THE STEPH ISSUE:
Honoring our fearless leader from 2009 to 2013

STEPH ROBERT:

Tireless Researcher
Social Coordinator Extraordinaire
Mistress of the RWJ Haiku Hottie
Curling Champion
Barn Dancing Queen
Roller Derby Ruffian
Mother to Two Girls and 40 PhD Students
Singularly Responsible for Keeping Brassiere V in Business
… and She’s Funny, Too!
Some highlights of her tenure…
- Initiated the newsletter
- Created doctoral student lounge
- Added students to School committees
- Events, events, events! Outings galore!
- Instituted electronic admissions reviews
- Expanded student awards
- Ensured funding for all students
- Expanded workshop opportunities and job market preparation activities
- Instituted formal practice talks for conference presentations
- Enhanced student-to-student mentoring opportunities

Tips for Steph while on sabbatical from the 2012-13 PhD Cohort…
1. Start creating your to-do list now because it is going to be long! Then on the first day of your sabbatical ball it up and throw it away!
2. When not working, forget about work. Ignore your Wisemail... at least every other day; and do not follow into the temptation of reading that interesting article in that journal. Instead, start reading all those fun books you had no time to read in the last

Tips, continued…
3. Undertake an effort that has a high possibility of failure. If it pays off, HURRAH!!
4. If you were able to secure yourself a fancy desk that is good for your health, get that thing shipped to wherever you need it. Maybe insurance will cover it.
5. Do something new, something you've never done before, especially if you haven't done it because you feel afraid. (Perhaps something involving s-n-a-k-e-s?)
6. Smile a lot...you are on sabbatical!
7. Learn how to translate this into English "Gracias por todo lo que has hecho por nosotras. Te vamos a extrañar, ¡así que más te vale disfrutar al máximo todo este año!"
8. Eat an entire pint of ice cream all by yourself...you can work it off ANYTIME.
9. Miss a deadline...and then have a margarita to celebrate (you can sleep in).
10. Learning Spanish implies learning about important topics of Spanish-speaking countries’ culture. So, by the end of this year you should have tried and experienced the positive effects (obviously, on sabbatical, there are no negative effects) of the following spiritual beverages: cava; singani; aguardiente (a.k.a. guaro, guaro, guaro. For more references, contact Laura C.); fernet; pisco (if you can only find the Chilean one, it is ok; but you can ask Vanessa RS for the "real" one); and rum.
11. Do you usually sing while taking a shower? You are on sabbatical!!! You should definitely go to karaoke at least once every month!
12. If at any point you feel hopeless while learning Stata, play that song that makes you dance, …and move those hips! Then, stand in the Super Woman posture of confidence… you will notice that Stata will run faster after that.
13. Take care of yourself and try not to miss us too much!

We wish you all the best!
Vane, Neka, Andrea, Kristy and June
And the students say…

"When a young person, even a gifted one, grows up without proximate living examples of what she may aspire to become—whether lawyer, scientist, artist, or leader in any realm—her goal remains abstract. Such models as appear in books or on the news, however inspiring or revered, are ultimately too remote to be real, let alone influential. But a role model in the flesh provides more than inspiration; his or her very existence is confirmation of possibilities one may have every reason to doubt, saying, 'Yes, someone like me can do this.'" — Sonia Sotomayor

Thank you, Steph, for being a role model in the flesh.

~Andrea Larson

To Steph: You guided us with a rare combination of strength and warmth. Thank you for being a source of sunshine for those of us that occasionally get lost in the fog.

~Leah Gjertson

Without Steph’s support, guidance, and understanding I would not have been able to remain in the program. Her kindness and empathy combined with her firm, yet realistic, expectations of me has allowed me to continue to make progress in the program, while maintaining some semblance of balance. A sincere and heartfelt thank you, Steph. I am forever in your debt.

~Michelle Turner

Let me express my sincere appreciation to Steph, one of the best graduate mentors I have, for her warmheartedness and useful advice and guidance during my first 3 years of doctoral studies. I also hope that she will enjoy her sabbatical leave this year. If learning Spanish is still her goal, I am going to ask our Spanish-speaking ambassadors in our school to talk to her in Spanish when she comes back!

~Yiyu Chen

Steph was a wonderful director. She helped demystify the crazy world of academia for me. She provided me with support and guidance the entire time she was the director. She led our group of students with both laughter and grace. I couldn't have asked for a more effective, approachable, and kind leader. I will definitely miss seeing her every day, but plan to continue leaning on her as an informal mentor into the future. My favorite memories of Steph are: watching her dance to Beyonce with her daughters and bonding with her over our shared love of Veronica Mars.

~Katie Maguire-Jack

And… she sings! Steph, Tracy, and Tally provide entertainment at the PhD potluck… and, oh, what potlucks they were…
I was truly lucky to have Steph as my fearless adviser. Her confidence in the PhD program—and in me—instituted feelings of courage and satisfaction with my journey throughout graduate school. She always supported my desire for realistic expectations and my commitment to social justice on my own terms. One of my favorite and most reassuring moments with Steph occurred the summer before my last year in the PhD program. We met at her WARF office and sat on her comfy couch. We shared stories from the summer, and I shared my plans for wrapping up my dissertation during the following year. With a twinge of hesitation, I told her that my belief about the dissertation was that I wasn’t trying to change the world with my research—this was my first shot at doing the whole thing solo, after all—but rather that I was viewing the experience as one of practice and reflection so that I could build a strong foundation for future research. Somehow when I heard myself saying this aloud, it sounded like I wasn’t taking the dissertation seriously, but Steph knew exactly what I meant. With great reassurance she nodded her head, smiled and agreed with my understanding about the whole process. She did not doubt my commitment to the program for a second but rather encouraged me to move forward with these convictions and the belief that things would work out just as they should. To say a weight was lifted from my shoulders would be a complete understatement. I instantly felt free and ready to conquer the last few months of the program! I often thought back to that conversation as I muddled through the last few months of writing. When I would get frustrated and tired, I would remember Steph’s support and would feel reassured that I was doing my best, and that was enough.

