

Chair's Corner: Dr. Chad Smith



Welcome to the fall 2018 edition of the Department of Sociology's newsletter, "The Promise." In this edition we provide updated information on recent events and accomplishments for our students and alumni. As you can see, we have much to be proud of as our current and former students are achieving greatness in a number of important areas.

I would like to remind you about the start of an exciting new program this fall: the Minor in Latina/o Studies. This 18-hour multidisciplinary minor will be administered by Dr. Gloria Martinez. We

are also excited to announce the arrival of two new tenure-track faculty members to the department. Dr. Beatriz Aldana Marquez comes to us from California State University, Monterey Bay where she was an Assistant Professor. She contributes to the Latina/o Minor with her current work focusing upon the treatment of Latinas/os in U.S. border detention centers. We also welcome Dr. Michelle Edwards to the faculty who joins us from Texas Christian University where she was an Assistant Professor. Dr. Edwards focuses upon perceptions of science and environmental risk and will be a great addition to our Sustainability Studies program.

On behalf of the Department of Sociology, I want to thank you for reading "The Promise" and I greatly appreciate your interest in the department. Please keep up with our news and events from our newly revamped departmental webpage and let us know what you are up to via Facebook and Twitter.

Inside this issue:

Chair's Corner 1

Undergraduate & Graduate Alumni Awards 2

Awards, Honors and Scholarships 4

New Jobs & Publications 6

Alums Receiving PhD's 9

Alpha Kappa Delta 10

Study Abroad 11

2018 Graduate Alumni Award: Jamilatu Siller



After graduating in 2012 from Texas State University with my Master of Arts Degree in Sociology, I began my career as a Research Analyst with the City of Austin Fire Department. During my employment with the Austin Fire Department, I conducted extensive and complex data analyses and research utilizing both quantitative and qualitative research methods. During my tenure at the Austin Fire Department, I was responsible for conducting several analyses including the Standard of Cover Response Time Analysis, which determined areas throughout the City of Austin where the Austin Fire Department was arriving on scene within an acceptable timeframe. Additionally, I provided performance metrics to the City budget office, developed and administered surveys throughout the fire department, created electronic forms for mobile data collection, and provided support to the Austin Fire Department Executive Team. Several of my projects helped decision-makers determine resource allocation and fire station locations.

While at AFD, I published a Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) White Paper for a Smoke Alarm Grant, served as a project manager for a City Council Resolution, and received the AFD Outstanding Service Award in 2014. I was also part of a team that worked with the Texas Insurance Service Office (ISO) to provide data on the Austin Fire Department's service within the City of Austin. This project resulted in the Austin Fire Department's reclassification to an ISO rating of one, the highest classification possible. In December 2016, the team and I received a Proclamation from the Mayor of Austin for this project.

In October of 2016, I began a new position with the City of Austin's Office of Performance Management. In my new role, I am the Data Analytics and Visualization lead for the section and I work methodically to provide meaningful data to improve business processes throughout the City of Austin. In my new role, I champion the importance of making data-informed decisions to optimize outcomes for the community and the City.

Through my hard work and determination, I remain a resource and mentor for Sociology students at Texas State. Throughout my career, I have mentored two Applied Sociology Internship students and showed them the value and importance of sociology in the real world and the impact research can have on the community.

Throughout my career, sociology has been a driving force and passion for me. Using sociological perspectives, I continue to be a critical thinker and problem solver who views social problems from various angles. With a Master of Arts degree in Sociology, I learned invaluable skills to conduct scrupulous social research, which has a long-term, positive impact on the lives of City of Austin residents and the community.



2018 Outstanding Undergraduate Alumni Award: Thomas Garcia



I officially became the Executive Assistant to the Associate Director of Visitor and Resource Protection, National Park Service on April 4, 2016. In August of 2017, I was selected for a time limited promotion and was assigned to the Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the Department of the Interior (DOI) as an Executive Assistant. While assigned to DOI, I directly supported the Deputy Assistant Secretary; the Acting Director of the Office of the Everglades Restoration Initiative; and the Director, Gulf of Mexico Restoration. On June 11, 2018, I returned to his permanent position at the National Park Service.

