



College of Arts and Sciences

YEAR OF STUDENT SUCCESS

WINTER 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- Dr. Walker's "divided union"
- Dr. Julia Chavez attends Navsa
- Dr. Lori Sirs contributes in new book
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- COR340WI tackles topics of religion, spirituality, and activism in writing

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Students attend AAA conference in Vancouver, B.C.

Two students attended the annual American Anthropological Association meetings, this year, held in Vancouver, BC. The students, both political science majors, received support to attend the conference from the Sociology and Anthropology Program and the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Winstead facilitated the fieldtrip.

One student, Dagny Ahrend, shared: "The American Anthropological Association (AAA) Conference gave me an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the discipline of anthropology and the nuances of anthropological research. I was able to attend a number of panels covering topics such as refugees and migrants, the contemporary Arab world, militarization, banking, and volunteerism. In each session, anthropologists described their experience as participant observers and explained the implications of their research".

The other conference attendee, Jolie Bwiza, a first year student and Act Six scholar, described her experience:

"One of the sessions I attended was called "Examining the Boundary and Border Producing Practices that Immigrant



Dagny Ahrend, Jolie Bwiza, and Dr. Teresa Winstead, (pictured left to right)

Youth and Refugee Families Encounter in U.S. Institutions." It was very interesting to hear how migrant families and youth suffer as they get settled in the U.S. The anthropologists explained how many migrants come to the United States for a better life, for education, and for better health and security. When they finally are able to step their foot into the country, it is not as easy as they thought it would be".

From a faculty perspective,

bringing students to an academic conference, even when the students are not presenting, allows them to see various and diverse examples of the active engagement with scholarship that we model and cultivate in our classrooms. They get to watch old and new scholars engage with theory, discuss methods, and present tentative findings, which hopefully helps inform an appreciation of the intellectual process we are trying to teach them through their coursework. In addition, Dr. Winstead explained: "Vancouver is a beautiful city, and the students really did get a lot out of the out of the classroom academic adventuring! And, we wouldn't have been able to provide this opportunity without the generous support of the College of Arts and Sciences, so a big thank you to Dean Jeff Crane is due!" Next year the American Anthropological Association meetings are happening in St Louis, a little too far away for students to attend, but Dr. Winstead will be looking for another regional opportunity soon!

Saint Martin's University Students Visit Berlin and Vienna

Eight Saint Martin's University Gender Studies and Psychology. The students, along with faculty members Keri Graham '06 (Gender Studies) and Jeremy Newton (Psychology) spent 10 days in Berlin, Germany and Vienna, Austria. While staying in Berlin, students visited a number of specific locations, including the Holocaust Memorial, Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, the Topography of Terror, and Checkpoint Charlie, among others. Megan Gano '20 said about the Holocaust Memorial: "While every day of this trip was amazing and impactful, there were parts that were heart wrenching and difficult to sit with. Visiting the Holocaust Memorial, walking through the museum section as well as the memorial outside was cause for deep reflection – not only of the actions and terror that was part of the German history but also for the way we in the United State react to such actions."

Melissa Rosscup '19 added this about the Berlin Wall: "A haunting, yet awe-inspiring feeling arose while visiting the Berlin Wall, specifically the memorial site between the inner and outer wall. Numerous people lost their lives attempting to get over the wall to be with loved ones, some were shot on sight for simply being too close to the wall. While it was difficult to realize the trauma that was embedded into the Wall, there was also a powerful spot of hope and healing to be found at the Eastside Gallery, another portion of the remaining Berlin Wall. The artwork of countless people expressing hope, anguish,

and love was inspiring to see and something I am unlikely to forget anytime soon."

The students took a day excursion to Sachsenhausen, a World War II labor concentration camp north of Berlin. Says Tracey Porter '20: "The concentration camp we visited was the most impactful part of the entire trip. I had learned about the camps when studying World War II, but actually being there was completely different. Stepping across the gate with the tour guide I instantly felt sad and slightly off center. We were standing in a concentration camp, one of the first utilized for the War." Student Dana Henry '19: "Walking into Sachsenhausen was such a sobering experience. Our tour guide did a fantastic job of portraying the strength of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. While it was all difficult, I think one of the hardest parts was when our guide explained that the path we walked had been the very same one the prisoners walked. Seeing the infamous 'Arbeit Macht Frei' sign made everything feel real. Before visiting, concentration and extermination camps were still impactful, but it wasn't until I was there that

