Generous Grant from Alumna Establishes New Center for Global Health

The Aisha Almana Global Health Program will provide scholarships for Saudi women to study global health at the University of Oregon (UO), fund seed grants for faculty research, help implement an annual series of speakers and workshops, and support internships for UO students in the Saudi Kingdom – the UO's first fully-funded international internships in global health.

Almana is her country's leading activist for justice, equality, and respect for women. In 1990, she led 46 women in a historic protest against her country's ban on women driving. She currently directs the largest group of hospitals in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, bordering the Persian Gulf.

She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from the UO in 1970, when few women in her country had any formal education. She said she sees her gift as a way to give back and create hope for the future.

"The University of Oregon gave me the opportunity to recognize that I am a human being equal to anyone else," she said. "Through this new center we will promote and help women, for if you educate a woman in the health sciences profession, you save a family."

"Aisha Almana’s generosity will help empower the next generation of Saudi women to receive an education and become leaders in global health," said UO president Michael Schill. "This incredibly brave woman transformed her life and forged a path out of oppression, and now she is paving the way for others to follow. We are incredibly grateful and proud to call her our alumna."

The new program establishes a permanent bridge between the UO and the Middle East, built on one of the UO’s most rapidly emerging areas of student interest and cross-disciplinary faculty expertise.

It will be housed in the Center for Global Health, the newest research unit in the Global Studies Institute, a branch of the Office of International Affairs. The center gathers university expertise in areas such as molecular biology, health metrics, developmental neuroscience, disease prevention, and epidemiology.

"This will directly benefit the thousands of UO students interested in global health," said Josh Snodgrass, associate vice provost for undergraduate studies and the new center's director. "It will connect them to fellow students from Saudi Arabia, broadening everyone’s perspectives. Aisha’s generosity marks a significant contribution to global health education here."

"Aisha Almana has made an important international investment in the UO that sets the precedent for our relationship with Saudi
Greetings From the Department Head
Welcome to the revitalized UO sociology newsletter.

We have all sorts of exciting news to share with you: profiles of alumni who are making a real difference in the world, graduate student and faculty research that is receiving national and international attention, and a profile of the first person to receive a PhD in the UO Department of Sociology.

November 2015 saw the retirement of Shelley Carlson, our longtime office manager. Shelley had been a central force in the department since 2003, and her cheerful energy and helpfulness made the office a welcoming place. We miss Shelley and wish her well in her retirement.

Teri Rowe, our new office manager, has stepped into Shelley’s old job and manages both the economics department and ours. Welcome, Teri!

Many other things are afoot in the department: We are reviewing the undergraduate curriculum with an eye to making it more engaging and relevant for today’s students, starting a Twitter feed to connect with our students and the general public, and reaching out to our alumni. We are always interested in your news and comments. Please stay in touch!

– Jocelyn Hollander

Graduate Student News

PhD’s granted since 2014

- Miriam Abelson, PhD
  Assistant Professor at Portland State University
- Matthew Clement, PhD
  Assistant Professor at Texas State University
- Matthew Friesen, PhD
  Assistant Professor at Bluffton University
- Chris Hardnack, PhD
  Assistant Professor at Colorado Mesa University

Master’s Degrees Granted since 2014

- Mirranda Willette
  Heather Marek
- Julie Bacon
  Kathryn Warden
- Dimitra Cupo
  Michelle Alexander
- Shauna Dyer
  Allison Ford
- Justin Fontenot
  Patrick Greiner

Passing Comprehensive Exams since 2014

- Camila Alvarez
  Julius McGee
- Julie Bacon
  Kathryn Norton-Smith
- Jordan Besek
  Evan Shenkin
- Cassie Comley
  Intan Suwandi
- Dimitra Cupo
  Craig Van Pelt
- David Dominguez
  Kathryn Warden
- Andrea Herrera

Publications (2015-16)


2016 Graduate Student Awards

WASBY-JOHNSON SOCIOLOGY DISSERTATION RESEARCH AWARD
Jordan Besek
“On the Logics of Investigating Social and Ecological Change: From the Asian Carp Invasion to the Reversing the Chicago River”

