

# SocSource

ALUMNI ISSUE | OCTOBER 2013

In honor of homecoming weekend, this issue features alumni stories, photos, insights, and suggestions for students. See what our alumni have to say about sociology, professional development, and life in the “real world” on page 2 and 3 of this issue!

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### New! Community Based Research Workshop Series and *The Sociological Imagination Luncheon Series*

We are excited to introduce two new blockly events! These events are designed to foster a space for students talking to one another and to community members, to share ideas, and most importantly, to think sociologically outside of the classroom. More information in box to right.

### Kathy Giuffre to Serve on ASA Committee

Kathy Giuffre has been invited to serve a three-year term on the American Sociological Association Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award Selection Committee. This is a national award that is given annually for outstanding contributions to the teaching and learning of sociology. Congratulations Kathy!

### Exciting Block 4 Course: Food & Social Justice

Looking for a great Block 4 course? Look no further! This course uses a sociological lens to examine the local and global processes that shape the process of food production, distribution, and consumption. Emphasizing how food practices are shaped, contained, and altered by relations of power, the course explores the relationships between social inequality, food insecurity, and food production, food movements, and patterns for food consumption as related to culture, class, and identity. – Deb Smith

### Eli Michaels’13 Presents Research in Denver

Eli presented her thesis research on the *Gendering of Control Tactics in Cases of Intimate Partner Violence* at the bi-annual Domestic Violence Research and Action Coalition (DVRAC) *Current Research in Domestic Violence Luncheon* in Denver last week. She presented alongside three other scholars of domestic violence to an audience of over one hundred domestic violence researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and advocates.

### Meet the Student Advisory Board

Your sociology student representation! Madison Sink, Isabel Parkinson, Stephanie Olivas, and Savannah Johnson make up this year’s Student Advisory Board, or SAB. The SAB is responsible for planning events, such as the *Sociological Imagination Luncheon Series*, contributing to the *SocSource*, and acting as the sociology student voice.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Sociological Imagination: Gun Control

Wednesday, October 9th  
12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.

Sociology Seminar Room (Pizza Provided)

The Sociological Imagination Luncheon Series provides students with the opportunity to apply a sociological framework outside of the classroom. Students gather over pizza for informal, yet educated discourse about a current event or social problem. The Block 2 theme is gun control. Any sociology student—declared major or otherwise—is welcome. Those who wish to participate must **RSVP to Eli by the second Monday of the block at 5pm**. Email [Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu), or sign up on the sheet on Eli’s door to reserve your spot!

### Sociology Open House

Friday, October 11th  
12:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.

Sociology Department Lounge

Swing by the Sociology Open House for a cookie and some coffee. Meet some of our very own alumni, and show off our department!

### Community-Based Research Workshop I:

#### Introduction to CBR

Tuesday, October 15  
12:30pm to 2:00pm  
Sociology Seminar Room

The Collaborative for Community Engagement (CCE) is pleased to offer a workshop series focused on community-based research (CBR), a collaborative approach to research aimed at solving a community-identified problem. This first workshop will introduce students to the principles and practices of CBR and the ways in which students can use CBR projects to integrate their academic coursework, research interests, and public service commitments. The workshop is open to all students with an interest in CBR. Please RSVP to Virginia Visconti, Acting Director of the CCE ([virginia.visconti@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:virginia.visconti@coloradocollege.edu)).

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Tuesday, 10/15:** Fulbright Scholarship Application Deadline
- **Tuesday, 10/15:** Gates Cambridge Scholarship Application Deadline
- **Friday, 10/25:** Teach for America application deadline (Round 2)

## ALUMNI

### CC Sociology Alumni around the World!

From teaching English in Bulgaria to working as sex educators; traveling the world as freelance photographers to starting nonprofits; pursuing law school to engaging in food justice, CC Sociology Alumni are doing great things all over the world! The following pages present a selection of featured alumni. For a more extensive list of what alumni are up to, visit the “Alumni News” section of the “News & Events” tab on the Sociology website!



#### Blaine Carper'13

Blaine (left) was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for 2013-2014. She will spend the coming academic year teaching English at a Bulgarian high school. Blaine chose Bulgaria as her country of choice because of its Turkish minority population. Blaine is passionate about the Turkish people and believes that “through teaching in Bulgaria, [she] may learn more about the Turkish population as a minority group and about their history of maintaining Turkish and Muslim identities abroad in an Orthodox nation.”

