

## Newsletter Sections

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A green  
light to  
greatness.



## WELCOME TO THE UNT SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER!

### Fall 2014

[Click on the links below to explore recent news from UNT's  
Sociology Department](#)

### [Departmental News](#)

Find out more about the **students who completed a Sociology degree** in Fall 2014. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication!

### [Research News](#)

Check out the **conferences that our students and faculty attended** this fall/winter and learn what they presented.

### [Faculty News](#)

Learn about **Dr. George Yancey's faculty development leave** opportunity as well as **Dr. Dale Yeatts return from medical leave**.

### [Student News](#)

We have such talented students! Stories in this section recognize our graduate students, including **Michael Nino's new job opportunity** and **Swati's Singh's successful dissertation defense**. Also, hear about the newest member of the sociology family, **Holden Dean Bush!**

### [Alumni News](#)

Hear how **Dr. Wheeler Pulliam**, recent sociology graduate, uses skills from his PhD program in the private sector.

### [Donate](#)

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

*This newsletter is published three times annually, during the fall, spring, & summer semesters.*

## Department of Sociology

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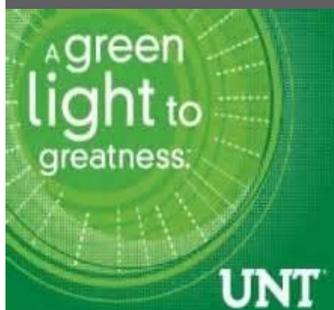
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*Photo shown: Dr. Swati Singh  
at the Fall hooding ceremony  
(Photo by Gabe Ignatow)*



## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### 36 Undergraduate and 10 Graduate Students Walk in December

At the December 2014 graduation, a total of 46 students walked with a degree in Sociology, including 1 Ph.D., 1 Masters of Arts, 8 Masters of Science, and 36 Bachelor of arts. The Ph.D. graduates include:

#### **Swati Singh, Ph.D.**

Major Professor: Cynthia Cready

Dissertation: "Microcredit, women, and empowerment: Evidence from India."

The **Masters** graduates include:

Devyn Dougherty, M.A.

Chana P. Avezbadalov, M.S.

Juliet H. Boxer, M.S.

Aliza Burg, M.S.

Lisa S. Danesh, M.S.

Mark M. Goldberg, M.S.

Miriam Kahane, M.S.

Heather Maresky, M.S.

Dalia Yellin, M.S.

The **Bachelor of Arts** graduates include:

Kristina M. Agee

Adam S. Araiza

Aaron L. Belalzin

Sonya A. Bustillos

Frederick A. Byers III

Carl W. Caldwell, Jr.

Candace Cho

Jazmine A. Coats

Maria M. Coco

Griselda M.D. Garcia

Darryl Han Du

Carolyn A. Egan

Deborah J. Fessenden

Colin T. Fouts

Angie L. Guerra

William D. Haseman

Ricky W. Holtzlander

Kinnard C. Maney

Brett N. McCoy

Dolline Men

Brent T. Miller

Karen L.M. Martinez

Gerren Cortez Odum

Michelle Owuzu-Hemeng

Leila E. Puckett

Reanon A. Sandlin

Monique Lanette Scott

Kristin Leigh Sharp

LaKisha Nicole Swope

Mark H. Wagner

Jared Thomas Wahlen

Dollinda Latrice Welch

Dimitri J. Wilhite

Donna R. Wilson

Charles R. Wright

Irae Yoo

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



### Meet the Front Desk Staff!

#### Aaliyah Holiday

Meet **Aaliyah Holiday**! She is originally from Houston, TX, and she is a junior majoring in Human Services. She started working for the Sociology department in Spring 2014 as a college work-study student. Her duties include answering the phone, making copies for professors, and organizing things at the front desk. Plus, she is a whiz at fixing the copier! She plans to graduate in May 2015 and start her MSW at the University of Houston. An interesting fact about Aaliyah is she was in choir for 6 years, and music is still important to her today. Stop by the front desk to meet Aaliyah!

#### Austin Hendren

Meet **Austin Hendren**! She is originally from Kamiah, Idaho, and she is a sophomore majoring in Biology. She began working in the Sociology Department during the Fall 2014 semester. She describes her job duties as answering the phone, making trips to get the mail, and entertaining Fonda when the office is slow. She plans to graduate from UNT in May 2017 and attend PA school after graduation. Her hobbies include volunteering, watching Netflix, and shopping online. When asked to share something interesting about herself, she said "Even though I'm from Idaho, I've never grown potatoes." Stop by the front desk to say hi to Austin!



