

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

# Sociology Matters



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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

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

Happy Spring to all! I hope that you are finding time to enjoy our beautiful campus in between classes, papers, and exams. We will all be closing out the academic year in just a few weeks, hopefully feeling accomplished and certainly ready for a break. Also with spring comes preparations for commencement, when we get to celebrate the successes of our senior students. In this spring newsletter, you will see what we have been doing here in Sociology. It has been a fun and exciting year, thanks to our wonderful students, faculty and staff. Good luck on your exams!

### Current & Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Advising for Fall 2019 has begun. Dr. Page has appointment sign-up sheets on his office door.
- ❖ RU Student Engagement Forum, April 23-24.
- ❖ Department of Sociology Student Awards Ceremony, April 24, Noon-1:00 p.m., Heth 014.
- ❖ Spring Commencement, May 11.

## SOCIOLOGY COURSES OFFERED FALL 2019

### Required Courses:

- SOCY110** – Introduction to Sociology
- SOCY 250** – Social Inequality
- SOCY 360** – Sociological Theory
- SOCY 365** – Society and the Individual
- SOCY 380** – Introduction to Social Research Methods
- SOCY 480** – Survey Research Methods
- SOCY 497** – Senior Seminar

### Elective Courses:

- SOCY 121** – Understanding Cultures
- SOCY 210** – Social Problems
- SOCY 341** – Sociology of Health & Medicine
- SOCY 370** – Environmental Sociology
- SOCY 444** – Juvenile Delinquency
- SOCY 495** – Topical Seminar: Science, Technology & Society

### Courses that Satisfy the Major Applied/Practical Experience Requirement:

- SOCY 499** – Internship



Dr. Roby Page,  
Sociology  
Department  
Advisor

## SOCIOLOGY ADVISING NEWS

It's that time of the year to plan for upcoming semesters, target your graduation date, consider an internship, and make sure you're in all-around good academic order. Stop by Dr. Page's office (CHBS 3110) and sign up for a pre-registration advising appointment.

Then prepare for your advising appointment by reviewing your Degree Works, the Sociology courses flyer, and the university-wide schedule for upcoming classes. The Sociology major has seven required courses and five elective courses (at least four of which must be at the 300-400 level). The practice experience/internship counts as an upper-level Sociology elective.

If you are thinking about doing an internship soon, visit the Internships page on the Department of Sociology website to help generate

ideas: <https://www.radford.edu/content/chbs/home/sociology/about/internships.html>

The 'what' and 'when' of internships can be discussed during advising. Also plan on getting more involved with your internship planning by meeting with the Internship Coordinator, Dr. Lyman, no later than a half-semester ahead of the semester in which you want to have the internship. If you're thinking this summer or fall, then contact Dr. Lyman ASAP.

Keep in mind that some courses are offered only once a year so plan accordingly. And when choosing your electives, remember that they are varyingly offered every semester, annually, biennially, or less regularly. Plan ahead and get the electives you're most interested in.

Considering a Withdrawal? You're permitted a total of five withdrawals while at Radford. See Dr. Page if you want to discuss the possibility of a withdrawal or you want to go ahead with one.

Graduating in December 2019? There's still time to get your graduation application in. See Dr. Page.

The following link has more information about Sociology Advising, and includes other useful links:

<https://www.radford.edu/content/chbs/home/sociology/about/SociologyAdvising.html>

In addition to your pre-registration advising appointment, each Sociology major, minor, and prospective student is encouraged to check with Sociology Advising with any questions or concerns you may have as you progress through your semester, your academic career, and as you make plans for life after graduation. That next life will be here before you know it. Email Dr. Page at [erpage@radford.edu](mailto:erpage@radford.edu).



## CSCR NEWS

### CSCR Hosts Women's Resource Center for Community Partner Luncheon

The CSCR Peaceline Research Team, Dr. Wisecup, Melissa McKeldin, Shayna Gutcho, and Kaylee Sturgis, and Dr. Stephanie Bradley, the CSCR Community Partnership Development Coordinator, hosted a luncheon with the WRC staff to discuss their collaborative project. Members of the CSCR Research Team had the opportunity to get to know WRC staff on the frontline of the project and become better informed about the curriculum and goals of the project. CSCR Research Associate, Melissa McKeldin, provided WRC staff with a tour of the CSCR and an overview of how the CSCR processes, stores, and analyzes the data collected by the WRC during the delivery of Peaceline Curriculum in local schools in the New River Valley.

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.

