



Signs & Symbols

Fall 2020 • VOLUME 20

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Notes from the chair

Dr. Joan Brehm, department chair and professor of sociology

I am deeply honored to have spent the past year serving as chair for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The support and confidence of my fellow colleagues and



peers in the department are truly a gift and one that I deeply appreciate. I am very excited to continue to support our strong tradition of excellence and innovation in this department as we excel in helping our students learn and grow through the highest quality of inspirational scholarship, mentoring, and engaged learning. This

past year has brought many amazing opportunities, successes, and challenges but none quite as prominent as the one we are currently facing—the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. I am not sure any of us can honestly say we were prepared for this, but I can say that we have all risen to the challenges in truly remarkable ways.

COVID-19 may be a virus that affects individuals, but it also has profound social consequences. As sociologists and anthropologists, we know all too well that the most socially and economically vulnerable are likely to experience the impacts of this pandemic in the most unequal and often debilitating ways. Disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic frequently bring greater harm to those who are marginalized the most. The global nature of this pandemic also vividly illustrates how interconnected the world has become while simultaneously creating a radical disruption of health care, economic, and social systems at the localized level.

The pandemic may be one of our most significant trials as an institution of higher education, but it is most certainly not the only one. The other challenge is the continuation and, in more recent moments, the escalation of rampant institutional and structural racial and social injustices, particularly those inflicted on Black communi-

ties. These issues and injustices are not new, but they are no less significant today than they have been in the past. In many ways, they seem to be accelerating in the current state of our society and we have an obligation to act and to engage our students in these actions and discussions going forward.

Despite these multi-faceted difficulties, these ensuing social and economic disruptions present fertile ground for ideas that were once on the fringes to be reconsidered as possible solutions. We have a unique opportunity in this time and space to engage with our students and each other in critical discussions about how we can change the social and ecological fabric of our society for the better, and most notably for the better of those who have been marginalized and disregarded for far too long. These are issues that we as sociologists and anthropologists are primely poised to address. Although we all want to return to “normal,” perhaps now is the time to question how we define that normal and how we can shape that definition to more directly benefit those who have been long left out of those systems.

These are also the issues that our students care about and will be grappling with in life after ISU, and we have an opportunity to equip them with the vital skills and insights that they will need to successfully create change and build a better future. In response to this, our faculty has seized this opportunity for engaged/experiential learning, infusing their fall 2020 courses with various aspects of the current social issues. For example, Dr. Abigail Stone even created an entirely new course—[Pandemics, Plagues, and People](#)—that explores the human condition through disease. Despite all the challenges, these are also exceptionally exciting times for our disciplines and our students as we embrace these times as opportunities to do better.

We hear “we are all in this together” a lot, and I have said it myself, but it is also critical to remember that we are most certainly not all in the same boat. Some may be in boats that are more or less seaworthy than your own, some may find stay-at-home to be optimal while others find it to be an emotional and psychological challenge, and some are much closer to the devastating effects of this virus than others. We also need to acknowledge that institutional and structural racism are real, and that in

part due to privilege, we do not share the same experiences with these challenges. We are in the same storm, and with the engaged actions, support, and compassion of our fellow humans, we can all come through this a little kinder, a little gentler, and in a place where every person has the social, economic, and political power to thrive.

Our faculty, staff, and students have risen to these challenges from the first moments and continue to do so, as you will see in the following pages. There is much to be proud of in our department as we continue to grow and thrive at Illinois State University and beyond, even in the face of an unprecedented pandemic and significant social injustice. There are so many accomplishments to celebrate among students, staff, and faculty and reasons to have hope for the future and hope that can lead to a more collective worldview, both economically and socially. I hope you enjoy reading about these and join me in congratulating everyone in our department on the multitude of outstanding accomplishments and milestones.

Special welcome

We are excited to welcome a new sociologist, Dr. Intan Suwandi, who started in August, to our department. Suwandi graduated with a Ph.D. in sociology from



Dr. Intan Suwandi,
new assistant professor
of sociology.

Oregon State University in 2017. Her areas of expertise include political economy, globalization, value chains, inequality, labor, Marx, and gender. She is also the co-recipient of the Sweezy Award of the Marxist Section of the American Sociological Association this year for her book *Value Chains: The New Economic Imperialism* (Monthly Review Press, 2019).

Program notes

Student recognition and award ceremony

The department's 20th-annual student awards ceremony and luncheon was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we still have much to celebrate. Our students continued to work hard and deserve much recognition for that. A special article was written up to honor their accomplishments and can be found [here](#).



Undergraduate advising news

By Ryan Gray, assistant to the chair

Well, the past academic year has certainly been interesting around the Sociology and Anthropology advising office. The spring semester was disrupted with the COVID-19 virus, causing ISU to move operations online. This included advising, which was a first for me, as I've been used to advising face-to-face for the last 20 years.



Ryan Gray, undergraduate
advisor.

However, it's opened the door to better utilizing technology that's available to enhance the advising experience for everyone.

During the past year, the curriculum for the sociology major has been revised to allow more flexibility for students as is seen in the following article below. We've also piloted and experimental SOC 300 experience incorporating an internship.

Instead of doing a research-based project, students in Dr. Thomas Burr's senior seminar completed an internship concurrently with the seminar. This allowed them to reflect on the applied sociology that was taking place in their internship. We'll be doing it again during the spring of 2021.

Our department's work with Career Services continues both in the 292: Careers For Sociology Majors course and with several department events. These events and workshops allow students to interact with employers and alumni to work on their professional skills and honing their resumes, interview skills, and building their network. During the past semester, many of the events were moved to a virtual format, which will also likely be the case for this fall semester. If you are interested in coming back as an alumnus in Sociology and Anthropology—either in-person or through Zoom—to share your professional experiences in the careers class, please contact me. It's extremely valuable for current students to hear from successful and happy alumni.

Check out our department [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages, which you also find at soa.IllinoisState.edu. Please stay in touch and let us know what you are doing, we would love to share your story. If you'd like to be featured on our webpage highlighting what you are doing, please contact me. Drop by and visit us anytime if you come back to campus.

Sociology-Anthropology Donor Roll: January 1–December 31, 2019

Anonymous

Wallace and April Anderson

Tyrie Baltimore

Robert and Kirsten Bishir

Marlene and Charles Black

Christina Boehle and Brian Fuller

Adam and Karen Brady

Joan Brehm

William and Phyllis Brown

Marc and Jennifer Bulandr

Lee Bullwinkel and Barbara Devignier

Karlene and Charles Cappell

Anne and Thomas Carr

Michaeline and Anthony Chulick

James Copeland

Maxine Cordell-Brunton and Scott Brunton

Deborah Craig

Deborah and Robert Dirks

Michael and Susan Dorsch

Sharon Draper

Rhonda Dugan

David and Anne Eaton

Alexis Econie

Mark Esarey

Brittani Evans

Janet Fildes

Patricia and Ronald Fogle

Rita Frerichs

Deanna Glosser

Michael and Rose Hanley

Justin Hauge

Thomas and Ann Hayner

John and Mary Heckler

Theodore and Jean Henning

Russell and Jeanette Hicks

Wendel and Elvria Hunigan

Thomas Hunter

R. Douglas and Janice Irvine

Deborah Jackson-Crawford

Dennis and Janice Johnson

Allen Jones and Bernetta Demay-Jones

Karl Kappus

Klauer Foundation Trust

James and Nancy Klauer

Robert Klauer

William Klauer

Sabrina Lawrence

Erica Lockett

Wayne and Nancy Lucas

Victorine and Howard Mahoney

Sharon McDonald

Emma Meyer

Alice Morrissey

Tera and Jon Muller

Donna and Martin Nickels

Myrtle Powe

Bob and Stacy Ramsey

Richard and Barbara Reiland

Douglas and Mary Roley

Tina and Michael Rowe

Mike and Maggie Santinavat

Timothy and Laura Saterfield

William Specht

Susan Sprecher and Charles Fisher

Shailer and Sheralyn Thomas

William Tolone

Nicole Truong and Jason Keller

David Wagner

Richard Walle

Linda* Waters

Robert Wazienski and Kathleen McKinney

Michelle White

Michael and Terri Wiant

Elizabeth Wickes and Michael Feltes

Sarah Wille

William Wonderlin and Linda Shuster

Kathy Yelton

* deceased



The 2019 fall retreat was held in Davis Lodge at Lake Bloomington.

