The Department of Sociology is pleased to announce that the following sociology majors have been awarded Graduation with Distinction for Fall 2013:

Jessica Beatty  
Daniel Enriquez  
Kevin Escher  
Brandon Karns  
Brady Osborne  
Margaret Walden

Students graduating with the baccalaureate who are judged by their departments to have made outstanding contributions to their disciplines graduate “with distinction.” The Department of Sociology awards distinction for academic excellence within the discipline or extraordinary contributions to the department, university, or community.

During the last week of classes, 200 students in Soci 201: Introduction to Sociology displayed their final projects in a Visual Sociology “Art” Show on Salazar Plaza. The exhibit was designed and facilitated by Professor Sheila Katz and teaching assistants Jessica Beatty, Katie Gordon, Brittany Johnson, Alejandro Tinajero, and Nicolina Maio who helped curate the show.

Students created visual sociology final projects using pictures they had taken and wrote captions for the pictures describing the show using sociological concepts and issues they learned. The assignment was to take a picture of a social issue, topic, or concept discussed in class readings. Each student turned in 2 "exhibit" pieces, resulting in over 400 exhibits in the class.

Each piece included a title (descriptive or catchy—or both), a picture, and a sociological explanation of the issue covered using terms from class and explaining why it was important to them and society. The topics covered ranged from marriage equality and deviance to poverty and childhood gender socialization to immigration, etc. Instead of a last class meeting, students turned their projects in at the show and voted for their favorite exhibit, pieces by fellow students.

Despite the cold weather, everyone had a great time looking at the projects and discussing the pictures and issues. Campus community members and other students also stopped by to look at the exhibits and talk about the issues they raised.
Eduardo Vasquez, Senior and double major (Sociology and Chicano and Latino Studies), is active in numerous internship and community activities. After completing an internship with the Community Development Department in the City of Rohnert Park, he is now a student intern with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, in the Third District. Eduardo is a founding committee member with the Hispanic Chamber's Young Professionals. Most recently, he co-founded a new association, Latino Leaders at Sonoma State. This organization connects students with Latino community leaders and facilitates networking, internship opportunities and other collaborations. Additional information about Latino Leaders at Sonoma State University can be found at: http://www.sonomastatestar.com/features/leading-the-latino-community-1.3121549.

Paul Martinez was selected to participate in the 2013 Summer Research Initiative program at the University of Maryland, College Park. This selective program provides undergraduates with direct research experience. Paul worked on a project using both quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate how the perceived racial composition of neighborhoods shapes different outcomes among Blacks and Whites living in urban and suburban areas. At the California Sociological Association Meeting in November 2013, Paul presented a paper (co-authored with his summer mentor, Dr. Rashawn Ray) about this research.
As part of Professor Dean’s Sociology of Race and Ethnicity course this fall, his students visited San Francisco’s Chinatown and North Beach. In Chinatown, students walked through the beautiful Chinatown gate, visited one of the city’s oldest Buddhist temples, Tien Hou Temple, built in 1852, and ate fortune cookies at the Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Company. In North Beach, the class explored the churches of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saints Peter and Paul, concluding the fieldtrip at Washington Square Park. In acknowledgment of his support, Professor Dean’s class thanks Dean John Wingard for his financial contribution to the fieldtrip to San Francisco’s ethnic enclaves.

ALUMNI NEWS!

Molly Ashe completed her Masters in Sociology at Northeastern University. She is now living in England with her family.

Jennifer Dunn, who received her PhD in Sociology from UC Davis, is the chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at Texas Tech.

Meredith Gifford is working on her Masters in Sociology at Sam Houston State University.

Lianna Hart served as the student representative to the Medical Sociology Council of the American Sociological Association and is finishing her doctorate in sociology at UCLA.

Gloria Yim completed her Masters in the School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University. She is currently employed as a researcher at Guardians of Honor in Washington D.C., where she helped coordinate Gender Summit 3 in November 2013.

Alumni: Be In Touch!
Faculty and staff are eager to hear about the lives of our alumni. Please let us know what you are doing! Send your updates to Stearns@sonoma.edu. Also, join our departmental listserv for alumni for updates on the Department and news that is relevant for graduates.
In September, **Professor Kathy Charmaz** gave a workshop and delivered a keynote address, “Subjective Stories and Social Issues: Strategies for Making Connections” at the annual conference, “Qualitative Methods in Psychology,” sponsored by the British Psychological Society. She taught an intensive course to PhD students in the School of Health Professions and gave a public address at Zurich University of Applied Sciences in late August, gave a workshop at the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction in New York earlier in August, and taught professional development courses on qualitative analysis and writing for publication for ResearchTalk and the University of North Carolina in July.

