

## Chair's Corner: Dr. Chad Smith



I would like to welcome you to the spring 2018 edition of the Department of Sociology's newsletter, "The Promise." In this edition we provide updated information on recent events, accomplishments, and achievements by the department's faculty. The newsletter begins with two faculty spotlights: our newest faculty member, Dr. Xi Pan (p.2), who joined the faculty in the fall of 2016 and Dr. Toni Watt (p. 2) who is on sabbatical this semester focusing on her numerous research projects. We also highlight

the accomplishments of our faculty in 2017 (p.3) – join me in congratulating all of our faculty on a productive year.

In this edition we also want to bring to your attention to several new and exciting programs and events. We have an upcoming symposium exploring the relationships between science and society in the context of diversity, hosted by Dr. Joseph Kotarba (p.4). We eagerly anticipate the beginning of a new minor that will be housed in the department, Minor in Latina/o Studies, that will begin in the fall 2017 semester under the direction of Dr. Gloria Martinez (p.4). Finally, we say goodbye to a dear friend and kind soul, Dr. David Jorgenson (p.5), who passed away in January.

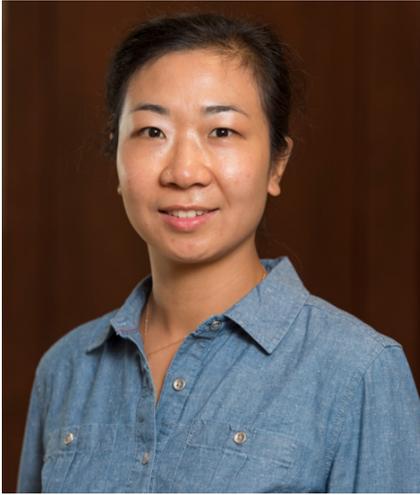
On behalf of the Department of Sociology, I want to thank you for reading "The Promise" and I greatly appreciate your interest in the department. Please keep up with our news and events from our newly revamped departmental webpage and let us know what you are up to via Facebook and Twitter.

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# Faculty Spotlight

## New Faculty: Dr. Xi Pan



My research focuses on aging and health broadly defined. Specifically, I am interested in examining social, cultural, behavioral, and environmental determinants of health and well-being over the life course and across different cultures. I have studied the interaction of lifestyle and environmental risk factors on quality of life and the development of type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cognitive impairment among middle-aged and older adults in both Western and non-Western societies. I am also interested in health promotion through lifestyle modification and quality of healthcare for people living with dementia. Currently, I am working on three funded research projects to explore the influence of life-course contextual factors on health, including liver cancer and cognitive impairment, and health disparities in racial/ethnic minorities. All my studies have pursued an interdisciplinary approach and are based on large-scale longitudinal data and advanced quantitative methods.

I teach upper-undergraduate level courses: Life Course Sociology, Aging and Society, and Medical Sociology at the Department of Sociology. I am impressed by the diverse programs offered in the department, which provide lens for students at different levels to understand the development, structure, and functioning of human society. I enjoy my teaching and working experiences with excellent faculty and friendly staff members and feel proud of being a member of the team.

## Dr. Toni Watt is on sabbatical for spring 2018!

Dr. Watt's research focuses on child/adolescent health, mental health, and substance abuse. She is particularly interested in how to improve outcomes for youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, and foster care. She is engaged in a number of projects in this area. With funding from the Meadow's Mental Health Policy Institute, Dr. Watt is working with People's Community Clinic to create a pediatric intervention to identify and treat young children experiencing toxic stress. She is also the Primary Investigator on a Texas State Multidisciplinary Internal Research Grant (MIRG) which aims to understand how traumatic childhood events "get under the skin" to influence mind, body, and behavior among college students. For this MIRG project she is working with Dr. Natalie Ceballos (Psychology) and Drs. Seoyoun Kim and Xi Pan (Sociology). Using survey and biomarker data from Texas State college students, their group will trace how childhood trauma relates to neuronal health (BDNF), inflammation (C- Reactive Protein), and physiological dysregulation (Iron deposition). They will also examine how these internal processes relate to mental disorders (attention deficit, depression/anxiety, and addiction/substance abuse). Finally, they will search for intermediate pathways and moderating influences such as diet, exercise, and social support. The ultimate goal is to better understand the effects of trauma in order to develop interventions which mitigate the impact of trauma on health and behavior. Finally, Dr. Watt works with Dr. Christine Norton (School of Social Work) to improve post-secondary outcomes for former foster youth. She studies higher education outcomes for foster youth and is the evaluator for the Texas State FACES program (Foster Care Alumni Creating Educational Success). She also serves as a FACES mentor. For more information about these studies and programs, please contact Dr. Watt.



