

SOCIONEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TCNJ DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of SocioNews! Written and produced by members of Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, Xi Chapter at TCNJ. We hope to engage, educate, and empower our readers to view the world through their sociological lens.

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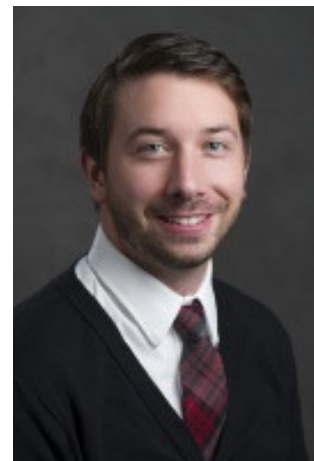
2018 ALPHA KAPPA DELTA INDUCTION CEREMONY



The ability to connect learning with real community engagement opportunities has been so important on my own journey.

-- DAVE HARKER

The 2018 induction ceremony featured keynote address, "The Purpose of Service: Experiences Applying Sociology and a TCNJ Education" by Dave Harker, TCNJ '05. Harker is currently the Director of Center for Civic Engagement at Ithica College.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Elizabeth Borland has been awarded the 2018–19 Gitenstein–Hart Sabbatical Prize, providing her with the opportunity to return to Argentina and continue her research regarding reproductive rights. In addition, she will expand her research to Chile and Uruguay, exploring social movements and the implementation of new policy.

Dr. Gazley is currently working on a piece titled "Encouraging Resilience Among Undergraduate Science Majors". With funding from the National Science Foundation, she is working in conjoint efforts with the biology, chemistry, computer science, and math departments to conduct research on the experience of STEM majors here at TCNJ.



the President

Dr. Holly Didi-Ogren received a \$25,000 grant through the ASIANetwork and Freeman Foundation, sending her and four students (Yani Aldrich, Annette Giacobbe, Jordan Gonzalez, and Jason Sagalow) to Japan in order to investigate how women's food cooperatives have played a role in rebuilding community after the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake of 2011.

Research 101

By: Nancy Pietrobon

Research 101As evident in the faculty spotlight, it is common for professors to conduct research both on and off of the TCNJ campus. I have had the opportunity to participate in research with Dr. Adler and Dr. Gazley, which were both meaningful experiences in my academic career. Not only did they allow me to apply sociological concepts learned in the classroom to real world situations, these research experiences helped me develop stronger critical thinking skills. Critical thinking will be central to both your personal and professional growth. Participating in research alongside professors can create strong relationships, help you recognize your passions, and teach you multiple lessons along the way. Should the opportunity arise, I recommend joining a professors research team, regardless of the department, as it can be a valuable undergraduate experience.

Taking on Sociology 302: A Reflection

By: Hannah Berenberg

As a sociology student at TCNJ I knew a few things would happen throughout my four years. I knew that I would be educated by intelligent professors, I would be working alongside kind peers, and I would eventually have to take on Sociology 302: Quantitative Research Methods.

I distinctly remember a time during my sophomore fall where the majority of one of my classes were juniors taking Sociology 302. They would walk into the classroom not discussing the topic at hand, but rather the concepts they had been learning in a different course. The concepts sounded challenging as they repeatedly moaned over the difficulty that “SPSS” was causing them. I was one of the more quiet students in the course but one day I decided to ask them what they were talking about and most of them described how they were tackling 302, which was causing them a lot of stress.

Taking on Sociology 302: A Reflection

By: Hannah Berenberg

Sociology 302 is one of those courses that you know you will have to take eventually, but you kind of want to hold off from taking it for as long as possible. It seemed so challenging and scary based off of comments from my peers, which, okay, may have sounded a little dramatic in the moment, but I was a new kid in the major and wanted all the advice I could get! After tackling Sociology 301 in my sophomore spring I knew that Sociology 302 was up next, and honestly I was really nervous.

As I picked my classes I decided to be strategic and take 3 units instead of 4 for the semester. I knew that with the new lab requirement for SOC 302 and my other course that required a lab, it would most likely feel like I was taking 4 courses regardless. When the semester began, I walked into my first day of Sociology 302 with a determination to do my best and felt equally prepared for the supposed “roller coaster” that SPSS would take me on.

I am here today to tell you that Sociology 302 is not as scary as some people may make it out to be. Of course, everyone is different and we all learn at different levels, but if you are willing to put in the work and work hard at it, there is no stopping you from doing great in this course. I was so nervous to take on my own research, but it turned out to be a project that has taught me a lot about who I am as a sociologist and the area of work I may want to be a part of once I graduate. The amount of work I put into this class completely paid off and I am extremely proud of myself and the research I was able to display.

For those of you somewhat nervous to take on Sociology 302, I challenge you to ignore the comments and go in to your first day of class with an open mind. Some of the material may be hard to grasp at first, but it will all come together with time! A special thank you to my peers that motivated me along the way and to Dr. Diane Bates for teaching us that there are so many different paths we can take as sociology students.

An Interview with a TCNJ' 13 Alumna

By: Nancy Pietrobon

While I am sure many of us would love to be students at TCNJ forever, we must unfortunately journey into the real world and figure out our post-graduation plans. In order to shed some light on one of the paths one can take with a sociology degree, I interviewed Lauren Patton, who graduated from TCNJ in 2013 and is currently employed at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

What is your current position and what do your everyday responsibilities include?

Physician office specialist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Early manager duties include checking voicemails/arranging coverage plans, resolving staffing issues, and running and sending patient count reports. Once that is completed I conduct daily rounds and review/approve time off requests. I am also in charge of staff on-boarding and post clinic reconciliation.

How did you find out about this position? What was the process in obtaining it?

I was already working for Memorial Sloan Kettering and hit the 2 year mark, making me eligible for a promotion. Once posted, I applied to this position on our internal job portal, went through a series of two interviews with 3 different people and was then offered the position.

What was your most memorable course at TCNJ?

I completed a research course with Dr. Adler and a select group of students. We went on 'field trips' to different assisted living facilities which were known to be culturally sensitive to 1 or more specific groups to consider cultural competencies in healthcare today.

Did you have any internship(s) while at TCNJ that influenced your career path or helped you in terms of skills you use now?

I completed an internship with Grace Healthcare – a hospice service – which required me to make visits to nursing homes/assisted living facilities in the area and check in on hospice patients. I also volunteered with Princeton Hospital @ Plainsboro on the mother/baby unit. Gaining hands on experience in these two very different facets of healthcare helped me to re-direct my focus, which was once clinical, to a more administrative role.

Did you continue your education after graduating from TCNJ? What was that process like?

Sure did! I recently completed my MHA from Seton Hall University. I didn't start this program until after being in the workforce for 2 years, which allowed me the opportunity to really hone in on this as my desired career path before starting the program. The MHA program itself taught me a lot! – and working at MSK in a healthcare admin role was beneficial in that I was doing many of the same things at work that we discussed in each class. Working full time while being a full time student was tough at times, but looking back I can say it wasn't too bad!

Is there any advice you would offer to current students who are worried about what they can do with a sociology degree?

You can do literally ANYTHING with a sociology degree which is something many people do not realize. The sociology degree I earned at TCNJ taught me concepts and skills that are transferable to just about any career path out there. Yes, sociology is a very broad concept in itself, but the best thing about it that this often means you can make your sociology degree do what YOU want it to do for you – simply by applying these newly acquired skills to whatever field you feel a passion toward (which in my case was healthcare administration).



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