



# Sociology

## Newsletter

MAY 2018

## From the Department Head:

Dear Friends of the OSU Sociology Department:



It's been another exciting and productive year for OSU Sociology! We are excited to share highlights of the past year in this newsletter. But first, I want to thank the people whose time and talents went into putting this newsletter and the department's regular social media updates together—Drs. Heather McLaughlin and Kelley Sittner, and Administrative Support Specialist, Debby Sweet. To stay up to date on the news from OSU Sociology, I invite you to visit our [website](#) regularly.

During the 2017-18 academic year, the department has been fortunate to welcome two new faculty, Dr. Liesel Ritchie and Dr. Mike Long. In addition, the fall we will be welcoming Dr. Jonathan Coley and Dr. Rachel Schmitz to the department as Assistant Professors. I encourage you to read more about these new faculty and their work on page 7. Also notable over the past year are the prestigious awards, honors and promotions received by OSU Sociology faculty! Dr. Kelley Sittner was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Tammy Mix was named the Laurence L. and Georgia Ina Dresser Professor in Rural Sociology. And Dr. Duane Gill was selected for the distinction of Regents Professor, the most prestigious recognition a faculty member can receive for scholarly accomplishments at OSU (see highlights on page 6).

OSU Sociology's undergraduate and graduate programs continue to thrive. News about Sociology's undergraduate, Masters and PhD students' accomplishments, and about our alumni are featured on pages 8-17 of the newsletter. These stories highlight the many awards that OSU students and alumni have received throughout the year as well as the professional presentations and publications of our graduate students. The department takes great pride in the fact that our students receive the training they need while at OSU to pursue careers in Sociology and in a wide range of related occupations. We also take great pride in the many successes of our alumni. You'll find news about our most recent graduates on page 11 of this issue,

*Continued on page 2*

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From the Department Head—on page 1

as well as a spotlight on our 2017 Distinguished Alum, Jane Thomas! OSU Sociology extends special thanks, in addition, to the alumni and friends of the department who make donations to the department in order to support scholarships for current and future students and for awards given each year by the department to student scholars. Every spring, the department gathers to recognize our students' achievements by presenting them with special awards and scholarships. Please check out the highlights from awards ceremonies and about related student accomplishments and internships on pages 10-19!

Crucial to the success of OSU Sociology's undergraduate and graduate programs is the teaching and mentoring that our faculty do. Some notable highlights this year include Dr. Stephen Perkins' work with archeological field school students in North Dakota and Dr. Monica Whitham's new Taos course for OSU undergraduate and graduate students being taught on site in New Mexico (p. 4). OSU Sociology faculty also made the news this past year for practicing sociology in ways that affect peoples' everyday lives and that influence social policy. Among these were Dr. Bin Liang, who was recognized as one of China's most productive scholars in the area of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Dr. Liesel Ritchie, who was recently named Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Global Resilience Institute; Dr. Michael Long, who recently published an exciting new book on *Green Criminology*; and Dr. Heather McLaughlin, whose research on the economic and career effects of sexual harassment on working women was recently been referenced by U.S. Senators and was the basis for an interview she did on the radio show "Marketplace" (see page 3).

Last but definitely not least, I would like to note that although I am writing this welcome letter, the department has benefitted tremendously over the past year from the leadership of multiple faculty members. Dr. Duane Gill and Dr. Andy Fullerton each served as Interim Department Head during the past year while I was completing a temporary detail at the National Science Foundation. During this time, Dr. Tammy Mix also extended her term as Graduate Director through fall 2017 in order to enable Dr. Fullerton to serve as Interim Head in fall 2017. I wish to thank each of these individuals, in particular, for their support of Sociology's undergraduate and graduate programs, commitment to students, and work with other department colleagues.

As OSU Sociology looks forward to the next academic year, I welcome alumni to contact us to let us know about your experiences, accomplishments, and life transitions. It is always a pleasure to hear from our alumni and friends. Feel free to visit our website at <https://sociology.okstate.edu/> or to contact me personally at [sharon.bird@osu.edu](mailto:sharon.bird@osu.edu). Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

*Sharon R. Bird*

Sharon R. Bird, PhD  
Professor and Department Head

## OSU Sociologists: Bringing Science to the Broader Community

**OSU RESEARCH ON TAP**

*This Research Project is a Disaster!  
Understanding the Human Impact  
of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill*

**Come hear Dr. Duane Gill,  
Regents Professor of Sociology**

Moderated by Dr. Kenneth Sewell  
OSU Vice President for Research

**IRON MONK**  
Brewing Company

519 S Husband St.  
Stillwater, OK

OSU "Research on Tap" host Dr. Ken Sewell interviewing Regents Professor, Duane Gill in January 2018 (see the full talk on [OSUTV](#)).