# Recent Faculty Accomplishments

## Awards:

**Patti Giuffre** received the 2017 Sociologists for Women in Society Feminist Mentor Award.

**Christopher Johnson** received the Favorite Professor Award from the Alfred H. Nolle Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society in the fall of 2017.

**Kelly Mosel-Talavera** won a teaching award from the College of Liberal Arts in 2017.

**Bricio Vasquez** has been selected for the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education graduate fellowship for 2018.

## Publications:

Amini, Reza, **Kyong Hee Chee**, James Swan, Maximiliano Mendieta, and TimMarie Williams. 2017. "The Level of Cognitive Impairment and Likelihood of Frequent Hospital Admissions." *Journal of Aging and Health*. DOI: 10.1177/0898264317747079

**Kim, Seoyoun, Kyong Hee Chee**, and Olga Gerhart. 2017. "Redefining Generativity: Through Life Course and Pragmatist Lenses." *Sociology Compass*. 11:11. DOI: 10.1111/soc4.12533

**Kotarba, Joseph A.** 2018. *Understanding Society through Popular Music*. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge.

**Pan, Xi**, Ye Luo, and Amy Restorick Roberts . 2017. "Financial Care for Older Adults with Dementia: Characteristics of Adult Children Caregivers." *The International Journal of Aging* 85(1): 108-122.

Blaustein, Jarrett, **Nathan W. Pino**, Kate Fitz-Gibbon, and Rob White. 2018. "Criminology and the UN Sustainable Development Goals: The Need for Support and Critique." *British Journal of Criminology*.

**Pino, Nathan W.**, Hassan Tajalli, **Chad L. Smith**, and William DeSoto. 2017. "Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs by College Students for Recreational and Instrumental Purposes: Assessing the Differences." *Journal of Drug Issues*. 47(4): 606-621.

**Watt, Toni**, Ceballos, Natalie, **Kim, Seoyoun**, & **Pan, Xi**. Childhood Trauma and Mental Health among College Students: Identifying Neurological, Physiological, and Behavioral Pathway. Multidisciplinary Internal Research Grant.

## Current Events:

**Kelly Mosel-Talavera** and **Gayle Bouzard** are presenting a workshop at Southern Sociological Society in April titled "How to Talk about Current Events in the Age of Trump Without Getting Fired."

**Deborah Harris** was part of a panel on 'Gender Inequality in the Professional Kitchen' that was part of a larger "Women with Knives" event showcasing women in the culinary world. She appeared on the panel with chefs Colombe St-Pierre and Dominique Dufour and it was moderated by Mitchell Davis from the James Beard Foundation.

**Bob Price** and **Deborah Harris** will be taking about 20 undergraduate and graduate students to England this summer for the inaugural Texas State Sociology in London program. <http://london.wp.txstate.edu/>

# Department Updates:

## NEW FOR FALL 2018: UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN LATINA/O STUDIES

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The interdisciplinary Latina/o studies minor will enrich students' learning about cultural pluralism and will teach them interpersonal and other skills needed in the workforce.

Using a complement of courses from disciplines across the university, this minor will:

- (1) offer an academic and scholarly foundation for students to understand the experiences of Latinas/os using a global perspective
- (2) educate students about the cultural competency skills necessary to work with Latina/o communities
- (3) expose students to the theoretical and research methodologies in Latina/o studies.

