Hello, I am Jon Overton, President of AKD and sender of emails.

In this newsletter, you will find the contents of our awards and honor society induction banquet, with the exception of food and what I’m certain would have been a great talk by Dr. Peggy Giordano.

But on we go. Congratulations everyone! You did it! You got inducted into honor societies! You won awards! And we want to recognize all of you — banquet or no banquet.

Please share this with your friends, parents, and anyone else you’d like to see it! And you really should share it. As the sociologist Miller McPherson reminds us, “we are a moving average of our associates.” Which is to say we’re a reflection of the people around us. Your success is an incredible accomplishment on your part. And parents, friends, colleagues, teachers — these significant others are an essential part of that success. Your success is their success too. You should be proud. And they should be too.

Let them be proud of you!

Next, I’d like to thank everyone who contributed to the once-banquet, now newsletter, so virtually all of the faculty, graduate students, and administrative secretaries in the Department of Sociology.

During the year, AKD holds a series of fundraisers and gatherings to offset the cost of the banquet. Every time we played trivia or enjoy a nice afternoon of ‘Baggo’ together, folks chipped in a few bucks to help pay for the banquet. At our main fundraising event, the silent auction, members of the department raised more than ever before.

This is to say nothing of all the incredible organizing work our administrative secretaries do and the faculty’s work nominating students and reviewing nominees to select award winners.
INTRO, Continued from 1

It’s been an honor to be trusted with overseeing a project that clearly means a lot to many people. Thank you.

Our banquet’s cancellation associated with COVID-19 opened up AKD’s budget when many households were feeling a budgetary pinch. In light of this, Faculty Advisor Dr. Kristen Marcussen had the great idea of donating $1,000 that would have gone toward the banquet to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank. We invite you all to donate as well.

In addition, as you know, this year’s commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the May 4th events have been moved online due to COVID-19. Since there’s no guest speaker now, we have reprinted an interview from a prior newsletter that AKD Social Chair Courtney Dress did with Professor Emeritus of Sociology Jerry Lewis. He witnessed the events of May 4th and is a scholar of social movements. You can find the Q&A on pages 15-16.

I want to thank all my board members for their assistance putting together this newsletter, along with every other project and event this year.

My thanks in no particular order: Leslie Wood, the trusty Secretary, quick to lend a hand whenever we needed one; Courtney Dress, the wizard of efficiency and Social Chair who could always foresee what needed to be done; Dan Burrill, the steady Vice President that a President needs when overwhelmed with 13 too many tasks to track at once; Jessica Fleck, the kind of Fall Treasurer and master organizer who prepares everything for a hectic Spring; and Cynthia Hunt, the kind of Spring Treasurer who, despite stepping in at the last minute, knocks out one task after the next with dazzling speed and accuracy. And last but not least, thank you to our biggest supporter, Dr. Marcussen, quick to lend institutional memory, encouragement, and support whenever we needed it. This was a team effort. Know that each of you were essential to making it happen.

To everyone: congratulations! Cheers! See you on the other side!

AKD

Faculty Advisor
Dr. Kristen Marcussen

2019-2020 AKD Board

President
Jon Overton
Vice President
Dan Burrill
Treasurer
Fall: Jessica Fleck
Spring: Cynthia Hunt
Social Chair
Courtney Dress
Secretary
Leslie Wood

2020-2021 AKD Board

President
Amelia Davies Robinson
Vice President
Courtney Dress
Treasurer
Cynthia Hunt
Social Chair
Chloe Miller
Secretary
Brandon Ehlinger

Professional Development Co-Chairs
Maddy Steward & Michelle Fretwell

What is AKD?

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) is an honor society recognizing academic excellence among students studying sociology.

AKD promotes excellence in sociological scholarship, research on social problems, and other social and intellectual activities that improve the human condition.

AKD was founded at UCLA in 1920 by Dr. Emory S. Bogardus and became affiliated with the Association of College Honor Societies in 1967.

