

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Issue 8, September 1st 2022

Greetings from the AKD Board

Welcome to the Fall Semester of 2022!

Hello and welcome to the new academic year! We hope that you all had a restful summer, and you're all looking forward to a fun year of community building and programming!

This year's NAMI walk, scheduled for October 8th, has several options for participation. First, you can join virtually and walk at a location of your choosing. Second, you can participate in the in-person event at the Stile Athletics Field House at the University of Akron. We hope that the 8th annual NAMI Walk as "Dr. Gallagher's Team" will be our most successful walk to date!

If you are interested in the NAMI Walk please sign up at: <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.team&teamID=52457>. All members of the department, faculty, staff, graduate students, undergraduates, and their family and friends are allowed to join the team.

The t-shirt order will be placed online this year.

(https://order.universitytees.com/bird_banks/97864/signups/new) You can go to the order link, select your shirt size, and pay for your shirt! This year, shirts will be delivered to your on campus mailboxes by October 1st. The shirt price includes a charitable donation to NAMI Walks Summit County. We also ask that when you complete your walk that you take a selfie, in your t-shirt, and post it to social media and tag the department's Twitter and Facebook. This will allow us to share our accomplishments with each other as we would if we had walked side-by-side.

If you are unable to join "Dr. Gallagher's Team", we ask that you consider donating to our team page, found at the link above. You can also ask others to make donations using this link. If everyone can just take a moment to ask a few friends or

family for a hand, we're certain that we can meet our \$1,000 fundraising goal.

AKD is always looking for new ideas, opportunities, and ways to optimize how we do things. We are always open to suggestions and looking for board members for the next year. Positions become available on the board every year, so you can be the change you wish to see in the department by joining the AKD board next year!

We especially want to thank everyone who has contributed their time and resources to AKD over the years: past boards, our faculty advisor, and members of the department. Thank you all; we could not do this without you.

Best,
Michelle Fretwell, President
Haley Crews, Vice President
Josh Warren, Social Chair
Sarah Harvey, Secretary
Dr. Chris Dum, Advisor

What is AKD?

Alpha Kappa Delta at Kent State is a graduate-student run organization with a faculty advisor. We have three main goals:

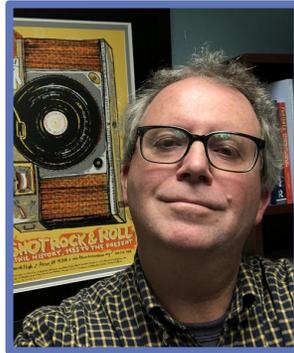
1. Promote student achievement
2. Facilitate professional socialization
3. Be good members of our community

Here's how we do that:

- Organizing workshops on professional skills that students are interested in learning about.
- Celebrating student achievement with an end-of-the-year awards banquet.
- Offering funding for conference travel and holding paper award contests via the national AKD organization.
- Organizing department-wide social gatherings to help socialize students.
- Volunteering with local community groups that work to alleviate pressing social problems.

Everything AKD does is a community effort. We rely on your input, service, and support to accomplish these goals. When the time comes to ask what you can do for your department, come. Help us build something.

Chair's Note: *Dr. Richard Adams*



Hello all,
Welcome to the fall semester. Many great things have happened over the summer. First, we have a new Department Name: Department of Sociology and Criminology. Be sure to contact Lisa for new business cards, if you haven't done so already. The new name reflects the evolution of the Department over the past 10 years. We have a large number of undergraduate majors in Criminology and Justice Studies, an online MA in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and a concentration in Criminology in our doctoral program. Most of our recent hires at the Kent Campus have been in criminology: Elias Nader, Starr Solomon, Chris Dum, and Kamesha Spates (half Criminology and half Sociology). Additionally, several faculty (e.g., me and Will Kalkhoff) publish research and/or secure grants in areas traditionally seen as criminology. In my view, the name change time had come. We also continue to have a thriving doctoral program. Welcome to the new graduate

