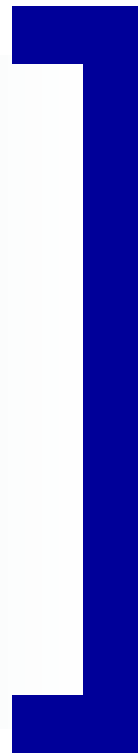




SPRING 2017 ISSUE

FORUM: The Voice of The Mid-South Sociological Association



Celestial Clock by Rey Alfonso
aluminum, steel and enamel
Main and Market Streets



Poise by Angela Conner
marble dust and cast resin
First and Cherry Streets



FORUM: The Voice of The Mid-South Sociological Association

Introduction

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Welcome to the Spring edition of Forum! The purpose of this edition is to disseminate information, motivate participation, promote unity through communication and provide for and celebrate our member accomplishments. To that end, this issue has information about the upcoming meeting in Chattanooga TN (October 18-21, 2017). Please help spread the word by forwarding this edition of Forum and in particular print, post, scan and forward pages 7-11 (call for papers, awards and submissions).

As always I seek your input to help make this a newsletter that we all want to read. Please consider submitting your ideas to the next issue. (see page 12 for more information) and/or send any suggestions or submissions to Tina Deshotels at tdeshotels@jsu.edu

Hope to see all of you in Chattanooga TN!

Your Forum Editor,
Tina Hebert Deshotels, Ph.D
Professor and Program Coordinator
Department of Sociology and Social Work
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:
www.midsouthsoc.org



MSSA Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association Spring 2017

From the Desk of the President

42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association

As the new President of the MSSA I thought I would briefly introduce myself. I was born in New York and after a few courses at Columbia I went to Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Reed might have wanted me for academic reasons but I went there mainly because it was in a part of the country I had yet to see. One of my hobbies is competitive birding and I was interested in adding as many new birds to my list as possible. At Reed I was an interdisciplinary major, taking almost all of my courses in economics and psychology. My major interest was in the intersection between economics and psychology, and Donald Levine, the noted Simmel scholar, suggested most of the work in that area was being done by sociologists. I took my first sociology course as a graduate student and expected to write a rather long dissertation in the area of history and theory. Along the way I managed to publish a paper on Durkheim's theory of suicide in the American Journal of Sociology (the first to do so as a student in many years at the Univ. of Chicago).

It was Gerald Suttles (known today for his 1968 Social Order of the Slum) who pointed out to me the idea of a dissertation was to produce a quality publication, and my intended tome in the area of theory was no longer a necessity. With that I defended my AJS article/dissertation and was on the job market. I ended up at Washington University in St. Louis but was soon told the sociology department would be eliminated because of financial exigency. That was a difficult time for me, but after my wife got a job in Nashville I joined the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University, my current academic home. Here I met Jackie Eller, a former President of the MSSA and she suggested Brian Hinote and I apply to be co-editors of Sociological Spectrum. Brian eventually went into administration and I became Editor-in-Chief of the journal. At the recent conference in North Charleston I was voted in as President of the MSSA for the current year ending with our conference next October.

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



MSSA Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association Spring 2017

From the Desk of the President

42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association

The MSSA is a wonderfully strong and diverse group. I look forward to working with the Executive Council and members of the association to continue this long and honorable tradition. And more work than usual may be needed this year. Several people have noted many of the policies and procedures of the MSSA date from 1975, the year we were founded, and a new look at the way we do our work is needed. I would ask all those who have experience with the MSSA to think hard about how we can do a better job to help sustain the vibrant and financially sound association we currently have. To that end we hope to reduce the costs of membership and focus more on encouraging member donations. Several of us have taken the opportunity to sign up as Lifetime Members of the association, something I strongly support. In an academic sense, excitement is also in the air as recently many fields have formed ties to other disciplines—thus the promise the sociological message will reach more people and make more inroads in the social sciences. The tentative theme of our 43rd annual conference next year in Chattanooga, “Understanding the Social World through Multiple Perspectives” represents the interdisciplinary nature of sociology and the social sciences, and the kind of outreach that will help grow the MSSA and sociology as a whole.