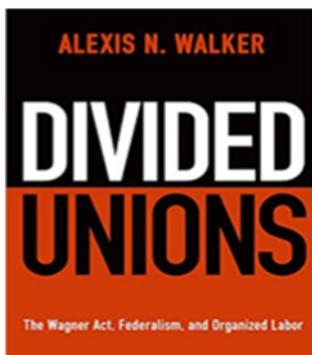
it fully hit me. This was real; this happened. Millions of people died, and I was at one of the many sites where that occurred." Several students mentioned this excursion as the most emotionally compelling visit of the trip. The study tour ended with a three day trip to Vienna, Austria. While there, the students visited the Sigmund Freud Museum and the Kunsthistorisches Museum, among other attractions. Students visited the Schonberg Palace as well. Says Shaye Quinata '20: "It was also so amazing to see how much Berlin and Vienna keep and incorporate so much of their history. They do not try to hide the realities of their history, no matter how tragic or intense it was, and it showed even in their architecture and leaving and incorporating old buildings rather than tearing them down or renovating them." Students prepared for the trip through taking GIS/PSY/SOC/SJ 395: Social Identity and Contemporary Berlin with Professor Graham. The course included components of history, contemporary politics and social science of Germany and Austria, along with travel advice on safety and maximum enjoyment. Says Alexis Skinner '20: "This was my first time traveling internationally and I did not know anything about the do's or don't's of such excursions, which I found extremely intimidating. I have never been far from family support, but this trip forced me to explore the unknown by myself and make my own decisions. Traveling to a mysterious place, thousands of miles away from home, hearing other languages and experiencing unfamiliar cultures is not an easy thing.



Students and Faculty outside of Brandenburg Gate

Dr. Alexis Walker's "Divided Union" Now Available

In *Divided Unions*, Alexis N. Walker argues that excluding public sector workers from the foundation of U.S. labor law, the Wagner Act of 1935, created divisions within the labor movement that have had lasting consequences for the size, strength, and influence of organized labor in American politics.



The University of Pennsylvania Press writes: Although explicitly about government unions, Walker's book argues that the fates of public and private sector unions are inextricably linked. She contends that the exclusion of public sector employees from the foundation of private sector labor law, the Wagner Act, firmly situated private sector law at the national level, while regulating public sectors employees' effort to gain collective bargaining rights to the state and local levels. She shows how private sector unions benefited tremendously from the national-level protections in the law, while in contrast public sector employees' efforts progressed slowly,

were limited to union friendly states, and the collective bargaining rights that finally did obtain were highly unequal and vulnerable to retrenchment. As a result, public and private sector unions peaked at different times, preventing a large, unified labor movement. The legacy of the Wagner Act, according to Walker, is that labor remains geographically concentrated, divided by sector, and hobbled in its efforts to represent how working Americans politically in today's era of rising economic inequality".

For more information on Dr. Walker's, *Divided Unions*, visit: <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/16036.html>

Constitution Day Debate

Legal studies instructor Ernesto Chavez served as a panelist for the September 17 Constitution Day debate on the freedom of the press. The subject was the role of nontraditional actors of the so-called Fifth Estate.

The debate was held in Harned Hall with significant student turnout and coverage local access media. Chavez and the other panelists, including Dr. David Price, debated whether First Amendment press protections should be afforded to hacktivists and

and other non-state actors, such as Wikileaks, even when they act as disruptors. He cited international law for the proposition that when non-traditional actors do so they invoke not just the protections of the free press but also the human rights convention on the protection of privacy.

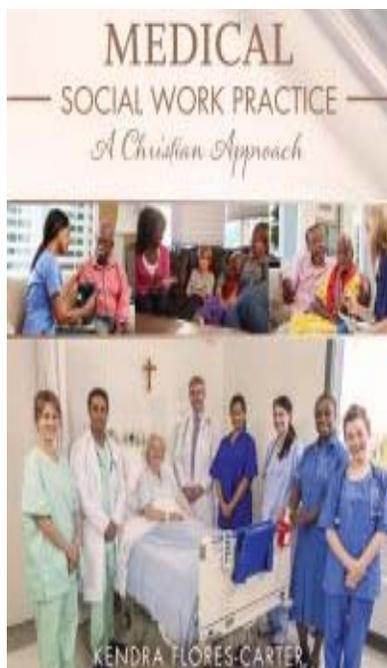
A video of the debate can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zp85ZZQ74k.

