Note from the Chair

Dr. Steven Vallas

IT'S BEEN TWO FULL YEARS since I took this position, and much has unfolded since I first arrived. Faculty have continued churning out award-winning scholarship; we've enjoyed a surge in faculty hiring; graduate students have continued to keep us on our toes, and we've introduced new opportunities at the undergraduate level as well. There's too much to review in this short space, so allow me to mention just a few of the strengths our department has amassed.

NEW FACULTY ARRIVALS

One of our more exciting accomplishments falls under the heading of departmental expansion. In 2009-2010, we were thrilled to welcome Professors Linda Blum, Jeffrey Juris, Berna Turam, and Liza Weinstein to campus. Each has been a remarkable addition; each has contributed stellar scholarship and teaching to our respective programs. Professor Blum's arrival contributes to our longstanding strengths in gender and in sociological theory. The arrival of Professors Juris, Turam and Weinstein provided a critical mass in the study of globalization. Juris is expert in the study of transnational social movements, technology and social networks; Turam's work centers on the study of Islam, gender, and the relation between civil society and the state; while Weinstein conducts ethnographic and comparative research on global capitalism and urban environments with a particular focus on India and China. Lead by the creative energies of Professor Juris, we held an especially stimulating conference on "Globalization and the Grassroots" on Feb. 11, 2010. This year we have also recruited Professors Mindelyn Buford II, Doreen Lee, and Nina Sylvanus. Buford, specializing in the sociology of race, ethnicity, and immigration, joins us from Johns Hopkins University, where she completed research on racial hierarchies and African immigrants in the United States. Lee, who recently finished her doctoral work at Cornell University, joins us from Amherst College. She specializes in the study of political culture and social movements with a focus on East Asia. Sylvanus is expert in the study of commodity chains, gender, and economic institutions, especially in West Africa. With all these arrivals, it seems fair to observe that our department now enjoys unparalleled strengths in globalization. Our second annual conference on globalization, planned for the spring of 2011, promises to be even more remarkable than last year's.

LECTURES AND INTELLECTUAL EVENTS

With generous funding from the Dean’s office, our department has been pleased to host an innovative Distinguished Lecture Series. Last year, our speakers addressed many themes. Prolific gender scholar at the University of the Netherlands Kathy Davis, lectured on "The Making of Our Bodies, Ourselves: How Feminism Travels Across Borders." University of Pennsylvania urban sociologist David Grazian, lectured on "The Hustle of Urban Nightlife." Harvard's Lawrence Bobo, the W.E.B. DuBois Professor of the Social Sciences, spoke on racial frames and the meaning of Obama's 2008 political campaign. This year's speaker series included UC Berkeley urban sociologist Lofic Wacquant on September 21-22, and leading deviance theorist Robert Agnew, of Emory University on November 4. We will welcome University of Pennsylvania scholar Annette Lareau on January 27. For more information, contact Joan Collins at 617-373-4940.

Conversations with New Faculty

Strengths Emerge in Globalization, Gender, and Race

REFLECTING GROWTH at Northeastern University, the department has undergone something of a growth spurt these past two years. The arrival of new faculty members has greatly expanded the department's offerings and provided a rich set of experiences on which students can draw.

We asked several of our new faculty members to provide us with a perspective on their research, their career experiences, and their transitions into the department. Below is a series of reports and conversations that convey a sense of the department's growing strengths.

Globalization and the City: The Case of Mumbai

Lisa Weinstein earned her PhD from the University of Chicago in 2009. An urban sociologist by training, she studied globalization, urban life, and economic development. We sat down with Liza and asked her about her research and the transition from the University of Chicago to Northeastern.

What is the nature of your research?

My research focuses on the political and economic forces shaping urban development and housing construction in comparative perspective. Much of this work has been situated in urban India, but I have also conducted research and written about these topics in several U.S. cities and in urban China.

What was your first year like at Northeastern?

