

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 | Edited by Dr. Amanda Gengler and Ms. Erica Talley

Busy Times!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wake Forest Sociology Newsletter. We have lots of news to share about our students and faculty, and were thrilled to welcome a new faculty member to the department this fall. Read on to learn more about Dr. Brittany Battle and see why our students are clamoring for her classes!

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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



This newsletter comes to you in my sixth and final year as chair of our department. I believe this year will prove to be a pivotal one in the life of the department, demarcating a key transition in the composition of our faculty, and underscoring our commitment to scholarship, teaching, and public engagement. By the end of this academic year, two beloved members of our community will be stepping away from the classroom. Catherine Harris has moved into a research professorship with emeritus status; Robin Simon will

be retiring in June 2020. We wish each of them success and happiness in moving on to a new stage in life. At the same time, we celebrated the arrival of one new assistant professor in our community this year, Brittany Battle, and next fall we will have two more assistant professors bringing new vitality to our community, Andrea Gómez Cervantes and Alex Brewer. There



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Collaborative “Careers in Sociology” Event with Winston Salem State

Thanks to the organizing efforts of Dr. Catherine Harnois (WFU) and Dr. Dan Rose (WSSU) and other faculty and staff from both campuses, we were delighted to co-host a jointly sponsored career event with the Winston Salem State University Department of Sociology at Wake Downtown during the first week of September. Alumni from both campuses participated and shared with students their own endeavors in the years after receiving their undergraduate sociology degrees. Special thanks to WFU alumni Marcus Hill ('05) and Allie Mangin ('04) for participating and reflecting on the career paths you have followed! We hope to continue collaborating with our counterparts at WSSU on future cross-campus academic and social events. We are also grateful to the WFU Provost's and Dean's offices for financial assistance with these events.

are photos and information about our three new faculty members elsewhere in this newsletter. You can see in the updates provided by our faculty, our department's outstanding research productivity and engagement with our students.

On public sociology, as many of you know, our community experienced a confrontation during the fall 2019 semester with white supremacist terrorism. Terrorism happens whenever there is a threat and/or act of violence that targets individuals and groups of people to achieve a political objective. The terrorists targeting us explicitly praised “white men” and called for a “purge” of minorities of color, of LGBTQ+, and of Jews.

On this threat, the department sent out the following statement to all of our majors and minors:

“Dear Sociology Students:

This letter comes to you from the entire department of sociology, faculty and staff, because we believe you have a right to know the truth about the hate emails that were sent to members of our community last week.

Wednesday, September 11, the University Police told you that there were “investigating reports of inflammatory emails [sent out Tuesday night] with racist, homophobic, and discriminatory content sent from an unknown source ... to various faculty and staff members.” That's true. But what wasn't spelled out is that the only individuals who received these emails were faculty and staff in our department. Seven people who work in our department were singled out for a hate email that praised the white male founding fathers, dismissed our undergraduates with ugly vile language, and called for our land to be “purged” of people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We take this hate email as being not just racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, and misogynistic but also as a threat of violence. The call to “purge” categories of persons, is a white supremacist call for genocide.

The safety of everyone in our community is our top priority, but we also promise you transparency and the truth. We live in a society plagued by racism, sexism, and gun violence. We will do all we can to carry forward our scholarship, teaching, and our public engagement for social justice. [\[Continued on page 17\]](#)

Meet Our Newest Faculty Member

Dr. Brittany Battle!

Tell us a bit about yourself and what brought you to Wake?

I earned my BA from University of Delaware in Sociology, Black American Studies, and Women's Studies and my MA in African American Studies from Temple University. I completed my PhD at Rutgers University in March 2019. While searching for places to work during my last year in graduate school, I was connected to the Wake Sociology Department Chair, Joseph Soares. Upon interviewing and visiting, I knew that Wake had the perfect mix for me of a strong dedication to teaching and student engagement coupled with a focus on quality research. Wake also has some of the best students I've ever worked with, especially in the Sociology Department, so I am so happy to be here!



What are your favorite classes to teach and what new courses will you be teaching at Wake?

I really love teaching a variety of classes at the introductory and advanced level. I like both being able to introduce students to sociology and help them develop their sociological imagination, and help students grapple with more critical questions and think about how they might use sociology as they end their undergraduate careers. This spring I am teaching a newly designed Social Justice in the Social Sciences course, which will include a collaborative component with classes in Interdisciplinary Humanities and Studio Art where students will work on a project responding to the question: "How is Wake Forest possible?" In fall 2020, I will teach another new class, Courts and Criminal Procedure in the Era of Mass Incarceration.

