



Sociology Matters

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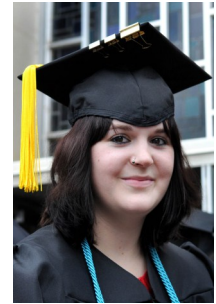
Fall 2010 Commencement

Congratulations to All Our Fall 2010 Major and Minor Graduates!



Anthropology major Josh Skinner and Sociology major Kari Elliott were resplendent in their academic regalia.

Note the “golden binder clips” on Kari’s hat!



Voices of Experience: 2010 Alumni Panel

On October 7th, five alumni from the department talked with students and other audience members about the ways in which their experiences as sociology majors help them in their careers. Among the panelists were: **Alyson Brackin (2010)**, an Intellectual Disabilities and Mental Health Support Specialist with AGAPE Counseling and Therapeutic Services; **Anna Fierro (2009)**, a Case

Manager for Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, the Community Services Board in Roanoke; **Jessica Johns (2004)**, the New Student Programs Coordinator for the Dean of Students Office at Virginia Tech; **Stacey (Snowden) Rosales (2008)**, a Commodity Buyer for Danaher Motion; and **Rick Sparks (1999)**, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of New Student Programs at Virginia Tech.

While each panelist had unique stories about their career paths and how their sociology backgrounds have served them along the way, a common theme for them was that the sociological perspective, knowledge of social structures and social forces, and methodological training were helpful to them in their post-graduate endeavors. Thank you, panelists, for sharing your experiences and advice.



Famous Sociology Majors:

Rev. Jesse Jackson

Saul Alinsky

Ronald Reagan

Alonzo Mourning

Sen. Barbara Mikulski

Rep. Maxine Waters

Bobby Taylor

Joe Theisman

Ahmad Rashad

Cardinal Theodore
McCarrick

Heading Off to Work

It's never too early to start thinking about getting that first, post-graduation job! Internships are a great way to test out a field of interest to you, develop skills that you can carry forward with you anywhere you go (human capital!), and make important connections

with people who can help you in your search for your first job as an RU graduate (social capital!). As you begin considering the many opportunities for internship, check out the following sites: Department of Sociology internship information site (<http://>

soc.asp.radford.edu/Internships.htm),

Hire a Highlander (www.myinterfase.com/radford/student/), and www.internships.com. For questions, contact the department's Internship Coordinator, Dr. Mekolichick.

Heading Off to (Grad) School

'Tis the season to think about graduate school! For those of you who will be applying for graduate school this year, deadlines are approaching fast! Make sure that you are aware of the deadlines for each of the schools that you will be applying to, especially if there is an earlier deadline for students who would like to be considered for assistantships or aid. For more information about taking the GRE, go to <http://www.ets.org/gre/>.

Don't hesitate to ask faculty to help with your applications, and be



Above: Dr. Seyfrit and Alicia Ring ('09) talk with students at the Graduate School Panel

sure to give your recommendation letter writers enough time to put together their letters before the application deadline.

For those of you contemplating graduate school, it is never too early to start gathering information about this post-graduation direction. Start up a con-

versation about it with an instructor, and your advising sessions with Dr. Seyfrit are ideal opportunities to find out more about graduate school and how to prepare yourself for this path.

The American Sociological Association website is a great place to go to find out more about the discipline, careers in sociology, and in their section just for students, information for undergraduates considering graduate school. You can visit their site at www.asanet.org.

Happenings

Jess Bellamy ('11) and Dr. Melinda Wagner presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association meetings in October. Jess' presentation, "Hinduism, Time, and the Environment", was on Hindu conceptions and treatment of the environment. **Dr. Wagner** also presented on a panel about ethnographic methods.

Dr. Carla Corroto conducted a workshop on Design and Research Methods for architecture, industrial design, interior design, and graphic design students at Syracuse University on September 29 - October 1. This cross-disciplinary presentation was also a hands-on learning experience for designers, applying sociology to the visual arts and professions.

An article by **Dr. Carole Seyfrit**, appeared in the December 2010 issue of *Society and Natural Resources*, an international journal. The article, "Migration Intentions of Rural Youth in Iceland: Can a Large-Scale Development Project Stem the Tide of Out-Migration?" (with Icelandic sociologists Thoroddur Bjarnason and Kjartan Olafsson), is based on research done while Dr. Seyfrit's was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Akureyri. The results indicate that regardless of employment opportunities, rural youth increasingly want to move to urban areas or abroad, and youth in the capital of Reykjavik are also aspiring to emigrate in greater numbers. This has major implications for Iceland's economic recovery after their banking collapse.

Council on Undergraduate Research

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is a national organization that supports and promotes undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship. Dr. Mekolichick is a Councilor to the CUR Social Science Division. In Feb-

ruary, she will be facilitating a workshop at a CUR Institute on "Mentorship, Collaboration and Undergraduate Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities" at the University of South Florida.

The Social Science Division of CUR offers a limited number of

travel grants, up to \$200, for students who are presenting the results of their own research at a regional, national, or discipline-specific meeting. If you are interested in applying for a student travel award, please see Dr. Mekolichick.

Join the Club!

The sociology club, under the advisement of Professor Smith, has written its constitution and received official club status from the RU Committee on Clubs and Organizations. To keep up to date on club news, you can find us on Facebook (“Radford University Sociology Club”). Great things are in store for us this semester!



The “framers” at work: Professor Smith, Mandy Adams, Jess Bellamy, and Caitie Hennessy.



Summer Sociology Classes

Maymester (May 16-June 4)

SOCY 110 MTWRF 11:00am -1:45pm

SOCY 250 MTWRF 8:00-10:45am

Like Us!

We’re now on Facebook! Come check us out at [Radford University Sociology](#). You can get department news and announcements here, as well as recaps of recent events. Thanks, Dr. Page, for getting us connected!

Center for Social and Cultural Research

Dr. Mekolichick and a research team of five sociology majors (Jess Bellamy, Amy Dove, Kari Elliott, Caitie Hennessy, and Elly Schulte), created and fielded a survey for New River Fitness in Radford. The team conducted a survey of the fitness club’s membership on the services that

they provide, which can help the club with programming and marketing. Dr. Mekolichick and the team are currently analyzing the data and will write a technical report for the club based on their findings.

If you or anyone you know (majors or not, at various skill levels)

would like to get involved in research going on at the CSCR, please contact Dr. Mekolichick, the CSCR director, at cscr@radford.edu or jmekolic@radford.edu. You can also check out the CSCR website at www.radford.edu/cscr.