And if you have not visited Chattanooga recently you are in for a treat. After a period of stagnation, the New York Times in 2012 voted Chattanooga one of the 45 Places to Go in the world. See the Tennessee Aquarium, among the best aquariums in the country, or take a leisurely boat ride sending passengers back to the 1880s on the Southern Belle, or take the 50-mph high-tech boat trip to explore the beautiful Tennessee River Gorge. The Tennessee Riverpark allows for a scenic walk or run along the river, and nearby you can visit the award-winning Hunter Museum of American Art. See Rock City at the top of Lookout Mountain, one of the most beautiful views in all the South (four states can be seen if I remember correctly), or the always surprising Ruby Falls. The highly ranked Creative Discovery Museum is perfect for children (as is Rock City with some fairy tale themes), and a train ride at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is good for children of all ages. If trains are your thing, a trip up and down Lookout Mountain on the Incline Railway may be your best bet. Finally, the Battle of Chattanooga Museum, and the Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park will give you a sobering reminder of the real costs of freedom. So many great things to do in Chattanooga! I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference in October! Kevin Breault

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



MSSA Forum: **The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association** **Spring 2017**

About Our President: Dr. Kevin Breault

42nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association



Dr. Breault has a B.A. from Reed College, a M.A. from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, perhaps the leading department of sociology in the world, from which he graduated first with a perfect gpa and was the department's nominee for the prestigious Harper Fellowship. At Chicago, Dr. Breault was one of only a few students in the modern period to get a paper published in the *American Journal of Sociology*. Since Chicago Dr. Breault has had a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford and has taught at University of Cincinnati, Washington University, Austin Peay State University and has been at MTSU since 1999. Dr. Breault is a tenured full professor and has been Director of Graduate Studies at MTSU, and the Chair of the Sociology Program at Austin Peay State Univ. Professor Breault has dozens of publications and has published in all the major journals in sociology, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*. Some other journals include: *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, *Archives of Suicide Research*, and *Social Science Research*. His major interest is in social epidemiology and explores the social forces that are related to morbidity and mortality. He is internationally known for research on homicide, suicide, religious participation in the U.S., social control theory, and Emile Durkheim, the founder of scientific sociology. Dr. Breault has been noted in various publications including *Who's Who in America*, he has hundreds of citations in the periodical literature and books, and dozens of media appearances, including televisions, newspapers and radio. Indeed, Dr. Breault likely has more quality citations, citations based on papers published in leading journals, than any other faculty member at MTSU. Dr. Breault has also published more than 20 papers with current and former students. He does consulting work and his avocations include writing children's books, playing chess, and he is a competitive birder with a ranking in the American Birding Association. Dr. Breault is married to a lawyer who does corporate work and has a child in college.

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

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MSSA Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association Spring 2017

A Message and Call from our President-Elect

Ruth A. Chananie, Ph.D

Greetings MSSA members and friends'

I am pleased to be of service as your President-Elect and Program Chair for our upcoming annual **Mid-South Sociological Association** conference, and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Please save the date! **October 18-21, 2017**

**The Chattanooga Hotel
Downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee**

Here is their website if you'd like a sneak peek: <http://www.chattanoogaehotel.com/>

We have some very exciting paper session topics!

Also, consider participation in one of our panels, roundtables, poster sessions, or workshops in addition to traditional research paper sessions. If you are interested in submitting a poster or being a part of a panel, roundtable and/or workshop please see the Call for Papers and Posters on the MSSA Webpage.

You can find registration and membership information on our webpage at www.midsouthsoc.org However, If you have more questions or suggestions contact Dr. Ruth A. Chananie at midsouthsoc@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of MSSA!

