



Newsletter

2021

Volume 4, No.1&2

Two Years of Pandemic

Two years into this pandemic, nearly 5.5 million people have died. Millions more have suffered its effects in myriad ways – prolonged illness, loss of employment, anxiety, and isolation. It is important to take a moment to remember and honor those we've lost, and to recommit ourselves to helping each other to get through this together.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate the progress we've made in spite of the last two years' adversities. We continue to teach several hundred students every semester. Our faculty have produced several new publications. Our graduate students managed to gather data and successfully defend their theses. And our alumnus Krista McCarthy has decided not just to work around the pandemic but to study it. She currently is gathering data on the effects of the pandemic on health care workers in Northwest Ohio.



We're hoping better days await us. Meanwhile, we will continue to do what we do, in hopes that what we do contributes to those better days ahead.

*- Dwight Haase, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Sociology & Anthropology*

In this issue:

College Awards & Recent Graduates (pgs. 2-3)

Congratulations to Pat on her Retirement!! (pgs. 4-5)

Highlight on a Sociology Minor (pg. 6)

Recognizing an Alumnus' Career & Greetings to our latest team member! (pg. 7)

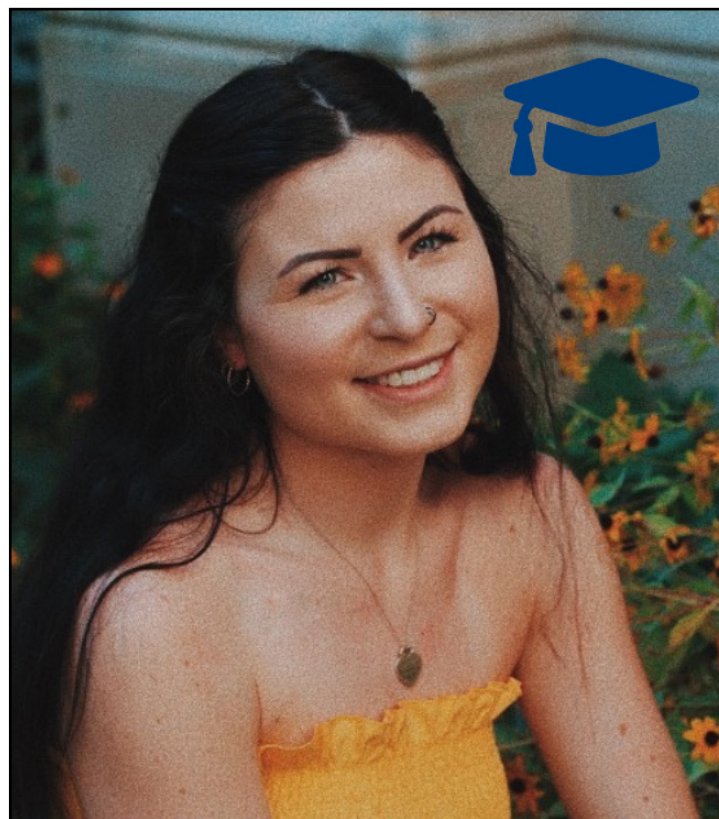
and more...

Arts & Letters Award-Winning Graduates

Three of our Undergraduates recieved some well-earned recognition at the 2020-2021 College of Arts and Letters Academic Awards Ceremony In Spring 2021

OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Sarah Bayes graduated Magna cum Laude in Spring 2021, earning this honored recognition from her proud Anthropology faculty. Building from her interests in medical anthropology and public health, Sara began pursuit of her Master's degree in Nursing in Fall of 2021 here at UT.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN SOCIOLOGY & COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS OUTSTANDING STUDENT

It was a very proud day for our department when we leared Joshua Willams was named as a **double-awardee** by the College this past Spring, earning recognition for his work in Sociology but as the 2020-2021 CAL Outstanding Student. In addition to double majoring (Psychology too!) Josh has already published his own research as an undergraduate, and has a few more articles out for review. Joshua returned to UT this past fall as a Ph.D. candidate in Psychology.



OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Katrina Sweet, double major in Anthropology & History, was also recognized by the College of Arts and Letters Last Spring for her perpetual involvement in several campus organizations. Among these included positions in Student Government and the Mortar Board College Senior National Honors Society. Kristina started pursuit of an MA in History at Eastern Michigan University this past Fall.



