Letter from the Chair

This issue of the newsletter reports on a very busy year: Our new faculty members, Jason Moore and Ana Candela, are now in the full swing of Binghamton life, hosting speakers’ series, conference presentations and energizing a new generation of students. Students and faculty sponsored numerous additional speakers, and organized three conferences on campus: “Coerced Labor Farms since the Long Nineteenth Century,” “From The Long Twentieth Century to the Twenty-First” and “The Fourth Biennial SUNY Binghamton Graduate Student Conference on World Historical Social Science.” Path breaking teaching, mentoring and written work by faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students alike has been rewarded by numerous awards, from the SUNY Chancellor to the SRRC and national foundations. Members of the department have been busy with public engagements as well—as revealed in the following pages that recount profiles of speaking, public service and especially union activity. It has also been a year of transitions, as late last year we lost Rod Bush and shortly thereafter the campus was mourning the passing of Nelson Mandela. Starting January 1, 2015, the department will also have a new Chair, Denis O’Hearn. These and many more events are recorded here—and in even more detail on our website and facebook pages.

Bill Martin, Chair

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Remembering Nelson Mandela (page 2)
After graduating from Binghamton University, I found that I still questioned what it was I could do with a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology. Having paid for college myself I was in debt, and facing difficulties in becoming financially independent. My first position was a basic administrative position for a trading subsidiary of a Japanese airline in their Rockefeller Center office. I found this position unsatisfying, and after having expressed this to Dr. Benita Roth at Binghamton University, she gave me the confidence to make a change by quite simply suggesting that I go out and live my life while I was still young and able. With this I worked and saved so that I could move to Japan to teach English as a foreign language. The company provides furnished housing close to your work location (so that you can commute by bicycle); I was responsible for paying rent and utilities. The salary allowed me to live quite a luxurious lifestyle in spite of my college debt, what with life expenses being so small in small towns.

After becoming tired of working at a corporate English school, I was able to secure a position in the public school system. I relocated three years in a row, having the opportunity to live in rural, urban and suburban parts of Japan, which allowed me to see Japan from very different perspectives. Throughout my time living in Japan I was able to experience more than I could have ever hoped. Not only did I travel all over Japan, hiking Mt. Fuji twice, but I was able to travel through South Korea and Southeast Asia, all the while making weekend or holiday trips to spend quality time with the family I never knew.

I am so thankful for my experience at Binghamton University. Through their study abroad program I spent my entire junior year at Lancaster University in England, which opened my eyes to a world rich with culture. My studies in Sociology introduced me to the different political and social perspectives, how they developed and affect our lives today, which allowed me to be more accepting and understanding of the differences I experienced throughout my travels. My courses inspired me to become a teacher to help close the gap between the rich and the poor through education. Now, I am in the New York City Teaching Fellows program as a Special Education teacher teaching 9th Grade Quantitative Research, and 12th Grade Epidemiology at Millennium Brooklyn High School.

My path has taken me to places I never thought I would go, but if it wasn’t for my time at Binghamton University, the people I’ve met and the professors I’ve had, I wouldn’t be where I am today.

Ayumi Nagano ’06
Special Education teacher at Millennium Brooklyn High School

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The largest room in the student union at Binghamton University is named the “Mandela Room” — a product of the anti-apartheid struggle involving students, faculty, staff and people across the triple cities area. As we remembered Mandela, alumni contributed photos to an online archive, which documents, among others events, divestment protests (of Binghamton University investments in South Africa-linked firms), protests against Marriott (the precursor of Sodexho) which had operations in South Africa, IBM meetings (at the Binghamton Club downtown) which provided computers to South Africa, and even a Ray Charles concert at the West Gym (at the time, named the Men’s Gym) since Charles unapologetically broke the cultural boycott to South Africa. Above are a few photos; the rest are posted on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/BUSociology

Remembering Nelson Mandela — and Binghamton
Union Challenges, Union Leaders

UNION LEADER, ALUMNI PROFILE: Jamie Faricellia Dangler

United University Professions (UUP) is the union that represents more than 35,000 members on 29 state-operated SUNY campuses. It is a challenging time for the UUP, like all unions: faculty and UUP-represented staff had no contract for many years, the statewide political climate has been hostile, and the recent Supreme Court ruling in Harris v. Quinn threatens to undercut the collection of union fees from non-union members (specifically health care workers) who could be deemed “partial public employees.”

