Coming Fall 2018! MSW Program at ISU!

The State Board of Education has approved a Masters of Social Work Program at ISU. The anticipated start date for the MSW is fall 2018. The program will have two degree options, advanced standing and a traditional 2-year option. The program will be delivered as a seated program with face-to-face instructions. Further details about the program, admission criteria, application deadlines and materials will be forthcoming. Watch our Facebook page or send an email to Kevin Owens (owekevi@isu.edu) if you would like to be placed on our MSW email list.

Criminology Program Update

Criminology is pleased to announce a new internship program with the US Marshals Service! The internship will be supervised by Deputy US Marshal Frank Ortega. He encourages all to apply. If you are interested or have questions, please email (hoskanth@isu.edu) or call (208-282-2576) Tony Hoskin, the Criminal Justice Director.

March is National Social Work Month!

March is National Social Work Month! Following the NASW theme of Stand Up!, the Social Work Program will be hosting an Outreach in the Community continuing education opportunity on Friday, March 31st from 1:00-3:00pm on Effective Advocacy for Change. Additional information and registration information will be available via our Facebook page and through the Outreach email list.

Join us on Facebook!

www2.isu.edu/sociology
Deirdre Caputo-Levine is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminology. Her research interests include prisoner reentry and reintegration, race and ethnicity, penology, and the sociology of knowledge. She has had articles published in Ethnography, Dialectical Anthropology, and the Berkeley Journal of Sociology. She is currently working on a study of the ways in which urban sociology and urban studies undergraduate courses construct narratives surrounding urban African American communities. She will also be beginning a study of prisoner reentry and reintegration in Idaho.

Dr. Justin Lee is a new faculty member as of August 2016. He joins us most recently from North Carolina where he conducted research on health disparities among immigrants and refugees. Dr. Lee also studies other aspects of refugee integration and policy. His publications can be found in journals such as Forced Migration Review, Patient Centered Outcomes Research, Voluntas, Journal of Human Rights and Social Work, and others. He continues to work with immigrants and refugees, establishing relationships with Twin Falls and Salt Lake refugee service providers and resettlement agencies. In his work with students, Dr. Lee is the director of field in the social work program. In this role, Dr. Lee places students in local and surrounding community agencies, conducts field visits, and facilitates seminars with senior social work majors.

Dr. Morey Burnham earned his PhD from Utah State University in human dimensions of ecosystem science and management in 2014. Dr. Burnham’s research focuses on the interface of climate change adaptation and vulnerability, agriculture, and water in arid and semi-arid regions. In particular, his work examines the multi-scalar social-ecological processes that shape the ability of individuals, households, and institutions to adapt to climate change. He has conducted research on this topic in China, Idaho, and Utah. Before coming to Idaho State, Dr. Burnham was a postdoctoral research associate at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Meg du Bray will be joining the department on March 1, 2017 as a postdoctoral research associate for the EPScORe MILES (Managing Idaho’s Landscapes for Ecosystem Services) project. She will be working with Drs. Katrina Running and Morey Burnham, graduate student Kathleen Shipley, and two undergraduate research assistants (Christa White and Selene Ortiz) on a new project to investigate the process by which the recent Managed Aquifer Recharge Agreement was reached and how farmers in the area are adapting to the mandatory 4-20% irrigation curtailments. Meg recently completed her Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology at Arizona State University. Her dissertation focused on the way that vulnerable coastal communities expressed emotional distress as a result of climate change. She also completed research projects looking at ecosystem services and disservices along the Salt River in Phoenix, and along rivers in three international sites. Prior to that, she completed her M.A. at ASU, and received her B.A. in anthropology at Whitman College. A Colorado native, Meg enjoys reading, cooking, and hiking with her dog in her spare time.

One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy
The Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminology received a $1.08 million grant renewal from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to help train child welfare workers in Idaho. Contract P.I. is Staci Jensen-Hart, LCSW.

Dr. Justin Lee presented at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting with partners from Wake Forest medical School (12,000 attendees) on "A comparison of demographic, psychosocial, and health profiles between Latino men by sexual orientation in a new Latino settlement state". For more information, check out the article at Sage Journals.

Dr. Lee continued dissemination of his work on refugee through presenting at the Humanities Café on "The Role of the Community in Successful Refugee Integration" and being invited to train for the Utah Health and Human Rights on mental health services with unaccompanied refugee minors.

Dr. Katrina Running, Jordan Burke (recent MA Sociology graduate), and Kathleen Shipley (current MA Sociology student) published a recent article entitled, Perceptions of Environmental Change and Climate Concern Among Idaho’s Farmers.

