

# Department of Sociology Communique

Spring 2009

## Familiar Faces

Catching up with the emeritus faculty

By Colin E. Suchland

*This year the department shines the spotlight not on new hires but on a few familiar faces — Mizzou sociology's emeritus faculty. They may have retired from the day-to-day business of university professors, but the curiosity that propelled their research and the spirit that counseled countless students is alive and well. Between grandchildren and getaways there are projects to pursue, as evidenced in the following updates.*



Barbara Bank, a 2002 retiree, came to MU in 1969. Later, she was asked by students to form the campus's first women's studies course. From this small start, Bank would help guide Mizzou's women studies until it was recognized as its own department.

"I worked, and it's lasted, and now of course it's a department," Bank says. "And it has always been a place where a lot of sociologists have been involved."

Additionally, Bank served as chair of sociology from 1980 to 1982 and was the director of graduate studies for nine years, aiding students in sociology and rural sociology. She also found a partner in fellow sociology Professor Bruce Biddle. Bank and Biddle developed a professional connection to scholars in Australia, which included stints as visiting professors. Of course, the trek to the other side of the globe provided room for some exciting side trips. Over the years, Bank and Biddle have remained travelers.

"We do a couple of trips a year," Bank says. "This year we're hoping to go to Croatia, Montenegro and the old Yugoslavia."

However, it has not been all play for Bank, who continues to advise graduate

students. In recent years, she compiled the two-volume *Gender and Education: An Encyclopedia*, which was published in 2007. Recently, Johns Hopkins Press approached her for a spin-off book focusing on gender and higher education.

"It's nice to sit around and have somebody coming after you and saying, 'We want you to do a book,'" Bank admits.



Kenneth Benson arrived in Missouri in 1966. With his academic interests in stratification, power and alienation (stemming from Marx), Benson began to develop a dialectical approach to the study of organizations.

Mizzou sociology was a growing department when Benson arrived. The sociology department had numerous joint programs with rural sociology, the medical school, psychology and anthropology. At one point there were 35 faculty members affiliated with sociology.

"It was a very exciting period," Benson remembers, "and I was really in on the ground floor, in a way."

After a 40-year tenure Benson retired in 2006, but he continues to be a presence in the department. He is advising

two doctoral studies and a thesis. He works with the MU Center on Religion and the Professions, and he continues to work on dialectical approaches to the study of organizations.

In his leisure time Benson visits with his four children and eight grandchildren. Those fortunate enough to catch him in proximity to a guitar are also in for a treat. He is a long-time fan of classic country tunes, especially those of Hank Williams Sr.

"I got hooked somehow," Benson says.

He occasionally plays in public but mostly for his own enjoyment. Fittingly, Benson's family threw him a backyard bluegrass party upon his retirement.



Bruce Biddle came to MU sociology in 1960 after the department had hired a fellow Michigan graduate to run the interdisciplinary program in social psychology, and he backed out suddenly.

"In desperation they turned to me," Biddle quips and adds, "to me this was just manna from heaven. It was a marvelous opportunity."

At one point, news that he might leave MU reached the chancellor, John

Schwada. The administrator, who knew Biddle's reputation for securing funding, responded by making Biddle a once-in-a-career offer, and thus Biddle became the director of the Social Science Research Center, which generated some 60 books and more than 600 peer-reviewed articles in a 30-year run.

"It was marvelously successful," Biddle says. "It supported work for several key faculty members, including in sociology."

His research, then, as now, has centered on education, especially as public policies are concerned. He co-wrote *A Study of Teaching* with an Australian colleague and later co-wrote *The Manufactured Crisis* in response to changes in education policy under the Reagan Administration.

Today he is two-thirds finished with a study of youth poverty, which he says is greater than 25 percent in the U.S. "It's a national disgrace," Biddle says. "No other nation comes close [to that number]."

With that project keeping his reading list full, Biddle and his wife, the aforementioned Bank, continue to travel the globe, though they make their permanent home in Columbia.



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Donald Granberg, joined MU sociology in 1969. He arrived to pursue social psychology just as the sociology and rural sociology programs were reaching their largest sizes.

Granberg said he felt Mizzou was a good fit from the start, despite initial worries about standing in Bruce Biddle's shadow.

"I must admit I was a little intimidated by (Biddle) at our first meeting — through no fault of his," Granberg says. "It just seemed that he knew about everything, and I felt like a country bumpkin by comparison."