During the luncheon, WRC staff noted the outstanding contributions of CSCR Research Associate Melissa McKeldin. Our community partner noted that Melissa consistently demonstrates her commitment to the project through coordinating CSCR activities with the WRC, developing project guidelines and procedure manuals, and volunteering her time to assist the WRC in fund raising efforts.



From left to right: Linda Johnson (WRC Peaceline Educator), Dr. Stephanie Bradley (CSCR Community Partnership Development Coordinator), Laura Beth Weaver (Assistant Director, WRC), Stephanie Bryson (Community Engagement Coordinator, WRC), Melissa McKeldin (CSCR Research Associate), Shayna Gutcho (CSCR Research Assistant). Not Pictured: Dr. Allison Wisecup (Director, CSCR) and Kaylee Sturgis (CSCR Research Assistant).



Melissa McKeldin, CSCR Research Associate, in the CSCR.  
Photo by Chad Boxley, Sociology Major '19.

## CSCR Supports Campus and Community Partners

Dr. Wisecup, with the support of the Peaceline Research Team members (Melissa McKeldin, Shayna Gutcho, and Kaylee Sturgis) delivered the annual Peaceline Evaluation Report in February. More recently, Dr. Wisecup met with the Women's Resource Center (WRC) directors and Community Outreach coordinators to discuss the report findings and develop strategies for improving the design and data collection associated with the Peaceline Curriculum. In the coming years, Dr. Wisecup will work closely with WRC staff to conduct a comprehensive review of the project.

Amanda Burroughs and Lynda Burns assisted Dr. Wisecup with a quick response report request from a working group on campus. The working group is focused on developing or selecting a student-focused campus climate survey for Radford University. The project team analyzed data collected by Dr. Wisecup and students enrolled in Survey Research Methods in Spring 2016 to report about important dimensions of students' experiences on campus, students' perceptions of campus, and students' perceptions of their potential for academic success.

## STUDENT CONGRATULATIONS

### December 2018 Graduation

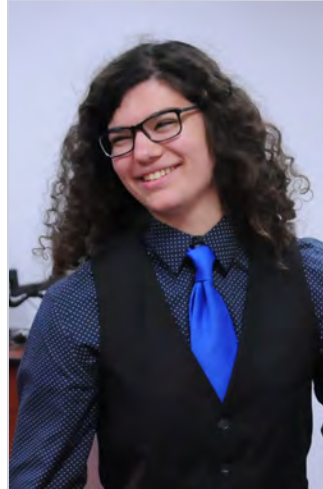
Congratulations to Rachel Tabor, who graduated in December and walked in the December graduation ceremony.



Rachel Tabor being congratulated by College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Interim Dean Smith as she crosses the stage (above).

Benjamin Leigh poses with President Hemphill (right).

### Dean's Scholar for Sociology 2018-19



Congratulations to Shayna Gutcho who earned the distinction of Dean's Scholar for the Sociology Department this year. Shayna is known for being diligent in her studies, and her hard work has paid off.

Additionally, Crystal Allen officially graduated in December, although she previously walked in the May 2018 ceremony. And Benjamin Leigh, who walked in the December ceremony, expects to graduate this May.



## SOCIOLOGY CLUB NEWS



The Sociology Club reorganized and reenergized during the spring 2019 semester. All former members graduated, propelling students Sharmaine Ramirez and Shaylee Hodges to work with Dr. Bradley, the current club advisor, to generate interest and attract new club members. Their recruitment efforts began during the winter break when Shaylee and Dr. Bradley met with Liz Craft from the Student Organization Assistance and Resources (SOAR) office to determine how to breathe life into an inactive student-run organization. Sharmaine and Shaylee then promoted the Sociology Club at the Winter Club Fair on January 25, followed by an interest meeting on February 4. The message to prospective members states that "Our club is inclusive and open to anyone with the interest in furthering their understanding of the sociological perspective and the gaps of social equality. Help us craft a club made for you by you!"



Sharmaine Ramirez and Shaylee Hodges promote the Sociology Club at the 2019 Winter Club Fair.

On February 18, new members assembled for the first weekly Sociology Club meeting. The current interim leadership roles lie with Sharmaine (interim leader), Shaylee, and Desirae Booth, who takes meeting minutes and communicates important information to the upwards of 40 students who have expressed an interest and/or participate in club activities. Together, members have intentionally and thoughtfully created a welcoming environment for anyone interested in networking, community service, and the sociological perspective. This semester, members have drafted a new constitution, discussed sociologically relevant current topics, learned about local needs from area non-profit agencies, and created a community designed to support the academic and social interests of its members.

