



The Department of Sociology Newsletter

JUNE 2020

From our Department Head:

Dear Friends of the OSU Sociology Department:



What an interesting year this has been! I'm excited to share with you the events that have occurred during the 2019-2020 academic year. We have a lot of changes in store for our department!

Regents Professor and former Department Head Dr. Duane Gill retired this year after fourteen years at OSU. Dr. Liesel Ritchie will leave us in July for a new position at Virginia Tech. We are grateful to Drs. Gill and Ritchie for their diligent service and will miss them as colleagues and friends. Please join us in wishing them well on their next adventures!

Ms. Laken Pruitt, a MS graduate, of our program joined us in January as Sociology's new academic advisor. Dr.

Jared Fitzgerald, an environmental sociologist who recently completed his PhD at Boston University will be joining our faculty this summer. Welcome Ms. Pruitt and Dr. Fitzgerald!

Starting in Fall 2020, our Minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice and Minor in Social Justice will be available as options for students. These changes reflect a series of upcoming curricular revisions for the Sociology Department intended to meet the needs of current and future students. Both minors are rooted in studies of inequality, offering an opportunity for students to understand social issues within the contexts of class, gender, sexuality, and race/ethnicity. The department will be partnering with OSU PD to offer "Partnership Building Bridges: Applied Approaches to Community Policing," an integrative addition to our Criminology and Criminal Justice course offerings.

As many of you know, we quite quickly went online in Spring 2020 due to concerns regarding COVID 19. Our faculty, instructors, and students rose to this unprecedented challenge. We're in the process of figuring out how to best move forward, and as we do so are learning more about how to create engaging online and face to face classes and experiences with the new dynamics that may be required.

We were particularly sad that we didn't have the opportunity to say a fond farewell in person to our graduates this year. I posted my thoughts to our social media accounts on May 9 of graduation weekend, opening with, "This is Oklahoma State University's graduation weekend. Gallagher Iba stands quiet this year."

I closed with this note to our graduates: "In this topsy-turvy place we are in right now, I feel like I don't know all that much. I do know this. You are ready. Ready to take on the unknown and uncertain. Ready to use the tools gained during the time here at OSU to succeed. Ready to take on (and change) the world. I look forward to the days when we can gather together again to celebrate your success. Until then, know that there are so many people who believe in you."

These are challenging times. We continue to be proud of our undergraduate and graduate students as they use the skills gained in our program to pursue careers in Sociology and a wide range of related occupations. As OSU Sociology looks forward to the next academic year, I welcome alumni to be in touch to tell us about your experiences, accomplishments, and life transitions. It is always a pleasure to hear from you! Feel free to visit our website at <https://sociology.okstate.edu/> or visit us on social media.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Tamara L. Mix

Tamara L. Mix, PhD
Dresser Professor and Department Head of Sociology

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Meet our N E W Staff



The Department of Sociology welcomes **Laken Pruitt** as our new Undergraduate Academic Advisor. Ms. Pruitt earned her M.S. in Sociology from Oklahoma State University in 2015, and her B.A. in Sociology and Psychology (Cum Laude) in 2013 from Concord University. Her research interests include: Inequalities, Social Psychology, Gender, Race, and Poverty.

Laken joined the Department in January, and within her first 3 months with The Department of Sociology she has been working to get to know our undergraduate students, as well as learning the ropes here on campus as a Staff Member and advising within the College of Arts and Sciences. Beginning mid March, almost the entire university went remote, and since then Laken has been flexible in working with our undergraduate students to advise them through online sources, or other remote means, as well as flexible hours to work with schedules students have from home. Laken's outside interests include reading, gardening, and spending time with her children.

Laken is excited for her future with Oklahoma State and the Sociology Department, and is dedicated to helping and encouraging all students if they have any questions or concerns regarding future academic plans, course selection, or even enrollment.



The Department of Sociology welcomes **Sarah Lyon** as our new Administrative Support Specialist. She joined the Department last July, and has been busy updating the department webpage and developing our presence on social media accounts such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Sarah is a former OSU student, in which she attended as an Architecture major. She is extremely passionate about Oklahoma State University and it's uplifting community. While a student, she participated in many student

organizations, including Paddle People, and The Rowdy. She has plans to continue her degree with a major in Marketing or Strategic Communications in hopes to continue to work with the public and Social Media.

