

At the Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MSS Members Explore “The Dynamics of Inequality” and Launch the 75th Anniversary Celebration

By President Mary Zimmerman

Your 2011 Program Chair and her extraordinary Program Assistants, Local Arrangements Chair and Student Directors, as well as our Executive Director and the numerous outstanding volunteers who staffed the registration desk, film festival and other venues, arrived at this year’s annual meeting in St. Louis with one major goal: to provide MSS members with the highest quality program possible.

In fact, paraphrasing this year’s organizational theme “The Dynamics of Inequality,” we could say that the Program Committee’s implementation theme was “the dynamics of quality.” You may have noticed some of our strategies, endorsed by objectives set before us by the MSS Board. These included establishing guidelines for paper abstracts, which then were posted on the MSS website before and during the meeting, and taking steps to work more closely with session organizers to minimize “no show” papers and elevate the intellectual value of each session. We upgraded the submission software and tried to make it more user-friendly. We increased pre-meeting information on the website and tried to communicate more effectively than ever with program participants. We maintained a number of the innovations begun by recent program chairs, and we added a few of our own: for example, a



top: Past President Peter Kivisto passes the MSS gavel to incoming President Mary Zimmerman at the MSS Business Meeting.
below: Mary Zimmerman with Scheduling Assistant Carrie Wendel-Hummell and Program Assistant Pooya Naderi.

“Meet the Authors” luncheon session to bring together in an informal way authors of recent books and those interested in talking with them, and an evening film festival, featuring recent documentaries suitable for classroom use. More than anything,

we tried to strike a balance and respond to all the various reasons that all of us come to these meetings for every year – camaraderie, intellectual re-vitalization, stimulation and challenge, professional development and new ideas for teaching and scholarship, to celebrate our members’ accomplishments and, of course, to have fun.

MSS President Peter Kivisto headlined the most festive evening by focusing on multiculturalism in his Friday evening presidential address. As soon as he concluded, the doors opened to reveal a lavish reception in honor of the MSS 75th Anniversary, complete with band, dancing and a birthday cake. 75th Anniversary Task Force Chair Susan Wright was on hand to inaugurate the year of celebration, which will culminate at the 2012 MSS meeting in Minneapolis. On Saturday, Chloe Bird of the Rand Corporation provided a welcome bridge between the worlds of academic and applied sociology in her Plenary Address, which elaborated the concept of “constrained choices” as a key to understanding inequalities in health outcomes, especially gender disparities. Local Arrangements Chair, Vicky Herbel, put together a great set of tours, beginning with the ever-popular pub crawl on Thursday night

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MEMBERSHIP, DUES, DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

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MEMBERSHIP in MSS is for the calendar year, beginning Jan. 1 and ending Dec. 31. Current members should renew each year by mid-January to ensure that they receive preregistration materials for the spring annual meeting and that their publications continue without interruption.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP is available to graduate and undergraduate students at any institution of higher learning. Students may join at a higher level by paying the appropriate dues. Persons gainfully employed as sociologists should not be student members.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS AND OPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS: Any contributions beyond the basic membership levels help the Midwest Sociological Society to: •provide minority scholarships •support the society's operations now and in the future •keep dues and meeting registration fees low!

DEADLINE for the next issue: News for the September 2011 TMS must be submitted **by Sept. 1, 2011**, by email to: MidwestSS@centurytel.net

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elections 2010

Members Elect Barbara Keating to Presidency

Barbara Keating was elected the 75th president of the Midwest Sociological Society by the members in elections held last fall.

Election to the presidency –MSS’s toughest volunteer job– is a long-term commitment. Barbara has already begun to attend board and committee meetings as MSS president-elect-elect. As president-elect in 2012-13, Barbara will chair the 2013 meeting. She will step into the presidency in 2013-14; and remain on the board as past president in 2014-15.

Why would someone willingly take on such a task? Barbara sees her work in sociology finding an expression in her volunteer commitment to MSS.



“Sociology connects so many people!” she wrote. Her goal for her presidency is inclusive: “I hope to strengthen the identification with and connections of sociologists in the entire range of academic and applied settings in all stages of professional development from students to emeriti.”

She also envisions expanding MSS’s benefits and fellowship to an ever-wider audience: “I plan to explore electronic options for memberships, communications and networking. What would it take, for example, to provide some form of electronic student membership to all sociology majors in the Midwest?”

A Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Correction at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Barbara has been deeply involved with MSS throughout her career. She has chaired both the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Women in the Professions Committee. She has also served on the board as Minnesota State Director, been active on the Program Committee, and co-edited this newsletter from 1992-98. Over the years of her membership in MSS, she has participated in annual meetings enthusiastically, making 25 presentations and organizing numerous sessions and workshops.