After one year at Northeastern, I am beginning to feel more settled in my new home. I had a baby in late December, and when returned, I was welcomed warmly by the department and the wider university.
**Conversations with New Faculty**

*continued from page 1*

**What is your current research project?**

I am currently working on a book manuscript, tentatively titled: *Developing Informality: Slums, Citizens, and the State in Globalizing Mumbai*. This book explores how the rapid economic growth and political reforms underway in India today affect the housing rights of the millions of people living in slums and informal settlements. Although, in some cases, Mumbai’s slum residents have been forcibly removed to make way for glitzy, globally-oriented developments, in other cases, residents have engaged in successful struggles to maintain their homes and livelihoods. This work reveals the contestations and complex negotiations entailed in contemporary urban development efforts in the context of globalization and global city formation.

**Where do you see this research taking you?**

I have begun a few new avenues of research that build upon this work. I am currently working on a paper on slum tourism, another on foreign direct investment in India’s housing and construction sectors and another on historical contestations over public space in 19th century Bombay. With the help of our graduate student Kate Acosta, I am also exploring forces underlying slum clearance efforts in a number of globalizing cities throughout the world, including Manila, Phnom Penh, and Nairobi. This work will likely emerge into a larger comparative research project.

**What classes did you teach?**

Last fall, I taught the foundational course for the urban sociology concentration. I also worked with a number of graduate students on their PhD comprehensive exams and learned more about the exciting faculty and student research underway in the department.

**What classes are you teaching this academic year?**

This fall, I am teaching a graduate course on Globalization and the City. This course explores the conditions of cities and their inhabitants in the contemporary context of globalization. It highlights such issues as social and spatial inequalities, global civil society, urban social movements, environmental sustainability, and the informal economy.

In the spring, I will teach an undergraduate anthropology course on South Asia that will examine the history, cultures, and politics of the Indian subcontinent, and how this region has influenced and been influenced by the rest of the globe. I am also developing undergraduate urban sociology and globalization courses, including a course on the sociology of housing and homelessness, to be taught the following year.

**Political and Urban Faultlines: The Division of Istanbul**

*Berna Turan earned her PhD in Sociology from McGill University, Canada, in 2001. Her research focuses on civil society and democratization in the Middle East. We spoke with her about research in Turkey and teaching at Northeastern.*

**What is the nature of your research?**

My current book project reveals and analyzes the urban fault-lines, which deeply divide the secular left over issues of Muslim piety and political Islam. Since 2007, I have conducted ethnographic research on sites previously designated as secular spaces, such as university campuses, neighborhoods, women's groups and Islamic art. These are among the most polarized sites in Istanbul's metropolitan area. While thinking particularly about spatiality of power and how space and political power are mapped onto each other in these contested sites, I also enjoy reflecting on Istanbul, my beloved home town.

**What type of traveling have you done as research?**

While there has been a lot of traveling involved in this research project, my most recent journey started in Boston in spring 2010, when I began spending time with a small group of Turkish artists, who specialize in Islamic arts, specifically marble paper (eburu) and Ottoman classical music. They were the students of a world-famous master of marble paper, Feridun Bey, who has lived and taught these crafts for decades in Boston. This summer, I followed this diasporic group to local artists in Istanbul.

**What have you learned from your research so far?**

Just as I was thinking that nothing about Istanbul could surprise me anymore, this last piece of research opened a whole new world to me in the city. Among many things, I learned that Istanbul has been, and still is, the leading center of Islamic arts, particularly calligraphy (hat) – the art of writing in the old script (Ottoman, Farsi and Arabic). What was most surprising about this fact is that the old script was forbidden in every aspect of life, including in art, after the alphabet reform in 1928 in the early Turkish Republic. This summer, I met with the most famous calligraphers of the world, who educate and train calligraphers from across the globe, including the Arab world.

**What was your first year like at Northeastern?**

I am thankful for the warm and friendly reception by my new colleagues, who immediately made me feel at home in my new institution.