I am a United States Marine Corps Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served honorably for eight years on active duty. During that time, I gained a myriad of operational, administration experience while serving on a Commanding General's staff for both a Combat Service Support Command and Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters, while stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

Prior to joining the National Park Service and after completing my service on active duty, I attended Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Sociology (YEAR). While at Texas State, I interned for an associate professor within the Sociology Department and also worked as a research assistant. Because of my degree in Applied Sociology, I gained a whole new perspective on the way I view many world and personal problems. My education is something very personal to me and I enjoy connecting with my colleagues by applying the myriad of skills obtained during my internship within the sociology department

I am a native of Houston, Texas and reside in Alexandria, Virginia with my wife Jennifer and my two boys – Logan and Dallas.



Student and Alumni Accomplishments 2017-2018

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HONORS

Graduate Students:



2018 Outstanding Graduate Student in Sociology: Maggie Chamberlain (MA Sociology 2017; pictured left; currently in the Oklahoma State University doctoral program in sociology)

Graduate Program Award for Outstanding Contribution: Amanda Couve (MS Dementia and Aging)

Graduate College Merit Fellowships: Dezeray Reyes (MA Sociology), Brianna Brown (MA Sociology), Alyssa Loveday (MS Sustainability Studies)

Center for Diversity and Gender Studies Scholarship & IEF Study Abroad Scholarship: Joshua Warren (MA Sociology)

Graduate College Scholarship: Brianna Brown (MA Sociology), Sara Caldwell (MS Dementia and Aging Studies), Jamilah Christiansen (MA Sociology), Jasmine Hernandez (MA Sociology)

Geoff Wood Memorial Scholarship: Jasmine Hernandez (MA Sociology), Stephanie Villanueva (MA Sociology)

Daylon Howell (MS Sustainability Studies) was elected as chair of the Environmental Service Committee.

Samira Farahani (MS Sustainability Studies 2018) received a fellowship on peace-building and conflict resolution from Rotary International and attended the program at Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand in 2018.

Mona Rudd (MS Dementia and Aging Studies) passed federal and state licensing exams and now has her long term care administrator license. She also was invited to Phi Kappa Phi Honors School for Academic Excellence.

Brandie Elizaitis (MS Dementia and Aging Studies) was invited to join Phi Kappa Phi and was inducted into Alpha Chi.

Steven Weeks (MS Sustainability Studies 2018) started the University of Texas-San Antonio Applied Demography doctoral program in fall 2018.

Ashley Pritchard (MS Sustainability Studies 2018) was invited to join Alpha Chi and Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Madi Tabersmith (MA Sociology 2017), Career Advisor at Career Services, was elected as President of Texas State University Alliance and Lindy Knowles (MA Sociology 2016) was elected as Secretary (see <http://www.oea.txstate.edu/alliance/>).

Kelly McGauhey (BS Applied Sociology 2012) received her Master's in Public Health from the UT Health School of Public Health in 2018.

Robert Eby (MS Sustainability Studies; pictured to the right) was honored with Texas State University's top award for being green: The Green Cat Challenge Award! This award, given by the Environment and Sustainability Committee, recognizes people who have shown exceptional work in making our campus more sustainable.



Jesse Silva (MA Sociology 2011; second from left in picture to the left), is the Assistant Director of the Student Diversity & Inclusion at Texas State University. He received the 2017 Excellence in Diversity Award. Jesse has also received a Latino Stars in the Constellation of the Rising Star (2016-2017), Foundations of Excellence Award (2017), Above and Beyond Veterans Alliance Award for his services in assisting and supporting student veterans (2015), and the Mariel Muir Mentoring Award (2010).

