Find out more about the 46 students who completed a Sociology degree in Summer 2014. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication!

Research News
Check out the conferences that our students and faculty attended this summer and learn what they presented.

Faculty News
Learn about Dr. Gul Seckin, our newest faculty member. Also, see the grant projects in which Drs. Nicole Dash, Dale Yeatts, Cynthia Cready and Ami Moore are involved.

Student News
We have such talented students! Stories in this section recognize our graduate students who were appointed to the Graduate Student Council as well as those participating in UNT’s Graduate Student Research and Fellowship Support Program (GSRFSP).

Alumni News
Hear about Dr. Dana Dunn, UNT PhD Alumni, who has accepted a position as Provost and Vice Chancellor at UNC-Greensboro.

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.
26 Undergraduate and 21 Graduate Students Walk in August

The Department of Sociology continues to have one of the largest groups of graduates at UNT. On August 8-9, a total of 46 students graduated with a degree in Sociology, including 25 undergraduates and 21 graduate students. Of the graduate students, 17 completed a Master of Science, and 4 completed a Ph.D. in Sociology. The Ph.D. graduates include:

**Ali Can, Ph.D.**
Major Professor: Milan Zafirofski
Dissertation: The Effects of Social Structure on Social Movements in Turkey.

**Karen Kaiser, Ph.D.**
Major Professor: Cynthia Cready
Dissertation: Bundle of Joy: Pregnancy, Coping, and Depressive Symptoms in Adolescent Girls

**Lyndsay Nicole Patty, Ph.D.**
Major Professor: Ami Moore
Dissertation: Macro Level Predictors of Community Health Center HIV Testing Approach

**Wheeler Pulliam, Ph.D.**
Major Professor: Gabriel Ignatow
Dissertation: Negotiating Work-Life Balance within the Operational Culture of a Chaebol in the Southeastern United States

*Photo shown: Dr. Karen Claiborne Kaiser and family (husband Berry and children Garrett and Evelyn) (Photo by Dr. Cynthia Cready)*
Summer 2014 Graduation Continued...

The Master of Science graduates include:

Rachel Batya Aviner  
Shraga F. Bomzer  
Asher Friedman  
Aliza Ganz  
Jessica Greenbaum  
Miriam Herenstein  
Devorah Tova Hochstadter  
Warren David Lapidus  
Arona Pokroy  
Yitzchak Isaac Rubin  
Lisa Sanders  
Raphael Schondorf  
Heshy Shineweather  
Elaine N. Stahl  
Anatoly Alexander Tabachnik  
Naomi Tendler  
Dalia Esther Westbrook

The Bachelor of Arts graduates include:

Isabella Azziza Alhadjaboodi  
Lydia Chisha Andabo  
Shelby Elizabeth Beasley  
Brenna Milnar Block  
Andrew Derry  
John A. Doyle IV  
Tracy Lynn Drake  
Samuel Shawn Evans Sr.  
Carey Page Forbes  
Joseph Braley Hogue  
Sun Hye Kim  
Brittney LaMarre Lagunas  
Eric Michael Lee  
Kaitlynn Mang  
Dolline Men  
Isabel Mendoza  
Jonathan Cole DeHaven Miles  
Jacqueline Nicole Miller  
Jessica Roxana Murillo  
Mary Ryan  
Steven Reid Schadle  
Coleman Clay Spencer  
Bradley Surgoine  
Trevor James Swift  
Bethany Michelle Vose

FUN FACTS: DID YOU KNOW??

The Sociology Department at UNT is currently home to more than 300 undergraduate students, 50 graduate students, 14 faculty, plus many affiliated faculty from other departments and TWU.
Featured Scholarship

The Rodeheaver Scholarship for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) to pursue either a Master’s or Doctorate degree at the University of North Texas. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV), meet minimum entrance requirements to the Graduate School, maintain full-time enrollment at UNT, and preferably demonstrate academic interest in sociology (especially with an emphasis on Environmental Sociology and/or the Sociology of Development and Social Change), environmental-related sciences, community/international development, or any fields related to the environment or the community.

Dr. Dan Rodeheaver has worked for the UNT Sociology Department since Fall 1990 and currently serves as the Department Chair. He and his wife served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala on several development projects.

Now Access Important Graduate Student Forms on Sociology Department Website

For the past few semesters, the Sociology Department has been working to create a new and improved website that is more organized and helpful for current and perspective students. During the summer of 2014, a new section was created called “Current Graduate Students,” where many essential documents are now available, including degree plan forms, funding applications, and the new Graduate Student Handbook (forthcoming).

