JIM McINTOSH

Retired after 50 years of working at Lehigh, Jim McIntosh can still be found daily in his office in the Sociology and Anthropology (SOAN) department. He has witnessed the department develop over his years here, changing its name from “Social Relations” to SOAN and increasing its faculty from five to more than twelve professors.

McIntosh said the department supported him when he was promoted to full professor and when he was granted tenure. He served 15 years as the department chair.

“The main reason I took Lehigh’s offer over two others is because of the interdisciplinary potential of the department,” McIntosh said.

While at Lehigh, McIntosh received several awards and recognitions. He won the Hillman Award for a tutoring project funded by the state in 1994. He was asked to carry the university mace for graduation and other university events in 2003. He was recognized for excellence in advising students at an awards dinner in 2015. He was praised by President John Simon at Founders Day in 2016 and received a replica of Asa Packer’s walking stick—a recognition of leadership. And he was appointed by Simon as the faculty representative to the NCAA for 13 years.

McIntosh said throughout his decades teaching at Lehigh, he never viewed it as a job because it was merely what he did: profess. He created and taught courses relating to his studies on alcohol and drugs. His area of focus, he said, is important and relevant as drug issues continue to surface across the country, and college campuses deal with the prevalence of alcohol. McIntosh is currently writing a book based on his “Alcohol, Science and Society” course.

“My open door policy is continued,” McIntosh said. “Students are welcomed to drop in—be prepared to talk about sociology/anthropology.”
FACULTY NEWS:
PROFESSOR DAVID SMALL TO RETIRE

After dedicating 33 years of his career to inspiring students and ground-breaking research at Lehigh, David Small will retire this summer. He joined Lehigh's Classics Department in 1987 and was appointed department chair soon after. He later moved into the Department of Social Relations, which ultimately became the Sociology & Anthropology Department we know today. David has conducted archeological research in Italy, Greece, Israel, Crete, Honduras, and multiple sites in the Lehigh Valley. He is a true scholar of the classics. In addition to archeology, he has taught Latin and Ancient Greek language courses. He has conducted research on the ancient Maya in Honduras and taught courses on Mayan cosmology and archeology. David is a very popular instructor and says he will miss teaching, especially his favorite course: Archeology of Death. His teaching philosophy has been to “meet students on their own terms and bring them around slowly” and “always be flexible.” In Archeology of Death students use data from human remains to solve murder mysteries. The course ended with students doing research in a local cemetery. David received his PhD in Classical Archeology from Cambridge University. He is an elected fellow of the Cambridge Philosophical Association and American Anthropological Association. He received a Fulbright Fellowship and Lehigh’s Franz Fellowship for Junior Faculty. He plans to continue as Co-editor-in-Chief of the journal Archaeology and Texts, which he founded. He is working on a book about political evolution and the use of symbols and space by elites in Ancient Greece. David’s intellectual wit and off-beat humor have amused students and colleagues at Lehigh for over three decades. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him the best in his retirement.

STUDENT NEWS:
REILLY CALLAHAN

Graduate student Reilly Callahan received an NIH grant for a project promoting cervical Papanicolaou tests, or Pap smears, for all people who need them—regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rates for testing are significantly lower for transgender men and lesbian women for a variety of reasons, including stigma in our healthcare system and lack of accurate LGBT-specific knowledge among providers.

“As a MA candidate in sociology who hopes to study medicine, I’m incredibly interested in this project,” Callahan said. “I’m thankful I could help my organization, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, secure funding for this campaign.”

The community benefits from the project because it addresses health disparities that affect the LGBT+ community. In the 2018 Pennsylvania LGBT Health Needs Assessment, more than half of all LGBT+ respondents reported that they sometimes, often, or always fear that health care providers will react negatively to their LGBT+ identity. This number is even higher (75%) among transgender and/or gender non-conforming respondents.

Being a graduate student in the SOAN department helped Callahan secure the grant for her project. After being involved in scientific research as an undergraduate student, Callahan continues to learn to be concise with her writing. She was able to use these skills to write a compelling proposal that earned her organization the NIH grant.

“I’ve been grant writing for my organization for over 9 months now, and my biggest piece of advice is to read the directions carefully. Very carefully,” Callahan said. “I know this sounds obvious, but even something as small as deciding to staple your pages can ruin your chances if the funder says not to bind the proposal.”

She also advises people to do ample research on both the funder and the specific grant before submitting a proposal, because even something as simple as catering the proposal’s word choices to the funder’s language can make a big difference. Callahan encourages all students to apply for a grant. It is a helpful source for funding, as she can attest.

FEATURED ALUMNI:
MARTIN COLEMAN

Earning a master’s degree in Sociology in 1994 and another in Education in 1999 at Lehigh, Martin Coleman is now managing his family’s commercial real estate business. He retired from teaching in the NYC Department of Education after over 15 years. Coleman said the faculty in the SOAN department were “all very professional, scholarly, serious, collaborative and caring individuals.” He said he always felt challenged and encouraged by his professors in his studies and work, and he used to visit campus when he lived in NYC. He had a good relationship with recently retired Dr. Judith Lasker.

“Lehigh’s program helped me immensely to learn how to strategically and scientifically think through complex issues and problems to find viable answers and solutions as well as the possible negative and positive outcomes of any decisions made using the data gathered,” Coleman said.

He said he uses this knowledge now to aid him with almost everything in his life. After graduating from Lehigh’s sociology program, Coleman worked for a national PPO in Chicago and later returned to Lehigh to earn his Master’s Degree in Education. Then, he was the director of the Jewish Family Ambassadors (JFAs) Young Adult Division at the Jewish Federation of Baltimore. In 1999, he worked for several tech startups in Silicon Valley. He then worked on Wall Street for Computer Associates, where he was directly affected by 9/11, seeing first-hand the planes strike the World Trade Center towers.

Coleman’s experiences gave him the passion to teach and mentor students, as well as serve clients through his family business. He said he hopes students today will develop these same skills and experiences through their education, especially through studies like sociology.

“I do hope Lehigh will always respect the importance of a liberal arts education as one of the basic foundations of a solid, well-rounded education,” Coleman said.