



Signs & Symbols

Fall 2019 • VOLUME 19

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 interim chair for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology but am even more humbled and excited to embark on the new journey of serving as the permanent department chair, starting July 1, 2019. The support and confidence of my fellow colleagues and peers in the department is truly a gift and one that I deeply appreciate. I am very excited to support our strong tradition of excellence and innovation in this department as we continue to excel in helping our students to learn and grow through the highest quality of inspirational scholarship, mentoring, and engaged learning. Our faculty illustrate their deep commitment to our students in so many ways, including service learning activities that empower our students with invaluable experiences that go far beyond the classroom and campus environments, research opportunities with leading scholars that provide students with tangible skills that employers are seeking, and field school opportunities that link core concepts with practical applications to create a holistic understanding and valuable competencies.

We are excited to welcome a new physical anthropologist, Dr. Shelby Putt, to our department starting this fall. Putt received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 2016 and has just completed a Post-doc research appointment at the Stone Age Institute in Indiana. Her research utilizes functional neuroimaging technology, the fossil and archeological record, and experimental methods to investigate the evolution of primate and hominin brains and behavior. In the fall of 2018, we also welcomed Dr. Jason Whitesel to our department. Whitesel has a joint appointment with Women and Gender Studies and his work focuses on intersecting categories of oppression, men & masculinities, gay men's experiences, fat studies,

and social constructions of deviance. Whitesel has also authored a critically acclaimed book, *Fat Gay Men: Girth, Mirth, and the Politics of Stigma* (NYU Press, 2014). We were saddened to see three of our esteemed colleagues retire (Dr. Fred Smith, Dr. Maria Smith, and Dr. James Skibo) as each of them were significant pillars in our department. We wish them all the best in their new retirement adventures in Colorado and northern Wisconsin, respectively.

Our department sponsored the Bone Distinguished Lecture this past spring and we were honored to bring in Dr. Jason DeLeón, who spoke to a standing-room only crowd about necroviolence and the politics of migrant death in the Arizona desert. DeLeón also met with students from several different classes and led a public reading of his book at the Normal Public Library. As part of Homecoming 2019 we invited a very special alumni, Dr. Alfredo Mirandé, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside. Mirandé graduated from our former Department of Social Sciences at ISU in 1963. Mirandé will be returning to Illinois State in September 2019 to be inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame, which is a tremendous honor for both him and our department. In May, 2019 we also learned that sociology major Radiance Campbell was selected as a Bone Scholar. The Bone Scholarship is the highest university-wide honor given to undergraduate students, and Radiance is one of only 14 students selected from the rigorous campus wide competition. We are so very proud of Radiance and all of her hard work and dedication to achieve this honor.

I continue to be so deeply grateful to be part of such a dynamic, engaged, and committed department. Although we face some challenges to enrollments, I remain extremely secure in my belief that we will adapt to the changing landscapes in higher education while we also retain our strong, student-centered focus that promotes the value and relevance of a quality liberal arts education. Our faculty continues to excel both in the classroom and beyond. Dr. Chris Wellin was the recipient of the Outstanding College Service Award; Dr. Liv Stone was the recipient of the University Teaching Initiative Award; and Dr. Logan Miller was the recipient of the Outstanding Scholarly Achievement of the Year by a Pre-Tenured Faculty Member Award. These faculty join the many others in the



Sociology-Anthropology Donor Roll: January 1–December 31, 2018

Anonymous

Michael and Margaret Allen
Wallace and April Anderson
Marlene and Charles Black
Adam and Karen Brady
Gregg Brown
William and Phyllis Brown
Lee Bullwinkel and Barbara Devignier
Karlene and Charles Cappell
Anne and Thomas Carr
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William Specht
Susan Sprecher and Charles Fisher
Karen and Robert Stanuch
Shailer and Sheralyn Thomas
William Tolone
Jeanne and Robert Topel
Nicole Truong and Jason Keller
David Velez
Michelle White
Elizabeth Wickes and Michael Feltes
William Wonderlin and Linda Shuster
Anne Wortham

Department of Sociology and Anthropology who have been the recipients of college and university awards in previous years.

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. There are so many accomplishments to celebrate among students, staff, and faculty. I hope you enjoy reading about these and join me in congratulating everyone in our department on the multitude of outstanding accomplishments and milestones.

Student Recognition

The department's 19th-annual Student Awards Ceremony and Luncheon was held on Friday, May 3, 2019, in the Old Main Room at the Bone Student Center. Friends and family members came to help celebrate the achievements of our students.



Dean's List ceremony attendees along with the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Diane Zosky.

Dean's List

Katherine Benshoof
Radiance Campbell
Danielle Creasey
Emily Cring
Elizabeth Deiters
Katrina Frank
Conrad Fredricksen
Alexis French

Tallulah Gill
Alecsandria Hayes
Tenaya Muhammad
Sierra Peritore
Madeleine Perry
Rachel Sabella
Angela Yonan



Honors students ceremony attendees.

Honors Students

Katherine Benshoof
Radiance Campbell
Alexa Epps
Katrina Frank
Luke Gallagher
Samantha Gray
Kassidy Johnson
Maggie Look

Christian Maynard
Tenaya Muhammad
Alexa Parker
Madeleine Perry
Taylor Phillips
Anna Tulley
Sidney Weth



Ceremony inductees of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Honor Society in sociology, along with co-advisor Dr. Richard Sullivan, associate professor of sociology.

Alpha Kappa Delta inductees

Katie Benshoof	Joshua Manns
Faith Carter	Christian Maynard
Kimberlee Conover	Madeleine Perry
Courtney Ebersole	McKayla Scroggins
Tallulah Gill	Alexis Swanson
Jazmin Jackson	Lindsay White
Karen Ketay	Angela Yonan



Ceremony inductees of Lambda Alpha, the National Collegiate Honors Society for anthropology.

