

Nuances

Spring 2007

A Newsletter for the Friends and Members of the MidSouth Sociological Association's Minority Caucus

Committee on Minorities Chair

Dana Greene

Newsletter Editor

Shondrah

Tarrezz

Nash

From the Chair's Desk...

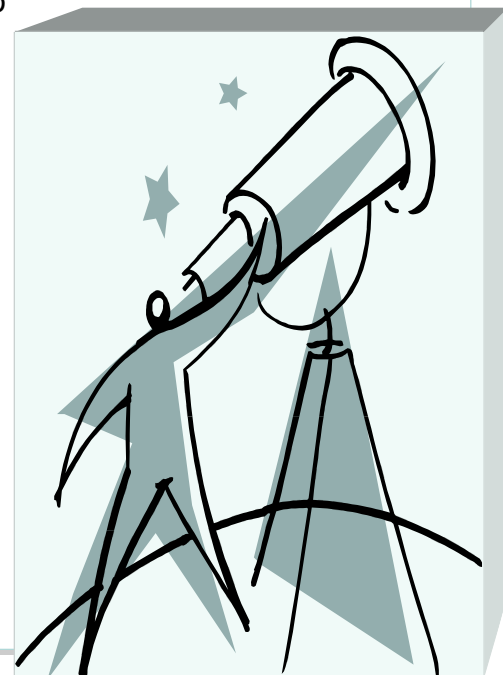
Dr. Dana Greene

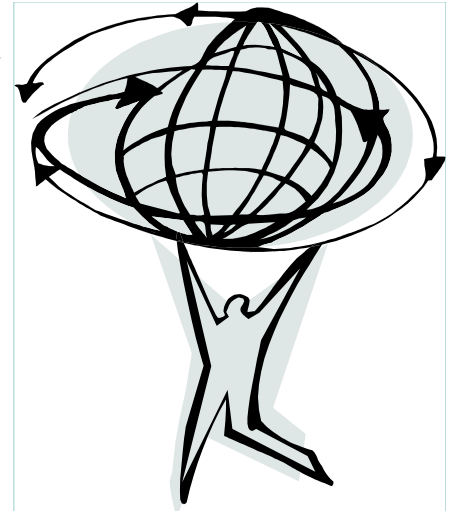
It seems like last year's Mid-South Sociological Association's Annual Meeting in Lafayette, LA was just yesterday! Thanks to all who attended and participated in the meetings. I especially appreciate your kind support as Dr. Earl Wright III handed the reins of the Committee on Minorities over to me. Please, join me in thanking Dr. Wright for his exemplary leadership of the Committee on Minorities and for enabling the group to have such a well-respected voice within the organization.

In my first year as Chair of the Committee on Minorities, I have already begun to see several of my goals realized and set into motion. As Dr. Wright noted in his address in *Nuances* last year, a primary goal for the Committee on Minorities was to increase funding for minority students' attendance and participation during the MSSA Annual Meetings. In our November meeting, the Committee discussed how to increase student participation, and I was pleased that our membership stepped up to the plate and pledged over \$1500 to the *Minority Fund* in just one hour! THANK YOU for your generosity! To date, the donations in support of the *Minority Fund* continue to come in and our total in our account exceeds what it has ever been!

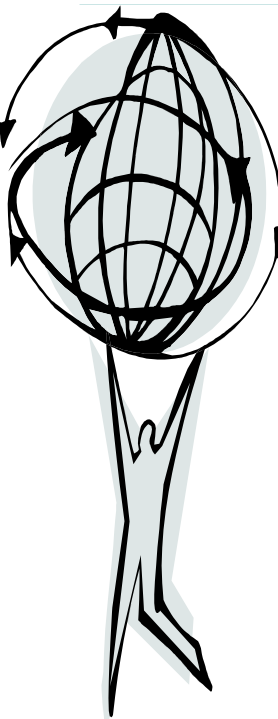
In addition, for the first time in Mid-South Sociological Association's history, people are talking about endowing the *Minority Fund*. This would be a tremendous asset to minority students and their scholarship. In just the last few months, I have seen our membership support student development in ways unparalleled by other organizations.

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Accomplishments and Accolades



■ **Dr. Kinko Ito's** (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) published "Middle-Aged Japanese Women's Love Affair with 'Winter Sonata' and Its Social Implications" in *Japan Studies Review* (2006).

Dr. Ito's book, *My American Life* (in Japanese) was published in *Gakuyo Shobo* in February (Tokyo).