Dr. Julia Chavez attends NAVSA

In the spirit of this year's spotlight on student success, Associate Professor of English Julia Chavez took part in a panel devoted to new approaches for teaching Victorian Studies at the annual conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) in Columbus, Ohio. In her presentation, "Teaching Dickens by the Numbers: The Mystery of Edwin Drood as Case Study," Chavez shared an innovative assignment from her "Serial Storytelling" course that asks students to create their own

endings for Charles Dickens' famously unfinished last novel. An earlier version of this assignment designed for an interdisciplinary course was the basis for a chapter (co-authored with Robert Hauhart) in the edited collection *Teaching Victorian Literature in the Twenty-First Century: A Guide to Pedagogy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

Dr. Lori Sirs contributions in new book



Dr. Lori Sirs was featured as a contributing author for the textbook *Medical Social Work Practice: A Christian Perspective*, which was published in January 2020 by Kendall Hunt Publishing. This textbook includes grounded social work theory and the application to practice for social workers in medical settings. Dr. Sirs' chapter addressed the need for primary care settings to implement a trauma-informed approach in order to better meet patient's needs and achieve better health outcomes.

This aligns well with Dr. Sirs' interest in promoting trauma-responsive care across multiple social work settings, and help-

ing equip pre-service learners with the necessary education to best serve their clients. Because of her commitment to educating students about the most current practice trends. Dr. Sirs also helped create a series of social work courses at SMU related to understanding and treating trauma, as well as creating a formal concentration of study in trauma for social work majors.

For more information, here is the link to the publisher's page for the book: <https://he.kendallhunt.com/node/49420>

SMU Students visit Tacoma Art Museum



SMU students visit the Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) to explore the exhibit “Monet, Renoir, Degas, and Their Circle: French Impressionism and the Northwest”. This exhibit is closed as of January 20th, though there are always exciting exhibits rotating through TAM. For more information on this exhibit, visit: <https://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/exhibit/monet-renoir-degas-and-their-circle-french-impressionism-and-the-northwest/>

Hannah Cho invited to Sophia, Bulgaria

Applied Piano Teacher and Staff Accompanist Hannah Cho has been invited to adjudicate the 10th annual VIVA Piano Competition in Sofia, Bulgaria. During this conference Cho will judge over 150 participants competing in this international competition.

This year's competition is celebrating the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth. Cho has won piano competitions in the past, and has even performed at Carnegie Hall, so it comes as no

surprise to music department that she is now a jury member for the prestigious VIVA Piano Competition.

For more information visit: <https://www.ardenzamusic.org/vivapianocompetition>

COR340WI tackles topics of religiosity, spirituality, and activism in writing

Drs. Brother Luke and Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis co-taught COR340WI this fall. Students in the class wrote poems, memoirs, and scholarly essays focused on questions of spirituality, religiosity and activism. At the end of the semester, students presented their work to their peers in the form of a reading or talk based on their research and creative pursuits. Students were encouraged to pursue writing related to matters of spirituality and activism. Topics

ranged from subjects such as the Syrian refugee crisis, LGBTQ+ issues, and climate change activism. In addition to this approach, Drs. Brother Luke and Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis encouraged student engagement in the WA state Poet Laureate fest and the Les Bailey Writers Series “Print Journalism: Past, Present and Future” at Saint Martin’s by asking students to write critiques of these events.

Student research melds student success

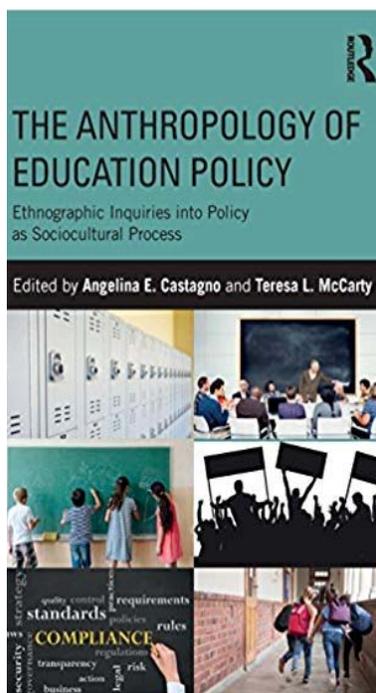
Robert C. Hauhart, Ph.D., J.D., professor in the Department of Society and Social Justice, has several ongoing sabbatical projects. One project arose from his Fulbright Scholar Award posting in Slovenia (January – May, 2019). A second project involves co-editing a volume of literary essays with Jeff Birkenstein on the convergences and influences between Russian and American short stories. The third project is based upon interviews conducted by SMU student researchers during Spring, 2017 and Spring, 2018. The first project entails developing and co-editing a volume of 25 – 30 chapter essays on the American Dream for Routledge/Taylor and Francis. Mitja Sardoc,

