Sociology Student Feature: Semester at Sea—by Stacey Chatfield

In January 2011, I embarked on a unique educational and cultural experience known as Semester at Sea. This study abroad program is hosted through the University of Virginia, which accepts around 700 students to participate in its shipboard education experience. During my voyage, we traveled to 11 different countries, circumnavigating the globe in 104 days. Classes are held on days that the ship is at sea traveling from one port to the next. Days when you are in port are left to create your own educational experiences. Our stay in the ports varied from one to six days. I transferred all my classes to Sonoma State and this experience did not delay my graduation date. The classes I took on the ship were Sociology of Global Population Development, Sociology of Popular Culture, Sociology of International Perception on Family Violence, and Global Studies. With these classes, we were able to learn about the countries we were traveling to before, during, and after we visited them. This created a special learning environment that can’t be created in the classroom. In Cape Town, South Africa I visited an orphanage which helped me see first-hand how there is still such separation between the classes and race. In Chennai, India I took a field trip to a police station and child welfare facility and was able to speak to those in charge first-hand about their experiences. Every port had its own beautiful, unique culture and story to tell. These are things others merely read about in textbooks, but become so much more real when you can live and experience it first-hand. This experience really changed my life and opened my eyes to the world around me. With that, I highly recommend studying abroad to students in any program.

Faculty Participate in ASA & SSSI Conferences in Las Vegas

The Sociology Department was well represented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI), both held in Las Vegas, NV in August 2011. Professor James Dean presented a paper in the ASA Sociology of Sexualities Roundtables on “Queer Heterosexualities? Metrosexual Men and Sexual Fluidity among Heterosexual Women.” Professor Melinda Milligan presented two paper sessions on “Urban Ethnographies and Narratives” and presented a paper (“Hearth and Home: The Presentation of Self in Historic Houses”) at the SSSI conference, as well as served as presider and discussant for the “Qualitative Methodology I: Innovations in Qualitative Inquiry” session at the ASA conference. Professor Kathy Charmaz presented two papers at the SSSI conference, the first on “The Theoretical Implications of Symbolic Interactionism for Grounded Theory” and the second on “Teaching Symbolic Interactionism as Theory.” In addition, she organized two paper sessions for the ASA conference (“Qualitative Methodology I: Innovations in Qualitative Inquiry” and “Qualitative Methodology II: Challenges and Lessons in Qualitative Research”) and two paper sessions for the SSSI conference (“Self and Identity” and “Self and Culture”). She presided over three of these four sessions.
The Sociology Club is a student-based group that is committed to fostering the practical application of sociology as an academic discipline by pursuing extracurricular activities through community service and advocacy. So far this semester, the Sociology Club has held a Welcome Back social fundraiser the event raised over a hundred dollars along with material donations for COTS, Committee on Shelterless, which is a non-profit program that supports the homeless within Sonoma County. In late October, the Sociology club hosted a graduate school panel, a forum for all social sciences majors to gain more information on the graduate school application process by dialoging with a collection of professors. For the remainder of the semester, the Sociology Club plans to collaborate with Psi Chi on a campus event to raise awareness about children’s rights in domestic violence cases, as well as hold a fundraiser for the Sociology club. The Sociology Club also hopes to pursue a more active role in advocacy of human rights issues by promoting political awareness in the community. All Sociology majors and minors are encouraged to attend our meetings! For more information, please check out Sonoma State Sociology Club at Orgsync, an online community management system for high education institutions at https://orgsync.com/21728/chapter. Also, learn more about your major, the Department, and your fellow student leaders at www.sonoma.edu/sociology/students/club.html.

The Mills Award is bestowed on annual basis for the most outstanding original student research paper. To be eligible, a paper must have been written for an upper division SSU sociology course in 2011-2012 by a Sociology major or minor. Papers are encouraged to be revised prior to submission. The application deadline will be in early May.

**Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:** Creativity and imagination in the conduct of inquiry; Significance of theme and the clarity with which it is stated; Logical precision, methodological rigor, theoretical frame; and, where relevant, sampling adequacy, good measurement, and proper data analysis. The Mills Award will be presented to the winning student at the AKD honor student ceremony, held mid May.

