

# Sociology Matters

Radford University

Department of Sociology



Bijou Williams receives her diploma at Spring 2021 Commencement

## Greetings from the Chair

It has been a fantastic year, with things getting back to something that resembles “normal” for us all. I had missed the hallway conversations, in-person office visits, and events that had been put on hold for so long. Inside this newsletter are highlights of exciting things that have been happening here, so please have a look to see what we all have been up to. One special project has been the creation of an interdisciplinary minor in African American Studies. We have already begun teaching courses in the minor, including Introduction to African American Studies and a Special Topics class in African American Studies, during which students have partnered with the Christiansburg Institute to help support their mission. If you are interested in the minor, Dr. Page can help you see what it might look like for you as you work towards the completion of your degree. I hope to see our first minors in African American Studies walk across the stage next Spring! Have a great semester, everyone!

Dr. Beth Lyman

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## SOCIOLOGY COURSES OFFERED FALL 2022

### Required Courses:

SOCY 110 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 497 Senior Seminar

### Elective Courses:

SOCY 121 Understanding Cultures

AAST 200 African American Studies

SOCY 210 Social Problems

SOCY 213 Social Issues & Healthcare  
Delivery

SOCY 326 Men and Women in Society

SOCY 331 Race & Ethnic Relations

SOCY 340 Appalachian Health Cultures

SOCY 433 Rural Sociology

SOCY 444 Juvenile Delinquency

SOCY 495 Topical Seminar: Sociology of  
Hip Hop

### Courses that Satisfy the Major

### Applied/Practical Experience

### Requirement:

SOCY 499 Internship

# Sociology Advising News

## Pre-registration advising for Fall 2022 is under way

Registration for Fall 2022 classes begins Monday, April 4. Plan now for pre-registration advising with Dr. Page to decide on courses for this fall, think about upcoming semesters and target a graduation date. Plan for your advising Zoom by reviewing your Degree Works, the new Fall 2022 Sociology courses flyer, and the university-wide schedule for upcoming classes. Then email Dr. Page (erpage@radford.edu) to set up a Zoom appointment.

If you are thinking about doing an Internship soon, start planning now and get in touch with Dr. Bradley ([sbradley20@radford.edu](mailto:sbradley20@radford.edu)) ASAP; don't wait until the semester's end.

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

### Notes:

- Graduating in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2022? You should have your online graduation application completed, or do so now.
- Considering a course withdrawal? Remember that five withdrawals at Radford are permitted. Be aware of the April 1 withdrawal deadline, and inform Dr. Page of your withdrawal intentions, or questions.

# Congratulations 2022 Grads!

**Russell Alvarez  
Mikayla Cashwell  
Haley Courtney  
Sydney Gillenwater  
Danyelle Gordon  
Bailey Graham  
Cali Jacobs**

**Anna Marie Kelly  
Christiana Rolack  
Miranda Salgado  
Dylan Thompson  
Amelia Westland  
Reed Yearwood**

# Anti-Racism Activity

In the wake of the May 2020 murder of George Floyd, the Department of Sociology issued a Statement of Solidarity and Action condemning systemic racism. The statement urged members of the Radford University community to take specific anti-racist actions to combat the racist features of American society that give rise to the murder of George Floyd and countless other Black Americans. Department of Sociology faculty also committed to take individual and collective anti-racist actions.

We believe that it is important to remain transparent and accountable to those commitments and below we offer a summary of the extensive individual and curricular anti-racist activities of the Department of Sociology Faculty.



## Curricular Activities

- Sociology faculty engaged in extensive review and revision of course content, readings, and assignments. These activities include, but are not limited to, actively incorporating Critical Race Theory, incorporating Black authors, voices, and experiences into course materials, and incorporating inclusivity statements in course syllabi.
- Sociology faculty developed and delivered Implicit Bias and Microaggression training and discussions to academic and administrative units across the Radford University and Radford University-Carilion campuses.

