

# The Social Scientist

The Newsletter of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Marshall University

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Volume 1, Issue 4

Spring 2021

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(Sociology@Marshall)

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**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Marshall-University-Department-of-Sociology-Anthropology-204476642901794/>

## Message from the Chair

Welcome to **The Department of Sociology and Anthropology** at Marshall University.

Wow, what a time to be a social scientist?!? Think about it...with all of the challenges and changes we are faced with today as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, there simply is no better time to study social interaction (or distancing as the case may be), family, the workplace, race relations, politics, aging, public health, or the role that religion or sports, leisure, and recreation have in society. Social scientists are well positioned to explore these topics and more!

As we come to the end of yet another virtual semester, allow me to take a minute to thank our department faculty, staff, and students for all of their hard work,

dedication, and resiliency over the last few weeks. I think it's safe to say that nearly all of us are experiencing "screen fatigue" or some form of physical and or emotional exhaustion from increased screen time. I can't thank our faculty, staff, and students enough for their willingness to adapt to these changes in both learning, instruction, meetings, and club events. Hopefully the Fall 2021 semester will see us return back to the classroom with minor adjustments and as the number of people vaccinated continues to climb and we reach herd immunity.

To our majors, minors, and graduating seniors, we offer our most sincere congratulations! Many of you were juggling additional family and work responsibilities, or the loss of an income, while trying to

complete your class requirements. You did well! For those moving on, we wish you all the best. For those returning, we look forward to seeing you back in the classroom this Fall.

For all of us, the end of the spring semester is a time for remembrance. We take stock of where we came from, and have a moment to think about where we are going, as we pursue the future with hope. May your future be all that you hope for, and may it be sprinkled with love and friendship.



Kristi M. Fondren

Professor and Chair  
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## Fall 2021 Courses

Introductory Sociology    Classical Sociological Theory

Quantitative Research Methods & Analysis

Classical Archaeology    Physical Anthropology    The Wars Within

American Society    Senior Seminar    Women in Sports

Cultural Anthropology    Crime and Custom    Ethnographic Research

### Trail Magic or Gig Economy? Trail Angel Culture on the Pacific Crest Trail

Follow **Dr. Kristi Fondren's** summer research thru-hike here (<http://www.trailjournals.com/HQtieandTurkeyB/>) as she explores trail angel culture, and the giving and receiving of trail magic, on the PCT.

### Leadership changes to Sociology Graduate Program

Congratulations **Dr. Donna Sullivan**, our new Graduate Program Director! The previous GPD, **Dr. Marty Laubach** (thank you Marty), will be on Sabbatical this Fall working on a database to index an archive of newsletters and journals of the American Neopagan movement from the 1980s as it was institutionalizing into its current form. The archive will be housed in the research collections at Marshall and the database will be placed studying how ideas were exchanged among groups in the formation of a community identity.

### *The Wars Within, The Wars Without* Connecting Veteran Students at MU with Veterans throughout the State

The program, led by co-directors **Robin Riner** and Christina Franzen, aims to help military veterans, active duty military, and members of the public reflect on contemporary war and its aftermath by making connections among three primary conflicts: the civil war between Pompey and Caesar, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terrorism. There will be a variety of public talks associated with the program held throughout the year, featuring speakers including Karl Marlantes and Massimo Pigliucci.

The program involves three stages:

**A three-day preparatory program**, held August 18-20, 2021 on Marshall's campus, for student veteran discussion leaders.

**A semester-long seminar** for veteran and non-veteran students at Marshall University.

**Five public discussion groups** for veterans and the general public, in which participants will read sections of Civil War and engage in sustained discussion about the text, drawing connections to their own experiences. Two of the groups will involve veterans and military friends and families, three of the groups will be veteran-only.

## From Our Archaeological and Ethnographic Collection

Our Department of Sociology and Anthropology houses an archaeological and ethnographic collection, items from every continent and from all ages, going back thousands of years ago to the present.

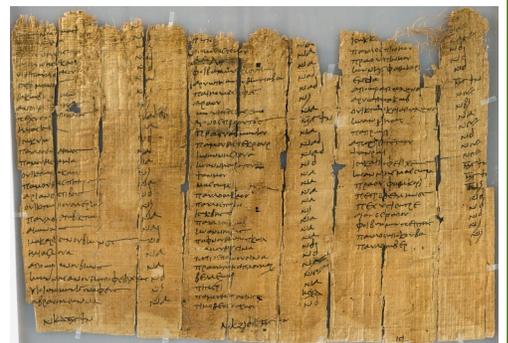
Pick a place and a time, and the odds are we have something to show you!

One treasure: An early 6<sup>th</sup> Century papyrus from Egypt, a tax roll from Herakleopolis, shedding light on a small Graeco-Egyptian town and its inhabitants.



The piece was the subject of a capstone project by our anthropology student, **Ms. Michelle Young**, in the Spring of 2019.

She was aided by a world-renowned papyrologist from the University of Cincinnati, **Dr. Peter van Minnen**, who reformatted,



Above: The papyrus

restored, and translated the document. He subsequently published an article in an international journal on our treasure.