What or who inspired you to become a sociologist?

My mom definitely inspired my sociological curiosity. Although she hadn't finished her BA yet when I began undergrad, she had taken some community college courses in sociology. She always spoke about how much she had enjoyed those classes and in many ways my mom is a sociologist in her critical questioning of social systems and inequality. Her commitment to social justice and fighting for equity as I grew up helped me build a similar commitment which led me on the path to sociology.

Can you share with us some of the research you are currently working on?

As an ethnographer, I generally study social and family policy, (un)deservingness, and courts through a cognitive sociological framework. My current book project, *They're Stealing My Opportunity to be a Father*, examines the experiences of parents involved in the U.S. child support system using courtroom observations, interviews, and analysis of cultural artifacts. Ultimately, I argue that the child support system functions as a neoliberal construct at the intersection of the welfare and criminal justice systems, and reinforces cultural messages about deservingness, morality, responsibility, and the desirability of traditional family structures. I am also beginning to think through my next project which will explore parents' experiences in the child welfare and foster care system.

What are some of your hobbies or interests when you aren't doing sociology?

I am a super artsy person (or at least I like to think I am). I am a jewelry-maker and have done many vendor shows with my best friend. I also like to quilt and do other creative projects. Having been raised on a barrier island in south New Jersey, I am also a big beach person. I would spend everyday by the water if I could.

Thank you for taking the time to share a little more about yourself, and for all the hard work you are already doing on behalf of our students and the department!

Stay tuned for two more new additions to the department...

We are delighted that in addition to Dr. Battle, two new assistant professors will join us in the Fall of 2020: Dr. Andrea Gómez Cervantes earned her PhD from the University of Kansas and is currently completing a University of California presidential post-doc at UCLA, and Alex Brewer is currently finishing her PhD at the University of Chicago.



Congratulations to Professor Emeritus Dr. Catherine Harris!

After teaching for 39 years in the department, we are honored to share that Dr. Catherine Harris has been named Professor Emeritus in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the department and ongoing research. **Congratulations and thank you Dr. Harris**, your impact on generations of students cannot be understated!

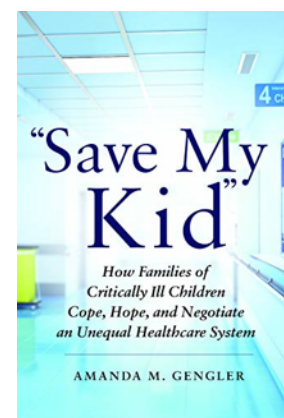
Faculty and Staff Notes

Saylor Breckenridge is on leave during the 2019/20 academic year. He is working on a chapter about causality for a methods text book, researching about patterns of death and the funeral home industry in the US, and continuing a project about the resurgence of the vinyl record industry. In his spare time, he is compiling a complete list of reviews of every movie he has ever seen.

Hana Brown is currently the Gale Family Fellow at Wake Forest University. Her article, "The Effects of the Body on Immigrant Incorporation: Identity, Mobility, and Transnationalism" won the 2019 Best Publication Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on the Body and Embodiment. Another article, co-authored with Jennifer Jones and Andrea Becker (WFU '16), won Honorable Mention from the 2019 American Sociological Association Latina/o Sociology Section Article Award for Distinguished Contribution to Research. In February, she delivered a keynote address at Davidson College on "Immigration Politics in the Era of Donald Trump." With support from a Wake Forest University Pilot Grant, she recruited a team of current and former WFU Sociology majors to travel to Nashville, TN earlier this year to collect data on U.S. refugee politics. She continues to serve as a Consulting Editor for the American Journal of Sociology and as a member of the Section Council for the Political Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Amanda Gengler published her book, "Save My Kid": How Families of Critically Ill Children Cope, Hope, and Negotiate an Unequal Healthcare System, with New York University Press. Drawing on ethnographic case studies with 18 families of critically ill children, she examines how inequality is produced even among those who ultimately access care at the top of the U.S healthcare system. The book reveals the unrecognized, everyday inequalities tangled up in the process of seeking medical care, and points to the role that emotional goals—deeply rooted in the culture of illness and medicine—play in medical decision-making, healthcare interactions, and end of life experiences.

