BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Sciences and Humanities
Department of Sociology

Spring 2019

Newsletter

State of the Department

Welcome to our Spring newsletter! We have many events to share, and I want to take a moment to highlight two of them.

First, we have successfully completed the department's first tenure-line hire in over a decade, and will be pleased to welcome Dr. Ellen Whitehead this fall. Ellen comes to us with a freshly-minted doctorate from Rice University, and will be teaching classes on race and ethnicity, family, and quantitative methods. She looks forward to taking an integral place in our department's immersive learning and community engagement opportunities.

Second, our department recently completed a self study, which we do once every 5 years: We asked what we have accomplished, assessed our strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and used this information to start to set a course for the future. This is an enormous task, but very helpful: We are pleased to report that, by any measure, we provide stellar learning opportunities—especially in methodologies, and especially as evidenced by the placement of our graduate students. We are leaders in immersive learning and, as you might expect, inclusive excellence and diversity. Our number of majors is the highest it has been in many years, and we benefit from increased alumni involvement. As you will see in the rest of this newsletter, our faculty are leaders in our field not only on campus, but regionally, nationally, and internationally. We expect to expand our communication about what this means for our students, and to convey more clearly how our students can use what they learn here to build meaningful lives and careers that are consistent with their values and passions. Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for updates.

One additional point emerged from our self study that deserves note here, as it might otherwise remain secret: We make excellent use of our resources and take pride in our ability to provide top-tier experiences and opportunities with outstanding efficiency. This is one way that we respect the investments of the students, families, taxpayers, and philanthropists who support our work in teaching and scholarship as we expand the boundaries of the known, and convey and use that information to build a brighter future for all of us. Thank you for supporting these important missions.

As always, please stay in touch! We look forward to hearing from you.

Chadwick L. Menning, PhD

Professor and Chair

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Our Year in Review

This 2018-2019 academic year, Ball State Sociology was a part of many projects, events, and programs. Here are some of our highlights!

Sociology Surge 2018

On October 2, 2018, BSU Sociology held our Sociology Surge event. Surge was a networking event for alumni and current students.

Forward STEPS

Sociology continues its partnership with ForwardSTEPS (formerly TEAMwork for Quality Living) with the goal of helping under-resourced families thrive.

Detroit Field Study

In January of 2019, Professor John Anderson took Ball State sociology students to do a field study trip in Detroit. While there, they visited The 8 Mile Wall, the Heidelberg Project exhibit, the ruins of the Ford Manufacturing Plants, and gathered and documented research. Through visiting Detroit's historical locations, students learned about social, economic, and environmental injustice. This field study was so successful, a first Summer session course has been developed and a second trip is planned for May 2019.

One Ball State Day

One Ball State Day was held on April 9th, 2019. Through fourteen gifts, the Sociology department raised $831!

NCSA 2019

In March of this year, many of Ball State's faculty and students, including 8 of our graduate students, presented at the 2019 NCSA conference in Cincinnati. Dr. Melinda Messineo of the Ball State Sociology Department presided as president of the 2019 conference.

Spring 2019 Capstone

This year's capstone class explored the relationship between school based food pantries (SBFP) and academic success. They also helped their community partner, Second Harvest, measure the degree to which SBFPs impact parental relationships with schools. Preliminary findings suggest that pantries help kids academically and build positive relationships.

MA Program

In the 2018-2019 academic school year, the Department of Sociology's graduate program contained fourteen students: nine first-years and five second-years. The 2019-2020 cohort is expected to be a strong group of the same size, a 30% increase in program size!

New Concentrations

The Ball State Sociology Department is introducing new concentrations in the Fall of 2019, Concentration on Diversity and Concentration in Health and Populations. Emphasis in organization/institutions and emphasis in social action/policy will remain.

Student Highlights

Award Recipients

Audrey Loomis– Tamney Award

Erica Dee Fox– Whitney Gordon Award

Stacey Hodges– Outstanding Senior

Rachael Finchum– Outstanding First Year Grad Student

Congratulations to all of our award recipients!

2018 Race & Ethnic Relations Fall Showcase

Sociology students under the direction of their instructor, Mr. John Anderson, presented their research on selected topics about Race and Ethnic Relations in America this November. Students showcased their academic posters communicating the highlights of their research, and engaging the public in meaningful discussion about their findings. Some of the presentation topics included:

- Immigration Law/Policy and its impact on undocumented students
- White guilt
- The intersectionality of African and Latin culture

Thank you to all who presented and attended!

Congratulations Graduates!

