

Report from the President of MSSA

Mid-South Sociological Association
Crown Plaza Hotel
February 6, 2010
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Ollie Christian, Professor, Southern University - Baton Rouge, LA

Greetings to Executive Council Members. I would like to thank each of you for your support and participation in the 2009 conference held in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Roma Hanks is the President-Elect and Program Chair for the 2010 conference which will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The theme is "Sociological Perspective: Essential Science to Understand Health and Health Disparities." I would like to extend congratulations and the very best to her. I will be happy to assist her whenever I can.

I would like to thank Jamie Baird, Secretary-Treasurer, for sharing her vast knowledge and experience unstintingly.

A special acknowledgement is extended to some of the founding members for their support: Drs. Brabant, Peck, Ferris, Palmer, McSeveney and Owens. I appreciate their continued interest and participation.

The 2009 Plenary speaker was Dr. Faye Gary. Dr. Gary is the Medical Mutual of Ohio Kent W. Clapp chair at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Gary is also the Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of Florida-Gainesville. She is known for her expertise in international health care having traveled as a consultant to Ministers of Health in China, Japan, South Africa, Egypt, the Kingdom of Swaziland, Ecuador, Nations in the Caribbean and with Shuar Nations at the edge of the Amazon Basin. Thank you Dr. Gary for your excellent presentation.

Special thanks to Drs. Thomas Durant and June Hopps for their assistance with the 2009 program. I have known both for many years and they have always provided support, encouragement, and advice to national and international students and are great supporters of MSSA.

Dr. Tim Gongaware did an outstanding job on the Forum. Tim's work kept members informed regarding organizational activities. Thank you Tim.

Dr. John Lynxwiler continues to do an outstanding job with the Spectrum. John I appreciate all that you do for MSSA.

2009 Program

The 2009 program consisted of sixty-nine sessions. The papers, panels and workshops were informative and instructive. The undergraduate and graduate student presentations were well organized under the leadership of Drs. Tim Gongaware and Larry Hall. It is pleasing to see the growth and development in student leadership roles.

Several of the sessions unfortunately, did not materialize as expected. Some of the session organizers indicated a lack of personal and institutional funds as the cause of their non attendance. The economic downturn and recession, the deepest since the great depression, obviously had an impact on attendance. Even so, I was pleased to experience great enthusiasm from those who were present; many of whom voiced praise for the excellent presentations and

indicated a willingness to recruit additional members for 2010. Let me extend deep gratitude to all members of MSSA.

2010 Goals

Fundraising must be a major priority. I know that we are living in difficult times but as hard as it is, it is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the organization.

Second, the organization must continue to focus on building membership nationally and internationally. Dr. Tina Deshotel has worked hard to recruit new members. Thank you Dr. Deshotel.

Third, once again, let me emphasize the essential component of building our student membership.

Fourth, building relationships with other cognate organizations.

Fifth, increase awareness of international issues such as health care and health disparities.

Sixth, program participants should also become members of the organization.

Seven, investigate and record the history of MSSA.

Ollie Christian
President
MSSA

Report from the MSSA Past President Kim Davies February 6, 2010

I contacted Miriam Boeri (president elect) and Michael Hodge (president) of the Georgia Sociological Association (GSA) in January to ask them about the possibility of meeting in concert with the GSA as a way to improve attendance for both groups and to meet the room night requirement of our hotel contracts. In particular, I asked them if they would be interested in meeting with us in Atlanta. Miriam Boeri said that they would discuss it at their meeting on 1/29/2010 and would let me know.

I also contacted Fonda Martin (Administrator) of the Association for Applied & Clinical Sociology (AACS) to ask her to forward a similar request to the AACS. I contacted them on 1-20-2010. Fonda Martin said she would forward to the board members. Their next board meeting is February 19-21, 2010.

I contacted Obie Clayton (MSSA hotel negotiator) and ask him for suggestions for other organizations that may meet in the fall. He indicated he did not know of any but would think about it.

I contacted Jean Shin at the ASA and ask him for suggestions for other organizations that may meet in the fall. Jean Shin responded and recommended that we might want to contact Mid-

South Educational Research Association (MSERA). He noted that they just had their meeting in the fall of 2009, in Baton Rouge.

