



**SPRING 2016 ISSUE**

**FORUM:**  
**The Voice of**  
**The Mid-South**  
**Sociological Association**





# FORUM: The Voice of The Mid-South Sociological

## Introduction

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The purpose of Forum is to disseminate information, motivate participation, promote unity, and supplement records. This issue has information about the upcoming meeting in North Charleston, SC (October 12-15, 2016). Please print, post, scan and forward pages 12-17 in particular (call for papers, awards and submissions).

In the spirit of community building, I am currently seeking members willing to serve on an editorial board for Forum: Voice of the MidSouth. The board members would help not only disseminate important information and spread sociological insights but gain valuable opportunities for skill building. Please see the call for editorial board (page 16) and Forum Editors Report (page 35). For more information about this opportunity.

The next edition of Forum will feature interviews with members, and plenary speakers, highlights from meetings in Lafayette, and much more information about North Charleston!

Special thanks to Dr. Dana Greene for her hard work in helping to edit this edition!! **Please print, post and share and as always, send any and all submissions and suggestions to: Forum Editor Tina Deshotels**

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



**MSSA Forum:**  
**The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association**  
**Spring 2016**

**From the Desk of the President**

**42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association**



**Dr. Demond Miller**

**On Sociological Relevance and the MSSA**

From the inception of the Mid-South Sociological Association in 1975, MSSA has remained dedicated to the highest level of excellence in teaching, service and scholarship. We continue to demonstrate these values in our commitment to our peers, students, and fellow scholars in and beyond our region. As an organization, we work closely with our regional, national, and international counterparts in other sociological scholarly societies to the general public with a better understanding of relevant social issues of our time. Over the years, our experiences have enabled us to learn and grow via on-going organizational reflection and necessary adjustments. We have learned to measure our value based on our ability to remain relevant in the scholarly and professional communities. The MSSA remain viable and relevant in two ways:

The MSSA serves as an outlet to help students and professionals hone essential skills and protocols such as writing, critical thinking, and effective communication critical for advancement of the discipline. The MSSA, through its publications and presentation venues, cultivates a deep knowledge of the sociological tradition needed to understand life in a rapidly changing world. This deep knowledge informs other disciplines of the social impact of their research and work.

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**42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association**

The MSSA continues this tradition of excellence and grow as an organization. To this end, the executive council has implemented a strategic planning exercise to help advance the MSSA into the future. We seek to frame and focus our intentions with the four broad key MSSA imperatives:

- Enhance the MSSA student experience
- Enrich our academic communities and beyond (via scholarship and teaching)
- Increase opportunities for research and service collaborations
- Build and strengthen our membership base

Together with Dr. Shirley Rainey-Brown, the executive council is pleased to work together to promote a “warm” and “inviting” scholarly environment conducive to promoting scholarly synergies, creative thinking, and cross-campus collaborations. Dr. Rainey-Brown’s enthusiasm and drive will help the MSSA’s 2016 Annual Meeting in North Charleston, South Carolina be one of our best. The annual meeting is one of the ways we strive to connect members beyond the work of standing committees, scholarly publishing in *Sociological Spectrum* and the MSSA’s two Research Networks (Disasters and Gender and Sexualities) . Additionally, students have many opportunities to expand their learning beyond the classroom at the annual meeting. What at the meeting, students can learn about graduate opportunities, internships and present scholarly work. These avenues for engagement help expand and deepen their appreciation of the sociological imagination.

In essence, our commitment remains loyal to our motto: Promoting Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service. It is about promoting the best for not only our members, but also for the communities of which we are a part. Plan to attend the 2016 MSSA in North Charleston....it will be an exciting event!

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

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



## The Mid-South's Impact Beyond Our Region: i-Witness to Sociology

### On the Borders of Europe and Humanity

Dr. Demond Miller



While on the Island of Lesbos, I witnessed a human-induced disaster, the mass exodus of refugees, from the Syrian Civil War who had come ashore in Greece. The large number of refugees and migrants sparked a humanitarian crisis, unseen since the Second World War. In Just the first three months of 2015, over 600,000 people entered Europe, averaging approximately 10,000 people a day (Vick, 2016). Many of them embarked from Turkey in small boats, frail rubber rafts or flotillas in an attempt to reach the Greek islands, namely Lesbos, Kos and Chios. Bound together by a fear of persecution, both or former and impending, some asylum seekers attempt to swim ap-

proximately five miles on the open Aegean Sea with nothing more than inflatable tire tubing. Men, women, and children risk their lives daily for a perceived better life away from the bloodshed of their homeland. Traveling many miles to get from the reach of the Syrian Civil War, these migrants enter the unknown. Sometimes, the journey comes at a fatal cost. Upon reaching Greece, the ordeal continues as many seek the necessary documents needed to permit travel to reach their desired destinations in Northern and Western Europe. After all of the harsh conditions the refugees encounter by sea to reach the Greek islands, they must now begin the next leg of their journey by boat to Athens and then to the Macedonia border. At the Macedonia border, the humanitarian crisis comes to a halt as Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia have closed their borders leaving hundreds of thousands stranded in Greece. For tens, if not hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees trapped in Greece, time is spent in refugee camps and in makeshift tent cities built along the shores of the sea they crossed. The tragic struggle to reach the European Union is fraught with uncertainty about the future, frailty of social position and existential insecurity (see Bauman 2007).





## The Mid-South's Impact Beyond Our Region: i-Witness to Sociology

### On the Borders of Europe and Humanity

Dr. Demond Miller

Vick, K. (2015, October 19). The Great Migration: Rarely in modern history have so many been so desperate to flee. Now their brave, and tragic, journey are reshaping Europe and the world. Time.

Bauman, Z. (2007). Liquid times: Living in an age of uncertainty. Cambridge: Polity.

