

# Postscript 1961

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## Looking Back: Sociology at WU, 1957-61

By Peter K. Manning, PhD

A job candidate – a near-PhD from the University of Washington – came recently to Northeastern, where I now teach. On the way to lunch I confessed that I had become a “pretty good sociologist” (modesty is rewarded in academic life) in spite of being taught from the Lundberg, Schrag and Larsen Introduction to Sociology text. The black bible was written by one of the great positivists and demographers of the time. Even the paragraphs were numbered! I took Dr. John’s (Rademacher) intro soc course in the spring of 1958, in spite of being advised not to by my former roommate (he became a banker in San Francisco), who thought that soc was a lot of “silly ideas about groups.” But sociology was exciting from the beginning. I once even came close to leading the class in a multi-facet 20-page mimeographed exam (Vicky Shaughnessy always topped me). I don’t know how Dr. John taught; he just ambled in and began to speak. We clambered to get his attention, to speak, to ask a question in a big, empty wood-floored room in Waller Hall. I have been working all my professional life on the problems he presented in the community organization class I took 40 years ago – things like inequality, democratic theory, varieties of socialism and “spreading the wealth around” and, above all, what it means to have a just society. I have “taught” for 40-plus years in many great universities but have never had the success he had. No one clammers; they rarely smile. I think 10-15 of his students got PhDs in sociology in the 20 years I tracked such matters.

In the background of this learning were several things, as Karen Myers wrote in a previous issue of this newsletter.

1) Nearly everyone at WU was intense, smart, driven

and thoughtful. I never fully realized this: I thought that what was a University was about. I was wrong. Around me were some very bright people (I now know) – Bill Snow, Bill Graham, Barbara Royer, Bill Richter, Pete McDowell, Chuck Cheeld, Neil Hutchinson, Annabelle Stambaugh, Patty Mitzell (and of course Vicky and all of my colleagues on the 1961 reunion gift committee!), among others. Art Gravatt and Dr John taught me well – I finished a PhD in 4 years and had a job (with a wife and 2 children) at 24 years old. 2) At Willamette, the quality of teaching was very high, the pay for professors relatively low, and the location far from the centers of academic pretense. Fascinating people like John Rademacher, Art Gravatt, Bill Baker and Milton Hunnex, as well as eccentrics like Cameron Paulin and Paul Trueblood, gave the place vivacity and life, something I appreciate more now that I have taught in some lifeless places. 3) There is an odd low-key loyalty about Willamette graduates. I was ever so fortunate that my mom and dad went to WU and that they were very proud of the University and its traditions and the town in which I was born. Although as a child I watched games played in the soggy, muddy old football stadium (now the grassy center of the Doney-Waller Quad), I resisted going to Willamette. My mother, as she had many times before, rescued me. She got me to finish my application. Once there, I found many second-generation and even third-generation students were my peers. 4) Finally, WU, in its all-white parochial, isolated way, permitted radicalism and independent thinking to flower. I don’t exactly know how, but I am very grateful for that. I hope Dr. John would approve of me.

# Yes, Economic Times are Bad

By Sammie (Barker) McCormack

Been thinking about your finances lately? If not, you are in the minority. We've all seen our investments, IRAs, 401(k)s, and even "growth" accounts slide backward. Imagine what it is like to be 18 and starting college about now – especially if your parent just lost a job. The future can be bleak for college students as they look at huge debts incurred to attend the college of choice for four or more years. As Jay Leno says, "Ah, the economy is bad. It's so bad that ..."

What was it like to attend Willamette in 1957-1961? We studied, we worked, we played, some of us obtained grants, and most of us received a scholarship of some sort. It wasn't too long ago that at a class reunion, we raised hands to indicate that "yes, I had a scholarship." Perhaps our class had even more than those previous or following classes. Today scholarships are more important than ever. Without them, many students are denied the college of their choice – Willamette University. That is reason enough for us to make sure that our Class of '61 Scholarship grows by leaps and bounds between now and 2011 when we officially endow it at Willamette. Ah yes, I can hear the reasons that this is not a good time. But, for us it is a good time to pay back the generosity of the donors of our scholarships – another sort of "pay it forward." How? Let me share some simple ways:

- Make a pledge for a monthly donation or automatic deduction from now until our 50th reunion. Examples: \$10, \$25, \$100 per month. It is easier when you look at a small amount, but it all adds up.
- Make a pledge for quarterly donations, as in #1.
- Take some of your required minimum distribution IRA or 401(k) money, no matter how small, and transfer it to

Willamette instead of putting it in your savings. Let it work for future generations, as past gifts have done for us.

- Pledge a percentage of your monthly net income (10%?).
- Give up a luxury you enjoy daily (Starbucks' latte? a glass of wine?), and donate what you save to Willamette.
- Take the change from your purse or pocket each evening, save it and donate it.
- Write a check today and mail it – any size.
- And, for those of us who can make a larger donation -- do it! List the Fund as beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), etc., or transfer an asset to a Willamette annuity that pays you back. Be creative; imagine how you can make a difference in a young person's life with your donation.

If every one of us in the class does just one small thing, there will be no plateaus on the growth of our scholarship fund, and in 2011, we'll be proud of the investment we make in students of the future at our alma mater.

Just remember how important the assistance of someone else was when you were 18 or 19 or 20, and know that you too can be the helping hand for today's youth. This is a time to stop thinking of how bad the economy is for us and start thinking of the POSITIVE ways we can change it for today's youth.