BU Sociology faculty and graduates have been in the forefront of dealing with these challenges. Jamie Faricellia Dangler, a Professor at SUNY Cortland, is currently the UUP Vice President for Academic Affairs. In 2013 Benita Roth was elected President of the Binghamton chapter of the UUP. We profile here both members of our family.

I was fortunate to get an academic job in sociology at SUNY Cortland the year after I finished my degree at Binghamton. The job at Cortland gave me a firm base for combining a teaching career with community and union activism. I’ve felt at home in the SUNY environment. It’s where I came from. Many of my students have been the first in their families to attend college, some entering through the Educational Opportunity Program. I’ve devoted many years to tutoring and mentoring EOP students in addition to students in my department.

My academic work at Cortland has been integrally connected to community organizing around environmental issues. I was among the leaders of a series of grassroots groups that fought against the siting of a nuclear waste dump and waste incinerator in Cortland County, addressed groundwater pollution problems, and participated in the federal Superfund process for remediation of a toxic waste site in the city of Cortland. This work dovetailed with my academic life as I taught Environmental Sociology, worked with NYPIRG and sponsored students for internships with our community organizations.

Over the last 10 years I’ve moved away from my academic-environmental focus and have gotten more involved in statewide work with United University Professions, the union that represents academics and professionals at SUNY’s colleges, universities and hospitals across the state. I started my UUP work in the early 2000s, motivated by the abysmal situation academics who sought to combine work and family found themselves in. Stumbling through the trials of balancing work and family life

“I feel privileged to have engaged in intellectual pursuits among giants and to have left with determination to make a small contribution to fighting the good fights.”

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“I feel privileged to have engaged in intellectual pursuits among giants and to have left with determination to make a small contribution to fighting the good fights.”
Jeff Howison, PhD ’10

My book Presidential Election: Ronald Reagan and the Shaping of the American Conservative Movement, has just been published by Routledge. Things in Istanbul are good — I miss chicken wings, good beer, and the beautiful hills around Binghamton, but am otherwise in pretty good shape. My wife Irmak and I are expecting a little boy in about two months, so we are both trying to prepare. It will be weird to be a parent. I always enjoy reading the BU sociology newsletter. Thank you very much for sending it.

Charles Post, PhD ’83

The American Road To Capitalism has been awarded the 2013 Paul M. Sweezy Marxist Sociology Book Award by the Marxist Section of the American Sociological Association and was shortlisted for the 2011 Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Memorial Prize. Unable to analyze the dynamics of specific forms of social labour in the antebellum U.S., most historians of the U.S. Civil War have ignored its deep social roots. To search out these roots, Post applies the theoretical insights from the transition debates to the historical literature on the U.S. to produce a new analysis of the origins of American capitalism.

Evan Stark, PhD ’84

Retiring from Rutgers has allowed me to spend full-time on the work I love most. I’ve just returned to the U.S. from Scotland, where I spent four incredible months as a Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR). This past February, based on my book (Coercive Control, Oxford, 2007), England added “coercive control” to its governmental definition of domestic violence. Scotland had already adapted the broader approach. But in neither country was there much sense of what adapting an approach that highlights domination and human rights violations rather than violence implied for legal or other reforms. The fellowship allowed me to work with PhD students researching various elements of coercive control throughout the UK and with Scottish Women’s Aid, other autonomous women’s organizations and a range of professionals in law, criminal justice and social work to close the normative gap between the devastating effects of male partner abuse and its relative trivialization in policy and law. Small, major changes in Scottish policing of VAW are underway and the stage is set for comparable changes in law and policy and well as for adding similar reforms to the Labor platform in England. As “payment” for keynoting the 20th anniversary celebration of the Autonomous Women’s Centre there and for my wife Anne Flitcraft, MD, doing workshops on health on VAW, we were rewarded with remarkable meetings with feminists from throughout the region, including Bosnia, Kosovo, Croatia and Sarajevo.
IT HAS BEEN A YEAR NOW SINCE YOU WERE ELECTED. WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU THE MOST ABOUT YOUR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE?