Whatever trepidation Granberg experienced at first faded quickly, as he went on to publish two books — 1988's *Political System Matters* and 1992's *Social Judgment and Intergroup Relations* — in addition to more than 100 articles, chapters and the like. Granberg collaborated with MU sociology Professor Ed Brent (then a gradu-

ate student) on six articles, four of which were published in the leading journal of social psychology. Granberg said he is particularly proud of his 1980 study of pro-life and pro-choice activists, which is now archived at the Murray Research Center at Harvard University. He also spent five years conducting collaborative research in Sweden.

Granberg retired in 2003 but continued to teach until 2005 when he and his wife, Beth Wellman Granberg, moved to Salt Lake City. Since then, he continues to "dabble" at writing. His recent work includes a new entry on Muzaffer Sherif for the *Encyclopedia of Social Science* and a book manuscript tentatively titled *A Most Human Enterprise: Controversial Studies in the Social Sciences* with sociology Professor John Galliher.



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Peter Hall took the chairmanship of sociology and rural sociology during a time of turmoil. It was 1972, and MU had just fired Chair Daryl Hobbs for not divulging the names of professors who had cancelled classes in conjunction with a student walkout related to the Kent State shootings and U.S. military incursions in Cambodia. Professors Jim McCartney and Barbara Bank approached Hall about coming to MU.

"Given old friends in the department, its long and interesting history, and some strong, creative and analytical scholars, it seemed like a good place to lay down some roots," Hall says.

Hall brought with him his interest in symbolic interaction, having studied power from an SI perspective. This, in turn, led to an interest in organizations. Among his many accomplishments while at MU, Hall developed several inequalities courses, organized symposia with Biddle and Bank, was a charter member of and journal editor for the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction and worked directly to foster critical thought in local school districts. The Midwest Sociological Society, of which he is a former president, hosts the Peter Hall Lecture Series annually.

Since retiring in 2000, he has enjoyed his time as a granddad and, with his wife, traveled both domestically (Route 66) and internationally (to Italy and Greece). He continues professional work as an editor of a volume on "metapower," along with Swedish professor Tom Burns. He also is penning a memoir of his youth. Hall was a child of radicals, and his text explores not only his own experiences but the Old Left and other structural/historical considerations.



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It was in 1971 that Richard Hessler found his way to Hans Mauksch's medical sociology program at Missouri. He arrived just in time to witness the upheavals of the 70s and

80s that included a drastic reduction in federal funding of sociology and the formal separation of sociology from rural sociology.

At Mizzou, Hessler continued research on neighborhood health centers and community participation. In another project, he compared the healthcare systems of the United States and Sweden, and he also has explored the link between social support and longevity.

Since his retirement in 2005, Hessler has been studying social networks within intergenerational daycare centers, where children and elderly adults commingle. The research suggests that people within the daycare centers form an intergenerational community. This in turn plays into what appears to be a connection between social networks and late-life health.

"The people with the longest life spans have the shortest stays in the hospital on the year of their deaths," Hessler explains.

Along with Professor Tola Pearce, he also is editing *The International Journal of Conflict and Reconciliation*.

Meanwhile, he continues to make his home in Columbia, although a cabin in Estes Park, Colo., is home away from home. His wife, Anne, teaches locally at Columbia College. Hessler also coaches youth track and works with Head Start as well as developmentally challenged adults.



James McCartney has been splitting time between grandkids and a full plate of professional activities these days, despite his official retirement from MU in 2006. He continues

to consult on grant-funded projects involving the exchange of engineering students. His current research centers on the “Bologna Process,” which is the standardizing of academic models between European Union nations. A co-written article, “Mentoring International Students,” is forthcoming in *Professional Psychology: Research and Practices*.

“Actually, I’ve been doing more research and writing than I did in my last five years in the department,” McCartney says. “I’m looking at this through the lens of how very different cultures and systems relate to each other.”

Hired in 1965, McCartney was acting department chair in 1984–1985 and chair in 1993–1999. McCartney and Professor John Gallihier co-wrote *Criminology*, and McCartney later co-edited *New Technology in Sociology*. He directed Mizzou’s International Center from 2000 until his retirement. He did stints as editor of *The American Sociologist* and *Sociological Quarterly* and is a past president of the Midwest Sociological Society.

When he is not playing sociologist, McCartney and his wife, Karen, are avid bird watchers and photographers.



