



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Sociology



From the Chair's Desk...



It has been a privilege to begin my term as Chair of the Sociology Department this fall. We have had an

exciting semester on the 2nd floor of Cooper Hall and we look forward to many more wonderful events that are yet to come.

In the spring we will celebrate 50 years of bringing Sociology to the USF and Tampa Bay Area communities. Our department has grown tremendously in this time. In 2000, we had 10 faculty members and

New Faces in New Places

Dr. Elizabeth Aranda began her 3 year term this fall as Chair of the department.

Dr. Laurel Graham began her 2-year term as Associate Chair.

Dr. Maralee Mayberry began her 3-year term as Director of Undergraduate Studies.

slightly over 200 majors. We awarded about 40 B.A. and 6 M.A. degrees that year. Since then, we have absorbed the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (ISS) degree program, developed two undergraduate areas of concentration, and launched a new Ph.D. program. Clearly we have grown! We currently house 23 faculty members and 2 post-doctoral scholars who serve 362 Sociology majors, 358 ISS majors, and 38 graduate students (22 who are pursuing their Doctoral degrees in Sociology). In the 2012/13 (continued on page 2)

Career Moves

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Vaquera who was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor this fall.

Congratulations to Ms. Christina Partin was promoted to Senior Instructor Level II in spring, 2013.

Congratulations to Mr. Brandon Kroll who was promoted to Lead Advisor.



Sociology M.A. students Antoine Jackson, Heidi Ross, Morgan Sanchez, and Jeffrey Hilbert celebrate their accomplishments at last spring's graduation ceremony on May, 5, 2013 at the Sundome.

SocioFeed

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Sociology at the University of South Florida

Volume 1, Issue 1, December 2013

Welcome to Our Department!

Dr. Erica Toothman received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida State University. She joins us as a Permanent Instructor.

Dr. Emelda Curry received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from USF. She joins us as a Visiting Instructor in ISS and Program Development Coordinator.

Dr. Sinem Adar received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Brown University. She joins us as one of the Provost's Post-Doctoral Fellows.

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Chair's Desk... (continued from page 1)

academic year, we graduated 115 undergraduate students majoring in Sociology, 75 ISS majors, and 4 M.A. students. The students from our first Ph.D. cohort are coming up on graduation time as well. In short, our intellectual environment has grown in ways we never imagined.

On April 11, 2014 we will mark our semi-centennial celebration with social and scholarly activities that will engage students, alumni, and mem-

The 2012/13 academic year resulted in 115 Sociology and 75 ISS undergraduate B.A. degree recipients.

bers of the university community. We would love to have you join us. Stay tuned to our website for updates: <http://sociology.usf.edu> and like our Facebook page to get the

latest news on the department's activities: <https://www.facebook.com/USFSociology>



Faculty and Staff Awards & Service

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff for their accomplishments and service to the University and the Sociology community:

- Dr. Margarethe Kusenbach was elected President of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interactionism. Her term runs from August 2014 to 2015.
- Dr. Jim Cavendish was elected to serve as the Executive Officer of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. His term extends until 2016.
- Ms. Christina Partin was awarded USF's Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.
- Dr. Donileen Loseke delivered the Peter M. Hall Distinguished Lecture at the Annual Meetings of the Mid-West Sociological Society in Chicago.
- Dr. Robert Benford gave the Plenary Address at the Annual Meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association in October 2013.
- Dr. John Skvoretz was elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also received USF's prestigious Research and Innovation award.
- Dr. Sara Green was elected to be Secretary/Treasurer of the American Sociological Association's Section on Disability and Society. She was also appointed co-chair of the "ASA Status Committee on People with Disabilities in Sociology."
- Online Schools Florida named Dr. Elizabeth Aranda one of the "20 Fabulous Hispanic Professors in Florida."
- Dr. Sara Crawley was elected to a 3-year term as Council Member for the American Sociological Association's Sex & Gender Section.
- Dr. Will Tyson and Dr. Lakshmi Jayaram have begun to work on year 3 of their 4-year NSF \$1 million grant, PathTech, that studies school to work pathways into STEM careers.
- Dr. Elizabeth Vaquera was elected to a 3-year term as Council Member for the American Sociological Association's Latino/a Sociology Section and the Section on Childhood and Youth.
- Dr. Erica Toothman defended her dissertation from Florida State University and received her Ph.D. degree on December 14, 2013.
- Dr. David Jacobson was interviewed on August 21, 2013 on *Late Night with Phillip Adams*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) about his recent book, *Of Virgins and Martyrs: Women and Sexuality in Global Conflict*.
- Dr. Christie Rinck was awarded the National Academic Advising Association's 2013 National Outstanding Advising Award for her Primary Advising Role at USF.
- Dr. Shawn Bingham was named Visiting Fellow at The Center for the Study of the American South at UNC Chapel Hill.



