Scientists at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR) have always cultivated international collaborations, working with colleagues around the world to train the powerful telescope of survey research on attitudes and behavior. Another chapter in that long and distinguished history began this summer as ISR Director James Jackson accompanied U-M President Mary Sue Coleman to China to announce the establishment of a new joint program in quantitative social science with Peking University.

“The highly inter-disciplinary nature of ISR research, one of its key strengths from the start, is more important than ever today,” said Jackson. “Some of the most important future scientific discoveries will be made on the boundaries between old and emergent disciplines. We must have scientific organizations that can take advantage of these ‘boundary opportunities.’ New communications tools, rapid travel, and cross-national student training are helping to make national borders irrelevant to these new collaborations.”

This new quantitative program brings together ISR psychologists, sociologists, demographers, historians, statisticians, economists and anthropologists with social scientists from Peking University to help advance China’s ability to understand and plan for the many changes its society is facing.

Announced in Beijing in June 2005, the program includes educational initiatives, research activities and the conduct of a bi-annual survey of a representative sample of adults in two Chinese provinces with a combined population of 150 million.

ISR Strengthens International Ties

U-M President Coleman to China to announce the establishment of a new joint program in quantitative social science with Peking University.

“Rapid economic development in China has given rise to dramatic social changes,” said ISR historian James Lee, who is coordinating the new program. “In order to map the contours of this transformation and understand its implications, the best possible quantitative measurements are essential.”

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According to ISR demographer Yu Xie, recruitment and training of a permanent group of Chinese interviewers is starting soon, with the first survey scheduled to begin in August 2006.

“The survey will provide a model of how to produce a high-quality, longitudinal data set that covers a comprehensive set of topics from health and family relationships to socioeconomic status,” said Xie.

In addition, the Chinese scientists are working closely with archivists at the ISR Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research (ICPSR), the world’s largest computerized social science data archive, to make the data widely accessible to other researchers, establishing a norm for sharing data rather than maintaining private control.

Beyond a core set of questions that will be repeated to allow researchers to track individual change over time, each survey will contain a separate question module that will focus on a specific topic.

The first module will consist of an exploration of the extent to which Chinese respondents subscribe to the concept of developmental idealism, using a questionnaire drawn from the work of ISR research scientist Arland Thornton. Thornton, who directs the ISR Population Studies Center, is the author of Reading History Sideways: The Fallacy and Enduring Impact of the Developmental Paradigm on Family Life.

The education and research components of the joint program will start in the fall of 2005 when Beijing will support Chinese post-doctoral students who will come to Ann Arbor to work with ISR research professors. The agreement also calls for ISR faculty to teach classes at Peking University on survey methods, sampling and analytic techniques, and to assist Peking University faculty in training Chinese PhD students.
As I begin to lead this Institute where I’ve spent all of my post-doctoral research career, I’m guided by the values that made a lasting impression on me when I first arrived. I remain a working scientist and collaborator in my long-time 5th floor office, site of the original ISR Director’s Office in the “new” building, doing the social science research that makes this place so special. It’s a place where intellectual entrepreneurs are driven to innovate and accomplish. But we not only forge intense professional collaborations, we also help junior colleagues and committed staff develop and in the process establish life-long, family-wide friendships. It’s a place where ideas flourish, where ground-breaking advances in empirical social science research happen often enough to be both humbling and inspiring.

The list of ISR accomplishments is large and well-known, but just the other day ISR founder Bob Kahn mentioned one I’d never heard about before. It seems that ISR fielded the 1954 double-blind experimental trials of the Salk polio vaccine, selecting the national sample of U.S. schoolchildren and revealing that the vaccine was both safe and effective. It was one of our finest moments, yet our role in the vaccine trials has remained, until now, firmly behind the scenes.

With ISR once again facing the challenge of a difficult federal funding cycle – a challenge that the Institute has faced periodically in the last half-century – it’s vital to remember all of our accomplishments and take pride in our history. It’s important also to make sure that public policy makers, foundations, and private donors alike understand the contributions today’s ISR research makes to important societal and health issues.