Graduate students join faculty for a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Walk in Akron in October 2019. AKD has participated in this walk since 2015 as “Dr. Gallagher’s Team” in memory of their colleague Dr. Tim Gallagher. This year, they raised $2,610.
Staff of the Kent State Williamson House join members of Alpha Phi Sigma (APS) during a supplies drive. The Williamson House runs the Women's Center and the Center for Sexual and Relationship Violence Support Services. These services include a pantry of free personal care products for students in need. APS donated 66 pounds of supplies. Pictured left to right are two staffers of the Williamson House, followed by Allexis Spencer, Marilynne Tressel, Sean Moore, and Nicholas Rule.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

George Eastman Outstanding Criminology and Justice Studies Student Award
Recognizes an outstanding B.A. senior in Criminology and Justice Studies. Must have a 3.5 GPA or higher. The award is $100.

Outstanding Senior in Criminology and Justice Studies Award
Recognizes an outstanding B.A. senior in Criminology and Justice Studies. Must have a 3.5 GPA or higher. The award is $100.

Oscar Ritchie Outstanding Criminology and Justice Studies Minority Student Award
Awarded in memory of the late Kent State University sociologist, Professor Oscar Ritchie, to recognize an outstanding ethnic minority (under-represented) student majoring in CRJU (junior or senior). Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The award is $100.

What is APS?

Alpha Phi Sigma (APS) is an honor society that recognizes academic excellence among undergraduate and graduate students studying criminal justice.

The goals of APS are to honor and promote academic excellence, community service, educational leadership, and unity.

APS was established in 1942 by Dr. Vivian Anderson Leonard at Washington State University. The association was recognized by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in 1976 as the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

George A. Pownall and Kathleen Downing Pownall Scholarship
This scholarship is designed for students interested in working in the field of corrections after graduation (as opposed to further study such as graduate school). This scholarship is specifically for Criminology and Justice Studies/Justice Studies majors (sophomores, juniors, and non-graduating seniors), who have a 3.0 or better GPA, with an interest in Corrections.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Karen A. Nicholson Corrections Scholarship</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supports an undergraduate student majoring in Criminology and Justice Studies who has the Corrections Concentration. Scholarship (2020: $1500) can be used for tuition, fees, books, and supplies.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gene Wenninger Award for Community Service</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This award is given annually to a student with an undergraduate major in Sociology or Criminology &amp; Justice Studies. The recipient must be an individual who has made a substantial contribution to his/her community through volunteer work and related service activity. Community is defined broadly as the department, the university, and/or the local and national community. The recipient must have made a significant contribution to at least two of these broadly defined communities and demonstrated initiative and leadership in the course of these contributions. The recipient’s commitment and contribution should also be indicative of the likelihood that throughout his/her career the candidate will continue to contribute to the quality of community life over and above what is expected of all sociology or criminology and justice studies graduates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outstanding Senior in Sociology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognizes one outstanding Senior majoring in Sociology. The award ($100) is based on academic record, leadership, and university and community service. Must have a 3.5 GPA or higher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>James E. Fleming Memorial Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded to author of the best paper in sociological theory at the undergraduate and graduate levels. A student may only win this award once. Requirements are based on the student's GPA, faculty nomination, and a faculty vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>James T. Laing Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fund was established to recognize sociology undergraduate and graduate students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals, the motivation to achieve these goals, and the initiative to seek opportunities to further their progress. In addition, awardees will be students who exemplify the above criteria and who have taken an active and engaged role in the department or the discipline. This would include leadership within department student organizations, the university or the community. Financial need and/or merit may be considered. This scholarship is renewable if an awardee is nominated again and chosen as a recipient. Students must be in good academic standing (GPA higher than 3.0), be enrolled as a graduate or undergraduate student in sociology, and must not be completing their dissertation this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elaine Mai Schock Award for Outstanding Master's Student in Sociology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Awarded to an outstanding master’s student in Sociology. A student may only win this award once. Students must be in good academic standing (GPA higher than 3.0), receive a faculty nomination, and be approved by a vote of the Graduate Education Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lewis-Benson Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This award is seeks to contribute to the teaching culture of the department by recognizing outstanding graduate student teaching and to honor the teaching accomplishments of emeritus professors Jerry Lewis and Denzel Benson, both of whom won KSU’s Distinguished Teaching Award. The award is available to any graduate student who has taught a Sociology or Criminology &amp; Justice Studies course independently. A student may only win this award once. Students can self-nominate or be nominated by faculty. Winners are approved by a vote of the Graduate Education Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outstanding Doctoral Student Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded to an outstanding doctoral student in Sociology. A student may only win this award once. Students must be in good academic standing (GPA higher than 3.0), receive a faculty nomination, and be approved by a vote of the Graduate Education Committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rachyl Anderson

