A Modern Day Civil Rights Movement: Autumn Tyler and Helen Potts, Ph.D.

Check out the conferences, such as SSSA, ESS, and others that our students and faculty attended this Spring and Summer.

Learn about how our faculty is representing the Department on campus, in the local news, and abroad via study abroad options for next Summer!

Learn what both our undergraduate and graduate students are doing in the Department and on campus.

Join us as we remember Dr. Leslie Stanley-Stevens and send our condolences to her family.

Learn how you can make a direct impact on the UNT Sociology Department through your contribution.

This newsletter is published two times annually, during the fall and spring/summer semesters.
What began as a simple march to honor the lives of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, later turned into an event that rocked the nation. As hundreds of people gathered into Belo Garden, a peaceful speak-out and protest ensued; however, near the closing of the march, gunshots rang out into downtown Dallas. We soon feared for our lives as most of us protesters thought that the police were driving their cars into the crowd or that there was a shooter specifically targeting black protestors. Due to systemic racism and the repeated violent attacks, black people are constantly fighting for the right to live. Given the current state of this country, to be black and alive is an act of resistance.

"History repeats itself" but because of the complex and nuance ways of historical reoccurrences, not all consider the underlying factors that lead to such repetitions. Systematic racism has always been an issue for black people in America, it exists through institutional racism such as in the criminal justice system, and also through norms and socialization practices we have yet to improve upon. However, it started to become a part of the national conversation once people had visuals of the killings. Due to the media and the imagery, we can no longer deny the existence of this systemic racism. The images we see now are similar to the images we remember from the Civil Rights of the 1960s containing the imagery of ferocious dogs being unleashed as weapons against peaceful protestors. These murders are modern day lynchings; and due to their publicity and normalization they have become a contemporary means for people to mass consume the grief and pain of black citizens, while also allowing them a position to remain distant from these atrocities through the act of distancing and othering.
A Modern Day Civil Rights Movement: continued

Autumn Tyler & Helen Potts, Ph.D.

The more people view these killings, the more desensitized they become towards violence against black people. Therefore, the current Black Lives Matter movement is the modern day Civil Rights movement. My generation is using previous techniques to enact change and to continue the dialogue.

Additionally, social media is used as a platform for black people to voice their concerns about the frequent injustices that arise. Despite getting criticism as a way to distract society from what is occurring throughout the world, social media is being cultivated as a way for news and social change to spread. The use of hashtags, posts, and retweets disseminates news and information at an unthinkable rate. This attention is then used to further acknowledge the pain and struggle that the black community faces. Inadvertently, social media acts as an outlet to democratize and articulate the perspectives of those whose voices would otherwise be unheard.

These protests and rallies act as public memorial services. The protests create a fluid sacred space, altering the paved killing grounds to a place where the public can engage in collective healing, while also allowing us to take up space in order to publicly grieve as a clear statement that our society cannot ignore this shared pain. What occurred was a tragedy; however, that night we were reminded that as a community, we remain in a constant state of fear. As stated earlier, our community’s existence is an act of defiance; we are here to show that we can and will thrive no matter the circumstance.

Photo: Above Autumn Tyler, Dallas, TX, July 7, 2016 7:14 PM
By the end of Summer 2016, at least 41 students will have completed their degree in Sociology, including 3 PhD, 3 Master’s and 35 Bachelors.

Doctoral and Master’s Graduates include:

Nichola Driver, Ph.D.  
Maria Eirini Papadouka, Ph.D.

Ann Catherine Reed Wilder, Ph.D.  
Joel Robert Jackson, M.S.

Alexandra Vanessa Bush, M.S.  
Aaron Joseph Majek, M.S.

Bachelor of Arts and Science graduates include:

Doreen A. Appiah  
Chanel M. Atkinson  
Dominique E. Blout

Jeremy Buchanan  
Clifton L. Caldwell  
Raynequa Campbell

Ke’Yonna Hall  
Bill H.N. Huynh  
Ethan J. Kennedy

Jennifer L. McFarland  
Nneka A. Onubogu  
Donald A. Ruthart

Sunny L. Shepheard  
Stephanie J. Swenson  
Chelsi C. Walker

Sanobor Ali  
Janeen M. Ballesteros  
Ileana Cervantes

David Harris  
Kara L. Keith  
Emily Morehou

Blake A. Chambers  
Sheldon B. Finnell  
Tyroniece A. King

Tracey L. Koehler  
Jason R. Limitone  
Jennifer R. Mill

Ericka N. Moore  
Brandon S. Moreland  
Donald T. Smith-Miles

Lamonica L. Williams  
Samantha L. Belson  
Jaclyn M. Drake

Sophie M. Gonsoulin  
Danny Hoang Le
Faculty and Students represent UNT at the 96th Southwestern Social Science Association

