

Chair's Corner: Dr. Chad Smith



Welcome to the fall 2019 edition of the Department of Sociology's newsletter, "[The Promise](#)." Every fall brings not only the promise of a new and exciting academic year, but an opportunity for us to share with you the accomplishments of our students and alumni this past academic year. As you can see, we have had another incredible year and we are so excited to share their successes with all of you.

This past academic year marked the 25th anniversary of the Department of Sociology as a stand-alone academic unit. We celebrated both our past and our future at an event in March. Pictures from the event along with some thoughts from two former chairs, Dr. Susan Day and Dr. Rollo Newsom, can be found on page 5. Thanks to all who could make it for the event. We are also able to note several changes in the department. Ms. Lois Hickman has retired after 21 years in the department as an internship coordinator for our B.S. program. Although we are sad to see Ms. Hickman step down as internship coordinator, we are excited to announce she will return this fall to teach one course per semester for us. We are also pleased to announce that this fall, Dr. Claude Bonazzo (B.S., 2001; M.A. 2004) will join us this academic year as a lecturer.

On behalf of the Department of Sociology, I want to thank you for reading "The Promise" and I greatly appreciate your interest in the department. Please keep up with our [news and events](#) and don't hesitate to let us know what you are up to via Facebook and Twitter.

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2019 Outstanding Undergraduate Alumni Award: Kimberly Fischer Hinze (BS Applied Sociology 2003)



Kim started a new job at SA Youth in September 2018. She is their Chief Development Officer and in charge of PR, Marketing and Fundraising. SA Youth empowers San Antonio's high-risk youth and young adults to fulfill their potential by providing quality educational programming in a safe environment.

The vision of SA Youth is that all San Antonio youth and young adults have equitable access to educational opportunities, graduate from high school, and become successful community minded adults, regardless of circumstance. Initially founded in the basement of St. Mary's Catholic Church in 1984, the center served to provide a safe haven for street youth. Their current mission is to empower San Antonio's high-risk youth and young adults to fulfill their potential by providing quality educational programming in a safe environment. SA Youth has ten youth

centers across San Antonio, including one located on the city's west side, a community struggling with juvenile delinquency.

Kim is deeply involved in networking in the San Antonio community. She was the Communications and Public Relations Manager for the SA Stock Show and Rodeo and continues to serve as a volunteer there. Before working at SA Youth, Kim was the Executive Director of Women Involved in Nurturing, Giving, Sharing, Inc (WINGS) in San Antonio. WINGS is a breast cancer organization that bridges the gap between diagnoses and treatment for uninsured women in Central and South Texas. With support from the community and a network of over 200 physicians in the cancer industry, WINGS is able to provide breast cancer treatment services at no-cost to patients in the programs.

Kim is also a Sunday School teacher. Kim's focus has always been in the helping professions. Kim is an advocate for those in need, and creative and productive in her work. She has also mentored many Applied Sociology interns, formally and informally.



Kimberly with presenter, Professor Kelly Mosel-Talavera

2019 Graduate Alumni Award: Dr. Christian Bolden (MA Sociology 2005)



Dr. Christian Bolden is an Associate Professor in the Criminology and Justice Department at Loyola University in New Orleans LA. Dr. Bolden has served as Associate Director of University Honors and Graduate Coordinator (at the same time). He is a well-known scholar of criminology. His particular emphasis include studies of gangs. Most recently, he has a forthcoming book under contract (with Rutgers University Press) entitled *Crimson Streets*. He has received several awards, and competitive grants and fellowships for his research. In fact, he was invited by the FBI to do guest presentations at Quantico after they learned about his research on gangs. He teaches, conducts research, works with non-profits, and engages in advocacy and activism. Dr. Bolden is an exceptional representative of our department, and has been since he graduated from our program.

As a faculty member, he actively uses skills from our program in his research and teaching. He teaches courses in and outside of sociology. His academic career has been shaped by his commitment to social justice. He has served as faculty supervisor for the Students Against Sexual Assault, the African and African American Studies Committee, among others. He has worked on several initiatives with non-profits in the New Orleans area. Currently, he is working with the Modern Slavery Project, which involves studying and supporting homeless youth, particularly those who are vulnerable to trafficking. His research, university and community service, and teaching focus on supporting some of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

Dr. Bolden is positive, optimistic, compassionate, and has made it a goal to support and empower students and members of the local community. He also wants to disrupt student worlds in order to teach compassion and empathy towards others. As examples, he worked with students to help people rebuild after hurricanes. He always takes his students to Angola, the Louisiana State prison, to observe the brutal conditions of prisoners' daily lives. His students have testified in the Louisiana state court about abolishing the state's death penalty law. He is an incredible role model for his students.



