department. Jake Coolidge, ('12, MA) shared a controversial report on the current state of Montana jails. John Domitrovich (Lecturer in Sociology, 2000-present) presented his travels to Ghana. Next year we have organized several presentations as a part of our new series, funded by a generous donation from Scott and Sally McNall. Janja Lalich will speak in the fall, 2015, on her research and recent testimony before juries about gay conversion therapy.

Thank you to Jessica for creating such an interesting and well-researched newsletter. Jessica also posted more details on our departmental website. Please keep in touch and visit us in the Sociology Department when you visit Missoula!

AHHH...summer in Montana. The calm has set in on campus after finishing the 2014-15 academic year with a flurry of activity.

Our commencement ceremonies on May 16 began with our College of Humanities and Sciences in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. It was exciting for those of us who aren’t involved in Griz athletics to get a football-player’s view of the stadium as we proceeded to the field and looked up into the stands. The weather was threatening, but we only got sprinkled with rain at the end of the ceremony. And our “fans” cheered loudly. Immediately following the big ceremony, we celebrated our own Sociology Department Commencement in the East Auxiliary Gym of the Adams Center. This year we honored 95 undergraduate and 6 graduate students, who received their degrees. What a great day!

Also in May we revived our Alpha Kappa Delta honor society for Sociology. This organization had been dormant in Sociology at UM for over a decade. Under the leadership of our newest faculty member, Professor Jackson Bunch, and one of our “star” graduate students, Laura Obernesser, we inducted seven students into UM’s chapter on May 8 in a ceremony that included parents, children, grandparents, faculty, and friends. Students were given award certificates and blue cords to wear around their necks during their graduation. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our amazing new group of AKD students.

The ceremony took place in a room that’s getting increased use, our Seminar Room, thanks to a renovation project made possible through a generous donation from Karen Kracher (’78, Sociology) and Paul Dykstra. We now have a room that can be transformed from a place where we hold small, seminar classes, meetings and presentations, and thesis defenses, into a formal venue for special ceremonies. Laura and our Administrative Associate, Jessica Anderson, decorated the room. They rearranged the new tables and chairs from their usual boardroom-style conference table into audience seating for inductees and guests. The room looked great!

In this issue of the newsletter, you’ll read about some of the other highlights of our spring semester. Professors Dan Doyle and Daisy Rooks received awards related to advising and teaching, respectively. We also feature top students and a new course on human trafficking. You’ll read about our new lecture series that got underway this past spring with two speakers who have ties to the department. Jake Coolidge, ('12, MA) shared a controversial report on the current state of Montana jails. John Domitrovich (Lecturer in Sociology, 2000-present) presented his travels to Ghana. Next year we have organized several presentations as a part of our new series, funded by a generous donation from Scott and Sally McNall. Janja Lalich will speak in the fall, 2015, on her research and recent testimony before juries about gay conversion therapy.

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On Friday December 12th, the Poverello Center, Missoula’s emergency homeless shelter, celebrated the completion of its new facility at 1100 W. Broadway in Missoula. Several hundred community members attended the event, which included lunch, tours of the new facility, and appearances by notaries such as Missoula Mayor John Engen and Governor Steve Bullock. Many Sociology Department students and faculty were in attendance at the event. Faculty members Teresa Sobieszczyk and Daisy Rooks and retired faculty member Paul Miller were there. They were joined by a number of current and former students, including Ally Guldborg, Cassie Sheets, Lorianne Burhop, Paige Ely and Damion Barnett.

The Sociology Department has enjoyed a long and positive relationship with the Poverello Center. Retired Sociology professor Paul Miller played a critical role in the effort to raise the funds to construct the new facility. Former graduate student and current adjunct instructor Cassie Sheets is the shelter’s Development and Outreach Coordinator. For the past six years, Professor Daisy Rooks has taught a spring semester service-learning class about hunger and homelessness that revolves around the shelter. By the end of the current semester, students in this course will have provided a total of 1,864 hours of service to the Poverello Center over the past six years.
FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT: ALLY GULDBORG

It is easy to feel like an underachiever around graduate student Ally Guldborg. A straight A student, Guldborg also acts as a student representative to Sociology faculty meetings, holds down 3 jobs, including working for the US Probation office and as a research assistant for the Criminology Research Group, and is in the midst of working on her graduate thesis. Somehow, she also manages to make it all look effortless.

