What if a building project could encourage community interaction while facilitating exercise and time outdoors for seniors and younger generations? The result could potentially change the health of a community.

The Sociology Department is excited to announce its participation in an interdepartmental study that spans very different majors here at Georgia State University. The Sociology department, along with the Communications and Gerontology Departments, will work alongside the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to study the effects that the new Atlanta BeltLine Project could have on those living within the very neighborhoods it connects.

The BeltLine Project was originally the thesis of a student graduating from Georgia Tech in 1999, and from there, the project rapidly developed into fruition. Now, much of the BeltLine is in place with other locations slated to break ground soon. But what is the BeltLine exactly?

(continued on page 8)

Dr. Anne Shlay Joins GSU Sociology

Professor Anne B. Shlay will become our new department chair beginning July 1, 2015. Dr. Shlay is a distinguished urban sociologist with long standing interests in the effects of social institutions on inequality, particularly through their disparate shaping of spatial patterns within cities, states and nations. She has held faculty positions at Cornell, Johns Hopkins and Temple Universities, as well as done work within the non-profit housing research sector.

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Dr. Jenny Zhan has been conducting research on issues of long term care in China for over a decade. Her research publications about aging policies and institutional care in China are widely cited in the academic field in the U.S., and she is particularly well-known in China. Consequently, she was elected to be the executive president for the International Association of Long Term Care Directors and Administrators (IALTCDA).

The Long Term Care Directors and Administrators Conference was first organized by Europeans. In November of 2007, the first international conference was held in Berlin, Germany. Participants exceeded over 1000 people. Alfred T. Hoffman, a German citizen, was the executive president of the first conference. The Minister of Health of Germany and the officer in charge of long term care in the United Nations attended the meeting. The second conference was held in Hong Kong, China. It was co-sponsored and co-organized by the Chinese Long Term Care Directors’ Association and Hong Kong Lingnan University. The executive president was Ms. Liu, Yunhua, from China, and co-president, Mr. Chen, Zhangmin from Hong Kong. The Director of China’s National Committee of Gerontology, Min, Qingcun, delivered a speech in the conference. Many countries sent their representatives to the conference. The conference played a role in propelling the development of long-term care services and businesses across the international borders.

In December of 2014, a delegate of Chinese long-term care directors led by the former president of the association, Ms. Liu, Yunhua, the president of the association, came to the U.S., and selected Atlanta to be the location for the Third International Conference of Long Term Care Directors and Administrators and elected Dr. Jenny Zhan to be the executive president of the third conference. On May 1, 2005, Dr. Zhan called for a preparatory meeting for the Third Conference in which a decision about the location and time of the third conference was decided. The Third International Conference of Long Term Care Directors and Administrators is scheduled to be held in March of 2016. Gerontology Institute of Georgia State University will be the key organizing institute for this conference. Currently, Dr. Zhan is busy preparing for all the details for the conference.
Graduate student Penny Harvey has travelled far from home in Manchester, England to study Sociology at Georgia State. She sat down for a few questions with us about how she came to study sociology and why moving to the South would be an integral part of her research.

**How did you get into Sociology?**

In high school we have a different system than the U.S. but once you get to a certain level you get to pick a subject and sociology was one of those subjects. I’ve always wanted to go into Human Rights law so that’s why I picked it. Then I just fell in love with the subject. I had a teacher who really inspired me. So I thought maybe I’ll do Sociology as my degree and do a conversion into law but then I just loved Sociology too much, so I never really followed that other path.

**Can you tell me more about the teacher that inspired you?**

He was just really passionate and made it seem really interesting. You could tell that he really loved the subject and I think that just made me love it. I’ve always had feminist opinions and I think it just gave me the words to describe those feelings. It made me realize it was an actual thing: a subject you could study.

**What made you start looking at Georgia State?**

I wanted to add something interesting to my research. You know looking at the cultural aspect of the South and Non-Heterosexual Identity would be something that would be quite interesting. In order to do that well, I thought it would be better to actually be in the South. Instead of [laughing] saying,

(continued on page... 6)
Careers in Sociology taught for the first time!

In my departmental advisor role, the question I am most often asked by my sociology undergraduates is, “what can I do with my sociology major Mr. Hayes?” After serving in my role for several years, I realized that this should be the defining question for students entering into any major, not just sociology. Not strictly from a professionalization point of view, but really from an intellectual base of what a student can learn when they leave with their degree in hand.

