Find out more about the students who completed a Sociology degree in Spring 2015. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication!

Check out the conferences that our students and faculty attended so far this year and learn what they presented.

Learn about the new faculty additions to the Sociology Department: Drs. Susan Eve and Mark Wardell.

We have such talented students! Stories in this section recognize our undergraduate and graduate students, including our recent job placements!

Where are they now? Learn about the recent activities of our impressive alumni in their academic, non-profit, and private sector careers.

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.
75 Students Earn Sociology Degrees at Spring and Summer Graduations

At the Spring 2015 graduation in May, a total of 46 students walked with a degree in Sociology, including 4 PhDs, 3 Masters, 39 Bachelors. In August, the Sociology department graduated an additional 29 students, 4 with PhDs and 25 with Bachelors degrees.

Ph.D. graduates included:

Lindsey A. Huang, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Gabriel Ignatow

Penny Joe Magness, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Milan Zafirovsky

Michael David Niño, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Gabe Ignatow

Anthony Jaime Soto, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Gabe Ignatow

Reza Amini, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Stan Ingman

Chao-Lun (Jacob) Huang, Ph.D.
Major Professor: Stan Ingman

Ozgur Solakoglu, Ph.D.
Major Professor: James Swan

Konstantinos Zougris, Ph.D.
Major Professors: Gabe Ignatow & Nicholas Evangelopoulos

Masters graduates included:

Benjamin L. Butler, M.S.
Jenna W. Denning, M.S.
Elizabeth A. Gabhart, M.S.
Dimitrios Zaras, M.S.
Competing with upper classmen and students from across UNT campus, freshman honors student, Gretchen Clark, won second place at the 12th Annual University Scholars Day on April 16, 2015. Gretchen wrote the paper in her Sociology Honors Course taught by Dr. Helen Potts.

The purpose of Scholars Day is to celebrate the work of undergraduate researchers at UNT. Undergraduate students are invited to submit abstracts for a poster or paper based on original research or creative work conducted under the guidance of a faculty mentor at UNT during the past year. Gretchen’s paper examined influence of the bourgeoisie on the interactions of self-expression of the proletariat by analyzing bumper stickers. She conducted her own survey among 202 undergraduate students at UNT during the fall of 2014. Gretchen was awarded a financial prize to be used for travel to a professional meeting. Congratulations, Gretchen!

Many other students from the Sociology Capstone course and the Sociology Honors course presented their research at this event, including:

- Carmen Stewart
- Gerren Odum
- Myia Burns
- Lindsey Fortner
- Lauren Haze
- JoyAnna Gatlin
- Jasmine Bell
- Marlen Cazares
- Deborah Fessenden
- Christina Gai
- Kristina Agee
- Terry Ewell
- Kristin Garnett
- Mark Hackman
- Jazmine McGill
- Maria Coco
Faculty & Students Participate in the 95th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association

In early April, Sociology students and faculty members presented research at the 95th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association in Denver, Colorado. The theme this year was “Latinos and the Change of a Nation: Implications for the Social Sciences.” The Sociology Department provides travel funding for many of its graduate students to attend regional and national conferences. Below are the names of those who participated in the conference this year:

Mehmet Celebi
Maria Coco
Cynthia Cready
Nichola Driver
Deborah Fessenden
Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou
William Kilgore

Michael Niño
Emre Ozer
Myrna Papadouka
Michael Thompson
George Yancey
Dimitrios Zaras
Konstantinos Zougris

Spring 2016 Courses Offered

Undergraduate:

- Intro to Sociology
- Social Problems
- Race/Class/Gender
- Sociology of Sport
- Race & Ethnicity
- Marriage & Family
- Soc of Mental Health
- Health & Illness
- Sociological Theory
- Quantitative Data Collect.
- Qualitative Data Collect.
- Quantitative Data Anal.
- Research Methods
- Collective Behavior
- Social Stratification
- Sociology of Religion
- Sociology of Work
- Gender & Society
- Developing Societies
- Environmental Soc
- Community Orgs
- Racial & Ethnic Minorities
- Immigration & Race
- Sociology of Mass Comm
- Sociology Capstone

Graduate:

- Contemporary Theory
- Health & Illness
- Political Sociology
- Development/Social Change
- Race & Ethnicity
- Population & Society

Photo Above: Graduate student Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou; Left: Graduate student Cassie Hudson; Right: Graduate Student, Liz Gabhart (Photo Credit: Michael Thompson)
Graduate Students Present at UNT Graduate Exhibition

This year, two Sociology graduate students participated in the UNT Graduate Exhibition. At this event, they had the opportunity to explain portions of their thesis and dissertation to judges of their peers from other academic disciplines. The Graduate Exhibition celebrates research in all its aspects as an essential and exciting part of graduate education at UNT. It places special emphasis on communicating research and creative endeavor to a general audience, offering an unusual opportunity for professional development by challenging graduate students to present their work in clear, comprehensible terms to people outside their fields.