Thus, I contacted [Cliff Hofwolt](#), Executive Director, MSERA on February 1, 2010 and am awaiting his reply. He replied on February 2, as follows: As of this time, we are not having trouble meeting our room nights. This year we are meeting in Mobile, Al, 2011 in Oxford, Ms, and in 2012, Lexington, Ky. We are entertaining a proposal for 2013 in Pensacola, FL.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Davies, PhD

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER
Financial Report - February 5, 2010

The Financial information that is attached to this report is the Budget Analysis for 2009, Balance Sheet as of December 2009, and Income & Expenditure for fiscal year 2009, and Budget for fiscal year 2010. Total assets at the end of 2009 were \$93,606.66. The assets were held in 7 different accounts. The major portion of assets was in the Operating Fund CD Account (\$37,970.94) and in the Stanford Lyman CD Account (\$44,392.19). The Income and Expenditure Statement for 2009 shows Income at \$31,041.60 and Expenditure at \$31,233.05. Realized ordinary net income for 2009 was \$(191.45).

The Association did face financial hardships because of the serious national and global financial crisis. The Association negotiated with the Hilton Lafayette and obtained partial payment of our contractual obligations which came to \$10,550.00. This was in the area of room night requirements. The Association had to pay an attrition fee of \$5,275.00, then the food and beverage minimums were not met and there was a fee of \$992.47 that had to be paid. This made the total cost to the Hilton Lafayette \$18,106.72 The Association took care of the deficit for the meeting by closing one of the CD's in our reserves. We really do not want to get into this habit, because our reserves will be reduced tremendously.

The shortfall in revenue is the result of our final number of room nights (189) and our obligation at 80% was 312 to not get penalized, meeting registration (128), membership (135) which is down 49 people from 2009 and dues not being paid, whether individuals are presenting or not.

Based on the projected budget for 2010 the expenditures will exceed income by approximately \$11,600.00. The budget was produced conservatively due to the economy and budget cuts at our member institutions. The deficit

could grow if participation and registration in Baton Rouge doesn't meet levels from the past. There is hope to negotiate with the Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge to reduce room nights and/or food and beverage obligations.

Totals assets as of December 31, 2009 is \$93,606.66. The assets are in several accounts:

Capitol City Bank -CD-OFA	\$37,970.94
Capitol City Bank - Lyman MSFA	1,699.88
Capitol City Bank-RFA-CD	5,761.05
Capitol City Bank-OFA	2,373.88
Capitol City Bank-RFA	1,119.83
Capitol City Bank - Spectrum Petty Cash-UCF	288.89
Capitol City Bank - Stan Lyman - CD Acct	<u>\$44,392.19</u>

TOTAL

\$ 93,606.66

he above figures are disheartening and the Association cannot expect to avoid its contractual obligations in the future. Steps must be taken to ensure that all contractual obligations are financed from current revenue. To achieve this objective there must be a significant drive to retain current members and recruit new ones.

Jamie P. Baird
Secretary-Treasurer

Report for Winter Meeting

Program Chair: Roma Stovall Hanks, PhD

Local Arrangements: Dr. Thomas Durant, Jr. has agreed to chair the Local Arrangements Committee. He has secured cooperation of the Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors' Bureau. He has also assembled an excellent committee from Louisiana State University and Southern University.

Continuing Education for Health Care Professionals: Sharrie Cranford, LGSW, Director of Continuing Medical Education, University of South Alabama is exploring continuing education options for physicians, nurses, allied health professionals and social workers. She is prepared to meet with the EC via conference call or to continue to work directly with me.

Keynote Speaker and Program Features: I have had very positive contact with Derrick Tabor, PhD in the Office of the Director of the NIH Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities. At his suggestion, I have invited the Center's Director, Dr. John Ruffin, to give a plenary (day and time TBA). Dr. Tabor has assured me that if Dr. Ruffin declines our invitation he will send an appropriate representative – very likely to be Dr. Tabor or a member of the team who implemented the 2008 NIH Summit: The Science of Eliminating Health Disparities.

The program will feature a "From the Field" workshop. Participants will include community partners, as well as academic researchers engaged in community-based projects to address health disparities, poverty, homelessness, drug abuse, violence, or disaster recovery. The purpose of this feature is to highlight exemplary community partnerships in research, as well as service-learning projects that are research oriented.

Medical sociologist Dr. Christopher Freed and medical education/outreach specialist Dr. Hattie Myles are working with me to assure that the program provides an enhanced experience for both graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Freed has identified a number of organizations that

target medical sociologists, public health researchers, and addiction specialists and their students. His efforts are directed at increasing MSSA participation by members of these groups. Dr. Myles will provide similar student outreach to medical students and their mentors and student/professional organizations.

