The Department of Sociology is pleased to announce that the following sociology majors have been awarded Graduation with Distinction for Spring 2014:

Devin Bowen
Shelby Cornell
Cary Escovedo
Paul Martinez
Benigno Merlin
Patricia Miraz
Kelsey Nelson
Nadia Paniagua
Vanessa Pedro
Ashley Scott
Gregory Sewell
Tanya Trimble
Eduardo Vasquez

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.

In my forthcoming book, Straights: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture, I argue that the politics of sexual identity in America have drastically transformed since the Stonewall Riots in 1969. It’s almost old news that recent generations of Americans have grown up in a culture more accepting of out lesbians and gay men, seen the proliferation of LGBTQ media representation, and witnessed the attainment of a range of legal rights for same-sex couples. But the changes wrought by a so-called “post-closeted culture” have not just impacted the queer community—heterosexuals are also in the midst of a sea change in how their sexuality plays out in everyday life. In Straights, I explore how heterosexuals can neither assume the invisibility of gays and lesbians, nor count on the assumption that their own heterosexuality will go unchallenged. The presumption that we are all heterosexual, or that there is such a thing as “compulsory heterosexuality,” I claim, has vanished.

Based on 60 in-depth interviews with a diverse group of straight men and women, Straights explores how straight Americans make sense of their sexual and gendered selves in this new landscape. I provide a historical understanding of heterosexuality and how it was first established, then move on to examine the changing nature of masculinity and femininity and, most importantly, the emergence of a new kind of heterosexuality—notably, for men, the metrosexual, and for women, the emergence of a more fluid sexuality. Straights provides an in-depth look at the changing nature of sexual expression in America. The book will be available in August from NYU Press.
Internships provide a valuable opportunity to serve the community, gain work experience and explore career options. This semester, under the supervision of Professor James Dean, students are completing the following internships.

Olivia Brown is a tutor at R.L Stevens Elementary School in Santa Rosa, where she leads a group of 25 elementary students. She helps them to complete their homework and improves their knowledge of issues ranging from nutrition and literacy to math and science.

Lisa Dulberg is an intern at the Sonoma County Office of Education where she is mentoring students at a middle school on a weekly basis. Lisa is learning how to create and deliver lessons plans.

Lauren Emmett is interning at the Living Room in Santa Rosa, where she supports the homeless mother and child program by assisting in their daily lunch provisions.

Janet Fuentes is an intern at LandPaths in Santa Rosa, where she works at their Bayer Farm site as the volunteer coordinator. At Bayer Farm, she prepares the activities that volunteers will engage in when they show up for their weekly assignments.

Maria Fuentes is a case management intern at the West County Community Services in Petaluma. She provides case management to at risk youth and finds them employment and educational opportunities throughout Sonoma County.

Jessica Johns is interning at JUMP on campus, where she is a project planner and leader. Jessica planned an alternative spring break for students, where they travelled to Portland, Oregon over spring break to help homeless persons. She also leads the organization in developing its social issues and non-profit work programs.

Denisse Madrigal is Youth Link Program Assistant at Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) in Santa Rosa. She has been creating programs to support youth employment and developing the non-profit’s educational series.

Silvia Martinez-Palacios is the program development intern at Santa Rosa Community Health Center. Silvia is responsible for their program development and outreach program to the community. Silvia has been offered a paid position at her internship site this summer.

Alex Mary is the only male intern at Circle of Sisters in Rohnert Park. This organization works exclusively with girls, aiming to helping them improve their academics, social skills, and personal sense of self. Alex works with a wide age range of girls, assisting them with their homework and leading activities that aim to develop self-discipline and self-esteem.

Suzana Rodriguez-Sarmiento is a child advocate intern at the YWCA in Sonoma County. She works with children who have experienced domestic violence or neglect. Suzana is in charge of leading daily activities, such as art projects, play time, and small group work to help improve the children’s learning and social skills.