## More from the Sociology Club



Group photo taken during the April 3 membership meeting. Photo by Russel Alvarez.

The first official elections of the revamped Sociology Club will occur at the end of the spring semester. Club goals include a desire to grow, develop, and become useful to and embedded in the Department of Sociology, the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, the City of Radford, and Radford University. Please contact Dr. Bradley at [sbradley20@radford.edu](mailto:sbradley20@radford.edu) for more information about joining the Sociology Club! (Story contributed by Russel Alvarez, Sociology major, and Dr. Stephanie Bradley.)



Presentation on Bobcat Backpacks for the Sociology Club: Jenny Riffe, co-founder of Bobcat Backpacks, discusses poverty and hunger among school-aged children in the City of Radford.

## RESEARCH, CONFERENCES, &amp; CLASSES

## 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society

The 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society took place on April 10-13 in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of this year's conference was "The Challenge of Intersectionality: Who and What are Missing?" Professors Bradley, Hunter, Wisecup, and McGlamery networked with other sociologists and attended presentations on a variety of topics, including best practices for research-policy maker collaborations and current assessments of race and politics. In addition, Drs. Bradley and Hunter served as presenters in conference sessions.



Drs. Bradley, Wisecup, and Hunter (left to right) at the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta, GA during April 10-13.

Drs. Bradley and Hunter delivered separate presentations during a paper session titled, "Connecting Students to the Community Through Active Learning." Dr. Hunter shared an assignment that requires students to assess data on and think critically about sex offender registries. Dr. Bradley discussed an in-class activity that requires students to look at data from their school district, consider the impact of school demographics on their socialization, and assess any trends in the race/ethnicity of students receiving college readiness training or disciplinary action. In addition, Dr. Bradley presented the Theory and Data Report and Presentation assignment for which our Senior Seminar in Sociology students take on the role of applied practitioners of sociology as they provide research assistance for a fictional non-profit agency.

Dr. Hunter was one of two panelists who provided a critique of SunAh Labourn and Devon Goss' book *Diversity in Black Greek Organizations: Breaking the Line* in an Author Meets Critics session. These sessions are an opportunity for authors of new books to receive feedback from experts in their topic and field. Dr. Hunter's critique recognized the many strengths of the book while also commenting on possibilities for future research, including a greater focus on the contextual nature of racial identity development. (Story contributed by Dr. Stephanie Bradley and Dr. Joanna Hunter.)



Dr. Hunter (seated) and Dr. Bradley (presenting) participated in the "Connecting Students to the Community Through Active Learning" session.



## Dr. Bodenhamer in the Field & Presenting

Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer served as a faculty sponsor for an Alternative Spring Break trip restoring Appalachian forests on formerly strip mined land in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. This trip was a collaboration between the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and Green Forests Work and RU faculty, Department of Geospatial Science, Dr. Rick Roth and Sustainability Coordinator, Josh Nease.



Dr. Bodenhamer was invited to share her research, "Black Lung: The Resurgence of a Contested Environmental Illness in the Coalfields of Central Appalachia" for Dean Smith's Work In Progress Series for the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences. It was a well-attended talk with an excellent conversation to follow.

Dr. Bodenhamer and Amanda Burroughs (Sociology major) presented at the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) Conference in Asheville, North Carolina March 14-17. Amanda Burroughs presented her own work titled, "The Sexualization of Appalachian Women," a paper she completed in Dr. Bodenhamer's SOCY 411 Appalachian Cultures class. Burroughs will also be presenting her research in a session at the RU Student Engagement Forum on Tuesday, April 23, 5:50-6:10 p.m. in Heth 043.