- Dr. Ruth Chananie, MSSA President-Elect

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



Interdisciplinarity: Understanding the Social World Through Multiple Perspectives

October 18-21, 2017 Chattanooga TN

Call for Papers and Posters

Ruth Chananie Ph.D

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS	July 1
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION	Sept 1
GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER OF DISTINCTION	Sept 1
STANFORD LYMAN SCHOLARSHIP	July 31
STANFORD LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD	June 1

As President-Elect, I am excited to invite you to submit relevant research papers and posters from any and all disciplines, including those with an interdisciplinary focus. Please consider submitting your papers early, to help ensure a spot in your session of choice.

The early deadline is July 1, 2017. Submit your paper or poster title, abstract, and specific session title to the session organizer. For more information go to <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/>

If you are unsure where your paper or poster might fit best, please email it to me, Ruth Chananie, MSSA President-Elect, at midsouthsoc@gmail.com.

Session Topics Include But are Not Limited To:

Addiction	Narratives of Post-Obama Era	Aging	Social Movements
Animals in Society	Environment	Sexualities	Sociology of Crisis
Challenges facing Military	Food and Food Security	Immigration	Death and Dying
Media and Crime	Gender and Work	Intersectionality	Education
Deviance	Gender Research in Progress	Intimate Partner Violence	Sociology of Art
Critical Theory	Health	Police Brutality	Conspiracy Theories

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at: www.midsouthsoc.org



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

2017 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Deadline: September 1, 2017

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 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 2017 MSSA Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, TN (Oct 18-21, 2017). Students are also free to submit papers for a separate non-competitive session if they do not wish to compete.

Rules for the Competition:

- ◆ Each paper must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting participation in the undergraduate competition session. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, the 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.

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 (i.e. neatness, use of an appropriate format, grammar, spelling, etc.). To receive full recognition for participation, submissions must meet deadlines and participants must present their papers at the Annual Conference held each fall, and be present at the awards banquet.

Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty advice prior to submission of papers and to include contact information for a faculty mentor or advisor.

Papers (in Word, rtf, or PDF format) should be submitted by email to Dr. Jessica Abbott, MSSA Vice-President Elect, at jessica.abbott@uncp.edu

If you have any questions regarding the competition, please contact Dr. Jessica Abbott by email.

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

2017 GRADUATE STUDENT “PAPER OF DISTINCTION”

Deadline: September 1, 2017

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 2017 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/>

A monetary award of Fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be presented to the author(s) of the winning paper.

Papers should be submitted as a Word document by email to Dr. Theresa Davidson, Vice President, MSSA at tcdaids@samford.edu by **September 1, 2017**. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact Dr. Davidson at the email address above

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 2017 Annual Meeting October 18-21 in Chattanooga, TN

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

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award

Deadline: June 1, 2017

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.
- ◆ 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 2014 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 contact the chair of the committee for instructions for how to provide a copy of the nominated book to each member of the selection committee:

- Chair: Patricia Gleich, Ed.D. (University of West Florida) pgleich1@uwf.edu

**If you have authored or co-authored a book do not hesitate to nominate yourself!!*

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship (\$1000.00)

Deadline: July 31, 2017

Eligibility requirements:

Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interaction, race relations, law, or ethics.

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:

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.

Deadline July 30, 2017. 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.

Applications may be sent electronically to the scholarship coordinator at the following address:

Thomas Calhoun, Ph.D
Chair of the Stanford Lyman Scholarship Committee
Thomas.c.calhoun@jsums.edu

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

FORUM: The Voice of the Mid-South

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

In order to represent our members, we need participation from as many members as possible. To that end, please consider submitting to any and all of the following topic/areas. If you have something that doesn't fit the below, please send and let us incorporate your ideas!

LIST OF POTENTIAL TOPICS/AREAS:

- ♦ 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).
- ♦ 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

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

www.midsouthsoc.org



A Note From Chair of Committee on Small and Community Colleges

Nicola Davis Bivens, Ed.D

“Pardon me sir, but is that the Chattanooga Choo Choo? “ Why yes it is and the Committee on Small and Community Colleges is excited about the 2017 Annual Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee and we are working hard preparing for the same! We are seeking your assistance in helping us attain the following goals for the current year.

