

2020 NEWSLETTER

Department Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This academic year will be one we will all remember. The fall passed without much of a hitch. Little did we know that the spring would bring a pandemic, forcing us to move our classes online. This was an unprecedented event that called for a quick change. Luckily, faculty and students handled the transition well. Not one student emailed me to complain about the changes brought on by the move. And faculty who were more adept at online formats helped others when they needed it. It looks like the fall will be a combination of face-to-face and online formats. The university is working on measures to make the campus a safer place and we are all hoping for a vaccine as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will be social distancing and wearing masks, washing our hands often, and being careful.

The university administration has continued to push for a reorganization, and departments in CoLA were the last hold outs. The proposal for a school of social sciences was presented to us by the provost. It would include the following units: sociology, anthropology, and political science. Day to day operations would be the same as now but the school would be administered by a director, as yet to be named. Whatever happens, it will be a gradual change and all of our programs are expected to remain intact. I just saw that Dr. Lane will be our new Chancellor, so I'm sure he will have something to say about all this as well.

Our programs are doing well. We had a new undergraduate director (Dr. Chris Wienke) and graduate director (Dr. J.-P. Reed) for the first time since I was hired as chair six years ago. While I sorely missed our old directors, because they were so good to work with, our new directors have been great. I want to thank the new directors for their hard work and also thank our outgoing directors, Dr. Rachel Whaley and Dr. Jessica Crowe, for their years of service. The new

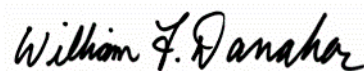
directors made a seamless transition into their new positions and have been working on fresh recruiting ideas and ushered in a new cohort of graduate students. Please see the reports from our directors below.

I would also like to thank our stalwart office manager, Judy Rose. Judy has continued to make the department run in a way that seems effortless. But behind the scenes Judy works hard and conscientiously to assure that things run smoothly. This year, we lost our part time graduate staffer, Chasity Shea, who went full-time with Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS), although we still help each other out when either of us is in a bind. Dr. Kristen Barber from sociology is the Director of WGSS, so we have been able to work well together. I would also like to thank our student office worker, Deidra McLaughlin, for her service during the academic year.

I would finally like to thank our donors to sociology. To those who have given us scholarships, I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. Your financial support has enabled students to further their education and has provided a much-needed boost for students to strive to achieve. To those who have donated to the sociology activities fund, I send out a big thank you. Your donations have supported the day-to-day activities of our student clubs and contributed to our ongoing efforts at recruitment, retention, and making life for our majors, minors, and students in our classes better.

While it has been a trying year in many ways, I think it brought out the best in us and I'm proud to have been a part of a group so dedicated to the academic endeavor and the education of the new generation.

Sincerely,



William F. Danaher

Graduate Program

Greetings Graduate Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

The Graduate Program in Sociology had a challenging 2019-2020 academic year. Still, despite the many challenges our Graduate Students managed to score many accomplishments.

On the job front, Rebecca Tuxhorn and Debaleena Ghosh got jobs, respectively, at Southeastern Louisiana University and Georgia Southwestern State University. Debaleena defended her dissertation June 15. Becki plans to defend her dissertation in the next academic year.

On the degree and candidacy front, Kristie Perry successfully defended her dissertation, earning her PhD. Daniel Baltz and Austin Boe earned their MAs. And Rebecca Bolinski successfully defended her dissertation prospectus and became ABD. She is now set to work on her dissertation.

On the award front, Clay Awsumb received a Best Graduate Student Paper Award for “Unpacking the Complexities in Meanings of Racism and Racists” from a state organization, the Illinois Sociological Association (ISA). He also presented the same paper at ISA. Trisha Crawshaw has been awarded a Dissertation Research Assistantship (DRA) for the 2020-21 academic year. Daniel Baltz, Ricky Braatz, and Hannah Crane received David Briscoe Book Scholarships.

On the recruiting front, Jelena Nikolic joined our PhD program Spring 2020. We will be welcoming four new students, including Daniel Baltz, Fall 2020. Daniel is entering our PhD program, now that he completed his MA. He received a Doctoral Fellowship for 2020-21 to help him on his PhD.

