

Social Facts

Newsletter of the University of Maine
Department of Sociology

Spring 2011

Our Faculty

- Steven Barkan,
Outgoing Chair
Professor
- Amy Blackstone,
Incoming Chair
Associate Professor
- Steve Cohn
Professor
- Kim Huisman
Associate Professor
- Ann Leffler
Professor
- Kathryn Maietta
Instructor
- Kyriacos Markides
Professor

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From the Chair

It is a pleasure to bring you this newsletter. As these pages will illustrate, the Sociology faculty have again been very productive in teaching, research, and service on and off the campus. Our courses continue to be in heavy demand, 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 many outlets in sociology and related areas and to work closely with selected students on research projects.

Our mission as an undergraduate department 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 employees, 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.



Department Chair
Steven Barkan

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.

Faculty Highlights

In Fall 2010, **Professor Steve Barkan** published an introduction to sociology textbook, *Sociology: Understanding and Changing the Social World*, with Flat World Knowledge (FWK). The book is now available in both a brief edition and a comprehensive edition. FWK publishes textbooks in several disciplines and makes them available online for free (yes, free!) or via alternatives (print, PDF, audio, e-book) that cost only about \$25-\$35. Because a single textbook can easily cost more than \$150 and many

students spend at least \$900 annually on textbooks, the FWK business model represents an exciting trend in textbook publishing, and Steve is happy to be one of its authors.

In other activities, Steve published the fifth edition of his *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding* (Prentice Hall) in Spring 2011; he participated in a session on criminology and sociology programs at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology (November

(Continued on page 7)

Faculty News

Markides wins European Union Literature Award

A native of Cyprus, Professor Kyriacos Markides has won the 2011 Literature Award for the European Union as a representative of that country. This honor was presented in Hungary at the Budapest Book Trade Show that took place April 14-17, 2011.

As the current head nation of the European Union, Hungary wanted to honor authors from the EU countries who have had their works translated into Hungarian. Each member nation of the EU was asked to nominate and send to the festival one of its authors whose books have been published in Hungarian, and the festival featured various presentations by these authors. The government of Cyprus has selected our own Kyriacos Markides as their representative. As part of the festivities, Professor Markides did presentations about his work. We congratulate him on this honor!

Books Published and Awards Received!

Markides to publish next book in '12

Inner River is the latest in the series of books on Christian Mysticism written by Kyriacos Markides. Now in the final editing stages, it is set to be released sometime in 2012.

Inner River begins where *The Mountain of Silence* and *Gifts of the Desert* left off. In many ways, *Inner River* is a natural continuation of the spiritual quest that Markides began years ago and developed in later books in his investigations into Eastern Christianity with Father Maximos. But at the same time, *Inner River* represents a unique shift from Markides' previous form of exploration. In this latest manuscript, Markides' own voice is more pronounced as he offers more of his personal views, reflecting upon and synthesizing his thirty-some years of research and explorations in an effort to bridge the gulf separating the mystic tradition of Eastern Christianity with the modern world.

Somalis in Maine: Crossing Cultural Currents to be released in June 2011

Somalis in Maine, Crossing Cultural Currents edited by Kimberly A. Huisman, Mazie Hough, Kristin M. Langellier, and Carol Nordstrom Toner.

Mark Paul Richard of the State University of New York at Plattsburgh says it best when he states:

"*Somalis in Maine: Crossing Cultural Currents* enhances our understanding of recent immigration in the United States by exploring the experiences of East African Muslim refugees in Maine. Through a combination of scholarly essays and first-hand accounts by Somali community members, this work sheds light on pre-migration experiences in Somalia, regional migrations in Africa, migration to and re-migration in the United States, and settlement and community formation in Lewiston, Maine. *Somalis in Maine* illustrates well the challenges that Somali immigrants have faced in all of these aspects of the migration experience. This work also considers the tensions Somalis have faced within their own community as they have sought to adapt to life in U.S. society. Like the French-Canadian immigrants who preceded them to Lewiston, Somalis appear to be actively negotiating the terms of their entry into U.S. society, thus challenging contemporary notions of the process of assimilation."

Barkan textbook now available online

In last year's *Social Facts*, you read about the upcoming new textbook by Professor Barkan that would be giving students the option to use a free online version. This text book is now online and is being used in the Spring 2011 curriculum.

The book is also available printed in black and white or in color for those who would like a book. Professor Barkan says:, "I'm very gratified that my students can read this textbook online for free or buy a print copy for just \$35. This compares to at least \$100-\$150 for a new textbook published the traditional way. I hope it's a good textbook, but I know it's not costing them much, and perhaps nothing at all!"

Student News

CUGR Showcase Poster



Sarah Skoniecki '11 with her poster presentation for the CUGR (Center for Undergraduate Research) Showcase in April 2011. Sarah has been interning with the Margaret Chase Smith Center with a focus on grant writing. Her wonderfully informative poster has great guidelines for grant writing and is now displayed in the Sociology Department.

Even if one is interested only in one's own society, which is one's prerogative, one can understand that society much better by comparing it with others.—Peter L. Berger

ASA Honors Program Recipient

Helaina Sacco has been selected to participate in the 2011 American Sociological Association's (ASA) Honors Program in Las Vegas, NV! The Honors Program is designed to give students a rich and stimulating introduction to the sociology discipline and to the ASA Annual Meeting, the "premier" event for sociologists around the country.

Through a competitive process, exceptional sociology students from throughout the country and the world are selected to come together for four days during the ASA annual meeting. By participating in the Honors Program, students develop long-lasting networks with other aspiring sociologists while their sponsoring departments have a chance to "showcase" their own quality programs and their most outstanding students.

Congratulations to Helaina on this honor!

Student Highlights

Marcia Mannarino

Marcia Mannarino '11 has won both the Outstanding Sociology Student Award and the Outstanding Service award for 2011 as well as membership in Alpha Kappa Delta society. A native of Billerica, MA, who has loved the outdoor opportunity living in Maine has brought her over the past four years. Marcy is active in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) and will be commissioning as an officer in September., then she will be attending flight school in Pensacola, FL. As a NROTC officer, Marcy has been the Bravo Company Commanding Officer responsible for all the events for the UMaine NROTC unit. Through the NROTC She has received the Professor of Naval Science Award, the Academic Achievement award, the Superior fitness award, the George H Bunnell Book Award and the Navy League award. She



also participates in soccer and floor hockey and is a CUGR student advisor. Marcy selected sociology as her major because of her interest in the criminological aspects of sociology and trying to gain a better understanding of how deviance occurs in some societies but not all. She has greatly enjoyed her experience at UMaine.

Sarah Skoniecki

Sarah Skoniecki '11 is this year's Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Prize recipient for 2011 as the department's top student. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta Society, Phi Beta Kappa, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. The past two semesters, Sarah has been interning at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy center with her mentor and center's director, Linda Silka. Sarah says, "I have been learning how to do grant writing and develop many of my other skills, including how to do presentations and put on seminars. I have assisted Linda with multiple grant writing workshops including

(Continued on page 4)

Student Highlights continued

(Continued from page 3)

for 4-H, the graduate students and one for the community. I also had my first experience writing a letter of Inquiry for the Penobscot Nation Boys and Girls Club. I will be displaying a poster about my experiences and new knowledge at the Undergrad Research Showcase.” This summer she will be attending the New Leadership Conference put on by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy center. This is a week-long conference for undergraduate women interested in Maine policy and political action to develop leadership skills. With plans to take a year off to work in the business she and her mother opened when they moved to Maine 5 years ago, Sarah will then do her graduate work in Philadelphia or Baltimore.

As a sociologist, I don't have to limit my interests to one area of study; the entire world is at my fingertips, waiting to be discovered. That is a very exciting prospect, indeed.”
- Jen Moulton '11

Helaina Sacco

Helaina Sacco '12 is a sociology major who is passionate about swimming. She is a member of the UMaine swim team and as she says, “Swimming is my life.” In spite of a rugged practice and meet schedule, she finds time to volunteer as a swim instructor for kids from 4 to 10 years old. Helaina has been accepted into the summer 2011 American Sociological Society Honors Program (See article on page 3). She has also been selected as an alternate for the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates summer program in criminology. When asked what drew her to Sociology, Helaina says, “Sociology just seems to provide the best frame for understanding the world, for me. It also provides a method for questioning the status quo and commonly held beliefs. Sociology allows you to actually attempt to answer questions about social life.”



