



# M.S.S.A. Forum

The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association

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## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jackie L. Eller

Middle Tennessee State University

This year's annual meeting, our 30<sup>th</sup>, is coming soon to Biloxi, MS. at the Imperial Palace, October 20-23, 2004. Duane Gill, Program Chair, has put together what appears to be a great conference. Please check out the Program on the MSSA website if you have not already done so. Besides reminding you to pre-register and make your reservations, I want to emphasize how important it is to attend the business meeting Thursday evening. The executive council has some important announcements to share and the organization has a significant decision to be made. One announcement I am now able to make is that DeAnn Kalitch has received board and executive council approval to remain editor of Sociological Spectrum for another three-year term. Congratulations and thanks, DeAnn. Unfortunately, though, one announcement I am not yet able to make is to recognize a replacement for Sahadeo Patram – yes, this means we are still in need of a secretary-treasurer. Please consider volunteering for this critical position! At the business meeting we will also be recognizing our first Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award and Donna Darden Undergraduate Paper Award.

## From The Editor

Keith F. Durkin

Ohio Northern University

This issue of MSSA Forum includes the standard reports from the Executive Council, as well as information about members' professional activities and awards in MSSA People. I am pleased to report that the MSSA people section is growing. I urge all members to simply forward to me ([k-durkin@onu.edu](mailto:k-durkin@onu.edu)) any information on any award or grant that you receive, or any publication or media interview you have been involved in. I would be delighted share this with the membership in the next issue. Additionally, students are welcome to send information to be included. If you are unsure if something would be appropriate for MSSA people, feel free to contact me by e-mail.

There are several others features in the issue that I would like to call to your attention. First, there is an obituary for long time MSSA member Jerry Salomone. Second, the quantitative results of the MSSA membership survey are present and discussed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Billy Turner and Daniel W. Phillips III for serving as reviewers of that particular piece. Their frank suggestions for revisions were tremendously useful. Finally, Trish Hemmelgarn contributed an interesting and informative essay on "Teaching Sociology in High School". Trish is currently a teacher at Benjamin Logan High School in Bellefontaine, Ohio and is pursuing her Masters of Education in Teaching. My thanks go out to Trish for taking time from her hectic schedule to write this essay.

In the future, I would like to see MSSA Forum continue to grow and expand. As indicated by the number of pages in this issue, there is certainly plenty of room for more material in the future. I look forward to hearing your ideas regarding possible contributions.

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Keith F. Durkin, Editor,

Ohio Northern University

Heather M. Stassen, Managing Editor, Ohio Northern University

Jessica Brasee, Managing Editor, Ohio Northern University



**REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER**

*Sahadeo Patram  
Morehouse College*

I am pleased to report that the Association is in a good financial state. Current assets as of September 16, 2004 are \$39,572.36. This amount is held in four accounts:

Capitol City Bank - Certificate of Deposits	\$26,324.85
Capitol City Bank - Operating Fund	\$5,968.05
Capitol City Bank - Reserve Fund	\$5,279.46
Spectrum - LA Petty Cash	\$1,000.00
Program Chair - Petty Cash	\$1,000.00

Membership in MSSA for 2004 was 251 (Active 162, Student 83 and Joint 6). We need to encourage to re-newed membership for 2005 and pre-register for our Annual meetings in October. .

Our Annual Meetings in 2004 will be held at the Imperial Palace, Biloxi, Mississippi - October 20 -23. Make plans to attend the meetings and stay at the Imperial Palace. The room rate is \$59.00 plus tax.

MSSA is looking for a Secretary-Treasurer. The position is open to Active Regular members of the Association. Persons interested in serving as Secretary-Treasurer should contact our President, Jackie L. Eller. Jackie's address is : Middle Tennessee State University, Box 126, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

### **Report from the Committee on the Profession**

*Keith F. Durkin  
Ohio Northern University*

I have served as Chair of the Committee on the Profession for four years. It has been a truly rewarding experience for me. In this capacity, I had the opportunity to meet dozens if members and to participate in some very interesting and provocative panel sessions involving issues facing the discipline. It was also encouraging to see the large number of graduate programs and talented students who participated in the Graduate School Information Exchange. I would like to thank the members for being supportive of the MSSA Membership Survey. The response rate for the project exceeded 70%. This attests to the dedication of members of this organization.

