

WC Sociology Newsletter

Volume 2

Fall 2016

Note from the Chair

It is with great pleasure that I am sending out this, our second annual, WC Sociology Newsletter. As you will see in the following pages, the sociology program continues to thrive here in Chestertown. We continue to have strong students who are accomplishing great things on campus, in the community, and abroad. We ended this academic year with 38 sociology majors, 13 of whom graduated this May, and 18 minors (Sociology, Social Work, and Justice, Law, and Society). Our students attended, and some presented at, professional conferences, collaborated with faculty on several research projects, studied abroad, and completed valuable internships. Last fall Dr.

Anderson offered a new course (team-taught with Dr. Michael Harvey in Business) on Gender & Leadership. I am delighted to share that our department successfully petitioned for a new tenure-track line to add to our existing three faculty. After an extensive national search last fall and winter we hired Dr. Libby Yost who specializes in health & medical sociology – to begin fall 2016. Dr. Yost joins us from her current visiting position at William & Mary, and in addition to teaching numerous courses in our department she will be anchoring a new minor at WC in public health. In April we proudly inducted 9 new high achieving stu-



Drop us a line!

dents into the WC chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta – the International Sociological Honor Society. We would love to hear from our alumni and learn about your adventures and milestones. As always, we invite you to visit us in Chestertown whenever you are able.

Dr. Kelty

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Sociology Standouts Earn Senior



The Margaret Horsely Award, given to the graduating major or majors who, in the opinion of the faculty and students of the Department of Sociology, have shown in his or her work the clearest understanding of human social behavior, was awarded to Kelsey Groomes (left). Aydan Sultanova (right) received the Sociology Service Award, given to the graduating senior who, in the opinion of the department and its students, has made, through service, the greatest contribution to the sociology program and to Washington College.

Visit us at www.washcoll.edu/departments/sociology



Dr. Libby Yost

Meet Dr. Libby Yost

Dr. Libby Yost joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology in Fall 2016. An Alabama native, Dr. Yost grew up in Birmingham, AL. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Birmingham-Southern College where her senior thesis focused on health delivery in Mozambique. She completed her masters and doctorate at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Here she specialized in Medical Sociology

and completed additional certification in Gerontology. Her research evaluates how technology impacts health among older adult populations. She and colleagues just published a book on how to design and implement technology trainings for older adults. The book is the culmination of a 7 year project that evaluated the impact of technology training on older adults in retirement communities.

Dr. Yost will be working with several departments at the college to get the Public Health minor started. She will teach classes for the minor and others that focus on global health, medical sociology, and health and technology. She is very excited to relocate to Chestertown and engage with all that Washington College has to offer!

Dr. Kelty Is Away

Dr. Kelty is on leave from WC for the 2016-17 academic year, serving as a visiting professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences & Leadership at the United States Air Force Academy. While at the Academy Dr. Kelty will teach a new course, Internet & Society, and advise cadets on senior capstone projects across two research foci. The first examines attitudes on the integration of transgender individuals in the military. The second assesses the buffering effects of social support on mental health of personnel deployed to war

zones. In addition, Dr. Kelty will conduct research with USAFA faculty on issues related to diversity, social psychology of airmen, and cross-cultural assessments of social and political attitudes . Aside from work, Dr. Kelty is looking forward to being out west again with the mountains, having been born and raised on the west coast. He looks forward to

hiking, rafting, skiing, sledding, mountain sunsets, and then returning to Chestertown and the Chesapeake Bay.



