

Price Hall Report

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Department Launches New Social Science Data Center

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology hosted an open house last December to showcase the new Social Science Data Center (SSDC). The reception was attended by faculty, staff, graduate students, and deans from all the University's four colleges. The SSDC was created with the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Vice Provost for Research, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and the W. M. Keck Foundation Grant for Applied Life Science Program. According to Anne Meltzer, the Herbert J. and Ann L. Siegel Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, "The Social Science Data Center is an excellent step in advancing the data-driven research being carried out by faculty and students. It will help fulfill the research needs of many constituents across colleges, as well as in the local community and nationally."



Located in Price Hall, the center is fully equipped with six state-of-the-art workstations using the latest software to conduct a wide variety of research, including telephone-based surveys, computer-assisted coding and analysis of qualitative data, advanced statistical analysis, geographic information systems analysis, and database management and input. A graduate assistant with call-center experience is on site to work with faculty and student researchers who utilize the center's facilities, and training sessions are available to bring researchers up to speed on the various software programs.

Ziad Munson, assistant professor of sociology and the major force behind the development of the center, spoke at the reception. "This is a great thing for the university, faculty, and students. We want to spark people's imaginations about how they can use the center. There's an opportunity for it to really grow as it assists people in conducting their own research." The data center is already lending research support to many different projects and has been used to train many students, undergraduate and graduate, in carrying out research.

For faculty, the facilities provide an opportunity to increase their research output and make them more competitive for grants; for students, the center provides experience with tools that will be essential in their careers. "This provides students with skill sets that they wouldn't otherwise have," said Munson.

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New Social Science Data Center

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Academic projects from the various colleges at Lehigh are already taking advantage of the center's resources, including an NIH-funded study on family relationships, an NSF-funded study of citizen trust and electronic voting, a student project in Economics, and a study of online social networking and its impact on the creation of relationships. Students also conducted a community-funded needs assessment for North Penn Legal Services, an organization that provides free legal aid services to low-income families in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Student workers have placed thousands of phone calls to generate the needed responses.

"This will raise Lehigh's profile within the community by showing what we do best—research and teaching—and how that can help in their lives," Munson said of the project.

Working in partnership with the Institute of Public Opinion at Muhlenberg College, Lehigh's data center will also be able to collaborate on projects by connecting with Muhlenberg's twelve workstations, which are used to conduct scientific-based survey research projects of public policy and political issues throughout the Lehigh Valley and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. According to Munson "It's a synergy where both schools will benefit."

Munson says that the future will see additional equipment added to the center, allowing researchers to bring larger projects in-house, including full-scale national surveys, interview projects, and studies of texts and media. He also sees great potential in collecting and analyzing public opinion on countless topics relevant to the local community. "We can provide some scientific rigor to claims about what people do or do not want," said Munson. "There are a lot of community issues on which there is a lot of heat and not much light."



Linda Lowe-Krentz, Ziad Munson, and Wendy Abrantes, M.A. '07

Message from the Chair



This past year has been very exciting for the department. A year ago we welcomed Professor Yuping Zhang, a new Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She has been a wonderful addition to the faculty. This past year she taught Research Methods to our majors as well as Gender and Development and a course on China, where she grew up and where she is carrying out research on parents and teachers' expectations for children's education.

In December we had the successful launching of our new Social Science Data Center, a project initiated and implemented by Ziad Munson and an important contribution to research in the department and the university; the open house was attended by faculty and administrators from around the university.

We also conducted two searches for new faculty members, under the able leadership of Jim McIntosh and John Gatewood, and were delighted to conclude with the hiring of two excellent new faculty, anthropologist Bruce Whitehouse from Brown University and sociologist Matthew Sanderson from the University of Utah.

In April we hosted three scholars from other institutions to advise us on our proposals to develop two new graduate programs: a Ph.D. in Sociology and a Master's in Anthropology. The last big event of the year occurred in May, when we hosted a reception for faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences to announce the launching of a new prize for research by faculty in Social Sciences, endowed by Robert and Virginia Williamson. The first prize was awarded to Roy Herrenkohl in recognition of his career of distinguished contributions to research in social science. Congratulations, Roy!

Our extraordinary department coordinator, Erica Nastasi, won three university awards this year—a spot bonus for her work in establishing the Social Science Data Center, and two "Tradition of Excellence" awards. Way to go, Erica!

In addition to these specific exciting events, Price Hall has been hopping with activity from top to bottom all year. Roy Herrenkohl received a grant from NIH to follow up his long-time family study, and he has hired eight people to work on this project. They have filled the third floor of Price Hall, adding to the Center for Social Research staff who already work there. John Gatewood has been working on an NSF grant in the Turks and Caicos, and Ziad Munson has been funded by NSF in collaboration with a professor in Engineering to study the challenges of electronic voting machines. David Small has students working on multiple projects in the archeology lab on the lower level of Price Hall.

