Sociology is lively and prospering at Purdue. This year, we hired two exciting scholars. Dr. Patricia Thomas joins the faculty after a postdoctoral fellowship at The University of Texas at Austin. She received her PhD from Duke University in 2010. Dr. Michael Light received his PhD from Pennsylvania State University in 2013. We are strongly positioned to move forward in our research, teaching, and engagement missions. Here are four highlights:

- **Eichhorn Fellowship.** A generous gift from Diane (MS ’64) and Ronald Andersen (MS ’62, PhD ’68, HDR ’99) provided the leadership gift to establish the Robert L. Eichhorn Fellowship in Medical Sociology for a PhD student in the Department. The Fellowship honors Professor Emeritus of Sociology Robert Eichhorn as an accomplished researcher and mentor during his 35-year distinguished career as a member of the sociology faculty. This award comes from an endowment made possible by Dr. Eichhorn’s former graduate students, many of whom went on to hold professorships at top-ranked universities, including several who have held endowed chairs, served as senior administrators at some of the nation’s most visible health-related agencies, and founded and edited some top journals related to health services research. The initial gift establishing the endowment was supplemented by funds from the Graduate Endowment Match program offered by the University. The first award recipient is PhD student Lindsay Wilkinson. The award ceremony was attended by Dr. Eichhorn, his wife Sue Eichhorn and daughters Gretchen Ely and Lise Schools, and several of his former PhD students from around the country. Many other former students submitted letters describing the enduring contributions that Dr. Eichhorn made to their education and careers.

- **New Journal.** Prof. Fenggang Yang, the founding director of Department’s Center for Religion and Chinese Society, has launched a new journal. The *Review of Religion and Chinese Society* will publish articles that deepen the scholarly understanding of religion in mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, as well as the Chinese diaspora throughout the world. Graduate students will serve as editorial assistants. The first issue will appear in May 2014. It will include an exclusive interview with world-renowned sociologist Robert Bellah on religion in China and the world, which was conducted in July 2013 before his sudden death.
Continued

- **Anniversary Celebration.** The Department turned 60 years old this year. (A brief history of the founding of the Department is below.) We celebrated this milestone with a fall symposium featuring three outstanding scholars. Dr. Holly McCammon, Vanderbilt University, presented a talk on the characteristics that distinguish successful social movements. Dr. Jo Phelan, Columbia University, spoke on how recent research on genetics has changed popular beliefs about racial differences. Dr. Cecilia Ridegway, Stanford University, explored how gender inequality persists in the contemporary context, despite a host of forces that would seem to do it in.

- **Davidson Fund.** The Jim and Anna Davidson Fund for the Sociology of Religion has been established by a generous gift by the Davidsons. Jim Davidson, who specializes in the sociology of religion, served on the faculty from 1968 until his retirement in 2009. He is a prolific author (author or editor of eight books), and was highly active in the profession (past-president of the Association for Sociology of Religion.) The fund will support activities that advance the Department’s work in the Sociology of Religion and the professional careers of faculty, graduate students, or undergraduate students in that area.

We are fortunate to have a very supportive and capable staff. Marcy Jasmund and Candy Lawson manage the Department’s core administrative tasks in the front office. Heather Underwood oversees the business and financial side of the Department and Nicole Remley manages the graduate student office.

Finally, the Department gratefully thanks those of you who have contributed to the Department Fund. Your contributions allow us to pursue our teaching, scholarly, and engagement activities with greater vigor and success.

Bert Useem
The Founding of the Department

Purdue Sociology turns 60 this year. How did it get started?

In April 1917, Okel F. Hall was appointed to the faculty of the Department of Education, with the understanding that he would offer courses in the then young discipline of sociology. For the nearly twenty years that followed, Hall taught courses in sociology, including introductory sociology, rural sociology, educational sociology, and social problems. He had to battle the perception on campus that sociology and socialism are one in the same. Additional sociologists were hired, including Theodore Noss (from the University of Chicago) in 1935 and Roy Leevy (from Indiana University) in 1939. Hanna Meissner was hired in 1943, who had fled to the United States in the late 1930s to escape Nazi Germany.

