



# Sociology Matters

Public Sociology at Radford University

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

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## 2014-2015 Graduates

- Austin Addair
- Sarah Belling
- Danielle Counts
- Tiffany Goins
- Donovan Johnson
- Tyiesha Pannell
- Kimberly Pearman
- Madeleine Reda
- Chelsea Sayers
- Rebecca Smith
- Karen Stamper
- Shawntea Thomas
- Ellisse Tracy
- Alexis Whitehurst

## Happy Spring, Everybody!

We hope you had a great spring break and are ready to finish out a great semester! As you start to think ahead about courses to

take next fall, please take a look at the course information flyer that accompanies

this newsletter. We have lots of exciting classes being offered next semester; we hope to see you there!

## Looking Towards Grad School



Dr. King

Congratulations to our 2014-2015 graduates! It has been another big year for the department, seeing off so many promising students as they head out into the “real world.” It is always sad to see our seniors go, but we are excited about the future that awaits them. One path that many of our graduates take is graduate school. On September 30, we held a panel of faculty, alumni, and others who

gave tips on how to succeed in graduate school. Drs. Sorensen and Eppard from the sociology department gave their insight on how to navigate the

at Radford, and Dr. Neal King, the Director of the Sociology graduate program at Virginia Tech, offered an administrative perspective. We also heard from an alum, Aysha Bondenhamer, who is currently working towards a PhD in Sociology at North Carolina State.



Dr. Grady

application process and how to succeed. Dr. Dennis Grady, the Dean of the Graduate School



Aysha Bodenhamer



Dr. Eppard

**Famous  
Sociology  
Majors:**

- Saul Alinsky
- Arne Duncan
- Rev. Jesse Jackson
- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Cardinal Theodore McCarrick
- Alonzo Mourning
- Michelle Obama
- Ronald Reagan
- Ahmad Rashad
- Joe Theisman
- Rep. Maxine Waters
- Robin Williams

## Community Connections



Beginning in May 2012, Dr. LaLone began working as an applied Museum Planning Consultant for the New River Historical Society's Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Newbern, Virginia. This linkage with the museum will allow us to offer a great mini-project for the Fall 2015 SOCY 486, "Engaging the Community" class, and the potential for possible internships. In this class, students will learn the most effective community-based approaches, methods, and career skills for successfully partnering with community groups to carry out applied research in community development, social services, health care, education, environmental action, and heritage preservation. The course is being offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15.

Dr. Wagner's *Roots With Wings* project has taken flight again this Spring! Students who are currently enrolled in SOCY 493, "Practicum in Sociology" are continuing the oral history project in Floyd County that began in 1998. Dr. Wagner will continue to offer this course each spring.

## Amazing Internships!



The 2014-2015 "My Amazing Internship" series is already underway. These presentations by sociology students about their internship experiences are a great way to find out about internship possibilities and how internships

can help you bridge the gap between the major and the community and work force. On November 5, we heard from four of our amazing sociology majors, Chelsea Sayers, Deryk Jackson, Maddie Reda, and Alexis Whitehurst about their amazing internships in the local com-

munity. Join us for our next installment in the series on April 1 at 12:00 PM in Heth 016!



## Chasing the American Dream

The Public Sociology program was honored to host esteemed sociologist Dr. Robert Rank on October 29 in the Bondurant Auditorium. His visit to RU was sponsored by the Sociology Club and the Program in Public Sociology, the Center for Social and Cultural Research, the Scholar-Citizen Initiative, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and the

Club Programming Committee. His talk, which was very well attended, summarized his book *Chasing the American Dream* which was based on longitudinal data and examined the role of race and class on Americans' relative success and failure.



### Out of the Classroom

**Dr. Carla Corroto** is on the program for the Safe-Spaces Workshop for Women's History Month at RU and will direct a seminar on "The architecture of safety: How space informs our 'place.'"

**Dr. Corroto** presented her research "Women in and out of architecture: Investigating attrition" at the Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting in Washington DC on February 13. She also presented a qualitative methods paper titled "Disciplined bodies: Education, identity and uniform authority," at the Couch Stone Symposium in St. Petersburg, Florida on March 14. She will make a theory presentation for the Feminism and Architecture: Women, Architecture, and Academia Conference in New York City at Parsons The New School for Design in April. Importantly, Dr. Corroto will spend the rest of the year celebrating (some say gloating over,) the NCAA National Championship in football.

Presenting theory papers at the Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium are **Kelly Soloe**, "Sociological Theories Present in Chicago" and **Tyiesha Pannell**, "Brenda's got a baby,"

**Dr. Lawrence Eppard**, along with RU Sociology majors **Deryk Jackson** and **Maddie Reda**, is presenting a paper entitled "Status and Individualism" at the Spring meetings of the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans, LA. This paper is based on data collected through the **Center for Social and Cultural Research** and examines poverty and inequality attribution ideologies among low-status workers.

**Dr. Joanna Hunter** presented at the annual meeting of the **American Sociological Association** in San Francisco, CA in August 2014. Her paper, entitled "Towards a Conceptual Measure of Religious Identity Development" was based on pilot data collected at RU and she is now working with Sociology major **Bianca Dickerson** and the **Center for Social and Cultural Research** to expand that paper and present at the annual meeting of the **Association for the Sociology of Religion** in Chicago, IL in August 2015.

**Dr. Hunter** has been selected as the keynote speaker for the Recognizing Excellence in Diversity Awards ceremony on April 15. She is working on her talk, entitled "Having the Courage to Be The Change," in between diaper changes and feeding sessions.

## Club News

The sociology club is looking to hold elections towards the end of the semester for new executive members this upcoming fall.

The sociology club recently did a fundraiser for project “Pantherhouse”, a new structure for homeless cats here at the Radford Animal shelter. The sociology club was able to raffle off a \$50 Chipotle gift card, a \$25 Book Store gift card, and a \$20 Sharkey’s gift card. Proceeds from ticket purchases went towards the animal shelter.

Two of our club members, Deryk Jackson and Maddie Reda, will be presenting research they have done with Dr. Eppard in New Orleans, LA., on March 26, 2015.

There will be an educational forum open to the students this upcoming April. Refreshments will also be served.

The Sociology Club will be working with the CHBS Student Leadership Board on another fundraiser, pie-a-professor, this upcoming April.

It isn’t too late to join Sociology Club! We are always welcoming new members! Come out and join us!

### Mark Your Calendars!

**Advising for Summer and Fall 2015 has begun! Dr. Page has a sign-up sheet for appointments next to his office door.**

April 6 Fall Registration Begins

April 15 Recognizing Excellence in Diversity Awards

May 1 Last day of classes

May 4-7 Final exams

May 9 Commencement

### 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 Soci-

ology Club news, check out the page of the [Radford University Sociology Club](#).

