Dear Students,

It is fun to be back in the depths of another semester! Chris Chiappari is on sabbatical this year, which means that I am the department chair. If you have questions and concerns about the department, please wait until Chris returns next fall (just kidding -- I am happy to discuss any issues that might come up). Aside from this newsletter, this year we will have several opportunities to be engaged with the faculty and your fellow majors. Check out the department blog.

The So/An club, Social Deviants, will have some events this year, including discussions and some films. You can stay in touch with us in our Facebook group and of course we like to see your very own flesh-and-blood human face in the So/An lounge.

Best wishes for a good semester!

Sincerely,

Tom Williamson

Sociology and Anthropology department members (from left to right): Bruce Nordstrom-Loeb, Tom Williamson (Chair), Ryan Sheppard, Ted Thornhill, Carolyn Anderson, Sue Newland, Ibtesam Al Atiyat.
Upcoming Events

October

3rd – Regents Hall 310 7:30 pm
Lecture: *Uttarakhand Pilgrimage: The End of an Era*. James Lochtefeld, Professor of Religion at Carthage College, presents a lecture on tourism and pilgrimage in India.

23rd – Tomson Hall 212 6:00 pm
Information Session for Peace Corps

23rd – Buntrock Commons, Lion’s Pause 7:30 pm
Speaker: Political Awareness Committee Fall Speaker

24th – Buntrock Commons, 142 4:30 pm
Informational Meeting about Term in the Middle East 2014/2015

28th – Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota 10 am
Government and Non-Profit Career Fair

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st – Buntrock Commons, 210 5:30 pm
World Issues Dialogue: Dinner discussion group about national and international topics

November

6th - Buntrock Commons, Lion’s Pause 6pm
PAC’s Government Internships Fair: An opportunity for students to connect with other students and professionals who are interested in government-related work.

7th, 14th, 21st - Buntrock Commons, 210 5:30 pm
Dinner discussion group about national and international topics

9th - Alumni party at Prof. Sheppard’s home. Start time is 6:30 pm.

20th – Tomson Hall 212 at 4:00 pm
Prof. Al Atiyat will be speaking at the Cultural Conversations event

21st - Buntrock Commons, Crossroads 11:30 am
World Wide Service Fair: An opportunity for students to connect with volunteer/service organizations and advocacy opportunities.

21st – Buntrock Commons, 225C 6 pm
Year of Service Panel: A panel of representatives from service organizations will talk about their experiences of working as a volunteer.

December

Department Holiday Party – date TBD

Social Media Links

FaceBook
If you are not already a member of our FaceBook page, please feel free to join up now.

Blog
For news, views and interviews! Go to ‘Resources’ on the department web site for the link.

Sociology/Anthropology website
The St. Olaf Sociology and Anthropology website

Do you have an idea for a newsletter item? If so, please contact us at: newlands@stolaf.edu

This year’s welcome back pizza party was a great success! Pictured are some of the current Sociology and Anthropology students.
Important Dates for Students

Events

Holiday Open House: Reading Day (Dec 13)
Poster Day: December 12, Buntrock Commons.

Pre Registration

Interim and Spring preregistration will take place between October 30, 8:00 a.m. to November 1, 3 p.m.

Courses available for Pre-registration in the Sociology/Anthropology department (must be a declared So/An major):
- Introduction to Sociology
- Introduction to Anthropology
- Race and Class in American Culture
- Anthropological Theory
- Ethnographic Research Methods

Ken Olsen Internship Grant Deadlines

For interim internships: November 9, 2013
For spring semester internships: April 12, 2014
For summer internships, April 12, 2014
For more information go to the department’s website and look under “Resources”.