**What classes will you be teaching?**

Although I have not formally begun teaching in the department of sociology yet, I am already excited about the amazing body of students to whom I will teach Political Sociology, a graduate seminar in the spring of 2011. I will teach this course interchangeably with another graduate seminar every other year, Feminism and Islam, which is expected to be taught first in the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies at MIT in spring of 2012. As both of these courses are at the heart of my passion for sociology, I am grateful to our department, particularly to our chair and the graduate committee, for adding these new courses into the graduate curriculum.

**The Ever-Changing Role of Gender, Feminism and Family**

*Linda Blum received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1987. She is an expert in the sociology of gender, work and labor, and feminist theory. We talked with Professor Blum about Northeastern and her passion for her research.*

**What is the nature of your research?**

My latest research looks at the blame and stigma endured by mothers who are raising children with so-called invisible disabilities, like attention-deficit and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and Asperger’s Syndrome. Through interviews I have found that the mothers report being chastised by family and friends, doctors and school officials, as much as their children are by peers. This* continued on page 3
Conversations with New Faculty

held true regardless of race or socioeconomic status. However, while moms of all social standing find that they struggle to stand up to unrelenting criticism by neighbors and family members who question their parenting, mothers with lower socioeconomic status also face the insurmountable obstacle of having to pay for private schools or hire educational consultants. My research illuminates the plight of women and their families and helps frame these issues as social problems rather than those of the individual.

What are some of your recent and upcoming publications?

Part of my findings will be presented in a forthcoming article in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society. I am also working on a book which will discuss how diverse mothers negotiate for services at a time of constrained resources and how they understand the gendered and racialized framing of disorders and new psychopharmaceuticals. Previously, I have published two books, At the Breast: Ideologies of Breastfeeding and Motherhood in the Contemporary United States and Between Feminism and Labor: The Significance of the Comparable Worth Movement, as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Why should students be interested in your research?

My research and work on gender, social inequality and family issues are exciting and timely as definitions of marriage are being debated. By 2020, the once-traditional and already tired definition of the family—husband, wife, and children—will be but one of many accepted understandings. ‘Family’ will also refer to single parents and their children, gay and lesbian couples with children, heterosexual couples without children, individuals who live alone but have important kin and friendship ties, families blended across divorce and remarriage, and cohabiting couples. I teach from the perspective that this changing definition should have an impact on a wide range of laws and government policies, including those pertaining to marriage, adoption, health care, Social Security, and military and veterans benefits.

What was your first year like at Northeastern?

I am very pleased to have joined the department at a point of exciting growth and development. I look forward to carrying forward a longstanding tradition of serious feminist scholarship into a newly reinvigorated department.

What classes did you teach? Will you teach others in the future?

I taught Sociology of Family and Classical Sociological Theory. I also will be teaching Sociology of Gender at a graduate level this year.

Gay and lesbian couples with children, heterosexual couples without children, individuals who live alone but have important kin and friendship ties, families blended across divorce and remarriage, and cohabiting couples. I teach from the perspective that this changing definition should have an impact on a wide range of laws and government policies, including those pertaining to marriage, adoption, health care, Social Security, and military and veterans benefits.

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Faculty Happenings

Michael Brown was elected Chair of the Marxist Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Steven Vallas was elected Chair of the Organizations, Occupations and Work Section of the American Sociological Association.


Daniel Faber was awarded the Environmental Sociology Practice and Outreach award in the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association for scholarly contributions to the discipline and the larger society.

Silvia Dominguez was awarded a Ford Foundation Grant. With this fellowship, Dr. Dominguez plans to finish her book, which provides a framework for understanding the social mobility of immigrants that she has developed after more than two years of ethnographic research about Latin-American immigrant women in public housing in South Boston and East Boston.

Arnie Arluke published Beauty and the Beast: Human-Animal Relations as Revealed in Real Photo Postcards, 1905-1935, Syracuse University Press (with Robert Bogdan). Dr. Arluke was awarded a grant from A Kinder World Foundation for research on bystander behavior in animal cruelty cases and delivered a plenary address at the International Association of Human-Animal Organizations conference in Stockholm, Sweden in July.