Picture Captions: Tent city emerges on the Island of Lesbos, Greece under the Greek Statue of Liberty

Photo by: DeMond Miller

Three young men take selfie photos to mark their inner tube journey across the Aegean Sea from Turkey to the Island of Lesbos

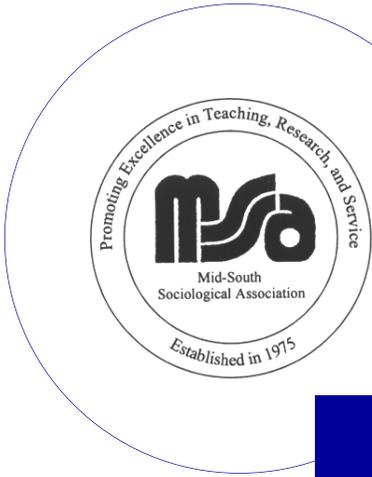
Photo by: DeMond Miller

*i-Witness to Sociology is a section of The MSSA Forum. Members are encouraged to submit articles of approximately 500 words that reflect on the current topic relevant to sociology.*

~DeMond Miller is professor of Sociology and director of the Liberal Arts & Sciences Institute for Research and Community Service; he leads the Program in Disasters, Crisis and Emergency Management. His current research focuses on disaster recovery and projects ranging from disaster response and security to the ongoing humanitarian refugee crisis in Europe with colleagues in Greece.

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



## MSSA Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association Spring 2016

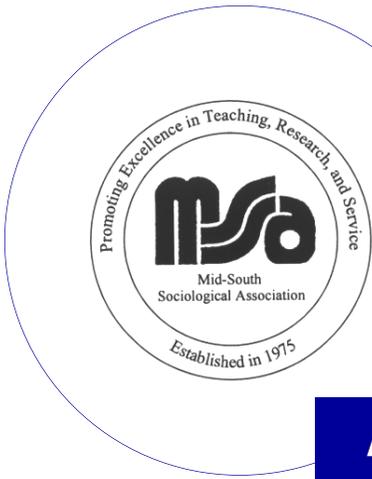
### About our President

#### 42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association

DeMond S. Miller (PhD-Mississippi State University) is a Professor of Sociology, Director of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Institute for Research and Community Service and he directs the B.A. program in Disasters, Crisis and Emergency Management at Rowan University (Glassboro, New Jersey). He first attended the Mid-South Sociological Society in 1993 as an undergraduate student at Northeast Louisiana University (the University of Louisiana at Monroe); he continued to attend and engage in the meetings throughout graduate school. Since beginning his tenure at Rowan University, he has worked as principal investigator to facilitate federally-funded projects involving natural and technological disasters, environmental issues, and community development/community satisfaction initiatives in Camden, New Jersey. His primary area of specialization is environmental sociology (disaster studies), community development/community organizing, community-based research and social impact assessment. Examples of his scholarly articles can be found in the *Journal of Critical Incident Analysis*, *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, *International Journal of Emergency Services*, *Sociological Spectrum*, *Journal of Applied Security Research: Prevention and Response in Asset Protection, Terrorism and Violence*. Dr. Miller is the co-author of Hurricane Katrina and the Redefinition of Landscape with J. Rivera (the 2008 recipient of *The Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award*), co-editor with Rivera of How Ethnically Marginalized Americans Cope with Catastrophic Disaster: Studies in Suffering and Resiliency, Community Disaster Recovery and Resiliency: Exploring Global Opportunities and Challenges and African American and Community Engagement in Higher Education: Community Service, Service Learning and Community-Based Research with S. Evans, C. Taylor, and M. Dunlap. He is currently working on a series of projects related to disaster recovery, disasters/emergency response and security, disasters and social policy frameworks, and the ongoing humanitarian refugee crisis in Europe with colleagues in Greece. As an applied sociologist, he works with local community development initiatives and non-profit organizations. Dr. Miller has worked to build coalitions among communities and academic institutions and he received the Distinguished Leadership in Service and Community Volunteerism Award from Rowan University. Dr. Miller is a founding board member of the Camden Academy Charter High School (Camden, New Jersey) and is one of the Board of Trustees' Past Presidents. Additionally, he holds professional credentials in Clinical Substance Abuse Counseling.

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## MSSA Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association Spring 2016

### A Message and Call from our President-Elect

Dr. Shirley Rainey-Brown

**Get Ready ! Get Ready! Get Ready!** It is time for us to begin getting ready to participate in the 2016, 42<sup>nd</sup> MSSA Annual Conference in North Charleston, October 12 -15<sup>th</sup>. Our theme for the upcoming conference is, " *Transforming the Sociological Landscape: The Quest for Reconstruction and a Paradigmatic Shift.*" I am pleased to announce that we have 64 sessions proposed for the upcoming 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual MSSA conference. A list of sessions and organizer details can be found here: <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/mssa/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Session-Organizers-List-MSSA-2016.pdf> The proposed sessions are great and cover a diversity of topics many of which I hope will be of interest to you. I do urge you to take a look at the list of sessions and select the one(s) you would like to present a paper in and to contact the organizer(s) of the session. **The session organizers will need the following information: (1) the title of your presentation (2) your full name (3) your email address and (4) your school affiliation.**

**The deadline for submitting your presentation information to the session organizers is FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016.**

I know you can meet this deadline so I am asking you to please don't let me down. I am asking all session organizers to also recruit participants for your session(s). Additionally, I am asking that only 3-4 scholars present in each paper session. This will allow individuals to have adequate time to present their research. If there are more than the 4 individuals, we will add another session to accommodate them.

I encourage you to please help make this a great conference by selecting a session to participate in and coming to the meeting. You can find registration and membership information on our webpage at [www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org) However, if you have a session that you would like to organize, I am still allowing you to do that but hurry because time is running out. Please contact me if this is the case at [sbrown@fisk.edu](mailto:sbrown@fisk.edu) I did send some topics in the 3<sup>rd</sup> call for session organizers if you would like to organize one of them, please let me know. Again thank you and I am looking forward to seeing you in North Charleston, South Carolina.

I can't say it enough but thank you for all you do for MSSA. Shirley Rainey-Brown, Ph.D., MSSA President-Elect & Program Chair

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



***Transforming the Sociological Landscape: The Quest for Reconstruction and a Paradigmatic Shift.***  
**October 12-15, 2016 North Charleston, SC**

**Online Registration!**

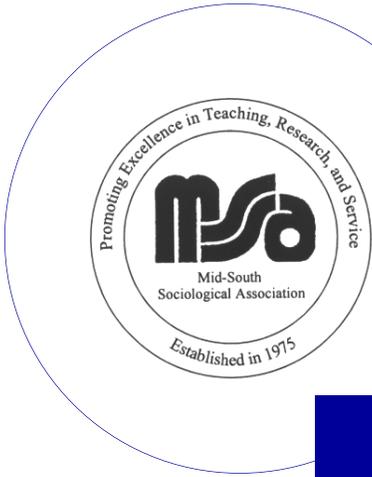
<b>IMPORTANT DEADLINES</b>	
<b>ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS</b>	May 20
<b>UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION</b>	July 30
<b>GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER OF DISTINCTION STANFORD LYMAN</b>	Sept 1
<b>STANFORD LYMAN SCHOLARSHIP</b>	July 31
<b>STANFORD LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD</b>	June 1

It is time to get excited for the 2016 MSSA meetings in North Charleston, South Carolina coming up October 12-15, 2016! I wanted to let you know that online registration (accepting credit/debit cards) is now available. It's never too early to register! The deadline for conference registration and hotel reservations is September 24, 2016

If you would like to use this option, go to : <https://www.meetingsavvy.org/mssa/> Members who prefer to pay with check or money order, please use the attached mail-in form.

For more detailed information about the conference, visit our page here: <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/> If you have questions regarding registration/membership, email me at [rchill@uni.edu](mailto:rchill@uni.edu) OR [mssa.sec.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mssa.sec.treasurer@gmail.com)

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at: [www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)



## MSSA Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association Spring 2016

### MSSA: Lifetime Memberships

#### 42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association

The Mid-South Sociological Association is pleased to introduce its “Life Membership” program. The Life Membership program is an extension of our continued efforts to further strengthen the financial health of MSSA by establishing and supporting a fund that provides fiscal organizational stability. Life Membership monies will be housed in an account separate from existing funds and invested in such a manner as only interest monies will be drawn from the account to support MSSA activities; except for financial exigency. Ultimately, becoming a Life Member is a means for you to demonstrate your appreciation of, commitment to and cement your legacy in MSSA while receiving numerous benefits.

#### Life Member Category

The life member is a member who has paid for a life membership in full or through the installment plan. All individuals granted Life Membership are guaranteed the full benefits thereof during their lifetime.

Life Memberships are not transferable to any other person(s). The sole proprietor(s) of a life membership does not have authorization to grant ownership of his/her said life membership to any other person (s). The Mid-South Sociological Association reserves the right to deny all requests to transfer ownership of any membership category

#### Tax Deductible Contribution

The life membership dues are 100% tax deductible. The Mid-South Sociological Association reserves the right to provide a receipt to the life member for the tax deductible contribution.

#### Installment Plan Policy

The life member agrees to complete payment of their membership category within two years from the month of their initial payment. The Mid-South Sociological Association does not recognize one’s life membership status until all payments for the category being achieved is received. If payments discontinue prior to full payment and collection efforts fail, the life membership will be placed in a delinquent status and no benefits will be provided until full payment for the membership category is received.

Refunds The Mid-South Sociological Association reserves the right to deny a refund for any membership category, including one’s discontinuance of payment of a membership category currently in progress.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

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



**MSSA Forum:  
The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association  
Spring 2016**

**MSSA: Lifetime Memberships**

**42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association**

**Life Membership Categories**

Platinum	\$2,500 and above
Gold	\$2,000
Silver	\$1,500
Bronze	\$1,000

Benefits: Receipt of a plaque and letter from the MSSA President recognizing your achievement

No yearly membership fee payment (You will need to pay yearly conference registration fee)

Reserved seating at the annual dinner/banquet

Special recognition in the annual printed program

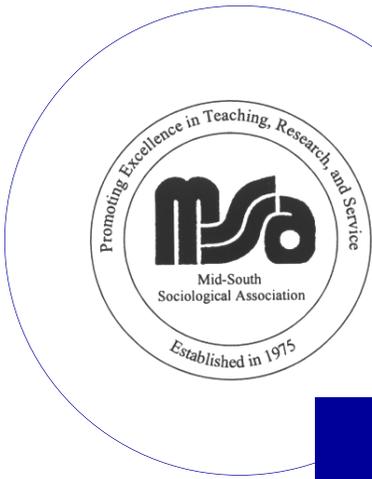
Upon completion of payment, the opportunity to donate \$200 of your total membership payment to a specific MSSA effort (e.g., MSSA General Fund; MSSA Minority Fund; Sponsored Undergraduates; and Stanford Lyman Scholarship Fund)

**NON-LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Friend of MSSA \$500 Friend of MSSA is an entry level membership category that can lead into the life membership program. Benefits: Receipt of a plaque and letter from the MSSA President recognizing your achievement Yearly membership fee reduced by ½ for life Upon completion of payment, the opportunity to donate \$200 of your total membership payment to a specific MSSA effort (e.g., MSSA General Fund; MSSA Minority Fund; Sponsored Undergraduates; and Stanford Lyman Scholarship Fund)

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



*Transforming the Sociological Landscape:  
The Quest for Reconstruction and a Paradigmatic  
Shift.”* October 12-15, 2016 North Charleston, SC

**Call for Papers**

<b>IMPORTANT DEADLINES</b>	
<b>ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS</b>	May 20
<b>UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION</b>	July 30
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<b>STANFORD LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD</b>	June 1

Deadline for submissions is **May 20, 2016**  
Program Chair: Dr. Shirley Rainey-Brown

The Mid-South Sociological Association invites submissions for research sessions, poster presentations, workshops and panels to be held at the 42nd Annual MSSA Conference in North Charleston, SC. A list of sessions and organizer details can be found here on the MSSA website!

