



VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

M.S.S.A. Forum

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Position Available
- Alpha Kappa Delta Paper Competition
- Calls for Papers
- M.S.S.A. People

Greetings!

I hope you enjoyed the 2005 Atlanta Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association as much as I did. We had one of the largest turnouts in recent Association history, and from all indications the sessions were well attended and quite beneficial to attendees. If you were unable to attend the Atlanta conference we do hope that you will prepare now for the 2006 Lafayette, Louisiana meeting which will be held at the Lafayette Hilton, October 25- 28, 2006. Carl Bankston, President-Elect and Program Chairperson for that meeting is very busy soliciting presenters and organizers. Please consider organizing a session or presenting a paper or poster session. Additionally, encourage your colleagues and students to participate in the meetings. We have paper competition sessions at both the Graduate and undergraduate level and it's never too early to get students involved in socialization process by having them present their data to a friendly audience. Since the MSSA is a student friendly organization this is an excellent opportunity for them to showcase their research involvement.

The Lafayette meeting, in the heart of Cajun country, is noted for its excellent food and we expect, since C. Eddie Palmer is chairing our Local Arrangements Committee, to have a fantastic time during the meetings with myriad activities that will appeal to our individual interests.

I would be remiss in my duties as President if I did not express my sincere appreciation to our Atlanta Local Arrangement Chairpersons – Drs. Obie Clayton, Morehouse College and Willie Pearson, Georgia Institute of Technology as they did a fantastic job of making sure that all of our needs were fulfilled including the rather unique conference bags supplied by Morehouse College. For fear of omitting other people's names who were instrumental in making that meeting a success, please understand that your assistance was very much appreciated.

I encourage each of you to visit our web site www.midsouthsoc.org for important announcements and all registration and membership materials.

I look forward to seeing you in Lafayette in October.

Cordially,
Thomas Calhoun
President

MSSA Annual Conference, Fall 2006

Thomas Calhoun, President
Carl L. Bankston III, President-Elect and Program Chair

Sociology in Ill-Starred Times: Crises, Survival, and Reconstruction is the theme for our upcoming conference. The theme is intended to include crises associated with war, terrorism, and rapid political and economic change, as well as traditional disaster research. Our conference theme, however, opens up space for investigating, debating and challenging crises on many social levels of analysis. As our interactive website highlights (see <http://mssaconference2006.blogspot.com/>), session organizers have contributed a wide variety of session topics to our ongoing list.



Former President Duane Gill speaks at last year's Annual Conference.

This year the MSSA will be held at the Lafayette Hilton in Lafayette Louisiana (October 25-28). Lafayette, the unofficial capital of Cajun country, is known for its rich culture and tradition, which includes Cajun music and food. Lafayette also offers numerous tourist attractions such as Downtown Alive, the largest weekly outdoor concert series in Louisiana and the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium. Those who have attended meetings in Lafayette in previous years know that this is a wonderful city for a professional conference.

We have received over 50 session proposals for the meeting thus far. A complete list of paper/panel/roundtable/poster organizers will be available in March. In addition to the paper, panel and round table sessions, we strongly encourage students (graduate and undergraduate) to submit papers for the annual MSSA student paper competition. If you are planning on participating at the 2006 meeting, you must pre-register and pay annual MSSA dues. MSSA membership information can be found on the website <http://www.midsouthsoc.org>. and registration forms will be mailed at a later date.

Please make plans to attend the 2006 meetings and spread the word about the MSSA among all your colleagues. We hope to welcome a record number of participants this year. See you in Lafayette!

Carl L. Bankston III, Program Chair
Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo and Farrah Gafford, Program Chair Assistants

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Sahadeo Patram

Morehouse College

I reported to the Executive Council at our October 2005 annual meeting that I anticipated expenditures for the Annual Meetings at \$2,000.00 above current revenue. I am pleased to report that the meeting costs were only \$486.00 above our original estimate of \$15,500.00. This was offset by below budget expenditures (\$976.00) on Administration (Forum, Spectrum & Administrative expenses). On the income side, actual income was \$1,552.00 above our estimate (see Budget 2005 spreadsheet attached). The Association has performed well and is financially sound.

