Message from the Chair

I am very pleased to present you with the first of what I hope will become a long tradition of departmental newsletters.

Having taken over the reins as Chair in July of this year I decided to implement a bi-annual newsletter. The purposes its serves are multiple. It is a “welcome” to those new to our program and a “welcome back” to our extended Ram alumni family. There are so many great things happening up and down the second floor B-wing of Clark—and in some new rooms in the basement of the A-wing—that it’s impossible to keep track of it all. If you would like to learn more about our department please visit our department’s website. My hope is to provide you with two newsletters annually, fall and spring semesters. Of course, our ability to communicate information with you would be enhanced greatly if you also kept in touch with us. So feel free to drop me a note. I would love to know what you have been up to (and we’re always looking for Alumni to feature on our website and in future newsletters).

If you’ve been away from CSU for a while there will be aspects of the Department that are hardly recognizable. There might be some new faculty faces (the newest, Dr. Tara Opsal, is highlighted later in this issue). And did you know we now have three research centers: Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis, Center for Fair and Alternative Trade, and Center for the Study of Crime and Justice? We also have three areas of concentration at the undergraduate level. In addition to the long-standing General Sociology and Criminology/Criminal Justice “tracks” we added a third a couple years back. We are now, as far I know, the only major state research university that allows its undergraduates to specialize in Environmental Sociology. We are also—with considerable thought and oversight—expanding our online offerings. It should therefore come as little surprise that we continue to have one of the more popular majors (and minors) in the University. Roughly 525 Colorado State University students are Sociology majors and an additional 350 are receiving a minor out of our department. We also recently refined our four areas of foci at the graduate level, which we now define as 1) environment and natural resources, 2) food, agriculture and development, 3) crime, law and deviance, and 4) social inequality, social justice, and governance.

In addition to this newsletter I have regularized our Sociology in Progress (SiP) series. The SiP series is broken up into two formats. The university lecture series and the smaller brownbag format. The former was kicked off in the spring. With support from the previous Chair, Jack Brouillette, we brought in the internationally-renowned environmental sociologist Dr. Riley Dunlap (Oklahoma State University) to give a talk on the sociology of climate change denial. Then, this fall semester, on the second day of class, development and agrifood scholar Dr. Phil McMichael (Cornell University) came and gave a talk on the global land grab. Finally, just weeks before the Presidential elections, Dr. Sam Walker (University of Nebraska-Omaha) gave a lecture on his recently published book Presidents and Civil Liberties From Wilson to Obama (Cambridge University Press). All three were incredibly well attended (not even “standing room only” as all standing room was taken!). The brownbags have also been a great success. The goal of this format is to create a space that allows graduate students, recent PhD graduates, and affiliated faculty the opportunity to share their research with others in our department. I would like to personally thank Andrea Akers, who designed and created the website and in some rooms in the basement of the A-wing—...
examines this contradiction through a case of non-experiencing substantial degradation. The presentation discusses how fishers and their communities are increasingly displaced from governance. Nevertheless, empirical evidence illustrates that management practices as the pathway to sustainable fisheries. States fisheries management system promotes co-dependence. The United States dependency people in formal governance processes contributes to environmental sustainability. Concomitantly, the United States dependency people in formal governance processes contributes to environmental sustainability. Researchers studying collaborative natural resource participation among local commercial fishers in Two Rivers, North Carolina. In doing this, it utilizes the concepts of visibility, legitimacy, and power to capture multiple levels and scales of structure and agency that effect the participation of local fishers in governance activities and lead to environmental degradation. Data was collected through observations, interviews and document and policy review. An important observation is that many local fishers practice active non-involvement – intentional noninvolvement in formal political activities while participating in informal governance activities – which profoundly affects the local social and natural environments, as well as the formal governance system.

September 14, 2012: Dr. Candace May, Colorado State University

“The Visibility, Legitimacy, and Power: A North Carolina Fishing Community and Governance of the Commons”

Researchers studying collaborative natural resource governance argue that the participation of resource dependent people in formal governance processes contributes to environmental sustainability. Concomitantly, the United States fisheries management system promotes co-management practices as the pathway to sustainable fisheries governance. Nevertheless, empirical evidence illustrates that fishers and their communities are increasingly displaced from the fisheries they depend on, which are, at the same time, experiencing substantial degradation. The presentation examines this contradiction through a case of non-participation among local commercial fishers in Two Rivers, North Carolina. In doing this, it utilizes the concepts of visibility, legitimacy, and power to capture multiple levels and scales of structure and agency that effect the participation of local fishers in governance activities and lead to environmental degradation. Data was collected through observations, interviews and document and policy review. An important observation is that many local fishers practice active non-involvement – intentional noninvolvement in formal political activities while participating in informal governance activities – which profoundly affects the local social and natural environments, as well as the formal governance system.

