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# Forum

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The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association

Spring 2003

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## Letter From the President

Dear Colleagues,

I am extremely happy to say hello as your MSSA president. This is a very important year for us as we strive to attract more persons to join the organization and attend our annual conference. Your active support and participation in past years, and certainly at this last year's conference, has contributed to the appeal and stature of our association. I would like to urge all of you this year to build upon our past efforts to make the MSSA the best regional sociological association that it can possibly be.

The MSSA is committed to the principle of inclusion. As our past president, Obie Clayton, Jr. noted in last year's "From the President" greeting we are an organization with members from community colleges and large research universities, historically black colleges, and private liberal arts schools. This is a major reason why we should be proud of our history. Please communicate these points to your colleagues and fellow students and strongly encourage them to join our organization.

This year's annual meetings will be held in Baton Rouge, LA at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center (November 5-8, 2003). Jackie Eller, President-Elect and Program Chair, is organizing, what I am sure will be, a highly relevant and exciting conference. The theme of these meetings is "Communicating Identity and Selves in Global Arenas." The meetings will include paper sessions, panel sessions, roundtables, a plenary address by Laurel Richardson,

receptions, a banquet, and the most recent addition to our annual meetings, a (student) poster session. I urge you, not only to attend, but also to serve as both a session organizer and session participant. As always, information about the conference is made available through mailings and the MSSA website.

I want to remind everyone that for the MSSA to succeed we must support our association. This means that all those participating in the meetings must be dues-paying members of the MSSA, pre-register for the annual meeting, and ideally stay at the conference site hotel, the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center. Only through the active support of all our members can we continue to be the vibrant and highly supportive professional organization that we have been for the past twenty-nine years.

In closing, I want to acknowledge just a few of the many people in our association for their dedicated work. Special thanks should be given to Sahadeo Patram for his efforts as our Secretary-Treasurer. His commitment and untiring efforts have been crucial to the running of our organization. Furthermore, I would like to thank J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr. for his quite successful work arranging future meeting sites. It should also be recognized that Anita Sharma has replaced DeAnn Gauthier as editor of *Forum*. I would like to thank DeAnn for her excellent work as editor and wish Anita the best in her new role. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you who have been involved in our association during the last year – to members of the Executive Council

and to everyone attending and participating in our annual meetings.

**David Knottnerus**  
**President, MSSA**



**Report from the Secretary-Treasurer**

I am pleased to report that our Annual Meetings in Memphis, Tennessee, October 16 - 19, 2003 were very successful. Membership registration (Active Members 170 & Student Members 68) was the highest since 1999. Hotel room nights pick-up (446) exceeded our predictions by 62 percent. Attendance at the banquet (163) was the highest since the founding of MSSA in 1975. Our success resulted from member participation and generous financial assistance from the Department of Sociology, Oklahoma State University, Morehouse Research Institute, Morehouse College, Taylor & Francis, Ltd., and some past presidents of the MSSA.

The Association is in good financial state. Current assets as at January 13, 2003 is \$35,734.29. This amount is held in four accounts:

Capitol City Bank – Certificate of Deposits	\$20,700.90
Capitol City Bank – Operating Fund	\$8,762.92
Capitol City Bank – Reserve Fund	\$4835.47
Spectrum – LA Petty Cash	\$1,435.00

Current assets in 2003 are 26.2 percent higher than in January 2002.

Income generation in 2002 was very good. Total income in 2002 was \$31,315.96 compared with \$26,645.32 in 2001. Total Expenses (\$23,616.00) matched closely estimated projections (\$23,750.00) for the year. Overall, we were able to pay all expenses from current earnings. The Income and Expenditure statement shows a net income of \$7,670.03. This figure includes membership dues for 2003 which were prepaid in 2002.

Membership in MSSA for 2003 is 235. Currently we have 169 Active members, 62 Student members, and 4 Joint members. The current membership level is slightly higher than it was last year, but is still below the 322 in 1999.

Registration at last year’s Annual meeting showed much improvement. Only 29 persons listed on the program did not register. The previous year’s figure was 89.

Our Annual Meetings will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA., November 5 - 8, 2003. I again appeal to members to pre-register for the event. Membership Renewal 2004 & Meeting Registration form will be mailed later.

