A warm greeting to all of you.

I cannot believe that almost 18 years have gone by since I first arrived at Willamette. Even though we have seen many changes in staff, courses, and our department’s location, we have one constant in our lives. It is you, the students, who have passed through these hallowed halls of learning. I have such fond memories of you and often wish that yesterday’s and today’s majors would have an opportunity to meet one another. It is this hope that I have kept alive these past 18 years. I have dreamed of a department newsletter that would offer us the opportunity to connect in new and interesting ways.

In this inaugural issue, you will say goodbye to retiring faculty. You will meet newcomers to our department. You will even hear from alumni and current majors. So enjoy the stories and let us know how you are doing.

And last but not least, thank you, Honey, our department administrative assistant, for making this newsletter a reality.

- Linda Heuser

Where are you now?

Please email hwilson@willamette.edu describing what you are currently doing with your major in sociology. We want to feature you in an upcoming newsletter.

If you would be willing to talk with current WU sociology majors about what you do and how you got to where you are today, please mail your business card, resume, brochures etc. to:

Honey Wilson
Willamette University
Sociology Department
900 State St.
Salem, OR 97301

Comings… and Goings …

We completed a national search for a tenure-track professor this past fall which resulted in the hiring of Jade Aguilar. Beginning Fall 2008 she will be teaching Gender & Society, Navigating Social Worlds and Families.

Emily Drew will be on research leave Fall 2008, returning Spring 2009.

Sudarat Musikawong will remain with us for another year as our Lausanne Graduate Fellow.

Michelle Robertson has been a Visiting Professor since 2006 and will be moving on following this semester.

We have two retirees at the end of Spring semester 2008: Professors Carol Doolittle and Steve Hey. Congratulations to them both on starting a new and exciting time in their lives! They are both active people! Enjoy!
“My wife, Heather, and I committed ourselves to reconstruction work with the Mennonite Disaster Service in New Orleans, LA upon graduation. While Willamette University’s sociology department did not consider a pedagogy that necessarily produces construction workers, I go with some of sociology’s most important tools: a critical mindset that punctures myths sustained by U.S. policies, a lens that observes the institutionalized and disproportionate suffering of disenfranchised people following crises, and a spirit not only to understand complicated social problems but to tackle them as well. As Joel Charon wrote in his book, *Ten Questions: A Sociological Perspective,* “democracy is shallow and cold if large numbers of people continue to live lives of misery.” So we go not as individual workers but as community members who critically examine our own complicated social positions and attempt to create positive change.”

- Dustin Schaber

**NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST**

“Current Student News...”

“Hello all! My name is Elizabeth Jaspers, and I am currently a junior majoring in sociology with an emphasis in American Ethnic Studies. Currently, I am enrolled in my “senior experience” class, the capstone to my sociology degree at Willamette. For this experience I have chosen to intern at the Salem Outreach Shelter (SOS). My internship focus is on children and creating a children’s program which hopefully includes volunteers from Willamette. This is an exciting endeavor in my life as I embrace what I would consider a Willamette ideal of “leaning outside of the constraints of the four walls of a classroom.” Upon graduation in December, I will begin my journey towards graduate school with the desire to earn a Masters Degree in Social Work and Education.”

**Catching Up with Alumni...**

“After graduating from Willamette in ’02, I spent two years living in Salem working as a financial services representative and loan officer at MaPS Credit Union. I found that, while the financial industry seemed far from what a sociology major might pursue (especially this sociology major), I actually did apply what I had learned everyday in my interaction with and observation of coworkers and members. I frequently found myself in the role of counselor to people who had issues with their checkbooks or had been victimized by identity theft or other financial problems.

In ’04 I put my cat under my arm and moved myself to Portland where I started on my Masters of Education in School Counseling at Lewis & Clark College. Two years, four apartments and several tens of thousands of dollars later, here I am! Now I get to hang out with middle schoolers at their most awkward, cruel and unusual stage of life. It may sound crazy, but, for me, it’s the only job I would really want. I laugh all the time, I help kids feel better when they really need it, I am done at 4 every day and I have summers off. I spend a lot of time in collaboration with teachers, administrators, parents, and other professionals, so it is more than just hanging out, but it is extremely rewarding. Children need caring adults to be there for them when their dad is taken away by immigration or they have been evicted and do not have money for clothing, food, or school supplies. Resilience is a skill and a quality that needs to be built in children, and it is a privilege to be a part of that process.