The 96th Annual meeting for the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) was held in Las Vegas this year. The theme of the meeting was “Social Science and Public Conversations.” Both Faculty and Students represented UNT at the meeting. Below are the names of those who presented at the conference:

Allison Bradley    Giselle Greenidge    Nikolista Grigoropoulou
Jeremy Buchanan    Cassie Hudson      Jacquelyn Cheun
Mehmet Celebi      Lauren Dent        Suheyl Gurbuz
Cynthia Cready     Nichola Driver     Emre Ozer
Michael Thompson

Faculty and Students represent UNT at the Eastern Sociological Society Meeting

Both Faculty and Students represented the UNT at the Eastern Sociological Society Meeting. The meeting took place in March 2016. Presenters included:

Emirhan Demirham   Deborah Fessenden
Michael Thompson   Gabe Ignatow
Shelby Williams.
Sociology Students Participated in UNT “Scholars Day”

This April students from the Department of Sociology presented at UNT’s Scholar’s Day in April. Scholar’s Day is an opportunity for undergraduate students to be able to present their research. Student’s from the sociology department included Sanober Ali, Samantha Belson, Ke’Yonna Hall, Jazmine McGill, Jennifer Miller. (Picture above: left to right Ke’Yonna Hall, Jazmine McGill, Jennifer Miller, Michael Thompson: Photo credit Ke’Yonna Hall).

Department Represented at Conferences and Events

In May Christy Cooksey presented at the NSF– funded Research Coordination Network (RCN) in Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES) Workshop theme III: Social/ Policy Impacts in Tallahassee, FL.

Dr. Seward with J.A. Seward represented UNT at the Texas Council on Family Relations’ Annual Conference, in Plano Texas, in April 2016. The title of their presentation was “Employment Leave for Fathers to Promote Healthier Families: A Global View."

Jacquelyn Cheun represented UNT at the Texas Public Health meeting in Galveston, TX. Her poster was entitled “How does electronic health-literacy affect patient– doctor communication?” Representing research completed by herself and Dr. Gul Seckin.

Dr. Rodeheaver with J.L Williams and E.J. Lynton presented research in “Intimate Partner Homicide in Texas Counties: A Social Disorganization Approach” at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Denver, CO on March 30th. 2016.

Lauren Dent presented at the Federation of North Texas Area Universities Graduate Student Research Symposium at Texas Women’s University on April 8th. Her presentation was titled “Corruption and Disaster Impact in Sub-Saharan Africa’s Transportation Sector.”
Recent Publications


Recent Publications continued


The Sociology Department has been named Department of the Year by the Honors College

The Sociology Department has been named Department of the year for 2015! Many students from the Sociology Department have contributed to the Eagle Feather, especially from Sociology Capstone course. The Eagle Feather is a selective publication of student capstone projects. Since 2007, 18 students from the Sociology Department have been represented in the Eagle Feather, 7 of which have been in the last two years, with 4 in 2014 and 3 in 2015.

Department offers Study Abroad program for Summer 2017

Next Summer students taking Introduction to Sociology (SOCl 1510) with Dr. Helen Potts from the Sociology Department and American Government I or II (PSCI: 1040 or 1050) with Dr. Wendy Watson from the Political Science Department will have the chance to study abroad in Shanghai. The students will also be taking a course taught by a professor at East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai.

Dr. Seward recognized in the Denton Record Chronical

On Father’s Day, June 19th, Rudy Seward, an Emeritus of the Department of Sociology and Michael Rush had a guest editorial published in the Denton Record Chronical in regard to their research on Fathers, employment, and involvement with the presence of a newborn in the family.
Sociology Students Honored at UNT Honors Day

Allison Bradley (middle) was awarded the Leonard G. Benson outstanding sociology undergraduate student award. Alex Bush (right) was awarded the Rudy Seward Outstanding Master’s student in sociology award and Nichola Driver (left) was awarded the Hiram JU. Friedsam Outstanding Doctorial Student in Sociology Award.

