



# Sociology Matters

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

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## 2011 Graduates

- Leslie Abernathy*
- Jessica Albrecht*
- Jessie Altice*
- Jess Bellamy*
- Jeremy Bleakley*
- Brittany Bongrazio*
- Thomas Bowman*
- Katie Boyd*
- Clarissa Clarke*
- Clarissa Clarke*
- Jess Cushman*
- Amy Dove*
- Sarah Fischetti*
- Robert Hancock*
- Courtney Hawkes*
- Caitie Hennessey*
- Anthony Molignoni*
- Daniel Mozer*
- Aisilinn Nelson*
- Alex Taylor*
- Elizabeth Westman*
- Caitlin Worsham*

## Spring Forward

The grass is turning green, the days are getting longer, and fall registration is about to begin. It's been a busy

semester in the Department of Sociology, and there's much more to come in the following months. Look inside to

see what's been happening, what's new, and what is ahead.

## Congratulations, Graduates!



Congratulations to our May and December 2011 graduates! Over the last year, the Department of Sociology graduated 22 students! Many of those students received awards at the 2010-2011 Sociology Honors Celebration. Awards given to seniors were: Dean's Scholar (Jessica Albrecht, Jess Bellamy), Most Promising Senior (Anthony Molignoni), Outstanding Graduating Seniors (Jessica Albrecht, Leslie Abernathy, Katie Boyd), Extraordinary Academic

Achievement (Jessica Albrecht, Jessie Altice), Outstanding Research in Service (Jess Bellamy, Katie Boyd, Clarissa Clarke, Anthony Molignoni), Outstanding Research Presentation (Anthony Molignoni, Jess Bellamy), Outstanding Achievement in Research (Jess Bellamy), Outstanding Performance in an Internship (Sarah Fischetti), Outstanding Service to the Department (Amy

Dove, Caitie Hennessey), Most Passionate Activist (Leslie Abernathy), and Outstanding Academic Persistence (Caitie Hennessey).



Again, congratulations our graduates, and a special congratulations to our award recipients. We hope to see you all at the 2011-2012 Honors Celebration on April 24th!



**Famous  
Sociology  
Majors:**

- Rev. Jesse Jackson
- Saul Alinsky
- Ronald Reagan
- Alonzo Mourning
- Sen. Barbara Mikulski
- Rep. Maxine Waters
- Bobby Taylor
- Joe Theisman
- Ahmad Rashad
- Cardinal Theodore McCarrick

## Mary Dickerson Presents...

Mary Dickerson, a sociology major, presented her research at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual SouthEastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium (SEUSS) at Emory University in Atlanta, GA on



February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. As noted on the Emory University Department of Sociology website, SEUSS provides an opportunity for students to present their original research papers in a professional atmosphere. Mary's research presentation,

*Musical Preferences, Consumption, and the Internet* examines the processes that contribute to individuals' music preferences. Although a considerable body of sociological research examines the cultural and network factors that influence individuals' preferences for various types of music, Mary notes that neither of these perspectives considers how the emergence of the internet as an important mode of consumption may change how people learn about and develop preferences. Mary argues that the internet may broaden individuals' music preferences by providing individuals with access to and information about music genres with which they are unfamiliar. The results of Mary's research indicate internet use does influence individuals' music preferences. Importantly, Mary finds that internet use does not automatically broaden individuals' music preferences. Rather, the way individuals use the internet influences how the internet shapes individuals' music preferences.



Mary with her sister, Leah, at the SEUSS banquet

## MENTORS

This semester eight sociology majors are teaching and mentoring students at Floyd County High School in the Place-Based Education Oral History Project. They are taking SOCY 493 Practicum in Sociology, which counts for their in-



ternship/experience major requirement. The sociology majors teach workshops in qualitative research methods and mentor high school students who do oral history interviews with Floyd County elders. They make movies as well! The mentors this semester are: Mary Dickerson, Amy DuPont, Shylah Jones, Josh Judd, Stephen Lesiv, Claire Paulette, Matt Propst, and Josh Shultz. This semester, Mary Dickerson will be



assisting in a presentation about the project given to the Appalachian Regional Commission. As observed by alumna Patty McMurray, mentors are: Motivating, Engaging, Negotiating, Teaching, Organizing, and Role modeling.