## Collaborations with organizations led by (or serving) BIPOC students

- Merged the Appalachian Events Committee with Diversity Awareness Programming
- Served on the hiring committee for the Assistant Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion
- Served as faculty advisor to Radford NAACP
- Made contributions to the recently adopted Quality Enhancement Plan that explicitly focuses on inclusivity and dedicates attention to the experiences of minoritized members of the Radford University-RUC community

## Hosting formal and informal events to support BIPOC students, faculty, and staff

- The Center for Social and Cultural Research hosted three speakers for the Race and Research Series.
- The Department was awarded a grant from Alpha Kappa Delta, the international Sociology honors society, to host a virtual talk by Earl Wright II, author of *Jim Crow Sociology: The Black and Southern Roots of American Sociology* (see page 5).
- Hosted a *White Fragility* book group discussion for Sociology students
- Gave speeches at the RU Bigger Picture Marches (see page 4)

## Individual Actions

- Sociology faculty also engaged in a variety of individual actions to increase their knowledge and awareness of race and racism. These activities included participating in virtual and in-person social justice events and participating in several faculty book groups.

The Department of Sociology and Sociology Faculty continue to commit themselves to anti-racist activities and education, and encourage the Radford/RUC community to continue those efforts as well. We recognize that anti-racism is a journey, not a destination, and we all continue our efforts on our individual and collective paths toward a more equitable and just society.



# 2nd Annual Bigger Picture March



Left: Sociology major Devante Mosley, organizer of the 2nd Annual Bigger Picture March for racial justice, speaks from the steps of McConnell Library at the start of the rally Saturday afternoon, October 16, 2021.



Above: Lex Beard, 2020 Sociology graduate and Dean's Scholar, speaks at Moffett Lawn after the march made its way across campus from McConnell Library.



Above right: Dr. Bodenhamer speaks from the steps of McConnell Library.

Bottom right: Rally participants listen to speakers on Moffett Lawn.



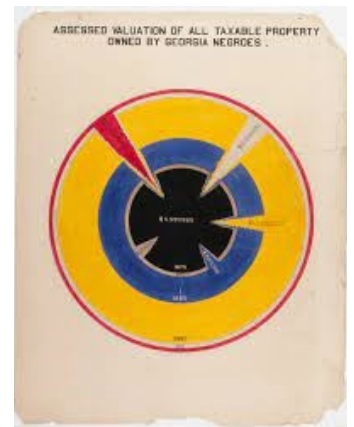
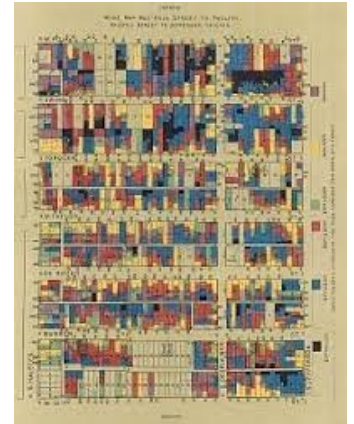


# CSCR Gets a Facelift

The Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR) got a facelift this Fall! Drs. Lyman, Page, and Wisecup worked with Ms. Kaluszka to select a variety of prints and photographs for display in the CSCR. Dr. Page selected a variety of photographs produced by students enrolled in Visual Sociology (SOCY 465); these framed photographs represent some of the best work produced by Sociology students enrolled in the course in recent years and are displayed in the computer lab of the CSCR.


Drs. Lyman and Wisecup selected visualizations produced by W.E.B. DuBois and Jane Addams to be displayed in the entry of the CSCR. The data visualizations produced by DuBois are important for a variety of reasons. DuBois is a central, though often overlooked, founder of American Sociology. His methodological contributions to the discipline are numerous and include systematic sampling, insider interview approaches, mixed methods and triangulation, and data visualization.

Jane Addams, international peace activist and feminist, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 for her work with the Hull House. Adams lived and worked alongside residents of the Near West Side of Chicago to create social change. Addams worked with residents of Hull House to produce a variety of neighborhood map visualizations that detailed immigrant poverty, immigrant nationality classifications, and languages spoken in Chicago neighborhoods. The Hull House Maps and Papers dealt explicitly with tenement conditions, sweatshops, and child labor and represent a pioneering sociological study of social conditions and data visualization.