students. You can see profiles on them later in this newsletter. I was happy to attend graduation ceremonies where I saw Jon Overton and Chris Schell received their hoods in May and Victoria Reynolds and Kayla Heddens be hooded in August. We also saw successful dissertation defenses by Jacob Church, Kevin Weng, Tierra James, and Katie Bullock (an UA grad who was part of our joint program). Congratulations to them and their committees. Lastly, I want to thank Will Kalkhoff for his service as Graduate Coordinator these past 6 years and welcome Susan Roxburgh as our new Coordinator. Finally, I couldn't be happier that we are slowly returning to face-to-face meetings. It started last April with our first in-person Awards Banquet in three years. In the past few weeks, we had our first in-person new graduate student orientation in years and an in-person Meet and Greet for our undergraduate students. I realize that we are far from post-pandemic, but I really enjoy the return of our students to Merrill Hall. Their buzz as they move from class to class, lecturing without mandatory face masking, Parking Lot 15 filled by 10am, and long lines at the various food vendors are both the good and annoying that come with the return to some semblance of normalcy. In closing, all faculty, staff, and students should give themselves a high-five for contributing to our collective success over the past 3 very

stressful and trying years. I hope that everyone has a great, safe, and successful semester.

Before I go, I want to again draw your attention to the Jerry M. Lewis Lecture Series. You can find more hear (<https://www.kent.edu/kent/news/jerry-m-lewis-lecture-series-debuts-talk-may-4-memorializing-process-service-faculty>). Jerry was a great presence in the for many years. If you are so inclined, you can contribute to this lecture series. If you want to know how, please contact Dave Grober, Senior Director, Philanthropy in Arts and Sciences (dgrober@kent.edu).

-Richard Adams

Meet the New Graduate Students

Questions for the new cohort:

1. What is your preferred name and pronouns?
2. What is your educational background?
3. What is your area of interest in sociology?
4. What is your best memory/anecdote from a sociology class?
5. What is your podcast, TV show, book, or movie?

Beau Shaniuk



1. Beau (he/him/his)
2. I received my BA from Ohio University in 2019 with a focus in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and two minors in Political Science and World Religions. I also received my MA from OU in May! Officially, my degree is titled a Master of Arts in Law, Justice, & Culture.
3. Broadly, I am most interested in the sociology of gender. More specifically, I am interested in queer studies and the sociology of gender diversity/sociology of gender through the lens of trans and non-binary folx. So looking forward, I am thinking of researching the sociology of "coming out" and the sort of gendered resocialization process of trans and non-binary folx (both internally and in public spaces) after they come out.
4. For my final capstone project, I created a podcast episode with a friend of mine where we presented research on incarcerated women and experiential differences in America's prison system based on race. I actually won the award that year for best

capstone project, so that was pretty cool!

5. This is a LOADED question -- my partner and I have far more binge-worthy shows than we'd like to admit! One of my classic favorites is Parks and Rec, of course. I'd say my favorite more recent show is Sex Lives of College Girls (and I cannot recommend it enough if that's your jam). It is truly hilarious, yet also draws attention to super important issues younger folx in college face; it's the whole package!

Lauren Wyatt



1. Lauren (she/her/hers)
2. When I was an undergraduate at Kent State, I studied Sociology and Psychology, and I minored in LGBTQ+ Studies.
3. I am most interested in Social Psychology, specifically the reinforcement and ramifications of gender and sexuality stereotypes!
4. In a Sociology of Families course, we watched episodes of older shows, like Reba and The Andy Griffith Show. I found it so fascinating to see how mass media reinforced and reinterpreted gender and

familial roles throughout time.

5. I absolutely love watching competition reality shows! My favorites are Cutthroat Kitchen, Survivor, and The Amazing Race.

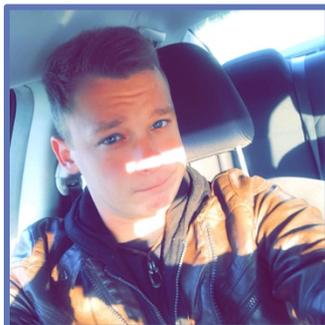
Megan Denny



1. Megan (she/her)
2. I attended undergrad at the University of Mount Union with majors in criminal justice and Spanish and a minor in sociology.
3. I am interested in deviance, criminalization, criminal justice reform, and the social construction of race/gender/sex.
4. My favorite memory is from one day in a class on Minority Group Relations in which the class was meant to roleplay as a community group discussing possible changes to the local jail. I was given the role of representing the interests of the incarcerated and wildly misunderstood the degree to which we were expected to commit to our roles. I may have showed up with a binder full of studies relating to prison conditions and prewritten arguments

5. My favorite book is The Picture of Dorian Gray but other close calls are Good Omens, Pride and Prejudice, and Under The Whispering Door.