Our undergraduate and graduate students and our alumni continue to be accomplished and successful, as seen elsewhere in the newsletter. With the addition of the SSDC, many of them have been involved in evaluation projects for community agencies.

Thus we have much to celebrate. Thanks to Nikki Tannenbaum for being our very effective "DUPE" (Director of Undergraduate Programs) for the past two years, and to Heather Johnson for directing the Graduate program. And congratulations to Heather and Braydon on their new baby, Meera Grace Johnson-McCormick!

We look forward to another outstanding year. Do keep in touch and let us know what you're doing.

~ Judy Lasker ~

Department Welcomes New Faculty

The Department of Sociology & Anthropology is delighted to announce the appointment of two new faculty members: anthropologist Bruce Whitehouse and sociologist Matthew Sanderson. Both are affiliated with the Globalization and Social Change Initiative at Lehigh and both are fascinated by the subject of international migration. We are happy that they have decided to migrate to Bethlehem.



Matt Sanderson received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Utah, where he completed his dissertation on *The Global Political Economy of International Migration*. He received his B.A. in finance and economics and his M.A. in sociology from Kansas State University. Sanderson's research focuses on the role of international migration as it both reflects and influences globalization, and he uses cross-national data to examine the factors that promote migration out of poorer countries. He is currently teaching "The

Political Economy of Globalization" in collaboration with the Globalization and Social Change Initiative. His teaching experience includes "Global Social Structure," "Research Methods & Statistics," "Social Problems," and "Introduction to Sociology." He will be teaching a course on globalization and migration this spring.

The former managing editor of the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, Sanderson was also the founder and editor of *Social Dialogue*, a graduate student journal at the University of Utah. He received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy, and was the recipient of the Marriner S. Eccles Graduate Fellowship in Political Economy from the University of Utah. He has several publications forthcoming in journals including *International Sociology*, *International Migration*, and the *Human Ecology Review*, and he has presented his research at many conferences in the United States, Canada, and Britain. His most recent paper will be presented at the International Studies Association-Northeast Annual Conference in Baltimore in October – it is entitled "Does International Migration Promote Human Development? Evidence from Less-Developed Countries."

Sanderson's research will make important contributions to many programs on campus, particularly the Globalization and Social Change Initiative where he has a joint appointment, as well as the Environmental Initiative, due to his research on the environmental aspects of globalization.

Welcome to Matt and his wife Molly!

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Bruce Whitehouse is a cultural anthropologist who received his Ph.D. and A.M. in anthropology from Brown University. He received his B.A. from Carleton College, where he majored in English with a minor in French. Following graduation from Carleton, he worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and then served three years in the Peace Corps in the West African nation of Mali. According to Whitehouse, "This experience sparked my interest in the diversity of human societies and the inter-relations between global events and culture at the local level."



Whitehouse conducted his Ph.D. dissertation field research in Bamako, Mali and Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, focusing on transnational migration between West Africa and the Congo Basin. His dissertation is entitled *Exile Knows No Dignity: African Transnational Migrants and the Anchoring of Identity*. He was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship from the Population Studies and Training Center at Brown to conduct field research in southern Nigeria on women's experiences of infertility as well as a Dissertation Fieldwork Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. His research interests are concentrated on postcolonial sub-Saharan Africa, anthropological demography, development, and especially transnational migration. Courses he has taught include "African Issues in Anthropological Perspective," "Globalization and Society in the 21st Century," and "International Health: Anthropological Perspectives,"

In addition to the many professional and conference presentations he has given, Whitehouse's forthcoming publications include "Transnational childrearing and Othered identities in Brazzaville, Congo" in *Global Networks*, and "Brazzaville, plaque tournante des flux migratoires maliennes en Afrique centrale," a chapter in a book edited by Christophe Daum and to be published by Karthala (Paris). In 2008 he published "Republic of Congo," a chapter in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Children's Issues Worldwide* (Greenwood Press), and he presently has an article under review for publication in the journal *Social Science & Medicine*, and an article for publication in *Ethnology*.

Bruce and his wife Oumou and daughter Rokia have already contributed to their new community—they have been featured on a local radio station (WDIY) discussing Mali and its music. In addition to his ties to the Globalization and Social Change Initiative, Bruce will also be part of the Africana Studies program at Lehigh.

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The Department and the University look forward to the educational and scholarly contributions of these two dynamic professors. Please feel free to stop into Price Hall to say hello if you are in the neighborhood!