**SCIENCE CAFÉ**  
[sciencecafeosu.okstate.edu](http://sciencecafeosu.okstate.edu) at OSU presents

**Understanding the Scientific and Political Realms  
of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

featuring:  
**Dr. Bailey Norwood**  
Barry Pollard, MD/P&K Equipment, Inc. Professor  
OSU Department of Agricultural Economics

**Dr. Tamara Mix**  
Laurence L. and Georgia Ina Dresser Professor in Rural Sociology  
OSU Department of Sociology

This program  
assessment  
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Program Partners include:  
Agriculture, Natural Resources,  
Sociology Clubs and Societies  
Science Café OSU highlighting  
conversations about science  
research or required. Even

**DR. TAMARA MIX**  
Laurence L. and Georgia Ina Dresser Professor in Rural Sociology

Dresser Professor Tammy Mix shared her research at a "Science Café" earlier this spring (watch her presentation with Bailey Norwood on [OSUTV](#)).

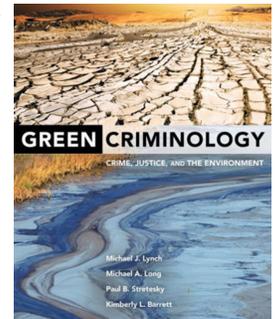
# Spotlight on Faculty Research



**Dr. Heather McLaughlin's** article, "The Economic and Career Effects of Sexual Harassment on Working Women" (*Gender & Society*, June 2017) ranked among the top 5% of articles measured on Altmetric, which measures the attention an article gets through blogs, tweets, news outlets, and Wikipedia. This research was also cited in a letter sent to the Department of Labor by Senators Gillibrand, Warren, Harris, Booker, Sanders, and 17 others. The letter recommended the collection of more data on the prevalence and cost of sexual harassment. Click [here](#) to listen to Dr. McLaughlin talk about her research with Lizzie O'Leary of Marketplace.



**Dr. Michael Long's** new co-authored book provides an overview of the field of green criminology. The text is also a call to action. *Green Criminology* draws attention to how the political-economic organization of capitalism causes ecological destruction and disorganization. The book's chapters examine ecological withdrawals, ecological additions, toxic towns, wildlife poaching and trafficking, environmental laws, and nongovernmental environmental organizations. The book provides a truly interdisciplinary foundation for green criminological analysis.



In a recent article published in *Asian Criminology* (Zhang 2017), **Dr. Bin Liang** was recognized as one of the most productive scholars in the study of Criminology and Criminal Justice of China. Dr. Liang was ranked 8th in overall productivity, 6th in journal ranking (impact factor), and 7th in citations. of Bin's scholarship, Oklahoma State University was ranked 10th in most productive institutions in Chinese criminology. Congratulations, Dr. Liang!



**Dr. Liesel Ritchie** was recently named Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University. In September 2017, she was also appointed as Advisory Board Member for the Koshland Public Engagement Program at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

# Sociology and Anthropology on the Road



In August of 2018, **Dr. Stephen Perkins** and a group of OSU students will escape the Oklahoma heat by travelling to North Dakota where they will hold a two-week archaeological field school. While there, students will learn excavation techniques and assist in running geophysical remote sensing surveys of the Molander village site, a large Hidatsa tribal village located on the Missouri River that was recorded by Lewis and Clark. As part of the trip, they plan to tour related archaeological sites and museums and visit the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, home to members of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara). The research will be carried out in conjunction with Colorado's PaleoCultural Research Group, and it is sponsored by the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

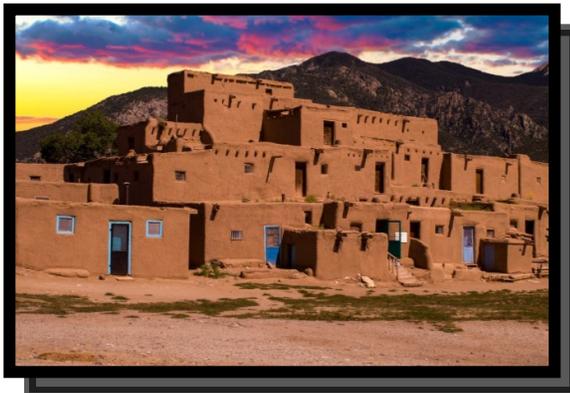


Painting by George Catlin, 1830



This May, **Dr. Monica Whitham** and a group OSU undergraduate and graduate students will head to beautiful Taos, New Mexico for a two-week course on the social meaning of "community." The course will bridge the sociological study of community life with social psychology to better understand communities as socially

constructed spaces imbued with symbolism, culture, character, and meaning. While in Taos, the group will explore its rich history as an artist's colony as well as visit a number of other places of interest, including an ancient Native American pueblo, an off-the-grid community, and nearby Los Alamos, the "Secret City" that was home to the Manhattan Project. The course will be taught at the OSU-affiliated Doel Reed Center for the Arts.



# ...and in the Streets!

Graduate students in the Department of Sociology added their voices to a November 2017 protest of the proposed plan to tax tuition benefits. More than 50 OSU graduate students protested the House bill, and students at more than 60 universities held rallies and walk-outs. The final tax reform bill excluded this proposed measure, which would have increased students' taxable income by thousands of dollars each year.