**An update from Blaine:** “My colleagues are really nice and very helpful. The school I'm teaching at is the best high school in the region, and it was recently renovated by the America for Bulgaria Foundation. I got very, very lucky. Hopefully I will still love Bulgaria after this first month of teaching. :)”

#### Ashley Speyer'13

Ashley moved to New York in August and is now working at the Council on Foreign Relations. She is an Interdepartmental Program Assistant and is currently assisting a Fellow on Latin American studies and US-Cuba foreign policy. Ashley is working on a project aimed to increase dialogue between Cuba and the U.S. related to mitigating risks associated with oil exploration off the coast of Cuba.

#### Josh Raab'11

Josh (right) is currently living in Boston running a company that he started that does Panoramic Walkthroughs for local businesses. After graduating from Colorado College in 2011, Josh attended the Documentary and Photojournalism Program at the International Center of Photography. He has since been covering social issues as a freelance photographer for People Magazine, The New Yorker, Focus, and others. Josh also runs Jay Peg's Photo Pub., an online documentary photography publication for emerging documentary photographers. The first two issues were in-depth coverage of the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, and the next issue will be an international approach to gun culture. Josh also recently used my sociology thesis on The Burning Man Arts Festival to get partial funding and media clearance to continue my work at the festival from a photographic perspective.



#### Hunter Swain'09

Hunter graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in May 2013. He took the bar exam in July and recently joined the law firm Outten & Golden LLP in New York City. Outten & Golden is one of the premier employment law firms in the United States and exclusively represents employees: “a large part of [their] practice is litigating employment discrimination, both individually and through class action lawsuits.”



#### Liana Scobie'10

Liana (left) lives in New York City and works at TerraCycle headquarters in Trenton, NJ. TerraCycle is a micro-multinational business currently operating in 24 countries eliminating the idea of waste. They create collection and recycling solutions for anything previously nonrecyclable, ranging from chip bags to cigarette butts. Liana is the Senior Associate, Executive Office, and feels very lucky for her Senior Thesis to have inspired her career in sustainable business and social enterprise.

#### Lacey Ramirez'05

After working for CC for several years, Lacey joined the Peace Corps as a health volunteer in Morocco. She then pursued a Masters in Economics and Policy Analysis at Columbia University. Lacey now specializes in program impact and evaluation, and currently works for the World Bank in Kisumu, Kenya evaluating HIV/AIDS education interventions and whether they influence youth and their sexual risk taking behaviors.

## ALUMNI

**Sophie Kauffman '09**

Sophie currently works for the Washington State Farmers Market Association, where she coordinates *Fresh Bucks*, a program that matches SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps) beneficiaries' first \$10 spent at farmers markets with an additional \$10 to spend on fruits and vegetables. She coordinates 17 Seattle-area markets; working with farmers market managers, social service providers, the City of Seattle, and the University of Washington Center for Public Health Nutrition to collect data, ensure proper outreach, and distribute resources and materials. She is also in the process of building a toolkit for other Washington markets to use that will enable them to start similar programs. Currently, Sophie is finishing her prerequisites and is hoping to attend the MS Nutrition program at the University of Washington in fall of 2014.

**Portia Abernathy '07**

Portia graduated in 2007 and is currently living in Boston, working as the Manager of Special Needs Programming at the Boston Ballet. Portia primarily oversees the Adaptive Dance program that provides dance instruction to children and young adults (ages 2-26) with Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Shanna Katz '06**

Shanna is a board certified sexologist, sexuality educator and diversity/inclusivity speaker. She has worked with organizations such as The Colorado Department of Public Health Education, Arizona State University, the Mayo Clinic and the American Medical Students Association's sexual health scholars program to bring LGBTQ and disability inclusivity to medicine. She also uses her Master's of Sexuality Education to provide accessible, open-source sex education to people around the country, by putting on workshops at places such as Brown University, SUNY-Purchase, U of A, the Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health, and the New York LGBT Center. More recently, Shanna began a Ph.D. program at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver, where she is specializing in sexuality of marginalized communities (especially the LGBTQ community and people with disabilities), its intersection with power, privilege and oppression. Shannon would be "happy to support any current students or recent alumni who are interested in queer and trans\* issues, ableism, social justice, or who would like to go into the social justice field."

