

# SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY    MAXWELL SCHOOL

## Graduation 2012: Four Ph.D.'s Awarded

**Liat Ben Moshe**

“Genealogies of Resistance to Incarceration: Abolition Politics Within Deinstitutionalization and Anti-Prison Activism in the U.S., 1950-Present.”

Chair: **Marjorie DeVault**

Liat is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Department of Disability & Human Development.



**Elizabeth S. Mignacca**

“The Class Ceiling in Doctoral Education: Social Class in the Formation of Scholars.”

Chair: **Marjorie DeVault**

Lisa is an Administrative Assistant in the Program for Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration (PARCC) at Syracuse University and is on the tenure-track job market.



**Don C. Sawyer III**

“I Ain’t Do Nothing!: The Social and Academic Experiences of Black Males in a Dismantled School.”

Chair: **Sari Biklen**

Don has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Sociology Department at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.



**Alecea I. Standlee**

“The Real Virtual World: Connectivity and Techno-mediation in the Lives of College Students.”

Chair: **Jackie Orr**

Alecea has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Sociology Department at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia.



## More Graduation Pictures



Jackie Orr & Alecea Standlee



Alecea Standlee & Don Sawyer



Marj DeVault & Liat Ben Moshe

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## Alpha Kappa Delta Induction

The following Sociology majors were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the Sociology Honor Society, on May 2, 2012:

**Meagan Salisbury**  
**Alexzandra Tellez**  
**Ana Arroyo**  
**Emily Quick**  
**Devine Nwabuzor**  
**Kate Foster**  
**Julie Elkin**  
**Leanne Abraham, Monica Cheng, and Rachel LeQuire** were also inducted,

but are not pictured. **Marjorie DeVault**, the Undergraduate Director, welcomed everyone and gave the history and mission of AKD. Recent Ph.D. graduate **Alecea Standlee** was the guest speaker. A reception honoring all the award-ees followed the ceremony.



## Undergraduate Paper Award

The Sociology Department initiated an undergraduate paper award made possible by a generous donor to the department. It was given to the best paper written in a Sociology course during the 2011-12 academic year. Sociology instructors nominated excellent papers and a committee reviewed them. The winner was honored at the AKD ceremony (see above) and received a cash

award of \$500. The winning paper was submitted by **Rachael Grannell** in Steve Brechin's Political Sociology class. The paper was entitled "The Price of Admission and the Power of Wealth in Education." A Honorable Mention went to **Sarah Morrison** for a paper she wrote for Jackie Orr's Technology, Science & Society class.



## 2012 University Scholar

**Christina Levin**, a triple major in Sociology, Political Science, and Newspaper and Online Journalism was named as one of twelve University Scholars. This designation is the highest undergraduate academic honor bestowed by Syracuse University. Christina, who is from the Ukraine, is an ardent proponent of de-

mocracy reforms and social justice. She established and directed the SU chapter of Democracy Matters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates reducing corporate influence in politics through student activism and campaign finance reform. She wrote her thesis on civic engagement in American

democracy under the mentorship of **Steve Brechin**. She was the Executive Editor of *Medusa Magazine*, a feminist publication on campus, and served as Features Editor of the biweekly *Student Voice* newspaper. She is a Newhouse Scholar and a member of the Renée Crown University Honors Program, the Golden Key

International Honour Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the Political Science and Sociology honor societies.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
CHRISTINA.**

## SOC 495 Senior Thesis Presentations

Thirteen seniors in [Christine Himes'](#) senior thesis class presented their theses on May 2nd. They were divided into three sections.

### [Bodies and Identity](#)

[Mollie Pleet](#), "Food For Thought: The Decision Making Process Behind What College Women Eat."

[Allison Forbes](#), "Roster & Photo ID Use in Syracuse University Classrooms: How Professors Use Them, and How Students React to and are Affected by their Use."

[Ella Frogatt](#), "Tainted Images of Health: An Investigation of the Effect of Media

Exposure on Female College Students' Body Image."

[Stephanie Hulette](#), "Masturbation Nation: A Study on the Personal Sexual Opinions and Practices of Syracuse Undergraduates."

### [Social Problems](#)

[Rachel LeQuire](#), "Ecotourism in Costa Rica: Empowering Local Communities."

[Sarah Morrison](#), "Profile of Syracuse Can Collectors."

[Amanda Bay](#), "The Media's Eye on Child Trafficking."

[Kalila Nelson](#), "The Rela-

tionship Between Unemployment and Reported Cases of Child Maltreatment."

[Meagan Salisbury](#), "Experiences Seeking Asylum in the U.S. and Canada while Living in Buffalo, NY."

### [Families, Friends & Lovers](#)

[Morgan Wahlstrom](#), "Emerging Adulthood: Do Attitudes and Behaviors Surrounding Casual Sex and Relationships Change over the First Four Years of College?"

[Whitney Mercer](#), "The Parent Trap: The Effect of Differing Parenting Styles on College Students' Abili-

ties to Cope and Thrive in the University Setting."

[Kate Foster](#), "The Effects of Sex, Race, and Religiosity on Traditional Gender Roles in College Students."

[Mairead Kiernan](#), "Behind the Screens: How Students Use Technology in Times of Interpersonal Conflict."

Two of the presenters were also members of the [Honors Program](#): [Rachel LeQuire](#) and [Meagan Salisbury](#). See picture below.



## Distinction in Sociology/LGBT Award

The following graduating seniors were awarded "[Distinction in Sociology](#)":

[Allison Forbes](#), [Ella Frogatt](#), [Katherine Foster](#), [Rachel Le Quire](#), [Christine Levin](#), [Whitney Mercer](#), [Mollie Pleet](#), [Meagan Salisbury](#), and [Morgan Wahl-](#)

[strom](#).

[Allie Forbes](#) also received the 2012 [Outstanding Undergraduate Award](#) from the LGBT Resource Center. She has had numerous roles on the Pride Union Executive Board and served as Vice President of Administration.

She was also dedicated to community service and served as Co-Chair of Service and Fundraising for her fraternity, Sigma Iota Alpha. She was presented this award at the Annual Rainbow Banquet on April 12th. These Foundation Awards were established in 2003 to recog-

nize individuals- regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity whose personal or professional lives have positively affected the LGBT community in a significant way.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



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Faculty/Graduate Student News

Steve Brechin has been elected as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Medani Bhandari attended two high-level United Nations meetings in May and June—the Conference on Sustainable Development and the Department of Public Information, Non-governmental Organization Relations Annual Orientation Program. Medani is a representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information from the not-for-profit sector.

Chantell Frazier successfully defended her dissertation proposal and is now ABD.

Gokhan Savas received a prestigious Dissertation Grant from the Association for Institutional Research. His dissertation is entitled: "An Intersectional Analysis of the Female Postsecondary Advantage: Gender, Race, and College Selectivity."



Alumni News

Ralph (Ray) Catalano, Ph.D. '72 is a professor of Public Health in the School of Public Health at the University of California - Berkeley. His research interests include the implications of selection in-utero for population health, the economy of stressors, economic antecedents of specialty mental health services utilization, and temporal variation in the incidence of psychiatric emergencies. His best known work focuses on the economy as stressors, with fetal death as the outcome. Ray also directs the California Perinatal Outcomes Project that estimates risk adjusted perinatal mortality for licensed obstetric services in the state. He is

the Director of the UC Berkeley Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program. In addition, he is the Co-Principal Investigator on the NIH-funded R-24 project that supports research on the Berkeley campus into early-life predictors of later-life health. Ray is the author of over 70 publications concerned with the health and behavioral effects of changes in regional economies. He has been active in local government and community affairs.

Frank Ridzi, Ph.D. '03 has been promoted to the Director of Research and Community Initiatives for the Central New York Community Foundation.

He directs the coordination, implementation, and evaluation of the Community Foundations' proactive initiatives. He also serves as an Associate Professor of Sociology at LeMoyne College.

Bonnie Winfield, M.A. '90 is the Director of the Landis Center and Associate Dean at Lafayette College in Easton, PA, where she also teaches in the Women and Gender Studies Program. She is the founder of The Journey Home, a re-entry program for women in the Lafayette-Northampton County Correctional Facility Partnership.