



# Shocker SOC News

Spring 2013 Update

Compiled by Dr. Jodie Hertzog

## Undergraduates Win 1<sup>st</sup> Place

### in 2013 Midwest Sociological Society's Poster Competition

In March, four faculty (*Drs. Hertzog, Hill, Hori, & Thrane*), one Soc adjunct (*Dr. Vermillion*), three graduate students (*Stephen Juza, Cassandra LeBrun-Martin, & Jessica Niblack*), and two undergraduate students (*Cambria Goen & Crystal Miller*) participated in the Midwest Sociological Society's annual conference in Chicago, IL. The theme of the conference was "Integrating the Sociology Eclectic: Research, Teaching, & Activism."

Congratulations go out to Crystal & Camie who's research poster, "**Have You Met Ted? Unrealistic Sex in Media**" won first prize in the undergraduate poster competition. Their poster was selected out of over 35 entries. Using content analysis, they coded episodes of the CBS hit show, "How I Met Your Mother," to investigate what sex promotion tactics the show's two single male characters, Ted & Barney, used in their dating interactions. The top two tactics used by both characters: *practicing good hygiene* and *displaying humor*.

For more MSS related news, see pages 2 & 3.



Pictured L to R: Dr. Hertzog, Camie Goen, Crystal Miller

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**CONGRATS to all of our  
2013 GRADS!**

*"Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow." ~ W.E.B Du Bois*

## Curriculum Highlights:

### New Course: Soc 399Q, Sociology of Violence

*Soc 399Q* will investigate violence as a social phenomenon. In this course students will explore general descriptions and explanations of violent crime, specific causal explanations for violence such as alcohol, drug use, or gun availability, and possible methods to reduce lethal and non-lethal violence. While many forms of personal violence will be examined, special emphasis will be given to Sexual & Family Violence, Gang Violence, and Terrorism. *Note: Materials analyzed in this course (images, videos and music) may include violent imagery that some students may find offensive. Students will be notified about materials being covered during such class periods ahead of time.*

### Online course offerings for 2013-2014 include:

- Introduction to Sociology (111)
- Marriage & Families (315)
- Young Women's Health (337)
- Media & Society (399X)
- Sociology of Education (528)
- Medical Sociology (538)
- Global Women's Health (847D)

### Change to Sociology minor:

- The sociology minor now requires **only one 500 level course** or above instead of two. Minors are still required to complete 15 hours, including Soc 111.

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## FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Lisa Thrane presented a paper at the 2013 MSS conference titled:

### *The Impact of Homeless, Runaway, and Throwaway Experiences on the Risk of Young Women's Unmet Medical Needs*

*Abstract:* This study assessed the impact of homelessness, runaway, and throwaway experiences (*i.e., those forced to leave home by a parent*) on unmet medical needs among a nationally representative sample of young women in the U.S. This study also investigated whether mental and physical health factors act as intervening mechanisms between homelessness, runaway and throwaway experiences and unmet medical needs. The sample consisted of young women between 18 and 27 years ( $n = 5,667$ ) from Wave 3 of the Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health). The odds of unmet medical needs were nearly two-fold for throwaways. There were no main effects of homelessness and runaway experiences. Health insurance coverage and a physical health limitation increased the odds of unmet medical needs as did self-esteem and depression. The unmet medical needs of homeless young women were partially explained by a self-rating of health and physical health limitations. A substantial fraction of unmet medical needs among homeless and runaway young women was explained by self-esteem and depressive symptoms. Taken together, the study makes clear that unmet medical needs are greatest among throwaways. It underscores the pressing need for psychological services among homeless and runaway youth and the import of outreach that provides mental health services (Busen & Engebretson, 2008). It also suggests that homeless women may be more inclined to use self-care for common problems rather than seek needed medical care (Ensign & Panke, 2002) and that even serious physical health symptoms may be downplayed or denied (Reid et al., 2005).

## Recent Faculty Grants

**Dr. Twyla Hill** continues her collaboration with *Drs. Elaine Steinke & Victoria Mosack* from WSU Nursing on a new project evaluating the effectiveness of an online evidence-based sexual counseling intervention which nurses can use in working with cardiac patients. The researchers just received news that this project will be funded by the **Clifford Wayne Gaulter Memorial fund**.

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## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

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### Linking Independent Study to MSS

By: Camie Goen

In March I was fortunate enough to attend the Midwest Sociological Society's Annual Meeting in Chicago. A classmate and I attended to present our research in the Undergraduate Poster Competition (see page 1), but I was also able to complete three credit hours of Independent Study with Dr. Hertzog. Following the Independent Study Learning Contract provided by MSS, I linked my conference attendance to course credit which helped me get more out of the experience than I might have if I had only attended to present.