**Outstanding Senior in Sociology**

Rachyl Anderson is a senior from Chesterland, Ohio with a major in Sociology and minor in Peace & Conflict Studies. She will graduate Summa Cum Laude. Rachyl served as a Sociology Peer Ambassador, held leadership positions in Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, was involved with Provost Leadership Academy, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She hopes to work in Human Resources.

**Outstanding Mentorship Award**

Recognizes a faculty member in the Department of Sociology who is available for consultation; gives open, honest feedback; is willing to share skills, experiences, and resources in a noncompetitive manner, or in a manner that is not self-serving; provides opportunities for research, presentations, and teaching; and exposes students to the norms and behaviors of the profession.

Alexis Biclawski

**AKΔ Inductee**

Alexis is a senior from Canton. She is majoring in Environmental Studies, with a minor in Sociology. She wants to work with an Ohio EPA branch in the division of drinking and ground waters. Overall, just to get a job with the EPA!

Jamie Campbell

**ΑΦΣ Inductee**

Ashley is from Douglassville, PA. She is majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies, and Psychology. Her career goals are to work in probation or policing.

**Outstanding Service to the Department Award**

Recognizes a member of the Department of Sociology who exceeds their obligations to help others and improve the climate within the department.

Teya Ballenger

**AKΔ Inductee**

Ashley Bonetz

**George A. Pownall and Kathleen Downing Pownall Scholarship**

Ashley is from Douglassville, PA. She is majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies, and Psychology. Her career goals are to work in probation or policing.

Sam Carroll

**James T. Laing Award**

I am in my third year at KSU. I am double majoring in sociology and psychology with a concentration in medical sociology. I hope to get my Masters in medical sociology. From there I would like teach in sociology and continue doing research.
Jenna Covalesky

Undergraduate Students Spring 2020

AKΔ Inductee

Jenna is a senior from North Canton.
She is majoring in Sociology (focus on social inequality) and Psychology.
After graduation she plans to attend graduate school for clinical mental health counseling. She wants to become a licensed counselor specializing in geriatrics so she can work with long-term care facilities and counsel older adults.

Lisa Everson

AKΔ Inductee

Jillian Gallagher

AΦΣ Inductee

Jillian is a junior majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies with a minor in Pre-Law.
Jillian is deciding whether to pursue graduate school for either a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice or in Public Service & Administration.
Upon completion of graduate school, Jillian’s plan is to work on prison reform.

Jalane Elder

AΦΣ Inductee

Rose Fette

AΦΣ Inductee

Autumn R. Griffin

Oscar Ritchie Outstanding Criminology and Justice Studies Minority Student Award

Autumn is a senior, earning a Bachelor’s degree in Criminology and Justice Studies. She is graduating one year early with a 3.5 GPA.
She has Interned at the Adult Parole Authority in Akron and has focused her studies on becoming fluent in Arabic. After graduation, she plans to apply to a graduate program for a Master’s degree in Biosecurity and threat management. She hopes to become an FBI agent/criminal profiler.
Spring 2020

Claire King

ΑΦΣ Inductee

Angela Lochmueller

ΑΚΔ Inductee

Sydney McCann

ΑΦΣ Inductee

Claire King is an Outstanding Senior in Criminology and Justice Studies Award recipient. She is from Chardon, Ohio. Her career goals are still undetermined, but she is actively seeking a career involving public service. Her academic interests include Criminology & Justice Studies and Sociology.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my studies at Kent State University and consider it to be one of the finest facilitators of growth and knowledge in the state of Ohio.

