

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 | Edited by Dr. Amanda Gengler and Ms. Erica Talley

Happy New Year!

And welcome to the first edition of the Wake Forest Sociology Newsletter. We hope to make this newsletter an annual publication, so we can keep our students, faculty, and alumni better connected. Please keep a lookout for a call for contributions next year, and let us know what you've been up to so we can celebrate our collective accomplishments!

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Keep in touch throughout the year...

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter, for up to the minute news on department events and speakers, student news, and faculty publications!



Notes from the Chair

Greetings from Kirby Hall. I hope you find in these notes an affirmation of our liberal-arts and sociological values; this first report also provides details on our student community, our research accomplishments, and our public sociological engagement with current events. At present, our community includes 12 faculty

plus a fulltime visiting professor; our administrator, Erica Talley, and as of last spring 106 sociology majors, of whom 75% were female; 25% Black; 8% Hispanic; 3% Asian; 3% two or more races; 59% White. Enrollments in sociology classes last year topped 1,200 brains in seats. This past Commencement, 4 of our majors graduated with "Honors"; 11 graduated with "Distinction in the major"; 8 graduated with a concentration in "criminology and deviance"; 7 graduated with a concentration in "business and society"; and 4 graduated in our new concentration "social determinants of health and well-being."



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Steve Gunkel serves as NCSA President

As the 2016 President of the North Carolina Sociological Association, our own Steve Gunkel hosted a fantastic meeting with students and faculty across the state at Wake Forest's new downtown Innovation Quarter.

The theme of the meeting was "Doing Justice: Community, Social, or Criminal?" Featured speakers included Dr. Rebecca Mateo of the Veteran Affairs National PTSD center and Mr. Darryl Hunt of the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice.

A number of sociology faculty participated in panel and paper sessions, and numerous current students presented posters based on their undergraduate research. Alumni Dianne Uwayo ('15) returned to receive the Himes Outstanding Student Paper Award for her thesis on intimate partner violence in Kenya.

Steve did a bang-up job, and we could not be more proud!

In 2016, faculty published more than 20 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters, 3 of which were collaborative efforts with students or alumnae; 2 edited books were crafted by Professor Yamane; one new textbook by Professor Harnois was finalized. Professor Simon achieved a world-class top publication in the American Journal of Sociology. Three faculty were involved in funded projects worth in total approximately \$76,500. Dr. Gengler, Dr. Harris, and Dr. Simon received research sabbaticals. Dr. Hana Brown's research distinction enabled her to achieve early tenure, ascending to the ranks of Associate Professor.

Faculty research has also garnered us a good share of "news" coverage, in particular for Robin Simon's work on parental stress; David Yamane's work on America's gun culture; Ian Taplin's work on the wine industry; Hana Brown's work on immigration; and my work on test-optional admissions. Dr. Yamane's blog, "Gun Culture 2.0." published 108 posts and received nearly 45,000 visitors and 80,000 page views. [\[Continued on page 21...\]](#)



Faculty and Staff Notes

Ken Bechtel continues to teach courses in the crime and criminal justice concentration, and heads up the department curriculum committee. His son, Stephen, is now a Sophomore at Wake Forest.

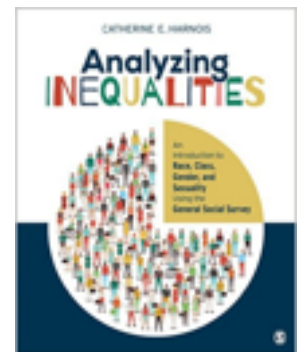
Saylor Breckenridge published an article with colleagues Ana-Maria Wahl and Steve Gunkel, "Riding the Storm Out: The Great Recession and Latino Population Growth in North Carolina's Micropolitan Areas" in *Sociation Today*. He also published an article, "The Habitus of Horror" in *Plot.Online*. At 111th Meeting of The American Sociological Association, he presented on "Big Data: Method and Application across the Sciences." He was also awarded a community development grant for the Phuzz Phest music festival, which he played a primary role in organizing this past year, and received a \$10,000 Millennium Fund Award from the Winston-Salem Alliance, a \$5,000 Annual Event Series Grant and \$2500 Innovative Project Grant from the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

Hana Brown published two new articles in 2016, including one co-authored with sociology student, Taylor Dow. She continues to serve on the editorial boards of the discipline's flagship journal, the *American Sociology Review*, and the journal of the Southern Sociological Society, *Social Currents*. Her on-going research, funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, has taken her on multiple trips to investigate the racial politics of immigration in the Deep South. As part of this research, two Wake Forest sociology students have made trips to Alabama and Mississippi to assist her with data collection. During the 2015-2016 academic year, she also served as a visiting scholar at the Institute for African-American Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Amanda Gengler spent much of the year, including her fall research sabbatical, completing her book manuscript *Hopeward Bound: How Families of Critically Ill Children Negotiate an Unequal Healthcare System*, which is currently under review. An overview of this project, "Getting the Most out of the U.S. Healthcare System," was published in the Winter 2016 issue of *Contexts*. In October, her chapter entitled "The Complexities and Contradictions of Resistance" was published in the *Sage Handbook of Resistance* edited by Steve Vallas and David Courpasson. She also began collecting data for a new project on tissue bioengineering and regenerative medicine, for which she received an internal grant of \$3,500 from the WFU Center for Bioethics, Health, and Society, and an external grant of approx. \$8,000 from the American Sociological Association's Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (supported by the National Science Foundation). She was also awarded an Academic Community Engagement Fellowship from the Pro Humanitate Institute, and developed two new courses over the past year, both of which involve student-community partnerships. In her Sociology of Death and Dying course students learned directly from community practitioners who work in a variety of professions involved in managing death and grief. In her Sociology of Food Course, students worked with the Second Harvest Food Bank, Triad Community Kitchen, and Campus Kitchen to contribute to efforts to address hunger and unemployment in our community, and learn more about the complex social dynamics of food, labor, health, and inequality in Winston Salem and beyond.