John Skvoretz and Christina Partin at the USF Award Ceremony, November 26, 2013.

Dr. Crawley Shares Her Work on Feminist and Queer Theory with Scholars from the Former Soviet Union

Paradoxically, the countries of the former Soviet Union whose educational system was purportedly based on Marxism to this day systemically avoid teaching or engaging feminist or queer theory. Under the former Soviet ideologies, women did not require "equality" because all people were envisioned as equal workers for the state (though, much like capitalist countries, the domestic labor expected of women was not recognized as labor, hence, the source of much inequality). Further, sexuality has not been a viable topic of study at all in Soviet or post-Soviet times. As traditional cultures mostly steeped in traditional religions, much of post-Soviet culture can be seen as

largely misogynist and homophobic. As a result, Dr. Sara Crawley (along with several other faculty from the U.S. and Western Europe) was invit-



Dr. Sara Crawley points out her name spelled in a different language on the poster announcing her public lecture at The National University of Kyiv—Mohyla Academy.

ed to participate in a 3-year project to engage the literatures in feminist and queer theory to 30 scholars from the post-Soviet region (coming from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Armenia and Albania). Having completed 5 of the planned 6 trips to Ukraine and Hungary, Dr. Crawley has developed strong collegial bonds with the members of the project who have all developed an impressive scholarly interchange of ideas. One of many outcomes of this project was the Fulbright fellowship awarded to Olga Plakhotnik, an organizer of the post-Soviet project, to USF's Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies Departments in Spring 2013.

Conference Brings Together Experts on Latino Communities in the U.S.

On November 8th 2013, top researchers from universities across the U.S. gathered in St. Petersburg to discuss some of the most important issues facing Latinos today.

The conference "**Latino Communities in Old and New Destinations: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Assessing the Impact of Legal Reforms,**" organized by Dr. Elizabeth Aranda, Chair of the Sociology Department, gave public voice to ongoing research examining how social policies at federal, state, and local levels have affected many segments of the Latino population.



Eric Eisenberg, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, welcomed the conference participants and members of the community.

Panelists were among the top researchers in their fields who focus on communities of Latinos in both old and new places of settlement.

The day closed with two keynote speakers, Cecilia Menjivar, Cowden Distinguished Professor at Arizona State University, and Ediberto Roman, Professor of Law at Florida International University. Both speakers emphasized the need for broad-based immigration reform rather than a piece-meal approach. They brought to the forefront of the discussion how the current state of legal uncertainties for many Latino/a immigrants has made everyday life much more difficult for this population, even in their own communities.

The conference included research presentations from several USF researchers including Sociologists Aranda and Elizabeth Vaquera and Anthropologists Heide Castaneda and Angela Stuesse.

Sociology students were key to the success of the conference. Special thanks go to Fransheska Andaluz, Jasmon Bailey, and Crystalee Valentin for volunteering their time and

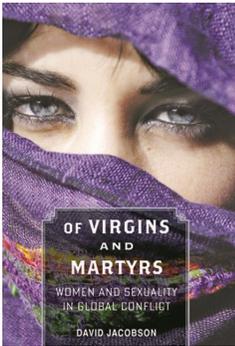


Dr. Elizabeth Aranda delivers the opening remarks at the conference.