The proposed sessions are great and cover a diversity of topics many of which I hope will be of interest to you. I do urge you to take a look at the list of sessions and select the one(s) you would like to present a paper in and to contact the organizer(s) of the session. **The session organizers will need the following information: (1) the title of your presentation (2) your full name (3) your email address and (4) your school affiliation.**

**You can find registration and membership information on our webpage at [www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org) However, If you have more questions or suggestions contact Dr. Rainey-Brown at [sbrown@fisk.edu](mailto:sbrown@fisk.edu)**

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at: [www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)

# MSSA Awards 2016

## The Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award

**Deadline July 1, 2016**

The Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award was established in memory of Stan Lyman in order to honor MSSA members whose recently published work makes a significant contribution to the field of sociology. Please consider nominating yourself or one of your colleagues for this prestigious award. Keep in mind the following:

- ◆ The author must be a current member in the Mid-South Sociological Association, and must have been a member for at least three years.
- ◆ The book must be an original work (and can be sole authored or co-authored).
- ◆ The work must have been published within the last three years (thus a book published in 2011 or later is eligible).
- ◆ Textbooks and edited editions are not eligible.

Be sure to include the following in your nomination:

- ◆ The complete citation for the book (author/s, date published, title, publisher)
- ◆ Author/s contact information (email, affiliation, phone number).
- ◆ A brief description of the book and why you believe it should be nominated.

The publisher, author, or individual who makes the nomination should provide a copy of the nominated book to each member of the selection committee:

- Chair: Dr. Erin Rider (Jacksonville State University)
- Dr. Thomas Calhoun (Jackson State University)
- Dr. Jackie Eller (Middle Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Timothy B. Gongaware (University of Wisconsin - La Crosse)
- Dr. Melanie Sberna Hinojosa (University of Central Florida)
- Dr. Dennis McSeveney (University of New Orleans)

Nominations should be sent (via email) to the committee chair.

Dr. Erin Rider (Jacksonville State University) by email at [erider@jsu.edu](mailto:erider@jsu.edu)

Copies of the nominated book will be sent to each of the six committee members.

For specific address and information Contact Dr. Erin Rider at [erider@jsu.edu](mailto:erider@jsu.edu)

**Additional Instructions and contact information see: <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/opportunities/42-2/>**

# MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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.
1. 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:
  - ◆ Letter of introduction which includes a brief discussion of how the applicant's work reflects Stanford Lyman's tradition within sociology
  - ◆ 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.
2. **Deadline July 30, 2016.** 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 electronically to the scholarship coordinator at the following address:

Dr. David Knottnerus  
Chair of the Stanford Lyman Scholarship Committee  
david.knottnerus@okstate.edu

## 2016 GRADUATE STUDENT “PAPER OF DISTINCTION” AWARD

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 2016 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 of the author(s). In addition, author(s) must submit the name and contact information of a faculty sponsor from their institution. The author’s name and title of the paper should be included on the title page only in order to prepare for an anonymous judging process. 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.

There are additional instructions available at: <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/opportunities/graduate-paper-of-distinction/>

Papers should be submitted as a Word (or rtf format) document by email to Dr. Jeremy Ross, Vice President of MSSA at [jaross@jsu.edu](mailto:jaross@jsu.edu) by **September 1, 2016**. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact Dr. Ross by email.

To receive full recognition for participation, submission must meet deadlines and participants must be members of MSSA, registered for the annual meeting, present their papers, and attend the banquet at the 2016 Annual Meeting October 12-15 in North Charleston, SC.

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

## 2016 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

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 or become 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 2015 MSSA Annual Meeting. 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

### Rules for the 2016 Competition

Papers may be submitted by the undergraduate student or nominated by faculty. Whether the submission is from student or faculty the submission must include the name and contact information of a faculty sponsor from their institution.

- ◆ Each paper must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting consideration. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, mailing address, email address and the telephone number of the author(s).
- ◆ The maximum length of an eligible paper shall be 20 double-spaced pages of text, not counting abstract, references, tables, and figures.
- ◆ Papers may be co-authored with a maximum of three student authors, but not by graduate students or faculty.
- ◆ Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for this competition.

Additional instructions can be found at:

<http://www.midsouthsoc.org/opportunities/undergraduate-paper-competition/>

To receive full recognition for participation, submissions must meet deadlines, and follow instructions posted here and on the website. Participants must also present their papers at the 2016 meetings in North Charleston, SC (October 12-15, 2016).

Papers (in word or rtf format) should be submitted by email to **Dr. Theresa Davidson, Samford University** [tcdavids@samford.edu](mailto:tcdavids@samford.edu) by **July 30, 2016**. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please contact Dr. Davidson by email.

## **FORUM: The Voice of the Mid-South**

### **CALL FOR EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS**

The purpose of the newsletter is to give voice to our members, honoring those who have passed and are still with us by learning from their experiences and celebrating their accomplishments. Forum disseminates information, motivates participation, promotes unity, and supplements records. In addition, Forum can help serve the overall goal of MSSA, to provide another resource to “expand opportunities to publish papers and become more professionally active” (Palmer FA15 Forum page 16). By the creation of an editorial board to aid in achieving the goals of Forum.

Responsibilities of Editors: Write and gather material, (through calls for submissions and personal contacts (see list of potential topics/areas below), edit articles and proofread final drafts of the newsletter.

#### LIST OF POTENTIAL TOPICS/AREAS FOR EDITORS:

- ◆ Teacher Feature: Featured Article(s) (activities, musings, practical and/or theoretical).
- ◆ Research: Featured Article (a summary of publication or new area of publication, state of the discipline etc.)
- ◆ Service: Featured Article (activities, musings, opportunities, practical and/or theoretical).
- ◆ Member focus (interview with members)
- ◆ Meeting information, including interviews, summaries and speaker bios
- ◆ News and Announcements from Committees (including meet the executive committee articles).
- ◆ Presidents Columns
- ◆ Other featured columns eg. i-witness: 500 word reflection on a topic relevant to sociology

If you are interested please send Dr. Tina Deshotels your contact information and area of interest to [tdeshotels@jsu.edu](mailto:tdeshotels@jsu.edu)



## Teacher Feature: Exploring Stereotypes about Aging

**Dr. Orsolya Kolozsvari, Ph.D.**

I am teaching a Self and Social Existence service-learning course, where one of my goals is to explore and ideally eventually combat stereotypes about aging. In the service-learning portion of the course students serve at an assisted living/nursing home facility, where they study how perceptions of the self in society might shift as someone ages. I conduct the following teaching activity to assess initial views and potential pre-existing stereotypes before I send students to the community partner.