Lambda Alpha inductees

Undergraduates

Danielle Creasey
 Emily Fisher
 Courtney Jage
 Maria Kitchin
 Alexandria Kopicki
 Scott Lambert
 Alexis Lange
 Matt Rahman
 Devon Rodlund
 Christina Rosales

Tyler Smith
 Greer Snyder
 Bradley Stepanek
 Sidney Weth

Graduates

Angela Eastlund
 Ana Fochesatto
 Kenzie May
 Jessica Vinson

Ed Jelks Outstanding Anthropology Senior

Alexa Parker



Alexa Parker, winner of the Ed Jelks Outstanding Anthropology Senior.

Ben Keeley Scholarship

Radiance Campbell



Dr. Tom Gerschick, associate professor of sociology, announcing this year's winner of the Ben Keeley Scholarship for significant involvement in service and/or volunteer work for the community or the University, Radiance Campbell.

John A. Kinneman Scholarship

Danielle Creasey



Danielle Creasey, winner of the John A. Kinneman Scholarship for her strong record of academic excellence. This award is the highest academic honor the department bestows on an undergraduate student.

**Martin Nickels Endowed
Scholarship for Field School**
Emily Christiansen
Maria Kitchin



Dr. Logan Miller, assistant professor of anthropology, proudly stands with the winners Emily Christiansen, left, and Maria Kitchin, right, of the Martin Nickels Endowed Scholarship for his summer 2019 field school.

Gerontology Scholarship
Tallulah Gill



Dr. Chris Wellin, gerontology program coordinator and associate professor of sociology, stands with Gerontology Scholarship recipient Tallulah Gill. This award was established by the Sewing Circle of the Americana Health Care Center of Normal and recognizes an Illinois State student who has shown interest and initiative in the field of gerontology.

**R. Douglas & Janice Luecke
Irvine Scholarship**
Katherine Benshoof
Christian Maynard
Melissa Fowler (runner-up)

This scholarship is generally awarded to one sociology major of at least sophomore standing who has attained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Due to such a strong pool of applicants, the Irvine's graciously authorized two students to be selected as co-recipients of this year's award.



Janice Luecke Irvine and Douglas Irvine with Christian Maynard and Katherine Benshoof, co-winners of the R. Douglas and Janice Luecke Irvine Scholarship.

**Central States Anthropological Society (CSAS)
Department Travel Award (Lincoln, Nebraska)**

Alec Schaer
Maria Kitchin
Jessica Vinson
Denavious Hoover
Xue Ma

This award is given to those undergraduates and graduates who present papers and posters at this year's CSAS annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee.



CSAS presenters, *from left*, Alec Schaer, Maria Kitchin, Jessica Vinson (also the 2018 recipient of the Leslie A. White Award), Denavious Hoover and Xue Ma along with Dr. Jim Stanlaw, professor of anthropology.



**Wib Leonard Scholarship in
Quantitative / Sociology of Sport**
Alexis Swanson



Alexis Swanson, winner of the Dr. Wib Leonard Scholarship in Quantitative/Sociology of Sport award. Leonard, professor of sociology, gives this award to a student majoring in sociology or anthropology who shows competence and passion for the quantitative side of either discipline.

**Charter Department Graduate
Student Excellence Award**
Hannah Gdalmán



From left, Hannah Gdalmán, Charter Department Graduate Student Excellence Award winner, Raelynn Parmely, recipient of ISU/ASA Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student award, with presenter Dr. Michael L. Dougherty, the graduate student program coordinator and associate professor of sociology.

Emeritus Professor Nick Maroules Travel Award

Daneisha Sampson
Anna Tulley
Chartece Huff
Sophie Rout
Shannon Thayer

This award gives scholarships to students to help offset the cost of traveling abroad. Due to extra efforts of the department to encourage travel, five students were able to be chosen.



From left, Daneisha Sampson (anthropology), Seoul, South Korea; Anna Tulley (anthropology), Orvieto, Italy; Chartece Huff (sociology), Canterbury, Christ Church; Sophie Rout (sociology), Avila, Spain; Shannon Thayer (sociology), Seoul, South Korea.

**Scott Elliott Endowment for
Sociology and Anthropology**

Elliott, a 1985 graduate of Illinois State University who minored in sociology, established an endowed fund to help support the department of Sociology and Anthropology. The department has decided to use these funds to support students who are traveling to present their scholarly work at professional meetings.

Paper presentation at the July 2018 ISA World
Congress of Sociology in Toronto
Danielle Creasey

Poster presentations at the October 2018 Midwest
Archaeological Conference in Notre Dame, Indiana
Silas Chapman
Katharine Woollen

Participation in the November 2018 American
Anthropological Association Meeting in San Jose,
California, as part of an undergraduate research fellowship
Maria Kitchin

Paper presentation at the December 2018 Thinking
Decolonization Hemispherically: Race, Indigeneity,
Coloniality in the Americas Symposium
in Providence, Rhode Island
Ana Fochesatto

Poster presentations at the April 2019 ISU
Research Symposium in Normal

Joshua Boone
Silas Chapman
Angela Eastlund
Ana Fochesatto
Jalisa Holifield
Matthew Raman

Poster presentations at the April 2019 Midwest Sociological
Society Conference in Chicago

Maia Cain
Sergei Deptula
Samantha Gray
Madeleine Perry
Alexis Swanson

Paper presentation at the April 2019 Society for American
Archaeology in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Kenzie May



Recipients of the Scott Elliot Award in front, *from left*, Angela Eastlund, Jalisa Holifield, Katharine Woollen, Danielle Creasey, Matthew Raman; *in back*, *from left*, Ana Fochesatto, Alexis Swanson, Madeleine Perry, Maria Kitchin, Kenzie May

Undergraduate Advising News

Ryan Gray, assistant to the chair and undergraduate advisor

I've been keeping busy in the Sociology and Anthropology advising office with freshmen orientation and looking forward to meeting our new class of Sociology and Anthropology majors for the upcoming school year. ISU is expecting its largest class ever, so that gives us a great opportunity to recruit more sociology and anthropology majors.



