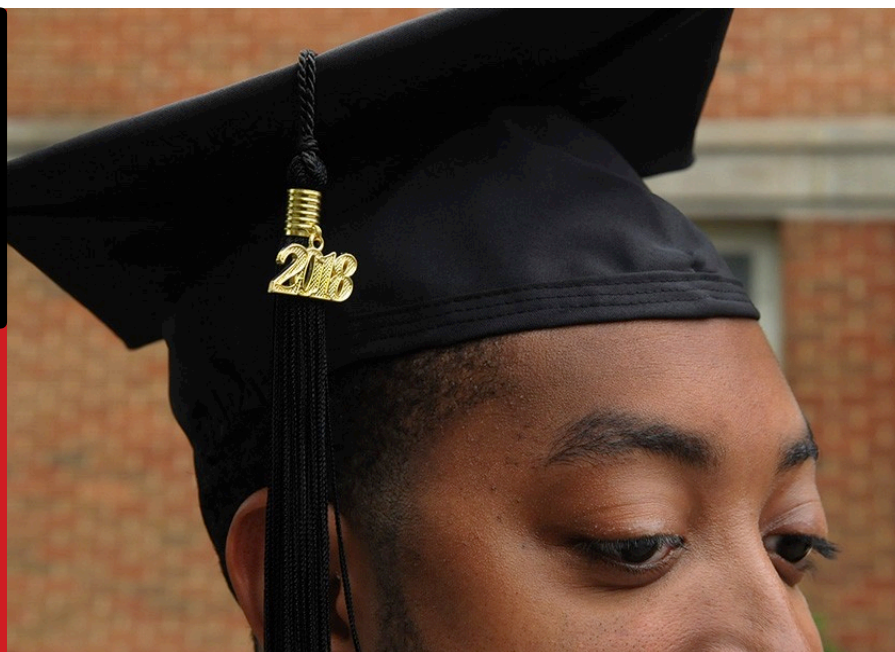


# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

## Sociology Matters



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### GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

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

Happy Fall to you all!

It is another exciting year in the Department of Sociology: we traveled to the annual meeting of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology in Norfolk, VA, where three of our students participated in a problem-solving competition; we have a new partnership with New River Valley Community Services through the Center for Social and Cultural Research; and we had a successful Alumni Day where we welcomed alumni and members of the RU community to share experiences and insights with our students as they think about careers and graduate school. Please take some time to read about these events and more, and don't forget to take a break every now and then to enjoy the fall season in the New River Valley.

Advising for Spring 2019 has begun. Dr. Page has appointment sign-up sheets on his office door.

#### SOCIOLOGY COURSES OFFERED SPRING 2019

##### Required Courses:

- SO CY 110** – Introduction to Sociology
- SO CY 250** – Social Inequality
- SO CY 360** – Sociological Theory
- SO CY 365** – Society and the Individual
- SO CY 480** – Survey Research Methods

##### Elective Courses:

- SO CY 121** – Understanding Cultures
- SO CY 210** – Social Problems
- SO CY 326** – Men & Women in Society
- SO CY 331** – Race and Ethnic Relations
- SO CY 433** – Rural Sociology
- SO CY 443** – Deviance
- SO CY 465** – Visual Sociology

##### Courses that Satisfy the Major Applied/Practical

##### Experience Requirement:

- SO CY 493** – Practicum in Sociology
- SO CY 499** – Internship

## FACULTY AND STUDENTS GO TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED AND CLINICAL SOCIOLOGY (AACCS)

### Sociologists Take Norfolk!

The Radford University Sociology Department and Program in Public Sociology sent a group of faculty and students to the annual conference for the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology in Norfolk, VA, October 10-13.

Drs. Bodenhamer, Bradley, Hunter, Lyman, and Wisecup spent their time networking with other professional sociologists and attending presentations on topics such as gentrification, online public shaming, educational policy, and diversity. Three students, Amanda Burroughs, Mya Murphy, and Melissa McKeldin were engaged in the Problem Solving Competition (see the next page).



Front row, from left: Amanda Burroughs, Mya Murphy, Melissa McKeldin The students were joined in Norfolk by Sociology faculty: Dr. Wisecup, Dr. Bradley, Dr. Bodenhamer, Dr. Hunter, and Dr. Lyman.