Sociology doctoral candidate, Maria Eirini Papadouka (photo above) and graduate student, Cassie Hudson (right) presented portions of their dissertation/thesis.

Cynthia Cready Funded to Explore the Effects of Oral Medication Packaging

Cynthia Cready (Associate Professor) and her research team were recently awarded $8K from Symbria® to examine the effect of packaging on the timeliness of oral medication preparation in the skilled nursing community setting. Principal Investigator Cready is working on the project with Project Coordinator Katherine Dreyer (Associate Director, Partnerships for Strong Communities) and Graduate Research Assistant Cassie Hudson (Sociology doctoral student).
Faculty & Students Present at the 110th Annual Meeting of the ASA

In August, UNT Sociology faculty and students presented at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The theme for this year’s program was “Sexualities in the Social World.” Below are the papers presented:


“Correlates of Single Versus Multiple Disabilities in the U.S.: Does World Region of Birth Matter?” **Ami R. Moore** & Foster Kwaku Amey (Middle Tennessee State University)


“Acculturation in Context: The Relationship between Neighborhoods, Acculturation, and Condom Use in U.S. Adolescents.” **Nichola Driver, Cynthia Cready, Michael Niño, & Dan Rodeheaver**.

**Cynthia Cready Invited to Speak in China**

**Cynthia Cready** (Associate Professor) was invited to present on her research with **Dale Yeatts** (Professor) and other colleagues at Shandong Yingcai University in Jinan, Shandong, China in June. Her talk titled “Empowering Workers in the Long-term Care Setting: Strategies and Effects” was attended by over 100 faculty members and students. In the photo above, she poses for a selfie while sightseeing in Jinan, China with her translator Ms. Yufeng (Shirley) Wang the day after her talk.
Other Recent Presentations & Publications


Faculty Return to the Sociology Department

Dr. Susan Eve, Professor & Director of Sociology Graduate Programs

Susan Eve is returning to the Department of Sociology in Summer 2015. Dr. Eve began her career at UNT in 1977. In addition to Sociology, she has held appointments in the Department of Applied Gerontology, the UNT School of Public Health, and the Honors College. Throughout her career, her major research interest has been in equity in access to healthcare in the United States, and she published an edited book on the Canadian healthcare system in 1995. Recently, she has become interested in life course development of young people transitioning to adulthood, and is planning to develop a research project using the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. This summer, Dr. Eve taught SOCI 4250: Gender and Society. In the fall, she is teaching SOCI 3260: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods and SOCI 3280: Quantitative Data Analysis – her all-time favorite undergraduate courses to teach. Beginning in Fall 2015, she will also take over the position of Director of Sociology Graduate Programs, as Cynthia Cready steps down.

Dr. Mark Wardell, Professor

Mark Wardell will also be returning to the Sociology Department to begin teaching in the Spring of 2016. Dr. Wardell has served as the Dean or Associate Dean of three prestigious graduate schools, including UNT’s Toulouse Graduate School and those of Wayne State and Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Wardell graduated from the University of Missouri—Columbia.
Helen Potts Promoted to Senior Lecturer

Sociology faculty member Helen Potts has been promoted to Senior Lecturer, effective September 1st. Helen also currently serves as Advisor for Undergraduate Studies. Congratulations, Helen!

Department Welcomes Visiting Scholar, Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn From Rutgers University

Born in Poland, Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn is currently an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Rutgers University—Camden Campus. He will be visiting the UNT Sociology Department throughout the fall 2015 semesters. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2008. His research has covered a variety of topics, including income inequality, consumption, preferences for redistribution, urban and rural issues, cultural economics, values, religion, and happiness. His work on happiness has recently been featured in numerous popular media outlets, such as The Guardian, Huffington Post, and Psychology Today. Welcome, Adam!

George Yancey Welcomes a Baby Boy!

