Welcome to the Fall 2017 issue of DuBois Courier. The newsletter is named in honor of one of the most important sociologists in the late 19th century and much of the 20th century. His work on race and religion continue to impact sociology and other disciplines.

Here we are at the start of another semester. Welcome back graduate faculty and returning students! Please join me in welcoming first year students: Caitlin Charles, Charlie Coats, Ewart Forde, Dustin Lovercamp, Robert (Chris) Miller, Joy Ngelor Watchese, James (Jay) Jordan, Marcus Venable, and Meghan Zazeski.

Congratulations to everyone who reached various milestones in the PhD program and to Dr. Tim Slack for his promotion from associate professor to full professor. Special congratulations to recent graduates: Dr. Emily Blosser, Dr. Luke Castel, and Dr. Castel Sweet!

Our students and faculty are producing new knowledge and sharing that knowledge in academic books and peer-reviewed journals, and at professional conferences. Selected publications by faculty and graduate students are listed in the current issue. Also in the current issue, learn more about Dr. Michelle Meyer in the Faculty Spotlight and Isaiah Cohen in the Graduate Student Spotlight.

Great things are happening in the Department of Sociology. Let’s build on the momentum!
Hi from Japan where I spend my summers. I am not the only one who was recently out of the country. Wes Shrum has been in Ghana and India, Mark Schafer in Malawi, and Rhiannon Kroeger in Brazil. Our faculty members are all over the world, and some of our graduate students are in the same boat. Castel Sweet just came back from her stint in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. Cristian Nunez was in Mexico. (Excuse me if I missed anyone).

While LSU Sociology faculty and students are spread out all over the world, we manage everyday endeavors: publications, presentations, and teaching. Amid numerous publications, I will just mention *Botox Nation* (Dana Berkowitz), *Video Ethnography in Practice* (Wes Shrum), and *South Baton Rouge* (Lori Martin). I am also happy to report that Tim Slack will be a full professor as of this August, and Michelle Meyer and Matt Valasik renewed their contracts after three years of service at LSU. Lori is also becoming the Director of African and African American Studies (2017-18).

As for awards, "Dr." Castel Sweet won 3rd place in the 2017 Association of Black Sociologists’ graduate student paper competition. Hyojung Kim received a prestigious LSU Dissertation Fellowship, and Yesh Cohen received a Humane Studies Fellowship. As for faculty, we have too many grants and awards to list. Our staff members are joining the ride; Jessica Erwin received the 2016 LSU Foundation Staff Outstanding Service Award. (Again, my apology if I missed anyone).

We now have a new assistant professor, Heather O’Connell, from Rice University. Please help us welcome her to our department.

Speaking of that, I welcome incoming graduate students to our program. They are from all over the country and world, from Michigan, Washington, Mississippi to Cameroon. I ask everyone to be nice to them (whoops, most of all to myself in my notorious Multiple Regression class...).

When people come, other people go. During the 2016-17 academic year, there were four Ph.D recipients, Emily Blosser, Dari Green, Castel Sweet (all 2012 cohort), and Danielle Thomas (2010). We might also add that Emily, Dari, and one of our recent Ph.Ds, Melinda Jackson (2012-16), just accepted offers from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LSU, and Nicholls State University, respectively.

LSU Sociology is really in good shape, and I hope all faculty, students, and staff members enjoy life in and outside the department.
GRADUATE STUDIES