Burdette Passmore



1. Burdette (he/him)
2. Graduated from Mansfield University, PA in Sociology (Psychology Minor) – BA
3. Sexuality, Gender, Social Inequalities, Political Sociology
4. My most fond memory of my undergraduate career as a sociology major would be when I helped tutor a student on how to write her honors senior thesis paper. The process was challenging (for both of us), but watching her develop her writing skills throughout the semester (and part of the summer) was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever encountered and cemented my aspiration in wanting to achieve a career in academia. There was no other feeling like it.
5. My favorite movie is Dead Silence. I'm a horror fanatic, and the cheesier the movie the better! I also enjoy meditation podcasts like

Headspace, which help keep me grounded and my mind clear before undertaking assignments

Amber Davis



1. Amber (she/her)
2. I graduated from Hiram College with a B.A in Sociology and minored in Psychology.
3. I am most interested in Medical Sociology and Social Psychology with specific interest in epidemiology, substance use, neighborhoods and health, emotions, identity, and mental health.
4. My favorite memory from a sociology course was anytime we played review games before exams, it fostered healthy competition and a fun way to gain extra credit.
5. My favorite podcast is Dear Hank and John. I have been really enjoying The Boys and recommend watching it if you haven't already, and one of my favorite books is Syndrome E.

Eleora Adams



1. Eleora (she/her)
2. I graduated from Kent State University with BAs in Criminology and Psychology
3. I am interested in victimology, social control, as well as deviance both criminal and non-criminal.
4. My favorite memory from a sociology class was during a deviant behavior class, in which we were looking at behaviors and attributes that were considered deviant in

the past but are "normal" now. I thought it was so interesting to read about how society's ideas on deviance and what is deviant can change over time.

5. My favorite book is *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie.

Grace Amoah

1. Gracie (she/her)
2. I graduated from the University of Cape Coast in the Central Region of Ghana where I gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences (Economics and Sociology).
3. I am interested in gender inequalities in crime.

4. My favorite memory is when one of our oldest sociology professors who always mock the entire class about sociology being a less difficult course compared to economics which was our other major! Point is, I just didn't get it and always seem funny to me!

5. My favorite movie is "Fall From Grace," the main character in this movie is Bresha Webb (Jasmine) who put in all the efforts as a novice to defend Sarah! This movie centers around inequalities in terms of crimes of women and gender studies, which are my research interests!

Welcome New Cohort!

We are excited for your many successes in the program and beyond!

Graduate Mentoring Program: Sam Nousak, Mentoring Committee



The Kent State Sociology Department Graduate Mentoring Program began in Fall 2015 when it was created by graduate student Brennan Miller. Since then, the program

has been officially integrated into the department, with a new graduate student volunteering each year to run the mentor committee. Through the mentor program, more senior level graduate student volunteers get matched with each incoming member of the new year's cohort. Initial matches are made based on having similar academic interests. The goal of the program is to have mentors guide mentees in their first year and beyond, both personally and professionally. Since its implementation, the mentor

program has been a great success. Mentees from our very first year have now served as mentors themselves. This year, we have a large and exciting cohort of eight new graduate students that are to be matched with our seventh generation of mentor volunteers. After matches are made, the mentor-mentee group usually comes together for an initial meet-and-greet. After that event, mentor-mentee matches continue to develop their professional relationship, with periodic

check-ins to the group from the current committee chair. These meetings can be in-person or

virtual, depending on individual preferences.

I wish I had known then... Advice from other Graduate Students

Chloe Miller

If you're having trouble getting something done, set a timer. For example, if you're trying to write a draft and are feeling stuck or having trouble focusing, divide it up into paragraphs or sections and give yourself 10 minutes for each. It's harder to let yourself waste time when you have a deadline right in front of you, and you can (and should) always go back and add to what you wrote in those 10 minutes. When the time is up, move on to the next section and restart the timer. You'll get more done that way than if you stare at the page for an hour trying to make it perfect the first time.

