



FROM THE CHAIR Dr. Stephanie Moller

2014-2015 was a great academic year for the Department of Sociology at UNC Charlotte as we won the coveted UNC Charlotte Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence. This award recognizes high quality teaching and departmental efforts to improve student learning. Over the last decade, the Department of Sociology has worked tirelessly to optimize curricular offerings to serve the needs of a growing and diversifying undergraduate study body. Since 2006, the number of sociology graduates has doubled, and we are grateful to the university, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, funding agencies, parents, and alumni donors for helping us to serve our students.

The Department of Sociology has undertaken multiple initiatives to support students who are struggling in their classes. These initiatives have been successful as our failing and withdrawal rates have declined. We have also implemented an honors program to ensure that our most advanced students are thoroughly challenged. Our students have opportunities to study abroad in the Netherlands and United Kingdom, and they have an opportunity to sit with our faculty to discuss research and professionalization through the Sociology Club's Toolbox series.

We continue to search for opportunities for our students to secure internships where they can learn outside of the confines of a classroom. If structured properly, internships are mutually beneficial for the student and the hiring organization. If you have internships available at your organization or if you are considering offering internships, please reach out to me at Stephanie.Moller@uncc.edu or at 704-687-7824. We have some exceptional undergraduate and graduate students who thirst for opportunities to expand their education and begin their careers.

I also encourage our alumni to reach out to me to announce their successes. We have added a section to the departmental webpage that highlights our alumni. Please share your successes with me so that I may share them with the UNC Charlotte community.

Alumni Quotes

My best advice to current students is to take job fairs seriously and utilize all resources that UNC Charlotte has to offer. Cherish the time you have there, it goes by too fast, but there are exciting things to come.

Brittany Woody, Class of 2012
Job Coach, SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Try everything you can in terms of your career. It's not easy when you are 21 years old to know what you want to do with your life. If you work hard, opportunities pop up when you least expect them.

Ron DeJoseph, Class of 1994
WSOC-TV Promotions Manager

I was so fortunate to have many wonderful sociologists as mentors, including Beth Rubin, Lisa Walker and Murray Webster. UNC Charlotte's Sociology Program has a faculty of accomplished scholars and is a dynamic, engaging program. I recommend the program for any student who wants to learn about social structures and how they affect routine interactions in a variety of institutions and use that learning in an academic or applied career.

Sharon Doerer, MA Class of 2009
Organizational Effectiveness, TIAA-CREF

The MA Sociology Program has been an invaluable educational platform that has enhanced my understanding of the social world. I had professors that took a personal interest in my development and helped raise my consciousness about those marginalized groups within our own community...

Sean Langley, MA Class of 2004
Assistant Director of Outreach, UNC Charlotte

The stellar mentorship, hands on research opportunities, and publication experience offered by the UNC Charlotte Sociology department and its faculty has served as the foundation for my academic career.

Stephanie Potochnick, MA Class of 2007
Faculty, University of Missouri

Funded Research

\$1.5M from the National Science Foundation, 2014-2019

Dr. Stearns, Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. Mickelson, co-Principal Investigator (co-PI), and Dr. Moller (co-PI).

Roots of STEM: Interactive Influences of Individual, Secondary School, and College Factors on the Success of Underrepresented Groups.

\$220k from the National Science Foundation, 2013-2015

Dr. Webster (PI) and Dr. Walker (co-PI). *Status and Behavior*

\$600k from the National Science Foundation, 2014-2016

Dr. Cao (co-PI); Collaborative with the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science.

Accelerating Spectrum Access in Cognitive Radio Networks via Social Analysis of Secondary Users.

\$300k from the Engineer Research and Development Center, 2011-2014

Dr. Whitmeyer (co-PI); Collaborative with the Departments of Software, and Information Systems, and Political Science.

An Analytical Framework for Rapid End-to-End Support for Effective Civil-Military Operations Planning.

Other Notable Accomplishments

Drs. Bottia's, Stearn's, Mickelson's, and Moller's research on STEM education was cited on CNN.com.

Mr. Daniel Davis, a former Sociology MA student and current doctoral student in Organizational Science won the North Carolina Sociological Association's Himes Award for Outstanding Student Sociology Paper.

Mr. Sean Langley, former MA student and current instructor, was interviewed on WSOC-TV for his work with the UNC Charlotte Food Pantry.

Dr. Roslyn Mickelson, Professor of Sociology, is honored with the Elizabeth G. Cohen Distinguished Career in Applied Sociology of Education Award, awarded by the Sociology of Education section of the American Educational Research Association. Dr. Mickelson was also named the 2014 UNC Charlotte Chancellor's Professor.

Dr. Lisa Walker's research on beauty was cited in a BBC News Article.

Dr. Murray Webster is the 2015 winner of the Cooley-Mead Award from the American Sociological Association's Social Psychology Section.

New Books

Anna Aulette-Root, Floretta Boonzaier, and **Judy Aulette**. 2014. *South African Women Living with HIV: Global Lessons from Local Voices*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Kevin T. Leicht and **Scott T. Fitzgerald**. 2014. *Middle Class Meltdown in America: Causes, Consequences, and Remedies*. New York: Routledge.

Teresa L. Scheid. 2014. *Comprehensive Care for HIV/AIDS: Community-Based Strategies*. New York: Routledge.

Murray Webster, Jr., and Jane Sell (Editors), 2014, *Laboratory Experiments in the Social Sciences 2/e*. San Diego:

New Faculty

We congratulate **Dr. Kendra Jason**, who will become Assistant Professor of Sociology at UNC Charlotte, beginning Fall 2015. Dr. Jason earned her Ph.D. at NC State University.

We welcome **Dr. Sarah Pollock**, lecturer of Sociology, beginning Fall 2015. Dr. Pollock earned her Ph.D. at the Ohio State University.

A Fond Farewell

Dr. Charles Brody, The College's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and former chair of Sociology, is retiring from UNC Charlotte and moving on to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Misericordia University in Pennsylvania. We are grateful for Dr. Brody's leadership and wish him well.

Giving to the UNC Charlotte Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology has a number of initiatives that are not funded by the State of North Carolina or student fees. We count on the generous contributions from individuals like you to make these initiatives possible. Consider making a contribution to the Department of Sociology. Contributions help us:

- Continue and expand the professionalization series for our undergraduate students
- Offer research opportunities for undergraduate students
- Support the research of graduate students
- Offer a year-end reception for students and their parents to celebrate outstanding achievement.

If you are interested in making a contribution, please make checks payable to: UNC Charlotte Foundation and mark on the Memo line: Sociology Discretionary Fund. Send your check to: UNC Charlotte, Development Office, 9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte NC 28223. To give by credit card go to: giving.uncc.edu. Type "Sociology Discretionary" in the box to designate your gift. Feel free to email questions to Dr. Stephanie Moller at smoller@uncc.edu. Thank you.