

## Letter From the Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology



**Dr. Mark J. Schafer**

*Director*

Graduate Studies

*Associate Professor*

Sociology, Agricultural Economics

*A true and worthy ideal frees and uplifts a people; a false ideal imprisons and lowers.*  
- W.E.B. DuBois

Welcome to the Fall 2019 issue of the *DuBois Courier*, the official newsletter of Graduate Studies in the Sociology Department at LSU, named in honor of one of the most important sociologists and social thinkers of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. His work on race, crime, and religion continue to impact social thought today.

Fall at LSU is always a busy time. It is also an ideal time to develop “true and worthy” ideals as graduate students and faculty. I look forward to fall because I enjoy the cooler weather and LSU football. More importantly, each new academic year brings new energy and ideals to our graduate program. Our most recent alumni move on to start their careers, our current students progress through our program’s milestones, and new graduate students and faculty offer fresh faces and perspectives uplifting our program.

As Director of Graduate Studies, I chair the Graduate Committee and serve on a newly established committee, the Graduate Student Teaching Committee, chaired by the Director of Undergraduate Studies, **Skylar Gremillion**. Both committees work closely with the department chair and faculty to make key decisions related to the graduate program and to support graduate teaching, respectively. In this issue, we provide more insight into both committees. Here, I would like to thank the outstanding 2018-2019 Graduate Committee members: **Tim Slack**, **Dana Berkowitz**, **Mike Barton**, and **Heather O’Connell**. I also want to welcome **Jose Torres** and **Heather Rackin** to the 2019-2020 committee (replacing Dana Berkowitz and Heather O’Connell).

In this Fall 2019 issue of the graduate program newsletter, we also introduce a new alumni profile. We are very pleased to feature **Michael Maume** who earned his PhD in sociology at LSU in 1998. I hope you enjoy reading this profile as much as you will enjoy our student and faculty profiles for this edition, featuring **Maretta McDonald** and **Lori Martin**, respectively.

Editor

Mark J. Schafer, PhD

Associate Editor

Derrick Lathan

Assistant Editors

Caitlin Charles

Ifeyinwa Davis

Maretta McDonald

# CHAIR'S CORNER

Department Chair – **Yoshinori Kamo**  
Professor, Sociology



Each Fall we see new faces in Stubbs Hall and the new grad students revitalize our program with their energy and enthusiasm. So, please join me in welcoming the six members of our 2019-2020 cohort: **Rebecca Bock, Heeya Datta, Mominul Haque, Cassie Lilly, Jazmin Robinson-Smith, and Courtney Williams**. We are delighted that all of you have joined our program and we look forward to getting to know each of you better in the semesters and years to come.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our two newest faculty members: **Dr. Nikita Carny** (Assistant Professor) and **Dr. Michelle Barton** (Instructor).

Every 7 years, our department undergoes a program review that involves a self-study, an internal panel review, and an external panel review. The concluding process involves developing an action plan for the future. I was very pleased that reviewers' comments were overwhelmingly positive, and we are one productive department right now. One of the strengths listed was the number of collaborations among faculty members and graduate students. Let's keep on going. Thank you to all graduate students, faculty, and staff who participated in this year's review and who have offered constructed suggestions for improving the department in the years to come.

Our two faculty members were promoted to Associate Professors with tenure this year. Please join us to congratulate Drs. **Heather Rackin** and **Michael Barton**! We are also hiring another Assistant Professor in the area of Environmental Sociology and/or Sociology of Health. We may know who that person is by the time this is published. If not, please help us to impress the job candidates that our department is a great place to work for them.

I am looking forward to another great semester and excellent year!

# GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE by Caitlin Charles

## Maretta McDonald



Maretta McDonald is a fourth year Doctoral Candidate who is loved by many. Maretta received her Bachelor's degree from Southeastern University in Criminal Justice, minoring in Sociology and a Master's in Applied Sociology before being recruited to Louisiana State University with high regards. During her time here, Maretta has made an impact on numerous students with her "femtorship" and vast array of knowledge. She is a current SREB Fellow and has given several presentations on her work using various methods to research the lived experiences of Black people. Her primary research is an intersectional examination of child support enforcement policy on fathers. Maretta is a talented race, gender, crime and family scholar, who recently presented a panel with four other Black

scholars at the Association for Black Sociologists in New York earlier this semester. After presenting this panel for the second time, these five women were internationally recognized by the woman of the hour herself, Belcalis Marlenis Almanzar (Cardi B). She retweeted a post by her national fan club in surprise and gratitude at the hard work and tenacity of these women who examined her impact and representation of broader social issues. Maretta is currently a part of several writing groups and continues to be a guide to her many femtees, all while working to finish her doctoral proposal. She will be teaching AAAS 2410 Black Popular Culture in the Spring of 2020.

She is kind, she is smart and she is important. **She is Maretta.**

# GRADUATE AND DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Sociology Graduate Program has had many highlights so far for 2019. First, congratulations to our **record-setting TEN** Ph.D. earner's in 2019: **Dr. Tifanie Pulley**, **Dr. Vanessa Parks** (University of Mississippi), **Dr. Muhammed Yildiz** (Dixie State University), **Dr. Landon Douglas** (Drug Enforcement Administration), **Dr. Chandra Joseph** (Baton Rouge Community College), **Dr. Joseph Clark** (University of Wisconsin), **Dr. Hyojung Kim** (Ewha Womans University), **Dr. Crystal Paul** (University of Massachusetts), **Dr. Rose Kelley** (South Louisiana Community College), and **Dr. Jordan Carlee Smith** (Texas A & M University). What an outstanding group of scholars!

Congratulations, also, to our “milestone achievers.” To **Drew Burns**, **Ify Davis**, **Danequa Forrest**, **Kathryn Keating**, **Maretta McDonald**, **Alana Peck**, **Kami Rutherford**, **Cihan Aydinar**, and **Jahaan Chandler** for passing their General Exams. Congrats to those who have already earned an MA in 2019, and congrats to **Jay Jordan**, **Dustin Lovercamp**, and **Joy Ngelor Watchese** who all plan to defend their empirical papers for their MA this Fall.

We also want to recognize our award-winners! Congrats **Tim Reling** and **Elizabeth “Liz” Brault**, Roland Pellegrin Outstanding Sociology Graduate Student Award Winners. Congrats also to **Liz Brault** for winning two dissertation year fellowships! (a) LSU Graduate School's Dissertation Year Fellowship and (b) the AAUW Dissertation Award. Congrats to **John Aggrey** for being awarded the William Averette Anderson Fund Fellowship; to **Derrick Lathan**, who received the Charles Harrington Graduate Student Award; to **Kathryn Keating** for winning the AAUW Eleanor Earle Memorial Scholarship; to **Dominique Dillard Dunbar** for winning the Esprit doe Femme Student Leadership Award; and, finally, to **Jiabin Fan** for winning the Clifford C. Clogg Scholarships to participate in the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research at University of Michigan.

Third, a big thank you to **Heather O'Connell**, **Ify Davis**, **Sam Stroope**, **Dana Berkowitz**, and all the other faculty and graduate students who contributed to a



successful Spring Open House. With funding from the College (Big thanks to **Troy Blanchard**) we brought in 10 prospective students for Fall 2019 and gave them the opportunity to see all our program has to offer.

Fourth, let us also acknowledge and congratulate our students who have published in 2019. **Leah Drakeford** has *two* 2019 publications (one sole authored and one in which she is first author with **Vanessa Parks**, Tim Slack, and Matt Lee as her co-authors). In addition, congratulations to **Cihan Aydinar** on his first-authorship on a co-authored paper with Ugur Orak and Ozgur Solakoglu; to **Elizabeth Brault** on her publication with Mike Barton, Matt Valasik, and G.E., Tito; and to **Danequa Forrest** for her publication with Rhiannon Kroeger, D. Umberson, and D.A. Powers. More details about these publications can be found later in this newsletter, and please visit our website for more graduate student and faculty publications!

# WELCOME OUR NEW COHORT!



Bottom Row, Left to Right: **Heeya Datta, Jazmin Robinson-Smith, and Courtney Williams**

Top Row, Left to Right: **Mominul Haque, Rebecca Bock, and Cassie Lilly**

## FACULTY PROFILE by Maretta McDonald

### Dr. Lori Latrice Martin – The People’s Champion



**Dr. Martin’s** middle name should be “Empowerment”. Her academic and activist work reflect her commitment to reclaiming subjugated histories, disseminating information to facilitate changes toward equity, and guiding the next generation of scholars. Dr. Martin joined the LSU community in 2013 on a joint appointment in the Sociology Department and the African and African-American Studies program. LSU promoted her to full professor as of August 2018. Dr. Martin’s areas of specialization include race and ethnicity, demography,

wealth inequality and asset poverty, as well as race and sport. With one glance at Dr. Martin’s CV, her prolific writing and research is clear. Since her time at LSU, she has published 11 books and 5 academic journal articles as first or solo author with another 4 books and 7 articles she co-authored with colleagues and graduate students. These numbers do not include her book chapters, encyclopedia entries, or blog posts and other publically accessible scholarship. When asked what motivates her to do so much research, Dr. Martin says she likes to write, and she feels it is very important to share ideas about race and the experiences of people of African American decent. Dr. Martin also produces so much because she believes that part of a scholar’s responsibility is bringing about positive changes within the community. She states that it is not enough to merely produce knowledge that only other scholars are going to read but the work done, and the knowledge produced should be used to change lives.

Dr. Martin brings her scholarship to the masses in a number of ways. She has given numerous written, virtual, and broadcast interviews on the issues that she studies. One recent and noteworthy public lecture was Dr. Martin’s TEDxLSU talk, “Why It’s Time to Pay to Play.” She discusses ideas around

college sports and unpaid student-athletes in the historical context of a legacy of exploitation with concepts of racial inequality front and center. Dr. Martin felt this was a great platform to forward these ideas. In addition to her more public sociology appearances, Dr. Martin works behind the scenes at MetroMorphosis, a nonprofit organization in Baton Rouge that works to improve the lives of the Black community. She volunteers her expertise and time there in various capacities including assisting in developing the curriculum for the Urban Leadership Institute. On top of all of this, Dr. Martin was integral to the commission of historical markers through the Toni Morrison Bench by the Road project in both New York and Louisiana. As part of her mission to illuminate the Black experience, Dr. Martin's research was central to the bench constructed to honor Cynthia Hesdra in Nyack, New York and she wrote the successful proposal for the bench to commemorate the first bus boycott, which occurred in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Lastly, Dr. Martin's commitment to the LSU community and Baton Rouge is also shown through her teaching and mentoring. Dr. Martin teaches classes in both the Sociology department and the African and African American studies program including courses on race and ethnicity, racial inequality, and sports. In a number of her classes, she often includes a community engagement component as part of the coursework. When asked why she includes this in her classes, Dr. Martin says that like scholars, universities have a responsibility to be engaged with the community by "not just being in the neighborhood but also being good neighbors." Students should be participating in mutually beneficial projects in which the students and university contribute and benefit, and local residents also benefit.

On a more individual level, Dr. Martin is a much sought after advisor to graduate students. During her tenure at LSU, she has hooded 5 new doctors (PhDs) and has chaired or served on over a dozen graduate student committees. When asked about her mentoring style, Dr. Martin says she is committed to helping her students reach their ultimate goal – to finish! She helps her students by drawing out their strengths and supporting them in areas they can improve. Dr. Martin also stated that she recognizes her graduate student advisees are "real people with real issues and real challenges" and she tries to be part of their

larger support system. A scholar of the people and for the people, she advocates for positive life experiences for her students, her LSU community, and her Baton Rouge community. In the tradition of W.E.B. Du Bois – Dr. Martin uses the tools of sociology to help better the lives of those she encounters as well as those who may come across her work in the public sphere – pushing for change and championing for the people.



