



Departmental Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1, 2009

“Grad student knows about resilience”

Criminology graduate student, Val Billard, was the subject of a feature in the *Chronicle Herald* by Joel Jacobson, “Grad student knows about resilience” (January 7 2009). The following is an excerpt: “Picture yourself as a 16-year-old in high school, out of foster care, living in a rooming house, then your own apartment, and successfully completing Grade 12. You want to better yourself and you enter university, only to have difficulty in first year because the basics of education were lost from moving so often as a youngster. Are you deterred? Some might be, but not Val Billard, a woman with a willingness to work hard to overcome every challenge facing her.” cont’d on page 3

“Child Soldiers Initiative”

In the fall of 2008, Sandra Bell, through the Center for Foreign Policy Studies at Dalhousie University, participated in workshops to assist in the development of an innovative toolkit intended to guide the actions of key actors when facing Child Soldiers in a conflict zone. cont’d on page 3

Message from the Chair

As we are moving into the third year of publication of this newsletter, I want to extend my greetings to our entire Departmental community, to highlight some of the major events and developments and to thank everyone for their hard work and support of our Departmental renewal efforts. cont’d on page 2

Faculty at the Departmental Retreat

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Message from the Chair cont'd from page 1

This has been an incredibly busy year for everyone individually and for the Department collectively. While the individual accomplishments will become evident through the rest of this newsletter, I would like to reflect for a moment on three of our major collective ones.

At the end of January we submitted a multi-volume "Self Report" as part of our Program Review process which is still underway. This document was the culmination of research and critical self-reflection about our Departmental programs and practices that had started a year and a half earlier. It was the first time ever for our Department to undergo a Program Review. It turned out to be a process of discovery of our history (Sociology has been around in this University since 1920), of taking pride in our achievements, and of recognizing the room for improvement ahead of us. By engaging in this process, it also became clear to us what the next steps are, and what we need as a Department in terms of resources and changes in programs and practices to accomplish them. Our external reviewers visited on site and interviewed faculty, staff and students for two full days in mid March. We are expecting in response a full report from them in about six weeks time.

The second collective accomplishment was our core curriculum revision Departmental Retreat in late January. This was the second Departmental Retreat in two years, following our first, Departmental Vision Retreat in February 2008. It was well-prepared, thanks to the rigorous efforts of our Academic Planning Committee with input from all of our faculty, and masterfully facilitated by Dr. Ann Manicom. Besides the very significant decisions, the Retreat gave us a sense of both collective identity and empowerment.

Finally, our third collective accomplishment has been our "walking the talk" of the second retreat and translating the broader Retreat decisions into concrete curriculum changes in a marathon run, with the torch being passed from one faculty member to the next around the clock and against the Arts' Executive Committee's tight deadlines, in an effort to carry forward our changes in a timely manner. As someone who has been in this Department since 1993 and thought had seen practically everything, I have been both humbled by the work and dedication of my colleagues and, at the same time, overwhelmed by the tremendous and yet critical synergy that this process both created and galvanized.

We have been fortunate to have a number of distinguished guests in our programs in the last year as well. Author of acclaimed works of fiction and non-fiction and public intellectual Dr. Cecil Foster from the University of Guelph is spending his sabbatical year with us, holding a "distinguished professor" appointment and teaching for us a number of courses in his specialties. Dr. Sandy Petrinioti, from the Department of International and European Studies of Panteion University of Athens, has spent the two semesters of her sabbatical with us as well, giving various lectures and workshops. Dr. Marina Petronoti, visiting professor and Research Director from the National Centre for Social Research (E.K.K.E.) in Athens has just arrived and will be spending three months of her sabbatical with us, conducting research on interethnic / interracial marriages.

Congratulations to our entire Departmental community for yet another successful year!

With my very best wishes for 2009,

Evie Tastsoglou

Child Soldiers Initiative cont'd from page 1

The issue of child soldiers has been primarily viewed through the lens of human rights and child protection, but rarely viewed as the serious security issue it is. Peacekeeping operations and humanitarian organizations around the world are increasingly confronted by child soldiers but, despite this growing trend, there are no doctrinal guidelines to guide peacekeeping forces on how to address the problem. The lack of effective coordination mechanisms to ensure the joint collaboration of humanitarian, human rights, child protection actors, military and police limits the effectiveness of responses to the child soldier issue. A project of Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd), in partnership with Search for Common Ground, the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, the University of Victoria and the University of Winnipeg, The Child Soldiers Initiative is a groundbreaking, multi-phased and multidisciplinary project that aims to build the will, knowledge, collaboration and tools necessary to eradicate the use of Child Soldiers. The Toolkit will offer a process of research, advocacy, education and training, as well as a three volume document detailing practical guidance, tools and activities for policy-makers, planners, and practitioners alike: Volume 1 – a Strategic level Manual detailing the CSI philosophy and doctrine; Volume 2 – an Operational level Field Guide; and Volume 3 – a Tactical level Handbook. Dr. Bell participated in workshops for the development of volumes 2 and 3. A major concern in the workshops has been around how girls' circumstances of recruitment, extraction and reintegration are very different than those of boys. Separating out these differences in the final "toolkit" is being addressed. From December 2008 to December 2009, the CSI will conduct field work in conflict zones in Africa. The final stage in the Project will involve working with the United Nations and other organizations towards the adoption of the toolkit into their training and operational procedures.

PALS Programme – Stephen Schneider

For the 2008/09 school year, Stephen continued his main research project - the PALS program, an experiment that tests certain theories from the field of crime prevention through social development. Given that SMU students serve as mentors and tutors for at-risk children in the program, he created a course through which students could receive credit for this important work. The research will wrap up at the end of March 2009. The collation and analysis of data will take place during the subsequent months, with a final report to be issued at the end of June.

“Grad student knows about resilience” cont'd from page 1

Jump ahead a couple of years. After a year at Dalhousie University, Val attends St. Thomas University for a year, takes a criminology course as an elective and returns to Halifax to study criminology at Saint Mary's University. Ten years after finishing high school, this ambitious young woman, who worked part-time jobs through high school and undergrad university, is completing a master's criminology program at SMU.... She'll present her thesis proposal this month. 'It's on girls' resiliency, how they can stay strong with the challenges they face'.... Val wants to pursue community development, emphasizing the prevention of social problems. 'I was at risk as a young teen and realized I had to progress by myself to be a success, to make the best of what I had. I really had no choice. I just did it.' Val, now with a 4.0 GPA,.... smiles. "I'm such a different person now than when I was an adolescent. I'm happy with who I am. I think my experience has led me to that, and I wouldn't change it for the world."

Faculty News....

Professional Activities & Community Service

In November 2008 **Stephen Schneider** was presented a special award by the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization for his work in advancing mentoring programs for at-risk youth.

The Department is honoured to announce that the essay competition for young scholars of the International Sociological Association, Research Committee on Women in Society-"Essay Competition for New Scholars from the Economic South on Women's Social Movements: Struggles for Change Throughout the World"-will be held for the next conference (Sweden, 2010) in celebration of the life and legacy of **Dr. Helen Ralston**, Professor Emerita, Saint Mary's University.



During the week of December 7th 2008 **David Flint** conducted a five day intensive seminar on theory and methods for the sociology of communities at the Hue University of Science in Vietnam. This was part of the graduate program in Coastal Zone Management developed in the course of a five-year interdisciplinary capacity building project entitled "Principles in Practice: Ocean and Coastal Management in Vietnam and the Philippines", sponsored by CIDA and administered by Lester Pearson International at Dalhousie University.

In a similar vein David Flint continued his relationship as an advisor to Sherubtse College at the Royal University of Bhutan as they develop a Sociology Department that will begin offering courses in the fall of 2009. In December he shipped them 45 textbooks for use in the first year courses.