As we move forward toward our 60th anniversary as an Institute in 2008, I’m consulting with our scientists and staff to find meaningful ways to reaffirm some of the core values that have made ISR great. In a sense, I see my goal as helping to lead ISR “back to the future,” to an exciting new era that makes the work we’re doing today as central to the welfare of the nation and the world, and as much an expression of our founding values, as the search for the polio vaccine was in the middle of the last century.

While the ISR Centers are strong, each in its own way, I’m interested in strengthening the connections and synergy among Centers by initiating a major cross-disciplinary, multi-Center research project that will capitalize on the energies and insights of some of the Institute’s most gifted research scientists and senior staff. More on the nature of that project later.

I’ll also be working to recruit talented researchers and staff who are also women and members of under-represented ethnic and racial minority groups. Because unless ISR reflects the breadth of societies and peoples that it seeks to understand, it cannot hope to accurately portray them.

For some time now, ISR has been broadening its international ties. My recent trip to China with UM President Mary Sue Coleman highlights the growing importance of global research. I look for all of your help – research scientists, staff and ISR alumni and friends – in moving ISR back to the future, at home and around the world. I look forward to hearing from you and I will always welcome your ideas and suggestions on ways in which we can strengthen and deepen ISR’s mission and societal contributions.
In its new collaboration with China, ISR builds on many years of education, training, and research involving students and colleagues in East Asia. That collaboration started in 1948, when ISR co-founder Leslie Kish, a true citizen of the world who helped pioneer the use of probability sampling, created the ISR Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques. From the start, students from around the world traveled to Ann Arbor to learn from the master. Many international students also attended the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods offered by ICPSR.

In 1961, ISR sociologist Ronald Freedman, who studied reproductive behavior in American and overseas populations, especially in Asia, established the Taiwan Population Studies Center. With Albert Hermelin and other colleagues, Freedman worked to build overseas resources in demographic research. ISR scientists have consulted on programs to reduce fertility in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand, and more recently in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Mongolia.

Hermalin’s own research on aging in Asia emerged from the success of these family planning programs, and continues to generate insights about how to develop public policies that support older individuals and their families.

In his latest book *The Well-Being of the Elderly in Asia: A Four-Country Comparative Study*, Hermelin examines how family, cultural and formal social arrangements affect the well-being of older people in the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand.

The rich tapestry of ISR research on East Asia includes on-going work by many other scientists, including sociologist and demographer Barbara Anderson, who examines Chinese social and population change. In Nepal, the Population and Ecology Research Laboratory started in 1995 by ISR sociologist William Axinn and colleagues, conducts a variety of research projects and provides training for Nepalese and U.S. scholars studying social and environmental science.

ISR anthropologist Tom Fricke and ISR sociologist Arland Thornton work together to understand how change is affecting family life and fertility among the Tamang in Nepal.

Sociologist John Knodel specializes in Southeast Asia. His latest research examines family change and support systems for the elderly. Knodel has also studied the impact of the AIDS epidemic on older persons in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Biologist and population scientist Rachel Snow studies the intersection of gender and health in a wide range of
countries, including China. She has also conducted clinical and epidemiologic research on contraception, reproductive morbidity, and the social impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Sociologist and statistician Yu Xie, who directs the ISR Survey Research Center’s Quantitative Methodology Program and is an associate at the U-M Center for Chinese Studies, conducts research on social mobility and stratification. In a recent paper with Seth Hauser, Xie examines trends in earnings inequality in urban China between 1988 and 1995. He and Hauser analyzed the association between earnings and both education and political party membership, and how these associations varied across cities with different rates of economic growth. Overall, they found a sharp rise in the level of inequality, with the earnings of both men and women rising with higher education and party membership. Surprisingly, the benefits of education increased less in cities with greater levels of economic growth.

The recent work of psychologist Richard Nisbett focuses on cultural differences in the way the mind works. In The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently...and Why, Nisbett examines evidence suggesting that these differences may be greater than most people suspect. "When you have a diverse group of people from different cultures," he notes, "you get not just different beliefs about the world, but different ways of perceiving it and reasoning about it, each with its own strengths and weaknesses."

