Social Facts Newsletter

University of Maine Department of Sociology

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From the 2019 Interim Chair Steve Barkan

The Sociology Department is again delighted to bring you our annual newsletter. As usual, this year’s newsletter highlights the many accomplishments of our caring faculty and wonderful students.

This year we welcomed our new faculty member, Amber Tierney, who taught several courses in sociology and criminology/criminal justice. Professor Tierney was a hit with students as well as with her colleagues, and it is great having her on campus.

In today’s world, the discipline of sociology remains as vital as ever and perhaps even more important than ever. We hear regularly in the news about issues related to racial/ethnic, social class, gender, and other inequalities, and we hear regularly about problems in social institutions such as the family, education, and medicine. Sociology has much to offer for the understanding of these and so many other issues facing today’s world. Accordingly, our students graduate with the knowledge and skills they will need not only for their careers but also

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Faculty News

Professor Blackstone receives the 2019 SWS Feminist Activism Award

The SWS Feminist Activism Award, established in 1995, is presented annually to a Sociologists for Women in Society member who has notably and consistently used sociology to improve conditions for women in society. The award honors outstanding feminist advocacy efforts that embody the goal of service to women and that have identifiably improved women’s lives. This year the Feminist Activism Award Subcommittee decided that Amy Blackstone will be the SWS 2019 Feminist Activism Award Winner. As part of this award, Amy will deliver her Feminist Activism Talk at the SWS Summer Meeting in 2020 to take place in San Francisco, California and will participate in a campus visit during the 2020-2021 academic year. (From the article on the SWS Website)

Professor Blackstone’s latest book, Childfree by Choice: The Movement Redefining Family and Creating a New Age of Independence, was published by Dutton in 2019. Described as a definitive investigation into the history and current growing movement of adults choosing to forgo parenthood: what it means for our society, economy, environment, perceived gender roles, and legacies, and how understanding and supporting all types of families can lead to positive outcomes for parents, non-parents, and children alike.
Alumni News

Nancy Pizzo Boucher ’70
Nancy’s latest book, Defusing the Mental Illness Crisis Triangle, (Indie Author Books, 2018) is a handbook created through personal experience. The book jacket tells us, “When a person with a serious mental illness is experiencing a crisis, that situation has the potential to become dangerous. This handbook details safety procedures to follow that can help defuse the crisis and reduce the probability of a serious outcome. It is a valuable resource for anyone providing support or responding to a person in an smi crisis—that includes families, organizations that provide education and support for families, mental health crisis workers, and police.”

In April, the Senior Seminar Capstone course welcomed three department alums to its Alumni Career Panel: Katie Sirois ’18, a police officer in Dexter; Robert Jackson ’06, Diversity and Inclusion Staff Associate at UMaine’s Office of Multicultural Student Life and Rainbow Resource Center; and Michelle Gayne ’03, Assistant Director of the Advising & Academic Services Center at UMaine. Students heard about their career paths and received great advice about searching for a job, finding your passion, and remaining calm throughout the process!

Robyn Lorom Young ’17 reported last summer: “I graduated with my degree in Social Work and Sociology, and I was eager to begin my master’s program in Higher Education here at UMaine. In addition, I found several outlets for my independent work on policy initiatives (My undergraduate project was titled, MAP for Success: Maine Achievement Pathways and advocated for reform in the areas of education and training for low-income adults). I participated with legislators and lobbyists in the creation of LIFT-Leveraging Investments in Families for Tomorrow, a key piece of legislation that was passed by the 128th session of the Maine Legislature in April 2018. Most recently, I have joined a network of scholars whose efforts continue to inform policy makers of current research in critical legislative focus areas such as poverty and public health. I’m excited to begin my new position in September 2018 as a researcher for Dartmouth, working towards finding solutions for the rising opioid crisis.”

Michael Lucas ’16 (left) is now in the MS Homeland Security program at San Diego State University. He plans to go on for his PhD! He completed the first semester with a 4.0! Congratulations Michael! Michael’s hope to become a Navy Seal was dashed when he was injured during training. Though disappointed, his resiliency has brought him to this new career path and we are sure he will excel. Professor Markides reports that he expects Michael to complete that PhD and go on to make policy in the field!