Barbara received her PhD at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a member of the American Sociological Association, Sociologists for Women in Society, and Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society. In 1995, she received the Distinguished Sociologist Award from the Sociologists of Minnesota.

Members Vote to Raise MSS Membership Dues

Last fall, the Board of Directors proposed raising MSS membership dues to cover rising costs. Members voted overwhelmingly to approve the increase. The new rates will take effect for the 2012 year.

Membership Category	Dues 2007-2011	Dues 2012 forward
Student	\$21	\$23
Regular professional	\$55	\$60
Joint	\$70	\$75
Sustaining	\$110	\$120
Sustaining and joint	\$140	\$150

elections 2010

MSS Members Elect Three New State Representatives to Board

Iowa Charlotte A. Kunkel, Associate Professor at Luther College, was elected to represent Iowa members. A member of MSS for nearly 20 years, Char has been a regular attendee at MSS annual meetings, and has organized and presented in many sessions. She has also published in the MSS journal, *The Sociological Quarterly*. Char earned her PhD at the University of Colorado, Boulder.



A past president of the Iowa Sociological Association (ISA), one of her goals while on the MSS board is to continue Iowa's strong presence in the MSS, and strengthen connections between the ISA and the MSS. She would also like to create greater visibility for public sociology. In addition to MSS, Char is a member of the ISA, MSWS, SWS, the ASA, and the National Women's Studies Association.



Kansas Laura Workman Eells, Associate Professor at McPherson College, was elected to the Kansas seat on the board of directors. Laura has recently returned to the McPherson faculty after several years as her institution's provost and dean of faculty. During those years of administrative work, she was active in administrative organizations, but now looks forward to resuming her former active status in MSS and doing work that is more closely aligned with her discipline.

She believes that her vision for MSS is compatible with the MSS's recently-adopted strategic plan. She wrote, "I would like to see all the state associations be active....this should enhance membership in the MSS."

Laura also wants to enhance opportunities within MSS for undergraduates and expand ways for sociologists to use their knowledge to inform public dialogue." Laura earned her BA, MA and doctorate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a member of the ASA, the National Council of Family Relations, and the Council of Independent Colleges.

Missouri Elaine McDuff, Associate Professor of Sociology at Truman State University, will represent Missouri on the MSS board of directors. Elaine has been active in MSS since her graduate school days, participating in annual meetings as a presenter, organizer or discussant every year since 1997. She has also brought students to annual meetings, and has served on several MSS committees.



"I have found it to be a welcoming and supportive organization," Elaine wrote. "I have also enjoyed introducing my students to the profession through active participation in the MSS. As a member of the board, I hope to help the MSS remain a vibrant and open space where undergraduates, graduate students, faculty from two-year and four-year schools, and applied sociologists from diverse backgrounds can debate, reflect, and share their ideas." Elaine was awarded her PhD by the University of Iowa. She is a member of the ASA, MSWS, SWS, Sociologists without Borders, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi.

All three new directors began their term of service at the annual meeting in St Louis. Their three-year terms continue until spring 2014.

annual meeting 2011

Congratulations to the Winners of the 48th Annual MSS Student Paper Competition

Student paper competition awards were presented by MSS President Peter Kivisto and Undergraduate Paper Competition Coordinator Terry Besser on Friday, March 25th, immediately preceding the Presidential Address at the MSS Annual Meeting.

A strong field of participants – 22 graduate students, 12 undergraduates – made selection challenging. Judges of the Undergraduate Division opted to award two first-place prizes, and one third-place award. Upon completion of the judging process, which is conducted ‘blind,’ judges were surprised to find that eight of the 12 undergraduate paper submissions, and all three undergraduate division winners, were from Macalester College.

Winners are pictured, below, with Terry Besser, who presented each winner with a plaque and a check. Congratulations to all winners, their advisors, and their schools!