Madhurima Das
“Mothers across Borders: A Transnational Analysis of Parenting between Indian Mothers in Edison and Kolkata”

LAWRENCE CARTER GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD
Brian Ott
“Sense Work: Inequality and the Labor of Connoisseurship”

JOAN ACKER GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP
Larissa Petrucci

CHARLES W. HUNT GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING
David Martin
Brian Rosenberg

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESEARCH AWARD FOR PUBLICATION
Patrick Greiner
“Social Drivers of Water Utility Privatization in the United States: An Examination of the Presence of Variegated Neoliberal Strategies in the Water Utility Sector” published in Rural Sociology

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESEARCH AWARD FOR DATA COLLECTION AND PRESENTATION
David Martin
Rob Molinar
Tony Silva

Julius McGee
Julius McGee is finishing his dissertation before he assumes his new job as assistant professor of urban and environmental sociology at Portland State University in the fall.

His research looks at whether or not organic farming efforts result in substantial greenhouse gas reductions (spoiler: no). He is also interested in how countries urbanize and the environmental impacts of various forms of urbanization.

He is doing work on the latter project with former UO sociology graduate students Matt Clement (now teaching at Texas State) and Christina Ergas (now a postdoc at Brown University).
The High Cost of Low-Wage Work

Throughout her career, Professor Scott has focused on how to structure the labor force to be more family-friendly. Her work has centered on low-wage workers, female heads of families, and the care work involved in families with children with disabilities. In the 1990s, she examined the effects on families of women leaving welfare for work. In 2008 - 9, she partnered with members of the OSU faculty to study the impact of changes to Oregon’s child-care subsidy laws. Recently, she’s worked with Miriam Abelson and Katie Rogers (both former OSU sociology PhD students) on both policy reports and academic articles resulting from their interviews with low-wage workers. A key finding of their work is that taxpayers subsidize low-wage workers when corporations refuse to pay living wages – effectively subsidizing the corporations themselves.

Scott has seen her work publicized widely, including by Oregon Public Broadcasting, in newspapers such as the Oregonian and the Medford Tribune, and in Research Connections, a newsletter for a program run jointly by Columbia University and the University of Michigan. Her own op-ed is available at www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/01/minimum-wage_hike_would_help_w.html

Scott’s questions about the social impacts of low-wage work are at the center of current policy debates. Her newest work – on the impact of unpredictable schedules on families, housing, and child-care arrangements – is expected to be a key policy area in Oregon in 2017. She also works with Associate Professor C. J. Pascoe and Abelson on a project on queer youths’ coming-of-age stories. She has most recently published in Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Poverty, Contemporary Perspectives on Family Research and Gender and Society.


Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral Student Jean Philippe Sapinski

Jean Philippe Sapinski (PhD, University of Victoria, 2014) specializes in environmental and political sociology. His post-doctoral project looks at the political economy of geoengineering, the intentional large-scale manipulation of the climate system using various technologies. As part of this project, he is working on two collaborative articles, the first with Ryan Light and Richard York, and the second with Brett Clark from the University of Utah (PhD Oregon). He is also working on a book on corporate power and climate change politics. His two most recent publications are described below.

Sapinski, Jean Philippe. 2015. “Climate Capitalism and the Global Corporate Elite Network.” Environmental Sociology 1(4): 268 -79. Sapinski looks at how large corporations actively participate in climate-change policymaking. He uses social network analysis to delineate how these corporations interlock with the network of the largest global firms. He then examines the climate capitalist inner circle of well-connected individuals who, by their structural position in this network, wield an inordinate amount of influence on climate-change policy.

Sapinski, Jean Philippe. 2016. “Constructing Climate Capitalism: Corporate Power and the Global Climate Policy-Planning Network.” Global Networks 16(1): 89 - 111. Often, the main hurdle to enacting state policy to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions is the climate denial movement funded by fossil fuel corporations. Here, Sapinski maps the corporate elite network that did get involved in climate change policymaking to explore how they organize to foster what Sapinski calls a “climate capitalist transnational regime” that promotes a long-term transition away from fossil fuels to protect the investments in the carbon extractive infrastructure.
Faculty News

Do Famous People Get Judged Differently for Their Social Media Use than Do Non-Famous People?