**Submission Deadline:** Monday, April 30, 2012 by 4:00 pm

The Department of Sociology is pleased to announce that Katherine Saunders is the recipient of the C. Wright Mills Award for Sociological Imagination for 2011. The Mills Award is bestowed on the best student paper each academic year and was given to Katherine for her paper titled "Declination of the Traditional Third Place Culture in Coffee Houses," which she wrote for Sociology 498 (Senior Seminar). In addition, Nicole Bettencourt, was awarded an Honorable Mention for her paper "In a Relationship with Facebook," which was also written for Sociology 498. Congratulations, Katherine and Nicole!

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We are pleased to welcome a new lecturer, Anthony Vigorito, to the Department. He holds a PhD in sociology from the Ohio State University and has taught in the past at the University of Texas - Austin, St. Edward’s University, Antioch College, and Ohio University. His areas of expertise include social psychology, deviance, and criminology. In addition, he is a well-known fiction author. His books include *Nine Kinds of Naked* and *Just a Couple of Days*. This semester Dr. Vigorito is teaching Social Psychology and Methods Seminar: Social Development of the Self.
Dr. Madeleine Rose to Retire

Madeleine Rose, longtime lecturer in the Sociology Department, will be retiring at the end of Fall 2011. Dr. Rose earned a DSW from the University of California Los Angeles and was Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at CSU Long Beach. After retiring from CSULB, she came to Sonoma State in Spring 2000 to teach in the Sociology Department, as well as in Psychology and Gerontology. The courses Dr. Rose has taught include Social Work and Social Welfare, Family, Aging, and Group Work with Older Adults. The Group Work course has been offered every spring but one since 2000 after being initiated with a Generations Together grant proposal that she co-wrote. It is a service-learning course that gives students face-to-face experience with older adults as they co-lead weekly discussion groups at community senior sites. During her time at SSU, Dr. Rose has been an invaluable resource to students in many ways, including through extensive advising with students interested in applying to MSW programs. Many of her students have gone on to earn MSWs and are now practicing social workers. She also helped to start the MSW Distance Education program located on the SSU campus, which was initially offered in conjunction with San Jose State University and is now offered through CSU Long Beach. Recently she has become known on campus for her support of Students for the Pursuit of Education (AB 540 students and their allies). We will miss her!

Sociology Classes Offered During Winter Intersession 2011-2012

SOCI 317 (Emotions and Adult Life) and SOCI 375 (Classical Sociological Theory) will be offered during winter intersession through the Department of Extended Education.

Sociology 317, Emotions and Adult Life
Satisfies Upper-division GE, category E (Integrated Person)
4 Units
Instructor: Melinda Milligan
13 mtgs: M-F, Dec 19-Jan 12, 8:00am-1:00pm, no class Dec 23.
class# 1042

Sociology 375, Classical Sociological Theory
Satisfies upper-division GE, category D1 (Individual and Society).
Required for Sociology majors.
4 Units
Instructor: James Dean
12 mtgs: M-F, Dec 19-Jan 12, 1:00pm-6:00pm, no class Dec 23.
class# 1043

For more information contact Extended Education at http://www.sonoma.edu/exed/

Flat Stanley came to visit the Sociology 375 this fall! Flat Stanley was sent to Prof. Katz by Samantha, a second grader in Mrs. Pratt’s class at Bibich Elementary School in Dyer, IN. Flat Stanley “goes to college” was the theme and he attended Prof. Katz’s Sociology college classes and learned all about sociological theory. The Flat Stanley project is based on a book of the same name by Jeff Brown, and helps elementary school students learn about geography, letter writing, points of interest and new experiences.

Featured Class – Shared Places, Contested Pasts: Historical Memory and Historic Preservation

SOCi 497.1, 4152, Special Topics
Shared Places, Contested Pasts: Historical Memory and Historic Preservation
Spring 2012, Fridays, 1:00-4:40
4 units
Substantive Area: Culture

Shared Places, Contested Pasts: Historical Memory and Historic Preservation is an interdisciplinary course team-taught by Michelle Jolly (History), Margaret Purser (Anthropology), Laura Watt (Environmental Studies and Planning), and Melinda Milligan (Sociology).

This course explores the ways in which people use places to tell stories about the past. This fundamental human process has taken on new and potent significance in a world grappling with deteriorating natural and built environments, increasingly globalized and diasporic human populations, and deeply contested definitions of and rights to heritage and identity. Although these are vast, international processes, they play out at very localized and everyday scales, in our neighborhoods, communities, and the surrounding region. The course aims to introduce students to both the scope of the intellectual inquiry on the topic, and the expanding range of professional applications through lectures, group discussions, field trips/site visits, and research projects.