The sociology undergraduate program gets a facelift

By Joan Brehm and Trish Gudeman

This past year was one of modification for the sociology program. Changes in the enrollment data for both the University and the sociology program made it clear that the department needed to make some updates to adapt to the changing needs of the students. At the start of the school year, Dr. Joan Brehm organized a department retreat, facilitated by Deborah Halperin and held at the Davis Lodge on Lake Bloomington. There were discussions and break-out sessions to brainstorm ideas for cre-

ating a strategic plan* for the department as a whole and programmatic group discussions to address changes and smaller adjustments to the curriculum for both sociology and anthropology.

After a very successful retreat, the sociologists created a committee, led by undergraduate advisor Tom Gerschick, which met regularly during the school year to address the goals that had been generated.

Some highlights of the new program in sociology are as follows:

- A reduction of hours required for sociology majors from 43 to 40.
- 21 hours of sociology electives.
- The elimination of the anthropology class requirement.
- “C” average in all classes (2.0) to graduate with a sociology major.
- Sociology 206: Sociological Inquiry was changed to Sociology 200: Doing Sociology in effort to make sociology more applicable to life and to engage the students in active learning, including interviews, surveys, etc.
- Sociology 300: Senior Experience added variations that are more tailored to student’s needs. Classes will offer a greater diversity of learning modalities, including individual or group-based learning, com-

munity and service learning, and the continuation of the more traditional research options (including both qualitative and quantitative options).



A break-out session during the fall retreat.

Regarding Senior Experience, Dr. Thomas Burr piloted an internship-based research class, which has proven to be successful despite the challenges faced with the pandemic shut down. Dr. Christopher Wellin had already begun implementing service-based learning last year teaching SOC 300 and expanded on that to include civic engagement. Dr. Maria Schmeekle used her group learning project to study the needs and perspectives of sociology students to help inform further curricular and program development activities in the future.

Some of these changes already began implementation in January 2020 with the remainder of the changes taking



*The department's new strategic plan for 2020-2025 was developed as a result of department collaboration this past year. The design was created by students in the Design Streak Studio and complements our new marketing materials, which have also been designed by that talented group of students.

effect with the fall 2020 cohort. This increased flexibility is key to meeting the students where they are and empowering them with relevant and transferable skills for a diverse workplace in a global society. We are excited to see the program continue to grow and evolve and are grateful to the committed faculty who invest so much of their time and energy into the success of our students.

Anthropology undergraduate program news

By Dr. Liv Stone, associate professor of anthropology and undergraduate program coordinator

Our anthropology program is not unusual in facing significant challenges in the new environment dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but as usual we are working to (gladly) teach and learn as much as we can about the social, cultural, and political contexts and consequences of the pandemic. As Dr. Brehm mentioned, Dr. Abigail Stone is teaching a new course titled Plagues, Pandemics, and People about how disease has impacted the course of human history and biology and how the current pandemic is likely to alter humanity culturally and biologically. The course is being offered for the first time in fall 2020.



Dr. Liv Stone

As an anthropologist who studies social movements and social change, I have been heartened by the widespread protests all around the country denouncing police violence and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. These protests and the widening popular support for them demonstrate the power that we all have to make an impact on our world. Since its birth at the beginning of the last century, American cultural anthropology has been deeply concerned with issues of systematic oppression and inequality and is uniquely equipped to explore, analyze, and contribute to our national conversations about policing and racial inequality. This also means you, reader, as a member of our extended anthropological family! I encourage readers to explore the [list of resources](#) compiled by the Association of Political and Legal Anthropologists, many of which are free online, as well as the open access series of essays about the Black Lives Matter movement published by the journal *Cultural Anthropology* in 2015 entitled “#BlackLivesMatter: Anti-Black Racism, Police Violence, and Resistance.” The Society for Historical Archaeology has also put together a [website](#) dedicated to anti-racist archaeology and documenting the lives of historic Black Americans. I also encourage you to even go back into our history as a discipline and as a nation to read the works of Zora Neale Hurston, *Mules and Men* (1935) and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), a Black woman and accomplished scholar and author who was one of the first generation of cultural anthropologists in the U.S.

This last year at ISU, grants were established for undergraduate research. Two anthropology students, Kelly Kennedy and Anastasia Ervin, were awarded grants for their research. Kennedy's research is under the mentorship of Abigail Stone and is entitled “Radiogenic Strontium Location Analysis of Elk Remains from Noble-Wieting.” Under Stone's guidance she did an isotopic analysis of

materials excavated from Dr. Logan Miller's field school at Noble-Wieting. The analysis was done in Dr. Stan Ambrose's laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ervin's research is under the mentorship of Dr. Katie Sampeck and is entitled "Waste Not: Urban Waterscapes in Central Illinois." It investigates how the establishment of the Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District, the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District, and the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District affected urban development. Ervin combined independent archival research of the histories of the neighborhoods—including census surveys, family records, and plant records—with GIS analysis of the geographic setting, construction episodes, and resources to evaluate not just land usage, but also how the imposition of institutions and services on the land execute power and impact the lives of people there. Her work was featured on [University News](#).

In 2019 we welcomed biological anthropologist Dr. Shelby Putt to the ISU family. She is an excellent addition to our program. We continue to make adjustments to our major and minor requirements to allow students flexibility in their course requirements to specialize in their interests while retaining a broad base of knowledge grounded in the four-field empirical anthropological tradition. As a result, our program is stronger than ever. As of summer 2020, we have 75 undergraduate majors and 40 minors. This is nine more majors and seven more minors than we had this time last year. Seventeen anthropology majors graduated in spring 2020, and 12 of them were Lambda Alpha members, the anthropology honor's society. Congratulations class of 2020!

Sociology graduate program news and updates

By Dr. Michael L. Dougherty, professor of sociology

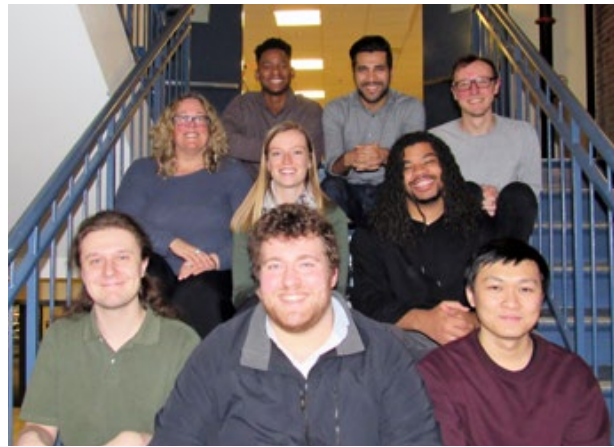
The 2019-2020 academic year was a weird one, given the sudden transition to online learning that took place after spring break. We are very grateful to the professors who quickly moved their courses online and the students



Dr. Mike Dougherty, sociology graduate programs coordinator

who persevered despite significant challenges. As I write, it's not clear whether we'll be back in person in the fall of 2020, but regardless, we'll have a strong and resilient group of grad students and mentors.

We had a robust incoming cohort this year, which consisted of 10 students—eight that began in fall of 2019, and two that began in spring 2020. Three of our first-year students were ISU sociology undergraduate students as well, and a fourth came to us from the undergraduate program in Spanish at ISU. Others hail from Beloit College, SUNY-Cortland,



The 2019-2020 sociology graduate cohort, from bottom left, Luke Ploessl, Conrad Fredricksen, Chia-Hang Hsu, Melissa Quimby, Molly Ricci, Kian Gaines, LaVance Walker, Jalal Fetрати, Erik Carlson (not pictured: Billy Perkins).

