



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SOCIOLOGY

Summer 2024 Newsletter



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Krista Lynn Minnotte, Ph.D.

I am delighted that you are reading our third newsletter! We are eager to share the successes of the department, sociology faculty members, our students, and alumni with you! One initial piece of good news— given all the great happenings in the Sociology department at UND, we are increasing the frequency of the newsletter from once per year to twice per year.

It has been a busy year in the Department of Sociology. To close out the academic year, we had our first Student Appreciation Week—there were refreshments available in the department throughout the week for students. We ended the week with a celebratory event in which we honored the incoming Alpha Kappa Delta members and the students who had recently received Sociology scholarships. It was fantastic to have a chance to celebrate our exceptional students!

As you may recall, the Sociology MA program is back! The program will continue to focus on enhancing the skills of graduate students to facilitate their success across a range of twenty-first century careers. We will be welcoming our first new cohort of students in the Fall of 2024. If you are interested in the program, please reach out!

There have been many exciting events and achievements since the last newsletter. Dr. Daphne Pedersen, along with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Cassie Gerhardt, and four UND

student government leaders, attended the Global Peace Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Daphne Pedersen and Dr. Joe Jochman also educated a group of Altru physicians about the social determinants of health.

Faculty members continued to be active in research and sharing their expertise with others at professional conferences and other events. Read on to see the many ways in which the UND Department of Sociology was featured at the Red River Women's Studies Conference (held in April at UND) and the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society (held in April in Des Moines, Iowa).

Our students and alumni have been doing some truly fantastic things! Under the leadership of faculty advisor, Dr. Joe Jochman, students have been involved with several rewarding activities through participation in Alpha Kappa Delta. This newsletter also gives an overview of the exciting research projects of Fall semester's sociology capstone students (stay tuned—the projects of the spring cohort of capstone students will be featured in our next newsletter)!

We also have stories for you about two current students (Stacy Allard and Dana Conley) and one alumna (Nicole Halvorson)—each is making a difference in meaningful ways.

We do hope to hear from you! Drop us a quick line to let us know what you are up to—we'd love to hear all about where life has taken you!

I'm sending well wishes to each and every one of you!

Best wishes,

Krista Lynn Minnotte

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Global Peace Summit

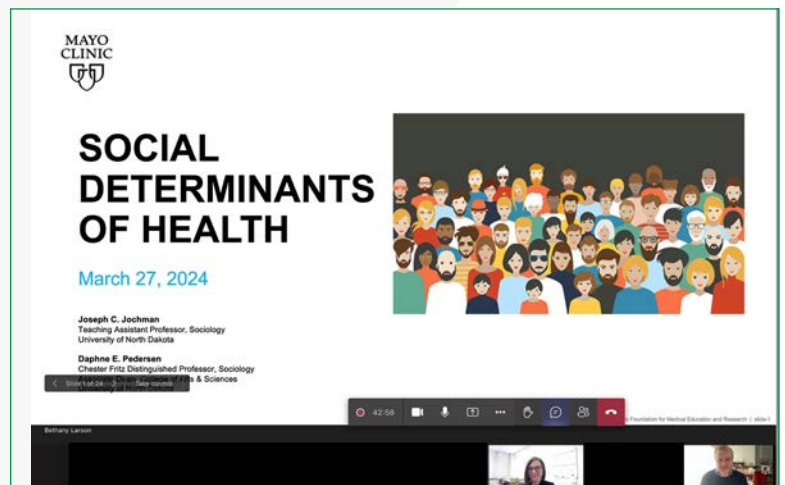
Dr. Daphne Pedersen had the opportunity to attend the Global Peace Summit in Bangkok, Thailand earlier this academic year, held at the United Nations Conference Centre. Together with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Cassie Gerhardt and four outstanding UND student government leaders – Ella Nelson, Connor Ferguson, Precious Dada, and Christopher Scott – the UND team met with 350 delegates from 47 countries. At the summit, they learned about geopolitical policy and the development of advocacy and peacekeeping skills. The team was able to interact with advocates who shared first-

hand experiences as refugees and survivors of war and genocide, and connected with government officials, policymakers, students, and educators from around the globe.



