Is it 2017-2018 already? Our departmental newsletter always provides a nice opportunity to look back on the many accomplishments of our community from the previous academic year. We have a lot to be proud of from 2016-2017!

Our outstanding faculty were the recipients of numerous awards and honors. Five different faculty received research awards from UTA and the College of Liberal Arts including a Research Enhancement Program Grant (Dr. Shelley Smith), Faculty Development Leave (Dr. Naomi Cleghorn), the CoLA Endowment for Faculty Research and Creative Activity (Dr. David Arditi, Dr. Naomi Cleghorn, and Dr. Amy Speier), CoLA Faculty Seed Grants (Dr. David Arditi and Dr. Kelly Bergstrand), and McDowell Center Supplemental Faculty Research Grants (Dr. Shelley Smith and Dr. Amy Speier). Our faculty also received teaching and mentoring awards from the College of Liberal Arts. Ms. Faye Hanson-Evans was named the recipient of the CoLA Outstanding Teaching Award for Distance Education. Dr. Heather Jacobson was named CoLA Outstanding Graduate Advisor. Finally, our faculty continue to serve in leadership positions across campus. Dr. Jason Shelton was named the new director for the Center for African American Studies. Dr. Christian Zlolniski and Dr. David Arditi continue to serve as directors of the Center for Mexican American Studies and the Center for Theory, respectively.

2016-2017 was a particularly exciting year for our students. Many high-impact learning opportunities were available including study abroad and field school opportunities in Scotland, South Africa, and at the Way Ranch in San Marcos, Texas. Four students engaged in research projects with faculty as McNair Scholars: Jeremy Dubhros, Rashad Harrison, Meghan Lowrey, and Noemi Rodriguez. Our students also received numerous awards and scholarships. Two students were recipients of the Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship in Sociology including Anna Aldrich and Ana Gonzales. Three students from Anthropology were the recipients of the Ben and Trudy Termini Fellowship including Peyton Carroll, Stephanie Dolenz, and Tracy Kwan. Victoria Gambrel was awarded an Archer Fellowship, which allowed her to study and participate in an internship in Washington DC. Three Sociology graduate students received CoLA Dean’s Travel Awards to present their research at academic conferences: Christina Carney, Jacob Garza, and Erin Taylor. Sixteen students were inducted into Lambda Alpha and Alpha Kappa Delta, the Anthropology and Sociology honor societies. Finally, twenty-five undergraduate Sociology and Anthropology majors and four Sociology graduate students completed their degrees – congratulations! Students and graduates, please keep us informed of your accomplishments!

Dr. Ruth Behar, the Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, presented the Ben and Trudy Termini Distinguished Anthropologist Lecture. Dr. Behar delivered an engaging presentation entitled, “Cuba and the Meaning of Place in Anthropology and the World Today.”

In the pages that follow, you can read about these and other accomplishments. I hope that your semester is off to a great start! We are looking forward to another great year.

I would like to end by thanking Pat Woodward for her hard work in putting together this newsletter! I would also like to thank all of those who have made contributions to support the department and our students – especially Drs. Ben and Trudy Termini, Blaine Williams and Elaine Davenport, and Paul and Suzanne Baldon.

Robert Kunovich, Ph.D. Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Nominated to Full Professor

Robert Kunovich was promoted September 1, 2017 to the rank of Professor of Sociology. The promotion to full professor is recognition that he has earned a national reputation in his field of expertise. His promotion is preceded by years of outstanding contributions to research, teaching, and service at UT Arlington.

Professor Kunovich earned a BA from Miami University in 1993 with a double-major in Political Science and Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs and a minor in History. He earned an MA (1996) and Ph.D. (2001) in Sociology from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Kunovich began his academic career as an assistant professor of sociology at Boston College in 2001. He joined the faculty at UTA as an assistant professor of sociology in 2004. He was tenured and promoted to the rank of associate professor in 2008. Dr. Kunovich served as the graduate advisor to the Sociology Program from 2008 to 2012 and as the associate department chair from 2012 to 2014. He was awarded the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher Award in 2012 and was inducted into UTA’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2013. He has served as the Sociology Program Director since 2012 and as department chair since 2014.

Dr. Kunovich conducts research in the areas of international migration; race, ethnicity, and nation; political sociology; and risk. In much of his research, he seeks to better understand ethnic and racial prejudice, national identification, and political attitudes from a social psychological perspective. His research has been published in a wide variety of general interest and specialty journals such as American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Sociological Perspectives, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, International Migration Review, and Ethnic and Racial Studies. Professor Kunovich has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on ethnic and racial conflict, the sociology of risk, social stratification and inequality, research methodology, and statistics.

New Director of UTA’s Center for African American Studies

Jason Shelton, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has been named director of the University’s Center for African American Studies (CAAS). He is an expert on the sociology of religion, race and class. Shelton joined UTA in 2008 as an assistant professor and has served as a faculty affiliate of the Center since its founding in 2012. He is a heavily sought-after speaker and media commentator on black middle class culture and ideology, racial and ethnic attitudes, the sociology of religion, and the debate over race versus class. Previously, he served on the faculty of Miami-Dade College, the College of Wooster and Rice University. Shelton earned his undergraduate degree in sociology from Kent State University. He holds masters and doctoral degrees in sociology from the University of Miami. Shelton is the author of several published articles and the book, “Blacks and Whites in Christian America: How Racial Discrimination Shapes Religious Convictions (2012),” which was honored by the Southern Conference on African American Studies with the prestigious C. Calvin Smith Award. The book also earned honorable mention from the American Sociological Association’s Section on the Sociology of Religion.