Steve Gunkel recently completed his term as President-Elect of the North Carolina Sociological Association (NCSA) and coordinated the Annual Meeting of the NCSA which was hosted by Wake Forest University at the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter in February. He continues to serve as President of the NCSA until his term ends in February 2017, and will transition to Past-President at that time. This year he published two pieces which have appeared in *Sociation Today*, the official journal of the NCSA. The first publication was his Presidential Address for the NCSA conference, “From East of Eden to the Pyramids: White-Collar Crime in the North Carolina Context”. This piece offers a comparative case-study of the recent coal ash spill in Eden and the Zeek Rewards Ponzi/pyramid scheme in Lexington. The second publication (co-authored with WFU Sociology colleagues Ana-Maria Wahl and Saylor Breckenridge) was “Riding the Storm Out: The Great Recession and Latino Population Growth in North Carolina's Micropolitan Areas”. This piece reveals that, despite significant declines in employment in smaller communities that have been destination communities for Latinos, the overall population of Latinos grew more rapidly than either the state or national average. He continues to serve as the Senior Faculty Fellow in the Faculty Fellow Program – which pairs teams of faculty with a first-year residence hall. This year he is coordinating the efforts of Professors Darlene May (Romance Languages) and Abigail Perdue (Wake Law) as they work with the residents of Luter Hall. Dr. Gunkel offered the Deviance; Criminology; and Family Violence classes in the Spring Semester and this Fall taught the Deviance; White-Collar Crime; and Corrections courses. He gave a mock class for the Office of Admissions in March entitled “Criminology 101: Or Crime Control Conundrums Currently Confronting the Country” and was named Teacher of the Month by the Delta Zeta Sorority of Wake Forest University.

Catherine Harnois published three articles this year, including “An Explanation for the Gender Gap in Perceptions of Discrimination among African Americans: Considering the role of Gender Bias in Measurement” (co-authored with Mosi Ifatunji); and “When does differential treatment become perceived discrimination? An intersectional analysis in a Southern Brazilian population,” (co-authored with João Luiz Bastos, Carla Bernardo, Yin Paradies, and Marco Peres); and “Intersectional Masculinities and Gendered Political Consciousness: How do race, ethnicity and sexuality shape men’s awareness of gender inequality and support for gender activism?” In another collaborative project, with Mollie Canzona, Lynne Wagner, Angela Alistar, and Kathryn Weaver, Dr. Harnois and colleagues received a \$25,000 grant from the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity and WFU Reynolda Campus. Their project “A Mixed Methods Examination of Diverse Cancer Patients’ Precision Oncology Experiences” will examine the factors that help explain health disparities in cancer outcomes. In terms of teaching, Dr. Harnois taught two new courses this year: “Intersectionality: Theories and Methods” and “Introduction to Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies,” which she is currently teaching with Dr. Kristina Gupta. Dr. Harnois’ new textbook, *Analyzing Inequalities: An Introduction to Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality Using the US General Social Survey* will be available in February, 2017.



Catherine Harris published a paper with co-author Ralph Peeples, “Medical Malpractice and Wrongful Death: Some Lives are Worth More than Others” in the Wake Forest School of Law, *Elon Law Review*

(May, 2016). She also presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta, Georgia, entitled “African Medical students in Changing Academic Contexts” with colleague Michael Wise at Appalachian State University. She was especially honored to be recognized at the Alpha Kappa Delta Council meeting for service to the organization (1994-2016), for serving three times as Regional Representative and twice as president (2002-2004 and 2012-2014).

Robin Simon is on sabbatical from WFU this year collecting in-depth interview data for a book project on the consequences of intensive parenting for middle-class parents’ stress, emotions and health – with a focus on both gender and racial/ethnic variations in the experiences of parents of high school-aged children as they begin the protracted college admissions process. She is also working on two collaborative papers (one on marital status disparities in health and happiness across economically advanced countries and another on parental status differences in well-being in the U.S.). Another collaborative paper, “Parenthood and Happiness: Effects of Work-Family Reconciliation Policies in 22 OECD Countries,” which is part of a larger NSF funded project, was recently published in the *American Journal of Sociology*. As Chair of the American Sociological Association’s section on Mental Health, Robin planned the 2016 program for the meetings in Seattle and developed new opportunities for graduate student members. This past year, she also developed the new concentration on the Social Determinants of Well-Being for WFU Sociology majors.

Joseph Soares continued to serve as chair of the sociology department, and was recently appointed to serve a second term. In 2016, he published three articles, including “What is the Value Added by High-School Infrastructure and Teacher Qualities on Student Grades?,” co-authored with Stephanie A. Bandyk, in *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, “Research on the Predictive Powers of the Gaokao,” in *Admission & Examination Research* (a peer reviewed academic journal in China on examination issues) and “Transfer Students and the Mismatch Hypothesis,” co-authored with Kelly Watson, in the *International Journal of Educational Studies*. He reviewed William Whyte’s book, *Redbrick: A Social and Architectural History of Britain’s Civic Universities*, for the *American Historical Review*’s October 2016 issue, and Peter Murphy’s *Universities and Innovation Economies: The Creative Wasteland of Post-Industrial Society*, for *Contemporary Sociology*’s November 2016 issue. His work was quoted and cited twice in Supreme Court Decision on affirmative action in higher education case, *Fisher v University of Texas*, see: <http://www.leagle.com/decision/In%20SCO%2020160623I22/FISHER%20v.%20UNIVERSITY%20OF%20TEXAS?platform=hootsuite>

Ian Taplin published four articles or book chapters this year: “Crafting an iconic wine: the rise of “cult” Napa” in the *International Journal of Wine Business Research*, “Making wine and making successful wineries: resource development in new ventures” in the *International Journal of Organizational Analysis* [with G. Page West III], “From recession to re-industrialization: a case study of employment changes in North Carolina,” in Begley, Coffey, Donnelly and Thornley (Eds.), *Global Economic Crisis and Local Economic Development* [with Minh-Trang This Nguyen], and “Sustaining the retail pilgrimage,” in *Fashion Style and Popular Culture* [with A. K. Anthony]. In January, he gave the keynote lecture on global wine trends at North Carolina Wine Growers Association annual meeting in Winston-Salem. He also gave invited talks on Brexit, Henry VIII, and the break with Rome in a lecture series at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, and “Art markets and the market for contemporary art” at the Winchester College of Art, University of