Graduate Students Win Major Awards

Justin Betz recently won a Dissertation Research Grant from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Justin's dissertation focuses on the social and ecological influences that account for racial and ethnic disparities in access to federal housing supports. The grant is a highly competitive award that will position Justin to speak to issues that have bedeviled federal housing policy.

Lora Karaoglu has been awarded the Northeastern University Dissertation Completion Fellowship for Fall 2010. The award, one of six provided each year, is given by NU's Office of the Provost. Lora's thesis centers on the relation between climate change, economic development and European environmental policy.

Congratulations to both of our students!
The Anthropology of Globalization

Jeff Juris got involved at Northeastern the moment he stepped onto campus. His history as an activist has made him a great asset, both to his students and the department.

His past work has explored the cultural logic and politics of transnational networking among anti-corporate globalization activists in Barcelona, including their participation in mass actions and transnational networks such as Peoples Global Action and the World Social Forum. In 2008 and 2009 Juris hosted a news show about collective self-governance on an unlicensed, “free” radio station in Mexico City, where he explored the significance of politically charged grassroots movements, like the Zapatistas in Mexico’s state of Chiapas, the popular teacher rebellion in Oaxaca, and the struggle of urban squatters. His program promoted political, cultural and media autonomy for residents throughout the country.

Juris has published two books, Global Democracy and the World Social Forums and Networking Futures: the Movements against Corporate Globalization, as well as numerous articles. His newest book will be based on his experience as co-host of the radio program, the relationship between grassroots media-based social activism, and the broader movement for autonomy in Mexico. Juris is also co-editing a volume on ethnography, activism, and transnational social movements in conjunction with with Duke University Press.

Since coming to Northeastern Juris has begun new ethnographic fieldwork on the participation of local Boston-based organizations in the U.S. Social Forum. He is working on this project with a group of graduate students from the Sociology Department. Future research projects include online political activism among young people in Boston and transnational organic farming networks by conducting multi-sited ethnography that will explore organic farms, distributors, and sellers in several countries.

Juris serves on the Editorial Boards of Social Movement Studies and Resistance Studies Magazine and is a member of various activist research networks, including Sociologists without Borders and the North America Chapter of the Network Institute on Global Democratization.

Juris enjoyed his first year at Northeastern, which has proven to be “an all around supportive and intellectually rich environment.” Colleagues were interesting and friendly, and both undergraduate and graduate students were strong and motivated.

On February 11, 2010, Dr. Juris organized a public symposium on Globalization and Grassroots Organizations. The event was divided into two panels, Global Activism and Emerging Transnational Subjectivities and Globalization, Crisis, and Grassroots Responses. Professors from diverse institutions gathered to explore critical themes such as indigenous people and women, food sustainability and housing movements, and the World Social Forum. The conference will continue to be held annually, with a changing topic each year.

This past year Juris taught Global Markets and Social Movements and will add a new practice-oriented class on ethnographic field methods this coming year. In the future he plans on teaching classes on Latin American society and development, cyberculture and globalization and resistance at the graduate level. We look forward to him being a vital part of the popular globalization concentration in the department.

New Degrees in Undergrad Programs

With the new PlusOne degree option, the department looks to expand opportunities for those pursuing a Master’s Degree in sociology at Northeastern.

PlusOne Degree

The PlusOne degree option enables students to complete an MA in sociology with only one additional year of study at Northeastern. This program aims to attract only the highest achievers within the sociology department. Students in their junior year working toward either a BA or BS can apply. Interested students must maintain a 3.6 GPA in the major as well as a 3.3 GPA overall. Those hoping to pursue this program must demonstrate potential to succeed at the graduate level. A commitment to an application must be made by the fall of a student’s junior year.