Shelton was selected after a national search that attracted distinguished candidates from across the country. “I am honored to accept this role for a number of reasons,” Shelton said. “First, it provides a major opportunity to impact people’s lives in a way that takes the classroom beyond the traditional boundaries and into the community. Second, it serves as a platform for conducting and sharing research that furthers our understanding of the contemporary African American experience, as well as our nation’s past, present and future.”

Shelton’s vision for advancing the Center for African American Studies includes three major goals: Increasing the number of students in the African American Studies minors program; Ensuring that the Center has a meaningful impact on campus, and; Establishing a Department of Diversity Studies.
Faculty Honors and Achievements

New Liberal Arts Dean

“The University of Texas at Arlington is extremely proud and pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Elisabeth Cawthon as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Cawthon has served with distinction in an interim capacity as dean over the past year, and has provided extraordinary leadership and continuity to the college, its faculty and staff and the exceptional students it serves. She will be working closely with the associate deans, department chairs and dedicated faculty and staff to further the college’s contributions to the University’s Strategic Plan 2020: Bold Solutions | Global Impact and the continued excellence it cultivates in its students. Please join me in congratulating Dean Cawthon on her new appointment; we’re delighted to have filled this position with such an exceptional and dedicated colleague.” Message from the Provost, Ronald L. Elsenbaumer, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, June 21, 2017.

CoLA Faculty Awards in Sociology and Anthropology

Research Awards
UTA Research Enhancement Proposal Grants for 2017-2018
Shelly Smith, Anthropology

UTA Faculty Development Leave, 2017-2018
Naomi Cleghorn, Anthropology

CoLA Endowment for Faculty Research and Creative Activity, 2017
David Arditi, Sociology
Naomi Cleghorn, Anthropology
Amy Speier, Anthropology

CoLA Faculty Research Seed Grants, 2017-2018
David Arditi, Sociology
Kelly Bergstrand, Sociology

McDowell Center Supplemental Faculty Research Grants, 2017
Shelley Smith, Anthropology
Amy Speier, Anthropology

Teaching Awards
CoLA Outstanding Teaching Award for Distance Education
M. Faye Hanson-Evans, Sociology

Advising Awards
CoLA Outstanding Graduate Advisor
Heather Jacobson, Sociology
Julie Adkins, Anthropology
Julie Adkins continues to enjoy teaching the four-field Introduction to Anthropology course each semester, though she wishes the public school system would do a better job of teaching students the difference between to/too/two, their/there/they’re, where/were, etc. She claims that she goes through at least four red pens every semester. In addition, this fall she has taught Anthropology of Religion, and will teach Diversity and Identity in the spring. Julie also serves as interim chair of the Anthropology Department. She has stated that she would like to continue teaching Introduction to Sociology and Anthropology each semester, though she wishes that the university would provide more support for her teaching activities.

Dr. David Arditi continues to work on the website developing the user interface and archiving local music. The archive continues to grow with over 16 bands archived. Please contact Dr. Arditi if you would like to contribute music or resources to the archive, we are always looking for music by our students and alumni. In 2017, Dr. Arditi had three journal articles accepted for publication. The journal articles focused on digital technology and its impact on music and culture. Of particular interest, “Digital Subscriptions: The Unending Consumption of Music” was published in Popular Music & Society. In it, Dr. Arditi traces how the practice of music collection changes with new digital music distribution models. Additionally, Dr. Arditi revived the Center for Theory’s Colloquium theory in spring 2017. Moreover, this year, he extended the Colloquium to include the full academic calendar along with a new project around what he calls Digital Dialectic. Finally, he was co-editor of FAST CAPITALISM’s special issue dedicated to the life and work of Dr. Ben Agger.

Check out FAST CAPITALISM’s special issue dedicated to Ben Agger. [https://utalibartsnews.wordpress.com/2017/09/01/fast-capitalism-issue-dedication-to-dr-ben-agger/]

Krystal Beamon, Sociology
Krystal Beamon received her Bachelor’s, Masters, and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. She joined UTA in the fall of 2008 after a three year tenure-track position at the University of Oklahoma. She was awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in Sociology in 2015 from the University of Texas Arlington. Her primary areas of scholarship are Race and Ethnicity, Sociology of Sport, and Inequality. Her book The Enduring Color Line in U.S. Athletics is among the top 10 best sellers in that genre. She is a recipient of the prestigious Regents Outstanding Teaching Award. Dr. Beamon received the 2017 Rising Star Award from her alma matar, Oklahoma State University for her outstanding accomplishments since graduation. She is teaching Racial and Ethnic Groups in the U.S. and Inequalities in Public Education this fall and will be teaching Introduction to Sociology and Sociology of Sport in the spring of 2018.

Kelly Bergstrand, Sociology
Dr. Kelly Bergstrand continues her research into what traits of social and environmental causes make people more (or less) willing to care about the issue or take action for social movement campaigns. This August, she presented her research, “The Child Activist,” at the annual American Sociological Association meeting in Montreal, Canada. She was also a coauthor on an article published this year: “Transformative Environmental Threats: Behavioral and Attitudinal Change Five Years after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.” This article explored whether experiencing the effects of an environmental disaster changed residents’ opinions, behavioral choices and political activities regarding the environment. Dr. Bergstrand teaches courses on environmental sociology, social statistics, and research methods.

Naomi Cleghorn, Anthropology
This summer, Dr. Cleghorn continued archaeological excavations at Knysna, on the southern coast of South Africa, where she is studying the impact of sea level change on early coastal foragers who lived between 50,000 and 18,000 years ago. Over the past three years, more than 40 researchers and students from UTA and around the world have contributed to the project. This year, the team included four former UTA students – Valerie Contreras (BA 2016), Hannah Keller (BA 2014, now a MA student in archaeology at University of Colorado Denver), Christopher Shelton (now an archaeologist with S.W.C.A), and Sara Watson (BA 2016, now a PhD student in archaeology at Univ. of California Davis). This year’s team included four graduate students with thesis research projects based on archaeological datasets being produced by the Knysna project.
The project is supported by grants from the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, the John Templeton Foundation, the National Science Foundation, UTA, and private donors. This year, a UTA College of Liberal Arts grant supported the laboratory analysis of mineral pigments commonly found at the site, together with an extensive survey of the surrounding region in an effort to identify the sources for these pigments. This effort was highly successful, and will provide valuable insight into the relationship between the people who lived at the site and the surrounding landscape.

M. Fay Hanson-Evans, Sociology

M. Faye Hanson-Evans, earned Her B.A. from the Honors College and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Texas Arlington in 2011 (Magna Cum Laude) as a McNair Scholar. She earned her M.A. in Sociology from the University of Texas Arlington in 2013 with her thesis “Color-Coding Poverty: Selectivity in Commitments to Individualism and Structuralism Across Various Racial and Ethnic Groups”. Ms. Hanson-Evans' research interests include poverty, racial & ethnic relations, and political sociology. She regularly teaches Sociology of Poverty, Sociology of Gender, Introduction to Sociology, and U.S. Into the 21st Century for the department. In 2017, Ms. Hanson-Evans was awarded the Outstanding Teaching Award in Distance Education from UT Arlington’s College of Liberal Arts. She serves as the faculty advisor for Project Downtown at UTA, an interdisciplinary student organization that specifically seeks to organize assistance for and work with homeless communities surrounding UTA. Ms. Hanson-Evans is also fur mom to Dolly and Barkley, her two Saint Bernards and regularly finds herself unwittingly accessorized with slobber and dog hair.

Heather Jacobson, Sociology

Heather Jacobson received a Research Enhancement Program Grant from the University for her new book project on the social consequences of human embryo cryopreservation and has spent the previous year in the field. She continues to collect data for this large project. In November, 2016, Heather was one of two U.S.-based participants at the first international symposium on surrogacy, which was held in Paris, France, sponsored by the Institut National d’Etudes Démographiques (INED). She was a featured speaker and moderator at two conferences for the public hosted by the organization Men Having Babies in the 2016/2017 academic year. She appeared on KXAS NBC5 News for a Valentine’s Day 2017 television segment titled, “Deep in the Heart: Why Surrogacy is a Labor of Love.” She presented on a new line of inquiry into surrogacy at the 2017 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Greenville, South Carolina: “Mothering during Pregnancy: The Case of Surrogacy.” She is Director of Graduate Studies for the MA in Sociology program. She teaches courses on race and family, reproduction, theory, and qualitative research methods.

Dorothy Kalanzi, Sociology

Dr. Kalanzi continues working on her projects in the areas of HIV/AIDS and climate change in Africa. Previously taught courses include Social Inequality, Medical Sociology, and Introduction to Sociology. Dr. Kalanzi is currently teaching Statistics for the Social Scientist, Social Inequality, and Introduction to Sociology. She will be teaching Introduction to Sociology and Social Inequality in spring 2018.

Ritu Khanduri, Anthropology

Dr. Ritu Gairola Khanduri researches on media, material culture and science in the context of India and the Indian diaspora. She is the author of Caricaturing Culture in India: Cartoons and History in the Modern World published by Cambridge University Press. As part of her public engagement, she contributed two essays to the blog Fifteeneightyfour and one to the Diplomat. She was interviewed about censorship and political cartoons in the American Bazaar and Le Monde. She is pursuing two projects on Gandhi and developing new research on India's visual culture. She serves as an elected member of the AAA's Committee on World Anthropologies. Dr. Khanduri enjoys seeing her students' course work presented in seminars and appearing in publications. She is passionate about teaching South Asia, India, Gandhi, visual culture and more broadly, public engagement with cultural anthropology. She enjoys running, twitter, vegetarian cuisine, cooking for family and friends, music and films.