This minor includes an inventory of 40 courses from units across the university, including Family and Consumer Sciences, Criminal Justice, Communication, Anthropology, English, Spanish, Theatre, History, Geography, Political Science, Art, Sociology, Philosophy, Education, Business, Psychology, and Music. This interdisciplinary approach serves to expose students to various perspectives in Latina/o studies.

## Upcoming conference:

### **Toward a Vision of Diversity in Science and Society** *Exploring the socio/cultural infrastructure of science*

April 26, 2018  
Flowers Hall 230

Dr. Joseph A. Kotarba, Organizer  
Department of Sociology  
Texas State University

Attendance for symposium: Open, but with registration for access to class credit and lunch  
For more information, contact Dr. Kotarba (josephkotarba@txstate.edu)

# *In Memoriam: Dr. David Jorgenson*

March 8, 1935 - January 29, 2018



David Jorgenson passed away peacefully at home in the early morning of Jan. 29, 2018. He was surrounded, as he was in life, by love. In the days before, his family spent time with him, expressing their love and caring. He was a fighter to the end in his 20 year battle with Parkinson's, like the true Viking that he was. Christabel was by his side just as she was for the last 60 years. They loved each other, and he also loved their children, Kimberly, Kristofer, and Kirstyn, their children-in-law, Grant, Marina, and Shae, their grandchildren, Kelsii, Kaarin, Anna, Adam, Alexandra, and Andrei, their grandchild in law, Craig, and their great grandson, Henry. An enormous circle of family and friends will miss him.

David was born in Britton, South Dakota on March 8, 1935 to Einar Jorgenson and Beulah Holmestad Jorgenson. In 1939, he moved with his family to Bricelyn, Minnesota. There he grew up with two older sisters, Mae Lorraine and Elaine, who adored him. After graduating from high school in 1953, David moved to Cranfills Gap, Texas, with his parents, where his father served as pastor of St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

It was there that he met his future wife, Christabel Bertelsen, daughter of William and Johanna (Christensen) Bertelsen. He attended Clifton Junior College during its last semester and moved with other students to Texas Lutheran College, now Texas Lutheran University (TLU) in Seguin, Texas, graduating in 1957. Christabel also attended TLU. They were married Dec. 21, 1957 at St. Olaf by David's father.

The next four years were spent in Columbus, Ohio, where David attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary, and interned in Sandusky, Ohio. David graduated in 1961 with a Master of Divinity Degree and moved with Christabel and Kimberly to Stamford, Texas, for his first parish. In 1964, they moved with Kristofer to his second parish in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1969, David began his preparation for a career in sociology, completing a master's degree at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and a doctorate from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He was on the faculty at TCU for six years, and in 1976, with his family, including Kirstyn, moved to San Marcos, Texas, to join the Sociology Department at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University), where he remained until his retirement.

David was designated as Distinguished Professor of Sociology Emeritus by the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System in 2000. Reasons cited were his inspiration as a teacher, earning among the highest student evaluations in the Department, and introducing many new courses for the first time at the University. He introduced hundreds of students to the wonders of statistics and helped them to not only understand number crunching but to enjoy it.

He created the minor in Social Gerontology, served as advisor, and directed gerontological interns. As an internationally known scholar, David published several articles in international journals, and delivered papers at conferences in Toronto, Canada, Taipei, Taiwan, and Graz, Austria. He was a thoughtful mentor, a caring colleague, an illuminating teacher, and an accomplished scholar. David loved teaching and his students. He was known for his sense of humor, his patience, and his willingness to help and advise them.

David loved sailing at Canyon Lake, along the Intracoastal, and the Gulf with family and friends. He enjoyed golf, bird-watching, photography, jogging, and trips to the beach. But the highlight of his life was his 60 year marriage to Christabel and their amazing family. They enjoyed a lifetime of experiences, travel, and happiness together. David's life was full, and he felt greatly blessed. He will be dearly missed.

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