**Sahadeo Patram**  
**Secretary-Treasurer**

**Write to Forum**

Forum invites news, announcements, reports, etc for the next issue (deadline **August 15, 2003**). Please write to the editor, Dr. Anita Sharma, at [asharma@ulm.edu](mailto:asharma@ulm.edu)

### **A Letter From the President Elect**

Papers and Panel/Roundtable Participation are invited for the Mid-South Sociological Association meetings to be held in Baton Rouge, LA, November 5-8, 2003. The theme of these meetings is "Communicating Identity and Selves in Global Arenas." Laurel Richardson, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Visiting Professor in the Cultural Studies Program at Ohio State University has agreed to serve as our plenary speaker.

If you wish to read a paper and/or participate in a panel or roundtable, please contact the appropriate session organizer directly. If you wish to read a paper on a topic that does not fit into one of these session themes, or if you wish to organize a paper, panel, or roundtable session please contact me.

**NOTE TO THOSE WISHING TO READ PAPERS:** If you wish to read a paper in one of the paper sessions listed, please send to the appropriate session organizer: (1) the title; (2) an abstract of 250-300 words; (3) names of all authors; and (4) institutional affiliations, addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers, for all authors. Your deadline for submitting titles and abstracts to session organizers is **June 15**. The deadline for paper session organizers to submit their completed session reports to me is July 15. (Note that this is an extended deadline from my first call for session organizers.)

**NOTE TO THOSE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN PANEL OR ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS:** If you wish to participate in a panel or roundtable session please send to the appropriate

session organizer: (1) your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number; and (2) a brief statement detailing the contribution that you could make as a panel/roundtable member. Your deadline for contacting the panel/roundtable session organizer is **June 15**. The deadline for panel/roundtable session organizers to submit their completed session reports to me is July 15.

The MSSA meeting, membership, and hotel registration forms will be mailed to you in the next call for papers. Forms and calls, specifically for the Graduate Student Paper of Distinction and the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition, will also be posted on the MSSA website <http://www.uakron.edu/hefe/mssapage.html>

Please remember: MSSA rules specify that all meeting participants must be dues-paying members of the MSSA and must pre-register for the annual meetings. I look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge.

**Jackie Eller**  
**Professor of Sociology and**  
**MSSA President Elect**



#### **Websites to remember:**

##### **Home page:**

<http://www.uakron.edu/hefe/mssapage.html>

##### **Spectrum:**

<http://www.louisiana.edu/Academic/LiberalArts/SoAn/Spectrum/index.html>

##### **Forum:**

<http://www.uakron.edu/hefe/mssapage.html>

### Report from the Committee on Women

The committee on women is discussing sponsoring and/or co-sponsoring sessions at the November meetings as a committee. We also continue to work to support and monitor women's participation at the meetings as well as representation on the Spectrum board and in the MSSA publications. We will submit a full report at the November meeting on these issues and any new business.

**Kim Davies**  
Chair, Committee on Women



### Report from the Editor of Sociological Spectrum

The 2002 Spectrum Best Paper Award Winner was Andrew Austin (University of Wisconsin) for his paper, "Advancing Accumulation and Managing Its Discontents: The U.S. Anti-Environmental Countergovernment" (Vol. 22:1).

Special thanks to the seven board members who completed their terms of office in December 2002: Donna Crossman, Donna Darden, Marianne Fisher-Giorlando, Michael Hughes, Willie Pearson, Dennis Peck, and Charles U. Smith.

Incoming board members (term: 2003-2005) include: Nicole Flynn, Larry Lance, Harsha Mookherjee, Anita Sharma, Rebecca Watson, and Jennifer Wesely. Welcome aboard!

Upcoming in 2004, issue 2, will be a special article commissioned by the Executive Council and edited by Abbot Ferris (with the assistance of Duane Gill and DeAnn

Gauthier). Dr. Ferris will provide an edited compilation of memories solicited from individuals who were key to the development of the journal. This article is published as a celebration of the year 2004, the journal's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Council also voted to commission Marc Matre to compile and author/edit a special publication to commemorate the history of the MSSA, to be published and available to members in time for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association.

**DeAnn Gauthier**  
Editor, Sociological Spectrum



### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

MSSA 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 all papers selected will be presented with certificates of merit after presentations of papers at the 2003 MSSA Annual Meeting.

