A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am happy to report that the SIUC Sociology department has done a great job this year and is looking forward to an even better future. The faculty and graduate students have been quite productive: publishing in journals, writing books, presenting at national and regional meetings, serving on editorial boards, and contributing to committees. Please see below for the list of professional accomplishments. SIUC Sociology continues its tradition as a research-oriented, PhD granting department with a national reputation.

Below you will see messages from our Undergraduate Director (Jessica Crowe) and Graduate Director (Rachel Whaley) about our programs and students. The directors have been working hard to make the university experience a memorable one for our students. As you will see they are doing a great job.

I’d like to thank the faculty, students, and staff for their contributions in keeping the department lively and relevant. I would like to specifically thank Judy Rose, our office manager, Chasity Shea, for getting us through the day and our student workers, Joe McLaughlin and Jeremiah Beasley. I also want to thank Dr. Kristen Barber and Rebecca Bolinski for editing this newsletter. Finally, I want to thank our alumni for your generous monetary contributions and your time in making our program a success.

Sincerely,

William F. Danaher

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Barber earned tenure and was awarded sabbatical.

Dr. Crowe works on multi-departmental grant doing survey research.

Dr. Whaley received Graduate Faculty Mentor Award of Excellence.

Derek Lehman accepted a tenure track job at Tarleton State University.

Thank you to Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., for your continued support of our department!
This has been an especially exciting year in our graduate program. Our graduate students are presenting their work at regional and national conferences, garnering awards, engaging in professional service work, publishing their research, winning fellowships, and obtaining tenure-track and visiting professor positions. In 2017, two students were awarded the Dissertation Research Assistantship (DRA) including, Derek Lehman for his research, Gendered Horizontal and Vertical Inequality: A Multilevel Analysis of the Effects of Religious Context on Gender Attitudes, Women’s Positional Attainment, and Gendered Religious participation,” and Debaleena Ghosh for her project, Experiences of Immigrant Faculty in the American Academy: Gender, Race and National Origin in the Workplace. Korey Phelan, recently ABD, was awarded the DRA for the 2018-2019 year for her project, Strain and delinquency on Indian reservations: Applying an integrated general strain theory to Indigenous youth.

In March 2018, 8 current M.A. and Ph.D. students attended the Midwest Sociological Society meeting in Minneapolis, and we met up with at least 6 alumni, including Ryan Ceresola (Hartwick College), Kristi Brownfield (Northern University), Bill Lovekamp (Eastern Illinois University), Bob Jenkot, (Coastal Carolina University), Saiful Islam (Minnesota State University, Mankato), and Justin Martin (University at Tennessee, Martin). During the 2017-2018 academic year, graduate students gave papers at conferences for the American Society of Criminology, the American Sociological Association, the Southern Sociological Society, and the SIU Women, Gender, and Sexual Studies Conference. Our own Trisha Crawshaw won first place at the WGSS conference for her presentation, “As We Come Marching:” Framing Amplification and Transformation through Songs and Poetry, co-authored with our Chair, Dr. Bill Danaher. Trisha also won the COLA Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award for Ph.D. students.

Our students continue to be active researchers. Several students have published in the last year, including Derek Lehman (with Dr. Sherkat), ClayAwsumb (with David Kauzlarich), Trisha Crawshaw, and Yurino Kawashima (with Dr. Niu, Dr. Hirudayaraj, and Dr. Sims). Many others are working toward publication.

We expect to graduate two Ph.D. students, Marcie (Shuemaker) Phillis and Derek Lehman, and one M.A. student, Rebecca Bolinski, who will be joining the Ph.D. program in the fall. Derek is heading to Tarleton State University for a tenure track Assistant Professor position. Marcie is currently a Community Advocate for WellCare/Harmony Health Plans of Illinois and teaches part-time at Augustana College. Our former M.A. student Tony Silva, who attended University of Oregon for his PhD, was awarded a SPAN (Sexualities Project at Northwestern) Postdoctoral Scholar position for 2018-2020. We’re proud of everyone’s accomplishments.

