

Sociology Matters

Volume 6

Spring 2016

Issue 2

Department of Sociology

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Welcome from the Chair

Happy Spring Semester!

I hope that you all are having a good semester. This is an exciting time with the academic year nearing its close, summer plans shaping up, and, for some of you, graduation just around the corner. It has been a busy semester for the Department of Sociology. This issue of the newsletter includes reports on the Sociology Club, which is an active organization sponsoring several events, including provocative visiting scholars. Let me invite all sociology majors, minors, and interested students from other departments to join our Club. Below is also news from The Center for Social and Cultural Research which is productively working on research initiatives and community engagement projects. Please take a moment to review news of current projects and accomplishments by our faculty, alumni and students.

As many of you know, over the summer we will be moving into the new College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Building, which is in between Muse Hall and McConnell Library. For those returning in the fall, you will find the Department of Sociology and Center for Social and Cultural Research on the third floor of the new building. We will be hosting a grand opening celebration to inaugurate our offices in the fall, and we hope to see you there!

Have a good end of the year, and I look forward to greeting some of you at graduation! - *Dr. Beth Lyman*

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Center for Social and
Cultural Research

RESEARCH, TEACHING, CONSULTING

Spring semester, the Department of Sociology's Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR) is busy and has a full staff of faculty and student scholars engaged with the community.

Research Assistants include **Kelsey Boyd, Bianca Dickerson, Nancy Herbert, Sam Kennedy, Hannah Knowles, and Blake Sholes.** The CSCR is running at full capacity with a wide variety of research, class, consulting, and community-based projects led by our Faculty Associates. If you are interested in working at the CSCR as a work study student or intern, please contact **Dr. Mary LaLone** at mlalone@radford.edu.

Fall Graduation 2015

Dr. Hunter (left) and Dr. Lyman (right) join Deryk Jackson and Nijeria Jones in braving the cold wind outside Bondurant Auditorium following the Fall 2015 Commencement.



Jada Johnson awaits the start of the Fall 2015 Commencement.



Deryk Jackson and Skye Heasley

President Kyle and Lauren Bailey



Academic Year 2015-2016

Graduates

FALL 2015:

- Wilmer Angulo
- Lauren Bailey
- Haley Frazier
- Skye Heasley
- Deryk Jackson
- Jada Johnson
- Nijeria Jones
- Kurt Koonce

Spring 2016:

- Margaret Clinger
- Patrick Edmonds
- Mary Ellis
- Derek Galvez
- Madison Hardin
- Cheyenne James
- Samuel Kennedy
- Hannah Knowles
- Fiona Mahar-Milani
- Jenna McClintock
- Skyler Miller
- Stephanie Prusa
- Carson Reynolds
- Blake Sholes
- Olivia Thompson
- Rolphine Vales
- Samaiyah Williams

Wilderness Road Regional Museum: Recommendations for Community Outreach



Mary B. LaLone & Carolyn Mathews, Project Co-Directors

Research-Writing Team:

*Lauren R. Bailey
Bianca M. Billings
Catherine E. Costello
Victoria R. Curtis
Stephanie L. Prusa
Allanah K. Rocha
Blake Sholes
Rolphine Vales*

*Radford University's Scholar-Citizen Initiative & the Center for Social and Cultural Research
2015*

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In Partnership with the **Wilderness Road**
REGIONAL MUSEUM

Sociology Team Consulting Report Makes an Impact on a Community Organization

Students in Dr. Mary LaLone's SOCY 486 class conducted research then prepared a report titled, *Wilderness Road Regional Museum: Recommendations for Community Outreach*, for the New River Historical Society (NRHS.)

The NRHS owns and operates the Wilderness Road Regional Museum (WRRM) in Newbern, Virginia. In December, the research team made a presentation to the NRHS's Board of Directors. The NRHS Board was so impressed with the presentation that it held a special organizing meeting to make plans for how to implement the team's recommendations for educational programming, volunteer organization, publicity, and exhibit outreach activities.

Sociology intern, Carson Reynolds is working with the Museum to develop some of these activities during Spring semester 2016.