### **Report from the Committee on Minorities**

*Earl Wright II  
Fisk University*

The Mid-South Sociological Association's (MSSA) Committee on Minorities is a unit that represents the interests of the organization's underrepresented populations with the ultimate goal of helping this organization fulfill its mission and objectives. The groups represented by this committee vary by race, class, gender, sexual preference, physical ability, etc. The interests of a large segment of MSSA members are affected by decisions made at the Committee on Minorities luncheon held at each year's meeting. Therefore, your participation in this event is of the utmost importance. I want to extend a personal invitation to every MSSA member to attend the luncheon of the Committee on Minorities at this year's meeting in Biloxi. The luncheon will be held on Friday (Check your program for exact room location). It is important that you attend this luncheon so that important decisions regarding the Committee on Minorities can be made with your input. Chief among the issues to be discussed at this year's luncheon include laying the foundation for a special issue of *Sociological Spectrum*, with a specific focus on issues related to minorities in the South, and the appointment of an editor for the committee newsletter. I look forward to seeing each of you at the MSSA meeting in Biloxi, but just as importantly, at the luncheon sponsored by the Committee on Minorities.



## Results of the M.S.S.A. Membership Survey

Keith F. Durkin, Scott E. Wolfe, Zachary Bushatz, Gregory Elzey  
Ohio Northern University

### Introduction

At its winter 2004 meeting, the Executive Council of the Mid South Sociological Association (MSSA) commissioned the Ohio Northern University Institute for Survey Research to conduct a membership survey. The purpose of this report is to summarize the quantitative results of a probability sample of current and recent MSSA members regarding major issues facing the organization. The findings presented here concern respondents' perceptions of: (1) possible future meeting sites; (2) various aspects of the MSSA; and (3) factors that are considered when deciding whether or not to attend a specific meeting. The results of this survey should provide the Executive Council with guidance for planning future meetings and the overall direction of the MSSA.

A number of professional organizations in sociology and allied disciplines have conducted membership surveys. For instance, the American Sociological Association conducted one in 1980 (Brown and Smith 1981). In 1976, the North Central Sociological Association surveyed its members (Davis 1977). The Religious Research Association conducted membership surveys in 1956 and 1967 respectively, while the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion surveyed its membership in 1973 (Moberg 2000). In the field of psychology, both the Society for Personality Assessment (Spielberger and Piotrowski 1992) and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (Stricker, Helmerich, and Roberts 1986) conducted membership surveys. Finally, the Institute for Management Sciences also conducted a membership survey (Hall 1984).

Four years ago, J. Kenneth Davidson Sr. and Larry Hall (2000) conducted a site selection survey for the MSSA. They received 95 useable surveys from MSSA members. There were several important findings (Hall 2000). First, they found the preferred locations for future meetings were (in order): Memphis, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette. Moreover, the majority of members who responded to this survey supported the adoption of a "rotation system" for meetings involving a few cities. Finally, travel distances seemed to be the most important factor influencing respondents' decisions to attend MSSA meetings.

### Methodology

The tailored design method (Dillman 2000) served as the basis for the data collection. A list of current and recent MSSA members was obtained for the Secretary/ Treasurer. For the purpose of this study, we identified those individuals who are or who have recently been classified as "active" members (students were excluded). From those names, a simple random sample of 294 was generated.

Prior to the actual survey mailing, selected respondents were sent a personalized letter informing them that they would be receiving the questionnaire in the near future. The following week, each respondent was sent a packet containing a personalized cover letter, a copy of the instrument, a self-addressed stamped return envelope, and a self-addressed stamped postcard to acknowledge the questionnaire was

returned. About ten days after the packet was mailed, each of the selected individuals was sent a reminder postcard, requesting them to complete the survey if they had not already done so. Finally, six weeks later a second survey packet was sent to all non-respondents.