Congratulations to our Spring and Fall 2021 Graduates

Master of Arts in Sociology

Ramiro Lafuente-Rodriguez

- Thesis: *Social Inclusion of the Indigenous in Bolivia after the Return to Democracy*

Butheina Hamdah

- Thesis: *American Muslims, Exceptionalism, and Civil Religion: An Elaboration*

Simon Mwaura

Bachelor of Arts Recipients

AFRICAN STUDIES

Nadia Mone Neely

ANTHROPOLOGY

Jac Adkins

Regan L. Allen

Sarah E. Bayes*

Lacy Edwards

ANTHROPOLOGY (cont'd)

Eliana Frost

Grace Hart*

Conor Hill

Caitlin Kern

Nicky Rhymes*

Kristina M. Sweet

Saidah Symon Tarrence

SOCIOLOGY

Talia Biddle

Julian Mccarver

Joshua Williams*

* denotes departmental honors

A Fond Farewell to Pat! Congratulations Your Retirement!!

After several years with our department, and 20 years with UT, Pat Damschroder has retired to enjoy life off campus. Pat was iconic, and she is dearly missed, but such was her warmth and friendliness that she has imbued upon us all a lasting sense of amiability that will grace the hallways of University Hall for many, many years.

Congratulations Pat!
-Dwight Haase

A few colleagues share their well wishes:

I think it only takes a few minutes of being around Pat to realize that she is a wonderful person. She created such a warm and friendly atmosphere in the department office for faculty, students, and visitors. I will miss seeing her smiling face there. Pat's kindness even comes across in her emails. She is always willing to help and support anyone in need, and I have benefited from her efforts on countless occasions. I appreciate all she does professionally, but also personally for everyone. Holidays and events certainly won't be the same without her planning, decorating, and fun-loving attitude. I'll never forget those Halloween finger cookies either. Thanks, Pat, for everything and I wish you all the best with your future adventures! Congratulations on your retirement!

— Shahna

"Congratulations on your retirement, Pat! Thank you for your many contributions over the years- you will be missed! Best wishes in your upcoming adventures!
-Krista"



Since my arrival at UT, Pat had been a constant pillar of support. While many of our schedules changed from day-to-day, semester-to-semester, you knew that Pat was there as a persistent pressure release valve. From brightening y day, to helping with orders, class schedules, and everything else you needed, Pat's willingness to jump in and help will forever keep me humbled and grateful for her friendship! Congratulations Pat!

-Tom

Congratulations to Pat, continued...

Pat was the force that held everything together in our department. She was my go-to person not just for help but also for a smile. I always admired the strength and persistence that she exhibited in adverse and hectic times, while consistently maintaining a positive attitude and willingness to serve others. Her presence lit up the room, and the way that she made everyone feel welcome was truly a gift. I'll miss the joy that she brought to the office every day, and I'll also miss her fabulous decorations and "finger food." I can imagine that she will also be deeply missed by her squirrel friends. I wish Pat all the best in her retirement! No one deserves more time for leisure, rest, and relaxation than her!

—Karie

Running the department will be impossible without Pat! She is a budget wizard. She is also so well known and well liked in the university that whenever we had a problem her response was always "I'll call so and so". Our problems were immediately bumped to the top of the list and fixed. This was a standing testament to how valued she is as a community member. Everyone loves and respects Pat. She took care of us, putting up with our frantic requests and grumpy demands, and was always willing to step in and help others when they were lost or struggling. Her willingness to help train and assist across departments will be missed I have no doubt.

—Trish

Pat was a great mentor and friend to me during my time as a student-worker. She was always there to listen to students who needed someone to talk to. Pat's positive demeanor set an example for me on how to be an excellent administrative assistant in my future jobs. Her mentorship opened doors for me after I had graduated. Her welcoming smile, kind-spirit, and humor always make me feel welcome when I stop by to visit. The Sociology & Anthropology Department will not be the same without her.

—Meagan

From my very first day on the UT campus Pat was a welcoming force in the department. She was the consummate fixer: correcting issues with scheduling, adjusting classroom assignments, getting equipment ordered or fixed, and knowing who to contact to get questions answered or issues addressed. I knew that if I needed something, even if it was just a smile and a friendly chat, I could go see Pat. I am thrilled for Pat to be able to spend more time with her family and enjoy retirement after her years of dedication to the University and to our department; she deserves every joy and every quiet moment without us bugging her for something! But she is also very missed!