On April 24 2009 David presented a summary of his research findings on immigration in rural Nova Scotia at a seminar sponsored by the Atlantic Metropolis Centre. This was related to his article, "Recent immigrants in a rural Nova Scotia County: a tentative typology", published in *Our Diverse Cities* # 5, Spring 2008.

Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

Val Marie Johnson organized a panel on Chronologies of Neoliberalism for the 2008 Social Science History Association Annual Meeting in Miami (23 October) and presented on the panel "Tracing the Liberal in Neoliberalism: Canadian Youth Justice Law Reform & the Early Roots of Neoliberalism, 1965-

1975.” Val is also co-editing a proposed special issue of *Social Science History* stemming from this panel’s papers.

E. Tastsoglou gave an invited presentation in Brussels on “Reframing Integration” in an international workshop on the EU (6th Framework Programme of the European Commission) - funded project “Integration of Female Immigrants in Labour Market and Society. Policy Assessment and Policy Recommendations” (31 March, 2008). In addition, she co-organized a panel on “Migrant Women in the Global Economy: Labour, Identities and Diasporas”, for the *Women’s Worlds 2008* International Conference in Madrid, Spain, July 3-9, 2008 (with Cynthia Joseph, Monash University, Australia) and gave a paper on the same panel. In the fall, she co-organized “Gender, Migration and Citizenship: Balancing Labour Market Imperatives and Care”, workshop organized for the 13th International Metropolis Conference in Bonn, Germany, October 29-31, 2008 (with Alexandra Dobrowsky from SMU and Maria Kontos from the Goethe University of Frankfurt) where she also presented a paper. In December 2008 she gave an invited key-note presentation on “Promoting Immigration in Atlantic Canada: Where’s the Welcome Mat for Women?” (with Alexandra Dobrowsky) at a “Lunch and Learn” organized by the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Fredericton, N.B.

Books & other publications

Michele Byers published "Dexter" and "My So-Called Life" in *The Essential Cult TV Reader* edited by David Lavery (forthcoming 2009); "Neoliberal Dexter?" in *Reading Dexter* edited by Douglas Howard (forthcoming 2009); “Canadian Idol and the Myth of National Identity” and “Education and Entertainment: Degrassi does Degrassi Talks” in *Programming Reality: Perspectives on English-Canadian Television* edited by Zoe Druick and Aspa Kotsopoulos (2008).

Michele Byers & Diane Crocker, “A Place at the Table and Voice in the Hall: Third Wave Feminism in the Canadian Academy,” *Atlantis* (forthcoming 2009).

Michele Byers & Evie Tastsoglou, “Negotiating Ethno-Cultural Identity: The Experience of Greek and Jewish Youth in Halifax,” *Canadian Ethnic Studies* (forthcoming 2009).

Michele Byers & Val Marie Johnson’s edited collection *The CSI Effect: Television, Crime and Governance* is currently in press at Lexington Books and should be available by summer 2009. In addition to editing the interdisciplinary collection of essays, Michele & Val contributed “CSI as Neoliberalism: An Introduction” to the volume.

Kevin Bonnycastle will publish “Not the Usual Suspects: The Obfuscation of Political Economy and Race in CSI” in *The CSI Effect: Television, Crime and Governance*.

Mythili Rajiva will publish “Troping Mr. Johnson: Reading Phallic Mastery and Anxiety on Season One of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” in *The CSI Effect: Television, Crime and Governance*.

Val Marie Johnson published an entry on “White Slavery” in *The Palgrave Dictionary of Transnational History*, edited by Akira Iriye and Pierre-Yves Saunier (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), and her “Look for the moral and sex sides of the problem”: Investigating Jewishness, Desire and Regulation at Macy’s Department Store, 1913 is forthcoming in *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 18, n.3 (September 2009).

Stephen Schneider was working on two books this semester, both of which are to be published in the summer of 2009. This first is on the history of organized crime in Canada, which is slated to be published in June 2009. The second is a textbook on crime prevention, which should be published in August 2009.