In the spring of 2019 she developed and taught a new half-semester special topics

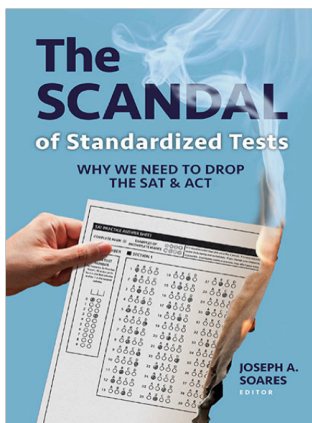


course, *Making Babies: The Sociology of Pregnancy and Childbirth*. She is currently collecting data for several ongoing projects, wrapping up a three-year term on the editorial board for the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, and continues to serve on the publications committee of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction.

Steve Gunkel is currently serving as a consultant for Project Reentry (a prisoner reintegration program) and assisting with the organization's efforts for implementing Evidence-Based Practices. He served as a panelist for the "Removal Project" (coordinated by Ulrike Wiethaus, WFU Department for the Study of Religions) and discussed "Governmental Crimes and the Unlawful Internment Of Japanese Americans" (October 2018). He currently serves as the Faculty Advisor for the student organization, Advocating Reform for Correctional Clients (ARCC); formerly, Alexander Literary Organization). With the assistance of ARCC, he coordinated the April (2019) speaking engagement (hosted by WFU) for Jennifer Thompson, co-author of *Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption* (which has recently been optioned for major motion picture development). He was nominated as "Faculty of the Month" by the Delta Zeta Sorority (WFU) for April (2019). He was recently selected to serve as Resident Professor for the Wake Washington Program for Fall (2021) – tentatively slated to offer Family Violence (SOC339) and Corrections (SOC340).

Robin W. Simon is conducting research that examines the consequences of gender inequality for men's and women's social roles and relationships, identities and emotions, and mental and physical health in the U.S. She has received numerous awards for her scholarship from the American Sociological Association (ASA) – most recently, the 2019 Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Sociology of Mental Health. The paper she presented for this award at the 2019 annual meetings of the ASA in NYC – Gender, Emotions and Mental Health: Patterns, Explanations and New Directions – will be forthcoming in *Society and Mental Health*. Reflecting her interests in the social determinants of the gender gap in emotional well-being, Professor Simon teaches seminars on: Gender, Social Relationships and Well-Being Over the Life Course; Sociology of Emotion; Social Psychology of Inequality; and Health Inequalities.

Joseph Soares continued to serve as chair of the sociology department. Separate from his duties as chair, he is most proud of his "contested collective memories" students whose research brought to the attention of the Wake community the fact that Wake's first endowment came from an auction of enslaved



persons organized by Wake's Board of Trustees. The first commemorative event to recall the names of those sold as enslaved persons for Wake's benefit occurred on May 7, 2019, on the steps of Wait Chapel. You can see a video of the entire ceremony on the Divinity School's Facebook page. The Divinity School are partners with us in the struggle for truth and social justice.

His work against the discriminatory SAT/ACT took two big steps forward this semester. Teachers College Press is releasing his new book, *The Scandal Of Standardized Tests: Why We Need to Drop the SAT & ACT* in February. In November, he spoke at a conference on rethinking admissions on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. At that conference, "UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol T. Christ and UC Provost Michael Brown said ...

that research had convinced them that performance on the SAT and ACT was so strongly influenced by family income, parents' education and race that using them for high-stakes admissions decisions was simply wrong" (Teresa Watanabe NOV. 23, 2019 6 AM, LA Times <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-11-23/uc-officials-recommend-dropping-sat-admission-requirement>). The Berkeley conference contributed to the discussion of a Faculty Task Force at the University of California examining the role of standardized tests in admissions and it came on the heels of a lawsuit announced against the California Regents over the discriminatory impact of the SAT/ACT tests. The lawsuit moves the debate from the field of empirical research into the legal arena of unequal access to higher education in California. The tests exclude black and Latinx and low income youths of all races from attending university when by all other measures those youths are fully qualified (see: <http://www.publiccounsel.org/stories?id=0283>; <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/10/786257347/lawsuit-claims-sat-and-act-are-illegal-in-california-admissions>). Dr. Soares believes California will prove to be the definitive turning point in the fight against discriminatory and predictively weak standardized tests.