Current assets as of December 31, 2005 were \$84,637.53. The assets are in the following accounts:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Capitol City Bank – Certificates of Deposits | \$30,250.00 |
| Capitol City Bank – Operating Fund Account | \$ 3,907.42 |
| Capitol City Bank – Reserve Fund Account | \$ 5,952.80 |
| Spectrum – LA Petty Cash | <u>\$ 1,883.65</u> |
| SUB-TOTAL | \$41,993.87 |

Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship Fund

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lyman MSF Account | \$ 1,541.71 |
| Certificates of Deposits | \$41,101.95 |
| | <u>\$42,643.66</u> |

TOTAL **\$84,637.53**

In 2006, I anticipate income on investments in the MSSA CD Accounts at approximately \$1,400.00. Interest on the Lyman CD accounts will yield approximately \$1,900.00. Interest on CDs in the Lyman account yielded \$1,101.95 in 2005. Sufficient funds are available to make the Lyman Award in 2006 and 2007.

The proposed budget for 2006 can be found on the following page. Income is estimated at \$31,600.00. The estimates are very conservative and actual receipts may exceed this amount depending on the level of registration at the Annual Meetings in October 2006. Projected expenditures are estimated at \$28,450.00 and retained earnings at \$3,150.00. Note that I have no provided funds for the "President's Reception" and "Equipment Rental." I will have funds for the President's Reception and can add this back to the estimate but that will reduce anticipated retained earnings by \$2,000.00. The Association needs to rethink rental of equipment for meeting sessions. The cost of equipment rental (Standard Overhead Projectors and Screens) at the recent meeting was \$1,825.00. I suggest that participants who require equipment for their presentations pay the rental cost. I will be more than willing to make all rental arrangements on prepayment.

I have added a new line-item expenditure – Meeting Room Rental. It is necessary to budget for this expenditure. The hotel contract negotiator, J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr., will most likely address this issue in his report to the Executive Council.

Last year was very difficult for all of us, especially our members in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Executive Council and our membership were very supportive and responded magnificently. Your dedication is what makes MSSA so very unique and my tasks less stressful.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

Cheryl Brown

Greensboro College

The Committee on Women has noted over the last several years the many ways women have achieved parity in MSSA. In leadership positions and as program participants there is an expectation that women will of course be active and take on a variety of roles. Each new generation has been prepared and encouraged by organizational mentors of both genders. However, this nurturing of young female talent often does not occur within the college and university setting. Graduate students and junior faculty are often left to their own devices and have very little help negotiating the new world of academe. During the lunch meeting at the recent MSSA conference in Atlanta the creation of a new mentoring system was one of the key points of a lively discussion. Students and faculty members alike commented on the need for such a group. A variety of possible solutions were proposed and examined. Should such a group take place in a chat room format? Or is a list of senior faculty willing to work with folks the way to go? I will be looking into a variety of options and reporting back to the committee. Our second topic focused on the possibility of combining the Committee on Women with the Committee on Minorities. A variety of opinions were expressed and then it was suggested that as a group perhaps we needed to create a mission statement to really clarify our focus and then determine if it was compatible with the mission of the Committee on Minorities. That group will be working on the statement over the next couple of months. Anyone interested in working on these topics is encouraged to contact Cheryl Brown - cbrown@gborocollege.edu or 336-272-7102 x292.

COMMITTEE ON THE PROFESSION

Shirley Rainey

Austin Peay State University

As Chair of the Committee on the Profession we accomplished the following:

- A panel session organized by Shirley Rainey at MSSA on the theme, "Are African American Professional Organizations a Necessity in the 21st Century? Discussants were Dr. Thomas Durant, Dr. Ollie Christian and Dr. Thomas Calhoun. The session was exceptional with each of the discussants sharing their experiences, knowledge and perceptions about the future of African American Professional Organizations.
- Created an On-Line Employment Exchange Link on MSSA's homepage. Special thanks to Dr. Witts for his assistance. The On-Line Employment Exchange is developed to list and advertise job vacancies for member institutions. Prior to the conference over 12 vacancies was posted.
- An Employment Exchange Display was set up at this year's conference. Over 10 persons filled out employment forms with vitae that were later sent to the institutions for further inquiry.
- Graduate Student Recruitment Display was also set up that displayed information about various sociology graduate programs. Over 25 institutions sent materials to be displayed at the conference in October, 2005.

Minutes of the Sociological Spectrum Special Issues Editorial Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: DeAnn Kalich (holding proxy for Harsha Mookherjee), Lynne Cossman, Amy Chasteen Miller, Nicole Flynn, Shanta Sharma, Joel Thayer, Becky Watson, and Craig Pacelli.

The 2003 minutes were amended to include both Becky Watson and Joel Thayer as present for the meeting. Also the work "currently" was struck from the second to last paragraph. The amended minutes were unanimously approved.

The 2004 Semi-Annual Spectrum report was distributed and unanimously approved. Craig Pacelli presented the Publishers Report, stating that Spectrum is doing extremely well on all measures.