A 200-Year Look at the Effects of Economic Hardship

ISR historian James Z. Lee, who directs the U-M Center for Chinese Studies, has research interests that include Chinese history; Chinese society and economy; comparative demography and sociology; historical sociology; and genealogy and genetics.

Lee is co-author of Life under Pressure: Mortality and Living Standards in Europe and Asia, 1700-1900. This is the first in a five-volume series detailing the findings from the Eurasia Project, a collaborative venture showing that some long-standing beliefs about the differences between Eastern and Western societies are myths.

"The goal of the Eurasia Project is to analyze how economic hardship influences the family and individual behavior that affect the most important life outcomes—to stay alive, to marry, and to have children," says Lee.

Overall, the results of the complex analysis of household and parish registries and other individual-level records suggest that human agency, not biology, must have shaped mortality patterns long before the era of modernization, says Lee. "Even in ancien régime societies, families were active agents, not passive victims of natural forces."
Supporting the Work of Students

Each spring, ISR and its Centers make a number of awards to students who will form the next generation of empirical social scientists.

In 1998, when we started The Next Generation initiative, a single award of $25,000 was made from the ISR Director’s discretionary funds. The financial awards distributed since the Campaign for ISR began now amount to nearly $180,000 annually, allowing us to make more than 30 awards this year alone.

“Private support has become increasingly important to nurturing the next generation,” said ISR Director James Jackson. “As it becomes harder and harder to use our traditional sources of support for students, we plan to build on the private dollars we currently receive to do this.”

2005 ISR Next Generation Award Winners

Daniel Katz Fund ($15,000): Katherine Fiori, social relations and health among the elderly

Innovation in Social Research ($20,000): Yu Niiya, (see story on next page)

Center for Political Studies

Roy Pierce Scholars ($5,000 for summer support): Jennifer Epley, electoral behavior in Indonesia; Laura Potter, national identity and politics

Survey Research Center

Charles Cannell Fund in Survey Methodology: David Wilson ($7,500), how the perception of interviewer race affects telephone survey responses; Lindsay Benstead ($7,000), how interviewer gender and perceived religion affect survey responses; Jennifer Dykema ($4,500), how interviewer-respondent interactions affect the quality of survey responses.

Leslie Kish International Fellows Fund: Jose Argueta (Honduras), Glen Barcenas (Philippines), Moh Yin Chang (Malaysia), Lawrence Dhlwayo (Zimbabwe), Marinela Kustura (Croatia), Shushanik Makaryan (Armenia), Anthony Tamusuza (Uganda)

Program in Survey Methodology Fund: Christina Lien

Abt Associates Fellows Fund in Survey Methodology: Rachel Levenstein

Arbitron Fellows Fund in Survey Methodology: Sonja Ziniel

Gallup Organisation Europe Fellowship in Survey Methodology: Emilia Peytcheva

Laurie Staples Fund: Zeina Mneimneh

Robert Marans Scholars Fund: Anirban Adhya (see story on page 11)

Regula Herzog Young Investigators Fund: Leticia Marteleto, divorce and intergenerational transfers; Ayse Uskul, the influence of culture in question response

“As it becomes harder and harder to use our traditional sources of support for students, we plan to build on the private dollars we currently receive to do this.”

Population Studies Center

Marshall Weinberg Prize in Population Studies ($4,000 for summer travel support): Farzana Afridi, primary schooling in India; Brienna Perelli, reproductive decisions in post-socialist Ukraine.

Ronald and Deborah Freedman Fund in International Population Activities: Dirgha Chimire and Paul Schulz ($9,000) for Bill Axinn’s “Training and Research on Marital Quality in Nepal,” Li Shou Yang ($1,400) survey of marriage and family among Taiwanese women

Inter-University Consortium for Political & Social Research

Warren Miller Scholars Fund ($1,500 to attend ICPSR Summer Program): Tetsuya Matsubayashi, Texas A&M University; Jill Wittorck, University of Iowa
Yu Niiya, a fourth-year graduate student in psychology, is the grateful winner of the 2005 ISR Innovation in Social Research Award funded by Dorwin and Barbara Cartwright. Niiya, along with her ISR mentor, psychologist Jennifer Crocker, published an article on how people learn from failure in *Psychological Science* last December.