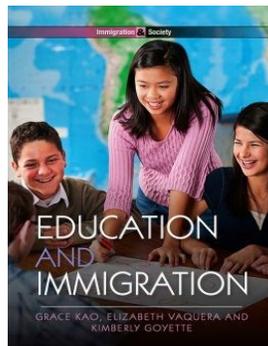
energy! The conference proceedings will be published in 2014 in two peer-reviewed special issues of the *American Behavioral Scientist*. Stay tuned!



Faculty Books



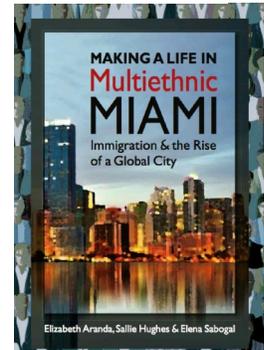
David Jacobson authored *Of Virgins and Martyrs: Women and Sexuality in Global Conflict* in December, 2012 (Johns Hopkins University Press).



Elizabeth Vaquera published *Education and Immigration* (with G. Kao and K. Goyette) in February, 2013 (Polity Press).



Margarethe Kusenbach edited *Home: International Perspectives on Culture, Identity, and Belonging* (with K. Paulsen), published in September of 2013 (Peter Lang International Academic Publishers).



Elizabeth Aranda authored *Making a Life in Multiethnic Miami: Immigration and the Rise of a Global City* (with S. Hughes and E. Sabogal), forthcoming from Lynne Rienner Publishers in January of 2014.

Graduate Student Successes!

Graduate students in the Department of Sociology have been very busy! They have represented us at conferences across the country including the Southern Sociological Society in April of this year, the American Sociological Association,



Blake Martin presenting her poster, "Managing Family Food Consumption," at Oktoberfest, 2013.

the Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, all in August, and the Mid-South Sociological Association in October, among many others. They have also represented us in research-related events at USF, including the College of Arts & Sciences Oktoberfest. Jasmon Bailey, Hilary Dotson, Blake Martin, Pangri Mehta, and Keren Moaney all submitted posters for this event that were based on original research. Congratulations go out to Blake Martin, one of the winners of the poster competition for her research on "Managing Family Food Consumption." Blake is working on this research under the mentorship

of Dr. Jenny Friedman and Dr. Laurel Graham.

Sociology graduate students are not just presenting their research, they are also publishing in excellent outlets. Congratulations to Maggie Cobb for publishing her co-authored article in *Symbolic Interaction* titled, "Musical Ties That Bind: Nostalgia, Affect, and Heritage in Festival Narratives" (with L. Holyfield, K. Murray, and A. McKinzie).

Congratulations to these and all of the Sociology graduate students who are doing a wonderful job of representing us!

Graduate Students Hard at Work Paying it Forward

The Sociology Graduate Student Association and the department's Community Engagement Committee joined forces to collect and donate clothing and office supplies to Pay It Forward Farms, a local organization working to help single mothers get back on their feet. The SGSA presented their donation to the organi-

zation this past November. For more information on ways you can help, please visit <http://www.payitforwardfarm.org>

Dr. Jenny Friedman, Pangri Mehta, and President of SGSA Elaina Behounek packing up the donations to Pay it Forward Farms.



USF Graduate Student Conference: Identities and Inequalities in a Globalizing World

On Friday October 18, the Department of Sociology held its first interdisciplinary graduate student conference at the USF Marshall Center, hosting 32 presenters from local and out-of-state universities, from USF to



Dr. Loseke delivering her talk, "Between Culture and Structure: Examining Identities in Globalizing Contexts."

UC Santa Barbara. Presentations covered a wide range of topics relating to identities and inequalities in globalized social contexts and included themes related to health, bodies and gender, culture, and family. The paper sessions concluded with a distinguished lecture by Dr. Donileen R. Loseke.

Presenters were given the opportunity to attend their choice of three methods workshops—"Narrative Analysis," "Analyzing Original Qualitative Data," and "Quantitative Data Analysis"—facilitated by USF Sociology faculty, as well as a conference dinner for students and faculty.



Dr. Kusenbach and Dr. Cavendish present Carolyn Day with the award for best graduate student paper, "Creating Shared Value: Rhetorical Identification Consummated."

The conference was organized by Drs. Margarethe Kusenbach and Sara Crawley with vital assistance from doctoral candidate Sean Currie. Its primary sponsor was the Office of Research and Innovation with co-sponsorship from the Department of Sociology, the Citizenship Initiative, the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC), and the USF Sociology Graduate Student Club. Given the conference's resounding success, we are excited at the prospect of holding a second conference in the near future.

Sociology graduate students Blake Martin, Mathilde Ippolito, Hilary Dotson, Mary Catharine Whitlock, and Kaitlyn Robison preparing to listen to Dr. Loseke's distinguished lecture at the conference.



And We Keep Growing!

The 2013/2014 academic year welcomed 11 new fully-funded graduate students. Five new students joined the M.A. program, and another 6 make up our (already!) 5th cohort of Ph.D. students! We were pleased to welcome them all during a department picnic at Riverfront Park in late August.

New students joined us this year from near and far including ones from the

UK, Iran, France, and Puerto Rico as well as from U.S. Universities in Colorado, Texas, Connecticut, and Florida, among other states.

We are excited to have the following students join USF Sociology: the new Ph.D. cohort consists of Juan Arroyo-Flores, Patrick Casey, Mathilde Ippolito, Hadi Khoshnevis, Alexander Smithers, and

Melissa Welch. We also welcome M.A. students Maria Duenas, Sarah Edwards, Alissa Klein, Chase McCain, and Michael Sette! These two new cohorts of students have brought much energy to the department and we are lucky to have them as part of our Sociology Community!

Dr. Hordge-Freeman Leads 2013 Launch of the USF Study Abroad Program in Salvador, Brazil!

As part of USF's initiative on Afro-Descendants in Latin America, the Institute for the Study of Latin America & the Caribbean and the Sociology Department launched its inaugural USF in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil program. The program received a record-breaking number of applications and ultimately enrolled eleven students from various universities around the country including: University of South Florida, Florida State University, University of Florida, Northwestern University, Howard University, and University of California – San Diego. Approximately, half of the student participants were graduate students – three were Ph.D. students in the area of literature, African American Studies, and History.

Under the leadership of our own Dr. Hordge-Freeman, these students spent several weeks in Salvador, Bahia taking culture and language classes at a local college, Faculdade Social da Bahia. This program offers an intensive four week



Dr. Hordge-Freeman (right) with study abroad students, Summer 2013.

summer immersion program in two courses: 1) Afro-Brazilian culture and society (counts towards Sociology credits!) and 2) Portuguese Language, so students could earn up to 8 credits. Perhaps the most unique element of the program is that students lived with Brazilian families in a home-stay arrangement. In addition, there were excursions to nearby towns (Cachoeira and the Island of Itaparica), as well as opportunities to participate in cultural activities such as capoeira. In 2014, Hordge-Freeman plans to add a service-learning element so that students will work with *Instituto Steve Biko* - a civil rights organization in Brazil.

Undergraduate Sociology Students Conduct Research in Dunedin

Dunedin: Visioning 2040, Planning Our Future Together is a community engagement collaboration between Dr. Sara Green, the City of Dunedin Departments of Planning and Leisure Services, and the Dunedin Committee on Aging (a citizens advisory committee to the Dunedin City Commission). The project is designed to assist the city with the preparation of its City Comprehensive Plan and to help officials prepare for demographic, climate, and economic changes on the horizon. Using community visioning roundtables and an internet based survey, residents of Dunedin will have the opportunity to voice their needs, concerns,

opinions, and level of preparedness for the future in the following areas: Housing and living arrangements; Transportation and infrastructure; Health and well-being; Climate change, environmental issues, and disaster preparedness; Work, personal economics, retirement, and food security; and Social, civic, and community engagement. In the fall of 2013, students in Dr. Green's Senior Seminar assisted Michael Whalen of the Committee on Aging (chaired by Sharon Williams) in organizing and conducting two round table discussions held at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center and the Dunedin Community Center. Results of these community discussions were then used in the development of an online survey which was pre-tested by the students. Students used the results of the pre-test in their Senior Seminar papers. The online survey will be refined on the basis of this pre-test and input from Dunedin city officials and the



Undergraduate Student Represents!

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, USF Sociology undergraduate Damian Patrino presented "Exploring the Social Construction of a Zoo: Explicit vs. Implicit Functions and their Implications" at the Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction in New York City. His paper originated from field work conducted as part of a Sociology Research Experience course under the direction of Dr. Chris Ponticelli.



Committee on Aging members. It will then be administered to Dunedin residents in the spring of 2013.

Cody Allen, Recipient of this Year's Outstanding Senior in Sociology Award

Cody Allen is completing a double major in Sociology and Psychology and is currently applying for admission to a rigorous graduate program in Sociology.



During his undergraduate program, Cody served as a member on the Sociology undergraduate program com-

mittee and did an outstanding job representing our undergraduates at committee meetings, at several "Stampede for Success" recruitment events, and serving as a liaison to the Sociology Club. He consistently sought out our most demanding classes and positioned himself as a leader, pushing both himself and his classmates forward. He is also heavily involved in numerous student groups and social movements including SPEAK (Students Protecting the

Environment and Animals through Knowledge), Food Not Bombs, the Industrial Workers of the World Tampa chapter, and the Tampa Solidarity Network. These groups have benefitted greatly from his leadership skills. Cody is clearly passionate about Sociology in general and social and environmental justice in particular. The department's Undergraduate Committee is proud to announce Cody Allen as the 2013-2014 Outstanding Senior in Sociology.

Interested in Giving Back?

Support our continued efforts to help fund the Department of Sociology's student scholarships, study abroad, faculty research, and programmatic needs.

Donations can be made online by visiting <http://sociology.usf.edu> and clicking on "Make A Gift," or by sending a personal check made out to the USF Foundation with Fund #420066 in the memo line and mailing it to the Office Of Development, College of Arts and Sciences, 4202 E. Fowler Ave, CPR 107, Tampa, FL 33620.

Thank you for your support!

Alumni Corner

Evan Eisenberg, (B.A. 2013) was featured in the *Tampa Bay Times* (12/2/13) for his work as part of the social movement organization, USF Students for a Sensible Drug Policy. This work emerged from Dr. Robert Benford's spring 2012 Mobilizing for Change course. Evan was key to establishing USF's new Medical Amnesty Policy and was recently elected to SSDP's national board.

Kat Poblete, (B.A. 2013), who graduated with the highest honors this past summer, presented a portion of her Sociology Honor's Thesis at the Annual Meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association in October, 2013. Under the direction of Dr. Chris Ponticelli, she presented the paper, "The Conceptual and The Personal: Bridging the Gap in Emerging Alternative Food Initiatives."

Morgan Sanchez, (B.A. 2011; M.A. 2013) is pursuing her Ph.D. in Sociology at The University of Florida in Gainesville. Morgan's research focuses on families and disabilities. She is currently examining how family context creates variations in what she calls, "collective disability experiences." Morgan completed her M.A. thesis under the direction of Dr. Sara Green.

Dr. Bingham Takes Students on the Road!

As part of the "Road" Scholars Series, Dr. Bingham was one of 3 faculty who took 15 students to St. Augustine, Florida, to explore the city's unique history, architecture, sense of place, and identity. Highlights included a historical trolley tour of St. Augustine (including its civil rights history), a tour of Flagler College, Castillo de San Marcos fort, and outings that examined the unique food cultures and artistic venues of the city.



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Future Generation of Sociologists!



Drs. Gurbuz, Hodge-Freeman, and Crawley with their respective sociologists-in-training.

