



Signs & Symbols

Fall 2013 • VOLUME 13

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology



Kristen Gianaris learns from the locals in a Mumbai fishing village.

Experiences in justice: India and Bhutan

by Kristen Gianaris

Kristen Gianaris '13 graduated with a B.A. in sociology and minors in both peace and conflict resolution studies and anthropology. She received the 2013 John Kinneman Scholarship.

I landed in Mumbai June 1 with a backpack and the expectation that during the next month and a half I would be amazed, overwhelmed, and changed. Leaving the airport I smiled as I was welcomed into the noisy streets, the unpleasant, yet familiar smell of sewage and exhaust, and the moist air. I was glad to be back in Asia. It had been three years since I moved from Taiwan back to the United States. My trip to India and Bhutan was a series of fortunate and unexpected events. My purpose for this trip

was not only to explore and adventure through a beautiful and unique culture, but also to learn about the justice system and human rights. I was, in fact, amazed, overwhelmed, and changed.

The streets were overrun with goats, cars, trucks, cows, motorcycles, rickshaws, people, and trash. The people carried heavy baskets and boxes on top their heads, moving swiftly through the street traffic ... People survived by operating under their own systems and by creating opportunities for themselves. They built communities in the damp and dark alleys that twisted and turned underground and high up above other structures. There were times when I felt as if I had traveled back in time 100 years—the high court in Bhubaneswar, India, still hired people to sit outside on benches and transcribe court cases on rusted typewriters. There were men sharpening knives by bicycle power and women quilting outside of their homes. I was

Notes from the chair

by Fred Smith, professor of anthropology and chair of the department

This has been another productive year for our department. One of the things I appreciate most about Illinois State is the real emphasis the institution puts on balanced excellence between teaching and scholarship for its faculty. An excellent faculty is what makes an excellent university, as well as an excellent department. I am entering my sixth year as chair of Sociology and Anthropology at Illinois State, and I am convinced that our commitment to this balanced excellence is likely the most significant reason Illinois State has suffered far less from the demographic downturn of potential college students than have some of our sister state institutions. The awards our faculty members receive reflect this balance.

Last year, Virginia Gill, professor of sociology, received Outstanding University Teaching Award, the highest distinction for teaching excellence in the University. Also, Teri Farr-Behnke received the Outstanding Administrative Professional Award from the College of Arts and Sciences for her advising (teaching) contributions. On the research side, Joan Brehm was presented the Janice W. Neuleib Award for Research Excellence by the College of Arts and sciences, and Mike Dougherty was recognized with a University Research Initiative Award. Four major awards that reflect our balance!

The highlight of each year for me is our annual Student Honors Luncheon in which we recognize our best and most accomplished students. Many of those awards are highlighted in the following pages of this edition of *Signs*

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& *Symbols*. I'm sure when you look at these fine young people and what they have accomplished you'll be even more proud of your support of the University and this department. Finally, this edition of *Signs & Symbols* also is the first to be edited by our office manager, Jennifer Boolman. We are very fortunate to have Jennifer, and this newsletter is but one example of the top quality job she does for us.

Livia Stone, a cultural anthropologist who works in Mexico, is filling a new faculty position this year. We are thrilled to have her. I am pleased to report we will add another new position next year when the department partners with women's and gender studies to bring another social scientist line into our department. These new hires demonstrate the high respect our department enjoys from Illinois State's administration. It's a good time to be a sociology-anthropology Redbird!

Sociology and Anthropology Donor roll

January 1, 2012–
December 31, 2012

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Michael and Margaret Allen

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Monica Gibbs

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amazed at the attorneys who told me that there were no such thing as women being victims in rape cases, at the young boy and entire fishing village who defended me when a man approached me with anger for taking photos, and at the rickshaw driver who somehow found us in the middle of Chennai to return my friend's lost bag and passport. There was the woman who collapsed in the Women's Commission with blood rushing out of the deep wounds that covered her arms and legs, there were the piles of garbage everywhere, and there was the generosity and kindness shown to me through endless cups of tea and simple smiles and head nods.

There was a harsh contrast between the rich and the poor. After a few weeks in India you become almost adjusted to the idea that not everyone has a home, water, or food ... You accept the poverty as normal until you return back to the suburbs of Chicago and you are not met with sad stares from mothers who hold their naked children in front of you, begging you to buy a 10-cent necklace. I was angry at the wealthy families who had their cars washed twice a day when the people in the neighboring communities didn't even have running water. I was frustrated by the people who treated me as if I held some sort of important status just because of the color of my skin and my nationality. The heat was no match to the human rights abuses and sad realities that I faced every day in India.

I wish I could explain more in depth the findings and conclusions that **Professor Sesha Kethineni** and I found from our research; however, this work is unfinished. Our comparative study on all women's courts and informal court systems led us to four different cities and commissions where views varied tremendously. I gained invaluable experience conducting qualitative research with professors and Ph.D. students from the University of Madras. I gained perspective on Indian culture and caught a glimpse at the direction India's justice system is headed. My eyes were opened to new subjects of research, and I had the opportunity to use my education in a realm that was invariably sociological.

Bhutan is a country of tall mountains and winding roads, rice fields and long foot bridges that hang over rivers of clear blue waters. Young girls sat in front of their homes weaving shawls and sweaters. Prayer flags draped over tree branches and stretched far across valleys. It was the most beautiful, and happiest, country I have ever visited. The head of the police department was our friend and guided us through historical sites, high courts, museums, local villages, and even the king's palace. He prepared a dish of stink bugs one night for dinner—a southern Bhutan delicacy—and hiked with me to the world famous Tiger's Nest.

My time in India and Bhutan was nothing short of exceptional. I am grateful for the profes-

sors and students from whom I had the opportunity to learn so much. Equally, I am appreciative of the many local peoples who invited me into their homes, shared their culture with me, and showed me kindness that I will never forget. These countries, with their unique histories, religious values, and cultural gems, allowed me to learn and gain so much in such a short amount of time. In fact, I was amazed, overwhelmed, and changed. It was the small fishing villages, the five-hour waits to conduct an interview, the smell of incense in the temples and the many stairs I climbed to reach the top, the frustrations I felt toward injustice and inequality, the small children who I played soccer with, the overnight bus rides, and the endless cups of chai that I will carry with me and continue to learn from.

Undergraduate advising office news

by Josephine Maggio, graduate assistant

Usually this tidbit is written by our charming and extremely booked resident advisor, Teri Farr-Behnke. However, this year she has handed the reins to me, a soon-to-be second year sociology graduate student. I have Redbird loyalty in my veins since I started out my academic career in this very same department five years ago. After doing the mentally taxing labor of an undergraduate, I have the credibility (and training) to help students through their journey as a college student. I have spent two successful semesters advising for our department, specifically within our three minor programs in sociology, anthropology, and gerontology. When students leave my office excited and hopeful for the semesters to come, I can competently argue that I have done my job as a facilitator of knowledge. I have had the opportunity to sit down with transfer students, young undergraduates, and upper-classman throughout this past year and explain the curriculum and how to be a successful student in our department. I have played a part in watching the relief rush through their faces after being guided through their questions and complex situations. When stressed out and confused students are met with understanding and practical solutions they begin to relax and attribute their education with a positive connotation. Our students enter advising knowing that they have a loyal supporter in the crowd.

One facet of our program is the internship program. While an elective, internships are extremely valuable for many reasons. Specifically, our students express their academic motivation through internships within the University as well as in the community. These experiences lead to networking

opportunities as well as a chance for students to briefly enter possible career fields postgraduation. We have new organizations asking to be placed on our internship database because of the high quality of work for which our students are recognized. Our students show continued professionalism and excellence during their stints as interns.

Lastly, we would like to say congratulations to all of the December 2012 and May 2013 graduates. All alumni who have joined the Facebook family can find our “page” if they search Illinois State Sociology Alumni. Keeping in touch with classmates and friends will come in handy during that job search! With continued hopes, we wish to see our department flourish with newcomers and department converts into our programs.

Undergraduate program news

by *Gina Hunter, associate professor and anthropology program coordinator*

What a great time to be an undergraduate in anthropology at Illinois State! With the addition of our new faculty member, Livia Stone, we are now able to regularly offer courses in Latin American ethnography and gender studies and add some new courses (Visual Anthropology).