Four copies of each paper must be received by **July 31, 2003**. Send papers by "First Class" mail to: Dr. Carl L. Bankston III, Department of Sociology, 220 Newcomb Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, La. 70118. You may contact Dr. Bankston by phone at 504-862-3024 or by e-mail at **bankst@tulane.edu** for the rules of the competition and any questions regarding the competition. You may also visit the MSSA web site at

<http://www.uakron.edu/hefe/mssapage.html>

### Report from the Nomination Committee

The membership provided a good number of nominees this year (38). As of now we have, at least, two accepted nominations for each position. The breakdown currently is:

President	3 candidates
Vice President	3 candidates
Nominations Chair	2 candidates
Membership Chair	2 candidates
Minorities Chair	3 candidates

I am working to have all candidate information in to me by February 28. Candidate information and ballots will be sent to the Nomination Committee members by March 15 at the latest and will be due back to me by March 28. Based on the votes of the committee I will put together the final ballot and work with Pat to have it sent to the membership by the end of April so that they can look it over and vote before the end of their spring terms.

**Timothy B. Gongaware**  
Chair, Nomination Committee



### CALL FOR PAPERS:

**SPECIAL ISSUE** Volume 25(2)

Original manuscripts are invited for a Special Issue of *Sociological Spectrum* titled "A Sociological View of Sport, Leisure, and Recreation" due to be published in 2005. The deadline for submitting manuscripts is **December 15, 2003**

Please send all manuscripts to:  
Craig J. Forsyth  
Department of Criminal Justice  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
P.O. Box 41652  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70504

### Report from the Committee on Minorities

The committee met in October 2002 at the Annual MSSA meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee. The majority of the committee members voted to publish a minority caucus newsletter, twice a year, independent of the official MSSA newsletter, Forum. A total of \$140.00 was collected at the meeting to fund the newsletter. It was proposed and accepted that the collected funds be deposited with the treasure of the Association, Dr. Sahadeo Patram.

It was agreed that the newsletter will be mailed to all MSSA members. Dr. Thomas Calhoun volunteered to edit and mail the newsletter to other associations' minority members also to recruit and renew old memberships to the organization.

A sub-committee for the Editorial Board was selected. Members are as follows:

Dr. Thomas Calhoun- **Editor**  
Dr. Charles U. Smith  
Dr. Ollie Christian  
Dr. Shirley A Rainey  
Dr. Nnamdi Anosike  
Dr. Francis Adeola

**Anita Sharma**  
Chair, Committee on Minorities



### 2003 MSSA Annual Meeting November 5-8, 2003 Baton Rouge, Louisiana

This year's annual meeting will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Radisson Hotel, located at 4728 Constitution Avenue. To make reservations, call (225)925-2244 before October 6, 2003 to get the conference rate of \$89.00 plus tax.

**Please pre-register**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers:

As you may have noticed, Forum has a new editor. When I was selected for the job, I was excited yet intimidated. I was well aware of the hard work that my predecessor had put into publishing this newsletter. The outstanding work of DeAnn would be difficult to follow but I do promise to carry on the editorial baton to the finish line as best as I can!

I would like to invite information, comments, and announcements from all readers to include in this newsletter. Let Forum become the primary channel of communication for MSSA. We are hoping to begin an online edition of Forum in the near future that would allow easy, ready, and cheap accessibility to the newsletter.

Hoping to hear from you,

**Anita Sharma, Ph.D., LCSW**  
**Editor, Forum**

[asharma@ulm.edu](mailto:asharma@ulm.edu)

318-342-1409 (phone)

318-342-3239 (fax)

Deadline to submit information for the next issue is August 31, 2003.

### Websites to remember:

**Home page:**

<http://www.uakron.edu/hefe/mssapage.html>

**Spectrum:**

<http://www.louisiana.edu/Academic/LiberalArts/SoAn/Spectrum/index.html>

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## FORUM NEWS

*Forum* invites position announcements from schools and organizations. A charge of \$75 per issue per ad will apply, with the absolute maximum of 250 allowed per advertisement.



*Forum* congratulates Carl L. Bankston and Stephen J. Caldas who received this year's Louisiana Library Association Literary Award for their book "A Troubled Dream: The Promise and Failure of School Desegregation in Louisiana."

CONGRATULATIONS!!



*Forum* sends condolences to the family and friends of Stanford Morris Lyman who died late Saturday night, March 8, 2003. He was the Eminent Scholar and Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, having previously served on the faculties at The New School for Social Research, UCSD, University of Nevada, Reno, Sonoma State, and UC Berkeley. He published 16 books and over 150 articles, and was the 1984 winner of the SSSI George Herbert Mead Award for Lifetime Achievement in the tradition of symbolic interaction. His most recent book *Roads to Dystopia* (University of Arkansas 2001) was one of five published in the last decade by Arkansas.

He will be missed by all who knew him.



I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it in the right way, did not become still more complicated-

Paul Anderson