Loyola Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Eastern Illinois University, the University of Tehran (Iran), and Soochow University (Taiwan). These first-year students are all doing well working through their classes and forming their thesis topics and committees.

Our second year Stevenson Center students are doing well in their professional placements. Isabella Green is working at the Housing Assistance Council in Washington, D.C., and Hannah Gdalman is working at the Financial Health Network in Chicago.

Announcements that require exclamation points!

Our annual graduate student awards were competitive this year indeed! The ASA/ISU Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student Award was co-won by Isabella Green and Rebecca Forsythe, both of whom are finishing up very exciting thesis projects. Our Charter Excellence Award was won by Erik Carlson, a first-year Stevenson Center student and returned Peace Corps volunteer from Albania. Congratulations to all three of you! The department nominated Forsythe for the Three-Minute Thesis competition, in which she performed very well. Her exciting thesis about grocery cooperatives and inclusiveness was brilliant and timely before COVID-19 broke our grocery supply chains. It's even more so now.

Several students were in the process of preparing research presentations for annual conferences as well as the University Research Symposium when COVID-19 upended all of our travel and group gathering plans. Jalal Fetрати was on the program at the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Forsythe was on the program for the Midwest Sociological Society's conference. Hannah Gdalman presented at the Illinois Sociological Association meetings and was on the program for the Chicago Ethnography Conference, and Green published and edited a number of short pieces as part of her work with the Housing Assistance Council.

Incoming students

I am very excited about the cohort of incoming master's students that begin in August 2020. We have five confirmed incoming students as of this writing. Three of these are Stevenson Center students and two are academic sociology students. We are waiting on the final word from two more academic sociology students. This incoming cohort comes to us from ISU, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, the University of Michigan, California Polytechnic, and Eastern Illinois University.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me with ideas or resources for our graduate students and alumni. And continue to spread the word about the high quality and well-funded master's degrees in sociology at ISU to any interested individuals. Contact me at mdoughe@IllinoisState.edu for brochures and other promotional material. Thanks in advance!

Anthropology graduate program

By Gina Hunter, associate professor of anthropology, and Trish Gudeman

It has been another year of outstanding graduate students and we expect seven new students for the fall 2020 semester from a very competitive group of applicants.

There was a bit of traveling and research this last year. Last fall, Abby Ma and Maria Kitchin presented in November at the AAA in Vancouver. Ma also took an



Dr. Gina Hunter,
anthropology graduate
program coordinator

internship with the Grameen Bank in China just before COVID-19 hit Wuhan, but she was not able to return to campus. Luckily, she is from China and she returned to her family home after her internship where she completed her thesis and defended via Zoom. Several other students were traveling for

study abroad courses when the virus hit the U.S. Luckily, they were able to return home safely: Triston Brown was in Barbados, and Orsi Ficsor was in Costa Rica. Kitchin participated in the service-learning trip with the Sustainability Office to Mississippi.

Our GAs and TAs had to adapt to online learning and faculty would have been at a loss without their help. Student John Corona, through his GAship with the Office of Student Research, was instrumental in launching the inaugural [Image of Research Competition](#).

Our graduate students participated in several internships this last year: Andrew Bartolone had an internship with the State Farm archives and is helping with their big anniversary exhibit; Denavious Hoover had an internship with the Immigration Project; and Kitchin had a summer internship with Cook Farms. Our ACED students were able to do their internships remotely.



The fall 2019 Anthropology Graduate Student Cohort; Front row, from left, Gwendolyn Allen, Genesis Buendia; Middle row, from left, Ethan Davis, Jose Molina, Jack White, Triston Brown, Maria Kitchin, Zach Fabos; Back row, from left, Colum Coleman, John Corona.

We have had several Ph.D. acceptances as well. Congratulations to Katharine Woollen, who will be going to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; to Jordan Ballard, who hopes to go to Hokkaido University, Department of Humanities, in the Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies in Japan; and to Ma who, plans to start at University of British Columbia (Vancouver) this fall.

And finally, hearty congratulations to those who completed the program this year after successful defense of their theses:

- Jordan Ballard, January 24, 2020: *Reassessing the Biratori Dam Cultural Impact Assessment to Address Local Ainu Concerns and Japan's International Commitments.*
- Abigail Ma, July 13, 2020: *Negotiating the Meaning of Development in China: Microfinance Workers and Their Role in Financialization.*
- Orsolya Ficsor, July 9, 2020: *Experiences from City Year: A Glimpse into the Complex Roles of Racially Diverse AmeriCorps Members and What That Means for the Nonprofit Field.*

Society of Student Anthropologists (SOSA)

By Dr. Logan Miller, associate professor of anthropology

The Society of Student Anthropologists (SOSA) is a registered student organization that is open to all students majoring, minoring, or just plain interested in anthropology. SOSA members meet every other week during the school year. These meetings provide a means to connect students outside the classroom through a number of social events. The group kicked off the year with its traditional bonfire initiation in October at the Miller residence. Festivities included food, collegial fun, and initiation of new SOSA members. During initiation, new members received the name of a famous anthropologist they



Dr. Logan Miller,
SOSA club advisor

are to carry with them until graduation. It is the students' job to research their namesake and be ready to answer questions about the anthropologist prior to graduation.



The SOSA display at Festival ISU.

Valentine's cards. Many planned end-of-year activities were canceled due to COVID-19, but SOSA is poised to return for a strong 2020-21 academic year.

For current updates on the Society of Student Anthropologists, please see the [SOSA Facebook page](#).

News from the Stevenson Center

A complete listing of all the fascinating activity from the Stevenson Center can be found [here](#).



Stevenson Center at ISU

Features

Student Ambassadors

This semester the Department of Sociology and Anthropology proudly announces their new Student Ambassador program to help with student recruitment and peer advising. These ambassadors are an elite group of four ambitious juniors and seniors in both disciplines who believe in the major they have chosen, the department that is guiding them, and the future that awaits them as graduates of the program.

More about this new program and the first team of advisors can be found [here](#).



2020 Student Ambassadors with faculty/staff advisors. From front left, Luke Gallagher, Kelly Kennedy, Dani Lamb, and Christian Maynard. From back left, Dr. Logan Miller, Dr. Chris Wellin, and Ryan Gray.

Radiating change

By Trish Gudeman

With a name like Radiance, one might expect someone special. Indeed, Radiance Campbell has lived up to her name. Her glowing smile and enthusiasm for justice and fighting for what is right permeates her actions. As she has grown throughout her academic career, her confidence in her ambition and abilities have grown as well. While she is one of many of our students who manifest the mission of the Sociology and Anthropology Department, she is unique.

Campbell knows how to grab onto every opportunity to make the most of it, good or bad. And the outcome has been remarkable. With the original plan to attend college for only one year, she ended up graduating with honors in May of 2020 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and minors in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Latin American/Latinx studies. She was awarded the prestigious Bone Scholarship during her senior year, and last fall she received the Lincoln Laureate Award for civic engagement.



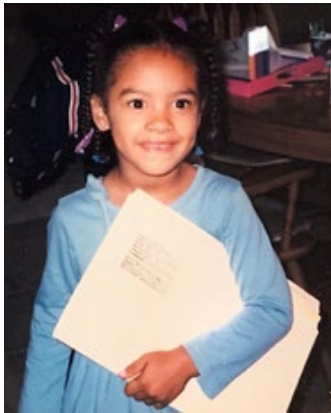
Radiance Campbell, class of 2020



Campbell in Springfield, receiving the Lincoln Laureate award, along with mentor, Dr. Tom Gerschick, far left.

I was able to sit down and chat with Campbell to find out more about what led her here and the path she has chosen.

Campbell is a local girl, graduating from Normal Community High School in 2016. While in high school, she took a sociology class, taught by sociology alum Stefan Robinson '04. There she came to the realization of greater world problems that created a burning desire within her to help be a solution. With no intentions of going to college after high school, despite her mother's pleading, she instead went to Nicaragua for a year to work as a volunteer and health worker. As she struggled to make things better in that country, she came to two conclusions: one, she was unequipped to handle the development problems in Nicaragua; and two, while she wanted to stay in Nicaragua, she recognized that her own community at home needed help.