And after, literally, thousands, of advising appointments, I have concluded that sociology majors are in very good shape for just about any job they might be interested in. I thought that it was high time I demonstrated this to my students by offering an entire class on the subject this past spring called Careers in Sociology.

My theory was quickly verified when I started reading up on the literature provided not only by the American Sociological Association, but also from books like “Careers in Sociology” by W. Richard Stephens. It was when my invited guests began to talk about their own journeys after college that I realized what a sociology degree can do for a student’s future aspirations.

I advise students daily that sociology can give you a world view - using both qualitative and quantitative data - to interpret the events happening in society. As an example, I had two former students who came to my class to explain just how they used their sociological lens in the field of law. Artavia Napier spoke about how sociology helped her find her niche in law and connected her sociology undergraduate degree to how she is currently completing her law degree at Mercer University. Cleaven Stargill was also using his sociology degree to enhance his understanding of police work and he too plans to pursue his own law degree this fall.

Other guests speakers like, Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh and Victoria Helmy talked about how sociology gave them a foundation to build upon their specialties of library science, gerontology and social work. In fact, the theme that emerged from the course was that sociology is just such a broad discipline that students could go in any direction when they graduated. Even my students began to “test” this theory by attending job fairs on campus, and to their amazement, employers were very interested in their skill sets. In fact, I had two graduating seniors land jobs in the IT field and another student land an internship with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) right out of college with their sociology bachelor’s degree. I even had two students accept admission to a master’s degree; one in teaching and the other in gerontology and both worked on their admission personal statement in my class.

In the end, it was extraordinary to see my students blossom and to find multiple ways to use their degrees to go into different fields. I had returning students, who were already in their careers, make the connection that sociology could add to their daily work experiences because they could use their sociological lens to interpret data about gender, race, ethnicity, age, health, inequality, etc. In fact, by the third draft of my students’ resumes and cover letters, they were really beginning to make connections between what they had learned in their studies to what they were about to do in their future careers.

But the most rewarding of all was seeing students who were only sophomores – and had yet to make these connections – make them very early in their academic journey. Students should really take a course like Careers in Sociology because it helps them understand the importance of taking an internship class, going on a study abroad trip, or gaining technology skills through free campus training that they can easily transition to either the work force or a graduate program.

I find from my advising that the scariest moment for my students is often when they suddenly realize that their undergradate degree will end and they must begin to think about “life after college.” This is often a very anxious time in which a student is moving from one phase of their life to another. This experimental Careers in Sociology class, was important to filling gaps and helping students with this transition and I am so glad our department was able to offer it this past spring.

“In this kind of course needs to be offered for every major.”

“I loved this class. I learned so much that will help me after graduation. This class equipped me with skills rather than just knowledge and I am so glad I took this course.”
Undergraduate Kara K and Charollotte Getting ready

J’ADORE GSU SOCI-OLOGY PRIDE PARTICIPA-TION

Our department had a GREAT showing at the 2014 Atlanta Pride Parade. Over 300,000 spectators saw our award-winning float as we marched down Peachtree Street to Piedmont Park.

AND...our “Word Wash” float won 3rd place out of 223 entries!

A big thank you to Dr. Eric Wright and Tony Bayles for making this wonderful event happen!

In addition to having fun, we came to together as a community and touched an important nerve in the City of Atlanta. The coverage by 11Alive (first link below) was simply incredible and wonderful free publicity for GSU. Both our appearance in the parade and the materials we shared at the booth sent a strong and clear message about what we are trying to do at GSU with and for the LGBTQ community. Much to our surprise and delight, we placed very high (out of 233 entries) in the parade competition. More important, we did some important work in reaching out to the LGBTQ community. Clearly, we tapped into something very powerful with this outreach effort.


https://www.flickr.com/photos/mindy.../153329740/in/contacts/

https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsu_sociology/sets/72157648697231292/
Congratulations to undergraduate BA/MA sociology major, Nusaiba Mubarak, on winning the prestigious Margaret Anderson Award for 2015. Every year our faculty recognizes a student who demonstrates outstanding achievement, and contributions, both in and out of the classroom. In addition, Nusaiba Mubarak, recently accepted the John Lewis Humanity in Action Fellowship this summer.