Educational Research Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia, who helped arrange Professor Hauhart’s invitation to Slovenia, will co-edit the volume, to be called the *Routledge Handbook on the American Dream*. The volume will feature essays by several European and Slovenian scholars. Professor Hauhart maintains an ongoing association with the site of his Fulbright award, the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU).

For the second project, Professors Hauhart and Birkenstein have gathered a dozen essays examining the Russian and American short story and their reciprocal influences. Contributors include academics from several

countries, including Japan, Russia, and the United States. The proposal is currently under review at two academic publishers. The final project entails analyzing 175 interviews of South Sound residents collected by Professor’s Hauhart’s student researchers in 2017 and 2018 and writing a manuscript for publication by an academic publisher. Research subjects were chosen according to occupation as sampled by age, race/ethnicity, and gender. Questions addressed basic demographic data with a focus on “life changing” events regarding occupation and relationship status. The project is an example of student success since it melds professional level research that relies on student interviewers as major contributors.

Dr. Teresa Winstead receives Outstanding Book Award



Teresa Winstead was among the authors acknowledged by the Council on Anthropology and Education's Book Award committee this year. The book, "The Anthropology of Education Policy" is an edited volume, compiled by Terry McCarty and Angelina Castagno, and published by Routledge Taylor and Francis, press. it was chosen as one of two awardees for the 2019 CAE Outstanding Book Award.

The committee explained: "There were many nominations for this award, as our field is producing exceptional scholarship. The award committee is pleased to honor the important contribu-

tion that you and your that co-authors have made to our field. We were deeply impressed with the myriad ways that the book breaks new theoretical and methodological ground through deeply grounded accounts of policy in motion".

Winstead's chapter, co-authored with Drs. Bradley Levinson and Margaret Sutton, was titled: "Theoretical Foundations for a Critical Anthropology of Education Policy." The awards ceremony was held at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Vancouver, Canada, on Friday, November 22.

SMU Sigma Tau Delta hosts the 2019 Far West Regional Conference on Campus

On Saturday, November 9th, the local, student-led chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, hosted the organization's 2019 Far Western Regional Conference on the Saint Martin's campus. The theme of the conference was "Finding Your Voice," and it included critical and creative presentations by nine participants from four universities in Washington, Oregon, and Utah. Novelist Jim Lynch, author of *The Highest Tide*, delivered the keynote presentation on the conference theme,

and members of the English faculty moderated each of the panels.

English majors Amanda Chappell (chapter vice-president) and Savannah Schilperoort (chapter president) spearheaded the conference planning and organization, with help from other members. One new member, Kiley Mohr was inducted into the chapter on the day of the conference. The day's activities also included a campus tour, a presentation on our literary

journal SMUniverse, and a literature-themed game of Jeopardy.

The regional conference was supported by funding from the English Department, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Far Western Region of Sigma Tau Delta.



Students during the Sigma Tau Delta Conference

Murdock Conference 2019

This year, Saint Martin's University sent six students (Corrin Black, Emilie Boren, Emma Murari, Joe Edgecomb, Kaylen Furuta and John Ogata) to the Murdock conference in Vancouver, WA. Three assistant professors (Drs. Bode, Friesen and Kunder) attended as well. Dr. Crane, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences also attended to support faculty and students.

Corrin Black presented a poster with her summer research with Dr. Bode on seed size in invasive Scotch broom. While Corrin was able to show that seed-eating beetles prefer larger seed pods, she found that such differences occurred within a plant more than between plants, refuting Dr. Bode's hypothesis that natural selection occurred on a plant-by-plant basis. She presented the results of a lengthy cross-pollination experiment as well, showing that seed size is maternally determined. A secondary finding of this project was that seed size does not vary as much as was presented by Sabrina White in 2018, hinting strongly at year-to-year variation.