Ian Taplin spent the past year teaching a course on Business and Society and exploring the link between technology and culture in another course entitled Technology, Culture and Change. Both enabled him to think through some of the ideas that are the focus of his ongoing research in the area of consumption and culture. Many of these ideas came to fruition with the publication of his book entitled The Evolution of Luxury which has just been released by Routledge/Taylor and Francis Press. He is excited that they have issued it as a paperback making it affordable for individuals rather than just libraries. The ASA Sociology of Consumption section did a blog on it in October, available at: <https://asaconsumers.wordpress.com/2019/09/28/consume-this-evolution-of-luxury/>. Ian hopes to do an *author meets critics* session at the Southern Sociological Society annual meeting in 2020 where the book will be discussed by a panel of sociologists. Also on the topic of luxury, he published a short article on the growing concentration in the luxury goods industry ("How luxury brands maintain their luster") in *Global Business and Organizational Excellence*, 2019, vol. 39.

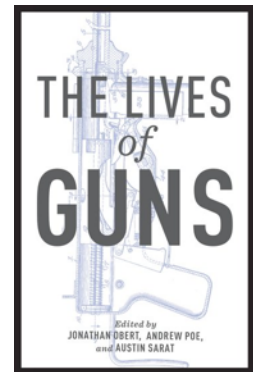


In addition to the above he continues his research into the organization of the wine industry, giving talks at the *NC Wine Growers* annual conference and one on Napa wine at *Sotheby's Institute of Art* in London in their course on the Art of Luxury. Related to these topics he published several book chapters; "Building and sustaining legitimacy in an emerging wine region: The case of North Carolina", in Inglis and Almila (eds.), *The Globalization of Wine* (Bloomsbury); "Of space and time in California wine", in Roberts and Armitage (eds.), *The Third Realm of Luxury*, (Bloomsbury); and (with Remaud and Ouvrard) "The Bordeaux classified growth system: A strong legacy", in Quinn and Oliveira (Eds.), *Accounting for Alcohol* (Routledge). In the spring he taught a course in WFU's Lifelong Learning program entitled 'Wine Stories' and continues to give lectures at Kedge Business School Bordeaux where he is a Visiting Professor in their Wine and Spirits Masters program.

Ana-María González Wahl is currently on a one year research leave. She is working on two key projects during her sabbatical. One project builds on earlier work focusing on the shifting economic and social/cultural landscape of micropolitan areas. In a piece recently published (with Steve Gunkel and [Wake Forest Sociology Newsletter](#)

Saylor Breckenridge) in *Sociation Today*, she explores the impact of the Great Recession on Latino population growth in these places. Her current work tracks the way in which the economic recovery is playing out in these micropolitan areas - and the consequences for the foreign born Latinx population as well as native born groups. A second project explores the way churches shape their congregants' engagement with immigrants and immigration policy. This study will track social networks, attitudes and activism among congregants in two cities: Winston Salem and Denver. This past year, Dr. Wahl has also been teaching two upper division courses - the Sociology of Immigration and the Sociology of Work - as well as a lower division Social Problems course. In addition, she serves on several university wide committees. Most recently, this includes the Committee on the Intersection of Bias, Expression and Conduct. She is also a steering committee member for Latin American and Latino Studies as well as the Magnolia Scholars program serving first generation college students. Finally, Dr. Wahl continues to serve as the Director of American Ethnic Studies.

David Yamane published his research on American gun culture in two books, *The Social Lives of Guns* and *Guns: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Politics, Policy, and Practice* (the latter with sociology alumnus Sebastian Ivory and his son Paul Yamane). He also collected data for a second project, "Armoring the Religious Body: Constructing Safety and Security in Communities of Faith," supported by a \$44,997 grant from the Louisville Institute. Yamane continues to be a sought after commentator on guns in America, in print and radio stories, as the lunch speaker at the National Firearms Law Seminar, and through his old (gunculture2pointo.com) and new (guncurious.com) blogs.



Current Student Profiles

Mary Britton Anderson ('20) is a Sociology major with minors in Chemistry and Biology. Her major sociological interests include health disparities and the role of social forces, specifically cultural health capital, in creating and sustaining health outcomes for various groups. She currently serves as one of the Student Directors for Wake 'N Shake, Wake Forest's largest student philanthropy event, which raises money for the Brain Piccolo Cancer Research Fund. She serves also as President for Tri Beta (the Biology Honor Society), works as a WFU tour guide, and volunteers weekly at Brenner Children's Hospital. This year she is excited to further explore the relationship between cultural health capital and patient-provider interactions through her senior research project with Dr. Gengler. After graduation, she hopes to work as a medical scribe in an Emergency Department before matriculating to medical school.