I find from my advising that the scariest moment for my students is often when they suddenly realize that their undergraduate degree will end and they must begin to think about “life after college”. This is often a very anxious time in which a student is moving from one part of their life to another phase. This Careers in Sociology class, which was really an experiment, was so important to filling such gaps and helping students with such a transition and I am so glad our department was able to offer it this past spring.

“I’m going to be in England doing my research on people in a completely different place.”

I found [Georgia State’s] program and I saw that it had a Gender and Sexuality concentration. I’m happy because unlike most departments you look at where you have one person who is vaguely studying Gender and Sexuality, in this department there are 4-5 people studying it. There are people in my exact area of Identities and Lesbian Culture and so to actually work with them and really have that, is just amazing.

What are you doing when you’re not in class?

I’ve spent a lot of time with people from class. Which is really nice. It’s such a friendly department. I’m also on the climbing team here at GSU.

Where do you climb at around GSU?

There are lots of places! I haven’t been anywhere outside yet. But they’ve got like 5 different climbing walls here which is unusual for a city. It’s another reason the South was so appealing to me. It’s much warmer so it’s much easier to do outdoor things.

What are your plans post-grad?

I want to go into Academia and be a lecturing professor, that sort of thing. I’m not sure what I’d teach specifically yet, but definitely carrying on with researching. I definitely want to be somewhere warm and nice post grad!
New to the Neighborhood!

The Department of Sociology would like to welcome Dr. Amy Spring to our faculty!

Have you ever thought about why you live where you live? Or why you might want to move? Have you ever thought about where you will retire? Maybe you have, but not in the way Dr. Amy Spring, Georgia State’s newest sociology professor, has.

Dr. Spring, a University of Washington alum, sat down for a moment to discuss her research, current projects, and what she loves most about moving to the Atlanta area. As an Urban Sociologist, Dr. Spring’s research focus is neighborhoods and how where people live can impact different aspects of their lives.

We can all imagine ourselves as individuals, but we’re also embedded in these neighborhood contexts that affect our lives,” she said. “My research tries to address that.

For example, Dr. Spring took a look at the effects of foreclosures during the recent financial crisis. She found that neighborhoods with higher foreclosure rates can lead to broader patterns of inequality.

(continued on page...12)

Congratulations to undergraduate Soci major, Jalen Ballard, on receiving one of the Sociology Excellent Undergraduate Awards. Jalen plans to begin a PhD in Sociology at NYU this fall 2015.

Doing Good: Nonprofit brings together generations through art

by April 13 By Devika Rao / For the AJC

This piece was originally printed in The Atlanta Journal - Constitution April 13
By Devika Rao

Every Wednesday, at A.G. Rhodes Health and Rehab, Meagan Jain holds an art class that brings together seniors and young adults for an afternoon of conversation, art and creating an overall human connection.

Jain always had a passion for taking care of the elderly. While in undergraduate school at Georgia State University, Jain started visiting the senior home.

“It really changed my life,” she said. “It became about hanging out, giving each other company and creating a place for sharing stories.”

She began the Adopt-a-Grandparent program in college which allowed her peers to interact with the elderly at A.G. Rhodes. Inspired to continue her work, Jain, now 25, launched Ageless Interaction to provide environments for people to connect with each other on an authentic, human level.

The nonprofit designed programming which includes dinner parties, dances and visual arts classes that bring together young people with the elderly to bridge generation gaps and exchange stories.

“There is so much wisdom in the older generation and I really wanted to create an authentic connection because they have so much to offer young adults,” said Jain, who considers herself a social gerontologist, or someone who studies aging in different cultures.

Since it started in 2014, the nonprofit has connected 1,200 people and worked with seven long-term care homes and schools.

“I am always seeking dedicated volunteers to bring joy and purpose and that is what Meagan did with Ageless Interaction,” said Melissa Scott-Walker, recreation therapist at A.G. Rhodes. “The impact Ageless Interaction had on our residents was immediate. Our residents not only enjoy painting in the weekly art class, they also became very close with the volunteers.”

Paul Burks’ mother Harriet, who suffers from dementia, was a former painter and AI’s art class rejuvenated her love for the art form. She participates in the art class every week.