September 28, 2012: Dr. Jennifer Harmon, Department of Psychology, Colorado State University

“The Power, Gender, and Intimate Relationships: A Cultural, Social and Interpersonal Perspective”

Relevant Research Projects

A relationship-oriented model of HIV risk behavior

Abstract: The purpose of this research was to 1) identify psychosocial HIV risk factors among recently released male inmates and their intimate partners, 2) use theory to enhance the quantitative understanding of these risk factors, and 3) develop a relationship-oriented model of HIV risk behavior. The first phase of the research involved elicitation research (focus groups) in New Haven, CT in order to identify relationship-specific HIV risk factors. The second phase involved developing a survey that was administered to men who had been released from prison within the last 6 months and their intimate partners. Advanced statistical techniques will be used to develop a relationship-oriented model of HIV risk behavior based on survey data collected from both members of each couple. The outcome of this research is one of the first HIV risk behavior models with a relationship focus that is analyzed on a dyadic level. The findings will also suggest effective strategies to intervene with this at-risk population.

The effects of jealousy in intimate relationships

Abstract: The purpose of the proposed study is to examine how perceptions of jealousy influence aggressive feelings in intimate relationships. Jealousy is a common source of conflict in intimate relationships, and can often lead to forms of interpersonal aggression. Unfortunately, there has been little theoretical explanation for jealousy processes in interpersonal relationships. Guerrero and Anderson (1998) have proposed a componential model of jealousy, whereby perceptions of threat influence cognitive and emotional processing, which in turn activates goals and communicative responses. They propose that it is not so much the experience of jealous cognitions and emotions that affects relationships, but how jealousy is communicated. In a previous study, Harman & O’Grady (in preparation) tested one component of the model, the context in which jealousy is expressed. The primary focus of that analysis was to examine how individuals in intimate relationships perceive a jealous partner, and whether this perception can lead to aggressive feelings or behaviors. In the initial analysis, it was found that due to gender socialization, women responded to perceptions of partner jealousy with complacency, whereas men partners responded to such perceptions with verbal aggression. The data obtained in the study were only correlational, and the causal relationships in the model were not tested. Therefore, the purpose of the proposed study is to examine whether perceptions of a jealous partner’s behaviors can lead to increased feelings of aggression. We hypothesize that men, and not women, would respond with increased aggression. The results of this study will help to understand the dynamical nature of jealousy and aggression in intimate relationships.
Dr. Walker discussed his book which is a history of the civil liberties records of American presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Barack Obama. It examines the full range of civil liberties issues: First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, press and assembly; due process; equal protection, including racial justice, women's rights, and lesbian and gay rights; privacy rights, including reproductive freedom; and national security issues. The book argues that presidents have not protected or advanced civil liberties, and that several Democratic presidents (Wilson and Roosevelt), moreover, have violated civil liberties as badly as some Republican presidents (Nixon and Bush). This is the first book to examine the full civil liberties records of each president (thus, placing a president's record on civil rights with his record on national security issues), and also to compare the performance on particular issues of all the presidents covered.

October 22-23, 2012: Dr. Sam Walker, University of Nebraska

Dr. Walker discussed his book which is a history of the civil liberties records of American presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Barack Obama. It examines the full range of civil liberties issues: First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, press and assembly; due process; equal protection, including racial justice, women's rights, and lesbian and gay rights; privacy rights, including reproductive freedom; and national security issues. The book argues that presidents have not protected or advanced civil liberties, and that several Democratic presidents (Wilson and Roosevelt), moreover, have violated civil liberties as badly as some Republican presidents (Nixon and Bush). This is the first book to examine the full civil liberties records of each president (thus, placing a president's record on civil rights with his record on national security issues), and also to compare the performance on particular issues of all the presidents covered.

Update: Online Courses and Minor

Sociology Courses offered Online:
SOC 100: General Sociology
SOC 105: Social Problems
SOC 205: Contemporary Race-Ethnic Relations
SOC 301: Development of Sociological Thought
SOC 311: Methods of Sociological Inquiry
SOC 313: Computer Methods in Sociology
SOC 330: Social Stratification
SOC 332: Contemporary Majority-Minority Relations
SOC 352: Criminology
SOC 372: Sociology of Deviance
SOC 461: Water, Society, and Environment

Sociology Department Offers First Online Methods Class

This fall the Department of Sociology is launching its first online Methods of Sociological Inquiry class (SOC 311) through The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT) and Continuing Education. The online course is the credit equivalent of the traditional classroom centered methods class and fulfills departmental requirements, but allows students to self-pace their learning to a much greater degree. Online courses help students who work and/or have families who need the flexibility of schedule that online courses provide. The Methods course was designed by and is being taught by Lahoma Howard, MA - a CSU graduate and PhD student.