*“Oklahoma State University has joined with the voices of graduate and higher education advocacy groups and institutions across the country to oppose this potential tax on graduate students serving in teaching and research positions.”*

*- Joint Statement released by President Burns Hargis & Sheryl Tucker, Vice Provost and Dean of the OSU Graduate College*

# Faculty Promotions



**Dr. Kelley Sittner** was promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology in June 2017. She joined the department in 2012 after receiving her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2011. Her research focuses on substance use and mental health among understudied populations. She is particularly interested in North American Indigenous youth and adults, as well as homeless women. Her work has appeared in *Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, and *Society & Mental Health*. Recently, she co-authored *Indigenous Adolescent Development: Psychological, Social and Historical Contexts* (2014, Routledge/Taylor & Francis), which details the first half of an 8-year study of Indigenous youth and their families. Congratulations, Dr. Sittner!



**Dr. Tamara Mix** was named the Laurence L. and Georgia Ina Dresser Professor in Rural Sociology. Dr. Mix is an environmental sociologist who studies environmental justice, inequality, and social movements. Her recent work focuses on community dimensions of energy and resource activity and food security and justice. "Communities within the rural context are often underserved," Mix said. "We hope to understand what community needs are and consider human relationships with the environment in order to promote greater environmental and social justice." Dr. Mix will use resources from this award to enhance research training for OSU students. Congratulations, Dr. Mix!



**Dr. Duane Gill** was named Regents Professor, the most prestigious position recognizing scholarly accomplishments of faculty at OSU. Dr. Gill has demonstrated a distinguished record of nationally recognized excellence and scholarship in Sociology. He is part of a research team that has been investigating human impacts of the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill in Alaska. More recently, he led a research effort to document and understand social and psychological impacts of the 2010 BP oil spill in coastal Alabama. He has also conducted research on Hurricane Katrina, the 2004 *Selendang Ayu* shipwreck and oil spill in the Aleutian Islands, and the 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill in San Francisco Bay. These research activities seek to understand community preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters, as well as ways to enhance disaster resilience. Congratulations, Dr. Gill!

# The Department is Growing!



**Dr. Michael Long** returned to OSU after 3 years in the Department of Social Sciences at Northumbria University in the United Kingdom. He was previously an Assistant Professor here at Oklahoma State from 2010-2014. Mike studies the political economy of green crimes and the relationship between green and state-corporate crime. He has also worked in the areas of ethical consumption, food insecurity, and quantitative methodology. Welcome back, Mike!



**Dr. Liesel Ritchie** came to OSU in January 2018 after serving for 10 years as Associate Director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. Here at OSU, she will serve as the Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Disasters and Extreme Events. Dr. Ritchie studies the social impacts of disasters and community resilience, with an emphasis on technological disasters, social capital, and renewable resource communities. She has been PI or co-PI on more than 80 projects and authored or coauthored more than 75 technical reports working with agencies including NASA, NSF, USGS, FEMA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, NOAA, and U.S. Department of the Interior. Welcome to OSU, Liesel!



**Dr. Rachel Schmitz** will be joining the Department of Sociology in Fall 2018. Dr. Schmitz earned her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2016 and is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Her research and teaching interests include gender and sexualities, identity, health disparities, intersectionality, family, homeless youth and young adults, and qualitative methods. Her current research concerns LGBTQ Latino and Latina young adults and understandings of health in the Rio Grande Valley. Welcome, Rachel!



**Dr. Jonathan Coley** will also join OSU in Fall 2018. Dr. Coley completed his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University (2016) before beginning an Assistant Professor position at Monmouth College. His research focuses on participation in social justice movements and the relationship between religion and social justice. Dr. Coley's new book, *Gay on God's Campus*, examines participation in LGBT activist groups at Christian colleges and universities, identifying why students have decided to join and commit to LGBT activist groups in such conservative settings and how participation in such groups prepared students to be change agents in their subsequent political activity, humanistic careers, and personal lives. Welcome, Jonathan!

# C a t c h i n g U p

## Andrew Raridon

We recently caught up with **Dr. Andrew Raridon**, who has been working as an Assistant Professor of Sociology & Criminology at Valparaiso University since Fall 2017. Andrew earned his M.S. degree here at OSU in 2013 and his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 2017. He is currently studying how young sustainable farmers blend profit and protest as “activist-entrepreneurs”: movement activists who seek to bring about social change by operating successful businesses. Much of what they do is not profitable, but aligns with their ideals for what a sustainable and just food system should



look like. Andrew argues that this speaks to a broader struggle we all contend with at various points in our lives: how can we “make it” in our hyper-capitalist society without totally selling out?

