



Department of Sociology Undergraduate Newsletter

Introduction from the Undergraduate Director



Skylar Gremillion PhD
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Instructor
LSU Department of Sociology

Administrative Staff

Editor:
Skylar Gremillion PhD.

Assistant Editor:
Kami Rutherford

Welcome to the first issue of the LSU Sociology Undergraduate Newsletter! This is an exciting time for the LSU Sociology department. Our incredible faculty are busy conducting and presenting research around the world and our department has grown in recent years.

This first issue of the LSU Sociology Undergraduate Newsletter is designed to give current and prospective Sociology students a window into what is going on in our department. We want to show you what our faculty are doing and how our LSU Sociology alumni have applied the knowledge and skills they gained at LSU in their respective fields.

In this issue we hear from two bright LSU alumni who are actively using the analytic skills they learned in our department in fields outside of academics. You'll get valuable information about our internship program, which connects LSU students with community organizations and provides valuable on-site career experiences. We also profile the charity work of Professor Jose Torres, see the results of LSU Discover Day, and take a look at some of our Fall classes. It's a packed issue!

I am very proud of our undergraduate program and excited for its future development. I hope you enjoy reading about our fantastic alumni and thinking about how you can take advantage of the great opportunities LSU Sociology offers.

-Skylar Gremillion PhD

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Professor Jose Torres reflects on collecting supplies for hurricane damaged Puerto Rico

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Learn about how to sign up for our internship program and the opportunities it offers.

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See how former and current students have applied or advanced what they learned at LSU Sociology.

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Check out the exciting new courses that will be offered in the Fall 2018 Semester.

Professor Torres reflects on his efforts to organize relief supplies for Puerto Rico.

By Jose Torres, PhD

After the Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, I teamed with a PhD student in political science, Liz Lebron, reached out to do something to get supplies over there since we are both Puerto Rican. We did some research, made some phone calls, and ended up partnering with two organizations, Cajun Airlift and Baton Rouge Emergency Aid Coalition (BREAC), who were already working on delivering aid to Puerto Rico.

They granted us the freedom to gather supplies that they could assist us in getting over to Puerto Rico. From there we teamed with the Hispanic Student Cultural Society (HSCS) at LSU to help us out. We immediately started a crowdfunding page, a Facebook page, and a Wal-Mart wish list.

Once we had those initial connections things took off really quickly. In about one month we generated \$4000 which was used to fund a storage unit and purchase specific medical supplies that were immediately needed by the physicians taking the supplies in Puerto Rico.

After some time, others on campus wanted in. Law School hosted fundraisers of their own and generated over \$1,000 to go towards our efforts, and the Womens Center and African American Cultural Center opened their doors for donation supplies through the end of the fall semester.



Above: Professor Jose Torres helps load supplies donated by local organizations onto a plane heading to Puerto Rico

Professor Torres joined the Sociology Department at LSU in 2016 after receiving his Ph.D. in Sociology from Virginia Tech. His research examines the areas of urban policing, community policing, policing and social control, police legitimacy, and race/ethnicity and policing. His current projects involve evaluating the policing of public housing communities through the use of banishment policies. His work has appeared in Policing & Society, and Sociology Compass.



Sociology Internship

The LSU Sociology internship grants undergraduate students the opportunity to work with local organizations working in the Baton Rouge community. Student interns apply the concepts and lessons from the classroom while also earning valuable real world experience. Our internship boasts a broad array of community partners, all of which have a strong commitment to improving Baton Rouge and the world overall. In the past years our interns have helped collect data to aid city prosecutors, tutored local students, helped tend community gardens and much more.

Students interested in signing up for the LSU Sociology Internship will need at least 75 credit hours at LSU, a 2.5 GPA and written permission of the class's faculty supervisor.

Internship Sign Up Process

1. Interested students should pick up the Class Add form from the Sociology office in 126 Stubbs Hall. They should fill out that form completely, including a listing of their preferred internship site and a backup site in case they do not get into the first.
2. The forms should put in Dr. Gremillion's mailbox in the Sociology office when complete. Once your internship site has been chosen and you have been accepted, the course will be added to your schedule.