In addition, Dr. Ito's and Dr. Charles Musgrove's "Manga Introduction to China and Its Implication for Global Education" will be published in the Japanese journal, *Gurobaru Kyoiku* (Global Education), in March.

Dr. Shondrah Tarrezz Nash

(Morehead State University) was elected to MSU's President's Leadership Academy (PLA).

The PLA provides professional development, mentorship and internships to selected faculty and administrators interested in leadership in higher education.

■ **Dr. Diane Keithly** (Southern University) recently co-edited *Readings in Sociology* (2007), a collection of sociological essays and articles for introductory sociology courses. MSSA member and University of Texas-Pan American professor, Dr. Shirley Rombough contributed articles and assisted editors by reviewing a number of contributions.

■ **In addition**, Dr. Keithly presented the paper, "Surviving the Recovery: Where Do We Go from Here and How Do We Get There?", at the Race, Gender and Class Annual Conference in New Orleans in February and co-wrote a forthcoming publication in the *Journal of Urban Education* with Dr. Dawood Sultan and Hope Joseph. She has been promoted to full professor and was appointed to a faculty leadership program at Southern University.

Accomplishments and Accolades, cont.

■ **Dr. Thomas Calhoun**, MSSA Past President and current Associate Provost for Academic Affairs at Southern Illinois at Carbondale has accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology at Jackson State University effective August 1, 2007. Articles co-written by Dr. Calhoun include the following:

Thio, Alex, Calhoun, Thomas C. and Addrain Conyers. 2008. Readings in Deviant Behavior. 5th Edition Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Calhoun, Thomas C. and Addrain Conyers. 2006. "Introduction to Special Issue: Deviance in the New Millennium." Guest Co-Editor with Dr. Mark Konty in *Sociological Spectrum*.

Calhoun, Thomas C. and Patricia Warren. Forthcoming. "Perceptions of the Police: An Analysis of Racial Profiling Among African American and White Citizens." Encyclopedia on Race and Ethnicity. Edited by Richard Schafer (Sage).

Calhoun, Thomas and Mark Konty. Forthcoming. "Labeling." Encyclopedia of Sociology. Edited by George Ritzer (Blackwell). ■



Accomplishments and Accolades, cont.

■ **Dr. Earl Wright II (Texas Southern University)**, former Chair of Mid-South Sociological Association's Minority Caucus, co-authored the following article:

Wright II, Earl and Thomas C. Calhoun. 2006 "Jim Crow Sociology: Toward An Understanding of the Origin and Principles of Black Sociology. *Sociological Focus*. Vol. 39 (1): 1-18. ■

Accomplishments and Accolades, cont.

■ **Dr. Shirley Rainey (Austin Peay State University)** will offer the first online Environmental Justice course in the state of Tennessee. The course, Environmental Justice (SOC4420), will address the emergence and development of environmental justice, while examining interactions between the human environment and inequalities among different human groups. Topics will include environmental racism; the environmental justice movement; environmental attitudes, theories, and health. Race/class/ gender disparities are also given focus.

Because of its online accessibility, enrollment is open to those inside **and outside** the Austin Peay State University community. If you have questions about Environmental Justice/ SOC4420 at Austin Peay State University, address inquires to the following:

Dr. Shirley Rainey
Department of Sociology, APSU, Clement 143F
Clarksville, TN 37044.

Email: raineysa@apsu.edu
Phone: (931)221-7506.



Chair's Desk Continued...

This is thanks to your diligence, support, and concern for the happenings within the Committee on Minorities. Let's continue this important work!

Please, if you are so inclined but haven't done so already, consider a donation to the *Minority Fund*. Our students are the future of our discipline and organization, and your donation supports them (plus... it's tax deductible!).

Our meetings in Lafayette were successful for other reasons as well. For the first time, we met outside of the restaurant setting and enjoyed peaceful conversation with one another about important topics as the direction we envision for our group and how to broaden the definition of the term, "minority" in ways that encompass all underrepresented groups. Such important distinctions as the definitional characteristics of minority groups represent the cutting edge of sociological inquiry today, and it was wonderful to see such camaraderie as we considered how to integrate inclusiveness into the new mission statement of the Committee on Minorities (a draft is forthcoming to the Committee shortly).

Again, thank you for your support of the important work that the Committee on Minorities is doing. Our visibility within the organization is increasing greatly, and as such, our Committee maintains a strong voice in MSSA.

