

# SOCS Scoop

Marquette University - Milwaukee  
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Department of Social and Cultural Sciences  
A Multidisciplinary Department

## *From the Chair*



My first months as department chair have flown by. One thing is crystal clear. I never really appreciated the dedication of my predecessors. So belated thanks to all of them. A particular shout-out to Dr. Coles who left the department in such great shape before finishing up her term as chair. I hope she is enjoying a much-deserved sabbatical and change of scenery in Cape Town, South Africa as director of Marquette's study abroad program there.

There have been a few changes around the hallowed halls of Lalumiere. **Dr. Gale Miller**, who retired in May, has been missed by all. And while can't be replaced, there will be some new faces around next month as we bring several candidates to campus to interview for that position. Also, we welcome the newest member of our faculty, **Dr. David Nowacek**, and provide a faculty profile below by way of a short introduction.

One of the department's initiatives this year is to find ways to highlight the research work that is being done by our students. We've decided to host an annual event, starting this Spring, to bring together students from across our four programs: Anthropology, Criminology and Law Studies, Social Welfare and Justice and Sociology. Our hope is to provide a forum for multi-disciplinary conversations and to

encourage more research participation in the future. Stay tuned for more details.

I can honestly say that, very often, the best parts of my week are the hours I spend in the classroom and lab. Partly because it is an escape from meetings and relentless email inbox, but also because it gives me a chance to connect with students who share my interest in archaeology. In the photo below, students in the introductory archaeology class are doing a lab exercise in O'Donnell field locating and mapping artifact scatters. (Top: A. Bailey, S. DeVogelar, M. Buchite, Bottom: R. Niswander, C. Grabowski, D. Fleming)



## Faculty Profile – Dr. David Nowacek



It is my pleasure to introduce the most recent addition to the SOCS faculty, **Dr. David Nowacek**. In fact, students and faculty alike have had numerous opportunities to make his acquaintance already. This semester he is teaching classes in sociological theory as well as a new special topics class entitled, Social Perspectives on Environmental Issues. In the classroom, Dr. Nowacek has been impressed by the range of views that Marquette students bring to the discussion of human-environmental relationships. He has also shared his research interests in sociolinguistics with the faculty at the first departmental research colloquium.

Dr. Nowacek comes to us after teaching sociology at UWM for eight years. He began there after completing his dissertation at UW-Madison, which focused on the intersection of social theory and the law. But he didn't always know that he would end up a social scientist. One of his lifelong loves has been music, which he studied as an undergraduate at Oberlin College. It was through his musical interests that he met his wife (Ask him, it is a great story!). He continues to find outlets for his creative energy through performing with the MSO Chorus and playing music with his sons. He would love to find some other MU musicians interested in forming a brass quintet, which he has already dubbed "Faculty Brass".

We are fortunate to have such an engaged and multi-faceted new member of our faculty. Welcome, Dr. Nowacek.

## Faculty News



**Drs. Heather Hlavka and Sameena Mulla** received a supplementary grant from NSF to fund undergraduate research experiences. This will allow them to support the incorporation of undergraduate research into their 2-year project on sexual assault adjudication funded by the Law and Social Science Program of the National Science Foundation. The grant allows them to hire more undergraduate research assistants to assist in ethnographic observation, participate in analysis, and travel to conferences to present their own research. Currently three SOCS students are working on the project with them: **Amber Powell (CRLS), Bridget Springmire (CRLS), and Kimberly Nolte (ANTH)**.

**Dr. Olga Semukhina** and Kenneth Michael Reynolds published a book entitled *Understanding the Modern Russian Police*. The volume represents the culmination of 10 years of research and provides a timely and comprehensive analysis of the historical development, functions, and contemporary challenges faced by the modern Russian police.



Busy year for **Dr. Angie Harris**. Her work discussing the role of African-American women in the fight against HIV/AIDS was highlighted in the 2013 issue of Marquette's DISCOVER magazine. She was awarded the Faculty in Residence Fellowship in the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center on campus and was accepted into the Clinical Research Scholars Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She presented a paper to the Association of Black Sociologists in NY this summer. In 2013 her work has appeared

in the *Journal of Men's Studies, Men and Masculinities, and Journal of Lesbian Studies*.

**Dr. Jane Peterson** edited a special issue of the journal *Near Eastern Archaeology* on the subject of Public Archaeology: Collaborative and Community Approaches.



