Ray Jussaume presents MSU Sociology professor Dr. Toby Ten Eyck with a farewell gift as he is about to embark on a new life venture in the world of art in Bellingham, Washington.

2016 DEPARTMENT AWARDS

On April 14th, the Sociology Department held its annual Departmental Awards Banquet. Ms. Gabriele Lotarski, who is a senior Sociology major, received the Ruth Hamilton Award. Along with fellow students Emma Shaw, Rachel Manssur and Maria Bacarella, Ms. Lotarski helped raise over $4,000 to support the work of the NGO Syniparxi in aiding refugees in Europe.

Jessica Bell, Dana Chalupa and Kelly Birch Maginot were presented with John and Ruth Useem Endowment Awards, while Crystal Eddins, Jerry Yu, Bell, Chalupa and Birch Maginot were recipients of awards from the Artis Endowment Fund. Bell will be using her awards to support the dissemination of her research on sustainable wildlife tourism in Thailand, which focuses on understanding how to achieve the dual goals of conservation of the Asian elephant and the economic well-being of local communities. Birch Maginot will be using funds she has received to explore the migration, deportation, and reintegration experiences of Salvadorans who have been deported from the United States, using interviews and observations at NGOs and a government reintegration office. This summer, Eddins will be engaged in language training at the University of Massachusetts Boston Haitian Creole Language and Culture Summer Institute while simultaneously conducting archival dissertation research at the Boston Public Library. And Yu is using the support he has received to help finance his research on the mortality patterns associated with the 1918 influenza pandemic in Japan.

Moushumi Choudhury and Cameron Herman received Harriett McAdoo awards. Choudhury is using her award to advance her research on health outcomes among racial and ethnic Asian minorities and paramedics of Asian Indian origin in the U.S., while Herman is using his to help with the collection of data for his dissertation research on urban youth’s perceptions of recreation centers in Atlanta, Georgia.
MESSAGE FROM THE GRAD COLLECTIVE

Sociology Department graduate students were involved in many department projects this year; some major undertakings included participating as consultants for the redesign of the department website, traveling together to attend conferences, and holding regular discussions on how to promote and make more available the resources meant to be utilized by students. The Undergraduate Student Association and graduate Sociology Collective met regularly to offer feedback on their respective programs, the outcome of which is that several requests, such as revamping the comprehensive exams process and updating technology in common areas, are being implemented.

Redesigning the website has required mobilizing everyone in the department, from students to faculty and staff. However, it is the undergraduate and graduate students in particular who will be instrumental with generating dynamic content to keep the website up-to-date and informative for all users. Our vision includes filming interviews with current faculty and students on why they chose sociology as a field, as well as with alumni. These videos will be featured on our website as a way to showcase all that our department has to offer to prospective students. We hope that you will consider participating in this project, and continue to represent Michigan State University and the Department of Sociology beyond your tenure here. If you are interested in being contacted for an interview, please send a message to Jeny (laijenni@msu.edu) or Kelly (obrien74@msu.edu) with your contact information. We look forward to hearing from you!

Jennifer Lai and Kelly O’Brien

In this newsletter we are pleased to share with you some of the latest happenings in the Department of Sociology and news about those who have been part of our Department’s history. We hope more of you will share with us your stories of success so that we may share them via this newsletter. Please send me your news at rehberge@msu.edu, and we will get your announcements into the next edition of our newsletter. We also encourage you to visit our website at www.sociology.msu.edu to learn more about what is happening in MSU Sociology.

Dean Rehberger
Interim Chair

Graduate Students at Graduation Ceremony May 6, 2016
(L to R Jeff Oliver, Dr. Steve Gold, Rachel Butts, Dr. Cliff Broman, Dana Chalupa)

Matt Houser and Katie Dentzman firing up the grill for the annual department fall picnic at Patriarche Park.
Dr. Vladimir Shlapentokh, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, passed away on October 5, 2015. Dr. Shlapentokh received his Doctorate in Economic Sciences from the Moscow Institute of World Economy in 1956, and was a Professor of Sociology at MSU from 1979 until his retirement. During his career, he published over 40 books, dozens of academic articles, and numerous op-ed pieces in the mainstream media. He also enjoyed teaching about Russian Society to MSU students and was the host of perhaps the longest running weekly coffee klatch in the history of Michigan State University. We will miss you Volodia!

Dr. Krishna Kumar received his M.A. and Ph.D. from MSU Sociology. Prior to 1985, Dr. Kumar worked at the World Bank and the East West Center. He joined USAID in 1986 as a social scientist, specializing in monitoring and evaluation of development projects and programs. From 1998 to 2006, he was the team leader for democracy and Humanitarian assistance at USAID’s Center for Development Information and Evaluation (CDIE). Dr. Kumar has visited and evaluated development and democracy programs in 35 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and South and Latin America. Dr. Kumar also has extensively published in a wide range of professional journals and written over thirty monographs and book length reports on a wide range of topics. His most recent books are “International Assistance and Democratization in Postconflict Societies” (2006) co-edited with de Zeeuw, “Promoting Independent Media: Strategies for Democracy Assistance” (2006) and “Evaluating Democracy Assistance; Search for New Directions” (2013). Dr. Kumar currently is a senior evaluator advisor in the Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance Resources at the State Department.