Robert Kunovich, Sociology

Dr. Kunovich is currently teaching the graduate social statistics course. He will be teaching a cross-listed, undergraduate advanced topics course and graduate seminar on sociology of risk is the spring. Dr. Kunovich conducts research in the areas of race, ethnicity, and nation; political sociology; and the sociology of risk. He is working on several projects. One examines the connections between perceived threats, national identity, and immigration, trade, and foreign policy preferences. He is also rediscovering some classics in social theory to ground his future
research on prepping, survivalism, and off the grid living. When he is not working, Professor Kunovich enjoys watching The Walking Dead and other zombie-related TV shows and movies, playing music, and kayak fishing. He built a custom kayak trailer for a recent cross-country road trip to Interlochen, Michigan…and it made it there and back in once piece!

**Bret Lathwell, Sociology**
Bret Lathwell specializes in social theory and quantitative techniques. He studied social theory with the late Gillian Rose at the University of Warwick. His current research focuses on the use of quantitative techniques, including supervised and unsupervised learning and AI, to uncover underlying behavioral patterns in an array of areas including advertising, marketing, and social media. He is also actively researching cyberbullying as it relates to norms relating to the body and gender. Bret Lathwell is the recipient of the UTA Cares Grant, which contributes to the OER community by producing materials that are both open sourced and free to students. The current grant covers podcasts and videos to supplement an OER Introduction to Sociology textbook available on OpenStax.

**Ashley Lemke, Anthropology**
Dr. Lemke joined the Anthropology Department at UTA last year and is an archaeologist who specializes in underwater archaeology. In her first year at UTA she taught the Introduction to Archaeology class, a class titled the Anthropology of Hunting (which looks at hunting in different cultures), and a summer archaeology field school. Archaeology field schools are important for students who want to go into archaeology as a career after graduation. Dr. Lemke took 16 students to live and work at Way Ranch, an archaeological site in San Marco, Texas. In addition to running the archaeological field school, Dr. Lemke went to Michigan for a few months to do underwater archaeological research. This year her team worked on making 3-D photographic models of underwater archaeological sites that are 9,000 years old. Dr. Lemke published two articles, one on Bronze Age bone tools and another on her underwater research in the Great Lakes. She just received a National Science Foundation grant to go to Alaska to work with Alaskan Native hunters on a new project about ancient caribou hunting.

**Isabel Montemayor, Anthropology**
Dr. Isabel Montemayor is currently working on her manuscript tentatively titled "Healing Bodies across Borders" which investigates the transnational health seeking strategies of undocumented Mexican immigrants and their families living in Michoacan and Michigan. In spring of 2017 she presented her paper "Migrant Hometown Associations as Conduits for Care" at the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In spring of 2017 her collaborative paper "They Treat you a Different Way: Public Health Insurance, Stigma and the Challenge to Quality Health Care," was published in the journal *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*. In fall of 2017 her collaborative article, "Medicaid Reform, Responsibilization Policies, and the Synergism of Barriers to Low-income Health Seeking," was published by the journal *Human Organization*. Dr. Montemayor also served as a McNair Faculty Mentor during summer of 2017 working with anthropology major, Noemi Rodriguez to investigate immigrant family influence in decisions to pursue higher education. Dr. Montemayor is the faculty adviser for Lambda Alpha (Anthropological Honor Society) and the student activist group Mavericks United.

**Harvest Moon, Sociology**
Harvest Moon enjoys showing students how the insights of sociology can be applied in a variety of occupational settings. In her spare time she volunteers for several non-profit organizations.

**Karl Petruso, Anthropology**
After a sabbatical year, Karl Petruso resumed teaching full-time in August 30. In June he directed with Dr. Kevin Gustafson (Interim Dean of the Honors College) a fourth summer program in Scotland. Although the weather was cold, rainy and windy every day for nearly three weeks, the participating students enjoyed the country and the experience of visiting spectacular megalithic, Roman and Pictish archaeological sites from the Borders in the south to the Orkney Islands in the north. In early November he presented a paper on theory and methodology of historical metrology at the annual conference of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Boston. In January he will co-direct a new Wintermester study abroad program in Greece, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts with support from Dean Cawthon. Students will enroll in a course on ancient Greek religion taught by Prof. Charles Chiasson, and will travel around Greece for ten days examining the architecture and art of sanctuaries from the Late Bronze Age to the classical period.

**Josephine Ryan, Anthropology**
Dr. Josephine Ryan is a cultural anthropologist with interests including food and culture, gender and sexuality, human rights, public health, and medical anthropology. This fall she is teaching Global Cultures and Peoples and Cultures of Africa. She served as the Graduate Advisor for the Anthropology Program from 2009-
Beth Anne Shelton, Sociology
Beth Anne Shelton earned her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. She studies gendered patterns of time use in the home, in the paid labor force and in volunteer work. Most of her research addresses the relationship between work and family, focusing on how the inner workings of the home impact individuals’ labor force activities as well as how the constraints of work impact families, including children, mothers and fathers. She published (with Rebecca Deen) “Motherhood and Public Service, an Exploration of School Board Trustees” in August, 2017 in Mothers in Public and Political Life (edited by Simone Bohn and Pinar Parmaksiz). She and Deen also presented their research at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Montreal in August, 2017. These papers represent work from a larger project on motherhood and civic engagement. She teaches courses on family, work and the intersection of the two. For leisure she plays tennis and runs.

