

Fall 2018

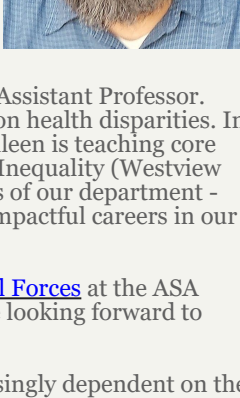
UNCurrents Newsletter

Letter from the Chair: Kenneth (Andy) Andrews

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am happy to be sharing the latest news from UNC Sociology!

We continue to be proud of our students and the exciting research and learning opportunities in our graduate and undergraduate programs. Make sure to read our [fall newsletter](#) to learn more about recent student successes, including an interview with Lauren Shumpert, a graduating senior, about her experience working with faculty on original research, and her senior honors thesis. We also profile Andrew Perrin's new class that culminated in a trip to Washington, DC to interview key leaders in politics and the news media.



This year we were also very excited to welcome a great new cohort of graduate students, with interests including race, democracy, gender, health, migration, and media.

In faculty news, the department recently welcomed [Taylor Hargrove](#) as our newest Assistant Professor. Taylor's research focuses on the impact of race, skin color, gender, and social class on health disparities. In addition, [Kathleen Fitzgerald](#) joined us as a new Teaching Assistant Professor. Kathleen is teaching core courses and is the author of *Recognizing Race and Ethnicity: Power, Privilege, and Inequality* (Westview 2017). Finally, we were saddened to mark the passing of two longstanding members of our department - Victor Marshall and Francois Nielsen. We share reflections on their rich lives and impactful careers in our [newsletter](#).

This past August, we were excited to hold our first department reception with [Social Policy](#) at the ASA meetings in Philadelphia. It was great to see and catch up with many of you. We are looking forward to seeing even more of you in New York next August!

As we enter this season of giving, please know that so much of what we do is increasingly dependent on the private support from friends and alumni like you. Your gifts are crucial to our continued excellence and allow us to provide exciting opportunities for undergraduates, recruit the best graduate students, and support the innovative research of faculty. I hope you will consider [making your gift](#) today to support our efforts.

With gratitude,

Kenneth (Andy) Andrews,
Chair, Department of SociologyP.S. Until the next newsletter, you can keep up with the department by following us on Twitter [@UNC_Sociology](#) and read past newsletters on our [website](#).[Click Here to Give to UNC Sociology](#)

Department News

Sociology Students Go to Washington to Study Citizenship in the U.S.

This semester Professor Andrew Perrin launched an exciting new first-year seminar, "Citizenship and Society in the United States." The course has been working in tandem with students in a parallel class in political science at Washington College, taught by Professor David Mellor. In November students from both classes met up in Washington, DC, for meetings and research. The collaboration and the trip were facilitated through a Social Science Research Council (SSRC) effort on teaching across institutions and supported by the Department Rachel Rosenfeld Fund.

Throughout the semester, students read statements about democracy ranging from the Federalist Papers to the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street. Students analyzed contemporary politics in light of these ideals through original research and field observation on Election Day, intensive study of journalism and news media, and contemporary research.

Students worked in small teams combining UNC and Williams students. Before the trip each team identified leaders they were interested in interviewing and organized interviews. In Washington, they interviewed Senators, Congress members, journalists, diplomats, lobbyists, and more. They used these interviews as the material for their final papers for the class. Anna Herbert, a student from Asheville, said: "The hands-on learning experience it provided through being able to see how policy was implemented and understanding how people in different levels of the legislature work together to accomplish things in Washington. Talking to people face to face gave me the material that we have been discussing in class more relevance and sparked my interest in the topic more."

The class as a whole met together with congressional leaders, including Representative David Price (D-NC-4), Representative Don Beyer (D-VA-8), Representative Gwendolyn Moore (D-WI-4), and staff from the office of Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC). They had a dinner meeting at the National Press Club with Donna Leinwand Leger, former USA Today Managing Editor and former president of the Press Club, and another dinner meeting with Laura Dove, Secretary to the Majority in the US Senate. Abbey Rogers commented that "one of the best parts about the trip was learning about how politics in Washington works, especially from people we do not hear about like Ms. Dove."

