



Sociology Matters

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**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*

Fall Happenings

Lots of great things are happening in the Department of Sociology! Read on to hear about

our alumni and grad school panels, Sociology Club news, recent accomplishments by

department faculty, and Center for Social and Cultural Research news. Happy Autumn!

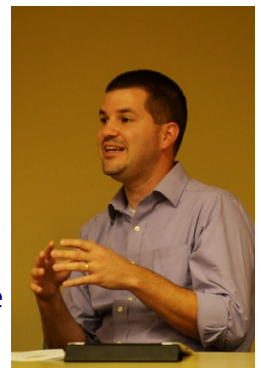
Voices of Experience: 2011 Alumni Panel



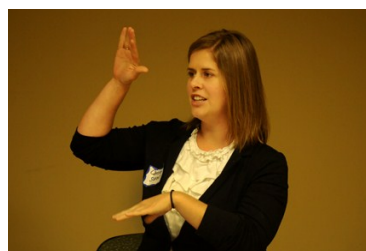
On October 6th, seven alumni from the department talked with students and other audience members about the ways in which their experiences as sociology majors help them in their careers. Among the panelists were: **Jess Bellamy (2011)**, a Research Assistant at HumRRO in Alexandria, VA; **James Dye (2007)**, a Data Analyst at The College of William and Mary; **Catie Hennessy (2011)**, a Public Health Analyst at RTI Interna-

tional in Durham, NC; **William Kain (2006)**, who has a position in the Security Department at ITT Night Vision in Roanoke; **Alicia Ring (2009)**, Coordinator for College Access and Success at Virginia Tech; **Caroline Stanfill (2008)**, Regional Coordinator for the Office of Justice and Peace, and **Rick Sparks (1999)**, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of New Student Programs at Virginia Tech. While each panelist had

unique stories about their career paths and how their sociology backgrounds have served them along the way, a common theme for them was that the sociological perspective, knowledge of social structures and social forces, and methodological training were helpful to them in



their post-graduate endeavors. Thank you, panelists, for sharing you experiences and advice with us!

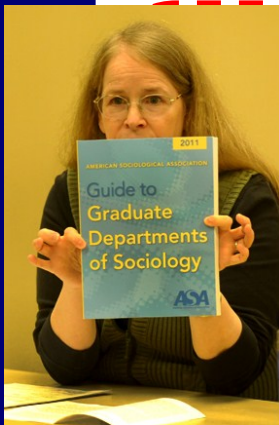


Heading Off to Work

It's never too early to start thinking about getting that first, post-graduation job! Internships are a great way to test out a field of interest to you, develop skills that you can carry forward with you anywhere you go (human capital!), and make important connections

with people who can help you in your search for your first job as an RU graduate (social capital!). As you begin considering the many opportunities for internship, check out the following sites: Department of Sociology internship information site ([\[soc.asp.radford.edu/Internships.htm\]\(http://soc.asp.radford.edu/Internships.htm\)\), Hire a Highlander \(\[www.myinterfase.com/radford/student/\]\(http://www.myinterfase.com/radford/student/\)\), and \[www.internships.com\]\(http://www.internships.com\). For questions, contact the department's Internship Coordinator, Dr. Mekolichick.](http://</p></div>
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Heading Off to (Grad) School



'Tis the season to think about graduate school! For those of you who will be applying for graduate school this year, dead-

lines are approaching fast! Sociology majors attended a Graduate School Panel this month to learn about graduate school, from applications to graduation. Make sure that you are aware of the deadlines for each of the schools that you will be applying to, especially if there is an earlier deadline for students

who would like to be considered for assistantships or aid. Keep in touch with faculty to establish relationships that may yield strong recommendations later on down the line. Don't hesitate to ask fac-



ulty to help with your applications, and be sure to give your recommendation letter writers enough time to put together their letter before the application deadline.

The American Sociological Association website is a great place to go to find out more about the discipline, careers in sociology, and in their section just for students, information for undergraduates considering graduate school. You can visit their site at www.asanet.org.



Welcome, Dr. Wisecup!