Funding & Exhibits: I have begun fundraising efforts at my University and through appropriate grant and Foundation sources. Dean Andrzej Wierzbicki, College of Arts & Sciences, University of South Alabama, has pledged \$500 support. Errol Crook, M.D., Professor, USA College of Medicine, Director of the USA Center of Excellence/Center for Healthy Communities has committed support for up to 10 Community Health Advocates and three members of the staff of the Community Engagement Core of the COE/CHC to attend the conference. He has also pledged letters of support for my efforts to secure conference funding from the NIH-NCMHD. Dr. Crook will also support travel to the conference for Dr. Kenneth Hudson, who will organize a panel on community-based research methods used by sociologists in research on health and health disparities. I am also seeking funding from the College of Nursing and the College of Allied Health Professions at the University of South Alabama.

I have spoken with Richard Koenigsberg of the Library of Social Science Book Exhibitors. He may be interested in managing our book exhibit at no cost to MSSA. I was expecting to see his proposal in time for this meeting, but have not received it. I arranged to send Dr. Koenigsberg pictures of possible display space and will try to get a commitment from him within a couple of weeks. Of course, Taylor & Francis may be interested, as well as some medical publishers and information providers.

Call for Session Organizers and Presentations: Text for each attached.

CALL FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association will address the theme: “Sociological Perspectives: Essential Science to Understand Health and Health Disparities.” The Meeting will be held in Baton Rouge, LA, October 13-17, 2010, at the Crown Plaza. We are asking you to consider organizing a thematic session or a session on any topic related to sociological theory, applied or basic research, education, or history of the profession. In addition to paper sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, and posters, this year’s conference will feature “From the Field” sessions to provide opportunities for sociologists and their community partners to showcase these partnerships and the application of sociological theory and methods, as well as student/faculty community engagement. Sessions are also welcome on topics of interest to graduate and undergraduate sociology students, the history of MSSA, or other topics not closely related to the conference theme. We expect this conference to attract medical sociologists, health care researchers and providers, social workers, and other audiences who may collaborate with sociologists in community-based research or program development. Continuing education credits will be available. Think about possibilities for interdisciplinary sessions. Submit your session proposals to rhanks@usouthal.edu by February 28, 2010. If you want to discuss your idea prior to submission, you may call the 2010 Program Chair, Dr. Roma Hanks, at (251) 460-6020.

MSSA Vice-President Report

February 6, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Graduate Paper Competition

1. Advertisement was created to be sent out in the next issue of MSSA Forum. Additionally, the advert will be sent to all Graduate Studies Directors in our region.
 - a. Advert Text

GRADUATE STUDENT "PAPER OF DISTINCTION" AWARD

The Mid-South Sociological Association

The Mid-South Sociological Association invites the submission of student papers for the annual Graduate Student Paper Session and "Paper of Distinction" Award. 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 Editors of Sociological Spectrum.

Rules for the 2010 Award Process

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). The author's name and title of the paper should be included on the title page only. The title of the paper must be repeated at the top of the first page of the text. Additionally:

- ◆ The maximum length of an eligible paper shall be 25 double spaced pages of text, not counting abstract, reference, tables, and figures.
- ◆ Papers may be co-authored with a maximum of three student authors, but no faculty.
- ◆ Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for award consideration.

Papers should be submitted as a Word document by email to Dr. Tim Gongaware at gongawar.timo@uwlax.edu by **June 30, 2010**. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact me at the email address above or by phone at (608)785-6772.

To receive full recognition for participation, submission must meet deadlines and participants must present their papers to the 2010 Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA.

Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty advice prior to submission of papers.

2. As papers are submitted, I will identify at least three judges (or more depending on number of submissions) to serve as judges following the guidelines in the OPM.
3. Connecting with Directors of Graduate Studies.
 - a. I have compiled a list of all colleges and universities in our region who have graduate programs and included the names and contact information for those listed as in charge of graduate education
 - b. I have begun to draft a letter to solicit funds from them to support graduate student attendance at the conference.
 - i. Need some ideas.
 1. Initially thought about supporting a graduate student reception, but how not to interfere with the conference receptions/events which I believe they must be at (or at least not be encouraged to miss)
 2. Would like to find a way to reduce hotel costs, but not create a logistic nightmare.