Shelley Smith, Anthropology
Professor Smith serves as the Anthropology Program Director and the department’s Associate Chair. In 2017, she had two articles published: “Growth of the maxillary sinus in children and adolescents: A longitudinal study” (HOMO – Journal of Comparative Human Biology, with PH Buschang and PC Dechow, Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Dallas) and “Twenty-First Century ‘Eugenics’? The Enduring Legacy” (Perspectives in Biology and Medicine). The ongoing project occupying the majority of her research time explores the presentation of human evolution material, textual and visual, in museums. This past year, she visited museums in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Houston, Cleveland, Denver, and London to collect data and conduct interviews with museum curators and staff.

Amy Speier, Anthropology
Dr. Amy Speier is a medical anthropologist specializing in cross-border reproductive care, with a focus on reproductive health, globalization and medical tourism. Her book, Fertility Holidays: IVF Tourism and the Reproduction of Whiteness, was released August 2016. This book traces North American fertility journeys to the Czech Republic, examining the multiple motivations that compel them to travel halfway across the globe in their quest for parenthood. Over the past year and a half, Dr. Speier has been conducting fieldwork that is examining which international intended parents are traveling to North America for fertility care. This type of fertility travel is much more complex and varied, given the vastly unregulated “baby business” in the United States. Dr. Speier is currently teaching Food and Culture and Medical Anthropology. She looks forward to teaching Research Methods and an online version of Global Cultures in the spring.
Robert Young, Sociology
Professor Young teaches courses on Individual and Society, Deviance, Research Methods and Small Groups. His scholarly interests lie within the domains of symbolic interactionism, cognitive sociology and social psychology. His most recent research has dealt with such topics as social interaction processes, the sociology of language and discourse and attitude structures, the role of emotions in human action, the nature of human-animal relationships and non-human animal mind. During the past year, his ethnographic research on animal rescue groups focused on the effect of empathy, and compassion and burnout among those working in animal rescue. In August, he presented a paper on that topic at the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction in Montreal. His co-authored journal article “Morality as a Discursive Accomplishment among Animal Rescue Workers” was published in the journal *Deviant Behavior* Volume 38: 2017.

Christian Zlolniski, Associate Professor of Anthropology & Director, Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS)
Christian Zlolniski is a social anthropologist interested in work, labor, and transnational migration in the U.S-Mexico borderlands. He teaches courses in anthropology and Mexican American studies on globalization, international migration, and Latino Studies. At CMAS he seeks to foster awareness about Mexican American and other Latino populations in the United States, and engaging into community outreach initiatives to serve the needs of the local Latino population. Last semester he delivered the paper “Mobilizing for their Rights as Laborers and Settlers: Indigenous Farmworkers in Northern Mexico” at University of Cambridge, and published “Growers, Unions, and Farm Laborers in Mexico’s Baja California” in the book *Uncertain Times: Anthropological Approaches to Labor in a Neoliberal World* (University of Colorado Press.) He has two kids – Pablo and Natalia– and enjoys taking them to their taekwondo and ballet lessons.

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From Spikes to Students–Women’s Cross Country & Track
October 19, 2017

STILLWATER, OK — Former Oklahoma State University All-American sprinter, Dr. Krystal Beamon hung up her spikes in 1999, and earned her Ph.D. in sociology in 2005 from Oklahoma State. Before pursuing another path, Beamon won two First-Team All-America honors and was a member of the indoor 4x400 relay team that holds the fastest time in school history.

Dr. Beamon is presently Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas Arlington. So what would lead a talented young athlete with Olympic aspirations from the track back to the classroom? To her, it was her sociology professor and mentor, Dr. Patricia Bell. “I was pre-law all the way, but I met a professor by the name of Dr. Patricia Bell,” Beamon said,” She examined race and race relations and over the years, I saw how I could infuse that into studying something that I love, sports.” That passion for diversity in sports led Beamon to pursue her research, and after earning her Ph.D., she eventually became a tenured professor of sociology at UT-Arlington.

Her extensive research into how race influences sport and vice versa was recognized by OSU on Oct. 12 with the reception of the Rising Star Award from the Division of Institutional Diversity. The Rising Star Award recognizes OSU graduates for standing out and making an impact in the various fields of diversity. For Beamon, the honor was one that stood out. "I was so humbled,” Beamon said. “I’ve won some awards, but for your alma mater and your home to recognize you're doing a great job and to pat you on the back, it was such an honor.”

The Rising Star Award is just one of the many recognitions Beamon has earned. In her time at OSU, she was awarded the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award, which recognizes undergraduate student-athletes who have excelled in their sports and their studies. She was also granted the NCAA Ethnic Minority Postgraduate Scholarship to help pay for her graduate studies. Even after all the fame and accolades, her humility stayed intact. Beamon said she puts an emphasis on being a mentor and role model to her students, just as Dr. Bell was to her. [http://www.okstate.com/news/2017/10/19/womens-cross-country-track-from-spikes-to-students.aspx](http://www.okstate.com/news/2017/10/19/womens-cross-country-track-from-spikes-to-students.aspx)
STUDY ABROAD & FIELD SCHOOLS - Summer 2017

South Africa

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Naomi Cleghorn, led a team of UTA students and other researchers to Knysna, South Africa. Funding was through a grant from the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation.