The winner of the 2004 Spectrum Best Paper Award was announced:
"Serious Crime in Urban Neighborhoods" by Edward S. Shihadeh and Wesley Shrum (24:4)

Six new board members were approved for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2005 and ending December 31, 2007. They are: *Rhonda D. Evans* (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), *Keith Durkin* (Ohio Northern University), *Gary Steward* (University of Central Oklahoma), *Jim Quinn* (University of North Texas), *Rusty Ward* (Francis Marion University), and *Song Yang* (University of Arkansas).

Outgoing board members whose terms end December 31, 2004 are: *Amy Chasteen Miller* (University of Southern Mississippi), *Ray Darville* (Stephen F. Austin State University), *Richard Dodder* (Oklahoma State University), *Julie Harms Cannon* (Texas Tech University), *Shanta Sharma* (Henderson State University), and *Joel Thayer* (Francis Marion University).

The Board discussed and unanimously voted to limit special issues to one issue per volume year and to limit book reviews and review essays to one review per issue per volume year.

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed, co-chaired by Lynne Cossman and Nicole Flynn, to formulate written guidelines for guest editors proposing and/or publishing special issues for Sociological Spectrum. These guidelines will specify recommended and required information for proposers of special issues, as well as expectations regarding self-publishing by the guest editors. In particular, the Editorial Board wishes to prevent blemishes to the Association, the Publisher, or the Journal by aborting outside speculation regarding our Journal's use of peer review. Craig Pacelli concurred that such speculation would affect the Journal's overall rating within the discipline, and therefore eventually subscriptions would decline. It was agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee would formulate the guidelines to be presented to the full board for its consideration as soon as possible so that these guidelines can be made available to potential proposers.

STANFORD LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Lachelle Norris

Tennessee Tech University

The committee is happy to report that this year's recipient of the Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award is:

"Blue Collar Bayou: Louisiana Cajuns in the New Economy of Ethnicity" (2002) by Jacques M. Henry and Carl L. Bankston. Praeger, Greenwood Publishing Group.

The committee was formed in February, 2005, and was comprised of the following individuals:

- Dr. Thomas Brignall, Tennessee Tech University
- Ms. Joan Schabert, Tennessee Tech University
- Dr. Amy Chasteen Miller, University of Southern Mississippi
- Dr. Carolyn Pevey, Auburn University at Montgomery
- Dr. Joel Thayer, Frances Marion University
- Dr. Holly Carter, MSSW PhD, Augusta State University
- Ms. Christy Flatt, Mississippi State University
- Dr. Glenn Johnson, Clark Atlanta University

I invited these individuals to participate in an attempt to construct a diverse (regard to gender, race/ethnicity, university size, region of the midsouth) and balanced committee. I believe we established this. In fact, the MSSA membership roll has increased in size as one participant decided to join the Association as a result.

We proceeded to solicit nominations via the MSSA listserv, and through an advertisement in the newsletter. We had several nominations, but of these we had to disallow all but two (either the works were edited, or the book was a textbook, or the authors had not been members of MSSA for three years). The other nominated works were:

Our Roots Run Deep: A History of the River Road African American Museum (Donning Company Publishers, 2002) by Thomas Durant

Uneasy Alchemy: Citizens and Experts in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor Disputes (MIT Press, 2003) by Barbara L. Allen

Aging Prisoners: Crisis in American Corrections (Praeger Publishers, 2003) by Ronald H. Aday

Allen and Aday both declined the nomination.

Committee members were sent an evaluation form, which they completed and returned. I tallied the results and arrived at a clear winner. Throughout the process, however, we noted some problems:

Issue #1: It seems to be somewhat unclear as to who is actually eligible for the award. Nominees must have been a member for three years, but chair of this committee is not privy to any information other than what is available on MSSA webpage. Pat was very quick to respond to requests for information. Self nominees may not be aware of this criterion although it is clear on the flyer published in the newsletter. There was also some question as to whether joint membership counted toward the three year criteria.

Other criteria that should be made quite clear from the beginning:

- We can no longer accept books that are edited collections
- We cannot accept textbooks
- The book can only be considered for three years after its publication
- Should we consider books that were nominated in years past (that did not receive the award?)

Issue #2: The number of committee members: there is currently no set number. I did receive feedback from one nominee that publishers are hesitant to send free copies of books to too many committee members.

Issue #3: While I should have expected such, I did not know that committee members were required to be MSSA members. It is not clear if they have to be members prior to the invitation to serve, or if they can become members during the process.