—Melissa

Celebrating a Sociology Minor Student

by Karie Peralta, Ph.D.

Donovan Cleggett took advantage of the opportunity to earn a Minor in Sociology, while pursuing a B.A. in Criminal Justice. He graduated Summa Cum Laude and with Honors through the Jesup Scott Honors College in May after completing his degree in four years. When reflecting on his undergraduate journey, Donovan stated, “I have had the pleasure of meeting many great educators as well as peers. While Sociology was only my Minor, I found the entire department extremely welcoming and helpful throughout my time. The knowledge I learned through the Sociology department was fundamental in my Honors Thesis research, which was unfortunately sidelined as a result of COVID-19. With that being said, I still look forward to completing this research when the time comes and will do so with the knowledge and expertise that I learned here at UT.”



he will be serving every day in an under-resourced school district, in order to help decrease the systemic inequities that children in low-income areas face in their schooling. He is very excited about this next chapter in his life and knows that the experiences and knowledge that he gained at UToledo will help him along the way.

Donovan will soon begin the gap year program of City Year Los Angeles (AmeriCorps). As a City Year AmeriCorps member,

After Donovan’s gap year, he plans on continuing his educational career, perhaps back here at UToledo, and he hopes that this gap year will allow him the time to gain new knowledge, experience, and interests that will help to propel him personally as well as professionally.



An Historical Examination
of Irish Literature and Authors

With Forty Short Biographies

Alumni's Career Accomplishments Recognized

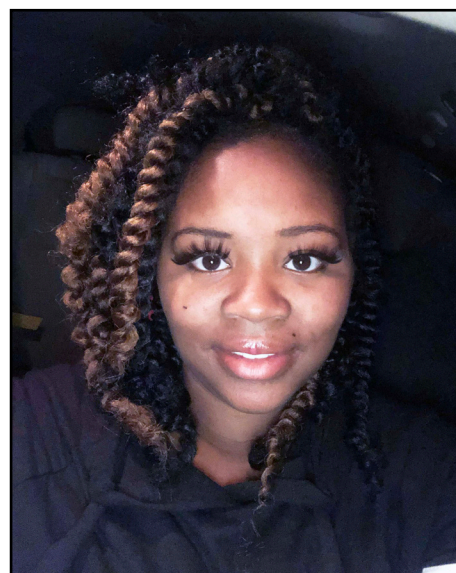
Dr. Dennis P. Sommers, a UT anthropology graduate from the 1970s who worked closely with Dr. Seamus Metress, was the recipient of Ireland's Kilkenny Cultural Award. Prompting that award was his book – *An Historical Examination of Irish Literature and Authors* – which explores Ireland's rich literary tradition from early times to the twentieth century's four Nobel Prize winners for literature. Included in that varied work are

folktales of the Celtic/Gaelic peoples and an overview of their oral traditions. Sommers, who holds a doctorate in historical theology from Trinity College Dublin, focused his career on early Irish monasteries and the evolution of Irish literary tradition.

For many years he served as Director of the Institute of Irish History and Culture's International Summer School at Trinity College. Now, semi-retired, he served as Professor of Irish history and literature at Trinity College and published seven books. Metress was honored to write the forward to one of them, *Ireland: The Stories of Her History*, published in 2006. Denny, as he was known in our department, is an Ohioan from Fremont where he was a football star. While at UT in the early days of the Anthropology department, he donated a boat towards our efforts to explore the islands of the Maumee River.

Welcome T'Eira Hicks!

We are excited to announce the newest member to our team, T'Eira Hicks! T'Eira is working in the main office handling communications, scheduling, logistics and finance matters, and basically making sure this place runs smoothly. We are very proud to call T'Eira a member of our department!



Sociology Faculty Member Supports Imagination Station's STEM Outreach Program

Dr. Karie Peralta, associate professor of sociology, is working with Imagination Station on a three-year project to design and implement a making and tinkering outreach program across Toledo to promote access to informal STEM education and foster interest in STEM fields. Dr. Peralta's role is to support the development of a curriculum that is community sensitive and integrates opportunities for children to critically think about how STEM can be used to make a positive impact in their social worlds. Planning for the project began in spring 2021, and the first of a 12-session Maker Club occurred in October. The first Maker Club is being hosted at the Homer Hanham Boys and Girls Club in West Toledo. Future collaborations will involve Adelante and Water for Ishmael. In addition to the Maker Club, this project involves several one-day making and tinkering events at various Toledo Lucas County Public Library branches. These activities are funded, in large part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America program.