Student and Alumni Accomplishments 2017-2018

Undergraduate Students:

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Sociology: Samantha Smothermon (BS Applied Sociology; pictured right)



Charlotte McCord Sociology Scholarship for Non-Traditional Students: Brenda Sanchez (BA Sociology), Justin Gibson (BS Applied Sociology), Morgan Ryman (BS Applied Sociology), Jose Luis Rodriguez (BS Applied Sociology)

Clarence Schultz Sociology Scholarship: Samantha Smothermon (BS Applied Sociology) Jeffrey Sanchez (BS Applied Sociology)

Newsom/Matlock Sociology Scholarship (pictured right): Priscilla Segovia (BS Applied Sociology), Emily McDonald (BA Sociology)



Geoff Wood Memorial Scholarship: Jeffrey Sanchez (BS Applied Sociology), Mason Villarreal (BS Applied Sociology)

Shelby Renee Newman Sociology Scholarship: Emily McDonald (BA Sociology), Brittany Bailey (BS Applied Sociology)

A.A. Grusendorf Award for the Outstanding Sociology Senior: Jeremy Salinas (BS Applied Sociology 2018)

2018 College of Liberal Arts Academic Excellence recipients (pictured right): Annie Bryant (BS Applied Sociology 2018), Jordan Duran (BS Applied Sociology), Aydee Gonzalez Gallegos (BA Sociology), Lauren Guzman (BS Applied Sociology), Violet Marris (BA Sociology), Iliana Medrano (BS Applied Sociology), Ali Mumbach (BS Applied Sociology), Dezerae Reyes (BS Applied Sociology 2018), Morgan Ryman (BS Applied Sociology), Jeremy Salinas (BS Applied Sociology), Jeffrey Sanchez (BS Applied Sociology), Samantha Smotherman (BS Applied Sociology), and Ashley Thomas (BS Applied Sociology)

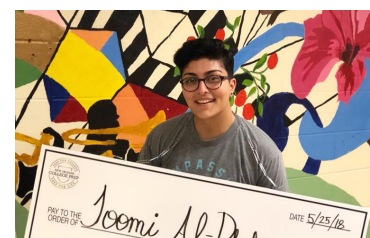


Herman Spirit Award: Annie Bryant (BS Applied Sociology 2018; pictured left)



Ryan Kessinger (BS Applied Sociology 2017) begins the master's program at The Ohio State University in Higher Education and Student Affairs in fall 2018.

Toomi Al-Dhahi (BS Applied Sociology 2017; pictured right) is a teacher, and received NOCP Rookie of the Year Award after completing her first year teaching at Walter L. Cohen College Prep.



Presentations, Publications, and Other Scholarly News

Meagan Richard (MS Applied Sociology 2015) is in the doctoral program at the University of Illinois-Chicago doctoral program in Policy Studies in Urban Education. Her research focuses on activist school leadership. She is conducting qualitative work to learn more about how principals in Chicago conduct social justice work in and outside of their schools. She is working on a book chapter and two articles with a professor and is also co-authoring two papers.

Dr. Nicole Farris (MA Sociology 2008; PhD Texas A & M 2011), Associate Professor of Sociology at Texas A&M University- Commerce, published a book in 2016 entitled “Boomerang Kids: The Demography of Previously Launched Adults.” (See <https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319312255>).

Sara Rafael García (BS Applied Sociology 1998; MFA Creative Writing 2015) is a 2017-2018 visiting artist at Texas State University’s Center for the Study of the Southwest. She has published a book, *SanTana’s Fairy Tales*, an oral history project that integrates community-based narratives to create contemporary fairytales and fables that represent the history and stories of Mexican/Mexican-American residents of Santa Ana (see <https://sarahrafaelgarcia.com/santansfairytales/>).