This program offers a different experience from the traditional MA in sociology because it focuses on practical skills. Those participating gain a comprehensive knowledge of research methods and a school of thought that allows for critical analysis of many social problems. Students are also required to complete an internship practicum, which is typically a research project conducted in conjunction with a local organization.

Benefits of the PlusOne Degree

One of the most important benefits of this new program is that it allows motivated students to complete an MA with just one additional year of study at Northeastern. It is an exciting opportunity for the intellectually curious pursuing careers in applied sociological research. This program also allows students going on to doctorate education to distinguish themselves from their peers.

Many students discover their passions while in college. Every faculty member can relate to the experience of meeting a student whose passion and talent for sociology is awakened in one of our classes. The PlusOne degree option is a chance for members of the department to mentor students considering graduate school more directly while students complete a MA more conveniently.

Advice for Potential Students

Students interested in this program must have a somewhat defined area of interest within the field. Long term professional and personal goals are also extremely important to consider. Graduate study is more focused and demanding than undergraduate work, so students must be dedicated to their studies. For those truly passionate about the study of sociology, the PlusOne degree opens many doors for the future. With questions, contact Chris Chambers at c.chambers@neu.edu.
Undergraduate Co-ops in Action

An Interview with Erin Leonard
Class of 2010

I MOVED TO BOSTON as Hurricane Katrina was destroying my home in New Orleans. This compelled me to begin exploring government as a method to help people, protect our natural resources, and enact change. I was extremely frustrated and very disappointed with the Katrina experience. I wanted my first co-op to help me understand politics first-hand. I felt inspired by Boston, with its skyscrapers, subway system, and the amazing opportunities I found here, and I wanted to immerse myself in understanding how a city as successful as Boston worked from the inside.

I was assigned to work alongside an up-and-coming, sometimes idealistic, City Councilor at Large Sam Yoon. Sam was Harvard educated, had fresh ideas, and he liked my thoughts on the importance of city infrastructure. In his office, I used my background in anthropology to understand and relate to the many different people that needed our help. I would get calls about home foreclosure, closing community centers, help to get into a public school, issues of homelessness, and poverty. As I grew into helping with more and more constituent problems, I watched my boss craft housing policy.

I loved my co-op because I got to see the political issues and societal/governmental structure I was studying in classes first-hand. I loved everything about co-op and was able to transform my thoughts and opinions on politics into action. I got to help write and craft policy and meet with a City Councilor daily to bounce ideas off of and debate other political ideas. I think the most useful part of my experience was the opportunity to go back to school once my internship ended, because I could further pursue my new-found interests in the classroom. I took more sociology classes to fine tune my understanding of American cities and societal problems.

The Sociology and Anthropology department is very lucky, in part, because it’s so small and tight-knit. With the Sociology and Anthropology Student Association (SASA), I was able to get to know the other students in the department, which I found be to very interesting intellectuals. It was easy to stay in SASA and stay in touch with Northeastern while on co-op, and that connection enhanced my co-op experience. Talking about political issues in a SASA meeting and bringing those ideas to City Hall the next morning made for a very holistic experience. Unlike other departments, with Sociology and Anthropology you’re able to pursue any interest you may have. I was able to transfer my anger about Katrina into a study of urban life. I know in other departments I would never have been able to go so far outside my major, but the Sociology and Anthropology department understood that the political systems we live in, and my interest in politics, are a large part of our understanding of culture as a whole.

Support the Department or College

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology is committed to providing an unrivalled educational and research experience for undergraduate and graduate students, and to supporting research at the cutting edge of social science inquiry.

These goals would be impossible without the sustained generosity of alumni and other important members of the Northeastern community.

Please consider making a gift, contribution, or bequest to the department. Doing so can make a huge impact on students and faculty, passing on the traditions of learning and discovery to future cohorts.

For information about gifts and giving, please contact Brian Denning, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, at b.denning@neu.edu or (617) 373-5081.

