Social Facts
Newsletter of the University of Maine
Department of Sociology

From the 2017 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.

The Department was thrilled this year to welcome our new faculty member, Karyn Sporer, who came to us after receiving her Ph.D. from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Professor Sporer is already receiving acclaim from her students for her teaching and has already published several articles related to her research interests in family violence and violent extremism. Welcome, Professor Sporer!

In today’s world, the discipline of sociology remains as vital as ever and perhaps even more important than ever. We hear every day in the news about issues related to racial/ethnic, social class and gender inequality, and we hear every day 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 to make the world a better place. As a long-time sociologist, I hope they 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.

Student News
ASA Honors Students Travel to Seattle

In August 2016, Haleigh Moran ’17 and Katrina Ogden ’17 travelled to Seattle to attend the American Sociological Society’s Annual Meeting as ASA Honors students. Their experience is best told in their own words:

Haleigh Moran: “Having never been to the west coast or an academic conference of this size, it was a truly amazing experience. Once there, I had the opportunity to meet and learn from other professionals and students in the field. As a part of the Honors Program, each student was required to present their research to others. This allowed Katrina and me to present our research paper on the topic of depression and adolescent violence. The experience of a presentation was incredibly valuable and will carry on with both of us throughout our future careers. We also gained a significant understanding of graduate school and what it has to offer. It will certainly help us as we choose how to proceed after completing our undergraduate degrees this upcoming spring.”

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Student News

The Sociology Club

This year the Sociology Club met almost weekly. They had a lot of really great discussions about sociological topics like: The Animal-Child who grew up away from society, Meninism, Feminism, UMaine students, today’s society, millennials, and many other interesting topics! As a special project, they donated money to a family in the area around the holidays. Thank you to President Dyandrea Labonte, Vice President Hannah Ladd, and Treasurer Deirdre Leighton for serving.

UMaine Student Symposium: Research & Creative Activity

The Center for Undergraduate Research Symposium once again took place at the Cross Insurance Center in downtown Bangor. The number of posters were doubled from last year! It is quite the event held to showcase research being done by undergraduate students.

Professor Barkan has been working on independent study projects with Allison DellaMattera and Julianna Ferguson, who were able to present their research at the symposium. Allison’s research is on The Impact of Family Influence on Problem Drinking in Young Adults. Julianna’s research is on Predictions of Juvenile Gun Use and Violence in the United States. Both found the experience of presenting a poster valuable and exciting. Both women will present their research as ASA Honors Students at the American Sociological Association’s Annual meeting in Montreal in August 2017.
Study Away—My European Experience  
by Aaron Chase’17

To travel is to explore. To travel is to experience different cultures, languages, and people. To travel is to engage in a certain inherent curiosity within ourselves and to broaden our understanding of the world around us. As a sociology student at the University of Maine, travelling means even more to me: traveling is truly a chance to learn fully immersed in the various cultures while becoming actively engaged in a more global community. Over the course of the last few years, I have been lucky enough to spend more than fourteen months travelling in more than sixteen countries while living and studying for two semesters overseas.

Living in Germany, speaking another language, and becoming an active member of the academic and social communities were opportunities for me to not only experience true cultural differences but also to carry out a sort of sociological experiment first-hand while mentally applying the cumulative knowledge of sociology I have gained at the University of Maine. As a result, my worldview has become more removed from the personalized reality I had before. My sociological background enabled me to use cultural relativism to understand cultures more openly and effectively on its own terms and not in an ethnocentric way based on American culture.

The simplest sociological experiment I felt especially when living in Germany but also while traveling around Europe was in exploring the endlessly different norms. Every culture has its own norms in the form of folkways and mores. I experienced this firsthand in every aspect of life. Germans, for example, prefer not to small talk with strangers as much as Americans are accustomed to. Americans in turn, while certainly valuing punctuality, have much more tolerance for latecomers and delays. Germans instead will insist always on being on time, if not early. Every day was an exercise in resocialization; the more I would learn, the more norms I would violate. Luckily, my German friends were both understanding and willing to point me in the right way (after a bit of a laugh, for sure).

To fellow students, faculty, and curious folks alike, particularly those with a certain sociological imagination and curiosity, I encourage all to seek out opportunities to study, work, or volunteer abroad. Not only does it act as a great chance to live a more full life and to enhance your experiences on your resume, I truly believe that international travel can be a critical supplement to any sociological inquiry that aims to make any cultural or comparative sociological study. More broadly, international travel and experience offers us all a chance to be less divisive and excluding. Hopefully through travel and other such cross-cultural experiences we can all learn to not only tolerate others better but also to embrace and appreciate the strength in those differences.