Dana M. Greene Ph. D. ■

Feb. 8, 2007

Minorities and the Sociology Pipeline

A new study attempting to determine why members of minority groups are underrepresented on sociology faculties finds that while black sociologists, for instance, are actually overrepresented through the master's level, members of minority groups are disproportionately "leaked" from the academic pipeline at two critical junctures: the Ph.D. stage and the tenure process.

"The long slog to get your Ph.D. is a difficult one. Many minorities, especially the protected minorities, African-Americans and Hispanics, they have more financial difficulty, they have less financial backing, so the idea of taking this fairly lengthy period of time to work on a Ph.D. is probably more difficult," said Roberta Spalter-Roth, director of the research and development department at the American Sociological Association, which recently released its report, "Race and Ethnicity in the Sociology Pipeline."

In fact, the impact of economic factors on graduate study can be traced back to the undergraduate level, as the study suggests: While both black and Hispanic students are more likely than their white peers to report a desire to go to graduate school (with 63.5 percent of black students and 57.4 percent of Hispanic students, compared to 40.9 percent of white students, indicating plans to attend), they are also far more likely to report plans to attend graduate school part-time while working. The proportion of black students who plan to work and attend graduate school simultaneously is, at 42.5 percent, actually greater than the total number of white students planning to attend at all.

Spalter-Roth cited other factors that might contribute to minority students dropping from the pipeline, including a lack of mentoring, insufficient interest among senior faculty in some topics and journals that minority sociology candidates are disproportionately drawn to, and the saddling of young minority hires with extra responsibilities to be mentors to minority students and participate in committees, thus detracting from time for publishing. However, "in spite of the leakage," members of underrepresented minority groups are more widely represented in sociology than in other social science disciplines: About 15 percent of sociology Ph.D. recipients are black or Hispanic, compared to 13.1 percent in political science, 8.3 percent in economics and 12.8 percent in psychology, the report states.

In the study, which Spalter-Roth cautioned is based on data obtained from a wide variety of imperfect measures, "some older than others," researchers found that about 16 percent of all sociology bachelor degree recipients in 2004 were black — a higher percentage than the proportion of black people within the U.S. population. Like at the Ph.D. level, their representation within sociology exceeds minority representation within other behavioral sciences. Black sociology majors are more likely to see the study of sociology as a tool to change society and to prepare for careers, the study reports, and black students are more likely than their white peers to engage in volunteer work, a service learning project or career-related mentorship or networking programs.

The study finds that the ratio of black to white students, 1 to 4, stays constant through the awarding of master's degrees but that it falls, based on 2004 data, to 1 to 9 among Ph.D. recipients. The study reports that 85 percent of black master's graduates are lost from the pipeline at the Ph.D. level, compared to 51 percent of their white counterparts.

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While black students are more likely to report receiving mentoring at the undergraduate level than their white peers are, at the graduate level, just 33 percent of black and 36 percent of Hispanic students indicated that they received faculty assistance in publishing, compared to 56 percent of white students and 48 percent of Asian ones.

Yet, those minority-group members who do pass through the first bottleneck in the pipeline and obtain the Ph.D. tend to fare well in the initial hiring cycle, as the report shows. Black and Hispanic applicants with Ph.D.'s in hand submit fewer applications per job offer, at 14 to 1 and 17 to 1 ratios, respectively, than do white faculty candidates, who apply for 22 jobs per offer. Black and Hispanic instructors are also far more likely to get tenure-track jobs, with 71.8 percent of black applicants and 63.6 percent of Hispanic ones gaining tenure-track positions, compared to 57.6 percent of white applicants and just 31.3 percent of Asian candidates. However, while Asian professor candidates submit the fewest applications per job offer, at 4 to 1, they are also the only group of sociology Ph.D.'s who tend to land in non-academic or non-tenure track jobs, with 68.7 percent doing so.

But while "the protected minorities," in Spalter-Roth's words, seem to be in demand on the job market, and will be more handsomely rewarded financially at the full professor level than their white counterparts, with black full professors making \$1.30 for every white full professor's dollar, they are far less likely than their white counterparts to persist through the tenure process. Over all, the study reports an 8.6 percent difference in the proportion of Hispanic, black and Native American faculty at the assistant professor and full professor levels, while the proportion of white instructors increases as you move up the tenure ladder.

The study offers few reasons why, other than the disproportionate mentoring, though Spalter-Roth pointed to feelings of isolation among minority faculty and the factors cited above, including distractions from publishing, as possible causes. She indicated that a department survey scheduled for the fall will gather more data on this topic. "There are various reasons why varying people don't live up to their potential promise because of the factors that we've talked about," Spalter-Roth said.