Our students are thriving. Four undergraduate students—Sarah Anderson, Veronica Butterfield, John Ford, and Laura Cunningham Joliff—were awarded travel grants to join Professors James Stanlaw and Nobuko Adachi in presenting their research papers at the 2013 Central States Anthropological Society (CSAS) Meetings at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Next year, the CSAS conference will be held here in Normal (April 10–12, 2014)! We are very excited at this opportunity to host our regional colleagues and to highlight the research of our faculty and students. Indeed, our program offers students a wide array of research and professional experiences.

We congratulate our 2013 award winners: Reilly Jaeger and David Watt (Ed Jelks Outstanding Senior Award), Vince Salaka and Catherine Wheeler (Best Senior Thesis), and Kayleigh Newman (Martin Nickels Scholarship). Additionally, six students were inducted into the Lambda Alpha International Honors Society: Emily Blankenberger, Laura Cunningham Joliff, Katie Kurtenbach, Vincent Salaka, Brooke Wamsley, and Catherine Wheeler.

Undergraduate student recognition

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology’s 13th annual Student Awards Ceremony and Luncheon was held April 19 at the Alumni Center. Many students, parents, and faculty members attended this Western-themed event. It was a chilly day, but that did not stop anyone from enjoying the festivities and celebrating the accomplishments of our students. The department is very proud of our award recipients. They worked very hard to achieve their academic goals, as evidenced by the awards that they receive and should be duly congratulated for their efforts.

This year’s award recipients are as follows:

Dean’s list

Brianna Andrews	Reilly Jaeger
Sarah Biehl	Mia Liebmann
Emily Blankenberger	George Micheletti
Veronica Butterfield	John Moorhead
Amy Bytof	Deborah Neidich
Nicholas Castro	Sarah Nyquist
Allison Cevaal	Andrea Ogborn
Keith Cox	Jeffrey Painter
Abdelkarim Daiya	Amanda Rafidia
Amanda Dillman-Curry	Juliet Vogel
Jordan Frey	David Watt
Brittany Garner	Dylan Winston
Heather Gilbert	Kareem Zahra
Drew Jacobson	

Alpha Kappa Delta inductees

Morgan Barrowman	Kristen Gianaris
Amanda Boise	Gentry Lyons
Alexandria Dilley	Brittney Van Note
Jordan Frey	Juliet Vogel



Alpha Kappa Delta inductees: Amanda Boise (left), Alexandria Dilley, Maria Schmeckle (faculty co-advisor and associate professor of sociology), Jordan Frey, Kristen Gianaris, and Juliet Vogel

Deanna Glosser
 Thomas and Ann Hayner
 Cheri Hembrey
 Kevin Herman
 Ronald Herro and Diane Spencer-Herro
 Tracee Hobbs
 Ronald Humke and Donna Havensville-Humke
 Wendel and Elvria Hunigan
 Gina Hunter
 Robert Jenkins and Suzanne Morrah
 Dennis and Janice Johnson
 Allen Jones and Bernetta Demay-Jones
 Mary Kavanaugh
 Kayla Krippner
 Michael Kurz and Dixie Bell
 *Dorothy E. Lee
 Mary and Rusty Lepley
 Daniel and Dianna Lienard
 Wayne and Nancy Lucas
 Janet and James MaGirl
 Janice and Jerry Malak
 Marykellie Marquez
 Teresa Miller
 John Mitchell
 Alice Morrissey
 Brenda Nelson
 Michelle and Kevin Nelson
 Stephen O’Neil and Angie Miller O’Neil
 Craig and Jennifer Planson
 Vernon Pohlmann
 Jason Rabbass
 Bob and Stacy Ramsey
 Janis Roberts-Durkin and Thomas Durkin
 Douglas and Mary Roley
 Tina M. and Michael Rowe
 Timothy and Laura Saterfield
 Scott Seiler
 Carolyn and Edward Shawaker
 Fred and Maria Smith
 Lisa and Eric Solak
 Susan Sprecher and Charles Fisher
 Karen and Robert Stanuch
 Phyllis Summers
 William and Carol Tolone
 Robert Townsend
 Nicole Truong and Jason Keller
 Dennis and Sharon Varel
 Joan and Bill Warrick
 Philip Webb and Cathy Freitag-Webb
 Elizabeth Wickes
 Sarah Wille
 Lawrence and Patricia Winn
 William Wonderlin and Linda Shuster

*deceased

Dates to remember

December 2013

- 7 Last day of classes
- 7-13 Final exam week
- 17 Fall grades due by noon/depart-
ment holiday party (tentative)
- 23-31 ... Winter break (University will
be closed.)

January 2014

- 1 New Year's Day (University will
be closed.)
- 2 University reopens
- 6-27 Open registration
- 13 Spring classes begin
- 20 Martin Luther King Day
(University will be closed)

March

- 8-14 Spring break (No classes, but
administrative offices will
remain open.)
- 17 Classes resume

April

- 3-6 Midwest Sociological Society
meeting, Omaha, Nebraska
- 8-12 American Association of Physical
Anthropology meeting,
Calgary, Canada
- 18 SOA Student Awards Ceremony
and Luncheon
- 23-27 .. Society for American
Archaeology meeting,
Austin, Texas

May

- 3 Last day of classes
- 5-9 Final exam week
- 9-10 Commencement
- 12 Summer interim classes begin
- 13 Grades due at noon
- 19 Summer classes begin
- 26 Memorial Day (University will
be closed.)
- 30 Summer Interim classes end

July

- 4 Independence Day holiday
(University will be closed.)

August

- 8 Summer session ends
- 12 Summer grades due

Lambda Alpha inductees

Emily Blankenberger
Veronica Butterfield
Laura Cunningham
Scott Drapalik
Collin Gillenwater
Deanna Hamblin
Elizabeth Koch

Katie Kurtenbach
Montana Martin
Vincent Salaka
Kristen Walczesky
Brooke Wamsley
Catherine Wheeler



Lambda Alpha inductees Scott Drapalik (left), Vincent Salaka, Veronica Butterfield, Laura Cunningham, Deanna Hamblin, Elizabeth Koch, and Kristen Walczesky with Professor Gina Hunter

2012-2013 Ed Jelks Outstanding Anthropology Senior

Reilly Jaeger
David Watt



Ed Jelks Outstanding Anthropology Senior recipients Reilly Jaeger (left) and David Watt with Professor Gina Hunter

2012-2013 Martin Nickels Endowed Scholarship for Field School

Kayleigh Newman



Department Chair Fred Smith with Martin Nickels Endowed Scholarship for Field School recipient Kayleigh Newman

Ben Keeley Scholarship

Charles Arthur Egner II



Associate Professor of Sociology Thomas Gerschick with Ben Keeley Scholarship Award recipient Charles Arthur Egner II.

Gerontology Scholarship

Morgan Buechele



Chris Wellin, assistant professor of sociology and coordinator of the gerontology minor program, with Gerontology Scholarship Award recipient Morgan Buechele

John Kinneman Scholarship Kristen Gianaris



Assistant Professor of Sociology Michael Dougherty with John Kinneman Scholarship Award recipient Kristen Gianaris

Department Charter Graduate Student Excellence Award Ben McNair



Department Charter Graduate Student Excellence Award recipient Ben McNair with Joan Brehm, associate professor of sociology and coordinator of sociology graduate program

ASA/ISU Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student Award (jointly held) Andrew Smolski Aaron Tester



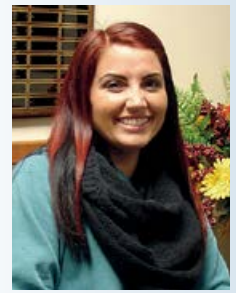
ASA/ISU Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student Award recipients Andrew Smolski and Aaron Tester with Professor Joan Brehm

Outstanding Senior Thesis Award Catherine Wheeler Vincent Salaka

R. Douglas and Janice Luecke Irvine Endowed Scholarship

Kelsie Diaz

The R. Douglas and Janice Luecke Irvine Endowed Scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior sociology major who has demonstrated a serious record of academic excellence. This award is the highest honor that our department bestows on an undergraduate student. Kelsie Diaz is the first recipient of this outstanding honor. She is now a junior and holds an excellent B+ GPA. Diaz is working as an undergraduate intern in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology academic advising office. She is responsible for the sociology majors newsletter, which is distributed weekly. She also attends open houses and is working on promotional materials for the major. Upon finishing the requirements for her undergraduate degree, Diaz plans to pursue a master's degree in school counseling. She also plans to earn a teaching certificate.