This activity might be useful in numerous classes, such as Intro, Social Problems, Aging, Social Stratification, Gender, and so on. The activity could be used to discuss other types of prejudice if you simply substitute the term “elderly” with something else (such as disabled, low-income, transgendered, etc.; we just need to remember that some students could already be in those categories, whereas none are in the elderly group, at least in my classes).

Steps to conduct the activity:

- Ask students to write down and/or draw the first words and/or images that come to mind when they hear the term “elderly.” Discuss. In my experience, this exercise brings both negative and positive stereotypes about aging to the surface. It also helps examine what kind of roles society assigns to the elderly.
- Next, I tell students to imagine that they wake up old tomorrow (what they *define* as old). I instruct them to consider how they would feel about this transformation, and what changes they might expect in their everyday lives and future plans. This exercise tends to reveal fears about aging and death, as well as potential ageism. Students have to face their own stereotypes that came up in Step 1, and what would happen if they were suddenly placed in a situation where others could possibly apply those ageist ideas to them, and how their own sense of self could shift as a result.
- We watch a video on ageism in the media, which reinforces the points we raise in Step 1 and 2. This offers an opportunity to discuss the intersections of gender and age as well.
- Students enter their service-learning with some awareness of their own potential biases, and with the community partner I guide them toward mitigating, or even eradicating, their stereotypes. This activity can launch discussions on theories of the self (Cooley, Mead, etc.), Goffmanian dramaturgical analysis, emotional labor, ageism in various social institutions (such as the media, workplace, medicine, etc.).

For more information, please contact Dr. Kolozsvari Assistant Professor of Sociology, School of Arts and Sciences, College of Coastal Georgia, Brunswick, GA 31520 [okolozsvari@ccga.edu](mailto:okolozsvari@ccga.edu)



## ***Teacher Feature: Civic Engagement Abroad***

**Dr. Erin Rider, Ph.D.**

Dr. Erin Rider, associate professor at Jacksonville State University, is offering a study abroad trip to the Dominican Republic in May 2017 as a component of her upper division Sociology course, Global Immigration: Patterns and Trends. An integral part of the course is to expose students to global issues using a sociological and social justice framework. The goal of introducing a study abroad opportunity to the class is to provide students the opportunities to directly witness and experience the lives of individuals who are impacted by global measures that prompt migration as a means to increase economic-political-social well-being.

Incorporating this study abroad component to the class would have an enriching appeal to student learning and citizen responsibility/action. According to Saltmarsh and Hartley (2012:8) in their scholarship on civic engagement in higher education, the authors argue that “although civic engagement must begin locally, it must ultimately aim at the global level if citizens and students are to make a difference on the most pressing problems.” The study abroad trip includes 30 hours of service work with a local organization to address rural to urban migration issues. A trip to interact with a different culture on global issues teaches students the values of informed citizenship and collective service work. The direct context of learning provides students with the ability to avoid an abstract form of learning by actually seeing the concepts in action.



## ***Opportunity Knocks for MSSA MEMBERS***

### **Research Networks**

#### **INTRODUCING RN1 and RN2**

#### **THE NEW MSSA RESEARCH NETWORKS**

RN1 Disasters

RN2 Gender and Sexuality

#### **What are MSSA Research Networks**

Research networks have been established to foster the on-going intellectual life and career development of MSSA members. They are groups that are actively engaged in a line of scholarship of common interest. They have regular meetings that coincide with the Annual Meeting of the MSSA and have a role in preparing the program for our annual meeting by submitting thematic sessions. These sessions tend to be smaller and more homogeneous in nature in order to promote an intellectual exchange of ideas. Ideally, research networks continue to work beyond the annual meeting setting and cover sociological themes relevant to members of the Mid-South region. Research networks, in conjunction with the annual meeting program chair, will be allocated time slots during the annual meeting to design a scholarly environment in either a paper session, meeting, poster session, roundtable, workshop, book discussion or panel format.

#### **What are the Benefits of MSSA Research Network Membership?**

Exciting colleague engagement

Each RN has the opportunity to collectively propose a special issue of the Official Journal of the MSSA, *Sociological Spectrum*

Presentation of a Research Award

Half (½) page allotment in the MSSA newsletter, FORUM: The Voice of The Mid-South Sociological Association

#### **For more information about joining the new RNs:**

RN1 Disasters

Dr. Jessica Pardee

[jwpgss@rit.edu](mailto:jwpgss@rit.edu)

Dr. Dana Greene

[Dmgeene@umich.edu](mailto:Dmgeene@umich.edu)

RN2 Gender and Sexuality

Dr. Melissa Powell-Williams

[mpwilliams@gru.edu](mailto:mpwilliams@gru.edu)



## 2015 SOCIOLOGICAL SPECTRUM OUTSTANDING PAPER

### MSSA Awards



“A Shot of Morality? Hispanic Immigration, Religious Contextual Characteristics & Violence”, by authors Casey T. Harris & Ben Feldmeyer. The paper was published in Volume 35, Issue 3, May 2015, pages 229-253.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at::

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



## 2015 GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER OF DISTINCTION

### MSSA Awards

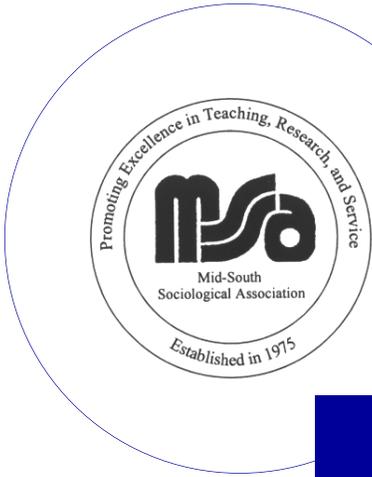


“Legacies of Slavery: Racial Transition Points and  
Racial Wealth Inequality”

Robert Reece, Duke University

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

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



## 2015 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

### MSSA Awards

LAYTIFIA WILLIAMS,  
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY



“Factors Associated with Willingness to Report”  
Crime”

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

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



## 2015 STANFORD M. LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD

MSSA Awards

### “MOMENTUM AND THE EAST TIMOR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT”



SHANE GUNDERSON

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



# Presenting 2015 MSSA Awards

Stanford M. Lyman



Ashleigh McKinzie,

University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

“A Tale of Two Cities: Disaster and the  
Articulation of Inequality.”