Kindergarten picture of Campbell as a lawyer on career day.

Still not excited about college, she came back to Normal and committed to just one year of school at Illinois State University. But something unexpected happened. She fell in love with ISU.

With ambitions of making a difference in the world in which she lives, Campbell became a sociology major. To her, sociology is the ideal major because it provides "the framework to study whatever you want!" And study, she did. She poured herself into several independent studies and research opportunities through the honors program and through sociology. Campbell delved into issues of fat phobia, fat activism, and low-income health programs in Springfield for Black women. She also worked with Professor Dr. Tom Gerschick to revamp the curriculum for a pivotal sociology class. One of the things she has appreciated about being a part of the sociology program

was the strong support she received. She says the attitude of faculty was, "What do you need from us to help you accomplish your goals?" In essence, she was entrusted with her own education but was put on a team that would point her in the right direction when she needed something.

Life has its many challenges, both personal and global, and Radiance has chosen to face the spectrum bravely, with a goal of change for the better. Personally, as a four-year member of Gamma Phi Circus, she was challenged by the obstacles that she and others of color face. She turned that around to use it as an opportunity to bring awareness for change by [creating a photographic exhibit](#) reflecting the struggle and asking for engaged participation of both the artists and the audience. She submitted a piece from the [exhibit](#) to the Image of Research Competition and received first place and People's Choice in the undergraduate category.

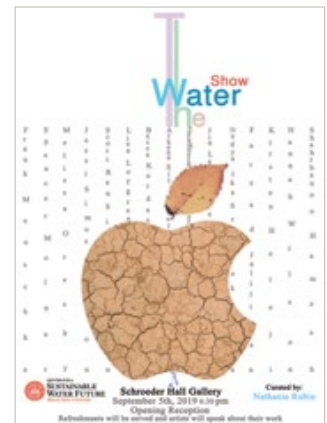
Globally, she has fought for the good of the environment. She is a pilot member of the local Climate Action Campaign, where she helped [lead demonstrations and develop ideas](#) for community awareness and participation. As part of the fight for racial equality, in conjunction with Black Lives Matter and Black Feminist Culture, [she helped build a memorial](#) in Bloomington to honor Breonna Taylor.

Locally, Campbell landed an internship assisting Bloomington City Council member Jenn Carrillo with policy reform. It wasn't until her senior year that the "lightbulb went on" and all of her interests, experiences and research came together to point her toward a profession where she could best "live out the activism." To that end, she has accepted a scholarship to attend Georgetown Law in Washington D.C., in the fall of 2020 with plans to pursue a law degree and affect policy reform to address issues most near and dear to her heart.

Campbell has accomplished many things in her four short years at ISU, and it is just the beginning of her journey. May she continue to radiate change for good in the world we live in.

Schroeder Hall Gallery— The Water Show

Schroeder Hall Gallery celebrated its fourth year with a fantastic show, sponsored this year by the Center for a Sustainable Water Future, and demonstrated a water theme as it relates to environmental sociology. This year's gallery exhibit, *The Water Show*, opened on Thursday, September 5, 2019, on the second-floor lobby of Schroeder Hall. *The Water Show* is a



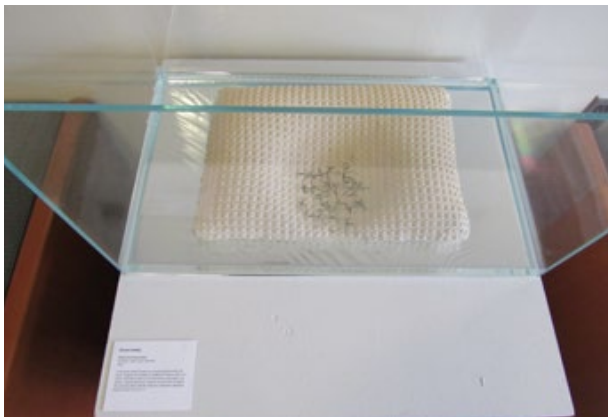
The Water Show poster with the names of the participating artists raining down was created by art master's student Shahrbanoo Hamzeh.



Professor Jin Lee talks about her photographs at the Gallery opening.



Schroeder Hall Gallery reception attendees viewing some of the sculptures on exhibit.



Where the Dreams Grow by Kirsten Hetej Porcelain, Seeds, Water, Terrarium

collection of works curated by Nathania Rubin, assistant professor of art at Illinois State University. The gallery opening featured discussions from each of the artists—including ISU art students, faculty, and staff—about their technique and their composition's relation to water.



Left and right most pieces, *Untitled* by Shahrbanoo Hamzeh and Farzad Jalilian, is a two-part piece that illustrates the vital role of water in life (mixed media on cardstock). Middle three pieces, *Study of Waves Triptych* by Athena Silot, is a three-part study that plays with the texture and color of waves (oil on canvas).

Media in this year's display included video, sculpture, print, acrylic, ink, charcoal, oil, photography, and mixed media. Many thanks to the contributing artists who helped make this gallery showing such a success!

The Schroeder Hall Gallery is a collaboration between the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University and is designed to showcase sociologically and anthropologically relevant artwork in a venue with wide exposure to students. The exhibits typically remain up the entire school year.

Clerical union finally negotiates contract with ISU

By Trish Gudeman, office support specialist of sociology and anthropology

After 20 long months, the clerical union on campus, AFSCME Local 3236, finally came to an agreement with ISU. On March 12, 2020, office staff successfully ratified a contract with the following two major changes: 1) Greater annual wage increases for all in our unit, especially the most vulnerable employees on campus; 2) Changes to the hiring range structure, including potential increases for long-term employees. Both these matters being significant changes from the stagnate contract held previously for the last 15-plus years.

All of this could not have been done without the help of the Sociology and Anthropology Department and other engaged faculty, staff, and students on campus. Fortunately, as a member of



Trish Gudeman (AFSCME Local 3236 membership chair and bargaining member) with Reggie Redbird

the bargaining team, I had direct communication with department members who not only respect staff, but provided guidance and instruction about labor movements and were willing to do what it takes to help fight for social justice and equality. If it weren't for the constant support from our faculty and the many others of the newly developed solidarity committee who stood by our side, wrote letters to the president, held signs at demonstrations, and attended/spoke up at Board of Trustee meetings, we would not have been able to get as far as we did. The clerical staff on campus so appreciates those who stood in solidarity, with special thanks to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. We celebrate our victory together!

A *Vidette* article about the Board of Trustee demonstration can be found [here](#).



Faculty, emeritus, students, and other staff stand in solidarity during a pivotal Board of Trustee meeting held December 2019.

Sabbatical news

The sabbatical in the basement

By Susan Sprecher

In the spring semester of 2020, I was on a research sabbatical. My approach to sabbaticals is to work as hard as I possibly can on scholarship and accomplish what I might normally be able to get done in four regular academic years when one is busy teaching and doing service activities. However, a sabbatical is also designed for faculty to be able to travel to collect data or collaborate with colleagues. I was able to take one sabbatical-related trip early in 2020 before everything shut down due to COVID-19, and then it became my sabbatical-in-the-basement (where my home computer is located). But, that's OK. I was certainly feeling sorry for all of my colleagues who were scrambling to move their classes online and was feeling grateful (and a little guilty) that I could just focus on my data and research papers, albeit in my basement.