New Academic Advisor Appointed

Beth Ortenzi joined Northeastern in July as an Academic Advisor in the Dean’s Office for ASL/English Interpreting, Cultural Anthropology, English, Jewish Studies & Religion, Literatures, Languages, and Cultures, Philosophy, Sociology, and Religious Studies.

"As an Academic Advisor in the Center for Student Academic Services, my role is to work with students to identify on and off campus resources; plan realistic and attainable academic and career goals; discuss the curriculum, graduation requirements, and university and college policies and procedures; refer students to tutoring and other academic support services; monitor and accurately document students’ academic progress; and assist students in assuming responsibility for their educational plans and achievements. I will work with students to access their Department Advisors and Co-op Advisors and will work collaboratively with these individuals to help students find the information they need," says Ortenzi.

Ortenzi graduated with an Honors Psychology degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She then went on to pursue her Master’s of Education in School Counseling at Bridgewater State College where she worked as an Academic Advisor for a year and a half.

Ortenzi will have walk-in hours during the semester at her office, One Meserve Hall and can be contacted by email: b.ortenzi@neu.edu. To make an appointment, students should call (617) 373-3980.

"I’m extremely excited to learn more about Northeastern University and to work with the students here to get the most out of their NU experience!" - Beth Ortenzi
Distinguished Lecture Series

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the department was pleased to institute a Distinguished Lecture Series supported by the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Designed to bring leading figures in the social sciences to campus, the Series has proven highly popular. In its first year, the Series benefited from public talks and workshops given by Mary Pattillo of Northwestern University, Val Moghadam of Purdue, and Jeff Manza of New York University. In 2009-2010, the series continued with visits by feminist scholar Kathy Davis of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, David Graziun of the University of Pennsylvania, and Larry Bobo of Harvard University.

This year, the Series got off an especially provocative start. On September 21-22, Loic Wacquant visited campus and gave a series of talks, drawing on his influential recent books, *Urban Outcasts* and *Punishing the Poor*. On the 21st, Wacquant’s research was the subject of a colloquium that attracted 150 listeners. At the center of the colloquium was a panel of commentators who offered insights and criticisms of Wacquant’s work on social theory, urban sociology, and penal policy. Thus Chase Billingham spoke on Wacquant’s use of the work of Pierre Bourdieu, Chris Prener discussed Wacquant’s analysis of the hyper-ghetto and urban marginality in Europe and the United States, and Tammi Arford raised questions about the limits of penal approaches toward poverty in both Western Europe and the United States.

That evening, a small group of scholars from MIT, Boston University and Northeastern were pleased to host Wacquant for a working dinner, addressing questions of the future of ethnography and urban sociology in the United States. The following day, Wacquant lectured to an audience of 250 attendees from around the Boston area, speaking on

Undergraduate Co-ops in Action

Josh Trautwein won the 2010 Pratt Award for epitomizing the philosophy of Cooperative Education. During his time at Northeastern Josh not only completed two challenging co-ops, where he received glowing reviews from supervisors, but also demonstrated great determination and a willingness to gain valuable experience.

During his first co-op at Mass Premiere Soccer, Josh was responsible primarily for marketing and sales for a Halloween themed tournament. He oversaw communication for several leagues in progress during the summer, fall, and winter seasons, and managed the marketing, sales, planning, logistics, and game day operations of a 20 team tournament.

In addition to this office role, Josh coached clinics and a team involved in the youth program on a daily basis. Josh’s job required great attention to detail, understanding about soccer, and ability to work with hundreds of young people and their families simultaneously. He learned the ins and outs of running soccer leagues, and decided he wanted to offer soccer leagues to children who were not otherwise involved in the community.

After co-op, Josh spent a month in South Africa studying social entrepreneurship. He continued to build on his love for organized youth sport and community building. The experience inspired him to begin a social business venture called Soccer1, which became his second co-op. This venture sought to build the programming capacity of inner city soccer teams and to create grassroots soccer programs and events in the city in the hopes of facilitating communication between peoples and cultures that would not typically be in contact with each other.