During the past year of the sociology and anthropology internship program, 78 students completed an internship in professional organiza-

tions. Internships are becoming more and more important as employers want professional experience on students' resumes. Not only are they vital for undergraduates, many students turn these internships into full-time positions upon graduation.

I continue to work collaboratively with the Career Center for special programs in the careers classes to ensure our students have the skills they need to find a professional position or apply to graduate school. In addition to having the Career Center work with students on interviewing and resumes, students are attending several Career Center events. These include Instacareer, career and internship fairs; networking events; the graduate seminar series; and Creative Con, an event to help students from any major find a career in a creative field. Many of these programs have students interact with ISU alumni about how they developed their transferable skills to apply to their current positions. As an alumnus of Sociology and Anthropology, if you are interested in coming back to share your professional experiences in the careers class, please contact me.

Check out our department Facebook page, you can link to it at [SOA.IllinoisState.edu](https://www.facebook.com/soa.illinoisstate.edu). Please stay in touch and let us know what you are doing. If you'd like to be featured on our webpage highlighting what you are doing, please contact me. Drop by and visit us when you make it back to campus.

Sociology Graduate Program Updates

Dr. Michael L. Dougherty, associate professor and graduate programs coordinator

The 2018-2019 academic year was my first as graduate coordinator for sociology programs, taking the mantle from Joan Brehm as she became interim and then permanent department chair. There has been a lot of learning



2018-2019 Sociology Graduate Cohort, *from left*, Hannah Gdalmann, Rebecca Forsythe, Isabella Green, and Brian Hadsell

and adjustment to the advising role, but it is one that I have relished.

We have 10 active students in the program this year and a few more finishing theses.

Announcements that Require Exclamation Points!

In February 2019, Rachel Wimberly defended her thesis, "College Administrators' Responses to Requests for Emotional Support Animals on Campus." She was mentored by Professors Marion Willetts and Tom Gerschick. Wimberly also transitioned professionally this year from the Office of Financial Aid at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County to the coordinator of Residential Life at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. Way to go, Rachel!

Rachel Almburg, a second-year master's student in the Applied Community and Economic Development Sequence, was the recipient of a 2018 University Club Scholarship. She was one of five selected from over 100 applicants! Almburg's professional placement is with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority.

Raelynn Parmely, a second year master's student participated in the [College of Arts and Sciences Three Minute Thesis Competition](#) in spring 2019 and won the People's Choice Award as well as advancing to the University-wide competition. Parmely was also the recipient of the ISU/ASA Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student Award for 2019!

Hannah Gdalmann won the department's Charter Department Graduate Student Excellence Award for 2019, an award given to the first-year student with the most academic promise.

I also got to accompany second-year students Camila Rodrigues-Pereira and Raelynn Parmely to the Illinois Sociological Association meeting fall of 2018 at Millikin University in Decatur, where both of them gave excellent paper presentations to packed and attentive audiences. And second-year student Jalisa Holifield presented her



Dougherty and Rodrigues-Pereira at the fall 2018 ISS meeting at Millikin University.

research at the University Research Symposium in April 2019.

The most exclamation-point worthy of our graduate student announcements however, is the birth of Maxwell Zdansky-West in February 2019 to graduate students Elise West and Erik Zdansky! The sociological imagination will be strong in little Max!



Graduate students Erik Zdansky and Elise West and their new baby boy, Max.

Incoming Students

I am very excited about the cohort of incoming master's students that will begin in August of 2019. We have a diverse and dynamic group of new (and returning) students. Nine students will join our ranks in August of 2019. We welcome international students from Taiwan and Iran. We welcome returned Peace Corps volunteers from Albania and Bolivia. We welcome AmeriCorps alumni from the National Civilian Community Corps in Denver and from City Year in Chicago. We welcome students of a range of ages. And, in a demographic anomaly that will surely never be repeated, we welcome many more males than folks of other genders! Our incoming cohort includes students with previous degrees from Beloit College; Loyola University Chicago; SUNY Cortland; Columbia University; Adams State College; Eastern Illinois University; the University of Tehran, Iran; Soochow University in Taipei, Taiwan; and Illinois State. The future is auspicious!

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.

Clerical Union Fights for a Fair Contract

Trish Gudeman, sociology and anthropology office staff

As of the 2019 fall semester, the union contract for AFSCME Local 3236 is still in negotiation. The clerical union remains hopeful that Illinois State University will dig in and find the resources to adequately supplement those among the lowest paid of the university and find a way to honor its employees that continue to faithfully serve in their capacities. Longevity pay is a hot topic among the members, especially those who have been here near 20 years and making less than those who have just been hired on.



Locals 1110 and 3236 along with supportive faculty and students hold an informational picket along College Avenue.



Office Support Specialist Trish Gudeman, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, flexes her union muscle to help bring about a long overdue fair contract for AFSCME Local 3236

Local 1110 (Food Service workers, BSW's, Grounds workers) and 3236 Healthcare workers are sharing the fight with us as they remain in similar circumstances.

Negotiations will continue until an agreement will be reached...hopefully soon. Check out the hash tag movement that was created by several of Dr. Richard Sullivan's sociology students last spring: #PayYourRedbirds and #FairContractISU, and see

their article posted in [The Vidette](#).

Many thanks for the support and ingenuity of these students. And many thanks for the support of the department who has stood alongside us and encouraged us to keep fighting.