Collaborating with the Williams students and meeting with important figures in Washington "gave us the ability to put what we had been learning into context," said Maeve Taylor, a student from Chapel Hill.



First-year students from UNC and Williams College learn about the Senate in Laura Dove (UNC '99), Secretary to the Majority in the Senate, over dinner at the American Political Science Association's Essential Research Center in Washington.



UNC and Williams College students on their way to the Capitol to meet with representatives and staff.

Spotlight on Undergraduate Research: Lauren Shumpert

Melissa ManzaresLauren Shumpert

Lauren Shumpert is a sociology major and is minoring in both social and economic justice and women's and gender studies. She is currently working on her sociology undergraduate honors thesis under the advisement of Dr. Andy Perrin. In addition to having completed an internship with SHIPT NC (Sexual Health Initiatives for Teens), she is working as a research assistant for Dr. Kate Weisshaar. She was interviewed by Melissa Manzares, UNC Sociology's Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies.

What encouraged you to get involved in research?

I knew it would be a useful skill for me in terms of future careers regardless of what career path I took. A strong research background is helpful for anybody, and doing research at UNC has helped me do it in a structured, guided setting.

What made you choose to work with the lab/group/mentor you're with?

I found out about an opportunity to work with Dr. Kate Weisshaar after taking classes with her. The topic was very interesting to me, as well as the type of work we would be doing. I worked on transcribing and coding interviews, and I was able to work on an audit study. I think the project allows me to work with a nice mix of qualitative and quantitative data.

What do you like most about your work?

I like that I get a lot of one-on-one interaction with Dr. Weisshaar. It's really helpful for me. I take my work very seriously, but I'm also not afraid to make mistakes and learn. I also know that the work that we do really matters. It's not busy work. It's work that will be published on topics that matter. I know the time I spend working on it is meaningful.

Has this experience changed your ideas about what research is and how it's done?

Yeah, I better understand the value of research. When you've done your own research and put in your own time, you're more committed about the work you're doing. You've seen the legs in the background, and you feel strong about it. You have a sense of ownership over the project.

Do you think you might want a career that involves research?

Yeah, I like the social sciences and working with people. I would like to have a job where I have the "hard skills" of working with data, while also being able to have one-on-one interactions.

What do you want to do as a career?

I'm really interested in pursuing public health and health care law. Specifically, public health policy and the legal side of health inequality. I would like to use my skills of working with people and serving the community, while also being able to be research focused.

What is the most valuable lesson you've learned from this experience?

I've learned how important presentation is. With all of the research that you do, the value comes from how you are able to apply what you learn and how you are able to communicate your findings to help other people. I think the value of research lies in what you do with your experience.

What has been the most difficult part of your research experience?

Research is not always exciting. You have to remember why you wanted to do this. Individual tasks can be monotonous, but you have to recognize that they are all important to getting you towards your goal.

What is something cool you've learned working in your lab that you didn't know before?

I'm super excited about the audit study that I'm helping with. It's very hands-on. Right now I'm a campus tour guide, and I tell visitors that research is not just test tubes and stuff. The project that I'm working on right now makes me feel as cool as anyone doing STEM research. I'm not always reading or writing. I also do hands on work.

Do you get to work with any interesting equipment?

Dedoose is the coolest thing. I learned it in Lisa Pearce's Research Methods class. So when I was asked to use it in my current research position, I was very comfortable and excited. I love everything you can do with that software.

Do you think people have any misconceptions about undergraduate research or the type of research you do in particular?