Evie Tastsoglou co-edited *The Contours of Citizenship in a Local / Global World* (Ashgate, Fall 2009, forthcoming). She also edited a special issue of the journal, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, on “The Experiences of the Second Generation” (Spring 2009, forthcoming). Her book, *Women, Gender and Diasporic Lives: Labor, Community and Identity in Greek Migrations*, has just appeared in print (Lexington, 2009). She has completed two major reports, one on “Attraction, Promotion and Retention of Immigrants in Atlantic Canada: A Synthesis of Existing Research” (with M. Yax-Fraser), commissioned by CIC (Citizenship and Immigration Canada), pp. 105. Spring 2008 and the second on L’ Impact des Lois Antiterroristes : La Loi sur l’ Immigration et la loi sur la Communauté Arabe et Musulmane du Nouveau-Brunswick et de la Nouvelle Écosse (with C. Okana and C. Belkhdja), a refereed report funded and published by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation).

Visiting Scholars

Dr. Cecil Foster (University of Guelph) held a SMU “distinguished professor” appointment in 2008-9 and taught a number of courses in his specialties for us.

Dr. Sandy Petrinioti (Panteion University of Athens) was a visiting professor at SMU in 2008, giving various lectures and workshops.

Dr. Marina Petronoti (Research Director, National Centre for Social Research (E.K.K.E.) in Athens) has been a visiting professor at SMU in the spring of 2009.

New and Returning Part time Staff:

Natalie Longaphy (SMU Criminology graduate 2002) taught SOCI 2362.1.1 Classical Sociological Theory.

Barb Moore returned to the Department to teach after a few years hiatus.

Other Happenings of Note

Karla Henderson’s Winter 2009 SOCI 1211.2 Critical Issues in Sociology interviewed university graduates with the question “What do you wish you had known or done differently during your undergraduate degree?” and (with the help of Andrew MacPhee, Course TA) produced a Course newsletter based on the results. The students found the following Top Ten Things “I wish I had known about University”:

1. *I wish I had known to become more involved with university life.*
2. *I wish I had known the importance of reading, studying and attending class.*
3. *I wish I had known what job, if any, my degree would get me.*
4. *I wish I had known more about the different programs and made better course choices.*
5. *I wish I had known more about the school’s resources.*

6. *I wish I hadn't partied so much.*
7. *I wish I had known how much work there was going to be.*
8. *I wish I'd gotten to know my professors better.*
9. *I wish I hadn't lived in residence or with roommates.*
10. *I wish I had lived in residence or with roommates.*

Full-time Faculty member, Audrey MacNevin, holds her beloved cake at the Department Retreat:



Faculty Research Profile, 2009

Dr. Linda Christiansen-Ruffman

Dr. Linda Christiansen-Ruffman's research agenda in 2008-09 involves three challenging collaborative research projects. All are related in different ways to women as theoretical, empirical and political actors. Each raises important sociological questions and is informed by and involved with interdisciplinary collaboration. Two projects are international in scope, and one of these also spans many centuries. Their broad, inter-related and yet diverse objectives raise many challenges.

In addition to these challenges, this past year for Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman has also illustrated the practical challenge of time. Juggling among research obligations, departmental responsibilities and teaching meant that the end of May, 2008 was particularly busy for her with two major research workshops.

One workshop, entitled "Moving Feminism Forward/Feminism en avant," was held at Le Centre de Villegiature de Jouvence, Mont Orford Park, Quebec. This rustic setting proved to be conducive to the discussions and reflections related to the research project entitled, "Research as if Women Mattered: Canadian Feminist Scholarship in a Global Age." Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman is conducting this research with a development grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) with two other feminist sociologists, Marilyn Porter from Memorial University and Francine Descarries from University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). The workshop was facilitated by the organizational assistance of Sandrine, Francine's research assistant, by many emails, phone conversations, and planning and evaluation meetings before and after the workshop. The week-long workshop brought together sixteen leaders of feminist scholarship from Quebec and the rest of Canada, including two young scholars. Its lively discussion sessions were organized around a set of reflective questions on feminist research and women's studies for social change. Another workshop is currently being planned to focus more specifically on the anticipated book.

