

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology

Eastern Illinois University

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Friends and Alumni:

If you are reading this in Illinois right now, chances are you are experiencing the same cicada summer we are here in Charleston. The grounds of EIU are abuzz with the sound of cicadas and the trees are covered with exoskeletons. Otherwise, it is relatively quiet; the students have gone home for the summer, and those that are taking summer classes do so mostly online now.

Department News

I'm enjoying the peace. It was a busy spring—it was a busy year. Last summer our department and the department of Human Services started drawing up plans for an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Social Work program at EIU. The program will be housed in Human Services, but our department will contribute significantly to it with new and preexisting courses and faculty. In the fall we launched several faculty searches, one of which was a dedicated position for the new program. We were unable to fill that position, but plans are afoot to run the search again. Meanwhile, the curriculum and other program pieces are starting to fall into place, and we will be welcoming our first cohort of social work students to campus soon.

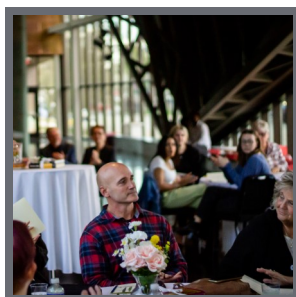
Faculty News

A new faculty member will be joining our department this fall! **Dr. Robert Duffy** comes to us from Rutgers University, where he earned his Ph.D. in Sociology in 2023. Dr. Duffy's dissertation focused on the oil industry and environmental policy in California, and he is broadly interested in Environmental and Political Sociology. Dr. Duffy will be teaching our popular Introductory Sociology course, Social Problems, and Social Stratification, along with electives in his areas of expertise.



In our last newsletter I mentioned that EIU president **Dr. David Glassman** had joined our department so as to finish his career as a member of the faculty. Last fall he taught his popular Forensic Anthropology course to a room full of engaged students, including his former office administrator who was auditing the class, and then he retired at the end of the semester. He is currently enjoying a well-earned retirement in the sunny Southwest United States.

Student News



Last month we held our annual department honors reception. On this joyous occasion we inducted twelve students into Alpha Kappa Delta, the national honors society for Sociology, and three students into Lambda Alpha, the national Anthropology honors society. We also awarded four department scholarships and the William Wood Award, which is named in honor of the first chair of the department. This year's award went to **Zoe Bowers**. Zoe graduated in May with university and department honors, a double major in Criminology and Criminal Justice and Sociology, and minors in Pre-Law and Human Services administration. During her time at EIU, Zoe served as president and secretary of

the Sociology and Anthropology student club, as secretary and president of the pre-law society, and as a member of the student standards board, in addition to her volunteer work at a homeless shelter and a domestic violence shelter. Along with fellow Sociology major Camden Webb, she was recognized by the EIU Alumni Association with a distinguished senior award. Zoe will be attending law school at the University of Dayton in the fall. Congratulations to Zoe and all our honorees and graduates.



Alumni News

We are quite proud of the Alumni display case which hangs outside our main office in Blair Hall. The display includes pictures and short biographies our Alumni, and we would love to include you on it. If you haven't done so already, please send a professional, high-resolution photograph, along with your name, graduation year, major and any minors, and current job title and location to our department email (soc1@eiu.edu) and we will add your face to our wall.

This month we spotlight one of our Alumni who is featured in the display, **Ashley Grabb**, who graduated from EIU in 2011 with a double major in Sociology and Psychology, and minors in Anthropology and Criminology. Ashley writes:

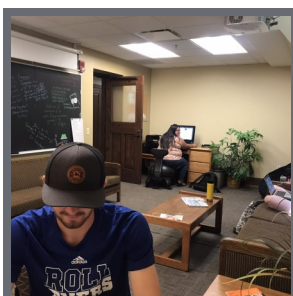


“I am currently working as a Senior Food Systems Health Educator at Maricopa County Department of Public Health in Phoenix, AZ. My job covers a vast array of things, but I find myself primarily working on equitable and culturally applicable food access, farmer advocacy, food sovereignty, city general plan development, food education, local food procurement and mentoring the next generation of food minded dietitians, social workers and planners. Much of my work over the years has been focused on policy, environmental, and systems level changes. I’ve found many of my courses at EIU to be building blocks that I have referenced

again and again throughout my career. My favorites that have boosted my work include Sociological Theory, Family & Society, Social Stratification, and Research Methods and Statistics (I know, I know, but really). The relationships I built with my Professors at EIU can’t be put into a short few sentences. If it says anything, I STILL reach out for Letters of Recommendation and occasional check-ins to this day. Shout-out to Dr Holly, Dr Gillespie, Dr Eckert, Dr NewFreeland and Dr Glaros (and all that I’ve lost contact with)! EIU and their Faculty/Staff will always be some of my favorite people.”



Give Back and Pay It Forward



We have been working hard to transform the old computer lab in Blair Hall into a study-friendly and collaborative space for students and could use your help. Last summer we cleared out the old lab and filled the empty space with old residence-hall furniture, and the room quickly became a hit with students. At about all hours of the workday one can find students in there studying, reading, or hanging out, and in the evening, the room being used by student-groups. We’ve secured some money from the University to purchase a new couch, but that’s as far as the money goes. With your help we could completely outfit the room and make this a truly special space on campus—one that fosters community and

friendships among our student cohort that will endure long after graduation.

If you can help, I ask that you donate directly to our department's gift account. To do that, simply go to eiu.edu/giving and select our department from the drop-down list. If you'd rather support a scholarship, select "other gifts" from the dropdown menu and write the name of the scholarship in the "special instructions" box (our four student scholarships are the *Stan, Dee, and Meagan Braden Scholarship*; the *Robert and Luz Whittenbarger Scholarship*; the *Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology Alumni Scholarship*; and the *Richard and Kathy Hummel Scholarship*). Finally, you can also donate to the department by engraving a brick for EIU's commemorative courtyard; this is a wonderful way to memorialize your time at EIU or a loved one and also support us. To do that go to eiu.edu/alumni/courtyard. Have something else in mind? Contact me. Many thanks in advance for your support. I hope to see you at homecoming on October 5th.

Don Holly

Chair, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology

