

Gemeinschaft News

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology
Texas A&M University

January 23, 2006

Sociologists Participate in China Research Conference

Several sociologists from our department attended and participated in a “China Research Conference” in January 9-11, 2006, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts of Texas A&M University and held here on the A&M campus. **Dudley Poston** made a 90 minute presentation on the morning of January 9th on “Using Demographic Data to Study the Population of China.”

In the afternoons of January 9th and January 10th, seven of our graduate students made research presentations, as follows:

“Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections in China”

Ginny Garcia and Rachel Traut

“Patterns of Homosexuality in China”

Chris Lewinski

“The Effect of Floating Migration on Fertility in China”

Xiuhong Helen You

“The Impact of Language Dialect on Fertility in China”

Xiaodong David Wang

“Patterns of Premarital Conception in China”

Carol S. Walther

“Son Preference and the Hazard of Having a Second Birth in China and Korea”

Hosik Min

Alston Designated Professor Emeritus

Our department learned last month that the Texas A&M University Board of Regents at their December 2005 meeting elevated our colleague **Jon A. Alston** to the rank of Professor Emeritus of Sociology (effective June 1, 2005). Congratulations Jon!

Graduation

On the afternoon of December 16, 2005, several of our graduate students graduated with M.S. or Ph.D. degrees, as follows:

Bibin Qin, Ph.D. (doctoral supervisor, Dudley Poston)
Marie Leonard, Ph.D. (doctoral supervisor, Kathryn Henderson)
Zane Lee, M.S. (thesis supervisor, Alex McIntosh)

Department Retreat

Last Friday January 13, the faculty of our department spent the day off site at a departmental retreat. We spent the morning discussing departmental goals and specialty concentrations. After a wonderful lunch we spent the afternoon discussing additional topics of relevance and importance.

January Birthdays:

David Wang, January 5
Kate Parks, January 6
David Sciulli, January 11
Kathy Hille, January 15
Carol Walther, January 15
Wendy Moore, January 18
Ho-sik (Paul) Min, January 29

Preliminary Exams Completed

Warren Weren completed his preliminary exams in December. His committee consists of Mark Fossett (chair), Dudley Poston, Rogelio Saenz and Dan Sui (in Geography). Congratulations Warren!

Our condolences to Stuart Hysom whose mother, Beverly Hysom, died recently and to Sarah Gatson whose mother Sarah L. "Sally" Gatson and grandmother, Mary Alice Birch, died recently.

The department welcomes Casey and Nolan who joined us on the same day: January 6th!

Jeff and Peg Ackerman welcomed Casey Nicholle Ackerman (see her picture on the right) into the world while Tony and Melissa Love presented Nolan David to his big brother Collin (see picture below). Congratulations!!