The Sociology Department website is a constant work-in-progress. Its administrators are always open to suggestions that will make it more user-friendly. Submit any comments/suggestions to Dan Rodeheaver or Nichola Driver.
Faculty & Students Participate in the 109th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association

UNT Sociology faculty and students recently attended the 109th annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in San Francisco, CA from August 16-19, 2014. The theme for this year’s meeting was “The Impact of Economic Inequality on Families & Individuals.” Participants included:

Huang, Chao Lun (Jacob). “Use of Health Care & Health Outcome among Elderly Asians in the U.S.”

Ignatow, Gabe. “Bourdieu’s Third Career as Theorist of the Digital.”


Johnson, Lindsey. “Socioeconomic Status & Prosperity Belief in Guatemala.”

Niño, Michael & Tianji Cai. “The Effects of Youth Social Withdrawal on Alcohol, Cigarette, and Illicit Drug Use” (photo above)


Solakoglu, Ozgur. “Fear of Crimes Affecting Elderly People in The Context of Different Cultures: A Case Study, Turkey” (photo above)

Thompson, Michael Franklin. “What is Your Impact? Probing Diversity in Protestors and their Expectations.” Dr. Thompson also served as an organizer for two sessions: Class Consciousness & Culture in Labor Mobilization and Labor Movements in Global, State and Local Contexts.
Faculty Attend International Sociological Association (ISA) Annual Meeting in Japan

Two UNT faculty members and one UNT PhD Alumnus attended the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014.

**Dr. Lisa Zottarelli** (UNT PhD Alumnus) presented the paper “Predicted and Observed Child Health Indicators in Haiti: Exploring the Impact of the 2010 Earthquake at National and Regional Levels” (co-authored with **Dr. Thankam Sunil** (also UNT PhD Alumnus). Dr. Zottarelli is Chair of the Department of History, Economics, Anthropology and Political Science at San Antonio College. Dr. Sunil is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute for Health Disparities Research at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

**Dr. Cynthia Cready** (Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in UNT’s Department of Sociology) also participated in the conference. She co-organized and co-chaired the “Family and Elder Care” paper session jointly sponsored by RC11 Research Committee on Sociology of Aging and RC06 Research Committee on Family Research. She also presented the paper “Physical Activity Programs Promoting Health, Families and Community among Elders: An Exploratory Study” (co-authored with Jean Seward and Shigeaki Meguro). She also caught up with Dr. Tianji Cai (former UNT Assistant Professor of Sociology) over lunch. He presented the paper “A Modeler’s Choices for Missing Not at Random Scenario,” which he co-authored with **Michael Niño**, UNT Sociology doctoral candidate. Dr. Cai is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Macau.

**Dr. Rudy Seward** (Sociology Professor Emeritus, photo above) served as Primary Programme Coordinator for ISA’s Committee on Family Research (RC06). In this position, he recruited organizers for 28 sessions, negotiated with other research committees to make 13 of these joint sessions, and supervised the RC06 program. Dr. Seward presented two papers “Fathers, welfare and gender,” coauthored with M. Rush, and “Impact of Long Distance Commuting on Israel and United States Couples’ Satisfaction: More Exploration” coauthored with J. Landesman.
Graduate Students Present at Annual Add Health Users Conference

Sociology Ph.D. students, Michael Niño and Nichola Driver attended and presented at the Annual Add Health Users Conference from June 25-27, 2014 in Bethesda, Maryland. The conference took place at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus. While there, Michael presented his study, titled "Social Withdrawal and Delinquency and Violent Behavior over the Life Course: A Network Perspective," which is co-authored with Drs. Tianji Cai (University of Macau) and Dan Rodeheaver (UNT Sociology). Nichola presented her study, titled "Acculturation in Context: Neighborhoods and Pro-pregnancy Attitudes among Immigrant Adolescents." Both Michael and Nichola were offered travel stipends from the UNC-Chapel Hill, the Add Health administrators, to attend.

Other Recent Faculty & Student Presentations & Publications


The Eagle’s Eye would like to welcome the newest UNT Sociology faculty member, Dr. Gul Seckin! Dr. Seckin joins us from Işik University in Istanbul, Turkey. Her research interests are mainly in the areas of health and technology. Dr. Seckin will be teaching two courses this Fall, including Sociology of Aging (SOC 4550) and Research Methods & Design (SOC 5200).

