Welcome back to the third issue of the SMACdown! This newsletter features important information about upcoming events and opportunities within the Sociology department as well as the University as a whole. Be sure to check out the interview with Carine, a class of 2018 UVA grad, to see what she’s done with her sociology major. Enjoy!

Upcoming Events

**April Job and Internship Fair:**
Wednesday, April 3rd from 12pm-3pm in Newcomb Ballroom!

**MSC Lead: Leadership Workshopping Series:**

**Healthy Dialogue (4/9, 5:00pm – 6:30pm in the MSC)**
Most chronic problems exist when the stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong. In this class you’ll learn strategies and approaches for engaging in healthy dialogue when it matters most and achieve the positive resolutions you are seeking.

**Bridging the Generation Gap (4/17, 5:00pm – 6:30pm in the MSC)**
There are multiple generations in today’s workforce. In this class, you’ll learn to strengthen and enhance your communication skills by discussing the stereotypes and characteristics of each generation. You’ll also discover new ways to leverage generational assets and drive results.

Career Development

**Looking for ways to support your unpaid service internship?**
The Parents Fund Internship Grants (PFIG) provide financial support to students who have secured such an internship. **This year, 32 grants of $3,000 each are available!** For details, visit [https://career.virginia.edu/internships/funding/pfig?utm_source=mass_mailer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=united&targeted_email]. The deadline to apply is Monday, April 8th, at noon.

“**So You Wanna Be A Peace Corps Volunteer?**” information session: Wednesday, April 10th, 2019 from 8:00pm-9:00pm in the Hereford Hub

**Curry School of Education and Human Development Ridley Lecture**
When: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 from 3:30-5:00pm
Where: Bavaro 116, Holloway Hall
Come hear Dr. Anjali Forber-Pratt as she shares her research insights and her story as a wheelchair user, two-time Paralympian, and adopted woman of color.

Important Links

**Sociology Undergraduate Program FAQs:**
[http://sociology.as.virginia.edu/undergraduate-program-faqs](http://sociology.as.virginia.edu/undergraduate-program-faqs)

**Sociology Graduate Programs FAQs:**
[http://sociology.as.virginia.edu/graduate-program-faqs](http://sociology.as.virginia.edu/graduate-program-faqs)
COURSE SPOTLIGHT: SOC 2595 (Immigration and Society)

What’s this course all about?
The election of Donald Trump as U.S. president and Brexit in June 2016 have provoked surprise and alarm in many quarters. These events represent a radical break with expectations and tradition and portend an upheaval in the global economic and political order. Analysts point to many causes for these outcomes, but they converge in the belief that globalization, not the unambiguous good it has long seemed, has produced a backlash among white workers in the U.S. and U.K. who trace the loss of manufacturing jobs to low wage countries. White workers also associate this loss with the influx of people from poorer countries. Increasingly, legal immigrants, the undocumented, and refugees are being perceived as threatening to western democracies in North America, Western Europe, and even Australia. But beneath the tensions that are inherent in the meeting of natives and immigrants from sharply different economic levels lurk cultural, religious, and racial markers of difference that may be even more threatening than fears of economic dislocation. The intertwining of these multiple factors means that the growing tensions surrounding immigration in the U.S. and other countries can only be understood by studying the issue from multiple perspectives. This course offers such an analysis by showing how history, politics, economics, and racial and cultural considerations have conspired to produce the global crisis surrounding immigration.

UVA students say...
“Professor Vickerman makes some of the most difficult subject matter approachable and entertaining. He was also eye opening and helped the students to think in a different, socio-historical way.” -S.B. Class of 2020

“As a result of the current events and politics involving immigrants, it was interesting to learn about how race, ethnicity, social class, and gender all play a significant role in shaping immigration policies, the status of legality, and societal attitudes.” -T.G. Class of 2020

LIFE AFTER SOCIOLOGY: Cariné Megerian

Carine Megerian graduated from UVA in 2018 with a degree in sociology. What is she up to now?

“I’m currently attending the University of Pennsylvania to get my Master of Public Health (MPH) and am pursuing a career in health law and policy. I’m incredibly interested in understanding how the social determinants of health shape our lives and how data about these SDOHs plays an essential role in informing important public health policy.”

