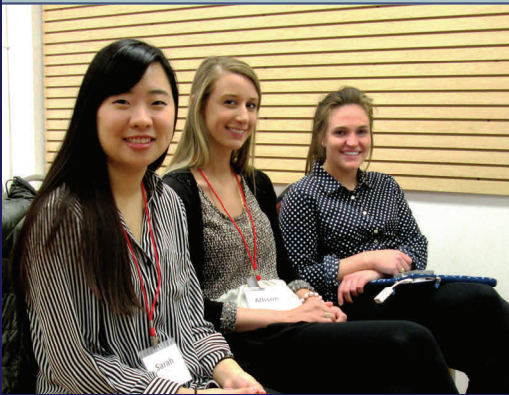




North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting: Saint Mary's Student and Faculty Participation



Sarah Lee, Markie Harrison, and Allison Sheets

This year, the North Central Sociological Association's (NCSA) annual conference was held in Cleveland, OH, April 10-11, 2015. The conference theme was "New Visions of Human Flourishing." Senior sociology majors Markie Harrison, Sarah Lee, and Allison Sheets joined faculty member Leslie Wang at the NCSA meeting, where students presented their senior comprehensive research projects papers.

Markie presented her paper titled "Putting Blacks into a Cultural Prison: An Analysis of Victims and Criminals in the television series *Law & Order*," Sarah presented her research on "Refashioning the Korean Gender Dichotomy: Female Performance in Music Videos by K-pop Girl Groups," and Allison presented her research paper titled "Switching the Code: The Complicity of Female Twitter Users in the Preservation of Rape Culture." Leslie also presented at NCSA by giving a teaching focused talk titled "Introducing Sociology; Humanistic v. Scientific Approaches."

In Cleveland, Markie, Sarah, Allison, and Leslie networked with sociology students and faculty from other colleges and universities, including joining them for meals to explore local Cleveland restaurants. The group was also happy to spend time with Sheryl Switaj, former visiting Sociology Dept faculty member (2012-2014). Given the busy conference schedule, the group only got a small glimpse of downtown Cleveland; however, the students built connections with others interested in sociology who also attended the conference.

Popular Culture Association Annual Meeting: SISTAR Student-Faculty Participation

In April, Susan Alexander and senior Sociology major Kelsey Collins attended the annual Popular Culture Association (PCA) meeting in New Orleans, LA. The mission of the PCA is to promote the study of popular culture throughout the world, which was an ideal venue for the research this SISTAR team completed this past year on masculinity in the television series *Breaking Bad* and *The Walking Dead*.

The PCA is an international conference with hundreds of papers presented on a wide variety of topics in popular culture, including the Harry Potter series, which Kelsey and Susan greatly enjoyed! Susan's paper titled "Resurrecting Hegemonic Masculinity in the Post-Apocalyptic World of *The Walking Dead*" was accepted for presentation.

Kelsey's travel was funded through her Student Independent Study and Research (SISTAR) grant, which was awarded last spring by the Center for Academic Innovation. Next year Kelsey will be attending the graduate program in criminology at the University of South Carolina.



Kelsey Collins with Professor Susan Alexander at Academic Open House in Saint Mary's library

2015-16 Sociology Club Officers

The Sociology Club is a student led club for anyone and everyone who is interested in the field of Sociology! The Sociology Club's purpose is to promote an alliance among Sociology majors and minors, along with all others interested in the field of sociology, and to promote unity and to improve scholarship among students.

The primary goals for the 2015-2016 year are to hold monthly events and to increase the number of members to an all time high! We plan to have interesting guest speakers, informative events, and lots of fun!

President – Cara Firestein

Co-Vice Presidents – Maggie Brown and Christian Bean

Treasurer – Katie Woods

Secretary – Samina Henderson



Front left to right: Samina Henderson and Cara Firestein.
Back left to right: Katie Woods, Maggie Brown and Christian Bean.

Students Share Experiences From Sociology Internship



Jim Stanos and Mary Ann Kanieski with students

On Monday, April 20, the Sociology Department held a panel discussion on internships during which three senior sociology students shared their internship experiences during the past year with interested students.

