

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

Shinta Hernandez, Editor Katie Torkashvan, Layout

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Greetings! Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice! I am excited to offer a platform on which we share information about the work we do in this Department across the three disciplines and two campuses. I hope you enjoy learning more about what many of our colleagues have done during the academic year 2017-2018, and how we can continue supporting our faculty, staff, and students.

Thank you for the hard work you put in everyday for our students, and good luck winding down the semester. Summer break is just around the corner, and I trust that you will have a well-deserved relaxing time. Congratulations on ending another successful year, and have a wonderful summer!

All the best,

Shinta Hernandez, Department Chair

Events at the College**Annual Poster Session**

This year was certainly filled with student-centered events in our Department. As in years past, **Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl** (anthropology) coordinated the Department's signature event - the interdisciplinary, interdepartmental 13th Annual Poster Session. Outstanding student papers were presented during the first week of April 2018. This year, 21 students in the Media Arts & Technologies Department created original digital illustrations based upon their reading of selected sociology, anthropology, and criminal justice papers. Some of this year's titles include "The Dream Act" and "Racial Inequality and the Media."

Dean Eric Benjamin (Education and Social Sciences) and **Dean Frank Trezza** (Visual, Performing, and Media Arts) presented certificates to the student authors and artists at the reception on April 4, 2018. Sadly, this is our last year working with **Professor Martha Vaughan** (graphic design and illustration), who has mentored her student artists through this creative process for the last 13 years.



Dr. Dan Santore (sociology) and **Dr. Nevart Tahmazian** (chemistry) conducted a roundtable discussion at the annual STEAM Engine event on March 22, 2018. This interdisciplinary event addresses the need for students to conduct a deep-dive examination of a complex issue of global importance. Their table topic was entitled "Different Forms of Energy," which stemmed from their Learning Community courses SOCY 100: Introduction to Sociology and CHEM 109: Chemistry and Society. This course pairing is part of the Global Humanities Institute.

The Department has also experienced several exciting "firsts" this year. The first Social Science Dialogue, another interdisciplinary effort, took place on November 15, 2017, initiated by **Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl** (anthropology), **Professor Ginger Robinson** (criminal justice), and **Dr. Dan Santore** (sociology). Students from their classes attended a talk on immigration by Dr. Judith Freidenberg, author of *Community Conversations on Immigration: The View from Prince George's County*. Following the presentations, students explored the topic in their classroom, examined readings from her book, and conducted research in groups. All three classes rejoined on November 27, 2017 for the dialogue when they presented and discussed their findings from three different social science discipline perspectives.

Dr. Naliyah Kaya (sociology) and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) organized the first Spring Sociology Social at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus on April 18, 2018. This event was designed to increase awareness of the discipline, career opportunities, transfer options, the General Studies Degree Program and Ethnic Social Studies Certificate, and our upper-level courses. Students enjoyed mingling with fellow sociology lovers and participated in fun activities that encouraged them to understand and analyze their social world.



Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl (anthropology), **Professor Ginger Robinson** (criminal justice), and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) participated in the first General Studies Match Day on April 10, 2018. This event was intended for General Studies majors seeking more information about the degree program, careers, transfer options, advising, and academic planning. **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology), **Professor Sean Fay** (criminal justice), and **Dr. Nathan Zook** (political science) served as panelists, specifically providing insight to and answering questions from students who are concentrating in the Social Sciences, Administration, and Health (SSAH) Core of the degree program.



Appointed by Faculty Council, **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) serves on the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Faculty Advisory Council. She represents Montgomery College, Howard Community College, and Prince George's Community College. She attends regular meetings with faculty representatives from other Maryland higher education institutions to discuss matters of importance to faculty. This Council advises MHEC and the Secretary of Higher Education in developing and implementing policies that affect higher education in the State of Maryland.

Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology), **Dr. Dan Santore** (sociology), and **Dr. Takiko Mori-Saunders** (sociology) participated in the College's first ever Advising Day on April 25, 2018. They received critical information on the College's comprehensive advising model, including learning about the current advising efforts of the Business Degree Program and the General Studies Degree Program. They also learned about how to advise students on the transfer planning process. Dr. Santore has piloted the General Studies embedded advising in his SOCY 100: Introduction to Sociology sections.

In the Community

Rapors Rising

On April 25 - 27, 2018, Montgomery College launched its very first Raptors Rising Program, which enabled faculty and staff to interact with students at Northwest High School, Northwood High School, and Quince Orchard High School. This engaging program connected these high school students with academic departments, student clubs, FYE, and other important units and areas of the College. **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology), **Professor Debbie Grubb** (criminal justice), and **Professor Sean Fay** (criminal justice) provided interested students with information on our disciplines, courses, and possible career opportunities. This program put crucial resources right at the students' fingertips by going to where the students are.



James Hanson Miles Site

On April 19, 2018, **Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl** (anthropology) presented the final report from the Montgomery College Excavations at the James Hanson Miles Site for the Archaeological Society of Maryland, Mid-Potomac Chapter Meeting. This 19th century farmstead site was excavated by faculty and students from 2008 to 2012. Over 800 students from the College participated in the excavations as part of their coursework for ANTH 215: Human Evolution/Archaeology, ANTH 240: Introduction to Archaeology, and ANTH 250: Archaeological Investigation. The anthropology instructors for these courses were **Dr. Mary Gallagher**, **Professor Harry Iceland**, **Professor Ronald Nunn**, **Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl**, **Dr. Eugenia Robinson**, and **Dr. Maria Sprehn**. This project was a partnership with the Montgomery Parks Archaeology Section.



Professional Conference Presentations

Many of the faculty in our Department have presented at professional conferences throughout the U.S. during this academic year. Here is a snapshot of what a few of us has done.

Part-time Faculty member **Professor Tara Tetrault** (anthropology) was a panelist at the American Anthropological Association Conference in Washington, D.C. in November 2017 on the importance of continued preservation of our national parks.

Dr. Naliyah Kaya (sociology) co-presented at a number of different conferences on multiracial identity, including the Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference at UMCP in March 2018 and the Split this Rock Poetry Festival in Washington, D.C. in April 2018.

Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology) co-presented on the significance of open pedagogy on improving social justice at the OpenEd17 Conference in Anaheim, CA in October 2017 and the Maryland Statewide Summit on Open Educational Resources at UMUC in December 2017.

Part-Time Faculty Highlights Beyond the Classroom



Professor Terilee Edwards-Hewitt (anthropology) has been selected for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Fellowship "The Native American West: A Case Study of the Columbia Plateau." The two-week long institute focuses on a variety of topics in the Native American West and U.S. history, with a focus on Native American people of the region, both historically and present day. Ideas about homeland will be explored, as well as issues related to repatriation, self-determination, and identity. She is interested in exploring the intersectionality of ethnicity, gender, disability, and identity in Native American cultures during the early 19th century. She looks forward to incorporating much of what she learns into the course ANTH 256: World Cultures. Professor Edwards-Hewitt is also Vice President of the Rockville Faculty Council. She has also participated in the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Spending for Student Success for nearly two years.

Professor Tara Tetrault (anthropology) has been engaging her students in a variety of events this year. During Spring 2018, she organized an Anthropology Student Poster Session in which students worked in groups to create a colorful poster highlighting different topics in anthropology, ranging from archaeology to paleontology to medical anthropology. These students presented their posters to the College community. She also co-led a concert and songwriting workshop called "Brighter Day" with musician Caroline Ferrante during Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. This workshop brought several musicians to the College to give a concert on songs that included themes such as sexual assault, abuse, and gay marriage.

Dr. Leszek Sibilski (sociology) launched a love campaign called #LoveUChallenge that originally began as a classroom project with students from SOCY 100: Introduction to Sociology. He used social media to encourage students to apply love to understand their social world and to find ways to resolve the issues that plague this world. Students went into their community and discussed this message of love with people with whom they came into contact. Dr. Sibilski has since been involved in a number of speaking engagements on this campaign, including a faculty retreat on April 7, 2018 called "The Love of Teaching" where faculty participants had an opportunity to reflect on their own love of teaching.

