Dear Esteemed Students and Alumni:

It has been a great year for sociology at K-State. We recently developed a 5-year BA/MA program, where students can apply to begin taking graduate courses while completing their undergraduate degree and earn both a Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees within 5 years. We have also added new specializations in Social Inequalities and Sustainable Communities as well as a certificate in applied social research.

Sociology faculty have been busy conducting and publishing engaging and important research across a variety of topics of vital importance to the discipline and society at large. Over the past year, our faculty have published over 20 journal articles, book chapters, edited volumes, and research reports. Two of our graduate students have published work in scholarly journals and books as well. Faculty and graduate students also won approximately $3 million in grants to advance ongoing and future inquiry. A list of faculty publications and presentations can be found at http://www.k-state.edu/sasw/socio/recentpublications.html.

We are also pleased to announce the recent hiring of our new criminologist, Dr. Travis Linnemann. Dr. Linnemann was born and raised in Kansas and has become a nationally and internationally renowned criminologist, having published many well-regarded academic journal articles and two books, *Meth Wars* (NYU Press) and *Crime and Media in the U.S.* (Sage; co-authored with Yvonne Jewkes). He will undoubtedly make an outstanding impact on both our undergraduate and graduate programs.

While we work hard to provide quality education, research, and service, we can’t do it alone. Please consider supporting our program by donating. Every bit makes a difference. Donations can be made at http://www.found.ksu.edu. You can stay up to date on developments with K-State Sociology at our Facebook page, http://fb.me/KSU.sasw.

Sincerely,
Gerad Middendorf
Department Head
Announcing the Ralph and Barbara Dakin Memorial Scholarship

The Sociology program has a new scholarship beginning in the 2018-19 academic year! The Ralph and Barbara Dakin Memorial Scholarship has been established by Drs. Lynne E. and Daniel Lonnquist. Dr. Lynne Lonnquist’s father, Professor Ralph Dakin, was on the Sociology faculty at K-State during the 1950s-1960s. This scholarship is intended to honor the memory of Professor Dakin, and to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students majoring in Sociology, especially non-traditional students and women. The endowed scholarship fund was established with a gift of $50,000 to the Kansas State University Foundation.

Dr. Lonnquist earned her Ph.D. from Purdue University, and subsequently taught at a variety of institutions, including Mary Baldwin College (where she also served as Professor of Sociology and Director of the Adult Degree Program) and at Roanoke College. Recently, she served as a mental health educator and counselor as well as Director of the Center for Growth and Well Being in Roanoke, Virginia, where she was active in numerous local, state, regional, and national sociological and mental health organizations. Dr. Lonnquist is now retired and resides in Lawrence, Kansas with her husband, Daniel.

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work and the College of Arts and Sciences are grateful to the Lonnquists for this generous gift, and we look forward to awarding the first scholarship in the spring of 2019.

Sociology Student Megan McCall Awarded the K-State Distinguished Young Alumni Award

On February 27th, 2018, K-State Sociology Alumnus Megan McCall received K-State’s Distinguished Young Alumni Award. McCall was born and raised in Goodland, Kansas graduated from K-State in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and in 2011 with a master's degree in sociology. While at K-State, McCall was a member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society, the Conversational English Program, served as treasurer of the Flint Hills Human Rights Project and as a liaison for Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays. Additionally, she volunteered and worked at The Crisis Center, the domestic violence shelter that serves Riley, Clay, Geary, Marshall and Pottawatomic counties and was involved with Take Back the Night and Little Apple Pride programs.
Remembering the First K-State Ph.D. Graduate, Dr. Arthur Evans

On December 11, 2017, Dr. Arthur Evans passed away. Dr. Evans was the first person to graduate from K-State with a Ph.D. in Sociology, earning his degree in 1978. He also received his Master’s Degree from our institution in 1975. Upon leaving K-State, he took a job as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Indiana University at South Bend. In 1980, he took a position at Florida Atlantic University where he would spend the rest of his career, becoming a Full Professor of Sociology in 1990. In addition to being an award-winning educator, he conducted research across an array of social issues including race, ethnicity, the sociology of sport, social conflict, aging and dying, and the sociology of religion. He is survived by Annette (Mirocke) Evans (wife), Damien Ross (son), Arthur S. Evans, Sr. (father), Dr. Anthony Evans (brother), Maurice Evans (brother), Beverly E. Johnson (sister), three grandchildren, a great grandson, and others.