Student Paper Competition Winners - Undergraduate Division

Co-winner, First Place

Jenny E. Grinblo, Macalester College

Advisor: Deborah A. Smith

“Craft-a-Go-Go: Identification, Gender, and Occupational Autonomy in the Go-Go Dancing Occupation”



Co-winner, First Place

Evelyn Daugherty, Macalester College

Advisor: Erik Larson

“Language in the Name of National Security: The Transformation of Arabic Language Instruction in U.S. Institutions of Higher Education”

Third Place

Morgen Chang, Macalester College

Advisor: Erik Larson

“Making or Maintaining Connections Online? YouTube as Both Site and Tool of Social Interaction”



annual meeting 2011

Student Paper Competition Winners - Graduate Division



First Place

Jerome M. Hendricks, University of Illinois at Chicago
Advisor: Pamela Popielarz
“The Picture or the Frame: Narratives and Mechanisms of Community Change”



Second Place

Long Doan, Indiana University
Advisor: Brian Powell

“When Emotions Endure: In Search of Conditions for Moods”



Third Place

Georgiann Davis, University of Illinois at Chicago
Advisor: Barbara J. Risman

“‘DSD Is a Perfectly Fine Term’: Reasserting Medical Authority through a Shift in Intersex Terminology”

Winner of Undergraduate Student Poster Competition Named



Members of the Student Issues Committee, led by Committee Chair Chad McPherson, reviewed the 19 undergraduate posters submitted to the Undergraduate Poster Session and awarded competition honors to Adam Baker, University of St. Thomas, for his poster, “The Role of Socioeconomic Status: Making Student Leadership Possible.”

Past Chair of the Student Issues Committee Sadie Pendaz presented Adam with a \$200 check. He will also receive a plaque honoring his achievement.

annual meeting

Powell, Bolzendahl, Geist, Steelman Share Book Award

Recipients of the MSS 2011 Distinguished Book Award were Brian Powell of Indiana University; Catherine Bolzendahl of the University of California, Irvine; Claudia Geist of the University of Utah; and Lala Carr Steelman of the University of South Carolina for their book, *Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definitions of Family*.

The Book Award Committee, chaired by David Smith of the University of Kansas, selected *Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definitions of Family* from a field of seven nominees for making an “exemplary, original, and substantive contribution to sociological understanding.” Other members of the Book Award Committee were Mary Campbell, University of Iowa; and Tony Orum, University of Illinois-Chicago.



Left to right: David Smith, Chair, Book Award Committee, and co-authors Catherine Bolzendahl, Claudia Geist, and Brian Powell.

Counted Out asks a critical question: How do Americans really define family? The authors examine public opinion to gauge its policy implications and to make predictions regarding how Americans' definitions will evolve in the future.

Counted Out reports results from the Constructing the Family Surveys of 2003 and 2006, in which over 1500 Americans were interviewed about their views regarding same-sex couples (both with and without children), cohabiting heterosexual couples, the extension of certain marital/family rights to gay and cohabiting couples, and, most importantly, what counts as a family. These surveys were the first of this scope to explicitly tap into Americans' definitions of family and their reasoning behind these definitions. The book examines Americans' responses to these questions, along with responses to a series of other family-related topics, reporting on both the closed-ended responses to questions as well as open-ended responses, which offer a more nuanced glimpse into how Americans actually talk about family and family issues.

Counted Out indicates that Americans are moving away from a more traditional (“exclusionist”) definitional approach to family to a more modern and expansive (“inclusionist”) approach. The authors make predictions regarding likely changes in Americans' definitions over the next decade; and discuss how findings from this study should compel sociologists to reevaluate some of their own assumptions regarding family and gender.

The Midwest Sociological Society sponsors this award each year to recognize the outstanding contributions to sociological research, theory, and policy analysis produced each year by its members in the form of books. On behalf of the selection committee and all MSS members, David Smith presented the authors with plaques and checks in honor of their achievement.

A Letter from the Editors

By **Brian Donovan and Bill Staples**, Editors, *The Sociological Quarterly*

The Sociological Quarterly is, by all measures, healthy and thriving. We received 218 manuscripts last year; 85% of those papers were from across the US—14.6% of those were from the nine states identified as the MSS region—and 15% were from abroad, including submissions from Australia, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Israel, Korea, The Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. More than two dozen sub-fields of our discipline were represented in those submissions, with most categories reflecting no more than 3-5% of the total.

Of the manuscripts submitted:

- Five (2%) were accepted for publication after first submission.
- Three (1%) were accepted pending minor revisions.
- 28 (13%) were recommended to be revised and resubmitted. Of these, nine were eventually accepted, four were rejected, and fifteen have not yet been resubmitted or have decisions pending.
- 120 (56%) were rejected upon review.
- Seven (3%) were rejected “in house.”
- 55 (25%) have decisions pending.

Our acceptance rate stands at around 13%.

Other positive indicators:

- Our 2009 ISI “impact factor” increased significantly from 0.565 to 0.864 with the total number of citations to the journal improved from 780 to 1148. Our ranking among all 114 journals in the sociology category rose to 55 from 63.
- Our average “turn-around” time (from submission to decision) remains just over 60 days.
- In 2010, *TSQ* articles were downloaded 325,725 times. This compares with 282,449 in 2009; an increase of 15%.
- In 2010 there were 787 institutional subscriptions to *TSQ*, representing a renewal rate of 98%; the typical rate for our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, was 92%.