Respectfully Submitted by Vice President, Dr. Timothy B. Gongaware

MSSA Forum Editor report

February 6, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1. Winter 2010 *Forum* is nearly complete
 - a. Includes letter from President, list of deadlines, calls for competitions, note from *Spectrum*, and list of officers.
 - b. Since it hasn't been sent out yet, if others have something they'd like to include it needs to be to me by Monday, February 8.
 - c. Waiting on details of the call for session organizers for the conference and then will send copy to Jamie to send to members and will send a copy out via the listserve.
2. Call needs to be sent out from the Executive Committee requesting nominations to the committee for a new Forum Editor.
 - a. Their term would begin following the Fall conference.

Respectfully Submitted by *MSSA Forum* Editor, Dr. Timothy B. Gongaware

Tina Hebert Deshotels, Membership Committee Chair
Jacksonville State University

Membership Committee members:

- ❖ **Jackie Eller, Middle Tennessee State University, TN**
State Coverage: TN; KY
- ❖ **Kim Davies, Augusta State University, GA**
State Coverage: GA
- ❖ **Todd Mathews, West Georgia State University, GA**
State Coverage: MS; AR
- ❖ **John Lynxwiler, University of Central Florida, FL**
State Coverage: FL
- ❖ **Dana Greene, North Carolina Central University, NC**
State Coverage: NC; SC
- ❖ **Earl Wright, University of Houston, TX**
State Coverage: TX
- ❖ **Demond Miller, Rowan University, NJ**
Coverage: Small and Community Colleges
- ❖ **Margot H. Hasha, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA**
State Coverage: LA
- ❖ **David LoConto, Jacksonville State University, AL**
State Coverage: AL; OK

The Membership Committee has several plans for action to increase membership and participation in the MSSA this year. We are continuing our work to compile a list of potential members in our respective states. When we receive a call for session organizers we will then send this to our contacts.

We are also interested in doing an assessment survey to ascertain the level of participation, what facilitates participation and blocks to participation. This survey would begin

with emails, and then progress to mailings and phone calls. These strategies will take place in conjunction with the emailing and mailing of calls for papers. We hope to also send a copy of Forum to each member and ask that each department post a copy of the flyer on their bulletin boards and encourage their faculty and students to attend.

I would like to recognize Dr. David LoConto who is working to help with the compilation of potential members as well as administer surveys.

We plan to continue to target current members in our efforts. We recognize our current members as the backbone of the organization. We are sending them flyers and asking that they help encourage participation and attendance.

Our strategy entailed using email lists, address lists, letters, phone calls and personal contacts to further the goal of maintaining and increasing membership.

I wish to extend my personal thanks to those on the Membership Committee for their hard work and time in serving the MSSA. Their contribution to the betterment of the MSSA is most appreciated. I sincerely regret my absence and look forward to seeing each of you at the annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted: February 1, 2010

Tina Deshotels

**Mid-Year Report for Lyman Scholarship
Baton Rouge 2010**

The attached announcement was sent to all PhD program directors in the MSSA member states. The notice to them also included a list of the past three recipients. I will send the announcement again the end of the semester and the first of August.

Jackie Eller



**The Mid South Sociological Association Scholarship
Committee is pleased to announce the**

Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship
(\$1,000.00)

Eligibility requirements:

1. Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interaction, race relations, law, or ethics.
2. Students at any stage beyond the dissertation proposal are eligible to apply.
3. 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:

1. Each applicant is to submit the following:
 - a. Letter of introduction which includes a brief discussion of how the applicant's work reflects Stanford Lyman's tradition within sociology
 - b. Description of dissertation research project, such as a research proposal – approximately 5 pages,
 - c. Letter of support from the applicant's dissertation committee chair which evaluates the dissertation project,
 - d. Timetable for completion of the dissertation and degree, and
 - e. Current vitae.
2. Deadline **September 1, 2010**. 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.
3. Applications may be sent by mail or email (WORD or PDF 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 615-898-2509.