### Dr. Lyman Leads Discussion on Accreditation Assessment

At AACCS, Dr. Lyman led a discussion about an accreditation assessment item in which we assess students' ability to demonstrate how sociological practice informs sociological theory. The discussion was a lively one, and one in which the attendees concluded that there seems to be two, parallel theory tracks, one as more academic theory and the other more practice-oriented theory, and that there is a lack of a connection in the feedback loop from practice-oriented theory to academic theory. In other words, practice-tested/oriented theory changes are not making it back to changing academic theory adequately. The session was on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, and was titled "Public Sociology, In Theory".

## Sociology Students Present Solutions at the AACS meeting

Dr. Lyman was the faculty sponsor for a team of three students, Amanda Burroughs, Mya Murphy, and Melissa McKeldin, who participated in the Problem Solving Competition. To participate in this competition, the team attended an introductory meeting with the client – the director of Reading Enriches All Children (REACH) – who described their problem. REACH, which works to encourage literacy among children, is a nonprofit that relies on charitable gifts, but has found that the level of giving has decreased, particularly among people under 40. The team spent two days researching the problem and preparing a solution, including a 12 minute presentation.

Although the team didn't win the competition, the experience was rewarding. "It was a lot of hard work and a great experience to come up with a solution in a day and a half and present it to a real client with a real sociological problem. The director loved our ideas and said she would use some of them!" said Melissa McKeldin.



Melissa McKeldin, Amanda Burroughs, and Mya Murphy at the AACS meeting.



Teams participated in the Client Problem Competition, offering solutions for the Reading Enriches All Children (REACH) organization on the problem of increasing philanthropy in the younger generation. Melissa McKeldin (center) presents with Mya Murphy and Amanda Burroughs.

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

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## Center for Social and Cultural Research

The CSCR had another productive year! We had six amazing students working on the important research being done in the CSCR last year. CSCR research assistants worked on a variety of projects including the Peaceline project for the Women's Resource Center, the STARR (Students, Teachers, Administrators, Retention, and Resilience) project, and The Roots with Wings Floyd County Project. The opportunity to bring together student research assistants and faculty research associates is at the core of the CSCR mission.

Melissa McKeldin, Shayna Gutcho, and Teaira White returned as research assistants in CSCR this year. We also welcomed three new research assistants – Amanda Burroughs, Lynda Burns, and Kaylee Sturgis. We are confident that this team of competent and enthusiastic research assistants will help us have another productive and exciting year in the CSCR.

Melissa McKeldin has been promoted to research associate for her outstanding work with the CSCR last year and she will serve as the lead student researcher on the Peaceline project this year.

## Dr. Bradley to serve as CSCR Community Partnership Development Coordinator

The CSCR created a new faculty leadership position during the summer. Dr. Bradley will serve as the Community Partnership Development Coordinator (CPDC) in the CSCR. In this capacity, Dr. Bradley will reach out to community partners in the New River Valley to develop new research projects to support the important work being done by the amazing non-profit agencies in the NRV.



Over the summer, Drs. Bradley, Lyman, and Wisecup began cultivating a relationship with New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS). NRVCS provides behavioral health services to the NRV; these services include community-based programs for both children and adults who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and/or substance use disorders.



Melissa McKeldin,  
CSCR research associate

## More from the CSCR

Dr. Wisecup recently submitted a Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) Grant to the American Sociological Association. CARI grants are for projects that bring social science knowledge and methods to bear in addressing community-based problems. The CSCR will be assisting NRVCS by updating a needs assessment report that provides NRVCS with the critical data for planning and developing community-based programs for the NRV. The extensive report, with a focus on Substance Abuse Prevention, will include a comprehensive demographic, social, and economic description of each community using a variety of sources such as Census and Current Population Survey data. The report will also include a thorough summary of protective and risk factors related to substance abuse, focusing on alcohol use (underage and binge drinking), marijuana use, prescription drug abuse, and heroin use in the each of the communities. The report will summarize interview and survey data from key informants in each of the communities.