Jennifer Moulton



Photo by
Mike Mardosa

A Bangor native, Jennifer Moulton '11 returned to UMaine this year to complete her Sociology degree after living in California for 6 years. To say she arrived like a whirlwind is probably an understatement. Passionate about service, she single-

handedly reenergized the Sociology Club and has served as its president, spearheading many projects and service-oriented activities (see the Sociology Club news on page 5). For this Jen has received our department's Outstanding Service award. Sociology interests Jen because it "...is all about peeling back the layers and finding the truth. It's like being a detective. Any question we may have about the way the world operates can be broken down and analyzed through a sociological lens. History, psychology, environmentalism, economics, and many other subjects are all aspects of sociological inquiry. As a sociologist, I don't have to limit my interests to one area of study; the entire world is at my fingertips, waiting to be discovered. That is a very exciting prospect, indeed.”

Jen plans to continue her education by earning a masters and eventually a doctorate and then plans to work in the burgeoning field of human-animal studies in sociology to use her research to effect positive change for both humans and animals in our global community. Jen's passion for animals is reflected in her work with the Santa Cruz SPCA where she teamed with celebrities like Doris Day to conduct the 5th largest Hurricane Katrina animal rescue. They are now helping to coordinate an airlift rescue of dogs from tsunami ravaged Japan. She has done ghost writing and editing work for animal welfare campaigns for Cher, Lily Tomlin and Ben Stein. She has published articles in *The American Dog Magazine*, and she received 1st place in the 2011 American Dog Humanitarian Awards for the Best Animal Welfare Website. Jen is truly a woman who walks her talk and is making a difference in this world!

If you have seen the CLAS-produced brochure for the Sociology Department, you may recognize Jen's photo above as the one selected for that publication!

Sociology Club News

The fall and spring semesters have been busy for the UMaine Sociology Club. With over 25 official members, the group has blossomed and made its mark as an important student organization here at the University of Maine.

With a focus on service and social action, members have donated their time and skills to many volunteer activities both on campus and in the local community. During the fall semester, they collected over 350 lbs. of food for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter with a two-day food drive during National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. They also participated in a number of university-organized events, including the volunteer fair, information fair, and open house.



Sociology Club Members: back row - Jillian Paine, Meghan O'Brien, Amanda Cotier, Melanie Clark, Shannon Michael, Dana Buckley. Front row - Aubrey Sheehan, Elise Jordan, Caitlyn Wood, Jennifer Moulton. Not shown - Nicole Golden, Tyler Evans

See more photos of the Sociology Club's many activities on page 9

The spring semester was equally fruitful; members represented the Sociology department by welcoming new students at a UMaine Accepted Students Day. In late March, they volunteered at the Bangor Humane Society's annual Spay Day. Students lent their support by cuddling cats waking from anesthesia, helping out with various tasks in the shelter, and even assisting in surgery preparation. The club also participated in this year's Hike for the Homeless, carrying the flag at the front of the Veazie/Orono group. Walking from Veazie Community School to the downtown Bangor waterfront, a total of 4.3 miles, they joined the ranks of 2,000 other volunteers, all there to raise money for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter – the event was a great success. Last, but not least, a fundraiser held by the Classified Employees for the victims of Japan's earthquake and tsunami was given a helping hand by club members who made pastries for the bake sale, designed posters, and volunteered at the table. The total amount raised for the Japan benefit was over \$1700.

Needless to say, the group has enjoyed a very productive school year. With this kind of momentum, the Sociology Club expects continued growth and community involvement. Passionate, dedicated students always welcome!



Nicole Golden, left, and Elise Jordan, below, are two of the Sociology Club members who helped out as Kitty

Cuddlers during the March 2011 Bangor Humane Society's day of free spaying and neutering.



Sociology Club president, Jennifer Moulton, at their booth during a UMaine Open House in the fall of 2010.

Sociology Student Award Winners

Deans List Fall 2010

Thomas Bartelt	Marcia Mannarino*
Meghan Blackford	Rebecca Morgan
Mark Brunton	Jennifer Moulton
Mary Callaway*	Kristie O'Brien
Zoe Churchill-Vogt*	Allyce Pepin
Ashley Collette	Mazie Pierce
Lauren Cripps	Emily Puleio
Nicole D'Andrea*	Ryan Roberts
Michael Emery*	Helaina Sacco*
Nicole Golden*	Brianna Schoen
Amy Greenleaf	Aubrey Sheehan
Carmen Linden*	Sarah Skoniecki
Leah MacNichol	Kyle Ward