The addresses of 16 individuals who were included in the sample proved to be invalid, bringing the actual sample size to 278. Completed surveys were received from 200 subjects, for an overall response rate of 71.9%. This compares very favorably to the response rates of other membership surveys. For instance, the response rate for the American Sociological Association's survey was 58.4% (Brown and Smith 1981), and the response rate for the North Central Sociological Association survey was 50% (Davis 1977). Two membership surveys for psychological associations were 50% and 48.5% respectively (Stricker et al. 1986; Spielberger and Piotrowski 1992). Finally, a survey of the members of the Institute for Management Sciences had a 31% response rate (Hall 1984).

### **Instrument**

The MSSA Membership Survey was designed in consultation with the Executive Council. The site selection survey conducted by Davidson and Hall (2000) was used to assist in the design of the current instrument. A final draft of the questionnaire was pre-tested using several social scientists as subjects. The actual instrument contained items designed to assess respondents' perceptions of future meeting sites, various aspects of the MSSA, and factors taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to attend a particular meeting. Several additional items were included to solicit demographic/ background information on respondents. Finally, there were two open-ended items that addressed what respondents valued about MSSA membership and what ways the MSSA should change to confront issues of membership retention and expansion. These will be presented separately in a future research report.

### **Results**

Approximately two-thirds of the respondents were male. The members that participated in this survey represented all 13 member states of the MSSA. The states with the largest representation were Louisiana (15.6%) and Tennessee (13.6%). However, 15.1% of respondents were located in non-member states. The vast majority of respondents (59.3%) drive their personal vehicle to the meetings, while more than one-third (36.6%) normally fly to the meetings. About one-third (35.7%) reported that their institution pays "all or nearly all" of the cost of meeting attendance. Another 44% reported receiving at least some funding from their institution to attend. More than half (55.3%) of respondents are employed at Doctoral granting schools, while approximately 25% work at Masters granting institutions.

The respondents were provided with two lists of cities to rate as possible location sites for future meetings. The first list consisted of cities where the MSSA has held meetings in the past, or are similar to those cities in terms of costs (e.g., Baton Rouge, Huntsville, Memphis, Mobile). The second were cities in larger markets (e.g., Atlanta, Charlotte, Orlando). The instructions specifically informed respondents that accommodations in the second group would be more expensive. Response options ranged from 0 (poor) to 3 (excellent). The results of this analysis are shown in Table 1. The five highest rated cities (in order) were Memphis, Baton Rouge, Mobile, Atlanta, and Biloxi. In fact, at least two-thirds of the respondents rated each of these potential sites as either "excellent" or "good". The four lowest locations (in order) were Monroe, Shreveport, Huntsville, and Raleigh. Approximately one-half or more of the respondents rates these cities as either "poor" or "fair" as possible meeting locations.



**TABLE I**  
**Ratings for Possible Meeting Sites**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Mean</b>
<b>Memphis</b>	197	55.3%	31.0%	11.2%	2.5%	<b>2.39</b>
<b>Baton Rouge</b>	193	40.4%	35.7%	18.7%	5.2%	<b>2.11</b>
<b>Mobile</b>	196	37.2%	38.8%	19.9%	4.1%	<b>2.09</b>
<b>Atlanta</b>	197	40.6%	33.0%	17.8%	8.6%	<b>2.06</b>
<b>Biloxi</b>	190	35.3%	32.1%	23.7%	8.9%	<b>1.94</b>
<b>Lafayette</b>	194	32.5%	32.5%	23.7%	11.3%	<b>1.86</b>
<b>Birmingham</b>	198	24.2%	45.5%	21.7%	8.6%	<b>1.85</b>
<b>Little Rock</b>	191	27.2%	37.8%	27.7%	7.3%	<b>1.85</b>
<b>Chattanooga</b>	198	23.7%	41.5%	24.7%	10.1%	<b>1.79</b>
<b>Orlando</b>	198	38.9%	20.7%	17.2%	23.2%	<b>1.75</b>
<b>Charlotte</b>	197	25.4%	34.0%	21.8%	18.8%	<b>1.66</b>
<b>Jacksonville</b>	195	24.6%	28.7%	26.2%	20.5%	<b>1.57</b>
<b>Raleigh</b>	198	21.2%	30.3%	27.8%	20.7%	<b>1.52</b>
<b>Huntsville</b>	193	16.1%	31.1%	37.8%	15.0%	<b>1.48</b>
<b>Shreveport</b>	191	15.2%	30.4%	30.4%	24.0%	<b>1.37</b>
<b>Monroe</b>	193	4.2%	29.5%	37.8%	28.5%	<b>1.09</b>