Kelsie Diaz

Anthropology students help make great panel, presentations at the 2013 CSAS Meetings

by Professor Jim Stanlaw

Four Illinois State undergraduate anthropology students—John Ford, Sarah Anderson, Veronica Butterfield, and Laura Cunningham Jolliff—joined two faculty members in presenting professional academic papers in April at the 2013 Central States Anthropological Society Meetings at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Jolliff (“Fictive Kinship in American Sub-culture: We Are Our Brother’s Keeper”) and Veronica Butterfield (“Generational Patterns of Language”), together with Professor Nobuko Adachi (“Gaijin, Nihon-jin, or Nihon no hito?: Semantic Changes in the Use of Ethnonyms Among Japanese, Brazilians, and Japanese Brazilians”) and Professor James Stanlaw (“Japanese Slang at the Borderslands of Identity”), constituted the panel “The Dynamics of the Presentation of Self—Betwixt Subcultures, Foreign and Domestic.”

The aim of the panel was to explore various ways of finding “culture in talk,” finding “talk in culture,” and seeing how discourse is used to explore the edges of cultural boundaries. A variety of theoretical perspectives were used. Jolliff used the formal methods of the structuralism of Levi-Strauss to show how fictive kinship is used



Central States Anthropological Society Travel Award (left to right): John Ford, Veronica Butterfield, Sarah Anderson, Laura Cunningham, and Anthropology Professor James Stanlaw

to establish identity in a quasi-sport and social community in the United States: the world of foam-sword fighting. Butterfield examined how speech patterns—in particular, politeness, grammaticality, and formality at a fast food chain restaurant in the United States—demonstrate pronounced generational differences. Adachi, using transnationalism, global studies, and world systems theory, showed how the presence of four key ethnonyms establish, reinforce, and codify identity in the Japanese-Brazilian community. Stanlaw analyzed how various systems of slang and neologisms identify and reify labeled subcultures in Japan. All the papers engaged with different aspects of the use of language in the

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Scott Elliott Endowment for Sociology and Anthropology

Illinois State alum Scott Elliott '85 minored in sociology. He established an endowed fund to help support the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The department uses these funds to support students who are traveling to present their scholarly work at professional meetings. Recipients of this year's Scott Elliott awards and titles of their presentations are listed below.

Charles Arthur Egner II

American Sociological
Association Conference

Denver
August 2012

Presented paper "Ancillary
Teaching Materials: A Multifaceted
Study"

Jessica Haglund

Midwest Archaeological
Conference

East Lansing, Michigan
October 2012

Presented paper "Faunal Analysis
of the Multi-Component Myer-
Dickson Site in Fulton County,
Illinois"

Casey Jenkins

Southeastern Archaeological
Conference

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
November 2012

Presented paper "A Comparison
of Archaic and Mississippian
Period Prevalence of Auditory
Exostosis"

Andrew Licht Mallo

Great Basin Archaeological
Conference

Stateline, Nevada
October 2012

Presented paper "Reading
the Rock: Collective and
Contemporary Memories of the
Petroglyphs and Pictographs
of the Mormon Mountains"

"presentation of self"—a classic tool first proposed by sociologist Erving Goffman in the early 1960s—to establish individual identity while at the same time giving coherence to the social narrative.

In addition, two other Illinois State students gave excellent papers on separate panels. Sarah Anderson presented "Piecing Together Life From Historical Archaeological Evidence at Mather Lodge," which was based on her experience the previous summer in Michigan on the Grand Island Archaeological Research Project, a cooperative effort of Illinois State University and the U.S. Forest Service that is directed by Illinois State faculty member James Skibo. John Ford presented "The Architecture and Material Culture of the Baylough Bowl." His paper was based on his tour of duty in Kandahar, Afghanistan, as an infantryman in the U.S. Army.

All these student papers were part of their bachelor's thesis. While a bachelor's thesis is required of all majors, only a minority of writers get to present their work at professional meetings (something unusual for even master's candidates, much less undergraduates). To defray some of their expenses, the department awarded them a grant to cover transportation and registration.



Many of our 2013 graduating seniors were on hand for the Annual Rites of Passage at Lucca Grill in Bloomington, where we celebrated with ritual markings (face painting), ceremony (merrymaking), and feasting (pizza). Attendees included Gary Ledoux (back, left), Brandie Ledoux, Jeremy Buckert, Vince Salaka, Megan Waiflein, Jessica Meado, Professor James Skibo, Laura Cunningham Jollif, Leland Look, Robert Brown, Professor Fred Smith, Professor Elizabeth Scott, Professor Katie Sampeck, Mia DeSantis (middle, left), Reilly Jaeger, Amber Nikki Yerkes, Sarah Anderson, Professor Gina Hunter, Professor Maria Smith (front, left), Brooke Wamsley, Jeff Saurbaugh, Veronica Butterfield, Ashley Purpura, and Professor James Stanlaw. Behind the camera was Professor Nobuko Adachi.

Sociology Club

by *Chris Wellin, assistant professor, and
Virginia Gill, professor*

Over the past year there has been renewed interest and activity in the Sociology Club, a registered student organization (RSO). The impetus was a desire, among students and faculty alike, to strengthen the sense of community—socially and intellectually—

beyond the classroom. Though in its early stages, the club has already proved to be a valuable dimension of the undergraduate program.

It's a sign of the times that the club's activities and connections are fostered not only by biweekly, early evening meetings but also by a Facebook page. The club has nearly 100 Facebook "friends." During the past months, students have used the page to communicate about community and political events. Members have also gathered for on-campus talks and have made linkages with other RSOs.

Among the highlights of Sociology Club meetings have been a panel on graduate school planning and the application process; a talk by Professor Richard Sullivan about the place for and significance of a liberal arts education (the topic of his forthcoming book); and, most recently, a provocative presentation on veganism and animal abuse by activist Gary Yourofsky. The latter was coordinated by Professor Marion Willetts, whose popular course *Animals and Society* reflects the ascendance of this subfield here at Illinois State and within sociology at large. These events have vividly demonstrated the relevance of sociology for engaging current controversies in American society, culture, and politics, as well as students' desire to apply the perspective to social problems more directly than is often possible in the classroom. Inasmuch as the majority of our students are drawn to sociology by an ethos of social critique and reform, the Sociology Club fulfills a critical need in the curriculum.

Moreover, this involvement can help students successfully transition from college to graduate study and professional life. According to the American Sociological Association's recent report "Decreasing the Leak From the Sociology Pipeline," participation in such clubs "build(s) social and cultural capital, by developing scholarly networks." The positive impact of such activities is likely to be especially great for first generation college students or those from historically underrepresented groups.

In the most recent meeting of the club, students watched and discussed an excerpt of a video by Peter Joseph, from his series on *Culture in Decline*. The video spurred a discussion of the concentration of economic power in the U.S., and whether/how corporate-controlled media are engaging the underlying forces behind such timely issues as the Great Recession, the battle over "Obamacare," and the government shutdown. There was agreement, as we ended the session, on the need for more discussion of how theoretical arguments in sociology, including neo-Marxian/Critical Theory, can shed light on these questions. Faculty members with interests and expertise in this area will be invited to attend future meetings, perhaps centering on a shared reading. This all points to the ongoing need for and value of Sociology Club.

Alpha Kappa Delta: The International Sociology Honor Society

by Maria Schmeackle, faculty co-advisor and associate professor of sociology

Last school year Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) honor society took part in several activities. We participated in the Social Science Career Fair November 1, 2012, at Normal West High School. AKD members



2013 Alpha Kappa Delta inductees: Amanda Boise (left), Alexandria Dilley, Maria Schmeackle (faculty co-advisor and associate professor of sociology), Jordan Frey, Kristen Gianaris, and Juliet Vogel

Charles Egner and Josie Maggio joined Sociology Professors Chris Wellin and Maria Schmeackle and Anthropology Professor Gina Hunter in staffing a booth for our department. Egner and Maggio were extremely articulate in letting local youth and their parents know about the wonders of sociology, especially at Illinois State University.

On November 7, 2012, AKD and the Sociology Club co-sponsored an evening talk by Sociology Professor Richard Sullivan titled “What Are You Going to Do With That? How to Talk With Your Parents, Others, and Yourself About What You Can Do With a Social Science Major.” It was very well attended by students and faculty, with 68 people in attendance. Sullivan questioned the questions that students, their parents, and peers ask themselves about their education, and suggested a redirecting.

With tickets provided by the Office of the Provost, we had two tables of students and faculty at Illinois State’s January 2013 Martin Luther King Jr. dinner, featuring author and activist Van Jones. Many of our AKD members were able to attend, and other sociology students and faculty joined us as well.