Graduate Students Unionized

In October of 2018, the Graduate Students of ISU voted in favor of joining the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73. Trevor Rickerd, a doctoral student in biology, along with our sociology graduate student Erik Zdansky, were instrumental in bringing this to fruition. The union will represent around 500 graduate students. [The Pantagraph](#) documented their monumental achievement.

Kitchin Named Inaugural Undergraduate Research Fellow



Maria Kitchin

A junior anthropology major from Chicago, Maria Kitchin was awarded the fellowship for her project "Anthropology Undergraduates Plan for Life after College." She is one of only six students in the nation to receive the fellowship.

For the entire article, please click [here](#).

Society of Student Anthropologists (SOSA)

The Society of Student Anthropologists (SOSA) is a registered student organization that is open to all students interested in anthropology and dedicated to enhancing the anthropology education at Illinois State University through extracurricular activities such as guest speakers, field trips, and behind-the-scenes tours of local museums. Below are a few photos of their annual activities:

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



This year's traditional fall SOSA Initiation Ceremony.



Tyler Smith receives the Robert Dirks' Award for best thesis from Dr. Liv Stone at the annual Rites of Passage ceremony.



Dr. Stone gives Megan Ollesch one of several possible challenges during the ceremony.



Annual Rites of Passage for anthropology program graduating seniors.



Celia Gonzalez and Emily Christiansen screen for artifacts on a beautiful, sunny day.

Field School 2019— The Noble-Wieting site

Logan Miller, assistant professor of anthropology

The 2019 archaeological field school returned to the 600-year-old Native American village of Noble-Wieting, north of Heyworth. The prehistoric occupants of Noble-Wieting belonged to the Langford Tradition, an Upper Mississippian culture typically found further to the north along the upper Illinois River. Seven students spent one month excavating the remains of a house on the opposite side of the village from our work in 2017-18. Although we experienced record amounts of rainfall, most storms were kind enough to pass through the area overnight. While slogging through the mud associated with these storms, we obtained a detailed view of this house whose construction style mirrored others we have seen at the site. It did contain significantly fewer artifacts, which suggests the house was occupied for a relatively short period of time. Significant finds included a copper bead, stone axe head, and a ceramic spindle whorl (used for spinning cloth). The highlight of the field school was the day SOA Department Chair Dr. Joan Brehm brought her human remains detection dogs to the site. While their biggest discoveries were lost bits of lunches, they certainly helped to boost the spirits of the field crew.



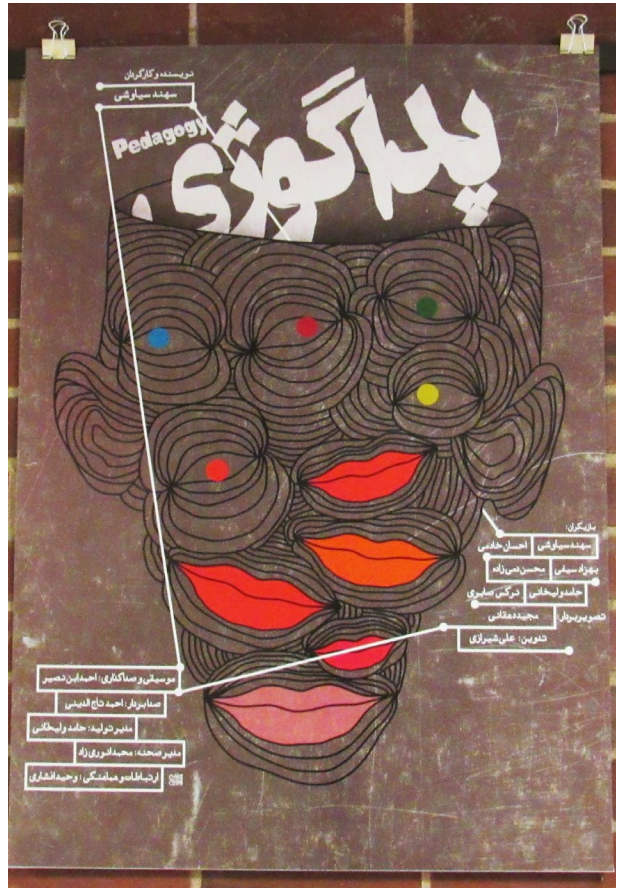
Field school participants, from left, Logan Miller, Brandon Garcia, Emily Christiansen, Emily Cring, Anastasia Ervin, Maria Kitchin, Megan Ollesch, and Celia Gonzalez

The Stevenson Center

For a complete listing of all the fascinating activity from the Stevenson Center, please click [here](#).

Schroeder Hall Gallery Celebrates Its Third Opening, Persian Garden

Trish Gudeman, office support specialist





From left, Dr. Joan Brehm of sociology and Dr. Mike Wiant of art worked together to bring about another exciting exhibition this year with curator Mehrdad Sedaghat and organizer Ladan Bahmani. A reception followed explanations given by the curator and organizer on November 27, 2018.

Persian Garden was part of the “Beyond Boundaries” exhibition that was curated by Mehrdad Sedaghat and organized by Ladan Bahmani. The exhibition was featured in several locations across campus and included posters created by Iranian graphic designers. The topics of the posters included political and social issues, personal ideas or commercial designs for specific events.

Persian Garden exhibit was a reminder of how graphic design can bring people and nations together when politics act opposite.

The Schroeder Hall Gallery is a collaboration between the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Wonsook Kim School of Art 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.

Art auction to support student travel scholarships

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology held a sealed bid auction of Dr. Liv Stone’s artwork from the 2017-2018 Schroeder Gallery show to support student travel scholarships for sociology and anthropology majors.



A piece from the 2017-2018 gallery exhibit, “As Fluid as a Brick Wall”.