## Spring 2015 Courses Offered

### Undergraduate:

- Intro to Sociology
- Social Problems
- Race/Class/Gender
- Sociology of Sport
- Race & Ethnicity
- Marriage & Family
- Health & Illness
- Sociological Theory
- Quant Data Collection
- Quant Data Analysis
- Social Stratification
- Collective Behavior
- Developing Societies
- Sociology of Sexuality
- Gender & Society
- Israel Identity Formation
- Social Psych/Behavior
- Community Organization
- Family Later Life
- Racial/Ethnic Minorities
- Sociology of Culture
- World Population
- Sociology Capstone

### Graduate:

- Health and Illness
- Sociology of Culture
- Sociology of Sexuality
- Environmental Sociology
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Regression Analysis
- Advanced Statistics
- Health & Illness
- Social Stratification

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



### Featured Scholarship

#### The Lynne Kilgore Sociology Scholarship

This scholarship is established to provide assistance to non-traditional students in the Department of Sociology. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be an undergraduate OR graduate student at UNT (may be either full or part-time);
- Meet the entrance and continuing academic performance standards of the Department of Sociology in effect at the time of the award;
- Maintain enrollment in good standing at UNT; and
- Enroll as a student in Sociology at UNT or anticipate enrollment for the following semester

Preference will be given to persons who indicate in writing that they are female, non-traditional students, attending college after an absence of at least five years due to care giving or other responsibilities; additional preference will be given to students who indicate that they have not worked full time during this absence.

Award amounts are decided by the Sociology Scholarship Committee and are subject to availability of funds. Applications for Sociology Departmental Scholarships are due April 15, 2015. Visit the [UNT Sociology website](#) for more information.

### Support the UNT Sociology Department

The Department of Sociology appreciates your financial support. Every dollar contributed to the department has a direct impact on our students, many in the form of scholarships. To make a donation, [click here](#).

## 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

Mary Rose Holley Scholarship

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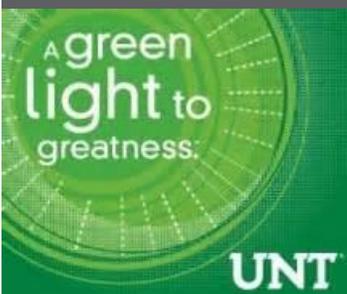
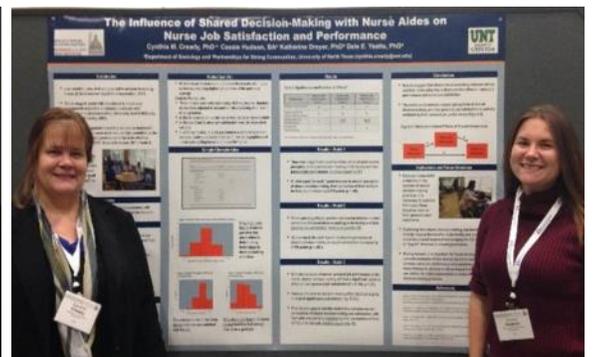
RESEARCH  
& CONFERENCE  
NEWS

## Faculty & Students Participate in the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

In early November, three members of the department presented posters at the annual meeting of The Gerontological Society of America in Washington, DC. **Dr. Cynthia M. Cready** and graduate student **Cassie Hudson** presented "The Influence of Shared Decision-making with Nurse Aides on Nurse Job Satisfaction and Performance" (co-authored by **Cynthia M. Cready**, **Cassie Hudson**, Katherine Dreyer (UNT Partnerships for Strong Communities), and **Dale E. Yeatts**).

**Dr. Gul Seckin** presented two posters, "Digitally Literate: Psychometric Validation of Electronic Health Literacy Scale (EHLs)" and "Age Differences in Perceived Benefits of Receiving Psycho-Oncological Support on the Internet: Optimism and Positive Self-Image."