Issue #4: We felt the nomination deadline to be too late in the process (July 1). Nominees and publishers cannot be contacted until after this deadline. This deadline does not leave much time for committee members to receive the books to review, read and evaluate the books, and return evaluations on the books. In addition, falling as it does during the summer makes it difficult at times to contact authors, committee members, and others.

Suggestions:

- A check sheet (started by Dawood Sultan), with criteria and such for the chair (I will be happy to work this up and supply this to the next Chair)
- Be clear in the criteria for eligibility and revise flyer for newsletter, listserv e-mail, etc to reflect such
- Reconsider the criteria that nominee be a member for three years: this could be an excellent way to bring in more members
- Reconsider the deadline for this award. I would suggest that the process of nominations begin immediately after the MSSA meetings. A spring deadline for nominations would allow more time to secure copies of books and ample time for evaluations.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of this year's committee and to the members of the Executive Council who so willingly gave advice and answered numerous e-mails to assist us in our endeavor.

STANFORD LYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Mid-South Sociological Association Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the first Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship, worth \$1,000.

Eligibility requirements:

Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interactionism, race relations, law, or ethics. Applicant must be receiving the degree from an institution within the MSSA member states (see <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/> for more information) or from an institution which has active MSSA student/faculty memberships.

Submission information:

Each applicant is to submit the following:

- Letter of interest including a description of involvement with MSSA,
- Description of dissertation research project, such as a research proposal – approximately 5 pages,
- Letter of support from the applicant's dissertation committee chair which evaluates the dissertation project,
- Timetable for completion of the dissertation and degree, and
- Current vitae.

Deadline **July 1, 2006**. The scholarship will be announced at the fall MSSA conference banquet, but the committee does reserve the right not to award the scholarship in any given year. Applications may be sent by mail or email (WORD attachment only) to the scholarship coordinator at the following address:

Professor Jackie Eller
Box 126 MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
jaeller@mtsu.edu

For more information contact Professor Eller by email or 615-898-2125.

CALL FOR PAPERS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF LINGUISTICS, BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Seventh International Conference
Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, California
November 16-19, 2006

Scholars and practitioners are invited to submit competitive papers for presentation at the 2006 annual meeting of the International Academy of Linguistics, Behavioral and Social Sciences, to be held in Newport Beach, California. All topics in anthropology, art education and history, communication, languages and literature, psychology, sociology, socio-cultural studies, and their global implications are appropriate. We also need session chairpersons, and we encourage you to organize sessions, convene panel discussions, and workshops.

Guidelines for Submitting Papers:

1. Submit four (4) copies of your complete paper or four (4) page abstract by June 30, 2006.
2. Papers should not exceed fifteen (15) double spaced pages including text, references, and exhibits. Each paper should have a separate page with the author's name, affiliation, address and telephone number. Multiple authorships should indicate the person to be contacted. Please provide your E-mail address to expedite the communication process. Abstracts or full papers presented at the conference will be published in the Proceedings of the Association for Global Business, for a fee of \$25.
3. Provide your E-mail address to expedite the acknowledgement and the acceptance process. Snail-mail will be used if no E-mail address is provided.
4. All papers will be blind reviewed by two outside reviewers. Papers submitted must not be presented, published, or accepted for presentation or publication elsewhere.
5. The deadline for submission of papers or proposals is June 30, 2006. All those chosen to present or chair sessions will be notified by August 15, 2006.
6. Send all correspondence to: Professor Giuliana Fazzion, Vice President and Program Director, James Madison University, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22807. Tel: (540) 568-6068; Fax: (540) 568-6904; E-mail: fazziogx@jmu.edu

Sociological Spectrum

Semi-Annual Report to the Editorial Board

October 26, 2005

Assumption of Editorship: February 2, 2002

Editor: DeAnn M. Kalich

Managing Editor: Christina M. Newgebauer

Manuscripts Processed Since February 2, 2002

Sociological Spectrum has received 250 manuscripts (including 41 inherited from the previous editors). Of these, 7 have been newly accepted for publication, 6 are under the status, "revise and resubmit," 134 have been rejected, 12 are under initial review, and 91 are published/in Press.

The Journal's rejection rate (based on number of manuscripts [n=232] that have reached final decision stage) is 58 percent. (*Note: This figure does not account for the 6 manuscripts currently in 'revise and resubmit' status or the 12 under initial review.) This is another 2 percent decrease (for a total of 5%) in the rejection rate from November 2003, which is likely a reflection of publishing two additional issues per year beginning in 2004 with volume 24.

DATA IN TABULAR FORM

Table 1. Manuscript Status (n=250) (Note: Vol. 24 began the increase by two issues).