The biggest surprise for me is just how much work there is to do. We have close to 1,750 people at Binghamton University who are represented by UUP, about half faculty and half professional workers (those with jobs that usually require supervisory or managerial duties). There are meetings that have to be run on campus — during the semesters, monthly meetings of the Binghamton UUP’s Executive Board, monthly meetings with the administration — and there are meetings to be attended at the statewide level in Albany three times a year. Additionally, I work with the chapter’s officers and our “labor relations specialist” from our parent union, NYSUT (New York State United Teachers) on issues of concern from members. I get called into meetings as a representative when members meet with supervisors or administrators, and want help. There are dozens of emails a day and the occasional phone call. There are events I’m expected to attend because of my position. I also supervise our chapter assistant, who helps to keep the chapter functioning by providing essential clerical support. All in all, the biggest surprise to me was just how much work is involved in running the chapter, and how much time that takes.

IT IS A REAL CHALLENGE TO TAKE ON THE UUP PRESIDENCY IN AN ERA OF THE REMAKING OF THE U.S. UNIVERSITY. AT BINGHAMTON, WE ARE THE MIDST OF HIRING 150 NEW FACULTY WHILE RESHAPING THE CAMPUS’ PHYSICAL AND ACADEMIC INFRASTRUCTURE. WHAT LESSONS ARE THERE FOR THE LARGER SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY OUR ALUMNI? WHAT CHALLENGES LIE AHEAD?

I’ll answer a multi-part question by breaking the questions down a bit. Regarding the number of faculty hires coming down the pike, that growth as such is not so much of a challenge to UUP if the positions are tenure stream hires, that is, not part time, visiting or adjunct. The real challenges for unionization as we grow at Binghamton is two-fold: to keep positions tenure stream as opposed to adjunct, and to make sure adequate support staff are hired. Workload creep — putting more and more tasks on fewer and fewer people — is a huge problem for our professional workers and it is a problem for faculty as well, who are teaching more students and doing more service while enjoying less job security.

The remaking of the U.S. university is obviously a bigger issue. For students, the most glaring problem they face is debt — the estimates vary but there is something like a trillion dollars in outstanding student debt out there. I’m still paying back student loans which I acquired as an undergraduate and graduate student. My loan burdens are small compared to the ones students face today. It’s important for students to realize that in the past, loans played less of a part in the financial aid package — the burdens that students and their families carry could be alleviated if the political will was there. There are other countries where higher education is low cost or even free, although the trade-off there seems to be that entrance requirements are far more rigorous. Still, we realize that college in the U.S. is both increasingly necessary and increasingly unaffordable — that’s an untenable situation.

In terms of the labor movement, it’s unclear what the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, Harris v. Quinn, will do to us (for the UUP brief on this see: uupinfo.org/communications/uupdate/1314/140630.php). In contrast to some other “developed” countries, where unions and other workers’ organizations are an accepted part of the political landscape, the atmosphere in this country regarding workers’ rights is, to be blunt, poisonous. Workers have few rights in the U.S. relative to other countries, and

“The most satisfying thing about the union work is that I feel like I can, on occasion, make a difference in a member’s life by giving support, information, and advocacy.”
what rights exist change from state to state. New York historically has been a state that has allowed for unions to have some sway, although for public sector workers, that position came as a result of disruptive strikes and protest in the 1970s.

All in all, our alumni, especially recent ones, face a very challenging landscape when it comes to the world of work, although they are well-equipped to deal with the challenges. College degrees are still worth something, and in particular, a degree in sociology provides the kind of “sociological imagination” that is helpful in figuring out how to navigate uncertainty.

YOUR WORK HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, AND NOW YOU FIND YOURSELF LEADING A UNION: ARE THERE LESSONS FROM YOUR PAST WORK THAT YOU’VE CARRIED OVER TO THE UUP PRESIDENCY?

When it comes to movements and leadership, the best historical examples I’ve looked at teach us that responsibility for leadership needs to be spread around. Empowerment is an overused term, but real empowerment in an organization comes from everyone having a say in what happens, and having the knowledge about what is happening to weigh in on decisions. Participatory democracy is difficult in the short run – it’s much easier for one person to be knighted as “leader,” and make decisions for the group. But putting all the leadership eggs in one basket, so to speak, is a bad recipe for long term endurance. People burn out, and they will burn out faster if everything is on them.

There are many good examples of collective empowerment strategies in social movement history. We celebrate Dr. King’s legacy of working for civil rights, but we should also celebrate Ella Baker’s legacy – she was an activist who very much sought to empower others, and she was instrumental in helping to nurture key civil rights movement organizations. In more recent times, there are movements like Occupy that are radically democratic in their form. I think it essential to think about having forms that encourage shared leadership and decision-making — even if ideals are not always lived up to, it’s better to have those ideals to come back to when necessary.