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

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



## **THE CONGRATULATION STATION MSSA MEMBERS**

**You have made us all proud!!!**

### **Member Awards/promotions/accolades**

Dr. Tom Calhoun has been honored for his service several times including:

- Marguerite Rogers Howie Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, Inc. at their Annual Meeting in Jackson, MS., March 9 -12 2015.
- The 2016 recipient of the North Central Sociological Association's, J. Milton Yinger Lifetime Distinguished Career Award. The J. Milton Yinger Lifetime Distinguished Career Award is given in recognition of extraordinary performance over one's career in activities that have furthered the work of Sociology as a discipline thru, including but not limited to, scholarly contributions, sociological teaching and learning, public or applied sociology, and exemplary service within NCSA. The selection committee and Dr. Calhoun's peers agree that his lifetime scholarly contributions to sociology and exemplary service within NCSA should be recognized and honored.
- The James E. Blackwell Founders Award from the Association of Black Sociologist at their Annual Meeting in Chicago in August 2015

Dr. Jessica W. Pardee earned promotion to Associate Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, effective July 1.

Dr. Erin Rider earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Jacksonville State University, Department of Sociology and Social Work, effective October 1.

Dr. Tina H. Deshotels earned promotion to Full Professor at Jacksonville State University, Department of Sociology and Social Work, effective October 1.

Jason Smith (George Mason University) has joined the Editorial Board of the journal Social Problems as a student advisor.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at::

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



## **THE CONGRATULATION STATION MSSA MEMBERS**

### **Member Publications**

Bin Liang, J. David Knottnerus & Michael A. Long. "A Theoretical Model of Drug/DUI Courts: An Application of Structural Ritualization Theory." *American Journal of Criminal Justice* (2016) 41:31-46.

Basudhara Sen & J. David Knottnerus. "Ritualized Ethnic Identity: Asian Indian Immigrants in the Southern Plains." *Sociological Spectrum*. Forthcoming.

Bin Liang, Michael A. Long and J. David Knottnerus. "What do Clients Achieve in Drug/DUI Court? Examining Intended and Unintended Outcomes." *Justice System Journal*. Forthcoming.

Tom Calhoun with Addrain Conyers "The Interactionist Approach to Deviance" in *The Handbook of Deviance* edited by Erich Goode. 2015. Malden, MA. pages 259-276.

Ross, Jeremy A., Tina H. Deshotels and Craig J. Forsyth "Fantasy Objects: The Perception of Safety of Emergency Shelter in Place Kits" 2016 *Deviant Behavior* Volume 37, Issue 6.

Jason A. Smith. 2016. "Mutating Minorities: White Racial Framing and Group Positioning." In *The X-Men Films: A Cultural Analysis*, edited by C. Bucciferro. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Jason A. Smith, Mark Lloyd, and Victor Pickard. 2015. "Communication in Action: Bridging Research and Policy." Special section in the *International Journal of Communication*, 9. (<http://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/issue/view/11>)

*Race and Contention in Twenty-First Century U.S. Media* (Routledge, 2016) Edited by Jason A. Smith and Bhoomi K. Thakore This volume explores and clarifies the complex intersection of race and media in the contemporary United States. Due to the changing dynamics of how racial politics are played out in the contemporary US (as seen with debates of the "post-racial" society), as well as the changing dynamics of the media itself ("new vs. old" media debates), an interrogation of the role of the media and its various institutions within this area of social inquiry is necessary. Contributors contend that race in the United States is dynamic, connected to social, economic, and political structures which are continually altering themselves. The book seeks to highlight the contested space that the media provides for changing dimensions of race, examining the ways that various representations can both hinder or promote positive racial views, considering media in relation to other institutions, and moving beyond thinking of media as a passive and singular institution.



## Message From Past President

**Dr. Anita Bledsloe -Gardner**

Johnson C. Smith University

### MSSA Budget Review 2015

- o The proposed conference costs were \$29,839.59
- o The actual conference costs were \$32, 363.66 (see Sec-Treasurer Report)
- o Major Concern is attrition for hotel \$4, 901.20
- o Recommendations should be rendered by the Council to address persistent problems with attrition. For the past several years, this has been an issue. While negotiations have been consistent in addressing the aforementioned, the association is still experiencing a financial deficit. I strongly suggest that we streamline spending in all areas possible. Additionally, re-examine existing hotel contracts to ensure the contracts reflect the current needs of the association regarding room nights and food and beverage minimums. From a cursory review of the past conferences, some members are getting room nights outside of the host hotel. If it so pleases the council, I recommend that protocols be set in place to circumvent this issue in the future by the council.

#### Increasing Income

- o More active advertising beyond the traditional measures
- o Increasing membership by 10-20% each year
- o Target marketing with past members to re-activate membership and creating a venue for new members. It is recommended these numbers be reported every month or at least every 3 months as a benchmark measure until the association reaches the 20% mark.
- o Present a charge for each existing member to bring two "new" members
- o Increase number of "life memberships" by 10% this year

#### Reducing Costs

- o Revisit how much online cost for Spectrum versus hard copy
- o Reduce number of "extra" banquet tickets order. While the cost is incorporated into the registration, the budget reflects extra tickets were ordered. Every year, there are a number of empty seats for the banquet. It is recommended that "extra" tickets are not ordered and perhaps to increase attendance, the banquet should be a luncheon. If MSSA members are indeterminate about what the organization has to offer, then they may be unlikely to recommend the organization or attend a future meeting.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



## Message from the Secretary Treasurer

**Dr. Ruth Chananie**

University of Northern Iowa

**The state of finances for MSSA is good.**

**2016 Budget Draft is on separate worksheet.** – We have a high food & beverage minimum this year – our goal is to meet our food & beverage minimum without going over, and our room obligations so we do not have to pay attrition. I am not sure we can fiscally survive another year of our budget going thousands of dollars over costs. This means, as we have already discussed, that it is imperative that we generate as much participation in the conference as possible, and concentrate on fundraising and advertisement revenue.

