BALL STATE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION REDEFINED

Department of Sociology Newsletter

Fall 2015

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Chairperson Greeting

We hope that the summer has been positive and productive for everyone. We offer a heartfelt welcome to new and returning students and congratulate our recent graduates. Please share your news with us. We would love to include your updates in our next newsletter!

As you read through this issue, we hope you will share in the excitement of everything that is happening in Sociology here at Ball State University. We continue to connect with the community with our immersive learning and internship experiences, and our campus and disciplinary leadership continues to excel. We hope that your curiosity will be peaked when you read about the outstanding research our faculty are conducting. Note also the many ways that our faculty are contributing to this newly invigorated entrepreneurial campus!

We have had an amazing year and look forward to 2015-16.

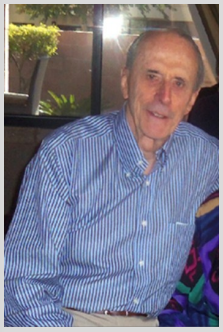
Melinda Messineo,
Chairperson, Sociology

Scholarship Recipients Named

Left: Jasmine Page, Right: Erin K Phelps

Gordon Scholarship, 2015 **Recipient Jasmine Page** In honor of Emeriti faculty member Dr. Whitney Gordon, this award recognizes community service and commitment to understanding or working with disadvantaged populations.

Tamney Scholarship, 2015 Recipient **Erin K. Phelps** In honor of the career and contributions of departed faculty member, Dr. Joseph Tamney, the award recognizes students who have demonstrated, through papers and projects in their sociology courses, sound sociological ideas about the causes of social behavior.



Scholarships in Honor of:

Above: Dr. Whitney Gordon,

Below: Dr. Joseph Tamney

Congratulations to our Recent Graduates

BA/BS Recipients
-Matthew Barrows
-Katie Blankenship
-Taylor Drummond
-Nicholas Forth
-Noah Gilliom
-Ashleigh Laymon
-Jordan Mullen
-Holly Myers
-Victoria Ong
-William Osborn
-Eric Patterson
-Jessica Poore
-Rachel Stenger
-Trinity Summitt
-Joy Targgart
-Cara Wilcox
-Adrienne Wilde

MA Recipients
-James Burdge
-Glenn Christen
-Christina Roberts
-Jared Sell
-Sabrina Tanner

We are so proud of our graduates!

Congrats and best wishes as you continue your journey as lifelong learners!

Looking for an update on what's new with Elemental? http://elementalprotection.org/
Below: Dr. Chad Menning , Co-creator, Elemental

NCSA Theme
2015
"New Visions of Human Flourishing"

2016
"Inequality, Injustice, and Intersectionality"

Students to Study Socio-History and Justice of Civil Rights in Ferguson

Drs. Ione DeOllos and Bryan Byers (CJC) will lead a 6.0 credit hour Immersive Learning course on civil rights and justice issues in Indiana, Ferguson, and the American Deep South.

In addition to classroom preparation on these topics, students will be trained in qualitative interview methods to conduct data collection in Ferguson, Missouri in the aftermath of the Michael Brown shooting and the Department of Justice Civil Rights Report as a result of the events there.

Professors DeOllos and Byers received a Provost Immersive Learning Initiative Grant to fund the summer research and fall course implementation. Yvonne Thompson, a representative from their community partner, the Muncie Human Rights Commission, will be joining them for part of the fieldwork experience.

Photo: Dr. Bryan Byers (left) and Dr. Ione DeOllos (right)

Students Present Research at North Central Sociological Association

Each year the Department of Sociology sponsors a team of Graduate and Undergraduate students to attend the North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting . This year the meeting was held in Cleveland Ohio, and five of the ten students were involved presenting research or on panels.

The student's original research papers included:

"A Marxist Interpretation of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" as Seen and Heard in Fantasia" by Jordan Meyer.

"A Theoretical Application of Marx to Sex Work" by Wes Heath

"In Crisis: American Male Friendship" By Michael Light

"The Changing Role of Education in Marriage Trends" Jordan Meyer worked with Dr. Roger Wojtkiewicz

"It Has Been Hard Growing Up Without a Mother: The Challenge and Implications of the "New" Feminist Theology for the Latter-Day Saints Church" by Rich Burdge

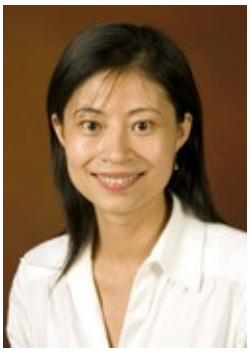
"Let The Heavens Be Glad, and The Earth Rejoice: Religion and Life Satisfaction" Brendan Dugan worked with Drs. Scott Desmond & Rachel Kraus

The trip was funded in part through a grant from the National AKD office.

Photo: AKD members (top, left to right) Wes Heath, Michael Light, Jared Sell, (bottom, left to right) Cole Heady and Brendan Dugan

Faculty Elected to Leadership Roles

Ball State University's Department of Sociology faculty members serve in a number of elected roles at the regional and national levels. Dr. Rachel Kraus was elected to serve as secretary and Dr. Melinda Messineo was elected to serve as Vice-President and Program Chair for the North Central Sociological Association this year. Congratulations!



