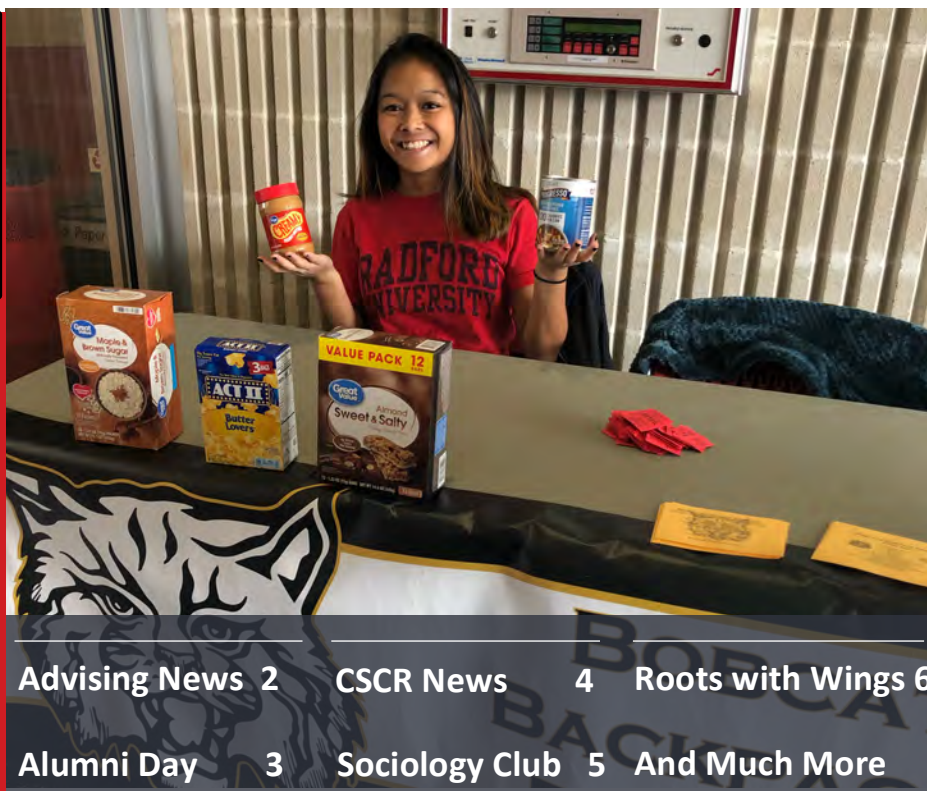


RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

Sociology Matters



Advising News 2 CSCR News 4 Roots with Wings 6
Alumni Day 3 Sociology Club 5 And Much More

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from the Chair – Dr. Beth Lyman

Happy Spring! I hope that everyone is well and surviving the midsemester transition to online classes. The department was quite busy prior to break; please take time to read through the newsletter to see all the interesting things going on here.

As we push through the remainder of the semester, please keep in communication with one another. Online courses are new to many students and faculty, email can be long and takes more time than a quick conversation, and Zoom is, well, just awkward. But, we don't have the good fortune of sharing space anymore, whether in the classroom, our offices, hallways, or the line at Starbucks. So, while an email or text or chat message in D2L might not be the best or most familiar tool to us to connect with each other, it does bring us together.

Have a good finish to the semester, stay connected, and wash those hands!

SOCIOLOGY COURSES OFFERED FALL 2020

Required Courses:

SOCY 110 – Introduction to Sociology
SOCY 250 – Social Inequality
SOCY 360 – Sociological Theory
SOCY 365 – Society and the Individual
SOCY 380 – Survey Research Methods
SOCY 497 – Senior Seminar in Sociology

Elective Courses:

SOCY 121 – Understanding Cultures
SOCY 210 – Social Problems
SOCY 213 – Social Issues & Healthcare Delivery
SOCY 326 – Men & Women in Society
SOCY 331 – Race & Ethnic Relations
SOCY 340 – Appalachia Health Culture
SOCY 341 – Sociology of Health & Medicine
SOCY 433 – Rural Sociology
SOCY 444 – Juvenile Delinquency

Courses that Satisfy the Major Applied/Practical Experience Requirement:

SOCY 499 – Internship

SOCIOLOGY ADVISING NEWS



Dr. Roby Page,
Sociology
Department
Advisor

Pre-registration advising for Fall 2020 is under way.

Plan now for pre-registration advising with Dr. Page to decide on courses for this summer and fall, plan for semesters ahead, and target a graduation date. Given Radford University's transition to online following Spring Break, pre-registration advising appointments will be conducted by email through March and April. As usual, plan for your advising correspondence by reviewing your Degree Works, the new Fall '20 Sociology courses flyer, and the university-wide schedule for upcoming classes. Then email Dr. Page when you're ready to discuss your plans.