Aaron Chase is graduating in May 2017, receiving a Sociology BA with a concentration in Crime, Law, and Justice and a minor in legal studies. He spent the academic year 2016 at Mannheim University in Germany.

Jessica Carignan Interns at MWC

Jessica Carignan ‘17, who is graduating with degrees in both Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality studies, has been a WGS intern with the Mabel Wadsworth Center this year, building on her exciting study-abroad experiences in women’s health and sexuality education in Ghana. She attended the Civil Liberties and Public Policy (CLPP) Conference in Amherst, MA. She wrote an excellent article for the MWC website entitled “From Abortion Rights to Social Justice.” Here is a brief excerpt:

“As part of my internship with Mabel Wads-
Student News

Sociology Department Awards

Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize:
Hannah Ladd

Top Graduating Seniors (3.9 Sociology GPA or above):
Justine Bouthot, Heather Cross, Katherine Gottlieb, Hannah Ladd, Haleigh Moran, Katrina Ogden

Service Excellence Award:
Hannah Ladd, Dyandrea Labonte

CLAS Senior Recognition Award:
Hannah Ladd

CLAS James Stevens Outstanding Junior Award 2017:
Meaghan Delcourt & Samantha Saucier

CLAS James Stevens Outstanding Junior Award 2016:
Hannah Ladd & Heather Cross

American Sociological Association

The 2017 American Sociological Association (ASA) Department Prize went to: Hannah Ladd ‘17, Julianna Ferguson ’18, Allison DellaMattera ’18 and Samantha Saucier ’18. Each student receives a membership in ASA and accompanying journals.

Julianna, Allison and Samantha have accepted their nomination to participate in the ASA Honors Program and will be attending the ASA annual conference in Montreal in August 2017. We look forward to reporting their experience in next year’s newsletter.

Katrina Ogden: “Flying out to Seattle for the ASA Annual Meeting was a big step for me. As I pursue my degree in Sociology, I have learned so much, especially about myself. It has been an amazing journey for me thus far and this trip was another step towards the real world for me. It was a great experience and opportunity. Not only did I meet so many great people including other students and professors, I was able to become closer with my co-author Haleigh Moran as well!

“I had a lot of fun going to the different sessions and learning about things I had previous knowledge about from my courses but also about things I didn’t know much about. I found the plenaries extremely informative and empowering. The entire meeting helped me realize so much about myself and where I want to be. I know I want to pursue graduate school at some point in the near future whether or not it is right after I graduate or if I take a gap year to save up money first. All the different people I met through the meeting were very encouraging about graduate school but they did stress that it is okay to take a gap year if you aren’t 100% sure what path you want and that was very helpful.”

Haleigh and Katrina worked with Professor Steven Barkan this year to complete senior theses, continuing the work they started with their presentation last year.
Phi Beta Kappa 2017

The 2017 recipients of Phi Beta Kappa are Aaron Chase ’17, Meaghan Delcourt ’18, Allison DellaMattera ’18, Julianna Ferguson ’18, Kathryn Gottlieb ’17, Grace Livingston ’17, Haleigh Moran ’17, and Samantha Saucier ’18. 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!

Spring 2016

Justine Bouthot, Patrick Burr, Heather Cross, Kendall Croteau, Meaghan Delcourt, Allison DellaMattera, Julianna Ferguson, Ashley Karr, Hannah Ladd, Grace Livingston, Jacob Marks, Ian Mcardle, Augustus McWilliams, Haleigh Moran, Katrina Ogden, Samantha Saucier.

Fall 2016

Justine Bouthot, James Brown, Aaron Chase, Heather Cross, Meaghan Delcourt, Allison DellaMattera, Julianna Ferguson, Caleb Krebs, Hannah Ladd, Grace Livingston, Danielle McDougal, Haleigh Moran, Katrina Ogden, Olivia Pennington, Samantha Saucier, Alison Soucy.

Dean’s Lists

Student News

worth Center, I traveled to Amherst, MA, to attend the annual Civil Liberties and Public Policy Conference, surrounded by powerful activists and professionals. CLPP is dedicated to inspiring, educating and mentoring new generations to be advocates for reproductive rights and health and social and economic justice, so naturally, I was in paradise.

