

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice
Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campuses

Shinta Hernandez, Editor Katie Torkashvan, Layout

September 2018 Volume 1 Issue 2

Greetings! Welcome back to another exciting academic year. The year has already gotten off to a great start. A sure indicator of our success in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice has been the record number of SOCY 100 Z-course sections at both the Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses, the continuous placement of Achieving the Promise Academy embedded coaches in our CCJS 110 sections, and the various domestic and international experiential learning opportunities with our students, just to name a few. I continue to applaud the faculty and staff for their dedication in engaging in innovative efforts that improve student success outcomes, all the while ensuring that social justice and equity for our students improve.

Numerous retreats, trainings, meetings, and workshops were held throughout the summer, which offered opportunities for many of us at the College to understand the evolution of higher education from a national, state, and local perspective. As a macro-sociologist, I am constantly examining how occurrences at the ground level deep in the trenches are intertwined with external forces, and how all of this fits the "big picture." This perspective uniquely positions us to maximize student impact and optimize faculty and staff professional development.

All summer long, I had been working to ensure that faculty and staff in this Department have what they need to flourish as educators, advisors, mentors, and above all else, as respectable individuals. With 26 part time faculty, nine full time faculty, and two administrative aides across three disciplines and two campuses, it is of utmost importance to me that there is improved integration of and increased communication in the Department. If faculty and staff are successful *before* Day One, then our students will be successful *on* Day One.

I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of the members of this Department. I am proud of our commitment to the mission of Montgomery College. Have a successful Fall 2018 semester!

All the best,

Shinta Hernandez, Department Chair

Who's Who?

You may see some new faces in our department suites. We have several new part time faculty teaching at the Rockville campus, Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus, and the high schools in the Dual Enrollment Program. Please welcome our new part time faculty: **Dr. Justin Lev-Tov** (anthropology), **Professor Hogan Samels** (criminal justice), **Professor Carlos Chapman II** (sociology), and **Professor Shannell Thomas** (sociology). Let's also welcome **Professor Courtney Johnson** (English and reading). She is a full time faculty member in the Department of English and Reading and is teaching one section of CCJS 110: Administration of Justice in our effort to engage in cross-teaching across departments.

Summer Events at the College

Over the summer, a handful of events took place for students and part time faculty in which our Department participated. On August 15 - 16, 2018, **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology), **Professor Ginger Robinson** (criminal justice), **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology), and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) attended the New Student Welcome Fairs at the Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses. These events offered incoming students an opportunity to learn about the Department, its faculty, its course offerings, and many more.

On August 18, 2018, **Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl** (anthropology) and **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) attended the Part Time Faculty "Explore" Conference at the Germantown campus. This Saturday conference offered part time faculty an opportunity to learn more about the College's initiatives and how they can contribute inside and outside of the classroom. Professor Hernandez and other participants were also on the "Scheduling for Student Success" panel, in which they addressed questions part time faculty had in relation to the College's course scheduling practices.

Additional Roles and Responsibilities

All of our faculty and staff play crucial roles in the delivery of the College's mission and the implementation of the Academic Master Plan. Everyone in this Department is aware of the need to address the various strategic plans. In addressing the different initiatives in these plans, several of our faculty and staff have taken on additional roles and responsibilities that will benefit our students in different ways.

Professor Ginger Robinson is now the criminal justice coordinator at both Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring, in addition to her current role as the Takoma Park/Silver Spring criminal justice program advisor. **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** is the sociology coordinator at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus, and **Dr. Katya Salmi** is the sociology coordinator at the Rockville campus. Dr. Salmi is also serving as the General Studies Sociology Discipline Liaison and will be the primary contact for the degree program in our Department. **Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl** will continue to be the anthropology coordinator at both Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring. These four coordinators play a huge role in assisting **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) with discipline-specific and departmental efforts that improve the alignment of the work with the Academic Master Plan and ultimately help the students achieve their goals.

The College continues to improve its assessment system, as recommended by the Middle States Evaluation Team. In addition to her current role as the Rockville criminal justice program advisor, **Professor Debbie Grubb** is in her fourth year as a member of CAT, representing the social sciences and humanities areas. She is also currently working in a Faculty Fellowship position, under the direction of **Dr. Cassandra Jones**, to assist in assessment reform. This team is designed to identify needs and develop recommendations regarding collegewide assessment of student learning in order to strengthen the College and enhance its accountability.

