Welcome Back & Student Updates!

Welcome back! UMass Boston Sociology graduate students and faculty had a very successful and exciting Fall 2014 semester! The department welcomed new faculty members and hosted a colloquium series with scholars from universities throughout the United States. Our students were hard at work juggling their classes, preparing submissions to conferences and journals along with pursuing their own research endeavors! The Graduate Student Association was able to develop new relationships with organizations in the Boston area with the help of our graduate students. While we are excited to be back for the Spring semester, many of us took advantage of our time off! Here are some updates...

Andrew Fasullo enjoyed spending Christmas and New Year’s at home with his family. He enjoyed spending time with them especially by going out to the movies together. He’s looking forward to starting the semester and seeing everyone after the break!

Kate Phelps spent one glorious week in Wisconsin visiting family over the break. She played a lot of Euchre, ate delicious food, and saw a porcupine! Otherwise she has been catching up on sleep, spending time with friends, winter camping, and reading for the substantive exam in the fall! Kate will be attending the ESS Conference in New York in February, and has submitted several other proposals for conferences in the upcoming year.

Jay Byron has been reading for the comprehensive exam, visiting with friends and family, and taking naps.

For Stephanie Cruz winter break was relaxing but obviously too short. She spent the last few days of break in Puerto Rico!! Other than that, she is slowly planning for graduation! #Classof2015 :)

After celebrating a fun New Years Eve in NYC, this break Liz Kernan received the amazing opportunity to be a University trip adviser to a group of UMB undergraduate students going to Detroit on a service learning trip through Beacon Voyages of Service. The focus of the trip was to learn about economic inequalities through working with homeless shelters, soup kitchens and community organizations focused in multiple areas such as sex trafficking, urban gardening, and Alcoholics Anonymous. One highlight of the trip was to tour the Henry Ford museum, where the famous Rosa Parks bus is displayed. This semester, she is looking forward to working with Dr. Zaykowski and Brittne on a project involving youth violence and gang prevention, and is especially excited to graduate in May!

Meredith Gamble had an awesome break! She spent 3 weeks in Guatemala visiting the in-laws. Three weeks of great company, food, and weather! She spent the New Year there so lots of tamales, fireworks, and perfecting her tortilla making skills. Her mother in law came back from Guatemala with her and will be staying for a few months - this means lots of a great homecooked meals :) Also, Rio (her puppy) is still very cute and so big now! She will be presenting her research on Guatemalan immigrant experiences in the Boston area at the 2015 ESS Conference in February.

Lena Campagna had an enjoyable break! She was able to catch up on comp exam reading, sleep and running. She also was able to get away and spend time in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara visiting friends. This past Fall, Lena presented at the Graduate Public Sociology Conference at George Mason University and will be presenting at ESS in New York in February.

Brittne Lunniss spent the majority of her Winter break at home in Seattle, Washington. Aside from this, she took the opportunity to spend some quality time with her cats and watch a healthy amount of Netflix. Brittne also began training for the FBI fitness exam and worked on studying for her paramedic certification. Moving forward, Brittne is enthused to be taking a Gender Consortium course at MIT, while continuing her work on some exciting faculty projects.

Anna Andrews fulfilled her lifelong dream of seeing both Emma Stone and Alan Cumming perform live when she went to see cabaret in NYC for her mother’s birthday. Other than that, she submitted PhD apps, applied to conferences, and completed a writeup on Bulgaria for the Salem State Philosophy Department.

This fall, Audris Campbell completed her first semester at UMB which she considers an accomplishment! In addition, working alongside the GSA, she helped to host their first event of the semester - a Grant Writing Workshop for graduate students. This event was very successful and she looks forward to working on more events like this. This winter break was extremely relaxing. She has been home catching up on ZZZs before the semester begins.

Kathryn Sabella mostly accomplished her mission of having a nice relaxing break. She spent Christmas on the Cape with her husband, daughter, and extended families, and even got to walk the beach a few times. Work at UMass Medical School remained busy, but she’s excited about her new publication: Klonick, V.V., Sabella, K., Brenner, C., Krzos, I., Ellison, M, Kaiser, S. Davis, M. and Fagan, M. In press. “Perspectives of Young Emerging Adults with Serious Mental Health Conditions on Vocational Peer Mentors”. Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. (Published online, December 30, 2014)

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Faculty & Program Updates

In addition to our graduate students, faculty had a productive Fall 2014 semester and also took advantage of winter break!

Professor Bianca Bersani published the following article: Gary LaFree and Bianca E. Bersani. “Social Disorganization and Terrorist Attacks in the United States Before and After 9/11.” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 13: 455-481.

Professor Elizabeth Brown had a busy fall semester. In the fall, she had the following two publications come out (online first; in print in 2015):


Professor Andrea Leverentz had a busy fall semester. She had a presentation at the American Society of Criminology meetings in San Francisco: “Gendered roles in community life: Community and returning prisoner perspectives on negotiating community.” She also attended a conference in September: “Desistance – sketching the future: An international conference” at the University of Sheffield. In terms of upcoming events, Professor Leverentz (as author) has an author-meets-critics at ESS. She is also giving a talk at the Newcomb College Institute at Tulane U. during the last week of January. She is also training for the Boston marathon!