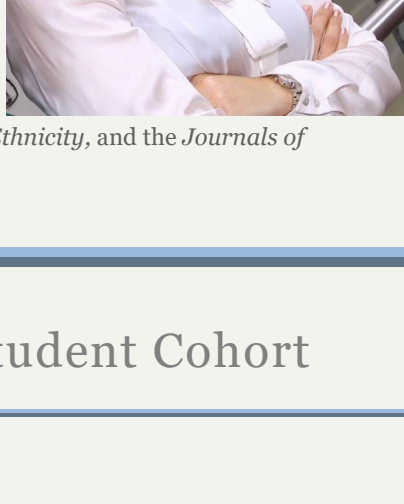
People don't think there's a lot of opportunities outside of hard sciences, and that's certainly not true. You might have to be open minded about the topic you are working on, but the research experiences will be useful. I think another misconception is that it's just helpful to list on your resume, but you can get so much more out of it. I gained a lot of skills from my research opportunities.

UNC Sociology Welcomes Taylor Hargrove

We welcome Taylor W. Hargrove as our newest faculty member. She joins UNC as Assistant Professor of Sociology and faculty fellow at the Carolina Population Center. Hargrove's research seeks to uncover and explain the development of health disparities across the life course, focusing on the consequences of race, skin color, gender, and social class.

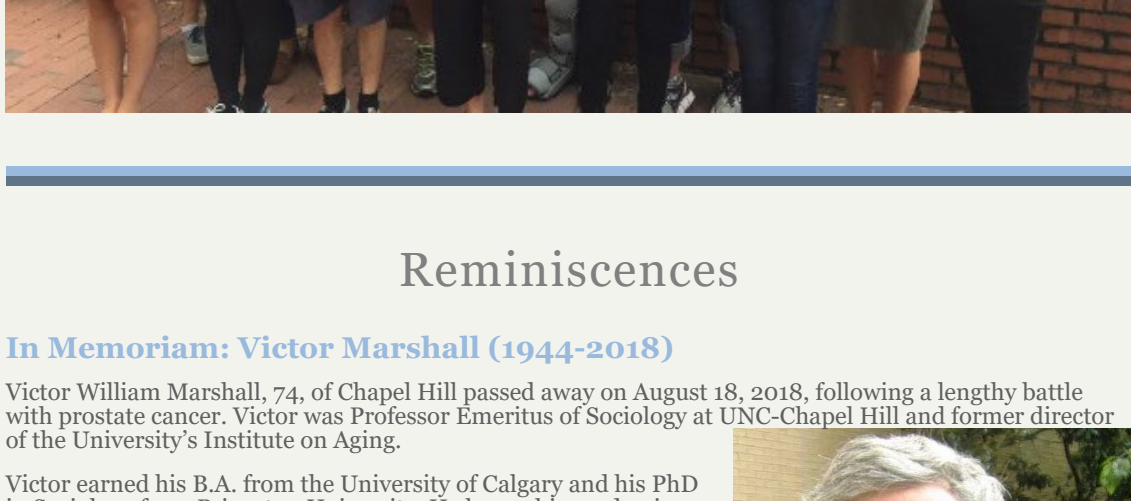
Hargrove brings an exciting research program to UNC. She is currently engaged in research that explores linkages among neighborhood contexts, individual-level characteristics, and biological measures of health in early adulthood. The goal of this work is to elucidate how macro-level environments shape the consequences of social statuses on more proximate causes of poor health. She (along with co-PI Lauren Gaydos, former CPC postdoctoral scholar) has recently been awarded an R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health to further this line of work. Specifically, the research funded from this grant will evaluate the role of inflammatory response, immune function, and environment working with data, while also being able to have one-on-one interactions.

Hargrove earned her MA and PhD from Vanderbilt University and her BA in Psychology from UNC at Chapel Hill. Her work has previously been supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and her recent peer-reviewed publications appear in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, and the *Journals of Gerontology: Series B*.