Emilie Boren and Emma Murari used new measurements from stellar spectroscopic observations from the Anglo-Australian Telescope to find evidence of a centrally located stellar population in the bulge of the Milky Way. These two students represented Saint Martin's University in the form of an oral presentation in front of an audience of more than one hun-

dred. They described how they used the doppler shift to find line-of-sight velocities of 1500 RR Lyrae stars, and how they disentangled the stars that belong to the Milky Way's massive pseudobulge from the stars that belong to a previous bulge system. While theoretically complex, Emilie and Emma made their work decidedly approachable, explaining how measuring motions of stars allow us to determine the shape and origin of our galaxy.

Joe Edgecomb presented work conducted at Texas A&M this past year. The goal of the project was to identify suitable solvents for the liquid-liquid extraction of indium from aqueous solution. Indium is a highly used yet rare metal found in many electronics. With most of the global supply coming from China, there is a commercial need for low cost, environmentally safe methods of recycling indium. A special interest was placed on identifying the mechanism of extraction, as such mechanism may also describe the chemistry of other elements of interest, particularly nihonium.

Kaylen Furuta, representing the Bode Lab, presented a poster of his summer 2019 research on floral pigmentation in invasive Scotch broom. Some of these invasive weeds have red flowers, and Kaylen was able to isolate a single compound from flower tissue that gives the plant a red hue. He found that plants having higher concentrations of this pigment had lower rates of pollination and seed set, suggesting that in the populations he

surveyed, the genes behind the pigment are being selected against. Kaylen's work builds on previous endeavors by Giulia Perini and Maria Breznau and was funded by a Franklin Research Grant.

John Ogata presented a poster showing detailed motions of RR Lyrae stars and now they are used measure the shape of the center of the Milky Way galaxy. He explained the intricacies of using red or blue shifts in the Calcium absorption spectrum from these stars. RR Lyrae stars expand and contract with a known frequency, which has the potential to complicate measures of red/blue shift. John studied the rotation of the central galaxy as a whole, finding that at a latitude of ~6 degrees from the plane, the bulge begins to transition into the Galactic disk. He further compiled the fastest moving RR Lyrae stars, and found they were all consistent with being bound to the Milky Way Galaxy. Another SMU student, Danielle Miller submitted a Sigma Xi grant in October to obtain new observations of stars in the Milky Way, the results are pending.



Students present at the 2019 Murdock Conference.

Dr. Andrea Kunder Commitment to Scholarly Engagement

This past semester Dr. Andrea Kunder is a contributor in the recent publication “The Pristine Inner Galaxy Survey (PIGS) I: tracing the kinematics of metal-poor stars in the Galactic bulge”. To view, visit: <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2020MNRAS.491L..11A/abstract>.

Kunder was invited to give a colloquium at the prestigious Johns Hopkins University and the Space Telescope Science Institute in December. These two institutions flew her to Baltimore and hosted her for a three day visit, where Kunder

gave three separate presentations at (1) the institute-wide colloquium (2) science coffee and (3) science café.

Kunder was contracted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to serve on a panel to evaluate astrophysics grants in



Dr. Kunder and other conference attendees outside the Apache Point Observatory

November. She was paid a small stipend for this very time-consuming, but also extremely educational, endeavor.

Kunder was an invited speaker at the RR Lyrae and Cepheid Stellar Pulsation conference in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, in October. She gave a 30 minute talk in the Classical Pulsator Stellar Populations session. The highlight of the trip was visiting the Apache Point Observatory and looking at various celestial objects through the eyepiece of a 3.5 m telescope. Kunder was also invited to give a colloquium at Reed College in October

Saints to attend CBDNA

In February, Assistant Professor of Music, Dr. David Wacyk will present at the College Band Directors National Association conference (CBDNA) in Seattle. His presentation is titled “The Wind Music of Ida Gotkovsky”.

Attending the same conference, SMU music major Makena-Rose Edwards has been invited to perform in the CBDNA Intercollegiate Band, an honor for undergraduate music majors.

This semester, the music department has seen growth in the area of instrumental music, with the addition of several new music majors, as well as the creation of the new SMU Wind Ensemble, and look forward to further growth.