As a student living in Orono, Maine, it can be hard to feel like I am doing my part in making a difference in this resistance when mobilizing is not as visible/accessible as it is in major cities. Surrounding myself with over 1,000 activists rekindled the fire in me, reminding me that this is not a small movement. The opportunity to connect with activists from across the nation to learn how to achieve social justice is one of the most empowering things that I have ever done.”

To read the rest of the article, go to https://www.mabelwadsworth.org.

Meet Tavi, Professor Sporer’s German Shepard mix who has become a fixture in the sociology department. Many students come to visit for a “Tavi Fix” when they need it!

(Kornetsky Award continued from page 10) 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.
I am so very grateful to be in a job where sabbatical is a thing! I’ve had a productive year of writing and research collaborations, and the chance to do some of this work from around the world, in Italy last fall and on the island of Roatan this spring. My main project has been to complete a draft of my book, *You’ll Die Alone! And Other Myths of the Childfree*. I’ve been able to share findings from the study in *Ms.*, *BUST*, *Bangor Daily News*, and a few others. And I presented *You’ll Die Alone!* at Maine Science Festival’s Myth-Busters-style Science on Tap event in March. What a blast!

I’ve been involved in a few other projects while on sabbatical, too. I co-authored a paper on the economic impacts on women who experience workplace sexual harassment with UMaine sociology alum Heather McLaughlin ’06, now Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University, and my longtime collaborator and graduate school mentor, Chris Uggen. This work was discussed in *The New Yorker* and *USA Today*. Another paper, co-authored with UMaine sociology alum Mahala Stewart ‘09 on how people make the decision not to have kids was published last summer. And UMaine Professor of Higher Education Susan Gardner and I published a couple of articles from our study of faculty workplace satisfaction.

As much as I’ve enjoyed the year, I’m looking forward to returning to the vibrancy that only a college campus can provide and getting back in the classroom.

Next year I’ll teach a brand-new course on Food & Society in the fall. Part of my time in Italy last fall was spent prepping for the food course and in summer 2018, I’ll be offering a different, more advanced Sociology of Food course through the University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC) in Viterbo, Italy. UMaine students are eligible for USAC scholarships and I hope to see a few in the course in Italy! Contact the International Programs office if you’re interested.

Next spring, I’m excited to be teaching the department’s Senior Seminar. I can’t wait to join our majors in reflecting on their experience as sociology majors and help them make post-graduation plans. I hope the students enjoy the experience as much as I know I will!
Faculty Highlights

Steve Barkan

News
Professor Barkan is completing his second and final year as president of the Textbook and Academic Authors Association and his second three-year term on the Council of Alpha Kappa Delta.
He is currently working on a new textbook, Race, Crime, and Justice: The Continuing American Dilemma, to be published by Oxford University Press.
He will be on sabbatical during Fall 2017. During the summer and early fall, he will be revising two textbooks, Law and Society: An Introduction (Routledge) and Fundamentals of Criminal Justice (Flat World Knowledge).
This year he supervised senior theses for Hannah Ladd, Haleigh Moran, and Katrina Ogden.
Professor Barkan is looking forward to his first grandchild, a granddaughter!

Books

Forthcoming articles

Presentations


Karyn Sporer

Peer-Review Articles

Book Chapters

Presentations
Karyn Sporer, Sam Church, Julia Fuller, Gina Ligon, Douglas C. Derrick, and Pete Simi, “Social media, open architectures, and ideological rationality: A profile of the Islamic State.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA, November 16-19.
Gina S. Ligon, Michael Logan, Karyn Sporer, & Mackenzie Harms. “Leadership Lethality: Using the CIP Model to Predict Terrorist Performance.” Presented at the annual
Faculty News

Steven Cohn—Honoring a Legacy—and How You Can Help!

Steve Cohn was professor in the UMaine sociology department from 1972 until he quietly retired in 2015. He was not feeling quite “retired” at the time and we therefore did not have a party for him or honor him as we might have wanted to. He is now residing in Falmouth, Maine, and though his health is not great he is enjoying the community where he is living. He even did a sociology course for the residents to enjoy!

We have received a special request from Professor Cohn: “I am writing to ask a favor. I have been looking back upon my life trying to develop an understanding of how my life has influenced people I have known, and I realize that I have little sense of ways in which my teaching may have influenced students.” This led us to think that it would be a wonderful idea to ask former majors if they would care to send an appreciation (which could be anonymous) that could be added to a compendium of appreciations that the department is compiling to help him better understand the effects of his teaching.