I SUSPECT FEW FACULTY AND STUDENTS HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE DAILY WORK THAT YOU’VE CARRIED OVER TO THE UUP PRESIDENCY?

The most satisfying thing about the union work is that I feel like I can, on occasion, make a difference in a member’s life by giving support, information and advocacy. As a person, I’m happiest when I am learning something new, so from that standpoint, I’ve been learning a lot and I should be ecstatic. On the other hand, it is tough for me to be continually confronting places in the University where dysfunction reigns. My best advice for anyone working anywhere, but especially in larger scale bureaucratic settings, is to do two things: communicate early and often, and then shut up and mind your own business.

These two pieces of advice are at odds, I know, but communication really can overcome a lot of problems that I see in the University. And regarding the second part about minding your own business – I don’t mean to say that one should ignore bad practices or injustice. I mean that some of the problems I’ve seen here at Binghamton are related to people who either overstep boundaries or involve themselves in fairly petty issues that have nothing to do with their own work.

WOULD YOU ADVISE STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO BE UNION ACTIVISTS?

Well, I would definitely advise faculty to be active in the union because their voices need to be heard. Although UUP, as a union statewide and locally, is more than half faculty, activism in the union seems to be a harder sell for faculty. I’m not sure why.

As for students, you can learn a lot by being active in a union or other kind of workers’ rights organization. The AFL-CIO (a large umbrella union that represented thousands of unions) offers summer programs and internships that focus on organizing workplaces and communities. Ultimately, I think the question for students really is “how important is it for me to have meaningful work?” Meaningful work doesn’t always pay well (outside of the professions, anyway), so it has to be a conscious trade off – do I want my work to align with my social values? If I do, how do I get to that place? The more deliberate that you can be about the work decisions you make, the better. If social justice work makes you happy, then go for it.
During the past year the department hosted three conferences, covering coerced labor, the long twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and, organized by our energetic graduate students, trends and paths for world historical social science. The presenters and papers are listed below.

2014 Conferences

“Coerced Labor Forms since the Long Nineteenth Century”  WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2014

“This labor is therefore not voluntary, but coerced; it’s forced labor. It is therefore not the satisfaction of a need; it is merely a means to satisfy needs external to it.”
— Karl Marx, Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844

This conference explored the structural continuations, decreases, and development of coerced labor forms in the Long Nineteenth Century within the capitalist world-economy. Studies of the diverse forms of labor employed by global capital during this period contributed immensely to the analytical framing of the similarities, differences, and ambiguities of the logic of capital and conversely the histories of resistance and challenges to such movement.

PANELISTS:
Fernando Picó, “Slaves as Creditors in 19th Century Puerto Rico”
Joseph C. Dorsey, “Liberated Africans in the Spanish 19th Century Cuba”
Kelvin Santiago-Valles, “Forced labor in colonial penal institutions across the Anglo-American and French Atlantic, 1870s–1920s”
Geetisha Dasgupta, “Quarantining Tea Labor in India: Extending Conditions of Bondage by the Mediation of State Post 1947”

The conference was sponsored by the Department of Sociology, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, Human Development, Caribbean Studies Association, Fernand Braudel Center and the Dean of Harpur College.
Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the publication of Giovanni Arrighi’s The Long Twentieth Century: Money, Power, and the Origins of Our Times. Organized by Ravi Palat, sponsor: Sociology Department

OCT. 11, 2014

10:00—10:15 a.m.
Welcome
Ravi Arvind Palat (Binghamton University)

10:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m.
Geometries of Accumulation
Chair: William G. Martin (Binghamton University)
Eric Vanhaute (Ghent University): “From Systemic Cycles of Accumulation to a Commonwealth of Civilizations: Giovanni Arrighi and the Great Divergence Debate”

1:30—3:30 p.m.
Converging Crises and Chaos?
Chair: Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz (University of Maryland—College Park)
Carlos Eduardo Martins (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro): “The Crisis of the Long Twentieth Century: Political Economy, Geopolitical Alignments and Perspectives of Systemic Chaos”
Roberto José Ortiz (Binghamton University): “From The Long Twentieth Century to the Long 1970s: The Signal Crisis of the U.S.-led Regime of Accumulation in World-Historical Perspective”