Krista Smith is interning at Victor Treatment Center in Santa Rosa as a residential counselor. This residential facility allows mentally ill youth, from ages 6 to 18, a safe environment in which to improve their social, mental, and developmental skills. The primary objective is for each youth to reach his or her highest level of functioning and to return to their family and prior community setting with the ability to thrive and live well.

Eduardo Vasquez is interning with Sonoma County Board of Supervisor Shirlee Zane. As part of his internship, he has collaborated with community leaders in hosting a public forum targeting the Latino community on the Affordable Care Act. He has also developed talking points for her public events and written research reports regarding issues facing her constituents.
Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Society was founded in 1920 in the Sociology Department of the University of Southern California by Dr. E.S. Bogardus. The name, Alpha Kappa Delta, represents the first three letters of three Greek words: anthropon (mankind), katananthanein (to investigate thoroughly or to conduct research) and diakonesein (for the purpose of service). As an honor society, AKD serves to recognize students with outstanding academic accomplishments in the discipline of sociology.

Each active member receives the AKD newsletter, a membership certificate and card, and one free year of Sociological Inquiry, the official journal of the Society, and may choose to wear the Society’s honor cord at graduation to symbolize their membership in the Society.

Please join us in celebrating the academic achievements of the AKD honor students this year. Family, friends, and fellow students are welcome to attend this event.

Professor James Dean will also announce the winner of the C. Wright Mills Award for best undergraduate paper at this event. Professor Melinda Milligan will announce the graduating seniors who have been designated with distinction from the Department.

This event will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 3:00 pm in Ballroom D in the Student Center.

### Alpha Kappa Delta 2014 Initiates:

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<th>Alejandro Aguas Arzola</th>
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<th>Renee Olsen</th>
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<td>Rebecca Coleiro</td>
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Congratulations 2014 AKD Initiates!

This semester is rapidly approaching its end and things have been busy in the Sociology Club.

So far this semester we have sponsored Canadian author Stephen Kimber and national spokesperson for Move to Amend, David Cobb, as speakers. We participated in the week long Tunnel of Oppression with a room entitled "Visions of Change" which displayed images of people from all walks of life doing their part to right social wrongs.

On May 1st we will be co-sponsoring the AKD initiation ceremony and Senior Send Off. In addition, the Sociology Club is proud to have been a part of the victory that took place earlier in the semester regarding the fee increase.

We worked with SQE and fellow students to get the word out and with the help of some awesome staff and alumni we were able to set up a website opposing the fee within one week. We recognize the special platform that we have as students and used that platform to enact change.

As sociology majors we can utilize the tools given to us in our research methods, methods seminars and senior seminar classes to push society forward. This work does not have to wait until you graduate! With every research paper you write, you can make a difference in the ways we understand and respond to inequities in our social worlds. Take those skills and combine them with the willingness to step out of your comfort zone and stand up for what you believe in!

Every individual has a chance to make a difference!
Kathy Charmaz has just published her considerably expanded second edition of *Constructing Grounded Theory* with Sage Publications, London. This edition highlights numerous authors’ work and contains a short methodological reflection by James Dean. The first edition of *Constructing Grounded Theory* has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Polish, and Portuguese and three more translations of the second edition are underway. In addition, Dr. Charmaz has published a co-edited four-volume set, *Grounded Theory and Situational Analysis* with senior editor, Adele Clarke, as part of the *Sage Benchmarks in Social Research* series.

During spring break, Dr. Charmaz visited Melbourne, Australia to give two master classes on grounded theory and writing qualitative research to doctoral students, faculty, and researchers from diverse fields throughout Australia. The Bouverie Centre of La Trobe University sponsored the classes. She also gave an all-day workshop, “Writing for Publication,” for doctoral and postdoctoral students at the University of California, San Francisco on February 21st. The Office of Career & Professional Development at UCSF sponsored this event.

