

Congratulations Recent M.A. & Ph.D. Graduates

Elizabeth Richardson, M.A. “Is Gaining, Losing or Keeping a Self-Identified Fertility Problem Associated with Changes in Self-Esteem?”

Katherine Bass, Ph.D. “Rape Culture and Sexual Slang: A Structured Action Approach”

Deadric T. Williams, Ph.D. “Three Essays on Inequality, Stress, and Dyadic Functioning as a Longitudinal and Reciprocal Process”

Courtney Thrash, M.A. “A Model for Understanding Structure versus Agency in the Participation of Minors in the Commercial Sex Market.”

Megumi Watanabe, Ph.D. “Faculty Parental Status: An Investigation of Network Homophily, Marginalization, and Supportive Work-Family Academic Culture.”

Alian Kasabian, Ph.D. “Capturing the Gendiverse: A Test of the Gender Self-Perception Scale, with Implications for Survey Data and Labor Market Measures”



Deadric Williams and Jacob Cheadle at Williams' Doctoral Defense.

Carla B. Howery Award for Developing Teacher Scholars



Helen Moore has been recognized through the years for excellence and leadership in teaching. This year, at the section on Teaching and Learning at the ASA Annual Meetings, Helen was awarded the Carla B. Howery Award for contributions to scholar teachers. She was the editor of the ASA journal, *Teaching Sociology*, from 1999 to 2004, publishing several articles with graduate students on the experiences of “diverse” instructors

teaching “diversity” courses.

During her career, Helen has received the University of Nebraska's highest teaching award, the Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award, and, most recently, was named an inaugural Aaron Douglas Professor. This Professorship is awarded to full professors who demonstrate sustained and extraordinary levels of teaching excellence and national activities and/or practice.

Helen will retire in May 2016 after a distinguished career at UNL that started in 1979.

UNL Ph.D. Sociology Program Rises in National Rankings

In Fall 2014, we finished our Academic Program Review (APR), and in the Spring of 2015, gained insights from the external review team.

Some highlights from the academic program review provide a vision of our strengths. Academic Analytics is a service that summarizes research productivity for all academic departments, thus providing comparisons. Since 2007 our national ranking among Ph.D. Sociology programs in the U.S. has risen from 65th (46.7 percentile) in 2009 to 47th (62.6 percentile) in 2010, to 26th (87.0 percentile) in 2011, and to 13th (90.5 percentile) spot. These numbers represent a steady incremental increase in our national standing.

Our rise in national prominence can be attributed, in large part, to the professional growth of a cad-

re of early career faculty who, over the last 5 years, have become tenured, mid-career scholars. Cheadle, Dance, Falci, Goosby, Kort-Butler, Olson, Schwadel, and Smyth now represent a cohort of teacher/scholars with strong research agendas and growing national reputations.

Our rise in national rank has also occurred during a time of considerable change in the Department, and within UNL as a whole. Our entry into the Big Ten/CIC and the retirement of a number of senior, core department members could have stalled the growth process.

The remaining senior department members (Hoyt, McQuillan, Moore, and Tyler), however, ensured that these moments of change became opportunities for growth and redefinition.

Click on pictures to be linked to our stories.