The other workshop and set of meetings related to the International Feminist University Network (IFUN). Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman helped to found IFUN after the intellectual excitement generated by co-organizing and participating in the Wise Women's Workshop held in Norway in 2001. In May, 2008, she was the main person responsible for the logistics of a series of Board and planning meetings in Halifax and Toronto, as well as a workshop and retreat at the Omega Centre in the Hudson River Valley of New York. Participants at these meetings came from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Italy, the United States, Canada and Africa.

Upon her return from this workshop, a summer full of administration began anew. Her next task was to write the final report for one of the grants written in 2007 to support travel to a workshop held in South Africa and organized from Halifax. This grant from The Global Fund for Women also supported the Toronto meetings for participants from Latin America and the Caribbean. IFUN had received the equivalent of \$15,000 USD, partly in anticipation that the next IFUN event would be held in Spanish in that region.

IFUN-related work continued to dominate the summer's agenda; she had to carry out the short-term planning from the Toronto meetings; complete the administration of the \$100,000 US Ford Project; work in collaboration with university officials and consultants on the final report and on the financial reporting. It took longer than expected. In order to ensure that the Ford Grant reports would be submitted in time,

she cancelled her planned participation in a panel on the Gift Economy held in July at the Women's Worlds 2008 Conference in Madrid. As she recalls, "I was even more unhappy about cancelling participation in an associated, small workshop planned for a community near Rome, because it is in small workshops such as this one where we are able to think beyond current conceptual boxes that constrain our minds."

As the head of the Secretariat for IFUN located at Saint Mary's University during an eighteen month Ford Foundation Grant, Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman had some help for part of the time from Adjunct Women's Studies Professor, Dr. Azza Anis; Graduate Intern and Ph.D. candidate, Trish McLaren; and two students working on a SEEP Grant from September to March – Women's Studies graduate student, Jane Gavin Herbert and Sociology undergraduate student, Natasha Jordan.

After having spent almost full-time hours on the IFUN project as head of the Secretariat, while at the same time working full time at Saint Mary's, Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman has taken a sabbatical from IFUN. However, during 2008-09, there were two major IFUN-related and non-administrative exceptions to her sabbatical. She presented a paper entitled, "IFUN's Methodology of Self-Presentation, Bio-Contextuality and its Theoretical and Methodological Implications for Sociology: A Feminist Perspective" at the International Sociological Association's first ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, Spain. As she recalls, "That session and others that I attended (which were part of Research Committee 32 or sponsored by the ISA itself), confirmed the importance and interconnections between all three of my current research projects, especially for American feminist sociologists whose trajectory has differed considerably from the Canadian one over the last thirty years." Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman was also an invited feminist speaker at the symposium, "Reclaiming Higher Education for All," and the planning meeting for the New University Cooperative in Tatamagouche, NS, with participants from across Canada. "The similarities and links between my ecological and feminist thinking perhaps relate to the fact that I was on the founding Board of Ecology Action Centre." By the way, the New University Cooperative's first residentially-based course will be taught in Nova Scotia this summer (see website: www.newuniversity.ca) One of its co-teachers is Dr. Wilma van der Veen, who used to teach in the Sociology & Criminology Department at Saint Mary's and now teaches in British Columbia.

A feature of Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman's community-based and engaged sociological approach is her continued involvement in groups such as the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) and Feminists for Just and Equitable Public Policy in Nova Scotia (FemJEPP). Another feature of this work as an academic is "being on call for a specific task." For example, although a member of the Voice of Women for Peace for years, it was only this year that she agreed to take on a challenging organizational responsibility. Moreover, as she relates, "In this past year, I have also been asked to analyze and participate in public hearings by people involved in local Halifax planning issues whom I met on past research projects." Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman presented to Halifax Community Council on child care planning while there to support her local Ferguson's Cove Residents Association. Coincidentally, she served on the thesis committees for both an MA and PhD related to urban planning and development issues which were defended this year.

Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman's third currently funded project involves another international collaboration. She is collaborating as the only feminist scholar on a team under the direction of Immanuel Wallerstein, one of the founders of World Systems Theory and a former President of the International Sociological Association (when Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman served on its executive). The project has been called, "Development Possible?/Possible Developments" or "The Polarization Project." It is a macro sociological analysis of the structures of growth of the world system over more than five hundred years. First, the team aims to portray empirically the historical realities of the world system from the perspective of ten to

twelve clusters. They hope to draw a nuanced assessment about debates on “progress” and ideas of linear development and to provide the basis on which they can not only envisage possible future trends but also draw conclusions about the policy and/or political implications of their work. In March, 2009, the members of the international research team met in Belgium and Dr. Christiansen-Ruffman points out, “The current challenge is to find empirical indicators which will allow my team at Saint Mary’s to examine the normalities and constraints related to changing ideas and structures of gender, gendered structures and ideologies; patriarchal processes, sexualities, women intellectuals and women’s movements. Ideas and suggestions are most welcome from all.”

The Latest on Our Students, Past and Present

New Graduate Students

Ben Garonce
Amanda Nelund
Lindsey Rasmussen

Student success stories...

Asna Adhami (Sociology Major & Criminology Certificate Program 1996) was a featured artist in the Vans Corridor Gallery show "Creativity is Breath" in March 2009. The press release for the show included the following: “In her current work, Asna Adhami examines the contrasts of the many forms of love and of life, the beautiful and the grotesque, the tensions in all media, be it poetry, photography, journalism or activism.... As an activist and diversity worker, Asna transforms adversity into hope, transcendence and resilience through ongoing collaborations with partners to run awareness, training and media programs.”



Kathryn Bliss (SMU MA Candidate in Criminology) was among 14 SMU students from the University's Conflict Resolution Society who travelled to Belfast, Northern Ireland in February 2009 to work with young people and teachers on peace and conflict resolution issues.

Jarvis Googoo (SMU Advanced Major Criminology & Sociology 2005; Dalhousie Law 2008) articulated in 2008-9 at Nova Scotia Legal Aid, and passed the Nova Scotia Bar exam in Spring 2009.

Alanna Howell (Criminology MA graduate 2007) got her "dream career job" as a Policy Analyst for Natural Resources Canada (Energy Sector). She will be moving to Ottawa and her work will involve conducting environmental research and policy development. Alanna reports that the minimum qualifications were an MA and there were PhD applicants and people with environmental degrees shortlisted. Alanna says she got the job because of her quantitative skills and the quality of her thesis, which used quantitative methods with a theoretical foundation.



Adrienne MacDonald (Criminology BA graduate 2009) has been accepted to the University of Ottawa's MA Criminology program for Fall 2009 with guaranteed financial support for 2 years.

Aunshul Rege (MA Criminology Graduate 2008) has just completed the first year of the doctoral Criminal Justice Program at Rutgers with a straight A average. She has a SSHRCC Doctoral Fellowship for three years, the president's scholarship and a tuition waiver to study there.

Emily Snyder (Criminology Honours Graduate 2004) is finishing up PhD coursework in Sociology at the University of Alberta, with a PhD Scholarship and a departmental Doctoral Recruitment Grant. Her research is in critical cultural studies.

Nicole Landry (MA Criminology Graduate Spring 2007) married Ian Henman on December 18, 2008; the department wishes them well!



Our Junior Partners

Welcome to our Newest Junior addition..... AVIVA pictured here with her big brother Asher.



We're happy to extend a warm welcome to our latest addition to the junior partner division, Aviva Millett, daughter of Faculty member, Michele Byers.

Aviva came into the world on October 14, 2008, weighing 7 lbs 11 oz. Congratulations to Michele, Trevor and Asher.