We would like to thank the MSS Board of Directors, the MSS Publications Committee, and MSS Executive Director Lauren Tiffany for their support. Thanks as well to our team at Wiley-Blackwell, Shannon Canney, Terri Teleen, Jill Yablonski-Crepeau, and Grily Chua. We would also like to recognize the contributions to the journal by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas. Finally, we very much appreciate the efforts of our Managing Editor, Stephanie Decker.

Ohio State Group Named Winners of *The Sociological Quarterly* Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award

In the months preceding the annual meeting, the six members of the MSS Publications Committee re-read and studied all articles published in the last two volumes of *The Sociological Quarterly* to determine the winner of the biennial *TSQ* Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award. Following extensive deliberation, the committee selected “Power, Status, and Abuse at Work: General and Sexual Harassment Compared,” an article from *TSQ* Volume 50, Number 1, by Steven H. Lopez, Randy Hodson, and Vincent Roscigno, all of Ohio State University.

The authors were unable to attend the MSS annual meeting to be recognized, but each will receive an award plaque and a check. *TSQ* publisher Wiley-Blackwell will recognize the article on the *TSQ* web page, and presented each author with a selection of books as well.

committee report

Report from the Annual Meeting Committee

By Deb White, Chair

Exhibits updates:

a) Exhibits Chair Eve Blobaum was absent and her term is expiring. The committee discussed individuals to invite to serve as exhibits chair and will bring a recommendation for appointment to the fall board meeting.

b) The committee discussed ways to increase the number of exhibitors.

- Lauren Tiffany will follow-up with exhibitors after the conference to thank them and get feedback on their experiences at the meeting and suggestions for improvements. The committee recommends that this type of follow-up occur after each meeting.
- Upon arrival at the meeting, the exhibits chair should give each exhibitor a schedule of events that will occur in the exhibit hall.
- We should continue to encourage members who have published books to urge their publishers to attend.
- Local arrangements planners should continue to seek creative ways of filling the space and increasing traffic, such as tabling by non-publishers and events in the exhibit hall.
- It was noted that we have not been getting the software exhibitors that we used to have attend. Tom Gerschick suggested that we arrange for some software developers to hold workshops and have exhibit booths. This recommendation will be shared with program chairs.

Local Arrangements updates:

a) Susan Smith-Cunnen reported on plans for the 2012 meeting in Minneapolis. Bike and sustainable communities tours are being arranged. Susan toured the facility and met with the hotel representative.

b) The Annual Meeting Committee will recommend that the board appoint Jean Karlen (Wayne State) and Julie Pelton (UN-Omaha) to serve as co-chairs for local arrangements for our 2014 meeting in Omaha. Their terms will be from 2013-2015.

Future sites updates:

a) The committee discussed feedback received regarding the facilities for this year's meeting. Given the concerns that were raised, the AMC would be

reluctant to recommend that the site be used for a future meeting. Further consideration will be given once data is gathered from the meeting evaluation.

b) Deb White provided a summary of current contracts:
2013: Chicago Marriott / Wed March 26-Sat March 30
Room rate: \$119 per night.

2014: Omaha Hilton / Thu April 3-Sunday April 6
Room rate: \$119 per night for singles, doubles / \$124 per night for triples and quads.

2015: Kansas City Marriott Downtown / Thu March 26-Sun March 29 Room rate: \$119 per night.

2016: Chicago Marriott / Wed March 23-Sat March 26
Room rate: \$119 per night.

c) Site visits: Since we signed two contracts this year, no visits will be made during summer 2011.

d) Deb White, Annual Meeting Committee chair, will draft an Annual Meeting Committee chair's manual, to assist future annual meeting committee chairs.

Meeting Evaluation:

a) The committee reviewed last year's survey results and discussed questions and format for this year. Deb White will make revisions, send a draft to the committee for feedback, and begin to administer the survey within the next three weeks.

b) The Annual Meeting Committee chair will hire a student to assist in compiling and summarizing annual meeting evaluation data.

The committee reviewed MSS bylaws pertaining to the AMC and its members.

The Annual Meeting Committee will conduct focus groups at the 2012 meeting, per the recommendation of the LRP Strategic Plan subcommittee.

committee report

Report from the Finance Committee

Tom Gerschick, Committee Chair

The MSS Finance Committee met Saturday, March 26th, with four agenda items. The first of these was to welcome new committee member, Ted Wagenaar.

