Expanding Research Horizons

By Bill Martin, Chair

Research has always been a hallmark of the BU Sociology Department and its graduates and friends around the world. The challenges posed by the transition to a post-liberal world makes this work all the more important. This issue of the newsletter sketches some highlights of the last year.

The scope and breadth of faculty, student, and alumni work today is truly impressive. Faculty members continue to produce critical new books and articles, matched by an increasing flow of presentations and published work by our graduate students. To these streams is now being added work by our undergraduate majors, many of whom are students in our expanded research seminars and honors program. They are now winning awards, as can be seen in the following pages. Kudos here to our Director of Under-graduate Studies, Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz.

We also remain committed to engaging a wider public. Among other efforts, Dale Tomich mounted a major exhibit in the university art museum on nineteenth century slavery landscapes. Opening up research to a larger public continues as well in ongoing blogs and op-eds, most notably by Walden Bello, Denis O’Hearn, Ravi Palat, and members of the Justice Project. And this spring Benita Roth was elected President of the Binghamton chapter of the United University Profes-sions union.

New Faculty: The addition of new faculty has also expanded our research horizons and international reach:

Jason W. Moore, a University of California, Berkeley, Geography Phd, works on capitalism as a world ecology. He is completing a book on *Ecology and the Rise of Capitalism*, for the University of California Press.

Josh Price, a University of Chicago, Anthropology Phd, is a joint appointment with the Translation Research and Instruction Program; his primary interests are violence against women, translation theory, and prison studies.

Ana Maria Candela, is completing her Phd at the University of California, Santa Cruz; her work encompasses Asia-Pacific-America relations, migration/diasporas, social movements, and nationalism.

Shaohua Zhan, a recent Johns Hopkins Phd, will be a visiting assistant professor in the coming year. His main areas of work are in Chinese development and migrant labor.
Walter Rodney Conference

On 14-15 September 2012 the department hosted with support from Harpur College a conference celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the publication of Walter Rodney’s *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*.

Rodney taught in the department as an international adjunct in the years before his assassination in 1980.

**Friday Sept 14**

3:00-3:15pm: Welcome and Opening Remarks
   Michael O. West

3:15-5:15pm: The Grounding of *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*
   Chair: Zenebeworke Tadesse
   David Johnson: African History and HEUA
   Locksley Edmondson: Dar, Makerere and HEUA
   Komozi Woodard: Black Power and HEUA

**Saturday Sept 15**

10:00-Noon: The Unsettling Power of HEUA
   Chair: David Johnson
   William Martin and Ravi Palat: Underdevelopment Theory and HEUA
   Zenebeworke Tadesse: Feminist Africa & HEUA
   David Hinds: From HEUA to the WPA

1:30-3:30pm: 40 Years Forward
   Chair: Michael West
   Wazir Mohamed: The Global Social Divide & HEUA
   Firoze Manji: Rodney: Implications for the 21st Century
   Horace Campbell: Rodney and New Movements

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Over yonder is plantation
where struggle was born
out of it
he revealed
our social motion
over yonder is the city
scene of his nativity
he made its origin
no mystery
here in the bauxite belt
that pulsed within himself
he fanned high the flames of self emancipation
revolution
leaping now to sky

Eusi Kwayana
Faculty News and Notes

Dale Tomich stands in front of his "Plantation Places: Cotton, Sugar, Coffee and the Making of Nineteenth-Century Slaveries" exhibit at the University Art Museum. Photo by Jonathan Cohen

Having published and been honored for a series of path breaking works on the “second slavery,” Dale Tomich brought this work into a new realm in an exhibit at the University Art Museum on “Plantation Places: Cotton, Sugar, Coffee and the Making of Nineteenth-Century Slaveries.” The exhibit featured 130 visual images that Dale collected over four years with a group of international scholars. The interdisciplinary project, funded by a grant from the Getty Foundation, allowed the scholars to study the function and representation of plantation spaces in Brazil, Cuba and the Lower Mississippi Valley.

New Awards, New Books

Walden Bello
Awarded an honorary doctorate from Murdoch University on February 20, 2013, acknowledging him as world-renowned “human rights champion” and “one of the most respected thinkers in both Asia and the world on globalization” (press release).

Dr. Bello is currently a member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines.

Walden Bello
Capitalism's Last Stand?: Deglobalization in the Age of Austerity.

Ricardo Laremont

William G. Martin
South Africa and the World Economy: Remaking Race, State, and Region.
University of Rochester Press. 2013.

Josh Price
Alumni Profiles: Where are they Now?

Peter Phillips

**1987 Phd**
**2013: Minister of Finance and Planning, Jamaica**

Upon leaving Binghamton I spent only a relatively short time pursuing an academic career with an appointment at the Consortium Graduate School at the University of the West Indies. Ultimately, political interests superseded, and upon the victory of the People’s National Party (PNP) in the 1989 General Elections, I accepted an appointment from Prime Minister Michael Manley as Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister.

This began what you might call my ultimate diversion from University-based academic career. I served between 1989-2007 successively as Minister of Special Projects, Office of the Prime Minister; Minister of Health; Minister of Transport and most latterly between 2001-2007 as Minister of National Security. During the period I also served as General Secretary of the PNP, and a Vice President of the PNP and campaigned—unsuccessfully—for the Presidency of the Party in 2006. I still serve as an Officer Executive of the Party and am currently a Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives representing the Constituency of East Central St Andrew and have represented this constituency for the last 17 years.

All told, my experience at Binghamton continues to provide not only intellectual impetus for all that I do, but moreover the particular outlook on world historical events and the framework of analysis which I garnered in Binghamton, continues to shape my understanding of national and international developments.

All may not be lost however. Now that I sit on the Opposition benches in the Parliament where the pace of life is a lot less frenzied, I have begun, albeit spasmodically, to re-visit serious study regarding the emergence and evolution of the nationalist movement in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. As some of my erstwhile colleagues at the Fernand Braudel Center may recall, my interest in nationalism as an expression of anti-systemic tendencies in the world system dates from my days at Binghamton. As they say “plus ca change…”

My days at Binghamton, continue to shape my life and fond thoughts of seminars and debates, friendships and long snow-bound winter nights still enliven my memories.

[Editor's note: since this was written the PNP came back into power and Peter is now Minister of Finance and Planning.]

Robert Schaeffer

**1984 Phd**
**2013: Professor Global Sociology, Kansas State University**

My first job as a graduate student was to design and layout the first issue of Review (Donna DeVoist did the typesetting). After a makeover, my cover art became the logo for the journal and the Fernand Braudel Center, which pleases me every time I see the journal. When I first arrived, Terry Hopkins told me that I would learn more from the graduate students than the faculty, which was only partly true, because I learned a lot from fellow students, over dinner at Bill Martin’s, and from the faculty (Giovanni, Immanuel, Dale, and Marcus Rediker served on my committee), who encouraged me to “think big and bigger still.”

I was unable to find an academic job during the recessionary 1980s, so I worked instead as a journalist for socialist newspapers *In These Times* and environmental organizations (Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace), where a global perspective was welcome. In 1990, I found a teaching job at San Jose State, where I worked for 10 years, and then moved to Kansas State with my partner, Torry Dickinson, also a Binghamton graduate, and our children Jazz and Jeff. Torry is a professor in Women’s Studies, I am in sociology. While in Manhattan, “the Little Apple,” a place that is conducive to “the Red State blues,” we have co-authored two books (*Fast Forward: Work, Gender and Protest in a Changing World*, 2001; *Transformations: Feminist Pathways to Global Change*, 2008), which was a fun and challenging collaboration.