Link to Online General Sociology Minor Requirements:
http://sociology.colostate.edu/docs/minor-online.pdf

“Measuring Disaster Magnitude: The Dilemma of Data and a Nebulous Concept”

What is a disaster's size? Retrospective studies of disasters often focus on unique or catastrophic events, characterizing them as large or very disruptive. While smaller or less damaging and/or disruptive disaster events are the norm United States. A universal measure of disaster magnitude would be valuable for researchers wishing to compare outcomes of disasters of different sizes and in different social contexts. Using the theoretical orientation of the interactive structure of hazard (Mileti 1999) coupled with the notion that disaster impact is in fact realized risk, I propose a universal measure of disaster magnitude that accounts for social vulnerability to environmental extremes (Cutter, Boruff, and Shirley 2003) and physical exposure to disaster events (Burton, Kates, and White 1993). The quantitative measure “Disaster Effect Magnitude Index of Vulnerability” or DEMI-V uses measured impacts property and crop damage, injuries and fatalities, and the Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI) to account for the reality of differential impacts experienced by different social groups. An explanation of the construction of the DEMI-V is provided and an illustration of its use is given using county-level data from the state of Texas. I conclude with a brief discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the measure and the implications for the use of the measure in informing disaster mitigation and preparedness policy.
This past August the department was well represented in the National Association’s annual conference. A range of both graduate students and faculty presented, organized, or moderated panels at this year’s conference which was held in Denver. The titles and/or abstracts from department presentations are listed below.

“The Social Networks of Landscapes: Finding Cross-scale Linkages in the Northern Rockies” by Patrick Bixler

“Climate Woes and Knowledge Flows: Exploring the Construction, Dissemination, and Governance of Climate Knowledge” by Patrick Bixler and Ashley Cobb

Abstract: Human systems and environmental systems converge in two places: where human actions directly alter the environment and where environmental changes prompt a societal response, both in science and policy. The institutions, organizations, and mechanisms by which society currently governs these environmental relationships across scales are becoming increasingly inadequate. Perhaps the starkest example of this dilemma is the complexity of global climate change and the inability of science and policy to curb human disruption of the biogeophysical system. Environmental sociologists have a vital role to play in bridging the divide between multiple social scales of global climate change, but to accomplish this task we must revisit our conception of knowledge. In this paper, we use insights from World System Analysis (WSA) coupled with Global Value Chain (GVC) analysis to consider the construction, dissemination, and governance of climate change knowledge. In doing so, we use these established theoretical frameworks in a novel way to contribute to environmental sociological studies of climate change and other earth system governance problems.

“The Food and Human Security Index: Further Evidence You Can’t Eat GDP” by Michael Carolan

Abstract: There are many GDP-alternative indicators—from the United Nation’s (UN’s) Human Development Index (HDI) to the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) and the Happy Plant Index (HPI)—presently available to inform our understanding of “progress” and “prosperity”. Yet not one pays attention to issues of food security. In response to this absence, this paper presents a food-related development index: the Food and Human Security Index (FHSI). The goals of this paper are multiple: to convince growth critics to pay closer attention to issues of food in their assessments of “development”; to add to the conversation on food security (noting, for instance, that any food security indicator must be sensitive to issues of under-consumption and over-consumption); and, finally, to provide further evidence in support of the old adage that you cannot eat GDP.

“The Right Thing to Do: A Case Study of Framing Green Schools” by Michelle Lueck and Jennifer Cross

Abstract: Green building describes construction practices that reduce resource use and pollution compared to conventional construction. The benefits of green building practices extend beyond their reduced environment footprint to include reduced operating costs from water and energy conservation and increased occupant health and productivity. These benefits are particular salient to school districts that can reduce budgets and resource use while improving the environment for learning. With these benefits, proponents of green building are often confused as to why school districts are not adopting these practices more quickly. To understand green building adoption, we present a case study of one exceptionally successful green school building adopter. Drawing from semi-structured interviews with district staff and document analysis conducted in 2009, we argue that framing, in the tradition of social movement research, was central to this district’s green building success. The district’s frame extension from “green buildings” to “high performance buildings” accommodated many, sometimes contradictory, individual motivations and values, and shows the importance of interactional symbolic microprocesses on positive environmental behavior change and organizational goal achievement.
“The Role of Inter-Agency Networks in Creating Organizational Transformation for Sustainability” by Jennifer Cross and Michelle Lueck

“The Scales of Sushi Shops: Spatial Aesthetics of Kaitenzushi-ya” by Robert Fenton

Abstract: Spatial dimensions of culture, in contemporary societies, impress upon social actors an organized, sanctioned conception about how one should perceive and interact with space. Rotary sushi restaurants in Japan employ the contradictory images of nature (the natural) with those of industry (calculation and prediction). This essay investigates the logic and contradiction arising from the implementation of these spatial arrangements in facilitating and obstructing the purview of consumers as they traverse these spaces in pursuit of sustenance and satisfaction. Based on a semiotic and spatial ethnographic analysis of two rotary sushi restaurants in suburban Tokyo, this paper attempts to discover and dispel the mystery behind the barriers which obstruct our ability to perceive totality. As such, these barriers to a total understanding of space, these conflicting conceptions not only occlude the potential for change, while also serving as its fodder.

