Inaugural Issue

We are pleased to present you with our first program newsletter to keep you abreast of recent events and accomplishments by our faculty, alumni, graduate students, and undergraduates. Please also follow us on Facebook to see the latest news regarding our program.

All the best,
K-State Sociology Faculty

New Senior Thesis Program!

Karen Palacios, the undergraduate student pioneer of the new Senior Thesis Program in Sociology, was in the Air Force’s medical hold when she stumbled on a sociology textbook. She was so intrigued by its contents that she enrolled in a sociology class at a community college in Colorado, where she fell in love with a K-State student and transferred to Manhattan to be near him. At K-State, Karen immediately enrolled in Dr. Chardie Baird’s methods class and was moved by Dr. Matthew Sanderson’s and Dr. Nadia Shapkina’s insights on rural sociology and migration, via their respective classes in later years. These experiences and mentoring, as well as a McNair Scholarship, inspired Karen to recruit Drs. Baird, Garni, Manglos-Weber, and Valenzuela (Ethnic Studies) to form a senior thesis committee—the first in as long as any of the faculty can recall.

In May 2017, Karen successfully defended her senior thesis on how children of immigrants from Latin America in rural Kansas either get diverted from, or directed to, college. Herself the child of immigrant parents from El Salvador and the first in her family to attend college in the United States, Karen was hired upon graduation as the Diversity and Outreach Coordinator for the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy at University of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL), where she helps first-generation and low income students from Nebraska to attend college. UNL has offered Karen a full ride through its Ph.D. program in sociology, and Karen can’t wait to start.

When we asked Karen to reflect on her time in the sociology program at K-State, she said, “all of the professors in sociology are so energetic. They make you excited! And if you don’t get excited, it’s because you have a wall up against getting excited [laughing]” To prevent such a wall, Karen advises students to “take your time, take electives, join clubs, network, do internships, talk to professors—your passion will find you if you do.

Hot off the Presses!

Sociology faculty published 16 journal articles, book chapters, monographs, and research reports last year alone. Six of our graduate students published work in scholarly journals. Faculty and graduate students alike presented original research at seven conferences in the United States, Switzerland, Australia, Spain, and Canada. Faculty and graduate students also won approximately $580,000 in grants and scholarships to advance on-going and future inquiry.

For the list of all publications and presentations, see http://www.k-state.edu/sasw/socio/recentpublications.html, and our Facebook page at http://fb.me/KSU.SASW.

Featured: Zaira Ruiz presenting her research at the Developing Scholars Symposium, April 2017
Undergraduate Student Research

In Sociology, students frequently lead research with faculty support (e.g., Senior Thesis Research, Developing Scholars projects, McNair Scholarships) and assist faculty with on-going research. In the latter case, students spent the last year examining why there are more men in STEM fields, on average, than women; how community residents experience and perceive procedural justice in policing; what the relationship is between social control and homelessness; how human trafficking networks develop and how victims’ recourse to justice is facilitated or inhibited in different parts of the world; the relationship between cyber-bullying and intimate partner violence; how imprisonment affects parenting and childhood; how managerial practices affect employee citizenship among immigrant employees on large U.S. dairy farms; what the relationship is between natural resource use, agriculture, and social structure in Kansas farming communities (and how these interact with global political-economic dynamics); the causes and consequences of food deserts in the United States; and much more. Students conduct in-depth qualitative research, including participant observation and interviewing, as well as quantitative data collection and analysis. They learn how to pose compelling research questions, specify the significance of their work theoretically and empirically, and collect and analyze data rigorously. They go on to win scholarships, internships, jobs, and admission to graduate programs at high rates.