Remembering Retired K-State Sociology Faculty, Dr. Lelah Dushkin

Retired K-State Sociology Emeritus Professor Dr. Lelah Dushkin passed away in May 2018. She specialized in the South Asia region and was a distinguished scholar in the area. Even after retirement, she remained committed to the department, helping arrange the Adamchak lecture series. In addition to her work as a sociologist, Dr. Dushkin was an active musician, stemming from her upbringing in Chicago and her time spent in the music school founded by her father, now known as the Music Institute of Chicago.

Remembering Retired K-State Sociology Faculty, Dr. Harold Orbach

Dr. Harold Orbach, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Kansas State University, passed away in June of 2017. Dr. Orbach was a renowned general sociologist and one of the world’s leading experts on George Herbert Mead. People often commented to KSU faculty at academic conferences that they wish they had tape recorders when speaking with Dr. Orbach because he often made brilliant and incisive connections that they wish they could record. Dr. Orbach was highly regarded and will be missed.
Hear From Our Award Winning Undergraduate Students

We interviewed our award winning undergraduates about their experiences studying sociology at K-State. The following are excerpts from their interviews.

**What are the highlights of your studies in sociology at K-State?**

“Some shout out classes that have been very exciting/interesting: Comparative social theory, sociology of women, and criminology. These classes have displayed historical and contemporary concepts, information, and ideologies that I have enjoyed learning. The professors have opened my eyes to additional perspectives and have generated personal growth and knowledge of our society.” - Skyler Stern

“I loved most of the classes I’ve taken in sociology, but my absolute favorite was social interaction taught by Krystal Lawson [former graduate student in sociology]. It was a very interactive class. Conversation wasn’t that hard to get started, but it was hard to end. Social interaction is a very interesting topic, the readings were very captivating, and conversation was engaging and sometimes amusing.” - Lati Horton

“K-State has offered many different types of sociology classes that attract all different sorts of people. One of my favorite classes has been Sociology of Women, it allowed me to learn more about social issues about inequality in our society that I have always been interested in. The class was interactive and being a quiet person in class, it allowed me to speak up and other students to as well, so more opinions and beliefs were expressed. Classes in high school and other classes I have taken, have never been like that and therefore, sociology classes have been my favorite overall since you can express your opinions freely while students in the department respect and interact efficiently and without judgment.” - Margaret Szmed

A highlight of my sociology experience here would be my sociology through film, sociology of human trafficking and the methods of social research class. The first two classes were incredibly interesting and made me think about ideas in different perspectives. – Keiteyana Parks

**What advice would you give to future students?**

“Advice that I would give to future students: Don’t be afraid to speak up in a group or class. Always listen to new ideas and never get trapped by an ideology that doesn’t allow you to explore different perspectives.” - Nicholas Ost

“Some advice I would give to future students would be that you don’t need to be the most outgoing student for teachers to notice your hard work. I was never that student, but I was always able to talk to teachers and be noticed by just going to class and working hard; it is okay not to be extremely outgoing.” – Margaret Szmed

“I would advise future students to explore their interest in sociology because there is so much to be learned and the sociology department here is amazing and encourages participation and internships.” - Keiteyana Parks
Meet Our Award Winning Graduate Students

We interviewed our award winning graduate about their experiences studying sociology at K-State. The following are excerpts from their interviews.

Alayna Colburn

Could you tell me the story of how you first learned about sociology?

“My introduction to Sociology may be different from most. I started at K-State in 2010 with my sights set on pursuing a degree in Apparel Design and Production over in the Department of Human Ecology. As I sat in my Psychology 110 lecture one Fall afternoon, my professor introduced the concept of "schadenfreude", which is a German term for taking pleasure in the pain of others. I was totally enthralled with the concept, and approached the professor after class to ask more questions.”

“Thus, after figuring out I wasn’t going to become the next Stella, Donatella, or CoCo, I promptly switched my major to Psychology. During an advising appointment that same semester wherein my advisor was seeking to learn more about me and my specific interests, she suggested that I take on a secondary major in Sociology. She explained that I would be able to graduate in the same amount of time, the classes and electives would complement each other (and cancel each other out), and the courses seemed to focus around subjects I was particularly interested in. I jumped in head-first and never looked back.”

What are the highlights of your studies in sociology at state?

“The highlights of studies and classes in Sociology include honing in on the subjects I am particularly interested in and want to invest my time in. A few specific highlights include performing at the top of a Doctoral-level course as a Master’s (cont. on page 6)
“student, figuring out that I actually wanted to pursue a Ph.D., learning about the Lautenberg Amendment and deciding on a dissertation topic, the hours of mentoring I have received from professors in the Department, teaching my own students, engaging in novel research with colleagues and professors, presenting this research at academic conferences, and of course receiving this award.”

