We’re Moving... to the College of Arts and Sciences

The Department of Sociology will be moving back to the College of Arts and Sciences as of September 1, 2013. Currently, the Department of Sociology has been located in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (originally the School of Community Service) since 1985.

Dr. Cready Program Chair of recent SSA conference

This past year, Dr. Cynthia Cready served as Program Chair and President-Elect of the Southwestern Sociological Association (SSA), an affiliate of the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA). In this role, she was responsible for organizing the program for the annual meeting which took place in March 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Cready’s long-time involvement and commitment to the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) began during her time as a graduate student at Texas A&M University. She presented at the annual meeting during her first year of study at the urging of her advisor. (Dr. Cready’s story continued on pg. 2)

Students Recognized with Awards and Scholarships

Incoming (Fall 2013) Sociology doctoral student, Nikolitsa Grgoropoulou, has been awarded a Fulbright to study at UNT.

Diptee Neupane, Ph.D. candidate, received the 2013 Hiram J. Friedsam Award for the Outstanding Sociology Doctoral Student.

Nichola Williams, a Ph.D. student, has been awarded the 2013-14 Elizabeth Esterchild Scholarship.

Lindsey Johnson, one of our “pass-through” doctoral students, received the 2013 Rudy Ray Seward Award for the Outstanding Sociology Masters Student and will receive the Rudy and Jean Seward Sociology Scholarship for the upcoming academic year.

Monica Kraatz was recognized during Honors Day for having received the 2013 Leonard G. Benson Award for the Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Student.

Melena Ornelas has been awarded the 2013-14 Lynne Kilgore Scholarship.

Jonathan Miles will receive the 2013-14 Leonard G. Benson Scholarship.

Victoria Nava is the grand winner of the Sociology Undergraduate Scholarship for 2013-14. Other recipients include Joseph Crane, Carey Forbes, Mayra Perez, and Mark Salazar.

Nichola Williams receives grant for research in Mexico

Nichola Williams, Ph.D. student, was awarded the College of Public Affairs and Community Service “Community Renewal Fund” to perform a Healthy Neighborhoods Survey in Los Molinos, Mexico (Jalisco). The survey will assist her in developing a Healthy Neighborhoods Plan for the community of Los Molinos. Nichola will travel to Mexico this June 2013.
Dr. Joseph Comeau accepts tenure-track position

Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Comeau, Ph.D. alumnus and visiting lecturer, for his new position as tenure-track assistant professor at Georgia Southwestern University in Americus, GA. Dr. Comeau will begin his new position starting Fall 2013.

Dr. Cready Program Chair of recent SSA conference

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In 2011-2012, she was elected Vice President of the SSA and was responsible for coordinating the group’s silent auction at the SSSA annual meeting, an event benefitting the American Sociological Association’s (ASA) Minority Fellowship Program.

This past year, as Program Chair, Dr. Cready recruited and worked with over 35 session organizers and reviewers. As abstracts of papers were submitted for consideration via a new online process, she assisted the organizers to group them into content-related sessions. She also organized special sessions, such as panels, “Author Meets Critics,” and videos, and identified certain papers that fit the theme of the conference, “New Social Media and Life, Politics, and Society in the Early 21st Century.”

Dr. Cready says it was exciting to see the conference program come together after so much work. There were approximately 250 individual and 15 panel submissions, resulting in over 70 sociology sessions.

She credits success of the program to the overwhelming support she received from session organizers and reviewers as well as from UNT’s Department of Sociology, in regards to participation, help and travel funds. The guidance of Dr. Tracy Dietz, SSA’s General Program Director (and UNT Sociology alumnus), was also invaluable. (Dr. Cready’s story continued on pg. 4)

UNT Sociology at the 2013 Southwestern Sociological Association Annual Meeting

Laissez les bons temps rouler! A large contingent of UNT Sociology faculty members and graduate students recently attended the 93rd annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association (SSA) in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 27-30, 2013. Presenters from UNT Sociology included Joseph Comeau, Cynthia Cready (2012-2013 President Elect), Devyn Dougherty, Elizabeth Esterchild, Elizabeth Gabhart, Chao-Lun Jacob Huang, Lindsey Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Bill Kilgore, Eunkyung Kim, Diptee Neupane, Michael Nino, Myrna Papadouka, Swati Singh, Ozgur Solakoglu, Nikki Williams, David Williamson, George Yancey, and Sebahattin Ziyank.