Maria Cortez-Perez ('20) is a Sociology major and communications minor, is a resident advisor, sits on the Board of Directors of Latino Community Services (formerly known as El Buen Pastor), a committee member for the Bias, Conduct and Expression Committee of WFU, manages her family's small business Crystal Clean Janitorial Company, is Pre-law and is currently pursuing law school. Maria has been an active advocate and activist for pro-immigrant rights and was the founder of UndocuDeacs, a WFU student organization now known as SMIJ, that she was able to establish through her position as the Director of the Social Justice Incubator her Sophomore year. Maria has also been organizing a trip to SOAW Nogales, Arizona and this years' SOAW Fort Benning conference to expose our students to peaceful activism, workshops and forums surrounding US militarism nationally and internationally, immigration, and criminalization. She also recently conducted legal research during the summer 20f 019 and produced a mock amicus brief to present arguments to the court challenging the South Carolina legislation barring undocumented students from applying to SC universities. Maria is a passionate leader of our community here at Wake Forest and abroad and hopes to become a lawyer to better support the Latinx, undocumeted, and immigrant community moving forward.



Dami Fakunle ('20) is a Sociology major with a concentration in Health & Wellbeing and a chemistry minor. My major interest is applied medical sociology and studying social health determinants, inequality, and health outcomes of society's most vulnerable populations. While at Wake Forest, I have led research and enrichment projects in Jamaica, England, France, and South Africa, where I've gained a better understanding of human rights, international public health systems, and social health challenges of children in global contexts. I've spent my time working for the Winston-Salem community, through Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Student Government Association, volunteering at Wake Forest Baptist Health Pediatric Department and much more. Directly after graduation, I am attending medical school to pursue a medical career tailored to community & global health efforts.



2019 Undergraduate Awards and Honors

McGee (Katherine) Bosworth - Honors in the Major (Faculty Advisor: Robin Simon)

Kristen Guyler - Department of Sociology Community Engagement Award

Frida Islas Valdez - The American Sociological Association's Department Prize for Outstanding Student

Alumni Updates

Mohsin Ahmad ('17) is currently a first year medical student at Rush Medical College in Chicago, IL. As the only Sociology major in his medical school class, Mohsin has special insight into the social determinants of health that affect a great number of the patients he sees on the West Side of Chicago.



Neil Bloomfield ('00) is a partner at Charlotte based law firm Moore & Van Allen PLLC where he serves as the Co-Head of the firm's Financial Regulatory Advice and Response practice. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the Wake Forest University School of Law where he lectures on responding to government investigations. He is also involved in a variety of community activities, including serving as the Chair of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Advisory Board.



Michael Briggs ('95) is the Executive Director of The Chalmers Center -- an organization focused on helping churches and ministries find better ways to love the poor. He will soon complete his Doctor of Ministry degree from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Michael is married to Kathryn and they have 3 children.

Nicole Capobianco ('16) is a second-year doctoral student in the Clinical and School Psychology Program at the University of Virginia. She is currently studying the effects of school-based interventions and teacher-child interactions on student's social-emotional development.

Shelia Cotten ('87) is currently MSU Foundation Professor and Associate Chair for Research in the Department of Media and Information at Michigan State University. In August 2020 she begins as Associate Vice President for Research Development at Clemson University.



Grace DeHorn ('18) is completing an AmeriCorps program with the City of South Bend. Her program, the South Bend Green Corps, services income-qualified residents by providing minor home repairs, education, and home energy audits. Grace's program will help lower the expenses of over 150 struggling residents this year. After her program's completion in August, Grace plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Masters in Social Work.

Ashley Hamati ('16) is currently a second-year medical student at LMU-DCOM. Last year, she and three colleagues started The SAFE Project: a grassroots initiative to train physicians, physician assistants (PAs), and students of those trades how to perform Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFE) in efforts to

help end the backlog on rape kits and provide a safe, empathetic environment to survivors of rape and sexual assault. In addition to juggling classes and this project, Ashley is teaching yoga at a local studio and studying for her upcoming board exams (USMLE Step 1 and COMLEX Level 1).

