Welcome Back & Returning Student Updates!

Welcome back! Despite that summer is a time for relaxing, this has been a busy and eventful summer for many of our graduate students...

For student Liz Kernan this was a busy, but exciting summer for me. Amidst taking a couple online classes and working in the financial district, Liz also did research for the Chinese Progressive Association to help design and implement a survey to measure the impacts of gentrification in Boston’s Chinatown. She was also chosen to be a Tomodachi Inouye Scholar, which was a summer program funded by the Japanese government in order to honor the relationship between the U.S. and Japan. Other highlights of the summer included going to the Beyonce and Jay-Z concert and taking advantage of the free paddle boarding and kayaking in front of UMass.

For student Lena Campagna has been working as an RA on Professor Hartwell’s Integrated Re-entry and Peer Support (IRAPS) project. They begin data collection this fall. Lastly but most importantly, Jay and his wife Melissa’s baby, Elinor Belle, was born on May 12th. Elle enjoys going on walks in her stroller, being fussy from time to time, and making her parents very happy.

Jessica Leblanc had a great summer and is sad to see her favorite season come to a close. Although she didn’t take any big vacations, she did spend her weekends at the beach, biking to Jamaica Pond, and camping in New Hampshire. She also took a trip to NYC to see a live taping of the Colbert.

Kate Phelps traveled a lot this summer and is an amalgam of academic enthusiast, woodsy gal, and wannabe songstress. Her current research interests include women’s health, socio-economic status, and food insecurity.
Returning Student Updates Cont...

Anna Andrews spent the last year completing a Fulbright grant in Bulgaria. Enjoying her field site of a local high school she taught students and set up group discussions for young women, while researching gender inequality in higher ed in the Balkans. She worked on learning Bulgarian, went to the Russian Olympics, cemented her Whovianness by going to Doctor Who’s 50th Anniversary, traveled around Europe, and most importantly had a great time with her amazing students. All 450 beautiful people while doing her research project, and while she misses them like crazy, she happily returns to UMB to finish up her MA and enjoy not knowing what’s around the corner!

Andrew Fasullo interned with Let’s Get Ready, a nonprofit organization that offers free SAT and college prep to low income and first generation college bound high school students. In his free time, he kayaked on the Boston harbor through UMass’ boating program and spent time with my family in NYC and at home in Pennsylvania. He also really enjoyed long distance running throughout the Boston area.

For Stephanie Cruz, summer was fun but too short. She spent a lot of time with family and friends but it seemed like it just flew by! She has completed all requirements for her BA in CJ & Soc, and is trying to finish up her MA and hopes to be done by May of 2015!

Meredith Gamble had a great summer where she spent a lot of time on Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire with family and friends. She also took the time away from classes to grow a small vegetable garden and get crafty with some DIY projects around her apartment.

Benet Pellows spent his summer working with the Harvard Sociology department doing research on post traumatic growth following natural disasters. He is looking forward to seeing his classmates and enjoying his last semester.

This summer Alex Sahtouris did a lot of traveling throughout the east coast. She also caught up on a lot of reading and spent the hot summer days at the beach.

For Tatiana Williams-Rodriguez summer was busy, but good. She likes to take advantage of the summer as an educator in the public school system. She works in a charter school north of Boston, so my academic interests primarily relate to the education system.

Justine Bulgar-Medina spent her summer continuing her work with COSMIC looking at engineering in elementary school classrooms and assisting Professor Bersani on a project continued from the academic year. Additionally, she worked with Institutional Research and the CLA surveying incoming freshmen and rising sophomores.
Meet Our Graduate Program Directors!

Andrea Leverentz, PhD

Dr. Leverentz is the MA program director and is primarily a qualitative researcher interested in issues of the community context of crime and gender and crime. In her book, she analyzes the narratives women returning from prison use to describe and define their lives as they reenter society and attempt to desist from offending and drug use. She looks at the ways in which their lives are socially contextualized and how they actively construct narratives to explain them, though interactions with other individuals and institutions. For the past several years, she has been doing fieldwork in several Boston area communities to better understand how communities understand and experience crime, and how this is shaped by community context.

Her ongoing research includes a NSF funded project on the neighborhood context of prisoner reentry and desistance (working with Casey Ryan, Eileen Harrington (Kirk), and Patrice Hogan). They’re in the midst of collecting data which includes repeated interviews with people returning from the Suffolk County House of Corrections and participant observation in several Boston-area communities. Her recent publications include:

"New parochialism and community dynamics: Benefits and possible collateral consequences." Online first in *Criminology and Public Policy.*

In it for the long haul: The utility of former prisoner-family social support exchanges.” (With Damian Martinez), *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology* 2(1): 68-94.

