

# The Social Connection: Sociology At Ashford University

## Welcome From the Sociology Program Chair: Dr. A says 'Hey!'

Welcome to our Fall/Winter edition of the Social Connection! It comes to you just as I am completing our Sociology program review for our accreditors. Also since we last communicated I have participated in the Fall Commencement festivities in San Diego, CA. It was wonderful meeting our Sociology graduates! All the events were a great success and below is a picture of the CoLA program

management team in their finest doctorate regalia. [Note: I'm missing from this picture as I lead the CoLA graduates into the ceremony!] Such an

honor for me and for our Sociology Program! Congratulations again to our Fall Graduates of 2014 (especially our Sociology ones!).



## Happy 1st Birthday to The Social Connection newsletter!

A year ago, the Sociology program launched the 'Social Connection', a newsletter to connect with our esteemed faculty and amazing students! Dr. Alden placed this task

in the capable hands of Dr. Nichole Boutte-Heiniluoma as editor. While the newsletter is a collaborative project of the Sociology team, Dr. B did a great job with

'connecting us' to produce the content since our first edition in 2013. 2014 was a great year for SOC and we look forward to connecting more with you in 2015!



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## Associate Faculty Spotlight: Caitlin Hollis

Ms. Caitlin Hollis is an associate faculty member at Ashford University. She began teaching for Ashford in October 2013, and loves it! Originally from San Francisco, CA she is currently living in the DC Metro area with her fiancé and dog Kelsey. She received her BA in Social Science and holds a Master of Social Work, both from California State University, Chico. When not teaching, she works with older adults as an Adult Protective Services Social Worker. She has had

experience working with multiple populations and in multiple settings, however prefers to work



with the geriatric population. Caitlin enjoys teaching students from all over the United States and those serving abroad. Students bring a wealth of knowledge to the classroom, and it's great students are able to share their experiences and learn from one another. Through teaching at Ashford, she has learned the goal to a successful online course is consistent feedback. Feedback and open communication keeps motivation high while helping students monitor their progress.

## Climate March comes to San Diego

In the vein of community involvement and activism, Dr. Alden was pleased to do her part to highlight the issue of climate change at the San Diego People's Climate March on September 21<sup>st</sup>. 1500 San Diegan's met downtown and joined in on the historical day to participate in



lem of climate change. It was a beautiful day and an honor to be a part of this historic event.



## Update on Sociology Program Review: Diversity, Community Involvement, and Activism

In our first newsletter last year Dr. Alden shared the importance of the Sociology Program Review she was performing this year as Program Chair. Some of the key themes coming out of the review for our Sociology program, is a desire to focus on Diversity, Community Involvement, and Activism. In aid of this in January 2015 we will add

a new minor: Global Studies! Stay tuned in 2015 for some more big announcements of new courses and programs which will speak to these themes. It's going to be

even more exciting to be a part of this vibrant program!



## Learning about Sociology: What is a Social Movement?

“A Social Movement is a broad alliance or network of individuals, groups, and organizations, united by their shared goals, aspirations, and interests. A social movement may comprise trade unions, political parties, cooperatives, neighborhood action groups, pressure groups, or any other collective organizations, in so far as they share a common political purpose. Social movements may include formal organi-

zations, but they are not themselves organizations with a formal structure of leadership and organization.” (Fulcher & Scott, 2011)



### *So...What is your ‘Social Movement’?*



Social Movements “have been concerned with protest and change, rather than with defense of the existing order” (Scott, 1990). With our growing interest in community involvement and activism, it is important for Sociologists to not only research what happens in society, but highlight

where social problems are. So... what is YOUR social movement? Do you participate in any community groups seeking to create change in your community? If so please share it with us by reply email and we’ll highlight your efforts in a future ‘Social Connection’ edition.

### *Happy Holidays from the Sociology Program!*

As this newsletter comes to a close, we have already enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving in the US, and the holiday season for all walks of life is in full swing. However you choose to enjoy the season, the Sociology Program wishes you a happy one—surrounded by love, support, abundance, family and friends.

**See you in the NewYear!**



Ashford University is a vibrant community that offers effective learning online. Whether you pursue your education on line or in the traditional college experience, you'll find both infused with the same history of academic excellence.



**References:**

Fulcher, J. and Scott, J. (2011) *Sociology*. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press: London.

Scott, A (1990) *Ideology and the New Social Movements*. Unwin Hyman: London.