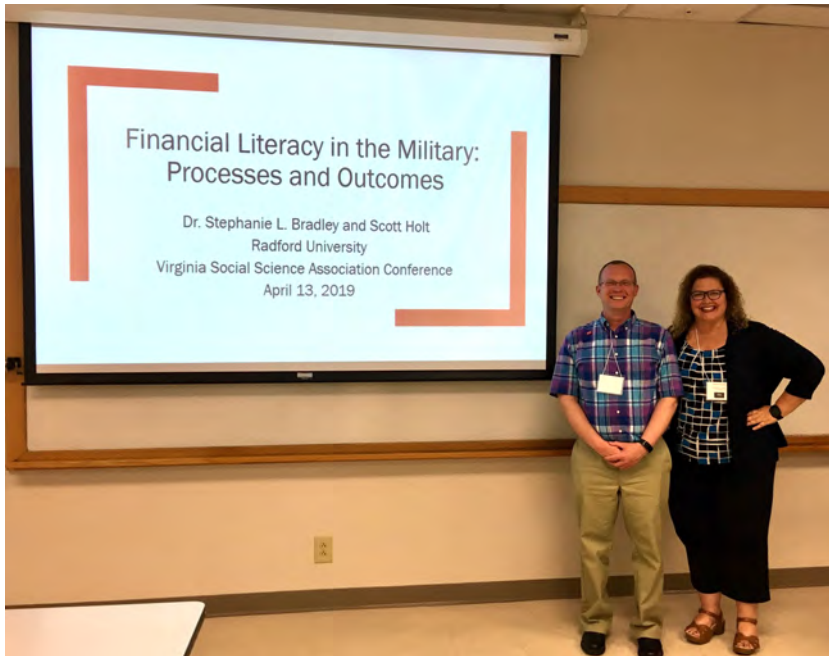
Dr. Bodenhamer organized a panel presentation for ASA, "The 'Glocal' Challenges of Coal Extraction and Black Lung Disease Among Miners" which focused on the comparative analysis of Appalachian and Chinese coal mining issues. The panel consisted of her own work, "The Changing Landscape of Appalachian Coal Extraction and Its Externalities," as well as colleagues from Duke University, Ralph A. Litzinger, University of Virginia's College at Wise, Margaret Tomann, and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, David J. Blackley.



Amanda Burroughs (left) and Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer (right) with Frank X Walker at the ASA meetings. Frank X Walker is a well-known figure in Appalachian Studies whose work has helped shed light on the marginalized voices of Appalachia.

## Virginia Social Science Association Conference: Financial Literacy meets Conference Experience

Scott Holt, a double major in sociology and psychology, has interned with Dr. Bradley since the fall 2018 semester. Their recent work focuses on financial literacy – the ability to use knowledge and skills to manage financial resources effectively. In the first phase of this project, they explored extant research related to financial literacy with a specific interest in



military personnel and veterans. Dr. Bradley will conduct original research in the second phase of this project. Here, she plans to use a mixed-methods approach to assess the degree to which respondents are financially literate and learn about service members' experiences.

Scott and Dr. Bradley attended the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Virginia Social Science Association (VSSA) Conference on April 13 at Longwood University. In addition to networking with other social scientists and attending sessions,

Scott Holt and Dr. Bradley after their presentation at the VSSA annual conference.

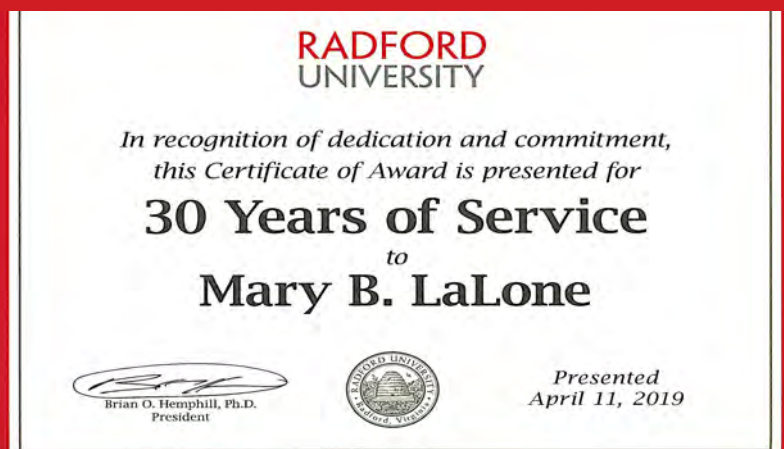
they co-presented “Financial Literacy in the Military: Processes and Outcomes.” Dr. Bradley shared the findings of the first phase of their project and Scott solicited feedback on the preliminary research design planned for the second phase.

### Congratulations to Dr. Wisecup



Dr. Allison Wisecup has been awarded Faculty Professional Development Leave for the next academic year.

### RU Teaching Experience Noted



## Dr. Dogan presents her Research

Dr. Hulya Dogan presented at The Center for Gender Studies talk series at Radford University this spring. Her paper entitled "Bargaining with Patriarchy: A Study of Young Married Meskhetian Turk Women in the United States," was based on two years of ethnographic research collected in Houston, TX.