“Gastropraxis: Toward a Marxian Theory of Food, Society, and the Body” by Robert Fenton

Abstract: While rural and agricultural sociologists, many from a neo-Marxist background, have detailed the workings of family farms, the rise of industrial agriculture, and the demise of the peasantry across the globe, little has been done to catalogue and dialectically analyze the importance of food not just in purely economic terms, but in socio-cultural and corporeal capacities as well. This absence is surprising partly because of the importance young Marx placed on sensuous activity and overcoming alienation, which would unite somatic bodily pleasures with the conscious praxis of species-being in a society of free people. The theory of gastropraxis, then, is a first attempt to capture the complexity of food from a Marxian perspective. Drawing on my own work and that of others, gastropraxis is essentially any sort of activity revolving around food: production, consumption, distribution, preparation, experimentation, ideological activities, representations of food practices (as in cook books, television, etc.), manners and mannerisms, and so on. A gastropractical analysis would look at both conditions of production and consumption, cultural particularities, globalization, the effects of urbanization on food consumption and the environment, as well as the situatedness of the act, and a whole host of other dimensions not-so-neatly embedded in the most banal of situations. In my formulation of the concept, gastropraxis affords theorists the opportunity to concretize, at least on one level, the problem of the reproduction of labor-power and the social body.

“Measure Ethnic Identification” by Lynn Hempel

Abstract: This research proposes a multi-dimensional measure of ethnic identification that can be compared across ethnic groups. The construction the measure was informed by the literatures on social and ethnic identity and is composed of four dimensions: cognitive, affective, moral, and external. Confirmatory factor analyses demonstrate these dimensions to be empirically distinct and support the use of a second order latent model of ethnic identification. Additional analyses establish a high degree of invariance in the measurement properties of the measure across three diverse ethnic groups and thus support its use for comparative research. The key advantages to the proposed measure are that it facilitates the examination and comparison of ethnic identification and its causes, correlates, and consequences within and across diverse ethnic groups. Such analyses are precluded by current measures, but are essential if we are to advance understanding of the causes, correlates, and consequences of ethnic identification across diverse settings.

“Commodity Networking for Sustainable Development: Fair Trade and South Africa’s Emerging Rooibos Tea Sector” by Jennifer Keahey

Abstract: This paper broadly explores the prospects and pitfalls of global trade reform and highlights a commodity networking approach for sustainable development. The fair trade movement remains vital after decades of steady growth, but while the notion of trade justice frames action, numerous scholars have questioned the impact and efficacy of fair markets as a development mechanism. I integrate global and local considerations by situating my analysis within the emerging Rooibos tea sector, where I worked with democratically elected farmer leaders to gain market access and trade representation. After providing an overview of the global movement, I examine multilateral involvement, noting the dynamic tensions driving fair market divergence and convergence. Lack of solidarity and structural inequalities threaten movement functioning, but increasing organizational diversity offers potential for broad-based alignment. Producers and traders require flexible yet coordinated responses to shifting demand, and groups may strengthen communication to transcend divisions and realize common goals. Demonstrating collaborative-action potential, I detail the commodity networking approach developed in tandem with an international team of farmer leaders, practitioners, and scholars. I conclude by arguing that fair trade diversity may be seen as an opportunity rather than a threat. However, movement and related development groups must resolve conflicts and invest in networking to maximize the participation of underrepresented groups. Participatory action
planning and information exchange will help align interests, democratize participation, and harness evolving fair market trends.

“Habit, Legitimacy, or Rationality: Explaining Active Non-Participation in North Carolina Fisheries Governance” by Candace May

Abstract: An extensive body of research and political activism following the work of Eleanor Ostrom has significantly influenced the implementation of collaborative natural resource governance arrangements across the world, including co-management of fisheries in the United States. Nevertheless, empirical evidence illustrates that fishers and their communities are increasingly displaced from the fisheries they depend on, which are, at the same time, experiencing substantial degradation. This paper explores a significant barrier to the real utopia of sustainable fisheries governance, the active non-participation of resource dependent communities. Active non-involvement is intentional noninvolvement in formal political activities while participating in informal governance activities. The great emphasis placed on the democratic participation of local resource user groups as necessary for natural resource and environmental sustainability demands a greater focus on who is and who is not participating, and why, as well as the associated consequences. I explored this phenomenon from the perspective of the fisherpeople of Two Rivers, North Carolina. The research for this project utilized a case study method involving three data collection techniques: observations, interviews and document and policy review.