Looking back at his time at OSU, Andrew recalled fantastic faculty mentors who treated his interests as seriously as their own. He added that current OSU graduate students should talk with faculty “about their work and their lives. Listen to how they talk about their careers and their research, and watch how they cultivate their professional relationships.” Students can also learn from each other: “Grad school is not just about learning all the academic stuff. Take the time to get to know your cohort, don’t be afraid to ask more advanced students for their advice...Always keep grad school in perspective: it can consume your life if you let it, but that is never productive in the end.”

When asked about the role of sociology in today’s society, he countered with his own question: “when was sociology ever *not* relevant?” He ex-

*“This speaks to a broader struggle we all contend with at various points in our lives: how can we ‘make it’ in our hyper-capitalist society without totally selling out?”*

plained that “we have always lived in contentious times, but depending on our relative level of privilege, we may not have viewed them as such. Our need to understand how the dynamics of stratification and essentialism are durable isn’t unique to our contemporary era, but it *is* what makes sociology indispensable.”

## Keep in Touch with OSU

Are you an alumni with news to share?

Let us know and you might be featured in a future newsletter!  
You can contact us through email at [deborah.s.sweet@okstate.edu](mailto:deborah.s.sweet@okstate.edu)  
or by calling us at (405) 744-6105.

# W i t h A l u m n i

## Anna Facci

**Anna Facci** earned both their B.A. and M.S. degree in Sociology at OSU. After finishing their thesis on identity, social movements, and social media in 2015, Anna went to work for the Oklahoma Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-OK) and Women Lead Oklahoma. They now work as the statewide organizer for Planned Parenthood Great Plains, where they are in charge of connecting supporters and building long-term plans to support the work of this reproductive health rights and justice organization. Anna passionately explained the importance of “envisioning a world—and taking part in the cultural shift that matches our vision of a world—where everyone is free to choose if, when, and how they become a parent and all the things that entails...The power of sociology is our ability to help other people connect the dots in the work that they do.” Whether it’s gun control, reproductive freedom, racial inequality, or domestic violence, sociology reveals how these issues can be woven together in important ways.

Anna is “eternally grateful” for the lessons they learned during their time at OSU, describing the uniqueness of an environment where you are “encouraged to work and grow both academically and personally.” They told us that everything has its own sociological lens: “There are so many ways that sociology applies in the world, but it can be easy to get intimidated about what you want to do.” When asked whether they had any advice for current students, Anna emphasized that “if there’s something that you have a personal interest in, you can find a way in sociology to make that a career path for you.”

“It is an exciting time to be a sociologist doing work like this in Oklahoma.” They explained that there are countless opportunities “and so many communities that need our insight and expertise as sociologists...This is our moment of cultural relevancy.”



*“The power of sociology is our ability to help other people connect the dots in the work that they do.”*

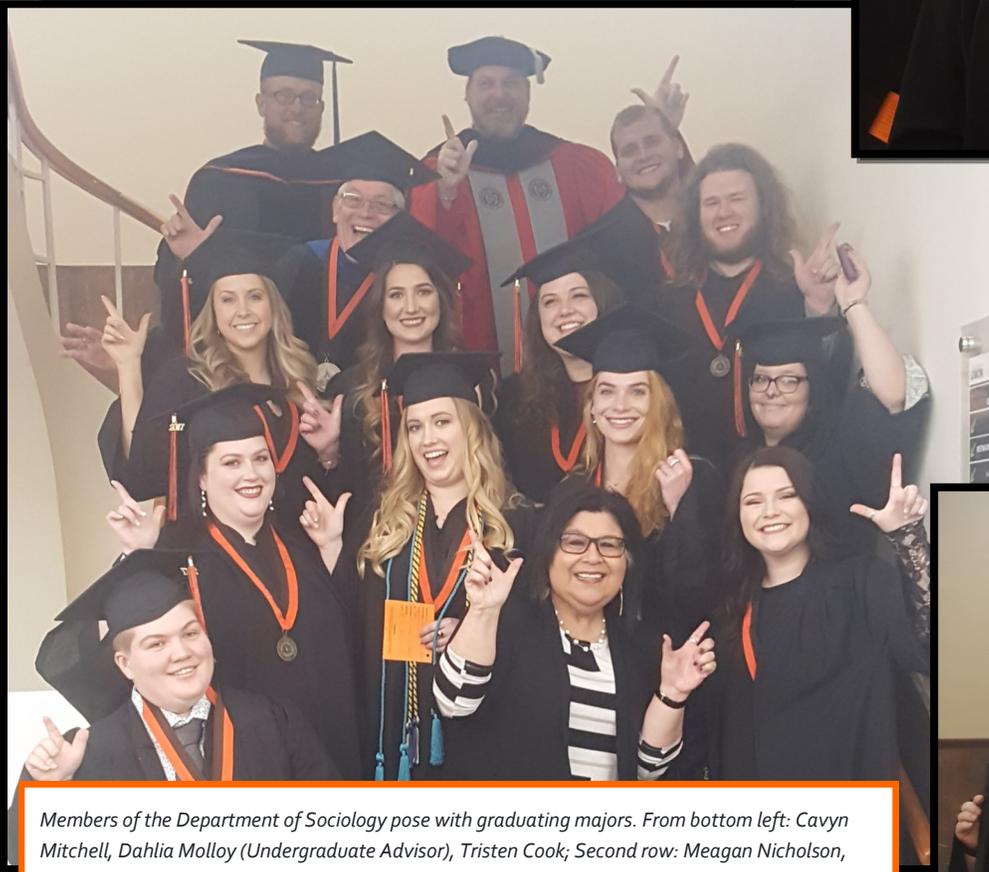
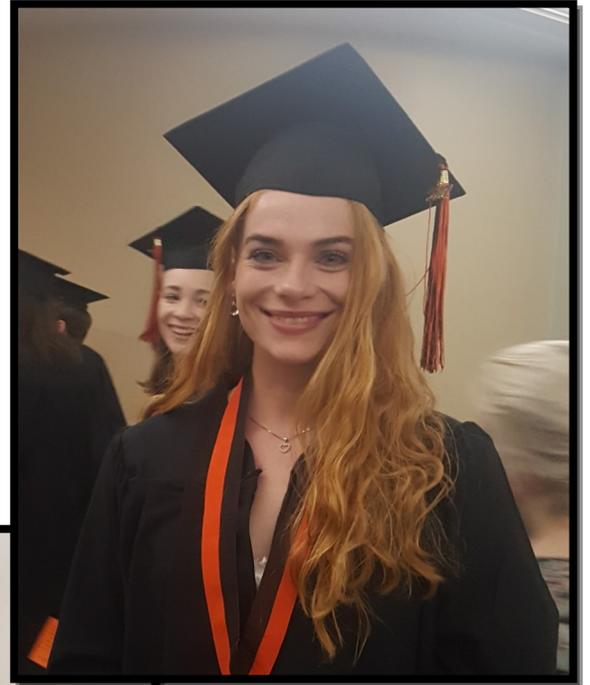
## Follow Us on Facebook