### the Center for Gender Studies and the... Department of Psychology Invite You to Attend ...



### "Bargaining with Patriarchy: A Study of Young Married Meskhetian Turk Women in the United States"

A Center for Gender Studies Invited Address by  
**Dr. Hulya Dogan**  
Adjunct Faculty: Sociology  
Radford University

The Presentation is Open to the Public ~ Admission is Free

#### **Presentation Location & Time:**

Location: Heth 043 ~ Time: 5:00 pm to 6:00 p.m. ~ February 13, 2019 ~ Radford University, Radford, VA.

#### **Presentation Overview** <sup>1</sup>

"Social norms among immigrant groups coming from patriarchal communities are changing at differing rates in the US. Based on an ethnographic study of women's social groups and networks in a community of Meskhetian Turk immigrants recently settled in the United States, this study explores the effects of migration on gender roles and power. As a strictly patriarchal community, expectations about education and participation to workforce have shifted in the United States. Women's attending to college and working outside of home are normative. Despite all of these changes, women still are expected to perform all household and child-rearing activities. Interviews with young Meskhetian Turk women are used to illustrate the conflict between norms about education, workforce, and family. Many young women resolve this normative conflict by giving preference to family over work and education. They postpone their education if they are expecting a baby and complete their higher education degree after their babies are born. As a prolonged stateless community, Meskhetian Turks aim to establish their lives in the United States. In this study, I propose that the motivation to establish a homeland in the United States strengthen women's bargaining with patriarchy to participate in higher education and workforce while they are fulfilling their duties at home. They hope to have sons in order to advance their position as a mother and then mother in law. I conclude that women's life-long struggle is in fact a technique of negotiating with patriarchy, and, in so doing, they not only internalize the culture which rests on their subordination but also reproduce it in older age in exercising power by oppressing other junior women". <sup>1</sup>**Dr. Hulya Dogan**



## 2019 Roots with Wings Flies in a New Direction

Roots with Wings is a long-standing university-community research project directed by Dr. Melinda Bollar Wagner, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Appalachian Studies. This semester the **Roots with Wings: Floyd County Place-based Education Oral History Project** switches things up, with Radford University students partnering with **teachers** from Floyd County High School to record and preserve local history. After years of successful work with Floyd County High School and Radford University students, our project welcomes the unique perspective of Floyd County teachers, who lead the future of Floyd County youth with strong community ties.

In this version of the Project, Floyd County Public School faculty are obtaining **professional development** points toward teaching credential relicensure. Radford University (RU) students are receiving course and **practice experience credit** in the Sociology Department's Center for Social and Cultural Research and through Radford's new Citizen-Leader Program. We're all looking forward to discovering more about the unique community of Floyd and methods for conserving local history. Students in the SOCY 493, Practicum in Sociology class – Amanda Burroughs, Shaylee Hodges, Cora Bland, and Sharmaine Ramirez - will be presenting on their Sociology practice experience at the RU Student Engagement Forum on Tuesday, April 23, 5:30-5:50 p.m. in Heth 043.

(Excerpted from the Project Blog, <https://floydstorycenter.blogspot.com/>, by RU Sociology major, Shaylee Hodges.)



Recording practice for three of this year's fourteen participants: Floyd County teacher and RU alumna, Kimberly Ingram; and RU Sociology majors Amanda Burroughs and Cora Bland.

## Visual Sociology

Did you know Sociology can be visual?

An upper-level elective being offered this spring is SOCY 465 Visual Sociology, taught by Dr.

Page. Students learn photography, work with Photoshop, and practice qualitative sociological research to study their choice of subject. Most students in the course use their phone cameras, while some use more elaborate cameras. More important than the technology is producing photographs that aid sociological analysis and enrich understanding. Students explore the differences between art and science, while doing work that is both. Here's a sample of photographs taken during the class.

Photo (below) by Cora Bland.



Photo (above) by Sharmaine Ramirez.

Photo (below) by Shaniah Stephens.



Students in the class will be presenting their work in a Visual Sociology poster session at the RU Student Engagement Forum on Wednesday, April 24, 2:30-3:45 p.m. in Kyle 340.

Visual Sociology is usually offered every other spring term so if it sounds interesting, start planning ahead for its next offering.

To learn more, email Dr. Page at [erpage@radford.edu](mailto:erpage@radford.edu).



Photo (above) by Tim James.



Photo (above) by Chad Boxley.



Photo (right) by Russel Alvarez.