

Think Sociology!

Thoughts from the Head

Students often enter sociology with an advocacy mission – a passion to improve the world. Sociological skills can help with that mission – critical thinking, communication, research methods, collaboration, contextualization, and so forth. Furthermore, the number of change agents...sociology graduates...continues to grow.

Of course if our world has become a better place in which to live, sociology cannot take all of the credit. But this presupposes an answer

– that our world has improved. Certainly there are dimensions along which we collectively are not better off – human-induced climate change, continued nuclear proliferation, and failed or failing societies all illustrate the point. But along a range of human rights dimensions and for millions of people things have improved dramatically over the course of the last century, especially in countries like Canada. These dimensions would include gender, race and ethnicity, age, and sexual

orientation as obvious examples.

However, in one area of human rights it is clear that very little progress has been made – inequalities related to social class. Poverty and the lives of the poor may be marginally better, but the life chances of people born into poor families in Western nations have not experienced the same gains that have been seen for most women, for many ethnic/racial minorities, or for almost anyone who is elderly.

The world could be different. Compelling examples of how social inequalities related to wealth and income can be reduced, while maintaining life styles similar to Canada, are seen in the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Further, there is strong argument that reducing these economic inequalities would help us all in struggles with global warming, arms reduction, and failed/failing societies (on the latter see Patricia Marchak's article inside).

Sociological Change and History at UBC

Change continues to define us. First came separation; now comes expansion. In the summer of 2006 a separate Department of Sociology was formed as the old unit of Anthropology and Sociology was divided. In the summer and fall of 2007 Sociology expanded by adding six new colleagues who were formerly affiliated with the School of Social Work and Family Studies. Four of these colleagues have PhDs in Sociology (Professors Lauster, Martin-Matthews, White, and Yodanis) and both Professors Johnson and Ponzetti teach and conduct research that

fits well with major themes in Sociology.

The latest expansion has several advantages – with six new scholars we grow from 16 to 22 faculty, we diversify teaching and research by adding a family focus, and we complement many existing strengths by adding depth (e.g., gender, health). New students, both undergraduate and graduate, also add to the mixture of insights and experiences in the Department. We also have a new staff member, Kristin Sopotniuk, who has moved with the students and faculty to become the Depart-

ment Head's assistant. Growth is not without challenges though. Space continues to test us, especially in an aged structure that was created by cobbling together decades-old residence dorms to create an academic building. The Arthur Erickson touches are nice but the old plumbing still steams us at times (and at other times it betrays our need for heat).

Amidst all change, seeds of stability remain. One lasting legacy of long-since graduated classes is the old composite photographs. The oldest of

these, from 1987-88, includes the portraits of Fred Lee, Louise Shaw, Catherine Walwyn, and many others. If you are out this way, stop by -- reminisce in front of these old photos or sit in AnSo 207-09 and recall the classes in Sociology 310 (Canadian Society) or Sociology 350 (Theory and Methods). Many report they are still able to conjure up refreshing images of Pat Marchak, Martin Meissner, and Bob Ratner.



**Neil Guppy,
Department Head
And Long Boater**

Inside this issue:

Human Rights and Wrongs by Patricia Marchak	2
A Graduate's Note By Niall Trainor	2
Sociology and School Shootings by Wendy Roth	3
Wesbrook Words by Kerry Watts	4
"If we had a million dollars" By Neil Guppy	5
Health and Society at UBC by Gerry Veenstra	5
Recent Publications	5
Alumni: Where are they Now?	6
Graduate Student Notes	6
Undergraduate Student Notes	6
Upcoming Events	7
Congratulations	7



Pat Marchak
tries to understand the transitions post war societies must make to arrive at a more stable condition.

Pat Marchak and “Human Rights and Wrongs”

About ten years ago I decided to move away from Canadian Political Economy (as it was then called, with “members” from all the social sciences) to an undefined field of study that had to do with state terrorism. I felt, then, that as happens in intellectual, scientific, and artistic movements CPE had exhausted its questions and the paradigm had become stale (this is unfair to those who continued with it and renewed it over the years). I had become interested in Argentina and Chile, two modern and sophisticated societies that had experienced a lengthy episode of state repression and state terrorism. My reservoir of knowledge about societies did not enable me to make sense of why these episodes occurred. So I arranged to take a couple of years away from UBC, went to live in Argentina. My husband and I (he speaks Spanish) interviewed many

people, some former teenaged guerrillas, some right-wing priests, others, “liberation theologians,” generals who had been part of the repression, and unionists who had been among its victims. That research is reported in *God’s Assassins*. I realized as I wrote that book that although I might now have some understanding of what happened in Argentina (and, later, Chile), I still did not have a larger or more theoretical understanding of why these events occurred.

This, then, was the beginning of a search that is still in progress. Two books later I am still trying to understand why human beings kill, torture and otherwise harm one another when they believe that the “others” are of an ethnic, religious, national, or racial group they do not like, or because they have different political opinions.

As well, as in a book now in press with the working title *Global Pieces* I’m trying to understand societies after their internal wars. This research involved fieldwork in Cambodia, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia (especially Bosnia and Serbia). These post-war societies are all having difficulty making a transition to a more stable condition. There is a huge literature on “transitional societies” and “transitional justice” (mostly in law and psychology) but I have not found this literature particularly helpful in formulating a theoretical understanding of why the societies went into the internal wars, what brought them out of the wars, nor how they are faring after the wars. Our North American and Western European notions keep getting in the way of genuine understanding. I meet well-intentioned people who think it is all a matter of training people

See page 4 Human



Niall Trainor
relies on skills developed in his university career to cope with the demands of his present vocation.

Notes from a Sociology Graduate by Niall Trainor, BA(1979), MA(1983)

During my days as a sociology undergraduate and then graduate student I fostered a keen interest in social psychology, research methods, the sociology of law, and the sociology of work. After completing a Master’s degree in Sociology in 1983 I coordinated a major research project pertaining to career goal development for Dr. James White (the latter now a member of the Sociology Department, but then a member of Family Studies).

After that, I landed a research project developing a youth employment program in Vancouver for the Vancouver YMCA. This led to my being hired to manage the project and from there I went on to work for the YMCA until 1992, developing and managing employment programs for workers with multiple employment

barriers. Projects included a program for street kids, minority youth, single mothers and aspiring entrepreneurs. During that period I developed a particular interest in workers with medical barriers to employment.

When I left the YMCA in 1992 I entered the private sector as a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant, conducting employability assessments and providing vocational counselling to injured workers including victims of motor vehicle and industrial accidents. In 1995 I was formally recognised in the Supreme Court of B.C. as a Vocational Expert and since then I have been providing employability assessments and expert testimony in legal matters. I now have offices in Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna.

I live in Kelowna along with my wife, Brenda, and two children, Shawn and Alison.

I remember with great fondness my days at UBC. I used to walk around the campus thinking how stressful my life was with five term papers due that month. I recall my stress-filled master’s thesis oral like it was yesterday. Now I knock off the equivalent of a term paper nearly every day and about once a month I head to Court where I get grilled on the fine points of my opinion. I owe a huge debt of gratitude for the preparation I received from great professors such as Reg Robson, Martin Meissner, Bob Ratner, Martha Foschi and Neil Guppy.

Address Corrections

Please send any address corrections to the UBC Alumni Affairs Office at alumni.records@ubc.ca or by mail UBC Alumni Association, 6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Wendy Roth and “Sociology and School Shootings”

Horrific school shootings have occurred across North America, including those at Dawson College, Columbine High School, École Polytechnique, Virginia Tech and dozens of other schools. Each new school shooting opens old wounds and forces those still picking up the pieces of their lives to relive their blackest memories.

Upon hearing of these events, my heart always goes out to the Westside community near Jonesboro, Arkansas. In March 1998, 13-year-old Mitchell Johnson and 11-year-old Andrew Golden lured their classmates and teachers out of Westside Middle School by pulling a fire alarm and opened fire on them from a nearby hillside. Four students and a teacher were killed, while 10 others were wounded.

In the summer of 2001, I lived in Jonesboro to investigate the causes and aftermath of school shootings. Responding to the rash of school shootings in the late 1990s, the U.S. Congress mandated a series of in-depth community studies to help explain why these shootings were occurring and recommend policies that might stop them. My colleagues spent their summer in Paducah, Kentucky, trying to uncover what led 14-year-old freshman Michael Carneal, in December 1997, to open fire on a prayer circle of students about to start their day at Heath High School. Carneal killed three young women and wounded five other students. Together we spoke to nearly 100 people – students, teachers, victims, parents, counsellors, law enforcement officials, and many others – to try to understand why these unthinkable tragedies occurred.

Many of those who courageously spoke with us in Jonesboro and Paducah did so because they hoped our efforts would provide lessons to other communities. As more details emerge about the Virginia Tech shooter Cho Seung-Hui, it is increasingly clear that those lessons do apply. There is

rarely any single cause of school shootings, although social marginalization, psychological vulnerabilities, ready access to firearms, and cultural scripts that fuse violence with masculinity are important elements in these crimes. But there are options for schools to detect this constellation of factors.

We found that school shooters flew under the radar of the school authorities. No one realized quite how disturbed they were because different bits of information were held by different people and no one could fit all the pieces together. One middle school teacher knew of Michael Carneal's disturbing 8th grade writings while another knew of violent incidents in her classroom. This information was not passed along to the high school to put Carneal's 9th grade writings and rule infractions in context. Different school officials at Westside knew of Mitchell Johnson's threatening writing, his disciplinary history, his self-mutilation, while school peers knew of his and Andrew Golden's threats and menacing behaviour in the neighbourhood. There are obvious reasons for institutional secrecy at schools. The education system is all about fresh starts and clean slates, and no one wants to put a 'problem child' label around kids that will influence other teachers' perceptions of them. However, there is a cost for this information loss.

At Virginia Tech, Cho's creative writing was disturbing enough that one of his teachers contacted the associate dean of students. The dean reported that she had no record of any problems and that nothing could be done. The dean's office apparently had no knowledge of other teachers' concerns voiced to their colleagues, of reports that Cho was inappropriately taking photographs of female classmates, of female students' complaints of stalking, of a Virginia court's ruling that Cho was an imminent threat to himself and others, and of his hospitalization at a mental health facility.

In thinking about how to make our schools safer, we need to consider maintaining academic, counselling, and disciplinary records across the bureaucratic boundaries of educational institutions. There is a legitimate concern for not influencing teachers' expectations, which is why student records should remain the province of counsellors and administrators, to be revealed to teachers only when a spate of troublesome behaviour raises the need for extra vigilance. Many shooters broadcast their intentions beforehand. Encouraging students who hear warnings or see worrisome signs to come forward is a crucial way to avert planned rampages, but getting students to share what they know, often violating adolescent norms against tattling, depends on maintaining their trust that adults will be able to act decisively. School counsellors need to have all the available information and the expertise to make a sound judgment of when intervention is necessary.

Following this course doesn't mean that schools need to be turned into monitoring agencies whose only intent is to ferret out the next school shooter in their midst. Even with the best of efforts, it's simply not possible to stop every student determined on carrying out violence. But investing in counselling and mental health professionals will also benefit students suffering from a wide range of mental health problems from depression and stress to suicidal ideation. Focusing on students' mental health and pooling information to detect signs of problems will help many of our students, not only those at the violent extremes.

We have much to learn from previous school shootings as well from the horrible events at Virginia Tech. I hope we can fulfill our obligations to people of Jonesboro, Paducah, Taber, and so many other communities, so that we can save others from suffering the same nightmares.



Wendy Roth is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. She is a co-author of “Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings” (Basic Books, 2004).

UBC Security

On Wednesday, January 30 UBC received what the RCMP regarded as a serious threat.

Immediately the BioSciences Building was locked down and searched. Restrictions on campus movement were imposed. In the end no violent harm occurred.

UBC continues working on communication protocols for such crises. At present we rely on email, web, and telephone to relay messages. In addition we are working on a text messaging system to alert all students.



Kerry Watts,

a fourth year Sociology Honours student was a recent winner of a Wesbrook Scholar award. Wesbrook Scholar awards are among the University's most prestigious designations, given to senior students with outstanding academics, participation in sports, leadership, and involvement in student and community activities. Kerry has been offered a Commonwealth Scholarship for her MPhil at the University of Manchester.

"Wesbrook Words" by Kerry Watts"

I'd like to begin by extending huge congratulations to the other 19 Wesbrook scholars; it is a pleasure and privilege to share this stage with such accomplished and inspiring individuals.

I'd also like to extend the most heartfelt of thanks to each and every member of the Wesbrook Society for the contributions you have made toward making UBC a place where students who have the desire can find success - in every sense of the word. In my 2 and a half years here, I have been fortunate enough to receive a number of scholarships and bursaries, all of which have greatly eased the financial strain of being a student. Without the support of donors such as yourselves, I certainly would never have been able to devote as much time and energy as I have to my studies and community-based pursuits. Being a student today is often a full-time responsibility, but for many students it is one that must also compete with other responsibilities - such as family, volunteering, paid work - not to mention the many other extra-curricular activities that make up a "well-rounded" education. Bursaries and scholarships allow us to spend less

time worrying about how we are going to afford tuition, text books, rent and food, and more time focused on our education - whatever form it takes.

The benefits of scholarships such as this are not only financial, however - although, as I am sure everyone sitting here can attest to, the money never hurts! In addition to the financial importance, awards like the Wesbrook Scholar Designation carry with them a great symbolic importance. As undergraduates, students rarely receive recognition for their efforts, aside from grades on a transcript. For myself, and I hope for the others, being recognized in this way has served as a great boon to my confidence, and has gone a long way in making all my hard work feel worthwhile. While the intrinsic rewards of doing well and getting the most out of one's education should not be dismissed, like it or not, the academic world is a competitive place, and being recognized for one's ability to succeed simply feels good. Through your contributions, each of you has played an important role in contributing to that "good feeling" for each one of us, and for the hundreds of

other students who have benefited - either directly or indirectly - from your generosity.

I'd now like to share a bit about me and my journey to this stage. I transferred to UBC from Langara College in 2004, during my second year. In May, I will graduate with an Honours degree in Sociology and a Minor in Women's Studies I returned to school 12 years after graduating high school, the mother of a two-year old daughter. That little girl is now 6 and a half, and is my greatest inspiration. Being a mother and a student has at many times been a challenge, but the experience has also helped guide me in the choices I've made, and I think in many ways has made me a better student. Particularly in my discipline, having some life experience to bring to the table is always helpful. Moreover, looking into the eyes of the next generation every day has definitely helped cement my commitment toward social change, a passion that I feel has imbued much of my academic work and driven me to actively become part of that change both inside the classroom and out.

Human Rights and Wrongs continued from page 2

Marchak

We still have much to learn before we assume the "right" or "responsibility" to save victims from the wounds inflicted by their governments, armies or revolutionaries. Sociologists can make a contribution to this learning.

to like one another. I'm of the opinion that the problem is not that simple: greed as well as grievance, deceit as well as discrimination, fear as well as fantasies, and handed-down memories of earlier hate-crimes are all mixed into the motivational ideologies that lead to genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. This is a field that demands the skills of sociologists who think in terms of social groups, social institutions, classes, social formations, history, and cultures. Too few have volunteered!