Meet the 2018 Graduate Student Cohort

Name	Areas of Interest
Erin Davenport	Queer Theory, Disability Studies, and Gender Studies
Reed DeAngelis	Social Epidemiology, The Stress Process, Stratification and Health, Religion/Spirituality and Health
Katie Furl	Social Inequality, Sociology of Gender, Politics of Masculinity
Chris Lee	Gender, Race and Ethnicity, Advanced Quantitative Methods
Yunlin Li	Migration, Family, Education, Cross-country comparison, Mixed methods
Inés Martínez	Gender Inequalities, Family-Work, Couples
Denise Mitchell	Health and Illness/Medical Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, Stratification and Inequality
Risa Murase	Social Movements/Collective Behavior, Emotions, Culture, Comparative Historical Sociology, Mixed Methods
Michal Nelson	Political Sociology, Social Movements, New Media and Political Engagement, Public Opinion
Rocio Rosa-Lebron	Race and Immigration, with specific interest on the Puerto Rican population in the US
Bethany Tsoumireu	Health, Aging, and Demography-particularly Fertility
Fatima Youma	Demography, Migration, Advanced Quantitative Methods
Madeleine Travis	Health and Illness/Medical Sociology, Social Demography, Family, Gender

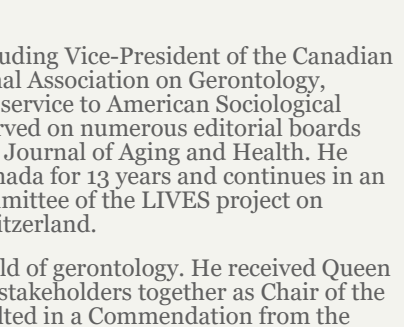


Reminiscences

In Memoriam: Victor Marshall (1944-2018)

Victor William Marshall, 74, of Chapel Hill passed away on August 18, 2018, following a lengthy battle with prostate cancer. Victor was Professor Emeritus of Sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill and former director of the University's Institute on Aging.

Victor earned his B.A. from the University of Calgary and his PhD in Sociology from Princeton University. He began his academic career as Assistant Professor at McMaster University in 1970. In 1981, he joined the Department of Behavioral Science at the University of Toronto where he also became Director of the Center on Aging and head of the Canadian Aging Research Network. In 1999, Victor moved to UNC Chapel Hill as a Professor of Sociology and Director of the UNC Institute on Aging. Throughout his career Victor worked internationally with scholars in the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe.



Victor's research focused on structural changes in the nature of work and their consequences for workers over the life course; work and retirement of Canadian Forces veterans; international comparisons of workforce aging in the Information Technology sector; and the global impact of workforce aging on a variety of social and health outcomes. He published broadly in the areas of social theory particularly focused in studies of aging and the life course.

Victor held a number of executive positions in the field of aging, including Vice-President of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Executive Committee of the International Association on Gerontology, leadership positions with the Gerontological Society of America and service to American Sociological Association. He was editor of the *Canadian Journal on Aging* and served on numerous editorial boards including *Social Forces*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Social Sciences and Journal of Aging and Health*. He chaired the Gerontological Advisory Council for Veterans Affairs Canada for 13 years and continues in an advisory capacity. He also served on the International Advisory Committee of the LIVIS project on Vulnerability and the Life Course, at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Victor received many awards for his contributions to building the field of gerontology. He received Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal in 2002 and 2012. His work in bringing scholars together as Chair of the Gerontological Advisory Committee at Veterans Affairs Canada resulted in a Commendation from the Minister in 2013. Victor was active in the Canadian Association on Gerontology and the Gerontological Society of America, receiving Mentor awards from both. The Southern Gerontological Society gave Victor the GRITS Award, which recognizes outstanding gerontologists rooted in the South and has named a new honor - the Victor W. Marshall Fellow in Applied Gerontology. This designation is meant to recognize SCS members from all aspects of gerontology who have made substantive contributions in gerontology a year or more in the research field. At least two of the following areas of research: collaborative research, setting, research and scholarship, mentoring of gerontologists, public service, teaching and mentoring, and advocacy and service to older adults.