“Labor Market Institutions and Social Policy as a Structural Influence on Health” by Adam Mayer

Abstract: Medical sociology has made impressive and often exhaustive contributions to our understanding of the socially contingent determinants of health. In this paper, I seek to add to that understanding by arguing that the institutional framework of labor markets, which ranges from formal organizations like unions to public policies to informal norms, influences health. I argue that this influence is structural in nature; the health of people who are not members of the workforce is influenced by labor market institutions. To test these ideas, I use a multilevel model for change to look at the relationship between state-level post neonatal mortality, union density, and social policies from 1979-2007.

“Fair Trade Certification in the Global Flower Industry: Challenges in Improving Labor Standards and Labor Rights” by Laura Raynolds

Abstract: Fair Trade certification is a rapidly growing initiative that seeks to empower farmers and workers in the Global South. Although Fair Trade was designed to support peasant cooperatives, it’s most rapid growth is currently in sectors like flowers where production is dominated by large enterprises which depend on hired labor. To improve worker conditions, Fair Trade builds on ILO standards and provides a premium fund for investment in social programs. To foster worker empowerment, Fair Trade focuses both on individual and collective capacity building, requiring worker representation and negotiation with management. While Fair Trade and labor movement goals appear to coincide in seeking to improve labor standards and labor rights, labor groups are concerned that certification may bring few benefits to workers and may even thwart the creation of strong autonomous workers organizations. How successful is Fair Trade at promoting its empowerment agenda with hired workers? What are the challenges inherent in utilizing Fair Trade certification as a mechanism for improving labor standards and fostering labor rights? This paper addresses these questions drawing on research with global Fair Trade and labor movement groups and with managers and workers on Fair Trade certified flower farms in Ecuador.

“Parole Reentry and Social Capital: The Critical Role of Homelessness” by Prabha Unnithan, Alex Walker, Lynn Hempel, Michael Hogan, and Tara Shelley

Abstract: Previous research has substantiated how social capital has a dramatic effect on the ability of parolees to navigate social interactions and access resources for successful reentry. 73 interviews with returning offenders were conducted and used to understand the role of social capital in the reentry process and how homelessness affects it. We compare the experiences of individuals who were released homeless to those who were able to leave prison with housing. We discuss the implications of these findings in terms of considerations for the development and implementation of reentry programming.

“Resonance of Moral Shocks in Abolitionist Animal Rights Advocacy: Overcoming Contextual Constraints” by Corey Wrenn

Abstract: Decoux (2009) argues that abolitionist non-human animal rights fails to recruit members because it does not effectively utilize descriptions of suffering. However, the effectiveness of moral shocks and subsequent emotional reactions has been questioned. This article reviews the literature surrounding the use of moral shocks in social movements. Based on this review, it is suggested that the exploitation of emotional reactions to depictions of suffering can sometimes prove beneficial to recruitment, but successful use is contextual based on pre-existing
Student News

Featured Undergraduate Students

Josiah Savig is a general sociology major and Russian minor. He hopes to work for a non-profit organization in underdeveloped places in Africa or Asia after graduating.

Holli Sutton was born and raised in Lakewood, WA. She enjoys cooking, traveling, whitewater rafting, beer and wine tasting, and figure skating. She earned an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts from Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona in 2010. She is currently working towards a B.A. in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology at Colorado State University. Her future plans include working with crime victims in her local community, a service-focused trip to Kenya, and possibly continuing her education by earning a Master's degree.

Hope Pruett is humanity's student, a sponge of sorts, absorbing knowledge from any source in her general vicinity. Colorado State University provides a wonderfully convenient atmosphere equipped with her two great loves (people and learning) in comfortably close quarters. However, her home could never migrate from Loveland where she lives with her mother and pet python. Her specific study arenas include Sociology, Media Studies, and Business. She promises, once her education is complete, to use her powers for good.

Featured Graduate Students

Patrick Bixler, Center for Collaborative Conservation Research Fellow ($2,000)

Galen Ciscell, Institute of Learning and Teaching Course Redesign Grant. Colorado State University. Co-PI. ($15,000)

Alyssa Dawson, Capitol Hills Days Scholarship ($1,000)

Michelle Lueck, Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement from the American Sociological Association Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology; Dissertation Research Award from the Endowment Committee of the Rural Sociological Society; Recipient of the Midwest Sociological Society’s (MSS) Endowment Grant ($1,500)

Kelsea Macilroy, Rural Sociological Society Master's Thesis Research Award

Daniel Newell McLane, Teacher of the Year Nominee, CSU Alumni Association

Meghan Mordy, Midwest Sociological Society Endowment Committee Research Grant ($1,500)

