

**Our Department**

**Faculty**

- Amy Blackstone, Chair  
Associate Professor
- Steven Barkan  
Professor
- Ann Leffler, Presidential  
Professor
- Kyriacos Markides  
Professor

**Adjunct Instructors**

- Patrick Downey
- Glenn Eichel
- Edith Elwood
- Mary Okin

**Staff**

- Laurie Cartier  
Administrative Specialist

**Inside this issue:**

Chair Report	1
Kornetsky Prize	1
Faculty News	2 & 6-7
Sociology Club	3
Student Awards	4-5
Student News	2, 5
Alumni News	8-9
CLAS Inter- national Student	10



# Social Facts

## Newsletter of the University of Maine Department of Sociology

Spring 2016

### From the Chair



Hello and happy spring from UMaine Sociology!

The 2015-16 year has been a time of change in the department as we bid farewell to two wonderful colleagues and prepare to welcome new members of the department next year. Presidential Professor Ann Leffler, whose rigor and excellence in the classroom led many students to declare her the best professor they'd ever had, is retiring from the department this year. Associate Professor Kim Huisman, whose work with students brought together public sociology, service, and

teaching, has moved to Georgetown University. We wish Dr. Leffler and Dr. Huisman well in their new ventures and are grateful for their service to the department.

This fall, we're delighted to welcome Dr. Karyn Sporer to UMaine. For more on her exciting work, please read the enclosed pages. Finally, I bid you adieu as department chair and pass the torch back to Professor Steve Barkan, who will serve as department chair in the 2016-17 year. I'm grateful to have had the chance to represent a department whose strong commitment to undergraduate students is inspiring and whose research, service, and teaching reflect the values of public sociology and concern for the common

*(Continued on page 6)*

### Student Highlights

#### Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize

The 2016 Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize has been awarded to Harold "Trey" Stewart. Trey is from Aroostook County in Maine and has been at UMaine for the past 4 years. His exceptional academic and public service record gave the department no doubt that he earned this highest honor the sociology department can give.

Harold "Trey" Stewart III is a native of Presque Isle. During his time at the University of Maine he double majored in Political Science and Sociology and double minored in Legal Studies and Business Administration. Trey is also a

member of five academic honors societies. He is heavily involved in on-campus activities and was a leader in many organizations including his fraternity Alpha Tau Omega, the Interfraternity Council, and Student Government. In 2014 Trey served as the Vice President of the undergraduate student body before serving as the President in 2015. In the summer of 2015 he worked as an in-



*(Continued on page 9)*

## Faculty and Student News

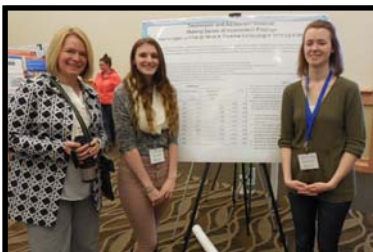
### Welcoming Our New Faculty Member — Dr. Karyn Sporer

The Department of Sociology is very pleased to announce that in Fall 2016 we will welcome new faculty member, Karyn Sporer, PhD. Karyn is coming to us from the University of Nebraska where she successfully defended her doctoral thesis on May 3, 2016 to receive her PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Karyn will be teaching SOC 101, Intro to Sociology, and SOC 214, Crime and Criminal Justice, in the Fall 2016.

Karyn's main research interests are in the areas of family violence and victimization, mental illness and violence, and violent extremism and terrorism. An advocate for persons with mental illness and their loved ones, Karyn has dedicated her research agenda and professional service to addressing social issues associated with mental illness and the mental health system. She received her BA from Saint Michael's College in Vermont, her MS in criminal justice from Northeastern University, and her PHD in criminology and criminal justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* and the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. A passionate New England sports fan, Karyn is excited to return to the northeast and continue her career with students and faculty at the University of Maine.