Dr. Takiko Mori-Saunders (sociology) is the new Writing in the Disciplines Rockville coordinator. She joins other dedicated colleagues in this program who are committed to providing resources to faculty on how they can incorporate writing in their courses. Ultimately, the work of these faculty will help students improve their written communication skills. The program also organizes a showcase of students' exemplary writing in all the disciplines taught at the College.

The Department is fortunate to have two faculty members participating in governance this year. **Dr. Dan Santore** (sociology) is continuing as Co-chair of the Faculty Council, in which he serves as a liaison between the faculty and the College Council, as well as provides recommendations to senior administration. **Dr. Tracie Witte** (sociology) is a member of the Student Services and Success Council, which provides a forum to identify issues related to student services.

Our two Administrative Aides – **Ms. Katie Torkashvan** (Rockville) and **Ms. Joan Rozario** (Takoma Park/Silver Spring) – have evolved in their roles, as the Department's work becomes more aligned with the College's mission, Academic Master Plan, and other strategic plans. Of the many things they do, Katie and Joan also now attend Department Leadership Meetings to better understand how collegewide initiatives and priorities may pan out in our Department, and to offer valuable input on the best way to move forward for our students. They are also instrumental at the ground level on the work that happens in our Department as we address the successes and challenges of the various initiatives. After all, in many cases, Katie and Joan are the first points of contact for our students, so hearing their perspectives and knowing their experiences can help shape the future of the Department.

Milestone Moments

After loyally serving Montgomery College for nearly 30 years as a full-time faculty member and criminal justice coordinator, **Professor Kevin Stone** has retired. Having been a former investigator with the Montgomery County Police Department, he delivered high quality instruction that incorporated his experiences into his teaching. He was instrumental in the creation of the online and Z-degree programs of criminal justice. The Department will be forever grateful for his contributions.





What's Happening in the World of "Open?"

There have been numerous collegewide efforts to improve affordability in higher education, and certainly, our Department is making great strides in this area. In our efforts to reduce time to and cost of completion, and to increase the graduation and transfer rates, sociology and criminal justice faculty in this Department have created courses that utilize high quality learning materials that are **FREE** to students. The instructors teaching these Z-courses use various resources, such as a commonly licensed open textbook, an arrangement of online course materials, or a combination of both. To assess the impact of Z-courses on students, **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology) and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) developed a survey that was administered in 10 sections of SOCY 100: Introduction to Sociology at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus in Spring 2018 (n=180). They found that nearly 60 percent of the students surveyed did not purchase a textbook at some point during their college years, and 71 percent stated that costs were the reason. In addition, 95 percent of the students stated that the quality of the open educational resources (OERs) used in their SOCY 100 class was good or excellent.

To further engage in the work of "open," **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology), **Professor Ginger Robinson** (criminal justice), **Professor Debbie Grubb** (criminal justice), and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) attended OER Ed Camp on June 1, 2018 at Howard Community College. Educators shared their OER-related best practices, challenges, and passion, with a particular focus on the impact on teaching/pedagogy and on the learning experiences of students. Participants brought back to their respective home institutions ideas on how to effectively incorporate OERs into their courses. This is of particular interest to criminal justice faculty since they will be delivering a Z-degree program in the near future.



While helping college students save money is of grave importance, the idea of "open" is more than just about textbook costs. The concept of "open" is also about making higher education accessible to and innovative for all students, thus reducing inequities across groups of people and improving social justice for our communities. Led by **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) and **Dr. Michael Mills** (Vice President of ELITE), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship is in full swing. Faculty fellows in this Department spent the entire summer creating interdisciplinary assignments that place their students at the center of their academic experiences through high impact experiential learning opportunities. These assignments incorporate community engagement or service learning into their course work that relates to one of the United Nations SDGs, all the while sharing their "open pedagogy" assignments with the world. These assignments are being deployed in their classes this Fall 2018.

Dr. Naliyah Kaya (sociology), along with her fellowship partners in English and math, created assignments that address United Nations SDG #12 - responsible consumption and production. Her students might choose to run a blanket/bedding/food/toy drive for a local animal shelter or reduce waste in the neighborhood by recycling, among other assignment options. Upon completion of their community engagement work, her students will describe and reflect on their activity and create a digital infographic of their efforts to be shared with the world.

To address United Nations SDG #10 - reduced inequalities, **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology), along with her fellowship partner in biology, will get her students to design a poster that shows the nutritional value of food resources available to Montgomery College students on all campuses in order to gain an understanding of food insecurity at the institution. This assignment can help increase awareness of the severity of food insecurity experienced by our students.