She also has a forthcoming book review in *Contemporary Sociology of Women Exiting Prison: Critical essays on gender, post-release support, and survival,* edited by Bree Carlton and Marie Segrave.

Reef Younggreen, PhD

Dr. Younggreen is an Associate Professor, and in his second year as the Graduate Program Director of the PhD program and one of the few social psychologists in the department. His past work has focused on the intersection of status processes, decision making, and informal aspects of deviance. His work is primarily experimental, and he conducts his research in an on-campus laboratory, the Decision Making Lab, one shared with a Behavioral Economist and a Management scholar.
Faculty & Program Updates

Our faculty have been quite busy this summer as well!

This past July, Professor Siamak Movahedi was the Keynote Speaker at the Conference at the Iran University of Medical Sciences, Mental Health Research institute. The title of his talk was: To Act or Not to Act as Therapeutic Sherlock Holmes: Characters in Search of an Author in the Psychoanalytic Situation. In addition he published the following: Movahedi, S. (2014). The Narcissism of Minor Differences: The Status Anxiety & Disciplinary Intolerance between Sociology and Psychoanalysis. In L Chancer and J. Andrews (Ed.), The Unhappy Divorce of Sociology and Psychoanalysis, Pp. 140-155. London, England: Palgrave Macmillan.

Professor Bianca Bersani has been busy with her 3 little ones. Isaac and Lucas were born in January. She also had a new publications including the following:


Professor Cinzia Solari has been working on several writing projects this summer. Along with her forthcoming piece: Solari, Cinzia. “Prostitutes” and “Defectors”: How the Ukrainian State Constructs Women Emigrants to Italy and the USA.” The Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. She submitted a piece to an edited volume on Ukrainian migration, “Epilogue: Pushing the Boundaries of Migration Studies.” She has also been working on a piece with Smitha Radhakrishnan titled “Empowered Women, Failed Patriarchs: Transnational Anxieties in Late Global Capitalism” which will be submitted for peer review to a special issue of Sociological Compass. In addition, she presented at the ASA on her paper, “Transnational Moral Economies: Discourses of Poverty, Nationalism and Motherhood in Ukrainian Migration” on a panel session sponsored by the Section on the Sociology of the Family.

Professor Xiaogang Deng received a one year Research Fellowship on Institutional Corruption from the Edmond Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. He will use the fund to study corruption in China starting September 2014.

Our department chair, Russell Schutt, had a busy summer! His work over the summer included completion of two books, presentation of two papers at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, work on an ASA committee, and ongoing co-management of a large research project on homeless veterans.

Professor Stephanie Hartwell had a busy summer and is excited to start her new job as Associate Dean of CLA this fall. She also published a new paper looking at Trauma Among Justice Involved Veterans and received the Presidents Creative Economy grant. She also had 2 new puppies added on to her family!

Professor Apketar traveled to Singapore to meet with colleagues who are also working on diversity in public space. Her paper on gentrification and diversity in a New York community garden was accepted for publication in Sociological Forum and she organized an ASA session on Race and Ethnicity in Everyday Encounters.

Professor Andrea Leverentz gave the following talks:

Where are the women? Community perceptions of women’s roles in crime and crime responses — Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco, August 2014

Negotiating competing narratives of reentry and desistance — Racial Democracy Crime and Justice Network, Columbus, Ohio State University, July 2014.
Welcome New Faculty Members!

Mathew J. Creighton, PhD

Mathew J. Creighton is primarily concerned with the causes and consequences of immigration on both sides of the border. In the context of destination, he focuses on anti-immigrant sentiment and the implication of social incorporation for health inequality. In the context of origin, he considers the role of absent parents in schooling and the link between networks, decisions to migrate and health. His most recent research explores the formation of the “other”, focusing on attitudes toward religion and immigration. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals in sociology, demography, public health, history, urban studies and political science.

He enjoys teaching a variety of courses, both graduate and undergraduate, on topics ranging from social theory to research design, statistics and quantitative methodology. He has directed numerous undergraduate and masters theses and he currently has two PhD students from his previous institution, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, of whom he is very fond. When possible, Mathew seeks new places students, which has lead him to give courses in Mexico City, Seoul and Istanbul.