Patricia Hutchens completed her Masters of Arts in sociology at Humboldt State University in 2012. She is employed as a Victim/Witness Advocate in Napa County.

Recent graduate, Daniel Enriquez, is a management trainee with Consolidated Electrical Distributors.

Current Student News

- Ashley Scott will begin San Diego State University’s MSW program in the Fall of 2014.
- Paul Martinez will be starting the Ph.D. program in sociology at UCLA in the Fall of 2014.
- Camille Swain was accepted into the Executive Development Program at Macy's and will begin work there this summer.
- Katie Gordon was accepted into the Center for Ethnographic Research Summer Program at UC Berkeley. She will be gaining hands-on research experience and advanced training in designing and executing a project using qualitative methods.
SSU Participates in the 2014 Pacific Sociological Association Meetings in Portland

Over the last weekend of March, five SSU faculty and four students presented research paper and participated in the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. Professor James Dean’s paper, “Straight Men: Renegotiating Hegemonic Masculinity and Its Homophobic Bargain” was part of the Race and Sexuality session. Professor Sheila Katz presented two papers, one was an invited paper as part of the Theorizing the American Dream session called, “Former Welfare Mothers Re-Envisioning the American Dream” and another presentation, as part of a Teaching Sociology Session called, “Creating Career Connections: Teaching Students about Careers in Sociology.” Professors Peter Phillips and Andy Roth organized a Project Censored workshop on "Media Literacy, Critical Thinking, and Validated Independent News: A Project Censored Workshop for Teachers and Students.” Also on the panel was Susan Rahman from Santa Rosa Junior College and College of Marin and Micky Huff from Diablo Valley College. Professor Daniel Malpica presented in the “Understanding Immigrant Labor” session with his paper entitled “Interviews with Employers Who Hire Day Laborers.”

Four sociology majors also presented their independent research projects at the conference. As part of the undergraduate roundtables, senior sociology major and McNair Scholar Kristal Raheem presented at the Sociology of Education’s Undergraduate Research Roundtables. Her paper "The Experience" – An Analysis on the Retention and Graduation Rate among African American Students at Sonoma State University” and senior sociology major Kimberly Inuman Liaz presented her paper “Body Image Expectations and Attitudes of Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the United States.” In the undergraduate research poster sessions, senior sociology major and McNair Scholar Paul Martinez presented his poster “I See Black People Everywhere: The Effect of Perceived Neighborhood Racial Composition on Middle-Class Blacks’ and Whites’ Social Interactions” and sociology minor and McNair Scholar Holly Phillips presented her poster “Sonoma State Student Parents: Identifying an Invisible Student Body.”
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: Joel Gibson
**Title:** COURTROOM TIME CONSTRUCTIONS: TIME RELATIONSHIPS AND TIMING PRACTICES IN A FIELD OF JUSTICE
**Seminar:** Sociology of Time
Abstract: Although many recognize that justice delayed is justice denied, little attention has been directed to the temporal processes that constitute justice served. With this latter objective as the focus of research, field observations were situated in a Sonoma County Municipal Courtroom over the course of several weeks. These qualitative data were gathered unobtrusively and covertly from the stance of a member of the audience witness to courtroom processes. Included as a focus of attention were controls over temporal orders exerted by court officials over core participants in court proceedings, such as defendants, counsel to defendants, prosecutors and their agents, as well as officially charged agents in the proceedings, such as bailiffs. Also included were such general public participants as friends and family of dependents, members of the press, and other members of the audience. Findings centered on a range of such related phenomena as time relationships, timing practices, time deviance, as well as processes tied to both monochronic time and polychronic time in the courtroom.

Name: Alejandro Tinajero
**Title:** THE ACTOR AND THE BODY: BODY WORK, EMOTION CONTROL, AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE ACTING SELF
**Seminar:** Body & Society
Abstract: This study explores how actors think about and use their bodies in order to take on new roles, characters, and selves. Ten semi-structured interviews were conducted with student actors using a snowball sampling method. These actors describe utilizing emotion work and body work in an effort to suppress their “true selves,” while also using these suppressed selves as reference points to develop and embody new roles and characters. For these actors, the body is a tool that must be kept in good condition in order to perform in the moment and respond as needed to audience expectations and cues.