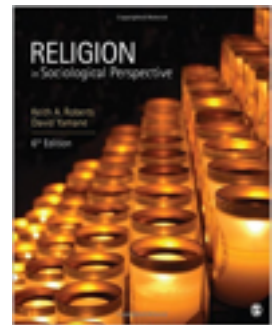
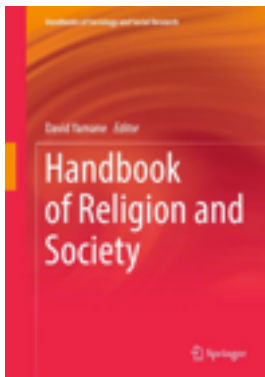
Southampton, England. He is currently writing a book on luxury goods entitled *Pilgrims on the Road to Luxury*. Last but not least, he organized and led a group from the WFU Business School Board of Visitors on a winery tour in Napa Valley CA. A lovely time was had by all.

Ana Wahl published an article with Saylor Breckenridge and Steve Gunkel entitled “Riding the Storm Out: The Great Recession and Latino Population Growth in North Carolina’s Micropolitan Areas” in *Sociation Today*. She is currently serving as director of the American Ethnic Studies program. She also recently completed a two year stint as one of three Faculty Fellows providing guidance, support, and faculty engagement to students residing in Luter Hall. She continues to teach her Social Problems class, along with upper-level seminars in the Sociology of Work and the Sociology of Immigration.

David Yamane published the 6th edition of his religion textbook with Keith Roberts, *Religion in Sociological Perspective*, published by Sage, 2016. He also published a peer reviewed article, “Awash in a Sea of Faith and Firearms: Rediscovering the Connection between Religion and Gun Ownership in America,” which is forthcoming in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. He reviewed Jennifer Carlson’s book

Citizen-Protectors: The Everyday Politics of Guns in an Age of Decline for the June 2016 issue of *Contemporary Sociology*, and was quoted on American gun culture in *U.S. News and World Report* (8 January 2016). He also edited a 27 chapter,

500+ page *Handbook of Religion and Society*, published by Springer, to which he contributed the "Introduction" (pp. 1-7) and a full chapter on "Sport" (pp. 67-87) to the Handbook. He continues to teach his recently developed and very popular sociology of guns course.

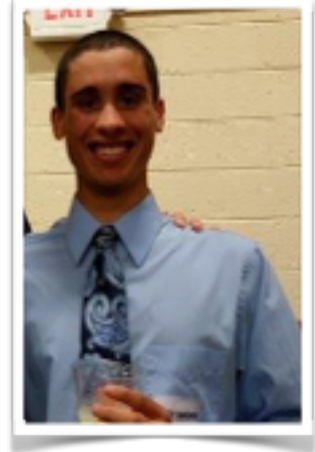


Current Student Profiles



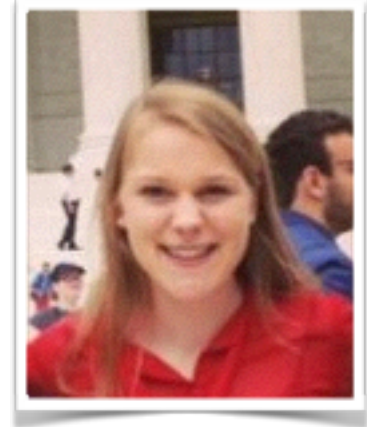
Elizabeth Anderson ('17) is a Sociology and Mathematics double major. This past summer she held a fellowship with University of Maryland's Joint Program in Survey Methodology. She was placed as a research intern with the Bureau of Justice Statistics in Washington DC (an organization within the US Department of Justice). Through the summer, she worked on the National Prisoners Report for 2015, and became second author. The report is available at: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5869>.

Sebastian Ivory ('17) is a Sociology and Politics and International Affairs double major. He was inspired to become a sociology major after taking Professor Wahl's Social Problems course, which deepened his sense of empathy and gave him a stronger world-view. His primary interests include political sociology, social inequality, and the ways that sociology impacts public policy. Over the past year, he participated in the Wake the Vote cohort (a program facilitated by Melissa Harris Perry in conjunction with the Pro Humanitate Institute). As a result, he got to travel across the country working for political candidates of all persuasions and seeing the political process up close and personal. He even got to attend both the RNC and the DNC conventions. The bipartisan nature of the cohort has been especially meaningful for him, as when back on campus, he has been serving as president of the College Democrats. Despite the frustrating nature of this election's results to him personally, Sebastian believes that being in Wake the Vote has provided him with optimism about future cooperation among the next generation of voters and civic leaders. As the country shifts into the next presidency, he believes Wake the Vote has left him with an instilled sense of energy and drive to not just cower in the corner, but to stand up for his principles and try to find solutions that can help move the country forward in a meaningful way.



Alexandra Reyes ('18) is a Sociology and Economics double-major. She has worked as a research assistant in the Anthropology department and assists with Dr. Brown's research on immigration policy. She received an ACC-IAC research grant to study the effects of Alabama's 2011 anti-immigrant bill on Latinos' sense of belonging and on public perceptions of Latino immigrants. Alex will spend her spring semester in Barcelona. After graduation, she hopes to earn a PhD in Sociology or pursue a career in marketing.

Mackenzie Marti Slater ('17) is a Sociology major and History minor. Her major sociological interests are feminist sociology, political sociology, and cultural sociology. She studied abroad in London, England during spring of 2016 and Vienna, Austria during fall of 2016. She has served as the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Pre-Law Society during her college career. She has worked as a research assistant for Dr. Gregory Parks since September of 2014 and is currently co-authoring an article with Dr. Parks on Philanthropy in Historically Black Fraternities and Sororities. At this time, she hopes to become an international lawyer or civil right attorney.