We will have a new cohort of 7 graduate students for 2018-2019. Two incoming students were awarded the M.A. Research Fellowship, and one was awarded the Graduate Dean’s Fellowship for the Ph.D. program. We are excited to get to know our new students!

Finally, we continue to be grateful for the support we receive from alums and other friends. Your generous gifts enable our students to travel to conferences, fund research, and pay summer stipends, which help these junior scholars to achieve the kinds of honors we are able to tell you about each year.

Rachel Whaley, Ph.D.
Graduate Director
A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

From presenting at professional meetings to putting together their own conference, our sociology undergraduates have been very productive this year. In honor of Women’s History month, the Undergraduate Sociology Club hosted a panel of presentations from several women faculty and graduate students in the sociology department. Presenters included Dr. Rachel Bridges Whaley, who gave a talk on “Gender Subjectivities Quantified: Understanding Views of Our Gendered Selves,” and I presented on “The Impact of Shale Development on Farmers: How the Size and Location of Farms Matter.” Three doctoral graduate students also presented: Neeraja Kolloju with her talk, “‘My Dick, My Choice’: Men’s Retort to Feminism via YouTube,” Trisha Crawshaw presented “‘As We come Marching:’ Framing Amplification and Transformation Through Songs and Poetry,” and Annie Johnson presented “‘Cardio? Bitch I Lift’: Transcending Gender Boundaries Through CrossFit.” The talk was well attended, and the Undergraduate Sociology Club has plans to make this an annual tradition.

One of our majors, Baylee Hudgens, presented her own work at this year’s Illinois Sociological Association conference. Her paper, “The Social Problems Process Model and the Pro-Choice Movement,” was awarded 3rd place in the freshman/sophomore level student competition. Congrats to Baylee for this great achievement! This year we had four students who received the Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., Academic Excellence in Sociology Award: Baylee Hudgens, Jessica Liberman, Shane Jordan, Elicia Hanley. The following students were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta national sociology honor society: Baylee Hudgens, Shane Jordan, Kaitlynn Miner, Elicia Hanley, Jessica Liberman, and Elena Cruz.

In other news, despite lower enrollment for the entire university, we have retained roughly the same number of majors (40) in the Sociology department for the past 5 years. While I would always like to see this number be higher, I am happy that the department’s recruiting and retention efforts have been successful in keeping us at a healthy number of majors.

Jessica Crowe, Ph.D., Undergraduate Director

NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY IN SOCIOLOGY

J. MARK WEHRLE DISSERTATION SCHOLARSHIP IN SOCIOLOGY

This scholarship will be awarded annually to a graduate student(s) in Sociology in support of dissertation research on social and/or economic justice for disadvantaged populations. The Wehrle Dissertation Scholarship will support graduate students at the end of their studies, helping them to finish their dissertations in a timely manner.
FACULTY WORK

Kristen Barber, Associate Professor

Publications:


Presentations:

In the Media:


Barber talks about manhood’s incompatibility with touch in MEL Magazine’s article on “Cuddle Parties and the Death of Platonic Male Touch,” by C. Brian Smith, August 24, 2017.


Dr. Barber is the editor of the Culture Section of Contexts and she is on the editorial boards of Gender and Society and Men and Masculinities.

William Danaher, Professor, Department Chair

Publications:

Presentations:
Danaher, William and Trisha Crashaw. “Framing the Women’s Movement: Framing amplification and transformation through songs and poetry”. Presented in the session, Role of Social Media and Social Movements at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings, New Orleans, April 2018.
FACULTY WORK, CONT.

Darren Sherkat, Professor

**Publications:**


Dr. Sherkat is on the editorial boards of Social Science Research, Sociology of Religion, Social Currents, and Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Chris Wienke, Associate Professor

**Presentations:**
Wienke, Chris. “Accounting for Serial Marriage and Cohabitation: An Exploration of the Biographical Stories of Men and Women who have been Married or Lived with a Partner Three or More Times.”