Lucy Schmitz, Dr. Rachel Schmitz, and Pete's Pet Posse



Here at Oklahoma State University, we strive to prioritize research, which is why we love that research shows that dogs can improve your health in a variety of ways, from mental and emotional health to physical benefits!

Pete's Pet Posse, also known as P3, is Oklahoma State's group of pet therapy teams consisting of at least 37 different dogs across OSU campuses. More than 60 teams have participated since the program began in Fall 2013. From therapy sessions to special events and appearances, P3 has helped reach over 60,000 student, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of OSU. The Department of Sociology is lucky to have a very popular P3 team with us, **Lucy Schmitz and Dr. Rachel Schmitz!**

Lucy and Dr. Schmitz belong to the 7th graduating class of Pete's Pet Posse, and Lucy continues to play an important role in

our Department of Sociology community. Moreover, in support of OSU's continued efforts towards health, the pair regularly attend events various student events, recruitment opportunities, and training sessions across the Stillwater campus.

Earlier in the Spring 2020 semester, the "First Cowgirl," Ann Hargis, paid a visit to the Department of Sociology to see Lucy in action. Ann Hargis is known for being a founding member and driving force of Pete's Pet Posse through a cooperative effort of many offices at OSU. In just a few years, Ann's passion for the health of the OSU community has been expounded upon by the various time and efforts of therapy teams across OSU's community.



Dr. Schmitz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, and some of her current research involves working with LGBTQ+ young people experiencing homelessness to understand their perspectives on the role of companion animals in their lives within the context of their mental health. In addition to research, Dr. Schmitz is highly committed to teaching socially and culturally diverse groups of students, as well as pursuing research and publication collaborations with underrepresented students, such as students of color and LGBTQ+ students.

Faculty Presentations

Dr. Jonathan Coley, Assistant Professor of Sociology, had the honor of giving the *Alpha Kappa Delta* Distinguished Lecture at Virginia Commonwealth University last February. The talk was focused on Dr. Coley’s book, *Gay on God’s Campus: Mobilizing for LGBT Equality at Christian Colleges and Universities*, which won the



2018 Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award from the Mid-South Sociological Association. The book

examines how and why student activists mobilize for greater inclusion at Christian colleges and universities, and how these students “apply their skills and values after graduation in subsequent political campaigns, careers, and family lives.”



Other Faculty Presentations

Dr. Andrew Cameron-Fullerton and Dr. Michael Long

“Insecurity and Reflexivity?” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Duane Gill

“Scoping in Social Impact Assessment: The Gitga’at First Nation Example.” Presented at the International Summer School on Grounded Theory, University of Pisa, Italy.

“Natural, Technological, & Natech Disaster Research: Toward a Convergence of Perspectives.” Presented at the annual conference of the Disaster and Development Society; New Points of Departure in Transitioning Disaster Reduction and Sustainability Challenges, Northumbria

Dr. Duane Gill and Dr. Liesel Ritchie

An Overview of Social Science Research on Community Impacts of Marine Oil Spills. Presented at the Preparing for Oil Spills in the Eastern Gulf Workshop, May 6, Mobile, AL.

Dr. Michael Long

Long, Michael A. “Holiday Clubs as Community Organizations.” IV Summer School on Grounded Theory and Qualitative Methods, University of Pisa, Italy.

Dr. Bin Liang

“Legal Treatment of Foreign Drug Offenders who Face Capital Punishment in China”, public lecture given at East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore.

“Study Chinese Public Opinion on Capital Punishment in a Challenging Environment”, two guest lectures given at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Maca.

Dr. Rachel Schmitz

“Strength of Spirit: Native LGBTQ2S+ Young Adults and Conceptions of Trauma.” Presented at the International Gender and Sexuality Studies Conference. Edmond, OK.

Dr. Heather McLaughlin

“Gender Equality and the Shifting Gap in Female-to-Male Incarceration Rates.” Co-presented with Sarah S. Shannon at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting.