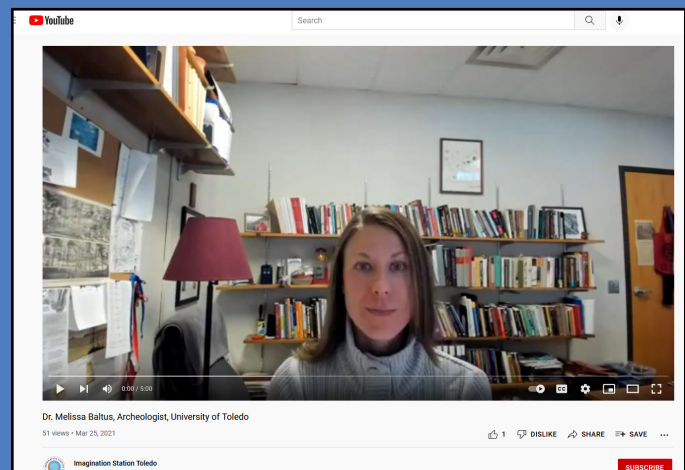


Dr. Peralta (top right) and Imagination Station's Director of Education, Sloan Eberly Mann (Top Left), engaging children at the Boys and Girls Club in a coding and robotics activity.

Girl Power: Meet a STEM Professional

In March 2021, Dr. Melissa Baltus participated in the Imagination Station's annual outreach program championing female role models in STEM. Dr. Baltus had an opportunity to share about her work and experiences as a modern day archaeologist. The museum's GIRLPOWER program endeavors to connect young women in the greater Toledo Community with practicing professionals in the region and explore their own possibilities as future scientists. You can check out Dr. Baltus' piece at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/SXAIWNLzB3U>



Spotlight On Our Alumni: Making An Impact

Solomon Amoatey, a recent graduate of the Master's program in Sociology ('20), used his thesis research to advocate for people with disabilities in his native Ghana. Based on a finding that revealed the great need for mobility aids and equipment, he solicited assistance from Joni & Friends, a nonprofit ministry organization that provides outreach and support to people with disabilities and their families around the globe.



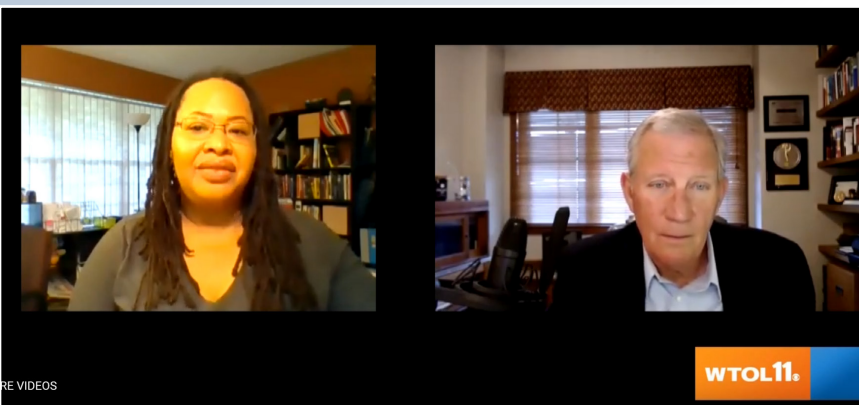
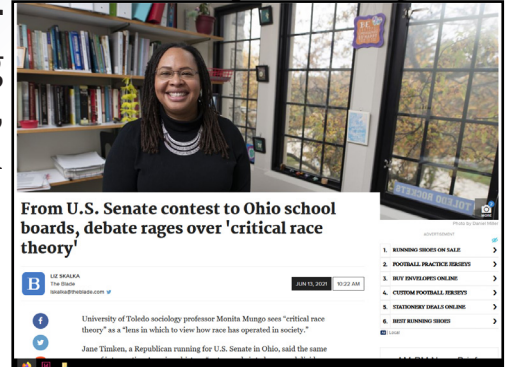
Joni & Friends provided ten people with wheelchairs and seven with crutches. Solomon's effort is a great example of how to use social research to make a difference in the world.



