The name of our newsletter is *Global Transformations*, which is also the Department of Sociology’s theme. Our world and society are expanding and changing. People, culture, goods, markets, ideas, and capital are moving globally across national boundaries at ever increasing rates. Global processes are transforming individuals, groups and organizations, changing our cities, interconnecting us through instant communications, diffusing technologies, expanding the distribution of food, affecting our health and longevity, generating environmental risks, and altering forms of work and patterns of family living.

Global Transformation permeates the Department’s research, teaching, outreach and service activities. We are focusing on four areas: (1) Family and Gender; (2) Food, Environment, Agriculture, Science and Technology; (3) Health and Well-Being; and (4) Urban, Race and Migration. In these pages we will highlight our diversity and global activities. We also invite our alumni to share their news, areas of interest, and contact information with us.

**FRENCH EMBASSY GIFT**

Ever on the cutting edge, Drs. Larry Busch and John Stone co-organized an international workshop on the application of nanotechnologies to agrifood which was held on campus this spring. The workshop examined advances in agrifood nanotechnology including the public’s perception and acceptance of such advances as well as the need for regulation and international cooperation in this area. The workshop brought together about 50 researchers from across the full spectrum of biological sciences, engineering, social sciences, and philosophy. Research is underway on biosensors and other devices to identify, trace and monitor food products from farm to fork, and to act as spoilage indicators on food products.

The workshop was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Consulate of France, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, and the College of Social Science. In addition a cooperation agreement between Michigan State University and the National Institute for Agronomic Research was signed creating a formal frame to the numerous extant collaborations between these two institutions.

Larry is a University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute for Food and Agricultural Standards at Michigan State University. He is also a *Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricole* awarded by the French government. John is an Applied Anthropologist and research Associate in the Institute For Food and Agriculture Standards.
In the past three years the Sociology Department hired a whole new generation of faculty members, rejuvenating the department and creating a critical mass in our theme—global connections. In this issue we highlight two of our new Assistant Professors: Dr. Sabrina McCormick and Dr. Daniel Jaffee.

Dr. Sabrina McCormick was recently named a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar. Sabrina will be going to the University of Pennsylvania for two years to study and work on policies related to the health impacts of climate change.

She received her doctorate in Sociology at Brown University, and was a Henry Luce Foundation Environmental Fellow at the Watson Institute of International Studies. She was a fellow of the United Nations Global Environmental Outlook Project and part of the Environmental Leadership Program. She is the director of the films, *Damming Brazil* about the movement protesting the construction of hydroelectric dams in Brazil and Brazil’s energy policy, and *No Family History*, which tells the story of women confronting breast cancer in their lives and demanding to know why they got breast cancer, posing questions about their exposure to environmental toxics. Sabrina also holds a joint appointment with the Environmental Science and Policy Program.

Dr. Daniel Jaffee joined the sociology department as an assistant professor in the fall of 2006. His book *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability and Survival*, was recently published by the University of California Press. Daniel studied two farming communities in Oaxaca, Mexico. Some coffee farmers were part of cooperatives that sold organic coffee on the international fair trade market while others depended on traditional local middlemen to bring their coffee to market.

The fair trade farmers with their guaranteed price were significantly better off, the most notable differences were greater food security, higher household incomes and less indebtedness. But he also found that the ‘Big Five’ coffee corporations, which control 69 percent of the world’s coffee, buy fair trade coffee at token levels (Starbucks is only 3.7%). The corporations have exerted pressure to keep the fair trade minimum price low.

Daniel earned his Ph.D. from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently investigating the privatization and commodification of common resources, particularly drinking water supplies, both in the U.S. and the global South.
The Department of Sociology is pleased to honor Drs. John and Ruth Useem, through the establishment of The Useem Fund. John and Ruth Useem personally touched thousands of students who attended Michigan State University from the 1940’s through the 1980’s. An extraordinary couple, the dynamic educators were widely published in the field of comparative and international sociology and built the foundation for the MSU Department of Sociology’s scholarly theme of “Global Transformations.” The Useem Fund provides merit-based scholarship support to graduate level students who are devoting their careers to international social research and global transformation. The Useem Fund serves as a fitting memorial for two of our department’s finest educators and scholars.