There were eight pieces available for bid with a minimum bid of \$50. A total of \$700 was raised to support student travel to attend conferences or other professional development meetings.

Visual anthropology explores media and identity

Students in Dr. Liv Stone’s Visual Anthropology class create their own video projects while examining how visual media and anthropology intersect. Each class will have a different focus, such as identity through food in fall 2018 and farmer “portraits” in 2019.

The Visual Anthropology videos and projects can be found on their [YouTube channel](#).

Behavioral Flexibility, Global Inequality, and American Privilege: Sabbatical Experiences

Maria Schmeckle, associate professor of sociology

I was grateful to receive a sabbatical from teaching for the 2018-2019 school year. My research on children’s rebellion against parents was portable and my partner, Terence, expressed a desire for us to travel. We stayed for at least a month in California, Nepal, Thailand, New Zealand, Indonesia, and Vermont and visited other places briefly before returning to Illinois. It was a great adventure as most people assume, but also involved a lot of challenge and complexity. Here I’d like to share a few themes that to me are pertinent from the perspective of sociology and global learning.

“When in Rome, do as the Romans do.” This is a phrase many of us grew up hearing, and goes with an important global competency, behavioral flexibility (also called intercultural adaptability or global dexterity). During our travels, we were constantly adapting to new living situations, ways of cooking, availability of food and phone service and internet, weather and walking conditions, currency exchanges, cultural festivals, and modesty customs. An example of behavioral flexibility that I will expand upon has to do with transportation when we stayed on the island of Koh Phangan, Thailand. To get around easily as a temporary resident, it was helpful to rent a moped or motorcycle. This was easy to do with just a driver’s license. But to navigate successfully, we had to adapt to driving on the left side of the road, up and down steep hills, sometimes on dirt roads with deep potholes, or during heavy rainstorms, or at night on unfamiliar roads with road signs in a language we didn’t understand. Google Maps was only somewhat accurate on the island, which led to me driving around in circles at times trying to find a restaurant or workshop location. I am aware of the risks associated with driving mopeds and motorcycles



Maria Schmeckle on moped in December 2019 in Koh Phangan, Thailand.

anywhere and felt especially vulnerable given that I had had back surgery five years earlier and was not supposed to lift much. When my moped tipped over onto my foot on the uneven dirt road leading to our bungalow one night after a rainstorm, I remained calm and was able to lift the moped up off my foot and start it again. I resigned myself to this mode of transportation for a month but was relieved when we moved on to New Zealand and other transportation options.

Our time overseas gave us a perspective on inequality beyond what we see in the U.S. Probably the starkest examples that we saw were in Nepal. Because we stayed there for almost two months, we were able to make friends and get to know more about the local context. Things we often take for granted in the U.S. are not a given there: clean water to drink, predictable trash pick-up, dependable electricity and internet services, warm showers, flush toilets, a variety of fresh produce, and clean air to breathe. There are structural reasons for this inequality that relate to governance and development, and sociology students often learn about these things in our comfortable classrooms. Living there, I experienced the lived effects of unregulated exhaust fumes and burned trash on my lungs and skin. In the picture below of Kathmandu, you can get a sense of how polluted the air is.



Kathmandu, Nepal, one of the most polluted cities in the world.

Though we had to adapt to many things in our travels, much of the world adapted to us even more. American privilege enabled our dollars to have more buying power than the local currencies*, and as a result we could afford housing in nicer areas and healthier food at better restaurants. People spoke English with us rather than expecting us to know their languages and even apologized when their English wasn't fully fluent. In addition, as an American woman, I could interact with greater personal power than many of the local women in the Asian countries we visited. Recognizing our privilege, we made an effort to be as generous as possible with our U.S. dollars. But that did not change the fundamental imbalance between our lives and the lives of our neighbors in Nepal, Thailand, and Indonesia.

After traveling outside Illinois for 11 months, I returned enriched but humbled. We had made new friends, stepped out of our comfort zones, and broadened our geographical knowledge base. I could envision the book coming out of my research (tentatively titled *Rebels with a Cause: Understanding Children's Rebellion against Parents*). I was humbled by the complexity of global problems I had seen firsthand. I continue to be committed to global social justice and hope to use my American privilege to help where and when I can.

* This was the case in Nepal, Thailand, and Indonesia. New Zealand, France and the U.K. were a different story. The U.S. dollar was not as strong as New Zealand dollars, Euros, or British pounds.

Course redesign leads to sociology students conducting research for local nonprofits

Students in Dr. Christopher Wellin's Senior Experience course conducted qualitative research for local nonprofit organizations during the fall 2018 semester. Read the complete article [here](#).



Wellin and his Senior Experience class

Special programs and presentations

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

- October 5, 2018: “Practical Applications of Sociological Survey Methodology: Experiences with The Illinois Farm Bureau,” by sociology graduate student Raelynn Parmely.
- January 25, 2019: “Intersections of Multiple Oppressions: Racism, Sizeism, Ableism, And The ‘Illimitable Etceteras’ In Encounters with Law Enforcement,” by Jason Whitesel, assistant professor of sociology.
- February 8, 2019: “‘We Eat Beef Jerky, too’: African Diaspora Archaeology at The Beef Jerky Plantations”, by visiting scholar Dr. Lucio Menezes-Ferreira.
- March 1, 2019: “Terra Infirm: Land Tenure Vulnerability and Mining Conflicts in Guatemala and El Salvador” by Michael Dougherty, assistant professor of sociology.

Illinois Wesleyan University and Illinois State University collaborated to host an **International Food Symposium**, “Thought for Food in the Luso-Hispanic Transatlantic.” This celebration of the history and diversity of food in the Hispanic transatlantic world was held at Illinois Wesleyan on Thursday, March 28, 2019, under the direction of Carolyn Nadeau and at Illinois State on Friday, March 29, 2019, under the direction of Dr. Katie Sampeck. The symposium included panel discussions, a library exhibit, food, and international speakers.