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According to the Atlanta BeltLine Project’s official website, Beltline.org, the Atlanta BeltLine is, “a sustainable redevelopment project that will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails and transit along a historic 22-mile railroad corridor circling downtown and connecting many neighborhoods directly to each other.” What the BeltLine promotes has the ability to seriously impact the Atlanta community and that’s where the study comes in.

The BeltLine trails prove perfect for biking, running, pet walking, and a plethora of other outdoor activities. A string of parks has cropped up on the shores of the BeltLine encouraging both young and old to get outside and get exercising. By adding the BeltLine to areas where perhaps there was no designated outdoor space for exercise readily available before, the new study hopes to track how health is affected for those living within easy access. The theory, according to Matt Gayman assistant professor of Sociology, is that health within the community will increase with easier access to parks and trails.

Research Methodology

Headed by Dr. Holley Wilkin of the Communications Department, Dr. Mathew Gayman of the Sociology Department, and Dr. Chivon Mingo of the Gerontology Department - in conjunction with the CDC - a series of interviews will take place in the community slated for the next installment of the BeltLine. The interviews will determine the health behaviors that currently exist in the community before the BeltLine is placed. “The idea is to get info about health behaviors and their health before the beltline is laid down. Because just putting this path down will actually increase people’s exercise and increase their health. “What’s the impact it has on community health?” That’s what we’re interested in. That’s the interviewing part. That’s the GSU part. There is a vast GSU part and it’s not the same as the CDC part.”

Dr. Gayman says the information gained from these interviews as well as the coinciding numbers will be a valuable resource for future studies of health behaviors along the BeltLine.

Her new book, with co-author Gillad Rosen, entitled *Jerusalem: The Spatial Politics of a Divided Metropolis* (Polity) is forthcoming in May. This book is not only very timely, but one which has been the subject of stellar pre-release reviews as well.

“GSU Sociology is a talented department with a reputation for being collaborative, and having great undergraduate and graduate students, so I think my new job will be fun and rewarding. I am very excited about this opportunity, says Shlay.” Dr. Shlay goes on to say that “An important goal [of the department] will be to enlarge audiences for foundational and applied sociology, as well as to more broadly educate various publics about the utility of both.” She elaborates further: “This will entail garnering the full range of the department’s sociological scholarship —including all the different theoretical approaches, perspectives, substantive areas, methods, and of course empirical research. That’s one of the things that I really like about this department: the diversity of ways in which the production of sociological knowledge is accomplished. Ultimately, I understand my overall mission is ensuring that such production is understood as necessary and vital to the university, as well as locally and globally.”

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Award is Marshall ‘Itai’ Jeffries! He is being honored for his paper, “Re-Membering Our Own Power: Occaneechi Activism, Feminism, and Political Action Theories” Many congratulations Itai!

Undergraduate Soci majors doing awesome things this spring semester!! Callie Roan (pictured with her proud parents) gave a presentation at last week’s Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference titled: “The Deaf Cyborg: Analyzing Technoscience, Gender, and Ability.” Callie’s faculty sponsor was Dr. Anthony Hatch.
GSU Sociology well represented at SWS-South’s annual conference in New Orleans!!

List of presenters:

**Tomeka Davis & Bobby Jo Otto** • Juxtaposing Race and Gender Gaps in College Enrollment: Race and Gender Differentiation Among College Enrollment Predictors

**Lanier Basenberg** • Teaching the Shaping Influence of Gender in Media by Shocking Deirdre Oakley • Critic Meets Author (The Hero’s Fight: African Americans in West Baltimore and the Shadow of the State by Patricia Fernandez Kelly)

**Benjamin Kail et al** • The Impacts of Service Experiences on the Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms and Psychiatric Problems Among Veterans in Later Life

**Kym A. Bradley** • Presider — Feminist Activism and Gendered Social Change

• Panelist "The Borderlands: Communities and Belonging As A Site Of Queer Homonormativity"

**Renee Shelby** • Cruel and Usual Punishment:

Unshackling the Intersections of Race, Gender, and Pregnancy in the Prison State

**Zoe E.R. Fawcett** • Dead Before Coed? Perceptions of Women’s Colleges in a Male Dominated Society

**Megan Tesene** • Panelist (Write Where It Hurts: Negotiating The Challenges of Doing Deeply Personal Research)

**Eric R. Wright** • Toward a Sociological Framework For Studying LGBT Health and Health Disparities

**Brandon Attell** • Body Ideologies, Health, and Attitudes Toward Euthanasia and Suicide For Terminally Ill Persons

**Marik Xavier-Brier** • White Saviors and Pink Police: Gay Rights, Neocolonialism, and Homonationalism in Uganda

**Dan Carlson, Sarah Hanson, and Andrea Fitzroy** • The Division of Childcare, Relationship Quality, Sexual Intimacy in Low to Moderate Income Couples

**Lesley Reid, Deirdre A. Oakley, & Erin Ruel** • Fear of Crime and Neighborhood Change

**William Wyatt Holland** • “Get The Seat of Your Pants Dirty:” Teaching and Conducting Urban Ethnography of Public Space

**Leah Marie Kozee** • The Straight Story: Reexamining the Heterosexual Script in a Prime-Time Television Series

**Jonathan Paul Grant** • Heaven Bound Earthly Good: A Historical Analysis of Race Relations in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church

**Ana LaBoy** • ACT UP and Media Attention • “I Read It For The Articles:” An Examination of Articles Within Pornographic Magazines

**Penny Margaret Harvey** • Body Hair . . . What’s Really Going On Down There? Gendered Body Hair Presentations in Cosmopolitan and GQ Magazines

**Brittany J. Taylor** • Negotiating the Threat of “Triple Jeopardy:” Assessing the Mental Health Needs of Black/African-American Lesbians Within an Intersectional Approach

Congratulations to GSU Sociology faculty member Dr. Mindy Stombler, who was chosen by the Honors Committee of the Southern Sociological Society, to be the 2016 recipient of the "Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award"!!

The award is intended to honor individuals whose contributions go beyond their institutions to benefit the discipline as a whole.

Graduate student Brandon Attell presented his paper on "Understanding Variation in Health-Related Attitudes and Experiences"

Graduate student Ana Laboy presented her poster on ACT UP and Media Attention.

The Panel "Critically Queer -- a look at the impact of knowledge as power" taking place at this year’s SSS conference. There were some great presentations by our GSU graduate students Marik Xavier-Brier, Desmond Goss and Kym Jade.
Dr. Rosalind Chou Gives Keynote at University of Tennessee’s Sex Week

UT is one of only ten universities in the country to host a Sex Week. The week-long event’s purpose is to foster honest and academically-informed conversations about sex, sexuality and relationships—conversations that not only educate each of these university’s student body but the greater community as well. Among many other publications, Dr. Chou is the author of the much talked about book: Asian American Sexual Politics: The Construction of Race, Gender, and Sexuality published by Rowman & Littlefield.

Why do we date who we date? Why are people of color sexualized in the media and even in porn? Why do we believe that some races are more “well-endowed” than others? These are some of the questions GSU Sociology’s Dr. Rosalind Chou addressed in her April 8, 2015 keynote entitled “Racing Sex and Sexing Race” at University of Tennessee’s (UT) third annual Sex Week. She also encouraged the audience to question just where our skewed perceptions about race, ethnicity and sex come from and why they are harmful.

(Doing Good...continued)

“It’s the highlight of her week,” said Burks. “She is so much happier and we can see that it is because of these art sessions.”

Jain wants this connection to continue and hopes to expand Ageless Interaction into more schools and long-term care homes to bridge generation gaps and redefine aging. People can also volunteer with the organization in administrative tasks and young adults from high school, college or professionals can volunteer with art classes and other events.

“Aging is a beautiful process,” Jain added. “And I want everyone to take away that elders are an important part of our history and our community.”

To volunteer with Ageless Interaction, go to http://agelessinteraction.org/

Nursing Home Blues: Grandma’s care needs a new discussion

By Morgan Driskell February 6, 2015

Being in a nursing home is considered a normal part of life: Grandmother is simply too old to be left home alone, and paying for her to receive care in a healthy environment with peers can only be beneficial.

But what is really happening in nursing homes? With the recent introduction of House Bill 72 in Georgia, it is time for a conversation about how to protect and care for our elders and disabled adults. The Georgia Council on Aging reported a 65% increase in reports of abuse in nursing homes from 2008-2012, and the state responded with House Bill 78 in 2013, offering more protection for elderly and disabled persons. There are several provisions being added this year through HB 72, including allowing information obtained through inspections of facilities to be used in trial, as well as defining more clearly who is responsible for reporting abuse.