Drs. Dale Yeatts (UNT Sociology Professor) and Stan Ingman (UNT Applied Gerontology) worked with members of UNT’s engineering department to submit a one million dollar, four-year grant proposal to the National Science Foundation. The proposal, titled “Fuzzy Decision Framework for Wood Structure Multi-Hazard Resiliency and Sustainability,” focuses on the development of a decision framework for identifying the most resilient and sustainable building system design within a community. The framework would be used by communities that have experienced a disaster, such as flooding or earthquake, in order to select the best alternative among a variety of building system designs available to the community. Consideration of a community’s social and economic characteristics would be Drs. Yeatts’ and Ingman’s focus.

Principal Investigator Dr. Cynthia Cready (UNT Sociology Professor) and her team, Coordinator Dr. Katherine Dreyer (Associate Director, Partnerships for Strong Communities, UNT) and Graduate Research Assistant Cassie Hudson Castillo, were awarded $5,872 this summer by Symbria® to design an observational pilot study to examine the effect of type of packaging on the timeliness of oral medication preparation in the skilled nursing community setting.
Nicole Dash Awarded Grant to Study Disaster Preparedness of Native American Communities in the U.S.

Dr. Nicole Dash (UNT Sociology Professor & Associate Dean of PACS) has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation along with Principal Investigator, Dr. Gary Webb (UNT Public Administration). With this funding, Dr. Dash and Dr. Webb will measure disaster preparedness levels among Native American communities in the United States.

In addition to measuring preparedness levels, the study will also identify the major natural and technological hazards faced by Native American communities; explore and describe the structure of emergency management functions in those communities; and assess the challenges they face in their efforts to implement various disaster-related initiatives. With the frequency, severity, and financial costs of natural and technological disasters increasing, enhancing community resilience has become a national priority and preparedness is one mechanism through which local communities can strengthen their capacity to rebound from large-scale disasters. This project is transformative in its aim to reach a historically underrepresented group.

Ami Moore Continues Mentorship Program for Foreign-Born Female Academics

Dr. Ami Moore (UNT Sociology Professor), along with colleagues at UNT, has been awarded a $5,000 mentoring grant from UNT’s Faculty Success Program to continue mentorship of foreign-born, female academics. This past year, the interdisciplinary mentoring program used both personal and online interactions to create an opportunity for participants to deal with problems they are facing at UNT. In fact, the program succeeded in building a self-help forum for these women where they felt empowered to share experiences, exchange coping strategies and develop mentoring relationships between junior and senior female faculty.
Recent PhD Grad, Corrine Ong Receives Tenure-Track Position at Historical College in North Carolina

As of July 10, 2014, PhD graduate Corrine Ong accepted a tenure-track position of Assistant Professor of Sociology at Livingstone College in North Carolina. Livingstone College is a private, historically Black institution that opened its doors in 1879. Originally a college for ministers, Livingstone College currently offers excellent liberal arts and religious education programs for students from all ethnic backgrounds designed to develop their potential for leadership and service to a global community.

This spring, Corrine Ong completed her Ph.D. after a successful defense of her dissertation, "Energy Paths and Political Commitments: Their Role in Environmental Inequality." She completed this research under the mentorship of Dr. Daniel Rodeheaver. Drawing from her dissertation, Corrine’s paper "Choice of Energy Paths: Its Implications for Rural Energy Poverty in Less Developed Countries" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Society and Natural Resources*. This August, she presented a related piece at the American Sociological Association’s (ASA) annual meeting in a roundtable session on Environment and Technology.

Corrine was also recently awarded the Hiram Friedsam Outstanding Doctoral Student in Sociology award due to her impressive work as a graduate student. Congratulations, Corrine!

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. To make a donation, [click here](#).
The Graduate Student Council is the representative body for graduate students at UNT, which advocates on behalf of all graduate students while providing personal and professional development opportunities across all programs and departments. This year, Sociology graduate student Shae Jefferies will serve as the Graduate Senator representing the Sociology Department. Shae will vote on important issues regarding graduate students brought up in GSC Senate. Contact Shae with any ideas or issues you may have as a graduate student at UNT. Sociology graduate student, Alexandra Bush was recently appointed as the new Director of Outreach for the Graduate Student Council. She will support the Executive Board members of the GSC and focus on advocacy events important to graduate students. Contact Alex if you have questions about GSC events.