I've learned that making a living is not the same as making a life.
- Maya Angelou

Tell Us About Your Path to Passion

We are always trying to learn more from our alumni about how their academic and social experiences at WC helped them find their Path to Passion. We’re asking alumni to update their alumni profiles and volunteer to participate in the Path to Passion program so that we might share your story. Sharing these profiles helps to create connections between Alumni Relations, Admissions and the Center

for Career Development. We also feature our former students on the newly redesigned Sociology Department website and during open houses for prospective students and families. These profiles are also critical for our current students considering their career choices with a degree in Sociology. Our department website currently highlights the experience and accomplish-

ments of 8 of our alumni. You can read an excerpt of one on page 11 of this newsletter. We would love to add more!
Project Description: <https://www.washcoll.edu/alumni/path-to-passion/>
We invite all alumni to visit the path to passion portal to submit your stories: <https://www.washcoll.edu/alumni/path-to-passion/volunteer/>



Ali Grady

Identifying Prevention Efforts on Youth Gang Activity in Philadelphia

Youth participation in gang activity has increased. There are numerous reasons as to why an individual is either pulled or pushed into this lifestyle. This study investigates both physical and emotional impacts, theories, and prevention efforts made by organizations that focus on helping to prevent youth from joining gangs. Gangs are most likely to develop in socially disadvantaged neighborhoods, more specifically areas that lack strong family, educational, and peer pro-social bonds. These social institutions have a direct impact on not only an individual but on the community as a whole. Through interviews with individuals of the justice system and representatives of youth programs in Philadelphia, we are able to see what is being done within communities and what needs to be fixed for a pro-social society.



ADVOCACY



PREVENTION



OUTREACH

SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE

Kelsey Groomes

Washington College Student Advocates Proposal

This thesis project examines the possibility of creating a student-run sexual assault advocacy and peer education group at Washington College. These students would act as potential first respondents for victims and maintain a campus presence that would allow them

to use their influence as peers to educate the community about various sex and health-related topics. Country-wide sexual assault remains a hot-topic issue and the societal attention has influenced the ways colleges respond to sexual assault cases. Research on the effectiveness of peer education is inconclusive, but does provide potential strategies for successfully educating about sexual assault. Washington College students were surveyed about their knowledge and likely use of current and potential resources. After considering the survey results and the new programs available at Washington College, the proposal for the Washington College Student Advocates will not be moving forward, as there is no longer a sufficient gap that would be filled by this organization.



Anna Nazario

Women Targeted as Witches: Exploring Historical and Contemporary Accounts

Over the course of modern history, women have been placed in a lower social ranking as compared with men. Looking at historical accounts of witch hunting in Europe during the 14th-16th centuries, as well as the Salem witch trials in America's colonial period, women were accused and persecuted at an overwhelmingly higher rate than men. Witch hunting may seem like an occurrence of the past, but in the rural and tribal areas of India and some African countries, this is still a large problem.

The review of the literature lays out a foundation of how women fit into the roles of scapegoats when it comes down to witchcraft accusations and women's place in the social structure of early modern societies. Although there are other areas in the world that still outcast women by accusing them of witchcraft, I use India and some African countries as the basis for contemporary examples. The main theoretical perspective used in the discussion of this topic is Émile Durkheim's Functionalist theory, also accompanied by Feminist theories.



Hannah Kebede

Comparing Reactions to White Collar and Property Crimes

Previous research has shown that before the mid twentieth century, white collar crime was not considered serious, however, beginning in the late 1970s, the US government and the public came to recognize white collar crime as equally damaging as property crime, if not more so. The purpose of this study was to compare and contrast perceptions of white collar crime and property crime in the modern era. A sample 64 undergraduate psychology students at a small liberal arts college in the Mid-Atlantic assigned harsher punishments and more negative ratings to white collar criminals than to property criminals. possibly indicating public discontentment with the wealthy.

Senior Capstones



Jackie DeSoto

Motivations on policing and interactions with minority civilians

This paper is a sociological analysis of the use of policing practices in relation to the development of tensions between law enforcement and minority groups. The focus is on the reasoning behind police actions and the effort these actions have on the minority community and the establishment of tensions. Explanations of the discord minorities have with police officers and how policing practices perpetuate this dissatisfaction is provided through use of social control theory, group-position theory, labeling theory, and social disorganization theory.