**Dr. Louise Cainkar** recently published research discussing global patterns of migration and diaspora among Arabs in the *Arab Studies Journal*.

**Dr. Heather Hlavka** recently published an article entitled "Legal subjectivity of youth victims of sexual assault" in a 2013 issue of *Law and Social Inquiry*.

**Dr. Meghan Stroshine** co-authored an article with S.G. Brandl entitled "The role of officer attributes, job characteristics, and arrest activity in explaining the police use of force" in *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 24(5):551-572.



**Dr. Alex Crampton** has several new publications to her credit: (1) "Population aging as the social body in representation and real life" in *Anthropology and Aging Quarterly*, and (2) "Elder mediation in theory and practice: study results from a national caregiver mediation demonstration project" in *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, and (3) a chapter co-authored with Michael Tsur "Negotiation stands alone" in the volume *Educating Negotiators for Connected World*.

### *Student News*

#### **Report from South Africa – Madeline Kunkel (SOWJ 2015)**

My experience in South Africa has been invaluable. I landed in Cape Town with many

expectations. Those expectations have been both confirmed and challenged, primarily through my service learning at the community organization Mothers Unite. The program was started by one mother who saw children in her neighborhood struggling to get even one meal a day. What began as a service serving soup on her stoop, now provides meals for nearly 80 children every day, and includes early childhood development, after-school care, and even senior programs. The community suffers from an array of social problems in the post-apartheid decades. My experiences with the children and seniors have allowed me to push past stereotypes and see how individuals' lives are shaped in this setting. I will return to Marquette with a new perspective on my SOWJ major. South Africa has deepened my understanding of the Jesuit ideal of living as men and women for others.

#### **Student Research, Honors and Outreach**

**Amber Powell (CRLS)** presented a poster of her research at the University Honors Program Undergraduate Research Forum on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The title of her presentation was *Blaming the Victim: A Look at Sexual Assault Adjudication in the Milwaukee County Courthouse*. **Dr. Heather Hlavka** is her faculty mentor.

This year's winners of the CRLS scholarships are: **Amber Powell** (Francis D. and Jane Keogh Kelly Scholarship) and **Maureen Kaitis** (Jay Balchunas Memorial Scholarship). Congratulations to you both.

**Anna Alioto (ANTH/HIST), Aidan Lopez-Linehan (ANTH), and Cameron Knox (ANTH)** participated in the American Institute of Archaeology's public outreach program in observance of International Archaeology Day program on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's event was "Games Ancient People Played" and the 3 students organized a display and interactive demonstration of medieval games.

**Kaelin Rapport (ANTH)** submitted a proposal with **Dr. Norman Sullivan (ANTH)** and **Lela Franklin (BISC)** to participate in the Forward Thinking competition. The topic is histomorphology and sex chromosome fluorescence.

Four anthropology majors: **Kristie Mayberry, Claudia Grabowski, Danielle**

**Fleming, and Anna Alioto** travelled to Chicago at the invitation of DePaul archaeologist, Dr. Michael Gregory to participate in test excavations at Camp Douglas, a Confederate POW camp.

#### *Alum Profile – Omar Mursal (SOWJ 2013)*



A recent SOWJ graduate, **Omar Mursal** is pursuing a career in social work. He moved to Milwaukee in 2004 as a Somali refugee and is now the first college graduate among those Somali families (and also a recent U.S. citizen). He came to Marquette thinking he would major in computer science, but changed to social welfare and justice when he discovered that so many were depending on him for answers to the problems of post-trauma and navigating daily life in Milwaukee. For his internship, Omar mentored students and worked as a community liaison for Our Next Generation. Marquette students have worked with ONG through Service Learning and the SOCS internship programs. Located at 35<sup>th</sup> and Lisbon, ONG began as a “homework” club and now provides after school educational and mentorship programs. ONG hired Omar to continue providing a bridge to better serve Somalis and identify successful partnerships with other service organizations. He also worked for the EOP program over the summer, teaching classes in personal development for pre-college courses taken by high school students. He is currently applying to graduate social work programs to continue his professional training in community –based social work practice.

#### *Alumni News*

2013

**Jonathan Neisdorf (SOC)** is working as a life skills instructor for adults with disabilities at the United Cerebral Palsy Association – Seguin Services and enjoying life in Naperville, IL where he plays in a band and adopted a cat named Sebastian.