“When I decided that I wanted to take on my own business venture, Lisa Worsh was not only flexible but also encouraging. Without Lisa’s instilled confidence, my organization Soccer1 could not have happened. Will Holton and Shelley Kimelberg were two other professors that demonstrated legitimate compassion for my work, and made themselves constantly available to provide guidance,” he said.

Josh graduated this past spring. Of his time at Northeastern Josh said, “I’ve had a really terrific experience with the Sociology department. Teachers as well as faculty have played a huge role in my overall positive experience at Northeastern. I was driven towards a lot of coursework and co-op work that was outside of the typical bounds for an undergraduate student, and the Sociology department provided a great deal of flexibility to make my wants happen. Being a part of the Sociology department at Northeastern surrounded me with all of these tremendous people that I can’t possibly imagine would have been available at any other university. Thanks to these individuals, now that I have entered the professional world, I am weighing my opportunities against one another rather than hoping to take on some arbitrary career. I will be truly thankful for the rest of my life to have had these individuals be a part of my time at college. I will attribute any and all of my success to their guidance.”

Josh also won the 2010 Kevin Fitzgerald Giving Back Award for outstanding community service.
NEW COURSES AND PROGRAMS

Much of our excitement stems from new curricular developments at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Mindelyn Buford II has introduced an upper level undergraduate seminar on the “Sociology of Privilege,” beginning in fall 2010. Liza Weinstein is offering a graduate seminar on “Globalization and the City.” Mary King, lecturer in anthropology, is teaching a special topics class on the “Anthropology of War and Militarism.” Debra Kaufman is offering an upper-level course on “Feminism, Ethnicity, Religion, and Identity” – all this during the fall semester alone. Matt Hunt is offering his new overenrolled graduate seminar on the “Social Psychology of Stratification.” Kathrin Zippel is teaching “Gender and Work,” reflecting her ample expertise in this field.

Last year we introduced a PlusOne degree that provides undergraduates with an accelerated path to the MA in sociology. At the graduate level, we added a fifth area of concentration, now providing training in the Sociology of Conflict and Violence. One of the strongest features of our graduate program, in fact, stems from the unusual breadth of areas of concentration the program now boasts. Under consideration at the moment is a new MA in Global Affairs, to be offered in conjunction with other units in Northeastern’s new College of Social Sciences and Humanities.

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

There is simply too much scholarly work underway in the department to summarize here; I can merely provide a very partial list of the major accomplishments. Ineke Marshall completed an international collaborative research project on juvenile delinquency in 30 countries, which resulted in the co-authored book Juvenile Delinquency in Europe and Beyond: Results of the Second International Self-Report Delinquency Study. Liza Weinstein published articles on urban development in both City & Community and Politics and Society. Shelley Kimelberg continued her work on race, class, and school choice in Boston; her work on urban economic development is also slated to appear in City & Community. Danny Faber’s book, Capitalizing on Environmental Injustice, received Honorable Mention for the prestigious C. Wright Mills Award last year; this year, Faber was honored with the Practice and Outreach Award by the ASA section on Environmental Sociology. Silvia Dominguez was pleased to receive a Ford Foundation Fellowship that enabled her to complete her forthcoming book with NYU Press. Michael Handel accepted a fellowship at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. Luis Falcon received a $1.5m grant to study the social and spatial determinants of nutrition and well-being among Latinos in Boston. Alisa Lincoln published two articles in Sociology of Health and Illness along with another half-dozen articles in leading epidemiology journals. Kathrin Zippel continued her central role in our university’s large NSF grant. She was also honored to be invited to serve as an interim replacement for Ulrich Beck, the leading social theorist who is retiring at Munich University. That post was (thankfully) a temporary one. Arnie Arluk’s book, just a Dog, was selected as the best book by the ASA section devoted to the study of Animals and Society. Two faculty members were elected to posts as chair of their respective sections of the American Sociological Association: Mike Brown (Chair of the Section on Marxist Sociology), and myself (Chair of the Occupations, Organizations, and Work section). I would be remiss if I did not mention here that our liaison for Co-operative Education, Lisa Worsh, received a University award as the Most Outstanding Co-op Coordinator, a rare and much-deserved honor.