If you are interested in seeing all of the creative high impact interdisciplinary assignments being deployed by these faculty fellows in their Fall 2018 courses, please visit the website: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/elite/unesco/>.



Making a Difference: Student Success Strategies

Here is a snapshot of just **some** of the innovative work the faculty in this Department have been doing to address the challenges our students face. The information outlined below is reflective of the work being implemented at the Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses. Although not shown on this table, Germantown faculty in these disciplines in the Department of Education and Social Sciences are also contributing to these efforts. These student success strategies enable the Department to reach the Academic Affairs Division goals, such as reducing time to and cost of completion, and increasing graduation and transfer rates. The Department takes pride in knowing what, when, where, why, and how to offer high quality instruction, advising, and other related services. In other words, the faculty and staff of this Department know how to meet the students where they are.

Student Success Strategy	Spring 2018	Fall 2018
Z-Courses	14 sections of SOCY 100 1 course (CCJS 222)	24 sections of SOCY 100 4 courses (CCJS 221, 222, 230, 244)
SAP-C Embedded Advising	3 sections of SOCY 100	2 sections of SOCY 100 1 section of CCJS 110
ATPA Embedded Coaches	6 sections of CCJS 110	5 sections of CCJS 110

Student Success Strategy	Winter 2018	Winter 2019
Extended Winter Scheduling	2 sections of SOCY 100	2 sections of SOCY 100 1 section of SOCY 240 1 section of CCJS 110

Experiential Learning Opportunities for Students and Faculty

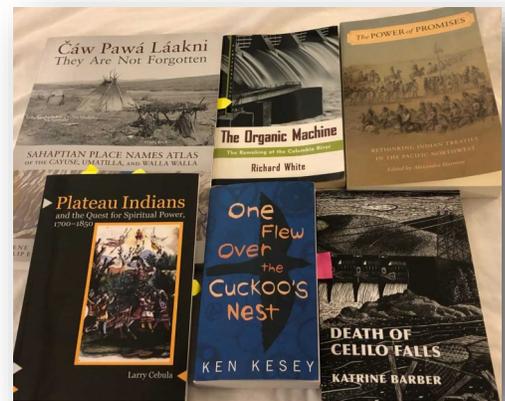
After nearly two years of preparation, **Dr. Takiko Mori-Saunders** (sociology) and other faculty took students to Japan for the Study Abroad Program in May 2018. They visited six towns: Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Kanazawa, Wakura, and Wajima. These towns range from a metropolis to a small fishing village with a long tradition of lacquerware production. While in Kyoto, they visited Kyoto Seika University to observe manga and animation production classes, and even had discussions with a faculty member. Students were heavily consumed by their experiences, including meditations at a Buddhist temple. This study abroad opportunity exposed students to many components of the Japanese culture, yet one student stated, "Japanese culture is similar to American culture." While there are distinctions between the two cultures, that student's observations are indicative of globalization. Dr. Mori-Saunders truly enjoyed introducing her culture to these students, and she is already planning for the next trip to Japan, scheduled for May 2020.



Part-time faculty member **Dr. Leszek Sibilski** (sociology), **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology), and 13 SOCY 100 students attended the inaugural ceremony of World Bicycle Day on June 3, 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Leaders from around the world joined these students in addressing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and celebrating the bicycle as a means of promoting good health and well-being, as well as supporting sustainable cities and communities. This field trip opportunity stemmed from an assignment that charged the students with using social media as a tool for social change. This was a rather unique opportunity because it allowed for the students to carry an assignment from idea to action. Without the support of the Montgomery College Foundation, this field trip would not have been possible.



Part-time faculty member **Professor Terilee Edwards-Hewitt** (anthropology) was selected for the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship called The Native American West: A Case Study of the Columbia Plateau. The two-week long institute in June 2018 was based out of Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA and was comprised of 29 scholars, some of whom are tribally enrolled members of indigenous groups throughout the U.S. During this time, Professor Edwards-Hewitt discussed a variety of topics specific to the Native American West history. She and the other scholars visited the Tamastslikt Cultural Institute located on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, as well as local museums in Spokane, WA and Dalles, OR. Professor Edwards-Hewitt is incorporating her learning experiences into her Fall 2018 courses.