The College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Initiative and the ISU Interdisciplinary Research Group on Personal Relationships speaker series, organized by Dr. Sue Sprecher:

- “The Invisible Harm of Partner Aggression” by Dr. Ximena Arriaga of Purdue University on September 11, 2018.
- “The Development and Maintenance of Romantic Relationships: A Social Ecological Approach” by Dr. Brian Ogolsky from the University of Illinois on October 9, 2018.
- “Toxic Ties: Networks of Cyber Aggression in Schools and Social Media” by Dr. Diane Felmlee of Pennsylvania State University on January 17, 2019.
- “The Fear of Missing Out (FoMO): Implications for Personal Relationships and Student Success” by Dr. Meredith Herrigan of SUNY Geneseo on February 11, 2019.

- “With a little help from my friends: The effects of need fulfillment from outside of the relationship” by Dr. Laura VanderDrift Machia from the University of Syracuse on March 21, 2019.
- “Family estrangement: Untying the ties that bind” by Dr. Kristina Scharp of the University of Washington on April 8, 2019.
- “The Role of Relationship Education in Teen Pregnancy Prevention among High Risk Youth” by Anita Barbee from the University of Louisville on June 5, 2019.
- “Sibling Relationships and Mexican-origin Youth’s Development” by Dr. Sarah Killoren of the University of Missouri on June 10, 2019.

An interdisciplinary lecture series, titled **Natural Resource Extraction in Latin America: Society, Environment, and Politics** was co-organized by Mike Dougherty of Sociology and Matthew Himley of Geography. It discussed the causes and effects of extracting resources from areas throughout Latin America.

- Associate Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology Bret Gustafson presented “Fossil Capital and Revolutionary Affect: On Natural Gas and Political Fantasy in Bolivia” on February 12, 2019.
- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú Assistant Professor of Anthropology Gerardo Castillo presented “Mining Development in the Peruvian Andes: The Emergence of New Rural Landscapes” on March 5, 2019.
- Program Officer of Natural Resources and Climate Change for the Ford Foundation Ximena Warnaars presented “Investment Patterns and Community Rights: Lessons from Natural Resource Struggles in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa” on April 9, 2019.
- Western Michigan University Professor of Sociology Paul Ciccantell presented “Un-developing the Amazon (and the Rest of Brazil): Reversing Aluminum-based Development” on April 23, 2019.

Dr. Aaron Pitluck presented “Meaning Making and Control in Islamic Banking and Finance” at the **International Seminar Series** on March 20, 2019.

Meet the new faculty: Dr. Jason Whitesel

New Beginnings at ISU

It was a bittersweet transition for Dr. Jason Whitesel (Ph.D., The Ohio State University) when he was offered and accepted a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Illinois State University to



Dr. Jason Whitesel, our newest member of the department.

teach the core sequence of classes in the Queer Studies Concentration. Despite a pay cut and having to be re-tenured at ISU, he chose to take the leap from his tenured position at Pace University in the middle of bustling Manhattan, gave up his fourth-floor walkup in Harlem, a less than 500 square-foot closet that New Yorkers call an “apartment,” and moved to Normal with his partner, Brian Sayers, now a claims adjuster at State Farm, and their beloved cats, Lulu and Peco. It was a pleasant surprise that the security deposit for their New York apartment allowed them to become homeowners in Bloomington immediately, even before either of them had received his first paycheck. Whitesel set out to renovate their 1920s Dutch Colonial home with the same energy and enthusiasm he displays with everything he undertakes. Before the start of fall semester of 2018, they were tearing up carpets in their new home to expose, sand down, and stain old wood floors, planting a tree and flowers to honor his small-town Indiana roots, and mowing their lawn, feeling like ‘real’ Midwesterners.

Formerly, Whitesel coordinated the Queer Studies minor in the Department of Women’s & Gender Studies at Pace University, where he was awarded tenure in 2018 and LGBTQA Educator of the Year in 2016 and again in 2018. He authored a critically acclaimed book, *Fat Gay Men: Girth, Mirth, and the Politics of Stigma* (2014), which continues to have reverberations beyond the first few years of its publication. During the 2018-2019 academic year, it was cited by journalists in three different articles, including *OUT* magazine’s web presence, OUT.com, which referenced and quoted from it in a film review, “*Avengers: Endgame* Had a Fat Joke Problem.” In July 2019, he also was invited to record an interview for *OUTCincinnati*, which will air on Radio Artifact / WVXU HD2. Currently, he continues to research, write, and consult on the intersectionality of identity markers that define the battles one undertakes, such as gay men’s experiences, fat studies, and embodied resistance to injustice.

Delighted to be teaching material down his alley, Whitesel hit the ground running upon arriving at ISU.

During his first year, he taught four different undergraduate courses, three of which also regularly welcome graduate students. In spring 2019, 10 master’s-level students were mixed into his classes, from seven different disciplines (college student personnel administration, communications, dietetics, English, psychology, social work, and sociology). Thus far, despite fracturing his foot during his second semester at ISU and having to maneuver a knee scooter for a month and hobble around in an aircast walking boot for another two months, he taught Sociology of Gender, Sociology of the Body, and two highly interdisciplinary courses, Introduction to LGBTQ Studies and Queer & Transgender Theory. In fall 2019, he will be expanding his repertoire of course offerings, as he is scheduled to teach two sections of Race, Social Class, & Gender Inequality in addition to reprising Intro to LGBTQ Studies.