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[www.facebook.com/OKStateSociology/](https://www.facebook.com/OKStateSociology/)



# Fall 2017 Undergraduate Commencement



Members of the Department of Sociology pose with graduating majors. From bottom left: Cavyn Mitchell, Dahlia Molloy (Undergraduate Advisor), Tristen Cook; Second row: Meagan Nicholson, Emily Morrisett, Ida Oesteraas, Tanner Henderson; Third row: Emily Brown, Candice Neesmith, Alexis George, Skilar Miller; Fourth row: Duane Gill (Regents Professor of Sociology), Tristan Watson; Top row: Andrew Fullerton (Regents Professor), Chad Malone (Assistant Professor)

# 2017 Graduate Degree Recipients — Where are they now?



**Kate Reddick** completed her M.S. degree in Spring 2017. Her thesis, "The Embodiment of Age and Gender: Body Image Among Older Adults," was advised by Dr. Heather McLaughlin. Kate works at Stan Johnson Company in Tulsa as a Research Analyst and is a coach at Okie CrossFit in Tulsa.

In addition to these graduates, three students earned M.S. degrees and transitioned to the Ph.D. program.

## **Amy Herrington**

**Thesis:** Seeking Food Justice: Why Dignity Matters



**Advisor:** Dr. Tamara Mix

**Areas of Interest:** environmental sociology, food justice, social psychology, sociological theory

**Amy** is continuing studies focused on environmental justice and inequality as a Ph.D. student. She is currently working on three manuscripts to publish from her thesis work.

## **Dhruba Sinha**

**Thesis:** Saffronizing India: A Study of Hindutva from a Social Psychological Standpoint



**Advisor:** Dr. Monica Whitham

**Areas of Interest:** social psychology, gender, feminist theories, group processes, qualitative research methods

**Dhruba** will present her work at the Southern Sociological Society conference (New Orleans) and the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology (Toronto). She is also a department representative in the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association.

## **Adam Straub**

**Thesis:** The Influence of Power in Climate Change Media: Framing Strategies and Field Dynamics of Institutional Actors, 1990-2015



**Advisor:** Dr. J. Micah Roos

**Areas of Interest:** environmental and marine sociology, sociology of disaster, political equality, qualitative research methods

In addition to his forthcoming chapter in *Anarchist Political Ecology*, **Adam** is writing on water sustainability in the Southern High Plains, the vulnerability and resilience of rural Oklahoman communities to natural hazards, and Trump and White Nationalist Ideology.



**Rachel Gurney** earned her Ph.D. in Sociology in August 2017. Her dissertation, "Climate Change Rhetoric in a Hostile Setting: Lessons from Climate Change Constructions in Oklahoma," was chaired by Dr. Duane Gill. She recently shared her expertise in [a blog post](#) with The SEED Institute at Regis University. Beginning in July, Dr. Gurney will work

as a postdoctoral researcher at Notre Dame University. Her position is with the Environmental Change Initiative working on [the Urban Adaptation Assessment](#).