SOCIOLOGY FACULTY

Michael S. Barton (PhD, Albany)
Criminology, Urban Sociology
Sarah Becker (PhD, Massachusetts)
Communities and Crime, Ethnography
Qualitative Methods
Dana Berkowitz (PhD, Florida)
Gender, Bodies and Embodiment, Sexualities, Families
Troy C. Blanchard (PhD, LSU)
Associate Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Social Demography, Stratification, Community, Religion
Chantel Chauvin (PhD, LSU)
Violent Crime, Delinquency, Gender and Crime
Skylar Gremillion (PhD, LSU)
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Gender, Law, Inequality, Online Communications
Yoshinori Kamo (PhD, Washington)
Department Chair
Inequality, Family, Comparative
Rhiannon A. Kroeger (PhD, Ohio State)
Families and Health, Family Formation, Social Demography
Matthew R. Lee (PhD, LSU)
Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Support Services
Criminology, Health, Race/Ethnicity
Lori L. Martin (PhD, Albany)
Race and Ethnicity, Demography, Inequality
Michelle A. Meyer (PhD, Colorado State)
Disaster, Environment, Community, Social Stratification
Heather O’Connell (PhD, University of Wisconsin)
Race, Ethnicity, and Demography
Robert O’Neil (PhD, LSU)
Social Interaction, Theory, Sex and Gender
Heather M. Rackin (PhD, Duke)
Population, Medical Sociology, Family
Mark J. Schafer (PhD, Indiana)
Education, Social Development, Rural Sociology, Social Change
Edward S. Shihadeh (PhD, Penn. State)
Race and Ethnicity, Criminology, Urban Ecology
Wesley M. Shrum, Jr. (PhD, Princeton)
Science & Technology Studies, Africa, Internet & Cell Phones, Video Ethnography
Tim Slack (PhD, Penn. State)
Stratification, Demography
Ginger Stevenson (PhD, LSU)
Criminology, Interpersonal Violence, Deviance
Samuel Stroope (PhD, Baylor)
Health, Research Methods, Culture/Religion
Jose Torres (PhD, Virginia Tech)
Criminology, Social Control, Policing

Matthew A. Valasik (PhD, UC Irvine)
Criminology, Gangs, Spatial Analysis

Mark H. Walker (PhD, Iowa)
Social Psychology, Social Networks, Self and Identity

Frederick D. Weil (PhD, Harvard)
Community, Social Capital, Political Sociology, Comparative-Historical
Before joining LSU Department of Sociology in 2014, she was a post-doc researcher with the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at Texas A&M University. She completed a Ph.D. in Sociology at Colorado State University in 2013, and received a BA in Sociology from Murray State University. She is a Next Generation of Hazard and Disasters Researchers Fellow and also an Early-Career Research Fellow with the Gulf Research Program 2016. Her research interests include environmental sociology and community sustainability, disaster resilience and mitigation, climate change displacement, environmental justice, and the interplay between environmental conditions and social vulnerability. She has worked on various projects, including analyzing governmental and nonprofit networks in long-term recovery; assessing variation in use of social media by population groups during disasters; assessing earthquake protective action messaging in Haiti; comparing disaster recovery following technological and natural disasters; assessing the inclusion of disability in emergency management planning; studying energy efficient building practices; analyzing social capital and collective efficacy for individual and community resilience; developing participatory GIS activities to assess environmental and climate justice in marginalized communities; among others. Her research has been funded by NSF, NAS, PERISHIP Dissertation Fellowship, Midwest Sociological Society, and Rural Sociological Society. She collaborates on research with organizations including GeoHazards International, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and t.e.j.a.s. for environmental justice. She teaches research methods, environmental sociology, and sociology of disasters, and was selected by the undergraduate Sociological Society as Professor of the Year during her first year on the faculty. Recently, her dissertation received the Samuel H. Prince Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Hazards and Disasters by the ISA's International Research Committee on Disasters for dissertations completed between 2010 and 2014.
GRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We have about 50 graduate students from all over the country and outside the United States. Our current and past foreign students are from Turkey, Taiwan, Japan, China, Kenya, and the Philippines, among others. Each "cohort" consists of 5-13 students and most of our students are funded as Teaching Assistants or Research Assistants.

Our Ph.D alumni are, again, all over the world. Most of them are teaching in colleges and universities, but others are in research institutions, governmental agencies, or private industries.

Our graduate program is primarily designed for producing PhDs, rather than terminal MAs. Applications and supporting materials for all graduate study (including three letters of recommendation) must be submitted through the online application site for the LSU Graduate School.

Admission
The Department generally requires an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or a graduate GPA of 3.5 for admission. Admission and funding is normally for the Fall Term. Applicants desiring financial support should submit credentials by the end of January. Even students who are admitted without funding, however, may be considered for assistantships as resources become available.

Graduate Assistantships
The Department offers a number of graduate assistantships to qualified students. They involve research or teaching under the supervision of one or more faculty members. For those without funding, but from an under-represented group, we have tuition awards (exemptions) available.