The second action item was to review the MSS financial reports with Treasurer, Bob Wazienski. The committee endorsed the Treasurer's Mid-Year Budget Report and Mid-Year Assets Report for 2010-2011. The change in MSS money managers to Trust Point, Inc., coupled with a more positive economy, led to increases in all three MSS accounts. Bob raised the question as to whether we should become more conservative in our money management approach. The Finance Committee declined to do so, given how conservatively the funds are already invested. Finally we reviewed the auditor's report, prepared by the MSS accountant, WIPFLI LLP. The report indicated that the accountants approved of the MSS's financial reports, practices and actions.

The third item on the agenda was to discuss replacements for Teddy Amoloza and Tom Gerschick whose terms expire at the 2012 annual meetings. We

will use TMS and email to publicize a general call to the MSS membership seeking nominations. Teddy has expressed a willingness to serve another term if that call is unsuccessful. Tom cannot continue to serve because he will become Treasurer thus the committee will need to replace at least one member.

The last agenda item involved new business. The Committee agreed to suggest to the Board that the Finance Committee undertake a systematic review of all MSS expenses for the purposes of determining 1) whether they continue to reflect MSS priorities and 2) to create priorities for cutting expenses should that become necessary in the future. The board subsequently approved this endeavor at its 3/27 meeting. The committee also affirmed its 2010 decision to nominate Tim Pippert to become the chair of the Finance Committee. That nomination will go before the board at its fall 2011 meeting.

In closing, the Committee wishes to thank MSS Treasurer Bob Wazienski for his excellent stewardship of MSS assets over the past year.

committee report

Report from the Endowment Committee

By Gail Wallace, Chair

Present: Gail Wallace, Chair; Samantha Ammons, Kevin McElmurry, Regina Matheson, Christina Papadimitriou, Greg Peter, and Marsha Smith.

This is an exciting year for the MSS Endowment Committee for several reasons. We have invited several new members to our committee; we awarded six very strong grants, which represents our funding capacity to award more applicants who present cutting edge and innovative research; also, this year we received two applications for MSS Visiting Scholar/Researcher Grants. This means that our organization's reputation is not only national but we are attracting universities that have tapped us as an important resource to fund scholars across our discipline to provide sociological knowledge and skills to their home institutions. As chair of the MSS Endowment Committee, I am very pleased by all of the above as well as the hard work that our committee gives toward the evaluation of each proposal and MSS Visiting Scholar/Researcher Grant Applications for funding.

The MSS Board has been very generous in providing us with a budget of \$8,000. This exceeds any budget that a regional organization within the United States offers to support individual research and visiting scholar/researcher support to colleges/universities. The MSS provides monies to send faculty to various institutions to provide keynote addresses and different methodological tools to sociologists. Also, our organization has been instrumental in supporting advanced doctoral candidates and faculty who present innovative research that could no doubt shape the future of our discipline. Before I introduce this year's award winners, I will discuss this year's committee meeting's highlights and our new members.

It is no secret that we agree to disagree on the MSS Endowment Committee. Since our committee members represent a diverse pool of faculty body, selecting the top proposals is not easy. However, we have a standard evaluation sheet that we use. This keeps us as objective as possible and it allows us to maintain a high level of consistency from year to year. Thus, each proposal is given the same consideration and attention. This year, committee members raised concerns about our need to insert more guidelines to applicants regarding our submission requirements. As the Chair, I will address these concerns by announcing the new submission requirements for the 2012 MSS application cycle with regards to proposals only. For example, the committee felt strongly that applicants should show proof of IRB approval or a completed IRB submission to their school/university if their research involved human subjects. Also, the committee felt strongly that group projects should be approved by the MSS Endowment Committee Chair Person because we have had problems in the past of who to award the research money. When several faculty are named on the MSS grant application, deciding who the research grant money goes to is problematic because the person who receives the money is thereby responsible for presenting their research at the following MSS conference and providing leadership for the project. Also, the committee wants applicants to clarify what types of supplemental materials they need funded in order to carry out their research so that our committee members could make better decisions as to whether or not the applicant's research will be carried out in the one-year time period allotted. Furthermore, the committee is concerned that many applicants may not be able to gain access to their proposed research sites. Endowment committee members want to ensure that applicants have secured permission from the agency or organization that they seek to study (We will require a letter from the agency/organization). Finally, the committee wants the submission eligibility requirements to apply also to doctoral students who have successfully passed their preliminary examinations and are at the dissertation stage (a strong letter of support from the dissertation chair is required). Junior faculty and faculty are always strongly encouraged to apply for these grants as well. Graduate and undergraduate students do not qualify for these grants. We encourage students to apply for paper competition awards at the graduate and undergraduate level.