If there are any current students or alumni reading this who have worked with me in the past in my research lab (Schroeder 219), you will be happy to know that I found



Dr. Sue Sprecher working in her basement office during the pandemic shutdown.

the time to write up two of the experimental studies conducted over the past few years (if you were involved as an experimenter, you will be thanked in an acknowledgment note). In one of the studies, I examined the effects of modality switching on affiliative outcomes (e.g., liking, closeness) experienced in a get-acquainted interaction. Sixty-five dyads were run through the experiment and were randomly assigned to engage in a first segment of interaction through computer-mediated communication (CMC) and then interact in a second segment of interaction face-to-face (FtF), or vice versa. The results have implications for how people are becoming acquainted through mixed-mode interactions in today's societies. This paper is currently under review at a journal. Second, I wrote up data from an experiment we conducted with over 100 getting-acquainted dyads who were randomly assigned to engage in one of three types of getting-acquainted tasks (closeness task with intimate topics such as "Share with your partner an embarrassing moment in your life," small talk task with questions such as "If you could invent a new flavor of ice cream, what would it be?," or free format task). The experiment also manipulated the mode of communication (visual-CMC or FtF). Thus, this is referred to as 3-by-2 design, which allows for interesting analyses such as interaction effects. This paper received a Revise and Resubmit from a journal, and I'm trying to find time to revise it but it's challenging to do so now that I'm back teaching—online.

During my sabbatical, I also dusted off some data I have collected from 1990-2019 from the Human Sexuality class taught in our department. I have opscan data from over 7,000 students who have completed an anonymous survey. Maybe you were in it? In prior sabbaticals, I wrote papers from this data set. However, because I have continued to collect data from new cohorts of students (who could be the children of the first cohorts!) and because there are many issues that could be examined with the data set, I returned to the huge data set during my sabbatical-in-the-basement, and looked at a few new issues. Hats off to our ISU tech people for allowing people to be able to remote into SPSS. First, I wrote a paper—that

also included Dr. Marion Willetts from our sociology program—looking at how the age at first sex and students’ perception of their timing of first sex have changed over three decades and also how these variables might be predicted by characteristics of the individuals (gender, family background, etc.). Second, I wrote a brief report on how college students’ attachment styles have changed over time. News flash: You have become a little more insecure in your attachment styles over the years.

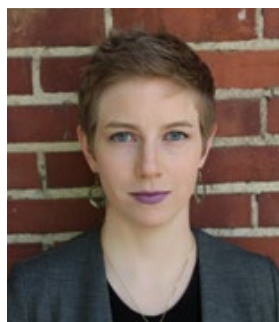
I also wrote up a paper from a data set I had collected over several years—both from classes and also from mTurk respondents—on social network pressure to enter a relationship for emerging adults ages 18 to 29 who are single and unpartnered. This group can sometimes receive social pressure from others, even Grandma, to enter a relationship. With a colleague from another university, I looked at this issue and also examined how this social pressure is associated with scores on a new scale entitled “Fear of Being Single.”

I worked on a few other miscellaneous projects during my sabbatical-in-the-basement, including a chapter with Dr. Maria Schmeeckle from our department and colleagues from Family and Consumer Sciences, on *Social Networks and Extended Families*, which is now on the desk of the editor.

Now that I’ve emerged from the basement, I’m mostly located in Schroeder 351 trying to do the balancing act again—a lot of time devoted to teaching and service but also trying to fit in the writing/researching element of our job as much as I can. If you have worked with me in the past and want a copy of any of the above papers—or are just curious about what I found—email me at sprecher@IllinoisState.edu.

Meet the new faculty for 2019-2020

Dr. Shelby Putt received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 2016 following her dissertation, *Human Brain Activity During Stone Tool Production: Tracing the Evolution of Cognition and Language*, which received the University of Iowa’s Distinguished Dissertation



Dr. Shelby S. J. Putt, new faculty member and assistant professor of anthropology

Award. After graduation, Putt was awarded a Postdoctoral Research Fellow position with The Stone Age Institute and the Center for Research into the Anthropological Foundations of Technology (CRAFT) at Indiana University. She continues her work as a research scientist with The Stone Age Institute. Putt, a biological anthropologist,



Shelby and Mark standing in front of Mount Rainier in Washington, where they were married six months later.

joined the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at ISU as an assistant professor of anthropology in fall 2019. According to her bio page, Putt’s research “combines functional neuroimaging technology (fNIRS and fMRI) with the fossil and archaeological record to investigate the evolution of human language, cognition, and brain size.”

Already during her first year with the us, Putt has achieved a certain level of notoriety. The Department of Psychology invited her to give the talk, “Brain Activation Related to Learning Prehistoric Toolmaking Skills,” for the Cognitive Behavioral Sciences Colloquium Series early in the fall of 2019. She has been part of a team research project which resulted in a recent paper in the journal *Nature* regarding the chronology of *Homo sapiens* and *Homo erectus*’ existence in Ngandong, Java. Putt was also quoted in *PsyPost* explaining the study of the cognitive processes behind early Stone Age toolmaking. The classes she has taught while at ISU are: Human Origins, Paleoanthropology, and Primate Behavior and Evolution.

When not in the lab prying brains for activity, Putt can be found camping, remembering her by-gone acting and singing days on the stage, coloring her hair several shades of purple, hiking and rock climbing with her husband Mark and, more recently, doting on their new baby boy, Phoenix.

Welcome Dr. Shelby Putt! It is an honor to have you join us.

For more updated information on Putt’s research and lab work, follow the [BioAnth Facebook page](#).

Special department programs and presentations on campus

The SOA Department Research Series, organized by Dr. Aaron Pitluck, associate professor of sociology, started in fall 2018 and continued into this last school year with great talks about the research of various alum, professors, guests, and grad students. These are presented periodically throughout the year and all are welcome to attend.

- Dr. Michael Hendricks, assistant professor of politics and government, presented “Religion, Resistance, and Resource Extraction in Latin America” on September 6.
- Dr. Jeremy Kanter, Post-Doctoral Fellow in family and consumer sciences, presented “Understanding the Longitudinal Course of Marriage: A Re-Examination with Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Couples” on October 4.
- Dr. Winfred Avogo, associate professor of sociology, presented “Early Marriage, Cohabitation, And Childbearing: Contextual Determinants in West Africa,” on November 1.
- Professor Paul Van Auken, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, presented, “Fusing Two Lines of Thought: A Proposed Bridge Between Leopold and Sociological Community,” on January 24.
- Dr. Christina Nicholas, biological anthropologist in the Department of Orthodontics, presented “Childhood Obesity and Oral Health,” on March 6, 2020.

Dr. Katie Sampeck, co-director of the new food studies program in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology—along with the Harold K. Sage Fund—sponsored a workshop and chocolate tasting at Green Top Grocery in Bloomington on February 9, 2020. Rabbi Deborah Prinz, author of *On the Chocolate Trail: A Delicious Adventure Connecting Jews, Religions, History, Travel, Rituals and Recipes to the Magic of Cacao*, gave the talk, “What is the Best Chocolate? Values Mix into our Chocolate Eating.”

Faculty publications

Joan Brehm published “Bring Fishermen at the Center: The Value of Local Knowledge for Understanding Fisheries Resources and Climate-Related Changes in Lake Tanganyika” in *Environment, Development and Sustainability* and “Exploring the Agentic Power in Fishery: Reflections from Fishing Communities of Lake Tanganyika, Kigoma, Tanzania” in *Maritime Studies*. Brehm also co-authored “Impacts of Targeted Education Programs on the Adoption of Residential Best Management Practices (BMP) to Combat Non-Point Source Pollution” for *Applied Environmental Education and Communication* and

the journal article, “To Adopt or Not? The Complexities of Predicting Residential Best Management Practices (BMP) Adoption to Combat Non-point Source Pollution” in *Applied Environmental Education and Communication* (2020).

Mike Dougherty co-authored “Porousness and Peru’s Moratorium on Genetically Modified Organisms: Stakeholder Epistemologies and Neoliberal Science,” with alumnus Teddy Dondanville, in *Environmental Sociology*.

Logan Miller co-authored “The Effect of Heat on Lithic Microwear Traces: An Experimental Assessment” in *Lithic Technology*.

Aaron Pitluck published two book chapters: “Altering the Trajectory of Finance: Meaning-making and Control in Malaysian Islamic Investment Banks” in *Financialization: Relational Approaches*, edited by Chris Hann and Don Kalb (pages 111-135). New York and Oxford: Berghahn; and “Intellectual Brokerage in Economic Theology: Methodological and Theoretical Reflections from Islamic Banking and Finance” in *The Routledge Handbook of Economic Theology*, edited by Stefan Schwarzkopf (Chapter 12). London: Routledge.