Undergraduate Criminology Internship Program

Strong and Growing

When we called Lyssa Peralta to ask her about her internship, she was wrapping up a meeting with a client who was seeking housing for herself and her children. The client, Lyssa said, was required to submit information about an abusive partner against whom she had a restraining order. Lyssa was helping her client get the paper work without endangering herself. Throughout her internship, Lyssa worked closely with her supervisor, the Police Response and Advocacy Coordinator for the Police Response Advocate Program, to respond to (cont. page 3)
police referrals for people who needed immediate shelter, court issued protective orders, and access to community resources. Lyssa was inspired to apply for the internship when she enrolled in Dr. Lisa Melander’s Pre-Internship Orientation and learned about the collaboration between the local Crisis Center and the Riley County Police. Lyssa dreams of collaborating with special needs families and children in rural communities, and ensuring that their voices are heard. During her internship, Lyssa “heard lots of stories” and “learned how the system is built to help,” and where it needs repair. As Lyssa begins her fourth and final year at K-State, she advises future generations of students to “jump into what you love doing and don’t be scared.” Lyssa was nervous when her internship began, but she says she told several clients that she was a new intern learning how to do her job, and clients always responded with, “oh, that’s cool!” They all happily engaged with her. That experience made a big impression on Lyssa, and she encourages her fellow students to immerse themselves fully in the work they find meaningful.

When Tyler Lowe graduated in May, he had already been hired in Court Services, which stemmed from his criminology internship during his senior year. For his internship, Tyler served as an 8th Judicial District Community Corrections Officer (JDCCO). As a JDCCO, Tyler visited clients at home, school, and work. This fieldwork complemented office work, giving him experience in both realms of probation, and revealed to him that he favors fieldwork. When Tyler first enrolled in the criminology program at K-State, he knew that he was interested in criminal justice and law enforcement, but he didn’t know what he wanted to do. The internship gave him the experience he needed to clarify what he most wanted to do and the skills and resources to do it. Based on his experiences, Tyler now aspires to work at the federal level. When we asked Tyler what advice he would give to future students, he said, “ask lots of questions—ask as many questions as you can.” By asking questions, he said, you can gain invaluable insight that would otherwise elude you.

Award Winning Students and Alumni

In May, Sociology faculty and students gathered for a Signature Event in the Tower at Jardine Terrace. Over dinner, we celebrated the accomplishments of five undergraduate students and two graduate students. Logan Santel earned the Thurow Hill Award, Karen Palacios the Long Award, Bianca Rodriguez the Regnier Award, Zach Syrios the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) Award, and Katrina Velarde the Hininger Award. Sociology faculty celebrated the accomplishments of graduate students at the annual picnic at Tuttle Creek as well. For her exemplary research accomplishments, Stacy Smith was awarded the Graduate Student Research Award. Daniel Sitterle was also awarded the Graduate Student Teaching Award for his dedication to excellence in teaching. Additionally, sociology graduate students acknowledged the outstanding service and mentorship of Dr. Lisa Melander (our Graduate Program Director), and Dr. Spencer Wood by conferring upon them the Roy Barnett Memorial Award.
**Graduate Alumni Spotlight**

**Andrea S. Boyles** was the featured speaker for our graduate recruitment events in February. Dr. Boyles presented research from her book, *Race, Place, and Suburban Policing: Too Close for Comfort* (University of California press). Dr. Boyles is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. She earned her Ph.D. in sociology with concentrations in gender and criminology in 2012. Since graduating, she has held both faculty and administrative appointments at Lindenwood University-Belleville, a small liberal arts college located 20 minutes from St. Louis in southwest Illinois. Dr. Boyles has taught undergraduate and graduate courses through an accelerated evening degree program, as well as traditional day college. Additionally, she has an extensive history teaching across several social science disciplines—anthropology, sociology, and criminal justice—ranging from Culture and Communication, Sociocultural Theory, and the Sociology of Poverty and Conflict to Policing, Victimology, Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, Public Policy in Criminal Justice, and Special Topics on Ferguson. As a contributor to several radio shows and forthcoming documentaries, her research interests are social inequality; gender; the intersection of race, class, and gender; criminology; incarceration; race, place, and policing, ethnography, and community disorder. Dr. Boyles has also taught inmates and correctional officers within the Missouri prison system and presented research on the effects of incarcerated parents on children. As she continues to examine black citizen-police conflict across the St. Louis region, her current research hinges on community disorder and black social ties with another manuscript under contract with the University of California Press.