## Amazing Internships!

Sociology students have been sharing their internship experiences through the Department's "My Amazing Internship" speaker series.

Jess Cushman kicked off a semester of internship reports Sept. 28 with an interesting and inspiring



presentation on her work at Case Country Road Organic

Farm. Working and living close to the land brought personal rewards and sociological insights on the socioeconomics of food.

In the second installment of My

Amazing Internship, Elizabeth Westman shared the rewards of interning with the Boys & Girls Clubs in Shawsville. She spoke Oct. 19 at The Bonnie.



In the third My Amazing Internship presentation, Nov. 18 at The Bonnie, Kacy Chrisley talked about his experience interning



with the United States Marines, working in and studying

recruitment.

The Amazing Internship speaker series continued into the Spring term with Jess Chandler's report of her experiences on the front lines



with the Pulaski County Department of

Social Services. Chandler spoke Feb. 22 at The Bonnie.

The next installment of the internship series is on March 28th, when Ellie Gaither will talk about her internship at the Women's Resource Center in Radford.

## Happenings

• **Professor Smith** will be honored as one of the "Distinguished Women of Radford University" by the Women's Studies Program in March. Look for a poster profile of her on campus! • **Dr. Wisecup** and major **Shanell Herbert** recently attended the Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meetings in St. Petersburg, FL to present the findings of their research on gender inequality in the coverage of women's and men's basketball in collegiate newspapers • **Dr. Corroto** had an article published in *Qualitative Inquiry*. The article, "A Postmodern Headache", is a theoretical piece about identity in relation to health, diagnostic processes, and medical decision making. • **Dr. Lyman** had two resources, "Sociology on YouTube" and "Global Social Problems: Analyses and Solutions" published in the Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology of the American Sociological Association. • **Dr. Mekolichick** and **Michael Gibbs** presented their paper, "Understanding Students' College Generational Status as it Impacts Mentored Undergraduate Research Experiences" at a conference at Virginia Tech. They currently have a paper under review from this project. • **Dr. Mekolichick** and **Jess Belamy ('11)** had their article, "Research Experiences for Undergraduates: Students' Perceptions of Mentoring and Conference Presentation by College Generational Status and Sex" accepted by *Perspectives on Undergraduate Research Mentoring*.

## Congratulations, Professor Smith!



Next time you see Professor Gabriella Smith, be sure to congratulate her on her acceptance into the doctoral sociology program at the University of Virginia. Professor Smith has received “full ride” financial support from the UVA sociology department to cover the costs of her schooling. The RU Sociology faculty are incredibly proud of Professor Smith, and while we are very sad that she will be leaving us at the end of this term, we are thrilled to send her off to such a good program so that she can continue her studies in sociology.

## Club News

The Radford University Sociology Club has had another busy semester. We’ve had hoodies made up that have been selling well (still some left if you are interested). We’re looking forward to an upcoming campus event, co-sponsored with R-SPACE and several other campus groups. On March 14th we’re helping to bring in Frank Warren to speak at the Bonnie. Warren is the founder of the popular website “Post Secret” and has worked with suicide prevention. It should prove to be a popular and interesting presentation. The club is also hosting a movie screening in conjunction with Prof. Smith’s “Men and Women in Society” class on March 29th. The documentary is called “The Price of Pleasure” and explores the ways the increasing popularity of pornography and pornographic images has effected American society and its repercussion for gender politics. Club elections are just around the corner, as well, and we’re looking forward to welcoming a new crop of officers with fresh ideas and plenty of enthusiasm. More events, bi-weekly meetings, and more exciting sociological outings to come. Check out “Radford University Sociology Club” on facebook for all of the information!

## Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some important dates to keep track of:

3/3-3/11 Spring Break

3/26 Registration for Fall semester begins

4/17-4/19 RU Undergraduate Research Forum

4/19 CSCR open house

4/24 Sociology Honors Ceremony

4/27 Last day of classes

4/30-5/3 Spring exams

## Like Us!



We’re on Facebook! Come check out the department at [Radford University Sociology](#) for department news and announcements

here, as well as recaps of recent events. For Sociology Club news, check out the page of the [Radford University Sociology Club](#).

