

Student Achievement

GENDER & WOMEN’S STUDIES

Quentina Dunbar was awarded a position in the Relay Graduate School of Education’s Teaching Residency Program.

GOVERNMENT

Muna Mohamed, an International Relations student, was awarded the Gilman Scholarship to study in Morocco during Summer 2017.

Danielle M. Tomsen (Political Science/Spanish 2007) published her first book entitled *Opting Out of Congress: Partisan Polarization and the Decline of the Moderate Candidates*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017. Danielle earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Cornell University in 2014. She currently works as Assistant Professor at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York. Her dissertation, "Party Fit in the Congress: The Intersection of Ideology, Political Parties and Gender" won the 2015 E.E. Schattschneider Best Dissertation Award in American Politics.

Andrea Vasquez, an International Relations student, was awarded the Gilman Scholarship to study in India during Spring 2017.

HISTORY

Aaron Flomo was awarded a position in the Multicultural/Historically Black Institution Visitation Program at Perdue University.

Abby Hoy Nissen (M.A. Student) will serve as a discussant on the roundtable, “Celebrating Women’s Suffrage,” this October at the University of North Dakota. The roundtable is sponsored by the Women’s History Interest Group at the Northern Great Plains History Conference. Her mentor was Dr. Lahlum.

Reed Peterson (M.S., ’08), was recently hired as an instructor in history at Vermilion Community College. He completed his thesis with Dr. Lahlum on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Jeremy Solomon (M.A. Student) will be presenting his paper, titled, “Traces of Tolerance: The Actions of Constables toward Quakers in Early Modern England,” at

the European Studies Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. His mentors included Dr. Corley and Dr. Biel.

Mara Soupir, a History and Anthropology student, was awarded a position in the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship Student Congress during Summer 2017.

Terry Sveine completed research on Major Fred F.B. Coffin that was highlighted in the April and May Edition of *PrairieTracks*, a Huron, SD Chamber newsletter.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Marissa DeWitz attended the White House Historical Association's Teachers Institute this past July and this picture is of her in the State Dining Room in the White House. Marissa was the only pre-service student accepted from a nationwide pool of applicants.

Marissa Dewitz at the White House Historical Association’s Teachers Institute



Samantha Mitchell and **Kaylynn Cousin** were awarded scholarships to attend the Belfer National Conference for Teachers at the US Holocaust Museum, and were the only two pre-service teachers invited to the event.



Samantha Mitchell and Kaylynn Cousin at the Belfer National Conference

Faculty and Department Highlights

ECONOMICS

Atrayee Ghosh Roy published, “*Economic Globalization and Gender Equality: A Case Study of India*,” in the Journal of Advances in Economics and Finance.

Atrayee Ghosh Roy published, “*Analyzing the Growth Effect of Transportation Investment*,” in Progress in Economics Research: Vol. 37.

Michael Spencer was voted “Most Enthusiastic Professor” by the Delta Sigma Pi - Epsilon Iota Chapter. Professor Spencer’s award was given on April 27, 2017.

New Staff and Faculty

Rita Ray joins the Economics faculty as a fixed-term faculty member. She has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Miami and has held teaching positions at Western Washington University, Gustavus Adolphus, and Augsburg College. Dr. Ray’s research specializations are in the fields of Applied Econometrics, Development Economics, Education Economics, and Health Economics. In August 2017, she published a paper coauthored with Rajlakshmi Datta in *Children and Youth Services Review*. The title of the paper is, “Do Separate Female Toilets in Schools Improve Female Enrollment?: A Case Study from Indian States.”

GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

New Faculty and Staff

Jamie Madden joins the Gender and Women’s Studies program as a fixed-term assistant professor, having earned her doctorate in Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland (2017). Dr. Madden researches education-related debt and focuses on students who face challenges with repayment. How, she asks, do students vulnerable to debt think about the future and how do they orient to normative timelines of progress? Taking on debt in college orients students towards a supposedly “better future.” But what happens to those who are unable or unwilling to realize these better futures? Jaime carries out field research in two sites: for-profit colleges; and Gallaudet University, a historically deaf university. She has a special interest in disability studies, queer studies, and feminist pedagogy.

GEOGRAPHY

Jose Lopez completed research during his sabbatical, titled, “The Geography of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Minnesota,” that is published in the *Journal of Social Sciences*, 13th Volume.