Elaine Replogle, PhD, instructor, addressed this question in an article, “Fame, Social Media Use, and Ethics” in the September 2014 issue of Sociological Forum.

Got Questions about What Is “Masculinity” or How to Study “It”?

C. J. Pascoe, associate professor, and Tristan Bridges have written Exploring Masculinities: Identity, Inequality, Continuity, and Change (Oxford University Press, 2015), a comprehensive reader that takes a conceptual approach to the wide range of scholarship on masculinities. The book gives students tools to use to analyze masculinities across time, space, contexts, cultures, and embodiments.

Do “Good Guys” Rape?

C. J. Pascoe and Jocelyn Hollander, professor and department head, address that question in “Good Guys Don’t Rape: Gender, Domination, and Mobilizing Rape,” in the February 2016 edition of Gender and Society 30: 67-79.

Gail Fullerton, First PhD Student from UO Department of Sociology, Dies

It is with sadness that we pass along the news that Gail Fullerton, first woman president of San Jose State University, died recently. Fullerton and her first husband, Snell Putney, PhD, were the first two students to receive, in 1954, doctoral degrees from the University of Oregon’s Department of Sociology. Snell died in 2009 and is survived by his second wife, Alicia Putney, who kindly alerted the department of Fullerton’s death. Fullerton is survived by two children, a husband, and two grandchildren. She was president of San Jose State University from 1978 to 1991. In her spare time, she also enjoyed doing genealogy research. Her full obituary is available online: www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_29356584/sjus-first-female-president-gail-fullerton-dies-at?source=infinite-up.

How Is Racial Endogamy Reproduced?

Drawing on 70 in-depth interviews, Jessica Vasquez-Tokos, associate professor, looks at the family, peer, and community-level processes that induce Latinos to marry other Latinos. In her article “Disciplined Preferences: Explaining the (Re)production of Latino Endogamy” (Social Problems 62(3): 455-475), she argues that such endogamy is a response to racial messages and racial boundary policing, and that communities are invested in perpetuating endogamy to preserve relative privilege.

Do We Need a New Approach to Climate Change?

Kari Norgaard, associate professor, says “yes.” Her recent article, “Climate Change Is a Social Issue” (Chronicle of Higher Education, January 17, 2016), argues that simply focusing on the hard sciences to explain or solve climate change is not enough. A change of heart is needed, too.

Shiao to Be ASA Section Chair

Jiannbin Lee Shiao will begin his term (2016-17) as chair of the section on Asia and Asian America for the American Sociological Association in August at the ASA meeting in Seattle.

Continued on page 7
Professor and Former Graduate Student Make Film on Costa Rica’s Lack of a Military

Michael Dreiling, associate professor, and Matthew Eddy, MS ’08, PhD ’13, completed their film A Bold Peace. Synopsis: In his famous “Cross of Iron”/“Chance for Peace” speech in 1953, President Eisenhower critiqued the military-industrial complex while asking, “Is there no other way the world may live?”

In Costa Rica today, we glimpse another way to live. In 1948, Costa Rica dismantled their military establishment and intentionally cultivated security relationships with other nations through treaties, international laws, and international organizations. Free of the burden of military spending, they used the financial savings to invest in public higher education and universal health care.

A Bold Peace details the events that shook the country to its foundations, culminating in the 1948 civil war and the decision to abolish the military. Over the decades, the Costa Rican model has survived several serious crises, but the current threats may be the most formidable of all. The film will be available soon for distribution.

Alpha Kappa Delta Inductees The following outstanding undergraduates were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, an international sociology society.