Beth Plombon, Funding on behalf of the Colorado Water Institute ($15,000)

Amber Reese, Capitol Hills Days Scholarship ($1,000)

Claudia Rosty, Colorado State University Harriet Patsy Boyer Memorial Scholarship ($3000)

Stacia Sydoriak, Recipient of the Annual U.S. based Gender and Disaster Resilience Alliance (GDRA) Paper Competition

Jennifer Tobin-Gurley, First-place of the 2011 Hazards and Disasters Student Paper Competition ($100); First-place in the annual U.S. based Gender and Disaster Resilience Alliance (GDRA) Paper Competition
Laura Harmon

My name is Laura Harmon and I am a Graduate of Colorado State University, achieving a Bachelor’s in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology/Criminal Justice and a minor in Political Science. I came to sociology by accident. I took a social problems course my first year and discovered my passion to help people and truly make a difference. From then on, I have become eager to understand the various social origins of behavior that generate differing social problems. Throughout my studies, the profound sociology faculty at CSU has made it possible for me to challenge my own thinking. Furthermore, my sociological inquiry has grown with the opportunities available to engage in the research centers within the department. I have been involved specifically with the Center for the Study of Crime and Justice as an undergraduate volunteer research assistant. Through the research center, I have had the unique experience to engage in hands-on research methodology and directly work with department faculty. This opportunity has taught me the importance of ‘doing sociology’ and to respect people from all walks of life.

I am currently working for The Center for the Study of Crime and Justice as a research assistant in the CSU Department of Sociology. I plan to strengthen my studies in the Social Sciences through a Master’s degree. Since I am interested in other cultures, specifically Arabic, I am also currently volunteering for CSU international students with English as their second language. I seek to address professionally, the contemporary social and political issues throughout North Africa and the Middle East. One of my long-term goals is to pursue research for an international organization, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for instance. Overall, my experience in the sociology department was and continues to be an inspiration to succeed.

Diane Mitsch Bush

Dr. Diane Mitsch Bush has recently earned the title of 'Representative-elect' for the Colorado State House of Representatives District 26 (all of Eagle and Routt Counties). Some of you might remember Diane as she was a faculty member in the Department of Sociology from 1982 until 1993. Before being elected to the Colorado State House of Representatives, Representative-elect Bush was an active public servant, serving, for example, on the Routt County Planning Commission (Vice Chair), from 1997-2006. In 2006, Diane was elected as a County Commissioner with 58% of the vote county wide and 64% in the City of Steamboat Springs, and was sworn into office in January 2007. She was reelected in 2010 with no opposition. Congratulations Diane!
**Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)**

The officers of Alpha Kappa Delta have come up with two main goals this year: increase active membership and visibility on campus and interact with and give back to the Fort Collins community. So far, the members of AKD have attended meetings twice a month on campus, at coffee shops, and pizzerias, volunteered for RamRide, helped out other student organizations with a cultural awareness campaign during Halloween, and toured a local sustainable business, the Fort Collins Brewery. Alpha Kappa Delta has also been planning several exciting upcoming events like a winter social, a sociology documentary night, volunteering for CSUnity, and running the second-annual clothing drive for charity. We are excited to grow as an organization this month as we elect new officers and at the end of the spring semester as we welcome new members during the induction ceremony.

**Crime and Justice Organization (CJO)**

The Crime and Justice Organization was very active during the month of October. They organized a field trip to the Larimer County Court and Judicial Debrief with Honorable Judge Odell (seen left) on the 11th. On the 23rd and 24th CJO, with the department, hosted two lectures by Professor Sam Walker, University of Nebraska. Professor Walker is an internationally renowned scholar on the subject of police accountability and civil liberties. His first lecture provided an overview of his new book entitled, *Presidents and Civil Liberties From Wilson to Obama: A Story of Poor Custodians* published by the Cambridge University Press. In his second lecture, he synthesized major developments in police accountability and themes from his book entitled, *The New World of Police Accountability* published by Sage. Both lectures were highly successful and it was an honor for the department to host Professor Walker.
Doctor of Philosophy

Dr. Jim Franzen, Ph.D., Spring 2012

**Dissertation Title:** “Metaethics, Ontology, and Epistemology in American Sociology: Emile Durkheim and Gilles Deleuze”

**Dissertation Chair:** Dr. Michael Carolan

**Dissertation Abstract:** For over one hundred years, leading sociologists have criticized their own discipline for its “moralistic identity” and its “scientific rationale.” These markers directly reflect the first principles of the modern institutions of sociology. Metaethical commitments to moral realism, ontological commitments to transcendental forms, and epistemological commitments to a deductive-nomological logic, all first articulated by Emile Durkheim, became the foundation of American sociology. These commitments informed our answers to the intellectual, organizational, and sociocultural requirements for the institutionalization of a new academic science. Gilles Deleuze offers a different set of commitments. His metaethics suggests a new approach to our identity as interventionists. His ontology and epistemology supports an enhancement and expansion of our quantitative warrants.

