Welcome to *The Promise*

I want to welcome everyone to the first edition of our departmental newsletter, *The Promise*. We are very proud of our faculty, staff, student, and alumni accomplishments, and we want to share them with all our friends. Life in Sociology is exciting as we creatively develop our commitment to scholarly, instructional and community service efforts. Here is a powerful indicator of our scholarly contributions: during the 2012 to 2014, our faculty and students have published five books, and twenty-two articles and book chapters, and have presented twenty-four professional lectures and papers. The Center for Social Inquiry we established in 2011 has already hosted international symposia and lectures on water, popular music, the death penalty, and the cultural legacy of Selena. The Center has also conducted policy-relevant research on human services delivery for the City of San Marcos, translational medical research for the University of Texas-Galveston, and the Texas Hospital Association. In terms of our work as teachers, our graduate program has grown to seventy-one students and recent masters’ graduates have gone on for doctoral studies at universities ranging from Penn State and the University of California-Davis to the University of South Florida. Our undergraduate internship program remains a model for preparing students for the professional world of work. We are developing an innovative online masters program in dementia studies. We have recently fortified our commitment to community service by establishing our Task Force on Public Sociology; faculty and students are working together to create programs and courses that enhance the positive impact of our work on issues of importance to our various constituencies.

We think of ourselves as a family, and we suffered the loss of one of our dearest members in February when Dr. Sally Caldwell passed away after a lengthy illness. We celebrated her life and contributions to our family at a memorial service on campus. We will have more information on continuing efforts to honor Dr. Caldwell in our fall 2014 newsletter.

This first edition of *The Promise* can only begin to describe our people, our work, and our joy as sociologists. We especially need our alumni to communicate with us. You are our legacy; we need you to tell us what you are up to—your job, your family, your lives... and hopefully a bit about your memories of the Department and its influence on your life. We want to remain a home to which you can always return—that is our promise!

Dr. Susan Day, Chair  
Department of Sociology
Dr. Deborah Harris was recently invited to lead a panel discussion with women who make their living making food that featured women farmers, chefs, and food writers and bloggers who spoke about their work as women food entrepreneurs. The panel was part of the “Women and Food Symposium” hosted by The Food Lab at The University of Texas at Austin on January 18, 2014. The event assembled a diverse group of women to discuss the role of gender in today's food system. The event featured several panels, including one on the role of women in new food media and how that is shaping the current and future culinary landscape, and one on women's community cookbooks and how these works represented issues such as community and identity. Dr. Harris has conducted research and has taught courses on women and food at Texas State University for several years. She is co-author, with Dr. Patti Giuffre, of the forthcoming book, Taking the Heat: How Gender Inequality is Sustained and Challenged among Women Chefs published by Rutgers University Press.

Dr. Audwin Anderson was appointed Director of the Center for Diversity & Gender Studies, beginning fall 2014. He has served the Department of Sociology with distinction as Director of Graduate Programs for 12 years. Among his early accomplishments with the Center was establishing a new graduate minor in diversity studies, and the very successful Women and Gender Research Collaborative Symposium, "Exploring Gender, Mental Illness and Wellness" in March, 2014.

Ms. Gayle Bouzard received a Center for Social Inquiry grant to support her study of the social processes that shape heterosexual women's sexual identity. She will present the findings of her study at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in San Francisco, CA in August, 2014. Ms. Bouzard is Undergraduate Advisor and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology.

Dr. Kyong Hee Chee served as principal investigator for a community needs assessment study for the Head Start Program in Central Texas, and as project manager for the needs assessment study of human services for the City of San Marcos, conducted by the Center for Social Inquiry in 2013. She presented her work from these studies at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatric, World Congress in Seoul, Korea in summer, 2013.

Ms. Lillian Dees has been at Texas State University since 1962. She is a senior lecturer who teaches Aging and Society, Sociology of Death & Dying, and Introduction to Sociology. Ms. Dees has developed an online course for Aging and Society, and plans to develop an online course for Death and Dying in the coming year.
**Dr. David Dietrich**'s book, *Rebellious Conservatives: Social Movements in Defense of Privilege*, will be published by Palgrave MacMillan. This ground-breaking book examines the underlying motives for participation in conservative social movements, such as the Tea Party. Dr. Dietrich's article, “Avatars of Whiteness,” which examines the ways race is expressed through the process of video game character creation, was published in *Sociological Inquiry* in 2013.

**Dr. Patti Giuffre** has been serving as Graduate Advisor since summer, 2013. She continues to receive awards for her excellent teaching and advising, including the Honors College Stepbany Goodbread Faculty Advisor of the Year and the Alpha Chi Favorite Professor Award in 2012 and 2014. Dr. Giuffre's research focuses on gender, sexuality and work.

**Dr. Deborah Harris** was named the 2013 Outstanding Women's Studies Scholar by the Texas State University Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies. Dr. Harris will publish a chapter co-authored with our graduate alumna, Jamila Zakari, titled “Neo-liberalism and Private Emergency Food Networks,” in *Handbook of Poverty*, Routledge, in 2014.

**Ms. Lois Hickman** is co-coordinator of our undergraduate internship program. Ms. Hickman is an active leader in local community affairs. She has served on the ECI Homespun Advisory Board since 1998, serving as president for numerous years. ECI is a statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays.

**Dr. Chris Johnson** joined the Department of Sociology in fall, 2013. In conjunction with Drs. Day and Chee, he is designing an online graduate program in Dementia Studies, the only one of its kind in the U.S. Dr. Johnson came to Texas State University after spending a year as Visiting Professor in the Ph.D. in the Dementia Studies program at the University of Stirling in Scotland.