If you are thinking about doing an internship in summer or fall, start planning now. Visit the Internships page on the Department of Sociology website to help generate ideas. Contact Internship Coordinator Dr. Lyman (elyman@radford.edu) soon; don't wait until late this semester.

For more advising information and links, visit the Department of Sociology Advising webpage: <https://www.radford.edu/content/chbs/home/sociology/about/SociologyAdvising.html> . Email Dr. Page at erpage@radford.edu.

Notes:

- ◆ Graduating in Fall 2020? You should now have your paper application submitted to the CHBS Advising Center, and your online application completed.
- ◆ Considering a course withdrawal? The deadline is Friday, April 17. Remember that five withdrawals at Radford are permitted. Inform Dr. Page of your withdrawal intentions, or questions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL 2019 GRADUATES

Students who graduated:

Scott Holt

Molly Mattox

Cody Meador

Tyjuan Moulden

Students who walked:

Julian Johnson



From left: Scott Holt, Julian Johnson, Cody Meador, and Tyjuan Moulden.

To view graduation photos go to <https://www.radford.edu/content/chbs/home/sociology/news/stories/2019/FallGraduation2019.html>

2019 ALUMNI DAY

The Department of Sociology hosted its annual Alumni Day on October 29, 2019. For over ten years, this event has supported students' post-baccalaureate success. During the event, sociology alumni and other individuals share their career and graduate school experiences, including best practices for those facing the job market and tips for crafting successful application materials.

The graduate school panel brought together four experts with diverse insights on the graduate school experience—alumni Dr. Aysha Bodenhamer ('10; Assistant Professor of Sociology) and Amanda Burroughs ('19; doctoral graduate student in Sociology at Virginia Tech), Dr. Ben Caldwell (Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research), and Dr. Nora Reilly (Professor of Psychology and Graduate Director for the I/O Psychology program). Collectively, the four panelists shed light on the realities of graduate school, posed questions to consider regarding this path, provided guidance on how to prepare for such an endeavor, and gave tips on how to be successful as a graduate student.



Dr. Reilly provides insights on graduate school as Dr. Caldwell, Amanda Burroughs, and Dr. Bodenhamer look on.

Four alumni served on the career panel—Bianca Dickerson ('16), Erica Peters ('18), Eileen Lagos ('18), and Michelle Robertson ('18). Bianca works with the Council of Community Services - 2-1-1 Division, Erica works with the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Eileen works with the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and Michelle works with the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley. These alumni shared their advice and experiences related to preparing for the job market, networking, interviewing, and applying sociological training to work after graduating from Radford University.



Michelle Robertson, Erica Peters, and Eileen Lagos enjoy Bianca Dickerson's reflections on the workforce.

Alumni Day complements the *Senior Seminar in Sociology*, a professionalization course that serves as the capstone experience for sociology majors. Alumni interested in participating in future Alumni Day events are encouraged to contact Dr. Bradley at sbradley20@radford.edu.

CSCR NEWS



The Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR) is in the midst of another productive year. Student research assistants continue to develop their skills and provide valuable support to faculty projects and existing research. In addition, the CSCR is working on two notable projects. This research reflects our commitment to cultivating relationships with both local community and on-campus partners.

Enhancing Our Relationship with the WRC

Drs. Wisecup, Lyman, and Bradley recently received close to \$10,000 in funding from the Radford University Office of Sponsored Programs and Grants Management's Seed Grant program. Seed Grants provide up to \$10,000 of funding over 12 months for preliminary work leading to a future application for external funding of a research project. Our Seed Grant will be used to enhance the CSCR's work with the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley (WRC).



For over a decade, the CSCR has supported the WRC through evaluation of their Peaceline Curriculum. Administered in nearly all middle and high schools in the NRV for more than 20 years, the Peaceline program is a multi-session curriculum aimed at developing students' knowledge and attitudes about healthy relationships and reducing incidence of sexual and domestic violence. The CSCR evaluates survey data collected before and after students' exposure to the Peaceline program to determine the efficacy of the curriculum. While the CSCR-WRC partnership remains strong, feedback from the WRC's external reviewers (e.g., evaluators from the Centers for Disease Control) and current survey design protocols suggest that project updates are warranted. The Seed Grant is currently supporting the work needed to strengthen the CSCR's evaluation of the Peaceline Curriculum through comprehensive methodological and measurement improvements. We predict that the enhanced assessment tools coupled with the strength of the CSCR-WRC partnership will be attractive to external funders that support educational research projects engaging in collaborative partnerships.

