

## The Newsletter of the MidSouth Sociological Association's Minority Caucus

### Committee on Minorities

#### Chair

**Dr. Earl Wright II**

*Fisk  
University*

### MSSA

#### President

**Dr. Thomas**

**Calhoun**

*S. Illinois  
University  
Carbondale*

### MSSA

#### Vice President

**Dr. Keith**

**Durkin**

*Ohio  
Northern  
University*

## From the

## Chair's Desk. . . Dr. Earl Wright III, Fisk University

Let me thank each of you for making this year's MidSouth Sociological Association Annual Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia one of the best in history! Moreover, I appreciate your support of the Committee on Minorities. Through your diligence, the caucus has accomplished much within the past year.

One of my goals as chairperson was to increase the visibility of students of color at MSSA meetings. I am proud to say this goal was accomplished in Atlanta, when the Committee on Minorities funded undergraduate students from Fisk and Grambling State Universities. Undergraduate student travel funds were restricted to those at HBCU's due to limited resources. However, I intend for next year's meeting to include women and students of color from all institutions. This cannot be accomplished without your assistance. *Please, contribute to the 'Minority Fund' on your application*, so that we may continue to develop students into towering sociologists and future members of this organization.

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# Verstehen **VERSTEHEN** Verstehen

Hundreds of thousands experienced the massive devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Minority Caucus Member, Dr. Diane Keithly of Southern University at Baton Rouge is an example. In the retrospective below, she exposes the many tolls Katrina, including its impact on her state, institution, and students.

## Hurricane Katrina: Southern University Still Feeling the Effects

**Southern** University in Baton Rouge was closed for a week after Hurricane Katrina hit southeast Louisiana on August 29, 2005. When the campus reopened, we added many displaced students from New Orleans, and many of our own students lost their homes, cars, books, everything. The most heartbreaking stories were about dead and missing family members. Katrina killed over one thousand people in Louisiana. Hundreds of thousands in Louisiana were displaced.

As students and faculty made efforts to resume a normal university routine of classes and campus events, we faced difficulties none of us could have possibly imagined. Even so, the response was generous. A Red Cross shelter was set up on campus housing well over a thousand people. My sociology classes donated dozens of personal care items to the shelter. Even students who lost so much came forward to donate. The College of Sciences, which houses the Department of Sociology, collected money to replace lost textbooks. And many others, both on and off campus, made donations to help students affected by the disaster. Throughout the community, students, faculty, and staff helped hurricane victims by providing housing, food, and other assistance. (Continued on Page 8)

# Accolades/Accomplishments

Dr. Jackie Eller ( Middle Tennessee State University) received the university's 2004-2005 Distinguished Teacher Award.

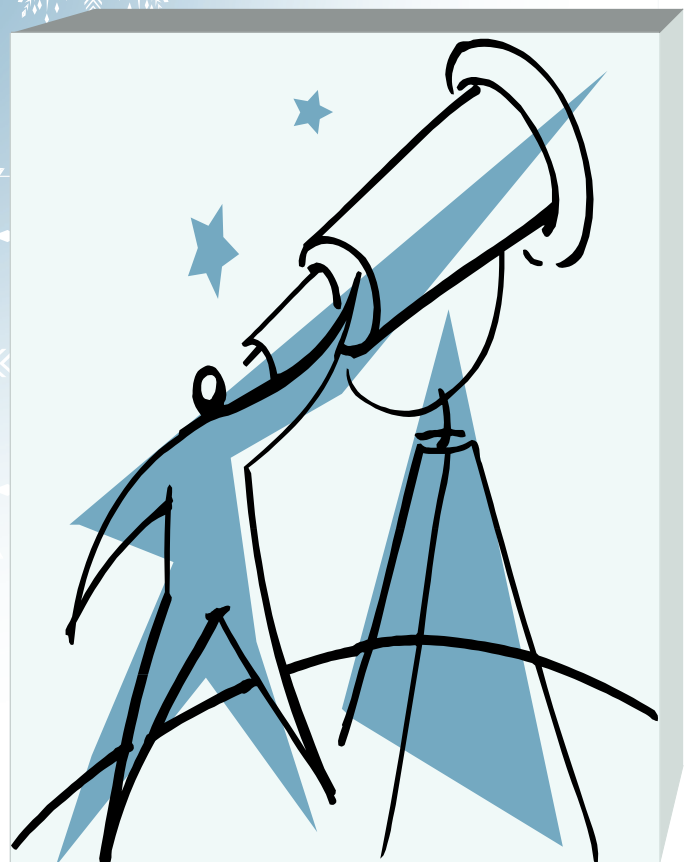
Dr. Thomas Calhoun (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) was named the university's Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. Dr. Calhoun also received the A. Wade Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching, Mentoring, and Service from the Association of Black Sociologists at their recent Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