2015
Meghan Amelia Burrows
Brittany Dawn Dobos
Colton Tanner Gilchrist
Kaylee Amanda Huffman
Samantha Olivia Lowery
Miranda Lea Merkison
Carlin P. Schossau
Mackenzie Lavelle Shearer
Andrew Charles Carey Swift
Bronwyn Jillian Tyler

2016
Kirsten Elizabeth Anderson
Madison Bailey Berger
Hillary Ann Burmester
Nicole Theresa DellaMaggiore
Hayley Frances Feuer
Chang Gao
Hanna Terra Harrison
Lindsey Marie Holk
Vicky Ma
Yingxin Ou
Cheyenne Chenoa Pico
Jane Lydia Samsom
Maxine Faye Saylor
Cecilia Nicole Sebastiani
Marnie Louise Shapiro
Kaitlyn Christina Stanley
Kristine Daniels Swinson

Some of our 2015 Alpha Kappa Delta Inductees
Undergraduate News

The following undergraduates conducted original research and wrote honors theses in 2015.

Student: Anders Herreid-O’Neill — Advisor: Aaron Gullickson
“Gentrification, Displacement, and the Hyper-White City”

Student: Samantha O. Lowery — Advisor: Patricia Gwartney
“Jury Selection: Speed Dating Lady Justice”

Student: Meghan Amelia — Advisor: Kemi Balogun
“Intersections in Slut Shaming: A Gender Policing Tactic”

Student: Carlin Schossau — Advisor: Aaron Gullickson
“Gender Discrimination in the Pay of Academic Sociologists”

Student: Andrew Swift — Advisor: Jill Harrison
“Precarious Aspirations: Hopes and Dreams in an Age of Individualized Risk”

Student: Heather A. Thorn — Advisor: C. J. Pascoe
“Foster for Love: Managing the Deviance and Stigma of Relinquishing Custody to the Foster Care System”

The following undergraduates wrote and defended honors theses this year.

Student: Chang Gao — Advisor: Matt Norton
“The Comparison of the US and China: The Similarities and Differences in Attitudes toward the Death Penalty”

Student: Jane L. Samson — Advisor: C. J. Pascoe
“Contemporary Hookups: After-Care Conversations and the Emotional Labor of Hooking up for Women in College”

Student: Cecilia N. Sebastiani — Advisor: Kemi Balogun
“The Racialization of Male East African Immigrants in the United States”

Student: Daniel C. Silberman — Advisor: Aaron Gullickson
“The Punitive Hippies: Racial Group Threat and Criminal Justice Outcomes in Oregon”

Faculty News  continued from page 5

Ever Wonder What Professors Do After They Retire?

Professor Emeritus Ken Liberman has been appointed visiting professor at Sera Jey Monastic University, a Buddhist monastery in South India that was founded in Tibet 500 years ago. He will be teaching monks the dialectical analyses regarding race written by Hegel, Sartre, Memmi, and bell hooks (among others), and comparing those with classical Buddhist analyses of caste. Collaborations between Tibetan students at Sera and Indian students at the University of Mumbai and Tumkur University are also being planned. Ken will be continuing his field research into the negative dialectics practiced in the Tibetan academy.

What Can a Donkey Teach Us About Economic Development?

In their American Sociological Association award-winning 2013 article “The Invisible Animal: Anthrozoology and Macrosociology,” coauthors Professor Richard York and Philip Mancus, PhD ’09, argue that animals have a profound impact on how civilizations develop. York, director of the Environmental Studies Program, seeks in part to develop sociological theories and concepts that place animals front and center. A brief description of their work is found in the Winter 2016 issue of Cascade.
Arabia,” said Dennis Galvan, vice provost for international affairs. “It will help Saudi women, foster UO-Saudi research collaboration, and bring UO interns to Saudi Arabia.”

After graduating from the UO, Almana went on to become the first woman from her region to obtain a doctoral degree, which she completed in 1980 at the University of Colorado. The first female hospital director in Saudi Arabia, she has led the Almana Group of Hospitals for more than 23 years, transforming it into one of her country’s leading medical providers with operations in four cities across the kingdom.

Forbes magazine named Almana eighth on its list of “200 Most Powerful Arab Women of 2014.” She is profiled in the Winter 2015 edition of Oregon Quarterly.

A video of Aisha Almana may be found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wF0nKJrf9s.

“This incredibly brave woman transformed her life and forged a path out of oppression, and now she is paving the way for others to follow. We are incredibly grateful and proud to call her our alumna.”

– Michael Schill
President, UO