



**GEORGE MASON  
UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY**

**STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATION**



**ALPHA KAPPA DELTA INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIOLOGY  
HONOR SOCIETY  
INITIATIONS  
2020**

**MAY 20, 2020  
6:30 PM- 7:30 PM**



# Alpha Kappa Delta



## Inductees

Christine Ray

Fanni Farago

Karen Bryant

Karmen Perry

Nina Pastor

Olivia Cintron

# Outstanding Sociology MA Student Award:

## *Selena Chaivaranon*



Selena Chaivaranon was born in Thailand and currently lives in Arlington, Virginia. She earned her Bachelors in Sociology from George Mason University in Fall of 2017 and entered the GMU Masters program in Fall of 2018. Her areas of interest include media and culture, and she has explored a variety of projects revolving around the Transformers franchise, and around witches and witch trials.

# Dennis~Weathers Sociology Award:

## *Sarah Ochs*



Upon graduating from St. John's College, Sarah Nidia Ochs moved home to work as an art conservator. After years in conservation and working internationally, she began a career in the non-profit sector, eventually translating that into a Master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution, which she received in 2014. Sarah is currently a PhD student in the Sociology Department and is working her interest in race and racism into a dissertation proposal looking at the epistemologies of antiracist projects in comparison to arts and cultural practices. She is an active member of the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project and Richmond for All, organizations which work to make Richmond a more equitable city.

## OLLI Scholarship:

# *Daniel Kamran Afzal*



An immigrant to the US, I spent 17 years in Colombia, Guatemala and Papua New Guinea working with indigenous peoples organizations and returned to complete my BA at Mason and enter PhD program. . . and beginning a Masters of Social Work in the Fall. My research interest is to explore the psychic life of histories in therapeutic encounters and I hope to become a clinical practitioner with a focus on mental health care for immigrant and refugee survivors of torture and trauma.

# AKD Outstanding Graduating Senior Award: *Angelica Gonzalez*



My name is Angelica Gonzalez. I was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia. My interest in research has always been about the topic of immigrants and immigration having both my parents come from Mexico and my experience working in an immigration law firm. In the future I hope to work in a non-profit to help asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking.

# Outstanding Sociology Undergraduate Student Award:

*Gergana Hardy*



I am currently a junior undergraduate student, born in Bulgaria but lived in the US for 15 years now. I am a candidate for the BAM (Bachelor's to Accelerated Master's) in sociology. I plan to pursue an MA and PhD in sociology and philosophy in the future. My interests so far are sociological methods, theory, sociology of work, public sociology and philosophy of social science among many others.

# Aliza J. Kolker Award: *Freddy Lopez*



Freddy Lopez is a sophomore majoring in Sociology with a Concentration Inequality and Social Change and double minors in Data Analysis and Legal Studies. He is a research assistant in the Honors College Social Science Research Lab, where he studies the way Second Generation Immigrants perceive meritocracy during their senior year of college. He has also conducted research on the relationship between the Latinx and African American communities in the U.S., and the impact of Latinx immigration on the cultural landscape of Columbia Heights, D.C. During his free time, Freddy likes to go for runs and spend time with family and friends.

# The Devlin Family Award:

## *Karmen Perry*



Karmen is a rising senior from Greensboro, North Carolina. She is majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Deviance, Crime, and Social Control and is double minoring in Immigration Studies and Global Affairs. She is involved research and her goal is to produce work that will help to dismantle systematic racism and inequalities in America.

# Dean's Challenge Recipient: *Lilianna Deveneau*



My name is Lili Deveneau, a sociology master's student with a passion for social justice and human rights: through research, policy, and collaboration, I aim to eradicate child sexual abuse via collaborative education and prevention efforts. As such, I challenge myself in each course, tailoring writing and research assignments to further explore root causes, theories, systems, programs, and challenges to ultimately dismantle this convoluted pandemic issue, and am a National Sexual Assault Hotline volunteer for RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), the largest U.S. anti-sexual violence organization.

# Dean's Challenge Recipient: *Kyler Buckner*



I have a passion for teaching, evident in both my work at Mason's Communications Center—where I instruct peers on speech outlines and delivery—as well as my position as an Assistant Debate Coach at Little Rock Central high school. Resisting the temptation of complacency in the face of the world's vast inequalities as well as acknowledging when my perspective inevitable falls short is no small task, but it is one that I remain committed to because of the invaluable lessons others have taught and continue to teach me.