The Graduate School offers a number of fellowships and scholarships to exceptional and superior students. Among these are Enrichment Funds for incoming students, Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships, Huel D. Perkins Diversity Fellowships, and Board of Regents Graduate Fellowships. Upon receiving promising candidates, the Director of Graduate Studies will make nominations for these awards.

Graduate Assistants and other fellowship recipients are exempt from tuition but still have to pay university fees. Graduate Assistants and fellowship recipients are also eligible for the premium assistance program for Student Health Insurance.
GRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW Cont.

The MA Program
Our MA Program requires two years of graduate study and is expected to lead onward to the PhD. Minimum course requirements are 36 hours of graduate work. Students may be permitted to transfer up to twelve hours of coursework at the graduate level from another institution.

After satisfying coursework requirements, a master’s degree is conferred upon completion of either an empirical research paper or a master’s thesis, to be defended before the student’s MA committee.

The PhD Program
The PhD program in sociology is designed to prepare students for a career in sociology that combines research and teaching. A broad general knowledge of sociological theory and research methodology is required. Students will also choose and develop a research program in a specialty area.

Our students typically develop a close working relationship with one or more faculty members and co-author research papers with them. In this way, the student begins as an apprentice and finishes with a substantial research record.

Minimum course requirements for PhD are 54 hours of graduate work. Students finish all course work, then take the General Exam, write and defend their dissertation proposals, and write and defend their PhD dissertations.
Isaiah F. A. Cohen is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology. Isaiah’s research interests include education, family, law, political sociology, deviance, and social theory. His thesis research focused on home education regulation throughout the United States and what factors might impact how regulative a state might be. He specializes in parent and family involvement in education, with his current research focusing on the manners in which parental involvement impacts child education outcomes.

He received his master’s degree in sociology from Louisiana State University, where he worked as a teaching assistant and served as an Institute for Humane Studies Searle Freedom Trust Fellow. He was a Harrisburg Internship Semester award recipient from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education during his time at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated magna cum laude with his bachelor’s degree in political science and minor in sociology.

Isaiah is a devoted father and husband. He enjoys reading Japanese and Korean graphic novels, gaming, and general outdoorsmanship. The rest of his time is spent with his wife, Suzette, and their daughter, Rachel.

Congratulations, Katherine Keating! Katherine has been named a Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Scholar for her work on the Resilient Children, Youth, and Communities (RCYC) project led by Drs. Tim Slack and Matt Lee.

Finley, Stephen C., Dari Green, Lori Latrice Martin and Derrick Rovaris, D. Forthcoming. Lifting As We Climb.” Western Journal of Black Studies.


7121 Seminar: Classical Sociological Theory (3)
Prereq.: consent of instructor. Historical survey of sociology with primary emphasis on European (Marx, Weber, and Durkheim) and early American (Mead and Park) sociologists.

7131 Seminar: Contemporary Sociological Theory (3)
Prereq.: SOCL 7121 or equivalent. Current theoretical arguments in sociology.

7201 Research Methods in Sociology (3)
Prereq.: SOCL 2201 or equivalent. Introduction to inferential methods in sociological research; emphasis on interpretation and current research.

7203 Advanced Research Methods in Social Science (3)
Prereq.: SOCL 7201 or equivalent. Also offered as POLI 7963. Survey of advanced methodology in the social sciences; emphasis on general linear model and causal models.

7211 Seminar: Methods of Social Investigation (3)
Prereq.: EXST 7003 or equivalent. Research methods in the social sciences; interplay of theory and methods of research; formulation of research problems and design; measurement and scaling; sampling; ethics in research; and critiques of social science research.

7213 Specialized Topics in Social Science Methods (2-3)
Prereq.: SOCL 7203 or POLI 7963 or equivalent. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. of credit when topics vary. Also offered as POLI 7964.

7351 Seminar: Topics in Rural Sociology (3)
Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in rural sociology.

7391 Seminar: Topics in Social Organization (3)
Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social organization.

7491 Seminar: Topics in Social Institutions (3)
Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social institutions.

7591 Seminar: Topics in Social Issues (3)
Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social issues.

7691 Seminar: Topics in Social Interaction (3)
Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social interaction.
7791 Seminar: Topics in Population and Ecology (3)
Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 6 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in population and ecology.

7901, 7902 Independent Reading and Research (3,3)
Prereq.: successful completion of at least one year of graduate work.