Sarah Kraus

Attitudes towards treatment options for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

What characteristics influence whether an individual considers ADHD to be a real disease? How does an individual's belief of whether ADHD is a real disease influence his or her preference for children to receive treatment with medica-

tion or counseling? Using Data collected from the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS) this study attempts to discover how demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, income, education, and if the respondent is a teacher) influence a person's belief that ADHD is a real disease, and in turn his preference for or against medication and counseling. Results indicate that income and race are significant predictors of whether someone perceives ADHD to be a real disease. Further, age, perceptions of ADHD as a real disease, and being a teacher or not are significant predictors of an individual's preference for or against medication or behavioral treatment.



Brianna Jehl

The Effects of Children's Gender on Mothers' Comforting Behavior Following a Jealousy Simulation

The ways in which mothers view their children and interact with them can be impacted by a variety of factors. Previous research has shown that a mother's gendered stereotypes can dictate how she interacts with her children. The current study examined the effects of children's gender on mothers' comforting behavior following a jealousy simulation with a sample of 73 children

between the ages of 48 and 63 months. Mothers and children were placed in a jealousy simulation in which the mother ignored her own child and focused her attention on a realistic-looking baby doll. Mothers' comforting behaviors following the jealousy scenario were assessed. Results indicated that mothers were more likely to show affectionate comforting behaviors toward daughters than sons. Findings suggest that children's gender has a major impact on how mothers show their children support and comfort.



Nikki Morgan

Intergenerational Learning

This research looks at intergenerational learning and the effects it has on individuals in the class as well as examining the bridging of the generational gap. The goal is to show specific positive effects in an intergenerational learning program where parents, grandparents, and other guardians are directly working with another generation in the setting of an art class. Through observing and attending classes weekly then following up with interviews I was able to conduct research on exactly how the intergenerational learning process worked. This research supports intergenerational learning programs and benefits from them.

Furthermore, participants assigned harsher punishments and more negative ratings to criminals of high socioeconomic status than to low socioeconomic status criminals. These results show a negative attitude towards white collar crime, as well as crime committed by high SES people,



Jack Butler

The Modern Athena: Full Gender Integration in the US Military

For my capstone I designed and produced a documentary film that looks at women's military participation from an historical perspective. The film begins with women's participation in our nation's military from the founding of the Republic through the recent policy turn of the Ground Combat Exclusion Act January 1, 2016. Experts from academia, policy and the military give life to this complex and important social transformation. Officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force weigh in on the importance of full inclusion of women in our military.



Sadie Robertson

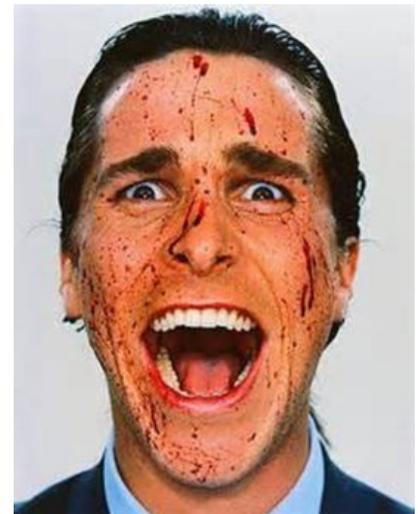
Differences in Drinking Behavior by Season Status among Division III Student-Athletes

Division III athletes are a sub-group of college students who tend to drink more than their peers. This study investigated if differences in heavy episodic drinking behavior among Division III student-athletes exist depending on their season status. Spring student-athletes (N=51) were surveyed about their use of alcohol during their competitive season and during their off-season. This study is based on and supported by social role theory and social norm theory. There was no significant difference in the estimated blood-alcohol concentration of student-athletes depending on season status, but athletes tended to drink significantly more days of the week during their off-season than their competitive season. Results suggest that even though athletes are drinking more days out of the week during their off-season, the rates at which they are drinking do not change once they are in their competitive season. These results also support the need for more research on the topic and new strategies to prevent student-athletes from participating in dangerous drinking behavior.

