

## Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Welfare

### Thank You Dr. Sommer!

On behalf of Augustana College, the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Welfare would like to congratulate Dr. Vicki Sommer on her retirement and thank her for all her years of work at Augustana College. Dr. Sommer has a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in Psychology and Sociology, a Masters in Social work from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. in the Social Foundations of Education from the University of Iowa. She has been with the college since 1978 and has served as a Professor in the Sociology Department, Social Work Department, Professional Studies Division Chair and Women's and Gender Studies Program. On top of her academic career, she worked professionally as a social worker in the Quad Cities for a number of years.

Kim Roark (Class of 2016) said: "My favorite memory of Dr. Sommer was when she would dress up every Halloween as the 'Social Welfairy' with a magic wand and brightly colored hair extensions. She'd say something along the lines of 'I pretend that I can solve all the problems of the world with a wave of this wand'. She would wave it and it would make little noises. She was hilarious."

Miggy Perez (Class of 2016) said: "I have worked for Vicki for the past two years. She's sweet, funny, and understanding. I will definitely miss her!"

**She will certainly be missed  
 but we wish her luck!**



Dr. Paul Croll, Dr. Adam Kaul, Dr. Vicki Sommer, Dr. Marsha Smith, and Jean Sottos of the Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Welfare Department

## Alumni reflections on their time with Dr. Sommer

Vicki's passion and knowledge for and about social welfare was beyond anything I had experienced. She worked so hard to teach us not only the history of social welfare but how it was important today and impacted all of our lives in some way. She always encouraged us to advocate for these policies and on behalf of those who may not be able to advocate for themselves. I hope that I take the passion and knowledge Vicki demonstrated into my future career as a social worker.

I am currently pursuing my masters in social work at UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work. My first exposure to this program was actually in Vicki's History of Social Welfare class when we took a field trip to visit the Hull House. It was in that moment I decided that UIC was the school I needed to attend for my MSW. I recently went back to the Hull House and was so thankful I had the opportunity to visit the museum and take a walking tour of the neighborhood in such a purposeful setting in my undergraduate career.

I am so thankful for the opportunity I got to learn about the history and policies of social welfare and I believe this made me more prepared for grad school. *I wish you all the best, Vicki! You have inspired and spoke out for so many people and I hope you enjoy your retirement. You deserve it! The Sociology/Social Welfare department won't be the same without you!*

**Kaitlynn Markowski, Class of 2015**

During my time at Augustana, I was lucky enough to not only have Dr. Sommer as a professor for all of my Social Welfare classes but I also had the opportunity to work alongside her as a Peer Mentor. Through preparing for leading our students through orientation, we got a chance to spend time away from campus learning about one another. I really enjoyed our lunches together and hearing about Dr. Sommer's experiences and interests. In the classroom, she always motivated us to think critically and she helped me frame the ways social work play out in the world. Thanks to her teaching and guidance, I am hoping to pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. *Thank you for everything, Dr. Sommer, and best of luck to you in retirement! I hope you enjoy your new adventures!*

**Mallory Potter, Class of 2013**



In the fall of 2004, I came to Augustana with my major “undecided.” I took Dr. Sommer’s introduction to social welfare course to fulfill general requirements my first semester, and the following year, I had declared Sociology/Social Welfare as my major course of study. Dr. Sommer spoke often of her field experience, which engaged and inspired me. I remember one class in particular where she shared one of her old t-shirts with us -- it was yellow and soft from wear, and it had block letters on the front declaring that social workers cared, “unlike Ronald Reagan” (or something to that extent). During my junior year, Dr. Sommer helped me acquire an internship through the Illinois Emerging Professionals Internship Grant Program, which became my first introduction to work in child welfare. For five years following graduation, I worked with children and families in various settings in the Quad Cities (including Family Resources, where Dr. Sommer had taken us on a field trip!). In May 2015, I acquired my master’s degree in social work from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. I currently live in Madison, Wisconsin, where I am a program coordinator at a local non-profit agency. Social work values, including social justice, service, and human dignity, are part of who I am and what drive me everyday. *I love what I do, and I have Dr. Sommer to thank for exposing me to it.*

**Jessica Fienman, Class of 2008**

I met Vicki when I first arrived at Augustana College for an interview in 1982. By that time, Vicki had already been at Augie, for almost 10 years. She started in 1973 as a clinical instructor of social work in the community for the College and entering in the Department of Social Work in 1978.