Our newest faculty member:  
Dr. Karyn Sporer



Professor Amy Blackstone, Katrina Ogden '17 and Haleigh Moran '17 with their poster at the Cross Insurance Center during the Undergraduate Student Research Symposium.

### The Easterns, CUGR, and ASA Honors

Third year students Haleigh Moran '17 and Katrina Ogden '17 have worked on a research project entitled "Depression and Adolescent Violence: Making Sense of Inconsistent Findings." Their findings were incorporated into a poster that they presented at the Eastern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting in March 2016. They were then able to take this poster and present at the Undergraduate Student Research Symposium which took place in April. Both Haleigh and Katrina were accepted as American Sociological Association Honors Students and will be attending the ASA Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA in August.

August.

Haleigh reported on their ESS Experience: "This past spring break Katrina Ogden and I had the opportunity to present our research at the annual ESS, held in Boston. We were able to meet with publishing firms and universities who were selling books written by sociologists and psychologists. A fun thing about the conference was that they were handing out free journals from multiple disciplines that we could take home. It was also exciting to be able to meet other students studying sociology and professionals from the field who were presenting at the conference. During the Poster Session, we met with other students, where they discussed all their research methods and findings. The poster sessions lasted an hour and a half, but went by very quickly since you spent most of the time talking to other students and professors about your research. Overall, it was a great opportunity to practice discussing with others the processes of your research."



Sarah Mullis '16 at the Undergraduate Student Research Symposium. Her poster was based on her honors thesis which focused on the Orono Community garden, which donates all of its produce to seniors living in low-income housing in Orono. Her project incorporated participant observation, written surveys, and personal interviews to assess how the garden impacts seniors' food security, and how it impacts their social isolation. "Attending the CUGR showcase was an excellent experience, and a great chance to practice discussing my research with an unfamiliar audience."

(Continued on page 5)



## Sociology Club News

### The Sociology Club

This year the Sociology Club was active with events, movies, and raising awareness for worthy causes. Meetings were held regularly and attended by many. Officers this year were Kendall Croteau, president; Cartier Hathaway, vice president; and Brandon Torrey, treasurer. We thank these officers so much for their service!

Kendall reported that "On October 30th the Sociology Club volunteered at Food AND Medicine in Brewer with several other UMaine



Sociology Club participates at the Hike for the Homeless on the Bangor Waterfront. L to R: President Kendall Croteau, '16, vice president Carter Hathaway, treasurer Brandon Torrey, and incoming president Dyandrea Labonte '17.



Sociology Club members join others from UMaine to volunteer at Food AND Medicine to help prepare for the annual Solidarity Harvest meal basket giveaway.

clubs, Circle K and Rotaract. Preparing for Food AND Medicine's 12th Annual Solidarity Harvest, our members worked on cleaning and organizing storage and office spaces and stacking wood! The Solidarity Harvest provides meal baskets to families of laid-off workers and community members. Last year, 1,200 meals were distributed to families throughout the state and the need is growing. We had a wonderful time learning about their mission and volunteering to support our local community."

The highlight of the year was the annual Hike for the Homeless. President Kendall Croteau had this to say about the experience: "Taking a

stride in raising awareness and benefits for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, the Sociology Club participated in the 21st Annual Hike for the Homeless. Joining to make a difference, our club walked 3.5 miles to meet 1,100 fellow participants at the Bangor Waterfront. Our members are proud to have advocated for people experiencing homelessness and contribute to the raising of \$36,000 in benefits for the shelter."



Students participate in a Sociology Club meeting that included a movie and pizza!

Officers for the academic year 2016-17 will be Dyandrea Labonte, president; Hannah Ladd, vice president; and Deirdre Leighton, Treasurer. You can stay in touch on their Facebook page or the conference on First Class.