Andrew Twaddle heard that Hans Mauksch was recruiting, and subsequently he was hired at MU in 1971. The doctoral program at that time boasted the patronage of the National Institutes of Health, and a dozen students were being retained on full fellowships.

“We had a rather remarkable program at the time,” Twaddle says, but “executive order number one from the Reagan Administration was to stop funding for sociology.”

Still, Twaddle continued to innovate as an educator, developing a course in

death and dying that was held in students’ homes. He also created an honors intro section where the freshman-only class developed and carried out a research project.

## We’re (Still) Looking for You!



The MU Sociology Alumni Relations Committee is still looking for members of our extended academic family — i.e., you — to join a department ListServ (e-mail group).

Signing on to the list will keep you up to date on department news and inform you of upcoming events of interest to alumni. Possible activities include a department alumni day, networking opportunities and lectures. Additionally, we are working to develop an alumni

Web page through which members of the “family” can keep in touch, reacquaint themselves or meet for the first time.

Of course, the list also gives you the opportunity to share your successes with the department, as well as offer any suggestions you may have. Additionally, this newsletter will be delivered to ListServ subscribers electronically.

To sign up for the MU Sociology ListServ, send your preferred e-mail address to Department Chair Jay Gubrium at [gubriumj@missouri.edu](mailto:gubriumj@missouri.edu).

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Make a Gift

By Jay Gubrium

Gifts from our alumni and friends provide the opportunity to enrich the life of the department. We use gift funds in a variety of ways that benefit our students: providing annual cash awards for outstanding papers by undergraduates in our Mauksch Award competition and offering travel grants to scholarly conferences to graduate students who present research papers and attend sessions. Notably, in the past few years, we have received larger gifts that allowed us to address major needs such as purchasing personal computers and a copying machine. We are immensely grateful, too, for gifts that help us build our endowment. Indeed, your generosity helps us advance the department in general.

Do make us one of your philanthropic priorities for 2009. A solid base of alum-

ni support is one of the principal factors that distinguishes the best universities and departments from the rest. We hope you will be able to help us this year with a gift of \$50, \$100 or more. Donations may be mailed to the address below, or you may donate online using a credit card at <https://donatetomu.missouri.edu>. Choose College of Arts and Science in the drop-down box, then specify “Sociology” or a specific fund in the larger box below.

Questions may be directed to our office manager, Debbie Friedrich, at the Department of Sociology, 312 Middlebush Hall, Columbia, MO 65211-6100. You may also contact her at 573-882-7711 or [friedrichd@missouri.edu](mailto:friedrichd@missouri.edu). You may reach me at [Gubrium@missouri.edu](mailto:Gubrium@missouri.edu).

We pledge to use your contributions wisely. Thank you for your support!

freedoms of retirement. He is a published poet. His wife inherited a house on the Maine coast a few years back, so the couple has been living parallel lives in Missouri and Maine. This has provided Twaddle with ample opportunity to indulge his lifelong love of sailing. His 22-foot Pierson Electra is just a short walk from the front door of the Maine home.

“Sex, sailing and sociology,” Twaddle quips, “nothing else is worth pursuing.”

For the most part, he has enjoyed the

# SOCIOLOGY SNAPSHOTS

Images and text by Colin E. Suchland

At work and at play, it was another productive year in Mizzou sociology. The following are scenes from the department's annual fall picnic and colloquium series.



(above) Professors (from left) Wayne Brekhuis, Joan Hermsen and Clarence Lo presented a colloquium related to career options for graduate students on Oct. 24, 2008.

Graduate students Gummi Oddsson and Stephen Barnard help supervise some impromptu disc golf.



As usual, there was no shortage of food to be found at the pot-luck picnic buffet, Sept. 20, 2008.



Professor Ibitola Pearce speaks during her colloquium on Sept. 12, 2008, detailing her on-going research in Nigeria.



Graduate student Maksim Kokushkin presented a colloquium on his doctoral research on Sept. 26, 2008.

# Hern Sees Opportunity in Study of Single-payer Movement

By Colin E. Suchland

With a new president in the White House, grassroots activists are organizing in hopes of making single-payer healthcare a reality for all Americans, and Lindy Hern has a behind-the-scenes view of the process.

The Mizzou sociology doctoral student is five years into her study of the single-payer movement, playing roles of both scholar and activist. In November, Hern journeyed to Chicago for a national meeting of single-payer proponents. Her research centers on the intersection of social forces that enable/disable movement mobilization, comprising an “environment of opportunity” that is constantly in flux. The project began as papers for class, became Hern’s thesis and now constitutes her doctoral research.