During the conference, I met representatives from textbook companies in the exhibit hall and attended Graduate Paper presentations, Author-Meets-Critics discussion sessions, panel presentations, and workshop sessions. One of the most interesting events I attended was a performance of *Marx in Soho*, a one-man play that told the story of Carl Marx being given one more hour on earth to express his thoughts on past and current events. I was also able to take a guided tour of *Hull House*, which was a truly memorable experience and tied in with the Sociological Foremother's Factsheet assignment I completed in the Fall of 2012 in Soc 516.

To wrap everything up for the independent study, I will write a reflection paper about what I learned about the field of Sociology through participating in various conference activities. The traditional classroom setting is a perfectly acceptable way to learn, but I feel like I learned so much from this experience that I would not have been able to get by simply staying on campus. It was a great experience and I look forward to attending again in 2014!

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**MSS 2014 will be in Omaha, NE: April 3-6th**

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### Interested in attending a Professional Conference? Here are a few you might be interested in...

- **Society for the Study of Social Problems:** "Re-imagining Social Problems: Moving beyond Social Constructionism," August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in New York, NY {[www.sssp1.org](http://www.sssp1.org)}
- **American Sociological Society:** "Interrogating Inequality: Linking Micro & Macro," August 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in New York, NY {[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)}
- First annual **WSU Sociology Research Symposium, October 25, 2013.** Plenary speaker: Dr. Bardo {More information to come.}
- **National Council on Family Relations:** "Well-being of Children & Youth in Families and Communities," November 6th-9th in San Antonio, Tx {[www.ncfr.org/events](http://www.ncfr.org/events)}

### Interested in other Sociological Learning opportunities outside the classroom?

- Think about adding a **Co-op** or **Internship** field placement to your Sociology coursework
- Participate in **SOC club** (see p. 4)

**Attention Students:** Do you have accomplishments, awards, research, jobs/internships or other sociological experiences you would like to share in the newsletter? Please contact Dr. Hertzog {[Jodie.Hertzog@wichita.edu](mailto:Jodie.Hertzog@wichita.edu)}



## Shocker SOC Club

SOC Club's big campus wide event for Spring 2013 was the **Wild Wild West Welcome-fest Scavenger Hunt**. Based on the clues provided, participants were led to various parts of campus or to campus resources where they took a photo of themselves & posted it on Facebook. Prizes were given away at the after-party Fandango that was held in the RSC Wreck Center.

**Next big event:** WSU's 1<sup>st</sup> annual Sociological Research Symposium (Oct. 25, 2013)

\*\*\*Start thinking about which class paper or project you want to present at the symposium.

*Did you know:* research conducted by the *American Sociological Association* (2012) found that majors who participated in a sociology club reported higher levels of satisfaction than those who didn't?

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- \*Cited Sources:
1. Senter, Van Vooren, Kisielewski, & Spalter-Roth (2012). What leads to student satisfaction with Sociology Programs?
  2. Van Vooren & Spalter-Roth (2011). Sociology Master's Graduates join the workforce.

## Alumni Corner

According to ASA (2011), nearly 1 in 5 students graduating with a Master's degree in Sociology put their skills to work in the Private For-Profit employment sector, and the main focus of such work for 30% of graduates is basic or applied research. Meet two Shocker Alums, **Angela Drake** (class of 2007) and **Kelcey Curtis** (class of 2010), employed at Service Management Group in Kansas City, providing research services to clients in the restaurant and retail industries.

Kelcey started in the company as a Research Intern providing statistical support to research analysts. She is now a Research Analyst, developing survey content, training new analyst's in best practices, and conducting statistical analysis geared to help clients improve customer satisfaction. Angela joined the company first, initially as a Research Analyst, and has since been promoted to Research Manager where she is responsible for assigning projects to analysts, as well as providing training, mentoring, and advocating for analysts within the company.

When asked how her current job related to her learning experiences at WSU, Angela responded that "the quantitative skills that I developed during my undergrad and grad programs in Sociology at WSU gave me a solid foundation for the applied business statistics world." Kelcey agreed, adding "the presentation skills I learned through thesis defense and presenting at conferences have aided me in my face-to-face client presentations and internal presentations."

### SPECIAL THANK YOU!

The Sociology Department is grateful to those *alumni* and *friends of the department* who provide **endowed scholarships** for students or who **contribute to the LAS Annual Fund designating Sociology as the recipient**. The department relies on these kind gifts to provide opportunities for faculty and students that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

**SOC Alum:** Do you have job news, tips for Soc students, other sociological experiences that you'd like to share, or would be willing to be profiled in the newsletter? If so, email: [Jodie.Hertzog@wichita.edu](mailto:Jodie.Hertzog@wichita.edu)