Alumni Highlights:

Michael Rocque ’05, assistant professor of sociology at Bates College, Maine, has become a co-PI (Principal Investigator) for a National Institute of Justice grant titled “The Nature, Trends, Correlates, and Prevention of Mass Public Shootings in America, 1976-2018.”

Valerie Cartonio ’18 has created a Facebook page “Sociology and Buddhism in Prison.” Her hope is to be able to teach a course on Buddhism in Prison from a Sociological viewpoint.

Robyn Lorom Young Continued from page 9

Have Alumni News?
Complete the Alumni Contact Form on our website at www.umaine.edu/sociology/alumni or email us at sociology@maine.edu

Presentations
UMaine Student Symposium April 2019

Each year students from all across campus participate in the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) program, the UMaine Student Symposium. The program has grown so large that it is now held off campus at the Cross Insurance Center in downtown Bangor.

CUGR facilitates faculty-mentored research and creative activities for undergraduate students across all academic disciplines since its inception in 2008. More than 1,200 students showcased nearly 400 research and creative works at the 2019 UMaine Student Symposium. The fourth annual symposium provided an opportunity for the public to interact with student researchers and scholars as they viewed posters and exhibits and listened to oral presentations.

As part of their course work, the entire SOC 499 capstone class, Vince Camp, AJ Dawson, Amanda DeBaker, Vincent Eze, Lilah Gagnon, Adam Jarosz, Alexis Johnson, Lauren Lang, Kate Leavitt, Joe MacDonald, Kaitlyn McClurken, Emma McKearney, Josh Moran, Ella Mosky, Briana Murphy, Jonah Paris, Caroline Shepard, Emily Sztokowski, Jason Tkacs, and Drisanna Watson, participated in the 2019 UMaine Student Symposium. Their poster “How do UMaine sociology alumni fare after they graduate & what do their career trajectories look like?” reflected the interviews and a survey used to gather data for their research. Results show a pretty bright future for sociology majors! (See abstract for the poster on page 8.)
Congratulations to all our Graduates!

Student News

Sociology Department Awards

Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize: Jonah Paris

Top Graduating Seniors (3.9 Sociology GPA or above):
Jonah Paris and Sarah Oakley

CLAS Outstanding Senior Award:
Jonah Paris

American Sociological Association

Jonah Paris ’19 and Jessica Sweeney ’20 have been accepted into the ASA Honors Program and will be attending the ASA annual conference in New York City in August 2019. We look forward to reporting their experiences in next year’s newsletter.

This year we are pleased to announce that the Herbert Maccoby Sociology Fund, created in 2013 by the family of Herbert Maccoby, a former UMaine sociology professor, will be assisting Jonah and Jessie with a travel award for their trip to New York City.

Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize

This year’s recipient of the Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize is Jonah Paris (see page 10). The Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize Fund was established in the University of Maine Foundation in 2008 for the benefit of the University of Maine, with a gift from Conan Kornetsky, Ph.D., a member of the class of 1948 and their two children, David and Lisa, in loving memory of his wife of 58 years, Marcia Smargon Kornetsky, who was a member of the class of 1948. Mrs. Kornetsky graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in sociology. She subsequently was awarded a MSW from the Boston University School of Social Work and enjoyed a rewarding career in social work with a special emphasis on children. She was a second generation student at the University of Maine. Her father, Isaac Smargonsky, was a 1919 graduate of the University. We regret the passing of Conan Kornetsky in December 2018 and greatly appreciate his heartfelt generosity.

Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society

The UMaine Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta is proud to announce that the following students have been awarded membership in AKD by meeting the criteria of a minimum 3.5 grade point average in sociology and a minimum 3.3 grade point average overall (induction date in parentheses):

Seniors: James “Jack” Brown VI (Sp18), Caleb Kerbs (Sp18), Jonah Paris (Sp19), Sarah Oakley (Sp18)

Juniors/Non-graduating seniors: Lindsey Lagerstrom (Sp19), and Delaney Woodward (Sp19)

Congratulations to all our inductees!