We are looking forward to another exciting and invigorating year in the CSCR and the addition of Dr. Bradley will provide an essential catalyst for increasing the reach of the CSCR throughout the NRV!

## In Memory of Dr. Carole Seyfrit



Dr. Carole Seyfrit, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, passed away on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at her home in Radford. She had been fighting metastatic breast cancer since 2011. Dr. Seyfrit joined Radford University in 2002 as Dean of the College of Graduate and Extended Education and Professor of Sociology. During her distinguished career at Radford University, she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Akureyri in Iceland, served as chair of the Department of Sociology in 2010-2011 and was very active in the Center

for Social and Cultural and Research (CSCR), mentoring numerous students in undergraduate research experiences. Dr. Seyfrit was a passionate educator, scholar and environmentalist with a deep commitment to supporting her students. She retired in January 2014 with 12 years of service.

## SPRING AND SUMMER 2018 GRADUATES

**Congratulations to the Spring and Summer 2018 graduates!**

Callie Adkins  
Leah Besden  
Matthew Blackwell  
Cassidy Crotty  
Lashay Davenport  
Emily Dew  
Sanou Diallo  
Valerie Ernat  
Michael Facey  
Alana Fanning  
Taylor Forrest  
Samantha Jarrell

Hannah Koontz  
Eileen Lagos  
Sam Montana  
Dekeim Mott  
Erica Peters  
Khalin Reid  
Michelle Robertson  
Olivia Royal  
Brandon Smith  
Kadecia Terrell  
Janayla White



Sociology graduates gather for a group photo in front of Norwood Hall Saturday, May 5 in preparation for the Spring 2018 Commencement.

## Graduates Enjoying the Occasion!



Above: Lashay Davenport, Khalin Reid, and Brandon Smith cheer as tassels are moved from right to left.  
Below: Sanou Diallo



## 2018 ALUMNI DAY: ALUMNI RETURN TO MENTOR CURRENT STUDENTS

The Department of Sociology hosted its annual Alumni Day on October 18, 2018. During this public event, sociology alumni and other invited guests shared their graduate school or career experiences with the intent of providing students with insights concerning post-baccalaureate opportunities. From lower-level students who learned strategies that can inform the choices they make at RU, to upper-level students for whom Alumni Day helped sharpen their post-graduation plans, the hope is that all student-attendees – regardless of major – benefited from the two formal panels and multiple opportunities to network.

The graduate school panel brought together four experts from RU with diverse vantage points on the graduate school experience— Dr. Scott Dunn (Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator for the School of Communication), Dr. Laura Jacobsen (Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research), Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer ('10, Assistant Professor of Sociology), and Taylor Forrest ('18, current graduate student).



The graduate school panel for Alumni Day 2018. Left to right: Dr. Dunn, Dr. Jacobsen, Dr. Bodenhamer, and Taylor Forrest.



Dr. Stephanie Bradley kicks off Alumni Day with an introduction of the graduate school panel.

Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer and Taylor Forrest 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. Taylor graduated with an undergraduate degree in sociology in May, after which time she entered the Master of Social Work program at RU. Collectively, the four panelists provided 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.



Three alumni participated in the career panel— Bianca Dickerson ('16), Shylah Cundall ('13), and Jess Chandler ('12). Bianca is a Contact Specialist with the Council of Community Services, Shylah is a Therapeutic Day Treatment Provider with New River Valley Community Services, and Jess is a long-term substitute pursuing licensure with Albemarle County Public Schools. The panelists presented the audience with lively discussion filled with advice and experiences concerning preparing for the job market, networking, interviewing, and applying sociological training to the workforce.



The career panel. Left to right: Bianca Dickerson, Shylah Cundall, and Jess Chandler.

Alumni Day 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. After the two panels, available *Senior Seminar in Sociology* students, panelists, and faculty members networked during a private lunch.

Dr. Stephanie Bradley 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 encouraged to contact Dr. Bradley at [sbradley20@radford.edu](mailto:sbradley20@radford.edu).

## SOCIOLOGY ALUMNI PANELS

### GUIDING STUDENTS TO THE FUTURE

COME LEARN FROM AND NETWORK WITH OUR ALUMNI!