Scotland

Professors Karl Petruso (Anthropology) and Kevin Gustafson (English) took a group of students on a study abroad program in Scotland in the summer 2017. Students were able to experience the pleasure of living and learning in an international setting, which was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

San Marcos, Texas

UTA Associate Professor Dr. Ashley Lemke taught a summer field school in San Marcos, Texas. Students were able to live and work at an archaeological site in Texas and participate in a real archaeological excavation.
Celebration of Achievement Ceremony

The Annual Department of Sociology and Anthropology Awards Ceremony was held May 3, 2017. The guest speaker was Dustin Miller. Dustin received his Master of Arts in Anthropology in the spring of 2011 from UT Arlington. His master’s thesis was “Towards a Globalization of Conservation Models in Zoos: The AZA and the Case of a Mexican Zoological Park in Leon.” After completing his degree Dustin secured employment with the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

Graduating Anthropology Seniors were Stephanie Dinh\textsuperscript{S}, Kaitlin Fisher, Lacey Johnson, Taylor Kizer, Fred McGee, Jesse Nolet, Rolando Wallace, Tara Wyatt, and Fatema Zakir Hussain.

Graduating Sociology Seniors were Rena Aldridge, Cassy Barnard\textsuperscript{M}, Dominique Fullbright, Cody Golden, Ariel Gooden, Vivian Ibarra, Meagan Ladd, Keosha Middleton, Orion Milton, Aura Moreno, Zaynab Muhammad, Allison Rodriguez\textsuperscript{M}, Laura Rudder, Kelsie Scamp, Jennifer Wellman, and Nancy Zuniga.

*Summa Cum Laude\textsuperscript{(S)}, Magna Cum Laude\textsuperscript{(M)}, Cum Laude\textsuperscript{(C)}

Graduating Sociology Master’s Students were Scott Clemens, Jason Fanning, Jesse Kartes and Amy Reewe.

McNair Scholars were Jeremy Dubhros, Rashad Harrison, Meghan Lowrey, and Noemi Rodriguez.

Anthropology Honor Roll Recipients who maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher within the major and 3.0 overall were Karla Camacho, Jake Cheves, Alexander Davy, Angelle Russell, and Rachael Williams.

Sociology Honor Roll Recipients who maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher within the major and 3.0 overall were Ariella Amanuel, Garrett Fox, Jeremy Moore, Frida Negrete, Catherine Pham, Tho Pham, Shannen Rimando, and Jessica Salas.

Anthropology Scholars who maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher within the major and 3.0 overall and have completed more than 12 hours of coursework in the major were Myriah Allen, Matthew Burns, Stephanie Dinh, Kim-Thao Do, Stephanie Dolenz, Victoria Gambrel, Meredith Kelland, Tracy Kwan, Meghan Lowrey, Megan Martin, Lillian Pena, James Ramsey, Noemi Rodriguez, Mycroft Roske, Gloria Shibley, Alondra Smith, Katelin Smith, and Fatema Zahir Hussain.

Sociology Scholars who maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher within the major and 3.0 overall and have completed more than 12 hours of coursework in the major were Anna Aldrich, Noah Ambs, Angel Bagby, Cassy Barnard, Anne Base, Giovanni Bonilla, Danielle Depaul, Jeremy Dubhros, Iris Garcia, Joseph Gibbs, Ana Gonzales, Ariel Gooden, Anna Harris, Hannah Nazari, Jesse Poston, James Reinoehl, Claudette Robles, Allison Rodriguez, Angela Tipton, Jennifer Wellman, and Lethe Witt.

The Ben and Trudy Termini Anthropology Fellowship went to Peyton Carroll, Stephanie Dolenz, and Tracy Kwan.

The Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship in Sociology went to Anna Aldrich and Ana Gonzales.

COLA Scholars in Anthropology were Matthew Burns, Stephanie Dinh, Kim Do, Stephanie Dolenz, Meghan Lowrey, Lillian Pena, James Ramsey, Noemi Rodriguez.

COLA Scholars in Sociology were Cassy Barnard, Anne Base, Curtis Brown, Scott Clemens, Gary Fitzsimmons, Ana Gonzales, Meagan Ladd, and Megan Routh.

The Archer Fellowship went to Victoria Gambrel.
The COLA Dean’s Travel Award was presented to Christina Carney, Jacob Garza, and Erin Taylor.

**Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society** inductees were Scott Clemens and Amy Reece.

**Lambda Alpha Inductees** were Stephanie Dolenz, Hector Flores, Victoria Gambrel, Tracy Kwan, Lillian Pena, James Ramsey, and Noemi Rodriguez.

**Alpha Kappa Delta** Inductees were Denise Carmona, Edwin Castellano Beuses, Hector Flores, Ana Gonzales, Ariel Gooden, Dianne Reaux, Christopher Robertson, Allison Rodriguez, and Jennifer Wellman.