Supporting Student Affairs and the Campus Community

Radford University's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan outlines the university's commitment to the campus community and beyond through student-centered goals and strategies. Guided by Goal 1 and its performance indicators to "Provide enhanced resources for student academic and emotional support," the Division of Student Affairs partnered with the CSCR to develop and deploy a survey to collect students' needs, experiences, and feedback about select campus services and programs. The survey was deployed late fall, with responses from approximately 900 students. Data analysis is currently underway, after which the findings will be reported to leaders from the Division of Student Affairs. The CSCR appreciates and welcomes the opportunity to participate in projects that directly impact the Highlander family!

SOCIOLOGY CLUB NEWS



Energized from winter break, Sociology Club members jumped right in by attending men's and women's basketball games to collect donations for Bobcat Backpacks, participating in Club Fair, hosting an interest meeting for prospective members, and holding recurring weekly membership meetings.

The Sociology Club is about student engagement in a fun, inclusive environment. We welcome anyone wishing to be more involved in their community. Future projects include collaborating with SAVES, Radford University's Substance Abuse and Violence Education Support, and continuing to support the Bobcat Backpacks program through Radford Gives Back. The Sociology Club is also working with Dr. Prince on volunteer opportunities in Roanoke.



Above: Social Media Director Taylor Marris and Treasurer Russel Alvarez pose near donations collected during a men's basketball game.

On page one: Club President Sharmaine Ramirez shows off some of the items collected for Bobcat Backpacks.



Above: Members fill their plates before settling in for a "Taco Tuesday" themed membership meeting.

The Sociology Club is on Facebook and Instagram (@rusociologyclub). Details on membership meetings and other events can be found on these sites and the Sociology Club's RU Involved page. During the Spring 2020 semester, the Sociology Club has been meeting every Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 pm in CHBS 3012. Membership meetings often include member-chosen discussion topics on any topic of interest. Attendees are welcome to bring snacks and everyone is invited to attend! Please contact Dr. Bradley with any questions about the Sociology Club at sbradley20@radford.edu. (Story contributed by Louisa Peet, student, and Dr. Stephanie Bradley.)

ROOTS WITH WINGS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Roots with Wings is an ongoing collaboration where Radford University students mentored Floyd County High School students, teaching qualitative research skills used to gather oral histories.

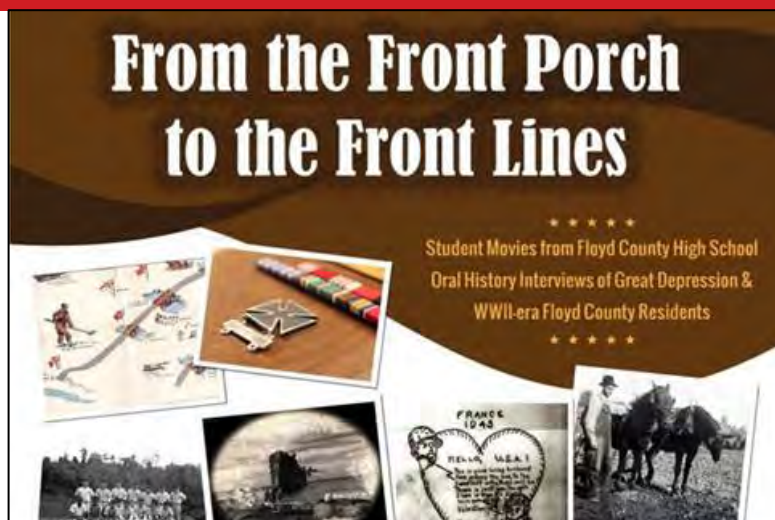
The Department of Sociology's Dr. Melinda Wagner and Old Church Gallery's Kathleen Ingoldsby presented "From the Front Porch to the Front Lines: Rural Virginia on a Threshold of Change" Wednesday, February 26th in RU's McConnell Library as part of a series of

events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. "From the Front Porch..." is a high school student movie series developed from interviews with Floyd County World War II veterans and their families, and conducted by the Roots with Wings Oral History Project from 2007-2015. The Roots with Wings project has been very active. Current activities are described in the blog entry that follows, written by Roots with Wings RU intern, Bijou Williams, and Dr. Wagner:

Back in the Swing of Things!

The Roots with Wings Oral History Project is back in full swing in Spring 2020. Remember the swing you had as a kid -- a rope with an old tire or a wooden plank dangling from a tree limb? Remember that you started your momentum slowly, pumping your feet, and boomeranged higher and higher? We began our momentum last Thursday when we learned the importance of interviewing and discussed skills that are crucial to conducting a meaningful interview. The Floyd Story Center at the Old Church Gallery, Floyd County Public Schools, and Radford University (RU) are again offering Roots with Wings as a professional development activity for Floyd County Public School teachers, providing points towards relicensure. We are pleased that our team includes Check Elementary teacher, Mary Dickerson, who participated in the Project as a student at RU. Mary is joined by Katie Thomas from Check Elementary, Jason Burgard from Floyd County High School, Bijou Williams, a current RU student interning with Roots with Wings, Catherine Pauley, Alice Slusher, and Melinda Wagner. Our main priority is to communicate the Old Church Gallery motto, "We Remember, We Collect, We Protect," to the Floyd County community. We look forward to communicating with you all!