**Transition of Secretary-Treasurer** – Effective today, Shelly McGrath will assume the Secretary-Treasurer position to replace Ruth Chananie. Ruth will be available during the transition to assist the new Secretary-Treasurer. The process may take a few months to complete, in terms of bank account transition, tax reporting, and updating websites and forms.

**Online Marketplace Update** – Brad Smith at MeetingSavvy.com has updated our online membership and registration site. It is open for business. Also, he is preparing a separate link for patrons who would like to just donate to MSSA without becoming members or registering. That link will be available shortly.

**MSSA Insurance** – April will be time to renew our association's Directors & Officers and Employment Practices Liability policy. Hanover has sent a new, updated package they call "NonProfit Entity Advantage Policy," which includes other coverages and will cost us more per year: \$2,179 instead of \$1,633. I will send the EC a copy of the new proposal, which has the details. I recommend staying with the current policy, chiefly due to our general lack of funds.

**MSSA Tax Return** – I will file the 2015 tax paperwork for MSSA through H&R Block, as I did last year. This should cost \$200 or less.

**2016 Budget Committee** – the committee will be chaired by Anita Bledsoe-Gardner (Past-President), DeMond Miller (President), Shirley Rainey-Brown (President-Elect), Shelly McGrath (Secretary-Treasurer), and any additional MSSA members or officers the Chair would like to appoint. I will be available to assist Shelly in preparation for this year's budget & records analysis, the results of which are to be reported at the fall meetings.



## Message From the Women's Gender and Sexualities Caucus

**Dr. Melissa Powell-Williams**

Associate Professor Sociology, Criminal Justice and Social Work Georgia Regents University

The Women's Gender and Sexualities Caucus meeting in Lafayette took place over lunch and was quite well attended with 12 members present. To fit with the changing name and mission of the caucus, members discussed ways to broaden the mentoring program to include support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer faculty and students at the 2016 MSSA Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Caucus in North Charleston, SC—see you there. The caucus also discussed sessions to propose and made an extensive list. The members also suggested proposing a special issue of spectrum and using the conference to recruit papers for the issue. The members suggested this would be a good way to recruit new members, give old members professional opportunities as well as achieve the mission of the caucus, to promote women and gender issues. Suggestions for the special edition were broad, as is the nature of sociology ranging from gender in various organizations (e.g. gender and work, gender and religion etc.). However, the members were most adamant that the next special issue proposed by the women's caucus address issues of intersectionality.

One of the tasks of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Committee is to support junior faculty and students through the Women's Mentoring Program. This initiative is an opportunity to help women establish their careers by providing a venue for discussions, resources, and mentoring in the areas of professional development, research, publishing, service, teaching, promotion, tenure, and workplace conflict.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor/mentee, or participating in any way regarding the Mentoring Program please send a vita so we can get an idea of the kind of work you have done and a brief description of your interest in the program, why you would be a good mentor and/or what areas you are interested in being mentored. This will help us help us match mentors with mentees.

Please note that the assumption of the program is that we all have strengths and areas that we seek advise and improvement. Therefore we fully expect that individuals who seek mentorship also seek areas that they can serve as mentors and vice versa. If you are interested in taking part in the program

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



## A Message From Nominations Committee

**Dr. Erin Rider**

Jacksonville State University

For the year 2016, I have asked seven members of MSSA to serve on the Nominations Committee. The following members have agreed to participate, and after sharing the information with our President-Elect, DeMond Miller, he has approved the committee members.

Dr. DeMond Miller, Rowan University  
Dr. Jessica Abbott, University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
Dr. Sarah Donley, Jacksonville State University  
Dr. Ying Ma, Austin Peay State University  
Ms. Elizabeth Otwell, Georgia State University  
Ms. Holly Pottle, Texas Woman's University  
Dr. Jason Ulsperger, Arkansas Tech University  
Dr. Erin Rider (Chair), Jacksonville State University

Currently, I have sent out an email to all members who were nominated to run for office. The current offices for nomination are: President-Elect, Vice President-Elect, Chair of Nominations, Chair of Professions, Chair of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, and Chair of Small and Community Colleges. Nominated members have been notified via email to inform me if they accept or deny the nominated opportunity, and if they accept to also provide a bio. As explained prior, the committee will follow the guidelines as established in the Operation and Procedures Manual.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



## A Message From Membership Committee

**Dr. Lauren B. Norman**

Delta State University

### **The Committee on Membership's Plan for 2015-2016:**

Boost regional membership in the Association

- Appoint ambassadors for the following states: AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MS, TX, NC, SC, FL, TN, OK, and VA to spread the word about our organization;
- Contact new department members as well as new graduate students in the aforementioned states as a means of recruitment;
- Contact non-renewed members

Increase conference attendance.

Similar to above

- Also, promote the fact that our Association is one of the few sociological organizations that meet during the fall semester.

Promote Lifetime Membership in the Association

- Encourage all members to participate in the Association in conjunction with "Call for Papers".

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at::

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## ***A Message From Stanford M. Lyman Scholarship Committee***

**Dr. David Knottnerus**

Oklahoma State University

The committee members of the MSSA Stanford M. Lyman Scholarship Committee are Tom Calhoun (Jackson State University), Meredith Dye (Middle Tennessee State University), Duane Gill (Oklahoma State University), David LoConto (New Mexico State University), and Nicole Rader (Mississippi State University).

As was done in 2013, 2014, and 2015 I plan to send out calls for applications for the Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship award in the spring and again in the summer. The award will also be advertised in the MSSA newsletter and MSSA website. The deadline for applications will be July 30, 2016.