The bill shows that Georgia citizens are concerned about expanding legal protection of elders and disabled adults. But it also raises deeper questions for our geriatric care system about what is humane.

I’ll give you an example: my instructor took my class into a patient’s room. This patient was bed bound, as both of his legs had been amputated, and he lay in his own feces and urine, slouched over, with debris around his mouth. It was almost midday, but no one had been in his room since early morning. My instructor exposed his genitals, moved him around, and showed us different care techniques. During this time, the patient showed obvious discomfort, even mumbling “no” several times. There were eight people standing there, using his body for their own purposes as if his consent was irrelevant. Ultimately, it was irrelevant, as it took my voice to make his heard. This frightened me, as it should you.

Comparing the way we care for two main population groups that are considered to lack autonomy — children and the elderly — is instructive. While childcare providers are required to provide nurturing environments that conform to the highest standards of hygiene and safety, the elderly are left largely to the mercy of individual caretakers and institutional settings. Nurses’ aides are taught to be patient and told how to handle various scenarios. But, in the real world, what is taught is not what is being done. Don’t get me wrong; I understand that in many fields, the job you do is simply not taught to you in school. Nursing in all forms is very much like this. However, at what point does “I have eight other patients and other tasks to do” become neglect?
Fit Nation: Learning to Climb Uphill

By George "Chip" Greenidge Jr., Special to CNN

(CNN)"Wait up 2015 CNN Fit Nation Team and Dr. Sanjay Gupta-- you want me to climb up Stone Mountain -- that is over 1,500 feet straight up. Are you nuts?" I screamed.

Yes. This is actually what I signed up for when I uploaded my video to the CNN Fit Nation website in December.

"But climbing mountains on Sunday morning -- you got to be kidding me," I exclaimed. But it was all part of the process I realized I was going to take on as I learn how to be a triathlete.

After our first initial week with a trainer and nutritionist, the six of us were introduced to a whole new way of how to approach fitness and how to incorporate it into our lives. I knew it was going to be a difficult task, especially for someone like me heavily involved in civic affairs and community service.

At Lifetime Fitness, our nutritionist walked us through a number of exercises on how we should look at food, nutrition and our calorie intake. After being on several diets over my lifetime, what he said was simple. To look and review your intake and replace it with other foods such as fruit and vegetables -- these small steps can be major impact on your training.

Tackling nutrition and calorie intake can also be exactly how I viewed the climb up Stone Mountain. I put these nutritional issues on the backburner for years. It was pretty much like looking at the mountain that I was about to climb that morning -- where do I start, where do I begin? -- and telling myself that it was going to be an arduous task.

My training schedule has also been an uphill battle. In January and the first weeks of February, I started strong with my gym, running and swim workouts. However, as life pressures got in the way, I saw myself withering off. But luckily I have been inspired by my 2015 CNN Fit Nation teammates to keep me on track. Their updates have been truly inspiring and have helped me think about the struggles I face in my training activities.

As I get older, I realize that fitness and nutrition are key to long-term health; however, the support of friends and family is also important to help tackle your health. My team members of the CNN Fit Nation have been there for me.

I recently weighed myself when I visited the doctor's office. It has been six weeks since I hit the scale. I actually lost 20 pounds. What! Really! Uphill battles are hard to see when you are in the middle of them. But you keep moving. Just like that Sunday afternoon in January, I could not wait to be on the mountaintop and see the view from Stone Mountain with the members of 2015 CNN Fit Nation.

And guess what? After all this huffing and puffing over the last six weeks, I can't wait to see the view in September at the Malibu triathlon. It's just another uphill mountain to climb.
She also has found that neighborhood resources can mean the difference between a community’s elderly living independently or moving into an assisted living facility.

Today Dr. Spring has a new area of interest.

“I’m working on a project about why people move and where they go and how that relates to where their other family members live,” she said. “Do people move, if they don’t really have any family members in their neighborhood? Are they more likely to move around and if they do move around are they likely to move towards their family?”

Dr. Spring made a big move recently when she left Washington state for Atlanta, where she says there is much to advance her neighborhood research.