Single-payer healthcare is a system in which payment for medical services is made from a single fund — a pool of money that covers all participants in the system. Australia and Canada all operate with national, single-payer systems, while Medicare, Medicaid and the military’s TRICARE are single-payer programs now functioning within the U.S.

“In social movements [a graduate class] I did my final paper. That’s when I started meeting people in the movement, and it sort of snowballed into my thesis project,” Hern explains. “That was on the local movement for single-payer, Missourians for Single Payer (MOSP).”

Examining power and political opportunity, Hern followed MOSP through the 2004 election cycle. Now — inspired by the success of grassroots efforts in the

campaign of Barack Obama — single-payer activists are mobilizing, and there is national legislation (HR 676) on the table in Washington.

Meanwhile, Hern’s role has shifted, placing greater emphasis on her own ac-



MU sociology graduate student Lindy Hern (at right) is pictured with Julia Lamborn-Gettinger and Mimi Signore, officers of Missourians for Single Payer (MoSP).

tivism, and her research puts Hern in contact with national political and movement leaders. She acts as a liaison between MOSP and the national coalition, Healthcare-NOW!

“That is what’s different about my research. I’ve been in it, doing it for five years,” Hern says, comparing her study to other research into healthcare social movements.

Playing participant-observer can be tricky, Hern said, but she has come to embrace an active role in the movement, largely serving as a reporter.

“Since I started, I’ve sort of dealt with that issue and walked that line,” Hern says. “I consider myself an activist scholar now, and my main issue is healthcare reform. I’m very much a part of the organization.”

An early event that helped solidify Hern’s commitment to the single-payer movement came when *Nickel and Dimed* author Barbara Ehrenreich visited Columbia. The writer asked what local activism there was, and Hern filled Eh-

renreich in on MOSP. Later, the author had some words of encouragement for Hern.

“We had a conversation about my research, and she was very interested in it,” Hern says. “And she said something like, ‘You know, in a few years, I’m going to be sitting out there listening to you talk about this stuff.’”

Further, Hern said she makes her scholar-activist role clear during meetings and has received encouragement from fellow members of the movement. During her re-

cent Chicago visit she rubbed elbows with national single-payer advocates including HR 676 sponsor Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-MI. Hern added that President Obama’s healthcare plan is not single-payer, but he does appear sympathetic to the movement.

“You have (President Obama) on tape saying, ‘Well, if we could start from scratch, single payer is the best option,’” Hern says. “Whereas, when I started doing this research, you had politicians saying, ‘What? I don’t know what single payer is.’ Now it’s part of the discourse. And if I can actually say that my research helped them to achieve a single-payer system in the United States, that’ll be really something.”

# Brent Is Faculty Entrepreneur of the Year

Ed Brent's bright idea to start an educational software company some 27 years ago continues to pay dividends to the MU professor of sociology and computer science.

Recently, Brent was honored as the University of Missouri's Faculty Entrepreneur of the Year. The award recognizes a faculty member for a record of entrepreneurial innovation that demonstrates commercial utility, contributes to the public welfare and brings visibility to Mizzou, according to a university release.

Idea Works, Inc., came to be in 1981 when Brent decided to develop and market social science computing programs and services to researchers and educators. Ironically, he chose to start up a business only after the National Science Foundation turned down his grant proposal as "too commercial."

"It is helpful to put this in historical and sociological context," Brent says. "Ronald Reagan was in his first year in the presidency. There were severe cutbacks to social science research funding, and there was this awful turn to the right in American politics. It was also just at the beginning of the 'microcomputer revolution.'"

What came of Brent's first effort was the Methodologist's Tool

Chest, a collection of eight related programs for research. While Brent began using the tool chest in his own work, it was clear that its classroom uses were limited. However, a graduate student suggested developing a product using the then-new hypertext language, which today is the bedrock of the Internet. Thus was born Hyper-Soc, which was used by some publishers to supplement textbooks.

The NSF eventually warmed to Brent a few years later (in the form of an innovation grant) when the company developed Qualrus, a program that facilitates and organizes qualitative analysis. Sage Publications/Scolari also provided some initial funding. Yet when Qualrus was released, the component that grabbed the most attention — local, national and international — was the ability for the program to score student papers.