DR. WHALEY SELECTED FOR GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. Whaley is in her 7th year as Director of Graduate Studies. She was awarded the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award of Excellence in 2018 for the College of Liberal Arts and approved to continue a second year as the MSS Chair of the Status of Women in the Profession Committee. At the last meeting, Whaley organized two workshops: one on being an academic and one on mentoring with special attention to the challenges women face, in addition to presenting both current research with graduate student Trisha Crawshaw and on the teaching of gender as a social construction.

Whaley published a paper in Sociological Perspectives with former MA student Tony Silva in 2017 (online first) and is currently working on two papers with other graduate students. With a team from SIU, Whaley submitted a grant titled “Increasing Participation and Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs and Researchers at Southern Illinois University (IPOWERS)” to the National Science Foundation.
GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rebecca Bolinski, MA Student

Presentations:

Trisha Crawshaw, Ph.D. Student

Publications:


Presentations:

Crawshaw, Trisha. “You Might Need a Cat and Other Things I Learned in Grad School”. Presented on a professionalization panel at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Minneapolis, March 2018.


Awards:
College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Graduate Instructor.

First Place at the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Conference at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Debaleena Ghosh, Ph.D. Student

Presentations:

Annie Johnson, Ph.D. Student

Presentations:
Johnson, Annie. “I’m Not Trying to be a Boy:” Redefining Femininity at CrossFit”. Presented at the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Conference, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, March 2018.
Yurino Kawashima, Ph.D. Student

**Publications:**


Derek Lehman, Ph.D. Student

**Tenure Track Job:**
Dr. Lehman will be joining Tarleton State University as Assistant Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Pre-Ministry concentration within Sociology.

**Publications:**
Sherkat, Darren E. and Derek Lehman. 2018. "Bad Samaritans: Religion and Anti-Immigrant and Anti-Muslim Sentiment in the United States" Forthcoming, Social Science Quarterly

**Presentation:**
Lehman, Derek "Religious Contexts and Women's Material Attainment". Presented in Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference at the Center for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, April 2018.

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**GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KENDRA POSPISIL**

My research focuses on how mainstream cultural ideas of the fat body may shape the formation and performance of women's gendered selves. I am concerned with how this formation of self—and how women feel about their bodies—shapes the emotional and aesthetic labor of workers in plus size retail stores. Also, I ask: how do these workers’ interactions with customers impact their own bodies? And do the workers confront issues of sizeism while working in a store dedicated to plus size women, beauty, and fashion? I am critically examining the intersecting impact of race and perceptions of health. My future goal is to conduct a mixed methods analysis using ethnographic observation, online ethnography, qualitative interviews, and demographic based surveys. I have IRB approval and have begun collecting preliminary data. My preliminary findings suggest that the company, management, and customers all expect retail workers to perform a certain level of emotional and aesthetic labor. Additionally, online analysis demonstrates that although body positive language is used, the mainstream pressure to have an hourglass shape highlighting a small waist and curves in the “right places” persists in the marketing of plus size companies that otherwise promote of body positivity. I look forward to continuing exploring this as well as related topics.
SNAPSHOTS FROM CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Dr. Barber presents her work at the 2018 American Men’s Studies Association Conference

Recent alums and current students get together at the 2018 Midwest Sociological Society Conference. From Left to Right: Trisha Crawshaw, Dr. Ryan Ceresola, Derek Lehman, Dr. Rachel Whaley, Dr. Kristi Brownfield, Becki Tuxhorn, and Annie Johnson

Dr. Barber serves on a panel at the 2018 American Men’s Studies Association Conference. From Left to Right: Tristan Bridges, Brandon A. Jackson, Kristen Barber, and Edward Flores

Recent graduate Dr. Saiful Islam, with Dr. Rachel Whaley, Trisha Crawshaw, and Annie Johnson at the 2018 MSS Conference

SIUC Alumni Dr. Bill Lovekamp, Dr. Saiful Islam, and Dr. Bob Jenkot at the 2018 MSS Conference
UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This past November, the Club attended the Illinois Sociological Association Conference in Decatur, IL, where our treasurer, Baylee Hudgens, placed 3rd in their undergraduate paper competition. In March, we hosted our first annual Women Researchers in Sociology event, in honor of women’s history month. In April, we were active in the student elections taking place, hosting additional debates for not only the Undergraduate Student Government presidential candidates, but also the SIUC student trustee.