Phi Beta Kappa 2019

The 2019 recipients of Phi Beta Kappa are Caleb Kerbs ’19, Lindsey Lagerstrom ’20 and Sabrina Paetow ’20. Previously inducted are: Jonah Paris ’19 and Sarah Oakley ’19.

Membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the most prestigious undergraduate honorary society in the United States, requires a minimum GPA of 3.5 for seniors and 3.7 for juniors and includes a math requirement in a liberal arts education, as well as a foreign language requirement of 2 years of college level or 3 years of high school level in the same foreign language. It’s not easy to meet all these qualifications and we congratulate our recipients for achieving this honor!

Congratulations to all our Graduates!
Emily Szotkowski’s Alternative Break with CASE

Sociology Double Major, Emily Szotkowski has worked with CASE (Campus Activities and Student Engagement) for the past two years, participating in their alternative breaks program as a site leader.

From the CASE Website: “Hi there! I’m Emily, I am a senior with a double major in psychology and sociology! This is my second year in Alternative Breaks, last year I volunteered at Woodstock Farm Sanctuary in High Falls, NY to work with animals. This year, I will be leading a trip to Washington DC with my co site leader Deborah, to work with the homeless community!”

The website describes the DC program: “Our first organization is Thrive DC, which works to prevent and end homelessness in Washington, DC by providing people with services to help stabilize their lives. Our second organization, DC Central Kitchen, works to use food as a tool to strengthen bodies, empower minds, and build communities. Our activities with these organizations will include, prepping and serving meals, assembling to go packages, assigning showers to those who need them, and helping with getting various maintenance tasks completed with the organizations.”

Great way to spend Spring Break!

Dean’s List Spring 2018-Sociology Majors

Dean’s List Fall 2018-Sociology Majors
Samantha Berimbau, Aiden Ciaffaglione, Olivia Collins, Faith Daye, Aaron Dustin, Adam Jarosz, Lindsey Lagerstrom, Lauren Lang, Lydia Lavoie, Alyssa Lovering, Sean Murphy, TJ Noonan, Sarah Oakley, Kyleigh O’Donnell, Sabrina Paetow, Jonah Paris, Emma Pooler, Remy Segovia, Allison Soucy, Jessie Sweeney, Sophie VanDerburgh, Drisanna Watson, Aran Wollard

Vincent Eze-Outstanding Graduating International Student

From the UMaine News: Vincent Eze ‘19, of Lagos, Nigeria, has been named the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Education and Human Development.

Eze is double-majoring in child development and family relations, and in sociology, with a concentration in individual and family studies. He is a forward on the men’s basketball team, and received both Rising Star and Scholar-Athlete awards of the Athletics Department. Eze is a teaching assistant and member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. He also has been involved in student groups, including Male Athletes Against Violence, the Student Portfolio Investment Fund (SPIFFY) and the International Student Association. He plans to attend graduate school to study public administration.

Sociology Club

A small, but dedicated group of sociology majors and minors came together this year as the Sociology Club. They met for activities like viewing a current TV episode of the Bundy Tapes followed by a discussion. They also met with guest speaker, Michael Haedicke, associate professor of sociology at Drake University in Iowa who was visiting UMaine for a lecture and classroom visits.

Coming up in 2019-20, the Sociology Club hopes to grow in numbers by offering discussion opportunities on topics like mass incarceration, gender inequality and bias, terrorism, and sustainability. They also hope to participate in community activities like the Solidarity Harvest or Hike for the Homeless.

If you are interested in the Sociology Club, contact sociology@maine.edu for more info!
Faculty News

Margaret Chase Smith Recipes Research Collaborative

Professors Tierney and Blackstone have joined UMaine’s new Margaret Chase Smith Recipes Research Collaborative, an interdisciplinary group of faculty, students, and staff who are passionate about food; curious about the role of food, recipes, and cooking in politics and public life; and eager to share those lessons with a broad range of audiences, from students to scholars to civic organizations. Members represent a wide range of disciplines including history, sociology, folklore, anthropology, public policy, food science, and business. In its inaugural year, the group hosted a public talk and campus visit by Professor Diane Tye, author of *Baking as Autobiography*, tested recipes from the collection of the late Senator Margaret Chase Smith for eventual dissemination, and conducted research on topics ranging from media representations of women political candidates’ roles in the home to how women in politics have used the domestic sphere as a mode of resistance. Professors Tierney and Blackstone will join Dr. Rachel Snell (Honors College) and Honors student Makenzie Baber on a panel discussing the collaborative’s work at the Association for the Study of Food and Society’s annual conference in Alaska this June. Pictured here are two of the collaborative’s attempts at Senator Margaret Chase Smith’s famous blueberry muffin recipe.