## Student Award Winners

### Sociology Department Awards

**Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize:**

Harold "Trey" Stewart III

**Top Graduating Seniors:**

Harold "Trey" Stewart III and Emma Richford

**Service Excellence Award:**

Kendall Croteau

**CLAS Senior Recognition Award:**

Michael Lucas

**CLAS Outstanding International Student Award:** Mikaela Gustafsson

---

### American Sociological Association

Two students were awarded the American Sociological Association (ASA) Department Prize for 2016: **Haleigh Moran '17 and Katrina Ogden '17**. Each student receives a membership in ASA and accompanying journals.

Both Haleigh and Katrina have accepted their nomination to participate in the ASA Honors Program and will be attending the ASA annual conference in Seattle in August 2016.

---

### Alpha Kappa Delta 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: **Mikaela Gustafsson** (Sp 2015), **Chelsea Hickey** (Sp 2014), **Michael Lucas** (Sp 2014), **Sarah Mullis** (Sp 2015), **Emma Richford** (Sp 2015), and **Harold Stewart III** (F 2015). Juniors: **Justine Bouthot** (F 2015), **Aaron Chase** (F 2015), **Heather Cross** (Sp 2016), **Grace Livingston** (Sp 2016), **Haleigh Moran** (F 2015), and **Katrina Ogden** (F 2015).

### Dean's Lists

#### Spring 2015

Samuel Balzano, Justine Bouthot, Aaron Chase, Brittney Chase, Kendall Croteau, Allison DellaMattera, Julianna Ferguson, Mikaela Gustafsson, Chelsea Hickey, Caleb Kerbs, Abigail Linn, Michael Lucas, Patrick MacKay, Jacob Marks, Evelyn McArdle, Haleigh Moran, Sarah Mullis, Autumn Murtagh, Katrina Ogden, Jasmine Richardson, Emma Richford, Samantha Saucier, Harold Stewart, Allison Thompson

#### Fall 2015

Justine Bouthot, Heather Cross, Julianna Ferguson, Sarah Gibson, Kathryn Gottlieb, Mikaela Gustafsson, Miranda Hudgens, Caleb Kerbs, Hannah Ladd, Grace Livingston, Michael Lucas, Jacob Marks, Haleigh Moran, Sarah Mullis, Katrina Ogden, Emma Richford, Samantha Saucier, Harold Stewart, Allison Thompson

---

### The Kornetsky Prize

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, Orono, 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 also 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. The 2016 recipient of the Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize is **Harold "Trey" Stewart III** (See article on page 1)

# Congratulations to all our graduates!

## Michael Lucas: Scholar, Athlete and Soon-To-Be Navy Seal!

This year's sociology department nomination for the CLAS Outstanding Graduating Student Award and recipient of the CLAS Senior Recognition Award for Sociology is Michael Lucas.



Michael's performance as a scholar and an athlete have been exemplary. His induction as a member of Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society in Spring 2014 is a testament to his academic abilities. He is the captain of the UMaine Track and Field team excelling in hurdles and relay with a record of 3<sup>rd</sup> all time in the 400m intermediate hurdles.

This would seem to be as much as a student could handle well, but Michael is also becoming a Navy Seal. In February he assumed the position of Special Warfare/Operations New England Candidate (SWONEC) Boat Crew Leader of Region 1 Tac-1. After graduating and competing with the UMaine outdoor track and field team, he will leave for Navy boot camp in July.

We believe that this is the first time someone from the sociology department has been accepted into the Navy Seals. Michael is one of only two people from Maine who are in this program.

We wish Michael all the best as he pursues his Navy career. His long term plans are to continue his education by going to grad school. We know he will excel whatever he does!

*(Continued from page 2)*

Grants from the sociology department gift fund (gifts from our alumni!), CLAS, and the Alpha Kappa Delta travel fund for AKD students helped Haleigh and Katrina travel to Boston for the Easterns and will be helping them travel to the ASA Annual Meeting in Seattle in August. The Herbert Maccoby Sociology Fund, which was founded two years ago, will also be a resource for students who want to travel to present their research. We encourage students interested in research to talk to their advisor about the possibilities!

