Gary Schlesinger (1967) has been named a super lawyer for the tenth consecutive year. Gary has six grandchildren—newborn to 10 years old.

Katie Hamilton (1969) (pictured with her husband/partner, Gene) is the co-founder of www.divornot.com, a website about the cost of home improvements that helps homeowners compare the cost of hiring a contractor with doing it themselves. In June 2015 the site was a winner in the National Association of Real Estate Editors (NAREE) 65th Annual Journalism Awards Competition, recognizing excellence in reporting, writing and editing stories about residential and commercial real estate. The site, a companion to the weekly column Do It Yourself Or Not by Katie and her husband/partner Gene and I, has been syndicated by Tribune Content Agency since 1987. It recently underwent a redesign to make it responsive to all three size devices - laptop, tablet and cell phone - to create a better user experience.

Mary Kurns (1972) is enjoying her retirement in the Oak Brook/Westmont, IL area. Mary has her own vegetable garden, does ceramics and jewelry making, enjoys improvisation, reading books and being a member of Brookfield Zoo. Presently, she is helping out a friend who is recovering from bypass surgery. She loves being a grandma to her four grandchildren. Mary also attended Mundelein College and lived in Coffey Hall!

Monica White (Powell) (1996) just completed a yearlong fellowship in Population Health Improvement with the Mid America Public Health Leadership Institute as part of their Year 22 cohort.

Kerryann DiLoreto (1999) is Senior Project Director at the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Kerryann oversees the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS), which includes in-person interviews around the country with Graduates and their Siblings. She also directs the Wisconsin Early Child Care Study (WECCS).


Christopher Helt (1990) is a Chicago attorney concentrating on federal immigration litigation involving political asylum, refugee law and deportation/removal proceeding matters before the U.S. immigration court (the Executive Office for Immigration Review) and federal court federal immigration litigation involving political asylum, refugee law and deportation/removal proceeding matters before the U.S. immigration court (the Executive Office for Immigration Review) and federal court.

Recently, he represented Dina Matute, a nine year old girl from Honduras, who traveled nearly 2000 miles as an unaccompanied minor and was granted refugee status in Chicago by the US government. Dina is one of over 68,000 unaccompanied minor children who entered the US last year, many of them fleeing from gang violence and poverty in Honduras and other central American countries.

Above is a photo of Dina and Chris after she was granted asylum. Below are links to stories about the case.


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Jeff Jenks (2001) married Kelli Dias (now Kelli Jenks) on July 25, 2015 in San Diego, California. He is working at the University of California, San Diego, doing clinical tuberculosis research.

Katy (Guzder) Hurvitz (2003) gave birth to a beautiful daughter, Maya Rose Hurvitz. Maya was born on July 24, 2015 and weighed 6lbs 6oz.

Leticia Nieto (2003) is Loyola’s new Director of Alumni Relations. Leticia has also worked at Loyola as Director of International Admissions.

Meghan Burke (PhD-2009) an Assistant Professor at Illinois Wesleyan was named one of the 40 Under 40: Professors Who Inspire by nerdscholar.

Laurie Cooper Stoll (PhD-2011) won the ASA Section on Race, Gender, and Class 2015 Book award for her book, Race and Gender in the Classroom: Teachers, Privilege and Enduring Social Inequalities.

Carlene Sipma-Dysico (PhD-2013) started her full-time position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. Before leaving her position at North Central College in Naperville, she was able to be one of two faculty members who took students to the Highalnds of Guatemala (Totonicapan, San Lucas Toliman, etc) to engage in service learning and work with Maya artisans in December 2014 and July 2015.

Todd Fuist (PhD-2013) is an Assistant Professor at Arkansas State University in the Criminology, Sociology, and Geography department.

Andy Greenia (2013) is a newly hired Program Coordinator with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Baltimore, MD. He is working with organizations and volunteers in Washington D.C., Raleigh, NC, Nashville, TN, and Atlanta, GA. Andrew also had an article published in Sociological Insight, Volume 7.

Jessica Tapia (2013) is enrolled in Loyola’s University’s Social Work program.

Steven Metzmaker (2014) is working as the Residence Life Coordinator for the John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University.

Sara Asato (2015) is attending Dominican University in their Post-Bac Pre-Medical program.

Melissa Gesbeck (PhD-2015) and Jodie Dewey (PhD-2010) presented at the August 2015 ASA meeting. Their presentation (Dys) Functional Diagnosing: Sociological Ambivalence in the Medical and Therapeutic Management of Patients.

Melissa and Jodie have also co-authored a forthcoming article in Humanity & Society, titled “(Dys) Functional Diagnosing: Mental Health Diagnosis, Medicalization, and the Making of Transgender Patients”.

Matthew Logelin
2015 Loyola University of Chicago Damen Award Recipient from the Graduate School

Matthew Logelin (MA-2002) is an author, blogger, public speaker, and founder of the Liz Logelin Foundation. In March 2008, he lost his wife, Elizabeth, to a pulmonary embolism 27 hours after she gave birth to their first child, Madeline. He went on to chronicle his family’s story on his blog and in his first book, Two Kisses for Maddy: A Memoir of Loss & Love, which spent seven weeks on the New York Times Best Seller List.
Jen Kelso (2015) is in Seattle with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest. Her position is with a nonprofit called the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, where she is serving as the Asylum Intake Coordinator.

Kyle Lilly (2015) is serving with City Year in Chicago. He is doing a year of post graduate volunteer work.

Elise Nethercott (2015) is doing a year of post graduate volunteer service with New Sector Alliance.

Alumni Outreach

Send all news to: Stephanie DeCaluwe at Sociology@luc.edu

To access Loyola’s Alumni Directory log into your directory profile to revise your information and never miss the latest news from your alma mater at http://LUC.edu/alumni/directory. For other alumni questions, please contact LUC-alum@luc.edu.

Now Open
Alumni House
6312 N. Winthrop Ave.

A Reflection by Edgar Cruz (2014)

It has been a little over year since I graduated and I am stunned to know that being a student is offers a different sense of experiences compared to being a young working professional.

Since May 9th of 2014, I have pushed myself a lot more than I ever have. That summer post-graduation I was working as a community organizer assisting the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council in their voter registration, in an effort to get more people involved in the political system, but also to work towards raising the minimum wage in the state is Illinois and the city of Chicago, as well as vote in new elected officials.

At the conclusion of my internship through Midwest Academy I packed two suitcases, a backpack, and some pocket change and flew out to Washington, D.C. to participate in AmeriCorps. I served the national educational nonprofit called Higher Achievement, which serves middle school youth through afterschool programming and summer school programming. I knew I wanted to work with youth, because I thrive in that environment.

As a Sociologist, you cannot help, but notice the little things that influence your experience. Like when some of my students were leaving the program, because their families could not afford to live in the city. With hundreds of young professionals moving into the city to be closer to their job, and no housing developments going up, my families cannot afford to pay the increase in rent. One of the worst realizations is that although you come in with a good heart to serve the community, you are also a contributor of gentrification – college debt is not the only thing you inherit these days right after college, you earn privilege and that means increase in property value everywhere you go.

With that being said, my students are what keep me focused. As many of you know, as an AmeriCorps fellow you are living off a ‘very’ modest stipend. There are times when I question why I did not just stay in Chicago and continue serving the Southwest side of Chicago and be content with serving with a nice salary of $20 an hour. My students are what keep me grounded.