Solomon's thesis was entitled, "[Disability in Ghana](#)" ([click for link](#)). His advisers were Dr. Karie Peralta (chair), Dr. Shana Arps, and Dr. Jim Ferris. Solomon is presently pursuing his Ph.D. at The University of Louisville. More information about Joni & Friends can be found at their website: [/www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org)

Getting the Word Out: Critical Race Theory

Dr. Monita Mungo has been a resilient voice in the ongoing public discourse surrounding Critical Race Theory and its place in Academia. In addition to an article published in *The Hill* this in May 2021 (see next page), Dr. Mungo has been a regular presence on several media outlets, including on DC Today (BNC), Toledo's WTOL 11 News, Toledo's *The Blade* newspaper, among several others.



In the Field(s)...

This Summer, Dr. Melissa Baltus led a team of archaeology students to the field to learn various techniques in Archaeological investigation. They spent six weeks working in the vicinity of Side Cut Metropark in Maumee, Ohio investigating a Late

Prehistoric Native American site along the Maumee River. Student's gained first-hand experience in the processes of excavation, documentation as well as surveying techniques. Among the goals of the summer program is for students to walk away with skillsets that will launch

them into various career paths including academic research as well as historic/cultural resource management and planning.

UT Archaeology Students surveying an agricultural field in Wood County, Ohio looking for evidence of past habitation.



Recent Faculty Publications

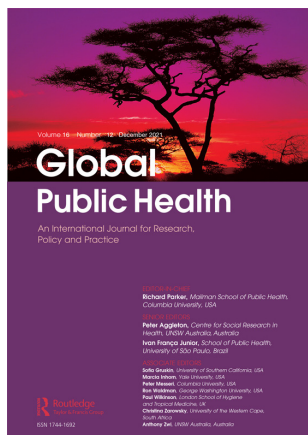
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- Baltus, Melissa R. and Sarah E. Baires. 2020. "Creating and Abandoning "Homeland": Cahokia as Place of Origin." *Journal of Archaeological Methods & Theory* 27(2):111-127 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10816-019-09433-x>
- Arps, Shahna and Karie Jo Peralta. 2021. "Living Conditions of Haitian Families in the Dominican Republic: A Comparison of Urban and Rural/ Peri-urban Households." *Global Public Health* 16(1): 103-119. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2020.1782965>
- Coventry, Barbara T. and Patricia Case. 2020 Fifty Shades of Social Distance, *Women's Studies*, 49:1, 83-100.
- Mungo, Monita. 2021 "The real problem with critical race theory." *The Hill*, May 26th, 2021 @ <https://thehill.com/opinion/civil-rights/555351-the-real-problem-with-critical-race-theory>



- Mungo, Monita. 2020 "Violence, Virus, and Vitriol: The Tale of Covid-19: Social Consequences and Cultural Adaptations." Chapter in *COVID-19: Social Consequences and Cultural Adaptations*, edited By J. Michael Ryan, Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003142065>

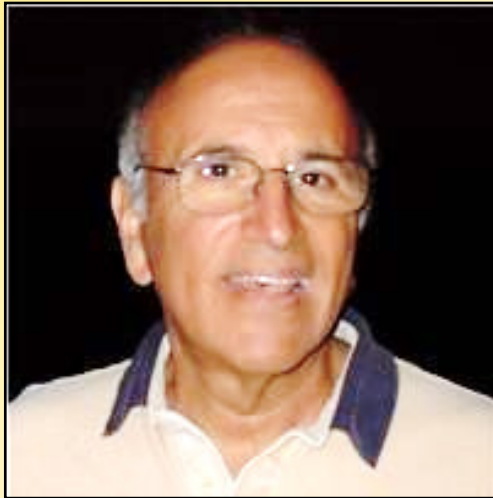
- Peralta, Karie Jo. 2021 "Everyday Resilience Strategies of Haitian Immigrant-Serving NGOs in the Dominican Republic: An Analysis of Community Work Experiences." *Sociological Focus* 54(1), 60-76. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380237.2020.1845259>

- Peralta, Karie Jo and Shahna Arps. 2021. "A Community Does Not Exist." Pp. 76-91 *Community-based Service Delivery: Theory and Implementation*, edited by J. M. Choi and J. W. Murphy. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003020783>



Remembering My Colleague - Dr. Cary Kart, Former Member and Chair of the then Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

by Seamus Metress, Ph.D.



