respectively, is supported by a grant from the Kroc International Institute, University of Notre Dame.

Jarron Saint Onge continued to publish on social determinants of health including two recent papers related to social stress and health behaviors. One paper examined the role of social stressors on home smoking rules for recent mothers while the other examined how health behaviors such as smoking and alcohol use serve as important factors in the relationship between depression and mortality. He recently presented papers at the Population Association of America and at the Southern Demographic Association with graduate students Kyle Chapman and Natalie Jansen. He is currently working on a funded project examining county-level health disparities within the greater Kansas City metropolitan region. Saint Onge recently participated in the KU-University of Costa Rica (UCR) Collaborative Faculty Seminar in San Jose, Costa Rica, sponsored by KU International Programs. Along with a small group of KU researchers, Saint Onge discussed and planned collaborative projects and identified future areas for potential collaboration, student exchange, and intersecting research interests. Specifically, he spent time meeting with groups of public health and population scientists discussing research in key areas of aging, health care, and health disparities.

David Smith enjoyed his third year as Chair of the Sociology Department and his second year as a member of the Provost’s Advisory Board for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. He published two journal articles and a book review: “The Adventures of Professor Piketty,” illustrated by Tom Johnson (Critical Sociology, March 2015); “Prometheus Unchained” (a review-essay in Dialectical Anthropology, June 2015); and “Harold L. Wilensky, American Political Economy in Global Perspective” (Contemporary Sociology, July 2015). A third journal article and two book chapters were also accepted for publication: “Profit Maxims” (forthcoming in Current Perspectives in Social Theory, 2015); “Charisma and the Spirit of Capitalism” (forthcoming in The Anthem Companion to Max Weber, 2015); and “Capitalism’s Future” (forthcoming in a Brill Publishers anthology of the same name, 2015). Smith also delivered a keynote address to the fourth annual “New Directions in Critical Theory” symposium at Iowa State University (on Greece and the crisis of the eurozone), and he presented papers at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association and the Midwest Sociological Society. In July 2015, Smith presented two papers on authoritarianism to the annual meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology, one of which was co-authored by Professor Eric Hanley and graduate students Shane Willson and Danny Alvord.

Joey Sprague continues to explore the degree to which Sociology as a discipline and the academy more broadly are organized by gender, focusing on the role of research methodology and that of standard practices for evaluating academic work. At the invitation of a group of Canadian peace studies scholars, she has written a chapter on feminist methodology called “Getting it Right” for a forth-
Faculty Activities

coming book titled *Gender and Peacebuilding: All Hands Required* (Lexington Books). In the meantime she continues to prepare a second edition of her book, *Feminist Methodologies for Critical Researchers: Bridging Differences* (Rowman & Littlefield) and has committed to turn it over to the publisher by the summer’s end!

She gave a talk on “Evaluating Academics—Reproducing Gender,” at the University of Texas, Pan American in March where she also ran a workshop guiding faculty and administrators in critiquing the instruments they use to evaluate teaching. She has been invited to discuss “Sociology as a Gendered Institution” as part of a thematic panel at the annual meeting of the *Society for the Study of Social Problems* in Chicago this August.

Joey continues to serve as the Executive Officer of Sociologists for Women in Society, whose organizational operations are housed in the KU Sociology Department. She continues to co-edit *The Gender Lens* book series (Rowman & Littlefield) with Judith Howard, Uni-

**Bill Staples** continues to direct the Surveillance Studies Research Center within the Institute for Policy & Social Research ([http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/SSRC](http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/SSRC)). Working with a team from KU Journalism and Computer Science, they have secured research support from the Knight Foundation Challenge Grant program for a project on internet security. In addition, Bill and Adjunct Professor **Argun Saatcioglu** have been awarded a grant from the Spencer Foundation to study student information systems in schools. Graduate Students **Alex Myers** and **Jake Lipsman** serve as research and development staff for the Center. In the fall, Bill will host a research symposium on new directions in surveillance studies and once again teach a First Year Seminar for incoming KU students.

