

# Sociology Matters



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## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

### Welcome from the Chair – Dr. Beth Lyman

Happy Fall to you all! It's an exciting year for the Department of Sociology, with two new faculty and a new Director for the department's Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR). Dr. Stephanie Bradley hails from Florida State University, and she makes unique contributions in her academic expertise and teaching repertoire (keep an eye out for a special topics seminar, Money and Society, for next semester), and her career move from the banking industry to sociology. Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer comes to us from North Carolina State University, and she is bringing environmental sociology and coursework in Appalachian cultures back to the department. Dr. Bodenhamer is also an alumnus of our department, so, for us, it's good to have her back. Another change is that Dr. Wisecup is now the Director of the CSCR. Under her directorship, the CSCR is the busiest it has ever been. I hope you all have the opportunity to engage with the CSCR in some way during your time in our major.

Have a Terrific Semester!

### SPRING 2018 COURSES

**SOCY110** – Introduction to Sociology

**SOCY 121** – Understanding Cultures

**SOCY 250** – Social Problems

**SOCY 326** – Men & Women in Society

**SOCY 331** – Race and Ethnic Relations

**SOCY 360** – Sociological Theory

**SOCY 365** – Society and the Individual

**SOCY 411** – Appalachian Cultures

**SOCY 443** – Deviance

**SOCY 480** – Survey Research Methods

**SOCY 493** – Practicum in Sociology

**SOCY 495** – Money and Society

## Roots with Wings Awarded Virginia Foundation Grant

The Old Church Gallery, Ltd., recently received a \$5000 matching grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for their ongoing project, "From the Front Porch to the Front Lines: Rural Virginia on a Threshold of Change," a multi-faceted effort to promote and facilitate public access to a trove of oral history interviews and primary documents.

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities grant will fund the production of DVD sets with selections of oral history films for community distribution and library holdings, and for a public presentation at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd, as well as introductory presentations at each of the three other Montgomery Floyd Regional Library branches: Christiansburg, Shawsville, and Blacksburg. The forty-two short films created from twenty-eight interviews included in the grant are the result of a nine-year effort to collect the stories of Floyd County residents who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II.

Since 1998, the Old Church Gallery's Floyd Story Center has preserved the recorded oral history of the community through programs such as the



**From left: Dr. Melinda Wagner, RU Roots with Wings Director, with Kathleen Ingoldsby, Grant Project Director at the Old Church Gallery, and Carolyn Cades, Assistant Director, Grants and Community Programs, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, at the 2017 VFH Grant Directors Meeting July 7.**

"Roots with Wings," Place-based Education Project. The "Roots with Wings" project, 2007-2017, brings Radford University mentors, high school staff, and community non-profit volunteers together during the school semester to teach the discipline of oral history collection to Floyd County High School students.

The Roots With Wings oral history interviews from 2007-2015 focused on Floyd County residents' WWII experiences, while the project's 2016-17 interview series explored a new "Community and Neighborhood" theme. Visit the project blog to see each semester's progress illustrated in capsule entries:

[www.floydstorycenter.blogspot.com](http://www.floydstorycenter.blogspot.com)

The 2017 Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Grants will support twelve projects across Virginia, connecting people and ideas to explore history, experience, and to inspire cultural engagement. VFH reaches audiences across the Commonwealth and beyond through Community Programs, Digital Initiatives, Scholarship, and the Virginia Center for the Book. For more information, visit [VirginiaHumanities.org](http://VirginiaHumanities.org).

**Note: a story based on the following press release from the Floyd Story Center was printed on page A5 in the July 13 edition of the Floyd Press.**



## Welcome Drs. Bodenhamer & Bradley

Dr. Bodenhamer discovered sociology while taking an Introduction to Sociology course at Radford University. Bodenhamer majored in sociology and minored in international studies and Mandarin Chinese, graduating from RU in 2010. She continued her graduate studies at North Carolina State University where she specialized in rural sociology, global change and development, and environmental sociology. Bodenhamer's major research agenda focuses on the impact of extractive industries on environmental conditions, community, and work. Collecting original qualitative data, she has examined how the intersection of power, discourse, social control, and environmental risk collectively shape perceptions of coal and

mountaintop removal in the Appalachian region. Currently, Dr. Bodenhamer is examining the contestation of black lung disease among coal miners in central Appalachia. Dr. Bodenhamer feels privileged to return to Radford University and pay it forward as an Assistant Professor of Sociology.