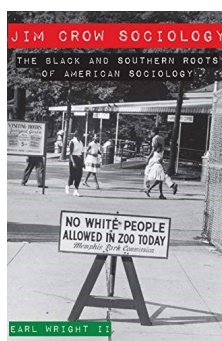


# Jim Crow Sociology

***Jim Crow Sociology:***  
*The Black & Southern Roots of American Sociology*  
 Dr. Earl Wright II, Professor of Sociology, Rhodes College



Thursday, April 15th  
 2-3:30pm  
 Zoom:  
 Meeting ID 92996533885  
<https://radford.zoom.us/j/92996533885>

Zoom Meeting

Recording

Atlanta University

- Pre 1895 - John Howard White "teaching ground sociology"
- 1895 - George O. Bradford and President Monroe Burdette
- 1897 - W. E. B. Du Bois begins tenure at Atlanta University (1897-1918)
- Atlanta Sociological Laboratory (1895-1917)

Earl Wright II

The Sociology Department was awarded a grant from Alpha Kappa Delta, the Sociology international honors society, to host a virtual talk by Earl Wright II, author of *Jim Crow Sociology: The Black and Southern Roots of American Sociology*. Wright, Professor of Sociology at Rhodes College, met via Zoom April 15, 2021 with Sociology faculty and about 100 guests to speak about the racist history of American Sociology and the role of Black scholars in its founding and development.

# CSCR Research Highlights

The Center for Social and Cultural Research (CSCR) is as busy as ever, with several research assistants working directly with Sociology faculty on a variety of applied research projects. Sociology major **Christiana Rolack** is currently working with Dr. Bodenhamer on a report for the Radford University Presidential Taskforce on Sustainability. Dr. Bodenhamer distributed a survey last year to assess attitudes about sustainability at Radford University and Christiana spent much of the fall semester cleaning, analyzing, and summarizing the survey data for the report.

**Brigitte Contreras**, Nursing major and Sociology minor, is assisting Dr. Hunter with a report for Virginia 2-1-1. Virginia 2-1-1 is a service of the Virginia Department of Social Services provided in partnership with the Council of Community Services and connects Virginia residents with free information about available community services. Brigitte spent the fall semester cleaning and preparing a large data set for analysis.



**Cali Jacobs**, Sociology major, is assisting Dr. Wisecup with a variety of projects including one in support of Peaceline, the violence prevention curriculum delivered in New River Valley schools by educators at the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley. Cali is assisting Dr. Wisecup by gathering a decade's worth of secondary data sources (Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection, Current Population Survey Estimates produced by the Census Bureau, and Community Crime Rate Statistics published by the State of Virginia) for a larger project that explores the efficacy of violence prevention education programs across the state. The project is part of a larger effort in the long-standing collaboration between the Department of Sociology and the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley and a seed grant awarded to Drs. Bradley, Lyman, and Wisecup to support a more extensive review of the Peaceline Program.



## Additional CSCR News

The CSCR continued to bustle with activity in spring 2022, welcoming several new research assistants for the semester.

**Jodi Allen**, Sociology major, is working with Drs. Lyman and Wisecup on their food insecurity research this semester.

**Rebecca Allen**, Psychology major, is assisting Dr. Hunter with her consulting work for Virginia 2-1-1. Virginia 2-1-1 is a service of the Virginia Department of Social Services provided in partnership with the Council of Community Services and connects Virginia residents with free information about available community services.

**Damaris Forkey**, Sociology minor and Biology major, is working with Dr. Bradley on her Financial Literacy project.





# Food Insecurity Projects

Drs. Lyman and Wisecup centered the issue of food insecurity in higher education in their courses (SOCY 250 and SOCY 480) in Spring 2021. Students in the courses explored food insecurity at Radford University through an examination of possible obstacles to food access and a university-wide survey to estimate the prevalence of food insecurity among all students, faculty, and staff. Drs. Lyman and Wisecup then prepared and delivered a report about the nature of food insecurity among Radford University/RUC students. The results of the survey indicated that nearly 25% of Radford/RUC students report experiencing food insecurity in the previous 30 days.

The report also detailed the heightened vulnerability of some students (i.e. racial/ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, Pell Grant recipients, etc.) for experiencing food insecurity. Drs. Lyman and Wisecup also presented these findings at a faculty development workshop in August 2021 to raise faculty awareness regarding the scope of food insecurity among students. Drs. Lyman and Wisecup also presented their findings at the annual Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference in October 2021.