Milestone Moments

After loyally serving Montgomery College for 15 years as a full-time faculty member, sociology coordinator, common course coordinator, and department chair, **Dr. Charlotte Twombly** (sociology) is retiring. She has demonstrated academic leadership in unmatched ways. Most notable are her contributions to the Ethnic Social Studies Certificate, the Annual Poster Session, the Beacon Honors Conference, and the articulation agreement between Montgomery College and the UMBC Shady Grove Social Work Program. She is an expert in distance education and served on the Distance Education Advisory Committee, created the SOCY 100 Common Course, and presented at numerous conferences on distance learning. The Department will be forever grateful for her influence and legacy.



The Department has also seen many faculty and staff changes at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus during this academic year alone. We welcomed **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology) in January 2018, who came to us from the University of Maryland College Park where she was a program coordinator and lecturer. She is a full-time sociology instructor and will be the campus discipline coordinator beginning in Fall 2018. **Dr. Mondonga Mokoli** (sociology) and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) served as temporary full-time instructors during Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, respectively. We also welcomed part-time faculty member **Professor Emerald Jones** (sociology) in Fall 2017, who teaches at both campuses and is currently working on her dissertation at Howard University. Last, but certainly not least, **Administrative Aide Joan Rozario** recently transitioned into a full time employee, which has tremendously helped the Department improve its cohesion of the two campuses. They have all played a significant role in ensuring the stability of department operations and the seamlessness of student success experiences at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus.

Around the World and Back

Dr. Takiko Mori-Saunders (sociology) has always wanted to take students to Japan on an international field trip. Thus, she consulted with **Dr. Rita Kranidis** (Director of the Global Humanities) to plan the Study Abroad Japan Program. After much consultation, Dr. Mori-Saunders is taking a group of students and faculty to Japan in May 2018. In collaboration with Kyoto Seika University, an institution well known for pop culture, manga, and anime production, the group will get a chance to visit manga and animation classes and interact with the students and professors. Another fun fact about Kyoto Seika University is that it just inducted the first African-born president of any Japanese institution, Dr. Oussouby Sacko.



World Bicycle Day

Part-time faculty member **Dr. Leszek Sibilski** (sociology) and his students successfully led a campaign to promote a United Nations (UN) Resolution for World Bicycle Day, eventually gaining the support of Turkmenistan and 56 other nations. The impetus was to increase awareness of the multiple societal benefits of using the bicycle for transportation, leisure, and health. This UN declaration is an acknowledgement of the contribution of cycling to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The logo was designed by **sociology student Isaac Feld** and **Professor John Erik Swanson** (graphic design). World Bicycle Day is on June 3rd.



Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology) and **Dr. Michael Mills** (Vice President of ELITE) have developed and will lead a Summer 2018 fellowship entitled the "United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship." The conceptual framework on which this work is based are the UN SDGs, which are a set of 17 goals that address an array of issues designed to achieve and maintain social justice in and around the community. Faculty will work in interdisciplinary, intercampus teams to create renewable assignments (which will have a Creative Commons license) for deployment in their Fall 2018 courses. Faculty will focus on a particular SDG, and students will be placed in the community through service learning projects. These open pedagogy assignments can help students become agents of change in their own community through their coursework. The student learning process becomes more engaging and more collaborative, and the global sharing component of this open educational practice may increase overall student success. Among many others, **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology) and **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology) have been selected to be summer faculty fellows.



We're Online!

Follow us on social media! Organized by **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology), you can now follow sociology by using the following: MC Sociology (Facebook) and mc_sociology (Instagram).



You can also follow **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology)** on Twitter to find out what is happening with our faculty, staff, and students. Use this handle: @ProfHernandez2.