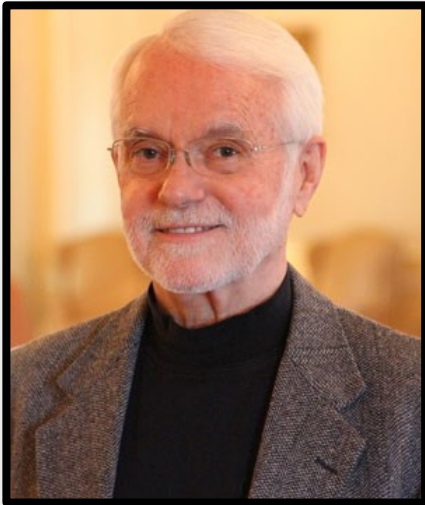
Dr. Corinne Schwarz

“Bodies and Student that Matter: The Politics of Critical Embodiment in the WGSS Classroom,” Co-presented with Sam Kendrick at the National Women’s Studies Association Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Kelley Sittner and Michelle Estes

“Criminal Arrest and the Early Life Course of North American Indigenous Youth.” Presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Professor Emeritus Awards



The Department of Sociology had a very active year for it's Emeriti Faculty! **Dr. Riley Dunlap** was recognized on the Web of Science list of Highly Cited Researchers 2019.

Researchers are selected for their exceptional influence in one or more of 21 fields (those used in Essential Science Indicators,1 or ESI). These esteemed scholars published papers between 2008 and 2018 that ranked in the top 1% by citations for their ESI field and year (the definition of a highly cited paper). 6,216 researchers

were named Highly Cited Researchers in 2019 – 3,725 in specific fields and 2,491 for cross-field performance. Dr. Dunlap was recognized in the “Social Sciences, General” category.

Dr. Dunlap commented on this great achievement saying, “It's really cool, and is based on citations to my publications from 2008 to 2019--many with Aaron [McCright] (who also made the list)... There's only 204 of us around the world, and I don't see ANY other US sociologists on the list. This was indeed a very productive period for me, and the work on climate change denial and polarization in particular I published (with Aaron and some others) really got a lot of attention and continues to do so.”

The Department of Sociology would also like to share that over October 24th-26th 2019, the Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) held its 2019 conference in Jackson, Mississippi. At the conference, our Professor Emeritus, **Dr. David Knottnerus** was honored with the 2019 MSSA Distinguished Career Award! Dr. Knottnerus was honored for his exemplary achievements in Sociology and for the contributions to the MSSA.

Dr. Knottnerus joined the Department of Sociology in 1988, and retired in 2014 after 26 years at OSU. The award was formally presented at the conference by Dr. Jason Ulsperger, Ph.D. graduate from Oklahoma State University, now Professor of Sociology at Arkansas Tech University, and 2018-2019 President of the MSSA. His full speech can be read at our website, under the news article regarding Dr. Knottnerus' award. An excerpt from it reads: "I was about to start work on my Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University in the fall of 1999. All of the teaching assistants had to come in a couple of weeks early and meet with Dr. Ed Arquitt in the Classroom Building – at that time home to the Sociology Department. Everyone was discussing assignments, and I overheard comments about a professor named Knottnerus.”



Faculty



Dr. Jared Fitzgerald will be joining the Department of Sociology faculty at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester with future courses focused on Environmental Sociology. Dr. Fitzgerald received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston College this last spring, his M.S. in Sociology from the University of Utah, and his B.A. in History with a minor in Sociology from Boise State University (Magna Cum Laude).

Dr. Fitzgerald's research interests include: Environmental Sociology, Political Economy, Comparative International Sociology, Sociology of Education, Quantitative Methods, and Global Inequality.

Welcome Dr. Fitzgerald!



Dr. Michael Long has achieved promotion to Professor here at Oklahoma State University! Dr. Long also took on the role as Graduate Program Director beginning this Spring. Dr. Long had been with the Department of Sociology from 2010-2014 before returning in 2018. His research focuses on green criminology, more specifically in the political economy of green crimes and the relationship between green and state-corporate crime.



Dr. Liesel Ritchie was also promoted to the rank of Professor! Dr. Ritchie has been with OSU since 2018, and is the Associate Director of the *Center for the Study of Disasters and Extreme Events*. Sadly, Dr. Ritchie has accepted a position as Professor at Virginia Tech! We are incredibly thankful for her research and service to the department and students, and we wish her luck in her new position!



Dr. Monica Whitham

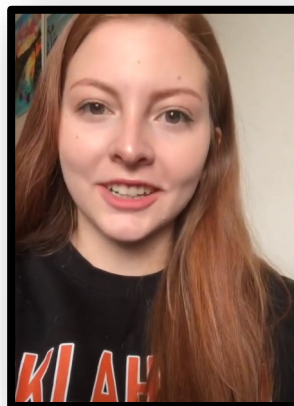
achieved tenure and promotion to Associate Professor here at Oklahoma State University! Dr. Whitham received her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona before joining the Department of Sociology in 2014. She specializes in social psychology, urban and community sociology, and social networks. Broadly, her work examines processes through which social actors form, maintain, and utilize social connections in order to achieve individual and collective goals. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and been published in top sociology journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *City & Community*.