Sirry Alang, right, and Ghanaian villagers



Master's Student Evaluates Corporate Volunteer Health Project in Ghana

Sirry Alang, M.A. 2008, traveled to Ghana for three weeks last spring to participate in and evaluate a volunteer project organized by Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD). The BD project's aim was to improve quality and expand access to basic healthcare services in one district of northern Ghana. BD, a leading global medical technology company, partnered with the nonprofit medical aid organization Direct Relief International (DRI) in this endeavor. Fifteen associates from BD worked side-by-side with Alang at the King's Village Project in Botango, Ghana. The group greatly enhanced the existing laboratory, conducted training sessions with medical staff and traditional birth attendants, traveled to several villages for outreach clinics, improved the computer records system and the medical waste disposal system, and also worked in education, nutrition, and micro-enterprise.

Alang, who is originally from Cameroon, came to Lehigh to be a master's student in Sociology and is heading into a career in public health after taking a number of graduate courses in the area of medical sociology. She was invited by BD to assess the intervention process and its impact both on the Ghanaian health care center and on the volunteers, while also collecting baseline data for future follow-up evaluations. She interviewed BD volunteers prior to their departure to Ghana regarding their expectations and observed the challenges and satisfactions they experienced in the field. She also made extensive observations on the impact of their work and interviewed many Ghanaians in the district. Her work resulted in a presentation to BD and DRI executives and volunteers at BD's New Jersey headquarters in June, and a full report of findings and recommendations for future projects and data collection to ensure the sustainability of the health benefits of the project.

The opportunity for this valuable experience was originally brought to the Department's attention through Matt Mattern in Lehigh's Development Office, who works closely with Gene Vivino, a Lehigh alumnus and Director of Corporate Development and Strategic Investments at BD. Lehigh and BD are currently working on establishing a long-term partnership to work on critical global health issues and educational and research initiatives. BD greatly appreciated the opportunity to have a talented and well-trained sociology graduate student to assist in this effort.



Sirry Alang, top row-right, and BD volunteers

Alumni News

Troy Boni, M.A. '05, and his family have moved back to Bethlehem from upstate New York. Troy is now a Contract and Grant Specialist working in the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs at Lehigh University. Welcome back Troy!

Martin Coleman, M.A. '94, M.Ed. '99, continues to enjoy his first love, photography, and has a fantastic website which you can visit at www.rapidshutter.com to see his work. His day job is Director of Academic Intervention Services at Brooklyn Middle School 582–The Academy, and Local Chapter Leader, United Federation of Teachers. He is also the co-founder and COO of the Norman Stanley Unger Youth Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of urban youth.

Misty Curreli, M.A. '04, attends school at Stony Brook, where she will complete her Ph.D. in sociology. She also teaches yoga and works part-time at a domestic violence and sexual assault center.

Jessica Dreistadt, M.A. '07, is Executive Director of Family Connection of Easton, Inc., an afterschool program at Cheston Elementary School.

Samina Luthfa, M.A. '06, has just begun her Ph.D. studies in sociology at Oxford's St. Cross College. She was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship and in the U.K., a Ph.D. is conferred in 36 months! Congratulations Samina.

Mary McVeigh, M.A. '08, told us about her work with Soccer Without Borders in Granada, Nicaragua. This is a non-profit organization that helps disadvantaged youth, showing them how sports participation can enhance their life-skills and benefits them in so many ways. Mary volunteered with them and now directs the Granada program from afar while working as an assistant soccer coach at Dartmouth College. She is also a freelance writer for *Fairgame Magazine*.

Erin Niclaus, M.A. '06, accepted a position as the Outreach and Education Coordinator for Community Health at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown. She is working on the dental sealant initiative in Allentown and Easton elementary schools, implementing an advanced care planning system at the hospital called "Respecting Choices," and collecting data through asset mapping in Old Allentown.

Shana Stites, M.A. '04, research analyst at The Center for Urban Health Policy and Research at the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, is working toward a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Chestnut Hill College. She is using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for such projects as studying the impact of naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs) on the social well being of seniors.

Carlos Tavares, M.A. '06, and his wife, Heather, became the proud parents of a baby girl last February. Makenna was 6 lbs., 10 oz. and everyone is doing well. Carlos is completing his Ph.D. at Notre Dame.

Nicole Farugia Tuite, B.A. '04, emailed Professor Gatewood to let us know she and her husband are the proud parents of Alexandra, and that Nicole continues to work in technical marketing and communications.

Jessica Wildman, B.A. '03, M.A. '08, is living in New York City and working as a strategic planner at the advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi, researching human behaviors on cultural, sociological, and personal levels.

Elizabeth Wolski, B.A. '01, M.A. '05. Liz and her husband, Mike, have moved back to Washington, D.C., where she is now a Consultant/Dedicated Advisor with The Advisory Board Company. Go to www.advisoryboardcompany.com/index.html to read more about the work that this innovative company is doing in health care, education, and government.

We love hearing from former students so please take a minute to share your latest accomplishments with us by email at sociology@lehigh.edu or by fax to 610-758-6552. Thank you.