As a member of the Social Work Department, Vicki was instrumental in getting the program accredited in the early 80’s. She became Department Chair while an untenured faculty member. She worked hard to maintain the program, but when it was finally closed in 1989, she developed ways in which student needs and passion in Social Work could still be met through the Social Welfare concentration that she continues to maintain to this day. She is and was a dynamic member of the field and has shepherded numerous students into the profession over the years.

*To this day, she continues to inspire students who are interested in the Social Work profession, helping them find internships and other opportunities in the community. So many of her students have gone on to get MSWs and practice today.*

**Tribute given by Dr. Marsha Smith to Vicki Sommer at the Augustana Retirement Celebration**



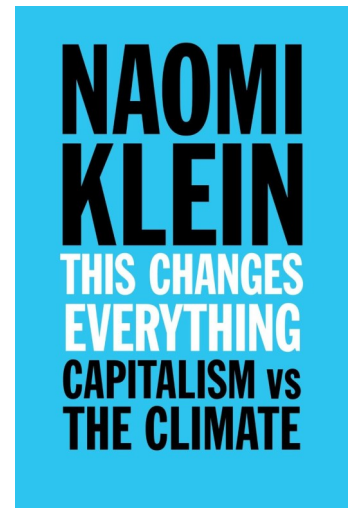
## Symposium Day, Winter 2016



The department was well represented during last term's Symposium day. Three of our professors were involved in the Celebration of Learning at Augustana, sharing information on a variety of different topics.

Dr. Carter, along with Dr. Burnham gave a talk on making Climate Justice a Reality. They hosted a screening of the documentary ***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate***, based on Naomi Klein's best-selling book of the same name. Approximately 30 students attended to watch this powerful film about global climate activism. Following the film, they facilitated a short discussion with audience members about local climate justice efforts.

Dr. Kaul co-led a session with Danny Kim Lee, Assistant Director of International Student Life, about the affects of tourism. Their session focused on tips to better appreciate and understand the positionality of travelling. They also focused on 'voluntourism' what that means and how it can be problematic. Looking at many of the study away trips critically and with ethics in mind can broaden our understanding of what it means to go there as students, Americans, and privileged peoples. Danny Kim Lee reflected on "service learning trips" he's lead in Asunción, Paraguay. Dr. Kaul will be thinking about this on his own trip to Greece this summer with Augie students.



## Attention Alumni!

We'd love to hear what you have been up to! If you have any post-graduation stories to tell, please get in touch with Jean Sottos via email at:

[jeansottos@augustana.edu](mailto:jeansottos@augustana.edu)



Brooke Armstrong, Augustana Anthropology Alum and future Masters student at SOAS, University of London



Dr. Adam Kaul and Dr. Carrie Hough, Anthropology Professors



Dr. Alicia Odewale, Diversity Teaching Fellow, and Dr. Tony Pomales, Anthropology Teaching Fellow

## Anthropology Day

World Anthropology Day occurs every year on February 18th. It is a time to celebrate the contributions the discipline has made to our understanding of humanity, and to making the world safe for cultural diversity. Because World Anthropology Day happened during Augustana's winter term finals week this year, we decided to delay our event this year and held it on March 17th. We ordered pizzas and watched a new award-winning documentary called "The Anthropologist."

We also heard from several anthropology faculty and students, past and present, who talked about their research projects and how an anthropological perspective has helped them. They illustrated the wide range of research possibilities. We also heard from an anthropology alum, Brooke Armstrong, who used her anthropological knowledge and skills when living and working abroad in Japan. Now, she is heading off to the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, England for her master's degree.

## Dr. Carter's Class Fieldtrip

On April 9th, students in Dr. Carter's Ecofeminism and Globalization course joined with classes taught by by Dr. Strunk (Geography) and Dr. Leech (History) to learn more about the intersections of urban agriculture and community development in Cedar Rapids, IA. The field trip first stopped by Matthew 25, where Eric Christianson, the farm production manager, took the group on a tour of the community center and urban gardens. The class learned how the organization engaged in the 2008 flood recovery and has continued to provide support and space for community revitalization projects. The trip then stopped at the headquarters of Feed Iowa First, a nonprofit dedicated to building food security and educating new and beginning farmers within the Cedar Rapids community. Feed Iowa First's executive director, Sonia Kendrick, shared her personal path as a war veteran, and now farmer, concerned about the availability and quality of our food. The group then stopped at NewBo City Market, a hub for local vendors and restaurants, for lunch.



Students with Dr. Carter and Sonia Kendrick, the executive director of Feed Iowa First



Students with Erick Christianson, the farm production manager at Mathew 25.