Members were also asked to rate their satisfaction with various aspects of the MSSA. These involved characteristics of the meetings as well as MSSA publications. Response options were on a four-point scale with values ranging from 0 (very dissatisfied) to 3 (very satisfied). These results appear in Table 2. Respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with all of these. For instance, 98.5% of respondents were whether “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the membership and registration fees. While there are some variations in the respective mean scores for these items, none of them dropped below 2.10. In fact, at least 85% of respondents indicated they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with these various aspects of the MSSA. Members were also asked to rate their satisfaction with various aspects of the MSSA. These involved characteristics of the meetings as well as MSSA publications. Response options were on a four-point scale with values ranging from 0 (very dissatisfied) to 3 (very satisfied). These results appear in Table 2. Respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with all of these. For instance, 98.5% of respondents were whether “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the membership and registration fees. While there are some variations in the respective mean scores for these items, none of them dropped below 2.10. In fact, at least 85% of respondents indicated they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with these various aspects of the MSSA.

**TABLE 2**  
**Ratings for Various Aspects of the MSSA**

	Number	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Mean
<b>Membership/Registration Fees</b>	198	71.7%	26.8%	1.5%	0.0%	<b>2.70</b>
<b>Cost of Hotels</b>	190	59.5%	38.4%	2.1%	0.0%	<b>2.57</b>
<b>Quality of Hotels</b>	190	47.9%	47.9%	4.2%	0.0%	<b>2.44</b>
<b>Articles in Sociological Spectrum</b>	185	43.2%	48.6%	6.0%	2.2%	<b>2.33</b>
<b>Keynote Speakers at Meetings</b>	151	35.8%	56.3%	7.9%	0.0%	<b>2.28</b>
<b>Usefulness of MSSA Forum</b>	171	38.0%	50.9%	8.8%	2.3%	<b>2.25</b>
<b>Banquet at Meetings</b>	131	35.9%	51.1%	9.9%	3.1%	<b>2.20</b>
<b>Quality of Papers Presented at Meetings</b>	193	34.2%	51.8%	11.9%	2.1%	<b>2.18</b>
<b>Cities Where Meetings are Held</b>	193	32.6%	53.4%	11.4%	2.6%	<b>2.16</b>

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Respondents were also queried about the importance of factors they might take into consideration when deciding whether or not to attend a meeting. They were asked to rate five considerations on a four-point scale with response options ranging from 0 (not at all important) to 3 (very important). Table 3 contains these results. Clearly, the two most important considerations are travel distance from their residence and the city where the meeting is held. On the other hand, organized activities and tours appear to be of little importance to the majority of respondents. More than one-half of these respondents indicated that they were “not at all important.”

**TABLE 3**  
**Ratings for Factors Considered When Deciding to Attend a Meeting**

	Number	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not at All Important	Mean
<b>Travel Distances from Residence</b>	199	50.3%	25.1%	16.6%	8.0%	<b>2.18</b>
<b>City Where Meeting is Held</b>	199	34.2%	42.2%	21.6%	2.0%	<b>2.09</b>
<b>Cost of Hotel Room</b>	199	27.6%	31.7%	30.1%	10.6%	<b>1.76</b>
<b>Quality of Hotel Facilities</b>	199	20.1%	36.7%	35.2%	8.0%	<b>1.69</b>
<b>Organized Activities and Tours</b>	199	3.0%	8.6%	28.6%	59.8%	<b>0.55</b>



## Discussion

The results of the survey indicate that members have a decided preference for particular cities as meeting locations. These were Memphis, Baton Rouge, Mobile, Atlanta, and Biloxi. However, caution should be exercised in predicting future meeting attendance from these findings. First, some of the respondents may not be active MSSA members when the future meeting might be held in the respective cities. Second, the MSSA has not yet met in either Biloxi or Atlanta. It is conceivable that perceptions may change after the organization meets in those locations. Additionally, slightly more than one-third normally uses air transportation to get to the meeting. Overall, the respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the characteristics of the MSSA meeting and the organizations' publications. When deciding whether or not to attend the annual meeting, travel distance and the city where the meeting is held are clearly the most important considerations. On the other hand, organized activities and tour are not an important factor for most respondents.