This fall we welcomed Dr. Allison Wisecup, who joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Sociology after completing her PhD at Duke University. This semester she is teaching introductory sociology, as well as Introduction to Social Research Methods (SOCY 380). In the spring, in addition to introductory sociology, she will teach Race and Ethnic Relations (SOCY 331) and Sociology of Sport (SOCY 390). Please stop by to say hello to Dr. Wisecup sometime, and if you're lucky, you might get to meet her part-time office manager, Crusoe.



Happenings

Drs. Corroto and Lyman were awarded a Carla B. Howery Grant from the American Sociological Association for their research on institutional support for service learning and the faculty who use it in higher education. In addition to the Howery grant, **Drs. Corroto and Lyman** were awarded a university seed grant to further this research program. **Dr. Wagner and Dr. Melissa Grim** (ESHE) were awarded an interdisciplinary grant for their research on religion and health decisions of religious leaders in Appalachian Communities. **Dr. Mekolichick** was awarded a CHBS grant for her research on undergraduate mentoring and conference presentation

with sociology major **Michael Gibbs**. They will present some of their work from this at a conference at Virginia Tech in February. **Dr. Lyman** was also awarded a CHBS grant for her research on productivity of faculty who use service learning. In publications, **Dr. Wisecup** had a book chapter published on the relationship between economic resources and dental health in *Social Exclusion, Poverty and Social Statistics: Perspectives from Quebec, Canada and Abroad*, and **Professor Smith** had an article published on an analysis of texts and their perspectives on how families handle the “possession management” of family elders in *Sociological Inquiry*.

Center for Social and Cultural Research

Sociology majors **Kyler Barton** and **Michael Gibbs** have been hard at work in the CSCR. Kyler is working with **Dr. Corroto** on her project on women in architecture, and Michael is working with **Dr. Mekolichick** on their collaborative project on undergraduate mentoring and conference presentation.

Also in CSCR news, **Michael Gibbs** was promoted to Research Associate at the Center. Also frequently seen in the Center office is **Amy DuPont**, a CSCR Research Assistant. If you are interested in getting involved in CSCR projects, please contact Dr. Mekolichick.



Alumni News

Former student **Jeannie Fry** recently had a co-authored paper published on “A Survey Study to Characterize Use of Spice Products (Synthetic Cannabinoids)”. **Jenny Davis** has been contributing to a sociology blog, “Cyberology.” **Jess Bellamy (2011)** is now a Research Assistant in the Modeling and Simulation Department at HumRRO in Alexandria, VA. **Michael Hickman (2009)** is a Staff Data Analyst for the National Industries for the Blind. **Caitie Hennesy (2011)** is now a Public Health Analyst at RTI International in Durham, NC. **Amy Dove (2011)** is a student in the Counseling Education program at Virginia Tech, and **Alex Williams (2010)** is a student in the Masters of Public Administration program at Virginia Tech.

Club News

The Radford University Sociology Club has been busy already this semester. We hosted a screening of the documentary “The Last Mountain” on September 21st in partnership with RU’s SustainAbility film series. Club members handed out popcorn along with information on Mountain Top Removal coal mining and its effects on Appalachian communities. Several club members also attended a film screening at Virginia Tech of Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez’s latest work “The Way.” The stars were on hand to talk about the work and a great time was had by all. October 25th brings sociologist Dr. Kathleen Barry to campus to discuss her latest book *Unmaking War, Remaking Men*. Dr. Barry’s campus visit is made possible by the Sociology Club in concert with Peace Studies and Women’s Studies. We are currently running a design contest for our official club hoodie sweatshirts with the theme “Sociologists do it in Groups;” no doubt they will prove as popular as our “Sociologists have no Class” t-shirts. Hoodies and t-shirts will be available for purchase later this semester. 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:

- 10/24 Spring registration begins
- 11/19-11/27 Thanksgiving break
- 12/9 Last day of classes
- 12/12-12/15 Final exam week
- 12/17 Winter Commencement

Like Us!

We’re on Facebook! Come check us out at [Radford University Sociology](#). You can get department news and announcements here, as well as recaps of recent events.