Augie Anthropology was well represented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Denver, Colorado in December, 2015. Faculty members and alums currently pursuing graduate studies in Anthropology--Anden Drolet '12 (U of Colorado-Boulder), Mollie Gossage '10 (U of Wisconsin-Madison) and Dakota Stevens '13 (U of Oklahoma) took time to chat over lunch.

Both Associate Professor Adam Kaul and 2016 Fellow Alicia Odewale presented research at the conference, Professor Odewale was awarded the AAA's Minority Dissertation Fellowship for 2015-16.



Anden Drolet, Mollie Gossage, Prof. Adam Kaul, Prof. Carrie Hough and Dakota Stevens Front: Prof. Tony Pomales and Prof. Alicia Odewale

### **Have you thought about declaring a major or a minor in Sociology or Anthropology, or getting a concentration in Social Welfare?**

Our department has a good track record for getting students into graduate programs for sociology, anthropology, social work, museum studies, archaeology, and more. A major or minor in one of our programs can really enhance your resume no matter what career path you choose whether it is business, healthcare, literature, or art. Every industry today needs employees with people-skills!

Drop by the department to talk to one of our faculty members to learn more about how a major or minor in sociology or anthropology, or a concentration in social welfare, can round out your Augustana experience!

<http://www.augustana.edu/academics/majors--areas-of-study/sociology>

# 1st African Diaspora Mock Dig In Augustana's History Gains Major Attention

Today marked the first time in Augustana history that students conducted a mock archaeological excavation as part of Augustana's Spring Symposium called the Celebration of Learning. During this symposium event, students from the course "Archaeology and History of the African Diaspora" conducted a public excavation experience to showcase the world of African Diaspora archaeology in action. In addition to this excavation experience, the students also exhibited a poster entitled "10 Things You Didn't Know About African Diaspora Archaeology", displayed their own individual research from different African Diaspora sites, and connected live with students in the Virgin Islands through Skype. The students were set up at 4 different stations: digging station, sifting station, documentation station, and public outreach station. The organization of this experience was intentional to provide an opportunity for every student to rotate through each station and experience all of the moving parts as well as the level of teamwork required in conducting a real archaeological excavation. Here are some highlights from each station.



## ***DIGGING STATION***

Digging in 10 cm levels was more challenging than they thought it would be but at this station they learned how to excavate carefully with their trowels, record depth measurements, and perform a clean sweep of their units.



## ***SIFTING STATION***

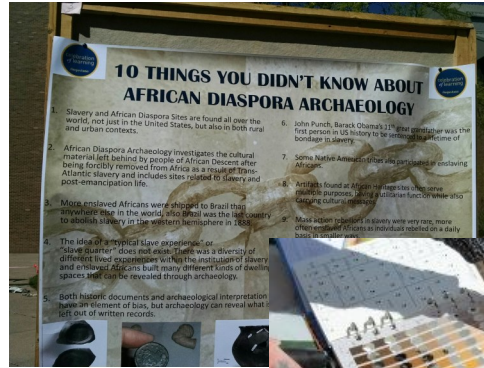
The artifacts were sifted carefully using a 1/4 inch mesh screen and bagged for later sorting and analysis, as part of the post-excavation processing, which the students learned about in class the next day.





## DOCUMENTATION STATION

Documenting the site included filling out site level forms, preparing artifact bags, taking pictures, and examining soil colors and texture.



## PUBLIC OUTREACH STATION

We engaged with over 50 visitors on site and several students in the Virgin Islands through our mock dig. This station also included an exhibition of student work as each student selected their own African Diaspora archaeology site to investigate and write up a summary. Each site selection is different and gave visitors a sense of the diversity of sites that fall under the umbrella of the African Diaspora.



Dr. Alicia Odewale

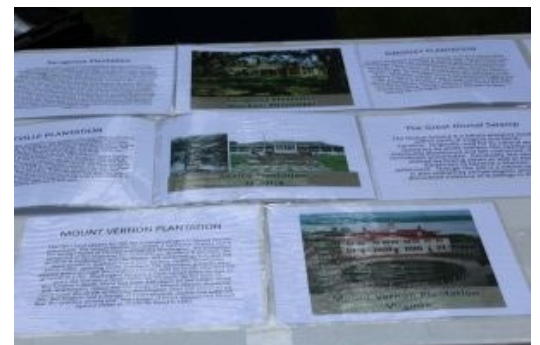
### *What did the students have to say about the experience...*

*"On TV, it is more of a treasure hunt. I have learned now that archaeology is more of a methodological approach and not a treasure hunt" -D.C.*