Endowment Committee continued next page.

committee report

Endowment Committee continued from previous page.

Our new committee members and our proposal for committee leadership follow: Kevin McElmurry joins us from Indiana University. Kevin will be the MSS Endowment Committee Co-Chair with me for the 2012 cycle. Kevin will then come on board as Chair of this committee in 2013. Christina Papadimitriou from Northern Illinois University will then Co-Chair the committee with Kevin in 2013. Christina will then come on board as Chair of this committee in 2014. Samantha Ammons from The University of Nebraska-Omaha will then Co-Chair the committee with Christina in 2014. Samantha will then come on board as Chair of this committee in 2015. Marsha Smith from Augustana College and Gail Wallace from the University of Alabama-Birmingham will facilitate this process so that it runs smoothly and each has agreed to fill in as future acting chair if necessary. We are currently inviting interested MSS members to join our team. We will let you know when future committee openings are available; the MSS Board makes the final decision regarding committee member selection.

This year we did not hold a 2011 Endowment Grant Paper Session because we only had one award winner from last year. The MSS 2012 meeting in Minneapolis will highlight the work of our new 2011 award recipients. The Endowment Committee received 13 applications for research grants this year. All committee members present voted on this year's winners. The following proposals will receive grant awards:

- Carrie Wendel-Hummell, University of Kansas, for: "The Social Contexts and Medicalization of Emotional Distress in New Mothers and Fathers."
- Jan Doering, University of Chicago, for "Ethnic Cooperation and Conflict in Neighborhood Politics."
- Laura Goodrich Doering, University of Chicago, for: "Contract Compliance in Microlending: Exploring New Frontiers in Financial Globalization."
- Carla A. Pfeffer, Purdue University, for: "Body Politics: How Size-Acceptance Advocates Negotiate Conflicting Social Imperatives in the Era of the "Obesity Epidemic."
- Nicole Perry, University of Kansas, for: "In Pursuit of Respectability: Maintaining Boundaries Through the Regulation of Sexuality in Kansas, 1917-1941."
- Laura S. Logan, Kansas State University, for: "Gender, Race, Sexuality and Public Harassments."

We also funded the following Visiting / Research Scholar Applications:

- MSS Visiting Scholar/Researcher Grant to fund Dr. Kathleen Lowney, Valdosta State University, to speak and present her research at Drake University and Iowa State University. She will also be the keynote speaker at the 2011 Iowa Sociological Association Meeting.
- MSS Visiting Scholar/Researcher Grant to fund to fund Dr. Gerry Cox, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, to make a classroom presentation to student researchers and the public. Dr. Cox will discuss his research, which is connected with his latest book, *Death and the American Indian*.

The MSS Endowment Grant Committee congratulates all the research grant winners for their excellent proposals. We invite all MSS members to join us at the 2012 MSS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN for an Endowment Committee Paper Session highlighting their research. Also, each of our proposal winners will have their pictures taken at the business meeting and receive an award certificate. We strongly encourage all members of the MSS to come out and support these excellent proposals and meet the awardees.

Get ready for 2012 because the committee will distribute a call for grant proposals and MSS Visiting Scholar/Researcher Applications in *TMS* and on the MSS website. Please note that research grant proposals will ONLY be accepted between January 15 and February 15, 2012. Please email your proposals to Lauren Tiffany, MSS Executive Director at midwestss@centurytel.net. ALL questions should be sent to Gail Wallace, Ph.D., Endowment Committee Chair, gwallace@uab.edu.

committee report

Report from the Long Range Planning Committee

By Phyllis Baker, Chair

Present at the meeting were Daniel Cortese, Anne Eisenberg, Marlynn May, Tracy Ore, Richard Schaefer, Susan Wright, Diane Pike, Lauren Tiffnay, Robert Wazienski, Tom Gerschick. Absent were Kathleen Crittenden, John Farley, Chris Prendergast, Mary Zimmerman, Peter Kivisto.

The Long Range Planning Committee met and discussed the approved strategic plan. The Board of Directors asked LRP to take charge of overseeing implementation of the strategic plan. The committee agreed to do this and determined that the best way to do that was to have one committee member oversee each of the six strategic priorities.

