Professor Rudy Ray Seward, PhD retired after 38 years of service to UNT and the Department of Sociology

Dr. Rudy Seward was honored on March 31, 2012 at the Club Level at Apogee Stadium for 38 years of service to UNT and the Department of Sociology. Dr. Seward graduated Cum Laude from Northeast Missouri State University-Kirksville majoring in Sociology and History in 1966. Dr. Seward attended Southern Illinois University where he received his MA and PhD focusing on Family and Social Organizations in 1974. Dr. Seward came to North Texas State University (now UNT) in the Fall of 1974.

Dr. Seward’s research focuses on the sociology of the family with special attention to changes, parenting (especially fatherhood), and policy. Dr. Seward was a Visiting Fellowship in Humanities at the National University of Ireland, Galway in 1998. In 2006, he was a invited to present his research at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

In 1989, Dr. Seward received UNT’s President’s Council Teaching Award and was selected by UNT’s Mortar Board Senior Honor Society as a "Top Prof." UNT’s Student Association selected him as an Honor Professor in 1991. In 2009, he was selected as a faculty Honoree at the Honors College’s Inspiring Excellence through Honors Teaching Luncheon.

Dr. Seward has chaired more than 40 doctoral and master’s student committees and has maintains professional relationships with many of his former students. He has co-authored a number of articles and book chapters with former students. Dr. Seward has prepared and taught more than 15 different courses during his 38 years at UNT. His outstanding support and pedagogical efforts were recognized with the College of Public Affairs and Community Service’s Outstanding Faculty/Staff 2005-2006 Award. Dr. Seward served as Associate Department Chair from 1992 to 2009.

In lieu of gifts, donations will graciously accepted for The Rudy Ray and Jean Ann Seward Scholarship. To make a donation, contact the College of Public Affairs and Community Service’s Director of Development, Tena Burley (Tena.Burley@unt.edu) (940.369.8208).
**2012 Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellows: Dr. Cai**

The College of Public Affairs and Community Services has awarded Assistant Professor Dr. Tianji Cai the 2012 Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship. Dr. Cai will use these funds to investigate the role of behavior in the genotypic similarity between friends. In recent years, research interest has dramatically increased in the area of genotypic clustering in friendship networks. It has been documented that genotypes of self-nominated adolescent friendship pairs are correlated. Dr. Cai will investigate which mechanism(s) is behind these relationships: specifically, whether genotypic correlation are a by-product of the process of friend selection based on behavior.

For example, since specific genes are correlated to the involvement or avoidance of particular behavior, and people choose friends of a similar or dissimilar behavior pattern, the genotypes of those genes are correlated in friend pairs. Unfortunately, very little has been done to investigate the role of behavior pattern in genotypic correlation in friend pairs. Here, I will examine whether or not the similarity (or dissimilarity) of behavior pattern results in the genotypic correlation in friend pairs. To limit the scope of my study, I will focus on risk behaviors, such as delinquency.

**2012 Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellows: Dr. Poulin**

The College of Public Affairs and Community Services has awarded Assistant Professor Dr. Michelle Poulin the 2012 Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship. This fellowship will provide support for the analysis of unique longitudinal data collected in rural Malawi, the "Marriage Transitions in Malawi" (MTM) project. The MTM data consist of an initially never-married cohort of young women and men (N=1183), with interviews conducted at six month intervals over the data collection period. Any new spouses were invited to participate in the study. Using the MTM data two papers will be produced, which in turn will be used as leverage to seek additional, external funding to follow this cohort as they move through early adulthood. Considering the large-scale global change in areas of culture and in economy, Poulin will use these data to identify how family life is being altered (or not) on the ground. Are young people adopting new, modern identities in the face of global change?
The Eagle’s Eye

Sociology students present original research at UNT Scholars Day

Seniors Ashley Albano and Brittany Burdette will present their paper, "Motivation as a Cause of Environmentally Significant Individual Behavior," at the UNT Scholar’s Day. Albano and Burdette found that environmental self-esteem was positively related to the environmental significant individual behaviors. Seniors Erin Almendinger and Craig Uggerholt will present their paper, "Patriotism and Environmentalism: An Application of Identity Theory," at the UNT Scholars Day. Almendinger and Uggerholt found that those who have a strong identification of being American are negatively related to environmentally significant individual behavior, while constructive patriotism is positively related to environmentally significant individual behaviors.

UNT Sociology Alum Enters Country’s #1 PhD Program

Alumnus Alex T. Williams has entered the University of Pennsylvania's #1-ranked PhD program in Communications, with full funding. Mr. Williams will begin his studies this Fall. He was also accepted with full funding and various scholarships to the University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Minnesota, and Emory University.

Faculty Productivity: Books of 2011-2012


Yancey, G. Compromising Scholarship: Religious and Political Bias in Academia. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press.


Faculty Productivity: Research Articles of 2011-2012


Comeau, J. “Race/Ethnicity and Family Contact: Toward a Behavioral Measure of Familialism.” Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences. (forthcoming)