Over the years, I have contributed articles to six PEWS volumes and edited one. Although my dissertation on sailors in the 17th and 18th centuries was never published, I have been fortunate to publish a number of books on rather different subjects: *Warpaths: The Politics of Partition*, 1990; *War in the World-System*, 1990; *Power to the People: Democratization Around the World*, 1997; *Understanding Globalization: The Social Consequences of Political, Economic and Environmental Change*, 1997, 2003, 2005, 2009; *Severed States: Dilemmas of Democracy in a Divided World*, 1999; and *Red Inc.: Dictatorship and the Development of Capitalism in China, 1949 to the Present*, 2011. My comrades at Binghamton gave me the intellectual foundations to explore the world and challenge authority. I’ve always been grateful for that.
My experience with the sociology department here at Binghamton University has defined my college experience. I took Introduction to Sociology with Bill Martin during my freshman year and had my whole naïve seventeen-year-old worldview shattered in the first lecture, which was very exciting. Since then, the sociology classes I have taken have encouraged and challenged me to complicate and deepen my way of thinking.

I have benefitted from the sociology department both within and outside of the classroom. Professor Josh Price encouraged his students to use what we were learning in class in the Binghamton community. Here, a group of students worked with Professor Price and members of the Binghamton NAACP to criticize and block the implementation of a truancy policy at Binghamton High School that would criminalize students and their parents. We were able to see how the “school-to-prison pipeline” was functioning in our own community. In spring 2012, Olivia Santoro, Stephanie Omezi and I worked with Professor Price to put together a panel on our experience with the Binghamton City School District and the school-to-prison pipeline to present at the Left Forum in New York City. The experience further helped me take what I had learned in class and use it in an entirely different context.

One of the best opportunities I have had at Binghamton University has been working on my honors thesis. While it officially began this year, the project really began in Sociology 305 with Professor Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz. It was in this class and working with both Professor Jiménez and Delal Aydin Elhuseyn, the teaching assistant, that I came to my topic: the militarization of the university. After building a preliminary bibliography and proposal in SOC 305, I continued this research throughout the honors seminar in the fall 2012 semester. The honors seminar offered set class times every week to discuss the progression of all of our research, where we were getting caught up, and how to put together a coherent and well-written proposal as well as fifteen to twenty pages of research findings. Throughout, we also had readings and discussions that helped us look at our individual topics in new ways in order to develop our analyses. At the end of the fall semester, we all presented our research findings in front of different members of the faculty in order to receive feedback to move forward with this project.

In the honors seminar, we were all paired up with a faculty advisor to work with this semester as we continue writing. I am currently fortunate to be working with Professor Kelvin Santiago-Valles on my thesis entitled, “Bombs and Books: The Militarization of the University.” Although I have learned a lot about militarization and how universities, specifically Binghamton University, are affected by it, I have learned even more about how to conduct independent research, put together a paper proposal, and to improve my writing. With support from Professor Santiago and Professor Jiménez, I have received a fellowship through the Summer Scholars and Artists Program that will allow me to focus solely on this research while continuing to work with Professor Santiago this summer. Furthermore, with a nomination from Professor Jiménez, and support from Professor Santiago, Professor Price, and Professor Martin, I have been selected to receive the President’s Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence. I am honored to be able to represent the sociology department in receiving this award. My experience with this department has been truly invaluable so far, and I am looking forward to new challenges, debates, and experiences in my senior year.
Undergraduate student research & honors

Text and photos by Prof. Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Three of our Honors Thesis undergraduate students presented poster sessions during the Research Day Celebration, Friday April 19th, 2013.

Mallory Mecca is the Recipient of the 2013 President’s Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence. In “Bombs and Books: The Militarization of the University” she is examining the extent to which the U.S. military, security and surveillance concerns, and the arms industry have been making inroads in higher-learning institutions within this country. Specifically, she wants to further examine the degree to which this relationship might be having an effect on the content, quality of life, teaching, funding, and research that takes place in our universities. She was awarded a 2013 Summer Scholars Award to continue her work with her Faculty Advisor Prof. Kelvin Santiago-Valles. Her second Reader is Prof. William Martin.

Johanna Sanders in “Dreaming on the Edge: The Social Implications of Sexual Questioning Within the American Dream” is examining the concept of the “American Dream” and its intersection with sexual identity formation in the United States. She is particularly interested in the understanding of how heteronormativity is embedded in all aspects of everyday life and how the media influence the sexual identity questioning process. Among other issues, she will examine how racial minority experiences differ from how whites relate to the American Dream. Prof. Benita Roth is her Faculty Advisor and Prof. Fred Deyo is the Second Reader.