Interim in the Middle East

Prof. Al Atiyat will be leading an interim course entitled “Religion and Politics in Jordan”. She will be visiting Jordan and Israel. If you are interested in participating, please contact Prof. Al Atiyat (alatiyat@stolaf.edu)

Alumna Spotlight

Justine Frederick ’13

Unlike the mass of Oles who have their futures at Target, Best Buy and the like sorted out by mid-October, I found myself scrambling to find a job towards the end of May. As I’m sure all senior Sociology/Anthropology majors have figured out by now, that’s not an easy task when you start critiquing every organization and opportunity with what professor Ibtesam has coined "the sociological imagination"! Eventually, I got my ducks in a row and found an organization that fits my interest in the education achievement gap and passed the soc perspective test: Minnesota Reading Corps. MNRC is an organization working towards the aim of having every child in Minnesota reading by the time they reach third grade. I currently work at Crestview Elementary school as a literacy tutor for children in Kindergarten through grade three. Daily, I employ research-based interventions with students to improve their reading skills. Despite the never ending glamour that comes with runny noses and the impending threat of lice, I am absolutely loving the little monsters and couldn’t imagine doing anything else with this year..... except maybe returning to St. Olaf as a 5th year SoAn major!

SOAN Club

The Social Deviants (Sociology/Anthropology Club)

Officers: Co-Presidents: Rachel Murphy and Tam Nguyen

We are a student organization of sociology/anthropology majors with the goal of exploring social, political, and economic events and issues through a sociological and anthropological lens. We try to engage both students inside and outside the department in community discussions about our society and world. These students will gain a wider perspective and a new understanding through film screenings, panel discussions, forums with professors and activities.

This year we plan to screen several films followed by panel discussions or Q&A by faculty and/or students, on a variety of topics, including inequality in the U.S., conflict in the Middle east and others. We also hope to engage the professors and other experts in a discussion about careers and research. Social Deviants hopes to create events where So/An majors can engage their academic skills and perspectives, and enjoy their shared interests.

We will be planning bi-monthly events/meetings. If you are interested in joining, please send and email to Rachel Murphy at murphyr@stolaf.edu or Tam Nguyen at nguyent@stolaf.edu.

Co-Presidents Tam Nguyen and Rachel Murphy advertising the SOAN club at the Welcome Back pizza party
Updates on Professors

**Prof. Thornhill**
I worked on several writing projects; conducted exploratory research in Florida for a January 2015 Interim course on race, class, and gender that I am proposing; and mentored a McNair Scholar while we worked together on my research project on the role that race and bilingualism play in allocating employment opportunities. I also spent some time visiting with family who live out of the state.

**Prof. Williamson**
I prepared for teaching 373, read books on medical anthropology and biological anthropology, did some writing, and attended two workshops for becoming a new department chair. I also spent time with my gals and we all took a trip to the San Juan Islands off of the coast of Washington state.

**Visiting Faculty**
We have the pleasure of welcoming back to our department professors Susi Keefe and Laura Fischer. Professor Keefe has taught in the department for the past three years; this year she is filling in for Professor Chiappari while he is on sabbatical.

Professor Fischer is teaching for the fall semester. She successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Minnesota in 2012. Congratulations!

Professor Spotlight

**Bruce Nordstrom-Loeb**

While Bruce was on sabbatical, the issue of gay marriage became a topic of increasingly intense political focus. Within one year, Minnesota went from debating whether it was appropriate to define marriage in the state constitution as being exclusively between “men” and “women” to passing a bill allowing same sex couples to legally marry. While Bruce had already planned on conducting research surrounding issues of gender and sexuality in the context of evangelical “Mega churches,” the events that unfolded made his questions even more timely.

With this question in mind, Bruce decided to look into Evangelical protestant’s beliefs in issues such as gay marriage and gender roles in the twin cities. Specifically, Bruce was interested in looking at evangelical “Mega churches,” and chose to visit churches with congregations of between 2,000 and 15,000 people.

Attempting to gain a better understanding of contemporary Evangelical Christian beliefs on gay marriage and gender roles, Bruce imbedded himself into Evangelical-Christian culture, visiting 16 different churches over the course of the year.

Bruce split his time between attending services, researching different group programs offered by the churches, examining church literature, and reading up on current sociological studies of evangelical Christianity.

If you would like to know more about Bruce’s research on evangelical “Mega churches”, feel free to contact him at nordstrb@stolaf.edu. Additionally, he has office hours on Tuesday 10:00-11:00 a.m., Wednesday, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Thursday 3:45-4:30 p.m. in the Cage, and Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m. and by appointment. We are extremely excited to welcome Bruce back – his wealth of knowledge of issues regarding gender and sexuality, as well as his cookies, were sorely missed!

Prof. Nordstrom-Loeb with his wife on Sahara sands during the Term in the Middle East.