Sarah Lee, Allison Sheets, and Emily Stienbarger discussed the benefits and challenges of the internship process and offered advice to students. Jim Stanos from the Career Crossings Office also provided tips for finding internships. The goal of the event was to encourage Sociology students to pursue internship opportunities in the field of sociology.

Any questions about internships should be directed to Mary Ann Kanieski, Sociology Internship Coordinator.

Find us on Facebook!

If you are not already a member, please consider joining the Sociology Department's Facebook page. This is one of the best ways we have for keeping in contact with alumnae!

SMC Sociology

You can also e-mail Susan Alexander at salexand@saintmarys.edu

to let us know what you are doing these days



New members of the Xi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociological honors society, include junior social majors Cara Firestein, Katie Woods, and Courtney Johnson (in absentia). Cara and Katie received were inducted by current students members Kelsey Collins and Allison Sheets.

NCSA Student Awards: Sociology Majors Continue the Winning Tradition



(left to right) Professor Leslie Wang with seniors Markie Harrison, Allison Sheets, and Sarah Lee.

Each year the North Central Sociological Association (NCSA) sponsors a student paper competition for both graduate and undergraduate students. Since 2004, Saint Mary's sociology majors have won a total of five 1st place awards, four 2nd place awards, and four 3rd place awards. This year both Allison Sheets and Markie Harrison continued the tradition by winning 2nd place and 3rd place, respectively.

Allison's paper, titled "Switching the Code: The complicity of female Twitter users in the preservation of rape culture," examines the way in which rape culture is constructed on the social media website Twitter. Based upon 600 tweets that mentions words associated with rape discourse, Allison argues that the presence of social networking

sites, such as Twitter, has increased the frequency of rape discourse, and that female users were equally likely to engage in rape culture discourse as males. The findings suggest that female Twitter users are enabling a code switch in order to be seen as "one of the guys," and ultimately protect themselves from the possibility of becoming a victim. Next year, Allison will be starting the graduate program in Applied Sociology at Clemson University.

Markie's 3rd place paper, titled "Putting Blacks Into a Cultural Prison: An Analysis of the Victims and Criminals in the Television Series *Law & Order*," argues that the television series *Law and Order* contributes to the social control of African American men by portraying middle and upper class white men as victims of crime, while stereotyping lower class black males as criminals. She argues that the high incarceration rates of black men combined with the continuous depictions of black men as criminals in television series like *Law & Order*, are structural factors leading to the image of racialized criminals found in the media today. This is ultimately detrimental to society and perceptions because it influences the views many hold due to repetitive images in the media.

Congratulations Allison and Markie!

Sociology Department Awards

Wolsfeld Teaching Grant Recipient

Susan Alexander

The Wolsfeld Teaching Grant allows a sociology faculty member to work on curriculum development. This year the grant was awarded to Susan Alexander to revise the Sociology of Popular Culture course to include a global focus.

During the upcoming summer, Susan will update the course for the Sophia Program, specifically by focusing on International Global Learning. According to *Forbes* (2014), of the 10 largest global media corporations, 90% are U.S. based companies such as Disney and Twenty-First Century Fox. Thus the goal of the course revision is to consider how global media industries produce and distribute global popular culture. The newly redesigned course will be taught during the fall 2015 semester.

Donald N. M. Horning Senior Comprehensive Award Recipient

Allison Sheets

The Sociology Department faculty are pleased to announce that Allison Sheets is this year's recipient of The Donald N. M. Horning Award. This prestigious award is granted to a senior sociology major whose Senior Comprehensive research was deemed outstanding.

Allison's paper, "Switching the Code: The complicity of female Twitter users in the preservation of rape culture," argues that the presence of social networking sites, such as Twitter, has increased the frequency of rape discourse. The findings suggest that female Twitter users code switch in order to be seen as "one of the guys," and ultimately protect themselves from the possibility of becoming a victim.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Sociology Class of 2015



Back row: Kelsey Collins, Markie Harrison, Allison Sheets, Karlie Wolff, and Sarah Lee
Front row: Leslie Wang, Susan Alexander, and Mary Ann Kanieski

Saint Mary's College
Sociology Department
Room 262, Spes Unica Hall