Dr. Running’s team used data from in-depth interviews with 30 Idaho farmers to examine the relationship between observations of specific environmental changes and climate concern. Findings indicated that while most farmers report noticing changes in precipitation patterns, growing season length, and winter temperatures, few farmers connect these with long-term global climate change. These findings have two important implications: 1) direct experience, even in the form of disruption to an individual’s economic security, is not enough to overcome the influence of political ideology on climate change beliefs, and 2) acknowledging climate variation is not sufficient to convince individuals that the changes are produced by human activities.

Over the past semester, Dr. Morey Burnham and his colleagues have published articles in Energy Research and Social Science, Journal of the American Water Resources Association, and Journal of Environmental Management. As part of the EPSCoR MILES research team, and in collaboration with Dr. Katrina Running, he has been involved in collecting and analyzing data to determine the capacity farmers in southeast Idaho to adapt to decreased water availability for agriculture.

Dr. Tony Hoskin and his colleagues have recently published three research studies: Anthony Hoskin and Lee Ellis. "Familial Depressive Symptoms and Delinquency: Separate Self-Reports from Mothers and Their Offspring" International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology; Anthony Hopkins with Richard Hartley and Lee Ellis.


“Male sex hormones and criminal behavior: The predictive power of a two-factor model of organizational androgen exposure” Personality and Individual Differences.

This past year, Gesine Hearn has published a book chapter in the Routledge Handbook for Medical Anthropology and an invited commentary in Social Science and Medicine. Two more peer-reviewed book chapters are forthcoming. One will be published in the book titled “Narratives, Identity, and the Liberal Arts” published by Routledge; the other is a chapter on health and illness in a Sociology textbook. She also just submitted an article about prenatal care among dalit women in rural Nepal in collaboration with one of our graduated Master students, Dipa Sharma Gautam.

Gesine Hearn. 2016. Invited Commentary to: Fergie, Hunt and Hilton “Social media as a space for support: Young adults’ perspectives on user-generated content about diabetes and mental health.” Social
Faculty Highlights (continued)

Science & Medicine. SSM-D-16-03516


Dr. D J Williams also published several research pieces over the past year. Several of these were collaborations with Dr. Jeremy Thomas. For further information, see reference list below:


Student Social Work and Sociology Association by Marlae Moss, Club President

One of our biggest and most rewarding achievements fall semester was organizing an event to educate the community on transgendered individuals, terminology, and how to be an advocate. This was all done to shine a light on Transgender Day of Remembrance. This two-day event featured speaker, Dominee Hall, a discussion panel and candlelight vigil. This event was a lot of work, but it was a big success. We raised more funds for our club through continuing education units, spread awareness, paid tribute to a great cause, and educated the public.

Going into our spring semester of 2017, we are keeping our goals of involvement, fundraising, and recruitment, but we are also adding advocacy to that list. In February, we will be attending this year’s session of Legislation Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD). Our hard work in fundraising goes toward this event each year which results in a very rewarding and educational experience for all who attend. We plan to take the knowledge and advocacy skills we learn at LEAD and bring it back to Pocatello to share with peers, educators, and community.

Field Notes by Dr. Justin Lee

The field practicum experience is the signature pedagogy of social work. Students, during their senior year, enter with nervous excitement as they take their first steps into the profession. I have had the privilege of working closely with 17 students during Fall 2016 and 18 students during Spring 2017, contributing a total of over 14,000 hours. Not only are these students learning from seasoned social work professionals in real-life settings, they are also making real differences in the lives with whom they work, mostly unpaid.

Students share in this experience with one another through a weekly seminar. We talk about challenges, share successes, and provide a vibrant conversation and important support system for each other. I have had the pleasure of seeing students transform from nervous to confident and competent professionals through their field experiences working with individuals, groups and families. The field placements take place in a wide variety of settings which include hospitals, health departments, juvenile justice systems, court systems, health and human services, and many more. We will persist in developing close relationships with community partners so that our students continue to experience the highest quality education.
The Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminology is a part of the College of Arts and Letters.

The five programs in the Department are interconnected. The Department contributes to the mission of the College of Arts and Letters by encouraging collaboration with other departments and programs within the College. The Department concentrates on research, theory, and service in regard to the community. The community plays a pivotal role in the life of individuals and it serves as a platform from which to study health and illness, diversity and social hierarchies, and criminal justice. The focus on community issues enables us to showcase the usefulness of sociology at the graduate and undergraduate levels; to create a niche for social work, particularly in the areas of child welfare, gerontology, and sexual diversity; and to find a pivotal role for criminal justice by emphasizing rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into the community.

We encourage Department Alumni to be involved! Your experience as a student and in the workplace is important. How can you help?

1. Check our Facebook page regularly! Submit announcements regarding relevant job postings, continuing education opportunities, or events.

2. Consider offering your organization/agency/company as an internship site for our students!

3. Join the Social Work Advisory Board or the Sociology MA Advisory Board!

4. Recruit new students! Talk about why you love what you do!

We're on the web! www2.isu.edu/sociology

Join us on Facebook!