Angela Lochmueller is a Kent State University senior who is majoring in Sociology. She originally comes from Cleveland. In the future, she would like to attend graduate school but is currently deciding whether she would first like to do more work in the field beforehand.

Sydney McCann is a Kent State University senior who is majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies with a concentration in Criminology and Deviance and a minor in Psychology.

I am a senior from Twinsburg, Ohio, majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies with a concentration in Criminology and Deviance and a minor in Psychology.

I am also a research assistant in Kent State’s Culture, Parenting, and Child Development Lab.

Robert McCallum

ΑΚΔ Inductee

Lauren McKinley

ΑΦΣ Inductee

Robert McCallum is a Kent State University senior from Twinsburg, Ohio, majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies with a concentration in Criminology and Deviance and a minor in Psychology.

I plan to attend graduate school at the University of West Florida studying mental health counseling while working as a guidance counselor. I will then get my PhD and conduct research focusing on how trauma specifically affects minority children and adolescents.

Lauren McKinley is a Kent State University senior who is majoring in Sociology.

She originally comes from Cleveland. In the future, she would like to attend graduate school but is currently deciding whether she would first like to do more work in the field beforehand.
Emma Merrima

AΦΣ Inductee

I am a senior, so I am going to graduate in the near future. I am majoring in mathematics. Additionally, I have two minors: sociology and psychology. Currently, I live in North Canton.

Sean Moore

AΦΣ Inductee

I am a senior, so I am going to graduate in the near future. I am majoring in mathematics. Additionally, I have two minors: sociology and psychology. Currently, I live in North Canton.

Taylor Patton

AΦΣ Inductee

I am a junior who is double-majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies and in Psychology. I am from Cincinnati, Ohio. After I graduate from Kent State, I plan to work for a government agency and to work my way into the FBI and eventually towards my ultimate goal of becoming a criminal profiler.

Maiah Miller

Karen A. Nicholson Corrections Scholarship

Maiah is a junior Criminology & Justice Studies major with a minor in Psychology. She is from Belmont, Ohio. Her career goal is to become a correctional officer and help the people who need it.

Dharma Nason

AKΔ Inductee

I am a senior, so I am going to graduate in the near future. I am majoring in mathematics. Additionally, I have two minors: sociology and psychology. Currently, I live in North Canton. My plans following graduation are to try and travel to Japan.

Kierra Robinson

AΦΣ Inductee
Undergraduate Students

Trevor Rutkowski

George A. Pownall and Kathleen Downing Pownall Scholarship

I live in Niles, Ohio, home of the red dragons.

I am a senior majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies.

After graduation, I plan on attending graduate school to obtain my master's degree in Policing.

Katrina Tanner

AKΔ Inductee

I am a senior here at Kent State University. My major is Sociology, with a concentration in family and the life course.

I am originally from Hudson, Ohio.

After graduation, my plan is to go get a job that I love that involves jobs and family services.

Victoria Teter

AKΔ Inductee

I am a senior majoring in American Sign Language and Sociology (focus in Social Inequalities) and a minor in Psychology.

My hometown is Rittman, Ohio.

I plan to continue working as a dispatcher for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Long term plans are flexible and hopefully will include an opportunity to live outside of Ohio.

My cats, the most meaningful part of my life, appear above.

Allexis Spencer

James E. Fleming Memorial Award

I am graduating in May with my bachelor’s degree in Criminology & Justice Studies, with a concentration in Law and Society. I also am minoring in pre-law.

In August, I will be attending an Ohio law school. I plan on practicing criminal and family law upon graduation.

Micah Tate

AKΔ Inductee

I am a senior here at Kent State University. My major is Sociology, with a concentration in family and the life course.

I am originally from Hudson, Ohio.

After graduation, my plan is to go get a job that I love that involves jobs and family services.

Marilynne N. Tressel

AKΔ Inductee

My name is Marilyinne Tressel and I am a senior at Kent State University! I am from Stow, Ohio. I am studying criminal justice and sociology and have an interest in federal law enforcement and global security.