Shelby Jedel Putt co-authored with Rizal, Y., Westaway, K.E., Zaim, Y. et al. “Last Appearance of Homo Erectus at Ngandong, Java, 117,000–108,000 Years Ago” in *Nature* 577, 381–385 (2020). Putt co-authored “Prefrontal Cortex Activation Supports the Emergence of Early Stone Age Toolmaking Skill” in *NeuroImage* 199 (2019): 57–69. She also published a book chapter, “Squeezing Minds from Stones: Cognitive Archaeology and the Evolution of the Human Mind” in *The Stories Stones Tell of Language and Its Evolution*, Karenleigh Overmann, Fredrick Coolidge (Eds), Oxford University Press. 2019.

Katie Sampeck co published “Arqueología Afro-Latinoamericana: Temas, Problemas y Afro-reparación. Revista de Arqueología Histórica Argentina y Latinoamericana” 13 (2): 59-99. Buenos Aires (2019). Sampeck also co-authored “Archaeology, Historical Ruptures, and Ani-Kitu Hwagi Memory and Knowledge” in *American Indian Quarterly*.

Sue Sprecher published two book chapters: “Creating Closeness and Interdependence: Results of Laboratory-Based Studies Involving Getting-Acquainted Dyads” in *Interdependence, Interaction, and Relationships* (2020); “Influence of Self-Disclosure in the Acquaintance Process on Changes in People’s Self-Concept, How People Feel About Themselves, and How People Feel About Others” in *Interpersonal Relationships and Self-Concept* (2020).

Liv Stone published a journal article, “Compañeros and Protagonismo: The Ethics of Anti-Neoliberal Activism and the Frente de Pueblos en Defensa de la Tierra (FPDT) of Atenco, Mexico” in the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 24(3):709-726.

Jason Whitesel published a chapter titled “Big Gay Men’s Performative Protest Against Body Shaming: The Case of Girth and Mirth” in *Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, Transformations*, edited by Chris Bobel and Samantha Kwan, 129-143. Nashville, Tennessee: Vanderbilt University Press.

Jennifer A. Woodruff (NTT) published an e-textbook, *History of the American Family: A Sociological Perspective*. Iowa: Great River Learning.



Faculty presentations

Tom Gerschick: “The #MeToo Movement and Resulting Backlash.” DuPage County Social Science Conference. (2019)

Aaron Pitluck: “Altering the Trajectory of Finance in Islamic Investment Banks.” The International Seminar Series. International Studies (2019).

Maria Schmeeckle: “Scholar Activism on Behalf of Children and Youth. American Sociological Association Annual Conference.” American Sociological Association (2019).

Richard Sullivan: “Corporatization and the Prospects for Resistance in the Academy.” Social Movements and Nonviolent Protest: Resistance and Its Repression in Liberal Democracies. East and West An International Conference on Social Movements (2019).

Maura Toro-Morn: “Decolonizing the Academy.” Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/ Global Anthropology (2019)

Chris Wellin: “Negotiating Students’ Research Partnerships with Community Agencies.” Annual Meetings of 2019. Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Jason Whitesel: Paper session on “Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, and Transformations.” Protest, Justice, and Transnational Organizing. National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, California (2019).

Marion Willetts: “Convictions and Penalties Among Rescue and Non-Rescue Non-Human Animal Hoarders.” Annual Meetings. American Sociological Association (2019).

Tip of the hat

Nobuko Adachi, professor of anthropology, received the 2020 Outstanding College Researcher Award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Winfred Avogo, associate professor of anthropology, received a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) award. This award will support his work with the graduate program and graduate students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durbin, South Africa. This fellowship will allow Avogo to participate in the Strengthening Training and Research in African Demography (STARAD) project, where he will help train graduate students in demographic techniques and approaches to research.



Dr. Winfred Avogo

Radiance Campbell, senior sociology major, was a 2019-2020 Bone Scholar and one of several outstanding seniors in Illinois to receive the Lincoln Academy’s Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Kathryn Driscoll, instructor of anthropology, and **Aaron Pitluck**, associate professor of sociology, were both recipients of the Impact Award for 2020. They were nominated by a new student because they made a difference in that student’s first year experience.

Trish Gudeman, office support specialist, received the Scott M. Elliott Award for Outstanding Staff (Civil Service) for 2020.

Gina Hunter, associate professor of anthropology, was named [Director of the new Office of Student Research at Illinois State University](#).

Dani Lamb, sociology and communications major, was recognized by ISU in *The Pantagraph* on January 20, 2020, for being one of 20 outstanding volunteers to be recognized for their community service. Lamb has served as a board member of the Child Protection Network and as a volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club.

Wib Leonard, professor of sociology, was invited to be the department representative for the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE).

Aaron Pitluck, associate professor of sociology, was named President of the Economy and Society Research Committee, International Sociological Association (ISA RC02, serving 2018-22).



Phoenix Putt Jedele

Shelby S. J. Putt, assistant professor of anthropology, and husband Mark Jedele welcomed baby Phoenix into their home on April 25!

Katie Sampeck was elected to the archaeology seat of the executive board of the American Anthropological Association.

Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development—Special congratulations for celebrating 25 years of service!



Beverly Beyer and Frank Beck, senior assistant director and director, respectively, of the Stevenson Center.

Liv Stone was appointed as one of five members of the new ethics subcommittee of the MPAAC (Members Programmatic Advisory and Advocacy Committee) of the American Anthropological Association (AAA). This is a four-field committee, which means Stone is either the only or one of only two cultural anthropologists representing our entire field on this national ethics committee.

Maura Toro-Morn received the David A. Strand Diversity Achievement Award, which recognizes a current faculty or staff member who is instrumental in activities that assist the University in responding to its commitment to diversity. Toro-Morn was also named a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer for 2020. Toro-Morn has also been named to the advisory board of the Palgrave's *Latino Studies Journal*.

Alumni news

Bob Bakshis M.S. '72, sociology, (Ed.D. from NIU in 1982) self-published *Mes Lietuvia: A History of the Waukegan-Lake County, Illinois Lithuanian American Community* which culminated out of research from his own family genealogy. *Mes Lietuvia* (We are Lithuanians) chronicles the growth of this Lithuanian American community from its foundation in 1891 through 2018.

He presented his book at the Waukegan-Lake County Lithuanian American Community centennial celebration of Lithuania's independence in March 2019.



Megan Daly '11, sociology, earned a master's degree in Education for Higher Education Administration in May 2015 and a Masters of Arts in sociology in December of 2018, both from Loyola University Chicago. She is currently working as an academic advisor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

Michael Drake '16, sociology and engineering, graduated cum laude from UIC John Marshall Law School in May 2020 and recently published an [article](#) in the UIC John Marshall Law Review.

Rhonda E. Dugan '93, M.A. '96, sociology, was awarded the Millie Ablin Excellence in Teaching Award for the 2019-2020 academic year. Currently, she is an associate professor of sociology at California State University, Bakersfield. Dugan earned her doctorate in sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2005.

Tyler Heneghan, M.S. '18, anthropology, has an [article](#) featured in ISU's Society Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Research Spotlight; Heneghan will also be taking over as editor of Boston University's International Law Journal next year.

Dean McCollough '07, sociology, graduated from ISU with an M.A. in 2009 in social work and worked in community mental health as a therapist for a decade before coming back to ISU's Student Counseling Services as a staff counselor.

Logan Moore '18, anthropology, graduated last spring with an M.A. from the University of Iowa and is continuing on there working toward a Ph.D. He is currently working on a publication soon to be submitted.

Daniel Perez '10, sociology, is employed at U.S. Bank Freight Payment Services in Naperville as a freight auditor, volunteers with immigrant rights organizations, and is part of Yes and Toastmasters.

J. Dalton Stevens Jr. '15, sociology, is currently working towards a Ph.D. at Syracuse University, Stevens wrote a research brief with colleague Scott Landes, focused on COVID-19 with regard to intellectual and developmental disability.