**Professor James Joseph Dean’s** article “Heterosexual Masculinities, Anti-homophobias, and Shifts in Hegemonic Masculinity: The Identity Practices of Black and White Heterosexual Men” was published this fall in *The Sociological Quarterly*. The article is part of a special issue on critical heterosexual studies. Based on in-depth interviews with black and white heterosexual men, Dean maps a continuum of the heterosexual men’s identity practices in the article. Specifically, he develops a continuum that documents a range of interactional practices through which these men enact their heterosexual masculinities. Heterosexual men who, on one end of the continuum, construct their heterosexual masculinities through homophobic practices that establish strong boundaries of social distance from gay men and lesbians. The other end documents heterosexual men's anti-homophobias or pro-gay stances, moving from men who establish weak boundaries to those who blur them. These heterosexual men's anti-homophobic stances trade on the prestige of being tolerant of gays and lesbians, with black men's anti-homophobias drawing on their experiences with racism in order to empathize with gays’ experiences of homophobia and heterosexism. Email him for a copy of the article (james.dean@sonoma.edu) or follow this link to find the article online (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tsq.12036/abstract).

**Professor Sheila Katz** was asked by American Sociological Association President Annette Lareau to serve as the Chair of the 2014 Local Arrangements Committee for the upcoming ASA meetings in San Francisco this August. This committee will organize eight regional spotlight sessions at the conference, write five articles for the ASA newsletter, *Footnotes*, and organize eight sociologically themed area tours. Katz also recently published "'Give Us a Chance to Get an Education': Single Mothers' Survival Narratives and Strategies for Pursuing Higher Education on Welfare" in the *Journal of Poverty*, volume 17, in August 2013. Finally, her syllabus and course materials set, "Connecting Students to Careers: Teaching Students about Careers in Sociology,” was peer-reviewed and published by the ASA’s Teaching Resource and Innovations Library for Sociology (TRAILS) in August 2013. This set is the materials from Soci 306, which is offered each year at SSU.

On November 22nd, **Professor Peter Phillips**, along with co-host Mickey Huff (History, Diablo Valley College), hosted a special four-hour series of the Project Censored Show on Pacifica Radio. Phillips describes that they “pulled back the veil of official-narrative history regarding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy 50 years later. The series aired on Pacifica stations nationwide as a hard look at what the facts of that fateful day suggest– that Lee Harvey Oswald was not a lone gunman, and likely did not kill JFK.” The four-hour series included interviews with Oliver Stone (filmmaker), Peter Kuznick (American University historian), Mark Lane (attorney, author and JFK expert) and Peter Dale Scott (author). With in-depth interviews featuring cutting-edge researchers, Phillips and Huff aimed to raise awareness of the flaws in the Warren Commission Report, to highlight the known facts of the JFK assassination, and to amplify the call for government accountability.

In November, sociology senior Paul Martinez and Prof. Sheila Katz presented at the California Sociological Association meetings in Berkeley. Professor Cindy Stearns and sociology students Kristal Raheem, Shelby Cornell, Alexandria Pech, Bengino Merlin, and Holly Phillips also attended the conference. Paul Martinez presented a paper from his McNair Scholar senior thesis research, the presentation was titled “I See Black People Everywhere: The Effect of Perceived Neighborhood Racial Composition on Middle-Class Blacks’ and Whites’ Social Interactions.” His paper was the only undergraduate paper on the "Race Matters" panel, yet was the best presentation from that session. Prof. Sheila Katz presented "Welfare Student Mothers Lessons for Higher Education during the Great Recession," which is a piece from her ongoing research project on the "Education Creates the Future" session. While at the conference, the students and Prof. Katz attended several interesting sessions and closed the day with a banquet dinner and awards ceremony. Several of the students who attended will be presenting at the Pacific Sociological Association meetings in Portland, OR this spring, so they were excited to see other students present their research at CSA in preparation for their own presentations at PSA this March. Special thanks to Dean Wingard for funding the students' registration fees for this conference.

Sociology Club is thriving and busy! This year we have been spending some time getting to know our new officers and members. On Thursday November 7th we held our annual Graduate School Panel, consisting of Professor Peter Phillips, Professor Shelia Katz, Daniel Smith, Director NoGAP McNair Scholars Program, and Katie Musick, MPA. Students were able to receive much needed advice and information on applying to graduate school. The Sociology Club also hosted a screening of the new Project Censored documentary, “Project Censored: The Movie,” followed by a Q&A with SSU and Project Censored’s own Dr. Peter Phillips and Dr. Andy Lee Roth. The Sociology Club co-sponsored What the World Could Be, founder Ken Walden’s lecture on solutions to issues, such as student debt, global warming, and creating jobs in a new green economy. Currently, Sociology Club is working with other SSU and community organizations on an action in support of the recently killed Santa Rosa teenager Andy Lopez Cruz. If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the action in support of Andy Lopez Cruz or Sociology Club in general please email Brady at Osborneb@seawolf.sonoma.edu.

Sociology Club President Brady Osborne & Secretary Beni Merlin.
Sociology is working closely with SSU's Office of Veterans Affairs, and has an advisor to work with sociology majors using veterans education benefits to create academic plans and fill out the necessary VA paperwork. Sociology is an approved VA program at SSU. In order to help with the Veterans Affairs paperwork, the Sociology Department has designated Professor Sheila Katz as the Veterans' Advisor and she can help you fill out your VA Academic Plan Contract (and addendum if necessary).

General information and VA forms are available at: http://www.sonoma.edu/veterans/ and Prof. Katz can be reached by email to set up an appointment: sheila.katz@sonoma.edu.

Interested in studying abroad?

If you’re interested in studying abroad, studying away in the National Student Exchange program in the United States, or participating in other off campus study away programs then see Professor Sheila Katz!

Professor Katz is the new Study Away Advisor for the Sociology Department. Study away provides students with the opportunity to continue their university studies while gaining the personal experience of living in a new cultural environment. As the study away advisor, Professor Katz can answer questions you may have about staying on track in the sociology major while studying elsewhere, how to transfer credits back to SSU or for the sociology major upon your return, and ways of connecting your study away experience to your studies here at Sonoma State.

Professor Katz can be reached at sheila.katz@sonoma.edu

Stacy Chatfield participated in Semester at Sea in January of 2011.

Need to see an Advisor?

Do you have questions about registration? Do you know where you stand in your progress towards your sociology degree? Are you concerned that the California state budget crisis is going to impact your progress through school?

It’s time to see a sociology advisor!

Sociology Department faculty have office hours available throughout the week to advise students about progress towards their degrees, discuss registration options for the spring semester and make a graduation plan!

The Sociology Department office is located on the second floor of Stevenson Hall in Stevenson 2084. Feel free to stop by or call us at (707) 664-2561.

See a Sociology Department advisor every semester to ensure that you are making progress towards your sociology degree!
Fall 2013 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: CHELSEA ANSANELLI
TITLE: “NO HOMO”: HOMOPHobic SLURS AMONG HETEROSEXUAL MEN IN MALE PEER GROUPS
SENIOR SEMINAR: GENDER & SEXUALITIES
Abstract: In my research I examine how heterosexual men navigate the heteronormative standards set by society through their use of homophobic slurs in their interactions with their male peer groups. I conducted 10 semi-structured interviews in person, with each interview running between 30 to 45 minutes in length. The interviews were conducted between September and October of 2013. All of the interviewees identified as white heterosexual men between the ages of 18 to 27. I recorded and transcribed each interview. The results showed that all ten of the heterosexual male interviewees reported using homophobic slang in their interactions with their fellow male peers. Homophobic slang was defined as using terms such as gay, faggot, or homo in a derogatory manner. The homophobic nature of the slang was demonstrated by how each heterosexual man’s personal feelings of discomfort or disapproval of same-sex relations were evident in their slang talk. Homophobic slang talk was used by the interviewees in two ways. First, they used homophobic slang as a bonding mechanism in their interactions with one another, and, second, they used it as a gender policing mechanism, invoking homophobic slang talk to enforce gender normative behavior among their fellow male peers. Overall, the data showed that homophobic slang talk was used to maintain gender norms and ideals of conventional heterosexual masculine behavior among the men.

NAME: BRADY OSBORNE
TITLE: 13TH “STePPING AROUND”: HOW A GENDER BLIND APPROACH TO RECOVERY REINFORCES TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES IN ALCOHOLICS AND NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
SENIOR SEMINAR: GENDER & SEXUALITIES
Abstract: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) grew out of an all-male Christian organization during the late nineteenth century. Taking into consideration both organizations’ early exclusions of women, in this paper I examine the experiences of women within AA and NA, finding that these historically all-male spaces reproduce traditional gender ideologies in their group processes. Drawing on 10 in-depth interviews with current and past female members of AA and NA, I find that because AA and NA approach the treatment of addiction through a “one size fits all” lens these programs fail to address the gender differences experienced by men and women in their recovery processes. By failing to acknowledge gender differences, 12 step programs take on a gender blind approach to treatment. This gender blind approach allows for the formation of what is known within AA and NA cultures as the “13th step.” The “13th step” is a gendered phenomenon within these programs and it works to create a divided space in which women feel vulnerable amongst what Erving Goffman (1963) would call their “own” group. The female interviewees report that male members of these 12 step programs seek them or other female members out for dating and sexual relations, looking to progress them and other female members to the so-called “13th step.”

NAME: MARGARET WALDEN
TITLE: YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER: MANCultUReS, SEXUAL HEALTH, AND MORAL CODING DEVELOPMENT AMONG FATHERS AND SONS
SENIOR SEMINAR: GENDER & SEXUALITIES
Abstract: Why are boys neglected by their fathers regarding issues of sexual health and education? Why are fathers far less likely to engage in sexual health dialogues with their children? This paper suggests that societal expectations of masculinity play an important role in men’s lack of engagement with discourses of sexual health and moral coding development. Based on 10 in-depth interviews with heterosexual men, I find that fathers rarely engage in sexual health dialogues with their children, which they then report repeating with their own sons. Research shows, however, that a key developmental task during adolescence is acquiring a positive sexual self while learning how to initiate, manage, and resist adolescent sexual pressures. The findings show that when fathers do provide moral coding development and instruction for their sons, even in the absence of an explicit dialogue on sexual health, the male interview respondents report having adhered to their fathers’ expectations of right and wrong during their adolescent years.

Continued on page 8
NAME: EVAN WARNER  
TITLE: EDUCATING THE EDUCATED: THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK MEN AT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SENIOR SEMINAR: GENDER & SEXUALITIES  
Abstract: My central research question was: what are the experiences of Black men who socialize in predominately white environments, such as Sonoma State University (SSU)? I investigated how Black masculine identities are both stigmatized and honored in certain situations and institutional contexts. The findings of my research were divided into two main concepts: Black men’s overcompensating practices due to their racial-gender identities and their practices of avoiding racial issues in conversations with others. I conducted ten in-depth interviews with African American men at SSU during the fall semester of 2013. Through my interviews I found that Black men reported going above and beyond what was expected of them, overcompensating for negative images that surround black masculinities. For them, these practices of overcompensation create a feeling that they have to be “twice as good” in order prove their worth as respectable black men in college settings and society at large. The participants also reported avoiding racial topics in conversations in order to be more socially accepted by others, stating that conversations about racial issues can create tension and confrontation and feed into them being viewed as “angry Black men,” a stereotype of Black men that circulates widely in US society.

NAME: JON GANTVOORT  
TITLE: BARS, TAVERNS, AND YOUR TRAITS  
SENIOR SEMINAR: MARRIAGE & FAMILY  
Abstract: What aspects of a person’s life affect the frequency on how often they go to a bar or tavern? I tend to think that there are many different characteristics that influence people going to a bar, and all must have some significance. Bars are a place of social interaction, and although they may be stigmatized, these are important institutions within our society. For this study I used existing statistics from the 2010 General Social Survey. Our population consists of 4,510 participants ranging from ages 18 – 89. Through my results, I found that of my eight original independent variables, seven were significant. These variables were sex of the respondent, race of the respondent, income, how often one attends religious services, marital status, political views, and the amount of sexual partners within the last year. It turns out that job satisfaction has no significance.

NAME: EMMA IRVING  
TITLE: HOW PERSONAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS INFLUENCE FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL EVENINGS SPENT WITH RELATIVES  
SENIOR SEMINAR: MARRIAGE & FAMILY  
Abstract: This research examines how personal and social characteristics influence how often people spend a social evening with relatives. Social exchange theory suggests that people will make rational calculations regarding the costs versus benefits in determining the value of spending a social evening with relatives.

Using a sample of 1,710 individuals from the 2006 General Social Survey, a multiple regression analysis is performed to determine how age, race, sex, income, number of siblings, education, religious attendance, number of children, and marital status influence the frequency of social evenings spent with relatives. Results suggest that those who are younger, female, unmarried, with higher income, with more children, and who attend religious services more often are more likely to spend a social evening with their relatives. Thus, according to the social exchange theory, they gain more from these experiences compared with those who do not have these characteristics.

NAME: TAYLOR HAUlk  
TITLE: CHANGING FAMILY MODELS AND THE MALE BREADWINNER, FEMALE HOMEMAKER ROLES  
SENIOR SEMINAR: MARRIAGE & FAMILY  
Abstract: There are many factors which influence the structure of a family. There has been extensive research on these factors, and the consequences they have on the distribution of power in the relationship. One of the most researched of all family structures is the male breadwinner, female homemaker model. It is one of the most common, and one of the most controversial ways of organizing a heterosexual couple. The aims of this research were to determine what personal and social characteristics influence family model the most, and in what way they affect the participants. An analysis of 1,917 individuals surveyed in 2006 provided the data for this study. It was discovered that males, individuals who are married, and those who attended church more often supported the male breadwinner, female homemaker model. Liberals, individuals with less education, and those with lower incomes did not support this model. These results confirm that there are significant factors influencing one’s opinion on family structure, and there are multiple theoretical frameworks which can be applied to this social debate.

NAME: KEVIN ESCHER  
TITLE: DEEPER THAN AESTHETICS: PERSONAL TRAINERS’ PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR FUNCTIONS AND ROLES AS SELF BETTERMENT DIRECTORS  
SENIOR SEMINAR: BODY & SOCIETY  
Abstract: This qualitative study focuses on explaining personal trainers’ perceptions of their relationships and interactions with their clients. In-depth interviews with ten personal trainers were conducted and then fully transcribed and coded for analysis. The literature on the sociology of the body and the sociology of the self provided the theoretical framework used to analyze the data. The findings indicate that personal trainers do not see themselves as
primarily providing services to enhance clients’ bodies, but instead understand themselves to be holistic “self betterment directors,” using various relational roles to affect their clients’ bodies, emotions, minds, lifestyles and self-conceptions. These findings bring to light the complexity and variety of emotional and other labor performed by personal trainers and suggests that a reconceptualization of the personal trainer as more than an aesthetic body worker is in order.

**NAME:** Kim Liaz  
**TITLE:** Body Image Expectations and Attitudes of Asian American Pacific Islander Americans  
**SENIOR SEMINAR:** Body & Society  
**Abstract:** Body image is an issue across all racial groups. However, specific body image concerns face people of color. My research question concerns how Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) women and men perceive their own bodies (in terms of attractiveness, shape, health, etc.) in relation to what they believe to be the dominant stereotypes of Asian Pacific Islander Americans’ bodies in the contemporary United States. In addition, I am exploring their understandings of idealized images of bodies in the media and whether there are gender differences in how the participants respond to and make sense of societal APIA body image expectations. Questions about recent events in popular culture, such as Julie Chen’s revelations about her own cosmetic surgery experience, serve as one of the platforms to explore understandings of racially-based cosmetic surgery and related beauty work practices. I have completed 16 interviews with APIA college students and I am transcribing, coding and analyzing the data from 14 of the interviews. I will present my findings at the Pacific Sociological Association meetings in March 2014.

**NAME:** Nadia Paniagua  
**TITLE:** Women of Color’s Experiences With Childbirth and Infant/Breast Feeding  
**SENIOR SEMINAR:** Body & Society  
**Abstract:** What are the experiences of women of color with childbirth and infant/breast feeding? In order to answer this question I conducted ten in-depth interviews with women of color who ranged in age from 19-29 years old and who had children that were younger than two. My preliminary findings demonstrated that women of color avoid the use of birth control due to fears about side effects and this leads to unplanned pregnancies; their perfect birth scenario is one where they have a vaginal delivery and no drugs are administered to them by doctors; and breastfeeding is thought of as the ideal way to nourish an infant. Most important of all, the women's experiences with childbirth and infant/breast feeding were shaped by the current medical model of childbirth which encourages hospital births and a reliance on technology to manage maternal bodies. In conducting this research I am hoping to contribute to the limited existing knowledge about the experiences of women of color with childbirth and infant/breast feeding.

**Sociology Newsletter Team**  
**Editor:** Cara Stevens  
**Faculty Editors:** Cindy Stearns & James Dean  
**Contributing Writers:** James Dean, Sheila Katz, Brady Osborne, Cindy Stearns, Chelsea Ansamelli, Brady Osborne, Margaret Walden, Evan Warner, Jon Gantvoort, Emma Irving, Taylor Haulk, Kevin Escher, Kim Liaz and Nadia Paniagua.

The Sociology Newsletter is published once a semester and is available online at: www.sonoma.edu/sociology.