# Jane Thomas, Distinguished Alumnus



In Fall 2017, the Department of Sociology welcomed **Jane Thomas** as a distinguished alumnus of the College of Arts & Sciences. Since earning her B.S. degree from our department in 1975, she has made amazing contributions to the Oklahoma community. She began her career in Oklahoma City, teaching communication skills to newly blind adults. She then completed her master's degree in social work and worked at the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services for 38 years. In 1986, she began working as a social worker for the Oklahoma School for the Blind.

Throughout her career, Thomas served as a consultant to various school departments and has worked alongside many classroom teachers to teach braille to students. She has mentored many students through her tireless work ethic and is proud to be a part of "America's Finest Orange."



*Jane Thomas poses with Bret Danilowicz, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.*



# Graduate Student Awards & Publications

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Chelsea Bullard	2018. Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) Conference Scholarship
Zachary Carlisle	2018. Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) Travel Grant
Zachary Carlisle	2018. Sarah Belusko Award, OSU Department of Sociology
Jake DeFlicht	2018. O.D. Duncan Outstanding Graduate Student Award, OSU Department of Sociology
Jamie Du	2018. Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Student Research Travel Grant
Michelle Estes	2018. Sarah Belusko Award, OSU Department of Sociology
Srijana Karki	2018. AKD Student Research Travel Grant
Dakota Raynes	2018. Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award, OSU Department of Sociology
Adam Straub	2018. Spring Franklin & Louise Nash Scholarship – Doel Reed Center for the Arts Scholarship Committee



## GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Michelle Estes	Estes, Michelle L. 2017. "If there's one benefit, you're not going to get pregnant: The sexual miseducation of gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals." <i>Sex Roles</i> 77(9-10): 615-627.
Michelle Estes	Estes, Michelle L. and Gretchen R. Webber. <i>Forthcoming</i> . "More Closeted Than Gayness Itself: The Depiction of Same-Sex Couple Violence in Newspaper Media." <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i> .
Srijana Karki	Karki, Srijana and Tamara L. Mix. <i>Forthcoming</i> . "'My Family are Supportive...But People in My Village Mock Me': Bonding and Bridging Capital among Women Pursuing Secondary Education in Kathmandu, Nepal. <i>Sociological Perspectives</i> .
Dakota Raynes	Mix, Tamara L. and Dakota K. T. Raynes. 2018. "Denial, Disinformation, and Delay: Recreancy and Induced Seismicity in Oklahoma's Shale Plays." Pp. 173-197 in <i>Fractured Communities: Risk, Impacts, and Protest Against Hydraulic Fracking in U.S. Shale Regions</i> , edited by A. E. Ladd. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
Julie Schweitzer	Schweitzer, Julie and Tamara L. Mix. 2017. "Risk Normalization in a Nuclear Reliant Society: The Construction of Risk in French Media Narratives Pre and Post Fukushima." <i>Environmental Sociology</i> . DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2017.1393856.
Adam Straub	Straub, Adam M. <i>Forthcoming</i> . "Nature and Symbolic Violence: neoliberalization, Othering, and 'resisting identities.'" In <i>Anarchist Political Ecology</i> , edited by S. Springer, M. Locret-Collet, J. Mateer, and M. Acker.