Awards and Recognitions

Professor Debbie Grubb (criminal justice) has been awarded the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty of the Year Award. She is being publicly recognized by **College President Dr. DeRionne Pollard** at the Closing Meeting on May 16, 2018 for her sustained teaching excellence, academic advising, professional accomplishments, and service to the College and the community. She will be the Bearer of the Mace at Commencement on May 18, 2018.

Dr. Katya Salmi (sociology) and **Dr. Melissa Gouge** (sociology) received the Part-Time Faculty Teaching Excellence Award at the Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses, respectively. They have been identified as exceptional instructors with a positive, inspiring, and long-lasting effect on students and their learning.

Dr. Leszek Sibilski (sociology) received the Rockville Part-Time Faculty Community Engagement Award. He is being recognized for his service to the sociology discipline, the College, and the community. Some of his notable accomplishments include the #LoveUChallenge campaign and the United Nations declaration of World Bicycle Day.

Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology) is being recognized in Austin, TX on May 27, 2018 during the NISOD Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration. She is receiving broader recognition for her accomplishments in higher education after having been awarded the Montgomery College Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award in May 2017.

Reflecting on the Past and Moving Toward a Sustainable Future

In addition to all of the great work we have done in our Department during this academic year, there were several additional things that occurred at the College that kept us all very busy, including our hosting external visits. Here is a snapshot of just a few of those events that directly impact the work of our Department colleagues.

Understanding the value of part time faculty, the College has increased its efforts to further engage them throughout the institution through its first ever Part Time Faculty Passport to Student Success. With hundreds in attendance in August 2017 and January 2018, part time faculty received an opportunity to learn about academic affairs priorities and student success initiatives. They were also involved in breakout sessions that enabled them to understand how these priorities and initiatives can translate into their daily interactions with students.

One of the most significant events of the year was the accreditation process done by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The three-year self-study was co-led by our very own **Dean Eric Benjamin** (Education and Social Sciences). In October 2017, the Middle States Team Chair Dr. Margaret McMenamin conducted a preliminary visit, and in March 2018, the entire team observed College operations and interviewed various stakeholders. The good news is that we have been accredited, and our work moving forward will revolve around social justice and innovation.

In November 2017 and April 2018, Achieving the Dream (ATD) Leadership Coach Dr. Karen Stout and Data Coach Dr. Donna Jovanovich visited the College as part of our three-year inclusion in this national network. They observed daily operations, focusing mainly on our work around four institutional priorities - start smart, guided pathways, comprehensive advising, and scheduling for student success. Being an ATD institution means that we have access to a plethora of resources from all over the U.S. that enable us to effectively promote learning, equity, diversity, and cultural responsiveness to support student success and retention. As Co-Chair of the ATD Core Team, **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) helps to ensure that we champion sustainable transformation through analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and involvement in a community of practice so that more of our students can achieve their educational goals.

In response to macro-level forces, such as the mandates of the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act (CCRCCA) of 2013, our work in the upcoming years will be even more critical for our students. In response to these factors, among others, these documents were written and released to the College community: Academic Master Plan Implementation Update (February 2018), Student Affairs Master Plan (March 2018), and the Professional Development Master Plan (March 2018). These master plans serve as guiding documents for all College employees. Finally, to wrap up the academic year, **College President Dr. DeRionne Pollard** delivered the State of the College on April 12, 2018, in which she discussed the direction of the College beyond the year 2020 and emphasized that our work is even more important as the county and the state continue to experience rapid demographic, economic, political, and social changes.

Many Thanks to the Department Administrative Aides

Before I conclude, it is incredibly important to me that I publicly recognize the important work of our Department administrative aides, **Katie Torkashvan** (Rockville) and **Joan Rozario** (Takoma Park/Silver Spring). I have often stated, and truly believe, that the daily operations of our Department run smoothly because of their efforts. Their institutional knowledge and their desire and ability to provide exceptional support to faculty, staff, and students do not go unnoticed. The Department recognizes and appreciates all that they do. Thank you, Katie and Joan!



Annual Poster Session