Having worked as a graduate student instructor at the U-M for the past few years, Niiya had noticed that many good students became highly defensive when they received even a B+ in class. “A lot of students here are very smart, and they know they’re smart,” she said. “They’re used to getting good grades, but not to putting a lot of effort into it, necessarily. They are not used to failure, and don’t know what to do when they don’t succeed. And because their self-esteem is hurt, they are unable to learn from failure.”

Niiya conducted an experiment in which participants took one of two versions of a sample Graduate Record Exam. In one, the text of the reading comprehension section stated that intelligence is hereditary and cannot be altered. In the other, the text stated that intelligence can be changed through hard work. Niiya found that students who took the exam claiming that intelligence was fixed reported lower levels of self-esteem after being told they had failed the GRE.

However, believing that improvement is possible through hard work, that intelligence is malleable, is not always the antidote to despair after failure, Niiya notes. “When you fail after lots of effort, you really feel like a failure,” she said. For her dissertation, she is looking at other ways to help people cope with failure.

One approach is through “double-loop learning,” a concept posited by Harvard researcher Chris Argyris. Instead of simply trying harder when you fail, double-loop learning involves questioning your assumptions as well as the strategies used to meet a given goal. “It is trying to improve yourself after a failure,” Niiya said, “even if part of the improvement process involves changing your perception about your wonderful and competent self.”

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**Will You Pick Up My Dry Cleaning for Me?**

Another line of research Niiya is exploring, with U-M psychologist Phoebe Ellsworth, is whether there is an American counterpart to the Japanese emotion of amae.

“There is no word for this emotion in English,” says Niiya, “and it has been assumed that amae is unique to Japanese culture, in which people are highly interdependent.” It’s an emotion that occurs between mother and child, or between friends, she explains. “In Japan, when a child or friend makes an inappropriate request, it elicits a feeling of amae, which can be positive or negative. ‘Will you pick up my dry cleaning for me?’ ‘Will you let me have all the candy I want?’ The request shows how close the relationship is, even though it may also be annoying.

Niiya asked Japanese and American college students how they would feel about different requests from friends, and found that both groups inferred close relationships and experienced positive emotions even if the request was seen as inappropriate and annoying. “It’s interesting that Americans, with such an independent culture, have the same reactions as the Japanese.”
James Jackson Becomes Seventh ISR Director

James S. Jackson has been named Director of ISR. A social psychologist, Jackson helped to establish the ISR Program for Research on Black Americans in 1976, and led the ISR Research Center for Group Dynamics for many years.

A prolific and respected scholar, Jackson has conducted international comparative studies of immigration, race and ethnic relations, physical and mental health, adult development and aging, attitudes and attitude change, and African American politics. He has authored numerous books, chapters, and scientific articles on these subjects.

In 1980, he directed the National Survey of Black Americans, the first survey of a nationally representative sample of Black Americans. Designed to elucidate the heterogeneity and strengths of the U.S. Black population, rather than to compare Black Americans as a group with whites and interpret any differences as deficits, the study broke new ground in the social sciences.

The principal investigator of over two dozen grants funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, Jackson currently directs the most extensive social, political, behavioral and health surveys on the American and Caribbean populations ever conducted. Two of these surveys — the National Survey of American Life and the Family Survey Across Generations and Nations — are funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. A third — the National Study of Ethnic Pluralism and Politics — is funded by the NSF.

Jackson received a B.S. degree in psychology from Michigan State University in 1966, an M.A. in psychology from the University of Toledo in 1970, and a Ph.D. in social psychology from Wayne State University in 1972.

A native of Inkster, Michigan, Jackson worked in the Ford Motor Company’s River Rouge plant while he was putting himself through school. Jackson is married to Toni Antonucci, a developmental psychologist who directs the Life-Course Development Program at ISR. They have two children: Ariana, 23, and Kendra, 20.