The **Archer Fellowship**. Anthropology Student, **Victoria Gambrel**, was awarded an Archer Fellowship. The Bill Archer Fellowship Program for Undergraduates brings talented UT System undergraduate students to Washington, D.C. for a fall or spring semester of coursework and internships. The fellowships include attending an intensive federal policymaking course and serving as Interns, at a venue of their choosing.

**Southwestern Social Science Association 98th Annual Meeting (SSSA)**

Held in Austin, Texas April 12-15, 2017. Presenters were Sociology Graduate students **Christina Carney** (Pop Culture 2; Media Impact; and Social Media Mediated Domesticity: An Exploration of Mothers and the Maker Movement), **Jacob Garza** (Healthy Babies; Healthy Families; and Prospective Fathers Involvement in Pregnancy and Its Impact on Prenatal and Maternal Health Behaviors), and **Erin Taylor** (Gender and the Family; and Power, Privilege, and Household Labor: An Exploration of Transmasculine Heterosexual Couples). Faculty advisors were Dr. Beth Anne Shelton and Dr. David Arditi.

**Christina Carney**, Sociology graduate student, presented a paper at the American Sociological Association (ASA) in August 2017 in Montreal and also a paper with Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) again in Montreal.

**Angela Barajas**, Sociology graduate student, presented a paper entitled, “Becoming Fictional: Cosplay and Identity,” at the Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) in October 2017 held in Chattanooga, TN.

**Sociology Graduates Final Theses**

**Spring/Fall 2017**

AAMAL NAIM ALABED – fall 2017  
Committee Chair: Dr. Jason Shelton  
Assimilation Theories & Muslims in the U.S.

HOWARD SCOTT CLEMENS – spring 2017  
Committee Chair: Dr. Linda Rouse  
Community Gardens as Instruments of Group and Neighborhood cohesion.

JASON FANNING – spring 2017  
Committee Chair: Dr. Beth Anne Shelton  
Adventures in Mentorsitting.

JACOB GARZA – fall 2017  
Committee Chair: Dr. Beth Anne Shelton  
There Is No He In Pregnancy: Understanding Fathers’ Involvement in Prenatal Health Behaviors

JESSE KARTES - spring 2017  
Committee Chair: Dr. Robert Kunovich  
Gender Inequality

AMY REECE – spring 2017  
Committee Chair: Dr. Heather Jacobson  
Pursuit of Education: An Examination of the Roles of Mothers Attending College.
Alumni: Where Their Degrees have taken them

Myriah Allen received her BA degree in Anthropology at UTA in 2016. She has been accepted to the Graduate Anthropology Program at the University of Montana. She is waiting to hear from other university's where she has applied.

Rick Emory is Texas born and received his undergraduate degree from UTA in 2013. He is a globally educated legal academic now living in Australia, teaching law at the Australian National University, and obtaining a PhD in law at the ANU's National Centre for Indigenous Studies. His current research focuses on discrimination in the criminal justice system against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Hannah Keller, received her BA in Anthropology from UTA in 2014. She is now a MA student in archaeology at the University of Colorado Denver.

Ashley Wendell Kranjac (Ph.D. 2015, SUNY- Buffalo; Postdoctoral Fellowship 2017, Rice University) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Chapman University in Orange, California. In her research, she seeks to advance scholarship in health inequalities, social stratification, and population studies. She is specifically concerned with investigating whether multifaceted determinants of risk persist after considering the sociodemographic characteristics of individuals and the neighborhoods in which they live, and whether the risks posed by social and environmental conditions are modified by population characteristics. She is also interested in the causes and consequences of neighborhood population characteristics on health risks and disparities. To date, her work has appeared in Social Science & Medicine, Maternal & Child Health, Pediatrics, Obesity Research & Clinical Practice, and Contexts. https://www.chapman.edu/our-faculty/ashley-kranjac.

Jamaica Kennedy received her BA in Sociology from UTA and her masters in Sociology from UTA in 2015. Her Thesis title was “Presidential Speech and the Framing of Poverty from the War on Poverty to the War on the Poor.” She is presently teaching courses on Social Problems at TCU.

Dustin Miller received his Master of Arts in Anthropology in the spring of 2011 from UT Arlington. His master’s thesis was “Towards a Globalization of Conservation Models in Zoos: The AZA and the Case of a Mexican Zoological Park in Leon.” After completing his degree Dustin secured employment with the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

Christopher Shelton received his BA in Anthropology from UTA and his masters in Anthropology from UTA in 2015. He is currently an archaeologist with SWCA Environmental Consultants.

Lukas Szrot received his BA in Sociology from UTA and his masters in Sociology from UTA in 2015. He is presently in a Ph.D. Program at the University of Kansas. He is a graduate teaching assistant and Social Thought and Research Journal co-editor. His areas of specialization are Theory, Religion, Environment, Political Sociology and Sociology of Education.