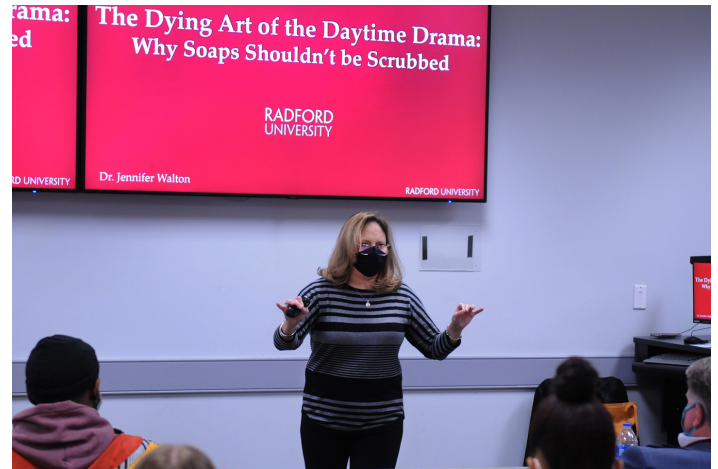
Drs. Lyman and Wisecup continue to incorporate food insecurity into their courses and their research regarding food insecurity in higher education. This year, they plan to extend their explorations to how required meal plans may contribute to students' food insecurity.

Drs. Lyman and Wisecup recently received a College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences grant to support their work on food insecurity. Their project will involve the exploration of the relationship between meal plans and food insecurity among Radford University students.

Their project employs students' OneCard balances over the course of a semester to explore if and when students run out of meal plan money and might find themselves in a precarious situation. Further, in Fall 2022, Drs. Lyman and Wisecup will be working with Jodi Allen to develop and deliver a food insecurity and meal plan module for students enrolled in sections of University 100.



# CSCR Speaker Series



What are the social functions of television soap operas? Dr. Jennifer Walton, Professor and Director of the School of Communication provided answers to this and other questions about the daytime dramas as the Center for Social and Cultural Research's (CSCR) Speaker Series resumed in the fall 2021 semester with face-to-face interaction and live refreshments.

Dr. Chapman Rackaway, Chair of the Department of Political Science, gave the semester's first presentation on October 19 in Heth Hall, "Primary Compensation: Shifting Competition Frames in State and Legislative Elections in the 2010s and Beyond."

Dr. Walton presented "The Dying Art of the Daytime Drama: Why Soaps Shouldn't be Scrubbed" on November 15, also in Heth Hall. Walton defined soap operas, described their evolution, and noted that their formula is not restricted to daytime--"Downton Abbey" is just one of the more recent popular nighttime programs to follow the format. Walton said a central social function of the formula is in how they aid individuals and society generally in addressing social problems.



**The Center for Social and Cultural Research  
Speaker Series Fall 2021**

Dr. Jennifer Walton  
Professor & Director, School of Communication

The Dying Art of the Daytime Drama: Why Soaps Shouldn't be Scrubbed



November 15, 2021  
1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Heth 043  
Light refreshments provided








**The Center for Social and Cultural Research  
Speaker Series Fall 2021**

Dr. Chapman Rackaway  
Professor & Chair, Department of Political Science

Primary Compensation: Shifting Competition Frames in State  
Legislative Primary Elections in the 2010s and Beyond



October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
3:00 – 4:00 pm  
Heth 022  
Light refreshments provided








# Christiansburg Institute

SOCY 495 partners in recovery of historical student records



Dr. Hunter is teaching SOCY 495 Seminar in African American Studies this semester, where she is guiding students in community-based research projects. Students are assisting the Christiansburg Institute with the recovery of student records and their return to the institute. The seminar is a Citizen Leader-designated course and is part of the Department of Sociology's new African American Studies minor.

The institute is an African American cultural heritage and historic preservation organization. It is the namesake of the Christiansburg Industrial Institute, which educated generations of African American families from across the state of Virginia and beyond for a century beginning in 1866. The institute remains standing off of N. Franklin St. in Christiansburg.

Top right: Julia Lucas, Curatorial Assistant at the Christiansburg Institute and 2021 Radford graduate; Victoria Dean, a student in the SOCY 495 seminar; and Dr. Hunter examine student records that had been dispersed over the years and have wound up in the possession of Radford City Schools.

Middle right: Radford City Schools Superintendent Robert Graham presented a collection of student records, some dating to circa 1900, to a group from the Christiansburg Institute and the SOCY 495 class on February 8 at the Radford City Schools Administration Office.