In this early period, sociology had been offered in service courses to other university departments and did not have its own administrative unit. In 1947, starting with the hiring of Harold Christensen from Brigham Young University, a separate department began to develop. Additional faculty were hired and a graduate program was created. On August 20, 1953 the Board of Trustees passed a resolution giving sociology full departmental status with Professor Christensen as Head. In the same year, a Ph.D. program was approved.

Christensen built the department based upon his own sociological contributions and those of the faculty he hired. Christensen received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1941 in rural sociology. He was (and still is) widely recognized as one of the founders of the field of family studies. Christensen sought to explain variation in family configurations across cultures. He was one of the first researchers to document the sexual revolution in Scandinavia and the United States. His work on families left a legacy of work at Purdue, which continues to this day.

Several of the faculty brought to the department by Christensen in its early years went on to develop their own distinguished careers in sociology. Three stand out, not only because of their impacts on the field, but also because they established intellectual legacies in the Department.

- **Walter Hirsch** received his PhD from Northwestern University in 1966, but had joined the Purdue faculty earlier in 1947, the same year as Christensen. Hirsch’s intellectual interests were in the sociology of science, social movements, and political sociology. He wrote a classic paper on the role of science in societies captured by totalitarian social movements. He embraced interdisciplinary studies, and was active in Purdue’s graduate program in American Studies. This intellectual tradition is carried forth currently in that, political sociology/social movements is one of the Department’s signature areas; a strong American Studies program is still active in the College; a fund was established upon Hirsch’s retirement, which is awarded annually to support a graduate student writing her/his dissertation.

- **Robert Eichhorn** joined the Purdue faculty in 1954, shortly after he received his PhD from Cornell University. Eichhorn conducted groundbreaking work on the provision of U.S. health care services, leaving a legacy that continues in the work of several medical sociologists in the department.
Continued from page 3

- Robert Perrucci received his PhD from Purdue in 1962 and was hired directly into the Department by Christensen. Over his career, Perrucci developed a body of work establishing the impact of inequality on the operation of social institutions. His foci included the social organization of engineers, psychiatric wards, plant closings, and inter-organizational ties among corporations. Perrucci also made important contributions to the profession of sociology. He was president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and editor of the *American Sociologist*, *Social Problems*, and *Contemporary Sociology*. An endowment by Robert and Carolyn Perrucci created the annual Cummings-Perrucci Lecture on Class, Race, and Gender Inequality, in line with one of the Department’s signature areas of social inequality.

By the time Christensen stepped down in 1962 from his administrative duties, the Department had built a reputation for high quality scholarship and teaching.
Faculty News

James Anderson’s recent research involves a collaborate effort with: Kathleen Abramson, a Purdue Sociology graduate with a faculty appointment in the Purdue School of Nursing; faculty in the School of Information Science at the University of Victoria, B.C.; and the Vancouver Provincial Health Services’ Authority. The research is developing a computer simulation model to examine the cost-effectiveness of training nurses to utilize information technology (e.g., electronic medical records, decision support systems). He was the guest editor along with Kathleen Abrahamson of a special issue of the International Journal of Reliable and Quality E-Healthcare (URQEH) on E-health in Long Term care and Community-Based Settings.

Scott Feld’s current work includes two primary projects. In the first, he continues his research on causes and consequences of patterns in social networks. Drawing upon his earlier theoretical work on the focused organization of social ties and why your friends have more friends than you do, he is showing why college students typically have as many as 150,000 different friends of friends on Facebook. A second project focuses on the logic of causal inference. He is working to explain why classic approaches to inferring causation are not appropriate for studying consequences of a large class of “selective behaviors” like marriage, going to college, and taking a job, that are at least partially chosen by individuals in anticipation of the consequences of their own particular opportunities.

Ken Ferraro continues his research on the early origins of adult health and his development of cumulative inequality theory for understanding stratification over the life course. He serves on the editorial board of three journals: American Sociological Review, Research on Aging, and Society and Mental Health. During June, he addressed the Annual Conference of Seoul City Government, South Korea on “Reducing Health Disparities in Older Populations: Community Options and Best Practices.” Ken Ferraro, Sarah Mustillo, and Markus Schafer (2011) received the 2013 Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award from the Gerontological Society of America for their article, “Children of Misfortune: Early Adversity and Cumulative Inequality in Perceived Life Trajectories,” in the American Journal of Sociology.