“I have engaged in a few projects with student colleagues that we have taken to academic conferences, as well as assisted in data collection for professors in the Department and outside out it. I have a publication with a professor in the Department and another under review. I have also engaged in some research born out of course projects that have also been presented at academic conferences. I have a few things in the works for this Summer and Fall semesters as well that I'm very excited about. As far as getting involved, I would say students need to just take initiative and ask their professors if they have any projects they need help on. Additionally, getting motivated to work on your own projects is great for your development as a scholar, but also sheds a positive light on the Department. I plan to engage in more independent research, but I also have a few things in the works with my mentors, so I plan to pursue those projects as well.”

**What advice would you give to future students?**

“The advice I would give to future students is: Yes, it's hard work, but it's worth it. Find your niche, your subject area, your research interest, and go all in. Also, find what makes you different. That can mean many things, but Sociology is evolving as a field and you want to be able to stand out. I choose to do this in both my research and teaching. My last bit of advice is to find the mentors who aren't afraid to hold you accountable and push you to be the best "you" possible. I am completely indebted to my mentors, and I would not be at the place I am today without them.”

**What are your plans for the future?**

“My plans for the future include writing an important and necessary dissertation on a subject that I care deeply about, being productive in research, continuing to improve my teaching, and being hired as a Sociologist or Criminologist at a research university post-graduation. I would like to continue researching the topics I (and others) believe matter, while also disseminating this knowledge at academic conferences and in the university classroom.”

**Alexandra Pimentel**

**Could you tell me the story of how you got into sociology at K-State?**

“I first learned about sociology while looking through K-State's course catalog and reading through the course descriptions of classes that were offered in various departments. Almost every class in sociology looked interesting to me, so I decided to apply for the program!”

**What are the highlights of your studies in sociology at K-State? Highlights of classes?**

“One of the highlights in my studies in sociology at K-State are the opportunities for development offered to students outside the classroom. These may take the form of hearing visiting sociologists speak, meeting sociologists who are alumni of K-State, or attending brown bag seminars held by K-State professors. Often, these events show the ways in which sociology can be put into action.”

(cont. page 7)
Tell me about any research or projects that you did. How did you get involved? What has it meant to you? What more might you like to do?

“I am currently a graduate research assistant on a project that is studying social engineering. This project has given me the opportunity to gain valuable experience in research methods and other areas. I hope to use the research skills and knowledge that I’ve learned on this project and apply it to my dissertation research going forward.”

What advice would you give to future students?

“Being a student gives you one of the best chances of your life to learn some incredibly interesting things about the world. There’s one simple trick to learning about what you personally find most interesting and relevant: ask questions. Look for questions to ask when you’re reading or writing. Look for questions in theories and research. Academia is full of resources for answering questions. All you have to do is ask them.”

Faculty Highlights

We asked faculty to highlight a few aspects of their accomplishments last year in three sentences or less.

**Dr. Chardie Baird:** In 2017-2018, I had two articles published titled "Male-Dominated STEM Disciplines: How Do We Make Them More Attractive to Women?" in IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Magazine and "Family-Friendly Benefits and Full-Time Working Mothers' Labor Force Participation" with Stephanie Burge in Community, Work, & Family. In addition, KAWSE, the Office for which I am Executive Director, won two awards: University Outstanding Department or Unit Award for Enhancing Diversity at KSU and Insight Into Diversity Award for Inspiring Programs in STEM. Finally, I was the KSU Awardee for the HERS Leadership Institutes and was invited to give a talk on implicit biases about race/ethnic and sexuality to the NCAA's Women's Leadership Symposium as a part of their Women Leaders in College Sports program.

**Dr. Jeremy Briggs:** This past year I taught six courses total, four online and two in-person, and received high teaching evaluations for each. I also serve as the faculty advisor to the K-State Criminology Club and this past year we facilitated two highly successful and educational state prison tours, including a tour of the Ellsworth Correctional Facility and a tour of the Topeka Women's Correctional Facility. The Crim Club also hosted a handful of fantastic guest speakers from different law enforcement agencies who provided students with unique and professional insights into various aspects of the criminal justice process.