AKD provides funding for students to attend regional sociology meetings. Josie Maggio attended the Midwest Sociological Society meetings held March 27–30, 2013, in Chicago. Maggio, who is one of our grad students, went to sessions in her area of interest (gender, relationships, sport)

and met several people with shared interests. She returned excited about her research and possibilities for Ph.D. programs.

In April 2013, we inducted eight new members into AKD. Their interests are diverse and include the study of families, gerontology, children, contemporary sociological theories, stratification in schools, symbolic interactionism, community development, human sexuality, disability studies, and medical sociology.

Congratulations to these new members of AKD:

Morgan Rose Barrowman
Amanda Rae Boise
Alexandria Chloe Dilley
Jordan Leigh Frey
Kristen Nicole Gianaris*
Gentry Erin Lyons*
Brittney Nicole Van Note*
Juliet Catherine Vogel*

* graduated May 2013

Sociology graduate program news

by Joan Brehm, associate professor and sociology graduate program coordinator

The 2012–2013 school year was a whirlwind with a great deal of activity among our students. I immensely enjoy working so closely with our amazing graduate students and am excited to share their news and accomplishments with everyone.

This fall we welcomed five new students into our program. Although the cohort is a bit smaller than previous years, the caliber of our incoming students is outstanding. Keith Cox '12 was accepted into the sociology master’s program and comes to us from our own sociology program here at Illinois State University. Katie Young was accepted into the sociology master’s program. She graduated from Elmhurst College with a major in psychology and a minor in sociology. Shikshya Adhikari, originally of Nepal, was accepted into the sociology master’s program and comes to us from St. John’s College with a B.A. in liberal arts. Christina Davila was accepted into the Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) Fellows Program and has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Central Florida. Davila has spent the last year working with the AmeriCorps Program in Palm Beach County, Florida. Kathleen Raynor was accepted into the Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) Fellows Program and has a B.A. in music education from the University of Louisville. Raynor has spent the last year serving with City Year Los

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Jessica Rose Miller

Midwest Archaeological Conference

East Lansing, Michigan
October 2012

Presented paper “Profane or Mundane? A Comparative Functional Analysis of Powell Plain and Ramey Incised Vessels”

Germaine Mosher

American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference

Knoxville, Tennessee
April 2013

Presented poster “Subsistence Considerations Based on the Community Health in Late Prehistoric Thompson Village Site From West-Central Tennessee”

Sean Stretton

Society for American Archaeology Conference

Honolulu
April 2013

Presented poster “GIS Applications and Landscape Archaeology in the Gamo Borada Highlands of Southwestern Ethiopia”

Aaron Tester

Midwest Sociological Society Conference

Chicago
March 2013

Presented paper “Conservation Easements and Environmental Reform: The Confluence of Private Property Rights and Ecological Values”

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Angeles and previously served in the Peace Corps in South Africa. These students represent an outstanding cohort with tremendous diversity. The program continues to draw some of the best and brightest students from outstanding schools across the country.

Several of our current students have embarked on new and exciting transitions. Ben McNair began his Peace Corps service in the Dominican Republic at the end of this summer. Nichole Brant began her professional practice with the McLean County Court Services' Domestic Violence Multi-Disciplinary Team in July. Emma Healy began her professional practice with Mid-Central Community Action in July 2013.

Four of our Peace Corps Master's International Master's International students are continuing their Peace Corps service: Robyn Savacool in Moldova, Kate Slisz in Botswana, Katie Saunders in the Dominican Republic, and Ashley Conrad in the Philippines. Luke Tervola (ACED Fellow) has completed his professional practice with the College of Lake County. Meanwhile, Dustin Stoltz completed his Peace Corps service in Azerbaijan, got married, moved to Japan, and is preparing to defend his thesis.

Our students have been very productive in sharing their research at a variety of professional venues this year. The following students have presented their work at a professional meeting or other professional forum:

Andrew Smolski

"Los Locatarios: The Public Markets of Mexico and Development Policy" was presented at the Midwest Sociological Society Meetings in March 2013.

Ben McNair, Nichole Brants, Emma Healy, and Aaron Tester

"Food Insecurity in Bloomington-Normal: How a Grocery Cooperative Might Help Meet the Needs of Low-Income Residents" was presented at the Illinois State University Graduate Research Symposium.

Aaron Tester

"Environmental Governance: Conservation Easements and the Social Meaning of Property" was presented at the Midwest Sociological Society Meetings in March 2013.

We also have some exciting graduation announcements to share. Peace Corps Master's International student Tyler Curtis, M.S. '13, finished his Peace Corps service in Togo and successfully defended his thesis, "Gender Transformation at the Grassroots: A Gender and Development Program From the Practitioner's Perspective," and graduated in May 2013. Aaron Tester, M.A. '13,

successfully defended his thesis, "Environmental Governance: Conservation Easements, Property Rights, and the Social Meaning of Land," in May 2013 and graduated in August 2013. Andrew Smolski, M.A. '13, successfully defended his thesis, "The (Lack of) Political Power Behind the Economic Outcomes of Los Locatarios in the Informal Economy of El Monstruo, Mexico City," in May 2013 and graduated in August 2013. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

This year's graduate student award winners include Tester and Smolski, who were jointly awarded the American Sociological Association/Illinois State University Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student Award, which is given annually to the graduate student who has most distinguished himself/herself over the course of the master's degree program. McNair received the Department Charger Graduate Student Excellence Award, which is given annually to a student who demonstrates the most academic promise for success in the program.

Our program has certainly been enhanced by the diversity of strong students that fill our classes



2012–2013 sociology graduate students Ronald Pikes (left), Josie Maggio, Ben McNair, Nichole Brants, Emma Healy

and interact with us on their research pursuits. I could not be more proud of our students and the faculty that support them, and hope you all will join me in sharing in this celebration of their varied accomplishments.

Nichole Brants: Fellow works for McLean County Domestic Violence Multidisciplinary Team

by intern Carly Smaha

Nichole Brants, an Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) Fellow in sociology, is serving with the McLean County Domestic Violence Multidisciplinary Team as part of her master's degree program. The Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development manages

the graduate ACED sequence and places Fellows, like Brants, in 11-month paid internships across the United States. The Stevenson Center works closely with the department, and Associate Professor of Sociology Frank Beck is the director.

As Brants begins her professional practice, she is already gathering data for grants, attending case review meetings, and maintaining partner relations. She is also planning an event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"I'm really looking forward to what this internship has to offer, and I hope to grow in my position here," Brants said. "It would take me much longer than the time I have to learn everything there is to know about domestic violence, but I'm hoping to come away with a better understanding of the issues and the impact of community services."

Brants earned her bachelor's degree in history from Monmouth College. After volunteering at Monmouth, she wanted to immerse herself fully in the volunteer experience. Through the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps in the Pacific region, she focused on urban and rural development, education, and the environment. She continued as an AmeriCorps response coordinator with the Red Cross in Springfield.

Brants has also completed projects relating to food injustice, conservation, and animal welfare. As an AmeriCorps alum, she is passionate about many areas of public service and well-being. Equipped with a master's degree, an open mind, and a history of service, she plans to pursue a career in the public sector.

"Talented AmeriCorps alumni like Nichole come from all regions of the country for the ACED Fellows Program—it's a great springboard for careers with non-profit organizations and government agencies," said Stevenson Center Associate Director Beverly Beyer, M.S. '03, '08. "We're looking forward to following Nichole's next steps!"



Nichole Brants

Robyn Savacool: Peace Corps volunteer in Moldova

by intern Carly Smaha

Since June 2012 Robyn Savacool has been serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Moldova. She earned her bachelor's degree in Architecture from Wentworth Institute of Technology and is currently a graduate student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology

in the applied Community and economic development sequence. She has built on her course work at Illinois State through her experience as a graduate assistant in social statistics, and now she supports a non-governmental organization called Floritoaia in her country of service.

Prior to Peace Corps, Savacool worked in Portland, Oregon, for MCM Architects. She also spent substantial time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, Architects Without Borders, and the Portland Oregon Zoo.

Now in Moldova, Savacool is working with Floritoaia to create better living conditions for the people living in the village through implementing different social projects. She and her partner developed and administered a questionnaire to deliver to the residents of a local village. The questionnaire addresses residents' commitment to small projects, such as a town website and newspaper, as well as large projects such as sewage and garbage collection. In addition, Savacool has been teaching English to grades five through eight since she arrived in Moldova.