For more information please contact Melinda Milligan, melinda.milligan@sonoma.edu,
Professors Byrne, Charmaz, & Goodman Enter Early Retirement Program

Professors Noel Byrne, Kathy Charmaz, and Myrna Goodman have transitioned to part-time status in the Sociology Department due to beginning the Faculty Early Retirement Program. We wish them well and thank them for their years of dedicated and inspirational service. They have each had impressive careers and plan to continue their work in the discipline during retirement.

Noel Byrne came to Sonoma State as a transfer student in January 1969 and graduated with a BA in sociology in Spring 1971. He then began graduate school at Rutgers University in Fall 1971. After earning a PhD in sociology, he came home to Sonoma State to teach in the Sociology Department in Fall 1978. The next semester he began teaching jointly in both the Sociology Department and the Management Department (of what is now the SSU Business School). He initially gained tenure in the Business School and then moved permanently to the Sociology Department in 1994. During his time at SSU, he served as Interim Chair of the Management Department, Chair of the Sociology Department, and Chair of the Academic Senate and Chair of the Faculty. In 2007 he introduced at the Academic Senate a resolution for a campus-wide faculty vote of no confidence in President Arminana, which was overwhelmingly approved by the faculty of SSU. His key areas of teaching in the Sociology Department have been sociological theory, research methods, social psychology, organizations, and a senior seminar on the sociology of time. His research interests have emphasized the sociology of time and the sociology of evil. He has published in the areas of sociological theory (Durkheim and symbolic interaction) and family businesses, as well as presented papers at principal sociological theory sessions of the American Sociological Association and the Eastern Sociological Society, and in the sociology of time in the same venues. During his FERP, Professor Byrne will continue to serve on the Academic Senate, as well as to teach in Spring semester.

Kathy Charmaz received her doctoral degree in sociology from the University of California, San Francisco in 1973 and immediately accepted a temporary appointment in the Sociology Department to teach sociological theory. The appointment became permanent until 1980 when the Sociology Department shrunk to 3.75 positions during a lengthy lay-off crisis. For the next nine years, she held a part-time temporary position in Gerontology and taught additional courses in English, Humanities, Nursing, and Philosophy. After she was able to return to the Sociology Department, she served as its department chair for five years. She received the Distinguished Professor Award in 1989, served as editor of Symbolic Interaction from 1999-2003, and headed the Faculty Writing Program at SSU since 1996. Her most significant books are Good Days, Bad Days: the Self in Chronic Illness and Time, Constructing Grounded Theory: A Practical Guide through Qualitative Analysis, and a co-edited volume, Handbook of Grounded Theory, with her frequent co-author, Antony Bryant. She has taught 16 courses in the Sociology Department. Her key teaching areas have included sociological theory, social psychology, qualitative methods, health and illness, death, and aging. During her FERP, Professor Charmaz will continue to serve as Director of the SSU Faculty Writing Program and to teach in Fall semester.

Myrna Goodman was a reentry student when she enrolled at Sonoma State in 1986. In 1988, she graduated with a BA in sociology. She received her MA and PhD degrees in sociology from the University of California, Davis. After receiving her MA, she taught in the Women’s Studies program (now Women’s and Gender Studies) and then as an adjunct in the Sociology Department. In 1996, she became associated with the Center for the Study of the Holocaust. She was named the Director of the Center in 1998 and was hired as an assistant professor in the Sociology Department in 2002. Her service at the University has included School of Social Sciences senator to the Academic Senate and four years of service as the Department Chair. She also served as the Sociology discipline coordinator for the statewide initiative Lower Division Transfer Protocol, which clarified the coursework requirements for community college student transfers to the CSU. Her areas of specialization have been political sociology, consumption, genocide, and the Holocaust, as well as senior seminars on food, gender, and society and gender and politics. During her FERP, Professor Goodman will administer the Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, as well as plan and teach the annual course/lecture series: Sociology 305: Perspectives on the...
Faculty News and Announcements


James Dean just published an article entitled “The Cultural Construction of Heterosexualities” in the journal *Sociology Compass* in August 2011. This is a state of the art article on the most important past and present research on the sociology of heterosexual identities. He is also a member of the 2012 Program Committee for the upcoming Pacific Sociological Association’s (PSA) conference in San Diego, CA, which will be taking place March 22-25. This year’s PSA conference’s theme is “Intersectionalities and Inequalities: Knowledge and Power for the 21st Century.” In addition, he is serving on the 2012 Distinguished Book Award Committee of the Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association.