**Dr. Alisa Garni:** I published a co-authored manuscript with Dr. L. Frank Weyher, "Brewing Coffee Party Activism in Tea Party Territory: Faith and Politics in Rural America" in Sociological Spectrum and received a grant from the Center for Engagement and Community Development with Dr. Mary Kohn in English. With this grant, we will offer language classes in an isolated rural immigrant community in Kansas, bring first-generation Hispanic college students to K-State, develop a young writers’ academy at the local school, launch a bilingual parent-child reading group, and conduct a multicultural and bilingual book drive for the school library. I also became a teaching fellow through the Association of College and University Educators and continued research and writing on projects in Kansas and New Mexico.

**Dr. Richard Goe** spent the past year primarily engaged in administrative work, serving as the Graduate Coordinator during the Fall semester and Program Coordinator for the full academic year. He also spent time working on his NSF-funded research project (Co-PI with Kevin Steinmetz) on social engineering. He is applying for phased retirement to begin in 2019-20 academic year. (cont. page 8)
Dr. Lisa Melander: I published two articles with graduate students the last year. The first, co-authored with Alexandra Pimentel, explored 18 members of the Westboro Baptist Church and their qualitative explanations of their relationships with “mainstream” society and their own religious identities. The second, co-authored with Alayna Colburn, involved a content analysis of race and ethnicity in newspaper photographs that accompanied stories on crime.

Dr. Gerad Middendorf and colleagues recently published an article in the journal Climatic Change: Campbell, Amber, Terrie Becerra, Gerad Middendorf, and Peter Tomlinson. “Climate Change Beliefs, Concerns and Attitudes of Beef Cattle Producers in the Southern Great Plains.” Middendorf has also been serving as Interim Head of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work for the past year.

Dr. Matthew Sanderson: My paper on migration and development, which appeared in Sociology of Development (2016), was awarded the Best Article Award from the International Migration Section of the International Sociological Association. I was awarded the Samuel Cohn Distinguished Service Award from the ASA Sociology of Development Section. I was invited to give talks at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Santa Fe Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the Center for the American West, and the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Dr. Nadia Shapkina worked on a research project examining the changing relations between civil society and Russian government. She continues analyzing how advance of autocratic political regime affected activities of nongovernmental organizations. She presented some findings from this project at the American Sociological Research meeting in Philadelphia in August 2018.

Dr. Kevin F. Steinmetz has been keeping himself busy working on his National Science Foundation funded research on social engineering or the manipulation of the people involved in information security (Co-PI Richard Goe). In addition, his recent scholarly publications include two peer-reviewed journal articles, a policy essay with Criminology & Public Policy, and edited volume entitled Technocrime and Criminological Theory (Routledge), and a special issue he guest edited for the Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology. Additionally, he has joined Majid Yar as a co-author on the 3rd edition of Cybercrime & Society (Sage). Finally, he was recently awarded the Young Alumni Award from his alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. L. Frank Weyher: Together with Alisa Garni, I published "Brewing Coffee Party Activism in Tea Party Territory: Faith and Politics in Rural America" in Sociological Spectrum (available online, print version forthcoming). I am also teaching my graduate seminar on Sociology of Culture again this Fall (2018) for the first time in many years and thoroughly enjoying it. And I continue to explore the role of emotion in social life.

Dr. L. Sue Williams: Sociologist/criminologist/humanist, celebrated her 20th year at Kansas State University with a promotion to full professor; the award came in spring of 2018. Best known among students as Dr. Sue, she taught nine distance courses to 450 students, served on several graduate student committees, and mentored one PhD student (April Terry) to a successful dissertation defense. Dr. Williams published one book, five articles and chapters, completed a funded project with Riley County Police Department, and continues inaugural field work in five Kansas prisons.
Graduate Theses and Dissertations Defended

Dissertations

Sandra Galta, “Intersectional Subaltern Counterpublics: UndocuQueer Online Activism and Testimonios,” August 2018.


Theses

Laura Murphy, “Disparity or Discrimination: Interaction Effects of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender on Probation Failure in a Midwestern Sample,” October 2018.

Wish to give back to the program? Please consider donating to the Sociology Program at http://www.found.ksu.edu/

Announcing the 2019 Undergraduate Award Winners

Riley Scherer, Sophomore, Mildred and Robert Hininger Scholarship

SayQuan Williams, Senior, Damon and Carrie Hininger Scholarship in Sociology

Sandra Sparks, Senior, John Thurow Hill Memorial Award

Kei Ishihara, Senior, The Grace and Glenn W. Long Memorial Scholarship

Erica Alfano, Senior, Ann McKee Regnier Scholarship for Sociology

Alyssa Packer-Melliand, Senior, Ralph and Barbara Dakin Memorial Scholarship

Amy Wallace, Senior, Ralph and Barbara Dakin Memorial Scholarship