In spring 2019, Whitesel supervised an undergraduate senior thesis, “A Qualitative Content Analysis of Transgender- Relevant Correctional Policy.” Currently, he is chairing the thesis committee for a master’s student in sociology, who is exploring the feminist subtext (or its lack thereof) in horror films, a topic which was developed in his Sociology of the Body course. He is also a member of a doctoral committee for a student in psychology who is researching the experiences of LGBTQIA+ students of color at a high school in Peoria, the microaggressions they have experienced, and what they would like to communicate to administrators/staff who might be able to do something to help them feel safe and succeed.

During the 2019 spring semester, Whitesel enjoyed sharing his interests outside the classroom, as well. In January, he presented “Intersections of Multiple Oppressions: Racism, Sizeism, Ableism, and the ‘Illimitable Etceteras’ in Encounters with Law Enforcement” as part of the Sociology and Anthropology Research Series at ISU. He reprised this talk in April for the Sociology Club. In March, he served as a moderator for a paper session on Queer Theory for ISU’s annual Women’s and Gender Studies Program Symposium. This paper session included an M.A. student presenter from his Queer and Transgender Theory course and an undergraduate senior presenter who had taken two courses with Whitesel to fulfill a Queer Studies Concentration. In April, by invitation, he co-organized a workshop on “Queer 101: What is Queer?” for the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, the theme being “Queering / Querying Bodies.”

Intermingled with his academic successes have been Whitesel’s family of kin and friends whom he continues to keep in his sight, whether by phone, or text, a card, or in person, giving of himself what he can to stay interconnected. He took many trips to Indiana to visit his parents, grandparents, and extended family throughout the year. Despite a busy first year at ISU, he closed out the academic year with two new publications in print in May

2019; a book chapter, “Big Gay Men’s Performative Protest Against Body Shaming: The Case of Girth and Mirth” (*Vanderbilt University Press*); and a book review, “Boystown: Sex and Community in Chicago” by Jason Orne (*American Journal of Sociology*). He also wrote and revised an invited book chapter, a “Review of Scholarship on Fat Gay Men” for the *International Handbook of Fat Studies* (forthcoming August 2020). During the 2019-2020 academic year, he will be co-editing a special journal issue on fat activism for *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*. He will also present at the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference in November 2019 as part of the book rollout for *Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, Transformations*, in which his May 2019 chapter appeared. Finally, in January 2020, Whitesel is invited to guest teach a live seminar online on “Fat Gay Men.” The goal of this class (and others in the series) is to provide an accessible space for those interested to come together and learn and engage with a Fat Studies topic, allowing for global advancement of the discipline of fat studies through innovative technology to enhance scholarship, research, and activism in this area. Guest teaching on this topic will allow for increased public engagement with fat studies research and related societal issues for fat people’s social welfare and quality of life.

Whitesel’s service to ISU his first year was in the role of an LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute board member. In summer 2018, he served on the hiring committee for the Institute’s graduate assistant position and on the College of Arts and Sciences committee, working to relocate this Institute under the auspices of the Women’s and Gender Studies program, eventually with a coordinator position. In fall 2019, Whitesel gave the introduction to a guest speaker advocating for transgender acceptance as part of the Speaker Series at Illinois State University and QUEERTalks. In summer 2019, he coordinated with the McLean County Museum to formalize a semester-long internship opportunity for current or future students at Illinois State University that would get them involved in the oral history project on McLean County’s LGBTQ+ community. This long-term endeavor, which will take years to develop, aims to present a variety of single persons’ views throughout an exhibition, and/or consider contrasting views of different interviewees when looking at local issues. The curator’s goal is to create a major exhibition from these multiple-point perspectives that will stay up for two-to-three years and later become a part of the museum’s rotating exhibits.

Last but not least, in July 2019, Whitesel received a College of Arts and Sciences New Faculty Initiative Grant to begin new research on “Gendered Control of Trans Men / Masculine-Identified People in U.S. Women’s Prisons.” However, it is not only successes and engrossing projects such as this, but also his interactions with countless students and colleagues that have slowly grown into friendships, all of which reaffirm his choice to take the

ISU challenge. As he counts down the remaining days of summer 2019 before he launches his second year of teaching at ISU, Whitesel embraces change and reinvention as a thriving member of the ISU/Blo-No community.

Tip of the hat

Nobuko Adachi, was promoted to full professor of anthropology in August of 2018. Adachi also won a Japanese government fellowship (\$15,000), granted to only



Fukushima’s Sōma horse festival from nippon.com.

a few researchers annually, to study Fukushima festival in Japan. According to an [ISU news article](#), the goal of this fellowship is to encourage the study of Japan and its culture, and to build a better understanding between Japan and the United States while fostering peace.

Ryan Gray, Dr. Richard Sullivan, and Lexi Willis, a sophomore sociology major, were all recipients of the 2019 Impact Award. A new student at ISU nominated Gray, Sullivan, and Willis because they made a difference in his or her education, transition, and academic success.

Logan Miller, assistant professor of anthropology, won the 2018-2019 University Research Initiative Award.

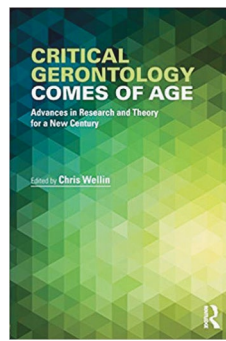
Raelynn Parmely, sociology graduate student, was chosen at the college level to compete in the university level Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) where she presented “Using Country-Level Data to Illuminate the Economic and Working Conditions of Women in Agriculture.”



Parmely presenting at the university level competition.

Abby Stone, was featured in a piece about Fulbright scholars, “[The Fulbright connection: Changing the World Through Shared Knowledge](#)”.

Liv Stone, assistant professor of anthropology, published *Atenco Lives! Filmmaking and Popular Struggle in Mexico*, Vanderbilt University Press, 2019.