See Below to Read the Entire Interview!
LIFE AFTER SOCIOLOGY: A PANEL OF FORMER UVA SOCIOLOGY MAJORS

Did you miss the Life After Sociology Panel on March 21? No Worries! Stay tuned for the video footage to be posted to the official UVA Sociology website soon! We interviewed 4 UVA alumni who majored in sociology. Hear them share their stories and reflect on what it has meant for each of them to have majored in Sociology at UVA! Featured speakers include:

- **George Batten ‘09**
  - A survey researcher who received a PhD from VT and currently manages survey research at the UVA Cancer Center

- **Jason Amirhadji ‘08**
  - Special Assistant in Policy Affairs at US Department of Housing and Urban Development

- **Matthew Christensen ‘13**
  - After receiving a MA in Social Work at VCU, he now works in Charlottesville with Partner for Mental Health, assisting survivors of the attacks of August 11 & 12, 2017

- **Madison Cobb ‘18**
  - Works in Charlottesville for a dental technology startup
In depth interview questions with UVA graduate Cariné Megerian:

1) You are currently pursuing your Master in Public Health - why did you choose this field following Sociology?
In undergrad, I followed the pre-med track along with pursuing my BA in Sociology. I had the intention of attending medical school after college or following a gap year; however, during my fourth year I realized that this may not be the best career path for me. So in order for me to take some time to think about if I was set on pursuing medicine, I decided to take two years to get my Masters in Public Health. I figured my MPH could act either as a stepping stone to medical school or could be an end in and of itself if I chose to continue my career in the field of public health. I had always been interested in the union of medicine and sociology with the study of the social, economic, political, and ethical influences on public health and health care throughout the world.

2) Is it helpful for you to have a background in Sociology in your chosen field (or even in life in general)? Why/How so?
Yes! I definitely think having a background in Sociology is extremely helpful in my ability to produce quality work products, but also when it comes to interviews and getting jobs - employers and schools love a well-rounded candidate and I believe that sociology backgrounds really help us have a well-rounded and unique view. It is especially helpful to have a background in Sociology in the field of health right now because our country is currently engaging in important and controversial conversations about the future of health care, specifically looking at the social determinants of health and health equity. Having a sociology background has greatly prepared me to participate in these conversations and provide meaningful insight thanks to the knowledge that I have about how society functions. Using my sociological imagination has allowed me to be more aware, sensitive, and thoughtful in all of the work that I do. I believe in any field, but especially in health/medicine, having that sociological background forces me to take a step back, reevaluate the situation, think about the social context, and then use that perspective to shape my decisions.

After graduation, I worked for Independence Blue Cross on their Affordable Care Act regulatory performance team and they loved my sociology background because it allowed me to look at incoming policy and regulations in a different light and provide my feedback. I totally did not expect to enjoy my time working for a large corporate company, but I did and I will be working for them again this upcoming summer.

3) Are there any courses, programs, resources, etc. that you found helpful that you would recommend to declared or prospective majors in the Sociology department?
I absolutely loved the criminology class that Professor Greenland taught! I thought it was super interesting, and is actually what made me change paths from a more clinical career to a more social justice/public health based career. I think there is such a variety of sociology courses at UVA, I recommend taking any sociology class that sounds interesting to you so that you can explore different topics you had maybe never thought of before. That's what I did and it totally changed my way of thinking and future career aspirations!

4) Any other advice you would give about applying a degree in Sociology to the post-undergrad world?
My best advice would be to always try to apply your sociological imagination to your post-undergrad work - it is more helpful than you may think; it will help you produce creative and innovative solutions, and your company/employer will love you for it! Another piece of advice would be not to
limit yourself career wise. There is SO MUCH that you can do with a sociology degree since it is so broad and covers so many different topics - health, criminology, economics, racial relations, history, etc. I think that sociology provides a lens that can guide you when looking at something in any field. You can work for a large company/corporate America; you can go into politics/policy; you can go to law school; you can work for a non-profit or engage in community organizing; you can go to business school; you can pursue medicine; I honestly think the options are endless for college grads with a sociology degree!

5) Any final thoughts about your life after Sociology?
As mentioned above, I think that students should pursue a career that excites them, whether they think it immediately relates to sociology or not because odds are they'll be able to apply their sociological knowledge to anything. One of the best things about sociology is that it helps us to be aware of the boxes that contain us in everyday life and step outside of them. Sociology is a skill set and a way of thinking that can make you extra prepared and successful in any field!

Have any questions? Reach out to a SMAC Member!

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