## Congrats to our Spring 2021 Graduates

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Abi Taylor</b>    | <b>Emily O’Neal</b>   |
| <b>Gara Fleming</b>  | <b>Grace Weekley</b>  |
| <b>Kate Bostic</b>   | <b>Jesseka Bush</b>   |
| <b>Paris Fairfax</b> | <b>Claire Joswick</b> |

## Student Award Winners

- Paris Fairfax**  
Outstanding Undergraduate in Sociology (academic)
- Abi Taylor**  
Outstanding Undergraduate in Anthropology (academic)
- Matthew Adkins**  
Outstanding Undergraduate in Sociology (service)
- Gara Fleming**  
Outstanding Undergraduate in Anthropology (service)
- Claire Joswick**  
Outstanding Graduate (academic)
- Claire Joswick**  
Outstanding Graduate (service)
- Allen Ross**  
Outstanding Graduate (teaching)

## Faculty Highlight: Dr. Brian Hoey

**Dr. Brian A. Hoey** is a professor of anthropology and associate dean of the honors college. His collaborative venture, titled *I’m Afraid of That Water: A Collaborative Ethnography of a West Virginia Water Crisis*, recently received the Weatherford Award for best books about Appalachia.

In the book, Dr. Hoey and colleagues capture a broad series of stories about the 2014 chemical spill that contaminated the water of



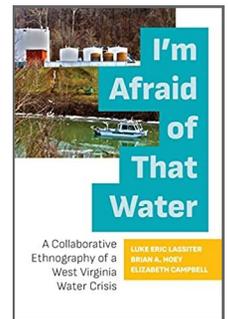
300,000 citizens in a nine-county region, and the response to the emergency, which amplified distrust that was already well-seeded in the area.

*“...exceptional in capturing how people felt about the water crisis.”* - judges, Weatherford Award

Award monies for this prize will be donated to the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, a non-profit that serves the statewide voice for water-based recreation and clean, drinkable rivers. The book’s royalties will also be donated to West Virginia Rivers.

“This book is remarkable in so many ways”, said Angie Rosser, executive director, WV Rivers. “It does more than authentically document the lived experiences of the water crisis; it carries an empowering effect for the people of Appalachia in seeing that their stories reveal shared struggles for visibility and justice. It reminds us that within our stories is the power to co-create the world we want to live in.”

Congratulations Dr. Hoey!



# Student Highlight: Claire Joswick

The Sociology and Anthropology Department in the College of Liberal Arts at Marshall University has been home to me for quite awhile now. I received my Bachelor's degree in sociology at Marshall University in 2015, and I will be receiving my Master's degree in sociology at Marshall University this coming May 2021. These two degrees revolving around learning social constructs and studying the behavior of societies created a fire within my heart to fight for people who are unable to fight for themselves. This drive for wanting to understand and help those who need it most led me to my main area of interest and research. For the past five years through undergraduate and graduate school I have studied human sex trafficking, otherwise known as modern-day slavery. The severity of this issue is that human trafficking comes in as the fastest growing global crime, with the USA being one of the top countries purchasing victims.

Holding the title as a graduate student and law enforcement officer, I had the opportunity to educate law-enforcement on the differences of these topics as a part of my Problem Report requirement within the graduate program in

sociology. As victims of trafficking have been wrongly prosecuted in the past due to a lack of knowledge between the two institutions, I felt as if this was an issue that needed to be discussed with West Virginia law enforcement officers. While sex work is legal in Nevada, as well as withing other countries, sex trafficking is illegal in every country. Numbers of human sex trafficking cases in West Virginia are not nearly as high as those of California or New York, but West Virginia still accounts for some of the largest familial sex trafficking



cases in the USA. It can be assumed that anywhere there is prostitution, the likelihood of sex trafficking is very high, whether the victims know they are being trafficked or not.

Through this educational training I was able to educate officers on human trafficking in general, the specific types of trafficking that there are including sex trafficking, the differ-

ences between sex work and sex trafficking, and concluded with what officers can look for when trying to identify victims or traffickers.

As I reflect on my time at Marshall, I can say that the department of sociology and anthropology provided me with the education and the preparation I needed to apply for and accept a position as an intelligence analyst at The Department of Homeland Security's Fusion Center located in Charleston, WV. The purpose of West Virginia Fusion Center is to collect, integrate, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate information and intelligence to support local, state and federal agencies in detecting, preventing, and responding to criminal and terrorist activity. The WVFC co-locates representatives of these agencies to share information and to facilitate joint efforts to prevent and solve crimes to protect citizens. I am extremely fortunate to have had the education to qualify me for such an established role in keeping West Virginians safe.

Claire Joswick

MUPD Officer and Sociology Graduate Student

## Earn Your Master's Degree Faster with our Accelerated Master's Program

Undergraduates accepted into our Accelerated Master's Degree program in Sociology can begin taking graduate coursework, at undergraduate tuition rates, in their senior year!

### Advantages of an Accelerated Degree:

- ◆ complete the Bachelor's degree with up to 12 fewer credit hours;
- ◆ begin work on the Master's degree during your senior year;
- ◆ complete up to 12 graduate credits at undergraduate tuition rates; and
- ◆ earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree in less time.