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Social Facts

Newsletter of the University of Maine
Department of Sociology

Our Faculty

- Steven Barkan, Chair
- Amy Blackstone
Associate Professor
- Steve Cohn
Professor
- Kim Huisman
Assistant Professor
- Ann Leffler
Professor
- Kathryn Maietta
Instructor
- Kyriacos Markides
Professor
- Stephen Marks
Professor (now retired—see
Page 9)

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Spring 2010

From the Chair

It is a pleasure to bring you this newsletter. As these pages will illustrate, the Sociology faculty continue to be very productive in teaching, research, and service. We rank second in the entire university in the number of student credit hours (SCH) taught per faculty member and near the top in the proportion of SCH that are taken by non-majors. These data indicate there is heavy demand for our courses, and we are pleased to be able to serve our majors and so many other undergraduates in this manner. Our faculty have also continued to publish in top journals in sociology and related areas and to work closely with selected students on research projects.

Our alumni may be interested to know of some changes in our faculty roster during the past year or so. This semester marks the retirement of Stephen Marks after 38 years of ser-

vice at the University. Stephen will be living in Portland, ME, and we wish him well while envying his newfound time. A year ago, Sandy Gardner retired after 31 years of service at



Department Chair
Steven Barkan

the University. Sandy continues to live in the Bangor area, and we also wish her well with her newfound time. Also, Marwin Spiller left our ranks to join the sociology faculty at Bradley University in Illinois, and we trust he is doing well there. These losses have been partially offset by the arrival to our faculty of Ann Leffler, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences here at the University, who has jumped right in to teach a full courseload and many stu-

(Continued on page 4)

Faculty News

Professor Steve Barkan recently completed a term (2008-2009) as president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. A task force for which he served as the first chair, the American Sociological Association's Task Force on Criminology and Sociology Programs, has issued a report on the various prospects and challenges facing such programs that will receive widespread distribution by the ASA.

Professor Barkan's forthcoming introduction to sociology text, *Sociology: Exploring and Changing the Social World*, is part of the exciting new business model of Flat World Knowledge, a publisher of affordable, high-quality textbooks. Flat World texts are available online for free, or students may purchase print copies for \$29.99. Because the average new introduction to sociology text easily costs

(Continued on page 3)

Our Faculty is Published!

Our faculty have the following publications during the past year or forthcoming by early 2011:

Steve Barkan (and Steve Cohn)

- Barkan, Steven E.. 2010. *Sociology: Exploring and Changing the Social World*. Nyack, NY: Flat World Knowledge, forthcoming in August 2010.
- Barkan, Steven E.. 2011. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, 5e*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, forthcoming in January 2011.
- Barkan, Steven E. and George Bryjak. 2010. *Fundamentals of Criminal Justice, 2e*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, forthcoming in August 2010.
- Barkan, Steven E. and Steven F. Cohn. 2010. "Contemporary Regional Differences in Support by Whites for the Death Penalty: A Research Note." *Justice Quarterly*, forthcoming.
- Barkan, Steven E.. 2010. "Presidential Address. Toward a New Abolitionism: Race, Ethnicity, and Social Transformation." *Social Problems* 57: 1-4.
- Barkan, Steven E.. 2009. "The Value of Quantitative Analysis for a Critical Understanding of Crime and Society." *Critical Criminology* 17:247-259.
- Barkan, Steven E. and Steven F. Cohn. 2009. "Explaining Support by African Americans for Police Use of Force: A Research Note." *Law Enforcement Executive Forum*. 9:119-126.
- Barkan, Steven E.. 2010. "U.S. Corrections Policy Since the 1970s." In Karim Ismaili (ed.), *Criminal Justice Policy*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, forthcoming.

Amy Blackstone

- Blackstone, Amy, Christopher Uggen, and Heather McLaughlin. 2009. "Legal Consciousness and Responses to Sexual Harassment." *Law & Society Review* 43: 631-668.
- Swartz, Teresa, Amy Blackstone, Christopher Uggen, and Heather McLaughlin. 2009. "Welfare and Citizenship: The Effects of Public Assistance on Civic Participation." *The Sociological Quarterly* 50: 633-665.
- Blackstone, Amy. 2009. "Doing Good, Being Good, and the Social Construction of Compassion." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 38: 85-116.