The Wilderness Road Regional Museum invites applications for student internships for Summer, Fall, and Spring semesters to continue this scholarship. This internship provides opportunities to develop skills in a range of areas: fund-raising and publicity, educational programming, event and exhibit planning, volunteer and community outreach programming, media development, collection management, historical research, and other areas of need for this community museum.

Contact **Dr. Mary LaLone** (mlalone@radford.edu) for more information



KEYNOTE ADDRESS & BANQUET
CELEBRATING THE LOCAL
MELINDA BOLLAR WAGNER, PH.D.
Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Radford University

APRIL 9, 2016
SATURDAY 7 PM

**SOUTHERN ANTHROPOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**
51ST ANNUAL MEETING
BIG SANDY CONFERENCE CENTER
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA



For over 30 years, Melinda Wagner has worked with college students in collaboration with local communities to improve quality of life and most recently turns her attention to *Roots with Wings*—an initiative in place-based education done in cooperation with public school teachers and a community oral history center.

INFORMATION: BRIAN A. HOEY - CONFERENCE AND PROGRAM CHAIR - HOEY@MARSHALL.EDU
REGISTER: SOUTHERNANTHRO.ORG/ANNUAL-MEETING (ON-SITE APRIL 07-09)



Dr. Angela Davis Distinguished Professor Emerita,
University of California, Santa Cruz

“Poor people, people of color - especially are much more likely to be found in prison than in institutions of higher education” – Dr. Davis

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture

Dr. Angela Davis spoke at Radford University's Bondurant Auditorium Wednesday, January 20 as Keynote Speaker for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Program - sponsored by the Sociology Club and other organizations on campus. Her lecture focused on the racialized prison-industrial complex.



Sociology Club



New members are always welcome. Please join the Sociology Club!

Club twitter page: <https://twitter.com/RUsoyclub>



President:
Hannah Knowles

Vice President:
Ashlee Peatross

Secretary:
Crystal Allen

Treasurer:
Kelsey Boyd

Historian:
Tyler Rosenblatt





Dr. Thelathia "Nikki" Young, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Bucknell University

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

"There's something transformative about Black queer relationships that can reshape the way we think about power dynamics. There's something that might help us think about justice in different ways ..."- Dr. Young

On March 24 the Sociology Club co-sponsored the guest lecture by Dr. Thelathia "Nikki" Young titled, "Imagining New Relationships through Ethics, Queerness, and Intersectionality."



Sociology Club hosts Dr. Young's post-lecture dinner with librarian and organizer Alison Armstrong (right)

ALUMNI INFO

With the busy Fall semester & the 1st Annual Sociology Alumni Mentoring Network (SAMN) celebration behind us, Dr. Amy Sorensen is looking for new ways to keep current students, recent graduates and active alumni engaged with one another. With the help of Hannah Knowles, SAMN will be working on creating updates with local job listings for students and former students. Recent graduates have been contacted.

We are asking that any job or internship opportunities that our alumni wish to share with students be posted on the RU SAMN Facebook page or the RU SAMN LinkedIn group.

For more information, you contact Amy Sorensen at acressell@radford.edu. OR you can join the RU SAMN Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1379912568987979> / OR the RU SAMN LinkedIn group: www.linkedin.com/groups/8195325.

Faculty News and Notes

Research, Teaching, Service

Dr. Carla Corroto Published two chapters: “The Path to Permission,” and “Uniform Authority,” in *Permission: Controversies Interrogating Educational Change*, (2016) J. White (ed.) Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Sense Publishers: 22-29; 30-37. With these theoretical pieces, Dr. Corroto investigates the use of narrative in presenting a sociological perspective for public consumption. She also analyzed the institutionalization of controlling the “gendered body” through fashion as uniform.

Dr. Joanna Hunter and CSCR intern [Bianca Dickerson](#) continue to work on their project about religious identity. They presented their preliminary findings at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Chicago in August 2015. Dr. Hunter also led a team of three interns in completion of the annual evaluation for the *Peaceline Plus* project – The Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley, a client and community partner of the CSCR.