Ceara Scanlon

The Relationship Between Success and Psychopathy

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between success and psychopathy and if there are different types of psychopaths. The participants were undergraduate students who were administered an online survey in order to measure different factors associated with psychopathy. This study did not find that success, when defined as intelligence and leadership, increased as psychopathy increased. However, there were weak correlations that were found between psychopathy and positive characteristics. These findings support the literature that there is perhaps a primary and secondary type of psychopath. Further research should be conducted in order to compare institutionalized samples to those who hold positions of power in order to examine this relationship further.



Aydan Sultanova

Gender Differences Regarding the Use of Social Media as a Coping Mechanism

The purpose of this study was to answer the following research questions: 1) Are men more likely to use social media sites rather than face-to-face interactions as a coping mechanism to combat feelings of anxiety? 2) Are men more likely to use social media sites that are anonymous because this further protects them from being identified when they express their emotions? 3) Are men less likely to react or respond to someone else's comment or post and less likely to post photos? 4) Are women more likely to use face-to-face interactions as a coping mechanism? 5) Will interacting on Facebook decrease anxiety after participants are put in an anxiety-invoking situation? An experiment was conducted in order to answer these questions. In order to determine whether going on Facebook decreases anxiety, half of the participants went on Facebook while the other half completed a task on the Internet. The third research question was the only one that was partially supported. More females than males reported that they post photos on social media sites. The results of this study exhibit low external validity and it is difficult to make any conclusions or assumptions based on them due to the insufficient number of male participants.



Peter Gould

Effects of Sports Participation on Youth

Youth participation in sports is generally thought to have positive effects on the overall development of children and teens. This capstone looked at how participation of youth in sports encourages and reinforces the shared values of society so that members learn to live and work together. Many argue sports participation teaches skills related to healthy lifestyles, working hard, the importance of following rules of the game, respect for the authority of the coaches and officials, and life skills of leadership, teamwork, cooperation and competition. Sports participation can also have dysfunctional consequences such as learning aggressive behaviors by playing some contact sports. For many young athletes, especially those with access to economic resources, skills are acquired or reinforced through sports, but not all youth have equal access to these benefits. Youth, whose families, schools, and communities lack resources, are less likely to participate and carry over the positive effects of sports to other settings. Professional sports organizations recognize the effects sports have on youth in the communities around them and have created programs designed to make sports more broadly accessible to youth. It seems that sports can act as a catalyst when other positive supports

for youth are in place, but it is not sufficient in and of itself to result in positive outcomes for every one who participates.

Kristi Given

The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture and the Mechanisms Deterring Pro-climatic Action

Climate change is a global event occurring at an accelerating rate. Precipitation, drought, and extreme weather events are causing a change in agriculture affecting all populations. By understanding and accepting climatic change, populations are able to adopt pro-climatic actions to help slow down the process of climate change and the adaptation of agriculture. It is becoming increasingly significant to understand the mechanisms which deter people from taking pro-climatic action. This capstone uses symbolic interactionism to examine three social mechanisms that affect pro-climatic action: education, socio-economic status, and religion. While higher levels of education are associated with more pro-climatic action, higher social class was found to deter pro-climatic action. Religion was not found to reliably relate to individuals' climate actions.

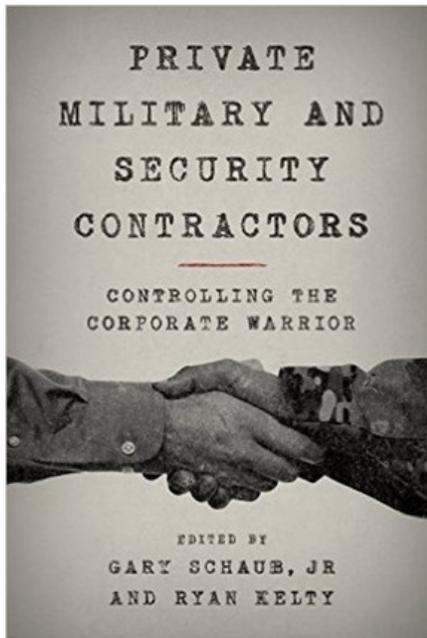


Students meet with iconic Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski

Professors Erin Anderson and Michael Harvey (Business Management) teamed up to offer a special topics course, Gender and Leadership, in the fall of 2015. In addition to invigorating class discussion and interesting classroom speakers, the class traveled to Washington, D.C. twice: once to see play about Queen Elizabeth I at the Folger Theatre; again to meet with the longest serving woman in the U.S. Senate, Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski. Students talked with Senator Mikulski in the Senator's prestigious "hideaway office" and had the opportunity to watch a vote in action on the Senate floor.