In 2002, Jackson was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. Jackson is immediate past-Chair of the Section on Social, Economic, and Political Sciences (K) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He is a former Chair of the Section on Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Task Force on Minority Issues of the Gerontological Society of America, Committee on International Relations, and Association for the Advancement of Psychology, American Psychological Association. He was a recipient of a Fogarty Senior Postdoctoral International Fellowship, 1993-94, for study in France and Western Europe.

Jackson is also former National President of the Black Students Psychological Association and the Association of Black Psychologists.
Nancy Burns has been appointed Director of the ISR Center for Political Studies. A political scientist who has studied the reasons for gender differences in political participation, she is the first woman selected to lead an ISR center.

Burns has been affiliated with ISR since 1990, when she came to Michigan as an assistant research scientist. She received a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Kansas, an M.A. from Harvard University in 1988, and a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard in 1991.

In her award-winning 2001 book, *The Private Roots of Public Action: Gender, Equality, and Political Participation*, co-authored with Kay Lehman Schlozman and Sidney Verba, Burns explores the question of why, after several generations of suffrage and a revival of the women’s movement in the late 1960s, there remains a disparity in most kinds of political activity between men and women in the U.S.

Between 1999 and 2005 Burns served as co-principal investigator of the ISR National Election Studies (NES). Initiated in 1948 and now funded by the National Science Foundation, the studies provide the longest unbroken time-series of electoral attitudes and behavior in the world, allowing scholars and pundits to track long-term trends and unravel the political impact of historical events.

“The NES is unique,” said Burns. “We work very hard to maintain exact question wording from year to year, for example, so we can compare what is ordinary about any presidential election and what is new. Without this, any comparison you make is junk, fake. Political pollsters acknowledge that they can go in and out of the field very quickly and report results from polls with a 12% response rate because they can calibrate with the NES.”

**Honors**

“Racial Attitudes in America: Trends and Interpretations” (Harvard University Press, 1997), by Howard Schuman, Charlotte Steeh, Lawrence Bobo, and Maria Krysan, received the 2005 Book Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

Norbert Schwarz was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was co-recipient of the Wilhelm Wundt Medal of the German Psychological Association.

Yu Xie was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and to the Academia Sinica in the Republic of China.

Jeffrey Morenoff won the Ruth Shonle Cavan Young Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology.

Linda Chatters was named a fellow of the Behavioral and Social Sciences section of the Gerontological Society of America.

John Bound was named a Fellow of the Econometric Society.

Michael Traugott was named to the National Research Commission on Elections and Voting.

William Zimmerman received the Distinguished Contributions Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

Myron Gutmann was named the President of the Consortium of Social Science Associations.

Nancy Burns was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Rowell Huesmann received the American Psychological Association’s 2005 award for “Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Media Psychology.”

Jacquelynne Eccles, Robert Groves, and Roderick Little were named National Associates at the National Academies of Science.

Daphna Oyserman has been named a fellow of the American Psychological Society.
"Research Dispels Myth of the Old and Grumpy," the New York Times headline read. For Kira Birditt, who is the Elizabeth Douvan Research Fellow at the ISR Life Course Development Program, the most important effect of the recent national news coverage of her work was not the scores of phone calls and invitations from colleagues. It was the response from her family, who now realize what Birditt is actually doing.

Birditt came to ISR in 2002 with a Ph.D. in Human Development from Penn State University. "I had used Toni Antonucci’s social network diagrams at Penn," she said, "and really wanted an opportunity to work with her."

The coverage in the Times and other news media around the world followed the publication of two studies by Birditt and colleagues that found older people are less likely than younger people to react aggressively when problems come up in their relationships. "Older people are better able than younger people to pick their battles," said Birditt. "The reason may be that people mellow as they age and come to value their relationships more, instead of becoming stereotypical curmudgeons. Or it may be that today's older adults have better manners than younger people and are just less likely to yell and scream when someone upsets them."

