



Sociology Matters

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dr. Seyfrit is now Chair and is advising all majors in the department
- Welcome to the Department of Sociology to Ms. Katz, Mr. McGlamery, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Lookabill.
- The Center for Social and Cultural Research had a busy summer...check it out!

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Greetings and Welcome Back!

A big welcome to our returning students and new majors! Lots of new and exciting things are brewing in the Department of Sociology, and we hope to share these with you and make you a part of them.

Inside this issue of the department newsletter you'll find information about student honors, news about what some of our recent alums are up to,

introductions to new faculty and staff, updates on the new Center for Social and Cultural Research, and recent faculty accomplishments.

Best of luck to you this academic year!

Change in Department Chair and Advising

After spring semester Dr. Paula Brush decided to leave RU and Radford. She devoted four years to the department and succeeded in leading us through a number of curriculum and departmental changes. Because of her vision and leadership, we now have a Center for Social and Cultural Research, are in the process of applying for accreditation as an applied sociology program, and have a

solid five year plan for the future. The faculty members in the department are very sorry to lose her as our chair and colleague and we are sure students are also sorry to see her go. We can picture with delight her enjoying life on a Florida beach.

Before Dr. Brush's decision to leave, Dr. Carole Seyfrit had agreed to become the department's chief advisor and take on the role of



academic advising for all sociology majors. The reason for this is that there are so many details involved in making sure majors are making progress toward their degree completion (and different details for different catalog years) it makes

**Famous
Sociology
Majors:**

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Michelle Obama

Ronald Reagan

Francis Perkins

Robin Williams

*Ruth Westheimer
(aka "Dr. Ruth")*

Dan Aykroyd

Joe Theisman

Ahmad Rashad

Changes, cont.

more sense for one person to try to keep everything straight instead of multiple faculty. In addition, all sociology majors are now required to complete an applied experience (for example, an internship, practica, or similar experience). Other faculty can now spend more time with students as mentors,

internship supervisors, etc. Dr. Seyfrit will meet with students during registration to review progress toward graduation and keep track of degree audits. She will be listed as the advisor for all sociology majors.

In addition, Dr. Seyfrit is now serving as department chair. She is lo-

cated in Russell 229. Dr. Seyfrit brings administrative experience to the positions having served as Dean of RU's College of Graduate and Professional Studies from 2002 to 2008 and as Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies at Old Dominion University.

Introducing New Faculty for 2010-2011

We have three new instructors joining us this semester. Gabriella Smith is now in a one-year full-time position for 2010-2011. Ms. Smith earned her BA in Sociology from University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Master of Arts degree in sociology and a graduate certificate in "Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies" from University of Kansas. Prof. Smith's office is located in Russell 205.

Mr. Steve McGlamery is a new adjunct instruc-

tor, teaching one section of SOCY 110. He is a sociology PhD student at Virginia Tech where he will be taking his comprehensive exams this semester and working on his dissertation. He holds a BS in Communication/Journalism from Illinois State University and a Master of Divinity from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Among his areas of interest are inequality, race/class/gender, and southern culture. Prof.

McGlamery's office is Russell 227.

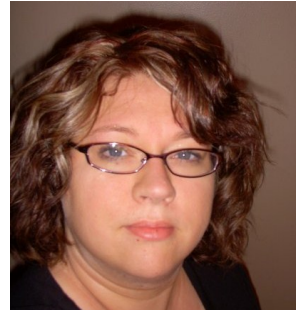
Ms. Meredith Katz is also a new adjunct instructor. She earned her BS in Psychology and MS in Sociology from Virginia Tech. She completed graduate certificates in women's studies and race and social policy. Prof. Katz is a PhD candidate at Virginia Tech and is currently finishing her dissertation. She will be located in Russesll 227.

Another New Face

As you know, Pat Rupe retired in May from Radford University after 37 years of service. We now share a secretary with the Department of Political Science. Kimberly Lookabill is an excellent asset to the depart-

ment. You can already see her organizational skills in the rearranged office space for the Center for Social and Cultural Research and consolidation of the departmental office supplies into one beautifully arranged

storage room. Sharing a secretary will require some adjustments, but we are very lucky to have such an accomplished administrative assistant working with the sociology department.