Annie Bray Hines ('15) is currently working for the tech website Stack Overflow to help promote the #1 software developer community to various enterprise companies around the globe. Since graduating she has moved to NYC to thrive in the fast paced environment, and plans to stay here another few years before moving back home to NC.

Jeffrey Isaac ('81) went on to get his Masters of Divinity, do clinical pastoral care and then work in universities until 2017. Jeffrey finished his PhD in education in 2008. He suffered an ischemic blockage and later a brain hemorrhage in 2017. At 58, Jeffrey spent the next year in hospitals, skilled nursing homes and assisted living care. There, Jeffrey put his sociology skills to work especially in the nursing home and assisted living. He would listen to his fellow patients and get them socially engaged. In many ways people in skilled nursing homes and assisted living are forgotten pieces of the population who have so much to offer. Jeffrey would encourage all able-bodied graduates to show some pro Humanitate by engaging with these populations. There by the grace of God go us.

Kate Jacobsen ('16) is currently in her last year at graduate school at Harvard Graduate School of Education after serving two years in the Teach For America Corps in Nashville as a middle school science teacher from 2016-2018. Kate received her Ed.M in Prevention Science and Practice from Harvard in May 2019, and will receive her C.A.S. in School Counseling from Harvard in May 2020. After graduation, Kate looks forward to continuing her career in education as a School Counselor and looks forward to working with students and families in the fight for educational equity and social justice.

Justin H. Jordan ('04) was honored as one of the Top 100 under 50 Executive Leaders for 2019, by Diversity MBA, a national leadership organization. Jordan, is employed at Novant Health UVA Haymarket Medical Center, Haymarket, Va., as Director of Professional and Support Services. He oversees radiology, pharmacy, lab, rehabilitation, food services, environmental services, and plant engineering. The organization states that the top 100 honorees represent outstanding achievements in company leadership, community, civic achievement and education. It further states that the nomination alone represents achievement and distinction for a lifetime. Jordan is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Pfeiffer University.



Kerry M. King ('85) is senior editor of Wake Forest Magazine and is celebrating his 30th year in University Advancement. He received an Award of Excellence in feature writing in District III (Southeast) from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for his 2018 profile of Jason Benetti (JD '11), an ESPN football and basketball announcer and the television play-by-play announcer for the Chicago White Sox. He and his wife, Heather, a high school math teacher, live in Winston-Salem

Kim Korzen ('16) is currently working as the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Coordinator at the North Carolina Symphony. She serves as a volunteer with the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Wake County, where she leads presentations on mental health awareness. Kim was elected to join the board of NAMI Wake this fall; her term will begin in January 2020. Her wedding was in October, and she is honeymooning in New Zealand in December.

Courtney Farley Kutler ('98) is a USA Triathlon Certified Triathlon and Running Coach living in Vermont. She enjoys spending time with her husband, 7 year old daughter and chocolate lab. She also enjoys training and competing in endurance events throughout the year as well as volunteering at her daughter's school.

Jennifer Mancuso ('03) is currently working as the Vice President of Human Resources for North Highland Consulting. She's been an HR leader for over 15 years in a variety of industries from food service to manufacturing, transportation, biomedical devices, and now consulting. Jennifer is passionate about partnering with women in leadership roles to further the success of women in the workplace. Recently, Jennifer spoke at the Women in STEM leadership summit in Atlanta, and information about the summit can be found here: <https://go.northhighland.com/north-highland-at-the-global-women-in-stem-leadership-summit>.

Jacob Martin ('10) is currently working in the Leadership & Succession practice at Russell Reynolds Associates. He is a core member of the Diversity & Inclusion Practice. He works closely with colleagues across the firm and with clients to design and implement industry-leading D&I advisory services, leadership succession assessments and executive development programs. Based in Atlanta, Jacob is a trusted client advisor, working with clients of all sizes, geographies and industries to build more effective, inclusive and forward-thinking leadership teams.

Lilly Massa-McKinley ('02) is the Assistant Vice President of Career Development and Strategic Partnerships for Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY. Lilly will be spearheading a Community Engagement Taskforce for Bellarmine this coming year to advance community partnerships and student and faculty involvement on diverse social issues. Lilly and her partner, Ryan, are also busy parents of Eleanor (8), Fisher (6) and recently adopted son Christopher (4). Since finishing her sociology degree, Lilly has earned her MA from Indiana University and EdD from Vanderbilt University in Higher Education Administration

Scott Muller ('92) is working as the National Sales Director for Trademark Visual, a global branding solutions firm. Scott has two teenage sons currently attending Forsyth Country Day. He and his wife Lynn live in Charlotte, NC.