Student accomplishments were equally impressive. PhD student Claudia Coffield received a dissertation fellowship from the American Association of University Women. Sociology major Josh Trautwein was honored for his work with his nonprofit organization, Soccer1. He has won generous support and funding from the Mayor’s office. Sociology major Emilia Sereva was admitted to the PhD program at the London School of Economics. Anthropology major Erin Leonard was hired to run a City Council political campaign. Other students were admitted to graduate programs at Rice University and King’s College in London. Not to be outdone, new PhDs Trish Morris, Paul Sauier, and Stas Vysotsky received tenure-track appointments at selective liberal arts colleges, despite the slack labor market.

I could go on, but you get the point: This is a time of remarkable growth and innovation in our department. If anything, this academic year will be even busier, as we review our curriculum, the better to utilize the talents of newly arriving faculty members. It is hard to avoid the obvious conclusion: Our department has taken its place among the strongest and most intellectually vibrant social science units in the Greater Boston area. Not bad company at all.

New Head Advisor Appointed

THIS FALL Dr. Chris Chambers assumes the head undergraduate advisor role for the department. This newly created position is geared to help students and professors alike.

“The head undergraduate advisor role for the department continues to evolve as the needs of our students and talents of the faculty change and grow. Overall, I see the head advisor as someone whose primary job is to support undergraduates who are either just exploring the sociology or anthropology majors, or who are already committed and looking to focus their studies in a particular area or prepare for a career. I think as the head advisor, I would want to be sure that students have three important things as they are making academic and/or career decisions: accurate and timely information about course offerings and curriculum requirements; benefit of a faculty member’s perspective on the field; someone who will listen to them,” says Chambers.

Prior to pursuing a degree in sociology, Chambers spent 11 years working in Student Affairs at various institutions. While his interests broadly revolve around the social organization and experience of racialized identities, he’s recently become fascinated by questions at the intersection of race, gender and sexualities. His dissertation project examined how the experiences of black gay men fit within systems of racial and sexual hierarchy.

Dr. Chambers can meet students by appointment in his office in 561 Holmes Hall, or he can be reached through email at c.chambers@neu.edu.
Distinguished Lecture Series

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"The Punitive Management of Poverty in an Age of Social Insecurity." The visit left little doubt that the department’s Distinguished Lecture Series holds a central position in the intellectual life of the Boston social science community.

Later in the 2010-2011 Academic Year, the Series will continue, with visits from Emory University’s Robert Agnew and Annette Lareau of the University of Pennsylvania. Agnew is perhaps a leading theorist of deviant behavior and the progenitor of strain theory in both sociology and criminology while Lareau is one of the nation’s authorities on class inequality in the United States.

The Distinguished Lecture Series is made possible by funding from the Dean’s office, and is actively led by colleagues Linda Blum, Shelley Kimelberg, and Liza Weinstein.

Wacquant lectures on "The Punitive Management of Poverty in an Age of Social Insecurity."

College of Social Sciences and Humanities Welcomes New Dean

Northeastern University has appointed Dr. Georges Van Den Abbeele to be the founding dean of its College of Social Sciences and Humanities, one of three new, distinct colleges launched by the University this fall. As founding dean, Dr. Van Den Abbeele will have the unique opportunity to build on Northeastern’s existing strengths in the social sciences and humanities to advance a global vision for the college and lead it to achieve that vision.

"Georges Van Den Abbeele’s career incorporates outstanding accomplishments both as a scholar of languages, literature and humanities, and as a successful fundraiser and academic leader," said Stephen W. Director, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Northeastern. "Dr. Van Den Abbeele’s experience in overseeing several departments and leading a world-class institute of humanities studies will be invaluable as he leads our new College of Social Sciences and Humanities."