Nichola Driver has accepted a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She will be working there for the 2016–17 school year. She will be teaching courses in the Master of Public Administration program and will also be serving as Campus Director for the Nonprofit Leadership Studies program.

Congratulations to all the families with new babies!

-Neda Gurbuz was born on January 9th, 2016 to Suhely and Merve Gurbuz!

-Murat Ege Celebi was born on May 19th, 2016 to Mehmet and Hilal Celebi. Murat was 7lb and 48 cm (19 inches)!

-Seyda Demirhan was born on July 1st, 2016 to Emirhan and Tugba Demirhan! Seyda was 6lbs 9 oz and 20.5 inches!

The Sociology department would like to wish all the new parents the best! (photo above: credit: Mehmet Celebi).
ATTENTION ALUMNI:
Now, share your success stories on our website! You might see yours in a future issue of The Eagle's Eye.

CLICK BELOW:
Tell Us Your Story
Opportunities for Giving
Alumni Homepage

We would like to take some time remember Dr. Leslie Stanley-Stevens who passed away this spring on June 22nd. In the summer of 1989 Leslie began her work as a Ph.D. student here at UNT and graduated in 1994. Her research interests included parenting, the family, and gender issues. While at UNT Leslie received a perfect 4.0 in her course work which also included philosophy and computer science as well as sociology. Leslie received exceptionally high evaluation marks and praise from the UNT faculty which were exemplified by her sweeping a variety of university and department awards including UNT’s Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, outstanding Graduate Women Award, and the very prestigious Robert Toulouse Award. The Department’s awards included the Hiram Friedsam Award and Outstanding Teaching Fellow. She also had her twin sons while working toward her Ph.D. and knew how to have fun, as seen in her monthly movie reviews!

Upon graduation she took the position of Assistant Professor at Tarlton State University. She gained Full professor and recently was named a Regents Professor through her excellent teaching, research, and service. She also was the first professor at TSU to receive a Research Leave. Leslie, Dr. Rudy Seward (UNT professor emeritus), and Dr. Dale Yeatts have published many articles together over the years. Her most famous work may be her book titled: What They Didn’t Know When They Were Expecting ...and How they Became Better Parents (2012). When all is said and done, it is clear that Regents Professor Leslie Stanly– Stevens has been one of the most outstanding persons to graduate from UNT's sociology Ph.D. program. The Department would like to send their condolences to her Husband and both sons.

If anyone would like to contribute to Dr. Stanley-Stevens endowment fund: The Dr. Leslie Stanley-Stevens and Dr. W.H. Stanley, Sr. Scholarship Fund please see the instructions below:
Make checks payable to Tarleton State University and send to: Box T-0260, Stephenville, TX 76402. Please Reference Leslie Stanley-Stevens in the Memo Line.

You may also make a gift card by going to: http://www.tarleton.edu/giving/ and follow the prompts to ‘Give Now’, or the link below will take you directly to the giving website specifically for making gift cards to a specific scholarship: https://epay.tarleton.edu/C20203_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=5&SINGLESTORE=true
ATTENTION ALUMNI:

Now, share your success stories on our website! You might see yours in a future issue of The Eagle’s Eye.

CLICK BELOW:

Tell Us Your Story
Opportunities for Giving
Alumni Homepage

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Where our Graduates have gone!

Our graduates find jobs in many different places! Here are some of the places that our graduate students have gone:

- University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- Dallas County Community College
- Georgia Southwestern State University
- University of Hawaii at West O‘ahu
- Lock Haven University
- Northeastern State University
- Pacific University
- Turkish War College, Turkey
- Willamette University
- US Department of Health & Human Services
There are many ways to support the UNT Sociology department. Financial contributions are most welcome, but we also appreciate our alumni who give their time to speak to our current students and new graduates by providing advice about careers in specific areas.

The Department of Sociology appreciates your financial support. Every dollar contributed to the department has a direct impact on our students. Your gift helps support critical opportunities for students, including scholarships, lectures, travel support, and any number of educational events that augment the classroom experience. For more information about additional ways you can help, please contact Dan Rodeheaver, Chair of the Department, or Fonda Gaynier, Administrative Coordinator, at (940) 565-2296. Read more about Sociology scholarships in the Departmental News section of this newsletter. To donate now, click the icon below.

Thank you all. You helped make UNT one of the best 115 doctoral research institutions in the nation!