On April 14, 2015, Sociology faculty member George Yancey and his wife, Andromeda welcomed baby Leo into their family. The Sociology faculty, students, and staff would like to say congratulations and wish you and your family the best of days to come!
This year, the Sociology Department said goodbye to a very talented cohort of doctoral students. Four years ago, these students came from all over the world, bringing with them a great deal of enthusiasm for the field of sociology as well as unique and exceptional backgrounds. During their time in the doctoral program, they each worked hard, forming relationships, teaching courses, and contributing to their areas with quality research. After four long years of study, this cohort will now embark on their new and exciting career paths, including tenure-track research and teaching positions as well as government work. We are excited to see what this talented group will do next!
Recent Graduate Student Placements

Doctoral graduate Michael Niño accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

Doctoral graduate Konstantinos Zougris accepted a tenure-track position at Hawai‘i University—West Oahu.

Doctoral graduate Anthony Soto will continue in his position as Senior Program Analyst in the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Doctoral graduate Özgür Solakoğlu will continue his career with the Turkish Armed Forces as a new Professor at the Turkish War College.

Doctoral graduate Jacob Huang accepted a teaching position at Fresno Pacific University in the Department of Sociology.

Masters graduate Dimitrios Zaras was accepted into the Sociology doctoral program at Emory University. He will begin his Ph.D. studies with full funding in Fall 2015.

Doctoral graduate Lindsey Huang accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Fresno Pacific University in Fresno, California.
PhD candidate Nichola Driver was awarded the Toulouse Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation Fellowship (TDF), making her 1 in 6 at UNT to receive the award this year. The TDF supports outstanding master’s or doctoral students who have achieved candidacy and are in the last year of their thesis or dissertation.

Two representatives from UNT Sociology were elected to the Southwestern Sociological Association Executive Council this year. Recent PhD graduate Michael Niño was elected to a two-year term and graduate student Cassie Hudson was elected as a one-year student representative.

PhD student Giselle Greenidge (photo above) participated in the 6th Annual Federation Graduate Research Symposium on April 10. She presented a poster on “The Impact of Luxury Brand Attributes on Caribbean and African American Consumers.” Giselle presented a similar paper this June at the 2015 Global Fashion Management Conference in Florence, Italy where she won the award for “Best Conference Paper.” Congratulations, Giselle!

Michael Niño received the Hiram J. Friedsman Award for the Most Outstanding Doctoral Student, Cassie Hudson received the Rudy Ray Seward Award for Most Outstanding Masters Student. Frederick Allen Byers received the Leonard G. Benson Award for Most Outstanding Undergraduate Student.

Graduate student Cassie Hudson was awarded an honorable mention in the 2015 Nicholas and Anan Ricco Ethics Award. The goal of this competition was to provoke intellectual conversations across the institution with the intent of achieving higher levels of comprehension of ethics incrementally and over time.
This semester, Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society inducted 7 new members at the end of year party at The Labb in downtown Denton. AKD is sociology’s international honor society that seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to the improvement in the human condition. Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students who meet the organization’s minimum academic achievement standards. President of AKD, Alex Bush (above, second from left), inducted the following students at the ceremony (in order of photo above):

Maria Michelle Coco
Jacque Cheun
Nichola Driver
Giselle Greenidge
Myrna Papadouka
Shelby Williams
Dimitrios Zaras

Jessica Gullion, Assistant Professor in Sociology at Texas Women’s University, gave a thought-provoking speech at the ceremony on the importance of public sociology. The ceremony was presided over by Michael Thompson (above, far left), UNT Sociology faculty member, and attended by both students and faculty alike. Guests enjoyed drinks and appetizers and an exciting game of giant Jenga. It was a great way to end the semester and kick off the summer session.

(Photo right: Michael Thompson, Sociology Faculty & Lilly Ramen, UNT Instructional Tech. Librarian)
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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UNT Sociology Alumni Impress in Academia and Private Sectors

Doctoral alumna Dana Dunn (photo above) was recently named acting Chancellor of the University of North Carolina—Greensboro. For the past year, she has served as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at UNC, where she was responsible for curriculum and program development, the advancement of teaching, and the support of research and other scholarly and creative work in the academic community. Dana graduated from the UNT Sociology Doctoral Program in 1987.

Recently, doctoral alumna Jennifer Cutrer retired as Vice President of Public Affairs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. For over 15 years, she supervised a staff of 12 dealing with the hospital’s corporate communications and legislative affairs. Jennifer received her PhD from the UNT Sociology Department in 1997.

Doctoral alumnus Stan Weeber was recently promoted to full Professor of Sociology at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Stan began as an Assistant Professor at McNeese in 2000, the same year he earned his PhD from the UNT Sociology Department. In 2010, Stan received a Certificate in Social Justice Studies from the Oxford Roundtable at Oxford University. He has published and edited over 21 books as countless articles in the areas of political sociology, collective behavior, and sociology of technology.
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.