"This was not something that I thought I would want to do when I originally decided to become a Peace Corps volunteer, but the challenge of working with youth and seeing them progress has become something that I really look forward to during the week," she said.

Savacool is also in the process of developing an adults English class, a voluntary internship program with high school students, and a summer soccer camp for youth focused on raising awareness for AIDS and HIV.

Although she has faced challenges and adjustments, many of Savacool's weekly tasks are enjoyable. "Some fun activities I get to do include singing with the local folkloric ensemble once a week, feeding the family pigs, helping my host mother prepare clatita (essentially crepes) for special occasions," she said, "and I have learned how to work the *soba* (fireplace)."

"So far, my work experience, I believe, is the best practical experience I could get in order to learn about community and economic development."

She hopes to learn more of the local language and build her experience in her time remaining in Moldova. The Stevenson Center looks forward to welcoming Savacool back to the U.S. in 2014!



Robyn Savacool (far left) in Moldova

Anthropology graduate program news

by *Elizabeth M. Scott, associate professor of anthropology*

Our students continue to undertake original research and present scholarly papers at professional conferences. Seven students graduated from the archaeology graduate program this past year, and their thesis titles reflect the wide diversity of research topics that are being undertaken in the program.

In bioarchaeology, Casey Jenkins, M.S. '13, wrote her thesis on "Auditory Exostoses Prevalence in Western Pre-Columbian Tennessee: Controlling for Subsistence and Geography."

In prehistoric archaeology, Sean Stretton, M.S. '13, submitted his thesis on "The Importance of Time: Examining the Expansion of Middle Woodland Havana Materials Into the Grand River Valley of Western Michigan." Jessica Miller's, M.S. '13, thesis was titled "Evidence of Ritual Drink Preparation and the Function of Powell Plain and Ramey Incised Vessels in Mississippian Society."

In historical archaeology, Elizabeth Kizior '09, M.S. '13, wrote her thesis on "Colonial Ethnic Identity, Urban Organization, and Ceramic Variability at Caluco, El Salvador." Andrew Border, M.S. '13, wrote on "A Ceramic Study: Class, Nationality, and Contraband Among French and Spanish Colonials in Lower Louisiana from 1763-1803." Kristen Walczesky's thesis was titled "An Examination of Dietary Differences Between French and British Households of Post-Conquest Canada." Collin Gillenwater submitted his thesis on "Agency at Hacienda Pancota: Early Colonial Daily Consumption of a Contested Age and Material Culture."

We also welcomed six new students to the graduate program this fall: Megan Bauerle, Sarah Baylor, Autumn Beyer, Theartis Butler, Melissa Frederick, and Erin Randolph.

The graduate program is in transition during the 2013–2014 academic year, and, as the column heading indicates, it will become a four-subfield master's program in anthropology beginning with the fall 2014 semester. You can follow these changes as the program expands by visiting the department's website.

Archaeology alumni news

Lindsey Helms, M.A. '12, is in the doctoral program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Whitney Karriger, M.S. '12, is in the doctoral program at Tulane University.

Susan Kooiman, M.S. '12, is in the doctoral program at Michigan State University.

Micca Metz, M.S. '12, is an archaeological technician at AMEC Oil and Industry Co. in Steilacoom, Washington.

Jessica Miller, M.S. '13, is in the doctoral program at the University of South Florida.

2013 Bioarchaeology Field School

by *Maria Smith, associate professor of anthropology*

The aim of the bioarchaeology field program is to collect paleopathological data that address specific archaeological research questions. The collections examined are curated by the Frank H. McClung Museum in Knoxville, Tennessee. In the summer 2013 season, Illinois State graduate students Sarah Boncal and Deborah Neidich, and University of Indianapolis graduate student Elizabeth Wilk '12 collected thesis data. The projects thematically focused on assessing mechanical stress (consequential to postural or burden bearing) on the shoulder, knee, and vertebral column and compared two subsistence-settlement patterns, hunter-gatherer and agriculturalist. The research projects included participation by non-Illinois State students and professors. Field trips for the students included visiting the reconstructed French and Indian War outpost of Fort Loudon, the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, and the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

2013 Field School: Grand Island Archaeological Research Project

By *James M. Skibo, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology*

This year marks the 12th year of the Grand Island Archaeological Project. During that time, well more than a 100 students have participated in the excavation of prehistoric and historic sites on the island. This year we excavated sites from both the Archaic (circa 1,000 B.C.) and the Woodland periods (circa A.D. 1200) with seven students. This included two graduate students (Ian Fricker and Autumn Beyer), and five undergraduates from Illinois State University (Sam Wolf, Katie Kurtenbach, and Aaron Jacob) and Northern Michigan University (Konrad Grochocki and Julian Grochocki). Staff members included Assistant Director Eric Drake as well as Andrew Mallo, Jeff Painter '12, Fernanda Neubauer, and Michael Schaefer. We had guest lectures from Sociology and Anthropology Department Chair Fred Smith; Bill Lovis, of Michigan State University; and Jakob Sedig '07, of University of Colorado. We also had the first ever master's oral

defense on Grand Island as Sean Stretton M.S. '13, successfully defended his thesis in the Grand Room of the Mather-Klauer Lodge with his committee members, Distinguished Professor Jim Skibo and Grand Valley State University Professor Jan Brashler, in attendance. Andrew Mallo will be using the data from the Woodland site for his master's thesis and Neubauer's work on the archaic site is being used for her dissertation.

This was the first year we were not living at the historic Farrell Cottage as the Forest Service obtained the Mather-Klauer Lodge, which is now part of a cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and Illinois State University. With funds donated from the Mather and Klauer families the lodge will serve as both an archaeological research facility and as a working museum to help tell the story of the early resort era on the island. Besides being a beautiful log lodge on the west side of the island, it has two functioning bathrooms, which were welcomed after spending the last 12 years without flush toilets or showers. This convenience was countered somewhat by the ravenous mosquitos, which were certainly worse this year than any of the previous 12. No one whined, except the directors, so it was a very successful and enjoyable July in the north woods.



Jim Skibo, Sean Stretton, and Jan Brashler in the Grand Room of the Mather-Klauer Lodge after Sean Stretton successfully defended his thesis.



Aaron Jacob, Julian Grochocki, Katie Kurtenbach, Sam Wolf, and Andrew Mallo excavating next to the Mather-Klauer Lodge.

2013 Archaeological Field School: Spanish Contact Period Settlements in East Tennessee

by *Katie Sampeck, assistant professor of anthropology and field school director*

The Historical Archaeology Field School was lucky to have the help of many fine people this year. The field director was Beau Carroll, an archaeologist with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and current graduate student at the University of Tennessee. The lab director was Erin Whitson, an Illinois State master's student in historical archaeology, who continued the fine work she has been doing for the past two years in the historical archaeology lab curating the Tennessee materials. Illinois State graduate students included Alison Hodges (historical archaeology), Cori Rich (historical archaeology), and Daniel Scott (history). Elizabeth Koch and Nolan Russert were the Illinois State undergraduate students in attendance, as well as Bronwyn Schell from the University of New Mexico. Damon Ayen, an enrolled EBCI tribal member was the high school intern. Ayen worked most closely with Elizabeth Koch, but also pitched in wherever needed to get the fieldwork done. The 2013 season was supported by a grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. In addition to public outreach activities, the grant is paying for specialist analyses of the excavated botanical remains, animal bones, and geographic information system (GIS) spatial analysis. Professor Elizabeth Scott's fall 2013 Zooarchaeology class is working with the faunal material from Tennessee, and she will complete the analysis as part of the grant. Jonathan Thayn, a professor in Geography-Geology at Illinois State, is conducting the GIS analysis and visited the excavations this summer as part of "ground truthing" the GIS models.

The 2013 season's work in Washington County, Tennessee, witnessed several exciting discoveries, despite the unusually rainy weather. Survey at 40WG11 (Berryhill/Proffitt site) discovered one of the largest 16th- to 17th-century town sites in the southeastern U.S. Students spent many days defining the edges of the settlement area and zones of dense artifact concentrations on the surface of a 40-acre cornfield. Excavations recovered



Elizabeth Koch (left), Damon Ayen, Beau Carroll (back), Cori Rich (with sign), Bronwyn Schell, Nolan Russert, Alison Hodges, Professor Katie Sampeck, and Daniel Scott (seated in front).



Excavation overview at the Berryhill/Proffitt site. Pictured from left to right and top to bottom are Bronwyn Schell, Professor Katie Sampeck, Daniel Scott, and Cori Rich.

