Mari DeVault, Sociology Professor, was involved in an action research project this spring, including a course that involved students in an ongoing “campaign for access.” Working with Professor Michael Schwartz, who directs the Disability Rights Clinic in the College of Law, the group learned about deafness and Deaf culture and developed a research, outreach, and action project that involved social scientists, lawyers, law students, medical educators, and local health-care personnel. A small group of doctoral students in the social sciences and education were enrolled in the course, which is part of the Imagining America program housed at SU.

Disability rights activists have made substantial progress in securing the rights of citizens with disabilities, and the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 1990, provides a foundation for future efforts; among other provisions, it guarantees communication access for deaf people who seek medical care. Schwartz’s previous research, and other studies on deaf people’s experiences with health care, however, make clear that significant problems remain, especially for individuals with relatively little education, few economic resources, or limited English language skills.

This research project was designed to explore the systemic barriers to full access, and to promote collaboration with Deaf community advocates and health care workers in efforts to improve the quality of health care for deaf people in our region. For the law clinic, the research collaboration offered the opportunity to develop non-litigation approaches to communication access that may be more successful than lawsuits over the long term. Rebecca Garden, of the Upstate Medical University’s Center on Bioethics and Medical Humanities, joined the project and brought valuable perspectives from medical education and the field of health humanities. Marj says: “It’s really fascinating to work across professions, and I think we all learned a lot. Part of our agenda was for each of us to learn more about how to think ‘outside the box’ of our professional identities, whether as lawyers, health care professionals, or social researchers.” This past semester, the group began to do some exploratory interviews with health care workers and sign-language interpreters.

On April 29th & 30th, Leonard Davis, Professor of English, Disability, and Human Development, and Medical Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago presented three workshops in conjunction with this project. On Thursday the 29th, his talk “Deaf World, Hearing World: The Two Cultures” was a public lecture and discussion. On Friday the 30th, he led an informal discussion “Is Deafness a Disability?” and gave another lecture at Upstate Medical University titled “The Standard Patient? The Deaf Person in the Medical World.” These workshops were sponsored by Imagining America, Syracuse University, the SU Center on Human Policy, Law, & Disability Studies, and the Center for Bioethics & Humanities at Upstate Medical University.
Graduate Student Accomplishments, Awards, and News

Successful Dissertation Defenses:
- Li-Fang Liang—“Constructing Migrant Care Labor: A Study of Institutional Process and the Discourse of Migration and Work.”
- Kristen Robison—“Gender at Work on the Force.”

Dissertation Proposals Passed/ABD Status:
- Megan Bahns, Liat Ben Moshe, Kasturi Gupta, Carrie Roseamelia, & Alecea Standlee

New Job: Wendy Parker accepted a tenure track Assistant Professor of Sociology position at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Women’s & Gender Studies Awards:
- Certificate of Recognition in Feminist Scholarship—Li-Fang Liang; Joan Lukas Rothenberg
- Graduate Service Award—Sarah Miraglia.

Maxwell School Teaching Associate Positions:
- MAX 123: Critical Issues for the U.S.—Alecea Standlee
- MAX 132: Global Community—Fumilayo Showers
- MAX 201: Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences—Gokhan Savas

Unemployment.”

Graduate Student Accomplishments, Awards, and News

Gokhan Savas was installed as a member of Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society at Syracuse University. It is the Nation’s first honor society dedicated to recognizing individuals who have demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to international education and exchange.

Griselda Rodriguez received a travel grant from the Graduate Student Organization for a conference in the Dominican Republic.

Professor of Sociology position at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Teaching Mentor Appointments with the TA Program of the Graduate School:
- Fumilayo Showers & Alecea Standlee

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards for 2010:
- Avery Brooks Tompkins & Alecea Standlee

Women’s & Gender Studies Awards:
- Certificate of Recognition in Feminist Scholarship—Li-Fang Liang; Joan Lukas Rothenberg
- Graduate Service Award—Sarah Miraglia.

Maxwell School Teaching Associate Positions:
- MAX 123: Critical Issues for the U.S.—Alecea Standlee
- MAX 132: Global Community—Fumilayo Showers
- MAX 201: Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences—Gokhan Savas

More Graduate Student Presentations

Eastern Sociological Society Conference—March, 2010
- Chantell Frazier—“Sexual & Reproductive Health as a Human Right: Policy & Practice in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, & France.”
- Emily NaPier—“It’s Like No Second Chances, Like You’re Still Locked Up: Widespread Use of Criminal Background Checks in a Period of High Unemployment.”
- Alecea Standlee—“Living a Techno-Organic Life: Interpersonal Relationships & Social Networking Technology Among College Students.”
- Karyn Stewart—“Same Old, Same Old? A Comparison of Birth Outcomes Between Black Women in the U.S. Mainland and U.S. Territories.”
- Avery Brooks Tompkins—“Multimedia Methodologies: Qualitative Technologies.”