One of Birditt’s studies, funded by the National Institute on Aging, appeared in the May 2005 issue of the Journal of Gerontology. She and Purdue University’s Karen Fingerman interviewed men and women ages 13 to 99 as part of a larger study of interpersonal problems in adulthood. Participants were asked to recount how they felt and reacted to the most recent situation in which they were "irritated, hurt, or annoyed" with their closest, and their most problematic, social partners.

Younger people were more likely to shout, argue or walk away in response to problems while older people were more likely to do nothing, Birditt found. Older people reported less frequent contact with their social partners and less distress when confronted with interpersonal problems. Even after the researchers controlled for frequency of contact and distress levels, the age differences in reactions to conflict remained.

Eleanor Seaton

After receiving her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Temple University in 2003, Eleanor Seaton joined ISR as a Fellow with the Program for Research on Black Americans. She is examining data from the National Survey of American Life on adolescent perceptions of discrimination and their impact on psychological well-being. The topic has engaged her since graduate school, when she interviewed African American high school students for her dissertation study. "People have a stereotype that adolescents aren’t interested in talking to adults, but I’ve experienced just the opposite,” said Seaton.

Working closely with senior ISR research scientists James Jackson, Cleopatra Caldwell and Robert Sellers has been a positive experience for Seaton. “People are very busy, but extremely helpful. They are truly interested in mentoring junior scholars. This has been a wonderful opportunity to learn from some of the best.”

As a result of her own experience as a mentor to young women, Seaton knows that mentoring is a mutual experience. “It’s a reciprocal relationship,” she wrote in an op-ed piece published in the Philadelphia Inquirer. “Both parties benefit, learn, and grow.”
New Marans Fellowship Supports Next Generation

Just back from Istanbul, where he consulted on a survey similar to his 2001 Detroit Area Study on the Quality of Life, Bob Marans and his wife Judy met with the first recipient of the newly created Robert W. Marans Fellowship in Survey Methodology – Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning doctoral candidate Anirban Adhya.

In giving back to the U-M, Marans reflects its interdisciplinary strength by supporting a student interested in both architecture or urban planning and survey research – fields that he has combined since joining the U-M in 1968. “I started working at ISR with John Lansing while I was pursuing my Ph.D.,” he recalled. “Then after John died at a very early age, Angus Campbell and Frank Reynolds took me under their wing.” Marans, who retired from teaching this past fall, is the author of six books and more than 25 book chapters. He continues to serve on the boards of many area institutions, including the Michigan Land Use Institute, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, and to consult on a variety of local, national and international surveys and planning projects.

Adhya will pursue a Certificate in Survey Methodology as well as a Ph.D. in Architecture. A native of West Bengal, India, he is currently conducting research on how power relationships are reflected in the contested terrains of public places in America. “Getting training that will enable me to add the quantitative component to my research will be very valuable,” Adhya said.

“Judy and I decided that a modest contribution now, plus a bequest, would provide the add-on – a Certificate in Survey Methodology – that top applicants or students can’t get at another university,” said Marans. “ISR training in survey research is the best in the world. It’s something that will give a newly minted Ph.D. a leg up, something special to offer in the job market.”

Applying to the ISR Program in Survey Methodology

The University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology offers programs of study at the doctoral, master’s and certificate levels. The PhD and MS programs prepare students for careers in private and academic survey research firms, government agencies, and corporations. The certificate program is designed to provide students with specialized knowledge in survey methodology to enhance skills in current positions and to expand career opportunities.

The deadline for PhD and MS applications for the Fall 2006 term is January 1, 2006. For the Summer 2006 Certificate Program, the application deadline is March 1, 2006.

For more information, see the Program website: http://www.isr.umich.edu/gradprogram/
ISR Celebrates Featherman Transition

Friends and colleagues of David Featherman gathered for dinner on May 16, 2005 to celebrate his transition from Director of ISR to Director of the U-M Center for Advancing Research and Solutions for Society (CARSS).

Here, a few photos from that event at which ISR Director James Jackson, current and former ISR Center Directors, and distinguished guest Paul Baltes commended Featherman for his decade-long leadership.