This year, the committee is sponsoring a session, “Technology Exchange Roundtable: Free and Low Cost Technology Resources for the Classroom.” If you use any free or low cost technology resources in the classroom, please consider being a discussant/demonstrator in this roundtable as we further MSSA’s commitment to developing new faculty.

The committee is also organizing a second panel, “The Role of the Community College in Sociology/Criminology Education.”

Contact one friend/colleague at a small or community college and (1) invite them to join the MSSA and (2) attend the 2017 Annual Conference.

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 (or recommend a colleague for the same), please contact Nicola Davis Bivens, chair of the committee at ndbivens@jcsu.edu.

Finally, if you are a student or faculty member at a small or community college, please insure that you join the committee and join us for the Small and Community College meeting at the 2017 conference (day and time TBA). We look forward to seeing you in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Teacher Feature:

THE AUTHORITY WITHIN CONSCIENCE: The Uneven Mix of Principles and Principals in Higher Education

CAROLINE S.WESTERHOF, Ph.D

ABSTRACT: The academic online environment offers, at times, mixed messages to students. There are faculty and administrative disparities...principles (regulations) and principals (the actors involved). Do negative faculty directions impact student motivation negatively due to inconsistencies in student-faculty-counselor multi-diverse relationships?

Higher education is moving in so many different directions. Economic, social and technological pressures can “disintermediate” traditional operations. In the last part of the 19th century higher education changed dramatically. Students of wealth were flocking to Europe, such as Berlin, to experience new methods of learning and inquiry. Today, many universities operate in the complete regulatory process, and ignore affection, support and emotional intelligence. Today, as well, the cards are turned, and many universities in the United States are enticing students who live overseas to register in colleges in the United States.

Though the formal is important, and money is the dominant factor, some counselors are quick to say to students, who may be having difficulty, “Why’ don’t you drop out?” In the beginning of the 20th century scholars such as W.E.B.Du Bois, Jane Addams, and John Dewey described how teaching and research, empowerment and learning could be linked to the greater good for those seeking greater horizons to fulfill their infinite dreams. The quality of positive living and achievement can mostly be fulfilled by encouraging our students to go forward in their academic pursuits.

Toward those ends can we look at our online community – teaching and learning – as a service learning community? Thus, the partial title of this presentation is the following: “... *The Uneven Mix of Principles and Principals.*”

Some of our working students are employed and receiving wages and salaries that we will never earn, but they want that degree. Thus, we and our students are both listeners and facilitators in a circular process of sharing, coming from different cultures, communities and having diverse life experiences.

We are here for one reason only – to learn from each other, and to expand each person’s horizon beyond infinity. For some we offer a new world, for some, an unnerving experience, for all to move forward in their individual journeys, both personal and professional.



Teacher Feature:

THE AUTHORITY WITHIN CONSCIENCE: The Uneven Mix of Principles and Principals in Higher Education

CAROLINE S.WESTERHOF, Ph.D

If we stretch the academic curriculum throughout the global environments we must understand the sensitivity and the knowledge of why we are here. That sensitivity is rooted in “conscience,” in its moral commitment to serve, and to serve without judgment.

As faculty we, too, are discovering ourselves. We are exposing our minds; we are sharing our life’s experiences – yesterday, today, and our dreams and expectations for the tomorrows. Listening and learning together humanizes us – and the sensitivity of conscience is crucial before we “travel the distance.” We are all “invited” guests in the distance learning chat room.

Part of the most invaluable components of distance learning is the ability to encounter experiences beyond our own for both students and faculty. Our sense of the world is our moral conscience if we do not pre-judge. Yes, university administration has rules and regulations. I see administering rules and regulations going in and out like an accordion, depending on the circumstances, the actions, and even the contradictions within the situations. What does our conscience – our gut feeling tell us – what is right, what is wrong...is there a right or a wrong? Sensitivity within our conscience helps us to listen to that inner voice.