In February, Professor Blackstone had the honor of presenting Governor Janet Mills with Maine NEW Leadership’s first-ever Minerva Award, given annually to a Maine woman leader who exemplifies the values of NEW Leadership: leadership for the betterment of our state, a commitment to civil dialogue, and a passion for civic engagement. Pictured above are Professor Blackstone, Governor Mills (center), and the Honorable Mary Cathcart (right).

In April, Professor Blackstone joined alum Dr. Dawn Norris ’05, Associate Professor of Sociology, at UW La Crosse where she presented on workplace sexual harassment as part of Social Justice Week. Pictured here are three generations of sociologists including Professor Blackstone, Professor Norris, and members of the UW La Crosse Sociology Club.

(Interim Chair Message Continued from page 1)

to make the world a better place.

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 bring Addams’ vision to fruition.

As a long-time sociologist, I hope our students will heed the words of nineteenth-century education reformer Horace Mann, who told his students, “Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.” The Sociology faculty wish our students well, and look forward to the victories they will be winning for humanity in the years ahead.
Faculty Highlights

Steven Barkan

Publications


Service

I began a three-year term on the advisory board of the American Sociological Association Honors Program.

Presentations


Public Sociology

“Immigrants Help Make America Great.” Bangor Daily News, September 25, 2018

Amy Blackstone

Publications


Selected Media


“Joe Biden’s non-apology to Anita Hill casts long shadow over 2020 run,” *The Guardian*, April 27, 2019

“The Biden allegations are a reminder of the small invasions women deal with every day,” Vox, April 4, 2019

“Why don’t you want kids? ’Because apocalypse!’,” *WIRED*, March 28, 2019

“Child Free: The Choice to Not Have Children,” *Maine Public*, December 6, 2018

“Why these women choose to be child-free – and why that’s completely fine,” *Moneyish*, October 10, 2018

“#MaineToo: Pine Tree State Not Immune to Allegations of Sexual Misconduct,” *Bangor Metro*, August 2018


Kyriacos Markides

Research and Publications

My book *Mountain of Silence* has just been published in Romanian.

Service

Presenter of lectures and workshop at the
Faculty News

Dr. Sporer honored as Faculty Fellow and Completes Islamic State Research Project

Dr. Karyn Sporer was selected as a Faculty Fellow for the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. The Faculty Fellows Program creates a network of trained faculty leaders who can communicate the importance of the University of Maine System and its research and education to Maine citizens and organizations. The fellows serve as ambassadors to the legislature, business, and wider community. The faculty are selected from University of Maine System campuses and are trained in core leadership and communication skills. Aside from networking with community leaders, Dr. Sporer was especially excited to meet Governor Janet Mills at the state capital in April. (Photo Right: Governor Janet Mills, center front, and Dr. Sporer on her immediate right)

Dr. Sporer also completed a large research project that examined Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) sympathizers’ tweets before, during, and after ISIL-led or ISIL-inspired mass casualty events to identify discourses of justifications for violence. Findings from her work offer insight on how individuals construct moral narratives that both condone and advocate for the use of extreme violence against civilians outside a war zone. Dr. Sporer conducted interviews with local and national media sources about this project, including Forensic Magazine, Bangor’s WFVX FOX 22, and WABI.