"Meeting Senator Barbara Mikulski was one of the most enlightening and interesting experiences I have ever had. As a class, we got to learn about the reality for women in the Senate over the last few decades from a woman who herself experienced what it was like...This visit really brought everything that we are learning in Gender and Leadership to the real world, the here and now. It has opened my eyes to how much more progress society needs to make before becoming truly gender-equal. Most of all, however, it has shown me that women can overcome the institutional and internal barriers that we face and become so much more than anyone could ever imagine." —Rachel Martinez, class of 2018, Sociology major



"This book provides a uniquely synthesized and highly informed analysis of the multifaceted challenges related to the evolution and control of Private Military Contractors—one of the most pivotal phenomena affecting defense and security in this era. An authoritative source and truly insightful!" - - Irina Goldenberg, Secretary General of The European Research Group on Military and Society

Dr. Kelty's New Book is out!

The U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan has made plain that modern military engagements rely on a significant civilian component. One of the most critical aspects of the increased use of civilian contractors is the proper control over this component of the total force. This volume first examines mechanisms of control from the macro-to-micro levels of social organization — i.e., from international law to interpersonal interaction with contractors on the ground. The volume also analyzes several domains of control: functional (what force capabilities are available), political (who decides when and how to use force), and social (norms and values). Altogether, this book shows that these various layers of formal and informal regulatory structure are necessary and mutually reinforcing, yet still inadequate to the task at hand: controlling the corporate warrior.

Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociological Honor Society

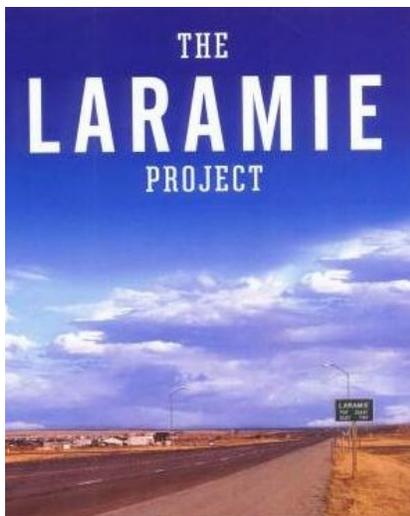


The purpose of AKD is to promote human welfare through the association of an intellectual fellowship group interested in developing scientific knowledge that may be applied to the solution of social problems.

WC Sociology screened *The Laramie Project* and hosted a discussion of the film and reception at the induction of new AKD members in the spring.



Congratulations to the 2016 AKD inductees: Katie Abrams, Jenna Carpenter, Noah Keita Christophe, Emma Craig, Sarah Kraus, Nathan Krimmel, Rachel Martinez, Bethany Palkovitz, and Emili Stopak



*“After Matthew’s murder in 1998, members of the Tectonic Theater Project in New York City traveled to Laramie, Wyoming, to interview residents about how the attack on Matt had affected the town. These transcripts were transformed into the play *The Laramie Project*, which tells the stories of real people who lived at the epicenter of one of the nation’s most heinous anti-gay hate crimes.” (www.matthewshepard.org)*