Transitions



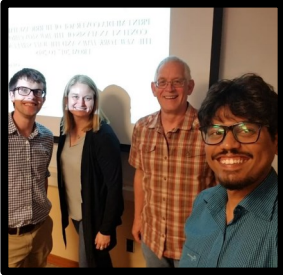
Dr. Duane Gill, Professor of Sociology, begins his retirement from Oklahoma State University this summer after a long and distinguished career as Professor and many years serving as our department head. Dr. Gill earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from Texas A&M University and joined our Department in 2009. His teaching and research expertise are in Environmental Sociology, specifically environmental disasters. Faculty members of The Department of Sociology agree that Dr. Gill is an incredibly “supportive and hardworking department head and leader,” “a kind and generous colleague and mentor,” and “an innovative and creative teacher and researcher.”

Best Wishes, Dr. Gill!



Graduate students, faculty, and friends of the Department of Sociology joined to create a video dedicated to Dr. Gill to recognize his many contributions as a faculty member and former department head, as well as to celebrate his retirement. The video was compiled by Sociology graduate student, Maggie Chamberlain.

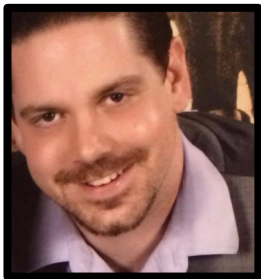
2019 Graduate Degree Recipients: Where are they now?



Asger Ali successfully defended his thesis, “Print Media Coverage of Hurricane Harvey: A Content Analysis of the Houston Chronicle, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* from 2017-2018.” Asger is currently a Ph.D. student in Earth and Atmospheric Science at Mississippi State University. Asger’s current dissertation proposal plans to analyze the relationship between vulnerability, crisis communication, and COVID-19. Asger’s future includes working as a Research Assistant under Dr. Kathy Sherman-Morris. Recently, they received a grant from the National Gulf Institute (NGI) to examine tornado warning communication.



Dr. Kevin Johnson successfully defended his dissertation, “Twisters in Two Cities: Structural Ritualization Theory and Disasters.” He’s pictured here with his committee members, Duane Gill (chair), Monica Whitham, and David Knottnerus. Currently, Dr. Johnson is an Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology. He teaches introductory sociology courses, as well as upper division environmental sociology courses. We are very lucky to have Dr. Johnson continue his work here at Oklahoma State.



Jesse Lane successfully defended his M.S. thesis in 2019! Jesse is continuing his graduate career here at OSU in our Department of Sociology’s Ph.D. program. Jesse’s primary research is currently focused on two areas. First, the Sociology of Science with an emphasis on how groups understand science and why they see it that way. Secondly, the Sociology of the Internet with regards to social movements’ utilization of the internet as well as identity issues involved in online use.



Dr. Grisha Rawal successfully defended her dissertation, “Tourism stakeholder identity, values, and environmental concern: Understanding pro-environmental behaviors in Mount Everest base camp region.” She is pictured here with her committee members, Drs. Andrew Cameron-Fullerton, Tamara Mix, Monica Whitham, and Rebecca Sheehan.



Dr. Julie Schweitzer successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in 2019! Here she is pictured celebrating with her advisor, Dr. Tamara Mix, as well as the rest of her dissertation committee, Drs. Duane Gill and Erica Townsend-Bell.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



Research Week 2020: Sociologists share their knowledge



Research Week at Oklahoma State University is a very important time for our departmental community. The Sociological Graduate Student Organization (SGSA) invites guest speakers from around the world to share their insights and expertise. Moreover, graduate students present their own research on sociological topics they are passionate about, ranging from stories of Oklahoma educators involved in the nationwide Teacher’s Walkout to the impact of the television show *Queer Eye* on the LGBTQ+ community to a discussion of bitcoin as a social movement. We thank Ph.D. student, Martha Sibley, who did a tremendous job organizing this year’s event.

Dr. Margaret Kovach delivered the keynote address, titled “The Foundations and Practice of Indigenous Research Methodologies.” Dr. Kovach is a Professor at the College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. She is the author of *Indigenous Methodologies: Characteristics, Conversations and Contexts*, and is internationally recognized as a leading expert on the topic. Dr. Kovach also publishes research on Indigenous post-secondary education and is a member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada.