Christian with presenter, Dr. Patti Giuffre

Awards & Recognitions

2019 College of Liberal Arts Awards Day Ceremony Awards



Charley Henderson (MA Sociology 2018) with Dean Mary Brennan accepting the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Graduate Student award.



Department of Sociology Academic Excellence Award winners
 Top row L-R: Dr. Smith, Hannah Thomas, William Cox, Ali Mumbach, Mary Blackburn, Charley Henderson
 Bottom row L-R: Brenda Sanchez, Carmen Moralez, Camille Johnson, Kendall Richardson, William Pinteric, Jeffrey Sanchez

Alpha Kappa Delta



Dr. Smith with Herman Spirit Award winner, Hannah Thomas



New AKD inductees: Dylan McConnell, Alyssa Koelemay, Audrie Cortez, Brittany Bailey



Prof. Mosel-Talavera and Clarence Schultz Sociology Scholarship recipient, August Kutac



AA Grusendorf Award for the Outstanding Senior in Sociology and the Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Sociology award winner, Jeffrey Sanchez with Prof. Mosel-Talavera and Prof. Bouzard.

25th Anniversary Celebration

In academic year 1993-1994, the Department of Sociology opened as a stand-alone department. Prior to that year, the department included Anthropology and/or Social Work. Academic year 2018-2019 marked our 25th year anniversary as a singular department.

In March 2019, we gathered at Hays County BBQ in San Marcos, TX to celebrate with past and present faculty, students, and staff. We also celebrated the 2019 alumni award winners, Kimberly Fischer Hinze and Dr. Christian Bolden.

Our 25-year celebration was a source of many wonderful memories. Best of all was seeing former students and hearing about their successes. The one sadness was remembering faculty who are no longer with us. Yet, all in all, it was a great night!

Dr. Susan Day, Professor
Associate Dean, College of
Liberal Arts
Former Chair of Sociology



The 25th year celebration was great fun. Thank you for including me. I am very optimistic about the future of sociology at Texas State. The dramatic increases in both the quantity and quality of scholarship over the last fifteen or so years plus the youthful enthusiasm (even from some not-so-youthful) and superior leadership insure a bright future. Well done and carry on!

Dr. Rollo Newsom, Distinguished
Professor Emeritus
Former Chair of Sociology, Dean of
College of Liberal Arts, and Vice
President for Academic Affairs

Alumni Features

Marcus Mercer (MS Dementia and Aging Studies 2017)

Marcus is the Director of the Ranch at Marbridge Foundation. He was the first student accepted to our MSDA. Prior to his position at Marbridge, Marcus was an Assisted Living Facility Director for Sodalis Assisted Living and Memory Care for 9 years. Marcus is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS). He is a graduate of Texas State University where he received a B.S. in Recreation Administration with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation. He also received a M.S. in Dementia and Aging Studies at Texas State. Marcus has interned at San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation, programmed at the San Marcos Activity Center, and a Therapeutic Specialist at Laurel Ridge Treatment Hospital. Marcus is passionate about working with vulnerable populations and enthusiastic about providing enriching and productive experiences for the residents he serves, as well as cultivating a positive culture for his team. Marbridge is a non-profit residential community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). For over 60 years, Marbridge has shone a light on the capabilities of individuals with IDD. Marbridge is comprised of two assisted livings and one skilled nursing facilities and Marcus is one of three community Directors for Marbridge.



Ashley Pritchard (MS Sustainability Studies 2018)

Ashley Pritchard is an Environmental Investigator for the San Antonio Regional office of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). She is a vital member to the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, Waste Division, and regional Emergency Response Team. Ashley conducts technical investigations, performs environmental monitoring, and prepares analytical reports. She also provides technical and regulatory assistance to the public, regulated community, and other stakeholders. Her investigations are primarily involved with the federal and state regulatory requirements of industrial and hazardous waste, municipal solid waste, and underground storage tanks. Ashley is also a part of the TCEQ Emergency Response Team that responds to environmental emergencies and ensures adequate environmental remediation. Ashley brings an abundance of interdisciplinary knowledge and passion from her former roles at Texas State University. As a graduate student, she analyzed how newspapers in California and Texas have depicted debates about climate change and presented her findings at the International Graduate Student conference (2017). Ashley was invited to join Alpha Chi and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. As an undergraduate, Ashley played a key role in implementing a recycling program for old or damaged keys for the University Locksmith, and she was awarded Student Worker of the Year for the University Police Department (2015). As Vice President of Net Impact (2016), Ashley assisted local businesses in reducing emissions and costs through energy audits. Although, Ashley devoted most of her undergraduate time to Bobcat Build, the second largest, one-day community service project in the state of Texas. She held the full-time positions of Recruitment Chair, Assistant Director, and Director from sophomore to senior year, respectively. Ashley received written accolades from Congressman Lloyd Doggett for her work in Bobcat Build.