When I graduate I plan to pursue a job within the federal government (homeland security, FBI, marshal services) to focus on both drug and human trafficking problems.

It is an honor to be inducted into both APS and AKD!
Undergraduate students

Katherine Tse  ΑΦΣ Inductee

Lauren Van Dyne  ΑΦΣ Inductee

Laura Wadsworth  ΑΚΔ Inductee

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Erin Andro  James T. Laing Award

I earned my B.A. and my M.A. from Kent State, so I've been around awhile. I hope to finish my dissertation in Spring 2021. My research interests are in inequalities and exploitation in the workplace. Those interests are guiding my dissertation on the experiences of adjunct faculty members.

Comments from Nomination Letter Writer:

Erin is a great colleague who has done a considerable amount of service for the department and community. She has served as both Secretary and President of our AKD chapter. As President of our AKD chapter, she planned a number of events, including department socials, the NAMI walk, and the considerable work of planning the annual banquet.

Beyond all of that work, Erin has co-chaired the mentoring committee that pairs more experienced graduate students with new students. Erin has also been a mentor herself. If that were not enough, Erin consistently helps us when perspective students visit Kent State. And even more, Erin leads by example with her work in my research group, but also with the weekly check-ins my advisees all do with one another.

Erin constantly reminds us to remember the positive progress we have made and she helps motivate everyone to keep plugging. She is completely unselfish when it comes to supporting other graduate students.

-Dr. Tiffany Taylor
Brandon Ehlinger

Brandon has a B.A. in History and another in Criminal Justice from Ashland University. His research interests encompass crime, deviance, and racial prejudice / discrimination.

Chloe Miller

Chloe has a B.S. in Neuroscience from the University of Mount Union. Her research interests are in social psychology, social neuroscience, gender and sexuality, and inequality.

Cynthia Hunt

I graduated from The University of Akron in 2018 with a B.A. in Family & Child Development and a certificate in Parent Education. My research interests include gender, sex, sexuality, and inequalities.

Michelle Fretwell

Michelle is a first-year graduate student in the Department of Sociology. They earned a B.S. in Sociology with a minor in gender studies from Boise State University in 2019. They are interested in studying race, gender, and class inequalities, particularly how popular media is used as a mechanism of social control to (re)produce and perpetuate various injustices.

Comments from Nomination Letter Writer:
The James E. Fleming Memorial Award is awarded for an outstanding undergraduate or graduate theory paper. Michelle Fretwell’s theory paper, “Understanding Why Work in a Capitalist Economy Sucks for Most, as Theorized by Karl Marx”, certainly exemplifies an outstanding paper. Not only does Michelle offer a detailed discussion of the theory, they offer numerous applications of the theory to modern times, arguing the continued relevance of Karl Marx’s work.

-Dr. Tiffany Taylor

Congratulations Students!
Sarah Harvey

Elaine Mai Schock Award for Outstanding Master's Student in Sociology

Sarah holds bachelor's and master's of music degrees from Heidelberg University and KSU, respectively, and is excited to earn her Master of Arts in Sociology in the coming months.

Her research interests include the areas of medical sociology and emotions, specifically education in health professions and how medical students are emotionally socialized.

Comments from Nomination Letter Writer:

Since 2006, I have served as primary advisor to nearly twenty MA/doctral students. I can honestly say that Sarah is one of the hardest working and most reliable student I have ever mentored. She has an uncanny knack for anticipating what needs to be accomplished before being asked and when given a task, she goes above and beyond in terms of execution. On top of that, she is extremely curious and has a razor sharp intellect. I can think of no better student than Sarah to receive the Elaine Mai Schock Award.

-Dr. Clare Stacey

Brennan Miller

Outstanding Doctoral Student in Sociology

Brennan is a doctoral student in sociology at Kent State University. He received a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant to conduct his dissertation research.

His dissertation focuses on how individuals interpret and cognitively attend to information when evaluating job applicants' résumés that differ on status and work ability to better understand how individuals interpret such information. He uses a mixed-methods experimental design that collects evaluations, physiological measurements and qualitative interviews.