Vice President Elect, Report

February 6, 2010

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1. Undergraduate Student Paper Competition
 - A. Advertisement will be sent out with the next edition of MSSA Forum
 - B. Advertisement will also be emailed to targeted sociology programs in 10 southern states. Names are being gathered by undergraduate students at Jacksonville State University for email.
 - C. Targeted schools include schools in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina.
 - D. I currently have four undergraduate students identifying sociologists at universities and colleges in these 10 states. The goal is to create an

- updated potential membership list for the Membership Committee, and also for Dr. Hanks to access for email solicitation to attend the MSSA in Baton Rouge. They are to have their lists to me on February 4, 2010.
- E. Beginning in early March, the students will begin conducting telephone interviews with sociologists in these 10 states to ascertain reasons why they attend some conferences, while not others.
 - F. Their findings should be reported next Fall in Baton Rouge.
2. Once undergraduate papers begin arriving, I will identify between three and five sociologists to review papers (More if warranted).
- A. A rubric, adapted from the AMSA, which was used last year for the MSSA will continue to be used for the evaluation of the papers.
 - B. If possible, reviewers of the papers will be present in sessions at Baton Rouge to offer feedback to the students in person.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The Mid-South Sociological Association—Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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 2010 MSSA Annual Meeting.

Rules for the 2010 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.

Each of the submissions will be evaluated by a committee of scholars based on (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.). To receive full recognition for participation, submissions must meet deadlines and participants must present their papers at the 2010 meetings in Baton Rouge, LA (October 13-17, 2010).

Papers should be submitted as a Word document by email to Dr. David G. LoConto at dloconto@jsu.edu by **June 30, 2010**. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact me at the email address above or by phone at (256-782-5621).

Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty advice prior to submission of papers.

Report from the Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee has sought nominations by sending out general calls to the list serve and by contacting specific individuals to ask for nominations. Although we did get nominations for the major offices (president and vice president), nominations for committee chairs have been much slower and fewer in number. Moreover, nominations so far have resulted most often either in failures to respond by the nominees or in an unwillingness to stand for office. The problem has been exacerbated by the fact that some members have been repeatedly nominated for an office, and have declined to run.

We currently have at least one candidate who has agreed to run for each of the offices. I would prefer to submit the names of the current candidates informally to the Winter Meeting at this point because we are still attempting to complete a full ballot. I hope to have this task done by the end of the current month (February). That will still leave us plenty of time to hold an election. In the meantime, I want to discuss the continuing challenge of nominations at the Winter Meeting and ask for recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted.



Carl L. Bankston III
Chair, Nominations Committee

**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
Mid-winter Executive Council Meeting
February 2010
Baton Rouge, LA
Rhonda Evans, Chair of Committee on Women**

2007 Women's Luncheon:

The 2007 Women's Luncheon was widely attended, with approximately 25 people present. Considering the low overall attendance at this years conference, this was a fairly good turn out.

Our agenda included the following:

(1) Discussion of the level and type of participation of women in the 2009 MSSA conference and patterns of participation of women in leadership positions within the organization across the past six years.

(2) Discussion of the basic requirements and duties for each of the open positions on the Executive Council for the upcoming election.

(3) Selection of a slate of nominees to be support by the Women's Caucus in the 2008 MSSA election. This list of nominees was given to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Carl Bankston III. The slate of nominees proposed and supported by the Committee on Women and Women's Caucus is as follows:

President Elect:	Earl Wright
Vice President Elect:	Ruth Chananine-Hill
Chair of the Committee on Women:	JoAnne DeRouen
Chair of the Committee on Small and Community Colleges:	Claudia Hall-Elston
Chair of the Committee on Professions:	Lorraine Evans

(4) Discussion of types of sessions are currently being held on womens' and gender issues and a request for suggestions of additional panels, paper session, or workshops that should be included in the program. No suggestions were made. I will follow up on this through email.

(5) Jackie Elder and Kim Davies discussed proposing a special edited volume for Sociological Spectrum on Gender/Women's Issues and asked for suggestions from the group. Some of the topics that were proposed were women and health issues, women in public policy. There was a brief discussion regarding how specific or general the proposal should be. They noted that they appreciated and would consider the suggestions of the group.

2007- 2008 Committee on Women

Rhonda D. Evans – Louisiana
Carol Thompson – Texas
Kim Davies – Georgia
Jackie Eller – Tennessee
Nicole Flynn – Alabama
Ana-Marie Wahl – North Carolina
Monica Varner – Oklahoma
Amy Miller – Mississippi
Shanta Sharma- Arkansas
Andrea Hunt – North Caroline

Meggan Jordan – Florida
Ruth Chananie – Illinois

If you have any issues that you want to bring to the attention of the Committee on Women. Please contact the Chair or your state representative.