Kim Huisman

- Huisman, Kimberly (Forthcoming, April 2010). "Developing a Sociological Imagination by Doing Sociology: A Methods-based Service Learning Course on Women and Immigration." *Teaching Sociology*.
- Huisman, Kimberly. "Secondary Migration among Somali Refugees in Maine: An Examination of Structure and Culture." Under review at *The Sociological Quarterly*.
- Huisman, Kimberly (with Kristin Langellier, Mazie Hough, and Carol Toner). (Eds.) Tentative Title: "Wherever I Go, I Know Who I Am": Somali Refugees in Maine." Book under contract with North Atlantic Books. Scheduled date of publication, Fall 2011

Kyriacos Markides:

- Markides, Kyriacos. 2008. "Eastern Orthodox Mysticism and Transpersonal Theory" *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology* 40.2:178-198.
- Completing a sequel to *Gifts of the Desert*. The first draft should be ready by this coming fall.

Many publications are forthcoming from our gifted faculty!



Seniors Emily Yearwood and Emily Steenburgh at the April 2010 ESS conference with their presentation poster. Their study on "Student Perceptions of Hybrid Learning Environments in Introductory Sociology Courses" was very well received.. See story on page 7.

Amy Blackstone Studies Harassment of Older Workers

In 2008, Professor Amy Blackstone received a \$125,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to fund a two-year study of workplace harassment of older workers in Maine. Conventional thinking may associate workplace harassment with younger or culturally different demographic groups, but given the state's aging workforce, Professor Blackstone says now is an especially important time to become familiar with the workplace experiences of older adults. Her survey of Maine workers ages 62 and older examines how they perceive and handle harassment at work. In particular, Professor Blackstone is learning how power at work affects harassment experiences and how power at work, home and the community affects responses to

those experiences. By bringing together several areas of sociological inquiry, including age, power, victimization and mobilization, the study will provide information that could be used to help workers, employers, service agencies, and policy makers create safe, secure, and rewarding environments for workers of all ages. The findings from the study will be published, and may be used to develop a larger-scale comparative investigation of workplace harassment over worker life cycles. The study also promotes teaching, training and learning by engaging UMaine undergraduate and graduate-level research assistants, offering students experience with data collection, analysis, writing and collaboration with local agencies.

(Continued from page 1)

more than \$100, the Flat World model will save students thousands of dollars in any class that uses Professor Barkan's book.

Professor Amy Blackstone is currently engaged in three on-going research projects including a study of older worker harassment, a collaborative study of the sexual harassment experiences of workers in their teens and 20's, and a study of childfree men and women. She has been fortunate to work with many sociology undergraduate research assistants on each of these projects and has even published articles with several of them. She looks forward to teaching her first-ever sociology of families class, which will be offered online, in the fall.

Professor Blackstone is also working on the following publications: McLaughlin, Heather, Christopher Uggen, and Amy Blackstone. "A Longitudinal Analysis of Gender, Power, and Sexual Harassment in Young Adulthood." Houle, Jason, Jeremy Staff, Christopher Uggen, Jeylan Mortimer, and Amy Blackstone. "The Psychological Impact of Sexual Harassment During the Early Occupational Career." McLaughlin, Heather, Amy Blackstone, and Christopher Uggen. "We all thought it was kind of bogus": Employees' Reactions to Sexual Harassment Train-

ing and Policies." Jason Houle and Heather McLaughlin were undergraduates here at UMaine.

Professor Steve Cohn is looking forward to his second year of teaching a new SOC 340 course: Sociological, Psychological and Spiritual Conceptions of the Self. This course deals with the very different understandings of the self offered in Western sociology and psychology on the one hand and in aspects of the spiritual traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Daoism on the other.

Over the past year **Professor Kim Huisman** was busy putting her tenure application together, writing a journal article about secondary migration patterns of Somalis in Maine, teaching, working closely with many wonderful students on various projects, and co-editing a book with her Somali Narrative Project (SNP) colleagues. The book, *Somali Refugees in Maine: Cross Cultural Currents* is under contract with North Atlantic Books and is scheduled for publication in Summer 2011. The book will include stories rooted in personal memory and actual experiences, academic essays considering larger questions of immigration and identity, and photographs of Somalis working, playing, and living in their communities. Through exploring the experiences of Somali

(Continued on page 4)

Faculty News continued

Faculty News continued

(Continued from page 3)

immigrants from various angles, the book aims to assist readers in interpreting and understanding our changing world.

