

Special Interest Articles:

- Alumni wins award
- Graduate Student Success
- Graduate student publication

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Sociology PhD alumnus honored with President's Award of Outstanding Scholarship

Sociology alumnus Stan Weeber (PhD 2000) was presented with the President's Award for Outstanding Scholarship at McNeese State University on August 10, 2011. This honor is awarded to the McNeese University faculty member with the most prolific publication record since 2007. Dr. Weeber had 58 publications including monographs, peer reviewed journal articles,

edited books, encyclopedia entries, and book reviews.

Dr. Weeber received his PhD from UNT in the Department of Sociology in 2000 under the tutelage of Dr. Daniel Rodeheaver, and joined the McNeese State University in the Fall 2000. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2006. Dr. Weeber published a monograph in 2011 investigated Sadie American's pioneering

efforts in visual sociology. While Dr. American is known primarily as one of the founders of the National Council of Jewish Women, Dr. Weeber illuminates how Dr. American used photographs and photography as a method of data collection for scientific analysis.

Dale Yeatts goes to China on Fulbright Scholarship

The success of China's one child policy and lower mortality rates is presenting China with an unprecedented and rapidly growing population of older adults. By 2050, it is estimated that 24% (322 million) of China's population (1.34 billion) will be over 65. Professor Dale Yeatts was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to investigate sustainable elderly care in rural China at the Tsinghua University in Beijing. Dr. Yeatts's research examines how local Chinese

communities are fostering sustainable elderly care, by helping their elderly to live healthy and happy lives in desirable living arrangements in rural areas.

Dr. Yeatts's research includes a qualitative analysis of three villages as well as a quantitative analysis of 92 village communities located in two Chinese Provinces.

One goal was to identify best practices for elderly care that can be

transferred to other countries including the United States.

Reciprocally, Dr. Yeatts will be taking identified best practices for elderly care in the United States and offering assistance to implement these practices in rural communities in China. It is hoped that the results from the study can be shared with local communities around the world as they attempt to develop new ways of sustaining our global elderly communities.

Global Aging: Sustainable Senior Living



The Global Aging: Sustainable Senior Living event was held on October 7, 2011 at UNT. Invited speakers discussed issues affecting older adults around the world. Dr. Yemisi Ovashoro, Associate Professor at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and Dr. Ami Moore, Associate Professor at UNT,

presented research on various issues facing the elderly population in Africa. Dr. Dale Yeatts (Fulbright Fellow to China) and Ms. Yuying Shen (UNT doctoral student) highlighted elderly issues facing older adult populations in China. A panel discussion made up community experts in community and housings presented ideas on future

of older adults living arrangement including the possibility of monolithic dome residents for the elderly.

Alpha Kappa Delta Honors Graduate Student with Travel Awards

Caazena Hunter, Lindsey Johnson, and Elizabeth Gabhart received Student Travel Awards from the UNT Chapters of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) to attend the 2012 Midwest Sociological Society's Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. AKD

is an international sociology honor society that works to acknowledge and promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology and the research of social problems. Ms. Johnson is a second year graduate student and will be

presenting her paper, "Desecularizing Globalization Theory? Some Implications of Guatemalan Neo-Pentecostalism for Transnational Capitalist Class Theory."

Dr. Tianji Cai: A Genetics-Informed Sociologist



Dr. Tianji Cai joined the Department of Sociology as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2010 after receiving his PhD from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Dr. Cai's research focuses on integrating biological factors into the study of social issues. Dr. Cai's research has been published in several prestigious journals including the American

Journal of Sociology and the American Sociological Review. Dr. Cai and his colleagues have found a relationship between specific genetic marker and risk aversion. Specifically individuals with a specific genetic marker were found to be less likely to engage in risky social behaviors, including binge drinking, marijuana and cocaine use.