Faculty Recognitions

Congratulation to Dr. Xu whose paper "Marginalized Model Minority? An Empirical Examination of the Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans." (co-authored w/J Lee) won the 2015 Research Paper Award of the Asia and Asian American Section of the American Sociological Association.

The Ball State University Trustees recently approved the placement of Dr. Fang Gong on tenure and the promotion of Dr. Mellisa Holtzman to full professor. Congratulations!

Faculty Leadership

In addition to serving as a faculty member in Sociology, Dr. Lisa Pellerin continues to serve as Director of the Women and Gender Studies program.

Dr. Roger Wojtkiewicz continued to serve on the Advisory Council of the Associate Provost for Research & Dean of the Graduate School and was elected to serve on the Dean's Advisory Council.

Holtzman Presents NCSA Schnabel Address

As recipient of the 2014 John H. Schnabel Award, Dr. Mellisa Holtzman was invited to give a keynote address at the 2015 North Central Sociological Association annual meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Her address was entitled, "Tales from a classroom Ninja: What marital arts can teach us about transformative learning experiences."

The award recognizes distinguished contributions to teaching and service to the region. To be eligible for this recognition, recipients must have significant and sustained leadership in teaching and faculty development at their home campus and NCSA.

Photos: (column top down) Dr. Rachel Kraus, Dr. Fang Gong, (left) Dr. Lisa Pellerin, (right) Dr. Roger Wojtkiewicz (bottom) Dr. Richard Petts and Dr. Jun Xu Above Dr. Mellisa Holtzman

Faculty Research Highlights

- Desmond & **Kraus.** "The Effects of Importance of Religion and Church Attendance on Adolescents' Moral Beliefs." Sociological Focus
- **Gong**,et al. Psychosocial Work Characteristics of Personal Care and Service Occupations: A Process for Developing Meaningful Measures for a Multiethnic Workforce." Ethnicity and Disease
- **Holtzman** "Judicial Decision Making in Contested Adoptions: The Influence of Children's Best Interests Arguments." Capital University Law Review
- **Holtzman & Menning.** "A New Model for Sexual Assault Protection: Creation and Initial Testing of Elemental." Journal of Applied Social Science.
- **Kraus** "Transforming Spirituality in Artistic Leisure: How Spiritual Meaning of Belly Dance Changes Over Time." Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.
- **Petts** "Family, Religious Attendance, and Trajectories of Psychological Well-Being among Youth." Journal of Family Psychology
- **Kraus** et al."Being Thankful: Examining the Relationship between Young Adult Religiosity and Gratitude." Journal of Religion and Health.
- **Menning & Holtzman**. "Processes and Patterns in Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Sexual Assault: A Multimethodological Assessment." Journal of Interpersonal Violence
- **Xu** & Fullerton.."Comparing, Confounding, or Clarifying? Alternative Measures of Statistical Group Comparisons in Binary Regression Models." Chinese Sociological Review

Sociology Main Office

2000 W University Ave NQ 222
Muncie, IN 47306
Phone: 765-285-5977
E-mail: mmessine@bsu.edu

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

Department Welcomes New Administrative Coordinator

The Department of Sociology is pleased to welcome Lisa Etchison, Ball State University Alumna— Department of Marketing, back to campus.

Welcome, Lisa!

Want more news? Find us online!

http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/

Abundant Immersive Learning Opportunities in Sociology

Our immersive learning experiences continue to connect students to community partners. Our Sociology Capstone students studied faculty and student understandings of and commitment to institutional foundation carbon divestment for the **Council on the Environment (COTE)**.

Students also completed surveys for both the **Southside and Riverside/Normal City neighborhood Associations**. The goal was to better understand residents' sense of neighborhood and identity, articulate strengths and weaknesses, and identify objectives for the coming year.

Another capstone team completed a SWOT analysis and member survey for **Muncie Delaware Clean & Beautiful** as part of their strategic planning efforts.

Sociology students completed our fourth year of partnership with **TEAMwork for Quality Living.** This goal of the organization is to help highly motivated people navigate their path out of poverty using the power of information, social networks, and social capital.

Stay tuned to learn more about this year's fall project with the **Hancock County Drug Court.**

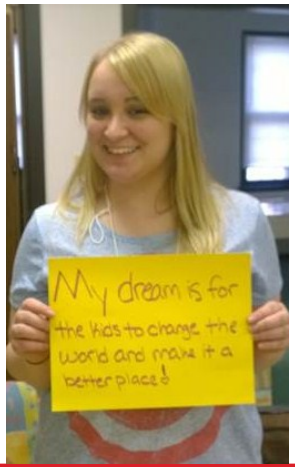


Photo: (above) Capstone students converse with Mayor Dennis Tyler at BBC Showcase. (right) Outstanding Senior 2015, Jessica Poore, shares her dream for TEAMwork kids. (below) TEAMwork circle.