Faculty Research

Publications

- ◆ **Anderson, Erin K.** 2016. "Teaching Work and Gender in the 21st Century." In *Teaching Gender and Sex in Contemporary America*, edited by Kristin Halltinner and Ryanne Pilgeram. Springer: Netherlands.
- ◆ **Anderson, Erin K.** 2016. "Doing Sociology: An Exercise in Applying Research Methods." *Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology (TRAILS)*. <http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/Resource.aspx?ResourceID=12980>
- ◆ Schaub, Gary J., Jr. and **Ryan Kelty** (Eds.). 2016. *Private Military and Security Contractors: Controlling the Corporate Warrior*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- ◆ **Kelty, Ryan.** 2016. "A Boots-Eye View of Civilian Contracting: Soldiers, Contractors, and the Way Forward." In Gary J. Schaub, Jr. and Ryan Kelty (Eds.). *Private Military and Security Contractors: Controlling the Corporate Warrior*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- ◆ Schaub, Gary, Jr. and **Ryan Kelty.** 2016. "Controlling the Corporate Warrior." In Gary J. Schaub, Jr. and Ryan Kelty (Eds.). *Private Military and Security Contractors: Controlling the Corporate Warrior*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- ◆ Woodruff, Todd & **Ryan Kelty.** 2015. "Gender Effects on Soldier Value : Evidence in Support of Full Gender Integration in the US Army." *Res Militaris* (Special Issue: Women in the Military, Part One), September. vol. 1. http://resmilitaris.net/ressources/10217/86/res_militaris_article_woodruff___kelty_gender_effects_on_soldier_value.pdf
- ◆ Kleykamp, Meredith, **Ryan Kelty** and David R. Segal. Forthcoming. "Military Service in Midlife." In Laura Walker and Larry Nelson (Eds.), *Flourishing in Emerging Adulthood: Positive Development during the Third Decade of Life*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Conference Presentations

- ◆ **Anderson, Erin K.** 2016. "Infographing the Sociological Imagination." Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Boston, MA.
- ◆ Bierman, Alex and **Ryan Kelty.** 2015. "Moderating Effects of Religiosity: The Effects of Wartime Threats on Psychological Distress among Deployed Department of the Army Civilians." Presented at the biennial meeting of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces & Society, Chicago (October 30).
- ◆ **Kelty, Ryan** and Todd Woodruff. 2015. "Does Gender Moderate the Effects of Combat Deployment on Organizational Identification and Sacrificing?" Presented at the biennial meeting of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces & Society, Chicago (October 31).
- ◆ **Kelty, Ryan**, Bridget Bunten and Benjamin Bellas. 2015. "College Classrooms and Safe Spaces: Negotiating Intellectual Challenge and Risk Taking in Higher Education." Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Boston (March 19).
- ◆ Bierman, Alex and **Ryan Kelty.** 2016. "Are there Atheists in Civilian Foxholes?: Religion, Distress, and Mental Health among Deployed Civilians." Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Boston (March 19).

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." —Mahatma Gandhi

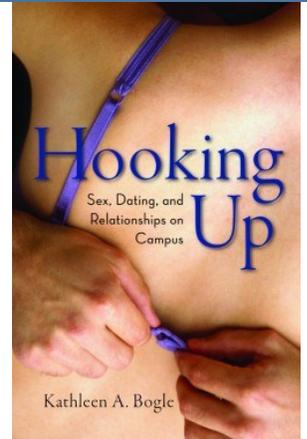
Sociology Events

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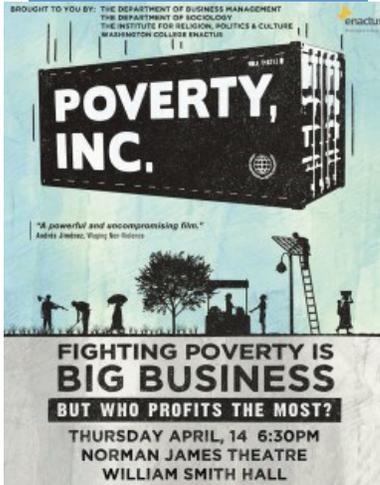
Checking in on Hooking Up

Esteemed professor Kathleen Bogle visited the WAC campus to talk about her book and the ambiguities of intimacy for young people today. Bogle's research explores the implications behind the term "hook up" and what it actually means to people.