7903 Proseminar in Sociology (1)
Required twice of both master’s and Ph.D. candidates. Pass-fail grading. Contemporary research and critical issues in sociology.

8000 Thesis Research (1-12 per sem.)
“S”/“U” grading.

8900 Research in Sociology (1-6)
Open only to students engaged in a specific, organized research project under faculty supervision. Student must be engaged in design and implementation of research and analysis and interpretation of data.

9000 Dissertation Research (1-12 per sem.)
“S”/“U” grading.

Congratulations to Dr. Chantel Chauvin’13
Tiger Athletic Foundation Teaching Award for University College
(pictured here on the far left)
PHD GRADUATES SINCE 1985 WITH MOST RECENT PLACEMENTS

2017 Dari Green, LSU; Luke Castle; Castell Sweet; Emily Blosser, University of Louisiana at Lafayette;

2016 Joe Cleary; Win Guan, LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Melinda Jackson, Nicholls State University; Matthew LeBlanc, Xavier University; Ya-Feng Lin, South Texas College; Danielle Thomas, SportQuest Ministries

2015 Will Bryerton, Lone Star College; Michael Cope, Brigham Young University; Kayla Fontenot, U.S. Census Bureau; Durmus Ali Yuksek, Turkish Military Academy

2014 Brett Lehman, Auburn University; Ashley Perry, Mississippi State University

2013 Donovon Ceaser, California State University, East Bay; Chantel Chauvin, Louisiana State University; Skylar Gremillion, Louisiana State University; David Maddox, Bellarmine University; Le'Brian Patrick, Xavier University; Sarah Walsh, The Policy & Research Group

2012 Candice Myers, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Lisa Winters, Coastal Carolina University

2011 Raymond Barranco, Mississippi State University; Jessica Doucet, Francis Marion University; Aaryn Ward, Pearl River Community College

2010 Emily Berthelot, University of Arkansas-Little Rock; Tim Brown, University of Arkansas-Little Rock; Julia D’Antonio, Loyola University; Makiko Hori, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga; Jessica Pearce, South Louisiana Community College

2009 Anna Cutfip, Pfeiffer University; Lacie Michel, Louisiana Tech; Paige Miller, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Claire Norris, Xavier University; Shaun Thomas, University of Arkansas

2008 Michael G. Bisciglia, Southeastern Louisiana University; Chiung-Yin (Joy) Hu; Mark O. Melder, Louisiana Tech; Matthew Wilkinson, Coastal Carolina University

2007 Russell R. Davis, University of West Alabama; Richard B. Duque, University of Vienna; Chanika R. Jones, Southern University

2006 Amanda Abraham, Institute for Behavior Research at the University of Georgia; Timothy C. Hayes, University of North Carolina-Pembroke; Asha D. Luthra, Shell Exploration and Production Co.; Monisa Shackelford Mooney, Pensacola Junior College; Marcus Ynalvez, Texas A&M International University

2005 Theresa Davidson, Samford University; Amy Manning Kirk, Sam Houston State University

2004 Susana Guerra, Tracfone Wireless, Inc.; Jospeter Mbuba, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

2003 Carl Marie Riden, Longwood University; Ginger Stevenson, Louisiana State University

2002 Catherine Elizabeth Burton, The Citadel; Patricia Campion, Tennessee Tech University; M. Kelly James, Winthrop University; Chizuko Wakabayashi, University of Niigata Prefecture

2001 Troy Christoph Blanchard, Louisiana State University; Alison K. Neustrom, Public Affairs Research Council; Robert Paul O'Neil, Louisiana State University; Melissa Oliver Stainback; Linda Anderson Tobin, Austin Community College
PHD GRADUATES SINCE 1985 WITH MOST RECENT PLACEMENTS Cont.