# GRADUATE PROGRAM COMMITTEES

The Sociology Department at Louisiana State University has established several committees to support our programs. The chair determines the number and structure of our committees. As Director of Graduate Studies, I chair our Graduate Committee and I also serve on the Graduate Student Teaching Committee.

The Graduate Committee has five members; the other four are selected from the tenure-track or tenured faculty, and each serve for two years. Two members rotate off each year, so the committee continuously changes its members. The Graduate Committee recruits new graduate students and makes decisions about admissions and funding. The committee also oversees a wide range of issues connected to the graduate program. When the chair, committee members, faculty, or students suggest changes to the graduate program, the committee develops proposals that are submitted to the fully faculty for discussion and voting occurs at faculty meetings. The committee members for 2019-2020 are Mark Schafer (chair), Tim Slack, Mike Barton, Heather Rackin, and Jose Torres.

The Graduate Student Teaching Committee is a new committee chaired by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The other members consist of the Director of Graduate Studies, any two members of our teaching faculty (including instructors), and one graduate student. The purpose of the Graduate Student Teaching Committee is to support sociology students who are either teaching for the first time or teaching a new course for the first time. Graduate Student teachers may approach any member of the committee for support on a range of teaching issues. Importantly, however, committee chairs will also continue to play an important role in supporting their students' teaching efforts. The members of the inaugural Graduate Student Teaching Committee for 2019-2020 are Skylar Gremillion, Mark Schafer, Wesley Shrum, Sarah Becker, and Elizabeth "Liz" Brault.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT by Ify Davis

### Professor Michael Maume



**Prof. Michael Maume** earned his PhD in Sociology at LSU in 1998. After initially accepting a position at Ohio University, Mike was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington in 2001 and he has spent his career there. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2006, to full professor in 2012, and has served in his current position of Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology since 2015.

Prof. Maume identifies as both a sociologist and a criminologist, and he credits LSU's graduate program for preparing him for his career in

Sociology. Mike says, "from the beginning, we were encouraged by both faculty and grad students to work together," something he believes greatly shaped his academic life. While he was a student here, Mike shared an office with Matt Lee, and he vividly remember both of them "felt confident as hell, that they were just as well prepared as any graduate from Wisconsin, Chicago, or Cornell." Matt Lee said of Mike, "He already had a masters degree and was a great mentor. I learned an enormous amount from Mike, and we had many protracted discussions about scholarly issues in those days. We also shared an affinity for music and introduced each other to many things we had not previously been privy to. Mike also remembers getting some valuable advice from Ed Shihadeh, who urged graduate students to "think about ways to pull together seemingly disparate literatures in the social sciences in designing and framing their research questions".

Mike Maume's research interests include crime and victimization in school and community contexts, macrosocial correlates of lethal violence, social isolation and intimate partner violence in rural areas, white collar frauds and prosecutions, and life course and criminal careers. Dr. Maume's extensive background in Criminology has contributed to much of his success as an avid researcher. He has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, including his most recent work with his colleagues in the International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology titled, "The Effect of Treatment Completion on Recidivism among TASC Program Clients."

Beyond his research, Mike possesses an affinity for both teaching and community engagement. He recalls that he learned to love teaching during his time at LSU. Through serving as a Teaching Assistant for several professors and courses, as well as leading the classroom during two of his own courses as a graduate student (Deviance and Sociology of Criminal Justice), Mike feels his LSU experiences equipped him well as he entered the job market and began his career.

In addition to his academic work on campus, Mike has cultivated deep relationships with the city of Wilmington. His research has allowed him the opportunity to be "involved with evaluations of local initiatives, including efforts to address disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system and treatment alternatives for individuals involved in the criminal justice system," as well as serving "on the board of a local nonprofit organization, LINC Inc., that provides services and housing for individuals upon their release from prisons and jails around the state" of North Carolina.

Reflecting on his days as a graduate student, Mike says if he could go back and give his grad-school self three pieces of advice, they would be (1) don't be a cheapskate and buy yourself a car with air-conditioning; (2) study sociology but also read more broadly and make friends beyond Stubbs Hall; and (3) appreciate the time your mentors give you and thank them for more than you think may be necessary. Mike was particularly appreciative of the time and friendship he developed with his mentor, Bill Bankston (a long time faculty member and now emeritus professor), with whom he spent long hours talking about Durkheim and Merton.

# A Note from Our SGSA

## Sociological Graduate Student Association

The Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA) aims to enhance the experience of Sociology graduate students. We do what we can to assist graduate students by providing them with opportunities to collaborate through interest groups, monthly meetings, social events, and interacting with other graduate student organizations on campus. We are committed to the promotion of educational and professional development of Sociology graduate students.

We had an active Spring 2019 semester! In addition to our multiple social events, we (1) established the SGSA as an “official” student association; (2) initiated a pedagogy workshop for sociology graduate students and faculty; (3) established a travel award for students presenting papers and regional and national conferences; (4) hosted prospective graduate students during the Open House; and (5) launched some fundraisers including the sales of LSU sociology Tee Shirts, Sweatshirts, and Hoodies. If you would like to see/purchase one, please contact Andrew Burns [ataburn38@lsu.edu](mailto:ataburn38@lsu.edu).



In Fall 2020, we are looking forward to expanding our activities and welcoming the new cohort of sociology grad students into the SGSA. I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been helping us achieve our goals.

**Ifeyinwa Davis** *SGSA President*

# 2019 GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

---

**Aydiner, C.**, Orak, U., & Solakoglu, O. (2019). What Factors Influenced Turkish Military Officers' and NCOs' Motivation to Serve Prior to the July 2016 Coup Attempt? *Armed Forces & Society*.

Barton, M.S., Valasik, M., **Brault, E.**, & Tita, G.E. (2019). "Gentefication" in the Barrio: Examining the Relationship between Gentrification and Homicide in East Los Angeles. *Crime & Delinquency*.

**Drakeford, L.** (2019). Moral Communities and Institutional Misconduct: A Reassessment of Religious Contextual Influences on Inmate Behavior. *Crime & Delinquency*.

**Drakeford, L., Parks, V.**, Slack, T., Ramchand, R., Finucane, M., & Lee, M.R., (2019). Oil Spill Disruption and Problem Drinking: Assessing the Impact of Religious Context among Gulf Coast Residents. *Population Research and Policy Review*.

Kroeger, R.A., Umberson, D., Powers, D.A., & **Forrest, D.L.** (2019). The Effects of Family Transitions on Depressive Symptoms: Differences among Young Adults with and without Childhood Symptoms of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. *Society and Mental Health*.

---



# LINKS TO MORE PROGRAM INFORMATION

## PhD Graduate Since 1985

[https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate\\_program/phd\\_alumni.php](https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate_program/phd_alumni.php)

## Department of Sociology Faculty

<https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/people/faculty/index.php>

## Graduate Program Overview

[https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate\\_program/Gradprogramoverview.php](https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate_program/Gradprogramoverview.php)

## Admissions

[https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate\\_program/admissions.php](https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate_program/admissions.php)

## Costs and Financial Aid

[https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate\\_program/costs\\_and\\_financial\\_aid.php](https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate_program/costs_and_financial_aid.php)

## PhD Program Overview

[https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate\\_program/phd\\_program.php](https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate_program/phd_program.php)

## Graduate Course Requirements

[https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate\\_program/graduate\\_course\\_requirements.php](https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/graduate_program/graduate_course_requirements.php)

## Graduate Course Descriptions

[https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/courses/graduate\\_courses.php](https://www.lsu.edu/hss/sociology/courses/graduate_courses.php)

# CONTACT US

## Department of Sociology

Louisiana State University

126 Stubbs Hall

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Telephone: (225) 578-1645

Website: <http://www.lsu.edu/sociology>

Twitter: [@LsuSoc](#)

Facebook: [@LSUSociology](#)

*Yoshinori Kamo*

Department Chair

[kamo@lsu.edu](mailto:kamo@lsu.edu)

*Mark J. Schafer*

Director of Graduate Studies

[mschaf1@lsu.edu](mailto:mschaf1@lsu.edu)