## Student News

### Phi Beta Kappa 2016

2016 Recipients of Phi Beta Kappa: **Mikaela Gustafsson '16, Hannah Ladd '17, and Katrina Ogden '17.** Membership in Phi Beta Kappa requires a minimum GPA of 3.5 for seniors and 3.7 for juniors and includes a math requirement in a liberal arts education. There is also a foreign language requirement of 2 years of college level or 4 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! Our department gift fund provides support for student membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

*(Continued from page 10)*

experience with the sociology department: "My experience in the Sociology Department at UMaine has been great. The faculty offer students great support and are willing to help. My first year I used the advising services from the College of Liberal Arts and Science and my adviser there was great in helping me to figure out what major was going to be the right fit for me. As I student-athlete I have to stress the academic support services and the greatness of their staff in helping student-athletes succeed while balancing busy schedules. They have been my rock in helping me balance schoolwork with practices and travel schedules."

When asked about her future plans, Mikaela tells us: "I will pursue a professional basketball career for the next two years while taking a couple of classes online to keep up with it. I'm planning to attend grad school in Sweden after that. I'm thinking about programs such as International Development or potentially Welfare Policies and Management (these master's programs are offered at Lund University, one of northern Europe's oldest, largest, and most prestigious universities)."

We look forward to sharing Mikaela's future successes in both basketball and at grad school on the alumni page of our website ([umaine.edu/sociology](http://umaine.edu/sociology)). Be watching for updates!



## Faculty News Continued

(Continued from page 1)

good. Throughout the changes we've faced this year, we've remained committed to these values. I hope you'll agree that they are reflected in our news from the past year. I invite you to keep in touch with us through our department's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/UMaineSociology?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/UMaineSociology?fref=ts)) and webpage ([umaine.edu/sociology/](http://umaine.edu/sociology/)).

We'd love to hear about you, our alumni and friends. Please drop us a line or stop in at Fernald Hall if you find yourself on campus!

Amy Blackstone, Department Chair

## Faculty Highlights

### Steve Barkan

#### News

Professor Barkan became president of the Textbook and Academic Authors Association in July 2015 for a two-year term after serving as vice president for two years.

He presented a paper on obesity and perceived discrimination at the ASA annual meeting August 2015 in Chicago

He accompanied our two students to the ESS meeting in Boston in March 2016

His new textbook, *Health, Illness, and Society: An Introduction to Medical Sociology*, is scheduled to be published in August 2016

He will become interim chair of the sociology department in Fall 2016.

#### Books

Steven E. Barkan. Under contract. *Race, Crime, and Criminal Justice in America*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Steven E. Barkan. Forthcoming August 2016. *Health, Illness, and Society: An Introduction to Medical Sociology*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

#### Anthology Articles

Steven E. Barkan. 2017. "U.S. Corrections Policy Since the 1970s." Pp. 153-174 in Karim Ismaili (ed.), *Criminal Justice Policy*. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett.

### Amy Blackstone

After serving as chair of the sociology department for the past five years, Professor Blackstone will be on sabbatical during the 2016-17 year. She plans to complete a book based on her many years of research on adults without children.

#### Publications:

Blackstone, Amy and Mahala Stewart.

Forthcoming. "There's more thinking to decide': How the Childfree Decide Not to Parent." *The Family Journal*.