2000 Rebecca (Carter) Powers, East Carolina University; William Craig Carter, Middle Tennessee State University; Shirley A. Keeton, Fayetteville State University; Michelle Marie Livermore, Louisiana State University; Rebel Mary Reavis, University of Tennessee-Martin; Marsha Norton West; George Preston Wooddell, University of Louisiana-Lafayette

1999 Stephen Edgar Costanza, Central Connecticut State University; Matthew Raleigh Lee, Louisiana State University

1998 Kiyomi Ando, Meijo University, Japan; Ivan Mihailov Chompalov, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; Vaughn Allen Decoster, University of Arkansas; Nicole Thomson Flynn, University of South Alabama; Jo Kuhn Galle; Michael Owen Maume, University of North Carolina-Wilmington; Tobias Albert Ten Eyck, Michigan State University

1997 Yanyi Kasongo Djamba, Auburn University at Montgomery; Deborah Marie Hanrahan; Graham Christophe Ousey, College of William and Mary

1996 Kuo Hua Chen, Tamkang University, Taiwan; Deann K. Gauthier, University of Louisiana-Lafayette; Mary Lynn Gautier, Georgetown University; John Collins Kilburn, Texas A&M International University; San-Yi Li, Providence University (Taiwan); Esther J. Olinde; Dawood Hussein Sultan, University of Tennessee-Martin

1995 Carl Leon Bankston III, Tulane University; David Emile Maurer, University of New Orleans; James Adu Opare, University of Cape Coast

1994 Frederick Carson Mencken, Baylor University; Neller Ree Simpkins

1993 Alphonse Rubagumya

1992 Diane Catalano Keithly, Southern University; Jianghong Li, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

1991 Larry Allen Gould, Northern Arizona University; Joan Marie Morris, University of Central Florida; Roberta Loupe St. Pierre, Louisiana State University

1989 Ann C. (Dellenbarger) Ziebarth, University of Minnesota; Oiseozoje Godwin Ohiwerei, New Jersey City University; James William Robinson, Louisiana State University-Eunice

1988 Jeffrey Michael Clair, University of Alabama-Birmingham; Gloria R. Martinez, University of the Philippines Los Baños; Carol Yvette Thompson, Texas Christian University

1987 E Clark Forrest Jr; Bethania Maria Gonzalez; James Francis Quinn, University of North Texas; Cheryl L. Thayer-Doyle

1986 Ollie Collden Christian, Southern University; Leroy Allen Furr, University of Louisville; Robert Earl Sanderson, University of Arkansas-Little Rock

1985 Carol Sue Campbell, McNeese State University; Pamela Jean Jenkins, University of New Orleans
HOW TO APPLY

Domestic Degree-Seeking

A domestic degree-seeking applicant is one who wants to complete a graduate program at the Masters, Doctoral, Educational Specialist, or Certificate level and is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Both the Graduate School and the department applied to must approve admission.

Step 1: Select a Graduate Program
LSU offers more than 120 graduate degree programs, more than 10 graduate certificates, and some programs can be completed online.

Step 2: Review Department Admission Requirements
Review the department’s website to view its admission deadlines and requirements.

Step 3: Review Graduate School Admission Requirements
All applicants must have the following in order to be considered for unconditional admission:
- A Bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a foreign institution.
- A grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 (A = 4.0) on all undergraduate work (or in the final 64 credit hours) and any graduate work already completed.
- Acceptable GRE score.

Step 4: Draft and Gather Additional Application Materials

Step 5: Send GRE Scores
Send official GRE scores to the Graduate School using the ETS institution code 6373.

Step 6: Upload and Request Transcripts

Step 7: Fill Out and Submit Application
There are a limited number of application fee waivers on a first-come, first-serve basis to applicants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who belong to under-represented groups or who hold active or veteran military status. Applicants affiliated with the following programs should fill out the waiver request form and supply a signed letter of support from the program director: Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), McNair Scholars, Project 1000, Post Baccalaureate Research and Education Programs (PREP), GEM Fellowship Program, and Initiatives for Maximizing Student Diversity (IMSD).
The Fee Waiver Request form should be submitted online. Application fee waivers cannot be requested for late applications.
Congratulations
Dr. Castel Sweet also won third place in the graduate student paper competition sponsored by the Association of Black Sociologists. Dr. Sweet was honored at the association’s annual meeting in Montreal, Canada.

Did You Know?

Vanessa Parks was highlighted by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. Check out the amazing profile at
2017 First Year Graduate Student Cohort

Top Row (L. to R.) James “Jay” Jordan, Megan Zazeski, Charles Coates, and Caitlin Charles

Middle Row (L. to R.) Ewart Forde, Robert “Chris” Miller, Dustin Lovercamp; and Marcus Venable

Bottom Row: Joy Ngelor Watchese
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