Name: Evan Jefferies
**Title:** THE BODYWORK OF BRIDES
**Seminar:** Body & Society
Abstract: This is a study of how women, who are engaged to be married, go about preparing themselves physically for their wedding day. Through the analysis of ten in-depth interviews with women who are actively involved in planning their weddings, I discover that women set weight loss and personal appearance goals and utilize various means to attain those goals as a key element in wedding preparation. However, I also find that some women are considering their wedding preparations as a welcome route to create a meaningful lifestyle change toward healthier practices. A wedding can be more than just a “princess moment” for a woman, and is often also a life event that inspires her to be more physically healthy and that women describe as being part of the transition to adult status that marriage confers.

Name: Joel Lacey
**Title:** INKED BODIES
**Seminar:** Body & Society
Abstract: Since the beginning of the tattoo renaissance there has been a huge increase in the number of individuals receiving tattoos. My topic concerns the sociological significance of tattoos and the ways in which people think about the meaning of tattoos. I interviewed five men and five women, all living in the San Francisco Bay Area and all of whom have multiple tattoos. The interviews reveal that gender influences the placement of tattoos on the body. In addition, the first tattoo that an individual receives symbolizes attachment to family/heritage or a lifestyle choice. Finally, while the participants describe the stereotypical tattooed people as “bikers,” or as people belonging to a gang or “rough crowd,” they describe their own participation in tattooing as an expression of a unique self.

Name: Samantha Medeiros
**Title:** FEMALE EJACULATION AND PERSPECTIVES ON SEXUAL PERFORMANCE AMONG HETEROSEXUAL WOMEN AND MEN
**Seminar:** Gender & Sexualities
Abstract: Gender norm expectations shape men’s and women’s sexual experiences. Using the current literature, I find that gender norm expectations shape the perceptions of what the orgasmic experience should be and is for both men and women. Based on ten in-depth interviews, I asked open-ended questions about experiences of female ejaculation, knowledge
of the G-Spot and misconceptions surrounding it, as well as general information about each individual’s sexual experiences. The participants ranged in age from 18 to 24 and identified as heterosexual men and women. The findings suggest that female orgasm and ejaculation can be attainable and more pleasurable when communication between sexual partners is open and present, opening a dialogue regarding wants, likes, dislikes, and things to try during sex is key to this communication. Further, the respondents described the importance of both men and women having knowledge of the female body, and that lack of knowledge leads to women feeling frustrated in not achieving orgasm as well as feeling embarrassed, defective, or the need to fake orgasms. This study supports the existence of female ejaculation as a common experience for women and proposes new areas for exploring how women’s achievement of orgasm and ejaculation is important for heterosexual sexual experiences.

Name: Kelsey Nelson  
Title: HOW PARENTS TEACH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT GENDER AND SEXUALITY  
Seminar: Gender & Sexualities  
Abstract: Parental influence on gender role development has been well documented in the sociological literature. The purpose of this study is to understand how parents gender their children and how they inform them about sexuality. I interviewed ten parents with children ages one to five to understand the ways children are socialized in taking on gender and sexual identities. Parents use what is culturally available and acceptable to them in order to raise their children in an appropriate way, which I refer to as a gender strategy. The parents I interviewed use gender strategies that resist and aim to reform the “gender trap” of enforcing gender norms on their children. I find that parents who grew up or live in Sonoma County are more tolerant of gender incongruence among their sons and daughters and are also less homophobic in their parenting strategies, especially with their boys. These findings are different than what the literature suggests. The parents in my study are supporting their children’s personal choices regarding gender and sexuality. While parents acknowledge that they are teaching their children about gender and sexuality in direct and indirect ways, they emphasize their efforts to dismantle the “gender trap” of imposing gender norms on their children. These findings suggest that these parents are providing new gender and sexuality identity opportunities for their children as well as empowering their children to envision a future with more gender and sexual equality.