Front Yard Bikes



Crime Strategies Unit

Fall 2018 Internship Host Sites

Crime Strategies Unit
Baton Rouge DA's office
Victim's Assistance Bureau of the DA's Office
Zachary Police Department
Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana
Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation

More Information, including descriptions of individual host sites available at <http://lsusociologyinternship.weebly.com/>



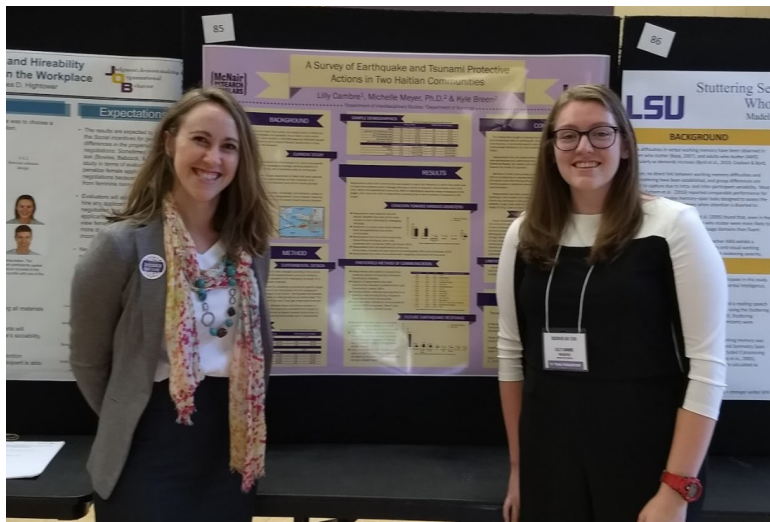
On April 10, 2018 several LSU Sociology majors and minors took part in LSU's annual Discover Day undergraduate research event. Two of those students, Hailey Teachout and Lily Cambre, presented research they worked on with Sociology faculty Dr. Michelle Meyer.



Hailey Teachout presents findings from the paper "Understanding What Motivates People to Join The Cajun Navy and Volunteer for Disaster Rescue Efforts" at LSU Discover Day 2018.



Earlier this year Hailey Teachout was awarded an LSU Discover scholarship to work on Dr. Meyer's project.



Michelle Meyer and Lily Cambre pose with Lily's poster entitled "A Survey of Earthquake and Tsunami Protective Actions in Two Haitian Communities"



Lily Cambre after winning second place for Humanities and Social Sciences in the LSU Discover Day 2018 poster competition.

Beyond Academia: Applying Research in the Field

by Kami Rutherford



Stephen Martinez, LSU Class of 2017

In this edition of Undergraduate Research in Action, we caught up with Stephen M. Martinez, a recent 2017 summer semester graduate, B. A. in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology (Cum Laude) to find out how LSU Sociology courses influenced him and how he's been applying his education after graduating. Here's what he had to say:

Stephen Martinez is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Societies. This summer, he will begin working on his Crime and Intelligence Analysis Certification through California State University. Afterwards, he plans on returning to LSU in 2019 to complete a Graduate Certificate in Geographical Information Systems and later, work towards his graduate degree in Criminology at Sam Houston State University.

Q: How did what you learned in your LSU Sociology courses influence what you are doing now? What were your favorite LSU Sociology classes? And why?

A: "Overall, the courses gave me a broader perspective of deviant behavior and it's effects on society through scientific analysis. By looking at every conceivable aspect of criminal behavior, I have a better understanding of the frequency, locations, causes, and types of crime along with individual and social reactions to crime and it's consequences."

"Since the study of crime and society is so broad, I knew that I needed to add an application-based skillset to my theoretical based courses. After some in depth research and conversations with my professors, I took an interest in the spatial analysis of crime, which led me to Dr. Mathew Valasik's SOCL 4466 Crime Mapping course. This course taught us how to use ArcGIS software and how to apply it with regards to crime analysis.

The great thing about this course was that it dealt with applied criminological research, using real world data. Our final class project was for the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Crime Strategies Unit (CSU). At the time, my team was tasked with looking for and identifying high crime areas in relation to distressed properties. As a result of our findings, I was asked to update the project again as an LSU intern in the CSU, but this time with more complete and sensitive data sets.

As a result, I authored the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office 'Distressed Properties and Crime; An Analysis of East Baton Rouge Parish in 2016,' and was later offered and accepted employment with the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office.

Recently, I was asked to be a contributing author to District Attorney Hillar Moore III's State of Crime: 2018 A Look At Crime And Crime Response Needs In East Baton Rouge Parish (pages 40-43) which was released March 2, 2018. Today, I continue to look for ways to apply spatial analysis to other crime factors and relationships in East Baton Rouge Parish."

Alumni Interview: Candice Dundy LSU Sociology Class of 2015

Interview by Kami Rutherford

Q: What are you doing now?