Deans List Spring 2010

Benjamin Andersen	Leah MacNichol
Eric Bailey	Marcia Mannarino
Thomas Bartelt	Rebecca Morgan
Joshua Bernstein	Danielle Murray
Mary Callaway	Kyle Myska
Leah Colby	Chantal Papa
Zoe Churchill-Vogt	Allyce Pepin
Lauren Cripps	Andrew Proter
Nicole D'Andrea	Alyssa Radmore
Kristopher Doyon	Helaina Sacco
Lauren Duranleau	Sarah Skoniecki
Chelsey Everest	Emily Steenburgh
Emily Fortin	Jamie Taylor
William Gearin	Kelsey Walsh
Thomas Hannington	Cary Williams
Evan Kaye-Schiess	Emily Yearwood
Lindsey Lachance	Mallory Zwerdling
Carmen Linden	

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

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 3.3 grade point average overall (increased from 3.0 in prior years).

In 2011, the following students were inducted into

Alpha Kappa Delta: Thomas Bartelt, Zoe Churchill-Vogt, Leah Colby, Marcia Mannarino, Ethan Micucci, Sarah Skoniecki (in 2010)

Other honors and awards for 2011:

Phi Beta Kappa: Thomas Bartelt, Marcia Mannarino, Danielle Murray, Helaina Sacco, Sarah Skoniecki

Sociology Department Awards

Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize:
Sarah Skoniecki

Outstanding Senior: Sarah Skoniecki was nominated for the CLAS Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Outstanding Student Awards: Marcia Mannarino, Sarah Skoniecki

Service Excellence Awards: Marcia Mannarino, Jennifer Moulton

Congratulations to all our graduates!!

AKD—the Sociology Honor Society

In 1920, Univ. 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.

(Continued from page 1)

2010); he organized and participated in workshops on textbook publishing at the annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society (February 2011) and the Southwest Social Science Association (March 2011), and he organized three sessions for the upcoming annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (August 2011).

In the fall 2011, **Professor Amy Blackstone** will begin serving as the new chair of the Sociology Department. We welcome her leadership and guidance and thank Steve Barkan for his many years of service.

Professor Blackstone is also now serving as a member of the ADVANCE grant's Social Science Research Team (along with Susan Gardner in Higher Ed, a co-PI on the grant, and Shannon McCoy in Psychology). In support of the grant's goals of supporting effective policies and programs aimed at the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women faculty and of helping to create a positive work environment, the social science research team (SSRT) will examine changes in UMaine institutional, departmental, and system cultures over time through interdisciplinary, mixed methods research. The main goal of the SSRT is to expand knowledge and contribute to literatures in workplace culture and retention, particularly as related to women faculty in STEM and the social and behavioral sciences. The grant is a 5-year, \$3.3 million grant.

In keeping with the new tradition of publishing textbooks through Flat World Knowledge, **Professor Amy Blackstone** is currently writing a research methods textbook which will be published next year. Additional works this year by Professor Blackstone include:

Presentations:

November 2010, *Childfree Status as Gender Transgression?*, Amy Blackstone, Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis, MN

August 2010, *"The young girls thought I should be home waiting to die!" Harassment of Older Workers*, Amy Blackstone, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA

June 2010. *Workplace Harassment: Conceptualiza-*

Faculty Highlights continued

tions & Experiences of Older Workers in Maine, Presentation to the Maine Jobs Council, Augusta, ME

In the news:

Maine Public Broadcasting Network, August 2010, older workers

"Older Workers Face Different Type of Harassment," August 15, 2010, *Bangor Daily News*

PhysOrg.com, June 2010, sexual harassment

"Discriminating Youths," *UMaine Today Magazine*, Summer 2010, sexual harassment

Encyclopedia award:

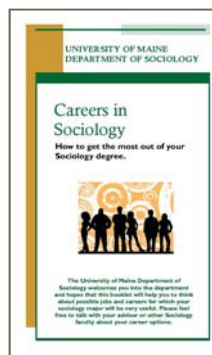
Blackstone, Amy. 2009. "Sexual Harassment," in *Encyclopedia of Group Processes and Intergroup Relations**, edited by John Levine and Michael Hogg. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

*Received 2011 Outstanding Reference Source Award from American Library Association

Professor Kim Huisman has recently published *Somalis in Maine, Crossing Cultural Currents* which she co-edited with Mazie Hough, Kristin M. Langellier, and Carol Nordstrom Toner. (See article page 3.)