On March 9th, social work major [Nancy Herbert](#) did a poster presentation at the *West Virginia Poverty and Inequality Symposium* at Concord University based on work that she is doing with the RU Poverty Project team in the Center for Social and Cultural Research. The team, led by **Dr. Beth Lyman** and including CSCR research assistants [Nancy Herbert](#), [Sam Kennedy](#), and [Kelsey Boyd](#), and Disability Resource Office Coordinator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Jerome Thomas, is examining the prevalence of poverty and homelessness among college students and the ways that colleges and universities address these issues. Nancy's focus is on finding cases of successful programs throughout the country and thinking about how they might be applied to a setting like Radford University.



Nancy Herbert's presentation - the West Virginia Poverty and Inequality Symposium

Dr. Roby Page was promoted to Associate Professor and was also nominated for the Radford University Advising Award, for the second consecutive year.

Dr. Amy Sorensen is presenting a paper at the *Gender, Bodies, Technology* Conference in Roanoke.

[Kasey Campbell](#) and **Dr. Melinda Bollar Wagner** presented the “Radford University Appalachian Teaching Project: Sustaining the Community Mind for Long-term Community Resiliency: Rural Appalachian Values Assessment in Floyd County, Virginia” in December.

Grants were awarded to the Floyd Story Center at the Old Church Gallery to support the creation, archiving, and dissemination of the interview and documentary movie products of the ROOTS WITH WINGS: Floyd County Place-based Education Oral History Project and the FLOYD COUNTY TRADITIONS Project. Grants are from the Community Foundation of the New River Valley and from the Feisty Floyd Philanthropists. CSCR work-study student [Sam Kennedy](#) and intern [Fiona Mahar-Milani](#) are working to render transcribed interviews for the archives



The **blog** for The ROOTS WITH WINGS: Floyd County High School Place-based Education Oral History Project (an outreach of the Floyd Story Center at the Old Church Gallery) has a new entry. Here is the link to the blog. <http://www.floydstorycenter.blogspot.com/> Please enjoy Radford University student mentor (and former Floyd County High School ROOTS WITH WINGS participant), Fiona Mahar-Milani's blog posts.

Dr. Allison Wisecup is managing the collection of survey data for Julie Dill and the SAVES office at RU. In collaboration with the CSCR, she is using the ACHA-National College Health Assessment survey to get information about Radford University students' health habits, behaviors, and perceptions. Blake Sholes, a CSCR research assistant to Dr. Wisecup, completed the analysis of Fall 2015 patient satisfaction survey data collected by the Student Health Center. These data are collected each semester and the report generated from the analyses assists the Student Health Center in their accreditation efforts through the American College Health Association. The results are also an important source of feedback for health care providers to provide the best care for Radford University students' health care needs.

Radford University students are an increasingly diverse population with specific health risks and needs. The data collected will provide the campus community with tools they need to enhance campus-wide health promotion and prevention services. – Dr. Wisecup

Over the past three years, Dr. Wisecup has been working with a team of researchers focused on sustainability efforts on campus. Specifically, the team used a quasi-experimental design in the Governor's Quad residence hall to determine the relative effectiveness of three intervention strategies. Each strategy aims to encourage a reduction in water, electricity, or heat by Radford University students. Recently, The International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education accepted a research manuscript reporting on how these sustainability efforts influenced students' electricity use.

Upcoming Events

- **PRIDE** Saturday April 23, 4:00-8:00 PM | The Sociology Club is co-sponsoring *Pride* with Spectrum, the LGBTQ+ organization on campus. A community event intended to educate in an entertaining and interactive manner, with an educational button table, privilege walk, carnival games, DJ, and drag show hosted by students.
- **SOCIOLOGY CLUB T-Shirts** are ready for orders
- **GRADUATION** Saturday, May 7

SOCIOLOGY CLUB OFFICERS

(top row from left) Crystal Allen, Ashlee Peatross, Kelsey Boyd, Dr. Joanna Hunter - adviser
(bottom row) Deryk Jackson, Hannah Knowles