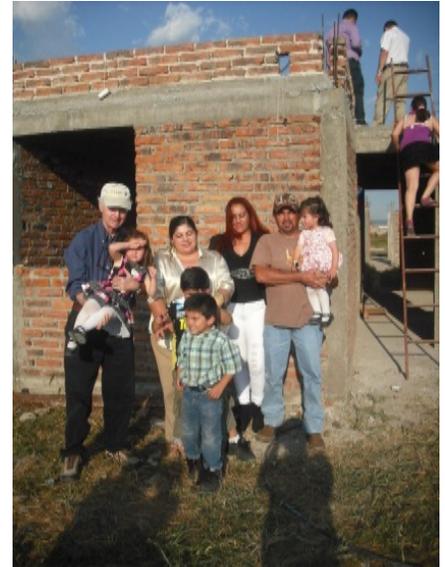
Dr. Cai's current research focuses on evaluating the use of sampling weights in statistical modeling and in developing statistical packages to test the informativeness of the sampling weights.

Dr. Cai teaches undergraduate and graduate quantitative research methods.

Building Small Sustainable Villages in Mexico

Dr. Stan Ingman working through the University of North Texas Center for US/Mexico Alliance for Community Development and the non-profit organization, Future Without Poverty, Inc., in collaboration with the Mexican Federal Government, has been applying the sociological imagination, to build sustainable communities

in Sahuayo, Michoacán, Mexico. Focusing on the 4 E's of sustainability (Education, Empowerment, Enterprise, and Environment) the community of Sahuayo are building 200, three bedroom homes for low income families. Families living in these homes can save up and add a second floor to their homes.



Dr. Ingman and friends at the Sahuayo community

Global Ideas of Social Change

Assistant Professor Dr. Michelle Poulin joined the Department of Sociology in the Fall of 2010. She received her PhD in 2006 from Boston University. Dr. Poulin completed four years of post-doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania and Brown University. Her research primarily focuses on how large-scale social change (such as the global circulation of new ideas, and changes in marriage

and family) plays out in people's everyday lives, and from where these changes come.

More broadly, Professor Poulin is interested in culture, population, development, and the sociology of intimate unions. Her work is in Southern Africa, especially Malawi, and in the United States. One of her current research projects is examining

whether and how American couples negotiate their respective roles and work out marital "nomos," or seeing a common reality, and whether investment in building nomos leads to union stability over time. A second project looks at how the global circulation of new notions of "human rights" is interpreted, used, or discarded by Malawians in daily life.

New Media and the 'Anchor Baby' Boom

Graduate student Alexander Williams and Dr. Gabe Ignatow published their article, "New Media and the 'Anchor Baby' Boom," in the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication (2011 volume 17, issue 1). In this article Mr. Williams and Dr. Ignatow investigate how the

offensive and derogatory term "anchor baby," rarely used prior to 2004 online, has found its way into mainstream media by 2010. Their findings suggest that new media (interactive internet communication: podcasts, RSS feeds, social networks, blogs, wikis, etc.) may be influencing

mass media by providing a niche market for partisan news organizations that promote offensive and derogatory speech in their media dialogue.



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Milan Zafirovski promoted to Full Professor

Dr. Zafirovski has been promoted to Professor of Sociology. Dr. Zafirovski joined the Department of Sociology in 2000 as an Assistant professor. He was promoted to Associated Professor in 2004. Dr. Zafirovski's research interests include economic sociology, social stratification, political sociology and terrorism. His most recent

book, *The Enlightenment and Its Effects on Modern Society*(2011) uses an interdisciplinary, comparative-historical approach to investigate the lasting impacts of the Age of Enlightenment on modern Western societies, specifically in the areas of equality, social justice and liberty. In 2010, Dr. Zafirovski

published four peer-reviewed journal articles. One interesting article, published in the *American Sociologist*, reformulates and extends Merton's Theorem of American conservatism and European fascism to include contemporary American conservatism and European fascism.

Inter-Organizational Digital Divide

Graduate student Jessica Lynn Schuett and Dr. Gabe Ignatow published their article, "Inter-organizational digital divide: Civic groups' media strategies in the Trinity River Corridor Project," in the online journal *First Monday* (2011, volume 16, numbers 11). In this article, Ms. Schuett and

Dr. Ignatow investigate how civic group leaders involved in the Trinity River Corridor development project in Dallas, TX made decisions about using social media versus other forms of media. Interviewing civic group leaders in eight groups, findings showed that there was a distinct difference between those organizations that were

directly involved in political actions and those not involved in direct political actions. First, social media was used more often by those organizations not involved in direct political action.



Dallas's Trinity River Corridor Project