On the conferencing and publishing front, Clay Awsumb (2 at the SSSP) and Ricky Braatz (1 at the ASA) presented at the national meetings August 2019. Clay Awsumb and Danijela Cvetkovic co-presented a paper on the sociological imagination at ISA November 2019. In 2020, Kendra Pospisil presented a position paper entitled, “Diversity, Inclusion, and Engagement,” at the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education at SIU. Although

conferences this upcoming August in San Francisco were cancelled on account of COVID-19, a few of our graduate students had their papers and organized session accepted. Clay Awsumb’s paper on community was accepted for presentation at the SSSP. Danijela Cvetkovic’s paper on the sociological imagination was accepted for presentation at the ASA. Ricky Braatz’s organized panel on sexuality was also accepted at the ASA.

Kendra Pospisil and Rebecca Bolinski had their manuscripts published, respectively, at *Fat Studies* and *Translational Behavioral Medicine*. Kendra’s was a solo-authored paper entitled, “The Lumps and Bumps of Aesthetic Labor: Rethinking Fat Talk in Plus-Size Retail.” Rebecca’s was a co-authored paper entitled, “Social norms associated with nonmedical opioid use in rural communities: A Systematic review.” Trisha Crawshaw and Becki Tuxhorn published book reviews, respectively, at *Gender & Society* and *Rural Sociology*, two top disciplinary journals. Altogether, Clay Awsumb, Ricky Braatz, Debaleena Ghosh, Neeraja Kolloju, and Tori Neal have several manuscripts (10) in progress.

To our alumni: Thank you for your support! Your generous gifts enable our students to travel to conferences, fund research, pay summer stipends, and achieve the kinds of honors we are happy to share with you each year. Your support is most welcome and tremendous help! Please share with us what you have been doing so that we may pass it along. We look forward to seeing you at conference venues home and abroad where we make our Saluki presence known. We hope you have enjoyed hearing our good news, and we eagerly await to hear back from you!

After one year as the Graduate Studies Director I am passing the baton to Dr. Darren Sherkat, a veteran in the department whose reputation as a scholar of religion and departmental administrator precedes him.

Congratulations

Jean-Pierre Reed, Director of Graduate Studies

to PhD student Jelena Nikolic and her husband Ahmad M. Khatatbeh on the birth of their daughter. Maryam A. Khatatbeh was born May 22, 2020, in Carbondale.

Undergraduate Program

Most of the students, faculty, and staff at SIU, whether in the Department of Sociology or elsewhere, will remember the 2019-2020 school year as the time that the Covid-19 pandemic turned our lives upside down. We left campus for Spring Break in mid-March, and we never came back, with a few notable exceptions in upper administration. In the process, students, faculty, and staff, including those in our own department, had to make significant adjustments in order to complete the work of the school year. In-person courses became online courses, duties and deadlines changed, and various events, programs, and activities had to be suspended or cancelled. It was a learning process for all those involved.

But I will remember the 2019-2020 school year for other reasons as well. This was the year I became the Undergraduate Program Director for the Department of Sociology. I came in with high hopes. And despite the chaotic disruption caused by a once-in-a-lifetime global health crisis, many of my hopes were realized. For one thing, I got to know many of the undergraduate students in our department in ways I hadn't known them in the past. This was especially rewarding for me. And as a result, I now have a better understanding of the needs and perspectives of our undergraduate students. One of my goals as director is to create a culture of open and ongoing communication. I also had the opportunity to see our undergraduate students in action outside of the classroom. I served as the faculty adviser for the student-run Sociology Club. And this year, "Soc Club" was particularly active. Students in the club held a pizza party to recruit new members, a movie night for all students on campus, a fundraiser, and a food drive. They also put together an all-day study session in the library during finals week for all sociology courses. They intended to do another one for the spring semester, but unfortunately, the Coronavirus got in the way.

As always, the department lost several students to graduation, both in fall and in spring. And we wish them well in their future endeavors. But over the course of the school year, we also added several new students to the major. And we look forward to their contributions to the department.

A few students had planned to attend the Midwest Sociology Society conference in late March, but like many academic conferences, it was cancelled due to health concerns. However, I'm told that at least one of our undergraduate students – Bryan Robinson -- attended the Illinois Sociological Association conference in November.