### **Dr. Bodenhamer's Office is CHBS 3108**

Dr. Bradley followed an indirect path to sociology. After majoring in marketing at Clemson University, Dr. Bradley built a banking career that consisted of two main phases. She first served as a branch manager and retail lender, working with

economically diverse clients and coworkers. Next, her passion for teaching came alive during her time as a corporate trainer and training manager. Her earlier observation of various inequalities, lifelong passion for social justice, and newly cemented dream of becoming a teaching-focused college professor all propelled Dr. Bradley to earn a PhD in sociology from Florida State University. As a graduate student, she developed an interest in understanding forces that contribute to economic inequality. Today, Dr. Bradley's research and teaching experiences often occur at the intersection of politics, power, welfare, and stratification. She explores these sociological mainstays by examining tax and transfer systems, a field known as fiscal sociology. It is no exaggeration when Dr. Bradley proclaims that it is a dream realized to work with her students and colleagues at Radford University.

**Dr. Bradley's Office is CHBS 3114**

**RADFORD**  
UNIVERSITY  
Department of Sociology

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Center for Social and  
Cultural Research

**SAM MONTANA PROMOTED TO  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**

Sam Montana has worked as a Research Assistant in the CSCR for over a year. His primary duties involve working with Dr. Joanna Hunter on the Peaceline Project.

The Peaceline Project, a collaborative project between the CSCR and the Women's Resource Center, assesses the impact of programming in nearly all middle and high schools in the New River Valley. The Peaceline Curriculum focuses on building healthy relationships by raising awareness about violence, domestic violence, domestic abuse, and sexual harassment.

Sam's important, ongoing contributions to this community partner were recently recognized when the CSCR Advisory Board unanimously agreed to promote Sam to Research Associate in the CSCR.



# ALUMNI DAY

On October 19, the Department of Sociology hosted its annual Alumni Day. This event complements the Senior Seminar in Sociology, a professionalization course that serves as the capstone experience for sociology majors. In the course, students learn to market their skills and prepare for entry into the workplace or graduate school. During this year's Alumni Day, alumni and other mentors came together to share their career and graduate school experiences with attendees, including senior students who are exploring their options as they near graduation.

The event was open to the public and included two formal panels and multiple opportunities to network. Three alumni participated in

the career panel—Jess Chandler ('12), Shylah Cundall ('13), and Blake Sholes ('16). Jess works as a Behavior Specialist with Albemarle County Public Schools, Shylah serves as a Therapeutic Day Treatment Provider with New River Valley Community Services, and Blake works as a Transitional Case Manager with Highlands Community Services. They provided the audience with lively discussion filled with great advice and experiences concerning preparing for the job market, networking, interviewing, and applying sociological training to work after graduating from Radford University.

The graduate school panel brought together four experts with diverse vantage points



on the graduate school experience—Dr. Bodenhamer, Nijeria Jones, Phil Hardy, and Dr. Scott Dunn. Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer ('10) and Nijeria Jones ('15) shared their experiences as RU sociology undergraduates who went on to attend graduate school. After graduating from RU, Dr. Bodenhamer went to NC State where she earned a PhD in sociology in May 2017. She now works as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at RU. Nijeria Jones also graduated from our sociology program, after which time she joined the RU Department of Counselor Education's graduate program. Nijeria is currently working towards her Master of Science with plans to graduate in 2018. Phil is the Director of Graduate Recruitment for the Graduate School at RU. In addition, he is working towards earning an MBA from RU. Dr. Dunn is an Associate Professor in

the RU School of Communications. He also serves as that program's Graduate Coordinator. Collectively, the four panelists provided their varied insights concerning the realities of graduate school, guiding questions to consider when considering this path, ways to prepare for such an endeavor, and tips on how to be successful as a graduate student.

**Dr. Stephanie Bradley, a new member of the department's faculty, hosted the event with the support of the Department of Sociology and the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. Alumni interested in participating in future Alumni Day events are invited to contact Dr. Bradley at [sbradley20@radford.edu](mailto:sbradley20@radford.edu).**



Alumni day panelists, (from left to right) Shyla Cundall, ('13), Jess Chandler ('12), and Blake Sholes ('16) share their career advice at Alumni Day.



Nijeria Jones ('15) shares her experiences with graduate school during Alumni Day



The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) is pleased to announce the 2017 winners of its annual Sustainability Awards for their outstanding achievements and progress toward sustainability. AASHE bestows its prestigious awards on the institutions and individuals that are leading higher education to a sustainable future.

This year AASHE received 230 total entries — a record number — with winners named in three categories:

The Campus Achievement Sustainability Award honors higher education institutions for successful implementation of projects that advance sustainability. The Student Sustainability Leadership Award honors students and/or student teams from higher education who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting sustainability on campus. The Campus Sustainability Research Award recognizes research that contributes to the advancement of higher education sustainability.

Dr. Wisecup and her colleagues, Drs. Dennis Grady and Rick Roth, and Julio Stephens, won The Campus Sustainability Research Award for their article, published in the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*. The research examines the relative efficacy of different intervention strategies for reducing electricity use in campus residence halls.

## Spring 2017 Graduation