**Dr. Joseph Kotarba** is Director of the Center for Social Inquiry in the Department of Sociology. He presented the keynote address at the Fourth Annual Conference of the European Society for the Study of Symbolic Interactionism, in Uppsala, Sweden, in August, 2013. Dr. Kotarba’s most recent book is *Baby Boomer Rock 'n' Roll Fans: The Music Never Ends*, Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield (2013).

**Ms. Lisa Lamb** is the primary online instructor for the Department of Sociology. She teaches Social Deviance, Principles of Sociology, and Drugs and Society. Ms. Lamb has been teaching online sociology courses for over ten years and finds that most of her students are looking for a way to maintain jobs and families while pursuing degrees.

**Dr. Debarun Majumdar** is collaborating with Dr. Gloria Martinez to examine the impact of the immigration debate on Latinos. Their recent paper is “Impact of Immigration-related Challenges and Deportation Worries on the Well-being of Latinos in the US,” in *Camino Real* (2012). Dr. Majumdar presented this study at the Applied Statistical Unit Seminar, Indian Statistical Institute, in Kolkata, India, in July, 2013.

**Dr. Gloria Martinez** is co-principal investigator for the “San Marcos Hispanic Musicians Oral History Project.” The project aims at collecting oral histories of a variety of musicians who performed different genres of Hispanic music. Organizations collaborating on this project are: The Center for Social Inquiry, Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, and The Center for the Study of the Southwest.

**Ms. Kelly Mosel-Talavera** served as guest coach for both Bobcat football and volleyball games this past year. Athletic advisors honored her as a result of her great efforts to help our student-athletes be successful in the classroom. Ms. Mosel-Talavera is co-coordinator of our undergraduate internship program—and is also a dependable source of Girl Scout cookies in the spring.

**Ms. Kay Newling** is completing her Ph.D. in education at Texas State University. Her dissertation topic involves the gendered linkages of occupations to higher education in the U.S. Ms. Newling is an Australian who has lived in the U.S. for the past 15 years, and enjoys traveling to Australia each year to visit family and friends. She is a senior lecturer in our department.

**Dr. Nathan Pino** recent book, *Globalization, Police Reform, and Development: Doing it the Western Way?* (with Graham Ellison) was published by Palgrave in 2012. Dr. Pino has been recently recognized “Rising Star” by the College of Liberal Arts for this exciting work. He is co-editor, with Michael Dellwing and Joseph Kotarba, of *The Death and Resurrection of Deviance*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014.
Dr. Bob Price sponsors our Sociology Club. In 2013-2014, members sent donated text books to schools in Africa; hosted an adventure race challenge stop; invited professors to give talks about models of city growth; and held movie discussion nights. Dr. Price also sponsors our chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, with a robust roster of 60 graduate student members. Dr. Price organized our department’s first participation in a study abroad program in Canterbury, England in summer, 2013.

Dr. Rachel Romero was awarded a grant from the Center for Social Inquiry to fund her multi-media study of street art and gentrification in Austin. Her interviews were published in Lost and Found: 3 Years of Stories, People and Street Art in Austin, Texas. She is presenting a paper on her study, co-authored with our graduate students Thaddeus Atzmon and Raul Casarez, at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco in August, 2014.

Dr. Chad Smith accepted the newly created position of Associate Chair in fall, 2013. His most recent publication, with Michael Lengefeld, is “Nuclear Shadows: Weighing the Environmental Effects of Militarism, Capitalism, and Modernization in a Global Context, 2001-2007,” in Human Ecology Review, 2013. Dr. Smith was also the recipient of two boxes of Girl Scout cookies, courtesy of Ms. Mosel-Talavera, for his winning suggestion of The Promise as the name of our newsletter. He and his wife, Andrea, recently welcomed their second son, Ellison, in March. Their first son, Langston, is now three years old.

Dr. Toni Watt was recently awarded a grant from the Hogg Foundation to evaluate an integrated behavioral health program for children in foster care in Houston/Harris County. Dr. Watt studies child and adolescent health, with recent grants from the George Foundation and the St. David’s Foundation. Her research on the Texas State University support program for foster care alumni (FACES), with Dr. Christine Lynn Norton and Courtney Jones, was recently published in Children and Youth Services Review (2013).

Mr. Mike Whitehawk is currently serving as Academic Advisor for the Department of Sociology, as well as Senior Lecturer. He learned his approach to advising from Dr. Susan Day, who told him several years ago: “Treat your advisees the way you would want your child to be treated.” He and his wife, Samantha’s second child, Gianna, was born on February 6, 2014. Their first child, Kai, is now three years old.

Dr. Jonathan Wivagg teaches our graduate seminar in Impact Analysis and Grant Writing. He works full time as a study director for Westat, a company that conducts social science research for government clients. These clients include the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Minnesota Department of Health. Dr. Wivagg is able to bring expertise from his professional experience into his classes.

Alums… Give us a holler!

We want to stay in touch with our alumni. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments, and we miss you! Please send us an email, telling us a bit about you, your job, your family, where you are living, stuff like that. We are planning more departmental activities in the future, and we want to make sure you are involved. More importantly, we want you to tell us how you want to be involved with the Department of Sociology.

And, if you are ever around, please stop in anytime during the school day for a quick tour of our elegant new building and offices. We’ll take you and your favorite professor for coffee at our new Starbucks to hear what you’ve been up to.

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