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historic artifacts such as a musket ball and brass tinkling cones as well as evidence of structures. This year, students presented informative research posters to the EBCI Tribal Elders Advisory Board. This event in Cherokee, North Carolina, was very well attended by the community. The great attitude and hard work of the students and staff, despite rain, heat, and lots of poison ivy, made for an exciting season of archaeology.

Midwest Sociological Society news

by Associate Professor Tom Gerschick

The Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) is a 77-year-old professional organization focused on academic and applied sociology. Approximately two-thirds of the 1,200 members live in the nine-state Midwest region, but membership is open to all. About one-third of the members are from other parts of the U.S. and the world. The large membership reflects the wonderful opportunities MSS provides for faculty and undergraduate and graduate students to present their research and to receive professional socialization and training.

The MSS is deeply committed to its student-members. For instance each year, the MSS offers 150 \$100 travel grants to student members who participate in the annual meeting. In addition, the MSS provides assistance with low conference hotel room rates and subsidized meals. Illinois State sociology graduate students Andy Smolski and Aaron Tester presented their research at the 2013 conference and received valuable feedback.

Illinois State sociologists have a long history of participation and service in the Midwest Sociological Society. For instance, Professor Emeritus Bob Wazienski and Associate Professor Tom Gerschick have been chair of the Finance Committee and treasurer. Professor Emerita Barbara Heyl served as president. Professor Emeriti Vern Pohlman and Bob Walsh took turns as the secretary of MSS. Professor Emerita Kathleen McKinney has served as a member of the Publications Committee, chaired the Graduate Student Paper Competition, and has organized and shared her expertise at many workshops and sessions.

The MSS publishes an acclaimed journal, *The Sociological Quarterly*; supports a minority fellowship for a promising student; and offers several grant and award programs which recognize and fund outstanding research by MSS members. It also sponsors an annual four-day conference that will be held April 3–6, 2014 in Omaha, Nebraska. The focus for 2014's meetings is "Left-Behind Sociology." President-elect Kevin Leicht describes the theme as an "attempt to get members to focus on people and ideas that are 'left behind' in current research,

scholarship, and teaching. In our zeal to reach conclusions, affect students, and change communities, what types of people, ideas, and theories have been left behind? What are the implications of doing this for sociology as a discipline? Do these omissions harm our credibility with people we attempt to influence and those whose causes we champion?"

Gerontology program news

by Chris Wellin, assistant professor and coordinator of gerontology minor program

Since the last issue of Signs & Symbols I have been impressed with the excellent students who have taken part in gerontology courses and seminars, and grateful for the invaluable contributions of many faculty members across campus who fulfill the program's interdisciplinary agenda. The introductory course, Social Gerontology (SOC 211), is offered each semester and often exceeds the enrollment limit of 45 students. As an approved elective for students in the Mennonite College of Nursing and social work program, the course helps to address a need for expanded knowledge of aging in a broad range of clinical and human service fields.

These connections are especially timely today, as the nation continues to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This new law continues to be buffeted by public debate but, in the aftermath of last spring's Supreme Court decision, appears to have survived the legal challenges to its enforcement. As yet, we can only begin to see the diverse implications of the law—for the newly insured as well as for providers of various kinds. But it is clear that the ACA will have a strong impact on the organization of health care, and as noted below, grappling with this and other current challenges and opportunities for professionals in the health and social services will be a focus of a one-day conference that we are planning, with vital sponsorship from the School of Social Work and its chair, Professor Diane Zosky.

I am very proud and excited to announce that there will be a one-day conference, on or near campus, March 19, 2014. The annual Social Work Day Conference is sponsored each year by the Kirk Haney Fund. Haney '95 was a student in the School of Social Work, studying child welfare, at the time of his untimely death.

The conference grows out of an ongoing Network on Aging, Health, and Disability, which has organized brown bag presentations and in fall 2010, an earlier miniconference at the Alumni Center. My colleague in the Mennonite College of Nursing, Caroline Mallory, and I reached out to a steering committee of scholars and aging professionals in the community and developed a conference grant proposal, which we submitted in the fall to

the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a branch of the National Institutes of Health. We received an encouraging score on this very competitive proposal, but were encouraged to alter the local/regional focus that seemed to us most valuable for the regional community. A regional focus is not parochial, in our view, but rather reflects that fact that in the current policy and funding environment, providers of health and social services need as never before to work in collaborative and complementary ways.

Reflecting on and enhancing interprofessional collaborations and innovations, in support of independent living for people who are older and/or disabled, is the purpose of the conference, titled “State Your Independence.” With help from a steering committee that also involves Tuwana Wingfield and Jerrey McKinney, of the School of Social Work, and Michael O’Donnell, of the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, we are continuing to plan for a vibrant conference. Addressing such issues as advocacy for older and disabled people, strengthening home and community-based services, and the impact of the growing stress on evidence-based practice will, we hope, attract strong and diverse attendance. Courtesy of the generous sponsorship of the School of Social Work, costs of attendance will be kept low and in keeping with the wishes of the Kirk Haney Fund, the conference will be both accessible and relevant to students—at all levels—and to the public at large. We believe that this conference will be a strong step forward in integrating the gerontology program with other areas of strength at the University.

New faculty: From Mexico City to Normal

by Livia Stone, assistant professor of cultural anthropology

International travel and cultivating relationships with faraway places has always been very important to me. Originally from a small town in mid-Missouri (Montgomery City, population 2,000), I had the opportunity to go to India when I was still in middle school, shortly followed by a 4-H exchange student experience in Japan. By the time I went to college however, my dearest love was Mexico City. Part of Mexico City’s draw was its sheer size. One of the largest cities in the world, it is not unusual for more than a million people to crowd into the main square of the city for cultural and political events. That is half the population of Chicago or three times the population of St. Louis. Part of the city’s draw was also the unique blend of indigenous, European, and North American influences. In Mexico City, ornate 16th-century Spanish complexes are built on top of

enormous 14th-century indigenous temples and are filled with businesses from throughout the world. North American fast food chains coexist alongside Spanish banks, French fashion boutiques, and Mexican bookstores, art museums, and monuments. Down the street plumbers and masons advertise their family businesses from behind hand-painted signs, continuing a tradition that is at least 500 years old. The city’s age and continuity seems to provide a strong yet flexible foundation for the dramatic cultural, social, political, and economic changes that it has experienced.

It was my fascination with these cultural and social changes that brought me to graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis, where I received my doctorate in socio-cultural anthropology in 2012. My research is focused on how people use individual daily practices to try and bring about cultural and social changes. I am especially interested in how people use media production as a political and social practice. For my dissertation, I investigated a social movement that for over a decade has been attempting to build a future for its town and agricultural lands that doesn’t include becoming incorporated into Mexico City’s urban sprawl. I was initially drawn to the Frente de Pueblos en Defensa de la Tierra (People’s Front in Defense of Land) because it has been the subject of dozens of documentary films and continues to use filmmaking and film distribution as part of its political strategy. My dissertation research followed the practices and activism of documentary filmmakers who participate in the Frente through making films, and also investigated how the Frente uses those films as part of its political strategy.

My new project is more transnational in scope. I hope to connect many of the social, political, and cultural movements happening in Central Mexico to similar movements occurring in the United States and Europe. These movements are intricately connected and influence one another significantly. I hope to find out what this network of movements can tell us about broad cultural, economic, and political shifts that the world is experiencing in the 21st century.

When I am not watching Mexican documentary films and following global politics, I enjoy being outside as much as possible. Where spare time can be found, I like to spend it backpacking, camping, or day hiking.

Bloomington-Normal’s strong culture of bicycling was an immediate attraction, and I have been enjoying exploring the beautiful Constitution Trail system on my bike. Bloomington-Normal already feels like home to me and I am thrilled to be part of such a welcoming and exciting community at Illinois State University!



Professor Livia Stone

Professor Aaron Pitluck's two-year research fellowship in Hungary

By Solomon Pitluck and Aaron Pitluck, associate professor

Aaron Pitluck, associate professor of sociology, has returned to Normal after a two-year research fellowship at Central European University in Budapest,

Hungary. On behalf of *Signs & Symbols*, Solomon Pitluck, Aaron's 5-year-old son, interviewed his father and provides this report.

S&S: What were we doing in Budapest?

