



South Carolina Sociological Association

Fall 2020 Issue



Greetings!

A message from the SCSA President

Greetings SCSA Members,

I am excited to let you know that the South Carolina Sociological Association (SCSA) annual meeting will take place on February 12th and 13th, 2021 at the Hickory Knob State Park and Resort in McCormick, SC.

The theme for the meeting will be “Private Troubles and Public Issues in South Carolina.”

Many South Carolinians face personal challenges including family violence, fear and/or distrust of law enforcement, debt, illness, food insecurity, unemployment, social stigma, and numerous other troubles. Since these troubles extend beyond a few people, it seems reasonable to think of them as public issues and not just personal situations.

I look forward to seeing you at the SCSA annual meeting in February 2021!

Using a well-recognized framework presented by C. Wright Mills in his book *The Sociological Imagination* (1959), the theme of the South Carolina Sociological Association's (SCSA) annual meeting for 2021 will be connecting personal difficulties to the way in which broader society functions. Both theoretical and empirical presentations are welcome.

You can register for the meeting online through the SCSA website if you have not done so yet. The registration fee is \$50.00 including tax. Visit <https://southcarolinasociology.org> for more information.

See you at Hickory Knob!

Russell (Rusty) Ward, Ph.D.
President, South Carolina Sociological Association (SCSA)

About Hickory Knob State Park and Resort

Along the rolling, wooded shoreline of the 71,000-acre Strom Thurmond Reservoir, sits Hickory Knob, a full-service, lakeside South Carolina golf resort and remote state park all rolled into one.

Tucked away in a serene, remote location, the park's many amenities and recreational opportunities are a pleasant surprise for many. Hickory Knob operates an 18-hole championship golf course, full-service restaurant, skeet shooting, boat ramp, archery range, meeting facilities and more than 70 lodge-style rooms.



For more information about Hickory Knob State Park and Resort go to:
<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com>

News from Around the State

Effective July 1, 2021, the College of Education at Coastal Carolina University will become the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. The college will include undergraduate programs such as anthropology, early childhood education, political science, sociology and special education.



Francis Marion University

FMU is sponsoring “Cultural Conversations”, an interdisciplinary series on the topics of culture and race. Four presentations will take place during the 2020-2021 academic year. On March 11, assistant professor of sociology Todd Couch will present “Racial Issues and Injustices Facing the Hispanic and Asian American Communities.” For more information visit <http://www.fmarion.edu/aafsc>

The United States Marine Corps has commissioned a study on the best way to gender-integrate its boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. The Marine Corps has commissioned the University of Pittsburgh to “analyze combinations of gender-integrated training and make recommendations for models that integrate genders to the greatest extent possible while continuing to train Marines to established standards. Joining the University of Pittsburgh researchers will be representatives from the University of South Carolina’s Department of Exercise Science, the University of Maryland’s Department of Sociology, and Insight Policy Research. To read the full article click [here](#).



Updates

Congratulations to Dr. Zach Rubin, Assistant Professor at Lander University, and his colleagues Don Willis and Yana Ludwig for winning the Communal Studies Association's Outstanding Article Award! The winning paper titled "Measuring Success in Intentional Communities: A Critical Evaluation of Commitment and Longevity Theories" was published in *Sociological Spectrum* Vol 39 Issue 3. For more information click [here](#).



Dr. Vinetta Goodwin Witt Retires

Dr. Witt, Social and Behavioral Sciences Department Chair and Professor of Sociology at Newberry College retired after 20 years at the college. She served in many positions in the SCSA including Executive Committee, President Elect and as the President of the SCSA from 2010-2012. Dr. Witt has been a strong supporter of the Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium by hosting the symposium and preparing students to present their research at CUSSS annually. Currently, Dr. Witt is a leader in Generational Treasures, LLC in which she consults with institutions on training leaders, researching, and exploring diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives for the institutions. You may contact Dr. Witt at Generationaltreasures50@gmail.com.



This year, Dr. Mitchell Mackinem (Wingate University), his long-term colleague Anisah Bagasra, and co-author Kurt Holzhausen published an article in the *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse* entitled, "Religiosity as a mediating factor in alcohol use and alcohol related problems among students attending a historically black college". A new book by Dr. Mackinem and his two colleagues, Lacey Ritter and Anisah Bagasra, titled *OK Boomer: Millennials in Academia*, about the emergence of new generations of college professors, will be out later this year.