Stone also published “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* (August 1, 2019).

In addition, Stone won the 2018 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Pre-Tenured Faculty Member.

Chris Wellin, published *Critical Gerontology Comes of Age: Advances in Research and Theory for a New Century*, New York: Routledge, 2018.

Wellin is also the recipient of the CAS Outstanding Service Award.

Jason Whitesel received a College of Arts and Sciences New Faculty Initiative Grant to begin new research on *Gendered Control of Trans Men/Masculine-Identified People in U.S. Women’s prisons*. He had a book chapter published, “Big Gay Men’s Performative Protest Against Body Shaming: The Case of Girth and Mirth” (Vanderbilt University Press, May 2019).

Alumni News

Bunmi Akinnusotu, M.S. ’07 and alumni of the Stevenson Center, was interviewed in [Women in Foreign Policy](#) where she shared insightful and meaningful reflections on her work and her career trajectory, including her time at ISU.

Mark Cox, ’96 ANT, previously named “War Club” during the department’s 1994 Rites of Passage ceremony, now works at the Halcyon Home for Battered Women and Children in Thomasville, Georgia.

Megan Daly, ’11 SOC, has earned two master’s degrees: Masters 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. Megan is currently working as an academic advisor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

Rhonda E. Dugan, ’93, M.A. ’96, 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.”

Kelsie Hanson, M.S. ’16 ARCH (currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona), **Autumn (Beyer) Painter, M.S. ’15** ARCH (currently a Ph.D. student at Michigan State University), and **Paula Bryant** (completing her M.S. at ISU), with **Emeritus Distinguished Professor Jim Skibo**, published “Acorn Processing and Pottery Use in the Upper Great Lakes: An Experimental Comparison of Stone Boiling and Ceramic Technology” in the journal *Ethnoarchaeology*, online July 27, 2019.

Alfredo Mirandé, ’63 SOC, a Distinguished Professor at UC Riverside, graduated from ISU and received an M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Nebraska, and a J.D. from Stanford University. A Rockefeller and Ford Postdoctoral Fellow and practicing attorney, he is the author of many articles on race, law, and gender and 10 books, *The Age of Crisis; La Chicana* (with E. Enriquez); *The Chicano Experience; Gringo Justice; Hombres y Machos; The Stanford Law Chronicles; Rascuache Lawyer; Jalos USA; Behind the Mask;* and *Gringo Injustice*. The SOA council selected Mirandé to be our Homecoming Alumni for 2018. He was invited to speak on several occasions during ISU Homecoming week.

Cecilia Montesdeoca, M.S., ’17 ANT/ACED, a specialist in the Office of Diversity Advocacy as a montesdeoca, gave a presentation regarding change of racist frameworks at ISU’s TEDxTalk on October 27, 2018.

Daniel Perez, ’10 SOC, is currently working at U.S. Bank Payment Services in Naperville as a freight auditor. During his free time, he volunteers with immigrant rights organizations, and is a part of Yes and Toastmasters in Naperville.



Dalton Stevens

Dalton Stevens, Jr., ’15 SOC is pursuing a Ph.D. at Syracuse University; he won the 2018 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for the paper, “Stuck in Transition with You: Rooting, Returning, and Interdependence for Men with Physical

Impairments.” His paper was also presented at 2019 ASA conference.

Lindsey Jo Helms Thorsen, M.S. ’12 ARCH, won the Paleopathology Association’s Cockburn Award.



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

Emeriti News

Fred and Maria Smith gave a joint keynote address at the 22nd European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association in August and September 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia.

Maria Smith had her research published in [Forbes](#).



Fred and Maria Smith in Zagreb, Croatia.

Alumni Stories

One Alum's Story

Kim Morris

I graduated in the summer of 1973 with a B.S. in sociology and with an emphasis on social work, which was a new practice at the time. There were no certifications needed to work in the area then, and I went to work in a retirement home and had no idea what I was doing. I left that and eventually worked for a center for displaced homemakers ... women who were divorced, widowed, or separated, and didn't know how to function outside of marriage. This type of service doesn't exist today but was needed in the 1970s. After my grant ended, I left social services [...] I left the field entirely to be a businesswoman. [...] As a retiree from business, I now volunteer in women's health areas, the homeless, and people older than me. Something stuck, and my first love of social services will never go away. [...] I wish this field well.

From a Facebook Post

Kelsey O'Shea, '16, in February 2019

I attribute a lot of my success to the professors I had in the sociology department. Before entering into my major, my grades were C's, sometimes B's at best. I ended up having a 4.0 all four semesters being a sociology major. Each professor I had treated me as an individual, not just a number and pushed me to be my best, so thank you! I'm currently working as a school-based counselor, not a school social worker, providing individual therapy at a Chicago public school. I'm loving it!

Photo of the Year



Sociology graduate and 2019 Bone Scholar Radiance Campble, '20, performing in the 2019 Gamma Phi Circus.

The Lighter Side

This from Dr. Michael L. Dougherty, regarding a collection of jokes gathered from his Sociological Inquiry class from 2012-2016:

“Part of the goal in teaching Sociological Inquiry, SOC 206, 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 did the sociologist cross the road?

A: Because he was stuck in C. Wright Mills’ series of traps and wanted to get out.

Q: Why did Erving Goffman do so well in school?

A: He *acted* like he knew the answers.

Q: What university did C. Wright Mills attend?

A: Mill-U

Did you know?

Dr. Sue Sprecher was in the last one room school in Wisconsin the last year before it closed, circa 1961.



Dr. Sue Sprecher, *front left*. Her fourth-grade sister is in the third row, second column.

Guess who?



Our new chair, Dr. Joan Bævre—her love of dogs continues!



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HOMECOMING.ILLINOISSTATE.EDU

