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# Department of Society & Environment

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY WINTER 2014

## Transformative Experiences

At the Fall 2014 Opening Assembly at Truman, President Paino commented that one way Truman, as a public liberal arts and sciences university, differs from comparable institutions is in its effort to ensure that all graduates have one or more **“transformative learning experiences.”**

Truman defines transformative learning as “the development of revised assumptions, premises, ways of interpreting experiences, or perspectives on the world by means of critical self reflection” (Cranton 1994). Activities that have the highest potential to be transformational are study abroad, internships, service learning, research, student-led learning, and leadership. President Paino stated that Truman graduates are not only globally competitive but also prepared to make significant contributions to their community and world as a result of transformative learning experiences. He highlighted student comments about the transformative nature of their study abroad experiences in Cape Town with Dr. McDuff.

Our newsletter this year therefore focuses on opportunities in our department for transformative learning, and the impact these experiences have on student learning.

Overall, since the curricu-

lum change in 2009, the Department of Society and Environment has been successful in ensuring that all of its majors have at least one potentially transformative experience - an opportunity to design and carry out an independent research project as part of the required theory and methods core. In addition, as part of their senior capstone, students revise their research reports and present their findings either at the Student Research Conference at Truman, or at a regional or national meeting in their discipline. Recent student research projects and presentations are highlighted on pages 5-7.

In addition, the structure of the major leaves space in the spring of the junior year for a semester-long internship, field school, study abroad program, etc. Students completing faculty-led study abroad programs, internships, and field schools can receive 3+ hours of credit for one 400 level topics class in the major.

Sociology and Anthropology majors regularly complete internships in Kirksville, in other parts of the US, and occasionally in other parts of the world. Settings for field schools and study abroad programs are even more diverse. In the December Interim, a new 3-week Study

Abroad program entitled **“Study Abroad in Chile: Globalization and Culture Change”** will be led by Dr. Anton Daughters. Students will visit Santiago and participate in homestays with rural families in the archipelago of Chiloe, where they will learn about some of the region’s cultural and economic changes. You can read about some recent student internships on pages 2 – 4.

Finally, faculty and alumni notables from the past year, including news from Dr. Amber Johnson’s sabbatical, are found on pages 8 – 11. I hope you enjoy reading about the many accomplishments of our department’s talented students, faculty, and alumni over the past year!

— Sincerely,

**Dr. Elaine McDuff,**  
Professor of Sociology and  
Chair



# Interns and Civic Engagement



Picking some lemons for some refreshing Nimbu Pani. Most welcomed drink in Indian heat on Navdanya Farm.—Susan Zhu '13

During her senior year, sociology graduate **Susan Zhu '13** had a great internship experience working with Axel Fuentes and the **Rural Community Workers' Alliance**, a non-profit based in **Milan, Missouri**. Fuentes is the Director of the RCWA and works with low-wage immigrant and refugee workers and their families, who are employed in low wage jobs, such as a meat-packing plant in Milan, Missouri.

The goal of the RCWA is to strengthen, build, and deepen worker organizations and the engagement of low-wage immigrant and refugee workers in their local communities.

The Alliance seeks to address the root causes of injustices that individuals face due to their socioeconomic status, secure improved community health systems and services, and assure workplace safety for immigrant and refugee food sector workers and their families.

During her internship, Susan primarily assisted with drafting a grant proposal that requested financial support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Susan met with Fuentes every week to take notes on what he wanted to communicate in the proposal and to work with him on the grant application. Susan also regularly met with Kris McKim, the grants specialist at Truman, who advised her on how to search for other applicable grants.

Susan found the process to be quite challenging for small non-profits focused on human rights and advocacy rather than research and design. Susan says, *"It was an extraordinary learning experience that had its fair share of obstacles and frustrations, however, I found it to be an extremely valuable use of time that forced me to confront some of the hard realities in the non-profit world."*

Susan also helped to set up a model for future interns to work with the Rural Community Workers' Alliance. Fuentes hopes to be able to continue working with Truman students who can assist with fundraising efforts and grant writing.

Susan's internship also involved her in civic engagement as her service provided benefits for the local community.

Since graduating in May, Susan has continued her interest in non-profit work and civic engagement by participating in a four-month volunteer internship at **Navdanya, — Seeds, Food, Security & Sustainability**, an organic farm spread over an area of 45 acres in Utrakhand, North India.

As an Indian-based organization, Navdanya is actively involved in the rejuvenation of indigenous knowledge and culture. It has created awareness on the hazards of genetic engineering, defended cultural knowledge from biopiracy, and advocated for local food rights in the face of globalization.

Navdanya promotes biodiversity conservation, organic farming, the rights of farmers, and the process of seed saving. Navdanya has so far successfully conserved more than 5000 crop varieties including 3000 types of rice.

[www.navdanya.org](http://www.navdanya.org)

Susan is pictured right with Dr. Vandana Shiva, founder of Navdanya and Indian Environmentalist whom has authored more than 20 books.

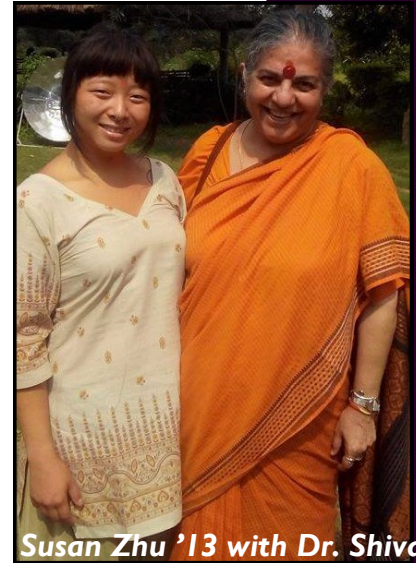
Junior **Sociology major Karlea Harbaugh's** internship also involved civic engagement. Last summer she interned at the **Food 4 Kids program**. Her job was to serve as a manager at Jaycee Park in Kirksville, welcoming families, playing with the children, and building positive relationships with volunteers and participants.

The Food 4 Kids program is a partnership between the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri and local churches, civic groups and

businesses, and provides daily lunches for children from low income families in the summer months. All school children who are eligible for free or reduced priced breakfasts and lunches are eligible.

Karlea also worked for the **Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri** doing promotional tasks such as distributing posters to create awareness about fundraising events happening around Kirksville that help provide food for the local food pantries and nutrition programs like Food 4 Kids and Buddy Packs. She also trained volunteers and helped with the Firecracker 5K run.

Karlea states, *"It was a great experience learning both the volunteer and organizational sides of non-profit work, and I got to know so much about my community and the people that live in it."*



Susan Zhu '13 with Dr. Shiva

## Local Internships

**Sarah Westfall '13** interned locally at the **Public Defender's Office** in Kirksville. She reviewed and summarized police reports, held client interviews at the jail, and assisted attorneys at court cases. After her personal experience of sitting in a court room she wrote a paper on *"Biases in Jury Selection"*. Sarah states, *"This internship has given me connections that are helpful today, and will be helpful in the future. The experience has helped me to grow and realize what I want to do with my future."*

She is now attending law school at UMKC.

**Senior Sociology major Andrew Clooney** interned locally this summer at the

**Adair County Department of Social Services** in the **Children's Division**. Andrew got to participate in parental visitations, home visits, team meetings, and court sessions. He was able to follow multiple caseworkers on their daily visits with families as well as work with partner institutions such as the Kirksville Police Department, Bruce Normile Juvenile Justice Cen-

**After taking part in this process I would like to follow this career path and keep working toward that goal. -Andrew**

ter and Great Circle, a non-profit that offers behavioral health services to children and families.

Andrew says the ultimate goal is to protect children, usually by working to strengthen family units so as to keep them intact. He enjoyed working with the staff in the Children's Division, describing them as helpful, friendly and collaborative. He says his most rewarding experience was becoming friends with colleagues and clients.

According to Andrew, *"This experience exposed me to both the emotional downsides and the benefits of this profession. I witnessed truly upsetting scenes including very poor living conditions and testimonies of child abuse. However, being part of a team that worked tirelessly to improve the living conditions and life circumstances of these families was an honor."*

# Archaeological Field School



Danielle Fritz

Anthropology and English double major, **Danielle Fritz**, (pictured top left) volunteered for three weeks this past summer at the **Reeves site in Ash Grove, MO**, a post-Civil War African American homestead inhabited from the 1900s to the mid-1940s by former slaves site, which is located 25 miles from MSU's Springfield campus.

Dr. Sobel, of the MSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology led the archaeological field work.

Danielle learned the basic archaeological field methods

including survey, excavation, and mapping. She also learned about approaches specific to historical archaeology including the use of archival documents, oral tradition, and archaeological remains as complementary sources of information about the recent past.

Danielle states, *“Having interned with other students who are working toward or earned a masters or PhD gave greater insight into what I would like to pursue post-graduation.”*

# Student Honors



**Rachel Kreher—  
Outstanding Student in  
Anthropology**

This past year, **Ian Wohlstadter, Chloe Jackson, Andrew Clooney, Connor Maguire, Megan Todd, Andrew Templeton, Heeju Jung, Melissa Kern, Jillian Wells, Kymberly Maine, Alexander Ponche, Megan Hyner, Hope Bernstein and Sean Lynn** were inducted into the **Cultural and Societal Honors Society**.

**Lily Barlow, Megan Todd, Andrew Clooney, Jennifer Fowler, Melissa Kern, Ian Wohlstadter and Rebecca Lenger** were inducted into **Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honors Society**.

**Rachel Kreher, Elizabeth Salley, Hannah McDaniel, Ronnia Estes, Anastassia Dambrouskaya, Danielle Fritz, Hunter Wingert and Henry Smith** were inducted into **Lambda Alpha, the International Anthropology Honors Society**.

**Samantha Galloway, Emma Shirey, (Outstanding Student in Sociology), Rachel Kreher, (Outstanding Student in Anthropology), Henry R. Smith, Susan Zhu and Erin McCann** earned **Department Honors** at the May 2014 graduation ceremony; **Andrew Clooney, Elizabeth Salley and Kenneth Warner** graduated with honors in December.

# Students Present Research



Aaron Albrecht

*“I am glad to have the opportunity to work with Truman faculty to conduct original research. I know that students at other universities do not have such an opportunity.”*  
—Aaron Albrecht

ate paper Competition for his work.

In Spring 2014, Aaron presented **“A Sociological Investigation into the US Government’s Use of Armed Drones”** at Truman’s Student Research Conference on campus.

drone warfare as part of his McNair summer research internship.

In the Fall 2014, he presented his final research results at the **Missouri Sociological Association** in Lake Ozark, Mo. Aaron is pictured left receiving a **Certificate of Achievement** from Mark Bliss, President of MSS.

**Senior Sociology major Aaron Albrecht** has been active in attending and presenting research at professional meetings for the past couple of years.

Aaron presented the preliminary findings from his research on **“The United States’ Use Of Drones”** at the **Missouri Sociological Association Annual Meeting** in Fall of 2013. He won 2nd prize in the Undergradu-

That same semester Aaron brought an outside speaker to campus, **Lawrence Wilkerson, former Chief of Staff** for then-Secretary of State Colin Powell who spoke on the cultural, ethical and legal implications of the use of armed drones by the military and the CIA.

In the Summer of 2014, Aaron continues his investigation on the ethical and political implications of

He also presented **“Armed Drones in the Global War on Terrorism: A Quantitative Analysis of Attitude Change among Truman State University Students,”** at the **18th Annual McNair Heartland Research Conference** in Kansas City, Missouri.



Elizabeth Ward

**Elizabeth Ward, Emma Shirey and Sarah Wesfall**, senior Sociology majors, presented their research at the Undergraduate Poster Session at the **Midwest Sociological Society** annual

meeting in Omaha, NE, in April 2014. All three students completed their research as part of the two-course methods sequence in

Sociology/Anthropology, SOAN 380-Research Design and SOAN 381-Data Analysis.

Shirey presented **“Women Judging Women: The Effect of Gender on Female Perceptions of Intellectual and Emotional Competence,”** Westfall presented **“From Kanye to Kiss: Demographic Factors as Sources of Social Pressure on Selection of Music Genre”**, and Ward presented **“Do Girls Choose Easier Majors?”**

# Student Research Conference



**Sarah Westfall**

Several of our students presented their research at the Student Research Conference in April, 2014 at Truman.

## Oral Presentations included:

**“A Sociological Investigation into the Government’s Military Use of Drones”** by Aaron C. Albrecht. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

**“The Impact of Structural Factors on the Health of Latinos”** by Analia F. Albuja. (Dr. Sumi Colligan [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts], Faculty Mentor)

**“Female Genital Cutting”** by Christina M. Isley. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Neanderthal Burials in the Middle and Upper Paleolithic”** by Rachel Kreher. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, and Dr. Anton Daughters,

Faculty Mentors)

**“The Curious Hybrid Girl: Post-Colonial Literary Theory and Cultural Hybridity in Nervous Conditions”** by Jennifer Riley. (Dr. Hena Ahmad, Faculty Mentor)

**“Tattoos vs. Gender Roles”** by Neesa R. Ross. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Language Preservation Project in the Caucasus Region”** by Kaleb A. Sackett. (Dr. Sally Cook, Faculty Mentor)

**“It Takes a Woman to Raise a Village: Observations and Analysis of the Munshir Hat Parshuram Branch of the Grameen Bank”** by Elizabeth K. Salley. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Feral Cats & People: Measuring Knowledge about Feral Cat Overpopulation”** by Henry R. Smith. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Faces of Aggression: An Analysis of Correlates Between Race, Views of Masculinity, and Acceptance of Violence”** by Kenneth C. Warner. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Sustainability and the Truman State University Community: Current Perceptions and Future Implications”** by Susan T. Zhu. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Dr. Michael I. Kelrick, and Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentors)

## Poster Presentations included:

**“Lived Experience of Being a Woman in Two Cultures for Bicultural Women”** by Erin S. Bavery. (Dr. Stephen Hadwiger, Faculty Mentor)

**“Exploitation of Migrant Workers in Milan, MO”** by Miranda Cooper. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)  
**“Faces of Aggression: An Analysis of Correlates Be-**

***“tween Race, Views of Masculinity, and Acceptance of Violence”*** by Kenneth C. Warner. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

***“The Effect of Strain on Drug Use”*** by Kelsie Howle. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

***“Meth the Study Buddy”*** by Theodore L. Kazanecki. (Dr. Anton Daughters, and Dr. Amber Johnson, Faculty Mentors)

***“Why do NFL Athletes Commit Crime? Travis Hirschi’s Social Control Theory and its Effects on NFL Athletes”*** by Matt Miller. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

***“Key Factors of Suicide: (How Race, Income, Gross Domestic Product, and Gender are Related to Risk of Suicide)”*** by Lois T. Schulz. (Dr. Amber Johnson, and Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentors)

***“A Comparison of Sexism and Sexual Prejudice in Truman State University Students”*** by Daniel J Young. (Dr. Anton Daughters, and Dr. Amber Johnson, Faculty Mentors)

**Democracy and Human Rights in South Africa**  
Presentations included:

***“The Effects of Poverty on Education in South Africa”*** by Christina Bode. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)



***“Racial Categories and Discrimination in the Health Care System of South Africa”*** by Megan M. Distler. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

***“The Effects of Poverty on Education in South Africa”*** by Christina Bode. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

***“Immigrant Rights in the ‘New’ South Africa”*** by Rae Doyle. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

***“Household Food Security in Rural South Africa”*** by Lauren Kells. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

***“The Persistence and Implications of Unequal Educational Opportunities in Post-Apartheid South Africa”*** by Connor P. Maguire. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

***“Rising to the Challenge: Mathematics Education in South Africa”*** by Alexandra Potter. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

***“Food Security in South Africa”*** by Rikki A. Watts. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

***“South Africa’s Return to Primary Health Care: The Strides, the Struggles, and the Significance”*** by Priya F. Maillacheruvu. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor) Priya’s research paper was also published in the *Journal of Global Health, Vol. 4, Spring 2014.*



# Amber Johnson's Sabbatical



**Dr. Amber Johnson, Professor of Anthropology** is enjoying a sabbatical for all of 2014. She is working on a manuscript for a primer [eliotwerner.com/archaeology](http://eliotwerner.com/archaeology) to teach students and researchers strategies for using the large ethnographic and environmental data sets that are the foundation for her own research. Recently, this project has grown into an exploration of the literature in macroecology.

Dr. Johnson will teach a special topics course on Human Macroecology in the Spring of 2015 when she returns from sabbatical.

In addition to allowing time to work on large academic projects, sabbatical removes all excuses for learning to do frustrating new things. Dr. Johnson has attended

two workshops to learn the basics of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and plans to include more of this technology in courses when she returns. She oversaw an upgrade of the computer program that calculates the environmental variables used in her research and developed a web site to share the program and data sets. [ajohnson.sites.truman.edu](http://ajohnson.sites.truman.edu)

In addition, she continues her participation in a cross-cultural research group exploring new statistical methods for pursuing research with large cultural data sets. As a result, she is learning to use R, a free statistical package with a lot of capability, but one with a steep learning curve.

In March, she presented a paper at the Society for Anthropological Sciences/ Society for Applied Anthropology meetings in Albuquerque, NM titled "**Ecological Constraints among Hunter-Gatherer Societies**".

A set of posters Johnson prepared this summer, titled "**Binford in the Field: Integrating Archaeology, Ethnoarchaeology, and Taphonomy**", were featured at the International Conference of Archaeozoology in San Rafael, Argentina this September as a tribute to

her late husband, Lewis Binford (1931-2011). These posters make use of unpublished excerpts from field notebooks and colored slides that are part of Binford's research materials which are being archived as part of Truman's Special Collections in Pickler Memorial Library.

This fall, Dr. Johnson continued work on her book manuscript and just returned from a trip to Argentina (late October - mid November). In Argentina, Johnson spent some time working with colleagues in Buenos Aires on collaborative projects and some time at a Southern Deserts Conference near Mendoza. At the conference, she presented a keynote talk on "**Macroecological Strategies for Learning about the Past**", a paper "**Probing Northern Desert Archaeology Using Ethnoarchaeology of Environmental Analogues from Southern Deserts**" and served as discussant for a set of papers.

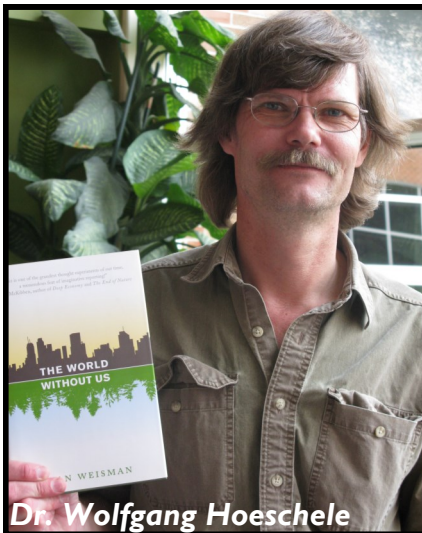
Dr. Johnson states, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my sabbatical and I'm looking forward to classes in January."



Buenos Aires  
Japanese Gardens



# Faculty Notables



**Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele**

At the end of Spring Semester 2014, we said goodbye to **Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele, Professor of Geography**, as he moved to Heidelberg, Germany, to take the ideas of an economy of abundance and sustainability that he developed here at Truman to a larger audience, and to work together with government agencies and NGOs to put some of these ideas into practice.

[commonsabundance.net](http://commonsabundance.net)

Wolfgang's wife, Ishita Ghosh, is looking forward to being in a bigger city. They will be missed in Kirksville!

Dr. Hoeschele is pictured receiving a gift-book from the Department in honor of his service to Truman.

This Fall we welcomed **Dr. Ujjaini Das, Assistant Professor of Geography** to teach courses in The Geographic Perspective, Environment Geography, Geography of Asia, and a JINS course on environmental justice. Dr. Das received her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Georgia. Her research interests include environmental justice, developmental state theory, and geographies of waste studies.

**Dr. Anton Daughters, Assistant Professor of Anthropology**, published a chapter entitled "*Of Chicha, Majas, and Mingas: Hard Apple Cider and Local Solidarity in Rural Southern Chile*" in *Alcohol in Latin America: A Social and Cultural History* (Univ. of Arizona Press, 2014). Dr. Daughters also co-authored "*Moquis and Kastiilam: Coronado and the Hopis*," an article that was published in the Winter 2013 issue of *Journal of the Southwest*. He organized a panel and presented a paper at the annual meeting of the *American Anthropological Association*. His paper, coauthored with William

Alexander (University of North Carolina Wilmington), discussed changing economic schemes in rural Chile.

We have been fortunate to have **Dr. Robert Hitchcock, Visiting Professor of Anthropology** serving as Dr. Amber Johnson's sabbatical replacement this past year. Dr. Hitchcock has recently carried out anthropological work in Zimbabwe and Namibia. His work focuses on human rights, resettlement, development, and the environment. **Thank you Dr. Hitchcock!**

**Dr. Christopher Kelley** joined the Sociology Department this past semester as a temporary Assistant Professor and has set up a research lab for students in Barnett Hall. Some of Dr. Kelley's completed research includes projects on the effects of identity on emotions in gendered tasks and how interpersonal awareness affects influence across situations. **Welcome Dr. Kelley!**

**Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Society and Environment**, organized two sessions, one

on Women and Religion, and another on Women and Global Migration, at the *Midwest Sociology Society* annual meeting Omaha, NE. She also attended the business meeting as the Missouri representative to the MSS Board of Directors, where she presented a paper entitled "*Women's Voices from the Zimbabwean Diaspora: Migration and Change*."

Our newest tenure-track Sociologist in the program is **Dr. Paul Shapiro**. During the spring semester Dr. Shapiro met with representatives from the *Adair County Health Department and the Kirksville Fire Department* to discuss possible community research projects. Additionally, Dr. Shapiro went on the "*Voyage of the Vikings*," visiting Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, and the Netherlands. Stop by his office to see all of his photographs from the Voyage. **Welcome Dr. Shapiro!**

**We wish Dr. Hoeschele all the best in his new adventures!**

# Alumni Notes

**Waylene (Wilhoit) Hiles '78** completed her JD from University of Missouri School of Law-Columbia in 1982 and is currently working as the Director of HR and Administrative Rules for the Missouri Secretary of State.

**Rhonda (Renee) Harness '90** received her Master's of Science in Sociology from Purdue University in 1992 and has founded her own company, Harness Leadership.

**Julia (Harrison) Seibert '90** completed a Master's of Science in Nursing from Goldfarb School of Nursing in 2013 and is currently working as an Adult Nurse Practitioner in the Neuro oncology department of Washington University School of Medicine.

*"I will never forget the day I fell in love with Sociology. Do what you love and you will never have a "job" - you will have a career you enjoy!" - **Julia Seibert '90***

**Lisa (Shirey) Farrell '94** completed her Masters of Arts in Library Science from the University of Michigan in Columbus in 2006 and is now working as the Director of Library Services at East Central College.

**Jason Beckfield '98** is a Professor of Sociology at Harvard University.

**Cortney Dowdall '02** completed her PhD in Anthropology at Florida with University in 2012 and is working at PBS where she is measuring the impact of public media on community development.

**Kristi (Kuenker) Gawron '02** received a graduate certificate in GIS and is currently working for Garmin International as a cartographer.

**Stephanie Malin '04** is teaching sociology at Colorado State and has just published her first book, [The Price of Nuclear Power: Uranium Communities and Environmental Justice.](#)

**Lisa (Sieren) Cushatt '05** completed her Master's in Social Work from the University of Missouri in 2007 and spent 6 years working for United Way of Iowa before beginning her job as an Adjunct Instructor at Des Moines Area Community College.

**Sarah McDuff '06** is an Associate/Monitoring and Data Management Specialist for Development Gateway and the US State Department in Washington, DC.

**Lacey Prater '06** is working as a Clinical Social Worker in Columbia, Mo at Children's Hospital.

*Truman sets you up beautifully for graduate school. I didn't really appreciate the quality classmates, class discussions, and work load until I was a student at a different school. Also- people in Missouri know Truman. Be proud that you went there.*

**Ashley (Freund) Shroyer '06**

**Ashley (Freund) Shroyer '06** completed a Master's of Social Work from UMKC in May 2009 and is planning to pursue a Clinical Social Work License in 2014.

**Lee Anne Flagg '09** has completed her Master's from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2012 and is continuing to work on her doctorate at UAB.

**Mona (Baucom) Lara '09** worked in a variety of drug prevention roles before returning to Stephens College to obtain her Master's in Education, School Counseling.

*"Dr. McDuff remains my favorite professor I ever had and one of my greatest role models." - **Brandon Pollard '11***



**Mona (Baucom) Lara '09**

**Kevin Sack '12** is pursuing his JD at University of Missouri Law School.

**Emma Flowers '13** is currently working as a Education and Employment Advocate at Operation Breakthrough.

**Aaron Johnson '13** is completing his MPA in Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

**Brandon Pollard '11** completed the MAE program at Truman in 2012 and is currently working as a Youth Employment Coordinator for Iowa AmeriCorps.

**Kelly Gorman '12** is working on her JD at University of Missouri Law School.

**Erin Medin '12** is the Director of Programming at Project Transformation Tennessee.

**Zac Palmer '12** completed his Master's in Sociology from Ball State University and is beginning his PhD program in Sociology at Purdue University this fall. He is currently in the process of publishing his master's thesis as an article with his former advisor at Ball State and brainstorming dissertation topics.

**Ashley Repka '13** is serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Texas Impact, a network of religious grassroots organizations working to advance state public policies that are consistent with universally held social principles. She is working specifically with the Community Partner Recruitment Initiative, which aims to set up access points for low income families to sign up for food, medical, and cash assistance. Her job is to reach out to community organizations and recruit them as Community Partners.

**Erin McCann '14** is completing her Master's of Social Work degree at St. Louis University.

**Kelsie Howle '14** is working at Ascent Corporation as an Operation Center Representative.

**Rachel Kreher '14** worked in the Bioarchaeology and Human Osteology graduate program at Arizona State University this summer where she analyzed and identified human skeletal remains in a lab setting.

**Neesa Ross '14** is starting work on a Master's in Social Work degree from New Mexico's Highland University and completing an internship with Child/Youth/Family Division working with foster parents and children.

**Emma Shirey '14** is teaching English at an elementary school in Kinmen, Taiwan on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant.

**Henry Smith '14** is going to Paraguay for the Peace Corps. His position is Agriculture Extension.

**Rikki Watts '14** is serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Buffalo, NY, working with Seneca Street Development Corporation.

Senior seminar students enjoy live conversations on **skype with alumni** who share their graduate school and job experiences and lots of useful advice. If you would be willing to participate in one of these conversations, please email [Dr. Elaine McDuff](mailto:Dr. Elaine McDuff).

## HOW TO CONTACT US:

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Thanks to everyone – faculty, staff, students, and alumni – who have contributed to our successes in the last year. It is a privilege to be a part of you. Feel free to email us and let us know what you are doing. We enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Elaine McDuff**, Department  
Chair



*Dr Wolfgang Hoeschele and his wife Ishita Ghosh*



*Drs Hitchcock and Shapiro*



*Dr. Daughters' kids—Lucas & Marco, Spring Picnic, 2014*