Faculty member, Dr. Duane Gill invited long-time peer and friend, **Dr. Anthony Ladd** to visit and lecture on “Understanding Climate Change Through a Sociology Lens”. Dr. Ladd is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and a former Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology and the Environmental Studies Program at Loyola University New Orleans.

Dr. Ladd’s research centers on the impacts of energy-driven environmental controversies and technological disasters on communities. He is the author/editor of *Fractured Communities: Risk, Impacts, and Protest Against Hydraulic Fracking in U.S. Shale Regions* (2018) and has published over 50 articles, chapters, and reviews.



OSU Sociology Graduate Students



Ph.D. graduate student **Jericho McElroy** was selected to be Managing Editor for *The Sociology Quarterly* (TSQ). TSQ publishes cutting-edge research and theory in all areas of sociological inquiry and is the journal of the Midwest Sociological Society. In last year's newsletter, we announced TSQ would be run by our team of three faculty members: Drs. Andrew Cameron-Fullerton, Mike Long, and Jonathan Coley.

Jericho's research generally focuses on crime and deviance and social inequality with interests that include social, economic, and political dynamics of gun legislation and gun culture, inequality in the criminal justice system, and college students' substance misuse. He has published articles in *Punishment & Society* and *The Qualitative Report*.

In Fall 2019, **Srijana Karki** was awarded a "Distinguished Graduate Fellowship" for the 2019-2020 academic year. This award is given by the Oklahoma State University Foundation and coordinated by the Graduate College. It provides scholarly recognition and financial support to some of the nation's top graduate



school applicants. Students are able to look to Oklahoma State University as an institution which not only provides excellent instruction, but also offers competitive financial assistance. Top students like Srijana add to Oklahoma State University's ability to be counted among the nation's top research institutions by significantly contributing to important research projects.

Srijana is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology. She completed her M.S. in our department in 2016, her M.A. in Development Studies from Annamalai University in India in 2013, and her B.A. in Development Studies in 2009 from Kathmandu University, located in Nepal. Some of her interest areas are gender, education, and qualitative methods, as well as the applied dimensions of sociology.



Graduate Student Presentations

Recent Presentations (July 2019–Present)

Leah Cortez	"'Queer Eye' for Which Guy?: An Analysis of Queer Eye's Impact on the Queer Community Over Time." **
Michelle Estes	"Making the Invisible Visible: An Intersectional Analysis of Women in Black Lives Matter." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY. "Criminal Arrest and the Early Life Course of North American Indigenous Youth" (with Kelley J. Sittner). Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. New York, NY.
Belal Hossain	"Social Inequality and Hypertension Prevalence in the Context of Groundwater Salinity in Coastal Bangladesh." **
Srijana Karki	"A Yam between Two Rocks: Media Coverage of the 2015 Gorkha (Nepal) Earthquake." ** "Menstrual Taboos and Social Norms in an Urban Center" (with Tamara L. Mix). Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York City, NY. "Menstrual Taboos Beyond the Household: A Qualitative Study Conducted in Kathmandu Nepal" (with Tamara L. Mix). The Society for Menstrual Cycle Research Conference, Colorado Springs, CO.
Jesse Lane	"Considering Bitcoin as a Social Movement: Involvement, Knowledge, and Investment as Motivations." **
Jericho McElroy	"Mobilization and Shooting Sports Programs at U.S. Colleges and Universities." ** "The Ties that Bind? Religious Involvement, Commitment to Friends, and Underage Drinking" (with Sean Huss, James E. Stobaugh, and Jason S. Ulsperger). 45th Annual Mid-South Sociological Association Conference, Jackson, MS.
Jessica Schachle	"'I Think That's the Norma Rae in Me': Teachers' Perceived Success of the 2018 Oklahoma Teacher Walkout." **
Dhruba Sinha	"Framing the Collective 'We' and the Antagonistic 'Other' through Metacontrast: Intragroup Homogenization and Intergroup Polarization in the Case of the Hindu Nationalist Movement" (with Monica Whitham). American Sociological Association
Martha Sibley	"A Queer and Liberal Feminist Perspective on Environmental Attitudes." **
Adam Straub	"'Natural Disasters Don't Kill People, Governments Kill People': Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico, Recreancy, and Risk Society." **
Christine Thomas	"The Intergenerational Transmission of Context in Indian Country." **

** indicates presentations given at the 2020 Sociology Graduate Student Symposium during OSU's

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Fellowships and Awards



Maggie Chamberlain	2018-19. BAF Fellow, William Averette Anderson Fund
Leah Cortez	2019. O.D. Duncan Outstanding Graduate Student Award, OSU Department of Sociology
Jamie Du	2019. Sarah Belusko Award, OSU Department of Sociology
Michelle Estes	2019. Richard Dodder Award, OSU Department of Sociology
Srijana Karki	2019. OSU Foundation Distinguished Graduate Fellowship.
Jericho McElroy	2019. Sarah Belusko Award, OSU Department of Sociology

Recent Publications (July 2019–Present)

Belal Hossain	Hossain, Md Belal and Angela G. Mertig. 2020. "Socio-Structural Forces Predicting Global Water Footprint: Socio-Hydrology and Ecologically Unequal Exchange." <i>Hydrological Sciences Journal</i> .
Srijana Karki	Karki, Srijana and Tamara L. Mix. Forthcoming. "My Family are Supportive...But People in My Village Mock Me": Bonding and Bridging Capital among Women Pursuing Secondary Education in Kathmandu, Nepal." <i>Sociological Perspectives</i> .
Maggie Leon-Corwin (Chamberlain)	Campbell, Nnenia, Maggie Leon-Corwin, Liesel A. Ritchie, and Jamie Vickery. 2020. "Human-Induced Seismicity: Risk Perceptions in the State of Oklahoma." <i>The Extractive Industries and Society</i> .
Maggie Leon-Corwin (Chamberlain), Jericho McElroy, Michelle Estes, and Jon Lewis	Leon-Corwin, Maggie, Jericho McElroy, Michelle L. Estes, Jon Lewis, and Michael A. Long. 2020. "Polluting our Prisons? An Examination of the Relationship between Oklahoma Prison Locations and Toxic Releases, 2011-2017." <i>Punishment & Society</i> .
Destinee McCollum	Fullerton, Andrew S., Destinee B. McCollum, Jeffrey C. Dixon and Kathryn Freeman Anderson. Forthcoming. "Job Insecurity Inequality and the Relationship between Precarious Work and Self-Rated Health in Europe." <i>The Sociological Quarterly</i> . Dixon, Jeffrey C., Destinee B. McCollum, and Andrew S. Fullerton. 2018. "Who is a Part-Time Worker around the World and Why Does It Matter? Examining the Quality of Employment Measures and Workers' Perceived Job Quality." <i>Sociological Spectrum</i> .
Jericho McElroy	McElroy, Jericho R. Forthcoming. "Autoeroticism." <i>Encyclopedia of Sex and Sexuality: Understanding Biology, Psychology, and Culture</i> , edited by H. Armstrong. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
Adam Straub	Gray, Benjamin J., Michael A. Long, Duane A. Gill, Riley E. Dunlap, and Adam M. Straub. "Politics, Climate Change, and Earthquakes: Public Perceptions of Oil and Gas Impacts in Oklahoma." <i>Energy Research & Social Sciences</i> . Straub, Adam M., Benjamin J. Gray, Liesel A. Ritchie, and Duane A. Gill. 2020. "Cultivating Disaster Resilience in Rural Oklahoma: Community Disenfranchisement and Relational Aspects of Social Capital." <i>Journal of Rural Studies</i> .

SGA and Sociology

The Student Government Association, or SGA, is the highest governing student organization on Oklahoma State's campus. SGA is known for determining how funds are distributed to student groups, supporting students on campus, and organizing events important to the positive development on campus.



Over the 2019 academic year, the SGA Vice President was Kristen Ball, an Undergraduate Environmental Sociology major with minors in History and Geography. Kristen ran as Student Body Vice President with Presidential running mate, Kaitlyn Kirksey. In a podcast by Inside OSU Kaitlyn recalls receiving a phone call from Kristen asking and encouraging Kaitlyn to run for President and her as Vice President. Their campaign encouraged diversity, financial stability, food insecurity, mental health, sexual assault awareness, and transparency among many other things. Some of the many things that were put into place while the ladies were in office include: Pop up pantries, individual recycling bins in various on campus housing, and beginning the most recent process to change the name of Murray Hall.