## References

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**IN MEMORIAM****Dr. Jerome Salomone  
July 5, 2004**

Author and former dean of arts and sciences at Southeastern Louisiana University, he died Monday morning, July 5, 2004, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 70 and a native of New Orleans. Visitation was at Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home, 2000 La. 51 N., Hammond, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday. Visitation at the funeral home from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. Funeral service at Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Hammond at 10 a.m. Wednesday. Interment in Tickfaw Cemetery. Salomone received a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1959. He later earned a master's degree from LSU in 1961 and a doctorate in sociology from LSU in 1966. Salomone also served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1953-1957, then in the Coast Guard Reserve from 1957-1982, when he retired with the rank of captain. Salomone began his teaching career at Nicholls State University in 1961, where he served as an instructor and associate professor of sociology until 1967. He then moved on to the University of New Orleans, where he was a sociology professor from 1967 to 1981. During his tenure at UNO, Salomone became chairman of the department of sociology and twice served as a researcher in residence at Ohio State University in 1968 and from 1973 to 1974. In 1981, he returned to Southeastern Louisiana University as dean of the College of Humanities and professor of sociology. From 1987 to 1988, he was acting dean of the College of Science and Technology and from the 1988 to 1989, he served as acting dean of the newly organized College of Arts and Sciences. Salomone retired from SLU in 1989, but continued to teach sociology classes at the school until 2003. He also lettered in baseball at SLU and played in the semi-professional Evangeline League. Salomone was a member of numerous professional and cultural organizations, including past chairman of the board of directors for the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. He was a member of the American Sociological Association, the National Council on Family Relations, the Southern Sociological Society, and the Mid-South Sociological Association, which he served as president from 1980 to 1981. In 2002, Salomone and UNO sociology Professor Anthony Margavio, published a history of Italian immigrants to Louisiana entitled "Bread and Respect, The Italians of Louisiana." Salomone published numerous other reports, monographs and studies throughout his career. Salomone is survived by his wife, the former Ruscilla Guidry; four children, Bryan Salomone of Oakland, Calif., Pamela Martin of Boynton Beach, Fla., Gregory Salomone of Covington, and Michell Rabalais of Baton Rouge; his brother, Nace Salomone of Southlake, Texas; nine grandchildren and a great grandchild. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to St. Vincent de Paul, North Oaks Hospice or to a charity of your religious affiliation.



## Teaching Sociology in High School

*Trish Hemmelgarn*

*Ben Logan High School, Bellefonte, Ohio*

In an environment of demanding content standards and ever changing standardized testing, many high schools are opting to cancel elective classes and focus only on the required classes and those designed for remediation. However, the Social Studies department at our school realizes that the real world is also constantly changing and is battling a variety of social problems. To address current social issues, our school has chosen to add electives such as sociology for the older students. Electives were chosen based on the needs of the community, the interests of the students, and the suitability of the subject to prepare our students for their future.

Many students are not aware of what sociology is until they are presented with a mini-lesson in the ninth- grade history class. The idea of sociology is introduced with Comte's work with the French Revolution. Based on that introduction the students are often given the task to analyze a sitcom. To be relevant to the students the sitcom and the focus of the analysis always change, but the goal is always to introduce the younger students to sociology. The mini-lesson often sparks interest in the students, and they begin to ask many questions about what topics and approaches are used in the sociology class at our high school. This early interest has resulted in a sociology class that is always filled to the maximum capacity with students who are attracted to examining various aspects of our society.