Melinda Milligan will, this fall, begin serving as Deputy Editor for *Sociological Perspectives*, the journal of the Pacific Sociological Association. She will also serve on the Membership Committee and the Diversity Committee of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction for 2011-12.


Sheila Katz was selected as an Emerging Scholar by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families’ Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. As part of this program, she presented “Welfare Mothers Pursuing Higher Education During the Great Recession: Implications for TANF Reauthorization” at the 2011 Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference in Washington, D.C.

Working in Africa after Graduation ~ by Alex Muxen

As a Sociology major, you are taught to see through the eyes of others, so as to better understand what it is they are going through and why they may do it. While I was at SSU completing my degree and taking a variety of different kinds of sociology courses, I also took a four-week trip to South Africa. This trip changed my perspective towards the world and I decided that I wanted to go back to see and learn more about developing countries like South Africa. I haven’t made it back to South Africa yet, but I am currently working for an international development non-profit called Foundation for Sustainable Development. The organization works across multiple continents in India, Eastern Africa, and Central and South America, collaborating with local partners on issues regarding human rights, women’s rights, community development, healthcare, microfinance/microenterprise, among many other initiatives. I am the International Program Coordinator for the East Africa site in Kakamega, Kenya. My responsibilities include oversight for the internship/volunteer program, creating partnerships and collaborations in the local communities, and supporting the liaison work involved in applying for small grants, which support our developmental partners on the ground in Kenya. My take on the sociology major and finding interesting work is that there are all kinds of ways and opportunities to apply your studies in sociology to the rest of the world, so why not go out and give it a try.
FALL 2011, SENIOR SEMINAR ABSTRACTS

Sociology 498 is the “capstone” course for sociology majors. It focuses on student completion of independent research projects. Each section has a topical emphasis. Past examples include women and aging, food and society, and gender and politics. Each student designs and completes an original research project, including the collection and analysis of original data. Below are highlighted senior seminar projects from this semester.

Name: Sam Anthony
Title: The Presentation of Gender in Sex Education
Research Method: Content Analysis
Abstract: How is gender presented in the textbooks of high school and college sex education courses? Do these textbooks represent lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people and their sexual lives? Through an analysis of both high school and college sex education textbooks, I hope to answer these questions. As the traditional conception of gender broadens, the textbooks of sex educational courses have not. Throughout my research, I will highlight the problems posed by America’s sex education today. It is important that we, as a society, provide realistic and honest knowledge to our youth about sex and its diverse forms of expression.

Name: Nicole Bettencourt
Title: In a Relationship with Facebook: Negotiating Intimate Life Online
Research Method: In-depth interviews
Abstract: This study is about the interplay between Facebook and romantic relationships. I am interested in both how Facebook is involved in the formation of relationships as well as how Facebook affects existing relationships. I will conduct 10 interviews with college students between the ages of 20 and 25. I will find these interviewees through purposive sampling to find five men and five women who have used Facebook for at least a year. My research questions are: How do users define what is private and public regarding relationships? And how does the publicity of Facebook provoke feelings of jealousy with current and past partners?

Name: Craig Cekala
Title: Understanding the Environment: A Sociological Analysis of Consumers in Public Shopping Spaces
Research Method: Participant Observation
Abstract: Based on thirteen hours of participant observation conducted in three local shopping areas, this study is designed to expand on current sociological understanding of the behavioral patterns practiced by patrons in shopping spaces. Through comparisons across the different shopping locations, this paper investigates three main themes: (1) it compares patron behaviors within each site based on characteristics such as indoor vs. outdoor settings and the types of businesses present; (2) it explores how the atmospheres of the shopping environments appear to influence the actions of those using them; and (3) it examines how the number of patrons using the settings varies by time of day and day of the week.