Name: Rory Scotland  
Title: MEDIA INFLUENCES ON YOUNG MEN’S MASCULINITIES  
Seminar: Gender & Sexualities  
Abstract: My study looks at how a media saturated culture affects young men’s perceptions of masculine identity. I interviewed ten men: five of them were college students with ages ranging from 18 to 24, and five of them were an older generation of college educated men with their ages ranging from 50 to 60. My findings indicate that there has been a shift in the influences surrounding masculinity, moving from an ideal based in a 1950s nuclear family paradigm to one now influenced by media images of masculinity. In particular, many of the men I interviewed discussed the media’s glorification of hip-hop culture. The young male respondents in my study reported using hip hop media culture in their efforts to embody and enact a tough masculine image. They report that media’s images of hip-hop culture glorify living extravagantly, dressing like a “thug” as well as promote attitudes that devalue women and engaging in drug use. These glorified characteristics were viewed as affirming a tough kind of manhood that remains a hegemonic masculine ideal among young men today.

Name: Benigno Merlin  
Title: DREAMS UNFULFILLED- AN ANALYSIS OF UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS AT SSU AND SRJC  
Senior Seminar: American Dream  
Abstract: Immigration in the US is always a controversial and heated debate. Prejudice and discrimination is directed at the newest wave of immigrants. The increased poverty and violence in Mexico pushed many workers to permanently move to the United States, with or without legal status, and this brings various consequences to the children of these immigrants. My focus is on the undocumented children that were brought to this country by their parents; passing through the K-12 educational systems, and against all odds, attending college. My research explores undocumented students' experiences on their college campus, what obstacles or challenges they face in their daily lives, and what the American Dream means to them. Through qualitative research with fourteen undocumented college students attending Sonoma State University and the Santa Rosa Junior College campus.

Continued on page 8
This study used two focus groups with nine students and four in-depth interviews as well as three email interviews. My findings are that undocumented don't reveal their status to their counselors, professors, or college friends; limiting the correct help, advice, and support they receive. Undocumented students don't have enough resources to support their academic success, and have limited knowledge of the resources they do have, and that at SSU they have been denied services on campus because of their lack of legal status. Lastly, even with their undocumented status, they see themselves as Americans with a future within the US as well as having similar ideals and aspirations of the American Dream as other US born students.

Name: Judith A. Panuco
Title: LATINAS’ AMERICAN DREAM; PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION
Senior Seminar: The American Dream
Abstract: Latina students struggle through the process of college admission. Previous research suggests that parents are unable to help their daughters in the process of college admission because they lack resources. This is one of the main reasons why Latina students struggle. My central research question is why is higher education important to Latina students and what obstacles do they face in pursuing this aspect of the American Dream? I answered this question by conducting two qualitative focus groups with participants in each group. The first group consisted of Latina alumni’s from different universities. The second focus group consisted of Latina students attending Sonoma State University. My central findings of my research are how parents were unable to help their daughters through the process of college admission, as well as how they were helpful and supportive. Another one of my findings was how high school counselors were unhelpful in giving Latinas emotional support and advice about college; as well as how counselors and programs were helpful about college. My third central finding concentrates on how my participants suggest implementing more programs in schools as well as programs for parents to learn about the process of college admission. This research is important because Latina students should not have to face obstacles during their process of college admission. Finally my fourth central finding concentrates on what higher education and the American Dream mean to Latinas and why it is important. This research is important for sociology because policies are needed to address this issue of how Latina’s struggle through the process. Overall, I suggest that more programs should be implemented in high schools to help all Latinas with the process of college admission.