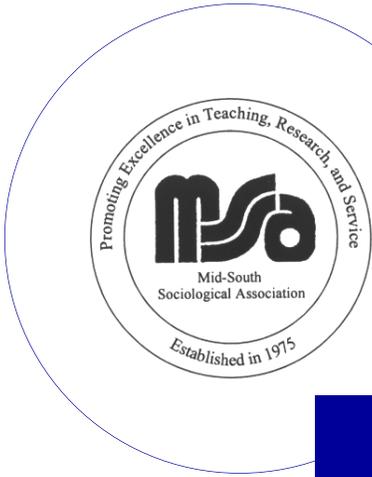
I will follow the same procedure used the last three years. Committee members will read, evaluate, and rank the applicants. Based on their rankings I will then calculate who had the highest ranking.

The winner of the award will be announced at the annual meeting of the MSSA in North Charleston, SC in October.

My thanks go out to all the committee members for their excellent work last year.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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



## *Message From Committee on Small and Community Colleges*

**Dr. Nicola Davis Bivens**

Johnson C. Smith University

The Committee on Small and Community Colleges is working hard preparing for the 2016 Annual Conference. The committee had a number of action items for 2015-2016, and we can use your help in attaining the following goals.

There are two panels/workshops for the 2016 Conference specific to small and community colleges; these are “The Role of Community Colleges in Sociology and Criminology Education,” and “Preparing for Tenure and Promotion at Small Colleges.” If you (or a friend) are at a community college in either sociology or criminology, please consider participating in this roundtable discussion. Likewise, any tenured faculty or those who have been successful in their institution’s promotion process at a small college, please consider being a presenter in this workshop as we further MSSA’s commitment to developing new researchers, faculty, etc.

Contact one friend/colleague at a small or community college and (1) invite them to join the MSSA and (2) attend the 2016 Annual Conference.

Finally, if you are a student or faculty member at a small or community college, please ensure that you join the committee and join us for the Small and Community College breakfast meeting at the 2016 conference (day and time TBA).

If you are willing to serve on the committee, or willing to respond to our request to participate on one of the two panels noted above, please contact **Nicola Davis Bivens, chair of the committee at [ndbivens@jcsu.edu](mailto:ndbivens@jcsu.edu)**. We look forward to seeing you in North Charleston, South Carolina!

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at::

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



## *A Message From the Editor of Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South*

**Dr. Tina Deshotels**

Jacksonville State University

The purpose of Forum is to disseminate information, motivate participation, promote unity, and supplement records. The goal is for FORUM to become something that we all look forward to reading and as such to serve as a way for us to communicate. In addition, Forum can help serve the overall goal of MSSA, to provide another resource to “expand opportunities to publish papers and become more professionally active” (Palmer FA15 Forum page 16). In light of that tradition, MSSA is pleased to expand the opportunities presented by a traditional newsletter to include an ad hoc committee to serve as an editorial board. Doing so will ensure we improve the quality of the newsletter (through proof reading and additional articles/features), as well as offer a “beneficial and personally rewarding experience that can be included on one’s resume. Editorship of the Association’s journals and newsletters has over the years challenged many to hone their organizing, writing, editing, negotiating, and oversight skills (Palmer FA15 page 17). The ad hoc committee would proof read, conduct interviews, solicit and/or write articles and features. Having an ad hoc committee will allow me to further solidify the duties of a full board of editors/writers.

In future issues, I plan to include more interviews (member memories). I also plan to include supplemental information about committees (supplements to the official reports) by interviewing committee chairs about their accomplishments and goals for the committee. I also want to include featured articles and ‘happenings’ from the conference (key sessions, key-note speaker, etc.).

I’d also like to add the following new sections:

A teaching section, highlighting an innovative activity/exercise and/or pedagogy.

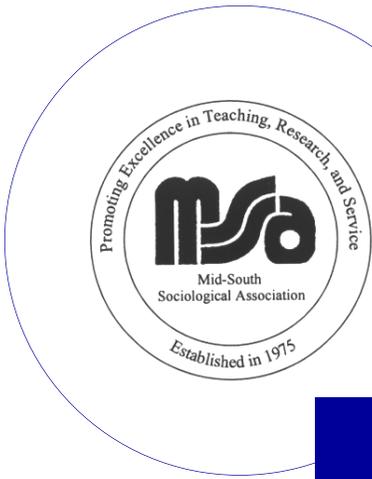
A research section, highlighting a member’s research accomplishment/agenda

A service section, highlighting a member’s service accomplishments/agenda.

A member’s musings on the MSSA and the state of the discipline (maybe chair of the profession?).

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

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## *Sociological Spectrum: Journal of the MSSA*

### Call for Submissions

#### **Preparation of Manuscripts**

All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced with 1 inch margins on all sides and following the current American Sociological Review style.

Submitted manuscripts will undergo an editorial screening and peer review by anonymous referees. All manuscripts submitted to *Sociological Spectrum* from those serving as Board Members or Associate Editors of the journal undergo the same blind review process as do those submitted by other individuals. In addition, any manuscript submitted for review authored or co-authored by the Editor-in-Chief is handled by an independent Special Editor who coordinates a review process and makes the final decision as to the suitability of the manuscript(s) for publication in *Sociological Spectrum*. Authors should avoid placing any form of identification either on the body of the manuscript or on the required abstract of 150 words or less. Manuscripts that do not conform to these requirements will be returned to the authors for correction and will delay the review process.

#### **Submission of Manuscripts:**

Sociological Spectrum receives all manuscript submissions electronically via its ScholarOne Manuscripts site located at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sociologicalspectrum>. ScholarOne Manuscripts allows for rapid submission of original and revised manuscripts, and facilitates the review process and internal communication between authors, editors, and reviewers via a web-based platform. ScholarOne technical support can be accessed at <http://scholarone.com/services/support>. If you have any other requests, please contact **Kevin Breault, Editor-in-Chief**, at [kbreault@mtsu.edu](mailto:kbreault@mtsu.edu), or **Jerry Gonzalez, Associate Editor**, at [gag2i@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:gag2i@mtmail.mtsu.edu).

**Transfer of Copyright:** Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce copyrighted material from other sources and are required to sign an agreement for the transfer of copyright to the publisher. This form will be provided by the publisher office.

#### **Where to Submit Manuscripts**

Blind manuscripts should be uploaded via the ScholarOne site as indicated above in MS Word format. Submitting authors should insert abstracts in the appropriate section of the site and enter complete author and co-author information where indicated.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

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