Anne Eisenberg will oversee Priority A: Expand the Size and Diversity of MSS Leadership and Membership. Tracy Ore will oversee Priority B: Enhance the Utility, Vitality, and Good Fellowship of the Annual Meeting. Richard Schaefer will oversee

Priority C: Develop a Financial Plan that Supports the MSS Vision and Strategies. Daniel Cortese will oversee Priority D: Enhance Status and Visibility of MSS Publications. Sue Wright will oversee Priority E: Actively Expand Opportunities for Professional Development and Continuing Education. Marlynn May will oversee Priority F: Expand Awareness of Sociological Knowledge and Its Usefulness in Public Dialogue.

Oversight will involve the responsible member of LRP to contact each committee involved in the priority to report to the member their progress on implementation of strategic plan. The member then reports to the chair of LRP who will then compile the information and report on implementation of the strategic plan to the board at both the fall and spring board meetings. Finally, LRP decided to develop a process that will be consistent across LRP in how the oversight will be done.

committee report

Report from the Minority Scholars Committee

By Ness Sandoval, Chair

Committee members able to attend the MSC Meeting: Ness Sandoval, Lubna Asif, Mary Campbell, Gene Deerman, Kamel Ghozzi, Dawn Hinton, Lesa Johnson, and Diane Soles.

Committee members unable to attend the MSC Meeting: David Embrick, Shanell Sanchez, and Egbert Zavala.

The Minority Scholars Committee (MSC) enthusiastically welcomes our new committee members: (1) Shanell Sanchez; (2) Kamel Ghozzi; (3) Gene Deerman; and (4) Lubna Asif. MSC wants to thank Mary Campbell and Diane Soles for their valuable input on the committee during their tenure. MSC identified two potential candidates for board's approval: (1) Miguel Ceballos <mceballos2@unl.edu> and (2) Gail Wallace <gwallace@uab.edu>.

We are grateful to MSS outgoing President Peter Kivisto, who graciously hosted the second annual Minority Scholars Reception in his Presidential Suite on Thursday evening in Saint Louis. Our goal is to continue to create a space and place for networking and support for under-represented members of the MSS during our annual meetings. Feedback from participants was positive, and we look forward to a larger gathering next year. Approximately 35 people attended the reception.

Members of the MSC continue to work with Jean Shin and other representatives of the ASA to develop a "State of Minority Scholars in the Society" report that will examine membership patterns and help us to understand the trajectories of minority scholars who make their way in and out of the MSS. Members who are interested in learning more about this project may contact Miguel Carranza (mcarranza1@unlnotes.unl.edu). Additionally, MSC has created the Minority

Scholars Support Network (MSSN). In the first year, over 40 people have signed up for the network. If people want to participate, please email Lesa Johnson lesa_annette@yahoo.com

As part of our continued effort to co-sponsor relevant sessions at annual meetings, MSC member Mary Campbell organized a panel in Saint Louis entitled "Creating and Sustaining Supportive Climates: What Do We Do After Recruiting a Diverse Department?" The panel included talks by Meghan Burke, Illinois Wesleyan University; Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, University of Illinois-Chicago; Onésimo Sandoval, St. Louis University; and Buffy Smith, University of St. Thomas. The session was very well attended, informative, and encouraged networking and extended discussion among conference attendees. The MSC welcomes MSS member feedback and suggestions for future sponsored sessions.

MSC began a discussion on how to define diversity for the strategic plan. We will work with MSS to analyze the numbers for people who self-identified a racial category. We also looked for ways to work with other committees to have a robust discussion on this topic. We plan to co-sponsor two panels on the topic of diversity with Women in the Profession and the Student Issues Committee. In addition, the MSC plans to submit two panels for the 2012 meeting. We noticed that the program states co-chairs, but it should state chair. We would like this changed for future programs. The MSC is working hard to become a more visible and active committee within the MSS. We warmly thank all those committee members who have volunteered their time, energy, and stimulating ideas to our group over the past three years.

committee report

Report from the Nominations & Elections Committee

By Sheryl Grana, Outgoing Chair

Members Present: Bills (Chair-Elect), Grana (Chair), Gerschick, Peter, Sanchez, Shapkina, Stout, Walls.

Not Present: Swanson, Warner, Weber, Parilla (ex-officio)

The committee met and confirmed the positions which need to be filled in this year's election. Positions which need to be filled: MSS Chair Elect-Elect 2014; N&E Committee members: IL, WI, SD, ND, NE; State Directors: At-large, IL, MN. From member lists provided by the Executive Office, names were suggested by committee members. The incoming chair will contact named possibilities. N&E Committee Chair-Elect and Chair Elect-Elect were also nominated, and their names will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

Membership Committee

By Peter Parilla, Chair

Present: Peter Parilla (Secretary and ex-officio chair), Mike Haedicke (Editor, TMS), Anne Eisenberg (At-large Director), Marybeth Stalp (Iowa Director), Charlotte Kunkel (Incoming Iowa Director), Laura Workman Eells (Incoming Kansas Director), Susan Smith-Cunnen (Minnesota Director), Mary Kelly (Missouri Director), Elaine McDuff (Incoming Missouri Director), Julie Pelton (Nebraska Director), Brenda Donelan (South Dakota Director), Tricia Davis (Wisconsin Director), Pooya Naderi (Student Director).