Our chat rooms are transformative settings and sites for us, for our students, and their intergenerational friends and family who are listening with them. Long after “day is done,” and our students have graduated, they will understand “from whence we have cometh,” and we will understand “from whence they have cometh.” Hopefully, we all began on the same path, “crying out coming out of the womb,” naked and hands reaching out; and then we move away from that equanimity. Today we must recognize we are in this together – what we help to form today, becomes the reality of tomorrow for our students and for ourselves.

In one class one student wrote to another the following:

“Your handling of the subject matter will get you to do the assignment in no time.” I wrote back, “You are writing a paper on the emergency plan to evacuate and help people during a natural disaster, such as a flood or an earthquake...your paper may save a life one day; this is not a paper to get first a grade and get done in no time...this is a paper to lay out a plan for emergency evacuations, and what you lay out may save a life one day...one’s conscience and morals must dictate the morality of what you are sharing – to learn how to do better each moment of the day.”

The academic online environment offers mixed messages, sometimes disorder, ambiguity, inflexibility, contradictions, rigid with regulations. There are faculty disparities. We need innovation, expeditious handling, flexibility in managing the changing needs of students who do care, and are eager to learn, amidst their personal and professional anxieties and turmoil.

“Does negative faculty leadership and direction impact student motivation negatively due to inconsistencies in student- faculty – multi-diverse relationships?” Is it true that the personal aspects of our students’ lives outside the university become mostly invisible within? Can we look at our online teaching and learning



Teacher Feature:

THE AUTHORITY WITHIN CONSCIENCE: The Uneven Mix of Principles and Principals in Higher Education

CAROLINE S.WESTERHOF, Ph.D

community as a service functioning community? As a service functioning community do we not have to cast the net and help our students to recognize their gifts? What matters for each of us, students and faculty, is not our name, letters after our name, and our expertise.

Do you know we have students who are homeless and who do not know where they will sleep this night? Do you know we have students with five children who were burned out of their home, and the counselor told the student to quit school? Do you know the single mother with five children moved five times in one month, from a rat infested hotel, to a hotel that had drug addicts in the next room? The mother during that time was hospitalized with pneumonia. The oldest daughter during that time was singing in her church choir. The mother during this turbulent time got all her homework done, and *did not quit*, because she and the professor said, “No Way.” Often a professor does not know a student has quit, until after the fact. Should not the professor be told *before the fact*?

Would you not have assumed that keeping up with her inner discipline of school responsibility was her life-line? Do you know that one Sunday night, I GOT AN EMAIL that said, ‘you won’t see me tomorrow, I am in a room that has a pipe filling with gas?’ What was I to do...I could not go to sleep without handling it. No one had answered any phone numbers at the school. I called the local sheriff’s office where I lived, not knowing from where the Email had come. He came to the house, saw the Email, went out to his county car, to locate from where the Email was coming. After a short while, he came back in, and said, “Carol, we found him...in California.”

Do you know I had a soldier who had been wounded, and was now a paraplegic., and whose wife was in the same class...I told him to dictate his responses to his wife, and she would type out the assignment.

Do you know I had a colleague who had a student who pleaded for an incomplete? The colleague responded, “Of course, but why are you pleading?” The student replied, you have not heard from me for a few weeks; I was shot in Afghanistan, and have been in a coma for two weeks – my other professor said, “NO.”

Do you know that students experience death among their families and friends during the term, and have a difficult time coping – death of a child, still born babies. Illnesses of close friends and family members, even murder and incarcerated because of drugs – many beyond our own experiences of reality?

I had a female student who was married; she had to sneak to do her homework because her husband absolutely did not want her going to college. I have had a single mother who was beaten by her ex-husband. I have had students who lost their jobs in the midst of going to school. Many times we are the person of “last resort” before the students are told to quit by their counselor. We could go on and on, and I am certain you have stories to share.

My thesis is, though, there may be regulations defined as “principles,” we must consider the human principles of reality, compassion, flexibility, regardless of the rules. I am told some professors do not. My re-



Teacher Feature:

THE AUTHORITY WITHIN CONSCIENCE: The Uneven Mix of Principles and Principals in Higher Education

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is “that a plane is, at times, late and the rules are not followed as per the schedule. We must do the same, if we are to keep our students motivated and progress towards their infinite achievements. *Principles in regulations must be guided by principals (actors) of humanity, flexibility, courage, compassion.*

The thesis is that we must recognize that the sense of humanity must bind us; we cannot ignore this. We are related to one another, as we seek to expand that deeper commitment to one another.

I had one student who works in a correction institution, comment to me on the phone, “I try to sneak in my homework.” I told her, “Absolutely not.” You are working in a highly regulatory agency... if you have to be late with your homework, that is fine – no penalty, and do not use the word, “sneak.” The only thing you and I have going for each other is our integrity and our character, no matter our title, expertise, or letters after our name. Unfortunately, look at the young American student, who was on tour with his school in North Korea – he admitted he took a poster off the hotel wall as a souvenir, was handcuffed, and now supposedly given fifteen years in hard labor-I pray that our country will help him.

Rules and regulations depend on the circumstances, and are not sealed into cement. We need to recognize the cement cracks from time to time. Some of our students are testing the waters; some are fearful to discuss what they do not know; some actually raise their voices when the two of us are alone in the chat “room.”

One said he was “tired,” and felt his dissertation was done. I responded, “do not tell me you are ‘tired,’ and feel your dissertation is done.” My friend, who had been appointed to Gambia as ambassador had kept saying, “She was tired.” She was killed five days before she was to fly out of Kennedy Airport. Her possessions were already on the high seas. If you go to Gambia, in the center of the capital there is a plaque, and it reads, “In memory of Ambassador Ruth Washington.”

My doctorate took 15 years, but I earned it. I was “never tired;” I was elated to be allowed to pursue the research. I told this student that if you want your doctorate, the first thing you need to do is to stop raising your voice...a 42 year middle age person does not need to raise his voice; that will not help you get your doctorate completed; it will only hinder the process of accomplishment. You are a unique person, so let us finish your work diligently and properly with excitement and challenge. You have written a unique paper; it is on nuclear research, and is original.

At times we have to abide by the rules, but each of us has to implement them with no bias. There are “no best ways.” It is individual. Each of us is *our own best friend*. *Best friend* does not mean breaking the rules. It means understanding the individual student. That is what I ask of each of us in the role of faculty. I am certain we each do the best what we can...can we do better? I do maintain that each moment we do the best that we can. There are no “ifs,” no “buts,” no blaming a third party; it is as it is, but as faculty we must understand the students and student’s personality and the trauma he or she is going through.

As we witness the growth and expansion of distance learning we recognize that not one of us is perfect, for one’s perfection is another’s imperfection. There are challenges that we need to understand as we ourselves



Teacher Feature:

THE AUTHORITY WITHIN CONSCIENCE: The Uneven Mix of Principles and Principals in Higher Education

CAROLINE S.WESTERHOF, Ph.D

improve and reorganize our challenges and behavioral attitudes. We must recognize that in our knowledge fields teaching is not static, but evolves into deeper emotional awareness and new emotional relevance. In essence, distant learning is focused on the student as individual, and not as group.

We must understand that our students have lives that include so much more than school – work, family, death, finance, personal responsibilities, sickness, homelessness, and so many other factors, that we cannot even imagine.

In 1991 Peter Drucker, the management guru, predicted that in the next fifty years, “schools and universities will change more drastically than they have since they assumed their present form some 300 years ago when they organized themselves around the print form of learning.”

Distance learning is a reflection of a new order to education that is without borders...an American soldier gets up at 4 in the morning in Afghanistan to participate in a chat thousands of miles away; a corporate leader from the United States is doing the same, while on a business trip in Japan; a truck driver doing long distance trucking pulls over to the side of the road and gets out his laptop.

Distance learning will forever extend and grow beyond its global dimensions; beyond all concepts of dimensions as we now know it, even looking at Skype, the Cloud and from a space station.

Our life's journeys bring us together through different paths, diversified experiences and cultures – through pathways we never knew existed. As in the sense of Buddha, “I am my neighbor.” So we are each other's' conscience as we approach the greatest physical distances in learning, and teaching, recognizing our individual responsibilities, and understanding flexibility in the interpretation of rule and regulations as they affect our clientele (actors-principals), students, faculty and fellow staff.

We are each other's teachers – we the faculty are also students. Our lives are woven into infinite growth because we recognize that how we treat each other is part of our sensitivity and conscience, long before we have traveled the distance “to meet” each other.

There really is no flood of references of what is needed for each student. Some of our students come to us walking on eggshells, owning no computer, going to the library each day for a very specified time to work on their homework – even husbands out of work, and spouses supporting the family outside of the home. Some are in hospital beds as patients, or sitting by the hospital bed because a family member, including a child may be desperately ill. Some may work in a prison system under very strong regulations that must be adhered to.

Technology provides higher education with the potential to disseminate more knowledge than ever before, whether fact or fiction. We must recognize that our landscape of dimension is as different as the people we



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serve, regardless of their station in life or who they are or what they have accomplished at this point in their lives. Distance learning has different perspectives for different persons. Our enthusiasm and our passions need to understand this. What are the precepts for older students who have so many obligations – how do we guide them to succeed towards their infinite goals?

One student was getting a second MBA. I queried, “Why not go for a doctorate?” Her response was, “No one ever told me.” We must educate – we must train our academic counselors to look to the future. We know that the environment of today’s learning is not only for personal growth but is critical for more than economic survival... it is also for one’s own self-esteem, particularly in an environment where such may never have existed. That is why as principals in the lives of our students, we must become the principal instruments of “last resort.” We must be the helpers to lead our students to their glory; we must guide our students to their good, glowing destinations. If we do not, who will? Does not emotional intelligence include self-awareness, other-awareness and emotional management? We have the responsibility, as faculty, to help our students lead their lives with success in professional and personal growth, and within the dimensions of healthy, self-sustaining emotional intelligence.

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Dr. David Knottnerus is Emeritus Regents Professor of Sociology, Oklahoma State University.

Nowakowski, A.C.H. & Sumerau, J.E. (2017). Out of the Shadow: Partners Managing Illness Together. Forthcoming in *Sociology Compass* in Spring 2017.

Dr. Xan Nowakowski, PhD, MPH is Assistant Professor at Department of Geriatrics / Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine FSU College of Medicine - Orlando Regional Campus

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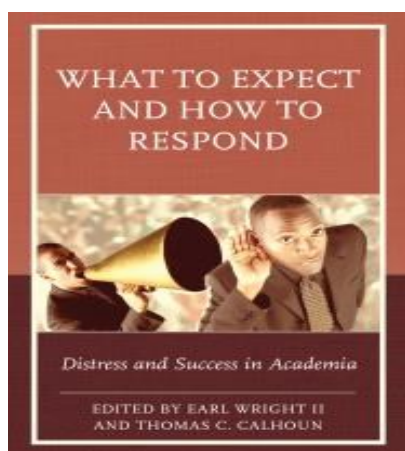
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Wright, Earl II & Thomas C. Calhoun. 2016.

"What to Expect and How to Respond: Distress and Success in Academia." Rowman & Littlefield?

What to Expect and How to Respond offers a solutions oriented glimpse into life in academia from the vantage point of groups including students, faculty and administrators. This interdisciplinary anthology provides insight into the profession for graduate students planning on becoming academics; brings to the attention of junior faculty potential tenure and promotion pitfalls as well as strategies to successfully overcome potential obstacles; offers senior faculty strategies to improve collegiality and the workplace environment; and provides administrators with tools to proactively and effectively contend with sensitive managerial matters. This interdisciplinary anthology is useful for undergraduate and graduate students of any discipline designed to prepare them for a career in academia whether as staff, faculty or an administrator. Moreover, this volume is a fine resource for those already in academia who may be experiencing any one or number of specific challenges highlighted from which useful survival strategies could be garnered.

REVIEWS:

"The collection of essays assembled in *What to Expect and How to Respond* offers clear insight into a world of higher education as experienced from the vantage point of minority faculty and administrators at various stages of their careers. Each compelling narrative emphasizes overcoming challenges and obstacles in 'tense' and oftentimes 'traumatic' environments. This unique text provides readers with a lens to deconstruct events and ways to build resilience within institutions in which they could otherwise feel defenseless" DEMOND S. MILLER, director Liberal Arts and Sciences Institute for Research and Community Service Rowan University

"*What to Expect and How to Respond* addresses race and cultural democracy in the American academy from the perspectives of a select racially and culturally diverse group of women and men. The horrors and distress described are painful to read. More importantly, however, while perceived horrors and distress exist, insight is provided to those who seek ways to be victorious rather than victims." DELORES P. ALDRIDGE, Ph.D Emory University, Grace Towns Hamilton distinguished professor emerita of sociology and African American studies, Emory University.

What to Expect and How to Respond should be required reading for graduate students in professional seminars. Entering the job of university professor can seem, to the outsider, to be a laid back position with lots of free time and wonderful colleagues. Those of us who have had careers as professors quickly learned that much of this is not true. Finally this academic reality has been put between two covers. Read each chapter; learn the lessons given; enter the ivory tower and become successful!" CRAIG FORSYTH, editor *Deviant Behavior*, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

EARL WRIGHT II is professor of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati and the author of groundbreaking works on the contributions of W.E. B. DuBois and the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory to American sociology. He is also the past president of the Association of Black Sociologists and Mid-South Sociological Association.

THOMAS C. CALHOUN is associate vice president for Academic and Student Affairs and professor of sociology at Jackson State University and has published extensively in the area of deviance. He is past president of the Association of Black Sociologists, Mid-South Sociological Association and North Central Sociological Association.

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

Dr. Tina Deshotels

Call for Participation

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?).

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Sociological Spectrum: Journal of the MSSA

Call for Submissions

Call for Papers

Journal of Sociology and Social Work

ISSN: 2333-5807 (Print) 2333-5815 (Online)

[Journal of Sociology and Social Work](#) is a scholarly international journal in its fields. The journal remains a leading voice for analysis and research in the social sciences. The journal welcomes research papers from all areas of sociology, with an emphasis on theory building and innovative methods. AJS strives to speak to the general sociological reader and is open to sociologically informed contributions from anthropologists, statisticians, economists, educators, historians, and political scientists. The journal also publishes articles that promote, debate and analyze current themes and issues in social work theory, research, policy and practice. The journal follows double-blind peer review process.

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The journal is Abstracted/Indexed in CrossRef, CrossCheck, Cabell's, Ulrich's, Griffith Research Online, Google Scholar, Education.edu, Informatics, Universe Digital Library, Standard Periodical Directory, Gale, Open J-Gate, EBSCO, Journal Seek, DRJI, ProQuest, BASE, InfoBase Index, OCLC, IBSS, Academic Journal Databases, Scientific Index.

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Each paper published in Journal of Sociology and Social Work is assigned a DOI® number, which appears beneath the author's affiliation in the published paper.

JSSW is inviting papers for Vol. 5, No. 1. The online publication date is June 30, 2017. Submission Deadline: March 31, 2017.

For any additional information, please contact with the executive editor at editor@aripd.org

Regards,

Dr. Kyoung-Ho Shin, Northwest Missouri State University, USA.

Editor-in-Chief

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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.

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