Alumni Features



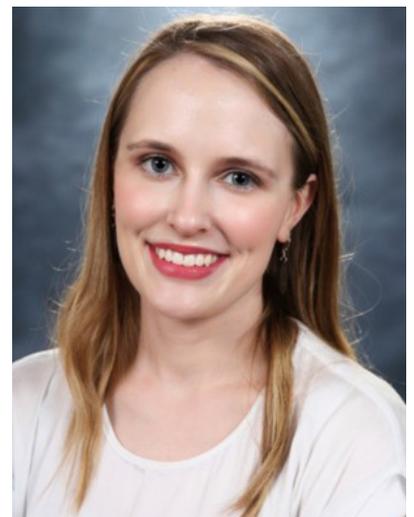
Jesse Silva (MA Sociology 2011)

Jesse Silva is the Associate Director for Student Diversity and Inclusion (SDI) at Texas State University. He is a key member of the SDI leadership team, developing cultural support systems for target populations addressing academic, personal and social concerns, leadership development, and the creation of programs that support the celebration, experience, and awareness of diverse student communities and advance inclusive excellence. Jesse brings a wealth of experience from his former roles as Student Development Coordinator and Assistant Director in the SDI Office. Prior to his work in higher education, he served as a case-manager for Southwest Key, Inc. where he resettled undocumented adolescents entering the USA, as a case-manager for Caritas of Austin in their Emergency Community Services Program, and as a tile-setter in his father's small business. Jesse is currently a doctoral student and inaugural

cohort member of the Executive Ed. D. in Higher Education Leadership Program at University of Texas in Austin. Jesse is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Mariel M. Muir Excellence in Mentoring Award (2010), Veterans Alliance of Texas State's Above and Beyond Award (2016), the Hispanic Policy Network's Latino Star Award (2017), and Texas State University's Excellence in Diversity Award (2017).

Alyssa Gooch (MS Applied Sociology 2017)

Alyssa Gooch earned her Bachelor's in Sociology and Spanish and graduated as Valedictorian from St. Edward's University in 2014. She went on to serve a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA and then returned to school to earn her M.S. in Applied Sociology from Texas State. While at Texas State, she also worked full-time on the Community Engagement team at the Austin nonprofit Foundation Communities. She is currently serving as the Development Director at House of Neighborly Service, a community-based nonprofit in San Antonio's West Side. She has worked in nonprofit development for nearly 10 years through internships, a service year, and full-time positions. She has helped nonprofits raise hundreds of thousands of dollars towards fulfilling their missions. She is currently working as the Development Director for House of Neighborly Service (HNS). HNS is an emerging nonprofit, so Alyssa has the opportunity to formalize and grow many of their programs. Another important part of her work is formalizing the organization's evaluation procedures, particularly in their toxic stress intervention program. She will also be enhancing the organization's early intervention program by developing a literacy component. This will be a volunteer-powered reading buddies program. Volunteers will read with students for 20-minutes once a week to imitate the parent-child reading time many students at HNS's Kid's Place Child Development and Treatment Center do not get at home. A majority (consistently around 80%) of families enrolling their children in the center are living on less than \$15,000 a year and many are single parents. Therefore, many parents either do not have the funds to have a library of books at home or do not have the time due to multiple jobs. Volunteers will be primarily recruited from participants of HNS's Senior Health program. Volunteering has been shown to have many benefits for the elderly, particularly in mitigating feelings of loneliness and isolation. This integration of HNS's Senior Health and Child Development services is a unique way to benefit West Side residents across the lifespan.



Alumni Features

Jessica Martone (BS Applied Sociology 2018)

Jessica A. Martone is the Health, Prevention and Wellness Coordinator at the Capital Area Council of Governments. Her position is housed in the Aging Division, which includes the Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area, and the Capital Area Aging & Disability Resource Center where services are provided to support the well-being of older adults, those with disabilities and their caregivers in the ten-county region.

In this role, Ms. Martone is involved in planning, developing, and implementing evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion programs. She provides consultative services and technical assistance to program staff, governmental agencies, community organizations, and the general public. Her previous position at the agency was as the Aging Program Specialist. In that position, Ms. Martone provided community outreach, administrative support, consultative services and technical program assistance to support the various departments of the agency.



Ms. Martone is a graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Sociology and Pennsylvania State University with an Associates of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts. Ms. Martone is a Certified Master Trainer in Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management, and Chronic Pain Self-Management. She is also a Master Trainer in the A Matter of Balance Fall Prevention Program.

We are proud of our current and former students' impressive work!

Read more about our student accomplishments on the [Sociology Department webpage](#).

Alumni: Please send us your news for the fall 2020 newsletter

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