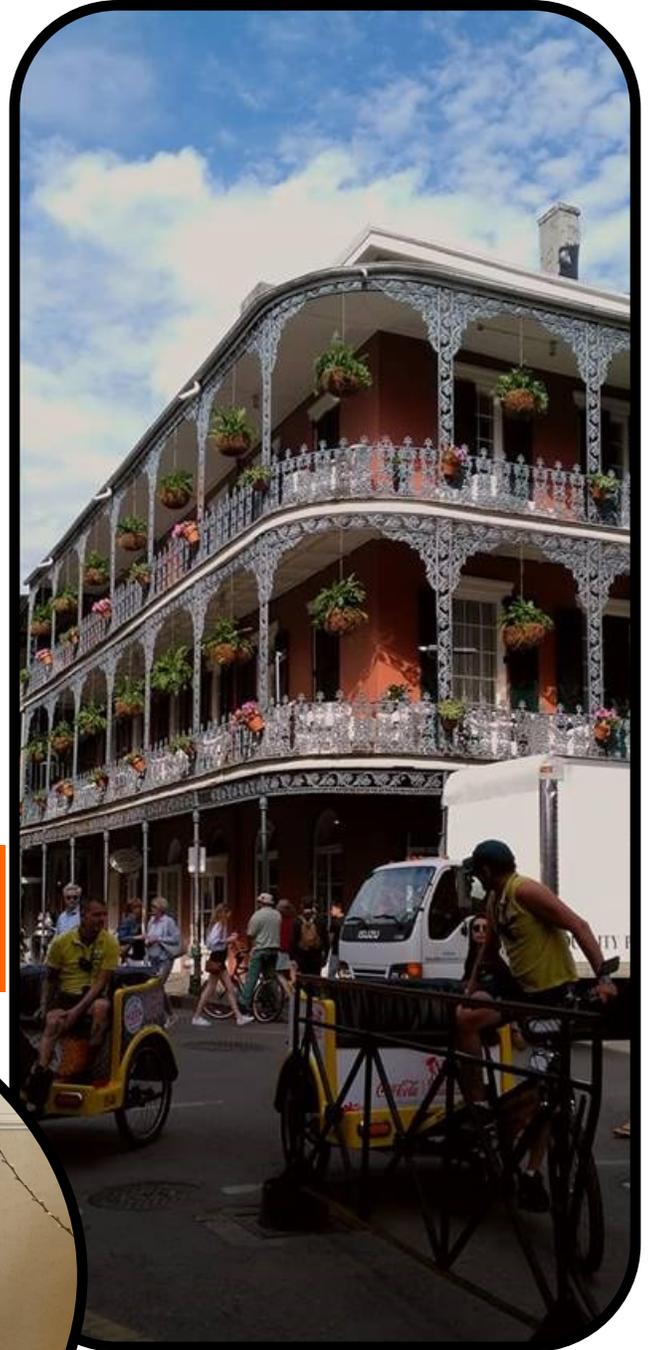
# Graduate Student

Last year, our graduate students traveled to 9 different states (plus Washington, D.C.) to present their research. This year, they added five more states (California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Ohio) and Ontario, Canada to that growing list. Last month, several students traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to attend the annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society.



*Above: Dhruba Sinha and Michelle Estes enjoy the sights and sounds of New Orleans.*

*Below: Jamie Du, Srijana Karki, and Michelle Estes pose at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society.*



# Presentations

## RECENT GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (July 2017—Present)

Chelsea Bullard	"Stress, Trauma and Health." OSU-CHS continuing education seminar. February 28, 2018. Tulsa, OK.
Chelsea Bullard	"Mental Health Courts: A Theory-Driven Program Evaluation Proposal." 2018 Forensic Mental Health Association of California Annual Meeting, Monterey, CA.
Zachary Carlisle	"Women, Gender, and Sport: A Sociohistorical Analysis of Modern Athletic Constructs in Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia." 2018 Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
Jamie Du	"Anti-black racism in China." 2018 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
Michelle Estes	"You Need God and a Job: Wrongful Convictions and Work." 2018 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
Michelle Estes	"Those are Typical Tell-Tale Signs of a Lesbian': Young Adults' Discussions of Gender Non-Conforming Behavior while Growing Up." 2018 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
Srijana Karki	"'If I can't sign my name, I can't maintain my privacy': Education as a mechanism to resist social control among women pursuing secondary education in Kathmandu, Nepal" (with Tamara Mix). 2018 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
Dakota Raynes	"Trump and the Rise of Nationalist Rhetoric: An Ecofeminist Perspective of Symbolic Power in Ideological Discourse and Environmental Policy and Procedures" (with Adam Straub). 2018 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
Dakota Raynes	"Rigging the Risk Game? Delimiting Dissent Related to Unconventional Resource Extraction." 2017. Energy Impacts Symposium. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
Julie Schweitzer	"'Personally, it does not bother me all that much': Risk Perception among Pro-Nuclear and Anti-Nuclear Stakeholders in Post-Fukushima France." 2017. Energy Impacts Symposium. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
Dhruba Sinha	"Hindutva – Explored through the lens of self-categorization theory." 2018 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
Dhruba Sinha	"Saffronizing India: A Study of Hindutva from a Social Psychological Standpoint." 2018 ISA World Congress, Toronto, Canada.
Adam Straub	"Land-Use and Land-Cover Change (LULCC) in Union County, NM and Cimarron County, OK: A comparative study on center pivot irrigation (CPI) growth and factors influencing its use" (with Kathryn Wenger, Jacqueline Vadjunec, Todd Fagin, and Peter Kedron). 2017 American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
Adam Straub	"Trump and the Rise of Nationalist Rhetoric: An Ecofeminist Perspective of Symbolic Power in Ideological Discourse and Environmental Policy and Procedures" (with Dakota Raynes). 2018 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

# Alpha Kappa Delta Inductees

At the AKD Induction Ceremony on May 3rd, eleven graduate and undergraduate students were inducted into the international sociology honors society, *Alpha Kappa Delta*. Founded in 1920, AKD promotes excellence in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and other social and intellectual activities that will lead to improvement in the human condition. AKD now has over 120,000 lifetime members affiliated with more than 660 chapters. The Oklahoma State University chapter, Gamma of Oklahoma, was founded in 1969. Eligible students must hold an overall GPA of 3.3 or higher. Congratulations to our newest AKD members:

**Raegan Chambers, Erin Craig, Katie Decker, Michelle Estes, Erin Francis, Lauren Jenkins, Meredith Korthals, Jordan Langston, Mackenzie Marrs, Starla Richardson, and Jesse Wannebo**



*Newly inducted undergraduate and graduate students (from left to right) Raegan Chambers, Michelle Estes, Starla Richardson, and Jesse Wannebo celebrate with AKD faculty advisor, Heather McLaughlin at the 2018 induction and sociology awards ceremony.*



# Undergraduate Awards

O.D. Duncan Award

**Katherine Henry**

Richard Dodder Award

**Becky Corbin**  
**Ashley Donovan**

Mabel Dixon Loper Award

**Samantha Bible**

Benjamin Gregory Wood Award

**Jordan High**  
**Kiera Jackson**

Outstanding Senior Award

**Ashley Donovan**



Sociology student Kiera Jackson accepts the Benjamin Gregory Wood Award from the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Bret Danilowicz.