4:00—6:00 p.m.
Milan to Beijing
Chair: Beverly Silver (Arrighi Center for Global Studies, Johns Hopkins University)
Shaohua Zhan (Johns Hopkins University): “China in the Long Twentieth Century: Historical Origins of its Rise”
Alvin Almendrala Camba (Binghamton University): “Karl Marx in Beijing: Chinese Capitalism in the 21st Century”
Marilyn Greil-Brisk (Université de Neuchatel): “The Case of China in Sub-Saharan Africa: Redefining Subversion in The Long Twentieth Century to the Twenty-First”

OCT. 12, 2014

10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Calculus of the Twenty-First Century
Chair: Mahua Sarkar (Binghamton University)
Ana Maria Candela (Binghamton University): “Hegemony Redux? Arrighi and the Lineages of the Trans Pacific Partnership and the Pivot to Asia”
Sahan Savas Karatasli (Arrighi Center for Global Studies, Johns Hopkins University): “Systemic Cycles of Accumulation’ and ‘Long Waves of Nationalism’ in the longue durée”
Boris Stremlin (Stonybrook University): “Russia, Regionalism, and the End of the Long Twentieth Century”

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11–12, 2014
FRIDAY, APRIL 25

5:30 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker: Charles Post**

“The American Road to Capitalism—An Exercise in Historical Sociology”

Professor of Sociology, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY. Author of *The American Road to Capitalism: Studies in Class-Structure, Economic Development and Political Conflict, 1620-1877*. Winner of the 2013 Paul M. Sweezy Marxist Sociology Book Award by the Marxist Section of the American Sociological Association

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

9:30–11:00 a.m.

**World-Historical Perspectives**

**Joshua Eichen** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Thalassocratic Strategies and Tactics in the Production of Space & Time, 1300–1600”

**Matthias Wasser** (University of Maryland — College Park): “Lords and Apparatchiks: a Model of Pre-Modern Inter-Elite Class Struggle”

**Yoonki Hong** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Before the Divine Intervened: Rethinking the Early Years of Korean Catholicism in World-Historical Perspective”

**Yamoi Pham** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Toward a Social Theory of Money: Revisiting Polanyi’s Anthropological Reconstruction of Money”

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

**Class and Social Struggles Around the World**

**Roberto José Ortiz** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Latin America’s ‘Golden Age’? Exploitation of Labor and Ecological Surplus during Import Substitution Industrialization, 1945-1979”

**Kristin Plys** (Yale University): “National Liberation and Class Struggle: The Case of Indian Coffee House”

**Odilka Santiago** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Social Regulation of Surplus Populations through Criminalization in the Neoliberal Era”

1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Gender, Labor and Rights (and a Theory of the Capitalist State)**

**Maria Celleri** (University of California, San Diego): “One Letter Away from Exercising Citizenship: Civil Rights and Citizenship in Ecuador’s Trans-Rights Campaign”

**Beatrice Cook** (California State University, San Bernardino): “Organization of Women: Nationalism and Feminism in Palestine”

**Geetisha Dasgupta** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Formation of Labor Contract: Chasing the Shadow of Freedom”

**Kai Wen Yang** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “The Materiality of Place and the Capitalist State”

3:15–4:30 p.m.

**Race, Gender and Civil Rights in the U.S.**

**Sophia Givre** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “The Construction of Divisions Within The Lower Class In the United States”

**Andrew Pragacz** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “The American Housewife in the Post-World War II Mode of Accumulation”

**Christine Badowski** (North Central College): “From ‘the Most Dangerous Man in America’ to ‘the Slacker Who Came in from the Cold’: Rhetorical Strategies in Media Coverage of Leaks of Classified Information”

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

9:30–10:45 a.m.

**Revolutionary Pan-Africanism/Black Radical Tradition in World-Historical Perspective**

**Toivo Asheeke** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Forging revolutionary Pan-Africanism/Black Radical Tradition in the fires of the Haitian Revolution”

**Moussa Kane** (Binghamton University, Comparative Literature): “Carrying the torch of Revolutionary Pan-Africanism through African Decolonization: Fanon, Cabral and Sankara”

**Mahmoud Zaidan** (Binghamton University, English): “Failing to Speak Truth to Power: The Betrayal of Intellectuals in the Pan-African/Arab Revolutions, the Egyptian Example”
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

**Culture, Nation, Race and History**

**Sasha Maria Rodriguez** (Stony Brook University): “The Postcolonial Transfer of Homophobic Nationalism to Uganda and Today’s Discursive Manifestations”

**Kevin Revier** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Mapping Colorblindness: An Analysis of the Historical and Global Dimensions of Colorblind Racism”

**Marie La Viña** (Fordham University): “Views from a Strange Bubble: On the Experiences of Filipino Call Center Agents on the Global Payroll”

**Jessica Smeeks** (Binghamton University, Anthropology): “The Technical Processes That Drive Authorized Heritage Discourse in Peru”

1:30–3:00 p.m.