Drs. Vicky MacLean (Middle Tennessee State University ) and Joyce Williams (Texas Woman's University, Emeritus) co-authored, "Sociology at Women's and Black Colleges, 1880s-1940s" in A. Blasi's Diverse Histories of American Sociology (Brill Academic Publisher, 2005).

Dr. Willie Pearson, Jr. (Georgia Institute of Technology) was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His induction will be held at the association's annual meeting in February. Dr. Pearson is also the author of the book, Beyond Small Numbers: Voices of African American PhD Chemists (Elsevier, 2005).

**Dr. Shirley A. Rainey** (Austin Peay State University), who was recently awarded tenure, has a forthcoming book, An Environmental Justice Reader for the 21st Century (2006). Her article with Bobby Jones, “Assessing Linkages between Environmental Concern, Health in Justice in a Highly Polluted Community of Color,” will be published in *The Journal of Black Studies* in 2006. In addition, Dr. Rainey developed courses in Environmental Sociology and Environmental Justice at Austin Peay State University and is associated with the discipline’s new Environmental Studies minor.

**Dr. Shanta Sharma** (Henderson State University) received a Faculty Development Grant from Henderson State University. In addition, she was appointed an Advisory Board member for McGraw-Hill’s Annual Editions: Dying, Death, and Bereavement. Dr. Sharma’s will advise in the review and ranking of articles for publication.



## Dr. Dawood H. Sultan (University of Tennessee at Martin)

will lead a group of students and faculty from The University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) to Tanzania, East Africa. The June 2006 event includes visits to Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania's largest urban center), Bagamoyo (East Africa's main slave trade terminus), the Island of Zanzibar (East Africa's largest slave market and point where Islam, Christianity, African and East Asian religions intersected), and a 6-day safari covering Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater, Alduvai Gorge, and Serengeti. The two-week tour will be UTM's second Africa travel program.

Additionally, Dr. Sultan was one of two representatives from UTM's Colleges of Education and Behavioral Sciences during a meeting with Dr. John Peterson, President of the University of Tennessee system. The November gathering examined the national and international level of scholarly and professional activity at UTM.

## Upcoming Annual Meetings ..

The MidSouth  
Sociological  
Association's  
32nd Annual Meetings to  
be held in  
Lafayette, Louisiana  
October 24-26, 2006

The Association  
of Black  
Sociologists'  
36th Annual Meetings to  
be held in  
Montreal, Quebec,  
Canada,  
August 9-12, 2006.

# Fellowship Opportunities

Middle Tennessee State University announces the availability of a minority dissertation fellowship. The purpose of the fellowship is to enhance diversity in research, teaching, and service at MTSU through the recruitment of 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 January 2006.

Applicants should submit:

(1) Letter of application; (2) Official transcripts (not issued to student); (3) Verification of doctoral candidacy; (4) Three letters of recommendation (one must be from the dissertation adviser); (5) A proposed plan for completion of dissertation, (6) Provide a two-page abstract of the dissertation; (7) Include proposed timeline for completion showing milestones; (8) Vitae (showing experience/understanding of diversity issues in higher education)

Applications and inquiries should be addressed to:

Minority Dissertation Fellowship, Office of Academic Affairs, Cope Administration Building, Rm. 117, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Phone: (615) 898-2880/Website: [www.mtsu.edu/~pvpa](http://www.mtsu.edu/~pvpa).