Victor's extensive publications include landmark works, such as two editions of *Aging in Canada: Social Perspectives*, that defined the field of aging scholarship in Canada. As a sociologist, Victor steadfastly applied both theoretical and methodological rigor in his studies of aging and the life course. His work will continue in the research being conducted by the many graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and colleagues that he mentored throughout his career.

Born April 11, 1944 in Calgary, Canada to Victor George Marshall and Esther Adeline Donley, Victor is survived by his wife, Joanne Gail Marshall; his daughter, Emily Gail Marshall, son-in-law Christopher Lawrence Oliver, and his siblings, Judith Hamilton (Bill), John J. Marshall (Carol) and Paul D. Marshall (Gina).

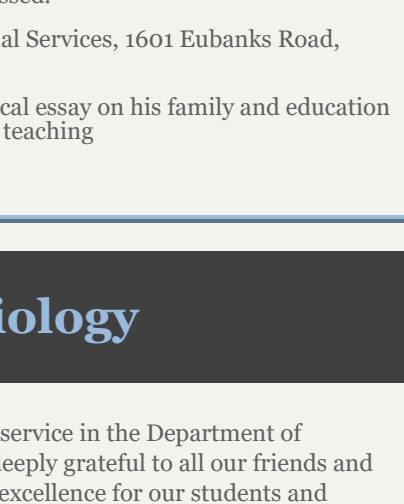
Victor was an avid reader who enjoyed traveling, writing, and spending time with family and friends, particularly with a fine single-malt Scotch in hand. He was brilliant, fun-loving and caring, a wonderful husband, father, colleague, mentor and friend who was dedicated to his work in the field of aging. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life will be arranged for a later date. Contributions in Victor's name may be made to the UNC Hospice or the Southern Gerontological Society at <https://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/>.

In Memoriam: François Nielsen (1949-2018)

François Nielsen, 68, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, died peacefully in Chapel Hill on Thursday, June 7, 2018 of complications related to pneumonia. François bravely battled cancer and other health conditions for nearly eight years. At the time of his death, he was still actively engaged in research, writing, and collaboration with current and former students and colleagues, and he continued to teach at UNC until very recently.

François Nielsen was born on June 17, 1949 in Brussels, Belgium to François Bolin and David Nielsen. After receiving his bachelor's degree in Sociology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, he came to the United States for the first time in 1972 to pursue graduate work at Stanford University. François worked with Mike Haman and completed his PhD in 1977. He held faculty positions at McGill University and the University of Chicago before joining the Sociology Department at UNC Chapel Hill in 1982. François edited *Social Forces* from 2007 to 2010, and he won awards for his teaching and mentorship of graduate students at UNC.



François's intellectual interests were wide-ranging, and his scholarship had a major impact on two areas of sociology including social stratification, income inequality, political sociology, sociology, and Quebec studies. François was a bold and original scholar, following ideas wherever they led. In his earliest work, he focused on ethnic solidarities as the basis for regional and nationalist movements, and he later revisited this theme in research on regional politics within the European Union. In a series of papers, François and his collaborators were among the first to chart increasing income inequality in advanced industrial societies. In recent years, François's scholarship ranged from macro-social theories of the evolution of social stratification systems to micro-level explanations of inequality and achievement integrating genetic, biological and sociological factors.

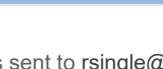
François is survived by his wife, Martha Diehl; and his two children, Claire and Sam Nielsen. On a personal note, François was a wonderful cook, enjoyed traveling, writing, and spending time with family and friends. He read extensively about his many varied personal interests, including history, politics, evolutionary biology, and forensic science. He was brilliant, caring, funny and kind, an amazing husband, father, colleague, and friend. He was deeply loved, and he will be greatly missed.

Memorials in François's name may be made to Orange County Animal Services, 1501 Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516, or to a charity of one's choice.

François's website includes a charming and insightful autobiographical essay on his family and education (<https://nielsen.site.ocias.unc.edu/>) and materials from his graduate teaching (<https://nielsen.site.ocias.unc.edu/>).

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