



SOCIOLOGY AT UVM

Did you ever wonder why people behave differently in crowds than in small groups? How different you might be if you were born to another set of parents? If your answers are “yes,” congratulations!

You’re a sociologist!

Meet some UVM sociology alumni who have built exciting and rewarding careers in a variety of professions.



ENTREPRENEUR & GERONTOLOGIST

Rachel Lee Cummings believes that people should live at home and take part in their communities for as long as they can. She was a 22-year-old senior at the University of Vermont in September 1999 when she started Armistead Inc. Assisted Living Services of Williston—named after her

grandfather—with two part-time employees. By the time she graduated in June, she had a staff of eight full-time people. “It was one of the first private-pay agencies, and word spread fast,” she says. “People liked the care they received and they liked the caregivers.” A scant five years later she was named Vermont’s 2004 Entrepreneur of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.



PROJECT MANAGER

Stephanie Hainley is chief operating officer and senior project manager at White+Burke Real Estate Investment Advisors, Inc., a commercial brokerage, asset management, and development services firm in Burlington. She manages the company’s day-to-day operations and provides

strategic direction to clients. “I’m able to get an inside perspective on Vermont’s infrastructure and understand the landscape in a unique way. With the endless challenges and opportunities, no two days are alike in my job.” Her honors include Businessperson of the Year 2016 (Main Street Alliance of Vermont) and was named Class of 2014 Rising Star by *Vermont Business Magazine*.

IN THE CLASSROOM



When eleven UVM undergrads in a 2017 course “Justice Studies” arrived for a weekly class meeting, they are required to leave their keys, cellphones, and other personal belongings at the door before walking through a metal detector under the watchful eye of a correctional officer.

It wasn’t an extreme measure to remove distractions from the classroom. It was just part of the routine for the students taking the course with incarcerated people at the Women’s Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington.

Opening doors, for UVM students and their counterparts in the prison, was the impetus for the course developed and taught by Kathy Fox, professor of sociology and director of the UVM Liberal Arts in Prison Program. Spring semester 2017 was the first time in Vermont that undergrads and inmates took a course together on the “inside,” and it represented UVM’s entry into the renowned Consortium for the (continued on page 3)

WE'RE UVM SOCIOLOGISTS. HERE'S WHAT WE DO...



PROFESSOR & ADMINISTRATOR

Sarah Soule is the Morgridge Professor of Organizational Behavior Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Her research examines state and organizational-level policy change and diffusion, and the

role social movements have on these processes. Sarah has published papers on how protest impacts multi-national firm-level decisions regarding divestment in Burma, and on how advocacy organizations learn new strategies and tactics from those with which they collaborate. She has published a book with Cambridge University Press *Contention and Corporate Social Responsibility* and has published widely in scholarly journals.

USING SOCIOLOGY TOOLS AT IPSOS

Chris Fleury '89 graduated from UVM with dual degrees in sociology and political science and went on to get his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. "My UVM sociology degree was an excellent springboard for an interesting and varied career that has included work in the academic, government, non-profit and corporate sectors," he writes. "The skills I learned at UVM have proven invaluable over the years." Currently Chris is senior VP of Ipsos in the Washington D.C. area. He directs the company's regulatory affairs research, helping industry clients conduct high-quality, high-stakes research to support their interactions with and applications to regulatory agencies.

RESTAURANTEUR AND CHANGE AGENT

Karen Galfetti Zecchinelli '84 incorporated lessons from her UVM sociology degree into her family business, the Wayside Restaurant in Montpelier. "I believe our core mission is to help others ... whether it is one of our 65 employees or being a leader in our community," she says. The Wayside sponsors "Funraisers" every year for local non-profits including the Vermont Food Bank and Vermont Special Olympics. She helps employees find secure housing, legal advice, and mental health services through a Wayside EAP program. The Zecchinellis have also committed themselves to environmentally sound restaurant practices. The Wayside was designated Montpelier's first "green restaurant" by reducing its carbon footprint through installation of solar panels, composting, and serving locally sourced food and beverages.



CAREER DESIGN

A fascination with human behavior led **Janet Walker Carlisle '89** to double major in sociology and psychology at UVM. That fascination turned into a leadership role in the marketing and advertising field. As executive vice president at PJA Advertising & Marketing, based in Boston and San Francisco, Janet leads creative teams that produce sophisticated multi-channel marketing campaigns for companies around the world. She consults with senior marketing execs in industries including consumer technology, healthcare, financial services, packaged goods, and telecom.

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Liberal Arts in Prison established at Bard College. UVM is the first public institution and the first land grant university to join. Admittance to the consortium comes after patient and persistent advocacy by Fox, who sees a liberal education as transformational in the lives of individual students and society at large. UVM faculty have now taught a course on mythology to incarcerated women in the South Burlington facility and an introductory sociology course to men in the Northwest State Correctional Facility in Swanton, Vt.

“I’ve been very impressed with the number of smart people in prison,” Fox says. “They work hard not just because they see education as important, but because they crave doing something meaningful with their time and bettering themselves. If we take the power of liberal arts seriously—the power to reason and the capacity for critical inquiry—our prison system provides extremely fertile ground for its application.”

[Find out more information on UVM’s LAPP program.](#)



SOCIOLOGY A PATH TO TECH CAREER

Redante Asuncion-Reed

’94 used his sociology degree to launch a career in web technology for nonprofit organizations. Currently he works as digital communications manager for Results for Development, a non-profit that mobilizes resources to provide

mothers and children in low- and middle-income countries with good nutrition, education and affordable medical care. “Sociology is a versatile degree that taught me writing, critical thinking, analysis, data and research methods,” Redante says of his UVM years. “I use these skills on a daily basis on the job. I know a career in web technology is not an obvious application of a sociology degree but there are many people with liberal arts and social science backgrounds currently working in tech.”