*Photos: (left) Gul Seckin, (right) Cynthia Cready & Cassie Hudson (photos by Cynthia Cready)*



## RESEARCH & CONFERENCE NEWS



## Important Funding Deadlines

[UNT General Academic Scholarship Deadline](#)

March 1, 2015

For more info, visit

[UNT Financial Aid](#)

[Institute of Humane Studies PhD Scholarship Deadline](#)

March 1, 2015

For more info, visit

[IHS Scholarship](#)

[Sociology Department Scholarship Deadline](#)

April 15, 2015

For more info, visit

[UNT Sociology](#)

## Gabe Ignatow Attends Conference at Oxford on Ethics & Virtue

In early January, **Dr. Gabe Ignatow** presented at the third annual conference of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, which was held at Oriel College at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. The aim of the conference is to bring together experts from a range of disciplines to explore the varieties of virtue ethics, both within and across disciplinary boundaries. Gabe gave a presentation titled "How to Study Morality Online" in which he reviewed state-of-the-art research methods for studying moral discourses and deliberations in online environments including online surveys, virtual ethnography, and text analysis. While in London, Dr. Ignatow visited the former home of Friederich Engels on Primrose Hill, where Engels lived from 1870-1894.

To learn more about this conference, [click here](#).

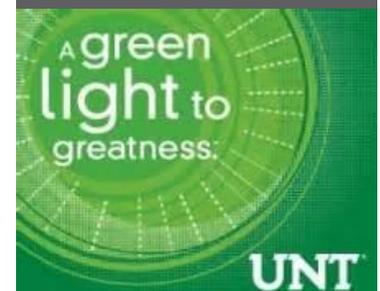
*Photo: **Gabe Ignatow** (left) & Leslie Sklair, Professor Emeritus from the London University of Economics and Political Science (right). (Photo by Gabe Ignatow.)*

## Other Recent Presentations & Publications

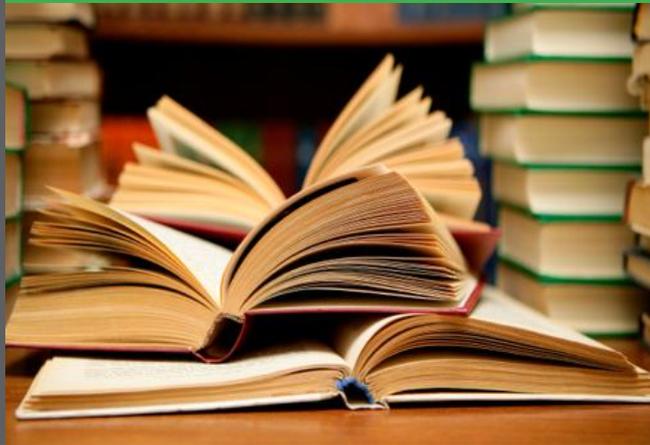
**Amini, Reza**, James Swan, Keith Turner, & **Ami Moore**. (2014, November) Physical activity and life course theory. American Public Health Association Annual Conference.

**Balkanlioğlu, Mehmet. A. & Seward, R. R.** (2014) Perceptions of Domestic Violence by Turkish Couples in Long-Lasting Marriages: An Exploratory Study. *National Council on Family Relations' Report: Family Focus on International Intimate Partner Violence, FF61, F12-F14.*

(Continued on Next Page)



## RESEARCH & CONFERENCE NEWS



### Other Recent Presentations & Publications

**Johnson, Lindsey.** (2014, November) Prosperity Belief and Liberal Individualism: A Study of Economic and Social Attitudes in Guatemala. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

**Moore, Ami & Nichola Driver.** (2014). Knowledge of cervical cancer risk factors among educated women in Lomé, Togo: Half Truths and Misconceptions." *Sage Open*, 4(4): 1-8.

Naghavi, M., Wang, H., Lozano, R., Davis, A., ..., **Moore, Ami R**, ... (2015). Global, regional, and national age–sex specific all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 240 causes of death, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *The Lancet*, 385: 117-171,

**Rodeheaver, Daniel G.** & James L. Williams. (2014, November). Modeling Intimate Partner Homicide in Texas: A Revised Strain Theory Approach. American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.

**Seçkin, G.** (2014). Online health information seeking and gender. In W.C. Cockerham, Dingwall, R., Quah, S. (Eds.). *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society*. pp. 1713-1715. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

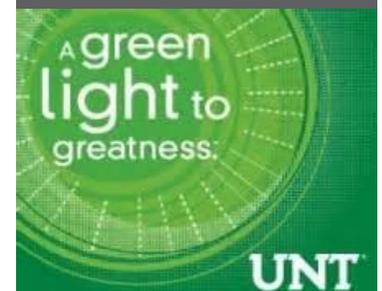
**Seçkin, G.** (2014). Health informatics and consumer perspective on health care professionals' responses to health information exchange. *Medicine 2.0 Proceedings of the World Congress on Social Media in Medicine, Health, and Biomedical Research*, 3(2)e4.