Now half way through my second year at Cedar Park Middle School in the Beaverton School District, I am happy to be settled into a career and continue to reflect on my days in the sociology department at Willamette with fondness and relevance. That even includes Statistics (though I may not be quite the “devious statistician” that Linda Heuser hoped I would someday be – but I think I’m on my way)! The cat is happy, too.”

- David Nelson
**New Addition...**

“I am so excited to be joining the Willamette Department of Sociology this coming fall. Until I get there, I have a busy few months ahead of me, finishing my PhD program at the University of Colorado in Boulder, moving to Oregon, and hopefully squeezing in some time to travel-I have my sights set on China! My current research has been to study Egalitarian Intentional Communities (modern day communes) which has seen quite a resurgence over the past 15 years. I am fascinated by these types of groups, particularly why people join and how they work together to ensure equality between all their members, both economically and socially. Oregon is a “hotspot” for these kind of communal living groups, and I feel so lucky to be moving here. In addition to getting acquainted with the communes in Oregon, I am also eager to get back to teaching. I was so impressed with the students I met at Willamette when I came to visit and cannot wait to share my work with them and find out what their interests are. I know there will be some amazing collaborative work ahead.

When I am not studying communes or teaching, I keep busy with my hobbies—running, hiking, snowboarding and traveling. I absolutely love to travel and have spent time all over the world. Right now, though, I am excited to explore the Pacific Northwest and all the amazing places right around Salem. See you in the fall!”

-Jade Aguilar

**Research Leave...**

“Not much will change in my life once I retire, with the exception of no longer teaching. I plan to continue moving between Wisconsin, Chicago, Denver and Salem, with extended periods of time in Wisconsin and Salem. I also intend to do more traveling starting with a hike of the Dalesway in the Yorkshire Dales of England during the first two weeks of September 2008.

When I am not traveling about, I will devote most of my time to completing my study of the Save Our Jobs Movement, a group of former steelworkers who formed to fight for the benefits they lost with the closing of Wisconsin Steel in south Chicago in 1980. I will also work on completing the restoration of my home in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin.”

-Steve Hey

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**Presentation...**

Stanislav Vysotsky presented a paper at the Eastern Sociological Society’s annual meeting the last weekend of February titled, “White Cultural Nationalism and White Supremacy: Toward a White Centered Universe” co-authored with Dianne Dentice of Stephen F. Austin University. The paper describes the activities of white supremacist movements in developing unique cultural forms that signal the formation of an imagined prefigurative community based on ideas of white cultural nationalism. It develops out of his earlier collaborative work with Dentice which argued that the white supremacist movement shared many common elements with more left-oriented new social movements. This work will be published later in the Spring of this year in an anthology titled Social Movements: Contemporary Perspectives published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

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**Retirement...**

Stanislav Vysotsky has won the Northeastern University Graduate and Professional Student Award in the category of Teaching in Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences!
Sociology Faculty—Fall 2008 Courses

**Jade Aguilar**
Assistant Professor
Gender Roles in Society, Navigating Social Worlds, Families

**Emily Drew**
Assistant Professor
214 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6556
edrew@willamette.edu
Junior Faculty Research Leave Fall 2008

**Linda Heuser**
Professor and Department Chair
213 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6915
lheuser@willamette.edu
What Is Community?, TIUA American Society

**Sudarat Musikawong**
Lausanne Graduate Fellow
320 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6688
smusikaw@willamette.edu
Navigating Social Worlds

**Kelley Strawn**
Assistant Professor
212 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6196
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Social Statistics, Methods of Social Research, College Colloquium: Juggernauts of Popular Culture: Consumerism, and the Internet

**Stanislav Vysotsky**
Visiting Instructor
209 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6313
svysotsk@willamette.edu
Race & Ethnic Relations, Sociological Theory, Sociology of Hate

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**Mark Your Calendars...**

April 7-14
CLA Web Registration

April 16
Student Scholarship Recognition Day

April 29
CLA Last day of classes

May 2-7
CLA Final Exams

May 6
Portfolios due—graduating seniors

May 11
Commencement