“My UVM sociology degree was an excellent springboard for an interesting and varied career that has included work in the academic, government, non-profit and corporate sectors.”

Chris Fleury ’89

DEVELOPING THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

Eric Krieg ’88 found his academic footing in the sociology department at the beginning of his junior year at UVM. “The development of my sociological imagination led to a career in higher education. “After finishing my PhD in 1995, I returned to UVM to teach for two years in the sociology department and the environmental program. It seems like UVM was always there for me.” Since 1997, Eric has taught sociology at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, N.Y. He chaired the department for five years and now serves as the associate vice-president for institutional effectiveness at SUNY-Buffalo. “My sociology degree has proven more valuable than I could have ever imagined, thanks to the timely help from some talented and caring members of the sociology department at UVM.”

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Eric Krieg ’88

ON OUR WAY.

UVM JOURNEY LEADS TO YALE LAW SCHOOL

James Sanchez's personal and academic journey led them to a small liberal arts college, a local community college, and finally the University of Vermont. That journey will continue next fall as they take up their studies at Yale Law School. After graduating from CCV with an associate of arts degree, Sanchez went on to complete their undergraduate degree at UVM. That experience is now fueling their ambitions at Yale. "I'm interested in both criminal justice reform and disability and housing advocacy," they said. "Eventually I'd like to work in academia."



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-R. Asuncion-Reed



INTERNSHIP FOCUSES PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Maddie Teeven '20 is passionate about what she sees as necessary reforms to the U.S. incarceration system. A criminal justice class in New Zealand during her junior year semester abroad sharpened her focus. She also developed an interest in the role drug addiction, particularly opioids, play in our prison system. Teeven researched these issues during a recent internship with the Burlington City Police Department, working under one of the police chief's assistants doing social media. She frequently did "ridealongs," travelling in patrol cars as officers answered calls. "Because there is so much mistrust, my role was to humanize the police—show through their daily activities that these are people who have a challenging job."



OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

Charis Jones '18 grew up in Manhattan so she's no stranger to life in a culturally diverse environment. But she never experienced such a rich melting pot as the United Arab Emirates, where she studied and made friends with people from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. An introductory class taught by Professor Ellie Miller ignited her interest in sociology and the "Polit-

ical Islam" course taught by Jan Feldman focused her interest in Middle Eastern for a semester at the American University of Sharjah. "I'm sure a lot of it has to do with proximity to Dubai, which is this huge modern city with businesspeople from all over the world," she said. "Only about 15% of the UAE population are Emirati." That all morphed into a double major in sociology and political science. When Jones considered a semester abroad, she embraced the notion of getting out of her comfort zone. "I wanted to lose myself in a totally unfamiliar culture," she said. "I also liked the idea of being around people who were dramatically different from me. For the first time in my life I knew what it feels like to be a minority. I think it's important to experience that." After graduating in 2018 with dual degrees, Jones is back in her home city of New York, taking on new challenges. She's working as a level I investigator for The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), an independent agency empowered to investigate complaints against police officers in the city.



MULTIPLE PATHS LEAD BACK TO SOCIOLOGY

Junior **Sheldon Burnell '20** discovered many of his interests including criminal justice, law, journalism, education and advocacy led him to the same place: the discipline of sociology. The first step at UVM was a sociology TAP course his first year titled "Science Fiction and Society." Then he took "Mass

Media in Modern Society," which addressed his interest in journalism. Eventually he took sociology courses touching on population dynamics, the environment, social movements, global deviance, terrorism, and immigration. "The discipline covers so much ground I feel like whatever your specific interest is, if you take sociology you can find a professor who is exploring a facet that interests you." Burnell also discovered he could take a Law and Society minor through the sociology department, which gives him access to courses in law from across the university—he'll be taking business law and real estate law next semester through UVM's Grossman Business School.

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Sheldon Burnell '20

WHERE WE GO.

INTERNSHIPS

Employers are looking for candidates with real-world experience, and UVM's College of Arts & Sciences and the sociology department help students find rewarding internship opportunities like these:

Boys and Girls Club
Burlington Community Justice Center
Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf
Community College of Vermont
COTS (homeless shelters)
Department of Corrections
Dutchess County Public Defender's Office
HOPE Works: Ending Sexual Violence
Howard Center
King Street Center
Pathways to Housing
Planned Parenthood
PolitiCorps
PrivateEye Burlington
Public Defender's Office
Sara Holbrook Community Center
Senator Bernie Sanders Campaign, Burlington Office
Steps to End Domestic Violence
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants/the VT
Refugee Resettlement Program (USCRI/VRRP)
Vermont Department of Health
Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin
Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP)

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Graduates of the UVM Sociology Program typically advance to top-notch graduate schools. A few examples:

American University
Cornell University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Queens University, Belfast
University of Iowa
University of California, Berkeley
Yale Law School

CAREER DESTINATIONS

Armistead, Inc.
Community Integration Specialist at NFI
Vermont, Inc.
Dartmouth College
Hunter College
Stanford Graduate School of Business
Teach for America
University of Buffalo
University of Vermont Medical Center
Wake Robin Corp.
White & Burke Real Estate Investors

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are actively concerned about the world you live in and want to do something constructive and useful in it—whether in law, business, education, medicine, urban or rural planning—sociology provides our best means for understanding how “the system” works. Learn more about sociology at UVM.

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