Students and faculty celebrate another great year at the Spring Picnic
The Emic is published each term by Carleton’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

This term’s contributors included:

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If you have questions, comments, or things you would like to submit for future editions of the Emic, please contact Mary at mdrew@carleton.edu.
New Major Spotlight

This spring, 18 members of the class of 2017 declared as SOAN majors. We caught up with two newly declared SOAN majors to pick their brains about life at Carleton.

The EMIC Edz: What made you declare SOAN?

Charlie Linneman: I declared SOAN because I have found that it is a nice blend of different areas in academia. Both sociology and anthropology involve studying people, which makes them dynamic fields and interesting areas for research. I have had good experiences in the SOAN classes I have taken so far and it seems like the professors are both involved with their students, and have valuable insights from their "real-world" research that they can share, both of which contributed to my decision. As an archaeology concentrator, I like the overlap between SOAN and archaeology.

Sarah Trachtenberg: I was choosing between SOAN and Women’s and Gender Studies for a long time, as I know that I am interested in the subject matter of both departments and in the overlap between them. Specifically, I like trying to understand the world views that we often take for granted but that underlie important components of cultures and societies, and also the impact of various aspects of identity (gender, race, class, sexuality, and many more) on world views and integration within that society.

Edz: Are you more interested in Sociology or Anthropology?

CL: As of now I am more interested in anthropology, particularly paleoanthropology/archaeology and the study of human evolution and early cultures.

ST: I honestly don’t know yet - I like both! I find anthropology more ethically challenging sometimes, because so much of it is related to colonialism, but I also really enjoy working within both.

Edz: What has been your favorite SOAN course so far?
CL: My favorite SOAN course so far has to be a tie between Modern Families with Liz Raleigh and Social Movements with Daniel Williams. Modern Families was a solid class on a subject more pertinent to my own interests, but Social Movements was a very open and structureless discussion based class which I had never experienced before and really enjoyed.

ST: I'm really enjoying Pamela’s "Africa: Representations and Conflict" class right now.

Edz: Describe your ideal study abroad program.

CL: My ideal study abroad program is pretty close to the program I am doing next Fall. I am going to Tanzania from August-December, 5 or 6 weeks of which will be spent in the field designing and carrying out a field project and visiting Tanzanian national parks. Tanzania has some of the best sites in the world for studying early human evolution and archaeology, so the location couldn’t get any better. Being able to do some undergraduate research is a key component in any study abroad trip I would consider because it gives you a perspective that you can’t obtain from a classroom. The other portion of the trip will be spent in Dar es Salaam, which is a beautiful city on the coast, so hopefully I’ll still be able to spend some time on the beach.

ST: Ideally, I would study abroad in a program that mixed sociology, anthropology, and women's and gender studies, immersed me within cultures unfamiliar to me, and really challenged me as both a scholar and as a human being (in terms of difficult travel situations, having to think on my feet, having to think through the ethics of interactions, and so on). Also, it would probably be preferable to be somewhere where I can speak the language at least somewhat, so I can have a better understanding of everything that's going on - so probably somewhere English- or Spanish-speaking.
Every year, students, faculty, and alumni of the Latin American Studies Program host a symposium on a pressing topic in Latin America to campus. The symposium is called the *Foro Latinoamericano*. This year’s Foro, titled “Mezcolanza”, focused on food movements across the Latin America and its diaspora communities and hosted three “experts to discuss some of the most innovative, unexpected, and even controversial ways in which food is being articulated, performed, and enacted in contemporary Latin America.” These experts included ecological anthropologist Virginia Nazarea, sociologist and gastronome Mariano Valderrama, and food activist Lauren Baker.

The triumvirate of experts brought very different perspectives to the symposium. Valderrama, for instance, has often collaborated with the Peruvian government on gastronomic initiatives. “Mario is very, very pragmatic and sassy… and very much talks from the perspective of someone who’s trying to do. He talks about things in practical terms, in terms of what can actually happen,” says Dan Bollinger SOAN major ’16. Meanwhile, Nazarea brought a more theoretical approach to her talk, discussing the links between culture, memory, biodiversity, loss, and resiliency. Her most current research focuses on the discourse of repatriation in heritage foods of the Andes. Finally, Baker’s talk brought together both the theoretical and the nitty gritty in her talk on the connections between the food movement in Canada and Mexico. Bollinger says, “[Assistant Professor of Anthropology,] Constanza [Ocampo-Raeder] did a really great job organizing the event. It was just a really interesting collection of people who otherwise might not have been brought together.”

Students relished the opportunity to chat with the speakers after their talks at lunches, dinners, and informal conversation groups. “I especially liked that the organizers made an emphasis about speaking with the students after the program and that they wanted to talk about things students were interested in,” says Stu Lourey SOAN major ’16. For Lourey, this meant having the chance to chat with Nazarea about her work as it relates to his own research interests – memories of the Guatemalan Civil War.
Meet the Profs

Nate Edwards ’17 sat down with Visiting instructor in Sociology, Kyle Green, to talk about life at Carleton both in and out of the classroom

Q: From where are you joining the Carleton community?
I am joining Carleton from the University of Minnesota where I received my Master’s Degree in Geography and am about to complete my Doctoral Degree in Sociology. I am originally from a rural town in Central New York.