A: Currently, I attend Loyola Law School in Chicago where I hold a fellowship to study Child and Family Law. I work at an internship at the ACLU. In school, I am on the executive board of the Public Interest Law Society, planning community service projects for the students. I volunteer for a student organization called SUFEO (Standing Up For Each Other) where I advocate for students who are going through disciplinary appeals. I coordinate a program for law students to teach legal rights to youth held at a juvenile detention center. I also plan our school's annual social justice retreat and a program for high school students to come to our school and learn educational and social college readiness skills.

Q: How did what you learned in your LSU Sociology courses influence what you are doing?

A: LSU Sociology courses influenced me in so many ways. I started LSU as a Psychology major. After my first Sociology course, which was an elective, I realized I love the course, and undertook Sociology as a second major. The Sociology courses really set a great foundation for me to learn about dynamics between people, societal norms & deviations, and various populations in our society. This information has truly been invaluable in my current law studies and doing the work I do out in the community in Chicago.



Candice Dundy during her LSU Caper Lab internship

Q: What were your favorite LSU Sociology courses?

A: My favorite LSU Sociology classes were Sociology of the Criminal Justice System, Criminology, Sociology of Deviance, and Sociology of Education. These courses were all very exciting, and completely relevant to the work I'm doing now. Also, Sociology Internship and Methods of Sociological Research were great foundational courses to learn how to properly conduct research, use data, and present findings to an audience.

Congratulations! LSU Sociology Scholarship Recipients!

Ross Willis Memorial Award

Cindy Nguyen Nicole Oubre Connor Burruss

Fred C Frey Award

Hanna Eid and Michelle Muzzillo

Summer 2018 LSU Sociology Courses

Session A

SOCL 2001 Online No Class Meeting Time 100% Online Dr. Skylar Gremillion

SOCL 3501 Online No Class Meeting Time 100% Online Dr. Ginger Stevenson

Session B

SOCL 2511 Race Relations MTWThF 9:00-10:30 Dr. Lori Martin

SOCL 3101 Sociological Theory MTWThF 2:20-3:40 Dr. Robert O'Neil

SOCL 3510 Criminal Violence MTWThF 9:00-10:30 Dr. Ginger Stevenson

SOCL 4431 Sociology of Education MTWThF 11:00- 12:30 Dr. Skylar Gremillion

Select Fall 2018 LSU Sociology Courses

Here is a selection of the junior and senior level courses that LSU Sociology is offering in the Fall of 2018.

SOCL 4451 Section 1 Sociology of Medicine (3) T TH 1:30 to 2:50 Dr. Samuel Stroop

Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. Sociological analysis of the structure and function of health agencies and occupations; social and cultural factors in the cause and treatment of illness.

SOCL 4466 Section 1 Crime Mapping (3) T 3:00 to 5:50 Dr. Matthew Valasik

Also offered as GEOG 3043. Fundamentals of crime mapping and crime analysis with spatial data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

SOCL 4521 Section 1 Sociology of Gender (3) W 4:30 to 7:30N Dr. Dana Berkowitz

Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. Gender differences in families, education, the workplace and the state; understanding the social, economic and cultural factors that shape the lives of men and women; theoretical analysis of how different women and men experience the social world.

SOCL 4531 Section 1 The Aged in Contemporary Society (3) ONLINE Michelle Barton

Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. Social, demographic, psychological, cultural and health factors related to the aging process in contemporary society.

New Classes for Fall 2018

This fall LSU Sociology is offering 2 new courses that have not been taught before!

SOCL 4091 Section 1 Science, Technology and Magic (3) T 6-9 Dr. Wes Shrum

How is technology similar to magic? What does science say about witchcraft?

SOCL 4091 Section 1 Racial Inequality (3) T TH 3:00 to 4:20 Dr. Heather O'Connell

Examines contemporary racial inequality in the United States with an emphasis on its connections to historical institutions.

The background of the page is a grayscale photograph of a university campus. In the upper portion, there is a large, classical-style building with columns and a sign that partially reads "N HALL". A large, leafy tree is in the foreground on the left. In the lower portion, a group of diverse students is sitting on a stone ledge or bench, engaged in conversation. The overall atmosphere is academic and community-oriented.

LSU

Department of Sociology

126 Stubbs Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Telephone: (225) 578-1645
Website: <http://www.lsu.edu/sociology>
Twitter: @LsuSoc
Facebook: @LSUSociology

Yoshinori Kamo
Department Chair
kamo@lsu.edu

Skylar Gremillion
Director of Undergraduate Graduate Studies
sgremi3@lsu.edu

Administrative Staff:
Mary Kinney
Jessica Erwin