GOVERNMENT

Tom Inglot presented a paper titled, “The Triumph of Novelty over Experience? Social Policy Responses to Demographic Crises in Hungary and Poland since the EU Enlargement,” at the Conference of Europeanists (Council for European Studies), Glasgow, Scotland, 12-14 July, 2017.

Tom Inglot was selected as co-chair of the Political Economy and Welfare Network, Council for European Studies - Columbia University. This year he is also chair of the 2017 Best Paper Award Committee for the Network.

PSYCHOLOGY

New Faculty and Staff

Angelica Aguirre is a new probationary faculty member in the psychology department. She earned her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and has been working the last two years at a post-doctoral fellowship at Trumpet Behavioral Health in San Jose, California. Dr. Aguirre’s area of expertise is in Applied Behavioral Analysis and she will be serving Psychology’s undergraduate psychology program and their clinical psychology graduate program.

Adam Steiner is joining the Department of Psychology for a second year in a fixed-term faculty position. Dr. Steiner’s expertise is in neuroscience, and he is an amazing faculty advisor to MSU undergraduate students.

Cretia Welborn is the new Administrative Assistant for the Department of Psychology. She comes to The Department from the History Department

SOCIAL WORK

Nancy Fitzsimmons has been selected as a 2017-2018 Policy Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs (<https://www.hhh.umn.edu/professional-development/policy-fellows-program>).

Nancy Fitzsimmons authored a chapter: Partnering with People with Disabilities to Prevent Interpersonal Violence: Organizational Practices Grounded in the Social Model of Disability and Spectrum of Prevention in the book *Religion, Disability and Interpersonal Violence* edited by Andy J. Johnson, J. Ruth Nelson, and Emily M. Lund, Springer International Publishing, 2017.

New Faculty and Staff

Laura Benesch is joining the Department of Social Work as the Director of BSSW Field Education and is a member of the Administrative and Service Faculty

bargaining unit. Laura graduated with her BSSW from Minnesota State, Mankato and was an inaugural member of the first graduating MSW cohort from MNSU. Laura is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. She has worked as a therapist for ASC Psychological Services in Mankato, a school social worker with the River Bend Education District and the Kato Public Charter School, a Mental Health Practitioner with Adult, Child, and Family Services, and a vocational advisor with MVAC. Laura also served as the Interim Director of MSW Field Education in 2013-2014 academic year and has taught as an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Social Work on several occasions.

Tina Kilberia is joining the Department of Social Work as a fixed-term faculty member. Tina is a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota expecting to complete her degree this summer. Her area of specialization is gerontology and her dissertation is titled, "The role of institutional context and team type in interdependence, inclusion, and commitment in team-like environments in a long-term care setting." Tina also completed her MSW at the University of MN and received the national Hartford Aging Education Scholarship. Tina has numerous publications and presentations, both academic and community-oriented. Tina taught as a fixed-term faculty member at St. Cloud State and as an adjunct instructor at Augsburg College and the University of MN-Twin Cities. For the past five years, Tina worked as a Live-in Social Worker for Senior Housing with Services for the Augustana Care Corporation, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SOCIOLOGY & CORRECTIONS

Kristi Rendahl wrote a commentary that was published Aug. 2 by *MinnPost* with the headline: "Why Congress shouldn't repeal or weaken the Johnson Amendment."

New Faculty and Staff

Saiful Islam joins the Sociology Program as a probationary faculty member. Dr. Islam obtained his Ph.D. in Sociology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Dr. Islam defended his dissertation this year, titled, "Interest Groups in Response to Obamacare: The Changing Organizational Field of Health Care Policy in The United States." Before coming to MSU, Dr. Islam worked as Project Manager at the British Columbia Provincial Health Services Authority in Canada and Research Manager at the University of British Columbia in Canada. He also managed USAID and NSF research grants. Dr. Islam also served as instructor in Southern Illinois University. Dr. Islam has two co-authored articles and one single authored article in peer reviewed journals, a number of conference presentations and research reports.

Jessica McLaughlin joins the Department of Sociology and Corrections as the Director of Corrections Field Education and she is a member of the Administrative and Service Faculty bargaining unit. Jessica obtained her master's degree in Human Services Planning and Administration from MSU in 2008. Ms. McLaughlin comes with over seventeen years of experience working as an officer of Child Protection Services, Children's Mental Health Case Manager, and adjunct instructor among others. Ms. McLaughlin has great knowledge of our students as instructor of various courses on criminal justice, social deviance, juvenile delinquency, and Social Problems.