Graduate Student Conference Presentations

Chantell Frazier


Sarah Miraglia, Conversation Leader and Griselda Rodriguez, Moderator at “Democratizing Graduate Education” at SU—Graduate student’s reflections on the benefits and obstacles of becoming a radical intellectual and/or scholar—activist within academia.

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More Graduate Student Presentations

Li-Fang Liang, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, & Sarah Miraglia at the Women’s & Gender Studies Award Ceremony

Li-Fang Liang spoke at a book release party at LeMoyne College on her contribution to the book Academic Repression: Reflections on the Academic Industrial Complex.


Sarah Miraglia, Conversation Leader and Griselda Rodriguez, Moderator at “Democratizing Graduate Education” at SU—Graduate student’s reflections on the benefits and obstacles of becoming a radical intellectual and/or scholar—activist within academia.

Faculty Conference Presentations

**Eastern Sociological Society Conference:**

*Marjorie DeVault* was a presider at a talk about the book *Sociology for Women/People and the Institutional Ethnography Approach* and a critic at the discussion of the book *The Italian Way: Food & Social Life.*

*Prema Kurien* was a discussant at the conversation of “The Changing Shape of Religion in American Society.”

*Yingyi Ma* along with *Gokhan Savas* presented “What Knowledge is of the Most Worth? An Investigation of Fields of Study, College Selection & Income-Disparity.” She was also the presider at the regular paper session “Negotiating Social Identity in School.”


*Margaret Usdansky* organized and presented the paper “Racial Sameness & Difference in Married Men’s Performance of Housework” with Shannon Davis. She also participated in the workshop “The Sloan Work & Family Research Network: A Resource for Information on The New Realities of Work, Family, & the Economy.”

*Prema Kurien* presented “How does Multiculturalism and the Contemporary American Environment Affect Hindus and other Minority Religions?” at the Hindu Student Organization of Duke University. She also presented “Culture-Free Religion in a Multicultural Age: Evangelicalism and Ethnic Churches” at a Sociology Colloquium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Jackie Orr* was a speaker at the Plenary of the Cultural Studies Association Conference at Berkeley.

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Faculty Awards and News

*Madonna Harrington Meyer* along with others received a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to help sponsor their conference at SU in June "Universal Coverage of Long-Term Care in the U.S.: Can we Get there from Here?”

*Prema Kurien* is one of 36 team members on a new Project to study religious diversity. The members are from 24 universities in Canada, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, and the US. The Project will aim to present diversity not primarily as a problem, but as a resource. It will propose strategies for equality that will advance knowledge and enhance public policy decision-making.

*Prema Kurien* is the program director of the Asian/Asian American Studies Program and SU has announced a new minor in Asian/Asian American Studies beginning Fall 2010. It will give students a greater understanding of issues around international migration, immigrant settlement, transnationalism, and racial and ethnic formation in the U.S.

*Prema* brought Min Zhou, Professor of Sociology & Asian American Studies at UCLA to SU in March to present “Ethnicity, Social Capital, and Immigrant Education: Neighborhood-Based Institutions & Embedded Social Relations in Los Angeles’ Chinatown and Koreatown.”

*Andrew London* was voted onto the Board of Directors for the Empire State Pride Agenda, which is a statewide, LGBT civil rights and advocacy organization. He, *Janet Wilmuth,* (and Colleen Heflin) were awarded a small grant from the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan to conduct a study on veteran status, disability, poverty and material hardship.

*Amy Lutz* is now officially a tenured Associate Professor of Sociology at SU.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**
Undergraduate Student News

The Senior Symposium was held on May 5th. Students from Professor Marjorie DeVault’s SOC 495 presented the following:

Naomi Ratner “Too Smooth, Too Perfect: College Women’s Views on Fashion Advertising and Today’s Unrealistic Standard of Beauty.”

Megan Saucke “Casualties of “24”: Portrayals of Middle Easterners and the People They Affect.”

Randy McKinnon “Play to the Whistle: An Inside Exposition of African-American Athletes’ Post Collegiate Success.”

Hilary Galvin “Coming Soon: The Effect of Music Placement on the Perception of Film Advertisements.”

Maegan Welch “A Wonderful Caricature of Intimacy: The World of Bandom Slash Fiction.”

Quentin Sica “Real Men in the Game World.”

Alicia Spector “The Soft Underbelly of Society: Structural Violence, HIV, and What We’re Doing About It Within the Syracuse Area.”

Travell Kirkland “Who’s at Risk? Educational Policy and the Labeling of Teachers, Students, and Schools.”

Lindsay Spector “Eight Times the Joy: A Study of an Urban Collective in Syracuse, NY.”