"Harassment of Older Adults in the Workplace," a chapter in the 2012 book *Ageism and Mistreatment of Older Workers*, is featured in the 2016 textbook *Social Issues in the Workplace, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*

#### Presentations

May 2016, *Constructing the Childfree Family*,

Amy Blackstone, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Sociology, Athens, Greece

October 2015, *Who Are the NotMoms?*, NotMom Summit, Cleveland, OH

#### Selected Media

"Love Filled & Guilt Free: Creating Epic Relationships for Wildly Successful and Childfree Couples" Summit hosted by Robyn D'Angelo, Expert participant interviewed on April 15, 2016

"Body Positivity Needs to Talk About Combatting the Harmful Effects of Fat Discrimination," *Bustle*, March 25, 2016

"How Your Height and Weight Affect Your Pay," *Broadly*, March 10, 2016

"The 'NotMoms' among us: charitable but unelectable," *Bangor Daily News*, November 24, 2015

"The Brutal Truth About Being Childless at Work," *Fortune*, November 7, 2015

Cleveland National Public Radio's *IdeaStream*, Interview on "Not-Moms," October 5, 2015

WERU Radio's *Maine Currents*, Interview on childfree, September 16, 2015

Maine Public Broadcasting's *Maine Calling*, Episode on childfree, August 17, 2015

"9 Things No One Tells You About Work-Life Balance," *Time*, June 17, 2015

"Can a New Parent Remain a Good Friend?" *Pacific Standard Magazine*, June 5, 2015

## Faculty News Continued

### Ann Leffler

Professor Leffler is retiring at the end of this year. She has been a wonderful addition to the UMaine sociology department. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her retirement!

### Kyriacos Markides

#### Publications

Chapter in Book. "The Three-fold Way." *Re-Introducing Christianity: An Eastern Apologia for a Western Audience*. By Dr. Amir Azarvan, ed. (Eugene Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, Spring 2016).

#### Lectures:

The Abbey. All-day workshop at Islesboro Island, Maine. Saturday, November 7, 2015  
 Maine Holistic Center. Bangor Maine. Two-year anniversary celebration. Guest speaker. Sunday November 15, 2015.  
 New York Open Center. Three-hour lecture/workshop. Friday, December 4, 2015.  
 Wilson Center, University of Maine. Luncheon/lecture/discussion on mysticism in contemporary Society. February 1, 2016.  
 All-day workshop, Saturday April 9, 2016 at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox community, Baltimore, Maryland.  
 Wilson Center, University of Maine. Dinner-lecture "Role of Spirituality in a Secular Age" April 20, 2016.  
 Hellenic College, Brookline, Mass. Keynote speaker at St. Photios yearly conference, March 5, 2016.  
 Inducted in Phi Kappa Phi, National Honor Society, Summer 2015.

### Karyn Sporer

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Karyn Sporer will be joining the UMaine sociology department in Fall 2016. She successfully defended her doctoral thesis in May 2016!

See related article about this wonderful addition to our department on page 2 of this newsletter.

### First-ever NotMom Summit

Professor Amy Blackstone had the honor of giving the opening talk at the first-ever "NotMom Summit" in Cleveland, Ohio, in October 2015. Her talk, entitled "Who Are the NotMoms?" was a result of her extensive study of the childfree by choice.

As part of an Opinion piece from the Bangor Daily News dated November 24, 2015, Professor Blackstone explains the conference and the women who attended: "The 2015 NotMom Summit, the first of its kind, brought together women who are entrepreneurs, artists, business executives, authors, activists, academics, policy advocates, and, by any measure, accomplished leaders in their fields. At the summit they tackled big questions — exactly the sort we wish for our political representatives to consider.



They examined how to ensure a healthy future for our planet, how best to care for our elders and other loved ones, how to engage in thoughtful planning for old age, how to understand our workplace rights and how to speak up about workplace wrongs. They are women who have solutions to the most pressing social problems and they deserve to be heard."

The idea for this summit came from the success of the website thenotmom.com, started in 2011 by Karen Malone Wright. She recognized the need for a place where women who are childfree by choice or by chance could come together and find common ground. The next NotMom Summit will take place in October 2017. You can find out more information on their website.



## Alumni News

### Ellen Sherwood '10



After graduating from UMaine in 2010, Ellen "El" Sherwood went on to receive a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from USM in 2013 and then attended the SALT Institute for Documentary Studies specializing in Photojournalism.