Alumni support can provide the critical monies to ensure that the Useem Fund and others like it can help subsidize departmental priorities and programs during times of budget shortfalls. Financial support from our alumni, retired faculty and staff and friends can help the department attract and retain the best students and faculty. While all gifts to the Department of Sociology make a real difference, endowed funds differ from others in that the total amount of the gift is invested. Each year, only a portion of the invested income earned is spent while the remainder adds to principal growth. In this respect, an endowment is a perpetual gift.

If you are interested in learning more about The Useem Fund or how you could establish your own named endowment in the Department of Sociology, please contact Sarah Blom toll free in the College of Social Science development office at (866) 678-2005 or via email at blom@msu.edu.

Thomas A. Lyson, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Development Sociology and director of the Community, Food, and Agriculture Program at Cornell University, died on December 28, 2006 of cancer. He received is PhD in Sociology at Michigan State in 1976. Tom authored many journal articles and several books including Forgotten Places: Uneven Development and the Loss of Opportunity in Rural America; Civic Agriculture: Reconnecting Farm, Food, and Community, and Remaking the North American Food System: Strategies for Sustainability. Tom edited Rural Sociology from 1996–99. He was active in public life, serving as a member of the zoning board and then Mayor of Freeville, NY.

Kimberly Rosario Perez, MSU Ph.D. candidate in Sociology and African Studies, died in a vehicle accident in Accra, Ghana, on August 14, 2006. Kim was in Ghana on a short break from her research on bridging ethnic, religious and gender cleaves in local government in northern Nigeria. Kim served in the Peace Corps in South Africa working on HIV/AIDS awareness and community development project. After completing her comprehensive exams at Michigan State, Kim received a Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship followed by a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Award.

Mohammed Javed Zaki, an internationally known social scientist and poet, died October 18, 2005. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology at Michigan State in 1999 and then taught in the Sociology Department and Center for Integrative Studies. Javed received, was awarded USAID and UNDP scholarships, and served as a Senior Research Demographer at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad from 1977-1984. Javed published a collection of poems in Punjabi under the title Kaangaan in 1996. In his work, poetry and life he stressed the appreciation of diversity, interdependence, social equity and equality.

Professor emeritus Christopher Sower passed away on May 30, 2007 at the age of 94. During WWII, he held various administrative positions in Red Cross offices throughout Europe. He joined the MSU sociology department in 1946 and completed his dissertation on Adolescent Youth in Flint, MI from Ohio State in 1948. From 1950-1955 he worked with the National Health Information Foundation, and wrote Community Involvement. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Sri Lanka in 1955-56 conducting an evaluation study of the Rural Development Program. His last book, Formula for Change was published in 1994.
This year the MSU Sociology Department will go beyond the Department Alumni Night “festivities,” and host a special reception to connect with alumni and friends. It will be held on **Saturday August 11th from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, 811 7th Avenue on 53rd Street in New York City.** We will have **hors d’oeuvres** and a cash bar.

Jan Bokemeier, our chairperson, will introduce new faculty members who have joined the department over the last three years. She will also describe plans for future growth and development in the department.

We look forward to seeing you at this reception in New York City.
Thank you for saving us the cost of postage.

**REMAIN CONNECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT**

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**

- **NAME**
- **HOME ADDRESS**
- **CITY**    **STATE**    **ZIP**
- **TITLE**
- **BUSINESS NAME**
- **BUSINESS ADDRESS**
- **CITY**    **STATE**    **ZIP**
- **PREFERRED TELEPHONE**
- **E-MAIL**

**News** (personal and professional milestones, recent accomplishments and recognition).

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**Areas of Interest**

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For information on giving to the MSU Department of Sociology, please visit the alumni page on our website [www.sociology.msu.edu](http://www.sociology.msu.edu) or call Sarah Blom toll free at 866-678-2005.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**SOC and the CITY!**

- **Saturday,**
  - **August 11th, 2007**
  - **6:30 pm – 8:00pm**

**Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers,**

**Conference Room E**

**811 7th Avenue**

**53rd Street**

**New York City**