This year we had four students who received the Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr. Academic Excellence in Sociology Award: Erin Dunn, Randy Grider, Emoni Tatum, and Khadijah Thomas. Each of these students was awarded \$1,174. Congratulations to all of them! And Randy Grider won the Undergraduate Sociology Paper Competition, an event that we reintroduced to students in the department after a lengthy absence. Randy won with his entry "Social Inequality in Johnston City, Illinois." The paper competition committee read and evaluated a number of outstanding student papers, but Randy's submission, which focused on processes of social inequality in his hometown of Johnston City, stood out just enough above the rest. For his efforts, Randy received a \$250 award plus a certificate documenting his accomplishment.

Chris Wienke, Undergraduate Program Director

Alumni Highlight

Alumnus William E. Lovekamp, Professor at Eastern Illinois University, published the book, *Cemeteries and the Life of a Smoky Mountain Community: Cades Cove Under Foot*, in 2019 for Palgrave Press. He also



created a PBS documentary in 2017, *Nature's Fury and the Human Spirit*. Dr. Lovekamp earned his PhD from SIU Sociology in 2006 with his dissertation "Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Social Class Differences in Disaster Preparedness, Risk and Recovery in Three Earthquake Stricken Communities."

Scholarships and Donations

We want to thank all of our donors who contribute to the wellbeing of our students. Your donations enable our sociology club to host special events and assist the department with recruitment and retention. We would like to extend a special appreciation to our scholarship donors.

Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., funds the Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., Academic Excellence in Sociology Award each year. Dr. Pearson has aided dozens of students in their academic pursuits across time. Dr. Pearson is a 1981 alumnus of SIU's PhD program and is currently a Professor in the Department of History and Sociology at Georgia Tech.

The Louis and Monica Petroff Memorial Scholarship, established in 1981, is shared by the Departments of Sociology and English, in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Petroff.

The J. Mark Wehrle Dissertation Scholarship in Sociology is awarded annually to support dissertation research related to social and/or economic injustice.

The David L. Briscoe Book Scholarship for Graduate Students in the Department of Sociology provides financial assistance toward the cost of books to graduate students. (Please see separate insert below)

The Baer Scholarship in Sociology will help offset the cost of college for students enrolled in the Sociology program. David Baer is a 1973 alumnus of SIU's Criminal Justice Program, now CCJ. The scholarship is in memory of his wife, Cheryl, a 1972 SIU BA alumnus in Sociology and mother, Naomi.

New Scholarship

We were able to give money to three graduate students thanks to our newest scholarship, The David L. Briscoe Book



Scholarship. The students will use this money to add to their libraries and become more informed scholars. The students who received the awards were Hannah Crane, Daniel Baltz and Rick Braatz. Dr. Briscoe is a Professor of Sociology and Distinguished Teaching Fellow at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1993. Thank You Dr. Briscoe!

Faculty Highlights

Kristen Barber, Associate Professor



Dr. Barber coauthored an edited book, *Gendered Worlds*, at Oxford University Press. Dr. Barber also published an article in the prominent Sociology journal, *Gender & Society*, and a book chapter. Dr. Barber finished her first year as the editor of the journal *Men & Masculinities*. Dr. Barber received the

Inaugural Emerging Leader Award, for Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion Through Leadership, Network Empowering Women, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 2020.

Jessica Crowe, Associate Professor

Dr. Crowe published seven peer-reviewed journal articles this academic year, one in the prestigious *Social Science Quarterly*. Dr. Crowe continues research funded by her \$1.6 million NSF grant, while applying for further funding. Dr.



Crowe is also mentoring a McNair Scholar from the Zoology Department this summer, as part of the NSF grant.

William F. Danaher, Professor



Dr. Danaher coauthored an article with SIU graduate student Trisha Crawshaw and continued his work in the Sociology of Music.

Rachel Whaley, Associate Professor



Dr. Whaley was on sabbatical in the spring, sent two articles to journals for review and has several projects in progress on gender issues.

J.-P. Reed, Associate Professor

Dr. Reed published an article in the journal *Critical Research on Religion*, four book reviews, and is working on his upcoming book, *Sandinista Narratives: Religion, Sandinismo, and Emotions in the Making of the Nicaraguan Insurrection and Revolution*, with Lexington Press.



Chris Wienke, Associate Professor

Dr. Wienke published two book chapters and continued his research on families.



Darren Sherkat, Professor



Dr. Sherkat published two book chapters and is continuing his work on politics, religion, and social policy.