Bottom right: Jenny Nehrt, Curator at the Christiansburg Institute; Victoria Dean; Julia Lucas; Debbie Sherman-Lee, Chair of the Christiansburg Institute Board of Directors; Dr. Hunter; and Robert Graham.



# Alumni Day 2021

The Department of Sociology hosted its most recent annual Alumni Day on October 28. Alumni Day invites Sociology graduates to share their experiences and best practices with students facing graduation. This year's virtual event featured a moderated discussion followed by breakout groups during which students interacted with panelists more directly.

Four alumni panelists discussed their graduate school and/or workforce experiences with upper-level Sociology majors. **Lex Beard** ('20) is a first-year masters student in Sociology at George Mason University. **Joey**

**Selwaeh** ('21) is a first-year masters student in counselor education at Radford University. **Bianca Dickerson** ('16) is a Supervisor at 211 Virginia, a referral network supported by the Council of Community Services.

Bianca earned a master of science in human resource management from Southern New Hampshire University. **Michael Facey** ('18) is currently the Coordinator for Inclusive Excellence and Programming at Hampden-Sydney College. Michael earned a master of education degree from James Madison University.

Collectively, these panelists shared their advice and insights related to preparing for graduate school and the job market, networking, interviewing, and applying sociological training to work after graduating from Radford University.

Alumni Day complements our Senior Seminar in Sociology (SOCY 497), 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.

Alumni interested in participating in future Alumni Day events are encouraged to contact Dr. Bradley at [sbradley20@radford.edu](mailto:sbradley20@radford.edu).



# Women's History Month



Dr. Bodenhamer (left) and Dr. Bradley presented during the 2021 Women's History Month program. Dr. Bodenhamer participated in the "Faculty Research and Teaching Round Table on Gender and the Environment." Here, faculty panelists discussed their research and teaching interests, and explored opportunities for research collaborations with students.

Dr. Bradley and two students from the Sociology of Hip Hop course presented "Women in Hip Hop." This session celebrated influential women who helped shape and sustain Hip Hop as a culture.





# Sociology of Hip Hop



Sociology of Hip Hop was a special topics course offered during the Spring 2021 semester. Led by Dr. Bradley, students explored the social, political, and economic forces that contributed to the creation, continuation, and effects of Hip Hop culture. This course paved the way for unique experiences for Dr. Bradley and the students, including an exploration into Hip Hop studies, grant activity, exciting guest speakers, and student engagement outside of the classroom. Under a new name – Hip Hop Culture – this course is scheduled to be taught again during the Fall 2022 semester. Enroll in SOCY 495-01 if you are interested!

## HIP HOP STUDIES

Originated by New York City teenagers and young adults in the 1970s, Hip Hop is now an outright culture with a global influence. The four central elements of Hip Hop culture include DJing (turntablism), MCing (rapping), breaking (dancing), and graffiti (aerosol arts). Knowledge is widely considered the fifth element.

Hip Hop studies and Hip Hop pedagogy honor the fifth element. Hip Hop pedagogy invites educators to authentically incorporate the creative elements of Hip Hop into their teaching. Hip Hop studies, a term largely credited to authors Forman and Neal in their 2004 reader titled *That's the Joint!*, focuses on the research and scholarly activities aimed at cataloguing and exploring Hip Hop culture. Hip Hop studies encompasses scholarship from a range of academic domains including history, politics, race, gender, and Sociology. Hip Hop studies and Hip Hop pedagogy largely influenced the creation of Sociology of Hip Hop.