2016 Undergraduate Honors Theses

Andrea Becker, Shilumim or Wiedergutmachung? Analyzing Collective Memory through the Prism of Berlin's Jewish Community. Faculty advisor: Joseph Soares.

Nicole Capobianco, The Relationship between Education and Subjective Well-Being: Does it Differ for Men and Women? Faculty advisor: Robin Simon.

Helen Kemeny, The Nature of Solitude. Faculty advisor: Catherine Harris.

Meagan Robichaud, Contagious Vaccination Messages on Social Media. Faculty advisor: Amanda Gengler.

Alumni Updates

Duren Cowan Banks ('94) went on to get a masters degree and PhD in Criminal Justice/Criminology after graduating from WFU. Duren works at RTI as a Senior Criminologist (<http://www.rti.org/expert/duren-banks>). A press release profiling some of her recent work is available here: <https://www.rti.org/news/study-estimates-1900-arrest-related-deaths-occurred-us-between-june-2015-may-2016>. She is dear friends with cohort-mate and fellow criminologist Natalie Kroovand Hipple, who she gets to see frequently in both professional and personal settings, including a visit to Carolina Beach this past summer (pictured here).



Courtney Beitler ('03) has been teaching for the past 11 years (and at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, FL since 2012). Last year she wrote curriculum and a proposal for a Sociology course. It was accepted, and this semester she is teaching the first class. She is pictured here with her 12 students (Courtney is second from right). Berkeley has a strong Wake Forest connection (5 students from the class of 2016 alone are there currently), and she is excited to further the connection with some potential future Deacs studying Sociology!

Michael Briggs ('95) is the Executive Director of The Chalmers Center, a non-profit that equips the church to empower the poor to break the bonds of poverty (chalmers.org). He has a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Covenant Theological Seminary and is completing a Doctorate in Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Earlier in his career, Michael worked as a manager with Accenture for eight years, focusing on mergers and acquisitions in the financial services industry. He then

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served as a vice-president with Bank of America, where he focused on process design in the Wealth Management division. After moving to the non-profit world, he served for almost three years in Spain with World Harvest Mission. Prior to his time at The Chalmers Center, Michael worked as Executive Director of Third Millennium Ministries in Orlando, Florida. Michael and his wife, Kathryn, have three children.

Annie Donaldson ('76) obtained her master of science degree from east Carolina university in 1978. She has been working as a rehabilitation counselor for 16 years and now works at a local department of social services doing social work in child protective services. She attends basketball games frequently and act tournaments yearly.

Kristin Eberman('09) remembers her time at Wake Forest as some of the best years of her life which has led her to amazing places and career opportunities. She loves having majored in Sociology, writing us “I find I look at the world and interact with others in a much more interesting way.” Since graduating in 2009, she has had a number of experiences all over the world, including:

- * AmeriCorps (Portland, Oregon - 2009-2010): Math tutor and after-school club mentor at a middle school
- * SIT Graduate Institute (Brattleboro, Vermont - 2010-2012): Master of Arts degree in International Education
- * Peace Corps (Morocco - 2011-2012): Youth Development Volunteer
- * Harlaxton College (Lincolnshire, England - 2013): Student Development Intern
- * Harlaxton College (Lincolnshire, England - 2014-2015): Dean of Student Development
- * CISAustralia (Gold Coast, Australia - 2016-present): Admissions and Marketing-Communications Officer



Travel and international education are her passions. In her current role at CISAustralia, she helps support Australian university students going overseas on a number of programs (study, intern and volunteer) in 30 countries all over the world. Her visa expires in a few months so will be on her next adventure soon... not sure where yet, but she is excited already!

Ellen Feeney ('98) got her Masters in Human Resource Education from Boston University in '02 and has worked in a variety of training and development roles in the corporate world. In 2012 she started her own firm, Feeney Learning Consultants, and enjoys consulting with a variety of financial service firms on their organizational development needs. She is thrilled to celebrate her firm's 5th Year Anniversary and she continues to love the variety and independence that her role and firm provides. Ellen lives with her husband Dan and children Scotty (7) and Emily (5) in Medway, Massachusetts. Ellen sends a special message of hello and thanks to her former mentor and research advisor Catherine Harris!

Jim Fitzpatrick ('00) is currently the Director of Boys' Athletics and Varsity Boys Basketball Coach at Episcopal High school, a boarding school in Alexandria, VA, just outside of Washington, DC. His wife, Jen, is the Director of Girls' Athletics at Episcopal as well (family business!). He played basketball during his time at Wake Forest for Coach Dave Odom, and became a career coach as well. With the help of Ron Wellman, current AD at Wake Forest, he also became the Boys' AD at Episcopal. Last year when the Deacon Basketball team prepared for the ACC Tournament, he was able to host Coach Manning and his team on campus for a practice as well. Most recently he hosted the Wake Forest Football team for four days of practice as they prepared for the Military Bowl. Coach Clawson, his staff and all the Deacon players were incredible representatives of Wake Forest! Jim tries to stay close to the Wake Forest Athletic scene, and do whatever he can for his alma mater!

Last year his varsity basketball team won their second straight IAC (Interstate Athletic Conference) Championship, and also won the 2016 Virginia Independent Schools State Championship. He is in his 11th year as Head Coach at Episcopal, and his 13th year as a head high school coach overall. He and his wife have two daughters, Caroline (4) and Addison (2), and we are expecting twin boys in March: it will be a busy Spring!

Erika Friedel ('87) is a proud member of the WFU Class of 1987, and armed with her major in Sociology and minor in Women's Studies, she decided to pursue a Masters of Social Work at Washington University. She spent a few years as a therapist and case manager, and eventually turned those listening skills into her current career as a fundraiser for the Wake Forest School of Medicine and Medical Center—a job she adores. She feels fortunate to hear the stories of alumni and grateful patients and learn how this place has touched them. While her listening skills were honed in graduate school, her undergraduate years as a WFU sociology major taught her to ask those vital questions in the first place.

Al Greene ('62) was a double major in both Sociology and Spanish during his time at Wake. He is now retired from a part-time therapist position at the Mood Treatment Center here in Winston-Salem as of July, 2016 after seven years there and has been the substance abuse consultant for the WFU Athletic Department for the past six years.