Efforts to Promote Participation in the MSSA:

Winter Report to the MSSA Executive Council – February 4, 2010
Presented by John Lynxwiler, Editor *Sociological Spectrum*

Notes from the October 2009 MSSA editorial board meeting in Lafayette, LA:

Lauren Rowland is the new Managing Editor for *Sociological Spectrum*. She now serves as the contact person for manuscript submissions. Lauren is working on her M.A. in Sociology at UCF.

At the October 2009 *Sociological Spectrum* Editorial Board Meeting, the board was adjusted as follows:

Amy Burdette, *Mississippi State University* - 2012
Demond Miller, *Rowan University* -2011
James Raymondo, *Tennessee Tech University* - 2010
Jason Ford, *University of Central Florida* - 2011
J. David Knottnerus, *Oklahoma State University*- 2010
Jennifer Lerner, *Northern Virginia Community College* - 2011
Jeremy Porter, *Rice University* - 2011
Jim Quinn, *University of North Texas* - 2010
Kenneth Tunnell, *Eastern Kentucky University* – 2012
Kim Davies, *Augusta State University* - 2012
Melanie Sberna Hinojosa, *University of Florida* - 2012
Nicole Carr, *University of South Alabama* - 2011
Todd Matthews, *West Georgia University* - 2012
Rhonda Evans, *University of Louisiana at Lafayette* - 2010
Susan Dumais, *Louisiana State University* - 2012
Song Yang, *University of Arkansas* - 2010

Also, at the October 2009 MSSA meetings, the *Sociological Spectrum* article of the year was awarded to Erin Robinson for her article “*Competing Frames of Environmental Contamination: Influences on Grassroots Community Mobilization*” (*Sociological Spectrum* Volume 29, Number 1:3-27).

Finally, at the October 2009 MSSA meetings, we met with the Taylor & Francis representative, Pia Aliperti, who presented the 2009 T&F Publisher’s Report to the editorial board. The report was positive and our publishers are pleased with the current status of the journal. A couple of

points worth noting are as follows: 1) the subscription rate is 91.7% comparing the ten month rates for 2008 and 2009; 2) the JCR's five year impact factor for Spectrum is .514, which locates our ranking at 70th among the 100 Sociology journals selected by Thomson Reuters for their annual Journal Citation Report; 3) in 2010 Routledge will complete a full brochure for Spectrum in the first quarter that will be mailed to 4,000+ names; and, 4) Taylor & Francis will once again support marketing materials for the journal at 15 social science conferences in the U.S. and Europe.

Notes on Sociological Spectrum for the 2009 Production Year:

During the 2009 calendar year, the Editorial Offices of Sociological Spectrum processed 75 manuscripts with the following outcomes:

- 10 accepted for publication
- 19 outstanding revise & resubmit
- 31 rejections
- 15 currently under review

As a comparison, during the 2008 calendar year, the Editorial Offices of Sociological Spectrum processed 51 manuscripts with the following outcomes:

- 12 accepted for publication
- 9 outstanding revise & resubmit
- 21 rejections
- 9 currently under review

(Note: The guest editors of Special Issue 28-5 & 29-2 processed 44 additional manuscripts for a 2008 grand total that approached 95 submissions during the 2008-09 calendar year.)

Excluding the special issue manuscript, the submission rate for the journal in 2009 was up quite a bit (75 vs. 51) while the acceptance rate (13% vs. 23%) was down. Hence, when 2008 is compared to 2009, Spectrum appears to be more popular as well as more selective, and both of these points are viewed as positive by Taylor & Francis.

Volume 29 page summary:

Volume 29 met all of the publication deadlines set by the publishers. Issue 29-2 was the special issue on *Race and Ethnicity in 21st Century American Religion* co-edited by Darren Sherkat and Christopher Ellison.

As per contract with Taylor and Francis, Spectrum Volume 29 was allotted 780 manuscript pages for the year. The breakdown of journal pages used for Volume 29 was as follows:

- 29-01: 135 pages
- 29-02: 182 pages
- 29-03: 121 pages
- 29-04: 107 pages
- 29-05: 110 pages
- 29-06: 99 pages

The actual number of journal pages used was 754.

Notes on Sociological Spectrum for the 2010 Production Year:

Issues 30-1 and 30-2 have been completed. The page usage for Issues 30-1 and 30-2 totals about 256 pages, which is at the expected average of 260 pages for two issues. Manuscript processing for Issue 30-3 and 30-4 is on schedule.