Comments from Nomination Letter Writer:

Brennan’s research falls into the areas of social psychology, race and ethnicity, and neurosociology. His dissertation examines racial inequality in wages, evaluations, and promotions within the context of work. His research is supported by the KSU Graduate Student Senate, the KSU University Research Council, and the National Science Foundation’s Dissertation Improvement Grant.

In addition to his dissertation work, Brennan is engaged in multiple research projects including acting as a Research Team Coordinator with the Department’s Electrophysiological Neuroscience Lab, being selected as a Fellow in the Australian University’s Study of Role-Taking, and collaborating on projects with Kent State colleagues. His work appears in outlets including Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociology Compass, and Advances in Group Processes and has been presented at professional meetings of the American Sociological Association, the Southern Sociological Society, and the Southwestern Sociological Association. His paper, “The School-to-Prison Pipeline: School Discipline as an Exclusionary Labeling Event,” was awarded the SSA’s Outstanding Doctoral Paper Award in 2017.

-Dr. Carla Goar
My research interests pertain to how people form ideas and opinions about the world around them. I specifically focus on the social psychology of perceptions and how that applies to mental health, mass media, and ethics.

This semester, I successfully defended my Master’s thesis, “Cohorts and Perceived Social Stigma of Mental Illness.”

Comments from Nomination Letter Writers:

Sam Nousak distinguished herself in three notable ways, which point to a very promising career.

In terms of scholarship, Sam’s paper for my Social Structure and Personality class, “Cohorts and Perceived Social Stigma of Mental Illness” was insightful, polished, and approaching professional quality. We are preparing an article for Contexts entitled “Is Self-Esteem Still Relevant?”

In teaching assistance, Sam gave two excellent lectures for Introduction to Sociology, earning especially high praise from students. She led discussion of Putnam’s Our Kids for honors Introduction to Sociology. The students again loved her. Because of COVID-19, Sam is leading an online discussion of Schalet’s Not Under My Roof for Adolescence and Society.

When it comes to professional service, Sam’s diligence, creativity, and work ethic materially aided the launch of KSU #ProfTalks’ college lecture initiative at Grafton Correctional Institution in September 2019. With Sam’s help, the six monthly lectures averaged 50 incarcerated individuals and several curious staff. Dean Blank personally praised Sam for her #ProfTalks work and spirit of volunteerism. Sam completed official prison volunteer training by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections which allows Sam to teach and volunteer at GCI for three years.

-Dr. Tim Owens

The J. T. Laing award emphasizes the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals, initiative to seek opportunities, and engagement in the department and discipline. Sam has demonstrated each these qualities in her educational career. As an honors student, Sam developed a presentation for education majors to provide information about mental illness and best practices for working with K-12 students. Upon arriving at Kent State, she immediately connected with Kent State administrators and participated in program development and panel discussions about mental health education. She also reached out to a local chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) to discuss her interest in mental health education and provide thoughtful (and sociological) feedback on their education program. Her contributions in this area have implications for her scholarship, the discipline, and mental health education more broadly. It is worth noting that this work represents a “side project” – independent of her coursework and the successful completion of her MA thesis.

-Dr. Kristen Marcussen
Bobbi Reidinger

Lewis-Benson Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award

My main areas of interest are fat studies and social psychology. I obtained a M.A. in sociology from Kent State and will be graduating with my PhD this May. My current work focuses on the impact of weight on status and power and has been funded by the National Science Foundation. However, my background is in Criminal Justice Corrections (B.S. from Winona State University) which informed my previous research on stalking behaviors, media, and gender.

Comments from Nomination Letter Writer:

Bobbi is committed to her students’ learning and success by helping them foster a critical lens with which to view their social worlds. She utilizes diverse teaching methods that allow students to encounter information in various forms. This approach accommodates multiple learning styles while enhancing overall course engagement. Bobbi relies heavily on discussions where students are encouraged to apply sociological and feminist approaches to their own lived experiences, while steering the course by emphasizing key concepts and ideas. By being so actively involved, students take ownership of their education and feel confident to discuss, challenge, and build upon course materials.