When enough countries signed on to the establishment of the International Criminal Court,

I, along with many others, rejoiced. At last we are creating international criminal law, and we are beginning to recognize that what happens in the Cambodias and Rwandas of the world is our business. But since then I've had second thoughts. Darfur is our business, but the western countries are unwilling to take action. Through NATO they took action in Kosovo and it turned out that it wasn't, as we all thought at the time, either humanitarian intervention or intervention based on solid intelligence of what was happening there. Then there was the Iraq intervention - who, today, could believe that it was a

simple humanitarian act? International relations, international politics, international sociology - we still have much to learn, it seems, before we assume the "right" or "responsibility" (as claimed by the International Commission on the Responsibility to Protect) to save victims from the wounds inflicted by their governments, armies, or revolutionaries. I think sociologists can make a contribution to this learning by enabling us to see the complexities of societies, both those that experience tragic episodes and those that boast of their ability to "save" them.

Health and Society at UBC by Gerry Veenstra

Sociologists examine health and illness at the intersections of culture, social structures and experience in an effort to inform both academic and applied issues. Some of the most prominent areas of focus by health sociologists include the following:

Social determinants of health:

Some health sociologists are concerned with studying the influence of various forms of social, political and economic inequalities on the differential distribution of health and illness within populations and among groups of individuals. An example of research in this field is the study of the many ways in which social class serves as a fundamental cause of health and disease.

The experience of health and illness:

This prominent area of sociological research with roots in phenomenology and symbolic interactionism focuses on exploring the meanings associated with experiences of health, illness and care-seeking for individuals and their families and on exploring patterns of communication between pa-

tients and their health care practitioners. Examples of research in this area include the stigmatization of those experiencing mental illness and physician-patient power dynamics.

The forms and activities of medical institutions:

Some health sociologists examine the organization of medical institutions and their role in shaping the nature and delivery of health services. This area includes a long tradition of research focused on how medical students are socialized into the medical profession as well as examinations of the culture of care settings (such as hospitals and nursing homes) and implications for the quality of care provided.

The social construction of health: Some health sociologists examine social and historical dynamics involved in the production of medical knowledge and the role of clinical and research practices in distinguishing the normal from the pathological. Examples of research in this area concern the evolution of – and common debates surrounding – new disease categories like attention deficit/hyperactivity

disorder (ADHD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as social and ethical implications of medicine's strong focus on genetic explanations for disease causation.

The UBC Department of Sociology has created three specializations in health sociology. We focus on the **social determinants of health**, i.e., using quantitative data analysis to evaluate theories regarding how social and economic inequalities correspond with inequalities in health (Carpiano, Lauster, Veenstra), the **experience of health and illness**, especially with regards to aging (Martin-Matthews), and on **health and social policy**, i.e., using qualitative methods to identify the implications of social policies for the health and well-being of various populations (Martin-Matthews, Zuberi). Faculty members in the department often collaborate with researchers and practitioners from other disciplines (e.g., epidemiology, medicine, economics, geography, nursing and public health) on research projects related to these specializations.

If we had a million dollars!

Among Canadian contributions to pop music, BnL's (Barenaked Ladies) "If I had a Million Dollars" ranks with Ian and Sylvia's "Four Strong Winds" and Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" as the best tracks ever recorded, according to CBC's 2005 version of Top 50 Tracks. That got us to thinking about how Sociology might use \$1,000,000.00.

In their million dollar tune Page and Robertson wrote about buying tree forts, with chesterfields or ottomans, about 'Dijon' ketchups and pre-wrapped sausages. Our tastes here in Sociology are slightly more pragmatic. Student scholarships remain the top priority. While students might use such funding for sausages or ottomans, it would be great to give them the financial support to make their own choices (and not have to live in 'tree forts').

Increasingly students are working part time while studying fulltime. Student debt remains a major hurdle, especially for students from working class families (see the article on page 1). Tuition fees have increased, but even more of a challenge is Vancouver's high cost of living. Scholarship support for undergraduate and graduate students allows them to devote more time to study and less time to outside employment. It can also provide them support to study abroad at one of the many campuses where UBC has a student exchange agreement.