Rachel Einwohner’s research on Jewish resistance during the Holocaust has been receiving international attention. Last spring she gave a paper at a conference on Jewish resistance held in Berlin on the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and she has been invited to be the keynote speaker at a conference on mobilizations in Warsaw to be held in the Polish capital in 2015. She also has a forthcoming paper, “Authorities and Uncertainties: Applying Lessons from the Study of Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust to the Milgram Legacy,” in a special issue of the Journal of Social Issues that is being edited by social psychologists in the United Kingdom. In December 2013, she was inducted into “Book of Great Teachers,” an honor given by the University once every five years for sustained excellence in teaching. Pictured below with President Mitch Daniels and Associate Provost Dale Whittaker.
Elizabeth A. Hoffmann’s research explores formal and informal dispute resolution strategies as well as people’s relationship with the law (i.e., people’s “legal consciousness”). More specifically, her scholarship examines how workplace structure affects the ways employees approach disputes at work, the intersection of private and public demands in the workplace, and how periods of war and times of peace impact people’s legal consciousness and conception of unity. She recently was awarded a Faculty Fellowship for Study in a Second Discipline to enable her to take several classes in the School of Nursing as part of her project on the right of women to pump breast milk at work. For information about Dr. Hoffmann's new book, Co-operative Workplace Dispute Resolution - Organizational Structure, Ownership, and Ideology, see: http://www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781409429241.

Michael Light joined the Department this year after receiving his PhD from Pennsylvania State University. He recently had two articles accepted for publication. The first examines the punishment consequences of citizenship status in U.S. federal courts. It is forthcoming in the American Sociological Review (with Michael Massoglia and Ryan King). The second investigates the effect of the recent foreclosure crisis on suicidal behavior. This article is forthcoming at the American Journal of Public Health (with Jason Houle). He seeks to continue his international comparative research at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany. On a personal note, Mike and his family just celebrated their daughter Evelyn’s 2nd birthday and are expecting their second child in May, 2014.

Brian Kelly, after publishing in 2013 ten journal articles on substance use, shifted his focus to studying social class, consumption, and civility within the sporting arena. Pictured (above) at the 2013 World Series in Boston with Prof Christopher Arroyo of Providence College.

Dan Olson recently completed a manuscript examining the relationship of religious diversity to religious participation. It finds that, across different areas of the U.S. and across 71 different countries, people who live in more religiously diverse areas are less religiously active than people of the same religious identity living in more religiously homogeneous areas (net of controls). Other recently accepted publications and manuscripts in progress with graduate students touch on topics such as religion and suicide in South Korea (forthcoming in Social Forces), how the religious composition of nations affects individuals’ trust of others, how belief in religious evil (the existence of demons) is related to mental health, differences in the supernatural beliefs of university students in the U.S. compared to Scandinavia, and recent shifts in the alignments of religion and political views in the U.S.
Carolyn C. Perrucci’s current projects include a study of sociology journals with Mangala Subramaniam and Robert Perrucci; her focus is on gender differences in research styles reported in published articles. Last year, she published “Employee Benefits and Policies,” Sociology and Social Welfare, with Dina Banerjee; and “Jobs for America,” in SSSP’s Agenda for Social Justice, with Robert Perrucci. Forthcoming is “The Good Society: Core Social Values, Social Norms, and Public Policy,” Sociological Forum, and “Economic Crisis and Its Effects on Hope, Trust and Caring,” in Renzetti and Bergen, Eds., Understanding Diversity, with Robert Perrucci. As Director of the Undergraduate Program, and Faculty Advisor for Alpha Kappa Delta, she has worked with our top majors to expand the membership and provide a program focusing on professional development for graduate study and employment opportunities.

Jack Spencer was awarded the Midwest Sociological Society’s Distinguished Book Award for The Paradox of Youth Violence. The book explores how we think about teenage violent offenders, often wavering between two images of this group: dangerous predators, to be controlled and restrained, or vulnerable innocents that whom society must rescue from a life of crime.

Mangala Subramaniam’s main funded research project integrates gender and social movement theory to examine HIV prevention efforts. She expanded the initial work on information dissemination to focus on one specific high risk group, female sex workers (FSW). She examines how FSWs organize and frame their rights as they participate in HIV prevention initiatives. She also has ongoing collaborative project with Robert Perrucci and Carolyn Perrucci in which they develop the concept of ‘academic social closure’ to analyze a sample of over 3000 articles published in four leading sociology journals between 1960 and 2010. They have three co-authored papers in progress. In 2012-13, she published three articles (two are coauthored), and three book chapters (one is co-authored). Through a Purdue ‘Engaging India’ grant she organized a symposium, state and social movements, in collaboration with IIT-Madras, India. Dr. Subramaniam serves as the Secretary of the American Sociological Association’s Sex & Gender section and will join the editorial board of Gender & Society starting January 2014.

J. Jill Suitor is in the fourteenth year of directing the Within-Family Differences Study, an NIH-funded panel investigation of the patterns and consequences of parental favoritism in 550 later-life families. She is planning to extend the project to include the adult grandchildren in these families, as well as a large sample of Hispanic intergenerational families in Chicago. In the past year she has served on the editorial boards of Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, The Gerontologist, and Journal of Health and Social Behavior; she recently began a term as a Deputy Editor at Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences.

Patti Thomas joined the Sociology Department at Purdue this year as an Assistant Professor after a postdoctoral fellowship at The University of Texas at Austin. Her current research pays particular attention to support and strain in social relationships and how they impact health across the life course and across race and gender. She is also involved in collaborations examining the effects of social integration on distress across the life course, the impact of relationship quality with children on parents’ physical activity trajectories, and social relationship quality as a link in chains of disadvantage in health that start with adversity in childhood. Her recent research has appeared in American Journal of Public Health, Journal of Gerontology, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, and Social Science & Medicine.
Monica M. Trieu is currently working on a number of projects. The topics of her papers currently under review and ongoing projects include: transnational patterns among the second-generation, family obligation behaviors among Southeast Asians, Burmese and Bhutanese refugee experiences, intra-ethnic othering among Asian Americans, and the Asian American Midwest experiences. She also recently published an article entitled, “The Role of Pre-migration Status in the Acculturation of Chinese-Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans,” in Sociological Inquiry.

Mike Vuolo was awarded the 2013 Junior Scholar Award from the American Sociological Association Section on Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco. He also began his first grant as principal investigator, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, in September. In 2013, articles appeared in outlets such as Pediatrics and Drug and Alcohol Dependence. The former was featured in numerous media outlets, including on the NBC Today Show. In 2014, articles are forthcoming in Journal of Research on Adolescence, Law & Social Inquiry, and British Journal of Sociology. He was also the recipient of the department’s 2012 award for teaching excellence.

Fenggang Yang has become the President-Elect of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and is scheduled to deliver his presidential address at the 2015 annual meeting (Newport Beach, California, October 23-25, 2015). The final conference of the Chinese Spirituality and Society Program (CSSP) was held on July 10-14, 2013 in Hong Kong as part of the tenth annual conference of the Social Scientific Study of Religion in China. The CSSP, directed by Professor Yang, has supported 16 research projects of various religions in China and provided training workshops for the researchers. Since May, Professor Yang has traveled twice to Asia, three times to Europe, and three times in the U.S. for conferences. He also gave a talk on “Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule” at Purdue President’s Westwood Residence, on November 19, 2013. An hour-long interview with Fenggang, discussing religions in Chinese societies, conducted by the Australian Broadcast Corporation, can be accessed with this link.
http://www.abc.net.au/radionation/programs/spiritofthings/religion-in-china/4493368

Bert Useem is the Department Head. He recently published an article (with Jack Goldstone) in Sociological Theory, “Putting Values and Institutions Back into the Theory of Strategic Action Fields.” He is working with the RAND Corporation, in a project funded by the National Institute of Justice, on strategies to reduce prison populations nationwide.
Jiayin Hu receives the CLA Alumni Outstanding Sociology Senior Award at the CLA reception/dinner.

Graduate student Candrianna Clem (second from left) is a co-recipient of the H.H. Remmers award given yearly by the African American Studies and Research Center.

2013 Awards and Honors

CLA Honors Program Outstanding Senior Award
– Dana Palombo

Departmental Honors Award
– Dana Palombo

Community Service Award
– Lindsay Markle

Outstanding Undergraduate Award
– Cody Wilson

Alumni Outstanding Senior Award
– Jiayin Hu

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper
– Jong Hyun Jung and Joy Kadowaki

Graduate Student Teaching Award
– Robert Morris
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