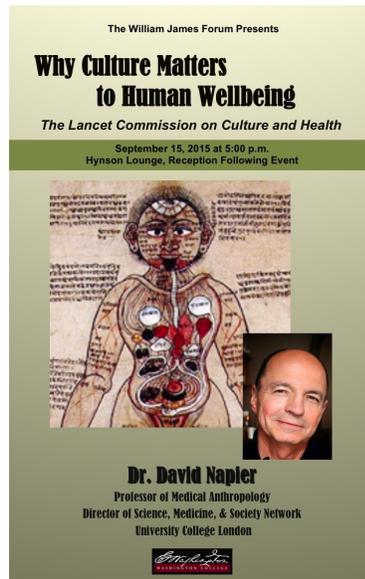
Poverty, Inc.

Drawing from over 200 interviews filmed in 20 countries, Poverty, Inc. unearths an uncomfortable side of charity we can no longer ignore. From TOMs Shoes to international adoptions, from solar panels to U.S. agricultural subsidies, the film challenges each of us to ask the tough question: *Could I be part of the problem?*



Why Culture Matters to Human Wellbeing: The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health: A Talk by David Napier

Dr. Napier discussed the Lancet Commission's recent findings related to culture and health—the first ever detailed appraisal of the role of culture in health, bringing together voices from different fields, including anthropologists, social scientists, and medics. The Commission examines three overlapping domains of culture and health: cultural competence, health inequalities, and communities of care. With reference to these domains, the Commission shows how inseparable health is from cultural perceptions of wellbeing.



The Sons of Ben

Shown at the annual Dia de Futbol, this film highlights a small group of die-hard soccer fans who came together to form a supporters' club for a soccer team that did not exist. Naming their group after famous Philadelphian Benjamin Franklin, the Sons of Ben were created, with only one goal in mind: bring a soccer franchise to Philadelphia.

Madame Presidentá: Why Not U.S.?

This powerful documentary chronicles the journey of two women, one from the U.S. and one from Rio de Janeiro, as they explore the key question of why so many other countries have elected female presidents before the United States. In the process they make important discoveries about new democracies, community, and women's rights. The film is a collaboration of the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania, and ELAS: Women's Social Investment Fund in Rio de Janeiro.



Alumni Spotlight

Carimanda Baynard '08*

As a sociology major, I had the opportunity to expand my knowledge and passion for helping others to further understand cultural awareness during national incidents and emergencies. In my Sophomore year of college, the same year as Hurricane Katrina, my passion for sociology and cultural awareness only expanded. During my time at WAC, I was awarded two fellowships through the CV Starr Center. Through the CV Starr Center, I developed two research presentations on the following: 1) Examining the media coverage of missing women 2) Defacto segregation in the New Orleans Educational System. In addition, my senior thesis examined *The Ongoing Crisis: Defacto Segregation in the New Orleans Educational System*.

The sociology program at WAC presents a unique opportunity to enhance your critical and strategic thinking skills and fully utilize your creativity. These research opportu-

nities only enhanced my passion for strategic thinking, organization assessment, and research methodology.

During my time in graduate school at American University, I expanded upon my undergraduate research and completed a master's thesis examining the media's coverage of Hurricane Katrina in national print publications. My study concluded race, socioeconomic status, and other social demographics factors impacted the media's coverage and depiction of the impacted Gulf Coast population .

With my passion for emergency management, crisis communication, and cultural awareness, researching Hurricane Katrina served as a multidimensional platform to examine economic & social disparities. My Senior Capstone Experience played a vital role in my graduate school experiences and career path. I am continually grateful to Washington College and the Sociology Department for the platform.

* From Carimanda's Path to Passion Profile:

<http://www.washcoll.edu/live/profiles/11247-carimanda-baynard>



Recommended Books

Pricing Beauty: The Making of a Fashion Model. Ashley Mears (2011)

Hate Crimes in Cyberspace. Danielle Keats Citron (2014)

On Immunity: An Inoculation. Eula Biss. (2014)

The End of Plenty: The Race to Feed a Crowded World. Joel Bourne (2015)