Guldborg grew up in Wolf Point, MT and received her B.A. from the University of Montana Sociology Department in May 2014. She began the M.A. program in the fall of that year, with an emphasis in Criminology.

Guldborg describes her academic and professional experiences as largely symbiotic. During undergrad, Ally became interested in probation work during an internship, that turned into a paying job. Her work in this setting has reciprocally informed her scholarship. Guldborg is working on a thesis project that will compare the experiences of probation officers working in the Baakin Oil region with those of other probation officers in the state, in order to determine what is unique to an environment of rapid social change. Her project will be chaired by Prof. James Burfeind, along with committee members Profs. Daisy Rooks and Joel Iverson from Communications Studies. This summer, Ally will begin the process of performing qualitative interviews, including a trip to visit with PO’s in Eastern Montana, where the oil boom has had a significant impact.

After receiving her M.A. next spring, Guldborg hopes to work as a federal probation officer herself, though she admits that pursuing a PhD may be in her long-term plans. We wish Ally the best of luck with all of her future endeavors!

PROFESSOR DOYLE RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ADVISOR AWARD

Professor Dan Doyle’s commitment to excellence in undergraduate academic advising was acknowledged at this year’s UM Employee Recognition Day. Doyle was this year’s recipient of the university’s Outstanding Faculty Advising Award. In letters supporting Doyle’s nomination, colleagues and students raved about his tireless dedication to students. In her nomination letter, one colleague described Doyle as “an incredibly accessible person” and “a good listener and a good problem solver.” One student described Doyle as having “demonstrated great tolerance in dealing with [his] seemingly never-ending questions” and another student credited Dan’s “kindness and understanding” with motivating her to complete her Bachelor’s degree “during a very stressful time in [her] life.” Dan received his PhD from the University of Washington, Seattle, where he specialized in Criminology. He has been a faculty member with the Sociology Department at UM for over 25 years, has served as Chair and Co-Chair, and presently acts as Graduate Director, and Undergraduate Advising Coordinator. Thanks Dan, for your dedication and hard work!
This year marked the 15th annual UM Conference on Undergraduate Research, and the 14th annual UM Graduate Student Research Conference. The Sociology Department was well represented at both events, by dedicated students with a wide variety of interests and expertise, whose hard work and dedication to sociological inquiry we would like to applaud and acknowledge:

**GRADUATE PARTICIPANTS:**

- Daniel Acton—“The Impact of Detention on Juvenile Recidivism in Montana: How is the Detention Effect Impacted by Other Variables?”
- Ian Greenwood—“Establishing an Accurate Operational Definition of Cyberbullying”
- Dustin Satterfield—“Privilege, Marginalization, and Drag Communities”

**UNDERGRADUATE PARTICIPANTS:**

- Hailey Powers—“Sexual Assault Reports to the Police: A Pilot Investigation of the Factors that Influence Victimization Reporting and Victim Perceptions of Police Responses”
- Marit Olson—“Women’s Voices for the Earth: A Discourse Analysis of Gendered, Environmental Media Advocacy”
- Damion Barnett—“Strengthening the Circle: Seeking Healthcare Equity for American Indians Experiencing Homelessness”
- Tirza Asbell—“Avoiding the Blue Period in Homeless Populations: Creative Pursuits and Their Potential to Redefine Self Worth in Shelter Populations”
- Weston Young—“The Visibility of Homelessness in Missoula”

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS:**

- Rachel Just—“Race in Shakespeare: A Critical Analysis of Race and Religion in Othello and Titus Andronicus”
- Arif Memovic—“Speed Dating and First Impressions in the Age of Social Media”
- Miki Anderson—“Parent Acceptability of Youth Engaged Through Intervention”
“Locked in the Past: Montana Jails in Crisis”
The Sociology Department’s lecture series kicked off Thursday, March 19th, with Jake Coolidge, who shared findings from a report which he co-authored with Montana ACLU staff attorney Anna Conley about conditions experienced by inmates of the state’s jail system. This work is the first comprehensive overview of state facilities to ever be conducted. Coolidge, a former UM Sociology M.A. student and current second year law student, worked on the report for several years, touring jails, conducting interviews, and collecting responses using a mixed methods questionnaire distributed to all jail inmates in the state.