"Not being total idiots, we decided our next product would be SAGrader (pronounced 'essay grader'), a computerized Web service



Professor Ed Brent (left) chats with Professor Emeritus Richard Hessler during the annual picnic on Sept. 20, 2008.

that has been our focus for the past three years," Brent explains.

The entrepreneurial academic said that nearly 30 years after Idea Works opened he continues to be excited by the prospects for technology in research and classroom settings. He added his thanks for the many hands that have helped along the way.

"We have only begun to scratch the surface in our efforts to find ways to use technology to enhance learning and research," Brent says. "Learning is changing in dramatic ways both inside and outside the classroom."

## Parade of Books

Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein. *Analyzing Narrative Reality*. Sage Publications, Inc.

This text offers a comprehensive framework for analyzing the construction and use of stories in society. This centers on the interplay of narrative work and narrative environments, viewed as reflexively related. Topics dealing with narrative work include activation, linkage, composition, performance,

collaboration and control. Those dealing with narrative environments include close relationships, local culture, status, jobs, organizations and intertextuality. Both the texts and everyday contexts of the storying process are considered, with accompanying guidelines for analysis and illustrations from empirical material. Methodological procedures feature interviewing, ethnographic fieldwork and conversational and textual analysis.

The conclusion raises the issue of narrative adequacy, addressing the questions of what is a good story and who is a good storyteller.

Kerry Ann Rockquemore and David L. Brunnsma. *Beyond Black: Biracial Identity in America* (second edition). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

The urgent debate over a multiracial category in the 2000 census forced the

# Faculty Kudos

**Barbara J. Bank** had her chapter “Sex Segregation and Tokenism Among Teachers” published in the *International Handbook of Research on Teachers and Teaching*.

**Wayne Brekhus** received a 2008 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. The Kemper is awarded annually to five outstanding teachers on campus and includes a stipend of \$10,000.

**David L. Brunsmas** was a guest editor (with Steven Picou) for a special issue of *Social Forces*, “Disaster as a Sociological Event: Modern Destruction and Future Instruction,” and the two published an article in the same issue. Brunsmas published three articles with current/former Mizzou sociology graduate students Dave Overfelt, Daniel J. Delgado and James Michael Thomas. Brunsmas published another article with Tanya M. Golash-Boza and had two solo articles published. He was a conference organizer for the October 2008 Cessation, Nation, Reparations hosted by MU, and he was

a discussant and presider at sessions during the 2008 annual meetings of the Association of Black Sociologists in Boston. Brunsmas also gave an invited talk at the Boston Human Rights: Ideas and Actions conference in July 2008.

**Jaber F. Gubrium** and James A. Holstein published “Narrative Ethnography” in *Handbook of Emergent Methods*, edited by Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber and Patricia Leavy.

**Joan M. Hermsen** co-wrote the *Missouri Hunger Atlas*, which assesses the extent of food insecurity in the state of Missouri. The atlas also begins to gauge how well public programs are doing in meeting the needs of our fellow citizens who have difficulty acquiring sufficient amounts and qualities of food.

**Victoria Johnson** had two articles published: “The Status of Identities: Racial Inclusion and Exclusion at West Coast Ports.” in *Social Movement Studies*, and “Changing Repertoires of Collective Ac-

tion: American General Strikes 1877–1946” in *Political Sociology*.

**Ibitola Pearce** completed a five-month trip (October 2007–February 2008) to conduct research on food vendors in Ibadan, Nigeria. The project, Adaptive Strategies of Female Food Vending Entrepreneurs in Nigeria, was partially sponsored by a grant from the MU Research Council. She published the chapter “Women’s Rights” in *The Leading Rogue State: The United States and Human Rights* in 2008 (see Parade of Books, below). In April 2008, Pearce presented “Mothering Among the Yoruba in the Age of Globalization” at the Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies, The Claremont Colleges, California. She also co-wrote “Measurement of Perceptions of School Climate in a Midwestern State” in *The International Journal of Learning*.

**Andrew Twaddle** had his article “The World-wide Wave of Market Reform in Medical Care” published in *Harvard Health Policy Review*.

nation to reflect upon the important questions of what it means to construct and maintain a racial identity. Using in-depth interviews and survey data, *Beyond Black* documents how biracial people develop many different racial identities and how these self-understandings are derived from historical and contemporary social, cultural, interactional and psychological processes.

Edited by Judith Blau, David L. Brunsmas, Alberto Moncada and Catherine Zimmer. *The Leading Rogue State: The U.S. and Human Rights*. Paradigm Publishers.