**Chelsea Pierski (CRLS)** is Deputy Clark of the Court at the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

**Samantha Kailis (ANTH)** is pursuing a GIS certification at the UW-Madison.

**Katie Stahlmann (ANTH)** is working for EPIC health care software company in Madison. She claims that anthropology prepared her well for the immersion into the corporate world. She describes her

job as making sure that products “fit” into a particular customer’s culture.

**Hameed al-Nassar (ANTH 2013)** is attending graduate school in anthropology at SUNY Stony Brook after spending the summer doing archaeological survey in sunny, Jordan.

2012

**Anna Feeley (SOWJ)** is currently working for Project Ujima at Children’s Hospital. The employment follows her internship there.

**Mary Rose Giesel (SOWJ)** is doing a service year with the Jesuit Service Corps Northwest.

**Melissa May (SOWJ)** has been teaching high school students on the island of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia as part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She has been keeping a blog since she participated in Marquette’s program in South Africa: <http://discoveringbuntu.worldpress.com/>

2010

**Paul Hetman (ANTH/FREN)** started an MBA program in Sustainability Management at DePaul after spending 2 years in Japan teaching English through the JET program.

**Brian Sara (ANTH)** is attending the University of Denver’s School of International Studies and is pursuing a MA in International Studies with a concentration on Security and Human Rights.

2009

**Gretchen Geerts (SOC)** is working on her Masters of Education degree at Loyola University and teaching second-grade, full-time, at St. Dorothy’s Catholic school in Chicago.

**Jennifer Ahern (ANTH/SOCI)** completed a degree in art therapy from Mount Mary College and is now directing residential treatment programs here in Milwaukee.

2008

**Daniel Koska (ANTH/PHIL)** recently graduated from law school at UW-Madison. He has plans to begin practicing law in Illinois soon.

**Amy Harmon (SOWJ)** has left UMOSS Resource Center and is now enrolled in the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration.

2007

**Jaime Boddin (ANTH/ENGL)** was recently appointed Director of the Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department. A Platteville native, Jaime spent a full-year studying abroad in Mongolia with the SIT study abroad program while at Marquette. After graduation she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal – developing an interest in

rural healthcare. She recently graduated from the Washington University, St. Louis School of Public Health where she received a joint MPH/MSW. Congratulations, Jaime!

**Greg Entwhistle (SOCI)** earned his Master's in Public Policy (MPP) from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. 1990's

**Dr. Buffy Smith (SOCI)** published a book entitled *Mentoring At-Risk Students through the Hidden Curriculum of Higher Education*. The work is based on her dissertation research. Dr. Smith is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN

### *Opportunity for Graduates*

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families announces a new Community Building Milwaukee Initiative that may be of interest to recent SOCS graduates. They are currently recruiting 40-50 volunteer facilitators. Training is free, but volunteers would agree to help facilitate an estimated 6 community building workshops over the next 2 years. After that, facilitators would be paid a stipend for participating in the workshops. If interested, contact the Community Building Milwaukee within Wisconsin Community Services at <http://www.wiscs.org/>

### *Study Abroad*



*Above: Students visit a greenhouse at the open prison in Finland.*

The study abroad course "Comparative Crime and Punishment" took place in May 2013. Dr.

Jones, along with 6 Marquette students, studied crime and punishment in Finland and Estonia alongside students from Tampere University, Finland. Highlights of the trip included visiting prisons, meeting with prison officials and former prisoners, and learning about the agencies working with offenders. Cultural activities included a cottage weekend in Finland, complete with traditional smoke sauna, and sightseeing in Tampere, Finland and Tallinn, Estonia.



*Above: Dr. Jones and students enjoy a meal together during the cottage weekend.*

The course will be offered again in May 2014. This time students will study in Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia. Activities in St. Petersburg will include a visit to the KGB museum and the Hermitage. Students from Tampere University, Finlandia University and Appalachian State University will join the group in 2014. For more information about the course contact: [richard.jones@marquette.edu](mailto:richard.jones@marquette.edu)

### *McGee Lecture*

Mark your calendars for the upcoming McGee lecture. This year's lecture will be presented by Mr. Azim Khamisa on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 4:30 pm. Mr. Khamisa founded the Tariq Khamisa Foundation after his teenage son was killed. The foundation hopes to stop youth violence through education, mentorship, and community service programs.

If you would like to include your news or accomplishments here, just send them along and I will make sure they appear in our Spring Newsletter. I would love to hear from you.  
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