Strong, M. T., **Erma Lawson** (2014). From Boys to Men: Shifting Family Gender Ideologies among Black and White Adult Men, in S.L. Blair, J.H. McCormick (ed.) *Family and Health: Evolving Needs, Responsibilities, and Experiences (Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research, Volume 8B)*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, pp.271 - 296.

To read more about our faculty and students, please visit our **IMPROVED** website:

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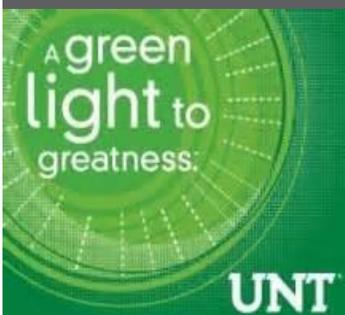
## FACULTY NEWS

### George Yancey Awarded Development Leave to Study Social Bias in the Media

For the fall of 2015, **Dr. George Yancey** has been awarded faculty developmental leave from the Office of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs. He will use this semester of leave to write a book about the social biases of media personnel. He will examine whether the alteration of key social characteristics (i.e. race, gender, religion) of the potential story alters willingness of reporters or editors in newspaper, online, and broadcast media, to publish the story. To collect his data, Dr. Yancey will use surveys that ask media personnel about 11 different news story scenarios, in which they can respond whether they think the story should be used 1) On the front page 2) In the front section but not front page 3) In the local section 4) A small news brief, but not a full story 5) Not used at all.

Faculty development leaves (FDL) at UNT are authorized for the general purpose of increasing the value of the recipient's sustained contribution to the university by providing the individual an opportunity for professional growth. Development leave may be granted, upon application, for study, research, writing, field observations, or other suitable purposes. Developmental leave provides opportunities for additional training and improving skills. To be eligible for FDL, a full-time faculty member or librarian must have served the University for at least six consecutive academic years following initial appointment or the most recent FDL, and not be in the terminal year of UNT employment.

To learn more about UNT FDL, [click here](#).



## FACULTY NEWS



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### Dale Yeatts Returns from Medical Leave & Presents at UNT International Sustainability Conference

**Dr. Dale Yeatts** was on medical leave during the Fall 2014 semester due to a diagnosis of lymphoma, or cancer within the lymph nodes. He is appreciative of all the emails, get-well cards, and prayers. He says his treatments have been working well, and as a result, the cancer is gone except for a spot on his spleen, which is getting smaller. Dale is looking forward to his return to teaching, research, and service in the spring 2015 semester. In fact, he presented on January 16 at UNT's International Community Sustainability and Professional Exchange Conference. His presentation focused on factors that affect the adoption of energy-efficient technologies. [Click here](#) for more information about the conference, which included presentations from UNT Sociology faculty member, **Nicole Dash**, and UNT Sociology graduate students, **Reza Amini** and **Ozgun Solakoglu**, and former UNT Sociology graduate students, Iftekhar Amin (Assistant Professor, UNT-Dallas) and Jesmin Syeda (Assistant Professor, UNT-Dallas). We are happy to welcome you back, Dr. Yeatts!

### Gabe Ignatow Contracted to Write Book on Text Mining

With co-author Rada Mihalcea, **Dr. Gabe Ignatow** has been contracted with Sage publications to write Text Mining and Analysis: An Advanced Introduction. In this book, Gabe emphasizes that social media sites generate massive volumes of natural language data that are available for research, yet are not being taken advantage of by social scientists. This book will provide a practical guide to text mining and analysis for both new and experienced researchers.

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## STUDENT NEWS

### PhD Candidate, Michael Niño, Accepts Tenure Track Position at Willamette University

**Michael Niño**, Sociology doctoral candidate and teaching fellow, accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Sociology at Willamette University. Willamette is a nationally ranked, highly selective private liberal arts university in Salem, Oregon. Founded in 1842, Willamette is the oldest college on the West Coast and has been nationally recognized for its civic engagement and sustainability efforts. Michael will join the Willamette faculty as an Assistant Professor of Sociology this fall and will be primarily responsible for teaching medical sociology, Latino/a sociology, and quantitative methods. Congratulations, Michael!