Hugh Hamilton ('77) serves as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff to Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, FL. Now in his eighteenth year in Pensacola, Hugh previously pastored First Presbyterian Church of Covington, TN near Memphis for 16 years, following his first pastorate in Campus Ministry at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. Hugh recalls fondly his guidance by John R. Earle, then Chair of the Sociology Department, who appreciated Hugh's sense of call to ministry and advised Hugh in his course of studies prior to entering Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA after graduation from Wake Forest. John Earle, Donald Shriver, and Dean D. Knudson had written *Spindles and Spires*, a definitive study of the Gastonia, NC churches, social situations, and industrial institutions, as Gastonia evolved from a mill town in the 1920's to a metropolitan area in the 1970's. Examining how the changing culture, economic upheaval, and political/business/educational and other institutions influenced the churches and the churches influenced the culture and institutions, Earle, Shriver, and Knudson wrote a pivotal study combining disciplines of theology and sociology. Hugh did his senior paper on *Spindles and Spires* and cherishes a copy signed by John Earl and Donald Shriver. Two years later in a seminary class exploring the

social context of ministry, Spindles and Spires became Hugh's topic for another research report! How many of us Wake Forest Deacons were prepared for graduate studies and career advancement by excellent and accredited professors! Hugh also recalls Dr. Pritchard who taught Philosophy at Wake in those days and who took off points for grammatical errors in our essay answers on tests! When asked why, as we were writing quickly to answer the questions, Dr. Pritchard explained that as most of us would go on to graduate schools and we needed to learn to write well, including using correct grammar and punctuation. He saw his calling as a professor to do everything possible to prepare us to excel in studies and life and to be our biggest advocate and champion, therefore he made no apologies for being a demanding and exacting professor. We learned to appreciate Dr. Pritchard and others like him who demanded our best and thereby helped us to succeed.

Natalie Kroovand Hipple ('94) is an Assistant Professor at Indiana University (<https://criminaljustice.indiana.edu/about/faculty/kroovand-hipple-natalie.html>). You can learn more about her current work here: <http://news.indiana.edu/releases/iu/2016/10/criminal-justice-study.shtml> She remains good friends with cohort-mate Duren Banks, who also pursued graduate school in Criminal Justice/Criminology, and with whom she visited Carolina Beach this past summer (pictured above).



Trevor Hunt ('15) was accepted to medical school at ECU and started in August. A huge component of his application leveraged the public health perspective he acquired while a sociology student at Wake and he still considers it and sociology integral to how he approaches healthcare and his current studies.

Jeffrey N. Isaac ('81) after working 32 years in higher education in Delaware and in Florida, in October 2016, accepted a job offer as Campus President of Virginia College located in Spartanburg, SC. One of his favorite teachers at Wake was and still is Dr. Catherine Harris.



Tom Jennings ('72) continues his passion for innovation in healthcare by lecturing to classes at the Medical University of South Carolina's Healthcare Administration Graduate School. He will also be lecturing at his alma mater, George Washington University where he received his graduate degree on the same subject. Innovation is his passion having had experience in this area in several hospital systems in the United States and doing consulting in this area for organizations. He would love to involve any students or faculty in his area who have a sincere interest in the area of medical sociology or anthropology.

Timothy Kennery ('02) is Senior Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis for Kids II in Atlanta, where he lives with his wife (Gina) and 2 children - Julianna (age 3) and Connor (age 1). He credits his sociology coursework with enriching his communication skills and his understanding of organizations. In his daily work as a finance manager, Tim utilizes the coursework learned in such classes as the Sociology

of Work, Management in Organizations, and Business and Society. He looks back fondly on his time in the sociology department, and wishes everyone well!

Juliette Lam Kuehnle ('06) lives in Charlotte with her husband (Edward Kuehnle- also class of '06) and their 2 daughters, ages 2 and 4. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and started a private practice a couple years ago, providing therapy to individuals ages 8+. She specializes in treating eating disorders, picky eating, body image, self-esteem, grief and loss, LGBTQ, and life transitions. She appears monthly on the Charlotte Today show, and gives many presentations in the community. Her practice is within a group, Southeast Psych, with an awesome psychology/pop culture website ya'll should check out: www.shrinktank.com. She is also very politically active in her church and community, specifically regarding race relations and our LGBTQ population.



Lauren Kulp ('06) is in the second year of a dual degree program to earn her law degree and masters in social work degree (JD/MSW) from UNC. Lauren is focusing on research, advocacy, and policy work in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Holly Langmuir ('01) is currently a physician at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health Physicians in Lancaster, PA. She practices as an Ob/Gyn, and received her MD from Wake Forest in 2008. She also teaches part-time with The Chicago School of Professional Psychology and will be joining their faculty this spring as an Assistant Professor in the Masters of Public Health program (online).

On a happier note, he finally sold enough copies of his book, "Always My Fault A Survivor's Story" to break even. It took six years and 11,000 copies to do it. It is the story of a domestic violence client he had, showing domestic violence as a world "where the bizarre is normal and cruelty is creative."

Jennifer Litwak ('06) holds an appointment on CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) Network's Industry Research Committee., which recently released their annual white paper, "Closing the Gap: Addressing Gender Bias and Other Barriers for Women in Commercial Real Estate". <http://download.crewnetwork.org/publications/flipbook/2016-closing-the-gap-white-paper/?page=1>. In late September of 2016 she was recognized as one of as one of the Top 100 Business Professionals in San Diego.



Laura White Lucas ('90) recently joined Gentiva, an affiliate of Kindred at Home, as Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. Laura has spent her career in healthcare, initially in social services, then operations and sales. She lives in Charlotte, NC

Mary Miltimore ('08) earned her certification from the American Planning Association (AICP) last year! Mary graduated from Wake Forest with a major in Sociology and minor in Religious Studies in 2008. After gaining a few years of work experience, Mary went back to back to school at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design (PennDesign) and earned her Masters in City Planning with a concentration in Urban Design in 2012.