Bobbi strongly believes the socializing nature of education extends beyond the classroom. To ensure student success as they enter the workforce, she fosters professional growth in several ways: the use of writing assignments for which they receive feedback to improve writing skills, group work to advance communication skills, and leadership roles in discussion activities to foster confidence and management techniques.

-Dr. Carla Goar

Lisa Douvikas

Outstanding Service to the Department Award

Lisa joined the Sociology department in 2016 as an Administrative Secretary.

She took over as Graduate Secretary in 2017 and works with the Graduate Coordinator and students in a wide range of ways from registration and compensation to travel reimbursement and navigating Graduate Affairs requirements for document submission.

She grew up in Tallmadge but has lived in Portage County for the past 24 years with her husband, Scott, and two daughters, Larissa and Lydia, who both attend Kent State.

Comments from Nomination Letter Writer:

Lisa always goes above and beyond in assisting faculty and students with various tasks. I marvel at how efficient she is and how she tackles every assignment with such incredible care and precision. Lisa is also a wonderful person and great colleague. It is truly a pleasure to work with her. I know we all feel that way.

-Dr. Will Kalkhoff
Dr. Susan Fisk

Outstanding Mentorship Award

Dr. Susan Fisk holds a PhD in Sociology from Stanford University. Her research works to uncover and elucidate micro-level, social psychological processes that depress women’s upward mobility in the workforce. One line of her research examines gender and work through a social psychological lens, with a special focus on the causes and implications of gender differences in workplace risk-taking. A second line of research creates and evaluates the effects of lightweight, institutional interventions designed to reduce gender inequality. The bulk of this research focuses on decreasing gender inequalities in computer science. And a third line of research examines how gendered social psychological processes can produce gender differences in the quality of decision-making.

Dr. Fisk has published in Social Psychology Quarterly, PLOS ONE, refereed computer science conference proceedings and is on the editorial board of Social Psychology Quarterly. She has also worked at Google and as a strategy consultant.

Comments from Nomination Letter Writers:

Susan’s feedback on my academic work has very helpfully developed my writing, but also helped me see the value of my work for the field. Her open and honest feedback regarding other aspects of academic life have also aided me immensely. She was the first professor who stressed self-compassion as necessary practice to do good work. Susan stressed to me the need to be patient and give ourselves space and time to breathe and regroup, so we can move forward and do our best. This is one of the most valuable skills imparted to me over these past three years.

- Amelia Davies Robinson

Dr. Fisk pushes me to take on new tasks and better myself. She is flexible and always willing to help me tackle new assignments and involves me in the research process. I appreciate her guidance through this crazy first year process!

- Cynthia Hunt

Susan mentors, in large measure, through example. Since we both started at Kent State in 2015, she has been consistent in this practice. It’s the collaborative way she locates research topics of interest to both students and her. It’s the diplomatic way she seeks out and incorporates criticisms. It’s the autonomy and space she gives students to find the best solution to a problem. Susan truly treats you like a serious capable colleague, and in so doing, helps you become one. If you want to learn how to work with other people, if you want to grow as a scholar, if you want to absorb the behaviors of a professor and therefore become one, work with Dr. Susan Fisk.

- Jon Overton
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jerry Lewis

This year is the 50th anniversary of the May 4th shootings. Emeritus Professor Dr. Jerry Lewis has been a member of the Sociology faculty at Kent State since 1966. He has devoted much of his scholarship to what happened on May 4, 1970 and was involved in planning many of this year’s commemorative events. AKD Social Chair Courtney Dress spoke with Dr. Lewis for this faculty spotlight, reprinted from our fall newsletter. Their conversation below contains minor edits for clarity.

See Kent State’s plans to commemorate May 4th online here.

Courtney: Historically the university administration hasn’t always been interested in recognizing and remembering the shootings. How did the institution reach a point where it's actively commemorating May 4th? How has their official role changed over the decades?

Dr. Lewis: Wow—trip round the world and elsewhere. In 1975, the University announced that it would no longer officially recognize May 4th. So that started the May 4th Task Force, which was essentially a student group. I worked on the vigil and the walk. Tom Hensley and I started the class on May 4th.