The line-up for issue 29-3 is as follows:

Leveraging the Power of the Ethnic Enclave: Residential Instability and Violence in Latino Communities

Edward S. Shihadeh, Louisiana State University

Raymond E. Barranco, Louisiana State University

Fatalistic Voluntarism and Life Happiness in Post-Socialist China

Eric Y. Liu, Baylor University

F. Carson Mencken, Baylor University

Viewing Trade Liberalization through a Feminist Lens: A Content Analysis of the Counter-Hegemonic Discourse of Gender and Trade Advocacy Groups

Julie Steinkopf Rice, New Mexico State University

Ethnic Shopkeepers in U.S. Cities in the Late Nineteenth Century

Robert L. Boyd, Mississippi State University

Prosperity, Immigration, and Neighborhood Change in Silicon Valley: 1990-2000

Vern Baxter, University of New Orleans

The line-up for issue 29-4 is as follows:

Risk Society, Media and Power: The Case of Nanotechnology

Scott T. Fitzgerald, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Beth A. Rubin, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Litigation and Subterfuge: Chinese Immigrant Mobilization during the Chinese Exclusion Era

Alexander Lu, Indiana University

Sunday Celluloid: Visual Media and Protestant Boundaries With Secular Culture

Scott Draper, Baylor University

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It's Not Just a Joke

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Executive Committee
Report of the Hotel Negotiator
Baton Rouge, LA
Feb. 6, 2010

To the Members of the Executive Committee:

This has been a trying year for the Association. Specifically, as you can see from the data in Table 1, our room nights at the annual meetings have declined significantly for the past several years resulting in the Association having to pay penalties for rooms not picked up. For example, at last year's meeting in Lafayette, we owed over \$10,000 for not meeting sleeping room nights. We were able to negotiate with the hotel to split this cost with the condition that the Annual Meetings return to Lafayette in 2015 and 2017. I informed the manager of the hotel that I would have to bring the 2017 meeting before the board, but promised them 2015. As a result, they split the attrition price with the organization. I, along with Jamie and Patram, have been trying to reduce the number of room nights for future meetings. If we reduce room nights, the hotels are requiring that either we pay for meeting space or reduce the number of meeting rooms. It appears that the days of free meeting spaces are over, unless we increase the attendance at the annual meeting.

As you can see in Table 2, we are scheduled to meet in Little Rock, AK in 2011. We are worried that many members will opt not to make this trip due to its location, which places it away from the bulk of our membership. We have talked to the hotel about moving the meeting; however, they will not let us out of this contract without paying a substantial amount of money. Therefore, it is imperative that each of us work hard in recruiting colleagues and students to attend the 2011 meetings.

Again, as you can see from the figures in Table 2, we have been somewhat successful in keeping the prices within a reasonable range. We are negotiating with the hotel in Lafayette to reduce meeting room nights and prices for 2015. Hopefully, by the end of this meeting I will have heard about the new contract terms for 2015. I am proposing to the Executive Committee that we make no more hotel contracts at this point. As you can see, we are committed for five years out, leaving us plenty of leeway and time to plan future meetings.

Table 1: Room Night Pickups 1999-2009

1999-Jackson, MS - room nights -247
2000-Knoxville, TN-room nights -275
2001-Mobile, AL - room nights-273
2002-Memphis, TN - room nights-435
2003-Baton Rouge, LA - 335
2004-Biloxi, MS-room nights-460
2005-Atlanta, GA-room nights-347

2006-Lafayette, LA-room nights-390
2007-Mobile, AL - room nights-340
2008-Huntsville, AL-room nights-216
2009-Lafayette, LA-room nights-189

Table 2: Meeting Venues and Prices for 2010- 2015

2010- Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA - 10/13-10/16 - \$101.00 – 375 room nights
2011 - Double Tree, Little Rock, AK - 10/26-10/29 - \$118.00 – 389 room nights
2012 - Renaissance Riverview, Mobile, AL - 11/6-11/10 - \$135.00 – 340 room nights
2013 - Holiday Inn, Atlanta, GA - 10/23-10/26 - \$129.00 - 285 room nights
2014 - Renaissance Riverview, Mobile, AL - 11/5-11/8 - \$145.00 – 340 room nights
2015 - We haven't received a copy back from DeeDee in Lafayette.

Respectfully Submitted,
Obie Clayton