David Williamson (far right) responding to his and George Yancey’s (second from right) critics (Mahmoud Sadri, Texas Woman’s University, Bill Kilgore, UNT doctoral student, and Larry Lyon, Baylor University) in the Author-Meets-Critics session at SSA featuring their recent book What Motivates Cultural Progressives? Understanding Opposition to the Political and Christian Right (Baylor University Press, 2012).
To read more about our faculty and students, please visit our website at http://pacs.unt.edu/soci/

Drs. Cready and Yeatts awarded grant, Travel to China

Drs. Cynthia Cready and Dr. Dale Yeatts will be traveling to Hangzhou, China, Zhejiang University to work with Professor Mi in analyzing several large data sets focused on the health of Chinese elderly villagers. This trip will be followed by a trip to Seoul for the annual International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics meeting. Drs. Cready and Yeatts were awarded a grant from the Charn Fund, established by Mr. Charn Uswachoke, a UNT alumnus from Thailand, to promote faculty projects in international development activities at the University of North Texas.

Chao-Lun (Jacob) Huang gives lectures in Taiwan

Chao-Lun (Jacob) Huang, Ph.D. student, traveled to Taiwan over the winter break where he was invited to give two lectures at local universities. At Aletheia University in New Taipei City, he gave the lecture, “Religion and Food in Hispanic Catholic Tradition” to a master’s class in the Department of Religious Culture and Organization Management. At Oriental Institute of Technology, also in New Taipei City, he lectured on “Information Protection in Aging Services: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in the United States” for the Department of Nursing.

Awards Given to UNT Sociology Faculty

Drs. Joseph Comeau (Visiting Lecturer) and Cynthia Cready (Associate Professor) recently won Southwestern Sociological Association’s (SSA) 2013 Distinguished Paper Award. Their paper, “Latino Familialism, College Choice, and Institutional Selectivity” was selected by the SSA’s Distinguished Paper Award Committee from a slate of six eligible papers. The award was announced at SSA’s Presidential Awards and Plenary Session, March 29, 2013, during the association’s annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Drs. Comeau and Cready received a check for $500.

Dr. Becky Knight Collaborates with Community

Dr. Becky Knight, adjunct professor in the Applied Gerontology program, is currently group leader and program researcher for “Differentiation of Psychological Interventions on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren,” a project involving the UNT Department of Psychology. She is also the “Age Well Live Well” Program Coordinator for Denton where she is charged with creating health and wellness programs and policies, providing volunteer and community engagement opportunities, and sharing information on the services and programs available for all ages in Denton County. This is a one-year contract supported by the AWLW Community Implementation Grant from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability and North Central Texas Council on Governments. Dr. Knight works with the City and County of Denton, the universities, and the health community as a whole.
Dr. Cready Program Chair of recent SSA conference

(Continued from pg. 2)

Dr. Cready says SSSA is becoming less of a regional association and involves both large and small campuses. The annual conference is open to students of all levels, and this year there was a significant turnout from undergraduate students. Attending the meeting is a great way to catch up with UNT Sociology alumni, she suggests.

As the SSA President for 2013-2014, Dr. Cready is responsible for overseeing next year’s conference program. More specifically, she is charged with hosting the SSA Presidential Reception as well as organizing the SSA Presidential Awards and Plenary Address. She is pleased to announce that Dr. Cecilia Ridgeway from Stanford University and current ASA president has accepted SSA’s invitation to be the plenary speaker at next year’s conference to be held at the Grand Hyatt Riverwalk in San Antonio, April 16-19, 2014. Next year’s theme is “The Evolving and Everlasting Social Sciences.” After next year’s conference, Dr. Cready will serve one more year as SSA’s Past President in which she will still assist the association in various ways.

Dr. Cready began her career in Sociology at UNT in the Fall of 2000 as Lecturer. She became an Assistant Professor in 2002 and is now Associate Professor.

Reza Amini presents at conference, Identified as Reviewer

Reza Amini, Ph.D. student, presented his paper, entitled: “Health Related Quality of Life and Health Insurance among Americans over 40 Years Old” at the 8th Annual Health Disparity Research Symposium, in Birmingham, Alabama in February. Reza was also identified as a reviewer of abstracts submitted for the 141st APHA (American Public Health Association) Annual Meeting (November 2 - November 6, 2013) of the APHA, and specifically for the APHA-Student Assembly program.

Students and faculty represent at the Governing Council of the Texas Public Health Association

Not only has Matt Weaver successfully defended his Applied Gerontology (AGER) dissertation this Spring, he was also elected to the Governing Council of the Texas Public Health Association at its Annual Meeting last week. Recent graduate Laura Wolfe (AGER Ph.D., 2012) has been nominated to become Chair, and current doctoral student Reza Amini (Sociology) has been elected to become Secretary-Elect of the Aging and Public Health Section of TPHA. At the same TPHA meetings, Dr. James Swan became President-Elect of the Texas Public Health Association, moving from First Vice-President.

