



# Meredith bids farewell to Dr. Rhonda Zingraff

*A Farewell written by Dr. Zingraff*

“Most of the excited new faces at Meredith in the fall of 1979 were members of the Class of 1983. I was one of those faces, though, and you could say it has taken me a long, long time to “graduate,” leaving with the Class of 2007. For all sociology students, this could be an example of “role reversal.” The typical faculty role is to remain in place, as the typical student role is to arrive, absorb, experience, grow, and depart. In this instance, all of the wonderful Meredith students who have known me, and who are not graduating seniors this spring, will remain in place a while longer. And it is my story to have arrived, absorbed (so much!), experienced (so many things!), grown (in so many ways!), and now to depart. After all this time of enjoying the ways of

Meredith and the great relationships that develop, there is some element of *disbelief* as I write this note of farewell!

But there is also a very bright element of anticipation, as I imagine how many happy moments are on the horizon, when my Meredith relationships pop into my next world for chats, visits, news, plans to transform the world, or, in a word, SIGNS! I will be an Associate Dean for the College of Integrated Science and Technology at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. It may not sound like a place for a sociologist, but doing sociology with them is exactly what this position involves! And a large part of my work will involve university programs that address health and human service needs in the city and surrounding counties, which will forever remind me of the strong outreach

we have achieved in sociology and social work at Meredith.

Accepting this offer from JMU lets me settle into an old house beside the Shenandoah River with husband Charlie, wonder dog Madison, and grouchy cat Simon. It is a place with a very large welcome sign, and a perpetual invitation to you, for visits to the Shenandoah Valley and to your former sociology professor, Dr. Z. Please come!! Find me with the usual Meredith email, or after a while by searching the JMU site. I may not be a member of the special sisterhood that wears that Meredith ring, but I will *always* open my door to one who does!”

*Note: The Department will be sponsoring a farewell reception for Dr. Z. Stay tuned for date and time and plan to stop by to wish her well.*

## Interesting Websites for Sociology Students

Check out these websites for up to date, relevant information on sociological issues.

PovertyUSA [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)  
This site introduces users to many facts about poverty in America. It also details how the poverty line is calculated and the limitations of this figure

Reel Works Teen Filmmaking

[www.reelworks.org](http://www.reelworks.org)

This site contains short films produced by teens in America and reflect the issues that these individuals are facing in their daily lives. Topics range from teen pregnancy, to arranged marriages, death of parents, and a variety of issues related to race, class, gender and sexuality.

### Upcoming Events

WST Brownbag lunch—Leadership and College students Bring your lunch and join us in the basement of BDH	April 4 12-1pm Wyatt Room
Film Screening: “Like a Ship in the Night” - abortion rights in Ireland	April 11 6pm
Sarah Weddington Lecture—lawyer who argued Roe v. Wade	April 12 7pm
Day of Celebrating Student Achievement	April 26

### Help Needed!

**Each year the sociology faculty choose a theme for students in SOC 496 to focus their research upon. If you have suggestions for next year’s theme, please let Dr. Brown or Dr. Cokely know!**

# What classes are YOU taking?

Pre-registration for this summer has begun while the fall 2007 semester begins April 12th. Do you know what classes you are taking? As you meet with your academic advisor consider the following courses in Sociology.

## Summer Offerings



### 3 Week Session I

SOC 271: Culture and Family in Mexico (1 cr.) M-F 11:30-12:20pm  
Instructor: Dr. Brown  
Linked with SWK 240 Populations at Risk for CORE 200 credit

SOC 273: Home and Housing in Mexico (1 cr.) M-Th 5-6pm  
Instructor Dr. Brown  
Linked with ID 245 Housing Issues for CORE 200 credit

### 3 Week Session II:

SOC 335 Race and Ethnic Relations  
M-F 8:30-11:20am  
Instructor: Dr. Brown

### 3 Week Session III

SOC 332 Human Sexuality  
M-F 8:30-11:20am  
Instructor: Dr. Brown

### 6 Week Session I

SOC 272: Education and Family in Mexico (1 cr.) TTh 9-11am  
Instructor: Dr. Brown  
Linked with EDU 232 Foundations of Education for CORE 200 credit

### 6 Week Session II

SOC 230 Principles of Sociology  
M-Th 5:30-7:10pm  
Instructor: Dr. Brown  
discover the ways in which sociological concepts and ideas are present in the every popular cultural icon, Harry Potter

## Fall 2007 Offerings



Harry Potter is back again! Sign up for SOC 230 Principles of Sociology MWF 12-12:50pm Brown and discover the ways in which sociological concepts and ideas are present in the every popular cultural icon, Harry Potter.

Are you interested in problems facing the world today and possible solutions? Do you need an ethics thread for general education? Then take SOC 231: Social Problems TTH 11-12:20pm with Dr. Cokely.

What is the difference between race and ethnicity? Learn this and more about race and ethnicity in the United States when you sign up for SOC 335: Race & Ethnic Relations MWF 1-1:50pm with Dr. Brown

If you are interested in learning more about the changing nature of families in the United States as well as problems facing families today then this is the course for you. Sign up for SOC 338 Sociology of Families MWF 11-11:50am with Dr. Cokely

If you are pursuing a criminal justice studies minor or are simply interested in the field of criminal justice this is the course for you. Sign up for SOC 436 Criminology TTH 9:30-10:50 Staff .

SOC 440: Readings in Sociology TTh 3:30-4:50pm Staff

Take this and be introduced to compelling publications and/or media that will extend your grasp of sociological analysis and discover how sociology speaks to current social issues.

If you have questions about a course or want more information, stop by the third floor of Ledford and talk with Dr. Brown or Dr. Cokely — we're always happy to help!

## Celebrating Student Achievement

The day celebrating student achievement at Meredith will be on April 26th this year. The four students enrolled in SOC 496: Seminar in Public Sociology will all be presenting their research results in poster sessions during the day. As you explore all the presentations offered, keep your eyes open for "Sociology Goes Public: Exploring Issues of Homelessness" by Recey Blake, Margot Childs and Cara Nevitt, as well as "Sociology Goes Public Exploring Issues of Immigration and Housing" by Joni Liverman.



Additionally the Erika Woodlief Social Leadership award will be presented at the

4pm Awards Ceremony. This award is presented to a senior in sociology who best exemplifies the following qualities" enthusiasm for applications of sociology in service to her community, encouragement towards her peers at Meredith in their academic growth, compassionate vision in her professional aspirations, and integrity and generosity as hallmarks of her personal style. The recipients name will also be engraved on a plaque housed in the department.