If you are interested in an internship opportunity (SOCY 499) in the Roots with Wings Project with Dr. Wagner and the Floyd Story Center, contact Drs. Lyman and Page. See the Project blog at: <https://floydstorycenter.blogspot.com>



SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT HOSTS LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY INVITED SPEAKERS

Three Longwood University sociologists – Drs. Lee Bidwell, Scott Grether, and JoEllen Pederson – visited our campus on February 20 to present an invited talk co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology and the Center for Gender Studies. “Talking the talk but not walking the walk? Gender differences in parental involvement in children’s education” presented the findings of original research conducted with parents in Prince Edward County, Virginia. Earlier in the day, Dr. Pederson lectured in Dr. Bradley’s *Survey Research Methods* course about the construction of the survey used to collect data for this project.



Dr. JoEllen Pederson presents to a *Survey Research Methods* class.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS: By Shaylee Hodges on her SOCY 498 Independent Study project

Last semester it occurred to me that I needed to have a paper for my graduate school applications. During a conversation I had with Dr. Bodenhamer, I had expressed some of the difficulties I had experienced as a sibling of a sister with a disability and a sister with a chronic disorder as I had tried to transition into college. “That would be an interesting topic to study,” she remarked. I’m not sure I had thought about it before, but I agreed and decided to pursue the topic as an Independent Study under Dr. Bodenhamer’s guidance. After creating a proposal of study and setting out our syllabus, I began compiling 15 articles on siblings of children with disabilities, while examining the impact that level of care has upon the relationship as they transition into adulthood. In a vastly expanding field, siblings of individuals with disabilities, resources and guidance are not always made available to them. Those with less resources might face greater struggles and restrictions when making long term care plans for their loved ones. This in turn, can negatively impact the family’s quality of life. Often less recognized as a primary caretaker, siblings face the expectation of making long-term care plans as older parents become unable to care for their children with special needs. As our life plans and medical care continues to advance, care plans for those with special needs should also advance. Out of this project will be a literature review that we plan to turn into a poster presentation for the 2020 Student Engagement Forum. I hope to not only have a paper that I am proud to submit to graduate schools, but one that I believe provides insight into a unique perspective and advocates for resources that support siblings.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES



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

- ◆ Dr. Joanna Hunter and Bianca Dickerson (RU '16) have begun a collaboration around data from VA-211. VA-211 is a social service hotline that residents of the commonwealth can call for referrals to various social services (housing, food assistance help with utility bills). The Council of Community Services in Roanoke manages VA-211 and has a wealth of data about who calls the hotline and what services they need most. Dr. Hunter is supervising an intern who works at CCS taking daily calls and is currently working with students in the CSCR on analyzing those data for an annual report, which will be delivered to the client in August 2020. Are you interested in this project? Let Dr. Hunter know and she will help you get involved!
- ◆ Dr. Hulya Dogan had a book review, "Migrants & City-Making: Dispossession, Displacement, and Urban Regeneration by Ayşe Çağlar & Nina Glick Schiller, Duke University Press, 2018" published in the journal City and Society, Volume 31, January 14, 2020.
- ◆ Mr. Will Taggart presented a guest lecture on the history of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) at Virginia Tech for the "Diplomacy Lab" on February 18. In the class, students work to develop policies and do research for the State Department. This semester they are working on a policy paper on what to do with the wives and children of Islamic State fighters, thinking about how to structure a "deradicalization" program for them.
- ◆ Dr. Bodenhamer served as a faculty co-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 is a collaboration between the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, Green Forests Work, and RU faculty, Department of Geospatial Science, Dr. Rick Roth, Department of Health and Human Performance, Dr. Tiesha Martin, and the Appalachian Regional & Rural Studies Center, Dr. Theresa Burriss. In addition, Dr. Bodenhamer and former student, Cody Meador (RU '19) had a paper accepted for the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) Conference in Lexington, Kentucky March 12-15.* Meador completed an internship with Dr. Bodenhamer for a project entitled, "The Resurgence of Black Lung in Central Appalachia: An In-Depth Case Study with Stone Mountain Health Services."
- ◆ Dr. Bradley is supervising first-year Research Rookie Coleen Maloney, a double major in psychology and social work. The Highlander Research Rookie program aims to match highly motivated first- and second-year students with a faculty mentor for an academic year to develop their professional and research-based skills. Dr. Bradley and Coleen had a paper "Financial Aid: Student Awareness and Communication Preferences" accepted for the Virginia Social Science Association's annual conference in Petersburg, VA on March 21.*

* Unfortunately these conferences were cancelled due to COVID-19.