Henderson, Charley (MA Sociology). “The Intertwined Biological and Social Effects of Hepatitis C on Aging Adult Males.” Presented at Southwestern Social Science Association, 2018.

Kawakami, Atsuko (faculty member at Tarleton State University), Juyeon Son (faculty member at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh), and Charley Henderson. “Hepatitis C and Support Groups in Rural Communities.” Presented at American Sociological Association, 2018.

Son, Juyeon, Atsuko Kawakami, and Charley Henderson. “Yes We See It but Not Really’: The Reality of Community Support for Hepatitis C in a Rural Town.” Presented at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, 2018.

Henderson, Charley and Atsuko Kawakami. Forthcoming. “Hepatitis C and the Social Hierarchy: How Stigma Is Built in Rural Communities.” To be published in *The Qualitative Report*.

Deborah Harris (faculty member) and Rachel Phillips (MA Sociology). “Consuming the Southern ‘Other’: Performing Authenticity in Upscale Biscuit Shops.” Presented at the Southern Sociological Society conference, 2018.

Joshua Warren (MA Sociology) and Stephanie Villanueva (MA Sociology). “Hashtags and Hijabs: An Analysis of Empowering and Islamophobic Tweets During Turbulent Times.” Presented at the Southern Sociological Society conference, 2018.

Jordan Chaffin (MA Sociology) and Hayden Prince (MA Sociology). “Depictions of White Supremacy in 140 Characters or Less: The Truth Behind #MAGA.” Presented at the Southern Sociological Society conference, 2018.

Presentations, Publications, and Other Scholarly News

Holley Hickman (MA Sociology 2018) and Charley Henderson (MA Sociology). "Racial Disparities Among Those with the Chronic Hepatitis Virus in Trump America." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society conference, 2018.

Courtney Brown (MA Sociology). "School Daze: Depictions of Black High School Students in Film." Presented at the Association of Black Sociologists Annual Conference, 2018.

Phoenix Castilla (MS Sustainability Studies 2018). "Ecosystem Services and Damage Costs of Federal Lands: Case Study of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of Alaska." Presented at the 2017 Texas State University International Research Conference for Graduate Students.

Ashley Pritchard (MS Sustainability Studies 2018). "Climate Change Depiction." Presented at the 2017 Texas State University International Research Conference for Graduate Students.

Each semester, the department organizes a Research Review in which students and/or faculty present on current teaching or research projects. In spring 2018, four students presented their research to the department: Holley Hickman, Charley Henderson, Joshua Warren, Jordan Chaffin, and Hayden Prince.

New jobs and promotions:

Danni Rogina-Lopez (MA Sociology 2017) was promoted to a supervisory position in the PhD program in Sociology at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She will oversee a group of teaching assistants and teach a Deviance class, starting this fall 2018.

Samira Farahani (MS Sustainability Studies 2017) is working as a consultant with an e-learning program at the Center for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas.

Maggie Bergeron (MS Sustainability Studies 2017) is the Transportation Planner/ Coordinator with the City of Victoria/ Victoria's MPO.

Larissa Hollis (MA Sociology), received a promotion at USAA to new member solutions representative.

Alma Castro (MA Sociology 2006) is an IRB Review Specialist for the Longwood Medical Area IRB, serving the Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Kimberly Kraemer (MA Sociology 2018) is a recruiter for Schlumberger in Houston, TX.

Ed Sinclair (BS Applied Sociology 2006; MA Sociology 2015) was promoted and is now the Director of Business Operations for the Intellectual & Developmental Disability-Behavioral Health Department at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Victoria Schluter (BS Applied Sociology 2014; MS Applied Sociology) is a Program Specialist in Health and Human Services (Medicaid and CHIP Services).

Presentations, Publications, and Other Scholarly News

Dr. Raquel Marquez (BS in Applied Sociology 1992) is the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She served as the Research Scholar for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in 2014, and was chair of the sociology department at UTSA from 2005-2013.