I thank you, the entire Class of '61 thanks you, Willamette University thanks you, and most important, the students for many generations ahead thank you.

For information about the gift option that makes sense for you, contact Shannon Christianson at 503-370-6952 or schristi@willamette.edu.

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# Living Out WU's Motto by Helping Farmers in Bangladesh

By Roy Chapin

Alice (Stewart) Pailthorp '61 asked me to write about some of my experiences in helping to improve the dairy sector of Bangladesh. I'm hoping that the liberal arts orientation of Willamette University students includes

being open to animal agricultural topics. Liberal arts students are interested in helping to improve the standard of living in developing countries – an effective way to do this is to improve the productivity of animals.

I was destined to attend WU before I was conceived as both of my parents, as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins were Willamette graduates. One of my daughters (Kathy Chapin Slack) graduated from WU. My senior year I transferred to Oregon State University since Dr. G. Herbert Smith wouldn't establish a school of agriculture. I graduated from OSU in Agricultural Economics, stayed on for an M.S. in Animal Nutrition and then went to Cornell University to earn a Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition. I was also in AFROTC at Willamette. My military service (Captain) was spent at Brooks AFB (San Antonio), Texas doing research in space nutrition. There I met my wife Carolyn, who later became a graduate of WU.

My work has taken me to Bangladesh, India, The Philippines, China, South Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Bosnia, Serbia, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Republic of Georgia, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Colombia, The Dominican Republic, Malawi and Egypt. This item will focus on my experiences as a volunteer for Winrock International's Farmer-to-Farmer program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in helping to improve the dairy sector of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is a very poor country of 150 million people (mainly Muslim). It has a very high density of people and cattle and not enough arable land to feed either of them properly. Bangladesh is a major producer of rice. A byproduct of rice processing is rice husks, which have almost no food value but when ground fine enough are easy to add as a contaminant to what otherwise would be good feed. Another by-product of rice processing in plentiful supply is rice polish (rice bran) that is a good feed but it is so high in phosphorus (a required nutrient) that it is easy to feed a ration that is higher in phosphorus than in calcium (a nutritional "no-no") which can lead to demineralization of the animal. In addition, cows need some grain so that the rumen microorganisms

(RMO) have enough starch to grow on. When you feed ruminants you are feeding both the host and her RMOs.

In general, the dairy farmers in Bangladesh have a poor concept of cause and effect since they don't keep records. There is an attitude that a cow is an object to be "mined" rather than treated as a biological machine that must be fed well so that she can produce lots of milk and meat. In Bangladesh it commonly takes at least 36 months to raise a calf until it freshens. With good nutrition it takes 24 months.

Fortunately, in Bangladesh we were able to leverage our efforts by working with the three largest feed companies in the country, CARE-Bangladesh (helped by a multi-million dollar grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), Milk-Vita (the largest milk processor in the country), and a large commercial dairy. This is the best way to reach the tens of thousands of dairymen/women that have only a few cows each.

The results of improved nutrition have been spectacular, highly leveraged, and rapid (with improved production of milk resulting almost immediately). Here is what happened in the milk pocket around one of Milk Vita's processing plants in 2008 as reported in Winrock's impact study (note the aggregate numbers are huge, demonstrating the importance of leverage):

- 58 percent increase in milk production (from 1,800,000 liters/month to 2,850,000)
- 66 percent increase in gross sales (from \$5,000,000/year to \$13,300,000)
- 308 percent increase in net income (from \$318,000/year to \$980,000)

This is but one of many success stories that I could relate, but space has run out. By improving what animals are fed and working with leverage you can make a huge positive difference in the lives of people in developing countries. The WU motto says that we don't live for ourselves alone. It has been my privilege to have been in a position to put this motto into action in Bangladesh and other developing countries. Email for more details: roychapin@onlinemac.com.

**Class of 1961 Reunion Gift Committee**

Stewart Butler	Charles Lane	Karen (Madsen) Myers
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*If you're interested in joining the Reunion Gift Committee, please contact Alice (Stewart) Pailthorp at kpail@yahoo.com*

**Postscript 1961**  
**Class of 1961 Newsletter**



**REUNION WEEKEND**  
Willamette University

**Save the Date for  
Our 50th Reunion!**  
Sept. 16–18, 2011

We continue to work on the Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund, but we need your help! To date we have raised over \$278,000, but we still have work to do. It doesn't take much to make a tangible impact.

Visit the class webpage for more details about the gift and other useful information:

*[www.willamette.edu/alumni/reunion/1961.html](http://www.willamette.edu/alumni/reunion/1961.html)*

**remember. reconnect. rekindle.**

# Calling All Authors

Coming editions of Postscript 1961 will include mentions of books, articles, blogs, etc., published by members of the class. We want to know what you and the rest of our peers have been writing! Class writers are urged to send the titles of their books, articles or blogs, and, if they are so inclined, to include with each a brief description or short summary. These submissions should be sent to Bill Richter at [wrichter@ksu.edu](mailto:wrichter@ksu.edu).

As always, we extend a call for full (300-500 word) feature articles or shorter (one or two paragraph) class notes on the topic of your choice. Contact Erik Schmidt, associate director of alumni communications, at [eschmidt@willamette.edu](mailto:eschmidt@willamette.edu) or by mail at 900 State St., Salem, OR 97301.