The following year, Kristen and Kaitlyn have inspired two new undergraduates to run for the same positions - Daniel Hernandez and Haley Macha. Daniel and Haley are both Undergraduates majoring in Applied Sociology with an emphasis in Law, Crime, and Social Justice. Their majors are the same, with slightly different career paths, but they both have the same idea in mind, Unity. "United as One" was the slogan of their campaign. On social media, the word "UNITED" broken down to "Understanding" "Now" "Ideas" "Together" "Empathy" and "Dedication" is displayed in their bio, but what does that mean to Daniel? He briefly talked about how envisions campus being about equal for opportunity, as well as inclusive and developmental for all. Unified, as one might say. He knows that some smaller clubs and organizations have struggles with getting on their feet, both financially and with attendance. However, Daniel wants to find a way to offer the same opportunity for those clubs and organizations with less members and financial opportunity.



During their campaign, Daniel and Haley both made it a priority to attend events for clubs and organizations to find out what students are saying. Daniel stated that he's made it a priority to reach out to groups like Afro AM, ASL Club, NASA, OSQNA, RHA, and so many others that students are enjoy, but aren't as well advertised. They both were very passionate about this campaign being about the voices of the student body, instead of their own.

Haley also talked about her concerns about students struggling with mental health concerns, and praised the University Counseling Services for all they do. She knows now, whether you're looking for mentoring, tutoring, counseling, or just a group of friends to eat lunch with, you can probably find it at Oklahoma State. But Haley is set on helping students become more aware and more engaged with those resources to help them better succeed.

After the SGA election, Daniel and Haley came in 2nd place, under now SGA President Jaden Kasitz and Vice President Luke Muller. Regardless of the outcome, Daniel was confident that he ran a campaign based off the student body's voice. As a Sociology Major, Daniel knows he's always loved to talk to others and been a people person, but the courses he's taken in Sociology have taught him to "understand the importance of reaching out to different groups and people" that aren't like him.



Alpha Kappa Delta Inductees



United Chapters of Alpha Kappa Delta

International Sociology Honor Society

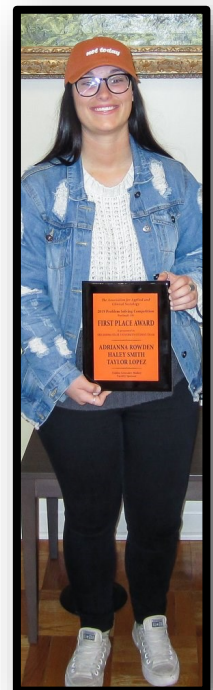
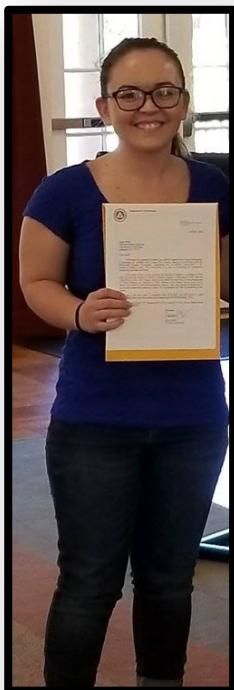
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"To investigate humanity for the purpose of service."

Six graduate and undergraduate students were inducted into the international sociology honors society, *Alpha Kappa Delta*, in the 2019-2020 academic year. Founded in 1920, AKD promotes excellence in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities that improve the human condition. AKD now has over 130,000 lifetime members affiliated with more than 670 chapters. The Oklahoma State University chapter, *Gamma of Oklahoma*, was founded in 1969. Eligible students must hold an overall GPA of 3.3 or higher.

Congratulations to our newest AKD members:

Summer Graham, Belal Hossain, Adrianna Rowden,

Christopher Sweeney, Leigh Welch



The 2020 AKD Induction Ceremony was cancelled due to COVID-19, but two of our newest AKD members, Leigh Welch (left) and Adrianna Rowden (right), are pictured here receiving other awards.

Undergraduate Student Awards

Normally, our department would have held a ceremony in front of their friends, family, and peers dedicated to our undergraduates. However, due to recent circumstances, we ask that you join us in congratulating them here, and in person very soon.

O.D. Duncan Award

Lexie Taylor

Richard Dodder Award

Haleigh Trevino

Mabel Dixon Looper Award

Leigh Welch

Benjamin Gregory Wood Award

Beverly Schooling

**Outstanding Senior
Award**

Chloe Cavins



**Pictured above, two of our Undergraduate Award winners!
Pictured on the right is Chloe Cavins, and on the left, Lexie Taylor.**

Client Problem Solving Competition Winners!

