

**RADFORD**  
UNIVERSITY  
Department of Sociology

# SOCIOLOGY MATTERS

## From the Chair's Office

Happy spring! It's been a busy and exciting year in the Department of Sociology and Radford University. For seniors, we are heading into the "home stretch" as they near completion of their degrees, and the rest of our students are planning their courses for next year. Be sure to take some time in between papers, presentations, and exams to enjoy the weather and any of the fun and interesting events happening on campus. Returning students, if you haven't already, see Dr. Page for registration advising and also Dr. Lyman if it's time for you to make plans for a fall internship. Have a fantastic finish to the year!

-Dr. Lyman

## DR. BODENHAMER PRESENTS AT APPALACHIAN AWARENESS DAY



Dr. Theresa Burriss (right), Director of the Appalachian Regional & Rural Studies Center, introduces Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer at Appalachian Awareness Day Friday, February 16, 2018 at the Bonnie Auditorium.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN THE CSCR

Drs. Wisecup (sociology) and Barfield (psychology) joined forces in 2017 to explore their mutual research interests in student resilience and retention. The first step in the research involved students in Dr. Wisecup's Survey Research Methods class. Students in the class created a survey related to student experiences on Radford's campus. The survey explored students' involvement in clubs and organizations, their experiences with stress and satisfaction, and their psychosocial resources for dealing with daily stressors. The results of the survey revealed some interesting patterns that were consistent with broader trends in higher education, namely that students were reporting higher levels of stress and fewer resources for coping with those stressors. This year Wisecup and Barfield have created a team of undergraduate students to assist them in exploring other factors related to student resilience and success. Their current work explores students' feelings and perceptions of safety on and off campus. The STARR Team (Students, Teachers, Administrators, Retention, and Resilience) brings together undergraduate students from sociology and psychology to explore how perceptions of safety are related to retention and resilience among Radford University students. Students on the STARR team are assisting Drs. Wisecup and Barfield with the qualitative component of the research project by conducting focus groups about campus safety. The research has been generously funded and supported by the Student Government Association, SAVES, and Dean Hawkins (CHBS).

STARR Team Members have a research meeting to discuss focus group procedures. Pictured (back, left to right) Elijah Dashiell-White, Sarah Nunley, Emmaleigh Mondell, Caelan King; (front, left to right) Dr. Wisecup, Amber Daubenspeck, Callie Adkins, Leah Besden, Dr. Barfield. [students not pictured: Judith Maxwell, Shermaine Garland]



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Cultural Research

## Internship Speaker Series

On February 21, Dr. Lyman and the Sociology department hosted the annual internship speaker series. Three seniors presented on their internship experiences. Interested in learning more? Contact Dr. Lyman at least a semester in advance to schedule your internship!



Eileen Lagos received internship credit through the Roots With Wings Floyd County Place-based Education Oral History Project (SOCY 493 Practicum in Sociology). She continues to work with the program this semester.



Janayla White interned with the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley.

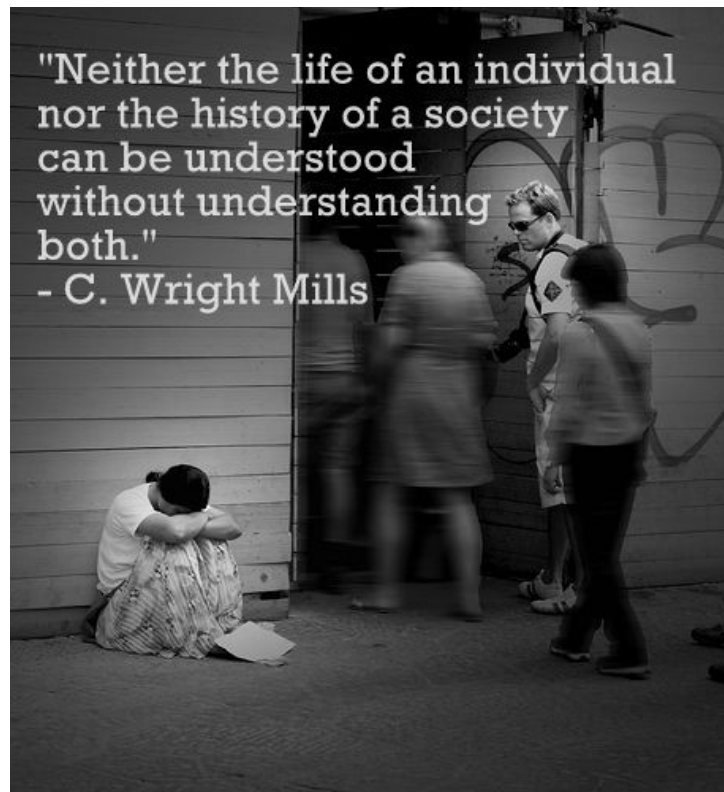


Leah Besden interned as a research assistant with the Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR).

## The Sociological Imagination

What does it mean to have a sociological imagination? How can we demonstrate our knowledge of social structure? Can we teach others to have a sociological imagination?

Drs. Bodenhamer, Bradley, Hunter, and Wisecup are working on a project to try to answer those questions. They recently were awarded a competitive internal grant for \$2,006.25 that will be used to fund a research assistant to analyze data collected in our SOCY110 - Introduction to Sociology courses. We hope to show that our teaching methods do, in fact, enhance students' sociological imagination.



## Accomplishments



Valarie Ernat (Class of 2018) named Dean's Scholar



McKensie Wilkenson and Reyo Hodges were among the students participating in Winter Commencement in December 2017.



Congratulations to Dr. Allison Wisecup (back row, center), who, along with co-authors Dennis Grady, Rick Roth, and Julio Stephens, won a Campus Sustainability Research Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for their project and paper, "Comparative study of intervention strategies on student electricity use in campus residence halls." Awards were presented at the 2017 AASHE Conference & Expo in San Antonio, Texas.