*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.*

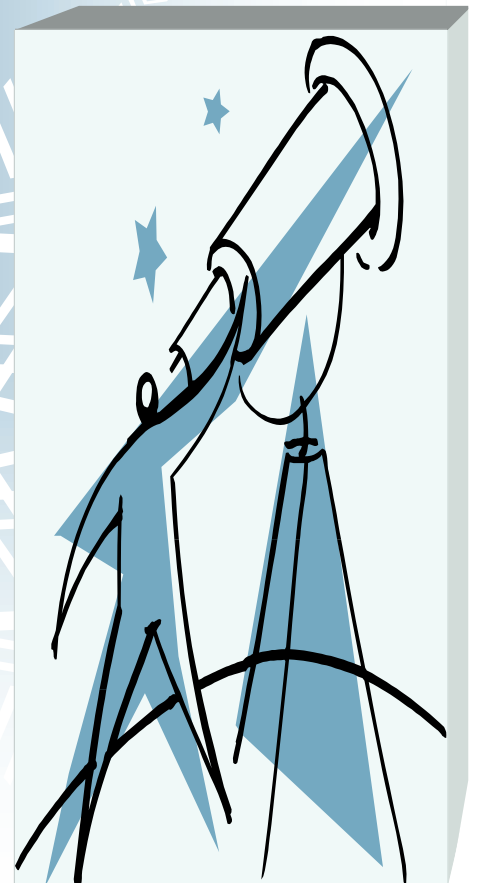
# Employment Opportunities

**Augusta State University's** Department of Sociology invites applications for three tenure track Assistant Professor positions to begin Fall 2006. The first position is in Sociology. PhD in Sociology preferred. Specializations open but urban/rural, social psychology, race/ethnicity, and/or research methods preferred. The second position is in Criminal Justice. Ph.D. in Sociology, Criminal Justice, or related field preferred. Candidates should be able to teach social deviance and at least one criminology specialty area. The third position (contingent on budgetary approval) is a new position in social work. Specialists in diverse populations or child welfare preferred. Minimum qualifications include an MSW from a CSWE accredited program and a doctorate in Social Work or closely related field. Two years post MSW experience also required. Candidates for all three positions should demonstrate a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching, potential for excellence in research, a commitment to collegiality, and good department citizenship. ABDs with a degree completion date by May 2006 will be considered for all three positions.

Salary commensurate with experience. Applicants should submit a letter of application describing teaching and scholarly interests, vita, three letters of reference, and evidence of teaching and research effectiveness; finalists will be asked to provide transcripts. Screening will begin November 15, 2005 and continue until positions are filled.

Send applications to: Chair, Department of Sociology, Augusta State University, 2500 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia 30904-2200.

***Augusta State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity institution and strongly encourages applications from women and minority candidates.***



## Hurricane Katrina: Southern University, Continued

Unfortunately, Southern University in New Orleans was in the middle of some of the worst effects of Katrina. The campus is located in an area of extensive flooding. The students and faculty were forced to flee. As I write this to you in early November, some faculty members are still unsure about what is left of their offices and homes.

Now the secondary impacts of Katrina are being felt in Louisiana. The state's budget is short by as much as one and a half billion dollars. Universities are being asked to make substantial cuts in spending. Even worse, one major newspaper in the state has called for the permanent closure of Southern University in New Orleans. This only seems to add insult to injury. We are living daily in the mist of a disaster of such great magnitude; and the full effect of the this storm will not be known for years to come.

Please pray for our recovery.

Dr. Diane Keithly  
*Department of Sociology*  
*Southern University, Baton Rouge LA*

## From the Chair's Desk, continued...

Another advancement involves Dr. Tom Durant's suggestion that a special issue of *Sociological Spectrum* be dedicated to race, class, and gender in the South. The proposed plan is a joint effort of this group and Committee on Women, as we seek even closer bonds with friends and colleagues in other committees. Last, our newsletter, *Nuances*, has been a source of pride since its revival a year ago. It has and continues to serve as the organ of this committee. I thank Dr. Shondrah Tarrezz Nash, as she begins to transition out her position as editor. A call for a new editor for the newsletter will be distributed soon. I hope there are some among us, who will embrace this opportunity.

Once again, I thank each of you for your assistance in making the Committee on Minorities a strong and viable organ in MSSA.

Dr. Earl Wright III



The background features a light blue gradient with several large, intricate white snowflake patterns. In the lower half, there are two dark blue silhouettes of people in dynamic, dancing poses. Scattered throughout the background are smaller, five-pointed blue stars.

***Nuances*** is a  
newsletter for the  
members and friends of the  
MidSouth Sociological Association 's  
Minority Caucus.

If you have announcements  
or comments,  
please email  
Shondrah Tarrezz Nash at  
[s.nash@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:s.nash@moreheadstate.edu)