On the very first day of class the students are told that this is a class that studies the American society, and in our society there are controversial issues. They are also told that it is important that they behave like the young adults that they are when examining such issues. The students are informed that mature behavior is necessary because they will examine beyond the confines of the lecture based classroom, using methods such as cooperative learning and hands-on activities. The class covers units on sociological perspectives, culture and social structure, social inequality, social institutions, and social change. In these units a variety of topics are discussed. The topics may change according to the interests of the students but we always examine family, education, race, religion, and gender. There is a conscious effort made to have the students considers all the facets of these topics; more is examined than the stereotypical aspects of each topic. Societal problems and controversies are addressed, and the students are forced to look beyond their daily lives and maybe even begin to challenge their personal beliefs.

The students often rise to the challenge and begin to evaluate society with open minds and thoughts; however' there are always surprises along the way that steer the class into various directions. For example, last year the class was examining inequalities in health care, and we discussed the problems with AIDS in America and beyond. The students watched a VH1 special entitled [AIDS: The Pop Culture History](#). The students learned for the first time that many people were scared about AIDS in the 1990's because they were not educated about how the disease was contracted. The students also stated after watching the show that they do not need to worry about AIDS because there are not that many cases in our local area of rural Ohio. In response to that statement, we contacted the Health Department for data on the number of known cases of HIV/AIDS locally. After hearing the number of people who are infected in their area, students began to look at the disease and the spread of the disease in a new light. One student went as far as to question our own sex education programs at the school and made a proposal to change the way this subject was taught at our school.

Another topic that we investigated was education. In class the students look at all components of education and spend some time examining the correlation between school funding and school performance. Many students were angered when they realized that the notion of "equality for all" was tampered by the failing school funding system. Students found in their research that there was a direct correlation with school funding, school performance, and readiness for the future.

These are but a few illustrations of the countless lessons that resulted in the motivation of the students to create change by either pursuing a career in the sociology or changing policies at our own school. Sociology has added so much to the department and to the school at large. By investigating various views on a variety of topics students become socially conscious and more tolerant of others. Also, students become informed on issues that impact American society and are able to make informed decisions on topics that were once considered taboo in school. Consequently, they are able to convey these ideas to others. Ideally, this would result in more tolerant behavior in the school and community.

## Announcements



**Position  
Announcement  
Assistant/Associate  
Professor  
(Tenure Track)**

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Department of Criminal Justice, College of Liberal Arts, invites applications for a Tenure Track position at the Assistant or Associate Professor rank, beginning August 2005. The preferred candidate will have college level teaching experience and hold the Ph.D. in Criminal Justice, Criminology, or related field and document or show potential for excellence in teaching, research and service. We welcome applicants in all areas of specialization, but we are particularly interested in corrections. The candidate must also be willing to periodically teach Research Methods and Introduction to Criminal Justice. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Send letter of application, curriculum vita and addresses and phone numbers of three references to: Dr. Craig J. Forsyth, Chair of Search Committee, Department of Criminal Justice, P.O. Box 41652, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504. [phone: (337) 4825372; email: [cjf5714@louisiana.edu](mailto:cjf5714@louisiana.edu)] University of Louisiana at Lafayette is an EOE/AA Employer. LA 3-04.

### Arkansas Symposium

The Twenty-fifth Annual Arkansas Undergraduate Sociology and Anthropology Symposium was held on March 19, 2004, at Hendrix College. Professor Jim Bruce founded the symposium at Hendrix College in 1979 and coordinated the symposium this year. The symposium serves to encourage the undertaking of undergraduate research and the reporting of research findings. It provides an opportunity for fellowship and scholarly stimulation among faculty members and students from colleges, universities, and schools in Arkansas and the surrounding region. This year's symposium received financial support from both a research symposium grant from Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society and the office of Hendrix College Provost Robert L. Entzminger. Their generosity made possible the appearance of the keynote speaker, Dr. Anna Szafranek of the Technical University of Lublin, Poland, who spoke on "Creating Humanized Spaces for People Through Architecture: A Social Psychological Viewpoint." Dr. Szafranek's lecture, accompanied by slides, was very well received by the 50-60 students and faculty representing the University of Central Arkansas, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and Heifer Project International, as well as Hendrix College.