Teaching Corner

We've all had to adapt to the pandemic of 2020. One example is this assignment from Professor Chris Wienke's Family class.

Extra Credit: Family Life and the Coronavirus – Dr. Wienke, SOC 340

You may earn up to 2 *percentage points* of extra credit by writing a short essay (about 2 pages) in response to the following questions:

(1) How might the Coronavirus pandemic and the social, medical, and public policy response to it, including things like social distancing, self-isolation, quarantines, & state and city lockdowns, affect the everyday operation of family and personal life,

Graduate Student Highlight

including things like marriage and weddings, intimate relations, dating, mating, sexuality, the household division of labor, housework, childcare, elder care, parent-child relations, kin support, older people and their families, divorce and union dissolution, co-parenting, child support and child custody, repartnering, family and intimate violence, and so on?

(2) How might different family forms (two-parent, single parent, grandparent-grandchild, etc.), living arrangements (cohabiting, single living, multigenerational, etc.), and lifestyles (polyamorous, living apart together, childfree, etc.), affect the way people experience, make sense of, and adjust to the Coronavirus pandemic? Also consider variations by class, race-ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

My teaching experience amidst COVID-19 - Kendra Pospisil, instructor of SOC 306I "Pop Culture" (F2F).

Other than previous TA work, the online transition was my first experience teaching online as an instructor of record. Therefore, the transition required some learning and skill-building on the fly; however, I learned a lot from the experience. It was clear that several of my students were greatly impacted by the loss of campus resources as many did not have personal computers or reliable internet. I found it necessary to keep it as low tech as possible so students could access readings/videos from their phones, to be flexible on due dates, and that students appreciated a good amount of emails and "friendly reminders" so that they did not feel disconnected. By the end of the semester I had built good relationships with many of my students, even from afar, and overall, I am extremely proud of the entire class's success especially given the many challenges they faced during this time period.

During COVID-19 – Trisha Crawshaw, instructor of SOC 306I "Pop Culture" (online).

I continued to teach my online course from home. My partner, who works with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, also had to work from home. We quarantined with our pets: dog, Muffin, and cat, Louise. I got really good at playing card games. I am reigning Phase 10 champion at our house—but Glenn is catching up.

Tori Neal

Ph.D. student Tori Neal started a public sociology podcast, *Queerantime: A podcast for Surviving the Times*, centering on queer and transgender issues. The podcast highlights risks that the



LGBT community faces during COVID-19, how Black Lives Matter is ignoring transgender Black women, and more. You can listen to the podcast on Facebook and Instagram @queerantimepodcast or follow on Twitter @queerantimepodc.

More Graduate Student Accomplishments

Rebecca Bolinski, ABD

Jenkins, W.D., Bolinski, R., Bresett, J., Van Ham, B., Fletcher, S., Walters, S., Friedman, S.R., Ezell, J.M., Pho, M., Schneider, J., Ouellet, L. (2020). COVID-19 During the Opioid Epidemic - Exacerbation of Stigma and Vulnerabilities. *Journal of Rural Health*.

Ricky Braatz

I am interviewing participants for a study on the relation between wellness and locality in the lives of sexual minority men. I'll be co-presenting (with Chris Wienke) my preliminary findings at the 2020 ASA conference, now online. It is a part of a session called, LGBTQ Health and Wellness: Obstacles and Opportunities." The title of the paper is called, "Life and Wellness Experiences of Sexual Minority Men: Pre- and Post-Migration to a Gay Neighborhood."

I continue in my role as managing editor for the journal *Men and Masculinities* where I search and locate scholars to review submitted manuscripts, provide support for various administrative processes, and prepare the journal's issues for publication by editing its proofs, among other responsibilities.

Trisha Crawshaw, ABD

Publications:

Trisha Crawshaw. 2020. "Rock and Rolls: Exploring Body Positivity at Girls Rock Camp." *Fat Studies* 9(1): 17-36.

Trisha Crawshaw. Online First, 2019. Book Review of "After the Rise and Stall of American Feminism: Taking Back a Revolution," by Lynn S. Chancer. *Gender & Society*.

Kendra Pospisil

Kendra Pospisil. 2020. "The Lumps and Bumps of Aesthetic Labor: Rethinking Fat Talk in Plus-Size Retail." *Fat Studies*, 9(2): 138-147, DOI: 10.1080/21604851.2019.1630202.