The resulting report provides a frank and disturbing overview of conditions in county detention centers across Montana, and makes suggestions for improvements, including addressing issues of overcrowding, inadequate staff, insufficient medical and mental health care, and outdated facilities. The ACLU reports that the “consequences of these factors can be devastating to individuals and costly to our communities.”

“A Return to Ghana: Recollections and Impressions”
John Domitrovich, long time instructor with the Sociology Department, presented the second lecture in the spring series on Thursday, April 16th. Domitrovich shared experiences and observations from his time spent in Ghana as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1970-72, including descriptions of daily village life, and anecdotes about his Ghanaian students and about adventures taken with his fellow Peace Corps volunteers.

John also shared stories from his recent visit to Ghana in January 2015, during which he and a Peace Corps friend returned to their former home, and reconnected with former acquaintances. Domitrovich highlighted many changes that had transpired over the 43 years he had been away, including an increase in the country’s Christian demographic, and many prominent manifestations of globalism.

The discussion was illustrated by Domitrovich’s vibrant personal photos from both trips, which range from gorgeous scenic landscapes, to ominous shots of former slave forts, to compelling personal portraits. John concluded by encouraging anyone interested in the Peace Corps to pursue the opportunity. “It’s a once in a lifetime experience” he assured the audience.

John discussed plans to return to Ghana again in the near future; this time he plans to go with son Nate, for a month-long adventure.
**FEATURED UNDERGRADUATE: DAMION BARNETT**

Damion Barnett is one of UM’s graduating seniors with big plans for the future. Barnett, a Sociology major with an emphasis in Inequality and Social Justice, has been accepted to the University of San Francisco’s MS program in Healthcare Administration, and began the program summer 2015.

Barnett’s interest in the area of medicine and health developed during his 16 years of working for the American Indian Health Service, both in San Francisco and at the national office in Washington, DC. These experiences prompted Barnett to return to school and pursue a degree related to Healthcare Administration. He credits Sociology faculty with having fostered his interests, and supported his exploration of Sociology from a medical perspective, especially June Ellesstad, Daisy Rooks and Kathy Kuipers, who provided valuable insight and encouragement.

As an undergrad, Barnett distinguished himself by becoming a member of both Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Kappa Delta honor societies, by serving as a preceptor for the Statistics course taught by Patrick McKay, by acting as the undergraduate representative to the Sociology Department Faculty meetings, and through the maturity demonstrated in his coursework. Spring semester 2015, Barnett undertook a project to examine the experience of homelessness for American Indians in the Missoula area. Barnett explains that his intention was to consider whether the services presently available, and the access to these services really meets the needs of this specific demographic. As part of the project, Barnett volunteered with Missoula’s Homelessness Outreach Team, to provide assistance to people outside the shelter. His project was part of a service learning internship supervised by Professor Rooks, and provided an opportunity to conduct interview research which Barnett presented at the Undergraduate Research Conference. He expanded his research question to explore whether there is equity in American Indian healthcare services in Missoula, for Professor Kuipers’ ISJ Capstone course.