El sent us a sampling of photos from travels that have taken her on some wonderful adventures. To the left is a view of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Then to the right is a picture from her trip to Africa where she volunteered with an organization called Flying Kites. Flying Kites offers education and other programming for vulnerable children in Kenya. They have built a Primary School and Home for children who would otherwise have nowhere to turn in the Aberdares Mountains of Kenya. Below is a collage from her street portrait project in Portland, Maine, a project she did while attending SALT.



the right is a picture from her trip to Africa where she volunteered with an organization called Flying Kites. Flying Kites offers education and other programming for vulnerable children in Kenya. They have built a Primary School and Home for children who would otherwise have nowhere to turn in the Aberdares Mountains of Kenya. Below is a collage from her street portrait project in Portland, Maine, a project she did while attending SALT.



El and her sister Hannah have a business, E&H Creations, based in Portland, Maine. They bill themselves as a "Sister duo from Maine. One of us is a documentary photographer and the other is a graphic designer. Together we specialize in creative consulting, branding love, wedding stationary, lifestyle photography & all things creative." They have a very active web presence at [eandhcreates.com](http://eandhcreates.com) where El is the photographer and Hannah is the designer. She is also freelancing and writing for Food Farm & Connecticut, a magazine dedicated to telling stories of the local food movement and the people behind it.

You can view more of El's photos on our website at [umaine.edu/sociology/alumni-updates](http://umaine.edu/sociology/alumni-updates).

### Steve Shaffer '93

Professor Steve Barkan is a chocolate lover and in that capacity ordered some chocolate from Black Dinah Chocolatiers on Isle Au Haut, Maine. What a "treat" to discover that one of the co-owners is Steve Shaffer '93 who graduated with a degree in both sociology and philosophy. The website ([blackdinahchocolatiers.com](http://blackdinahchocolatiers.com)) tells us: "Life charts a different course on a Maine Island. Here on Isle Au Haut, the pull of tides and scent of sea salt upon the breeze reminds us of the things it's easy to forget on the mainland. Like the pines and the people—the circle of flora, fauna and friends that sustain us through every kind of season. At Black Dinah, our confectionery exploration of flavor, texture

and aroma are inspired by the community that blooms within our shores. We invite you to celebrate it with us, too." In 2016 they were honored, for a second year in a row, with a prestigious Good Food Award for their Maine Mint chocolate truffle and they have been named one of the top ten chocolatiers in the USA.

**Want to be noted in the newsletter and/or on the alumni pages of our website? Please let us hear from you! We always enjoy learning what former students are doing now (current students too!).**



## Alumni & Student News Continued

### Jane Donnell '93

Jane Donnell '93 is in her 21<sup>st</sup> year at Northeast Historic Film (NHF) in Bucksport.

NHF is a nonprofit archives dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing northern New England's moving image heritage. They operate a three-story climate controlled vault holding more than 10 million feet of film, a public study center and a 140-seat theater. (Learn more at [oldfilm.org](http://oldfilm.org)). Jane currently handles donor relations, production and distribution of a line of DVDs called *Videos of Life in New England* as well as manages the Alamo Theatre, a marvelous first-run movie theater and Main Street Bucksport fixture for the last 100 years.

She often reflects that she has the coolest job in the world. "It is different every day and it more than satisfies my inner history nerd!"

### More Alumni Updates

**Autumn Murtagh '15:** Autumn has been accepted into the graduate degree program in criminal justice at Seattle University in Washington state. She has chosen to specialize in Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation. She received a CJ Fellowship Grant.

**Linda Fogg '14:** Linda is going on to grad school after spending the past two years working at Wings in Bangor. She has accepted an assistantship at the University of New Hampshire where she will be studying for a masters in sociology on a PhD track.

**Brittney Chase '15:** Brittney let us know through the online Alumni Update form that "since graduation in May I got a job working at Pathways of Maine as a Behavioral Health Professional, I worked there for 6 months and now I am a Behavioral Health Coordinator doing case management at Acadia Hospital in Bangor."