Dr. Andrew Prelog, Ph.D., Summer 2012

**Dissertation Title:** “Longitudinal and Geographical Analysis of the Relationships between Natural Disasters and Crime in the United States”

**Dissertation Abstract:** Natural disasters and crime are ubiquitous in the United States. The public generally views the social disorder associated with disaster events as criminogenic—that is, disasters somehow foster opportunistic criminal behavior. Scientific investigation into the relationship between disaster and crime is more nuanced—and at times has produced contradictory and inconsistent findings.

This dissertation research explores the relationship between disaster and crime in the continental United States to investigate the question of whether disasters of different magnitudes and/or types differentially affect crime rates. I employ three sociological theories to inform the analyses. First, sociology of disaster researchers, using the therapeutic community hypothesis, have long asserted that disasters reduce criminal activity both during and after the event. Second, criminologists using social disorganization theory assert that disaster may increase the likelihood and occurrence of crime. Third, researchers using routine activity theory suggest that disaster may increase or decrease criminal activity, depending on how a disaster restructures formal and informal mechanisms of social control, and criminal opportunity.

To investigate this question, I use geographic and longitudinal analyses of 14 years of county-level data on socio-demographic predictors of crime, crime rates, and disaster impacts. I statistically model 11 different categories of crime and impacts from 12 different disaster types using geographic information systems, hierarchical linear modeling, and geographically weighted regression. In general, findings indicate that higher crime rates are associated with larger disaster magnitudes. The effect is not consistent for all categories of crime investigated in this research. Findings also indicate that certain types of disasters have a differential effect on crime outcomes, independent of disaster magnitude. This research and results represent the first county-level geographic and longitudinal analysis of disaster and crime for the United States.
Introducing Dr. Tara Opsal

The Department of Sociology is pleased to welcome Dr. Tara Opsal as the newest member of the faculty. Dr. Opsal received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2009 and, more recently, was an Assistant Professor at the University of Northern Iowa. Her dissertation research, which was supported by a National Science Foundation Grant and an American Association of University Women Fellowship, examined the post-incarceration experiences of women. More broadly, Dr. Opsal's research interests focus on the consequences of criminal justice policy, particularly in women’s lives. Dr. Opsal will teach a number of courses including Gender, Crime, and Criminal Justice, Correctional Organizations, and Introduction to Sociology. In her free time she can be found enjoying the foothills and mountains of Northern Colorado with her dog.

Research Centers

The Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis: Undergraduate Research Assistant Experiences by Samantha Lafever (Sociology major, Political Science minor)

This fall semester, I seized the opportunity to become an undergraduate research assistant (RA) at the Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis (CDRA) at Colorado State University. Although I have only been with the center for a few months, it has become the best part of my undergraduate experience. Including myself, the Center—which is co-directed by Lori Peek, an Associate Professor of Sociology—currently hosts eight undergrad RA’s. Nine former undergraduates count themselves among the growing pool of CDRA alums. These students have participated in both paid positions supported by the National Science Foundation, and in an unpaid internship program where we receive academic credit for our work.

One of the driving goals behind CDRA is to “train a future generation of hazards and disaster researchers and professionals” (see disaster.colostate.edu for more information). As part of this goal, Dr. Peek and the other faculty and graduate students at the Center work closely with the undergraduate RA’s to involve us in data collection, data analysis, literature reviews, and other research-related tasks. Many of us have expressed a deep appreciation for this involvement, which will undoubtedly help us if we decide to go on to graduate school or move into the professional world upon graduation.

Alyssa Dawson, who graduated with her B.A. in sociology in 2011, explains that “the experience helped me develop professional skills in my field” and it “prepared me for the work I would be doing for my own research project as I work towards earning my M.A.” Meagan Templeton-Lynch, who is presently an undergrad RA, exclaims that “the fact that I get to combine sociology with journalism at CDRA has been great!” She has also been able to think more about what she “might be able to do as a journalist to help the general population understand or prepare for potential hazards.” Emily Doerr, also a current RA, notes how she now has “a far greater understanding of the human effects of natural disasters” after having been a part of several studies.

Echoing the sentiments above, I too have grown personally, academically, and professionally from engaging in projects as I assist with different research components. The Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis offers extraordinary opportunities to learn and flourish.
The Center for Fair and Alternative Trade

Visiting Scholar: Elizabeth Bennett

Elizabeth Bennett is a PhD candidate in international relations and comparative politics in the Department of Political Science at Brown University (Providence, Rhode Island). She writes about voluntary, ethical certifications as a form of private global governance. Her dissertation examines the governance structure of Fairtrade International, the INGO that manages the Fairtrade label, focusing on the inclusion/exclusion of the producers of Fairtrade products, and the balance of power between North and South. Her work is published in *The Practices and Processes of Fair Trade* (Routledge 2012), *Patterns in Social Entrepreneurship Research* (Edward Elgar 2012), and the peer-reviewed journal *Globalizations*. This research is supported by the American Council on Germany, the German Academic Exchange, the Tinker Foundation, and the Watson Institute for International Studies.