**Food, Agriculture and the Social Construction of Nature**

**Huahsuan Chu** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Japanese Colonial Food Regime and Some Reflections on Agrarian Question”

**Brian Zbriger** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “Of Profits and Palm Trees: The Fungibility of Tropical Oils and the Materiality of Global Food Regimes”

**Ryan Mead** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “The Construction of the Lower Colorado River Basin Agricultural Landscape”

**Alvin Almendrala Camba** (Binghamton University, Sociology): “From Colonialism to Neoliberalism in Philippine Mining: National Imaginaries, New Ways of Seeing and Regimes of Violence, 1900-2013”

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Roderick Douglas Bush**

(November 12, 1945 – December 5, 2013)

Late last year we lost one of our finest PhD graduates (1992), Rod Bush. Throughout his life Rod embraced and exemplified a passionate commitment to social justice and black liberation. He knew and practiced this as a collective endeavor: he was a member of, among others, the Movement for African American Unity, the Congress of African People, the Student Organization for Black Unity/Youth Organization for Black Unity, the African Liberation Support Committee, the Revolutionary Workers League (M-L), the Black Radical Congress, and most recently, a board member of the left forum.

Rod brought to Binghamton this passion and a keen, sharp intellect—qualities evident in his major works, most notably *The End of White World Supremacy: Black Internationalism and the Problem of the Color Line* (Temple University Press, 2007) and *We Are Not What We Seem: Black Nationalism and Class Struggle in the American Century* (New York: New York University Press, 1999). A jointly authored book with his partner of over thirty years, Melanie, is coming into print soon.

Among Rod’s greatest legacies to us are his personal teachings and his students—something evident in the large community of friends, activists, fellow teachers, and current and former students who surrounded him in his last days. This included a Binghamton group, from faculty he taught to the talented undergraduate students whom he had over the years and directed toward our PhD program. A fuller appreciation is available at rodbush.org.
Faculty and Student Awards 2013–14

Faculty


Kelvin Santiago-Valles: Binghamton University’s 2013-14 Award for Faculty Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring, which honors University faculty who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment as mentors both inside and outside of the classroom.

Mahua Sarkar: 2013-2014 Senior European Union Institute of Advanced Study Fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Germany. The Wissenschaftskolleg, designed after the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, hosts about forty fellows each year from different disciplines and institutions from all over Europe, the U.S., and occasionally other parts of the world.

Students

Toivo Asheeke: 2014 Walter Rodney Award, presented to an outstanding graduate student, from any discipline, whose academic work and community service best exemplifies the scholar-activist spirit of past Binghamton University faculty member, Walter Rodney.

Delal Aydin: SSRC Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF). Advisor: Shelley Feldman. The dissertation explores the building of the yurtsever (patriot) youth movement in the 1990s when the Partiya Karkeran Kurdistan — Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) mobilization was at its height in Turkey. This critical moment in the mobilization of Kurdish youth and their struggle for recognition speaks to us about how subjectivities challenged and also reconfigured the Turkish political landscape.

Peter Carlo Becerra: the Puerto Rican Studies Association 2014 Dissertation Award, for his Ph.D.dissertation, "Which is ‘White’ and Which is ‘Colored’?": Notes on Race and/or Color among Puerto Ricans in Interwar New York City’, written under the supervision of Prof. Kelvin Santiago-Valles and Dale Tomich. Peter now works at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), Rio Piedras campus.

Geetisha Dasgupta: A fellowship to attend the summer academy on “Free and Unfree Labour in Global History” in Campinas, Brazil, sponsored by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, IGK Arbeit und Lebenslauf in globalgeschichtlicher Perspektive.

Reynaldo Ortiz: the 2014 Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching, which honors instructors of record who have demonstrated exceptional service to Binghamton University’s undergraduates. Reynaldo successfully defended his dissertation in October.

Olivia Santoro: BU Council/Foundation Award, 2013-2014, for serving the campus with outstanding dedication and for providing exemplary service and leadership to the University.