Congratulations to Dr. Mitchell Mackinem who became grandfather to Jack Douglas Mackinem.



Dr. Tracey L. Woodward, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina-Upstate, received the 2020 University Excellence in Teaching and Advising Award.

Congratulations Dr. Woodward!



Dr. Carol Black has taken a new teaching position at the USC-Sumter Palmetto College Dual Enrollment Program. Her new contact email is CB126@mailbox.sc.edu.

Obituary

Dr. Doug Kuck, 61, professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina Aiken, passed away on March 25, 2020.

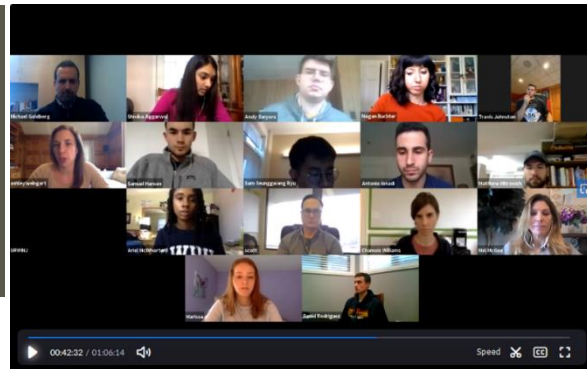
Dr. Kuck taught Sociology and Criminology at USCA since 1992 and served as Chair of the Department of Sociology since 1995.

The Dr. Douglas L. Kuck Memorial Scholarship has been established for sociology majors.



Teaching Corner

Teaching Sociology in the Times of COVID -19



Simple Ways to Increase Engagement in your Virtual Class



Are you teaching web synchronous or hybrid classes using Zoom or Webex?

Then, you, like me, are struggling to adapt your in-class activities and discussions to something that would work virtually. I would like to suggest three simple strategies I have adapted for use in my virtual classes and that have helped me make my synchronous class meetings more interactive.

1. Using quick checks. I use quick checks like thumbs up/thumbs down, true/false, and multiple choice questions several times during a class meeting. After lecturing for a few minutes, ask your students a question that requires them to express their opinion. For example:

- “Free College, Thumbs-up or Thumbs-down?” Ask your student to use their mic or the chat feature to provide an answer.
- “True or False? Violent Crime in the US has declined in the last 30 years. Type your answer in the chat box”.

These quick checks serve as simple formative assessments and provide a nice break from the monotony of the lecture!

2. Using the LMS (D2L, Blackboard, Noodle, Canvas) to increase interaction. Conducting high-quality discussions and evaluating them during a Zoom/Webex class is incredibly challenging. So, in my web synchronous classes, I assign discussions ahead of time (due by class time or on Sunday night). Just one post is required, replies are optional. Then, I summarize the discussion in class. I may also call on volunteers to share their responses. This way, students are primed for the topic, more relaxed, and I do not have to stress about trying to determine who contributes to the discussion and who does not.

3. Welcoming social presence. It is important for students to feel comfortable in a Zoom/Webex class. Even if they do not want to be on camera, I make it a point to greet each of them by name every single class. If you have a very large class, this may not be possible, but a greeting and a few minutes of chit chat will put students at ease. Ask your students what is on their mind. Ask what questions they have (not if they have any questions). Once in a while, I also incorporate a theme into a virtual class meeting. My students really enjoyed the “bring your pet to class day”, the “wear your favorite hat day”, as well as the “cultural show-and-tell day”. These social activities may even give your students a reason to turn their camera on.

Katya Terry
Piedmont Technical College

“This semester I had to embrace the phrase, “old dogs learn new tricks”. High flex classes, asynchronous online learning, synchronous online learning, Zoom, Loom, mini-lectures, bumper music in podcasts and virtual office hours are all new things that I (the old dog) had to learn this semester. While stressful at times it has really reinvigorated my teaching and my level of active engagement. It’s hard to phone it in when it’s something you’ve never done before. Maybe when this virus is all done the lasting legacy for me will be improved teaching.”

Dr. Mitchell Mackinem
Wingate University

If you would like to contribute to the Spring 2021 issue of the SCSA newsletter, please email Terry.C@ptc.edu