I have told other students in the program about this conversation, and I can see that same weight lifted from their shoulders when they hear her reaction. I think when people hear an idea is supported by Steph, they know its legit, and the brings with it the same sense of comfort that I felt the day in her office. Today I have my PhD, and I am proud of the work I did for my dissertation. Its still a truly humble work in progress, but I am proud of what I accomplished. Thank you, Steph, for everything. I will always look back at our time together fondly and carry with me your support for realistic goals and an appreciation for fun throughout the process;-) Enjoy your sabbatical!

~Rebecca Paradiso de Sayu

Steph Mad Libs:

- Steph has been a (social-worky, strengths-based adjective) doctoral director.
- (type of social stress theory) suggests that a PhD program should be extremely stressful, but by encouraging us to exhibit (type of power posture) as well as to avoid her fear of (type of snake), she has made the process much easier. She is also good at reminding her students that (adjective) consumption levels of (Coke product) or (type of chocolate) will always moderate mediate the effect of graduate school stress on personal outcomes. And thanks to Steph, while I know that while I will never actually prove (another social stress theory), I sure can test the heck out of it using (fancy method).

~Emily Warren

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Four new doctoral students are welcomed to the doctoral program at the annual doctoral picnic!

**Tenah Acquaye** earned her BA in Human Biology from Stanford University and recently completed her Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan. She spent several years as a research coordinator at the Stanford Pediatric Bipolar Disorder Program. She conducted diagnostic interviews, assisted with fMRI brain scans, and coordinated multi-site research studies aimed at developing effective interventions to prevent the progression of Bipolar Disorder among high risk youth. While obtaining her MPH, she worked as a research assistant at the Fathers Lab examining the influence of social support and conflictual relationships between African American adolescent fathers and their own fathers on the adolescent father’s depressive symptomatology. Her current research interests include the design and evaluation of interventions preventing child maltreatment within economically disadvantaged families of color, and the promotion of mental health during the transition to adulthood among adolescents who have been maltreated. Lonnie Berger will be Tenah’s temporary advisor, and Laura Cuesta Rueda is her peer mentor.

**Yonah Drazen** earned both his undergraduate degree (in Social Welfare) and his MSW at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During his MSW program, Yonah was part of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program. After completing his MSW in 2009, he practiced as a child protection case manager in Milwaukee. Yonah is interested in the many systems that constitute child welfare services. His main research interests include the causes and prevention of child maltreatment, as well as judicially imposed reform of child welfare systems. Kristi Slack will be Yonah’s temporary advisor, and Leah Gjertson is his peer mentor.

**Young Sun Joo** earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Yonsei University in South Korea and completed her MSW from Washington University in St. Louis. During her MSW, Young Sun wrote a thesis titled ‘Intergenerational Class Mobility: The Effect of Childhood Environment on Economic Outcomes of Adult Children’. After receiving her MSW, Young Sun worked as a researcher at the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, a national think tank in health and social policies under the Office of the Prime Minister. She examined alternative poverty measurement and also participated in research on implementing Social Security Act in South Korea. Her primary research interests include poverty, socioeconomic inequality, asset-building policies, and social policies for low-income households. Katherine Magnuson will be her temporary advisor, and Eun Ha Namkung is her peer mentor.

**Ying-Chun Lin** completed her BA in Social Work at National Taiwan University and her MSW from Washington University in St. Louis with a concentration in social economic development, and children, youth and family. Since 2009, she has worked with disadvantaged inner city children and families as a case manager in a Head Start program. She also developed an evaluation tool for measuring program quality to improve self-assessment for local Head Start schools. Prior to her MSW, Ying-Chun was a medical social worker at one of the medical centers in Taiwan where she provided counseling and case management to diverse populations as well as coordinated community outreach and employee assistance programs. She is interested in poverty issues related to child well-being, early childhood education and intervention, and program evaluation. Katherine Magnuson will be her temporary advisor, and Emily Warren and Yiyu Chen are her peer mentors.
Stay tuned …

We are hiring for one tenure track assistant professor. Watch for news about finalist visits and job talks this winter!

Don’t forget that all doctoral students and doctoral faculty have access to the SSW Doctoral Program Learn@UW site, which has lots of useful information – student directory, Program Guidelines, examples of grant proposals and dissertation proposals, tips on writing abstracts and papers, and more!

Watch for news of a SSW holiday party and practice talks for those presenting at the 2013 APPAM and 2014 SSWR conferences.

And the Students Say..., continued

Steph,
Muchas gracias por tres maravillosos años de enseñanzas y risas. Esta aventura del PhD no sería lo mismo sin tu energía, tus consejos y tu capacidad para hacernos reír en los momentos difíciles! También te agradezco la oportunidad que me has dado de conocer a tu familia y, especialmente, la fortuna de compartir con tu hija Emily algo de lo que yo soy, de mi cultura y de mi país. Disfruta al máximo tu año sabático. Yo estaré esperando por nuestra primera conversación en español!
Con sentimientos de inmensa gratitud y admiración,
~Laura Cuesta
ps. You can't ask Emily Fox to translate this message for you ;-)