*"We weren't looking for gold but for artifacts that can provide evidence of a historical moment and culture. Excavating is not just the act of digging but a team effort." -B.D.*

*"It takes time to plan a dig, and afterwards complete your analysis upon a site. The dig brought to light that there are actually archaeological teams who excavate sites, and not just one lone archaeologist in a bucket hat" - A.P.*

*"In completing the excavation, we learned how difficult and structured an actual excavation can be, as well as how important it is to have a strong team helping. It is not possible to do it all alone and the film industry does a horrible representation of archaeology. This was an amazing and unique experience." -B.G.*



## Kirn Book Award 2016

Dr. Michael Kirn (1944-2008) and his wife Dr. Mary Kirn worked at Augustana for 27 years. He taught philosophy and political science before gradually moving into administration. After serving as director of freshman advising and orientation, he became director of records in 1984. Dr. Kirn continued to teach political science until a few years before his retirement in 2004. An avid reader, Dr. Kirn owned an extensive personal library of fiction and non-fiction books. He created “book lists” of books he wanted to read based on reviews in *The New York Review of Books* and the *New York Times* Sunday Book Review. He believed that a liberally educated person needed to read both broadly and in-depth. The book award was established in his memory by his wife and daughter. Applicants are asked to submit a one-page list of approximately 25 fiction and/or non-fiction books they would like to own, with a brief paragraph indicating why they have chosen those books. All students are invited to submit applications, but they should indicate an interest in/appreciation of one or more of the disciplines that meant the most to Dr. Kirn: anthropology, classics, history, philosophy, political science and sociology. Just as Dr. Kirn kept a list of books that he wanted to read, you too can be keeping a list of books for next year’s award! **Congratulations to this years winners: Amanda Schar and Kathryn Gorzek!**



**Alpha Kappa Delta** is an international sociology honor society dedicated to excellence in academics, the research of social problems, and other social and intellectual events that lead to the improvement of the human condition. The motto of AKD is “Anthropon Katamantanein Diakonesin” or “to investigate humanity for the purpose of service.” It is a non-secret, democratic, international society of scholars dedicated to the field of sociology. AKD provides honoraria for initiation speakers, funds students travel to regional meetings, and funds research symposia. In order to be selected for membership, undergraduate students must have majors in anthropology or sociology and maintain at least a 3.5 GPA. **Congrats to our Alpha Kappa Delta winners: Maria Catalano, Julie Cullotta, Ruth Jesse, Eleanor Nolan, Sara Ruthberg and Emily Wilder!**

AKΔ

**Sociology Majors:**

Daniel Andon  
 Mariaelisa Claros  
 Victoria Gillon  
 Selena Gonzalez  
 Yamari Gonzalez  
 Ryan McCormic  
 Charlotte Miller  
 Ladonna Miller  
 Eleanor Nolan  
 Kelli Ommudson  
 Kimberly Roark  
 Sara Ruthberg  
 Sara Ruzevich  
 Emily Spillios  
 Emily Wilder

**Sociology Majors****Concentration****Social Welfare**

Cheyenne Imel  
 Ruth Jesse  
 Mecca Joseph  
 Jeremy Koranda  
 Cecilia Casas  
 Maria Catalano  
 Julie Cullotta  
 Ashley Newell  
 Passion Nixon  
 Emma Novak  
 Jenna Parente

**Sociology Minors:**

Alexander Gorsuch  
 Kelly Johlle  
 Emma Levich  
 Alexander Mahaffey  
 Cara Christal  
 Cori Duncan  
 Amy Fagan  
 Migdalia Perez  
 Nicole Pritchard  
 Kelsi Rogers  
 Jawan Straughter  
 Eric Veverka

**Anthropology****Minors**

Corbin Delgado  
 Ruth Jessee  
 Jeremy Koranda  
 Anna Novotny  
 Katie O'Brien  
 Chelsey Peterson  
 Mae Ruzek



Graduating Senior of Sociology– Social Welfare  
 Jeremy Koranda sharing his work at the Celebration  
 of Learning Symposium day May 4th 2016

***Congratulations  
 to all of our  
 graduating majors  
 and minors!***





The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Welfare would like to wish safe travels to the Augustana students traveling to Greece this summer.

The program will be led by Dr. Kristen Day (Classics) and our Anthropology professor: Dr. Adam Kaul! Students will visit Athens, Mycenae, Olympia, Delphi, Crete, Santorini, and Mykonos and learn of mythology, culture, and tourism.

**Keep an eye out for a report in the Fall Newsletter!**