Professor Creighton graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2009 with a joint PhD in sociology and demography. Before arriving at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, he was a member Department of Political and Social Science at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and a postdoctoral fellow in the Office of Population Research at Princeton University.

Dr. Sofya Aptekar is joining the Sociology Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston this Fall 2014. Her most recent research explores everyday dynamics of diversity in urban public spaces, relying on ethnographic methods and collaborating with colleagues in Singapore and South Africa. Sofya’s book, The Road to Citizenship: What Naturalization Means for Immigrants and the United States is coming out in February of 2014 with Rutgers University Press. Along with race and ethnicity, immigration, cities, culture, and inequality, Sofya is interested in nationalism and alternatives to capitalism. Sofya’s work has appeared in Ethnic and Racial Studies, Ethnicities, Social Science Quarterly, and Citizenship Studies, and will soon appear in Sociological Forum. Prior to her current position, Sofya worked as a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Office of Population Research at Princeton University. She received her PhD in Sociology from Princeton University in 2010. In addition to UMB, Sofya has taught courses at Princeton, Rutgers, Queens College, Brooklyn College, Hunter College.

Elizabeth Brown, PhD

Dr. Brown is joining the Sociology Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston as an assistant professor in the fall of 2014. Prior to coming to UMass Boston, she was a member of the faculty in the Criminology and Criminal Justice department at Niagara University. After graduating from Tufts University with a B.A. in Psychology in 2000, she went on to receive a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the School of Criminal Justice at the University at Albany, State University of New York, in 2009. Her research on penal policy, incarceration, public opinion, and state-level criminal justice issues has been published in Punishment & Society, Albany Law Review, Sociology Compass, and Criminal Justice Policy Review. Her current research considers trajectories or patterns in incarceration rates across U.S. states.
Welcome Incoming Graduate Students!

Audris Campbell originally hails from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. She attended Florida State University (B.S. in Sociology & Criminology) and the University of Georgia (Master of Public Administration). She is excited to be studying Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston this fall. She enjoys visiting new restaurants, volunteering with service groups, and attending live music events.

Alessandra Bazo Vienrich completed her M.A in sociology at Lehigh University this past May and spent part of the summer at home in North Carolina. Alessandra, who is originally from Lima, Peru, received her bachelor’s degree in Sociology & Not-for-Profit Management from Salem College, in Winston-Salem, NC. For her master’s thesis, she spent last summer interviewing undocumented students in North Carolina in an effort to understand their educational trajectories in a state that does not provide in-state tuition for undocumented students. Her interests revolve around immigration and the immigrant experience, she is interested in undocumented immigrants, specially undocumented youth and their experiences as they come of age. During her free time Alessandra enjoys practicing yoga and thrift store shopping.

Brittne Lunniss recently graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with her B.A. in Sociology. True to her Seattle roots, she is a veteraned barista who enjoys camping, hiking and boating on the Puget Sound. Brittne is particularly interested in the areas of Crime, Gender and Deviance and looks forward to a career in education and research. Though she is Pacific Northwest born and raised, Brittne looks forward to the adventures of navigating a new city. Her two cats, Atticus and Freya, are also along for the ride... (they’re excited, too!)

Adam Pittman’s research interest is inequality of race and class within the criminal justice system. Particularly, he is interested in the causes and social repercussions of mass incarceration. He looks forward to growing as a sociologist with a strong commitment to the public good during his time at UMass Boston.

Emily Lauer had a busy summer of travel, including a visit to Austria to present work on mortality trends in adults with intellectual disability at the European regional conference of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intentional and Developmental Disabilities. She is the Interim Director for the Center for Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Research (CDDER) at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center at the UMass Medical School. Her interests are in population-level health and public policy, particularly related to health and risk for people with disabilities. Emily has a Master’s of Public Health in Biostatistics from Rutgers and a BA in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Boston University. Emily lives in Southern NH with her husband.

Candace Cantrell is a Boston University Master’s in Psychology graduate with interests in Social Psychology. She has a passion for teaching and working with students, and hopes to pursue a career as a Professor after finishing her Doctorate. When not in school or at work, Candace is often reading humorous murder mystery novels or writing her own fictional stories. A Florida native who moved to this state only a few years ago, she (rather ironically) dislikes hot weather and spent most of her summer just trying to keep from getting sunburned! Candace can be a bit wacky at times, but she is excited to be getting back to school and is looking forward to meeting and working with you all!