**Paul Stock** continues his work as an environmental and agricultural sociologist. This past year has been a big one as his recent edited volume, *Food Utopias: Reimagining Citizenship, Ethics and Community*, was released by Routledge in February. A new project, called Farming Lives, interviews and photographs new sustainable farmers in Kansas about their motivations and networks. This project has received funding from both KU’s Commons Starter Grant and from the Hall Center’s Collaborative Seed Grant. In collaboration with photographer Bryon Darby and designer Tim Hossler, Farming Lives will be exhibited this coming fall semester at The Commons in Spooner Hall. A book project that straddles critical sociology and photography is in the works. He has presented work this year at the Midwest Sociological Society (Kansas City), the Association of American Geographers (Chicago), and the European Society for Rural Sociology (Aberdeen, Scotland). This past spring semester, Paul also taught the very first iteration of the Sociology of Global Food course that included a lab section focused on guest speakers and field trips to local farms to discuss contemporary agricultural structures. The year concluded with a delicious pot luck!
Emeritus Faculty Activities

Lew Mennerick has continued to participate actively in the profession. In addition to conducting field research in the Republic of Azerbaijan during the summer and collaboration on university curriculum development in Azerbaijan, he is currently working on a manuscript on education and social change in twentieth and twenty-first century Azerbaijan. He also continues to be active in presenting papers and other participation in professional associations including the Association of Third World Studies.

Carol Warren, Professor Emerita, is retired in Coronado with Professor Emerita (former HDFL) Kathi Kirigin, planning and enjoying cruises and European travel, visits from family and friends, and Raft-Ups for the Coronado Cays Yacht Club. Dr. Warren continues with her historical and ethnographic research, writing, and publishing; her last full-length ethnography, “The Lotos Eaters,” is at the contract negotiation stage.

A Year in Sociology!

Fall Clark Lecture with Dr. Jennifer Glass

Donations for the Holiday Adopt-A-Family drive!

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh receiving the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society Outstanding Educator Award!

Ticket line to attend President Obama’s speech.

Paul Stock’s edited volume, Food Utopias, arrived!

President Obama visits KU, January 22, 2015!

President Obama visits KU, January 22, 2015!
Kelly H. Chong will continue as Director of Graduate Studies for the coming year. Other faculty members on the committee for 2015-2016 are Eric Hanley, ChangHwan Kim, and Mehrangiz Najaﬁzadeh. Currently, there are 3 students at the master’s level of the program and 35 students at the PhD level. We are expecting an incoming cohort of 5 students (3 Pre-MA and 2 Post-MA) this fall.

### Graduate Awards!

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<th>Award Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>E. Jackson Baur Award for Research and Study of Social Conflict and Conflict Resolution</td>
<td>Austin Charron, Geography</td>
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<td>Carroll D. Clark Award for Teaching Excellence</td>
<td>Laurie Petty</td>
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<td>Carroll D. Clark Pre-MA Award</td>
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<td>Carroll D. Clark Post-MA Award</td>
<td>Laurie Petty</td>
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<td>Carroll D. Clark Award for Professional Service</td>
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<td>Centennial Award</td>
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<td>Morris C. Pratt Research Scholarships</td>
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<td>Andrea Gomez Cervantes</td>
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<td>Ruth Stamper</td>
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<td>Morris C. Pratt Travel Scholarships</td>
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<td>Nicole Perry</td>
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<td>Carroll D. Clark Travel Award</td>
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<td>Graduate Studies Summer Research Fellowship</td>
<td>Emily Kennedy</td>
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<td>Graduate Studies Doctoral Student Research Fund</td>
<td>Brock Ternes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tinker Field Research Grant</td>
<td>David Cooper</td>
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Graduate Activities

Chelsea Bailey passed her ASD 2 in Social Inequality on Dec. 2, 2014.

Bo Cassell passed his ASD 1 in Globalization on April 6, 2015.

Nathan Collins defended his MA on May 7, 2015.

Rachel Craft reported that in Fall 2011, Sociology GTAs had a hand in distributing a survey to the Elements of Sociology students to measure students’ extent of medicinal plant use. The article on this research comparing KU and Haskell students’ use of herbals has finally been published in *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine* and is open access (courtesy of the KU Open Access Authors Fund grant). The article is available here: [http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6882/15/192/abstract](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6882/15/192/abstract).

Ilana Demantas is continuing her dissertation, which explores how gender and immigration status shape the strategies retail managers use to exercise their authority. Her co-authored publication (with Kristen Myers) titled “Step Up and Be a Man in a Different Kind of Manner: Identity Work among Unemployed Men” appeared in the most recent issue of *Sociological Quarterly*. Their other work from the project “Being ‘The Man’ Without Having a Job: Providing Care Instead of ‘Bread’” was published in the second edition of *Families as they Really Are* (edited by Barbara Risman and Virginia Rutter) in February 2015. A short write-up of their work is available via Society Pages [http://thesocietypages.org/families/2015/06/22/when-real-men-do-housework/](http://thesocietypages.org/families/2015/06/22/when-real-men-do-housework/). Aside from research and teaching, Ilana and her husband Matt spent two weeks in Lithuania and one week in England last July. They welcomed a daughter, Norah Haley, into their family in January 2015.