Leslie Wood

Do not hesitate to ask questions- someone else probably also wants to know but is afraid to ask.

Prioritize self-care. You will feel better and be more productive. Plus, your brain works better if you get adequate rest, exercise, and proper nutrition- it's scientifically proven! Especially if you are an introvert (like many of us), be brave and connect with others in the department. It will greatly enhance your experience and you may regret it if you do not.

You do not have to be perfect- no one is! Mistakes are just learning experiences.

Kayla Cagwin

Figure out when you do your best work. I was definitely guilty of burning the midnight oil when I started grad school, which ultimately led to exhaustion, burnout, and not my best writing. I figured out late in the game that I am a morning writer and that I produce better work with less stress if I shift my schedule to write first thing in the morning. You have to figure out what works well for you and stick to it.

Maddy Steward

Ask for help. You're not alone in this experience and the goal of the rest of the department is not to watch you fail. We want to help you with whatever you need help with!

Tiah Wingate

As much as you want to pour 100% of yourself into your new grad student identity in order to be successful, be sure to still invest ample time within those other identities that are important to you...especially those involving your close relationships. This will help you weather those stressful times of

the semester much more successfully!

Brandon Ehlinger

Don't suffer in silence. You are in a department full of professors and students who sincerely want to see you succeed, so never hesitate to ask questions about things in the classroom, the department, the community, etc. and be proactive with the maintenance of your mental and physical health.

Michelle Fretwell

Before coming to grad school, I was told that the first year was the most brutal. I can say is that it was difficult in ways I could never have expected. With that in mind, here are some words that I was told and some that I might have liked to hear: Don't be afraid to reach out to people. You are smart enough to be in this program. You are welcome here. If, for any reason, it doesn't feel like you are supported, try to surround yourself with people who do support you. This transition is uncomfortable, but the discomfort is temporary. You being here is ultimately about you - you're chasing a dream, pursuing a passion, following a path. Whatever you feel you are doing here, be patient, trust the process, but also make it your

own and do your best. Though it is easy, do not compare yourself to others. You are here to gain knowledge and skills for you to then use in whatever way you want to contribute to this world. Good luck to you all, and don't hesitate to reach out!

Amelia Davies Robinson

Get to know your cohort and other graduate students. Grad school is a marathon and a

support system that understands what you are going through is worth its weight in gold. Perseverance plays a part in success, but so does having people you can rely on when things go sideways.

Cynthia Hunt

Find time for yourself. The first year can seem overwhelming, and while it will be an adjustment, especially under these conditions, finding a

balance between time for school/work and things you enjoy doing is crucial. Take time for yourself and give yourself a break when you need one.

Jess Fleck, Erin Andro, & Dan Burrill

Use a citation manager from the beginning of grad school. This helps a lot when you move on to your thesis, comp paper, and dissertation. Free ones like **Zotero** are great and free!

AKD Events for Fall 2022

September

Mario Kart Tournament – September 23rd from 5:00 – 8:00

Merrill Hall, Kent Campus

A chance for everyone to show off their Mario Kart skills on a variety of consoles!

October

Cornhole Tournament – Friday, October 1st at 12 pm

Plum Creek Park (Shelter #3) – 50 Plum St. Kent, OH

Our annual cornhole tournament! Come join us for a potluck, cornhole, and other outdoor games!

NAMI Walk – Saturday October 8th 8:30 – 11:00 am

Join Dr. Gallagher's Team! Walk either at the University of Akron, on your own, or on Kent's campus with other members of the department.

Sign-up for Dr. Gallagher's Team:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.team&teamID=52457>.

Purchase T-Shirt:

https://order.universitytees.com/bird_banks/97864/signups/new

November/December

Silent Auction – November 28th – December 2nd – 5 pm

Fundraiser for our Spring Banquet! The auction will be held online, with bidding open between November 28th and December 2nd. Bidding will close at 4:30 on December 2nd, prior to the in-person finale where we will distribute prizes and socialize!

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT AND POTLUCK AND BYOB

PLUM CREEK PARK SHELTER 3

50 PLUM ST. KENT, OH 44240

OCTOBER 1ST
12:00



NAMI Walk 2022 T-Shirt