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Accept | 7 |
| R&R | 6 |
| Reject | 134* |
| Initial Review | 12 |
| Published/in Press | 91 (Vol. 22:4-26:1)** |

** 9 of these were submitted before assumption of new editorship 2-2-02.

PROCESSING DETAILS

Current projections for volume 26 (2006) anticipate a continued decrease in lag time from time of final acceptance of the manuscript to appearance in print. Authors in 2004 experienced a one-year lag time, while authors in 2005 expected a nine-month lag time. Authors in 2006 can anticipate a six-month lag time. This is due to the increased number of issues in each volume year.

2005 Spectrum Best Paper Award Winner:

"Assessing Environmental Inequality: How the Conclusions We Draw Vary According to the Definitions We Employ" by Liam Downey (Vol. 25:3).

Other nominees (listed in order of appearance):

"Differences in Work-to-Family and Family-to-Work Spillover Among Professional and Nonprofessional Workers" - Daphne Pedersen Stevens, Krista Lynn Minnotte, and Gary Kiger (Vol. 24:5)

"Sources of Organizational Commitment: The Effects of Internal Labor Markets and Worker Values" - Song Yang, George Wilson, and Steven Worden (Vol. 24:6)

"'But Everybody Does It...': The Effects of Perceptions, Moral Pressures, and Informal Sanctions on Tax Cheating" - Michael R. Welch, Yili Xu, Thoroddur Bjarnason, Tom Petee, Patricia O'Donnell, and Paul Magro (Vol. 25:1)

"The Globalization of a Minor Sport: The Diffusion and Commodification of Masters Swimming"- Donald W. Hastings, Sherry Cable, and Sammy Zahran. (Vol. 25: 2)

"Community Concentration of Poverty and Its Consequences on NonMetro County Persistence of Poverty in Mississippi" - Domenico Parisi, Steven Michael Grice, Michael Taquamo, and Duane A Gill. (Vol. 25: 4)

Special Issue Procedures

Sociological Spectrum publishes special issues on topics that fall within the domain of the journal. Special issues are not published more frequent than biannually and only if quality submissions are available. The Mid-South Sociological Association will assist in the call for submissions for special issues via a published call in *Sociological Spectrum*, as well as related websites of the Association and journal. The Editor(s) and Associate Editors will evaluate requests for special issues when they meet at the Annual Meetings of the MSSA. The Editorial Board also will reserve the right to make final decisions regarding the publication of articles in such issues.

The following procedures pertain to special issues.

- 1. Submission of a proposal for a special issue.** The person(s) proposing a special issue should submit a 2-3 page prospectus for the issue to the Spectrum Editorial Office. The prospectus should include the following:
 - Title or topic for the special issue.
 - The name(s) of the proposed special issue editor(s), curriculum vitae, and evidence of expertise in the area.
 - A statement of the purpose of the special issue, including the intended contribution of the special issue, how the special issue fits within the domain of *Sociological Spectrum*, and why a special issue rather than some other format (e.g., individual articles, a book) is warranted.
 - A draft of the call for papers that will solicit submissions for the special issue.
 - A list of appropriate reviewers for the area.
- 2. Review of special issue prospectus.** The prospectus will be reviewed by the Editor(s) and Associate Editors, who will render a decision based on the expected contribution of the special issue and its appropriateness for *Sociological Spectrum*.
- 3. Responsibilities of special issue editor(s).** The content of special issues and management of the editorial process are the guest editor(s) sole responsibility. This includes issuing invitations to contribute, arranging refereeing of submissions to journal standard, and deciding on acceptance/rejection. An exception is where the guest editor wishes to include a paper of his/her own; such submissions will be subjected to the peer review process under the supervision of the editor(s)-in-chief to avoid a conflict of interest. The editor(s)-in-chief are happy to provide advice to guest editors on request. For a special issue based on an event, it is important to issue invitations promptly, before potential authors submit extended versions of their papers elsewhere. For such special issues, the refereeing process may be shortened by involving members of the event's program committee who handled the original submission. Although another way of speeding up the review process is to ask authors of submissions to the special issue to referee each other's papers, judgments of quality that come mainly from within a closed community should be avoided. Once a proposal has been accepted as a special issue, the guest editor should:
 - Coordinate peer reviews of the submissions and work with authors to obtain manuscripts of high quality
 - Work with the Editor(s)-in-Chief to establish a list of reasonable deadlines for submission of papers, notification of acceptance/rejection, submission of final versions, and submission to the publisher.
 - Approximate number of papers and number of pages in the edition. The number of pages available is subject to Editorial Office approval.
 - Discuss with the Editor(s) any changes that constitute a deviation from the prospectus.
 - Work to keep the special issue on schedule and periodically update the Editor(s) on the progress of the special issue. This includes timely submission of manuscript processing fees to the Editorial Office of all manuscripts processed by the guest editor(s).
 - Obtain properly executed Taylor and Francis Transfer of Copyright Agreements and Transmittal Forms from corresponding authors on each accepted manuscript.
 - Maintain all copies of manuscripts, reviews, and correspondence regarding the special issue until the entire issue is ready to be submitted to the Editor.
- 4. Completion.** Once the entire process is complete, the guest editor(s) forwards the finished product *by post*, not email, to the *Sociological Spectrum* Editorial Office:
 - This should include all of the following items:
 - Final versions of all the accepted contributions with an indication of their ordering within the special issue. (The default ordering is alphabetic by author.) For each contribution, provide two hardcopies and an electronic copy on 3.5" diskette, using Microsoft Word or Corel Word Perfect. Additionally, two copies are needed of a brief **author's biographical sketch** that will be published as part of the front matter of the journal issue. Finally, the completed Taylor and Francis Transfer of Copyright Agreement and Transmittal Forms should be included.
 - Referee reports for each accepted paper, together with an indication of which author is the contact author, with his/her contact information, including email address. Also supply dates of initial submission and final acceptance.
 - Title and author(s) of rejected papers or other evidence that the selection process was diligent and produced high quality submissions.
 - A preface for the special issue that explains the background of the event and/or the importance of the topic. It should be clear from the preface that contributions have been refereed to journal standard and, if the special issue is based on papers presented at an event, that the contributions are extended versions of those papers.