In addition to receiving two awards from the Department of Sociology, Ashley Donovan was also selected as one of 14 OSU Outstanding Seniors. These award winners were selected from the 48 Seniors of Significance who represent the top one percent of the Class of 2018.



Work study student and Sociology major, Raegan Chambers (center), was recognized at the 2018 Employee of the Year Awards Ceremony. She is pictured with Department of Sociology faculty and staff members Barbie Teel, Allison Miller, Dahlia Molloy, and Chad Malone.



Dr. Chad Malone (Assistant Professor of Sociology), Dr. Sharon Bird (Professor and Head of Sociology), Katie Henry, Kiera Jackson, Ashley Donovan, and Dahlia Molloy (Undergraduate Academic Counselor) celebrate at the Arts & Sciences Banquet in April 2018.

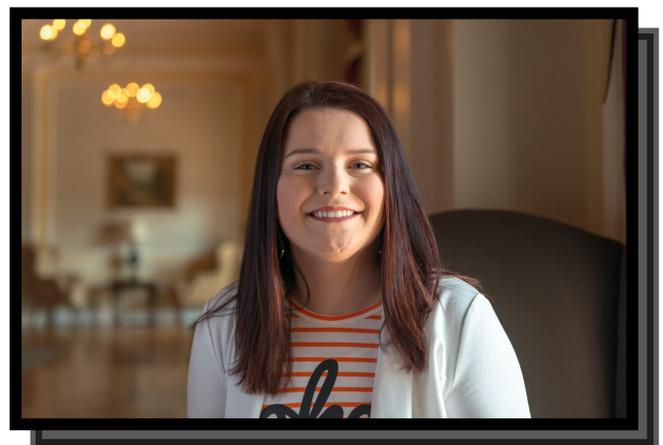
# Undergraduate Internships

The Department of Sociology offers applied degrees in four areas: Law, Crime and Social Justice; Environment and Society; Social Services; and Anthropology. Along the way to earning their degree, students in these areas must complete an internship with an organization or program that relates to their field. This year, we spoke with two students who recently completed internships related to Law, Crime, and Social Justice.



As a Victim/Witness Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office, **Aubrey Cruce's** work varied daily and included tasks like answering phones, sending subpoena letters, and observing court proceedings. Through her internship, Aubrey was able to see firsthand how "things that we would talk about in class...actually play[ed] out in the courtroom." Her experience taught her that "you never know what people are going through...but being able to provide some comfort to [victims] was very rewarding."

**Tristen Cook** spent her time at the Oklahoma City field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where she worked "side by side on various projects with the diverse individuals who specialize in various fields." For example, she was assigned to work "on a task force that worked cooperatively with local and state law enforcement agencies throughout Oklahoma," such as the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Oklahoma City Police Department. She said that her internship solidified her belief that "this is where I belong and will pursue my career. The people, the work, and the core values for which the Bureau stands all lined up with what I want my future to look like. Some might just think the acronym only stands for Federal Bureau of Investigation but it also stands for *Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity.*"



# and Honors Theses

Senior Sociology and Spanish major, **Becky Corbin** traveled to Reynosa, Mexico to complete her internship. For three weeks in July 2017, she volunteered and lived at [Big Heart Orphanage](#). Working with children between the ages of 4 and 13, she helped to get the children ready for the day, planned activities, and gained hands on experience working with children who had suffered severe trauma, abuse, and neglect.



could make the largest impact. Her research is a product of that goal, and she looks forward to sharing her findings and making her recommendations at the end of the semester."

Taken together, Becky said that these experiences have taught her a lot about the importance of healthy, functional relationships in people's lives. After graduation, Becky will be working for the Life Launch mentorship program at [Stand in the Gap](#), which provides mentorship to young adults aging out of the foster care system.

Since returning from Reynosa, Becky has been busy working on her Honors thesis, a survey of volunteers at [Our Daily Bread](#), a Food and Resource Center located in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Her Honors thesis advisor, Dr. Heather McLaughlin, said that Becky's desire to help others and give back to her community is truly inspiring. "Becky is an exceptionally kind and compassionate person. When brainstorming topics for her Honors thesis, Becky's main goal was to use her research to help others, and she worked directly with Our Daily Bread and the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank to better understand their needs and identify how she



GIVE NOW



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