Professor Ann Leffler joined our teaching line-up last fall. Her “exhausting - whoops, I mean ‘exhaustive’ - ethnographic immersion” has so far produced two basic findings: (1) UMaine sociology faculty possess boundless energy. (2) UMaine sociology students are terrific. This second finding contradicts the many reports in academic literature (i.e., in the griping of colleagues at other universities) that the current generation of college-goers is willful, incurious, and uncivil. Not true at all of UMaine sociology students!

Based on his published work, **Professor Markides** has given lectures and work-shops around the country and Canada: Ukrainian Community of Hamilton, Ontario (September 19, 2009); Greek Orthodox Community Raleigh/Durham in North Carolina (November 21, 09); The New York Open Center (February 20, 2010); Pan-Orthodox Sisterhood

Association of South Florida (Miami, March 20, 2010); Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline, and Alberta, Canada (Ukrainian Men’s association, Calgary, April 10, 2010); He will also attend and present lectures at the annual International Institute of Integral Human Sciences, Montreal, Canada, July 6-11 (he is the Vice President of this UN affiliated international organization, which focused on the integration of science and spirituality).



Professor Markides was also invited to participate in a “large, free global teleseminar event that includes spiritual leaders and researchers from every major tradition.” The series, called Sacred Awakening Series, featured 40 spiritual leaders over 40 days. Professor Markides was interviewed

by Stephen Dinan on Friday, March 26. His interview and those of the other 39 spiritual leaders can be accessed online at <http://sacredawakeningseries.com/luminary-list>.

Despite our smaller complement of faculty, our mission remains the same: to “seek beneath the surface of common sense definitions of social reality and identify the more fundamental social processes that affect us.”

Letter from the Chair continued

(Continued from page 1)

dents, and we welcome her addition to our ranks. We are also delighted to welcome our new administrative assistant, Laurie Cartier, who has helped greatly to keep everything functioning smoothly and efficiently.

Despite our smaller complement of faculty, our mission remains the same: to “seek beneath the surface of common sense definitions of social reality and identify the more fundamental social processes that affect us,” as our mission statement reads, and by so doing to contribute to the liberal arts mission of the University. To prepare our majors and other students to be knowledgeable citizens and em-

ployees, we emphasize critical thinking skills in our teaching and provide our majors excellent training in research methodology. Issues of race/ethnicity, social class, gender, and other sources of inequality permeate all three areas of our department mission.

Jane Addams, a founder of American sociology and a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for her legendary work at Hull House in Chicago, once wrote, “The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.” In our teaching, research, and service, the Sociology Department aims to help turn Addams’ vision into reality.

Student News

Emily Yearwood takes top honors

Emily Yearwood, was awarded the 2010 Outstanding Graduating Senior Award for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Emily was chosen for her strong academic record and involvement in both research and teaching.



Emily Yearwood, Professor Amy Blackstone, Dean Jeff Hecker

As the college's outstanding senior, she was recognized at the University of Maine Honors Convocation on May 7 in the Collins Center for the Arts. She carried the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences banner in the processional at commencement. She also was recognized at the College's Faculty and Student Awards reception.

In addition to this College of Liberal Arts and Sciences award, Emily was chosen to receive the Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Prize. Established in 2008, the award is given to the Sociology Department's most outstanding student in terms of both academics and departmental citizenship. "Not only is Emily a top student academically," states Professor Amy Blackstone, "she is also an active and contributing member of the Sociology Club." Congratulations, Emily!

To round off her year, Emily received a Sociology Service Award for her high level of commitment and service to the department. She was also elected to Alpha Kappa Delta.



Emily Steenburgh, Professor Kim Huisman, Alyssa Radmore and Emily Yearwood at the March ESS Conference where Steenburgh and Yearwood presented an undergraduate poster.

Josh Bernstein presents at Conference

Senior Sociology major Joshua Bernstein presented at the New England Sociological Association Spring 2010 Conference at Endicott College in Beverly, Mas-



sachusetts. Josh's research focused on rates of volunteerism among first-year men at the University of Maine. In his qualitative study, *The Construction of Gender within College Student Volunteerism*, Bernstein conducted multiple interviews with first-year men living on campus. The study seeks to document reasons for a lack of volunteerism among first-year undergraduate men, provide greater understanding of gender and its impact on one's actions, and assist administrators with future volunteer initiatives.

Your contributions to our Gift Fund help our students attend and present at sociological conferences!