THURSDAY OCTOBER 18TH, HETH 016  
 9:15AM-10:45AM GRADUATE SCHOOL PANEL  
 11:00AM-12:30PM CAREER PANEL

COFFEE, DRINKS, & SNACKS INCLUDED



**RADFORD**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
 Department of Sociology

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

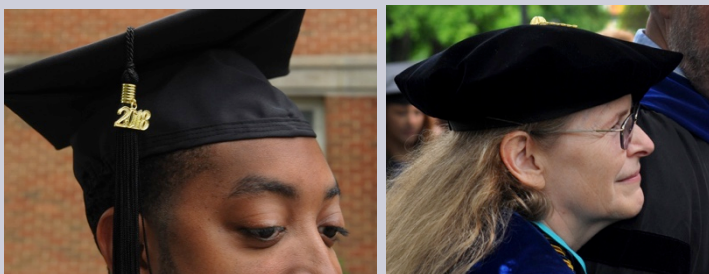
In addition to activities described in the previous pages, our faculty have been engaged in the following things:

Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer coauthored an article with Dr. Thomas Shriver (North Carolina State University) published in *Sociology of Health & Illness*, a leading medical sociology journal, titled, "The Enduring Legacy of Black Lung: Environmental Health and Contested Illness In Appalachia." In addition, Dr. Bodenhamer was awarded an internal grant (\$10,000) from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences for a new project collaborating with Stone Mountain Health Services in which she will be conducting a needs assessment of miners seeking care for black lung disease.

Dr. Mary LaLone continues to consult for the New River Historical Society and Wilderness Road Regional Museum. Students interested in internships at the museum should contact Dr. LaLone, Dr. Lyman, or Dr. Page.

### Visual Sociology – The Power of an Image

Many of the photographs in this newsletter were taken by Dr. Roby Page, including the photos of Brandon Smith (page 1), Dr. Carole Seyfrit (page 5), and Dr. Bodenhamer (to the right). Dr. Page will be teaching SOCY 465, "Visual Sociology," in Spring 2019.



### Dr. Bodenhamer Travels to China

Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer was invited to present at an international conference sponsored by Shanghai University and the University of Strathclyde, funded by the Wellcome Trust. The conference, held at Shanghai University, titled, "Working Environments and the Body: Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Coalfield Health, Disease and Disability," was a compilation of social scientists from around the world whose work focuses on miners' health issues, most notably black lung.

Dr. Bodenhamer presented some of her recent work on black lung titled, "The Resurgence of Black Lung in Central Appalachia: The Silencing of Coal Miners and Toxic Occupational Exposure" which will be translated and published in the Chinese journal of *Social History of Medicine and Health*. Dr. Bodenhamer also enjoyed the opportunity to indulge in the local cuisine and tourist activities such as the famous Shanghai "Bund" district.



## Roots with Wings: Floyd County Place-based Education Oral History Project

Dr. Melinda Bollar Wagner, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Appalachian Studies, was the keynote speaker and humanities scholar for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities grant, "From the Front Porch to the Front Lines: Rural Virginia on a Threshold of Change," awarded to the Floyd Story Center of the Old Church Gallery in Floyd, Virginia. This occurred April 14 at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd, May 6 at Christiansburg Library, and May 13 at the Blacksburg Library.



Sociology majors (2018 graduates), Taylor Forrest and Eileen Lagos, at the From the Front Porch to the Front Lines presentation, where they helped with public relations photography and logistics.

The grant funded production of boxed sets of DVDs and liner notes developed from movies made by the Roots with Wings: Floyd County Place-based Education Oral History Project. The interview movies were created by Floyd County High School students mentored by Radford University Sociology majors from Dr. Wagner's SOCY 493 Practicum in Sociology classes and Floyd Story Center directors. An all-day movie premiere was held at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd, with subsequent presentations at the Blacksburg and Christiansburg Libraries. The keynote speech was broadcast over Citizens



Dr. Beth Lyman enjoying the program at the From the Front Porch to the Front Lines presentation at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library in Floyd.

CCTV cable channel. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities described the program as "a multi-faceted project to promote and facilitate public access to a trove of oral history interviews and primary documents: 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."