Three of our club members are recipients of the Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr., Academic Excellence in Sociology scholarship (Baylee Hudgens, Kaitlynn Miner, and Jessica Liberman). Club member Elena Cruz presented at this year’s WGSS conference on “Transitions and Transformations”; she presented her research “Performing Otherness: An Adrian Piper Discussion” with fellow student Elizabeth Fahey. The Club also volunteered at the conference, directing traffic and assisting evaluators.

Jessica Liberman, President
Undergraduate Sociology Club
BROWN BAGS IN SOCIOLOGY

Alfred Frankowski – Wednesday, February 14, 2018
“State Memory, Lynching Histories, and Mourning”
Later this year, the museum, From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration will open in Montgomery, Alabama and it will be our nation’s first comprehensive memorial to the history of American anti-black violence. The memorial, For Peace and Justice will be our nation’s first memorial to the history of lynching. In this presentation, I will explore how these memorials force us to confront tensions between the politics of memory and present state violence in unique ways. This paper will explore and challenge the relation of state memory to anti-black violence as not only a mode of reconciliation but also as a reconfiguration of the political through a sense of mourning.

Adia Harvey Wingfield – Wednesday, February 28, 2018
“New Economy, New Inequalities: Race and Health Care Work in a Neoliberal Era”
Adia Harvey Wingfield joined Washington University as Professor of Sociology in the fall of 2015. She was on the sociology faculty of Georgia State University from 2006 through 2015. Professor Wingfield received a Ph.D. in sociology from Johns Hopkins University in 2004. She specializes in research that examines the ways intersections of race, gender, and class affect social processes at work. In particular, she is an expert on the workplace experiences of minority workers in predominantly white professional settings, and specifically on black male professionals in occupations where they are in the minority. Dr. Wingfield has lectured internationally on her research in this area, and her research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals including Social Problems, Gender & Society, Qualitative Sociology, and American Behavioral Scientist. She is the author of several books, most recently the award-winning No More Invisible Man: Race and Gender in Men’s Work (Temple University Press). Professor Wingfield teaches classes on race, gender, social theory, and work, that encourage students to wrestle with the ways that intersections of race, gender, and class are institutionalized in various social spheres like media, the workplace, schools, and in public spaces.

Derek Lehman, SIUC Instructor and Ph.D. Candidate – Wednesday, April 11, 2018
“Navigating Academic Interviews”
Derek Lehman recently secured an Assistant Professor position at Tarleton State University. In this talk, he will discuss what current graduate students can expect on the job market. Lehman uses both his Zoom and on-campus interviews as a sort of case study of interviewing for a teaching intensive tenure-track position. Along with reviewing the timeline for the process, from first contact to contract negotiations, Lehman will provide the questions he was asked by the search committee and suggest a few strategies for preparing for interviews, like reviewing the university’s mission statement and strategic action plan. Overall, attendees will receive real-world examples they can use in preparation for their own interviews.

Lisa Young – Friday, April 27, 2018
“The Medical Activism of Gwendolyn Brooks; Or, The Social Afterlife of the Restrictive Covenant”
This talk investigates the “health politics” and medical activism of Black women writers and journalists who framed restrictive covenants as environmentally hazardous agents in the lives of Black residents. It analyzes how the legacy of the restrictive covenant expanded outside of urban areas in the North and West by giving way to discriminatory institutions such as predatory health insurance policies, the privatization of city water services, and the modern-day surveillance state. In particular, it reframes Gwendolyn Brooks’ novel, Maud Martha (1940), as a response to covenants, water restrictions, and racialized beliefs about the Black body as a contagion prone to spreading diseases.