Melissa Irwin’s article, “Mourning 2.0—Continuing Bonds Between the Living and the Dead on Facebook,” is available online here and will be in print in the December issue of *Omega*: [http://ome.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/03/04/003022815574830.abstract](http://ome.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/03/04/003022815574830.abstract). The article was the 44th most popular *Omega* article in May, according to their website. Melissa has also had several requests from non-KU affiliated researchers and foundations to review her work for inclusion in their collections—one as far away as Australia!

Melissa completed her PhD coursework this spring, will finish her CRE this fall, and hopes to defend her dissertation proposal in the fall as well. She has also been working on several external department summer research projects, including one in Psychology and one in the Office of First-Year Experience.

Natalie Jansen defended her MA on March 9, 2015.


Alex Myers passed his ASD 1 in Social Control on Nov. 19, 2014.

Pamela Rooks passed her ASD 2 in Sociology of Organizations on April 3, 2015.

Ruth Stamper enjoyed gathering research for her master’s thesis and discovering the Missouri River after getting lost traveling to an interview with an organic farmer.
Graduate Activities


Carrie Wendel-Hummell defended her dissertation on April 28, 2015, passing with honors.

Shane Willson passed his ASD 2 in Political Sociology on Dec. 11, 2014.

Above: The graduate student organized Blackmar Lecture Series with Dr. Rebekah Burroway. November birthday cake with Prof. Nagel's Gender & Global Environmental Change Seminar

Below: The Missouri River in Lupus, MO by Ruth Stamper; MA Graduate Natalie Jansen and advisor Jarron Saint Onge; Alex Myers at the People's Climate March, NYC
Brian Donovan will continue as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the coming year. Other faculty members for 2015-2016 are Lynn Davidman, Tracey LaPierre, Emily Rauscher, and Jarron Saint Onge.

Undergraduate Awards

Sociology’s Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony honoring graduates, award & scholarship recipients, and AKD Initiates on May 15, 2015:

Graduate with Distinction
Erin Ice

Emily Taylor Center
Men of Merit
Jared Auten

Distinguished Achievement
Erin Ice
**Alumni Notes**

**Robert Futrell** continues his role as Sociology Department Chair at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The revised second edition of his book *American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movement’s Hidden Spaces of Hate* is scheduled for release in July 2015 (co-authored with Prof. Pete Si-mi, Univ. of Nebraska, Omaha). Robert is a frequent commentator on right-wing extremism for local, national, and international news outlets.

**Kevin Gotham** continues as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the School of Liberal Arts (SLA) at Tulane University. Over the last several years, he has been working with a team of researchers in southern Louisiana to study the post-Katrina rebuilding process in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Several research projects from this team effort have received funding from the NSF and the Louisiana Board of Regents. He has been on sabbatical leave from July 2014 to June 2015. Since the last KU newsletter, he has published the following works:


**Daniel Krier** received the 2015 Iowa State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Introductory Teaching Award and the 2015 Iowa State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Shakeshaft Master Teacher Award.

He also organized the 4th Symposium for New Directions in Critical Social Theory at Iowa State University in May of 2015.

**Annette Kuhlmann** is still teaching at the University of Wisconsin Colleges near Madison. Her interests in comparative criminology and punitiveness are continuing and most recently she published an article on restorative justice. Right now she is investigating drug courts and is participating in establishing one in her local county. In November she will present a paper at the American Society for Criminology meeting in Washington D.C. and would welcome hearing from any KU people who might attend.

**Michael Meacham** was nominated by the National Association of Social Workers as one of the “Top 1000” social workers. He was asked by the World Health Organization to review their diagnoses of “Philias” and “Obsessive Compulsive disorders,” and he was nominated by the American Sociological Association to review papers on religion for acceptance to present at the 2015 National Conference. He also published two papers this year. One on how the ideas of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim are very helpful in migrant Latino mental health issues and one on how to reengage the gender movement. One of his most outstanding students presented with him on problems with African American University Athletes at the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans.
We’d love to hear from you!

Please send Alumni notes, comments and changes of address to Janelle Williams at socdept@ku.edu Notes received before July 1, 2016 will be printed in the Summer 2016 edition.

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