Name: Natiesha Chant
Title: Gender on the Square: Elements of Space and the Commodification of Gender
Research Method: Participant Observation
Abstract: Using Barbara J. Risman’s (2004) theory of gender as a social structure, this paper seeks to examine how the built environment in nightclub settings contributes to the individual, interactional, and institutional dimensions of the commodification of gender. Based on 14 hours of participant observation in four nightclubs located in a small town’s downtown area, it will examine such issue as (1) the covert and overt parallels between the social and physical elements of space and (2) gender as individually, interactionally, and institutionally bought and sold.

Spring 2012 Senior Seminar Topics

Each semester, different Senior Seminar topics are offered to allow advanced sociological analysis. Past examples include women and aging, food and society, and gender and politics. Senior Seminar is open only to Sociology majors who have completed at least 20 upper division units in Sociology, including receiving grades of C- or better in Sociology 300, Methods Seminar and Sociology 375.

The section taught by Noel Byrne will emphasize the Sociology of Time. Of all facets of social processes, none is more pervasive than time. However, clock time and calendar time comprise only a small portion of the domains in which all sociological phenomena unfold. For example, an understanding of face-to-face interaction is impossible without attention to the place of ethnotime (or “folk time”) in framing its dynamics and the timing practices that are at the heart of social life. Then too, personal identity emerges only within the context of biographical time. Experientially, moments can endure while extended durations can be fleeting. The class will be concerned with the full range of ways in which social time is implicated with all matters sociological.

The section taught by James Dean will emphasize Gender and Sexualities. This course will utilize gender and sexuality as analytical frames for investigating social life. First, we will explore some major theories and frameworks for understanding the socially constructed nature of gender and sexuality in social life and then we will read studies that make these analytical categories central to their empirical investigations. This course will emphasize both the individual and institutional ways in which social life is structured, paying particular attention to issues of power, identities and the intersections between identity categories.

The section taught by Sheila Katz will emphasize the American Dream. The course will include a critical analysis of the American Dream by exploring the American Dream ideology and how the ‘dream’ and its attainment varies by race/ethnicity, gender, class. Capitalism’s role in the American Dream will also be examined.

While visiting his daughter, Phil Cohen also toured Karl Marx’s home in Trier, Germany during the summer of 2011.
Senior Seminar Abstracts Continued

Name: Accacia Downer  
**Title:** Love and Marriage among Black Couples  
**Research Method:** In-depth interviews  
**Abstract:** This research focuses on five married black couples. I explore the patterns and dynamics that emerge regarding gender roles between husbands and wives and the role race plays in these dynamics. I plan to interview each spouse individually, allowing him or her to give his or her personal perspective on gender role expectations within the marriage. I also hope to discover the factors that contribute to strong and committed relationships among Black couples.

Name: Alma Maciel  
**Title:** People's Park: A Contested and Celebrated Public Space  
**Research Method:** In-depth Interviews  
**Abstract:** The People’s Park in Berkeley, California was established during the Free Speech Movement in the 1960’s to create a place where anyone and everyone could assemble. At present, the park is occupied by Berkeley’s large homeless community, creating a safe haven for those seen as undesirable in our society, a condition that tends to make the site less desirable for recreation or demonstrations. Based on interviews with members of the Berkeley community, this research explores the parks history, changes, and current state. In this paper, I show the importance of the People’s Park to the communities that continue to use it, as well as discuss their efforts to protect its beauty and purpose.

Name: Laura Martin  
**Title:** The Creation and Maintenance of Dog Park Culture by Dogs and Their Owners  
**Research Method:** Participant Observation  
**Abstract:** The study is based on participant observation completed in four dog parks, specifically two city parks and two regional state parks. Typically, a dog park is an enclosed space set aside in a larger park where dogs are able to be let off leash to play with other dogs and to exercise. In addition both dogs and dog owners use the setting to socialize. Based on this research, the paper discusses the following patterns: (1) the high level of anonymity between dog owners, (2) the unspoken rules that are learned and maintained in this setting, and (3) the anthropomorphism of dogs by dog owners.

Name: Chante Noel  
**Title:** Altering Their Bodies: Young Women and Cosmetic Surgery  
**Research Method:** In-depth interviews and content analysis  
**Abstract:** Through five in-depth interviews with women that have undergone at least one cosmetic surgery procedure as well as a content analysis of six issues of Cosmopolitan magazine, I aim to understand how cosmetic surgery shapes women’s sense of body image and beauty. This topic is sociologically significant because cosmetic surgery is a growing trend in America in general, but one specifically relevant for young women who face a media saturated society. Mass media reinforce unrealistic beauty standards, and young women feel pressured to maintain appearances that overemphasize youth and beauty.