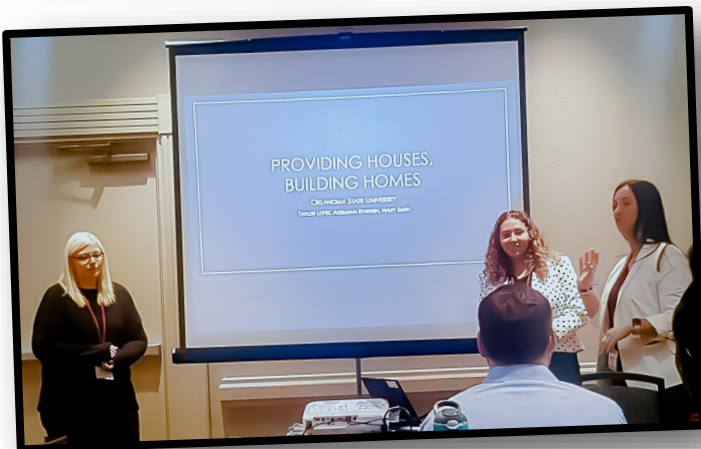


A group of three undergraduate Sociology majors—Taylor Lopez, Adrianna Rowden, and Haley Smith—and their amazing sponsor, Dahlia Molloy, traveled to the annual meeting of the Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACCS) conference in Portland, Oregon over Oklahoma State’s homecoming weekend to compete at the 2019 Client Problem Competition. Dahlia has mentored and traveled with students each year since 2014. In the past, the OSU team have received Honorable mention (in 2014), and tied for 1st place (in 2015). **This year, our Oklahoma State University team took home the 1st place prize!**

On Day 1 of the conference, a representative of a local agency (chosen by AACCS) presents a problem that teams must solve using sociological ideas. Although not having any idea what the issue is beforehand is challenging, Taylor Lopez was excited to “rise up to the challenge.” Teammate Haley

Smith added that this year’s focus, “how race is related to systematic inequities in housing for the homeless...wasn’t an issue we thought we could solve in just a weekend.”

Students attend AACCS sessions and speak with sociologists and practitioners throughout the conference. Using their teamwork and time management skills, teams have just 15 minutes on the last day of the conference to present their solutions. The agency chooses the team that best applies social sciences to the agency’s needs.



The Client Problem Solving Competition also allows participating students to network with the next generation of practicing social scientists. Adrianna Rowden noted that “the other competitors were very nice and supportive, so it was fun to be able to connect with other sociology students from across the country.” Our students were very grateful for the opportunity to represent OSU so far from home.

Their sponsor, Dahlia Molloy was very proud of the students for using their “sociological insights, skills, theory and methodology to solve a real life problem for a social services agency, and they [did] it in 2 days!”



Pictured above left to right is Taylor Lopez, Dahlia Molloy, Adrianna Rowden, and Haley Smith at the 2019 Client Problem Solving Competition in Portland, Oregon.

Our Condolences

The Department of Sociology would like to share our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Dr. Patricia Bell. Our former Department of Sociology Professor and Chair passed away on March 9, 2020.



Dr. Patricia Ann Bell was Professor Emeritus in the Department of Sociology after nearly three decades of service. She joined the OSU Sociology faculty in 1981 after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to her doctoral training, she earned both her B.A. degrees in Mathematics and Sociology (1970 and 1972) and M.S. degree in Sociology (1974) from Oklahoma State University.

In 1994, Dr. Bell made history as the first African American head of an academic department at OSU. She was head of the Department of Sociology from 1994 to 2000 and then again from 2005 to 2009.

Dr. Bell's areas of expertise included social research design, sociology of law, and social demography. She conducted research and published in the areas of labor force participation, migration, social mobility, census coverage, the Tulsa Race

Riot of 1921, and undercount of the African American population, among other topics. She co-chaired the committee that established the "D" (Diversity) designated course, which was implemented in 2008 as a course requirement on every OSU undergraduate degree sheet. She also co-authored the proposal to charter the OSU Black Alumni Association (now the Black Alumni Society). Dr. Bell presented research findings in international meetings around the globe, and taught classes on the topics of world population problems and immigrant and ethnic minorities. She received a Fulbright Award to travel in Israel and Jordan, and taught in Central America. She was inducted into the OSU Diversity Hall of Fame in October 2018.

Dr. Bell will be greatly missed by our sociological community.

Dr. Bell was remembered by her peers as someone who was always looking to strengthen the Sociology department and was devoted to progress at Oklahoma State University.



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