Letters of appreciation can be sent to the Sociology Department, 201 Fernald Hall, Orono, ME 04469 or emailed to laurie.cartier@maine.edu. Please get them to us by August 15, 2017. If you want your letter to be anonymous or only seen by Professor Cohn, just indicate that on your envelope or in the subject line of the email. We will then compile the collection of these letters and present to him at a dinner in the late summer or early fall. Let us know if you are close enough to attend!

Alumni News

Mark Brunton ‘13 let us know: “I work in DHHS QADS Central Office in Augusta, ME. I’m now a Resource Coordinator for Long Term Services and Supports, and Neurobehavioral Services. My duties include processing and reporting of MaineCare claims for elderly and disabled community supports. I also process enrollment of community support providers in Maine-Care. Outside of work, I’m treasurer of the Capitol Western Chapter of MSEA/SEIU state employees union, and a delegate of the Kennebec County Democratic Committee from China, ME.”

Nicole Golden-Bouchard ‘13 received her Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of California at Berkley in 2016. She is now a staff attorney at Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Bangor as well as a Post Bar Legal Fellow at Spruce Run Woman Care Alliance.

Katrina Ogden ‘17 has found a full time job in her home state of Massachusetts working with children with mental health problems.

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!). Visit us online at https://umaine.edu/sociology

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Faculty Highlights Continued

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Presentations
April 2017, Faculty Incivility at a Striving Institution, Amy Blackstone and Susan K. Gardner, Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR
March 2017, You’ll Die Alone! And Other Myths of the Childfree, Maine Science Festival, Bangor, ME

Selected Media
“Honoring the Childfree Auntie,” with Maxine Trump in Ms., April 19, 2017
“The Outrage Against Childfree Women is Real – And Needs to Stop,” with Therese Shechter in BUST, March 29, 2017
“Why talking politics on Thanksgiving could help us emerge from our political bubbles,” Bangor Daily News, November 22, 2016
“It’s Politics. What Does Motherhood Have To Do With It?” Ms., July 20, 2016
“Why some Mainers choose to be childfree,” Bangor Daily News, March 30, 2017
“I don’t think this is for me’: 7 reasons why people choose to be childfree,” TODAY, August 24, 2016
“Fox News and the Repercussions of Sexual Harassment,” The New Yorker, August 19, 2016
“The decisions behind remaining child-free,” CNN, August 22, 2016
“5 Things ‘Childfree’ People Want You To Know,” The Huffington Post, August 17, 2016
“Trump harassment remarks called ‘victim blaming’,” USA Today, August 2, 2016

Kyriacos Markides
Research and Publications


Other
His trilogy: “The Magus of Strovolos”, “Homage to the Sun”, and “Fire in the Sun” were published in by Hungarian publisher Tarsago—local affiliate of Reader’s Digest. His “Mountain of Silence” was published in Lebanon in Arabic. There is a question whether the publication was done legally!

Signed contract for a French translation and publication of “The Magus of Strovolos.” Publisher: Les Editions le Dauphin Blanc Inc. Quebec, Canada.

Service
Two lecture presentations at the 41st Conference of the International Institute of Integral Human Sciences (IIIHS) Montreal, August 12-21, 2016.

Invited guest lecturer at the 2016 Everness Festival, Hungary, June 29-July 3.

Four lectures at the Sivananda Yoga Retreat, Paradise Island, Bahamas—Dec. 21-26, 2016.

Lecture at Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity New York City, March 1, 2017.

Faculty News


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The Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize: Hannah Ladd

The 2017 recipient of the Marcia Smargon Kornetsky Sociology Prize is Hannah Ladd. Hannah is from Lincoln County in Maine and has been at UMaine for the past 4 years. She grew up on a small farm in Somerville, Maine. Hannah is a double major in Sociology and Communication and has a minor in Psychology. In addition to having the highest GPA among this year’s Sociology senior class, Hannah also received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Departmental Senior Recognition Award. She received a departmental service award for her dedication to the Sociology Club as the Vice President and assistance to Sociology faculty and staff as a work-study student. Hannah is a member of the Alpha of Maine Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honor society, and Phi Beta Kappa. She is also a member of the Lambda Pi Eta, the communication honor society. Hannah did an exceptional senior thesis for which she is analyzed national adolescent data to study the effects of birth order on depression. Her advisor, Professor Steve Barkan, commented, “As the youngest of five siblings herself, Hannah was relieved to find that middle children tend to be somewhat more depressed than older or younger children.” Hannah is considering graduate school after taking a gap year; the Sociology Department wishes her the best and will definitely miss her!

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 Conran 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.

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