Name: Shauna Malvino
Title: MOTHERS AND NON-MOTHERS AND THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM THROUGH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Senior Seminar: American Dream
Abstract: Education, particularly post-secondary education, has always been a stepping stone for upward mobility and reaching the American Dream. Higher education is even more important for student mothers who are raising children. This research examines women attending Sonoma State and Santa Rosa Junior College who are both mothers and non-mothers and the supportive services they use. It also explores expectations of women, alternative routes to the American Dream, and educational experiences and goals. Based on two qualitative focus groups with eleven women total, I found that women who are student parents use more educational and supportive services on campus than those who are non-mothers. Also, all the women including mothers and non-mother's believe that the American Dream is not possible for everyone to achieve and was only meant for certain members of society. Overall, this study confirms that mothers and non-mothers must handle stereotypes and outside responsibilities while balancing being a student working toward their own redefined American Dream.

Name: Tanya Trimble
Title: SEE ME AS I AM: MEDIA, GENDER EXPRESSION, AND SEXUALITY IDENTITY FOR LESBIAN WOMEN
Seminar: Body & Society
Abstract: How do lesbian women relate to and negotiate media portrayals of women, which generally symbolize only heterosexual versions of femininity? I explore this question through analyzing 10 in-depth interviews with lesbian women ages 21 to 31. I find that the meanings of specific femininity-related media messages for lesbian women are conditioned by the extent to which lesbian women believe they visually represent hegemonic heterosexual feminine appearance norms. I also reveal the ways in which media influences lesbian women’s ideas about external gender identity, as well as external sexuality identity. These findings support the simultaneous void and deep need for a societal shift towards recognition of gender and sexual expression, as it naturally occurs, on a spectrum.

Continued on page 9
Name: Tamaiah Thompson  
**Title:** THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK FEMALE STUDENTS AT A PREDOMINATELY WHITE INSTITUTION  
**Seminar:** Gender & Sexualities  
**Abstract:** My study aims to better understand the positive and negative experiences of Black women students at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). My research question is: What are Black women’s social and academic experiences like at SSU? Based on 10 in-depth interviews with African American undergraduate female students, with ages ranging from 18 to 24, I found that many African American female students feel unsafe, excluded, and unwelcomed at this PWI. Their experiences include racist and sexist micro-aggressions from peers and some faculty. The respondents report that the lack of African American faculty, clubs, and other forms of representation have a negative effect on their experiences as students. The black female college students I interviewed would like to see more African American related courses as well as safe spaces, clubs, and sororities that aim to actively include Black female students as participants and desired members.

Name: Jordan Nagy  
**Title:** PARKING AT SSU: TIME DEVIANCE AND A MORAL ORDER OF EVERYDAY LIFE AT SSU  
**Seminar:** Sociology of Time  
**Abstract:** The focus of this study centered on compliance with and evasions of the 45-minute rule for use of parking slots at the front of the campus by faculty and students. Three modes of qualitative data generation were employed for this study: 1) Participant observation by the researcher, from the stance of an officially charged rule enforcer; 2) An unorthodox field experiment; 3) Unstructured interviews of a convenience sample of non-compliant faculty and students making use of those parking slots. Close attention was directed to issues tied to infractors’ resolve to change their ways as a consequence of having been penalized. Three possible modes of social control were posited as relevant to the possibility of such resolve: guilt, shame, and fear of legally mandated fine. Findings suggest that none of these reduce infractors’s resolve to continue such infractions. Possible implication: Parking fines serve as a useful means of revenue generation from this subset of undeterred members of the university community, and affirm the moral merit of the compliant majority of faculty and students.

