

SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER



Faculty, staff, and student from the Sociology Department volunteering at Pigeon Hill Nature Preserve in Bristol, CT in recognition of Earth Day 2023. CCSU supports strengthening stewardship through service learning meant for the public good.

SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS CHANGING LIVES, BUILDING COMMUNITY

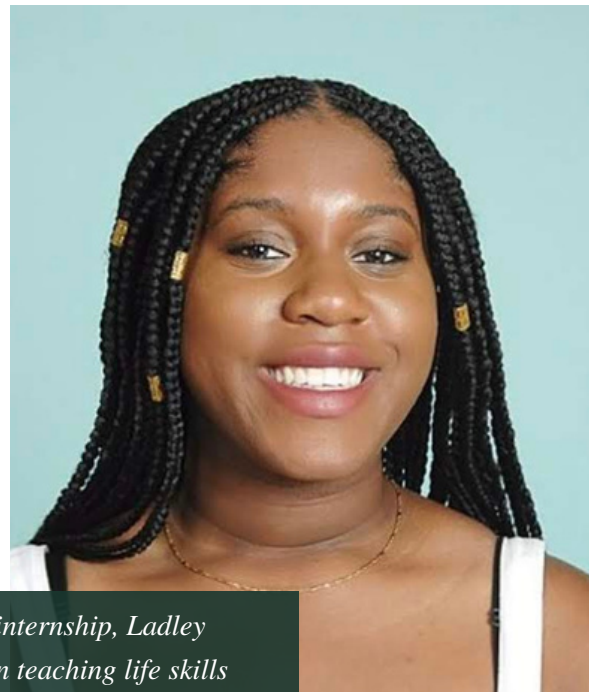
In Spring 2023, eight students from the CCSU Sociology Department participated in the SOC 490 Internship Course. Students earn 4-credits toward their major or minor after contributing 8 to 10 hours a week in service to an organization and meet once a week in a seminar with other internship participants.

Internships provide students with the chance to apply the knowledge they have learned in the classroom to real-world situations. In this issue, we present our interns from the spring 2023 semester and the contributions they made to the community. Sociology Internship applications for the Spring 2024 semester will be available soon on the CCSU Sociology website for the Spring 2024 semester.

KADAJAH LADLEY

Kadajah Ladley is a Sociology major at CCSU who spent the spring 2023 semester at Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA) in New Britain, CT. Ladley spent her time shadowing leaders, assessing client needs, and attending various trainings related to mental health care. Ladley also learned documentation standards and became familiar with case management resources in the community.

When asked, "What advice would you give to students contemplating doing an internship?," Ladley replied, "I would say, do it!! Don't hesitate, it's important to get hands-on experience to go out into the workforce, this is also a way to build your network and to look competitive when applying for jobs."



During the internship, Ladley participated in teaching life skills necessary for clients to live independently in the community.

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Madison Nelson and Sociology major Niya Ireland-Blizzard (right) have both been advocates for increased funding for public higher education.

MADISON NELSON

Madison Nelson is a sociology and psychology double major at CCSU. In spring 2023, Nelson interned at the Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy. She worked directly with Connecticut Children with Incarcerated Parents (CTCIP) in Hartford, CT.

One of Madison's highlights was helping to create a family and child friendly space for visitors at a local prison. Nelson also assisted in the development of a resource page for educators, counselors, social workers and pediatricians working with children affected by parental incarceration. She also tracked existing scholarships for students affected by parental incarceration.

JAYDAKISS METZ

Jaydakiss Metz is a sociology major who graduated in May 2023 from CCSU. Metz interned at the Hospital for Special Care (HFSC) in New Britain, CT. The Hospital for Special Care (HFSC) is the fourth largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospital in the U.S. and one of only two in the nation serving both adults and children.

Metz assisted patients on various floors by providing basic rehabilitative needs and increasing comfort. Metz was also the 2023 recipient of the President's Citation Award at CCSU.



"Volunteering at HFSC is important to me because it has given me exposure to experience of working in a hospital setting. This opportunity has allowed me to think about future considerations to work in this field." - Metz

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"I saw sociology in action by seeing the way that society's structures and institutions impact families and children."

*-Thea Walters
(bottom left)*

THEA WALTERS

Thea Walters, who graduated from the CCSU Sociology department in May 2023, interned at Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families(CAFAF) in New Britain, CT.

Walters describes the most memorable part of her internship experience as, "the day of the Avenue of Dreams prom event. Previously I did a lot of work planning for this event; organizing donations, shopping, making goodie bags, packing boxes, planning a schedule, dividing the teens into groups, etc. When the day came, it was really exciting to see all of it come together. The most rewarding part was seeing the reaction of the teens at the event. Seeing smiles on their faces and seeing them have fun and enjoy themselves was worth all of the work." Walters also helped CAFAF form partnerships with other organizations in CT.

RACHEL SCHMARTZ

Rachel Schmartz, a senior sociology major, interned with the Manchester Continuing Adult Education program during Spring 2023.