Elizabeth is also a co-author of *The Civic Imagination* (Paradigm Press, 2013), a collaborative, interdisciplinary ethnography of political engagement in America. Her research interests include international development, activism, North-South inequality, ethical certifications, and civic engagement. Before coming to Brown, Elizabeth earned a MALD in political economy and international development at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, interned at USAID in Washington DC, taught public high school in NYC, worked for a Mexican NGO, and taught civic engagement at Tufts University. In 2011, she earned the Terrance Hoppman Award for teaching excellence at Brown University.

Elizabeth joined the Center for Fair & Alternative Trade (CFAT) on October 22nd and will be in Fort Collins for the rest of the academic year. She is giving a talk in the CFAT seminar series titled “When do INGOs Address Global Inequalities in their own Ranks? Fair Trade and the Balance of Power Between North and South.” Elizabeth is currently writing her dissertation and expects to graduate in 2013 or 2014 (depending, of course, on the job market!). She has joined the CFAT community to write her dissertation in consultation with scholars familiar with the fair trade case and literature, and to share her insights and analysis with fair trade researchers. She hopes to strengthen relations between CFAT and leadership at Fairtrade International, who have requested that she facilitate collaborative efforts with North American academics. She plans to work closely with CFAT Co-Directors, co-authoring an article with Laura Raynolds and developing an academic/industry working group with Doug Murray, as well as other Center affiliated faculty and graduate students.

Elizabeth is delighted to be part of the CSU community. She looks forward to your correspondence at Elizabeth_Bennett@brown.edu.

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**Laura Raynolds’ article “Consumer/Producer Links in Fair Trade Coffee Networks” is still one of the five most read articles in Sociologia Ruralis 42(4):404-24, a decade after its publication and has been cited by over 300 publications.**

Abstract: This article analyzes the multifaceted connections linking consumers and producers in expanding North/South Fair Trade coffee networks. I develop a commodity network framework that builds on the commodity chain tradition, integrating insights from cultural studies, actor-network theory, and conventions approaches. This framework illuminates how material and ideological relations are negotiated across production and consumption arenas. In the case of Fair Trade, progressive ideas and practices related to trust, equality, and global responsibility are intertwined with traditional commercial and industrial conventions. As I demonstrate, the negotiation of these divergent conventions shortens the social distance between Fair Trade coffee consumers and producers. I conclude that by re-linking consumers and producers, commodity network analysis provides a robust entré for academic inquiry and engagement in alternative food politics.
CSU Sociology professors and members of the department’s Center for the Study of Crime and Justice (CSCJ) Tara Shelley and Mike Hogan were among 77 scholars from around the world participating in the inaugural “Environmental Crime and its Victims” conference in Delft, The Netherlands on September 17 and 18th. They were joined by former CSU Sociology professor Paul Stretesky and former graduate student Mike Long (PhD, 2010). Dr. Shelley gave a presentation on wildlife law enforcement in Florida and Drs. Long and Stretesky presented on the deterrent effects of EPA fines on industrial pollution. The overall goal of the conference—which organizers hope to make an annual event—was to call greater attention to the relevance of environmental issues to the discipline of criminology.

A group of current and former CSU students has spent the past several months surveying state residents about their experiences with the Colorado State Patrol (CSP). The results, which will be made public in 2013, will help CSP connect with the people they serve.

Survey participants can answer questions regarding the Patrol’s strategic focus, community outreach and enforcement operations. While much of the survey incorporates focused questions and answers, all participants will have the opportunity to submit additional comments in an open format.

This is the fourth time CSP has worked with the CSCJ. CSP appreciates the professional approach of the student surveyors and additionally students gain valuable job experience, and earn sociology credits for their work.

Excerpt from Today@Colorado State article 9/5/12. To see the full article click [here](#).

Dr. Tara O’Connor Shelley is about to secure a $20,000 contract with the City of Fort Lupton to conduct an evaluation of their new Community Court and Restorative Justice program. This project will involve two graduate students (DJ Rogers and Adam Mayer) and Sociology Undergraduates as part of a service learning capstone class.

The Department of Sociology gratefully welcomes contributions that support our ongoing efforts to improve the program. Your support of our efforts is important, and very much appreciated. Please use the following hotlink for your donation: [https://advancing.colostate.edu/CLA/GIVE](https://advancing.colostate.edu/CLA/GIVE)