## DR. BRADLEY RECEIVES A HIPS GRANT

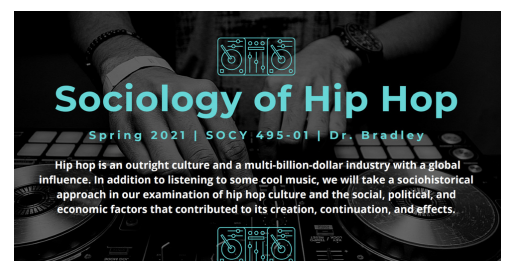
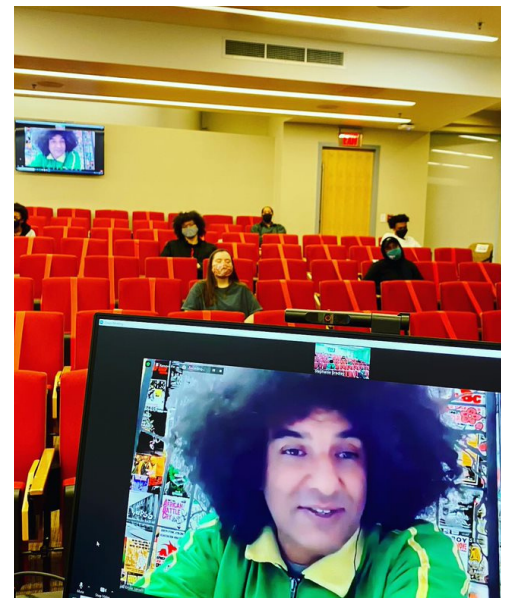
Assisted by a High Impact Practices (HIPs) Grant, Sociology of Hip Hop students had the opportunity to directly interact with individuals from within the Hip Hop community during the Global Conference on Hip Hop Education during February 3-9, 2021. Hosted by the Hip Hop Association of Advancement and Education (HHAAE), the virtual conference provided students with the chance to attend a variety of sessions from an international slate of presenters.

Some sessions focused on Hip Hop as a pedagogical tool, such as the benefits of using rapping to assist with English language acquisition.

Other sessions explored Hip Hop culture, such as a screening with the director of a documentary about Hip Hop and activism in Senegal, Brazil, Serbia, and France. HIPs Grant funding also supported the inclusion of a guest speaker from South Africa, Emile Jansen, also known as Emile YX?. Jansen, the founder of Black Noise and Heal the Hood, talked about his experiences as an MC, b-boy, author, and community developer (photo at right).

These experiences exposed students to Hip Hop culture beyond the commercialized, commodified, and US-centric rap music that many students initially perceived to be the full expression of the culture.

Engaging with artists, creators, and academics from the international Hip Hop community provided a more authentic lens with which students could explore Hip Hop culture.



# Sociology of Hip Hop

## ENGAGING EXPERIENCES

In addition to learning from Emile Jansen, students had the opportunity to learn from the president of the HHAEE and members of Virginia Tech’s Digging in the Crates: Hip Hop Studies program (#VTDITC). Dr. Tasha Iglesias, founder and president of HHAEE, discussed the origins of Hip Hop and how the narrative has been molded by select voices to the exclusion of others. La’Portia Perkins, known in the Hip Hop community as Mama P, discussed her experiences in Hip Hop and led the class in a rhyme-writing workshop (right). Craig Arthur, head of #VTDITC, presented his experiences as a member of the Hip Hop community and led the class in a Djing workshop. These experiences served to center practitioners and the experiences of Hip Hop creators.

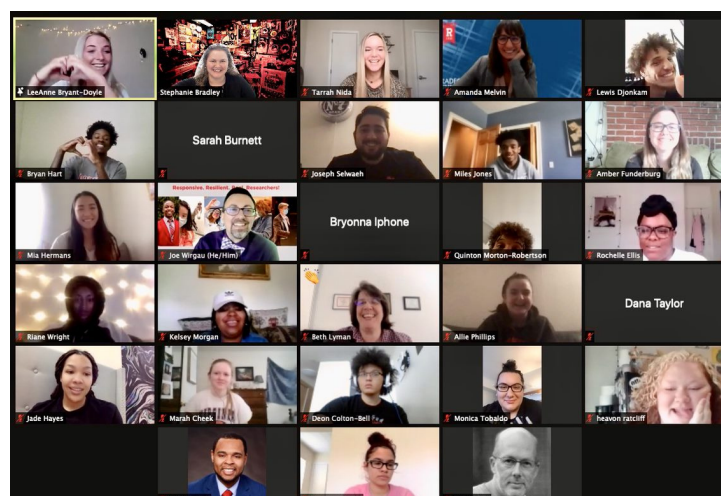


In addition to the engaging experiences that took place inside of the classroom, some experiences took place outside of the regular class structure. Students Heavon Ratcliff and Amber Funderburg opted to join Dr. Bradley in extracurricular presentations. The three presented “Women in Hip Hop” on March 19, 2021 in association with Radford University’s Women’s History Month.

Amber and Dr. Bradley developed a panel session for the Virginia Social Science Association’s annual conference on April 24, 2021. In their panel, they delivered presentations about Hip Hop culture through both an academic lens and as a student reflecting on their class experiences.