Students, Faculty Present at ESS Annual Conference

Emily Steenburgh and Emily Yearwood (both class of 2010) presented an undergraduate poster at the Eastern Sociological Society's annual conference in March on research they conducted during the spring and fall semesters of 2009. In collaboration with Professor Kim Huisman, they developed a survey that was administered to four introductory sociology courses that used a combination of WebCT, MySo-cLab, and face-to-face lectures. The surveys collected both quantitative and qualitative data about students' perceptions of these hybrid courses that was presented at the ESS conference.

Professor Amy Blackstone also presented a paper at this conference that was co-authored with Mahala Stewart (class of 2009) entitled "Does Not Having Kids Make Me Less of a Woman?: Gender Resistance and Reification Among the Childfree."

Department News

The Department of Sociology was pleased to sponsor two visiting scholars this year.

In October 2009, renowned sociologist Yen Li Espiritu, Professor and Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, San Diego, presented "Home Bound: Understanding Immigrant Experiences in 21st Century America." Her latest book, *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*, received two national book awards. Her current research projects explore the socio-emotional lives of children of immigrants from the Philippines and Vietnam, refugee communities in San Diego, public commemorations of the Vietnam War, and Vietnamese transnational lives.

In April 2010, University of Southern Maine Professor Wendy Chapkis presented a colloquium on



USM Professor
Wendy Chapkis

"Prostitution, Immigration, and Sex Trafficking: intersections and distinctions." Wendy is a Professor of Sociology and the Director of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Southern Maine. She is the author of *Beauty Secrets: women and the politics of appearance* (1986 South End Press); *Live Sex Acts: women performing erotic labor* (Routledge 1997); and - most recently - *Dying to Get High: marijuana as medicine* (New York University Press 2008) with Richard J. Webb.

Both visiting scholars took time to talk to students in some of the classrooms as well as spending more time with the sociology faculty.

We're on the Web at umaine.edu/sociology

We're on Facebook at Sociology Department—University of Maine

The Sociology Department now has a presence on Facebook! You can find us by searching for Sociology Department—University of Maine and joining our group. Updates and information are posted that are of interest to students and alumni alike. Consider logging on and becoming our friend! We hope to use the facebook page more and more to keep in touch with our Sociology Department alumni.

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Prof. Ann Leffler joined the Sociology Department faculty in the fall 2009 as a Presidential Professor of Sociology. She was formerly a Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Maine. She also served in various administrative positions including associate and interim dean and interim vice provost at Utah State University. She received her B.A. cum laude from Brandeis University, and her Ph.D. with honors from the University of California at Berkeley. An ardent advocate of the liberal arts and sciences, she consults nationally on higher education issues. Her research focuses on higher education and on hobbies as "passionate pastimes."



In August 2009, Laurie Cartier joined the department as the new Administrative Assistant. She has quickly learned the ropes in the office and is thoroughly enjoying being a part of the Sociology Team. In her life away from the office, Laurie participates in two singing groups, Women With Wings and Voices for Peace. She is the resident drummer for the Voices for Peace choir. She is also very involved with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor serving this year as Council chair.

We welcome Ann and Laurie to the Sociology Department!

Stephen Marks Retires after 38 Years!



Gathered for a photo during Stephen Marks' retirement party on April 15, 2010 at the University Club in the Fogler Library are: Laurie Cartier, Kyriacos Markides, Amy Blackstone, Stephen Marks, Ann Leffler, Steve Cohn, Steve Barkan, Sue McLaughlin, and Kim Huisman.



Great friends, good food, speakers and a gift from the Sociology Dept. made this a memorable event. We'll miss you Stephen!



Sociology Student Award Winners

Deans List Fall 2009

Benjamin Andersen
Eric Bailey
Thomas Bartelt
Mary Callaway
Zoe Churchill-Vogt*
Leah Colby*
Lauren Cripps*
Nicole D'Andrea
Katelyn Day
Anna DeMerchant
Kristopher Doyon*
Lauren Duranleau
Emily Fortin
Evan Kaye-Schiess*
Lindsey Lachance*
Carmen Linden
Leah MacNichol
Marcia Mannarino
Andrea McLaughlin