The Editorial Office will forward a copy to the editor(s)-in-chief for final approval before the special issue enters the queue for production. At that point the guest editor(s) will be told the expected publication date.

CALL FOR PAPERS

ALPHA KAPPA DELTA 2006 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Each year Alpha Kappa Delta sponsors an undergraduate student paper competition. Alpha Kappa Delta welcomes submissions from undergraduate students who are members of the Society, whether or not they are involved in AKD chapter activities. All submissions must be received by **June 1, 2006**.

1st Prize \$600.00 and as much as \$600.00 in travel expenses to the 2006 Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*. 1st-place papers will be published in *Sociological Inquiry* if authors choose to submit them. If submitted for publication, members of the Editorial Board of *Sociological Inquiry* will assist with editing. If published in *Sociological Inquiry* the paper will list the institution the author(s) attended when the paper was written.

2nd Prize \$300.00 and up to \$600.00 in travel expenses to the 2006 Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*.

3rd Prize \$150.00 and up to \$600.00 in travel expenses to the 2006 Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association*.

Authors of all prize-winning papers will receive one-year extensions of their subscriptions to *Sociological Inquiry*. In the case of co-authors, monetary awards will be divided equally among the co-authors. The authors and faculty sponsors of prize-winning papers will be notified of their selection by July 1, 2006. All others will be notified in a timely manner.

Monetary prizes will be presented to winners at the AKD Distinguished Lecture during the 2006 Annual Meeting of the *American Sociological Association* in Montreal, Canada, **August 11-14, 2006**. In order to receive the travel support portion of the award, paper winners **must** attend the Distinguished Lecture.

ASA Honors Program. The *American Sociological Association* has reserved slots in the 2006 ASA Honors Program for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. Winners are encouraged to arrive in Montreal on August 10 and participate in the complete schedule of Honors Program activities lasting until August 14. Lodging in Montreal will be arranged by ASA at a reduced student rate. ASA requires payment of a \$200.00 registration and housing fee to participate in the Honors Program. AKD will reimburse up to \$600 (\$200.00 for registration and \$400 additional for travel) for costs incurred by winners who participate fully in the 2006 ASA Honors Program. Winners must attend the AKD Distinguished Lecture and participate fully in the ASA Honors Program to receive as much as \$1,200.00 reimbursement for registration and travel. All paper contest winners are **required** to attend the AKD Distinguished Lecture in order to receive as much as \$600 in travel support. All paper contest winners are **strongly encouraged** to participate in the Honors Program—a great opportunity for travel, scholarship, and professional development.

REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, each entry must conform to the following requirements:

1. **Eligibility.** The author(s) must be a current member(s) of AKD and the paper must have been written while the author(s) was/were enrolled as an undergraduate student(s) during at least one term of the 2005-2006 academic year. One, two, or three students may author papers, but no student may be included as an author on more than one paper entered in the 2006 competition. The paper cannot have been previously published or be currently under consideration by a professional journal.
2. A **cover letter** from a Chapter Representative who is an active member of AKD must confirm:
 - a. Fulfillment of the eligibility requirements.
 - b. The author's (co-author's) name(s), institution at the time the paper was written, and the title of the paper. The author and/or author(s) name(s) should not appear any place in the title page, abstract, or paper.
 - c. The author's or co-author's and the Chapter Representative's names, e-mail addressees, phone numbers, and mailing addresses May through August 2006.
3. The paper must have sociological content and focus, but may be empirical, theoretical, or a critical review of the literature.
4. An abstract of 100-150 words must summarize the major points of the paper.
5. The paper may not exceed 35 double-spaced pages at 10 cpi or 12 pt, including tables, appendices, and references. For a detailed statement on format and requirements consult the inside cover of the Official Journal of Alpha Kappa Delta, *Sociological Inquiry*.
6. Submit three (3) copies of the paper with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Elizabeth Hartung
Sociology, SA 245
One University Drive
California State University, Channel Islands
Camarillo, CA 93012
Telephone: (805) 437-3274
E-mail: Elizabeth.Hartung@csuci.edu
7. To be eligible for consideration, all entries must be received by **June 1, 2006**.

HOTEL NEGOTIATIONS

J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr.

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Currently, I am in negotiations with the Holiday Inn (formerly the Radisson) in Baton Rouge for 2008 as a meeting site. Due to excessive demands on guaranteed sales for food and beverages, I am unable to find a workable solution in Jackson with either the Hilton or the Crowne Plaza. Therefore, Jackson will be removed as a possible MSSA meeting site for the next several years. Perhaps, in the future, they will be more willing to negotiate a workable contract. In addition, the Marriott Airport in Memphis, a previous meeting site, is unwilling to submit a proposal because of our ceiling on room rates. And, I also contacted the Conference Center at the University of Memphis, and learned that they would require meeting room fees at the level of \$2200 per day. The Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs has contacted me again, and I will discuss this possibility. However, transportation from the airport may remain a problem, and I am unsure if they will agree to a cap on price increases for food and beverages. In prior conversations, they would not agree to a price cap for food and beverages. After being contacted by the Huntsville Convention Bureau, I sent RFPs but no hotels would submit proposals nor will any hotels in Birmingham. I also suspect that we may have trouble finding the Westin hotel in Atlanta agreeable to our prices in the future.

NEW EDITOR SOUGHT FOR SOCIOLOGICAL SPECTRUM

The Mid-South Sociological Association is seeking applications from members of the MSSA for the position of Editor of Sociological Spectrum, the official journal of the Association. The current editorship will end on or before December 31, 2006. The term of the editor(s) will be three years (2007-2009), beginning no later than January 1, 2007.

Duties of the editorship include reading and evaluating manuscripts, coordinating the external review process, and preparing 6 issues for publication per year.

Applications should include a letter of application, vitae of Editorial applicant(s), and a statement of support from the proposed host institution. Preferred campus support would include: course release time, funded managing editor, computer and printer, office space, copier, postage, phone, long distance, and travel support. Electronic submissions are encouraged.

QUESTIONS: Applicants with additional questions are encouraged to contact the current editor-in-chief before making application:

SEND TO:

Applications should be sent to the MSSA President, Thomas Calhoun, no later than May 1, 2006 to the following address.

Dr. Thomas Calhoun
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Anthony Hall, Room 204, Mail Code 4311
Carbondale, IL 62901
Phone: 618-536-6607
Email: calpro@siu.edu

GRADUATE PAPER OF DISTINCTION AWARD

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Lafayette, Louisiana

October 25-28, 2006

The Mid-South Sociological Association invites the submission of student papers for its first annual Graduate Student Paper Session and "Paper of Distinction" Award. The award replaces the Graduate Student Paper Competition. The award process is open to graduate students who are members, or become members, of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Among the papers submitted, an award will be presented to any paper that is reviewed and evaluated as possessing a high level of originality and significant potential for contribution to the discipline. If such a paper is so identified, the author(s) will be presented with a "Paper of Distinction" award at the MSSA Banquet. The award will also include editorial review assistance from suitable persons so identified by the Vice President in coordination with the Editor of *Sociological Spectrum*.