Olivia Santoro was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2013 President’s Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence. In “No Queer Left Behind?: Modern LGBTQ Movements and the Deconstruction of Queer Criminality” she is researching the role sexual normalization and gender boundary-maintenance plays within everyday life in societies like the United States, in particular through the criminal-justice and juvenile-justice systems. The principal focus of this honors thesis is the contemporary proscription and social regulation of sexually transgressive behavior with special attention to how this impacts laboring-poor youth of color. Prof. Kelvin Santiago-Valles is the Faculty Advisor and Prof. Josh Price is the Second Reader.
Graduate Student News/Awards

Congratulations to this spring semester’s grant and fellowship award winners!

Anders Bjornberg: Fulbright U.S. Student award for 2013-2014 to Bangladesh

James Smith: travel and fellowship support from Columbia's Paleography/Reading 17th Century Dutch Texts and Amsterdam Archival summer workshop.

Chungse Jung: fellowship for participation in 12th ISA International Laboratory for PhD Students, organized jointly with the University of Sydney's School of Social & Political Sciences

In Memoriam

Ken Baker (1985-2012)

Graduate student Ken Baker passed away September 30, 2012 following a traffic accident in New York City. Ken was an active and beloved member of his community in Whitinsville, MA where he played on the high school football, basketball, and soccer teams. He graduated Cum Laude from Elmira College where he taught while pursuing his PhD at Binghamton. A very promising student, Ken was a wonderful teacher and passionate about his doctoral research. His gentleness, compassion, and cheer are deeply missed by all who knew him in Binghamton. Memorial donations may be made to the Ken Baker Scholarship, c/o Atty. Thomas Baker, 86 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

A memorial service was held on campus on October 11, 2012

Ben Magubane (1930-2013)

Professor Magubane, born in 1930 on a farm near Colenso in KwaZulu-Natal, passed peacefully on April 12, 2013 at his home in South Africa at the age of 82.

He taught at Binghamton as an international adjunct and was a leading force in the African National Congress and the international anti-apartheid movement. His earliest work in the 1970s charted a new path for scholars of South Africa, and his many books (e.g. The Ties that Bind, The Political Economy of Race and Class in South Africa, African Sociology) were widely read, cited, and admired. He had the great pleasure of witnessing the emergence of a democratic South Africa, and was honored and celebrated by friends and family alike.

Herb Bix Starts a New Chapter

As part of a major departmental renewal, Herb Bix joined the Sociology Department in 2001. Shortly after agreeing to come he won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for his book *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*. The book recast both the history of Emperor Hirohito and modern Japan and was widely praised, cited, and studied.

Bix’s subsequent work and research focused on the Tokyo War Crimes Trials and issues of international law. These engaged immediately with the issues of the day—Bix became known for major appearances and commentaries on the US “war on terror” and its implications for public policy, international law, and public life and ethics.

Bix’s final campus lecture as a Sociology faculty member took place on November 1, 2012. As Bix further outlined his next book project, he made it clear he had no plans for a quiet retirement. Speaking to a large audience, Bix invoked a topic that looked very much to the present and future: “Empire Building in America and Japan: The Breakdown of Constitutional Order.”

“Let me get right to it,” Bix said: “This book concerns political crisis and the growth and consolidation of authoritarian, super-legal state power in two countries.”

“Imperial Japan’s experience with emergency power tells us much about where America is headed,” Bix said. “Conversely, the behavior of American elites at home and abroad frame particular moments of the 20th and 21st centuries and illuminate overlooked aspects of both Imperial and pacifist Japan.”

Department News

Please let us know your news that can be included in future issues of our newsletter. We would love to hear from you. Contact us at Sociology@binghamton.edu

Attention Alumni

Please contact us with your current contact details as we would like to keep updated alumni lists to email you our newsletters. Please let us know if you do not want us to share your information. Please also let us know about your jobs, books, births, partnerships, and any other information you want to share with the alumni network.