It has been over six decades since the United States closed its borders to international human rights laws and agreements, and, of course, a great deal has happened in those intervening six decades. Most significant is that more of the world’s people embrace the language

of human rights and articulate their aspirations in those terms. Just because the U.S. government arrogantly disregards international human rights treaties, declarations, and conventions, Americans do not. The contributors to this volume are prominent social scientists who take topics that are standard fare in sociology, such as inadequate housing, children living in poverty, and inadequate health care, and instead of dwelling on these as social problems, they lay out the case for human rights.

Kathryn McGonigal and John F. Galliher. *Mabel Agnes Elliott: Pioneering Feminist, Pacifist Sociologist*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

This text provides a history of the life and career of the late Mabel Agnes Elliott (1898–1990), a pioneering female sociologist largely forgotten despite her achievements and contributions. A na-

tive of Iowa, Elliott earned three degrees in sociology from Northwestern University. In addition to her career as a sociologist, she was a feminist and a pacifist whose occasional criticism of criminal policies in the United States led to the creation of an FBI file. Despite being largely disregarded by her male colleagues, Elliott wrote a wildly successful textbook, *Social Disorganization*, published in four editions over 30 years. After starting her career at the University of Kansas and working there for 20 years, she moved to Chatham College in Pennsylvania in 1949 where she was appreciated for her singular abilities. Among her many achievements, she was the first woman to be elected president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in 1957.

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The department appreciates hearing from alumni and friends. Send announcements or milestones to the address listed above.

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## Graduate Student Accomplishments

**Stephen Barnard** and **Jesse Van Gerven** had their article "A People's Method(ology): A Dialogical Approach" formally accepted for publication in *Cultural Studies* ↔ *Critical Methodologies*. They are working on a follow-up article.

**Jennifer Beggs-Weber** is the recipient of the 2008 University of Missouri Donald K. Anderson Graduate Teaching Award.

**Priya Dua** had her article "The Impact of Gender Characteristics on Mentoring in Graduate Departments of Sociology" published in *The American Sociologist*, Vol. 39, Issue 4 (December).

**David Elliott** has been teaching research methods to undergraduate and master's-level students as an adjunct assistant professor at Lincoln University of Missouri. He has also been a research consultant at the Project Construct National Center.

**Maksim Kokushkin** presented a paper titled "The Value of Practice Theories or: How to Reconcile Agency, Structure, and Culture?" at the annual Midwest Sociological Society meeting in March 2008. He was a co-author with Ken Benson and Ed Brent of the paper "Professions,

Religions, and Publics: A Report on Two Surveys" presented at an MSS thematic session. Kokushkin was awarded the John Bies International Travel Scholarships for ABD Doctoral Students by the Graduate School. He will join Kalamazoo College in Michigan as an assistant professor in fall 2009.

**Jeffrey McCully** presented "Environmental Consequences of a National Memorial: USS Arizona Oil Bubbles in Pearl Harbor" at the annual Midwest Sociological Society meeting in St. Louis in March 2008.

**Veronica Medina** was invited to submit encyclopedia entries for "Tween Market" and "American Girl" in an upcoming edition of *The American Beauty Industry Encyclopedia*. She is an invited speaker for the Department of Women's and Gender Studies' spring colloquium series. In June 2008, she returned to her alma mater, the University of Kansas, to work as an instructor for the KU TRIO/Educational Talent Search's Career Explorations Camp. In July–August 2008, she traveled to South Korea to participate in an intensive English-language immersion camp

sponsored by the Jeollanamdo Provincial Government.

**Gudmundur Oddsson** presented a paper, "A Few Good Women (and a Large Crowd of Men)" at the annual Midwest Sociological Society meeting in March 2008. He also received a \$6,000 graduate-student grant from the University of Akureyri in Iceland in June 2008.

**Jennifer Schlosser** had her article "Issues in Interviewing Inmates" published in *Qualitative Inquiry*.

**Colin E. Suchland** received his master's degree in July 2008 and presented research titled "Sexing the Truck" at Sexing the Look, an interdisciplinary conference on sexual imagery in popular culture, hosted by the University of Missouri–St. Louis in April 2008. He presented the paper "What's the Use of It? A Marxian Lens on Gentrification" during the annual MSS meeting in March 2008. Suchland also presented his research during an MU sociology department colloquium workshop on March 13, 2009. Suchland teaches sociology classes for St. Louis Community College at Meramec.