Lea Morgan ('91) graduated with a degree in Sociology with a concentration in criminology. She graduated from UNC Chapel Hill law school in 1994 and is currently an Attorney in Monroe, NC where she does litigation (both criminal and civil).

Toni Newman ('85) has written a memoir *I Rise-The Transformation of Toni Newman* (<http://www.tonidnewman.com>) published in 2011, which has been turned into short film, *Heart of a Woman* (<http://www.heartofawomanfilm.com>) and selected for the Germany Transgender Film Festival. The film is directed by British Director Keith Holland, Executive Producers are Alton Demore, Jill Stockwell, Angelica Ross and Toni Newman. Wake Forest University honored Toni among others as part of the University's 50th anniversary celebration featuring "Faces of Courage," in 2012. The event was sponsored by Wake Forest's LGBTQ Center, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and OUTLaw.

Kathleen Overly ('03) launched Code2College (www.code2college.org)—an Austin, TX based nonprofit with the mission of increasing the number of students of color who enter STEM degree programs and fields—in the Fall of 2016 along with her husband, Matt Stephenson. The program leverages local tech talent to teach a curriculum of web development and coding to students after-school and provide STEM career exposure to students who otherwise may not pursue technical careers. At the close of the program year, students are placed into paid, summer internships with local companies. Code2College launched with a cohort of 30 high school students (70% girls), and will grow to serve an additional 100 students in 2017.

Paul and Erin Marietta Pearson ('02) founded a boutique real estate brokerage in Austin, TX called Pearson Properties (www.pearson-properties.com). They have worked together operating this business for the past 14 years. Pearson Properties specializes in serving residential buyers and sellers throughout Austin, and also brokering ranch sales in the Texas Hill Country.

Rachel Rankin ('59) worked at a welfare department as a caseworker in NC for only 2 1/2 years before she was married. After marriage, she was asked to sub at her mother in law's school and then asked to stay on and started teaching in NC, then Berlin, Germany (her husband served in the JAG Corps), Charlottesville, VA, (where she was selected Best Teacher at Jackson Burley MS) and Montgomery County, MD where she worked for 21 years before retiring in 1999. She finished a MLS degree while at Ft. Jackson and all her media experience was in Montgomery Co. She supervised student teachers at the university while in the graduate program. She was elected President of the Media Specialist Association and Delta Kappa Gamma Society in Montgomery County, a great school system, cited in a Rockefeller grant for media especially film where students won the local, state and national film festivals with national awards in Anaheim and Orlando, Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who in America. She went to China in 1998 with People to People and worked with Chinese library programs. She is now a red cross volunteer at Walter Reed National Medical Center and enjoying retirement. She has enjoyed all her careers and since most people change careers more than once, she advises students to be prepared. She majored in Sociology and Education at Wake and never thought she would teach. Here message to current

students is: “Learn all you can and store experiences. It all helps and you never know when you might need it —and enjoy it.”



LaChina Robinson ('02) lives in Atlanta, GA and is the founder of her own consulting company called "Stretch Beyond." She is also a basketball analyst on television for both ESPN and Fox!

Sara Shivers ('01) has begun mentoring women in the SF County Jail (as a volunteer). This includes one-on-one meetings twice per month to outline goals after the women are released and to identify resources to help them get back on track so they don't get stuck in the same pattern of poverty, crime and displacement. This work is at once heartbreaking and inspiring. She has learned and grown so much from these relationships. Her background in Sociology helps her see the big picture!

Alan Susi ('04) recently moved to Charlottesville, VA with his wife and two children (Adelaide 2 years; John 2 weeks) after spending the last 12 years in DC area. He works at Fannie Mae as Director, Human Capital Planning (2010-present) where he supports senior leadership in developing multi-year strategies focused on organization, talent, and culture enhancements. He references often what he learned back in his classes with the wonderful professors in the sociology department (Hi, Saylor!).

Kala Taylor ('01) joined Campbell Law as Director of the Career & Professional Development Center. Read more about her work in this new role, and her recent career trajectory here: http://law.campbell.edu/news_article.cfm?id=42843&t=taylor-joins-campbell-law-as-director-of-the-career-professional-development-center.



Brittany Vasquez ('15) finished up her year of teaching 5th grade math in Boston last May. This past August, she entered the Ph.D. program in Public Policy and Sociology at the University of Michigan.

Hall Wang ('08) was a double major in Political Science and History, but also proudly a Sociology minor. He is currently a 2019 Dual Degree MBA/MPP Candidate at Georgetown University and a Research Associate at the Center on Education and the

Workforce as part of his graduate school internship. All the way to graduate school, he found his sociology minor the most useful in life in helping him do everything from explain the election to perfect networking (yes there is a sociological component to it!)



Matt Wilson ('05) recently completed his third book (which he wrote last year) and will be coming out this June from Talos Press. It's a novel in the form of a fictional character's memoir.

Jim Woodring ('59) retired in 2014 from 50 years in the Presbyterian pastorate. In 1998 he started Family Relations Counseling with an emphasis on families involved in domestic violence. Most of his clients are court ordered or referred by Social Services. With a co-worker he has been doing weekly Healthy Relations group sessions at a residential drug treatment house, the psychiatric unit of the local hospital, and drug court. This past year they started at the local jail. The cell he visits is a 20x20 block room with no windows. It has 12 beds and there were 25 men in it last week. Pads covered the floor, one commode, one shower, two steel tables with four seats each welded on and bolted to the floor complete the inventory. The only break in the monotony is at meal time when food is sent in. The jail has no dining room, nor outdoor exercise space.

Ashley Wylie ('15) graduated with a double major in Sociology and History. She is now Ashley Myers because she got married in December 2016 - to another class of 2015 WFU grad. Brittany Vasquez, a 2015 Sociology alum, was one of her bridesmaids. In 2016, Ashley earned her MA in Management from WFU. She started her career at RJ Reynolds as a Lead Manager in Strategy & Planning. She works on consumer insights, bringing her Sociology major full circle.