Spring & Summer 2019 Graduates

Bachelors

Devaughn J Jones

Adrianna E Arthur

Katina E Clark

Whitney N Coffman

Jazmin T Deshazer

Laura A Drascic

Tonya Gregorash

Tori C Grimmage

Jaze M Harris

Richard D Lamb

Amber Levi

Catina M Mccord

Kerrigan Mccormack

Kaitlyn J Morris

Samuel Mulholland

Emily J O'Lena

Sarah E Powell

Ian R Quast

Adore Davis

Makenna N Elzbeck

Olivia G Foster

Jaleea S Johnson

Gavin A Mauk

Meghan J Pier

Sydney R Riojas

Olivia R Snyder

Daniel Etchison

Dorthe Kolkinn

Masters

Olivia C Ashba

Katharine J Herbert

Paul D Jones

Katie J Savage

Alumni News

Thank you to our supporters!

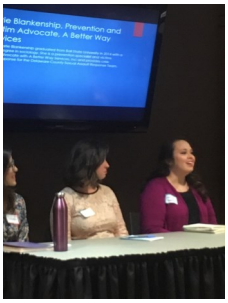
Barbara Carter
Gerry Cox
Dr. Stephen & Linda Johnson
Anthony E. Ladd & Kathleen Fitzgerald
David R. Maines
Andrew J. Morrow
Matt Black
Jeff Campbell
Jean Coyle
Cole Heady
Wesley Heath
Neal Hoffman
Angela D. Lewis
Jenna E. Martin
Nicole D. Miles
Amanda Price
Kaley Schoeph
Jeff Schultz
Naomi Sloan
Ashton Wright
Meagan Brant
Jim Flatford
Daniel Flowers
Elizabeth Scheetz
Carli Hendershot
Sunni & Cory Matters
Chadwick Menning
Melinda Messineo
Gregory Morrison
Abby Klein
Olivia Power
Joshua & Beth Raines
Kim Hennessee
Ty Sherman
Kodee Walls

You help fund scholarships, student travel and conference attendance, professional development and immersive learning experiences, research projects, and more. Thank you for your

SECOND HARVEST food bank — Ball Memorial Hospital

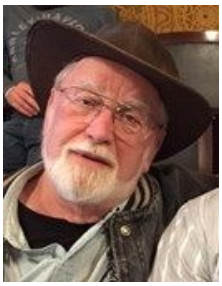
Alumni in the Field

Alumni Katie Blankenship presented her work, "A Better Way," at IDEA Conference in Indianapolis this year. Congratulations Katie!



David Morris

David C. Morris passed away early on April 24, 2019. Dr. Morris was a professor emeritus at Ball State and received his PhD from the Ohio State University. David was loved and will be forever missed.



Meet Ball State Sociology's Alumni Advisory Board

We are pleased to announce the inaugural BSU Sociology Alumni Advisory Board. The members include: Nicole Miles, Wes Heath, Brendan Dugan, Jenna Martin, Matt Black, Angie Lewis, David Maines and Neal Hoffman. In the coming year, they anticipate connecting with current students to provide job shadowing and mentoring opportunities. They also hope to develop events that will connect BSU alum to campus in face to face and virtual spaces. Watch for announcements this fall!

Thank you to our Alumni Advisory Board for all of your work and your dedication to the department!

Faculty News

Pellerin's Article Publication

Professor Lisa Pellerin's article, "Effects on multiple features of nonparental care and parenting in toddlerhood on socioemotional development at kindergarten entry," is to be published by the Merrill-Palmer Quarterly. Congratulation to Professor Pellerin and her coauthors!

Dr. Richard Petts

This year, Dr. Richard Petts had seven articles published. His articles, including "Time Off after Childbirth and Mothers' Risk of Depression, Parenting Stress, and Parenting Practices," related to paternity and parenting. His published works has presented him the opportunity to travel to Ramat Gan, Israel and Hamburg, Germany this summer. Dr Petts has also become a member of the International Network on Leave Policies and Research; each nation can only have a maximum of four members. Congratulations to Dr. Petts on his achievements!

John Anderson

Professor John Anderson was recognized by the National Pan-Hellenic Council as "Outstanding Professor in the Office of Greek Life". Anderson was also chosen for the 2018 Continuing Education Award by the Indiana Council for Continuing Education.

Dr. Melinda Messineo

This year, Dr. Melinda Messineo was President of the North Central Sociological Association. Dr. Messineo was also promoted to full Professor and Interim Associate Vice President for Diversity and Interim Director of the Office of Institutional Diversity.

Faculty Highlights

Dr. Rachael Kraus

Dr. Rachael Kraus' chapter on qualitative research was released in Principles of Research in Behavior Science.

Dr. Jun Xu

Dr. Jun Xu coauthored a paper titled "gencrm: A New Command for Generalized Continuation Ratio Models" that was published in the Stata Journal.

Dr. Melissa Holtzman

Dr Holtzman's work, "Beyond Victim Blaming: Students' Perceptions of Bystanders Who Fail to Intervene," was accepted for publication in Socio-logical Focus.

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We invite you to contact us with news, comments, and questions!

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