## THE HIP HOP SHOWCASE AT THE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FORUM

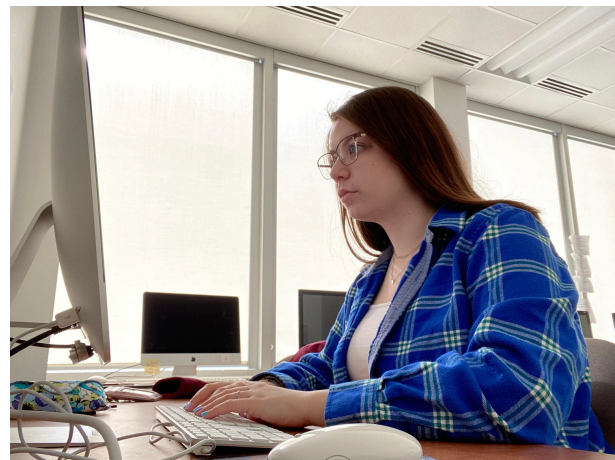
Sociology of Hip Hop students demonstrated their knowledge of Hip Hop culture and its elements at the 2021 Student Engagement Forum. The class ran a two-session Hip Hop Showcase on April 13 and 15. The students chose which topics to include and the session agendas, created recorded presentations, and moderated the sessions. Topics included in the Showcase included a course reflection, Hip Hop’s origins, the four elements of Hip Hop, the evolution of Hip Hop, sociological perspectives, and the professional application of Hip Hop. The Showcase was well attended and received rave reviews!





# Roots with Wings

Bailey Graham Wiley took on the Citizen-Leader SOCY 499 Roots with Wings internship with the Floyd Story Center at the non-profit Old Church Gallery in Floyd County, and developed a video presentation for the Student Engagement Forum (SEF). Bailey's activities included careful archiving in preparation for a major website-building endeavor. She worked with oral history interview transcriptions, photographs, and catalog records from a 2006-2007 Migration Study undertaken by students in Melinda Wagner's classes with Ricky Cox, recently retired Appalachian Studies and English teacher. Bailey also gave her SEF presentation to the Old Church Gallery volunteer staff, who commented:



"Well done! Bailey's description of the project provided the listener with a good understanding of both the original project (subject matter) and her approach to refining and organizing the data (archival organization). The presentation gives the viewer a comprehensive behind-the-scenes look at not only the Migration Study's content, but also the whys, wherefores, and value of archival organization. Bailey is as impressive here as she was in our initial meeting! Can we adopt her?"

If you are interested in becoming an intern for the Floyd Story Center in Spring 2023, contact Dr. Melinda Wagner ([mwagner@radford.edu](mailto:mwagner@radford.edu)), Dr. Bradley, and Dr. Page.

# Sociology Notes

- Drs. Bradley and Hunter were invited panelists for a session titled "Trauma, Stress, and Teaching: How Faculty Process and Cope with Secondary Stress" at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. This session shared literature and experiences related to the secondary stress that faculty members may experience as a result of exposure to students' emotional, physical, and academic concerns.
- Dr. Bradley published "Financial Literacy Education: An Opportunity for Colleges and Sociology" in *Sociology Compass*. This article developed out of her interest in critiquing financial literacy training that fails to consider variation in attendees' resources, supporting college students' financial wellbeing, and inviting sociologists to engage in research related to financial literacy education. DOI: 10.1111/soc4.12922
- Dr. Bradley presented "Developing Students into Practitioners: Simulating Consultancy in Senior Seminar in Sociology" at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology. This presentation presented an overview of the active learning components in Senior Seminar in Sociology (SOCY 497), with a focus on the simulation that serves as a culminating applied project.
- In November 2021, Dr. Bradley was interviewed by David Phipps, adjunct English professor, for episode 19 of the *Racially Speaking* podcast. They talked about a range of topics, including teaching styles, the importance of diversifying decision makers, and some of Dr. Bradley's favorite rappers.
- Former Assistant Professor of Sociology Steve McGlamery is now Dr. McGlamery. Professor McGlamery left Radford in 2019 to complete his doctoral studies at Virginia Tech. He successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in February and is to receive his PhD in May. His dissertation is titled "A Cure for Original Sin? Southern Baptists and Race 1970-1999: A Study of a 'Race Relations Sunday' Institutional Initiative."