
ALPHA KAPPA DELTA

AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Hello everyone!

The AKD Executive Committee would like to welcome you back from (a hopefully relaxing) winter break, and we hope you are all ready to jump right into the spring semester! To kick off the return of the annual AKD newsletter, we'd like to give you a brief overview of what you'll find in this issue.

First, the department welcomed a new addition to the faculty this past fall semester. We are proud to report that Dr. Susan Fisk survived teaching her first graduate level class and successfully inspired many graduate students to believe in their statistical abilities! To give her a more welcome introduction to the department, you'll find a "Faculty Spotlight" interview with Dr. Fisk including some advice that helped her get to the position she holds now.

Second, the AKD Executive Committee is glad to present a "Graduate Student Spotlight" on Meghan Novisky. As a graduate student who is currently on the job market, we give Meghan a chance to share some of the wisdom she gained in her years in the department.



Third, and speaking of years of success in the department, a member of the AKD Executive Committee spent some one-on-one time with the one and only Dr. Jerry Lewis. As you read on, you'll find a mini-interview with Dr. Lewis and some great advice that he shares with all of us. We hope you'll join us in honoring his 50 years of accomplishment at Kent State University!

Fourth, AKD is getting really excited for all of the events this semester! Not only will we be preparing for this year's Induction Banquet, but we also will have other fun and social gatherings to bring the department together. More details can be found in the "Social Events" section below.

On a final note, the department welcomed five new graduate students last semester, each bringing unique interests and qualities to our team. We are so glad each of you joined our community, and we look forward to seeing your successes down the road!

Best wishes to those that are traveling to conferences this spring, and here's to our gaining and sharing of sociological knowledge.

~ Victoria Reynolds, AKD President

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Susan Fisk

by Kelly Markowski

AKD is pleased to shine a Faculty Spotlight on the newest sociology faculty member at Kent State, Dr. Susan Fisk!

Some general advice she gives on how to survive graduate school:

- 1) Treat graduate school as a job. That is, go into the office and work from 9 to 5, don't work on the weekend, etc.
- 2) Make sure you work consistently, define your work limits, and set and stick to firm deadlines.
- 3) Try to learn as many methods and skills as you can. This will allow you to seek as many opportunities for yourself as possible, both within and outside of academia.
- 4) Utilize the social networks available to you.
- 5) In job interviews—make it clear you will come to the school if you are given an offer.
- 6) Mental health matters, so make sure you are taking care of yours.



A little bit about her as a person outside of university:

Doughnuts and cheesy grits are her favorite foods (though not necessarily together).

Things she enjoys outside of academics include: hosting and having people over, stand-up comedy, biking, hiking, and taking care of her beloved canine pals!

Other things you should know about her:

Dr. Fisk is always available by email (sfisk@kent.edu) and available to chat about research ideas. So don't be afraid to stop by her office (302) to chat or even to just introduce yourself!

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 4	Department Mixer
March 21	Spring Break Starts
March 28	Spring Classes Resume
April 15	Annual AKD Banquet
May 4	Remembrance Day
May 8	Spring Classes End

DR. KALKHOFF PIES COLLEAGUE AND DEPARTMENT HEAD, DR. SERPE!



Chatting with Dr. Jerry Lewis

by Kelly Markowski

In order to honor the 50 years of service and accomplishment at Kent State University, Elena Fox (a member of the AKD Executive Committee) was honored to interview Dr. Jerry Lewis. AKD is pleased to present you with this mini-interview of our esteemed colleague:

A little bit about him as an academic:

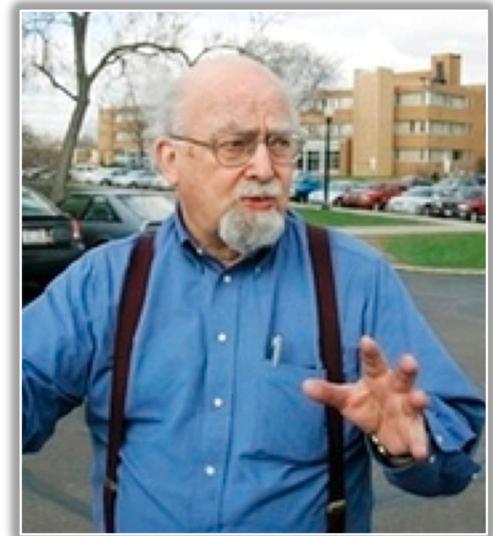
Dr. Jerry Lewis obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1970. A member of the Kent State University community since 1966, Dr. Lewis' research interests have centered around three foci: collective behavior, fan violence, and the May 4th shootings. Known for his superb teaching approach, Dr. Lewis has undoubtedly made his mark on countless students—graduates and undergraduates alike.

Some general advice for undergraduate students:

Take courses that involve writing, and do not stop taking writing classes after what is required in introductory or baseline courses. The ability to write is what differentiates people within the job market, so this skill will aid you far more than face value.

Some general advice for graduate students:

- Do not assume that learning and education occurs solely in the classroom!
- Toward that end, make an effort to get to know faculty members outside of the classroom. This can be done by attending faculty members' office hours, sending follow-up emails, and attending department events.
- At every opportunity, take advantage of brown bags and seminars as well as talks from fellow colleagues, faculty members, and visitors. This includes participating in professional meetings.
- For those students preparing to enter the job market, make sure to teach! Teaching experience will not be disregarded, especially as it applies to substantive courses that deal with topics like statistics.



“Be sure to floss!”

~ Dr. J

General advice for faculty (especially new faculty members):

- Get to know your students in order to reach them on a personal level.
- Make yourself available to students and other faculty members by making time to talk with people who visit or contact you.

General reflections on a life in academia:

If given the chance, he would definitely do it all over again. We quote, “It is the second best job in the world.” After all, “What other job, in the world, pays you to make people listen to you and then take a test on it?” In case you were wondering what the first best job in the world is, “The best job in the world is playing 2nd base for the Chicago Cubs.”

Other advice for all students alike:

When writing a paper for class, do not focus so much on the required length of the assignment. Instead, write the paper as if you were writing a real article for an audience of many, and not just one (i.e., the professor). Strive to intend for every paper to be publishable—if not immediately, then in the near future.

Graduate Student Spotlight: Megan Novisky

by Nicolle Estevez

Graduate status/Interests: Meghan Novisky is ABD and currently on the job market. She plans to defend her dissertation either this spring or summer. Her primary research interests include incarceration and health, victimization and family violence, and mixed methods.

Brief description of dissertation: Her dissertation focuses on chronic disease management and end-of-life planning among geriatric prisoners. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study incorporates data gathered from 279 surveyed interviews with older incarcerated men. Results of her dissertation contribute to the literature by showing that although the prison environment is saturated with deficiencies, prisoners still make deliberate choices about their health and how they manage chronic diseases like diabetes. Further, factors such as having connections to medical knowledge and working certain jobs reflect the existence of a context of privilege within the prison that shapes access to health related options. It is in capitalizing on these aspects of privilege where chronic disease management is best achieved. Findings also show that at least three factors are significantly related to end of life preferences among older, incarcerated men: race, experienced deprivation, and social support.



Hobbies/Likes: As a graduate student you spend a lot of time sitting on a computer so she likes to try and be active in her down time. She enjoys hiking the local trails, for example. She has also developed an interest in interior design so she likes to experiment with remodeling projects.

Graduate experience and time spent at KSU: Meghan is very happy with the experiences she has had at Kent State. She states that the faculty really prioritizes mentorship, which allowed her to grow and experiment as she developed her own research and teaching interests. Also the graduate students in our department are also very supportive of each other. To quote her: “We want to see each other succeed.”