**Adam Perkins '08:** Professor Blackstone ran into an alum of ours last week, Adam Perkins. She reports that he fondly remembered his classes with Steve Cohn and shared that he had gone on to earn an MA in sociology from Texas State University in San Marcos. He's now back in the area and working on his MSW at UMaine!

*(Continued from page 1)*

tern for Congressman Bruce Poliquin in Washington, D.C. This is what he had to say about the internship: "During this past summer, I had the distinct honor of serving Congressman Bruce Poliquin as an intern in Washington, D.C. office. Throughout the internship, I had many opportunities to apply the sociological lessons I learned during my time as an under-graduate in the University of Maine's sociology department. Some of the key issues of overlap were economic and social inequality in American politics at the national level including the hindering effect that PAC's and Super-PAC's have on hindering our democratic process and limiting the voices of the people by providing them false information on a massive scale. In addition, there were also several opportunities to view social issues from a macro-scale at our nation's governmental capital. One such issue was that of technological advances and relaxed regulations expanding access of pornography to the youngest members of our society, which in turn has several negative side-effects on these individuals. In sum, this experience was incredibly awarding and eye-opening for me as both an academic and as an American citizen considering a future in government and politics."

Trey is currently a candidate for the Maine State Legislature where he is running for the 147th district (Presque Isle) in the House of Representatives. If elected, he will be one of the youngest legislators in the country. In the Fall of 2016 Trey will be returning to the University of Maine to pursue an MBA before eventually attending law school.

We congratulate Trey on this achievement and wish him all the best in the future!!

### Updated Soc Dept Website

Umaine.edu/sociology has updated to the new UMaine website format. We will be reconstructing the pages of our site and will strive to bring you all the latest that is happening with our alumni—and to do this we need you! Please keep in touch so we can report your latest news.

You will also find a link to the UMaine Alumni Foundation page which makes it easy to donate to our gift fund. This fund is used to help students travel to ESS or ASA Annual meetings and so much more! Please consider a donation today.

5728 Fernald Hall  
 Room 201  
 University of Maine  
 Orono, ME 04469-5728

Phone: 207-581-2380  
 Fax: 207-581-1762

E-mail:  
 laurie.cartier@maine.edu



Visit us on the web  
[umaine.edu/sociology](http://umaine.edu/sociology)  
 and follow us on  
 Facebook

**Social Facts: The Newsletter of the Department of Sociology**

**College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
 Outstanding Graduating International Student**

Mikaela Gustafsson '16, a native of Sweden who spent the last 4 years as a sociology major at UMaine, has been awarded the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Outstanding Graduating International Student Award. This award is just one of the many accolades she has received during her time here at UMaine.

As a sociology major, Mikaela has excelled. She received the American Sociological Association (ASA) Department Prize in Spring 2014 and went on to receive ASA Honors and attend the ASA Annual meeting in Chicago in August 2015. She reports that this experience was a highlight of her sociology experience at UMaine.

Mikaela was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Sociology Honor Society in Spring 2015 with a GPA that exceeded the requirements for this honor. And in Spring 2016 she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa—truly an honor only for those who excel in a liberal arts education. Mikaela maintained this academic excellence while playing as a forward on the UMaine women's basketball team. Her excellent performance helped the 2016 team go into the playoffs for the American East division title. Though they did not win the title, the team had it's best season in many years. Mikaela says that being a student-athlete has taught her a lot about responsibility, time management, leadership, teamwork and what it means to work hard.

In a wonderful online article about receiving the CLAS International Student award, Mikaela had this to say about her



Mikaela Gustafsson '16, the CLAS Outstanding Graduating International Student Award Recipient.



Mikaela with her family, coaches and Senator Susan Collins (2nd from left) at the 2016 Senior Day basketball game.

*(Continued on page 5)*

The University of Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall, 581-1226.