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Spring 2011

Graduate Spotlight!

Sam Larson grew up in "the central city" of Carrington, ND. Her research focus is on the outmigration of North Dakota youth and women's economic opportunity in the state. When asking about what made her interested in this area of study, she will tell you, "I love North Dakota, I feel really connected to the land, place, and people. When the recession hit in 2007/2008, I decided to look more deeply." Some of the goals she hopes to accomplish with her research include a better understanding of the barriers

that exist to women's economic status of the state, and to see how women have successfully navigated those barriers/challenges. With the



research challenges, Sam mentions, "the topic of my research is so broad and narrowing it down to one or two goals has been one of the bigger challenges." She is thinking positively though, and has plans to graduate in May of 2011.

Graduate Student Research

Ashley Wiertzma enjoys applied sociology and is focusing her thesis research on lactation education with a focus in health care providers and has been working on various projects with Dr. Rathge for two years.

Stephanie Hinrichs enjoys research in gender, feminism,

and women's issues. She is currently doing her thesis research on perceptions of feminism as deviant and has also had the opportunity to work with Dr. Rathge on various projects.

Karen Okigbo is focusing her thesis research on unearthing and understanding the expe-

riences of roles of women during the Nigerian-Biafra War and has hopeful plans to graduate this May.





“Research is extremely important and we are all trying to provide research opportunities for our students and provide a service to the community”

-Dr. Rathge



Dr. Richard Rathge, a tenured professor here at NDSU in the sociology department emphasizes that opportunities for the students is key. In the interview he states that “research is extremely important and we are all trying to provide research opportunities for our students and provide a

service to the community.” Currently Dr. Rathge has many ongoing projects that he is guiding as both a professor and Director of the North Dakota State Data Center. Some of these projects that students are getting an applied experience with include Community of Care, Lactation Sur-

vey for Public Health, Strategic Planning for Communities, and many more. The latter involves creating a centralized database to increase communication between communities involving youth and public health.

Graduate Research Cont...

Courage Mudzongo is a new graduate student here in the sociology department from Zimbabwe. He is currently working on a project on Community and Education with Dr. Whitsel. He has plans to graduate in 2012.

Christie Mikyla Chappell is now done with her course work and will be finishing her thesis this semester. Her research focus is on the perceptions of

female coaches.

Shelby Bohnenkamp is currently working on a project with Dr. Goreham on the proposed flood diversion in the Fargo-Morehead area. She has plans to start her thesis next year on Intergenerational land transfer and plans to graduate in 2012.

Faculty Research

Dr. Goreham's research interests include working with rural sociology, rural communities and churches. Currently he is working with graduate students on the impact and implications of flooding in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Dr. Whitsel is currently

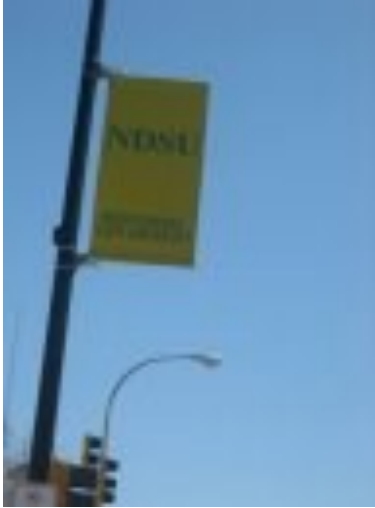
working on a project with other grad students on community factors effects on education and another projects exploring the school and classroom factors in girls' dropping out of school in Tajikistan.

Dr. Weber is currently developing a project involving

the gendered experiences of war and post-traumatic stress disorder. She is also working on another project with faculty from the mathematics department on keeping girls in mathematics and STEM sciences.

Faculty Spotlight!

Faculty Displacement and a Silver Lining



During winter break of 2009-2010 Minard Hall (the central location for the sociology department) collapsed and caused the entire sociology department to disperse to different locations across campus. Most ended up relocating to the new robust downtown building of Barry Hall. Faculty members have expressed their opinions of inconvenience because the classes take place on campus, while offices and office hours take place downtown. However, this does

not seem to stop the student/faculty relationship on campus. Every Wednesday, graduate students and professors can sit down, touch base on students' classes, upcoming conferences, and other aspects of academia over lunch in the Graduate office in Morrill 212 on the main campus. For now, the displacement has settled, but no immediate negative effects are taking place. The Minard fix up should be complete in a couple of years.

"Faculty members express their opinions of inconvenience... but no immediate negative effects are taking place."

Some Up and Coming Conferences...

Midwest Sociology Conference:

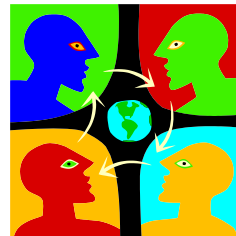
Dr. Whitsel along with Courage Mudzongo, a graduate student in the sociology department here at NDSU attended this event March 24 through the 27 of 2011. In addition Karen Okigbo also attended this event and presenting her research.

American Sociological Association:

Is having its 106th annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. The theme this year is focusing on social conflict.

The Society for the Study of Social Problems is having their 61st annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada in August 19-21st.

The theme this year is service sociology.



New Faculty Search

The sociology program has had a busy year looking for two new members of our faculty. We set out to hire faculty in the areas of medical sociology and social psychology. After exciting search processes this fall and spring, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Gina Aalgaard Kelly as our new medical sociologist and

Dr. Pamela Emanuelson as our new social psychologist. Dr. Kelly comes to us from MSUM and Dr. Emanuelson comes from the University of South Carolina. They will be joining us in the fall of 2011.