Currently endowed scholarships targeted to sociology student's amount to about \$5,000 annually (generated from the interest on \$100,000 in endowed funds). Thankfully our endowment is growing, but the base remains too small and the pace of increase agonizingly slow. If you can help, we'd all be grateful. We'd even hum "Heart of Gold" and maybe even have a chorus of "Four Strong Winds!"

Recent Publications by Department Members

Carpiano, Richard M. 2007. "Actual or Potential Neighbourhood Resources for Health: What Can Bourdieu Offer for Improving Understandings of Social Capital Mechanisms for Health?" In Ichiro Kawachi, S.V. Subramanian, and Daniel Kim (Eds.), *Social Capital and Health* (New York: Springer).

Fuller, Sylvia. 2008. "Job Mobility and Wage Trajectories for Men and Women in the United States". *American Sociological Review* 73.1 (February 2008): 158-183

Huey, Laura and Thomas M. Kemple. 2007. "Let the Streets Take Care of Themselves: Making Sociological and Common Sense of 'Skid Row'". *Urban Studies* 44 (12) November: 2305-2319.

Mawani, Renisa. 2007. "Legalities of Nature: Law, Empire, and Wilderness Landscapes in Canada," *Social Identities*, 13 (6): 715-734.

Stoddart, Mark C.J. 2007. "Ideology, Hegemony, Discourse: A Critical Review of Theories of Knowledge and Power" in *Social Thought & Research* 28: 191-225.

Wilkes, Rima, Neil Guppy, and Lily Farris. October 2007. "Right Wing Parties and Anti- Foreigner Sentiment in Europe," *American Sociological Review*, 72: 831-40.

Yodanis, Carrie & Sean Lauer. 2007. "Managing Money in Marriage: Multilevel and cross-national effects of the breadwinner role",

Journal of Marriage and Family 69, 1308-1326.

Yodanis, Carrie & Sean Lauer. 2007. "Economic inequality in and outside of marriage: Individual resources and institutional context," *European Sociological Review* 23, 573-583.

Young, Nathan and Ralph Matthews. 2007. "Resource economies and neo-liberal Experimentation: The reform of industry and community in rural British Columbia", *AREA: Journal of the Royal Geographical Society/ Institute of British Geographers*. 39 (2): 176-185.

Alumni: Where are they now?

Krishna Pendakur (1989) completed his Honours degree in Sociology at UBC in 1989, and went on to get an MA in Economics at UBC in 1990, then to a one-year stint in our nation's snowy capital, and then a PhD in Economics at Berkeley (1994). After that, he came home to beautiful Vancouver and has been a member of the Economics Department at SFU ever since. He does research on the measurement of poverty, inequality, the cost of living, the cost of

children, discrimination, diversity and ethnically-based economic disparity. For the last year, he has been co-director of Metropolis British Columbia. MBC is an interdisciplinary center focused on policy-relevant research in the areas of immigration and ethnic diversity.

Katherine Marshall (1981) Katherine graduated from UBC in 1981 and followed up with an MA in Canadian Studies (Women's Studies) at Carleton University.

For most of her career at Statistics Canada she has written and published research for the flagship publication *Perspectives on Labour and Income*. The topics have been wide ranging and interesting - from problem gambling to converging gender roles to paid and unpaid work. It is a great job. She thinks even her son at Dalhousie was impressed when he found several references to his mother's research (part-time employment, household labour) in his first year sociology text!



Graduate Student's BBQ welcomes new Sociology and Family Studies students.

The Graduate Student Council of Sociology:

Message from the Graduate Presidents

This year the Graduate Students Council of Sociology (GSCS) kicked off the academic year with a BBQ. This festive event was the perfect end to a great day of presentations, discussions, and of course Sociology Jeopardy. It was also the perfect opportunity to welcome new Sociology and Family Studies graduate students to the department and introduce them to some of the more seasoned grads.