Advice on how to survive graduate school: Stress in graduate school is unavoidable and at times it will be overwhelming. Because of this, it is important to build things into your weekly routine that will help to counteract the stress you feel. She says: “I remember telling myself a lot that I didn’t have time to take breaks. I learned over time, however, that I am actually more productive and the quality of my work is better when I take breaks. It is also important to reward yourself and be proud of both short-term and long-term accomplishments. In our discipline I think we become so used to identifying what we can do better that we often overlook what we are doing right.”

General advice to graduate students: Meghan says: “Pick a dissertation topic you really care about. You will spend more time on your dissertation than probably anything else in your life over the next couple years and you will have to talk about it frequently. I encountered quite a few roadblocks while working on my dissertation as well and because of this I struggled to stay motivated at times. Being passionate about what I was working on helped to keep me going when I felt overwhelmed and tired. Your training is also enhanced when it extends beyond the classroom and outside of your comfort zone. Actively look for and participate in opportunities as much as you can so you can be well rounded and offer a range of experiences to potential employers and colleagues down the road. I made connections early on that allowed me to collaborate with faculty on research projects not only on campus, but also off campus at NEOMED and at the University of Akron, for example.”

SOCIAL EVENTS: Past, Present, and Future

by Jacob Church

During this past fall semester, we hope you enjoyed some of the events AKD hosted. Some of these events included: the annual Baggio tournament; the First Annual NAMI Walk in memory of Dr. Gallagher; and the annual Silent Auction. But, just like your workload, the fun doesn't stop there! During the upcoming spring semester, we have just as many events planned, and the AKD Executive committee hopes that you'll attend!

First, AKD will hold the Annual Banquet that will take place 6 pm to 10 pm on Friday April 15th, 2016 at the American Legion (945 Mogadore Rd, Kent, OH 44240). At this annual banquet, we will be inducting new graduate and undergraduate Alpha Kappa Delta members as well as awarding members of our community for their academic achievements. As an added bonus, all of this will happen over a delicious catered spread, so be sure to bring your appetites and continued support for our growing AKD community! Second, the Graduate Student Research Series (GSRS) will take place throughout the spring semester. The GSRS is an opportunity for graduate students to present their original research—completed projects and proposals alike—to a supportive department during a mock-conference session. The schedule is as follows: during February, two graduate students who are interested in medical sociology and/or mental health will have the chance to present their research; in March, two graduate students who are interested in social inequalities; in April, social psychology; and in May, criminology and deviance. If you wish to present your research, please contact Nicolle Estevez (nestevez@kent.edu). We look forward to hearing your work!

Finally, this year, AKD plans to introduce one new event that will (hopefully) help all of us—faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates alike—relax after a productive school year. As of right now, we plan on joining forces with the undergraduate Sociological Collective student organization for an end of the year activity, Pie A Graduate Student! This event will be similar to event we did at the annual Baggio Tournament, except graduate students will have their chance to be in the hot seat. If you wish to elect a graduate student to get pied in the face, please indicate so by placing an anonymous note into Jacob Church's mailbox.

As always, AKD will release email reminders and more info about each event as the events draws near. So be sure to watch those inboxes!



DR. GREG GIBSON GIVES HIS PIE IN THE FACE TWO THUMBS UP!

Note of Thanks

We would like to offer some special thanks to some graduate students for their invaluable help as they solicited donations for AKD's Silent Auction. The following students spent their precious time running from business to business, talking to countless employees, and creating their own dazzling baskets to ensure that AKD could raise enough funds to achieve our goals. A very special AKD thanks to: Jessica Cebulak (who solicited the most donations!), Austin Johnson, Brooke Long, Fritz Yarrison, Bobbi Reidinger, Quentin Myers, Brennan Miller, Briana Turgeon, Kenneth Hanson, Erin Andro, Jacquelyn Coffey, Karen Martinez, and Timothy Rose.



“Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.”
~ Karl Marx

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