I had received a competitive two-year fellowship with the Political Economy Research Group at Central European University. The university is a private university of scholars and graduate students that was founded 25 years ago when Central and Eastern Europe gained

political autonomy from the former Soviet Union and transitioned from socialism to some form of capitalism. The region is therefore a living, ongoing experiment in some of the most pressing social issues of our day. It was fascinating to observe how fragile democracy can be, and also how painful and politically contested the move towards financial capitalism has been—processes that are so taken-for-granted that they are practically invisible in the United States. So you, your mom and I packed up and moved to Budapest for two years. You picked up Hungarian in preschool—I was really impressed.

S&S: If we were living in Hungary, why did we spend so much time in Malaysia?

Now that's a good question! Central European University's motivation for providing me the grant was only partly to engage in a dialogue on finance and society with their scholars and students. It was also a 24-month opportunity to begin a new research project. Like many people, I'm interested in how transformations over the past three decades in the finance industry have altered our society—from the way corporations behave, to whether we rent or buy our homes, to our ability to retire before we die. The financial crisis and Great Recession illustrate some grave weaknesses in these social transformations. I'm therefore keenly interested in how social movements try—and often fail—to critique and transform finance capitalism. The financial crisis has therefore renewed my interest in Islamic finance—an attempt by bankers and religious scholars to construct what they view as a morally superior alternative to conventional finance.



Photo of Solomon Pitluck interviewing his father, Professor Aaron Pitluck.

I've been studying this process up close and ethnographically in Malaysia—a global hot spot for Islamic finance. I've been researching “sukuk,” a globally traded financial security that is understood as a morally superior alternative to conventional sovereign and corporate bonds. We therefore lived in Malaysia for two months in 2012 and two months in 2013 so that I could interview investment bankers and Sharia scholars in Kuala Lumpur.

S&S: What was it like to live in two foreign countries?

We've lived in Malaysia's capital a number of times, although this was your first time attending preschool there. So in many ways, it was comforting and familiar to return. Hungary was a new experience, but also the sixth foreign country that I've lived in. We had a ridiculously comfortable life in a large apartment in the center of the city, surrounded by parks and fine restaurants and many of the country's most famous tourist sites. The strangest and even the most disorienting experience was moving between Kuala Lumpur and Budapest two times in two years.

S&S: I like Japanese food. Can we move there next?

I'll take that into consideration the next time I apply for a grant.

Professor Sampeck's fellowship at the John D. Rockefeller Library at Colonial Williamsburg

By Katie Sampeck, assistant professor of anthropology

During a one-month short-term fellowship at the John D. Rockefeller Library at Colonial Williamsburg, I was able to delve into a new area of research: 17th- and 18th-century British and American colonial life. My goal was to understand better how chocolate fit into colonial life in at Williamsburg, which was a major early American political, economic, and social center. I examined many kinds of documents, all with an anthropologist's eye, including cookbooks (including the first cookbook published in Williamsburg), gentleman's quarterlies (which had detailed discussions of chocolate), and probate inventories in the York County Project files. These texts showed that chocolate was used as an item of wealth and was an important way for people to show that they were sophisticated and had good manners. Even more fascinating was the way that chocolate was an idea as much as a food item. The curator of textiles and clothing at Colonial Williamsburg gave me an



Colonial Williamsburg Executive Chef Rhys Lewis and Chef Rodney Diehl treated Professor Katie Sampeck (above) to lunch and a sampler of heritage chocolates.

exciting tour of the breathtaking chocolate-colored textiles in the Colonial Williamsburg collection and gave me excellent advice about thinking about chocolate as a color in the 18th century. Chocolate related items also show up archaeologically at Colonial Williamsburg.

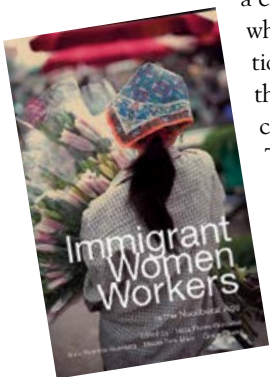
The excavations of the Charlton Coffeehouse uncovered

the distinctive hinged lids of chocolate pots. All of this evidence helped me to have a much more nuanced understanding of the cultural place of chocolate.

During my time in Williamsburg, I presented a forum to discuss my research. Evidently, my forum was the best attended fellow's forum, and the forum lasted longer than most! People from across the spectrum of the Colonial Williamsburg community took the time not just to attend, but to make very helpful suggestions and point me toward resources and ideas that have improved my research in many ways. Audience members included Chef Rhys Lewis and Chef Rodney Diehl, who were extraordinarily kind to spend time chatting with me and treated me to some of their artisanal historic chocolates. I can state without hesitation that my understanding of the colonial world is much broader, deeper, and fundamentally different after my Gilder Lehrman Fellowship and my experiences at Colonial Williamsburg will continue to inform my work long after I finish writing about chocolate.

Faculty authors

Professor of Sociology **Maura Toro-Morn** is delving into the plight of immigrant women as co-editor of a new book, *Immigrant Women Workers in the Neoliberal Age*. The book examines the “informal economies” where immigrant women tend to find employment. For the book, Toro-Morn contributed a chapter on Elvira Arellano, who captured national attention when she spent a year in the sanctuary of a Chicago church to avoid deportation. Toro-Morn's chapter is part of her ongoing work about women's increasing involvement in the globalization process through work and migration.

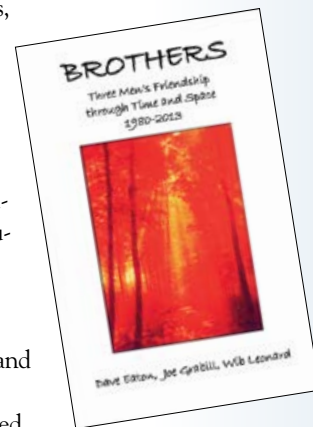


Michael Dougherty, assistant professor of sociology, has co-edited a new book called *The Americas and Oceania: Assessing Sustainability*. This book provides extensive coverage of sustainability practices in two regions linked culturally and historically by their relative isolation before the Columbian exchange, by their colonization after it, and by the challenges of pollution, resource overuse, and environmental degradation. Regional experts and international scholars focus on environmental history in areas such as the South Pacific islands, now particularly threatened by rising ocean levels due to climate change, and on countries whose governments and corporations can play a major role in promoting or discouraging sustainable choices: Brazil, an emergent power on the world stage; the United States, the world's third most populous nation; and New Zealand, seemingly on its way to becoming an enviable model of sustainable development.

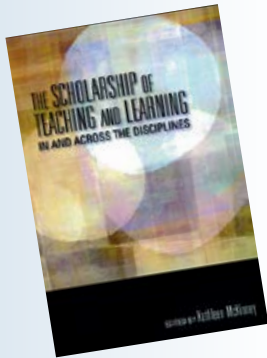
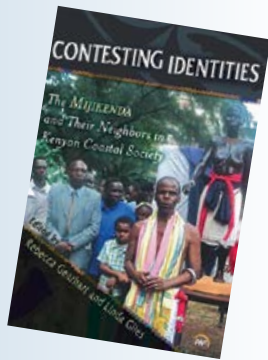


Professor **Wib Leonard** and Professors Emeriti Dave Eaton and Joe Grabill recently published a book titled *Brothers: Three Men's Friendship through Time and Space 1980-2013*. The tome is a transparent account of the processes through which three adult men became friends and continue that friendship to this day—a period of more than 30 years. The book includes a history of their meetings and interactive dialogues on self-image, their families and education, their ethical wills, and reflections on their friendship. The materials capture some of the essence of famous sociologist C. W. Mills' concept of the “sociological imagination” in which the linkages between social forces operating outside the individual and individual forces residing within the individuals are explored. *The Pantagraph* featured pictures and individual interviews in the “Health” section May 10, 2013.

Fred Smith, chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department and professor of anthropology, co-authored a book called *The Origins of Modern Humans: Biology Reconsidered*. Smith and James Ahern's book is a comprehensive assessment of the fossil record pertinent to the origin of modern humans. Contributors to the volume include many of the leading scholars focused on later human evolution worldwide. The book also includes discussion of the role of genetics, energetics, and developmental biology in understanding the relationships between archaic humans, especially the Neandertals of Eurasia, and early modern people. The scope of the book comprises regional coverage of Africa, the Near East, Central Europe, Western Europe, East Asia, and Australasia.



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Although all of the chapters in the volume are new, the book is an update to Smith and Frank Spencer's book *The Origins of Modern Humans*. A World Survey of the Fossil Record, named the best book in the life sciences in 1984 by the American Association of Publishers.