Rules for the 2006 Award Process:

1. Papers may be submitted by the graduate student or nominated by faculty, but in any case, each paper must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting consideration for the Graduate Student "Paper of Distinction" Award. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, telephone number, and email address (if available) of the author(s). Only the author's name and title of the paper should be included on the title page. The title of the paper must be repeated at the top of the first page of the text.
2. The maximum length of an eligible paper shall be 25 double spaced pages of text, not counting abstract, references, tables, and figures.
3. Papers may be co-authored with a maximum of three student authors, but no faculty.
4. Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for award consideration.
5. Papers are evaluated upon (1) originality, (2) contribution or potential contribution to the discipline, (3) clarity of arguments, and (4) mechanics (i.e., neatness, use of an appropriate format, grammar, spelling, etc.).
6. **Four copies of each paper must be received by August 15, 2005.** Send papers by "First Class" mail to:
Keith F. Durkin, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology & Sociology, Ohio Northern University
Ada, Ohio 45810
Telephone 419-772-2138 e-mail: k-durkin@onu.edu
7. To receive full recognition for participation, submissions **must** meet deadlines and participants **must** present their papers at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Lafayette.
8. Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty advice prior to submission of papers.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Lafayette, Louisiana

October 25-28, 2006

The Mid-South Sociological Association invites the submission of student papers for its annual undergraduate student paper competition. The competition is open to students in the Mid-South Region and to other undergraduate students who are members of the Mid-South Sociological Association. A prize of \$50 will be awarded for the best paper. The authors of the papers selected will be presented with certificates of merit after presentations of papers at the 2006 MSSA Annual Meeting.

Rules for the 2006 Competition

1. Each paper must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting participation in the undergraduate competition session. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, the email address and the telephone number of the author(s).
2. The maximum length of an eligible paper shall be 20 double-spaced pages of text, not counting abstract, references, tables, and figures.
3. Papers may be co-authored with a maximum of three student authors, but not by graduate students or faculty.
4. Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for this competition.
5. Papers are evaluated upon (1) originality, (2) contribution or potential contribution to the discipline, (3) clarity of arguments, and (4) mechanics (i.e. neatness, use of an appropriate format, grammar, spelling, etc.).
6. Four copies of each paper must be received by July 30, 2006. Send papers by "First Class" mail to:
Kim Davies, Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, & Social Work
2500 Walton Way
Augusta GA 30904.
You may contact Dr. Davies by phone 706-737-1735 or e-mail, kdavies@aug.edu if you have any questions regarding the competition.
7. To receive full recognition for participation, submissions must meet deadlines and participants must present their papers at the 2006 meetings in Lafayette (October 25-28, 2006).
8. Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty advice prior to submission of papers.

M.S.S.A. People

IN REMEMBRANCE

Al Bertrand, retired LSU Boyd Professor of Sociology Emeritus and world renowned rural sociologist, departed this life on February 26, 2006 at his home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was 87 years of age. His professional career spanned 60 years, including 37 years in the Department of Sociology at Louisiana State University. Bertrand was the author or co-author of 16 books, more than 50 monographs, over 100 articles in professional journals, and 25 book chapters and encyclopedias. He was characterized by his professional colleagues as a rural sociologist, "who combined theory and practice and added his own brand of humanity." He is fondly remembered by generations of colleagues and students in the field of rural sociology.

- Excerpt from obituary by Thomas J. Durant, Jr.

Dr. Kinko Ito, professor of sociology at University of Arkansas at Little Rock, will present a paper titled "Japanese Ladies' Comics: Now and Then" at the Manga Symposium held at Pomona College in California on 2/17/06. She will also talk as a panelist. Dr. Ito presented a paper "China in Japanese Manga: A Not So Funny Story?" at the Southern Japan Seminar in Miami on March 4th, 2006. Currently Dr. Ito is working on the history of Manga, which will become a chapter in a book on Japanese visual culture.

Shondrah Tarrezz Nash, PhD is currently the Assistant to the Dean of the Caudill College of Humanities at Morehead State University.

Kim Davies has been appointed Chair of the Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, & Social Work at Augusta State University.

Jack Niemonen, Professor of Sociology at the University of South Dakota, has recently published the following:

- Niemonen, Jack. 2006. "Review Essay: Race, Class, and the State in the Postindustrial Period." *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* Vol. 35, no. 1: 1-4.
 - Niemonen, Jack. 2005. "Book Review: *NAFTA & Neocolonialism: Comparative Criminal, Human & Social Justice* (University Press of America 2004) by Lawrence French and Magdaleno Manzanárez." *International Review of Modern Sociology* Vol. 31, no. 2: 283-289.
 - Niemonen, Jack. 2005. "Book Review: *Immediacy: How Our World Confronts Us & How We Confront Our World* (Revised Edition, Discern Books 2003) by Fred Emil Katz." *Sociological Spectrum* Vol. 25, no. 5: 619-625.
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Keith F. Durkin testified at the Ohio State Senate in support of Jessica's Law.