Christine Mollenkopf-Pigsley is the Director of the Applied Organizational Studies program. Dr. Mollenkopf-Pigsley obtained her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Public Administration from Walden University. The title of her dissertation was, "College Mission change and Neoliberalism in a Community and Technical College." Dr. Mollenkopf-Pigsley has already served for one year as Director of the Applied Organizational Studies. She has an impressive record of dedication to higher education serving as Dean of Student Affairs and General Education and Associate Dean of Business and Entrepreneurship, both positions at Dakota County Technical College among other positions. In the Applied Organizational Studies Program, Dr. Mollenkopf-Pigsley has taught a number of online courses. Dr. Mollenkopf-Pigsley is a contributor to the *NACCE Journal*, and has written many curricula, research and grant reports.

Kristi Rendahl accepted the position as Director of the Nonprofit Leadership Program. Dr. Kristi Rendahl obtained her Ph.D. in Public Administration and her Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Hamline University. Dr. Rendahl's dissertation was titled, "Domestic Violence in the North Dakota Oil Patch: Barriers to Identifying and Serving Female Victims." Dr. Rendahl has over 20 years of experience in the field of Nonprofit Organizations, working with NGOs in over 15 countries across Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and South America. She has served as Major Gift Director (Midwest) for Habitat for Humanity and Program Director for the Cafesjian Family Foundation, among others. Her most recent position was as Organizational Development Advisor at The Center for Victims of Torture. Dr. Rendahl comes with teaching experience on the subjects of Human Rights, Nonprofits, Social Media, and Advance Fundraising.

Tyler Vaughan joins the Department of Corrections as a probationary faculty member. Dr. Vaughan obtained his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Texas State University. Dr. Vaughan defended his dissertation this year titled, "Revisiting the Person-Context Nexus: An Empirical Test

of a Revised Trait Suppression Hypothesis.” Dr. Vaughan has taught various courses including Statistics for Criminal Justice, Correctional System and Practice and Crime Theory and Victimization. Dr. Vaughan has coauthored and published four articles in peer reviewed journals, four encyclopedias, technical reports, and many conference presentations.

URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

New Faculty and Staff

Thomas Walkington joins the Urban and Regional Studies Institute in a fixed-term position as program coordinator. Dr. Walkington has more than 30 years’ leadership and management experience in public, nonprofit management and post-secondary education

including positions as Strategic Management Coordinator, Hennepin County, MN; Regional Director of Operations for the Mid-West Region, The Nature Conservancy and Associate Director of the University of Minnesota Raptor Research and Rehabilitation Program.

He holds a doctorate in public administration from Hamline University, St. Paul, MN (2000). His expertise is organizational leadership and change management. He has taught public administration, nonprofit management, organizational leadership and policy at the master’s and doctorate level for 17 years. Dr. Walkington is known as an organization builder and change agent leading large-scale change management initiatives.

College Highlights

Advisor Recognition Awards The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences recognized three outstanding advisors at the annual College meeting this fall. The 2016-2017 recipients of Advisor Recognition Award include Andrea Lassiter (Psychology), Pat Nelson (Government), and Kyle Ward (History). These advisors were nominated by students for the positive impact they have had on their academic journey.



From left to right, Andrea Lassiter, Kyle Ward, Pat Nelson and Maria Bevacqua.

Maria Bevacqua, Interim Dean addressed College faculty and staff at the Annual SBS Fall Meeting, August 14 in the CSU Heritage room. Provost Marilyn Wells was a guest speaker and **Melissa Iverson** announced the 2017 SBS Advisor Recognition Awards.



The fall meeting in the CSU Heritage Room.

The Kessel Peace Institute held a “Vigil for Charlottesville and Peace Everywhere,” on August 23rd, 2017 on the Mall in front of the CSU fountain. The vigil was to honor the victims of the events in Charlottesville and come together as a community in opposition to hate, intolerance, and violence and in support of racial justice and peace.

New Faculty and Staff

Jodie Ward received her undergraduate degree at Minnesota State University-Moorhead in Social Studies Education. She worked as a Social Studies teacher in the St. Michael-Albertville school district where she primarily taught Economics and American Government. Jodie then decided to pursue a Master’s degree in Student Affairs Administration at Indiana State University. Since then She has worked as a Coordinator for TRIO programs and an Academic Advisor for the College of Business at Indiana State. For the last 8 years, she has worked at St. Cloud State University as an Academic Advisor for all new entering first year students, as well as Associate Director for Advising & Registration Days. She is excited to work with new entering first year students at Minnesota State University-Mankato.