Retired anthropology faculty member **Linda Giles'** edited volume *Contesting Identities: The Mijikenda and their Neighbors in Kenyan Coastal Society* (co-edited with Rebecca Gearhart at Illinois Wesleyan University) has just been published by Africa World Press. The book combines the perspectives of local writers as well as those of anthropologists and other scholars to shed light on the complexities of ways of life in this part of East Africa.

Kathleen McKinney, professor emerita in sociology, published and edited a book in January 2013 titled *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in and across the Disciplines* (Indiana University Press). The scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) began primarily as a discipline-based movement, committed to exploring the signature pedagogical and learning styles of each discipline within higher education, with little exchange across disciplines. As the field has developed, new questions have arisen concerning cross-disciplinary comparison and learning in multidisciplinary settings. This volume by a stellar group of experts provides a state-of-the-field review of recent SoTL scholarship within a range of disciplines and offers a stimulating discussion of critical issues related to interdisciplinarity in teaching, learning, and SoTL research.

Tip of the hat

Teri Farr-Behnke, undergraduate advisor and assistant to the chair, is the recipient of the 2013 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award for Outstanding Administrative Professional Staff.

Joan Brehm, associate professor of sociology, is the 2013 winner of the Janice Witherspoon Neuleib Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement. The award, one of the highest honors given to a tenured faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences, recognizes truly outstanding scholarly achievement in the preceding calendar year.

Thomas Burr has been promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure in the department.

Robert Dirks, professor emeritus, helped organize the Greater Midwest Foodways Alliance's learning tour on "Pennsylvania Dutch Foods and Foodways in the Midwest," a program featuring Anabaptist culinary traditions. During the learning tour Dirks gave a presentation on "Early Anabaptists in Illinois and the Evolution of Pennsylvania Dutch."

Michael Dougherty, assistant professor of sociology, is the winner of a 2012–2013 Research Initiative Award. This universitywide award recognizes tenure-track faculty members who have initiated a promising research agenda early in their academic careers. Dougherty's research focuses on the relationship between environmental issues and political and economic forces in Latin America.

Thomas Gerschick, associate professor of sociology, has been named co-chair of the American Sociological Association's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology.

Lindsey Jo Helms, M.A. '12, was a College Winner of the James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Award for 2012. She is now in the Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Gina Hunter, associate professor of sociology, was one of the first recipients of the newly established Kenneth A. and Mary Ann Shaw Teaching Fellowship at Illinois State University. This fellowship recognizes teaching excellence. It provides support for teaching and mentoring initiatives.

Wib Leonard, professor of sociology, was inducted into The Northern Cambria (County, Pennsylvania) Hall of Fame for outstanding accomplishments in education and athletics during his lifetime. Leonard was also named as the 2012 College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer.

Kathleen McKinney, professor emerita in sociology, is serving as the interim Cross Endowed Chair in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning while the Office of the Provost conducts a search for a new Endowed Chair. McKinney and her husband, fellow sociologist Robert Wazienski, spent 10 days in Italy this spring visiting Lake Como, Florence, and Rome.

Maria Schmeackle, associate professor of sociology, received an Impact Award by University College. This award recognizes faculty members and other individuals for their positive influence on new students and student retention.

Fred Smith, department chair and professor of anthropology, was named as one of the 2013 University Professors. This title honors faculty who are nationally recognized scholars and teachers. In addition, Smith received the Gabriel Ward Lasker Distinguished Service Award at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists' annual meeting in April in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was also honored by a symposium held in his honor by some 30 of his former students. The symposium's title was "Concepts and Realities—Humans in Space and Time: Papers in Honor of Fred Hines Smith." Several Illinois State students participated in the symposium.

Virginia Teas Gill, professor of sociology, has been named a 2013 Outstanding University



Miranda (Randi) Utzinger, M.S. '10, participated in the Fred Smith symposium in Knoxville, Tennessee. She is pictured with Smith (left), her advisor at Illinois State, and Robert Franciscus, her Ph.D. advisor at the University of Iowa.

Teacher. The award is given to faculty whose teaching accomplishments are unusually significant and meritorious among their colleagues.

James Weinzierl, department lecturer, retired from the Department and the University.

Chris Wellin, assistant professor of sociology, was featured on WGLT's *Uncommon Knowledge*, discussing impacts of Alzheimer's disease.

Alumni news

Joan Bailey, M.S. '02 (by Professor Michael Dougherty)—Bailey has been building community wherever she's gone. And she's gone to a lot of far-flung places. Bailey is a 2002 graduate of the Peace Corps Fellows Program in sociology at Illinois State University, where she came to us on the heels of two years serving in the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan. Unlike many returned Peace Corps volunteers, her time in Central Asia, rather than sating her wanderlust, simply stoked it, and in 2009, after a stint in nonprofit management and raising chickens in rural Michigan,



Joan Bailey and her husband, Richard last year in Inokashira Park during Hanami (cherry blossom viewing season).

she and her husband, Rich, moved to Tokyo, Japan. While in Japan, Joan Bailey found a sublime way to combine her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin-

Madison with her master's in sociology/community development from Illinois State. She grows and prepares food, visits farmer's markets around Tokyo, and she writes about it. She posts regularly on her widely read blog, www.japanfarmersmarkets.com, and she writes for area magazines. You can follow her on Twitter (@JoanLBailey).

Grant Shoffstall '02, M.S. '06—

Congratulations to the sociology alum on the birth of his son, Oliver!

Bob Sonderman '76, M.S. '79—Sonderman is the steward of treasures from Civil War battlefields, historic homes, and other sites administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in the Washington, D.C., area. He manages a 55,000-square-foot storage facility containing boxes, shelves, and drawers filled with 2.5 million items. Although his main job is safeguarding the region's collections, Sonderman also is on call as team leader of the NPS Museum Emergency Response Team. The team comprises conservators, archaeologists, architects and others who do triage and damage assessments of national parks around the country when disasters strike. In addition to his aforementioned duties, Sonderman also conducts "traveling road shows," visiting schools with some of the items from the resource center. Sonderman, 58, earned a bachelor's degree from Illinois State in anthropology, and a master's degree in historical archaeology.

Murray Marks '78 (2012 Anthropology Alumnus of the Year)

By Murray Marks

In 1974, my history professor stated, "It is near impossible for historians to understand the Native American influence on the French and Indian War." So I decided to study prehistory and archaeology.

After field school and three contract seasons in the American Bottoms (Illinois State University) and the Lower Illinois River Valley-Kampsville (Northwestern University), doing mortuary site archaeology at the latter, I went to graduate school at the University of Arkansas and worked for the Arkansas Archaeological Survey from 1982–1985. When a Late Woodland house floor yielded one of the makers of cultural items, skeletons became more interesting and parallel interests to archeology developed in teeth, bone growth and trauma. As a research associate in anthropology at Louisiana State University from 1985–1988, we excavated historic African-American cemeteries in New Orleans. After 15 years as a faculty member in anthropology at Tulane University and the University of Tennessee, I am currently a professor in the graduate school of medicine at the University of Tennessee with joint appointment in pathology, doing forensic anthropology, and in dentistry, doing research and teaching forensic odontology in the Regional Forensic Center.

Since 1999, I have annually trained hundreds of the FBI's Evidence Response Team agents on

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clandestine grave discovery and excavation not to mention numerous forensic field recovery of surface and buried bodies for local, state, and federal authorities. A human rights mission to Panama in 2001 required excavation of suspected (former dictator Manuel) Noriega victims and the tremendous legal responsibilities of “recent” bones in context.

My 11 doctoral and 22 master’s graduates heard fond mention of how Illinois State influenced their mentor. I overheard them lament, “Oh no, here comes that thing about ‘context’ and archeology again, and this is a lab class.” As I reminisce on the tremendous romance of anthropology while at Illinois State in those tender years, the impact of Ed Jelks, Rob Dirks and Jonathan Reyman, were profound and everlasting. Partially given their passion, dedication, and mentorship to just another undergraduate so long ago, I have been able to explore and dig (literally) into exactly what I enjoy all these years. Who could ask for more than that?

Did you know?

- All anthropology and sociology seniors write a research-based senior thesis? In most universities, only honors students do this.

- Anthropology will offer a four-field master’s degree starting next year? The fields are archaeology, cultural, linguistics, and biological.

- Professor Tom Gerschick is the treasurer of the Midwest Sociological Society?

- Professor Jim Stanlaw is the new president of the Central States Anthropological Society?

Guess who

Can you guess who this little Kewpie doll is?



Professor Wib Leonard



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