The GSCS was successful in its bid for more representation, increasing the number of graduate student representatives from one to two at the departmental meetings. Also, many students have volun-

teered their time and energy by joining department committees, the mentorship program and other service committees across the university. This demonstrates the deep commitment graduate students have to the department and more broadly, post-secondary education.

We have also been working hard at socializing and making our department into a community. We had a successful glow in the dark bowling night in the fall term for all Sociology and Family Studies graduate students. Most recently we held a movie night in the Graduate and Faculty Lounge with pizza. It was a great time to enjoy

Attention Sociology Alumni!

The Sociology Department would like to keep in touch with you electronically. With your email address we will be able to send your newsletters via e-mail and keep you informed about departmental events such as the Sociology Seminar Series. Reply to us at socihead@interchange.ubc.ca

Are you interested in appearing in our "Where are they now?" feature? If so please email a short bio to the sociology department at the same address as above.

the evening on campus and relax with colleagues.

As we look to the spring and summer, there is excitement about executive elections and talk of planning for another excellent conference for late summer or early fall. Overall, this was a great year and we wish all the incoming and graduating students success in the future and increased fortitude for those pressing forward in their program.

Katy-Ann Legun and Rachael Sullivan Co-presidents, GSCS

In September students and faculty combined to enter a sociology team in the 'Day of the Longboat' races. The best sociology team there!



Undergraduate Student Notes

Message From Undergraduate Presidents **Meena Sharma & Katherine Lyon**

One full year since the split of the former ANSO Department, the sociology undergraduate student body has become an independent and thriving entity. With the support of the UBC Sociology Department, the Sociology Students Association (SSA) is committed to building a dynamic undergraduate community, providing students with crucial academic and career resources, and enhancing communication networks between sociology students, faculty, alumni and

community contacts.

With the recruitment of over 30 new students during the September 'Clubs Days', the SSA now has a total of 80 active members. In an effort to strengthen department spirit and encourage interaction beyond the classroom, the SSA entered a sociology team in UBC Rec's September 'Day of the Longboat' races. A courageous team of faculty and students battled the elements as well as the

other teams during this fun-filled event.

In October, the SSA combined forces with the UBC Sociology Department and the Centre for Arts Student Services to host 'Futures with Sociology'. This well-attended event provided students with valuable insights into graduation requirements and post-graduation career strategies. The graduate school information lunch

Events in the Sociology Department

Seminars and Workshops

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 11:30 – 1:00pm

Our presentation series alternates between outside invited speakers and workshops allowing members of the department to share and receive feedback on their work.

Nov. 6, 2007

Seminar: John Myles,
University of Toronto, AnSo 134

Nov. 20, 2007

Workshop: Wendy Roth,
AnSo 2107

Dec. 4, 2007

Seminar: Amy Hanser,
AnSo 134

Jan. 8, 2008

Seminar: Becky Pettit,
University of Washington, Seattle,
AnSo 134

Jan. 15, 2008

Workshop: Renisa Mawani,
AnSo 2107

Jan. 17, 2008

Seminar: Michele Lamont
Harvard University
AnSo 2107

Feb. 26, 2008

Workshop: Amy Hanser,
AnSo 2107

March 4, 2008

Seminar: Emily Barman,
Boston University,
AnSo 134

March 13, 2008

Seminar: Ann Laura Stoler,
Willy Brandt
Distinguished University Professor
of Anthropology and Historical
Studies, New School for Social
Research, Location TBA

March 18, 2008

Workshop: Rima Wilkes, AnSo
2107

April 1, 2008

Jamie Peck,
University of Wisconsin, Madison,
Departments of Sociology & Geog-
raphy,
AnSo 2206



**Information about the
Sociology Seminar
Series may be found at:
www.soci.ubc.ca/**

Thank you to our generous donors

Recent UBC donations made by Sociology folk:

Fernando Alves,
Eva Chen,
Rich Carpiano,
Catherine Corrigan-Brown,
Robert Doll,
Neil Guppy,
Tom Jensen,
Janice Macrae,

Peter Maidstone,
John Mitchell,
Cam Mowatt,
Dan Mulligan,
Lorne Newton,
Ben Parkin,
John Sutcliffe,
Gloria Webster,

Congratulations

Among the many accomplishments of Department members, here are a few illustrations of successes:

Richard Carpiano has received the *Health Research Careers Scholar Award* from the Michael Smith Foundation (\$80,000 for each of six years). Dr. Carpiano received this award for his research on how the social conditions of local communities impact the health and well-being of residents.

Wendy Roth has received the *American Sociological Association 2007 Dissertation Award*. Roth completed this year's outstanding dissertation on the impact of migration on racial identities.

Dan Zuberi has been awarded the *Michael Harrington Book Award* by the New Political Science section of the American Political Science Association for his book, *Differences that Matter: Social Policy and the Working Poor in the United States and Canada*.

Sylvia Fuller with her co-authors presented two papers at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.

Clare Hacksel (2007), has accepted an offer to pursue her Masters of Science degree in Comparative Social Policy at Oxford University next fall. After completing her degree she has been work-

Plus several anonymous donations

We wish to acknowledge the generous donations of time and/or money made by members of our Sociology community.

ing at Big Brothers in East Vancouver.

Nathanael Lauster gave an illustrated talk that explores the evolving relationship between housing and family formation, especially focusing on how reduced access to housing might limit transitions into parenthood.

The talk took place Wednesday, March 5 at 6 pm; the event was part of the ongoing *artsWednesdays* at UBC Robson Square series, which brings innovative speakers, their work and ideas, to downtown Vancouver. All are welcome to attend the 50-minute presentations at 800 Robson St.

Family Studies Merger

Family Studies has merged with Sociology. In the future students wishing to pursue a focus on the family will be able to do so through a BA major in Sociology or via the Family Studies minor.

For students already in the process of pursuing a Family Studies major FMST courses will be available so students can complete their coursework over the next two academic years. After 2010 several of the FMST courses will be left in the calendar and taught on a regular basis in future years. Other FMST courses will be changed to Sociology courses and will be available to students as part of a Sociology focus on the family.

Welcome to the Family Studies Faculty Professors:
Phyllis Johnson,
Nathanael Lauster,
Jim Ponzetti,
Anne Martin-Matthews,
James White and
Carrie Yodanis.

Department of Sociology, UBC

6303 N.W. Marine Drive
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6T 1Z1

Phone: 604-822-3670
E-mail: guppy@interchange.ubc.ca
www.soci.ubc.ca



Think Sociology!



The Best Sociology Longboat Team !

Undergrad Students continued from page 6

was our next event. It featured a panel of UBC Sociology professors who provided first-hand experience about the graduate school application process.

In November, the SSA hosted a bake sale featuring delicious treats and our newly designed UBC Sociology hooded sweatshirts. On November 7th the SSA launched the first of our monthly series, 'Analyzing Pop-Culture through a Critical Lens', featuring a controversial movie clip and insights from an expert in the field followed by a group discussion. In December the movie 'Crash' was reviewed and Dr. Bruce Baum from the UBC Political Science Department spoke. The final November event was the graduation celebration where graduating students and their families mingled with current students and profes-

sors over wine and cheese. In January, the SSA held an in-depth career event where sociology graduates working in diverse fields shared their experiences with current undergraduates.

The SSA has had an exciting start to the 2007-2008 academic year. We would like to extend an invitation to alumni to attend any of our events.

If you would like to participate in SSA initiatives or be kept up to date with SSA activities via the monthly SSA e-newsletter, please email socio@club.ams.ubc.ca or check out our facebook group (search: UBC Sociology Students Association).

We look forward to hearing from you!