Sociology Graduate Student Association

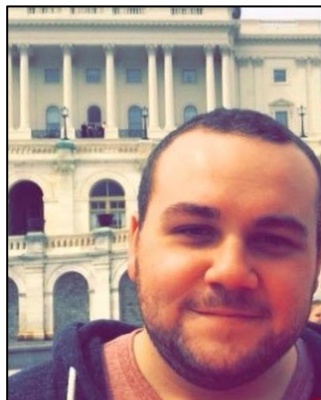
The most significant accomplishment of SGSA this year was becoming re-established as an RSO (Registered Student Organization) on campus. We also held two successful community events, the beginning of the year potluck and a holiday dinner. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures, we were unable to hold any of the community events that we had originally hoped for at the end of the year.

Kendra Pospisil, SGSA President

Undergraduate Student Highlight

Randy Grider

2020 graduate Randy Grider won the Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Paper award in Spring 2020. He was also awarded the Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., Academic Scholarship in Sociology in both 2019 and 2020.



In his academic time off before going to graduate school, Randy will be working a regular job and starting a non-profit in his hometown of Johnston City with the goal of reducing barriers to higher education for first generation students.

Awards, Honors, Markers

Faculty:

Jessica Crowe - Sabbatical Leave Fall 2019

Rachel Whaley – Sabbatical Leave Spring 2020

Graduate Students:

Daniel Baltz – David L. Briscoe Book Scholarship for Graduate Students in the Department of Sociology, 2020 Spring

Daniel Baltz – completed M.A., 2020 Spring

Daniel Baltz – Doctoral Fellowship, 2020 Fall, 2021 Spring, 2021 Summer

Austin Boe – completed M.A., 2020 Spring

Ricky Braatz – Graduate Dean’s Fellowship (year 2), 2019 Fall, 2020 Spring

Ricky Braatz – David L. Briscoe Book Scholarship for Graduate Students in the Department of Sociology, 2020 Spring

Hannah Crane – David L. Briscoe Book Scholarship for Graduate Students in the Department of Sociology, 2020 Spring

Trisha Crawshaw – J. Mark Wehrle Dissertation Scholarship in Sociology, 2019 Fall

Trisha Crawshaw – DRA (Dissertation Research Assistantship) for 2020-21

Debaleena Ghosh – defended her dissertation “U.S. Higher Education in the Construction of “Good” and “Bad” Immigrants: Foreign-Born Faculty’s Tales of Sexism, Racism, and Xenophobia at Work,” 06/15/2020

Kristie Perry – defended her dissertation “African American Denominational Mobility: The Impact of Status, Familial Factors, and Gender,” 04/08/2020

Undergraduate Students:

Erin Dunn - Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr. Academic Scholarship in Sociology, *2020 Spring*

Randall Grider - Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr. Academic Scholarship in Sociology, *2020 Spring*

Randall Grider – Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Paper, *2020 Spring*

Emoni Tatum - Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr. Academic Scholarship in Sociology, *2020 Spring*

Khadijah Thomas - Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr. Academic Scholarship in Sociology, *2020 Spring*



Dr. Phelan and Dr. Johnson at the December 2019 Graduation ceremony.

SIU SOCIOLOGY: Sociology at SIU Carbondale is a small but vibrant department with outstanding faculty and engaged students. Because SIU Carbondale is ranked as a Doctoral Research Extensive University by the Carnegie Foundation, research is highly regarded and supported here. Our faculty and students work hard on their myriad research projects but still find time to enjoy the local and regional lakes, rock climbing, hiking in the Shawnee National Forest and sampling our local wines on our Shawnee Wine Trail.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT SIU SOCIOLOGY? The Department of Sociology sincerely appreciates the generous contributions of our alumni and other friends. We value every contribution we receive, as it supports the academic progress of our talented and hard-working students! Thank You.

We encourage you to support faculty and student research as well as gift online at <http://cola.siu.edu/sociology/giving/> to make your tax-exempt contribution.



Sociology graduate students, Spring 2019.

Debaleena Ghosh, Jeremy Allen, Trisha Crawshaw, Korey Phelan and Annie Johnson pose for the camera.



Annie Johnson with her committee following her dissertation defense. Pictured are Bill Danaher, Kristen Barber, Annie Johnson, Rachel Whaley (chair), Bobbi Knapp and Tobin Grant.