Name: Tian Free  
**Title:** ROAD RAGE: TEMPORAL SLIVERS AND MORAL ORDERS  
**Seminar:** Sociology of Time  
**Abstract:** This research findings from a field study of road rage among drivers on a northern California highway during commute hours. Ten hours of observational data were gathered while the researcher adopted the role of a commuter. Anonymity of subjects was an intrinsic feature of the data gathering process. The observer did not intervene in any way with respect to the subjects or their actions. Accordingly, informed consent on the parts of subjects was neither feasible nor necessary. The data were examined in relation to the moral orders and public orders of social arrangements on the highway. Erving Goffman’s examination of public etiquette in public places informed the analysis of data. Analysis was also informed by other empirical and theoretical contributions from the sociology of time, especially with reference to time deviance. The observational data were supplemented by survey data elicited by means of a questionnaire administered to a convenience sample of SSU students.

Name: Nicole Arevalo  
**Title:** CELLING TIME  
**Seminar:** Sociology of Time  
**Abstract:** In this observational study of the use of cell phones in public places, sixteen hours of data were gathered in downtown Santa Rosa and at Sonoma State University. As supplementary data, a questionnaire (comprising a set of open-ended questions) was administered to a small convenience sample of fifteen SSU students. The qualitative data that were generated by these two methodologies were examined inductively. Findings suggested that certain aspects of cell phone use in public places are frequently the focus of moral assessment by others in the setting. These findings also suggest that cell phone use sometimes functions as an agent in the preservation of the self as a social object, consistent with the contributions of George Herbert Mead in sociology. Findings also suggest that while cell phone use...
increases efficiency in some modes of goal attainment, it also leads to a detrimental decrease in time devoted to self and others. Findings are especially relevant to an effort to develop a framework for the shedding light on the moral and temporal orders of cell phone use.

Letter from the Chair: Hellos and Goodbyes

Greetings! As we approach the end of the Spring 2014 semester, it is a time of both hellos and goodbyes in the SSU Sociology Department.

First, a hello: I am thrilled to announce that Professor Brian Gillespie will be joining the Sociology faculty as an Assistant Professor in August 2014. Professor Gillespie holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Irvine and has taught at other CSU campuses in the past. His areas of expertise include quantitative methods, the life course, and demography, all of which will add significantly to our curriculum. In the Fall 2014 semester Professor Gillespie will be teaching Sociological Research Methods (Soci 300) and Statistics for Sociologists (Soci 301). Please join us in welcoming Professor Gillespie!

Second, another hello: I am pleased to announce that Professor Erik Nielsen will join the department as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2014-15 academic year. Professor Nielsen will receive his Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara this summer. His areas of specialization include social policy and urban issues. Professor Nielsen will be teaching Sociological Theory (Soci 375), Social Work and Social Welfare (Soci 461), and Globalization (Soci 497). Welcome, Professor Nielsen!

Third, a goodbye: it with sadness that I announce Professor Sheila Katz’s departure for a position in the Sociology Department at the University of Houston. Since joining SSU in 2007 (first as a lecturer and then as an assistant professor), Professor Katz has become an invaluable part the department. She is known for her devotion to students and her reliability as a colleague.

Although her departure will be a loss for us, we are very excited for Professor Katz as she embarks on a new academic adventure and we wish her continued professional success.

Fourth, a temporary goodbye: best wishes to Professor James Dean as he departs on a well-deserved Fall 2014 sabbatical leave during which he will conduct research on gentrification issues in San Francisco’s Castro District. Also, hearty congratulations to Professor Dean on his forthcoming book Straights: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture (NYU, 2014). Professor Dean will return to SSU in Spring 2015.

Finally, let me offer my warmest congratulations to 173 sociology majors who will receive a BA in Sociology at the May 10 commencement ceremony. Hooray, graduates, and best wishes for the future! Please stay in touch and keep us posted on what I know will be your many future accomplishments.

Best wishes for a productive and relaxing summer. See you in August for the Fall 2014 semester!

Melinda Milligan, Professor and Chair Sociology Department
The Sociology Department now has a Facebook page and a Twitter account! We will be posting Departmental news and deadline reminders at both of these sites.

Like us on Facebook: Sonoma State University Sociology Department