“[Atlanta] has these defined neighborhoods and they’re all very different from each other,” she explained. “And the differences can really be block to block. So, where you live within this scheme could be potentially really important.”

Currently teaching a course in Urban Sociology, Dr. Spring is interested in offering a course about the future of the American city. “At one time people were moving away to the suburbs but there’s research showing now that a lot of people are starting to come back. So that’s really changing cities.”

But for right now, Dr. Spring says she’s happy adjusting to life in Atlanta.

“I love the weather here,” she said. “My birthday was in January and for the first time ever I had a BBQ on my birthday!”

Stop by the sociology department and offer a warm welcome to Dr. Spring!

Most recently, Amy Spring’s research article, entitled “Neighborhood Foreclosures, Racial/Ethnic Transitions, and Residential Segregation” is in the June issue of American Sociological Review, and available now on ASR’s website. http://asr.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/04/20/0003122415581334.abstract

Dr. Stombler reports: Final teaching demonstrations completed! Be looking for these trained instructors in a GSU classroom near you! —

(The Sociology Department would like to announce that graduate student Kelsey Schwarz is this year’s recipient of the Jacqueline Boles Teaching Fellowship.)
M.A. Theses

Gender Games: A Content Analysis Of Gender Portrayals In Modern, Narrative Video Games, Jared Friedberg

When "Being Down" Isn't Enough: Examining White Antiracism and Racial Integration in the Era of Colorblindness, Amanda C. Atwell

American Apparel Advertisements, Heather Bowles

Public Housing Relocation and Its Effect on Residents' Self-esteem and Self-efficacy, Amanda Dorrington

Religion and Depression: Examining the Nature of the Relationship, Stephanie Hansard

Risk for Obesity: Contribution of Socioeconomic Status Factors and Potential Mediators, Anne Hirschman

The New Racism in the Media: a Discourse Analysis of Newspaper Commentary on Race, Presidential Politics, and Welfare Reform, Joseph P. Rose

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts: An Organizational and Historical Approach to Understanding Socialization and Gendered Leadership, Natalie Stewart

PH.D. Dissertations

Exploring the Efficacy of the Volunteer Return Preparation Program for Low-Income Taxpayers, Melissa Mae Hayes

Ill-Timed: The Effect of Early Chronic Illness Onset on Young Adult Psychosocial Development, Eundria A. Hill-Joseph

THE IMPACT OF AGE, RACE AND ETHNICITY ON EMPLOYMENT, Jeremy Bennett

Acculturation and Mental Health among Latino and Asian Immigrants in the United States, Elif Bulut

RACE, GENDER, AND HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE--EXPLORING INTERSECTING FACTORS INFLUENCING BLACK MALES' EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND COLLEGE ASPIRATION, Emmie JoAnne Cochran-Jackson

A Sociological Investigation of Early Graduates in U.S. High Schools, Jeff S. Duvall

Porn Sex vs. Real Sex: Exploring Pornography's Impact on Sexual Behaviors, Attitudes, and Relationships, Stacy Gorman

The Effects of School and Neighborhood Characteristics On Delinquency, Drug and Alcohol Issues, Early Childbearing, and Welfare Receipt, Bobette Otto

BACHELOR’S DEGREES AWARDED for SPRING 2015

Jessica A. Adiyiah
Yulonda S. Allen
Eden Araya
Min Young Bang
Lamisha M. Banks
Sean K. Barnes
Katelynn J. Bauser
Anu Bhattarai
Victoria B. Bowker
Michael A. Boyd
Shekasha D. Brown
Quentin Butler
Patrice A. Cameron
Kaushalya M. Charan DE
Trevor J. Coen
Monica J. Copeland
Erin L. Cross
Abigail R. Diorio
Kaitlyn E. Edge
Shakrya K. Ford
Matthew T. Gaddis
Felicia N. Garcia
Tiffanye M. Gill
Khiry M. Grant
Octavia J. Hall
Donche Hartry
Shajuanna Heard
Thuy Hang Ho
Lakeisha R. Holmes
Gerald Howse
Nania-Cathleen T. Inamori
Darwin L. Irby
Carla D. Jett
Lisa R. Johnson
Rahstaneik King
Tarell C. Kyles
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