BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

WE FLY

Sociology Alumni Newsletter 2023-2024

Letter from the Chair

Greetings from Ball State!

Do you know how much your engagement matters to the Department of Sociology? Here are just a few activities that our alumni and friends helped to make possible this year:

Forty-five of our students have been involved in seven different community activities since last summer. The majority of these were part of faculty-directed teams that worked with our community partners to collect and analyze data that provided operational insights, assisted them in serving their populations, and helped them tell their stories to a broader public. We are grateful for our partnerships with the **Hancock County Drug Court, Second Harvest**, and the **Recovery Café**. Several students also completed internships with the **Non-Profit Support Network**, the **BSU Office of Inclusive Excellence,** and the **BSU Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support**. Our faculty also mentored undergraduate and graduate students who presented at the **North Central Sociological Association Centennial Conference** in Columbus, OH, and coached them through other professionalization experiences, such as the **Etiquette Dinner**. These activities, which benefit from your support, as well as our collaborations with BSU's **Career Center** and the Office of **Immersive Learning**, are vital parts of our students' preparation for life after college. Your engagement enables them to hone their skills and helps to ensure that they are career-ready when they launch from our nest in pursuit of their passions.

Thanks to your engagement, we have also been able to offer other immersive experiences beyond the classroom. For example, Dr. John Anderson's Race and Ethnic Relations class took a series of day-long, **"study-away" trips** to Cincinnati, Louisville, and Detroit to visit a swathe of sites that brought the topics of the class to life and prompted deeper insights and learning. We are also excited to re-launch our **study abroad trip to Costa Rica this summer**, under the direction of Drs. Melinda Messineo and Ellen Whitehead.

We deeply value your engagement. If you would like to join us in advancing the work of the department, whether by mentoring students who are preparing for careers and meaningful lives,

providing valuable input on our curriculum and other operations as a member of our Alumni Advisory Committee, or by making a donation, we would welcome your help and would be excited to hear from you! You are invited to contact Dr. Melinda Messineo (mmessine@bsu.edu), who serves as the department's Alumni Liaison, or me (clmenning@bsu.edu) at your convenience. Donations may be made by clicking **here**.

We hope that you enjoy this annual update on the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff!

With warmest regards,

Chadwick L. Menning, PhD

Professor and Chair

Department of Sociology

Read this letter on our **blog**.

In Memoriam

David Thomas Staggs has been a part of our department for nearly 20 years, serving both as a student in his undergraduate and master's programs and as an instructor. He was valued by his students and colleagues alike for his resilience and intellectual leadership. He will be deeply missed. (October 2023). Read More here.

Special Events

Dr. Fang Gong

Dr. Jun Xu

Ball State University's first State of Inclusive Excellence Address celebrated all of Ball State's accomplishments and advancements toward inclusive excellence. A special thank you to sociology staff and AAPI representatives Dr. Jun Xu and Dr. Fang Gong for their impactful contributions. (September 2023). Learn More.

Dr. John Anderson

The MLK Unity Week Breakfast was a successful event. Keynote speaker Dr. John Anderson, director of the Ryan Family Navigators program, delivered an inspiring address. A huge thank you to Dr. Anderson and everyone who attended! (January 2024). Find Out More.

Good News

Dr. Mellisa Holtzman

Congratulations to Dr. Mellisa Holtzman on her recent publication in the Journal of Public and Professional Sociology titled "Predictors of Bystander Intervention: Examining the Heteronormative Bias in Bystander Intervention Research." (January 2024) Read More.

We also extend congratulations to Drs. Holtzman and Ellen Whitehead for their insightful work "Coresident Households and IPV Risk: An Analysis of Prevalence and Correlates," published in the Journal of Family Violence. (January 2024). Learn more.

Kudos as well to Dr. Holtzman and Yolanda Arciniega Excel for their upcoming article in the Journal of Underrepresented & Minority Progress, which stems from Yolanda's impactful thesis work. Congratulations on your scholarly contributions! (April 2024). Get the Details.

Lastly, Dr. Holtzman has introduced her new co-edited and authored SOC 100 textbook, "Sociology: Think Outside the Book!" (February 2024). Learn more here.

Dr. Jun Xu

Enlightening Presentation! Dr. Jun Xu, a member of the BSU AAPI Faculty and Staff Association, provided invaluable insights into racial/ethnic disparities in healthcare during his presentation. An essential contribution to ongoing discussions around equity. (May 2024). Discover More Here.

Congratulations to Dr. Gong on her well-deserved promotion to full professor, recognizing her contributions to academia and our community! (May 2023). Find Out More.

Dr. Fang Gong

Dr. Richard Petts

Kudos to Dr. Petts for his impressive accomplishments this year! He was named Vice Chair of the Institutional Review Board, a wonderful honor that recognizes his dedication and hard work (January 2024). Read More.

Additionally, congratulations to Dr. Petts for being ranked among the top 2% of scientists based on citations, a testament to the significant impact of his research. (October 2023) Read More.

Further accolades go to Dr. Petts for his coauthored article in Sociology and Mental Health that was featured in "This Month in ASA Journals, November 2023"! Read More.

Congratulations to Dr. Messineo for her significant contribution to the collection "Emerging Stronger: Pedagogical Lessons from the Pandemic." Her chapter, "Advancing Social Justice and Antiracism Efforts through Inclusive Pedagogy," highlights her commitment to enhancing educational practices through inclusivity and social justice. This work is an exemplary showcase of her expertise and dedication. (August 2023) Find Out More.

Dr. Melinda Messineo

Dr. Ellen Whitehead

Congratulations to Dr. Ellen Whitehead on her coauthored article, “Still Separate and Unequal: Persistent Racial Segregation and Inequality in Subsidized Housing,” which has been accepted for publication in Socius. (July 2023) Learn More.

Further congratulations to Drs. Whitehead and Holtzman for their insightful work "Coresident Households and IPV Risk: An Analysis of Prevalence and Correlates," published in the Journal of Family Violence. (January 2024) Find Out More.

Congratulations to Joy Targgart on receiving this year's GOLD Award. As a proud BSU graduate, Joy is committed to giving back to her community and putting her degree in sociology to good use. (August 2023). Read more.

Joy Targgart

Kristin Newvine

Congratulations to Kristin Newvine! Kristin's thesis, "Telling their Stories and Saying their Names: How Race, Gender, and First-Person Character Performing Impacts Historical Interpreters' Identities," has won third place in the Alpha Kappa Delta Graduate Paper Competition. (May 2024) Read More.

Our Donors

Thank you for giving on One Ball State Day 2024

Sociology

Your generosity helped us raise $2269.00 for undergraduate students and student scholarships. We are grateful for your investment in our future Sociology scholars.

Find Out More.

Community Engagement

Visual Sociology Showcase 2024

A Resounding Success! Our students, faculty, and community partner, Recovery Café, came together to share transformative experiences from this immersive learning course. In the "Humanizing Addiction" project, we acknowledged, understood, and shared the stories of individuals in recovery from substance use disorder by providing them with disposable cameras to capture their daily lives. Through interviews about the photos, we recognized shared human experiences across participants. We extend our deepest gratitude to all participants for making this event a life-changing experience. (May 2024) Read More.

Second Harvest and Hancock County Drug Court

Our Capstone students met with Second Harvest Food Bank, our community partner. These students were gathering data at the Big Idea school-based pantry and resource sites to find out how to serve our neighbors more impactfully! (January 2024) Learn More.

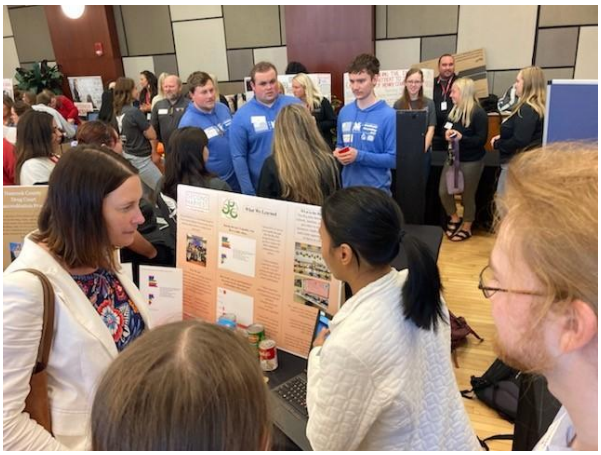
Also, in April 2024, Capstone students went to visit their community partner the Hancock County Drug Court! Read More.

North Central Sociology Association Centennial Conference

Celebrating Research! Our faculty and students made significant contributions to this conference in Columbus, Ohio. Special thanks to AKD for supporting our student researchers! (April 2024) Find Out More.

Immersive Learning Showcase Highlights

Dynamic Learning! In April, our students showcased their projects from Michelle Poole's Visual Sociology and Dr. Messineo's Capstone class, highlighting the rich learning experiences gained through immersive courses. (April 2024) Read More.



Etiquette Dinner

One of our recent initiatives included a comprehensive career preparation program featuring the Etiquette Dinner. Students learned to showcase their strengths, network with diverse teams, and navigate interview meals. Thanks to your donations, students gained invaluable skills. (April 2024) Find Out More.

Costa Rica trip

Students from SOC 328, Globalization and the Social World, went on a study trip to Costa Rica from May 23 to Jun 1st. Led by Drs. Melinda Messineo and Ellen Whitehead, they explored globalization in Costa Rica and discussed social problems and change models. (May 2024) Learn More.

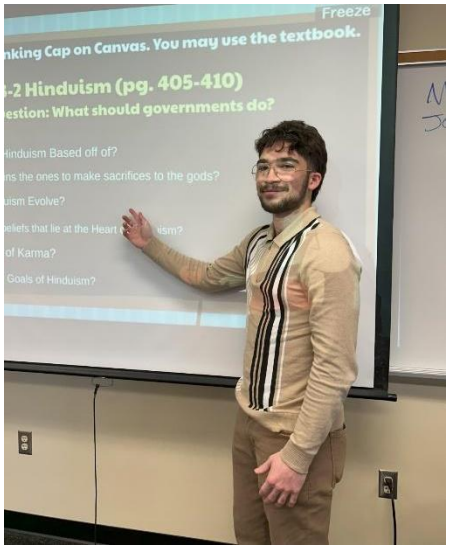
Field Study-Away Trips

Our students from SOC 221, Introduction to Race and Ethnic Relations, embarked on three separate field studies to Cincinnati, Louisville, and Detroit. The trips included visits to various sites that vividly illustrated the topics discussed in class, leading to deeper insights and enhanced learning experiences.

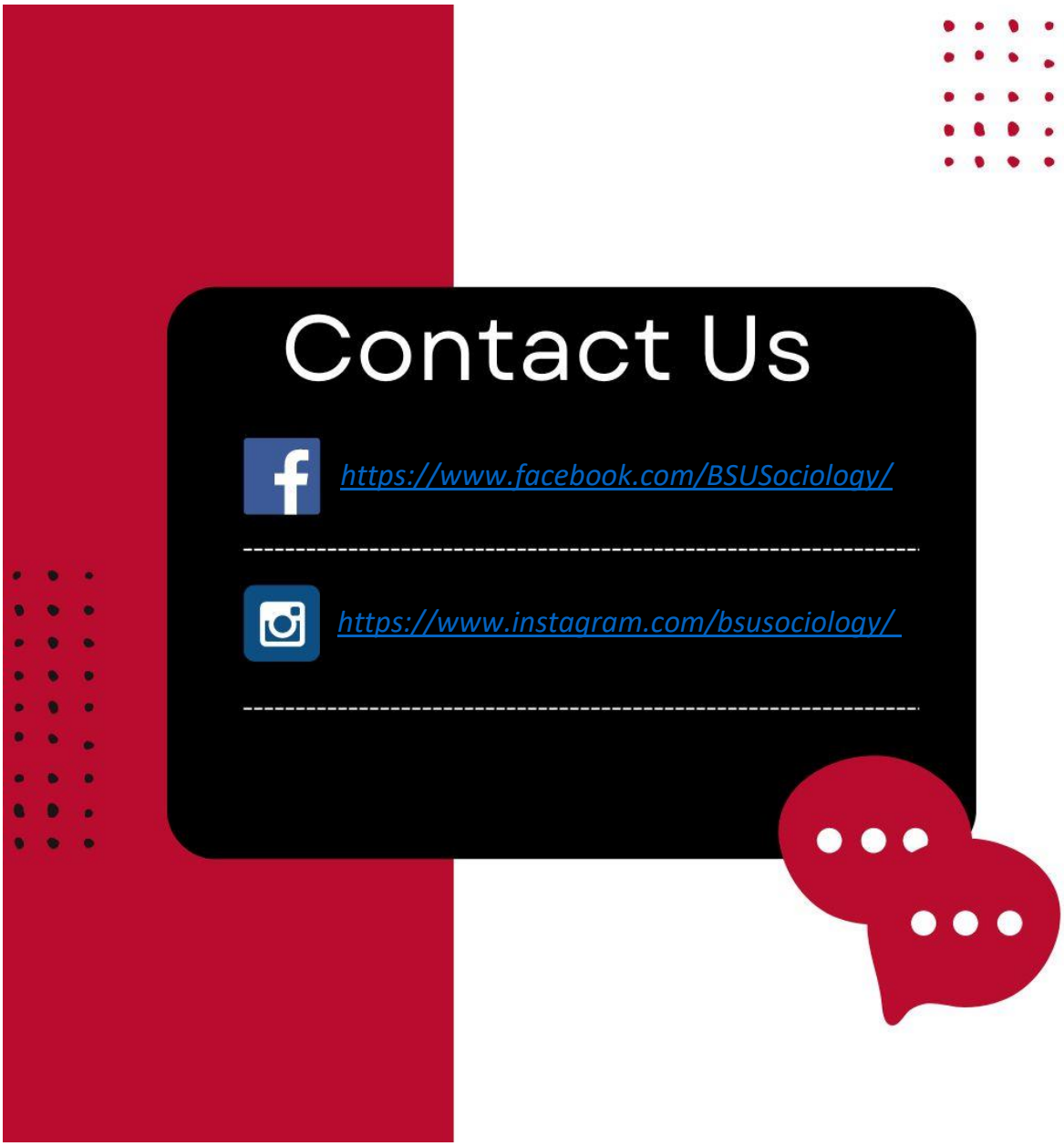
Student Success

Ball State Top 100 Students

Congratulations to our Top 100 Students! We have Payton Bennett, our Sociology major, followed by Katie Bilka, Jayson Thomas, and Lauren Ivankovich who are Sociology minors. We are proud of you, keep up your great work! Find Out More.



Giving

With your help, so many things are possible.

Make a gift!