Kevin Kromenacker (MA Sociology 2012) is a program specialist at the Center for Planning, Evaluation and Project Coordination within the Department of Family & Protective Services.

Jimmy Esquibel (BS Applied Sociology 2009; MA Sociology 2011) is a high school teacher in Hawaii and former Marine.

Darren Jones (BS Applied Sociology 2015) is a Qualitative Researcher at Intiva Health. Darren was hired at his internship site and also recently promoted.

Jessica Martone (BS Applied Sociology 2017) is the Aging Program Specialist, Aging Division at the Capital Area Council of Governments. Jessica was hired at her internship site. She has presented to Professor Dees' classes on aging, death, and dying.

Annie Bryant (BS Applied Sociology 2018) is a Design Support Specialist at FORMASPACE.

Alexandra Warner (BS Applied Sociology 2015; MA Central Florida University) is a research analyst for Consumer Insights at Universal Orlando Resort.

Caroline Haring (MA Sociology 2015) is working at Palo Alto College as a Senior Statistical Research Specialist.

Candy Cantrell (MA Sociology 2017) is teaching as an adjunct lecturer at Austin Community College and Texas Lutheran University.

Katherine Rompel (MA Sociology 2018) is a Staff Therapist at the Montrose Center in Houston. In this role, she will be providing counseling and assistance to clients and community members, particularly those recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

Jordan Law (MA Sociology 2014) worked in Melbourne Australia with the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) after being inspired by meeting and volunteering with the Tibetan refugees in Northern India. In 2017, she managed a small non-profit in Southern India, the Shankar Prasad Foundation. As of 2018, she is in Dallas working as a Political Director for a Democratic senate candidate, Kendall Scudder, and Colin Allred's campaign, who is running in Texas, District 32.

Erin Van Landingham (MSDA 2017) is a proposal specialist for eTMF Health Quality Institute.

Geggi Starkey (MSDA 2017) is the Executive Director at Ma James Home Care, LLC.

Darren McQueen (MSDA 2017) is working for the Health and Human Services Commission as a Protective Service Intake Specialist V.

Jon Beaubien (MA Sociology 2017) is a Data Analyst at ReconMR.

Ashley Pritchard (MS Sustainability Studies 2018) is an Environmental Investigator II for TCEQ region 13.

Presentations, Publications, and Other Scholarly News

Dr. Chandra Ward (MA Sociology 2005), now an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, received a 2018 SAGE Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award.

Jeanne Heinen (BA Sociology 2011; MA Sociology 2014) was promoted to Assistant Director of Development (and liaison for Student Affairs), Texas State University.

De 'Quad Binder (BS Applied Sociology 2016) is a Business analyst for JC Penney.

Gus Delgado (MS Applied Sociology) is a Business Process Specialist at Austin Fire Department.

Megan Lopez (MS Applied Sociology), is the Data and Quality Assurance Supervisor at the Office of Refugee Resettlement National Call Center (ORRNCC).

Congratulations to alumni who recently defended their dissertations and received their Ph.D.!

Dr. Dorian Galindo (MS Applied Sociology 2012) received her Ph.D. in Applied Demography at the University of San Antonio. Dr. Galindo is Director of Performance and Planning for North East ISD in San Antonio, TX. She previously held positions as research analyst and statistician for NE ISD.

Dr. Bricio Vasquez (MA Sociology 2009) received his Ph.D. in Applied Demography at the University of San Antonio. Dr. Vasquez is now an Education Data Scientist at Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA).

Dr. Michael Lengefeld (BS Applied Sociology 2008; MA Sociology 2011) received his Ph.D. in Sociology at Washington State University. Dr. Lengefeld is currently an instructor at Gonzaga University in the Department of Sociology and Criminology.

Dr. Nick LaLone (BS Applied Sociology 2007; MA Sociology 2012) received his Ph.D. in Analytics from Penn State University. He is an Assistant Professor and Program Director of Data Science and Business Analytics at Bellevue University. He also recently started a Post-doctoral position at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the Information Science School in August.