The faculty, staff, and students tried hard to keep the memory of May 4th alive. We had the gym dispute in 1977/78 which was really rough on the university.

The university only began working hard on the commemoration after Mike Schwartz, who was a sociologist, became the University President. Carol Cartwright came along and took a very active interest in May 4th. We had the gym dispute in 1977/78 which was really rough on the university.

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MAY 4, Continued from 15

Courtney: Those were all of our official questions. Is there anything else you wanted to add?

Dr. Lewis: The department never told me to avoid researching May 4th. In fact, my colleagues over the years have been very supportive, incredibly supportive. Not everyone I knew was so supportive.

My advisor, Bernard Farber was a great guy. I was one of the few lucky people that came away with a positive advisor-student experience. A lot of people don't have that relationship to their dissertation advisor. But I had a positive one. So, I ran into him at ASA, I think in August of 1970 or the year after. And he said "I see you published on May 4th. You can't build a career on writing about May 4th." I loved the guy. So I spent a year being depressed because Bernie didn't support me.

The next year, he was introducing me as an eyewitness to the shootings. He had completely changed. And I think that happens to a lot of people when they see where the students were standing who were killed and how far away they were from the National Guard. The depth of the tragedy is almost Shakespearean. And I think that changes a lot of people's view.

I've greatly appreciated and collaborated with the other faculty here on projects related to May 4th. I wrote with Stan Gregory, I wrote with Denzel Benson, and with Ray Adamek on May 4th topics. Half my vita is essentially about May 4th.

I deeply appreciate the support from the department. The fact that you're doing an interview this late in my career is very much appreciated.

To learn more about Dr. Lewis’ scholarly work on the events of May 4th, see his book with Thomas Hensley, Kent State and May 4th: A Social Science Perspective. From this book, he asked us to highlight this chapter in particular for an overview of the events of May 4th. In addition, see the article he mentioned in the interview on the May 4th events using Neil Smelser’s theory of collective behavior.

Dr. Lewis also wrote a manual to guide instructors interested in teaching a course on May 4th (or aspects of May 4th) in their classes. It reviews sociological analyses of the shootings, teaching resources, assignments, and more.

CAREER MILESTONES

Dr. Michelle Foster was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

Dr. Tiffany Taylor was promoted from Associate Professor to full Professor.

Dr. Kamesha Spates was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

Dr. Christopher Dum was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

Dr. Kelly Markowski was hired as a postdoctoral fellow at the Rural Drug Addiction Research Center, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

AWARDS & GRANTS

Dr. Anthony Vander Horst was named a Most Valuable Professor (MVP) by a Kent State football student-athlete asked to name a professor who made the largest impact on their academic success during their time at Kent State.

Dr. Allen Lowery was named a Most Valuable Professor (MVP) by a Kent State football student-athlete asked to name a professor who made the largest impact on their academic success during their time at Kent State.

Brennan Miller and Katie Gary won a Role-Taking Project Fellowship from Australian National University for their project on race and the neural mechanisms underlying role-taking.

Dr. Carla Goar won a grant from the American Sociological Association/National Science Foundation Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline for her project “Revisiting Race: White Adoptive Parents’ Narratives on Children and Race.”

Sam Carroll won first place for his Three Minute Thesis presentation on stigma and mental health.

Brennan Miller won a University Fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Jacob Church won a University Fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Brennan Miller won a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation for his proposal, “Status Ideology: How is Status Information Interpreted?”
THESES & DISSERTATIONS
Bobbi Reidinger defended her dissertation “Weight as Status: An Expansion of Status Characteristics.”
Sam Nousak defended her thesis “Cohorts and Perceived Social Stigma of Mental Illness.”

PUBLICATIONS
Dr. Starr Solomon published “Fight or flight: Integral emotions and violent intentions” in Criminology with Dr. Timothy Barnum.

Faculty and graduate students associated with Kent State and the University of Akron congregate at the American Sociological Association’s annual meeting in New York City in August 2019.

Congratulations on a successful academic year everyone!