Carley Parker ('18) is currently attending graduate school at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. She will be receiving her MSN in August 2020 and plans to attend a doctoral program in order to obtain her DNP licensure. She is currently working on a study looking at how society influences individuals opinions of female sex workers and their access to preventative care.

Amanda Perry ('08) is currently working as a Research Assistant for The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice. Her work supports the design and testing of innovative health care delivery systems for palliative care and cancer patients. She recently became a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) with the Society of Clinical Research Professionals (SOCRA).

Ron Riggs ('74) After a more than 30 year career in Hospital Administration and Human Resources, I now substitute teach in several schools in Horry County, North Myrtle Beach, SC area. My beautiful wife, Susie of 47 years, and our rescue, "Stanley" live in Carolina Shores, NC. Our son and daughter -in- law are in Portland, Oregon. We visit the gorgeous Pacific Northwest at least twice a year. Last fall we took a 4 week cross country drive across our amazing country! We hope to do it again in 2020. Go Deacs!

Stephen Russell ('88) is currently Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor in Child Development and chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. In January 2020 he begins as Director of the UT School of Human Ecology. He serves on the governing boards of the Council on Contemporary Families and the Society for Research in Child Development.

Marshall Shaffer ('15) works as a social media planner at Ogilvy in New York City. He continues to freelance as a film journalist, covering film festivals and interviewing filmmakers with whatever spare time he has.

Sarah Shivers Behr ('01) founded Simplify Financial in 2017, she provides financial planning and investment advice on a fee-only basis in an effort to make financial advice more accessible and straightforward. She's been quoted in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Sarah serves on the board of City Hope, a community center which serves as a trusted gathering place for the homeless and underserved in San Francisco's Tenderloin. Her daughters Iris (11) and Maggie (4 months) keep her on her toes.

Joanna White ('94) is a family nurse practitioner and the coordinator of the Woodbridge Middle and High School Wellness Center. School based health centers in Delaware provide excellent healthcare, primary prevention of disease and unhealthy habits, and promote wellness for students in the state. Joanna is the proud mother of a 9 year old girl and a 4 year old boy.

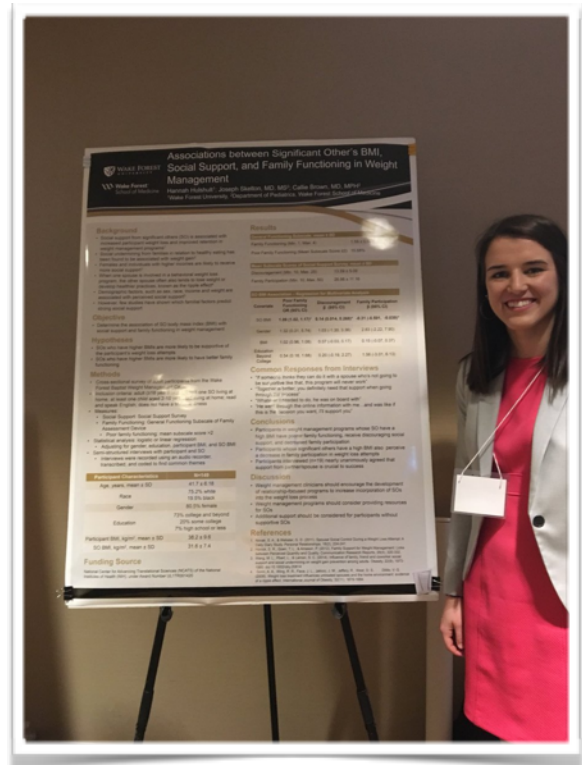
Would you like to support our current majors—in particular in their efforts to engage in independent research and travel to regional and national conferences where they can present their work! Consider making a *directed donation to the sociology department!* We use these funds use support our students 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 2018-19...



Dr. Hana Brown delivers a keynote address at Davidson College entitled “Changing Immigration Politics under President Trump.”

Sociology graduate and 2018 Outstanding Senior Award winner Hannah Hulshult presents her independent research in a poster session at the Eastern Sociological Society.





Dr. Breckenridge chats with students at our end-of-year senior celebration.