### Graduate Courses Online

With the help of a Distance Education Initiative award from the Louisiana Board of Regents the Department of Criminal Justice at Grambling State University is now offering graduate courses online. Four courses are currently being taught with the following five courses scheduled for Spring 2005:

CJ 506 Deviant Behavior,  
CJ 513 Women in the Justice System,  
CJ 500 Overview of Criminal Justice, and  
CJ 582 Methods of Research II

Long time member of MSSA, Marianne Fisher-Giorlando, is presently teaching the Seminar in Penology on line and looks forward to teaching the Women in the Justice System, Spring, 2005.

Online class enrollment has been extremely positive and includes students and criminal justice professionals across the state of Louisiana and from major U.S. metropolitan areas. Individuals interested in enrolling in online graduate criminal justice courses should contact the Coordinator of Graduate Studies at 318-274-2876 or [montgomeryj@gram.edu](mailto:montgomeryj@gram.edu).



**Mark Knoty** had a paper, "Scared Selfish: The Culture of Fear and Values in the Age of Terrorism", accepted for publication in the *American Sociologist*.

**Brent K. Marshall, J. Steven Picou, and Jan Schlichtmann** had a paper "Technological Disasters, Litigation Stress and the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms" published in *Law & Policy*.

**Brent K. Marshall** had a paper "Gender, Race, and Perceived Environmental Risk: The 'White Male Effect' in Cancer Alley, LA," appear in *Sociological Spectrum*

**J. Steven Picou, Brent K. Marshall, and Duane Gill** had a paper titled "Disaster, Litigation and the Corrosive Community" published in *Social Forces*.

**Shondrah Nash's** paper "Through Black Eyes: African-American Women's Constructions of Intimate Male Partner Abuse" will appear in a Special Edition of *Violence Against Women: Voices from the Margins*.

**Shondrah Nash and Cedric Herring** contributed a chapter, "The Black Church and Community Economic Development", for the book *African Americans in the States Economy* edited by Cecilia Conrad, John Patrick Mason, and James Stewart (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, MD).

The *Handbook of Death and Dying*, edited by **Clifton D. Bryant**, was selected by the American Library Association as one of the "Outstanding Reference Source" books of 2004.

**Clifton D. Bryant** was the recipient of the 2003-2004 College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (Virginia Tech University) Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Award.

**Keith F. Durkin** was awarded the Irene Casteel Chair in Education, Professional & Social Sciences at Ohio Northern University. Recently, he was also quoted in newspaper articles in the *Columbus Dispatch*, *Tulsa World*, and *Detroit MetroTimes*.

The paper, "Log on to Sex": Some Notes on the Carnal Computer and Erotic Cyberspace" by **Keith F. Durkin** and **Clifton D. Bryant** was reprinted in *The Sprit of Sociology*, edited by Ron Matson (Allyn and Bacon).

**Earl Wright II** has accepted a position as an Associate Professor at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Kim Davies** was appointed Acting Chair of the Sociology Department at Augusta State University.

**Timothy W. Wolfe** was appointed Chair of the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department at Mount Saint Mary's University.

**Michael R. Daley** has joined the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, at University of South Alabama as Professor and Director of the Social Work Program.

**J. Steven Picou** recently had several grant proposals funded including: "Patterns of Seafood Consumption Among Recreational Fishers of the Coastal Regions of Alabama and Mississippi", Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (\$97,861); "Assessing Public Awareness of the Benefits of Oyster Reef Restoration: Laying the Technical Groundwork for an Educational Outreach Program", Alabama Oyster Reef Restoration Program (\$64,933); and PI "Environmental Attitudes and Resource Use: Assessing the Impact of "Snowbirds' on the Alabama Coastal Zone", Environmental Protection Agency (\$78,592).

**Nicole T. Flynn and Roma S. Hanks** had a funded grant proposal called "Process and Outcome Evaluation of Network Aftercare System (NAS) at Strickland Youth Center: Continuation", Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (\$73,268).

**Philip J. Carr and James Daniel Lee** had the grant proposal funded called "Digging Out of Trouble: Archaeology as Educational and Prosocial Activity", Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (\$113,551).