Our department chair, Professor Russell Schutt and his wife, Beth spent a wonderful week in Puerto Rico, where they had the good fortune of meeting a research professor at the University of Puerto Rico who had earned her PhD at the University of Delaware. With the assistance of SAGE publications, Professor Schutt launched a blog to highlight current applications of research methods presented in Investigating the Social World’s 8th edition. Replies/comments to his entries are most welcome, at http://investigatingthesocialworld.com/. In addition, his co-edited book with Larry Seidman and Matcheri Keshavan, Social Neuroscience: Brain, Mind, and Society, is now in production with Harvard University Press and will be available by May 11. You can read about it at: http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674728974. With the fantastic assistance of Sociology PhD student Kristina Jensen, Professor Schutt has continued work with other researchers on a multi-year VA-funded study of peer support for formerly homeless veterans with substance abuse and mental health problems.

This winter break, Professor Kevin Wozniak and his partner took a Caribbean cruise with stops in Belize City, Belize and Cozumel, Mexico. They also did an excursion to the Mayan ruins at Tulum.

**Fall 2014 Colloquium Talk Recap:**

Each semester, the UMB Sociology department hosts a series of scholars from universities across the United States. This Fall, we hosted scholars from Emerson College, John Jay College, and our own neighboring departments at UMass Boston. In September 2014, Sam Binkley, Associate Professor at Emerson College presented his talk: “Happiness as Enterprise: An Essay on Neoliberal Life” and discussed the expanding influence of positive psychology. In November 2014, Elizabeth Sweet, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, at UMass Boston presented her talk, “Rethinking the Health Implications of Socioeconomic Status: Consumer Society, Debt, and the Embodiment of Inequality.” From a bio-cultural anthropology perspective, she discussed alternative ways of conceptualizing and operationalizing SES in relation to health. Our final Fall colloquium talk featured Robert Garot from the department of Sociology at John Jay College in New York. He presented his talk “The Micropolitics of Immigrant Reception.” His presentation drew on his own field work in Italy where he explains immigration is both fairly recent and contested.

Upcoming Colloquium Talks:

Professor Pawan Dhingra, Tufts University, Sociology, will give a talk titled:

“Hire a White Woman: Racial and Gender Presentations within Immigrant Businesses.”

Date: May 5, 2015
Time: 12:30-2:00pm
Venue: Campus Center 3545

The talk is co-sponsored by the Institute for Asian American Studies, UMass Boston.

Fall 2014 Highlights!

On November 6, 2014, Andrew Fasullo, Liz Kernan, Lena Campagna and Tatiana Williams-Rodriguez attended a panel discussion at the Federal Reserve Bank in Downtown Boston. The event was hosted by Let’s Get Ready, a nonprofit organization that provides free SAT and college prep to low income high school students. Panelists included Eric Waldo, Executive Director of First Lady Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative and Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Anna Andrews, Andrew Fasullo and Lena Campagna worked with the organization during September and October to help collect and organize statistics for the event’s brochure and event materials.

This past December, Professor Russell Schutt hosted the annual department holiday party where faculty and students were able to relax and enjoy themselves at the end of the semester!
Upcoming Conference Submissions and Deadlines:

Call for Papers:
Society for the Study of Social Problems Call for Papers
Deadline: January 31 at midnight
Theme: Removing the Mask, Lifting the Veil: Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century
Conference date: August 21-23, 2015
Location: Chicago, Illinois

American Society for Criminology Call for Papers
Deadline: March 13, 2015
Theme: The Politics of Crime and Justice
Conference date: November 18-21, 2015
Location: Washington, DC

Upcoming Conferences:
American Sociological Association 110th Annual Conference
Theme: Sexualities in the Social World
Conference date: August 22-25, 2015
Location: Chicago, Illinois

Eastern Sociological Association Conference
Theme: Crossing Borders
Conference date: February 26-March 1, 2015
Location: New York, New York

UMass Boston 11th Annual Social Theory Forum
Theme: New Perspectives in Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Class and Sexuality
Conference Date: April 17-18, 2015

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. Members achieve this through service projects, social gatherings, and peer support.

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.

Upcoming 2015 GSSA Events!
Service Projects:
Homeless Census: January 29, 2015
Prison Books Volunteer Night: March 10, 2015
Mother’s Day Peace Walk: May 2015

Professional Workshops:
Finding Funding for Sociology Graduate Students: TBA
CV Writing Workshop: April 7, 2015

More social events are in the works as well!
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. We also offer a [Graduate Certificate in Forensic Services](http://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/dept/sociology/gradprograms.html) and a [Graduate Certificate in Survey Research](http://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/dept/sociology/gradprograms.html).

The **PhD Program in Sociology** builds on the success of our [MA Program in Applied Sociology](http://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/dept/sociology/gradprograms.html) 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.