Tyler Heneghan



Daniel Perez



Katharine Woollen

Meagan Thies-Sauder, M.S. '19, anthropology (ABT), co-authored "Changing Our Professional Culture of Apathy and Creating Safety in Archaeology: Progress Report from the SAA Task Force on Sexual and Anti-Harassment Policies and Procedures" in the *SAA Archaeological Record*, Volume 19 No. 4. In recognition of their work, Meagan and her colleague received the Presidential Recognition Award at the 2020 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting.

Seth Thomas '16, sociology. Received an M.S. in urban and regional planning at the University of Iowa and now works for the City of Memphis within the Office of Planning and Development. "I am a very proud alumni of the program and feel that the sociology program really helped lay the framework for me to become a successful graduate student," he said. "A huge thank you to Dr. Gill, Dr. Sprecher, and Dr. Dougherty who all inspired and encouraged me to pursue a graduate degree."

Chelsea Thompson '18, anthropology, was accepted into Central Washington University's primate behavior graduate program.

Katharine Woollen '17, M.S. '19, anthropology, has been accepted into the Ph.D. program for forensic anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

2019-2020 alumni graduate pursuits

Jordan Ballard, M.S. '20, anthropology, graduated with a dual degree from ISU (Japanese Studies and archaeology) and an M.A. in international relations from Nihon University (Japan). He has been accepted into the doctoral program with the Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies at Hokkaido University (Japan).

Katie Benshoof '20, sociology and political science, is working as a finance assistant at a political consulting firm in Naperville.

Radiance Campbell '20, sociology, will be attending Georgetown Law in fall of 2020 as a Blume Scholar and Public Interest Fellow.

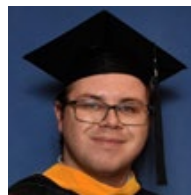
Courtney Ebersole '20, sociology, will continue her education at ISU this fall 2020 semester in the sociology master's program with a graduate research assistantship position through the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program.

Katrina Frank '20, anthropology, was accepted into a master's program in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

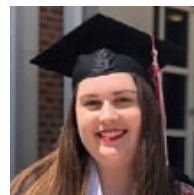
Samantha Fouse, '19, sociology, is working at Total Spectrum in Bloomington as a registered behavioral therapist II and intends to apply for graduate school at Ball State University in the fall of 2020 in hopes of joining their AB.A. program.

Hannah Gdalman, M.S. '20, sociology, After an ACED internship with Financial Health Network (Chicago office), she will be working there permanently as a program team associate.

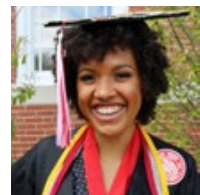
Hannah Grebic '19, sociology, works with 3 ½-year olds in Lexington, Kentucky.



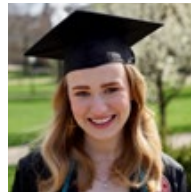
Jordan Ballard



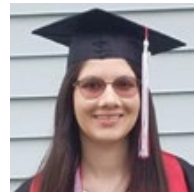
Katie Benshoof



Radiance Campbell



Courtney Ebersole



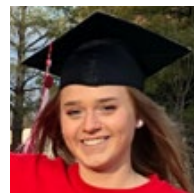
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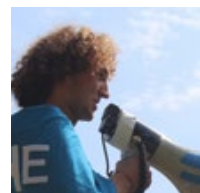
Samantha Fouse



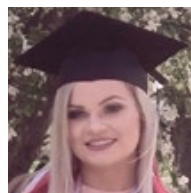
Hannah Gdalman



Hannah Grebic



Joe Kennedy



Kaylie Kleutgen



Alex Kopicki



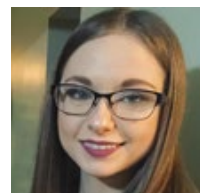
Morgan Margiotta



Christian Maynard



Carson Price



Alexis Swanson

Joe Kennedy '20, sociology, plans to continue as an environmental activist while working as a field hand at Cook Farm over the summer and then once borders are reopened and it is safe to travel, he will serve in Lesotho as a community health Peace Corps volunteer.

Kaylie Kleutgen '20, anthropology, is employed as a DCFS intake worker with plans to get a master's degree.

Alex Kopicki '20, anthropology, was accepted into the graduate program at the University of Minnesota in the department of Asian studies.

Morgan Margiotta '20, sociology, plans to attend graduate school this fall at Roosevelt University in Chicago for school counseling.

Christian Maynard '20, sociology, will be attending Washington State University in the fall to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology with a focus on delinquency and substance use.

Carson Price '20, sociology, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army National Guard through the Illinois State University Army ROTC program; he plans to serve in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and in the Army as an infantry officer.

Alexis Swanson '20, sociology, has been accepted into the criminal justice graduate program at ISU.

Alumni spotlight

Having a sociological perspective in the public health field during COVID-19

By Cristian Casanova '17, sociology and political science

My name is Cristian Casanova, a proud '17 ISU alum earning my degree in sociology and political science. When I first came to Illinois State University back in 2015, I will admit that I was an ambitious student, but I didn't know about what I wanted to study or a career to pursue. However, after taking the Introduction to Sociology



In front of the Ruli District Hospital in Ruli, Rwanda, where Casanova evaluated a mobile application that will help physicians gather data at point-of-care.

course, I became a sociology major to continue to expand my “sociological imagination” and learn about social problems that surround our everyday lives. I became part of a rigorous academic program and community that helped build the foundation that led to my aspirations to become a public health leader.

It was at ISU where I was exposed to a new understanding of community and the value of using and translating the sociological imagination in my public health career. It was here where I learned about the Afro-Latin American identity and history from Dr. Sampeck, expanded my understanding of the impact of politics, power, and class in U.S. society from Dr. Sullivan, and the importance of qualitative research methods from Dr. Dougherty. Most important of all, I learned about the social context of health, illness, and the U.S. healthcare system from Dr. Gill and Dr. Wellin. After taking these courses, I was driven to seek research and work experience in the health sector to learn more about the public health field. During my last semester at ISU, I was accepted as a CDC Undergraduate Public Health Scholar (CUPS) at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. As a CUPS scholar, I was able to bring all my analytic and technical skills from my undergraduate training towards improving the healthcare delivery for patients at Detroit Community Health Connection.

After I finished my CUPS program and City Year AmeriCorps experience, with much encouragement and support from the SOC/ANT faculty, I was accepted to the health informatics program at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and School of Information. Bringing everything from my sociology training, I came to Michigan to learn technical and research skills in how to engage with marginalized communities in the design and implementation of IT-based



Working as a research assistant for the Linda Joy Pollin Center, a research center that is part of the Hadassah Medical Center, Casanova evaluated health intervention using Facebook and Google Analytics data to understand the effectiveness and use of health applications.

innovations in healthcare delivery and access, especially in communities impacted by the digital divide. Over my two-year studies, I worked on several projects to improve healthcare delivery towards marginalized communities, domestically and abroad. These projects include evaluating a mobile application that will help physicians gather data at point-of-care in Rwanda and analyzing focus group data to understand how patients and providers interacted with community resource referrals for kidney health treatment in Detroit, just to name a few. Now I work as a BlueShield data analyst, where I am conducting evaluations of several BlueShield programs around COVID-19 care. I use this data to create dashboard tools to help BlueShield leadership make better decisions on how to improve the care of their Medicaid and Medicare recipients.

As we face the global public health crisis of COVID-19, having a sociological perspective in the public health field has become even more crucial to understand the importance of social determinants of health. Right now, COVID-19 continues to exacerbate the negative impact it had on marginalized communities across the U.S. As I pursue my master's in Health Informatics and Public Policy and my current position as a data analyst at BlueShield of California, I want to use all my skills and experience to bring greater understanding of social determinants of health and improve healthcare access delivery to those who have been affected the most.

Dennis B. Holmes remembers being the first Black ice hockey player at ISU

By Trish Gudeman, editor

It was 1973 when Dennis B. Holmes ('76, sociology) joined the ISU ice hockey team. Bill "Dub" Easton, co-founder of the ISU hockey team, told Holmes then that he was the first Black ice hockey player at Illinois State University. His cousin Gerry joined the team around the same time, but Gerry's military career shortened his hockey experience. Holmes, however, made the most of the opportunity on the B Team until he graduated in 1976. Illinois State University fed his passion for sports, and his sociology education gave him the skills he needed to "maneuver his life," for which he is thankful.

His love of sports and sociology began when he was about 15 years old. At that time in Chatham, an inner city, southside community of Chicago, Holmes and the rest of the kids were tired of playing "It," so they started playing ice hockey. During that time, he also formed a baseball and softball team. In the summer of 1973, he coached his first city program basketball game. He has been coaching winning championship teams ever since, both in basketball and floor hockey. One of these teams was the first Black team to ever make it to the city floor hockey championship games with the Chicago Park District and quite possibly the only one to date.



Dennis Holmes, ISU ice hockey team, c. 1973.

Upon graduation, Holmes landed a job for the Chicago Youth Centers, a neighborhood youth program where he coached young boys. He was proud to help guide some of these young men on to college, to get degrees, and find good jobs. Out of this program Holmes had the opportunity to coach the young Terry Cummings and Juwan Howard, both of whom went on to play for the NBA.

In 1986, Holmes co-founded the No Dope Express Foundation where Holmes was the vice president, general manager, and head coach. In 1998 he went on to be the business manager at Rudyard Kipling Elementary School until 2008. At that time, Holmes became the special education assistant at Brownell Elementary School until his retirement in 2018.

Many of the young men that Holmes had a chance to work with didn't have fathers. Being himself fatherless at age 4 and relying on his mother to take care of him, he knew the importance of having a positive role model. Holmes is thankful to God for his mother's hard work and support and for giving him a stable home life which allowed him to concentrate on school and sports. His sociology education combined with sports produced the opportunities to interact with so many youths from various South Side communities who needed a coach, mentor, and/or father figure.

If you have a story you would like to share, please email Trish at pmgudem@IllinoisState.edu.

Emeriti news

Kathleen McKinney, professor emeritus of sociology, co-authored a chapter with Friberg and Moore, "Introduction to Applying SoTL Beyond the Individual Classroom: Overview, Framework, and Two Examples,"

which appeared in her latest edited book (IU Press) published in 2019. In addition, her work, “Disciplinary Integration of SoTL: Thoughts on Applying McKinney’s Framework across Disciplinary Borders” was presented (by Friberg, Hoepner, and Sauerwein) at the annual meetings of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Atlanta in October 2019. She, with fellow SOA Emeriti and spouse **Robert Wazienski**, continue to do ‘sociological research’ via observing cultures and subcultures in their travels prior to shelter in place orders. Most recently, they visited the Netherlands and took an eight-state, three-week road trip through the southwest U.S.

James Skibo, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of anthropology, co-authored “Acorn Processing and Pottery Use in the Upper Great Lakes: An Experimental Comparison of Stone Boiling and Ceramic Technology” for *Ethnoarchaeology*. His co-authors were three former students: Kelsey Hanson ’16, Paula Bryant, and Autumn Painter, M.S. ’15.

Fred Smith, anthropology emeritus professor, co-presented “What, If Anything, Is Australopithecus Afarensis?” at the Smithsonian Institution Seminar Series on Human Evolution. Smith also co-authored “Hybridization in Human Evolution: Insights From Other Organisms” in *Evolutionary Anthropology* and the chapter “Regional Variability In Diet Between Northern European and Mediterranean Neandertals: Evidence From Dental Microwear Texture Analysis” for *Dental Wear in Evolutionary and Biocultural Contexts* (Elsevier).



The Smiths, in their natural habitat, are doing well in retirement in Colorado. They are working on several manuscripts with former ISU graduate students, writing, and enjoying time with family.

Bill Tolone, professor emeritus of sociology, was recognized in *The Pantagraph* on January 20, 2020, for being one of 20 outstanding volunteers to be recognized for their community service. Tolone has worked extensively with Habitat for Humanity over the last 15 years.

Photo of the year



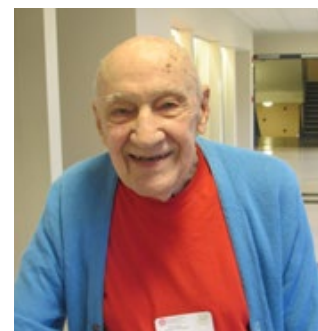
Ryan Fagan, ANT 294 (Japanese Society and Culture) class student, is purifying himself before going in to the tea room ceremony at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Japan House. The department funds this yearly field trip for the Japanese Society and Culture class.

In loving memory

Vernon C. Pohlmann, 1920-2020

Professor emeritus of sociology, Dr. Vernon Pohlmann (1920–2020) of Normal, passed on from this world on Monday, February 3, 2020. He was a much beloved colleague and will be remembered fondly.

A more complete profile of his person and accomplishments can be found [here](#).

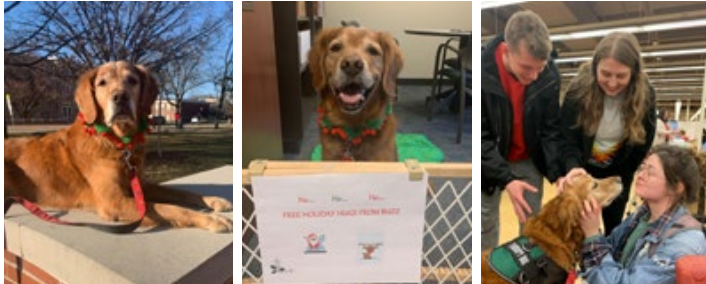


Vernon Pohlmann at the celebration of the department’s 50th anniversary in 2015.

Tanbark's to infinity and beyond—"Buzz"

2011-2020

Dr. Joan Brehm's search and rescue dog Buzz will be sadly missed. Buzz was an amazing golden retriever whose life was cut short suddenly by an aggressive form of cancer in August 2020. In addition to his role as a search and



Buzz made frequent visits to Illinois State's campus and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Buzz spreading cheer during the 2019 holidays. The Hug Doctor is in.

Buzz "working" at the library as a campus therapy dog.

rescue dog, he spent many hours on campus bringing joy and comfort during Health and Wellness' PAWSitively Stress Free events for students. He made lots of visits to the department office, offering his services there too, in exchange for a good rub.

The lighter side

This from Dr. Mike Dougherty, regarding a collection of Jokes gathered from his Sociological Inquiry class from 2012-2016:

"Part of the goal in teaching SOC 206: Sociological Inquiry is to develop, on the part of the students, a collective identity as sociology majors. The inside joke is a common emblem of group belonging. To that end, I assign my SOC 206 students, in the last weeks of the semester to write two sociology inside jokes.

Here is a small selection of such jokes:

Q: Why is a homeless shelter a sociologist's favorite hangout?

A: They're either doing research or they live there.

A sociologist was driving down the highway listening to the traffic report on the radio. The announcer said, "Race, gender, and beauty are causing massive delays on Route 7." The driver was confused until he passed a sign that said, "Social Construction Zone."

Q: What did the sociologist name his son?

A: Norm

Quote of the year

Dr. Fred Smith, emeritus professor, was quoted in the *Christian Science Monitor* regarding DNA analysis of human ancestry:

"You would never mistake a Neanderthal for anything but a human," Smith says. "It might not be a human that you'd like to go on a blind date with, but if you saw one, you wouldn't think of it as not being human."

Did you know?

Did you know that Dr. Gina Hunter had a singing career with her three sisters when she was growing up? The Hunter Sisters used to sing at local venues in Central Illinois. One of the crowd favorites was their rendition of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" by the Tokens.



Gina Hunter, far right, of The Hunter Sisters, 1986.

Guess who?

Who's the professor about to retire
And don this amazing dapper attire?
And if he has his silly way,
He'll dress like this every day!



Dr. Tom Gerschick

Published annually

Trish Gudeman, editor
 Hyojung Lee, graphic designer

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