Are you a parent or alumnus who would like to support our current majors—in particular in their efforts to engage in independent research and travel to regional and national conferences where they can present their work? Consider making a *directed donation to the sociology department!* We are starting a new fund that we can use to support our students in the ambitious endeavors they undertake in collaboration with faculty mentors. Every little bit helps! Please visit:

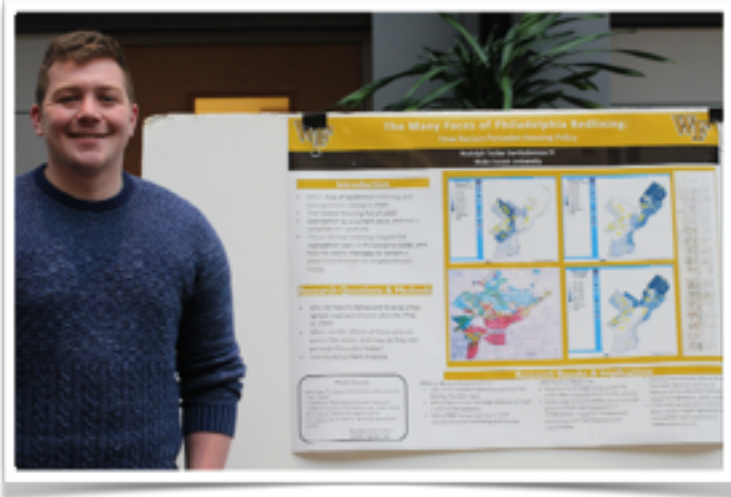
<http://college.wfu.edu/sociology/giving>

Department Photos from 2016...

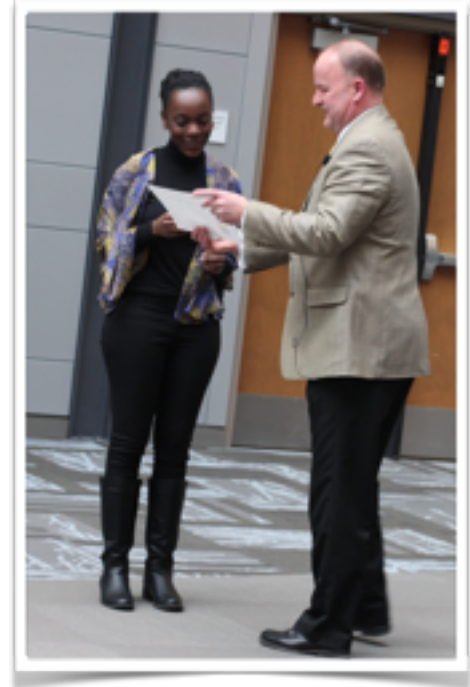


Professor Robin Simon presents at the 2016 North Carolina Sociological Association Annual Meeting and Professor Steve Gunkel delivers his presidential address.





Graduating senior Tucker Bartholomew presents a poster on his independent research at the North Carolina Sociological Association annual meeting, and Professor Gunkel presents recent alumni Dianne Uwayo ('15) with the organization's outstanding undergraduate student paper award.



We were honored to have Winston Salem native Darryl Hunt, who was wrongfully convicted of murder and imprisoned for nearly 20 years before his exoneration, join us for an NCSA panel on the criminal justice system, along with a member of his legal team, WFU law professor Mark Rabil.

Darryl frequently collaborated with a number of WFU sociology faculty and other professors and programs across campus, adding a powerful voice to a number of our courses over the years. We were deeply saddened by his passing a few weeks after his appearance at the NCSA, and hope to keep our students connected to the important educational and political work in which he was engaged.



Students in Professor Gengler's Sociology of Food course complete a warehouse shift at the Second Harvest Food Bank, meet with Chef Jeff Bacon of Providence Restaurant and the Triad Community Kitchen (a program offering culinary training skills to former offenders and others struggling to find employment), and engage their fellow students in a "food quiz" they authored on BuzzFeed and administered on iPad's at dinnertime in Benson to raise awareness about some of the social issues and problems in the U.S. food system they learned about throughout the semester.

Graduating senior Meagan Robichaud presents her Honors Thesis work in a poster session at the 2016 Eastern Sociological Society's annual meeting in Boston, MA.



Students and Faculty alike had a wonderful time socializing and celebrating our graduating seniors many accomplishments at our annual end of year party, this year held on the patio at Fratelli's Steakhouse....



And as usual, our formal graduation reception gave us the chance to send our 2016 graduates off in style with champagne, strawberries, and our famous chocolate fountain!



Sociology mentoring across the generations....Professor Harris served as thesis advisor to both Helen Kemeny, and her mom!





Professor Taplin hands out certificates to students who successfully completed the Business and Society concentration.



Dr. Wahl presents graduating senior Cherina McKnight with the American Ethnic Studies Best Student Paper Award.



Notes from the Chair [continued from page 2...]

I achieved a footnote in legal history by being referenced twice in the US Supreme Court Decision on affirmative action at the University of Texas, Austin. (Please see the department's Facebook page post of August 14, 2016 for the web link to the decision, and "friend" us, if you haven't already.)

In China, my work critical of the Gaokao test (a three day ordeal that determines one's fate and carries up to seven years in prison for cheating) continues to receive scholarly attention and to stimulate controversy. We have had three visiting academics from China come to work with me, and one more is set to arrive next semester.

We have recently updated our honors program to include a "portfolio" option, alongside our traditional thesis writing pathway. This option recognizes students whose grades and extra-ordinary academic or public sociology achievements warrant the designation of "honors." We have also added a new undergraduate concentration titled, "Social Determinants of Health and Well-being," along with a number of new courses for the concentration, including "the sociology of food." Our faculty continue to update our pedagogy, including via the use of online course materials.

To continue fostering student/faculty engagement, something our department prides itself on doing well, we have stepped up our involvement with undergraduates in our research, our publications, and in internship programs. Dr. Steve Gunkel has taken the lead on criminology internships. On research apprenticeships, Dr. Hana Brown is setting a swift pace with 9 students doing research with her on projects addressing the politics of race in the south. And on publications, four faculty members have recently produced work with undergraduates that has been published or is forthcoming. This level of internships, research apprenticeships, and student/faculty publication is unprecedented in our department.