Ethan Micucci
Alivia Moore
Kyle Myska
Kristie O'Brien
Allyce Pepin*
Alyssa Radmore
Ryan Roberts
Helaina Sacco
Biranna Schoen
Ellen Sherwood*
Sarah Skoniecki
Emily Steenburgh
Alexander Stevens
Abbie Strout
Jamie Taylor
Kelsey Walsh
Cary Williams
Emily Yearwood*
Mallory Zwerdling

Deans List Spring 2009

Benjamin Andersen*
Megan Bacon
Eric Bailey
Thomas Bartelt
Mary Callaway*
Kevin Clark
Lauren Cripps
Kimberly Cyrway
Forrest Dantzler*
Donte Dennis
Kristopher Doyon
Lauren Duranleau*
Chelsey Everest
Catharine Gignac
Amy Greenleaf
Timothy Gruzza
Nicole Hamlin
Chelsea Hoskins
Whitney Kangas
Rachel Kasbohm
Evan Kaye-Schiess
Lindsey Lachance
Mary Lynch

Teresa Manasco
Marcia Mannarino
Andrea McLaughlin
Kyle Myska
Kelsey Numrych
Alyssa Radmore
Matthew Rautio
Breanna Ruen*
Helaina Sacco*
Stephanie Satow*
Brianna Schoen
Sarah Skoniecki
Emily Steenburgh
Alexander Stevens
Mahala Stewart
Jason Tarr
Jamie Taylor
Annie Torres
Joshua Tuttle
Brian Van Dam
Cary Williams*
Emily Yearwood*
Mallory Zwerdling

* Also won the Presidential Pin for achieving a 3.5 GPA. Congratulations!

Alpha Kappa Delta

In 1920, University of Southern California sociologist Dr. Emory S. Bogardus founded Alpha Kappa Delta for the purposes of stimulating scholarship and promoting the scientific study of society. Bogardus' impetus in establishing this organization was to provide a forum for student and faculty interchange. His endeavor paved the way for what has become an international organization dedicated to promoting, facilitating, and recognizing academic scholarship. As we enter the 21st century, Alpha Kappa Delta is an integral part of many Sociology programs and is proud to acknowledge that in the past eight decades, over 80,000 scholars have been initiated into the Society. More than 490 chapters have been chartered in the United States, Canada, China, Finland, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Induction into the Alpha of Maine Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Delta is an annual honor for those sociology majors who receive a minimum 3.5 grade point average in Sociology and a minimum 3.0 grade point average overall.

In 2010, the following students were inducted into **Alpha Kappa Delta:** Eric Bailey, Joshua Bernstein, Chelsey Everest, Courtney Gross, Andrea McLaughlin, Kyle Myska, Danielle Murray, Alyssa Radmore, Alexander Stevens, and Emily Yearwood.

Other honors and awards for 2010:

Phi Beta Kappa: Eric Bailey, Joshua D. Bernstein, Chelsey Everest, Alyssa Radmore, Emily Steenburgh, Emily Yearwood.

Sociology Department Awards

Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize:
Emily Yearwood

Outstanding Student Awards: Joshua D. Bernstein, Chelsey Everest, Kyle Myska

Service Awards: Alyssa Radmore, Emily Steenburgh, Emily Yearwood

Congratulations to all our graduates!!

To our Alumni:

We want to be in touch with you! Please send us your most current news and updated address. You can reach us by email at laurie.cartier@umit.maine.edu, or drop us a line at:

Sociology Department, University of Maine, 5728 Fernald Hall Rm 201, Orono, ME 04469.

Name: _____

Year: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

What are you doing now? _____

Please consider a donation to the Sociology Gift Account

In 2010 money from this account, which is dedicated solely to benefit our students, helped several students with registration, lodging, travel and other related expenses so they could attend conferences where they presented research posters. The account also paid for registrations for students who qualified for Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Kappa Delta initiation.

Yes! I'd like to make a donation to the Sociology Gift Account in the amount of _____.
(Make payable to the University of Maine and send to: Gift Processing Department, PO Box 370, Orono, ME 04473-0370. Please write "Sociology Gift Account" in the memo line.)

Or make your Sociology Gift Account donation online through the University of Maine website at <http://www.umaine.edu/giftprocessing/default.htm>. Click on "Give Now," then "University of Maine," then "College of Liberal Arts & Sciences" and scroll down to Sociology. This donation will be made directly into our Gift Account.

On behalf of our students, we thank you for your generosity!

**UNIVERSITY OF
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**An updated sign for
Fernald Hall
on a bright winter morning
in January 2010**



**Sociology
Department**