Honoring Our Students



Last spring, the Department of Sociology recognized the accomplishments of some of our outstanding students. The following sociology students

received awards: Aysha Bodenhamer (Dean's Scholar), Alyson Brackin, Jasmine Briggs, Amy Dove, Kari El-

liott, Elly Schulte, and Alexander Williams. Inductees to Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honors society, were: Leslie Abernathy, Jessie Altice, Jess Bellamy, Amy Dove, Kari Elliott, and Alexander Williams.

Anthropology students receiving awards for their accomplishments and outstanding performance

were: Katherine Boyd, Jonathan Brisendine, Clarissa Clarke, Kathryn Leonard, Patricia McMurray, Tara Reighard, Jeffrey Wood (Dean's Scholar), and Caitlin Worsham. Congratulations to these students, and to the 29 sociology and anthropology students among the graduating class of 2010!

Center for Social and Cultural Research

Dr. Mekolichik and four sociology students recently published the results of the Center's Campus Carbon Footprint Survey, which was used to assess RU's commuting behaviors and to determine a baseline carbon footprint of the RU community. The authors described a "car culture" at RU, with members of the RU community relying heavily on their cars to commute to campus rather than bicycling, walking,

and using bus transportation. Of the 482 students surveyed, 52% drove themselves to and from campus an average of 10 times per week, making an average 362 trips to campus per year. Continued exploration of university-community collaboration in improving things like bus transportation and bicycle pathways were determined to be beneficial to the community.

Dr. Mekolichik and the CSCR

will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey for New River Fitness this semester and will also continue work with the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley and Dr. Mekolichik's work on undergraduate research mentoring.

If you or anyone you know (majors or not at various skill levels) would like to get involved in research going on at the CSCR, please contact Dr. Mekolichik, the CSCR direc-



tor, at cscr@radford.edu or jmekolic@radford.edu. You can also check out the CSCR website at www.radford.edu/cscr.

Graduation...And Then What?

Congratulations to the class of 2010! Here are updates on what some of our most recent graduates are doing....

Aysha Bodenhamer is a graduate student at North Carolina State University. She is a graduate assistant in the Department of Sociology.

Alyson Brackin is an Intellectual Disabilities and Mental Health Support Specialist with Agape Counseling and Therapeutic Services in Hampton, Virginia.

Jasmine Briggs is a graduate student at Old Dominion University in the Higher Education: Student Affairs Administration program. She has a graduate assistantship with the Office of Student Activities and Leadership.

Faculty Notes

It's been a busy summer for the Department of Sociology! The results of the CSCR Campus Carbon Footprint Survey, conducted by **Dr. Mekolichik** and students **Karen Allen, Aysha Bodenhamer, Alyson Brackin, and Alex Williams**, were published and presented to the RU community (see [http://www.radford.edu/rugreen/Publications/Carbon%20Footprint%20Report%](http://www.radford.edu/rugreen/Publications/Carbon%20Footprint%20Report%20FINAL.pdf)

[20FINAL.pdf](http://www.radford.edu/NewsPub/July10/0708vuvuzela.html)). **Dr. Stevan Jackson** offered insight on vuvuzela buzz at the World Cup to the RU community (see <http://www.radford.edu/NewsPub/July10/0708vuvuzela.html>), **Dr. Wagner** represented the CSCR at the Community Foundation of the New River Valley workshop on service learning in July. Dr. Wagner presented on the Floyd County place-based education project, and also talked



about the Mountain View Cemetery project. **Drs. Corroto and Lyman** discussed their current research project on service learning in higher education at the American Sociological Association meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some important dates to keep track of:

9/5 Last day to Add/Drop

9/13 Last day to change to P/F or Audit Options

9/18 Last day to apply for Spring Graduation

10/23 Last day for individual class Withdraws

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