Two Sociology Graduate Students Appointed to UNT’s Graduate Student Council

The Graduate Student Council is the representative body for graduate students at UNT, which advocates on behalf of all graduate students while providing personal and professional development opportunities across all programs and departments. This year, Sociology graduate student Shae Jefferies will serve as the Graduate Senator representing the Sociology Department. Shae will vote on important issues regarding graduate students brought up in GSC Senate. Contact Shae with any ideas or issues you may have as a graduate student at UNT. Sociology graduate student, Alexandra Bush was recently appointed as the new Director of Outreach for the Graduate Student Council. She will support the Executive Board members of the GSC and focus on advocacy events important to graduate students. Contact Alex if you have questions about GSC events.

Two Sociology Graduate Students Awarded Research Fellowship Support

This year, Cassie Hudson and Shae Jefferies were selected to participate in the UNT Graduate Student Research and Fellowship Support Program (GSRFSP). The objective of the program is to increase the number and quality of extramural proposals in support of graduate research and study at UNT. A secondary objective is to improve the skills of UNT graduate students in preparing proposals for research grants and fellowships.

As part of their award, Cassie and Shae will receive proposal-writing training and participate in a cross-disciplinary cohort of students. They will also receive guidance and advice from a team of experts at UNT who will assist them in successfully preparing proposals for submission to funding agencies. They will also receive a $500 stipend once they submit their proposal. Congratulations, ladies! To learn more about the GSRFSP, click here.
**Students Participate in a New and Stronger GSTEP This Fall**

This fall, 10 Sociology graduate students will begin the Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Program (GSTEP). This program prepares graduate students for teaching roles in higher education by equipping them with teaching skills, knowledge about teaching strategies, and peer support.

This year, the GSTEP program has gone through some extensive redesign. Students now complete the program in “stages,” beginning their training at Stage 1: Introduction to Teaching. They may then choose to progress to a more advanced/intensive training if it suits their needs and goals. In the more advanced stages, participants engage in more in-depth training modules on various teaching topics, micro-teaching exercises in which they both receive and provide feedback with peers/other GSTEP participants, teaching practicum experiences in classrooms with distinguished teaching faculty on campus, and developing their own teaching strategies to incorporate in the classroom.

At the most advanced stage of the program, participants also develop teaching portfolios and a statement of teaching philosophy, which helps prepare them to enter the academic job market. Each stage occurs over the course of a semester. Upon completion of the program, students will receive a letter of recommendation for future faculty interviews.

Some features that remain after the redesign are the opportunity to connect in a community of practice with other graduate students who share a passion for teaching and the ability to tailor training on teaching topics that are especially interesting or pertinent to the participant. The deadline to apply for Fall 2014 is August 29, but Spring applications are also available.

**Participants include:** Alex Bush, Cassie Castillo, Christy Cooksey, Nichola Driver, Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou, Susan Hughes, Shae Jefferies, Myrna Papadouka, Ethan Wells, & Dimitrios Zaras.

**Fall 2014 AKD & Sociology Club Events**

**September 19th—Graduate School Forum** Learn about the graduate application process and graduate school experiences from admission officers, graduate students, and professors.

**October 17th—CV Workshop** Learn how to write a CV for college applications or bring your current one in for updates and edits.

**November 7th—Application Workshop** Get advice on your personal statement and grad school application from current graduate students.

**November 21st—Social Event** Join us for some fun and relaxation before finals. Snacks provided.
Alumni Spotlight: Dana Dunn Named Provost at UNC-Greensboro

UNT Sociology Alumnae, Dr. Dana Dunn was recently named Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In this role, she will serve as chief academic officer with responsibility for curriculum and program development, the advancement of teaching, and the support of research and other scholarly and creative work in the academic community. She also will be responsible for the integration of academic affairs, student affairs, and research and economic development functions in support of the university’s mission.

Dunn will be joining UNCG from The University of Texas at Arlington, where she has held a series of progressively responsible academic leadership and faculty roles over the past 27 years. She led academic affairs for eight years, holding the title vice president prior to being named provost. She also has served as special adviser to the president and special adviser to the provost.

During her tenure at UT-Arlington, she played a key role in the university’s strategic planning efforts. As provost, she led the growth of the university’s research efforts through the development of new research centers and the formation of interdisciplinary research collaborations across academic units.

Dana received her B.A. in sociology and M.A. in political economy from The University of Texas at Dallas and her Ph.D. in sociology from UNT in 1987.

Where Are They Now? Shikha Batra Accepts Lecturer Position at Texas Christian University

Recent PhD graduate, Dr. Shikha Batra has accepted a lecturer position at Texas Christian University (TCU) for the 2014-2015 academic school year. She previously worked as an adjunct professor for TCU in the Sociology Department before being offered the position of lecturer. Shikha received her PhD in Sociology from UNT in Fall 2013.
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.