### Congratulations to Alex & Alex Bush on the Birth of their Baby Boy!

On January 6, 2015 at 7:25pm, Sociology gradate student **Alex Bush** and her husband, Alex, welcomed their new son, Holden Dean Bush, weighing 7lbs 1oz and measuring 19.75 inches. Mom and baby are doing well and are settling in at home. Alex plans to stop by the office in a few weeks to visit with Baby Holden. The Sociology Department is extremely happy for them and wishes their new family the best! Alex is a masters pass-through student in her 2nd year of the program. [Click here](#) to send Alex a congratulatory email.



## Fall Graduate, Swati Singh, Studies the Effect of Microfinance on the Social Standing of Women in India

In December, **Dr. Swati Singh** graduated from the Sociology Department after defending her dissertation, "Microcredit, Women, & Empowerment: Evidence from India." According to Swati, one of the stated goals of microfinance programs is to increase the bargaining power of women within the household. However, little is known about other ways women in patriarchal communities may be affected by these programs. Swati's dissertation sheds light on the effects of microfinance programs on the personal and social lives of Indian women participating in these programs. Local as well as national level impacts of microfinance programs on women member's social networks, access to public spaces, and their decision making at home are examined in three related studies. In January of 2014, Swati published a paper from her dissertation in *Gender, Place, & Culture*, entitled "The effects of microfinance programs on women members in traditional societies." She also has a paper currently in press, coauthored by Cynthia Cready, entitled "Microloans and Women's Freedom of Physical Mobility: Evidence from India." She will serve as an adjunct lecturer at Southern Methodist University for the spring 2015 semester, teaching Global Sociology. Congratulations, Swati!

## Graduate Student Council (GSC) Spring 2015 Calendar of Events

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is a diverse body of students representing the colleges and schools of the University of North Texas. The Council serves as an active voice for UNT graduate students, representing graduate concerns to the faculty, administration, and the state government.

**January 23rd—Graduate Student Welcome Back Happy Hour**  
*Public House on Fry Street, 5pm*

**February 1st—Super Bowl Party (Potluck & Family Friendly)**  
*Colorado Courts Apartments in Denton, 5pm*

**April 6-10th—Graduate Student Appreciation Week—** All week there will be free food and various activities for graduate students.

**April 8-10th—** GSC will travel to Austin to speak with state legislators about graduate student debt and other education policy. Join them in Austin!

**April 11th—Starry Night in the Square**  
*Denton Downtown Square, 7pm*

For more information on GSC or any of these events, contact Sociology PhD student, [Jacquie Cheun](#), or visit the [GSC website](#).

## Spring 2015 Travel Grant Deadlines

### College of Arts & Sciences Travel Support Grants

Up to \$500 available per student per academic year. Travel must occur between January 1, 2015 and May 31, 2015.

**Application Deadline:**  
**January 23, 2015**

### Toulouse Graduate School Travel Grants

Up to \$500 available per student per academic year. Students must attend three Graduate Professional Development workshops (may be done online).

**Application Deadline:**  
**February 1, 2015**

### SGA Raupe Travel Grants

Up to \$750 available per student per semester.

**Application Deadline:**  
**TBA**



## ATTENTION ALUMNI:

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

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## ALUMNI NEWS

### Recent Grad, Wheeler Pulliam, Uses Sociological Skills in the Private Sector

Recent Sociology graduate, **Dr. Wheeler Pulliam** currently serves as the Head of Sales for Osram Sylvania Lighting, the second largest lighting company in the world, headquartered in Munich, Germany. In his position, Wheeler leads a sales and product management staff charged with increasing revenue by driving product acceptance in the North and South American marketplace. Wheeler says his doctoral degree in sociology has helped him tremendously in his private sector job. Specifically, he mentions that "my scholastic focus on culture and organizational management has often times afforded me the ability to communicate quantifiably to executive management what variables both in the marketplace and internally affect company growth and success." In fact, based on disruptive technology theory, he recently conducted an ANOVA analysis to show what variables significantly affected company revenue growth, leading to a change in company sales policy. In addition, he believes that his PhD in sociology has helped him to be a better leader and mentor to his team. "By explaining matters empirically, my subordinates are able to see the bigger picture and "buy-in" to what we have to do. It is no longer just a matter of opinion."

Despite his non-academic position, Wheeler continues to work on sociological research. He has submitted a paper for publication recently on disruptive technology, and is also working on a papers that examines job satisfaction in South Korean companies and one that focuses on female discrimination in South Korean workplaces. In addition, he hopes to publish a book in the near future.

# The Eagle's Eye

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## SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT

**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.

### Consider Making a Donation

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.