Q: What are your impressions of Carleton thus far?
Carleton College is an amazing place. Faculty members are welcoming, the students are motivated and engaged, and the campus is beautiful. I hold onto a lingering suspicion that I am unknowingly on a movie set.

Q: Any surprises in your time here?
The excellent tea selection in the Sociology and Anthropology department and the abundant amount of pizza delivered to Leighton Hall.

Q: Can you tell us a little about your class?
I am teaching Sport and Society. In the class we work through a number of theoretical approaches that help us understand the social phenomenon and its seemingly paradoxical position as both one of our most powerful and least respected institutions. We discuss the ways that sport intersects with and shapes our understanding of gender, race, politics, nationality, and the human body.
Students are writing papers that apply the ideas from class to a sport of their choosing, going out into the world to take make observations and take detailed field notes, and creating a website to creatively explore a key issue related to sport and contemporary society. It is a lot to do in ten weeks but students are doing an amazing job.

Q: Marx, Weber or Durkheim?
Pierre Bourdieu.

Q: What is your favorite part of teaching?
Interacting with the students and seeing what they do with the ideas we discuss in class. Some of my favorite moments are when people use a complicated idea from a reading or discussion to critically reflect on a personal experience they have had or understand a current event in a new and creative way.

Q: Where do your interests lie in sociology?
That is a hard question to answer because there are few areas of the discipline that I do not find exciting. I label myself as a social theorist with an interest in culture, sport, and the body. My dissertation is an ethnographic examination of how people construct meaning through and around physical practices. In particular, I am looking at how local mixed martial arts gyms provide intimacy and a sense of community that is built through men exchanging sweat, blood, pain, and a lot of stories as they learn to punch, kick, and choke each other.

I also spend a lot of time trying to make complicated sociological research and ideas more accessible to the larger public (and better suited for the classroom!). I have been heavily involved with Contexts and The Society Pages and recently launched the Give Methods a Chance podcast (www.thesocietypages.org/methods) with my co-host Sarah Lageson.

Q: If you were to create the perfect “Kyle Green” class, what would it look like?
I’m not yet a worthy subject for a class. Maybe someday. I would much rather teach Theory, or even Methods. Sociology is a very diverse and eclectic discipline. If all sociologists share anything, it is our appreciation of the core theorists and our love of good methods.

The perfect class would consist of a room that is well lit, is not too hot or cold, and is filled with students interested in the topic and readings. Asking for anything else would be greedy.

Q: Are you planning to attend Rotblatt?
I do not know what Rotblatt is. It sounds intimidating and I am guessing that magic is involved.
Another congratulations is due for Joe Soonthornsawad! He was awarded The Rachel A. Rosenfeld Prize for Excellence in the Study of Sociology and Anthropology. The prize is awarded each spring by the sociology and anthropology department to a senior who exhibits promise in making professional contributions in the areas of sociology or anthropology, a high level of intellectual curiosity, courage in the face of challenges, devotion to our community, and enthusiasm for making connections between social theory and practice.

Congratulations to Katie Shaffer! Her Comps paper, “Informed But Not Consenting: The Construction and Negotiation of Embodied Knowledge Among Vaccine Refusers in Minnesota” was awarded with distinction by the department and the James S. Berglund Social Science prize. The Berglund Prize is a campus-wide prize awarded annually for the best essay or research paper written in the social sciences.
Faculty and Alumni Update

Adrienne Falcón, Lecturer in Sociology and Director of Academic Civic Engagement,

has been selected for a Fulbright U.S. Scholar award during four months of academic year 2015-2016. This appointment enables Lecturer Falcón to participate in and research the construction of academic community and civic engagement in Ecuador while teaching and doing research at the Universidad de Cuenca. In particular, Falcón will study the implementation of a new law mandating community involvement for all institutions of higher education in Ecuador - a subject which Falcón will introduce to the wider scholarly conversation about civic engagement.

Dan Reed '12 PH.D Candidate in Anthropology at University of Georgia,

has had his article “Legitimacy, access, and the gridlock of tiger conservation: lessons from Melghat and the history of central India”, published in Regional Environmental Change.

MEET OUR NEW DCCS

The DCC is a group of students that facilitate communication between faculty and students (both majors and non-majors) about curricular issues. They also write the content for our department newsletters. Don’t hesitate to contact them with questions or concerns. Join us in welcoming the DCC’s for the 2015-16 school year.

Hannah Nayowith ‘16

Stu Lourey ‘17
Congratulations to the Class of 2015!
Have a great summer and we will see the rest of you next fall!