Hollis Henry graduated with a B.S. in Sociology in 2014 and is currently employed at Wilder Research as a research assistant in data collection. Amongst other projects, he is working on a statewide study of homelessness in Minnesota and the Minnesota Student Survey, a triennial survey of 5th, 8th, 9th, and 11th grade students that examines a variety of topics, including substance abuse, school climate, violence and safety concerns, healthy eating, and out-of-school activities.

Dr. Cristian Dona-Revenco (Ph.D. Sociology 2012) has recently begun his appointment as an Assistant Professor in the School of Sociology of Universidad Diego Portales. He is also an Adjunct Researcher at the Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (coes.cl), a research center formed by a consortium of four universities. He is conducting research on US and Spaniard immigrants to Santiago, Chile funded through a research grant from the Chilean Government’s Science and Technology Commission (Chile’s NSF equivalent).

Congratulations TO NEW PhD’s

The Department of Sociology proudly recognizes and congratulates those students who recently completed the requirements for the Ph.D. over the past year. The students, and their dissertation titles are:

Weston Eaton (Bioenergy Futures: A Study of Imaginaries, Framing, Cultures, and Justification in Community Controversy Over Bioenergy Development);

John Girdwood (Redefining the Homeless Experience in Michigan);

Leigh-Anne Goins (Citizenship in Crooked Space: Black Women, Representation, Recognition and Scandal);

Jennifer Kelly (Considering the Lives of Humans, Jaguars, and Pumas in the Nation of Nature);

Paula Miller (White Like (Or Not Like) Me: Creating a White Racial Identity Scale and Examining How it Differs by Socio-Demographic Indicators);

Jeremy Norwood (Indicators of Human Trafficking with Migrant Farmworker Communities in Western Michigan); and

Rachel Wilczewski (Community Urban Greening: Curbing Disorder and Building Assets – The Case of Flint, MI).
The Department of Sociology continues to place great importance on the endowment of an Undergraduate Professional Development Fund that will provide scholarships for undergraduate students and support expanded student experiential learning opportunities.

YOU CAN DONATE TO OUR DEPARTMENT ONLINE.

www.socialscience.msu.edu/alumni/giving.html

→ Scroll down and click on make an online gift
→ Under search for a fund type in Sociology
→ Box will drop down with list of funds
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→ Complete donation

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Undergraduate Professional Development Endowed Fund

The Department of Sociology continues to commit itself to the successful completion of an endowed Undergraduate Professional Development Fund. The goal of this fund is to enable the department to provide support to our undergraduate students in the form of scholarships, conferences, study abroad, and research opportunities. As of this writing, the department has raised $9,050.00 towards the endowment. In order to establish the endowment, we must establish a base funding level of $30,000.00. We are asking you to join us in this effort by making a gift in support of this endowment. If you are interested in doing so, please support the MSU development fund.

Message from THE USA PRESIDENT

USA travels to NCSA Meetings

From March 25th through the 26th, 10 members of the Undergraduate Sociological Association attended the North Central Sociological Association and Midwest Sociological Society's Joint Annual Conference in Chicago! The conference theme of Inequality, Injustice, and Intersectionality was of particular interest to all of us. It was more challenging for us than our attendance at the annual Michigan Sociological Association conference in that there were more panels, presentations, documentaries, and roundtables from which to choose! Subjects ranged from bronies, #BlackLivesMatter, Title IX, climate change, and thematic discussions. Everyone was exhausted, but the things we learned (and the ice cream social!) made it all worthwhile. A special thank you goes to the department for working with us to put this together, and to Rebecca Jackson and Ian Brigmann for toughing it out driving to and from Chicago! We couldn’t have done it without you.

Katrina Groeller

Katrina Groeller
In 2015, Dr. Maxine Baca Zinn received the Distinguished Career Award from the Latino Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.

This April, Dr. Brendan Mullan delivered his Presidential Address at the Annual Meetings of the North Central Sociological Association.

Dr. Carl Taylor’s research was featured prominently in Ta’Nehisi Coates’ article in The Atlantic on “The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration.”

Alec Manaia, a junior majoring in Sociology, was one of four undergraduate students from across the MSU campus nominated for a Udall Foundation Scholarship. These Scholarships are awarded to college sophomores and juniors for leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to American Indian nations or to the environment. Well done, Alec!!

Summer ONLINE COURSES
Check out our online course brochure available at www.sociology.msu.edu under “Shortcuts”.

KUDOS
Alec Manaia – Undergraduate student nominated for Udall Foundation Scholarship