Cary Kart died July 15, 2021 at his home in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was 74 years old. He joined the UT faculty in 1974, five short years after my arrival. As fellow New Yorkers with overlapping specialties, we became fast friends and colleagues. Cary would serve as a professor of sociology for over 30 years and chair the department for several of them beginning in 1982.

He was widely known and respected for his research, scholarship and teaching in the fields of Gerontology and Medical Sociology. His vita contained a long list of professional articles in top journals. Additionally, he authored several books, one of which – **Realities of Aging** – was translated into 10 languages. I was proud to have co-authored with him **Nutrition, the Aged and Society** as well as three other books on aging and health co-written along with Dr. Eileen Metress. Among others of his books were **Readings in Sociology; Exploring Social Problems;** and **Dominant Issues in Medical Sociology.**

For many years Cary served as a grant reviewer for the **National Institute on Aging**. That responsibility took him to Washington, D.C. on a regular basis where he worked on funding committees. One of the national projects for which he was instrumental in giving the go-ahead was the now much-heralded **Nuns Study of Aging and Alzheimer's Disease**. It was groundbreaking work on healthy aging and dementia that explored the degree of brain pathology and its clinical expression in 678 subjects, all Roman Catholic nuns of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, ranging in age from 75 – 107.

He gave much to the Toledo community where, for 30 years, he was a board member of the **Area Office on Aging**. “Cary was really a giant in the field of aging,” said its long-time president and chief executive, Billie Johnson. He served on various other professional boards and as an expert witness on age discrimination lawsuits. In 1997, Cary was named the **Outstanding Researcher in the State of Ohio** by the Ohio Research Council on Aging. With his retirement from UT, he traveled weekly to Miami University where he taught special courses in gerontology. There he lent his expertise as a consultant to the **Scripps Gerontology Center**, recognized as one of the leading such institutes for research on aging in the U.S.

Cary had a far-reaching influence on his students, many of whom went on to pursue graduate work in gerontology. One of them, UT graduate Dr. Adam Perzynski, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Center for Health Care Research Policy and Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, acknowledged the same.

He was a central figure in the combined **Masters of Public Health and Education** that, for many years, filled our classes with graduate students from all over the city and northwest Ohio. The required courses from the co-operating departments of Soc/Anthro and Public Health included Medical Sociology and Medical Anthropology as well as Medical Geography and Medical Ethics from the College of Arts and Science. Most courses were taught at night and in our own classrooms. And how lively were the departmental halls where students and faculty mingled until 9:30 pm. Serious conversations and laughter were the norm in the old quarters with faculty offices, always ajar, opening directly into those halls. Graduates of that program included hospital vice-presidents, nurses, court employees, an array of professionals from area non-profits as well as municipal and county health commissioners. The state of Ohio had declared it an MPH equivalent, the degree required to hold such an office within the state.

Cary is survived by his wife of 52 years, Michele, herself involved in health care as a nurse and educator and their two children, attorney Renee Kart Brodsky and anthropologist Jeremy Kart.

Cary, born in Queens, New York, was a graduate of New York City's prestigious Stuyvesant High School for academically gifted students and ranked as one of the top high schools in the nation. He received his bachelor's degree from Queens College; his masters from Adelphi; and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He continued with post-doctoral work at the University of Michigan.

Cary was much loved on the UT campus where he was a long-time member of the faculty Senate, a compatriot of the political science department and an avid fan of UT athletics. However, his Gotham roots ran deep as New York's Yankees, Giants and Knicks remained among his passions. Fittingly, he was laid to rest in his home turf of Queens, New York.

I will miss my friend, academic collaborator and fellow New Yorker. Funny, despite all of his many accomplishments in the field of gerontology, what Eileen and I will remember most about his gerontological perspective was a piece of advice that hung "poster style" on his door of the old Soc./Anthro. building:

"When you are at last put out to pasture, make sure you own the pasture."

STAY CONNECTED

Stay up to date with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at UT. Like and Follow us on Facebook to keep in touch with the latest developments in our Department including recent the accomplishments of our students, updates on the latest research in our fields, and notices for our upcoming events. Alumni be sure to keep in touch and let us know what is important to you, what questions do you have, what is new in your world!

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