The study indicates that because minority sociologists tend to have strong interest in the sociological study of their own race or ethnic group, "there might be an underrepresentation of certain topic areas if there were no minorities in the pipeline." The study cites the benefit of existing programs, including the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program, but indicates that "with the growth of anti-affirmation action sentiment, these programs may be on the decline." Future studies, the report concludes, are needed to help develop strategies "to plug the leaks."

By Elizabeth Redden

NOTE: The editor would like to thank InsideHigher Ed.Com Audience Development Director, Mr. Bob Werber for granting permission to reprint this article.



Underrepresented Minority Visiting Professor Program

Middle Tennessee State University announces the availability of the underrepresented minority visiting professor program. The purpose of the Underrepresented Minority Visiting Professor is to enhance diversity in research, teaching, and service at MTSU through the recruitment of established professors from underrepresented minorities from across the country.

Visiting Professors will teach in an area related to their academic preparation and with a corresponding need of the department hosting the professor. Professors will also work with faculty members in the department and will be involved with co-curricular activities including the University's cultural diversity initiatives. Visiting Professors must have a terminal degree from an accredited university and national or international recognition of their accomplishments in their areas of expertise. Preference will be given to persons in disciplines in which groups are traditionally under represented, with experience in diverse educational programs and environments, and a willingness to participate in MTSU's diversity initiatives.

Professors will receive academic year faculty appointments and will be eligible for benefits including health insurance. Salary is negotiable. Professors must be eligible for employment. Additionally, professors will receive support for research, professional travel, and other related expenses. It is expected that professors will not be employed outside of the University or receive additional fellowships, grants, or awards during the visiting period unless approved by the University. Review of applications will begin May 21, 2007.

Applicants should apply online at <https://mtsujobs.mtsu.edu> with the following materials:

- An online application
- A cover letter
- A vitae (describing publications, presentations, awards)
- A proposed plan of research while in residence
- Provide a two-page abstract (Include proposed timeline for completion showing milestones)

Applicants should also submit the following hard copy materials:

- Official transcripts (not issued to individual)
- Verification of current institutional employment
- Three letters of recommendation

Mail to: Underrepresented Minority Visiting Professor Program, Office of Academic Affairs,
Cope Administration Building, Rm. 111, Middle Tennessee State University,
Murfreesboro, TN 37132 (615) 898-2880 Email:pvpa@mtsu.edu

MTSU, a culturally diverse university, is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educational institution and employer. Women, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.



Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowship

Middle Tennessee State University announces the availability of an underrepresented minority dissertation fellowship. The purpose of the fellowship is to enhance diversity in research, teaching, and service at MTSU through the recruitment of underrepresented minority graduate students from across the country who are completing dissertation research.

Fellows will teach one course each semester in an area related to their academic preparation and a need of the department hosting the fellow. Fellows will be expected to devote significant time to the completion of the dissertation. Fellows will also work with a faculty mentor and will be involved with co-curricular activities including the university's cultural diversity initiatives.

Fellows must be dissertation stage doctoral degree candidates studying in a field taught at MTSU. Preference will be given to persons in disciplines in which minorities are traditionally under represented, with experience in diverse educational programs and environments, and a willingness to participate in MTSU's diversity initiatives.

Fellows will receive academic year faculty appointments and will be eligible for benefits including health insurance. Salary is \$30,000. Fellows must be eligible for employment. Additionally, fellows will receive support for research, professional travel, and other related expenses. It is expected that fellows will not be employed outside of the university or receive additional fellowships or awards during the fellowship period unless approved by the university. Review of applications will begin May 21, 2007.

Applicants should apply online at <https://mtsujobs.mtsu.edu> with the following materials:

- An online application
- A cover letter
- A vitae (showing experience/understanding of diversity issues in higher education)
- A proposed plan for completion of dissertation
- o Provide a two-page abstract of the dissertation
- o Include proposed timeline for completion showing milestones

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Applicants should also submit the following hard copy materials:

- Official transcripts (not issued to student)
- Verification of doctoral candidacy

Three letters of recommendation (one must be from the dissertation adviser)

To: Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowship

Office of Academic Affairs

Cope Administration Building, Rm. 111

Middle Tennessee State University

Murfreesboro, TN 37132

(615) 898-2880

Email: pvpaa@mtsu.edu

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Nuances is a

newsletter for the friends and members of

the MidSouth Sociological Association's Minority Caucus.

If you have any announcements or comments for the Fall 2007 newsletter, email them to

Nuances editor, Shondrah Nash at s.nash@moreheadstate.edu.