Dr. Wahl poses for a celebratory photo with 2019 Outstanding Student Award winner Frida Islas-Valdez!



Dr. Breckenridge awards concentration certificates in Business and Society, here congratulating sociology graduate Lily Walter.



Alumnus Marcus Hill ('05) shares wisdom with sociology majors from Wake and Winston Salem State at our co-hosted career event at Wake Downtown.

Sociology major Jenny Vu Mai and friend of the department, anthropology professor Dr. Sherri Lawson Clark receive 2018 “Building the Dream Award” at joint WFU-WSSU Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.



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

And we will do all we can to keep you and us safe from harm.

All classes will be canceled for the rest of this week to enable us to fully organize our security. Our building will have for the foreseeable future a police presence and all classrooms will be on auto lock. Only faculty will be able to unlock classroom doors.

If you have questions, reach out to your faculty. If you have information, reach out to the Wake police.”

In addition to swiftly sharing information with our students, faculty and staff colleagues and friends, we took protective steps. We relocated some classes to other buildings on campus, some classes were moved online, peepholes were installed in our office doors, and a Wake Forest police presence was set up outside and inside Kirby Hall. The Washington Post published an article that highlighted the anti-racist work being done by the department and correctly pointed to that as the context in which we were being singled out for this act of white supremacist terrorism. Please see: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2019/09/27/after-racist-emails-wake-forest-university-keeps-armed-guards-outside-some-classrooms/>

Our department immediately receive an outpouring of support from our students and colleagues. The record of Wake’s administration in helping us to respond to these threats was, sadly, not stellar. It took us five days of pleading to establish the full list of department members targeted by these emails; seven days before we could see all of the hate emails; days passed before we had police protection.

It took seven days before President Hatch sent out individual emails of support to the persons targeted in our department. In writing back, I said the following: “Dear Nathan, I thank you for the note of empathy. I would prefer, however, to read a letter from you to our entire community, the way you wrote one addressing the pain caused by the student's election poster calling for a wall to be built between us
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and WSSU. I think presidential leadership in response to racist, homophobic, misogynistic, anti-Semitic, and violent threats would accomplish much more toward defending diversity and inclusion than a "checking in" note to me. ... Our protocols for dealing with threats are not just inadequate, they put our community at risk -- specifically the practice of "pulling hate email" from a person's inbox without informing that person of the content of the hate email. For seven days, three of us were ignorant of the character of the email assault. It doesn't help to keep people safe when they don't know they are being threatened or the character of that threat. We need better safety protocols and we could use a public repudiation of white supremacy hate threats from your office."

A letter to the entire Wake Forest University community from the president's office, signed by him, the provost, deans, and other administrators, condemning the hate emails and expressing support for us came out on September 28, nearly three weeks after the event. That email said: "Dear Wake Forest community, Three weeks ago, seven individuals and five offices on our Reynolda Campus received vile, anonymous emails, spreading messages of white supremacy and hate. Recipients of the emails felt threatened, and concern for the wellbeing and safety of our community continues to spread with each retelling of what our campus has experienced. We continue efforts to protect the campus community, comfort those who were targeted and to support all of you who feel the trauma of these toxic words."

Our department attempted to get the administration to develop new safety protocols to deal with threats of this type in future. The entire Wake College faculty voted unanimously in support of our key recommendations, but we have yet to receive official word of any new protocols from the administration.

On the official investigation into the identity of our assailants, the FBI and Wake's police turned up nothing that they have shared with us. But anti-racist activists in North Carolina have identified at least one white supremacist who called for hate mail to be sent to us, and we have received briefings from a professor at another school who studies white supremacist activity in this area on the person and his networks. We are doing the work to keep ourselves informed and safe. It would be wonderful to be able to do so in partnership with the administration and Wake's police, but so far we feel like we are carrying this burden without vigorous and timely assistance from Wake's administration.

We have not allowed these threats to derail our work in or outside the classroom, as the many accomplishments detailed in this newsletter prove.

We appeal to alumni that if you make financial contributions to Wake Forest, you explicitly designate those funds for the exclusive use of our department. We will use your contributions to support our current students in their research and professional development. Every year there are conferences for which our students need travel and registration funds to support their participation. With your dollars, we will subsidize our students in their engagement with sociological scholarship and practice.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we wish you all a happy and peace filled holiday season.

Sincerely,

Joseph Soares