Staff News

Our newest staff member, Shannon Selby, Administrative Specialist I, will be completing her Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Sociology, this summer. We look forward to offering our sincerest congratulations! Fonda Gaynier completed 29 years on the first of May of this year and has been a member of the Department of Sociology for nearly 26 years.
### Selected Recent Faculty and Student Publications


### New book by Drs. Zafirovski and Rodeheaver

In *Modernity and Terrorism: From Anti Modernity to Modern Global Terror*, Milan Zafirovski and Dan Rodeheaver analyze the nature, types, and causes of contemporary global terrorism. The book redefines modern terrorism in a novel and more comprehensive manner compared to the previous literature. It examines counter-state and state terrorism, with an emphasis on the latter in light of its scale, persistence, and intensity as well as its relative neglect in the literature. The book identifies and predicts the general cause of most modern terrorism in anti-modernity as the adverse reaction to and reversal of liberal-democratic, secular, rationalistic, and globalized, modernity. In essence, it discovers and predicts anti-liberalism in the form of conservatism as the main source and force of modern terrorism. This is available from Brill, founded in 1683, one of the world’s oldest publishers.

For more information, visit: [http://www.brill.com/modernity-and-terrorism](http://www.brill.com/modernity-and-terrorism)

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**Scholarships Available!**

**Undergraduate:**
- Leonard G. Benson Scholarship
- Elizabeth Esterchild Scholarship
- Lynne Killgore Scholarship
- Rudy and Jean Seward Scholarship
- Sociology Undergraduate Scholarship

**Graduate:**
- Alvin C. Dorse Scholarship
- Elizabeth Esterchild Scholarship
- Hiram J. Friedsam Scholarship
- Lynne Killgore Scholarship
- David Malone Scholarship
- Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Scholarship
- Rudy and Jean Seward Scholarship

For more information:* [http://pacs.unt.edu/soci/content/scholarships](http://pacs.unt.edu/soci/content/scholarships)

*Scholarship applications are due by the 15th of April. Given for the upcoming academic year, the awards are usually announced by mid-May.
Featured Scholarship: Returning Peace Corps Volunteer Scholarship

Dan and Denise Rodeheaver served as Peace Corp volunteers in Guatemala, 1978-1980, working in community development, health and nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. This experience led the Rodeheavers to create opportunities by creating an endowed scholarship for those returning Peace Corp volunteers (RPCVs) who wish to pursue graduate studies in environmental sociology and have a continued commitment to community service. Dan Rodeheaver is the Chair of the Department of Sociology who has served at UNT since Fall 1990. Dr. Denise Rodeheaver, a toxicologist, is Head of Preclinical Safety-Surgical and Vision Care at Alcon Laboratories.

To read more about the Rodeheaver Scholarship for Returning Peace Corps Volunteers, visit: http://pacs.unt.edu/soci/sites/default/files/RODEHEAVER_SCHOLARSHIP_FORM.pdf

86 Undergraduate and 14 Graduate Students Walk in May

On May 10th and 11th, a total of 100 students graduated with degrees from the Department of Sociology at the University of North Texas. Of these 100 students, there were 84 who were conferred their Bachelors of Arts, three Master’s of Science, and one Ph.D. in Sociology. In Applied Gerontology, there were two who received Bachelors of Science degrees, seven MS degrees in Long-Term Care, and three doctoral degrees.

Alumni Spotlight: Where Are They Now?

Amy Dewitt, Ph.D. Sociology (2005), serves as Chair of the Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, Geography and Anthropology at Shepherd University, where she is an Assistant Professor of Sociology.

Courtney Queen, Ph.D. Sociology (2009), has taken a new position as Professor of Tropical Medicine and Global Health with the Organization for Tropical Studies, Duke University located in Costa Rica. She is working directly with undergraduate and graduate student research. Associated with the University of Costa Rica and headquartered in San Jose, there are four field research stations around the country. There is also a strong indigenous and border health program in the coffee and cocoa agricultural communities along the Costa Rican border with Panama.

Trent Ryan, M.A., Sociology (2012), was admitted to the sociology doctoral program at Emory University, receiving five years of full funding that will allow him to focus on his research. Trent has accepted their offer and will begin this Fall 2013.

Jina “Bitsey” Lewallen, Ph.D. Applied Gerontology (2013), has accepted an Assistant Professor position with East Tennessee State University for Fall of 2013.