Sara Watson received her BA in Anthropology at UTA in 2016. She is in a Ph.D. program at University of California Davis. She was awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship for work that she began at UTA. She is continuing to work with UTA Anthropologist Dr. Naomi Cleghorn’s project in South Africa and in the summer of 2017 collected data for her dissertation.
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Anthro Club

The Anthropology Club kicked off with a great start this year with a new set of officers: Alanis Ramos, President, Clay Evon, Vice-President, Daniel Miller, Treasurer, Dallas Schrader, Secretary, and Makenzie Moon, Historian. Dr. Ashley Lemke is Faculty Advisor. Our plans include museum visits, distinguished brown bag lecturers, exciting events like flint knapping, and helping with the annual goat roast hosted by Dr. Naomi Cleghorn. We are looking forward to continuing with social events like our cultural lunches at local venues. We seek to promote increased awareness of local and national events in anthropology while encouraging fun activities for our student body. For more information on the Anthro Club you may go to http://mavorgs.collegiatelink.net/organization/anthropologyclub.

Lambda Alpha (The Anthropological Honor Society Alpha Chapter of Texas)

Lambda Alpha is a dynamic national collegiate organization which nurtures and rewards undergraduate and graduate students’ excellence in Anthropology. This year in addition to assisting with the Termini Lecture and Brown Bag series, we will be focusing on developing professional and scholarly skills such as networking and research. We will be attending conferences and lectures throughout the year. This year will also see the introduction of social hours, events designed to give members an opportunity to discuss anthropological topics and career paths. 2016-17. Dr. Isabel Montemayor is Faculty Advisor.

Sociology Student Association (SSA)

The Sociology Student Association (SSA) is an officially recognized, student-led organization at the University of Texas Arlington. The purpose of SSA is to demonstrate the practical and theoretical aspects of Sociology in ways beneficial to its undergraduate and graduate students and the surrounding Arlington community. Membership is not limited to sociology majors. SSA activities include career development events, educational activities, community involvement, and social events. Each semester’s activities are determined by the student members. SSA officers are Jesse Poston, President, Tatiana Rivera, Vice-President, Amanda Bell, Secretary, and Tamara Cikic, Treasurer. Faculty advisor is Dr. Kelly Bergstrand.

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)

The Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) Sociological Honor Society Omicron Chapter of Texas welcomed new sociology scholars from UTA to its ranks during the 2015-2016 year. Dr. Robert Kunovich, Faculty Advisor and Chapter Representative for AKD, inducted new initiates at last year’s ceremony co-sponsored with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Lambda Alpha. The ceremony also honored UTA’s own Sociology Scholars and Sociology Honor Roll students with a reception and banquet afterward. AKD assists with funding for students interested in attending or presenting at professional conventions. To stay informed of the latest national AKD news, join the Facebook group: Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, and for more information on the Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology you can go to: http://alphakappadeltainternational.com.

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Finals week: Hosted by the Department of Sociology & Anthropology each semester is always a success. More than 100 students stopped by the office this fall 2016 and spring 2017 to replenish their supplies with Scantrons, pencils, drinks and snacks. They were able to relax in a designated quiet place to study or take a power nap!
WE RECOGNIZE FIVE STUDENT SCHOLARS

Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship in Sociology

The Blaine T. and Jean W. Williams Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was presented at the department’s Celebration of Achievement Ceremony in the spring of 2017 to Anna Aldrich and Ana Gonzales. The Endowed Scholarship in Sociology was established by their son, Blaine Williams and his wife, Elaine Davenport. Blaine T. Williams, Sr. and his wife, Jean Wood Williams were pioneers in the Dallas-Fort Worth Sociology and Social Work community. The scholarship is awarded annually to a junior or senior majoring in Sociology at the University of Texas Arlington.

The Ben and Trudy Termini Anthropology Fellowship

The Ben and Trudy Termini Anthropology Fellowship was awarded to Peyton Carroll, Stephanie Dolenz and Tracy Kwan.

Dr’s Ben and Trudy Termini established their medical practices in Arlington in 1975 and retired in 2003. They were always interested in Anthropology and audited a course at UT Arlington. They eventually began sponsoring an endowed lecture series which has attracted many world renowned speakers. This years speaker was Dr. Ruth Behar, Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan and the Guggenheim Fellowship. Ruth frequently visits and writes about her native Cuba. This year a sponsored Termini Fellowship was awarded to three deserving Anthropology students.
The Ben and Trudy Termini Distinguished Anthropologist Lecture for 2017 welcomed Dr. Ruth Behar, Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan and the Guggenheim Fellowship.

Dr. Behar is a traveler, storyteller, poet, educator, and public speaker. Her books include *The Presence of the Past in a Spanish Village*, *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza’s Story*, and *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart*. Ruth frequently visits and writes about her native Cuba and is the author of *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba* and *Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in Between Journeys*. She is the editor of the pioneering anthology, *Bridges to Cuba* and co-editor of *The Portable Island: Cubans at Home in the World*. Her documentary, *Adio Kerida/Goodbye Dear Love: A Cuban Sephardic Journey*, distributed by Women Make Movies, has been shown in festivals around the world. Her poetry is included in many collections, among them *The Whole Island: Six Decades of Cuban Poetry* and *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*. With Poet Richard Blanco, she runs a blog to create a forum for Cuban stories that engage the heart as the island moves into a new era of its history: www.bridgestocuba.com. Her debut novel for young readers, *Lucky Broken Girl*, the story of a Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl, is forthcoming with Nancy Paulsen books, an imprint of Penguin Random House in April, 2017.