Part-time faculty member **Dr. Justin Lev-Tov** (anthropology) participated in a summer excavation project in Israel. The excavation took place in the city of Acre and is known as Total Archaeology at Tel Akko. The site is a large mound, occupied from the Early Bronze Age through the early Hellenistic period, after which the city was moved when the harbor silted up. He uncovered ancient buildings and metalworking installations, and recovered tens of thousands of pottery sherds and lesser amounts of stone tools, animal bones, jewelry beads, and many other artifacts. Dr. Lev-Tov studied the animal bones to better understand what the ancient inhabitants consumed and what influenced their dietary choices.

We're Online!

Make sure to check us out on social media. **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology) has created the opportunity for you to know what is happening in sociology at the College. Use the following: Dr. Kaya's Sociology Page (Facebook), MC Sociology (Facebook), mc_sociology (Instagram), and @DrNaliyahKaya (Twitter). As part of the effort to place embedded classroom support through social media, she posts information about mobile food markets, the Academic Success Center, tutoring hours, job opportunities, transfer fairs, as well as other resources that support and empower our students.

Be sure to also follow **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology)** on Twitter to find out what is happening with our faculty, staff, and students. She also tweets about things happening in higher education across the country. Use this handle: @ProfHernandez2.



Professional Conferences, Fellowships, and Other Accomplishments

In addition to teaching and advising, the faculty in this Department go above and beyond the call of duty. Some faculty have attended and/or presented at conferences, and others have become involved in various fellowships and other opportunities at the College or in the community.

Professor Debbie Grubb (criminal justice) attended the International Summer School for Policing Scholarship on June 18 - 22, 2018. Hosted by George Mason University, the summer school provided advanced training for doctoral students focused on policing research. The conference was co-sponsored by the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, Arizona State University, Center for Justice Leadership and Management, Norwegian Police University College, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Participants discussed video and camera research, evidence-based policing, experimental policing research, police ethnographies, and a host of other timely topics.

Professor Ginger Robinson (criminal justice) was selected to be a faculty fellow in the Global Humanities: Many Voices, One College Fellowship for Fall 2018. The fellowship is part of the National Endowment for the Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges Program. This work provides faculty in non-humanities disciplines to engage in efforts to increase students' critical thinking and cultural competencies. Professor Robinson will work to incorporate information from a global humanities perspective into CCJS 246: Constitutional Law. In addition to her work at the College, she was also selected by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in Maryland criminal defense practice for the seventh year in a row.

Dr. Naliyah Kaya (sociology) co-presented a number of times over the summer at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education in New Orleans, LA. One presentation was entitled "Making Our Work Intersectional: Reimagining Strategies for Promoting Student Engagement, Inclusion and Success through Multicultural Centers." She was also a panelist at the University of Maryland Leadership Education and Development Program at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Dr. Kaya also served on the College Area Review (CAR) Process Committee for the Office of ELITE. She was appreciated and recognized by the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education at the University of Maryland College Park, and thus, she received the Excellence in Service Medal for Outstanding Mentor.

The Dean's Reflections

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

- Martin Luther King, Jr., Ph.D.

The campus, the county, and the country need social scientists more than ever. The need is not to solely provide more explanations and interpretations of data. We offer classes for that. So then, what does it mean to be more than the "sage on the stage?" Students need us to advocate and build just solutions that are grounded in the science of our respective disciplines. As members of the Montgomery College community, we have the rare opportunity to work in a space where we are expected and encouraged to have these discussions predicated on the transparent flow of all ideas.



Contrary to popular opinion, our students do not have a problem with critical thinking. They do it every day. The problem may be that some students aren't thinking critically about the things we want them to. But, are we truly thinking critically about what's important in their lives? Maybe our scholarly discourse sounds as hollow as politicians sending "thoughts and prayers" when a tragedy occurs. What are the reasons our students don't achieve the goal articulated in the College strategic plan of succeeding at equal rates, regardless of college preparation or "circumstance of birth?" Pick one. There's plenty to go around. But really, pick one. Let your students see you choose.

Let our students join us in moving past the courageous conversation and into the courageous action on their behalf. Maybe fighting for affordable housing near campus can't be captured by 50 multiple choice questions. Maybe helping students get a low level possession charge erased so that they can qualify for federal work study can't be solved by more General Education assessment. So many of us are already active in our communities and in our professional disciplines. Call it service learning, or call it showing our students what we do. In the end, the name won't matter. The "arc of justice" isn't going to bend itself.

Quoting the Pulitzer Laureate Kendrick Lamar, "Stay woke."

Dr. Eric Benjamin, Interim Dean of Education and Social Sciences

