



SOCIOLOGY

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

A REASON TO CELEBRATE AMID OUR COLLECTIVE MOURNING

Amid this mass period of mourning, a new cohort has entered the alumni community. We are confident that these students will use their sociological imaginations to combat the social ills plaguing our world. Our graduates fought to complete their course requirements amid a pandemic. Many of them took on extra work to support their families, but somehow managed to cram in their studies. Some of them know the cruelties of policing and detainment all too well. Throughout their time at UIC, they offered their experiences to enrich classroom discussions and add nuance to an otherwise rigid learning environment. They proved that diversity is pivotal to college campuses and we look forward to seeing how their leadership will work towards building a future in which laws and healthcare are applied equally. Please join us in welcoming the class of 2020 into our alumni community by taking a look at our shout outs and next steps and watching our UIC Sociology Virtual Graduation celebration.

Student Highlights

If you aren't yet convinced that the class of 2020 is fabulous, you will be after meeting this year's undergraduate award winners. These students not only call out the injustices they see in the world around them, but they encourage and uplift others through their leadership and service.

Patrick Juris Award Recipient: Emoonah McClerklin

As a pre-med double major in sociology and psychology, Emoonah prides herself on her service work that helped advance opportunities for people of color access mental and physical health services. According to UIC instructors, Emoonah also enhanced the classroom by critically engaging with the coursework and remaining open to dialogue with students who did not share her point of view. True of any good global citizen, Emoonah always considered the intersectional consequences of the issues at hand. Be it people with disabilities, LGBTQ students, gender minorities, or people of color. One nominator had this to say: "Emoonah marshals her confidence and power in this regard by serving on diversity committees and being sure to always interject the concerns of historically marginalized people into the conversation, regardless of whether or not that is the focus of discussion."

Undergraduate Paper Award Recipient: Cruz Dominguez

In her paper [Street Harassment: The Effects of Unsolicited Comments](#) Cruz contextualizes the recent murder of UIC student, Ruth George, using interview methods. Her research paper explores how the underpinnings of race, gender, the family, and power encourage a culture of catcalling. Participants in the study feared that catcalling could escalate into something more violent and made several adjustments to their daily lives to avoid such consequences. Cruz's justification for submitting her research paper was due to her reflexivity on both the gender-based violence that many women fear, and the negotiations people have before calling for police intervention. It displayed the choices people make to maintain their safety while considering the state violence against marginalized people. The undergraduate committee is thrilled to recognize Cruz's important and powerful research with this award!



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