**Travis Linnemann** has actively advised sociology faculty about maintaining competitive undergraduate and graduate programs as a member of the Sociology Advisory Board. Originally from Marysville, Kansas, Dr. Linnemann graduated from K-State’s Sociology Graduate Program in 2011 where he earned both an M.A. and a Ph.D. in sociology and currently serves as a member of the K-State Sociology Advisory Board. Since leaving Kansas, he has held tenure track positions at Old Dominion University and most recently, Eastern Kentucky University. His research interests are diverse but predominantly focus on cultural representations of violence and police and state power. Dr. Linnemann has published in several journals including the *British Journal of Criminology, Theoretical Criminology, Crime Media Culture,* and *Critical Criminology.* Stemming in part from research conducted while at Kansas State University, Dr. Linnemann’s first book, *Meth Wars: Police, Media, Power* was recently published in the Alternative Criminology series, of New York University Press. Another book, co-authored with Yvonne Jewkes (University of Brighton, UK), is forthcoming in 2017. Travis is frequently invited to speak about his research, with his—most recent invitation coming from Columbia University where he discussed “Racism and Its Role in White Drug Exceptionalism: Historical and Contemporary Examples.” Currently, he is at work on his next book project, *The Horror of Police.*

(continues on page 5)
Laura S. Logan visited K-State in the Spring to present her research on violence and street harassment that targets people of color, women, girls and LGBT individuals. Using an intersectional perspective, Dr. Logan focused on the prospects for coalitional resistance and social movements. Her presentation, which attracted faculty and students from several departments across campus, was titled, "Why and How to Build Coalitions: Moving Beyond Identity Politics." Dr. Logan currently lives and works in Hastings, Nebraska. She was born in a small town in Nebraska and raised in California, Illinois, and Texas. She has also lived in Alabama and Mississippi. Dr. Logan began her college career as a non-traditional student—a poor single parent—at Houston Community College. Years later she moved to Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK), where she discovered her love of Sociology. Laura earned an M.A. in Sociology in 2008, a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies in 2009, and a Ph.D. in Sociology in 2013. While attending graduate school, she worked for the journal, Gender & Society, as a managing editor from 2006-2011. Before entering the academy, Dr. Logan worked in social services, primarily in the areas of victim services and violence prevention. In 2013, Dr. Logan accepted a position as assistant professor at Hastings College. Since then, she has received the Vondrak Outstanding Advisor Award (2016) and the Polished Apple (2014) for excellence in teaching, and in 2015 she was one of two selected to be an Invited Faculty Lecturer at Hastings College. Dr. Logan has published articles on social networks, gendered organizations, and street harassment. Currently, she researches about violence and victimization and is a nationally recognized expert on the subject of street harassment. Her most recent project is a creative venture bridging public sociology, qualitative research on street harassment, and collaborative theater.

Faculty Highlights

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

**Dr. Baird** published a paper titled, "The Overtaking of Undertaking?: Gender Beliefs in a Feminizing Occupation" in Sex Roles with a former graduate of the KSU Sociology program, Sarah Donley. Dr. Baird and her co-authors Ethan Bernick and Sabri Ciftci (in KSU’s political science department) received the Jewell Limar Prestage Award for the best conference paper on the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, and political behavior from the Southwestern Political Science Association for their paper titled "How Cultural Beliefs about Women's Role in the World Shape Women's Civic Engagement." Finally, the KSU Foundation recognized the work of the KAWSE Office, of which Dr. Baird is the Executive Director, in "empowering young women to pursue and succeed in STEM fields" in their "Heroes" series highlighting faculty contributions inside and outside the classroom.

**Dr. Garni** published a manuscript entitled, “Crafting Mass Dairy Production: Immigration and Community in Rural America” in Rural Sociology and completed another year of ethnographic research in “Dairy City.” She led efforts to implement the Undergraduate Senior Thesis in Sociology and chaired the first committee, that of Karen Palacios. Dr. Garni also mentored undergraduate students doing original research via *(cont. page 6)*
Dr. Goe published a paper entitled “Externalization” in *The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment and Technology* in which he examines how the practice of outsourcing has changed the spatial organization of economic activity. He was a co-recipient of a grant with Kevin Steinmetz from the National Science Foundation to conduct research on the strategies used by corporations and public sector organizations to combat social engineering. Dr. Goe also continues to serve as the program coordinator for the Sociology Program.