**DAISY ROOKS WINS NATIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AS INSPIRATIONAL PROFESSOR**

This spring, the Sociology Department’s own Professor Daisy Rooks was named one of Nerdwallet’s “40 under 40: Professors who Inspire”. Nerdwallet is a financial literacy and education site that produces an annual list of noteworthy young academics. This acknowledgement, which honors Professor Rook’s outstanding work with her students, comes as no surprise to those at UM, who are well aware of how inspiring Daisy can be. Cassie Sheets says of Professor Rooks, “I am lucky to know Daisy in several capacities. I have worked with her as a graduate student, as her research assistant, as an administrator at the Poverello Center where she teaches her service-learning course, and as a colleague in the Sociology Department. In each of these work environments, Daisy exemplifies outstanding professionalism, flexibility, teamwork, and rigor. She is a fair and passionate instructor who challenges her students in the classroom and in service-learning contexts. She combines theoretical and practical learning spaces effectively, offering students an excellent, comprehensive education. She is an invaluable educator in the community of Missoula and UM’s Sociology Department.” Congratulations Daisy, on this well-deserved recognition of your talent and commitment to your students!

The Sociology Department would like to highlight Professor Teresa Sobieszczyk’s SOCI 488: Prostitution and Human Trafficking course, the newest addition to the Department’s list of permanent offerings. As described in its syllabus, the course explores “local, national, and global incidence of these phenomena, their causes, implications for individuals and society, and responses from non-governmental organizations and from governments.” The topics covered range from sex tourism, to child trafficking and mail-order marriages. Professor Sobieszczyk explains that the purpose of these considerations is to investigate how social meaning and structural relations of power coincide with incidents of prostitution and human trafficking.

When asked about their experience, students taking the course were enthusiastic about the subject matter, the open-minded class dynamic, and Professor Sobie’s willingness to allow students to express their opinions. “What I appreciate most is the fact that we get to learn about individual cases and [explore] the two sides of everything. It isn’t just black or white, and right or wrong”, says Fiona LaMendola, a senior in the course. Christian Boyce, a graduate student, also comments that, “To be honest I didn’t really know what to expect…but the amount of knowledge I have gained has been substantial. I would have to say it is my favorite class.”

Students acknowledge the importance of offering courses like this one, where complicated and controversial topics are brought to the attention of a wider audience, even while some topics can be awkward to discuss. “Pretending it doesn’t exist, doesn’t relate to us all, or isn’t as prominent as it actually is does not bring any good to anybody,” says LaMendola. “…I believe that our generation can make great improvements if we are given the opportunity to be educated [about these issues]…” LaMendola credits Sobieszczyk with making this kind of education available.

For those interested in taking Prostitution and Human Trafficking, it will be offered again, so watch for it in future course listings.

R E T I R E M E N T S :  2 0 1 4 - 2 0 1 5

- Nancy Arnold—Nancy began as working for UM over 33 years ago, and after receiving her PhD in Rehabilitation, served as Associate Director for Training and Dissemination for the Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities at the Rural Institute. She is nationally recognized as the leader in research on self-employment, and her policy recommendations have been adopted by Vocational Rehabilitation agencies across the nation. Nancy shared her expertise, giving guest lectures in our Sociology courses and serving on MA committees.

- June Ellestad—June joined the Sociology Department faculty in 1998 after receiving her PhD from the University of Washington, and became a full-time lecturer in 2012. She gave generously of her time, knowledge and energy, teaching many of our courses, including Introduction to Sociology, Social Statistics, Research Methods and Classical Theory. June retired in December 2014 to pursue other interests.

- Rebecca Richards—After twenty years of teaching, research and service, Professor Richards has announced her intention to retire at the end of Fall Semester 2015. She thanks her current, and former students and colleagues for a stimulating and rewarding career. We know she will be greatly missed.
Contributions from Sociology alumni and friends fund a variety of departmental initiatives, from student scholarships and assistantships, to faculty development and program enhancements. We are working to raise money to fund graduate and undergraduate travel to academic conferences, and there’s more work to be done to renovate our conference room.

To help support the Sociology Department, click the “Make a Gift” link on our website:  http://www.cas.umt.edu/sociology/support.php

Private philanthropy, as evidenced by the 144 privately funded scholarships in College of Humanities and Sciences, truly does make a difference. Thank you for remaining connected to the Department of Sociology and for your support.