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SOCIOLOGY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



UIC Sociology Spring Newsletter

A Sum Greater than its Parts: 490 Year in Review

**115 students + 5 alumni
panelists + 16 community
partners =**

**1 successful year of the
new 490**

The end of the spring semester marks a full academic year of our revamped capstone course. The course provides a comprehensive experience in which students' sociological imaginations are engaged through **academics** and

service to their communities, all while preparing for **post-graduation success**. Sociology 490 Professor Dr. **Lorena Garcia** and Director of Service Learning Dr. **Kevin Lamarr James**, with their TA team worked hard to test, re-work and perfect the course, resulting in:



Above: 490 Fall 2016 Partnerships Presentation by students working on the Communities in Schools of Chicago project

- **115 students** who experienced the curriculum, real-world experience and professional development offerings of Sociology 490.
- **5 Alumni** panelists who came to speak to students about their jobs. A big thanks to:
 - Rosa Silva – BA alumna and Cook County Public Defender
 - Jonathan Stringfield – MA alumnus, PhD student, Media/Tech Researcher at Twitter
 - Nakisha Hobbs – BA alumna of UIC, Co-Founder and Principal at Little Village Leadership Academy
 - Jennifer Parsons – BA and MA alumna, Assoc. Dir. Research Programs, UIC Survey Research Laboratory
 - Ira Wrestler – BA alumnus, Student Development and Facility Coordinator, UIC Recreation
- **16 Community Partners** worked with us, developing projects that drew upon students' skills and creativity to better their organizations. Another big thanks to:
 - West Suburban Action Project – PASO
 - Dignity Diner
 - Village Leadership Academy
 - SGA Youth & Family Services
 - Communities in Schools of Chicago
 - Gender and Sexuality Center, UIC

- Pride Action Tank
- Ladies of Virtue
- LINK Unlimited Scholars
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- UIC Engage
- Recreation, UIC
- Chicago Urban League
- UI Cancer Center
- Office of Public and Government Affairs, UIC
- Sociology Department, UIC (see more on our unique partnership below!)

Want to be part of this amazing course?! You can come speak to students about your work or relevant experience with sociological topics, connect with students through a community partnership project at an organization where you work or volunteer, or be “spotlighted” by students working with the department to profile our alumni. To get involved, email Kirsten at kander48@uic.edu

30 in 30: UIC Sociology Alumni Spotlights



One of the Sociology 490 community partnerships is with the UIC Sociology Department. For this partnership's project, students reached out to alumni of UIC Sociology, to interview them about how a sociology degree affected their career trajectory, further education and personal lives. Through this project, current students and alumni of many generations have networked, we have learned much more about our alumni community, and everyone's eyes have been opened to the incredible range of professions and interests a sociological lens affords. Starting mid-May, on our [blog](#), we will be featuring a different alumnus each week. Our first alumnus on the blog is **Dr. Eduardo Garza**,

Dean of Student Services at Daley College.

Sneak Peak!

Dr. Garza believes that sociology allows for individuals to better assess motivations and community dynamics. He explains that a degree in sociology made him a better person in the context of communicating and understanding diverse values. For the **full spotlight**, head to our [blog](#), where you can also keep up with other department news and events. Be sure to **visit the blog each week** to learn about another alum! **If you would like to be interviewed** in the coming year, email Kirsten at kander48@uic.edu

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Andy Clarno

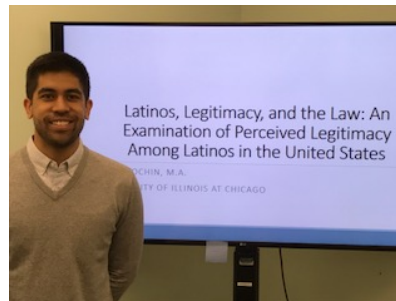


UIC Sociology Professor Andy Clarno celebrated a photo exhibit opening and book launch on April 7 at the Silver Room in Hyde Park. Andy organized the photo exhibit to create opportunities for people to engage with the issues of racialized poverty and policing explored in his new book, [Neoliberal Apartheid: Palestine/Israel and South Africa after 1994](#) (University of Chicago Press 2017). The photographs offer a window into the conditions produced

by the combination of corporate capitalism and shifting forms of racial domination in South Africa and Palestine/Israel today. The department is proud to have faculty whose sociological lens on life inspires their scholarly and creative endeavors. Congratulations Andy!

Congratulations and thanks for Supporting S2B-ABD!

Several of our PhD sociology alumni have supported our newest program for graduate students, S2B-ABD (Soon To Be All But Dissertation), which helps graduate students writing dissertation proposals by providing community, space to write and a lunch to fuel them! Your generosity means so much to us as we continually strive to offer more and better opportunities to our students, particularly in the face of serious budgetary constraints. Support from our PhD alums helps us greatly as we prepare to offer this program to our PhDs-in-the-making again in the fall! Even more wonderfully, alums have donated in honor of our faculty, including **Dr. Nilda Flores-Gonzalez** and **Dr. Sharon Collins**.



Nick Rochin, now ABD, at his April 24 defense

In its first year alone, S2B-ABD has gotten 3 participants to the proposal defense finish line! One participant, Nick Rochin says of S2B-ABD:

"S2B-ABD was a great opportunity to regularly devote a full day towards writing in quiet space with a group of motivated peers. The program also provided tasty lunch, and I would not have been able to complete my proposal as quickly as I did without S2B-ABD!"

Congratulations to Professor Laurie Schaffner and Lain Mathers!

Congratulations to Lain Mathers, M.A. UIC Sociology (current doctoral student) and Associate Professor Laurie Schaffner on their nominations for the Honoring Our Professors' Excellence (HOPE) Award this past semester. Campus Housing gives this award to recognize and thank exemplary instructors and faculty members for contributing to their residents' success. We are proud to have sociologists in our department who are so committed to being engaging educators.

Don't forget to keep up with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and our [Website](#)!

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