Other Publications:

Kimberly A. Huisman, "Why Maine? Secondary Migration Decisions of Somali Refugees," *Ìrìnkèrìndò: a Journal of African Migration* (forthcoming, June 2011).



Following a departmental decision to focus more on providing useful career information for our sociology majors, **Professor Steve Cohn** developed a booklet entitled *"Careers in Sociology, How to get the most out of your sociology degree."* This booklet is available on our website at www.umaine.edu/sociology/ on the links page under Careers Information. Paper copies are being given to every sociology major as they meet with their advisors.

In other news, the department held an Internship Workshop in March 2011 for sociology majors in conjunction with the UMaine Career Center. Students are encouraged participate in an internship as part of their major curriculum.

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 with your name, year of graduation, address, phone number, email and let us know what you are doing now. Send to

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



The FUND is an opportunity for those closest to the University of Maine, our Alumni, Parents, Friends, and Faculty/Staff to play an important role in the University's present and future.

Last year, *The Department of Sociology Gift Fund*, dedicated solely to benefit our students, helped with registration, lodging, travel, and other expenses associated with students attending the American Sociological Association Conference. Our main objective is to ensure there are funds available to allow us to respond quickly and appropriately to the areas of greatest need within the Sociology Department. Your donations, combined with those of others, make a significant and immediate impact on the quality of our students' 'UMaine Experience'.

We invite you to become an active part of *The FUND* campaign by making your gift to the Department of Sociology by visiting us on-line at www.umaine.edu/give or by calling 207-581-1151 or toll free at 1-800-671-7085. You may also choose to make a donation by mail with a check. A slip at the bottom of this page has been provided to be returned with your check made payable to The University of Maine.

Remember, it isn't what you give, but the fact that you give that makes a real difference. For more information about *The FUND*, contact Ullysses Tucker, Jr. (ullysses.tucker@maine.edu), Director of Annual Giving at 207-581-1157.

Again, thank you very much for your consideration and support.



My Contribution to the **Department of Sociology Gift Fund** is:

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<http://www.umaine.edu/give>

For further information please contact the Office of University Development at 207-581-1151 or toll free at 800-671-7085.

Alumni News

Golda Michelson '69 is now a psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco and in San Rafael, Ca (Marin County). She lives about 15 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge in a beautiful area of Marin County. Email: goldamichelson@gmail.com

Nancy Pizzo Boucher '70 now lives in Westbrook, Maine. In 2009 she wrote a book called *Getting My*

Night Vision, which is the story of her family's experience in learning to see the patterns of mental illness and bringing it out of the dark and into the light.

We would love to have your update in the next issue of *Social Facts*. You can contact the department by sending your information to:

laurie.cartier@umit.maine.edu.

Sociology Club News Continued



Sociology Club members Jeffrey Lawson, Dana Buckley, Shannon Michael, Elise Jordan, Amanda Cotier, Melanie Clark (hiding behind the flag) and Jennifer Moulton led the Hike for the Homeless by carrying the banner for the April 2011 event.

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter benefits from Sociology Club member's volunteer activities



A food drive was one of the early service activities by the Sociology Club this year. Over 350 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected to benefit the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter.



Tabling for a 2010 UMaine open house are Aubrey Sheehan and Tyler Evans.

**Sociology Club
in Action!**

**UNIVERSITY OF
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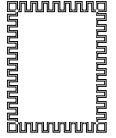
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**Sociology
Department**

Social Facts: The Newsletter of the Department of Sociology

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**Amy Blackstone Receives
CLAS Outstanding Faculty Award.**



Professor Amy Blackstone is the honored recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Teaching and Advising Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Chosen from many exceptional faculty members, she has distinguished herself among a wonderful set of peers.

From the article on the UMaine News Blog by Kristin Sobolik, Associate Dean:

Blackstone's teaching and research interests include the sociology of gender, work, families, social movements and research methods. Her current research focuses on workplace harassment experiences across the life cycle and child-free adults. Blackstone is an exceptional teacher who receives top of the line student evaluation scores and high praise from her students for her caring, concern, and ability to engage students in any subject matter. She has involved a large number of students on independent studies, internships, work merit projects, senior thesis projects and honors theses. With Blackstone's mentoring, many students have won awards and are included in her numerous research publications.

Congratulations Amy!

Visit us on the web at www.umaine.edu/sociology!