Public Sociology

Dr. Daphne Pedersen, Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Dr. Joe Jochman, Sociology Teaching Assistant Professor, both specialize in the sociology of health, including social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are aspects of the social environment (e.g., access to care) that contribute to multiple dimensions of health (e.g., mental, physical) and quality of life. In March, they gave a presentation about this topic to a group of physicians at Altru Health System.



University Council for Women+

Dr. Krista Lynn Minnotte joined a panel in honor of women's history month that was hosted by the University's Advisory Council for Women+. Along with the other panelists, Dr. Nikki Berg Burin, Dr. Wendelin Hume, and Dr. Rachel Navarro, she shared her scholarship about women. In particular, Dr. Minnotte's comments centered on the different varieties of invisible labor that are often disproportionately performed by women.



Red River Women's Studies Conference

On April 20, 2024, Krista Lynn Minnotte, Nikki Berg Burin, and Merie Kirby co-chaired the annual Red River Women's Studies Conference. This conference rotates between different colleges in the region, with UND hosting this year. Over 80 people attended the conference, bringing together participants from across the region, including many undergraduate and graduate students. Topics at the conference ranged from representations of women in literature and drama to balancing caregiving and work.



Dr. Daphne Pedersen and Dr. Liz Legerski also attended the Red River Women's Studies Conference as panelists. At their well-attended session, panelists discussed pathways towards creating a vibrant leadership environment and culture for women leaders and those they lead. Other panelists included Dr. Randi Lynn Tanglen, Dr. A. Rebecca Rozelle-Stone, Dr. Anne Kelsch, and Dr. Cynthia Prescott.

Dr. Liz Legerski and Dr. Krista Lynn Minnotte also presented some of their research. Their presentation "The Cognitive Labor of Identifying Sexual Harassment among Restaurant Servers," explored the work that restaurant servers

perform as they encounter problematic behavior from customers. Their findings point to the extra cognitive labor that servers engage in as they determine which behaviors from customers cross the line.



Dr. Krista Lynn Minnotte organized and moderated a student panel "Student Visions for the Future." The students, Erik Bristow, Dana Conley, Molly Lamb, and Harmony Rhea, discussed their views of the future and how to bring about a thriving future for us all. The lively discussion touched upon numerous topics ranging from social media to Artificial Intelligence, to the importance of forming vibrant connections with others.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

NICOLE HALVORSON

I am from West Fargo, North Dakota. I came to UND in 2019, majoring in Criminal Justice and Sociology and minoring in Psychology and Legal Studies. Throughout my time in college, I served as the Vice-President and President of Alpha Kappa Delta, Vice-President of Native Americans into Criminal Justice, and was a member of Alpha Phi Sigma. I took part in the Poolman Leadership Academy in order to enhance my networking and leadership skills. Most notably is my work with Be SEENN.

In 2022, I worked alongside other students and Professor Wendelin Hume to create Be SEENN (Students Empowering and Encouraging Native Nations), a violence prevention program aimed at reducing rates of violence and feelings of invisibility faced by Native Americans. This program makes youth, college, and adult friendly curriculum containing lessons and stories, and dispels common myths. Be SEENN found national recognition, and I along with other students and Criminal Justice Professor Rachel Jordan travelled to Washington D.C. to present our work in front of the Department of Homeland Security and the McCain Institute. I continued to foster Be SEENN by working in a year-long sustainment program through the McCain institute and Be SEENN has recently been recognized for our efforts and received the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant from DHS. One of the best pieces of Be SEENN is the opportunity to utilize my research skills earned from my time in Sociology courses.

Upon graduation, I took a position at CVIC as the Prevention and Education Specialist. With this, I get to go around the community to businesses and schools and give presentations on a variety of violence prevention related topics, make curriculum, and coordinate Grand Forks' Green Dot Program, a community-based bystander intervention program. I thrive on working with likeminded individuals, learning something new each day, and making an impact in my community.

In my free time, I enjoy playing piano, travelling, attending concerts, and walking my dog, Simon. I hope to continue my relationship with the University throughout my professional career and provide insight for curious Sociology students on the many ways Sociology has benefited me and the opportunities it provides. I am so incredibly thankful for my time at UND – especially with the Sociology Department – for developing me into a well-rounded young professional.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

STACY ALLARD

Distance Education Specialist,
Dakota College at Bottineau

What led you to select sociology as a major?

Having six children, each at a different stage of life, gave me a unique view of how people grow and change. Watching how their beliefs and values evolved showed me that their development was influenced by much more than their upbringing. Their friends, where we live, and the constantly changing world has played a significant role. Seeing their journeys in life play out so far has made me very interested in how society, our environment, and the people we meet shape us uniquely without even realizing it. Curiosity led me to sociology as I wanted to know and understand more about how these factors affect my children, myself, and others at different times in their lives. My experience with my children showed me firsthand how varied our paths can be because of these influences. It pushed me to look deeper into what drives human behavior and how society is built; using what I have learned and experienced watching my own family as a starting point, I decided that entering into sociology as a major field of study was something I was excited to pursue.

What have been your favorite topics to learn about in sociology?

My favorite topic in sociology is socialization, which caught my interest through watching my six kids grow and my job at Dakota College at Bottineau. I see how much our family life, friendships, school, and even more significant world changes influence who we are. This made me want to learn more about how society and individuals influence each other. Working at Dakota College at Bottineau, I meet many students from various backgrounds and watch them adapt to a new place. These personal and work experiences showed me how our personal growth is closely linked with society. It interested me to study how we interact with each other and the world around us. Seeing all this in action made me love sociology even more, significantly how socialization shapes us.

What is your favorite concept, idea, or theory in sociology?

My favorite concept/theory is the Looking-Glass Self theory, which has helped me interact with and guide my children, students, and others around me. It means that our self-image is shaped by how we perceive others see us. This idea has been recognized as both a concept and a theory. With this idea in mind, I work hard to make conscious efforts for my kids and students to feel appreciated. I do this by actively listening, providing positive feedback, and showing them the impact of their actions on others. I focus on providing a welcoming atmosphere in my office and daily interactions. I want my children and students to know they are important and can come to me with anything. I aim to be a reliable support system, helping them develop confidence and self-assurance. I believe in treating others with the respect and kindness we desire for ourselves. This approach underlines the importance of acknowledging our worth, which, in turn, influences how we interact with others. Using this mindset, I strive to cultivate environments where my family, students, and friends can grow, with high hopes of seeing and appreciating their value and confidence in their support system. The Looking-Glass Self theory helps me know who I am and want to be!

What do you plan to do after you graduate?

After graduating, I plan to continue my education and work towards a master's degree in sociology/psychology. My goal is to teach online classes in the sociology and psychology field. I also plan to continue my education in the Allied Health field. My family has several medical issues, with many of them rare. I have a passion for learning and educating in these areas as I learn as well.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

DANA CONLEY

What led you to select sociology as a major?

Honestly, I didn't know I wanted to pursue sociology as a major. I am also a criminal justice major and my advisor suggested double majoring in sociology because of how much overlap they have. Now I realize that my education in sociology has greatly impacted my education in criminal justice as it has given me new perspectives as to how society works. Not only that, but I can identify different concepts and theories at work in the world around me. I remember having to write a sociological analysis of Wilkerson. It was really interesting to see how all the elements I had learned about in class came into play somewhere that I went every day. In the end, I'm glad I took the advice to major in sociology as the faculty has always been excellent and the topics are always intriguing.

What have been your favorite topics to learn about in sociology?

I really enjoyed my deviant behavior and juvenile delinquency courses. I went to a high school where delinquency and deviance was not an uncommon issue. These courses helped me have a better understanding of all the factors at play in those situations. They also helped me realize exactly what deviance and delinquency is as well as the spectrum they operate on. I also enjoyed any theories that try to explain why people act in the ways that they do such as Merton's strain theory. I find that these topics have really helped me in my criminal justice courses as well because it provides me with a better perspective of why people behave in certain ways.

What is your favorite concept, idea, or theory in sociology?

Right now, my favorite theory is the discourse theory of postmodernism. I like how it suggests that language and symbols greatly influences how we choose to act, even though there really isn't any rationale behind these symbols besides someone assigning meaning

to them at some point. The discourse theory also leaves room for human impact on the theory itself. Though our choices and understandings are based on discourse, discourse itself can also be shaped by human behavior and choices. The best example I can give to discourse in action is in the criminal justice system, we label acts as criminal. Those acts are the ones we act against because we have labeled them as "illegal". We didn't all decide that every one of these acts was illegal, but at some point, a group of people made that decision and wrote it down so now we live our lives under the notion that we should not commit these specific acts. But at the same time humans can influence the change of these discourses by deciding that a certain illegal act should not be criminalized anymore. When I hear the word "murder" I think of an illegal act. But the only reason the word "murder" was associated with that specific act is because that's the name someone assigned it at some point though we could have went with any other term. Because of that now when someone hears the word "murder" they know that it's an illegal act and they might have a negative reaction to the term.

What do you plan to do after you graduate?

Once I graduate, I would like to attend law school. I'm not sure where I want to go yet, but I do know that I would like to work as a criminal prosecutor. I would also like to spend some time working in victim advocacy. Through my time as a CVIC@UND intern and through my criminal justice courses it has made me realize just how important victim advocacy is. In my eyes, the victim always seems to be the forgotten puzzle piece of a crime and it seems at times there are even more rights for defendants of a crime than victims of the crime.



UNDERGRADUATE SHOWCASE

Sociology capstone students
presented their research at the
Fall 2023 Undergraduate Showcase.



Cassidy Beuchler *Family Type and Perceptions of Time with Children*



Joshua McKeever *Perceptions of Sentencing Inequality and Death Penalty Views*



Peyton Monzon *Are Courts Too Harsh? Race Differences in the Perception of Courts*

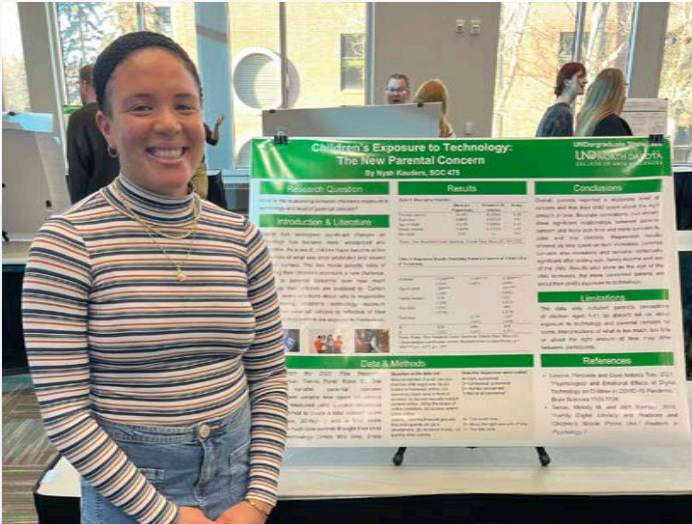


Robert Lund *Education Attainment and Thoughts on Drug Rehabilitation Spending*

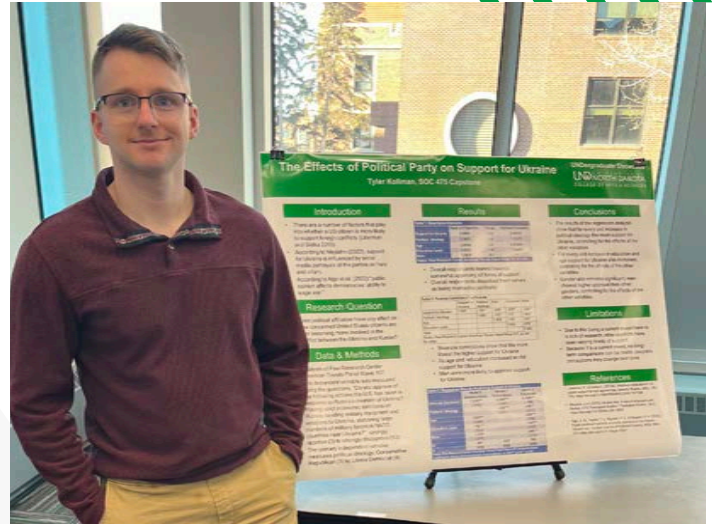


Emily Greher *Job Quality Post Covid for Parents with a Job Change*

UNDERGRADUATE SHOWCASE



Nyah Kauders *Children's Exposure to Technology: The New Parental Concern*



Tyler Kollman *The Effects of Political Party on Support for Ukraine*



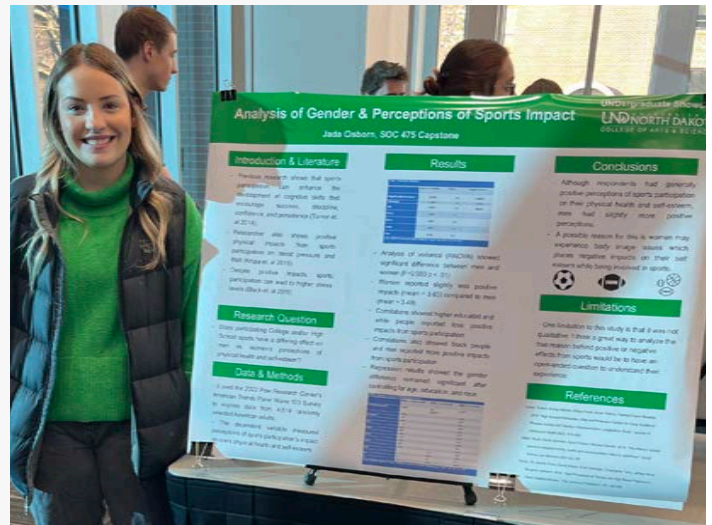
Alex Jundt *Impacts of Age of First Drink on Later Alcohol and Drug Use*



Sierra Martin *The Impact of Community Origin on Fear of Victimization*



Cole Welk *Perceptions of Technology and Concern about Advanced AI*



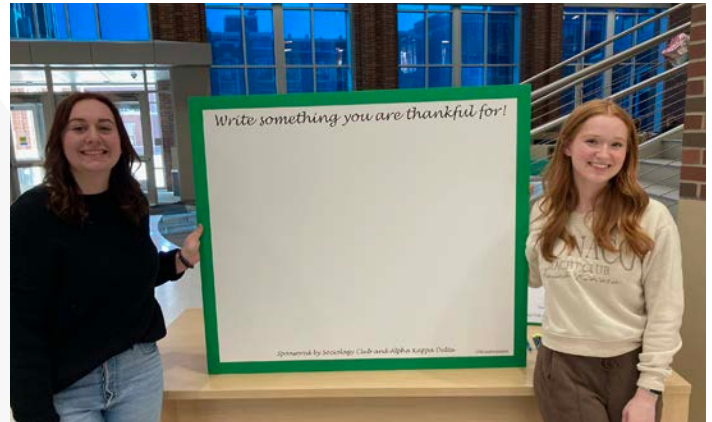
Jada Osborn *Analysis of Gender & Perceptions of Sports Impact*

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA AKD SPOTLIGHT



BEFORE

This spring, Sociology Club and Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) hosted a mural at the Union for UND students, staff, and faculty to write something they are thankful for. We appreciate all the wonderful things that the UND community is thankful for!



AFTER



2024 MIDWEST SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY



This year, several of our faculty members attended and presented at the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) annual meeting. Teaching Assistant Professors, Allyssa Baumbach, Gabe Kilzer, and Dr. Joe Jochman served on panels focusing on development of and undergraduate teaching programs and how to make construct meaningful and manageable assessments for teachers and students.



Dr. Jochman also presented his dissertation work about religious bullying among students, which was accepted for publication earlier this year.

Allyssa presented three of her dissertation products between MSS and the American Educational Research Association annual meeting, which are part of her work as a Ph.D. student the in Educational Foundations and Research program at UND.



2024 MIDWEST SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY




Dr. Elizabeth Legerski presented a project about sexual harassment of social work students in field settings. She identified a theme of “inconsistent optimism”, which represents the perception among field placement supervisors that sexual harassment is an issue while also perceiving that it is not taking place in the field.



Dr. Justin Berg presented work with a graduate student that focused on positive contact and perspectives of new American and immigrants, but also spread the word about the reenactment of the online M.A. sociology program starting in fall 2024.

KEEP IN TOUCH

701.777.4247 | krista.minnotte@UND.edu
arts-sciences.UND.edu/sociology

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