The top modal field of employment for our graduates is education, k-12, in public and private schools. 23% of our graduates go into the profession of teaching. In second place with 20% of our graduates is the category of academic graduate school. After k-12 and graduate school, our third place with 12% of our graduates is taken by law school and business school professional degree programs. The rest of our 45% of graduates have moved into a variety of occupations, including sports and non-profit organizations.

As sociologists, we embrace our work as a calling. Teaching students our field, helping them to succeed, and cultivating in them a sensibility for public engagement on social problems is our mission; it is something we approach as a moral imperative. In terms of public engagement, it is with pride that I report on some of the responses to the current political context by our faculty, students, and alumni. Scholarly and scientific objectivity, in my opinion, requires that we know how to accept facts, how to assess explanations for social relations and institutions, and how to behave in accordance with an ethic of moral responsibility, to avoid violence to the facts or persons that ideological science or fanatical politics would commit. We are good sociologists not because we avoid public engagement but because we understand the difference between partisan questions and scientific answers. A good partisan as well as a good sociologist wants to know how things really work in order to see the constraints and the opportunities that are there; but the sociologist, in contrast to the partisan, is not automatically

compelled to move beyond scientific understanding to social action. The decision to act, whether one links that to the tradition of Emile Durkheim or to others, is a moral choice. For each of us, what moves us from scientific observation to public participation differs. And in the spirit of respecting and also acknowledging our “action thresholds” I would like to share some of what has been going on.

In Charlotte, NC, on September 20, 2016, police fatally shot Keith L. Scott. Wake’s Law school organized an event, co-sponsored by our department and the American Ethnic Studies Program, in response. Dr. Brown served as a panelist for the discussion “Close to Home: Comprehending Community/Police Tension in Charlotte”.

In October, the department participated in a campus-wide presidential election conference with other departments. Dr. Brown helped organize and moderated the panel on immigration politics, bringing speakers from the CATO Institute and the Center for American Progress to participate.

The day after the presidential election, Wake Forest was in the news, including the Washington Post, for hate speech on campus. In response, I sent out this message to all of our majors, minors, and faculty:

“The election is barely six days past and the passions it ignited for good and bad have not abated. Whether you were thrown by Tuesday’s outcome into despair or elation, the Department of Sociology wants you to know that our space is safe for everyone here: Hispanic, Black, White, Asian, female, male, Gay, straight, transgendered, republican or democrat. We will not tolerate discriminatory incidents, threats, or harassment of anyone in our community. Our mission as social scientists embraces diversity, science, and public engagement. We will attempt to foster mutual respect and a civil discourse on the election; who voted for whom and why are empirical sociological questions. If you care to discuss the election or reactions to it then seek out faculty members and friends, or speak up in class, and don’t hesitate to email or knock on our doors. You can count on us.”

Shortly afterwards, we organized an event we called, “Be Seen, Be Heard” to offer our majors and minors a safe space to discuss their feelings and concerns post-election over dinner, coordinated by our administrative assistant, Erica Talley.

Responses to the political situation by members of our department overlapped with efforts being made by others at Wake and in the outside world. There was a local and national attempt to protect undocumented immigrants by declaring “sanctuary campuses,” which President Hatch in an open email to our community respectfully declined to endorse. To encourage action by Wake’s administration, faculty wrote a petition in support of undocumented youths and their families that was signed by 1349 Members of the Wake Forest Community, including 360 alumni, 630 current students, 180 faculty members, and 68 staff members. I was the faculty representative who delivered it to President Hatch. I wrote to supporters on campus about that meeting. “I’m pleased to report that our petition, with its cover letter, and a copy of the student government resolution [favoring sanctuary], were hand delivered to President Nathan Hatch...I think it is fair to say that he believes himself to be supporting, to the maximum limits of the law, our undocumented students. He stands by the Pomona College Presidents’ letter that he signed [in support of “Dreamers” or DACA youths]. He is more aware now than before of the breadth of support at Wake for undocumented students and of the depth of disappointment with his email to our

community..We should strive to find common ground on which to get a public statement from the administration, at the same time that we applaud and assist the many things being put in place by Jose Villalba, Nate French, Barbee Oakes, Margaret Taylor, and others' on behalf of the undocumented." Senior Associate Dean Jose Villalba created a resource for undocumented youths and their families: <http://community.wfu.edu/campus-support-resources/>.

At the regular meeting in December 2016 of the Wake College Faculty, members of our department joined the college faculty in voting unanimously in favor of doing everything possible to support and protect undocumented members of our community; and unanimously in favor of condemning hate crimes and reaffirming Wake as a safe place for diversity and dialog.

A number of our alumni, current students, and faculty from our department attended the Women's March in DC, Greensboro, and other cities on January 21, a day of national protest that was the largest in US history on any issue. (See our Facebook page for photos.)

After the recent executive order affecting all visitors, refugees, and immigrants from 7 Muslim nations, the department participated in organizing a panel discussion on campus to help inform students about the broader legal and social issues involved. Dr. Wahl organized the event along with Political Science Professor Michaelle Browsers. Dr. Brown served on the panel, and as our Dean Michele Gillespie wrote, "It was standing room only at the faculty panel on refugee and immigration policy. Our



inquisitive students are putting their liberal arts education to work as they make sense of the world." See: <http://news.wfu.edu/2017/02/03/faculty-panel-on-immigration-explores-executive-order/>

As you may know, many sociology alumnae signed an open letter to the Wake community on the travel ban. This letter was shared with all department chairs and by Wake Forward, a progressive faculty and staff group on campus. Please see: <http://wfuogb.com/2017/02/alumni-address-universitys-response-to-ban/>.

There are many sociologists who dive into social protests both as scholars and as participants, and for better or worse, this is a time for social movements. Whatever the year ahead holds, we are here to contribute our knowledge and skills where we can, and support our students as they work to make sense of these times and begin carving out their own places in the outside world.

Sincerely,

Joseph Soares