We are proud of our current and former students' impressive work!
Alumni: Please send us your news for the fall 2019 newsletter
(socigrad@txstate.edu).

Read more about our student accomplishments [here](#).

Alpha Kappa Delta

The Texas State University chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta had a very successful year as we welcomed 20 new members. The students were inducted into AKD at our annual awards banquet held on March 23, 2018 at the Embassy Suites of San Marcos. We also welcomed Dezerae Reyes as our new student chapter president. Plans for this year's activities include a "Grad Talk" where we will invite Sociology Graduate Students and both Undergraduate and Graduate AKD members to an informal Q&A session as well as our annual Awards and Induction Banquet to be held in Spring 2019. We look forward to a very active 2018-2019 academic year.

Faculty advisor: Professor Tina Villarreal



Left to right: Whitley Whitaker, Joshua Warren, Stephanie Villanueva, Jeffrey Sanchez, Hayden Prince, Yu Chen Chang, Savannah Brinkley

Study Abroad: London

Faculty members Bob Price and Deborah Harris took 23 undergraduate and graduate students to London in July for the launch of the department's new summer study abroad program. Each student took six hours of coursework from Price and Harris, selecting from options including England-oriented versions of urban sociology, food & society, technology & society, and the sociology of consumption. But students and faculty spent very little time in the classroom! Most of the learning was experiential, with courses structured around two dozen excursions all over London. For instance, students learned about gentrification in the storied East End of London as they spent days pounding the pavements with experts on the culture, food, and music of that dynamic collection of neighborhoods. They learned about the social history of the London Underground's lines and stations with expert guides. They got hands on experience with the Galton Collection at University College London, and got a provocative lecture from a foremost scholar of Francis Galton, an influential statistician and controversial theoretician. They also got close up, sociology-oriented visits to landmarks like Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, centuries old markets, and the world's biggest toy store. (And, just for fun, a side trip to the Harry Potter studios!) Students were able to compare modes of living and working in one of the world's biggest cities with life back home in Texas. And it wasn't only during the formal excursions for class that students were able to gain new insights. Several students went on their own time to a music festival and were struck by how different the scene was there compared to the scene at South By or ACL. Others went to take a look at the street rallies scheduled to coincide with the visit of President Trump to England, and those students were impressed by how different political protest looks in England compared to the United States. All in all, the trip was a great success, as students grew from an academic experience not available on main campus. Perspectives were shifted. Worldviews were broadened. Faculty will be taking another group of students to London in summer 2019.



Newsletter editors:

Dr. Chad Smith

Ms. Lillian Dees

Dr. Patti Giuffre

Lindy Knowles



"Like" us on
Facebook

@txstatesociology

Please stay in touch! Send us news!

Email: socigrad@txstate.edu

Phone: 512.245.2113

Webpage: <http://www.soci.txstate.edu/>

The Texas State University System Board of Regents

Rossanna Salazar, Chairman, Austin

William F. Scott, Vice Chairman, Nederland

Charlie Amato, San Antonio

Garry Crain, The Hills

Dr. Veronica Muzquiz Edwards, San Antonio

Dr. Jaime R. Garza, San Antonio

David Montagne, Beaumont

Vernon Reaser III, Bellaire

Alan L. Tinsley, Madisonville

Leanna Mouton, Student Regent, San Marcos

Brian McCall, Ph.D., Chancellor

The logo for Texas State University, featuring the words "TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY" in a serif font. A gold star is positioned between "TEXAS" and "STATE". A horizontal line is above "STATE" and another is below "STATE". A registered trademark symbol (®) is to the right of the top line.

TEXAS
STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

*This information is available in alternate format upon request from the Office of Disability Services.
Texas State University is a tobacco-free campus.*

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM