From the Desk of the Chair

This is our first departmental newsletter. We plan to keep our readers updated on the activities at the departmental level and those of faculty, staff and students. Please keep us updated on what you are doing. Pictures will be appreciated, send them to Terri Sparks at sparkstl@wfu.edu.

We are pleased to have added two new faculty members this year (Hana Brown and Steve Gunkel). We also have a new Administrative Assistant, Terri Sparks who arrived in February 2012, and has already made major contributions to the department.

Our faculty have been very active, go to http://www.wfu.edu/sociology/ for more information. We also have two students who deserve special notice. Please congratulate Michael Robinson, winner of the American Sociological Association’s Outstanding Senior Award and J’Taime Lyons who received a Truman Scholarship. In addition, those students who are being inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta (International Sociology Honor Society) should also receive our congratulations.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at harris@wfu.edu, 336-758-5496 or stop by Carswell 210. I look forward to hearing from you!!!

Catherine Harris

New Faculty Members

Hana E. Brown joined the Department of Sociology at Wake Forest as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2011. She completed her undergraduate degree at Bryn Mawr College (2001) and her M.A and Ph.D. (2011) at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Brown’s research examines the interplay between race, immigration, and politics. Her projects address two interrelated themes: the relationship between perceptions about race and citizenship and public policies, and the effect of policy structure on popular ideas about who deserves legal and social rights. Her mixed-methods research projects have examined multiple ethnically and racially charged policy arenas including education, immigration, and welfare.

Steve Gunkel joined the Wake Forest faculty in Fall 2011 after having served as the Director of Criminal Justice and Criminology (sociology) Programs at Greensboro College (2009-2011) and Doane College (1996-2008), respectively. Within this same time frame, and on an intermittent basis, he had the opportunity to offer a wide range of sociology courses at Wake Forest. Dr. Gunkel’s scholarly interests are tied primarily to criminology and social inequality. His two most recent publications (with Ana-Maria Wahl) explore the mobilization of law as it relates to: a) the criminalization of immigration and the human rights issues underlying detention as an enforcement strategy; and b) attempts to curtail labor militancy and activism within the meatpacking industry.

In addition to these research interests, Dr. Gunkel promotes the discipline on a state-wide basis and currently serves as a Council Member of the North Carolina Sociological Association (elected in 2010).

Saying So Long …..

Corey, Remle, will be joining the faculty of Frances Marion University, in South Carolina in the Fall. Through his teaching he has made important contributions to the Sociology Department for the last six years. He has always been ready to pitch in when another class was needed. He has our thanks and best wishes for the future.

New to the Department

Terri Sparks, is the new Administrative Assistant for the Department. She came on board in February 2012. She was born in Florida and recently moved to North Carolina to start life over again. She received her B.A. in Business Administration from St. Leo University in 2000. With over 23 years in education coming to Wake Forest is just the next step. “I have always worked in education and love working with both faculty and students, so this is the perfect fit for me.”
Catherine Harnois, Feminist Measures in Survey Research
How can multiracial feminism inform social science survey research? What would it mean, in practical terms, to bring an “intersectional” approach to survey design and statistical analysis? How might such an approach change our understanding of the social world? Feminist Measures in Survey Research offers a new approach for bridging feminist theory and quantitative social science research. Catherine E. Harnois demonstrates how a multiracial feminist perspective can inform virtually every aspect of the research process, from survey design and statistical modeling to the frameworks used to interpret the results. Harnois argues for an interdisciplinary approach to social research, rooted in multiracial feminist theorizing. Such an approach, she suggests, enables a critical reexamination of the assumptions embedded in everyday research practices. It also provides a new and important framework for critiquing and producing quality survey research.

Keith A. Roberts and David Yamane, Religion in Sociological Perspective, Fifth Edition
A broad overview of the central theories and research methods of the sociology of religion. This fully updated Fifth Edition helps students understand and apply the theories and research methods of the sociology of religion. While the authors cover the major theoretical paradigms of the field and employ various middle-range theories to explore specific processes, they use the open systems model as a single unifying framework to integrate the theories and enhance student understanding. Throughout the book, the authors analyze the contributions and blind spots of each theory and emphasize the relationship between research methods and findings.

Earl Smith and Angela Hattery, The Social Dynamics of Family Violence
This compelling new text explores family violence throughout the life course, with special attention to the social character and institutional causes of family violence. From child abuse and neglect to intimate partner violence and elder abuse, Hattery and Smith ask students to consider how social inequality, especially gender inequality, contributes to tensions and explosive tendencies in family settings. Students learn about individual preventative measures and are also invited to question the justice of our current social structure, with implications for social policy and reorganization. Hattery and Smith pepper the text with evocative case studies from their own research and illuminating stories published in mainstream media. Unique coverage of same-sex couples and multicultural couples, as well as of theory and methods, make this text an essential element of any course considering the sociology of family violence.

Joseph Soares, SAT Wars, The Case for Test-Optional College Admissions
SAT Wars presents a roadmap for rethinking college admissions that moves us past the statistically weak and socially divisive SAT/ACT. The author advocates for evaluation tools with a greater focus on what youth actually accomplish in high school as a more reliable indicator of qualities that really matter in one’s life and to one’s ability to contribute to society. This up-to-date book features contributions by well-known experts, including a piece from Daniel Golden, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting in the Wall Street Journal on admissions, and a chapter on alternative tests from Robert Sternberg, who is the world’s most-cited living authority on educational research.

Ian Taplin, The Modern American Wine Industry: Market Formation and Growth in North Carolina
This study is both a history of the American wine industry and an examination of its current structure and performance. In analysing market formation, Taplin focuses on a complex network of winery owners, winemakers and grape growers to see how relationships have shaped the evolution of this sector. North Carolina has seen some of the fastest growth in the American wine industry over recent years. In an area experiencing a general downturn in employment, the wine industry has created a new entrepreneurial spirit. Taplin looks at the importance of networks in this development, drawing conclusions of wider socio-economic significance.

Changes/Additions to the Sociology Program
Beginning in the Fall 2012 semester the student majoring in sociology may pursue a regular major in sociology or choose to specialize in one of two different concentrations: (1) Crime and Criminal Justice, or (2) Business and Society. Students who complete a concentration will be awarded a certificate by the department and have the concentration included on their college transcript. Requirements for the general major in sociology and for the concentrations are available on the Sociology website at http://wfu.edu/sociology. A minimum of thirty-one credits is required for each program.

Calling all Alumni! Please keep us updated about you and your accomplishments email your news to Terri Sparks at sparkstl@wfu.edu
**Earl Smith:** Leagues, clubs deal with perception of rise in fan violence: After a near-fatal beating in baseball and this month’s mayhem at an NFL preseason game, experts warn the perception of a rise in fan violence will give Americans reason to attend fewer games if leagues and clubs do not take action…. Those who pay can have an inflated sense of self-worth, said Earl Smith, professor of sociology at Wake Forest and author of eight books, including Race, Sport and the American Dream in 2007: “Fans feel they have an entitlement. The ticket prices are high enough so they come to games with a chip on their shoulder.” **USA Today, August 30, 2011**

**Joseph Soares:** A New Book Argues Against the SAT: When Wake Forest University announced three years ago that it would make the SAT optional for its undergraduate applicants, among those cheering was Joseph Soares, a sociology professor at the university. Mr. Soares has channeled his enthusiasm for Wake Forest’s decision — as well as for similar policies at several hundred other colleges — into a new book, “SAT Wars,” that argues for looking beyond standardized test scores in college admissions. (The book was published last month by Teachers College Press.) “The SAT and ACT are fundamentally discriminatory,” Mr. Soares said in a phone interview last week…. **New York Times, November 9, 2011**

**Ian Taplin:** Re-energizing the Winston-Salem and North Carolina economies will come down to better matching the workforce with the job skills required by high-growth industries, according to a sociology professor at Wake Forest University. He was the keynote speaker Friday at the annual meeting of the N.C. Sociological Association.**February 25, 2012. **Winston Salem Journal, February 25, 2012.**

**Robin Simon:** Why Fathers Have Lower Levels of Testosterone?: Perhaps cultural dynamics may be at work, says Robin Simon, a sociology professor at Wake Forest University who studies gender and parenthood, among other things. “I’m not familiar with the gendered context of parenting in the Philippines, but primary parenting at least in the U.S. is considered to be a female activity,” says Simon. “Maybe men might find itemasculating.” **Time Healthland, September 13, 2011**

**Visit our web-site for more information**

[http://wfu.edu/sociology](http://wfu.edu/sociology)

And like “Wake Forest University Sociology Department” on Facebook!

Follow us on Twitter @wfsocdept

**Our Teaching Faculty’s Specialties**

Chair (Professor)  Catherine T. Harris—Organizations, Research Methods, Theory (harris@wfu.edu)

Professors  Robin Simon—Sociology of Emotion, Social Psychology, Sociology of Gender, Emotion, Health/Mental Health, and Social Psychology (simonnr@wfu.edu)

Earl Smith—Sociology of Sport, Race & Ethnic Relations (smithea@wfu.edu)

Ian Taplin—Global Capitalism, Business in Society (taplin@wfu.edu)

Associate Professors  H. Kenneth Bechtel—Criminology, Sociology of Law, Deviance (bechtel@wfu.edu)

R. Saylor Breckenridge—Methods, Statistics, Organizations (breckers@wfu.edu)

Joseph Soares—Sociology of Education, Sociology of Culture (soaresja@wfu.edu)

Ana Maria Wahl—Race & Ethnic Relations, Work, Conflict, & Change (wahlam@wfu.edu)

David Yamane—Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Sport (yamaned@wfu.edu)

Assistant Professor  Catherine Haroie—Statistics, Gender, Women’s Movements (harnoice@wfu.edu)

Hana Brown—Political Sociology, Social and Public Policy (brownhe@wfu.edu)

Lecturer  Steven Gunkel—Criminology, White Collar Crime (gunkelse@wfu.edu)

Visiting Assistant Professor  R. Corey Remle—Medical Sociology (remlerc@wfu.edu)
Students in the News

Kristen Bryant ('12): For months I had been preparing for my two-week service trip to Vietnam. Service was part of my spring semester study abroad in Dakar, Senegal, in 2011, and I knew I wanted to serve the international community again. I chose Vietnam because it was a country I knew very little about, and I wanted to learn more.

My group, which consisted of 10 other Wake Forest students, one staff advisor, and myself, met weekly during the fall semester to prepare for this excursion. We researched topics about Vietnamese culture, cuisine and history, but there was still no way to be prepared for the amazing experience that we were lucky enough to have.

Brandon Turner, a Wake Forest senior who studies biophysics and plays rugby, has been named a Rhodes Scholar. Turner, who is from Fontana, Calif., conducts research on the molecular structure of proteins.

He is among 32 Americans chosen by the Rhodes Trust Nov. 19 to study at England’s Oxford University in 2012 as Rhodes Scholars. At Oxford, he plans to pursue a Master of Science degree in global health science and then a master’s degree in public health.

At Wake Forest, he is majoring in biophysics with a minor in sociology.

Senior Amy Liang is one of 20 students statewide to receive the Community Impact Student Award and a certificate of appreciation from Governor Bev Perdue for her work to combat hunger and homelessness.

The award recognizes her volunteer efforts and her ability to inspire others to get involved.

A biology major and sociology minor from Kingsport, Tenn., Liang has participated in a variety of community service efforts, several of which focus on reducing food insecurity in Winston-Salem.

Junior J’Taime Lyons of Whitakers, NC is among a distinguished group of undergraduate students nationwide who have been named 2012 Truman Scholars by the Washington-based Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Lyons is one of 54 students from 48 colleges and universities named Truman Scholars. She is the 15th Truman Scholar at Wake Forest. Lyons, who is majoring in Sociology, plans to pursue a graduate degree in Public Policy with a focus on Education.

J’Taime Lyons: For months I had been preparing for my two-week service trip to Vietnam. Service was part of my spring semester study abroad in Dakar, Senegal, in 2011, and I knew I wanted to serve the international community again. I chose Vietnam because it was a country I knew very little about, and I wanted to learn more.

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Keep In Touch!! We always welcome news from our Alumni!!!

Do you live in the Triad, or do you just want to keep up with the Sociology Department??

Please go to our website to learn more about our upcoming events and the more recent Sociology Department news at wfu.edu/sociology.

Have any updates you would like to share in the next newsletter?? Email Terri at sparkstl@wfu.edu