**Jaime Kucinkas '05**

Jamie is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology with a minor in Social Science Research Methods from Indiana University in Bloomington. Her dissertation is entitled "Re-envisioning American Institution and Cultures from the Inside Out: A Comparative Analysis of the Emergence of Contemplative Practices and Philosophies in Science, Education, and Business."

**Reflections on the Colorado College Department of Sociology, and Words of Advice for Students:**

*Throughout my time at CC I was exposed to how seriously stratified and fundamentally unfair our society can be. That realization was shocking and disturbing, and I knew that I wanted to dedicate my life to fighting for equality of opportunity. When I decided to go to law school I really wanted to go into an area of law where I can make a difference and combat discrimination. I think I've found the perfect place to do that. – Hunter Swain '09*

*My sociology classes helped me to begin view the world through a lens that was different from the lens I grew up with. I began to understand the importance that things like culture, education, and community played in shaping the identity of a person. And perhaps most importantly, I learned that I have a choice about how to view the world. I wouldn't trade my sociology degree for anything. My advice to current sociology students is quite simple: don't let anyone tell you that getting your degree in sociology is a mistake. – Ben Purdue '10*

*My time at CC was special in many ways, and the Sociology department was the cornerstone of my academic experience. More than anything, the Sociology department (and CC as a whole) taught me how to think, how to be flexible, how to be creative, and how to adapt and seek new challenges. These are the precise skills that make or break you in the real world, especially one that changes so quickly. – Matt Bahl '04*

*My sociology major helped me to view the big picture, and to think critically and creatively about communities. – Sophia Marvell '10*

*You shouldn't let anyone tell you that studying sociology -- or the liberal arts generally -- is a waste of time or money. I heard that from several people when I majored in sociology, and those people could not have been more wrong. I feel like the analytical thinking that I developed while studying at CC really prepared me for law school. Specifically, it informed my values, helped me develop an ability to pick apart data, and helped me see the big picture. More generally, as a group my friends from CC are some of the most interesting and successful people I know. – Hunter Swain '09*

*For more information about SocSource or how to contribute, please contact [Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.K.Michaels@ColoradoCollege.edu)*

## STUDENT STORIES

### Esther Chan'16 and Veronica Spann'15 Take CC Photography by Storm!

Sociology majors Esther Chan and Veronica Spann have been keeping very busy with their involvement in the Colorado College photography world!



**Esther** discovered photography during high school with a little digital camera. She would go into her backyard and pretend to be a wilderness explorer and get close to bees to capture macro shots. For Esther, Photography started as a hobby, when she joined high school Yearbook and it became her life. Esther photographs campus at events and student activities, takes photos for CC's Instagram, catches any beautiful scenery on campus, "which there is a lot of!" She also is the Co-President for the Flash Photography Club, and a staff photographer for The Catalyst.

"I think photography gave me a different way to look at the world and as cliché as it sounds, my world has become an art form. I think the process of taking pictures as well as the finished picture in itself has the ability to do some good for the world in whatever shape and form. It's a complex yet simple

way of storytelling where a place, emotion, person, or object jumps off a page and resonates with its audience. In relation to sociology, I think photography is a median between society/the world around us and our own individuality. We're able to interact with this huge world and make it our own." - Esther

**Veronica** has been passionate about photography for as long as she can remember. She's worked in many facets of photography including portraiture for Lifetouch Studios, documentary photography for PBS and Great Museums, wedding photography, and photojournalism. Veronica used to work as a staff photographer for the Catalyst and has since been promoted to the Chief Photo Editor position. She also worked as a photographer for the Athletics department, photographing Intramural sports for their website. She has recently started a photography intern position with the Communications Department and joined the executive board of the Flash Photography Club. Above all of these photographic opportunities, Veronica loves to photograph my friends, my travels, my family, and my adventures.



"To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about making the ordinary extraordinary, or finding something interesting in ordinary places and situations. Photography is not so much about the things you see, but more about the way in which you see them. Much of sociology also focuses on this concept of finding interesting features, trends, and conditions in the ordinary. Sociology looks at the society we feel familiar with and illuminates fascinating aspects in the way photography illuminates ordinary. So, for me, practicing photography and studying sociology serves as the perfect marriage on my quest to find extraordinary in the ordinary." - Veronica



Photo by Veronica Spann



Esther Chan with her camera