Eileen Kirk (formerly Harrington) has spent over 10 years working in the non-profit field, most recently as the Director of Reporting and Evaluation for Community Servings, a Jamaica Plain based food and nutrition organization. At Community Servings, she managed the outcomes tracking and reporting for a food service job training program, where the majority of program participants were ex-offenders. As she became more involved in the program, I was driven to complete research on re-entry programs, and I am excited to have the opportunity to delve further into this area through my studies at UMass Boston. For her previous educational experience, she has an MPA from Suffolk University, and completed coursework in the Masters of Urban and Regional Policy Program at Northeastern University, before deciding to pursue a PhD. Besides joining the PhD program in sociology at UMass Boston, she had several other major life changes over the summer! She got married in May, had a baby girl in July, and bought a house in August. Life has been a little crazy (in many great ways), and looks forward to settling into all these changes come fall!
Welcome Incoming Graduate Students Cont...

Kristina Jensen graduated from Boise State University in December of 2013 with a BS in Sociology and a minor in Multi-Ethnic Studies. She moved her family to the Boston area, from Idaho, in July and has been busy getting set up and familiarizing herself with the area. Coming from a financially meager childhood, poverty and inequality are her passions. Being the first person in her family to achieve this level of education she feels honored and privileged to be here! She looks forward to getting to know everyone, learning new theories, absorbing new ideas, and experiencing all UMB and its surrounding area has to offer.

Kathryn Sabella is a 2004 graduate of the MA in Applied Sociology program at UMB. She is currently Project Director of the Transitions Research and Training Center in the Department of Psychiatry at UMASS Medical School. The Transitions RTC conducts research, training, and dissemination activities to improve the supports for youth and young adults with serious mental health conditions. Kathryn is married to Nicholas, owner of a residential remodeling company. They reside in North Framingham with their two year old daughter, Juliana.

Christine Candler is 24 years old and grew up in Weymouth, MA. She is new to the Applied Sociology program this year, and graduated from Bridgewater State University in 2013, with a degree in Sociology. This summer, she spent a month in Ecuador volunteering for a tutoring program where she designed a program exercising team building skills, self awareness/potential, and goal setting for children ages 6-11.

Elizabeth Estrada is originally from San Antonio and recently moved to the Boston area to pursue a Master's degree in Sociology. This past May, she received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of the Incarnate Word. This Fall she will serve as a TA in hopes of gaining experience in the education field.

We have a few more graduate students joining us this fall: Gifty Debordes-Jackson, Anant Verma.
The Graduate Sociology Student Association

Our Mission
The Graduate Sociology Student Association (GSSA) is here to build a sense of community, among graduate sociology students and the sociology faculty, by providing opportunities to socialize and engage with the larger campus and Boston communities. The GSSA is open to all graduate students in Sociology and is committed to being respectful, resourceful, supportive, and above all, welcoming. GSSA’s mission is to enrich student involvement across all aspects of university life and within the broader community.

Past Events and Activities:
The GSSA aims to organize a wide range of activities that appeal to students’ diverse interests. Past years have included:

- Involvement in the Mother’s Day Peacewalk.
- Assisting with Boston’s Homeless Census.
- Hosting dinners and social get-togethers.

Suggestions/Questions??

The GSSA is excited to serve and represent you! If you have suggestions/feedback, please contact:

umbsocgssa@gmail.com

The GSSA

Anna, Treasurer

LeLena, President
This exciting Masters Program in Applied Sociology is perfect for anyone looking for the opportunity to explore and develop their abilities to consider, analyze and contribute to sociological policy, program development, research or the management of social agencies. Our graduates are researchers, managers, instructors, policy analysts, and service providers in health care, social service and criminal justice agencies, and corporate departments throughout the area. Many have continued their advanced studies in PhD programs, as well. In addition to our 2 year MA program, we offer an accelerated, 5-year BA-to-MA program for qualified UMass Boston undergraduates providing the chance to complete master’s level study in a more timely way than otherwise possible. We also offer a Graduate Certificate in Forensic Services and a Graduate Certificate in Survey Research.

The PhD Program in Sociology builds on the success of our MA Program in Applied Sociology and the research and scholarly accomplishments of our dynamic faculty. PhD students will complete a core set of courses in social theory and research methods and then concentrate in one of three areas: health, mental health and health care services; communities and crime; or immigration and globalization.