Abstract for the Capstone Class poster: UMaine Sociology Alumni: Careers, Reflections, and Advice

UMaine sociology alumni follow a variety of career and life paths. To understand how UMaine sociology alumni fare after they graduate and what their career trajectories look like, the Sociology Senior Capstone course conducted interview and survey research with department alumni. Surveys were sent to 498 alumni; 112 responded (22.5 percent response rate). In addition, 18 alumni were interviewed by students in the course. Findings show that there is no “one right way” to pursue meaning or a career after graduating with a degree in sociology. All but two interview participants received further education after receiving their BA, as did 69 percent of survey respondents. Alumni report careers in business, human services, education, the arts, health care, and other industries. Though most interview respondents report that they’re happy with the paths they’ve pursued, and 97 percent of survey respondents report being financially stable, some interviewees said they struggled early on to find their place professionally and to articulate their goals. Alumni suggested that better support for internships and other hands-on experiences in the community may have eased early concerns about finding employment and other meaningful paths in life. Alumni also said that they would have benefitted from more research and data analysis experience while students at UMaine. Alumni recommend that the UMaine Sociology Department integrate more career planning and preparation into the curriculum. Many respondents reported that their sociology background opened their eyes to new ways of thinking and helped them understand others’ circumstances and perspectives.
Faculty Highlights con’t
(Kyriacos Markides continued from page 7)

annual conference of the UN affiliated International Institute of Integral Human Sciences (IIH-S) in Montreal, Canada, August 10-15, 2018.

Keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Holistic Nurses Association of America, September 13, 2018 (three of my books are required reading for certification).

Evening lecture and all-day workshop on Eastern Christianity at the Greek Orthodox congregation of Roseland, New Jersey, March 15-16, 2019.

Karyn Sporer
Publications
Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (Denotes student co-author)


Book Chapters


Honors, Fellowships & Awards

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Pre-Tenure Faculty Research & Creative Activity Fellowship, University of Maine, 2019-20.
Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center Faculty Fellow, University of Maine, 2018-19.

Presentations


Amber Tierney
Publications


Affiliations & Fellowships

MCSPC: She was selected to be Faculty Fellow for the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center for a 3 year term. As a Faculty Fellow, Dr. Tierney will focus on issues of immigration and social justice in Maine and local communities.

MCS Recipes Research Collaborative (See related article on Page 6)

Teaching & Community Service

Dr. Tierney facilitated 150 individual student service-learning projects in her Introduction to Sociology courses, where students performed anywhere from 3-10 volunteer hours in Orono/Bangor local community nonprofit organizations.

Media

Dr. Tierney was excited to be asked to speak in a short documentary featuring scholars whose work has collected data generated by the Vanderbilt Television News Archive in 2018.

Research

Dr. Tierney is working collaboratively on developing a research new project with UMaine faculty in political science and
Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Prize 2019: Jonah Paris

Jonah Paris ’19, a sociology major with a concentration in Crime, Law, and Justice and a minor in Psychology, is from Falmouth, Maine. He is graduating *Summa cum laude* and achieved the honors of Phi Beta Kappa in 2018 and Alpha Kappa Delta in 2019. An avid outdoorsman, he has been an active member of The University of Maine Fishing Club for the past 4 years.

Jonah shares: “Studying sociology has encouraged me to step outside of myself and to consider other perspectives and realities. The discipline has taught me to be more empathetic, and becoming more empathetic has made me a better person in each of the roles I play; a better son, brother, boyfriend, learner, teacher, citizen, and much more. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to The University of Maine Sociology Department for their attentiveness, accessibility, and dedication over the past few years. Additionally, I would like to thank the Sociology Department, and all of the fine instructors within the department, for the many opportunities presented to me throughout my undergraduate years which has led to both personal and academic growth.”

Jonah is especially interested in the areas of socio-economic inequality, rural poverty, and education. Beginning in a few weeks, he will be continuing his education at the University of Maine as a graduate student in the Masters of Teaching (MAT) program. Eventually, he hopes to teach English at the secondary level to students in Maine’s public education system.

When asked what are the best things in life, Jonah shared, “Trail walks with my trusty beagle; casting flies to salmon on a foggy morning some place where the rivers meet the mountains; the smell of wood smoke on an October night; a good craft cider paired with a book of equal quality; dark coffee and tart blueberry muffins; any time spent with my beautiful girlfriend Ashley and my wonderful family.”

The Sociology Department wishes Jonah all the very best as he moves forward to become a rural Maine English teacher which we are sure will include a splash of sociology!