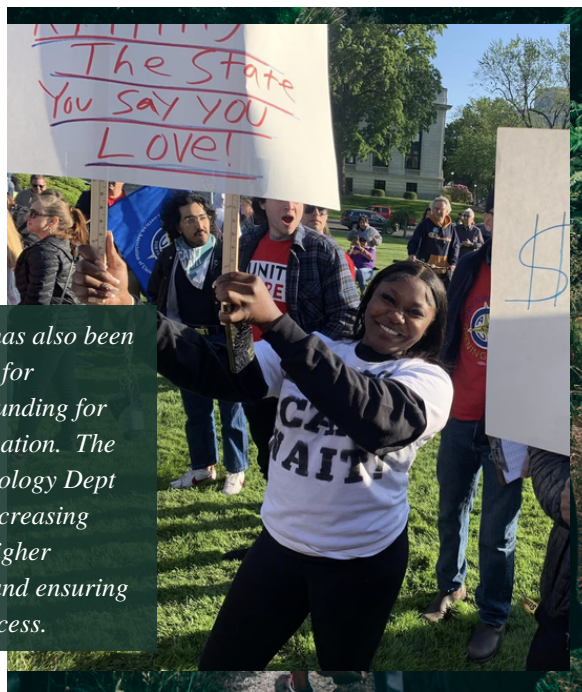
When asked what advice she would give to future internship students, Schmartz said, "Something motivating I would tell someone is to always ask questions and see if there are always ways to help no matter the situation..."

The sociology internship helps students enhance their academic excellence and prepare them for a changing work environment and economy.



*"I would see sociology in action when the counselors and case managers help and interact with students."-
Rachel Schmartz
(top right)*

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Desronvil has also been advocating for increased funding for public education. The CCSU Sociology Dept supports Increasing access to higher education and ensuring student success.

SAMANTHA DESRONVIL

Samantha Desronvil, who graduated in May 2023 from the CCSU Sociology Department, interned at the Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy. Desronvil stated, "I learned the importance of equity and inclusion and how inspiring it can be to collaborate with organizations for the community who feel inspired to make real changes. IMRP as an organization is valuable to the State of Connecticut because of the people I worked with who pilot programs and conduct research on issues like these. I am extremely fortunate to have been placed with this organization because it has [prepared] me for this next chapter in my life."

The Sociology Internship programs helps prepare students for work after graduation by teaching them sought after skills to work in the community.

LILLIAN SPALDA

Sociology major Lillian Spalda interned at the Queen Ann Nzinga Center in New Britain, CT during the spring 2023 semester. Here, Spalda worked as part of a team to develop and implement age appropriate, socio-emotional and engaging activities for youth.

Spalda said, "We did a lot of outreach, and we made it a point to be inclusive to everyone in the community." Spalda's experiences reflects CCSU's mission by embracing a culture that values and encourages individuals to participate in a free and respectful exchange of ideas.



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Kian O'Connor (above left) and Sociology Lecturer Sarah Reilly (right) at the Capitol supporting SEIU 1199's group home workers who are fighting for a living wage, affordable healthcare and a pension.

KIAN O'CONNOR

Recent sociology graduate, Kian O'Connor, spent the spring 2023 semester interning at Hands on Hartford, "a social service nonprofit organization that serves Hartford's most economically challenged residents in the areas of food, housing, and health."

Kian commented on his experience, "I already had a systemic understanding of poverty, and I certainly did not believe that it was just the fault of the individual. However, seeing the high volume of people served really reinforced how large of a social issue housing and food insecurity are in our society." O'Connor was also the recipient of the Sociology Department Research Methods Award in 2022, and presented his research at the Eastern Sociological Conference in 2023

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

This year we are pleased to welcome Visiting Assistant Professor Ashley Green. Ashley is coming to us from the Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at the University of South Florida

In the fall 2023 semester Prof. Green is teaching Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of LGBTQ Communities, and Race, Class, Gender.



Visiting Assistant Professor Ashley Green joins the Sociology Department at CCSU.

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THE SOCIOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Department of Sociology will be offering its internship program once again in Spring 2024 under the guidance of Dr. Heather Rodriguez. The Sociology Internship is a 4-credit, unpaid work placement designed to provide qualified junior and senior sociology majors the opportunity to gain further knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts in an applied, community-based organizational setting. Student participants contribute 8 to 10 hours a week in service to an organization and meet once a week in a seminar with other internship participants. During the seminar, knowledge and experiences gained from your internship experience will be shared and analyzed.

Eligibility

Students who are selected must have at least a 2.5 GPA, qualified junior or senior sociology majors/minors, two letters of recommendation, and a recent resume.

What Can You Expect From the Program?

You will work with a member of the sociology faculty to find an appropriate placement with an organization in the central Connecticut region. The organizations will provide interns the opportunity for a valuable learning experience. This means not only the chance to experience the daily micro-level operation of an organization, but also the opportunity to be exposed to the macro-level workings of the organization as well. This may take the form of participating in organizational meetings, attending formal and informal organizational functions, “shadowing” supervisors, executive directors, and other decision-making personnel. Interns will be expected to serve their organization in the capacities that the organizations deem most useful. Interns SHOULD NOT expect that they will be sentenced to thirteen weeks of only answering phones or filing folders.

How to Apply

Download the application materials from the Sociology website or stop by the office of Dr. Rodriguez to pick up an application, fill them out, and return them to the Sociology Department for review. If accepted, you will be contacted before preregistration in late October/early November so that you can be scheduled for the SOC490 Community Internship Experience and register for the course. You will work with the faculty member to find an appropriate placement before the end of the Fall semester. You will also be required to interview with your prospective organization and supervisor to see if you are a good fit so you can start working immediately at the beginning of the Spring semester.

We look forward to your interest and participation!

**The Sociology Department is located at 317 Bassett Hall.
For more information on the Internship Program, visit our web page below or
contact Prof. Rodriguez at hrodriguez@ccsu.edu**