Dr. Manglos-Weber received a contract from Oxford University Press for her book, *Joining the Choir: Religious Memberships and Social Trust among Transnational Ghanaians*. The book is scheduled for publication in 2018. She also began data collection in Uganda for a project on local leaders who serve the social welfare needs of their communities, and the religious and political aspects of their work.

Dr. Melander has continued her work on cyber aggression among intimate partners and has a forthcoming article on this topic which will appear in *Partner Abuse*. Vivian Hughes, a KSU alumnae, is a co-author on this project. Dr. Melander also served as Graduate Program Director (and won an award for her leadership) and oversaw the Criminology Internship Program.

Dr. Middendorf and colleagues published the article “Attitudes of Extension Educators in Kansas and Oklahoma Regarding Climate Change” in the *Journal of Extension*. He also organized two sessions at the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society meetings in Los Angeles, related to the following project: “Food Systems, Health, and Well-being: Understanding Complex Relationships and Dynamics of Change.” In one of the sessions, he and colleagues presented the paper, “Food Insecurity on Campus: A Survey of the Student Body.”

Dr. Sanderson presented work on migration and development at the Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals in Barcelona, Spain, and with student-collaborators, he presented work on water conservation at the annual meetings of the American Association of Geographers in Boston and the Midwest Sociological Society in Milwaukee. He also published research on labor market skill transfers among Mexican immigrants in *Work and Occupations*, and with an interdisciplinary group of hydrologists and environmental scientists, he published a piece on incorporating social science into integrated models in *Hydrological Sciences Journal*.

Dr. Shapkina collaborated with Dr. Kwon from K-State Department of Hospitality Management on a research project studying human trafficking awareness in the hotel industry. To identify the current status of employee awareness and training practices in regards to human trafficking in the lodging industry, researchers conducted a survey of lodging employees in the U.S. hotels and motels. Based on the information, scholars are currently exploring strategies to increase training and employee awareness of preventing and reporting human trafficking incidents in lodging facilities in the U.S.

Dr. Steinmetz recently published an academic monograph with NYU Press entitled *Hacked: A Radical Approach to Hacker Culture and Crime*. He also received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study social engineering or the influence or manipulation of people involved in information security. In addition, he published four journal articles in respected peer-reviewed outlets including *Theoretical Criminology* and *Crime Media Culture*. (cont. page 7)
Dr. Weyher presented a paper entitled “The Good, the Bad, and the Sacred: Cultural Codes and the Emotional Marking of Significance” at the Canadian Congress of Social Sciences and the Humanities/Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meetings in Calgary. He joined the editorial board for *Sociological Perspectives* and is collaborating with colleagues and students on research on religion and politics in rural America, and migration and state-society relationships in eastern Europe.

Dr. Williams is conducting two research projects, a prison ethnography at five Kansas prisons, and a project on procedural justice (with citizen involvement) for the Riley County Police Department; both involve graduate students as well as undergraduate student participation in survey research. She is presenting results of these projects at conferences in South Carolina, Texas, and Philadelphia. Dr. Williams has published a text book and three journal articles this year and was recently awarded the 2017 Innovations in Teaching Award from the Summer Institute on Distance Learning and Instructional Technology, an organization serving Kansas and Missouri.

Dr. Wood partnered with the Center for Engagement and Community Development to establish a Center for Food Access through a Grant from the Health Care Foundation, conducted a comparative study of four rural grocery stores and social capital in Southeastern Kansas, and completed a survey of food insecurity on campus with Gerard Middendorf. His article with graduate student Joe Jakubek, Emancipatory Empiricism: The Rural Sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Race and Ethnicity*, the American Sociology Association’s Official Journal on the Sociology of Race and Ethnicity. Finally, he was elected as Secretary of the Rural Sociological Society, was selected to be the editor of the society’s *Rural Studies Series*, continued to chair the NC-SARE Research and Education grants technical review, and was elected President of Faculty Senate for the 2018-2019 academic year.

**Graduate Theses and Dissertations Defended**

**Dissertations**


**Theses**


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