Name: Yuliana Zamudio  
**Title:** Homophobia among Latinos  
**Research Method:** In-depth interviews  
**Abstract:** Through in-depth interviews with five gay Latino males and five heterosexual Latino males, I will explore the homophobic prejudice and discrimination that gay Latinos face due to the “macho” attitudes in the Latino community. This research will address issues of machismo, the attitudes of Mexicans born and raised in Mexico and the US, as well as the role that the family plays in stigmatizing homosexuality. I aim to learn how gay Latinos deal with stereotypes about being gay, the discrimination they have experienced, and where they choose to socialize as a result.

Featuring Fall 2011  
**Sociology Internships**

As part of the sociology major’s requirements, students are to engage in service learning through experiences outside of the classroom and internships are an excellent way to do this. This semester, 38 students are interning at a variety of sites. From on-campus organizations to community groups, to a myriad of business, non-profit, and local, county, and state organizations. Here are snapshots of some sociology students’ internships.

**Amanda Artu** is an intern at Rancho Cotati High School in Rohnert Park, where she is gaining experience in how to do educational counseling. By working alongside high school counselors, Amanda is reviewing students’ academic records, meeting with parents regarding their teenager’s academic standing, and advising students on college applications and placements.

**Cameron Cleveland** is an intern at KTVU Fox 2 News in Oakland. Cameron is interning with the TV station’s Sports News Team and is responsible for archiving games and events, writing scripts for live TV game segments, and conducting truncated interviews with athletes and coaches at games and other athletic events.

**Mariana Flores** is interning with CalSERVES, a demonstration program that is part of the Statewide California After School Demonstration Program (CASDP) in Rohnert Park. She acts as a head tutor at several elementary schools in the area. In her leadership position, she is responsible for the English as a Second Language (ESL) training program for instructing others tutors on how to teach bilingual students and is also in charge of creating lessons plans and activities for the after school curriculum in general.

**Ashley Kirby** is interning at the Council on Aging in Santa Rosa, where she is a case management intern. She is gaining a lot of experience on how to evaluate the elderly clients that this organization serves. With her supervisor, she conducts home visits, writes case notes, and makes service referrals.

**Laura Long** is an intern at the City of Berkeley’s Public Health and Social Services Offices. She has been involved with developing disaster preparedness programs to low-income neighborhoods and coordinating community events with the local police and fire departments for the city’s public health campaigns.

**Stephanie Mason** is interning at Napa Valley Hospice and Adult Day Services, where she has been required to take an extensive set of training programs before being allowed to work with the patients in hospice care. After finishing these training programs, she will work alongside the social workers, nurses, doctors, and psychologists who manage these patients’ care.

**Kathleen McLaughlin** is an intern at Red Tri-cycle, a website that provides fun and educational activities for parents and children in the Bay Area. Kathleen is gaining valuable skills in how to market materials on a media website and also how to promote website traffic through promoting the site through other social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.
Hello! My name is Monique Hernandez and I am currently in my advanced year of a MSW program at University of Washington. Congratulations on considering attending a MSW program, it’s a big step! Here are a few things to consider in the application process.

- Ask for recommendations early (ideally 2 months ahead of time) and send a reminder halfway. Don’t forget to include a short letter detailing the reasons you are choosing that program. Send a thank you note to those who wrote your recommendations!
- Allow yourself enough time to write your admissions statement. Have it proof read and remember to be genuine.
- Make note if the GRE or other testing is required and gather transcripts and other necessary documentation in a timely manner.
- If you are looking at out-of-state schools there is plenty to consider: cost of moving, living, weather and the various items you’ll need for your new location. Who will you live with? What is your budget for housing?
- Out of state may also mean increases in tuition. How will you fund your schooling? What is the cost of the program? Will you be taking out loans? Can you gain residency? What is the process for gaining residency?

While UW is a good program, in hindsight I would have considered more of my instate options.

- Review the mission statement of each school you are considering. Make sure their mission statement aligns with your views. Also consider the program’s concentration paths and see if they match your career goals.
- Review a list of the school’s field placement locations. Some programs offer more field placements than others.

I highly recommend visiting the school and area, attending an informational meeting (there is often a large one held in San Francisco through idealist.org), request information about the program and ASK...