Guests: Barbara Keating, President Elect-elect, Deb White, Chair, Annual Meeting Committee.

This year's Membership Committee meeting was devoted to three topics. The first was a brief review of MSS membership data and membership data from the ASA. The committee discussed ways to use these data to monitor not just aggregate membership trends but also changes in categories of members which would allow for more strategic targeting recruitment/retention efforts. The second was to have the state directors share ideas for improving recruitment and retention efforts. The third and primary focus was to deal with Strategic Priority A1 of the recently-adopted Long Range Plan: to improve retention levels and strive for at least a 10% increase in retention within five

years. Because of the need to measure outcomes, the committee discussed methods to measure retention, especially since some persons are members in some years and not others. The members decided that retention would be measured in terms of each year's non-renewal rates. The committee passed four motions during the course of the meeting:

- The Membership Committee requests that whenever current members do not renew their memberships, MSS should send the lapsed member an email with a brief survey attached to determine the reasons for non-renewal. A member of the Membership Committee will be responsible for constructing the survey.
- The Membership Committee requests that the Finance Committee evaluate the financial implications of offering members a discounted three-year renewal rate.
- The Membership Committee recommends that MSS change the date when membership renewals are sent to September 1.
- The Membership Committee suggests to the Committee on Teaching and Learning that a department that wins the Departmental Teaching Award be given three free memberships to MSS.

committee report

Report from the Social Action Committee

By Lee Miller, Chair

Present: Stuart Shafer, Johnson County Community College; Audrey Alcorn, Tulsa Community College; Mark Mantyh, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; Xavier Escandell, University of Northern Iowa; Lee Miller (presiding), Sam Houston State University; and guest appearance by William Lovekamp, Eastern Illinois U., Chair, Sociological Practice Committee.

The Social Action Committee's work of the past year included:

- Support of the long-range planning committee in reviewing the draft strategic plan and suggesting ways to further Strategic Priority F to "Expand Awareness of Sociological Knowledge and Its Usefulness in Public Dialogue."
- Recognition of two exceptional grassroots organizations working on issues of social justice in the Midwest through the 2011 Social Action Awards. This year's recipients were Building a Sustainable Earth Community in Kansas City, KS and the Community Food Network in Dearborn, MO.
- Sponsorship of the panel session entitled "Practicing Sociology: The Social Action Award Recipients Speak" in which the representative of Building a Sustainable Earth Community presented the organization's work and addressed the challenges to grassroots activity in low-income, inner-city neighborhoods.

Ongoing initiatives include:

The Social Action Committee (SAC) will further MSS Strategic Priority F to expand integration of sociological knowledge in public dialogue through:

- A. Social Action Awards
- B. Sponsored sessions in 2012 highlighting sociological knowledge and social action
- C. Collaboration with Sociological Practice Committee
- D. New initiatives

Each of these activities was discussed in detail and committee members agreed upon the following:

A. Strengthening the Social Action Award nomination process and award ceremony

- Call for nominations will be published earlier.

- Each SAC member will also alert their individual professional networks.
- The SAC will coordinate closely with the Program Committee in hopes that the awards ceremony and the grassroots panel can be scheduled on the same day so award recipients may participate in both.
- At the annual meeting, SAC members will attend the awards ceremony to help recognize the Social Action Award winners.
- The SAC would like to collaborate with the Sociological Practice Committee to explore possibilities to schedule the Sociological Practice reception on the same day of the annual conference as the Social Action Awards presentation and the grassroots panel. This will ensure that the practitioners recognized by the awards may network with other practitioners, faculty and students at the reception.

B. Sessions for 2012 annual meeting

- Social Action Awards presentation
- Social Action Award winners panel – "Implementing Sociology for Change"
- "My Parents Want to Know: What Do Sociologists Do?"
- Hot Topic Panel 2012 – "Collective Bargaining and Social Justice"
- "Liberal Arts and Applied Social Sciences: Bridging the Gap"

C. Proposed collaboration with Sociological Practice Committee

- Joint reception for sociologists who do applied work (on the same days as awards ceremony and grassroots panel)
- Co-sponsor panel session(s) in 2012
- Involve student issues committee in panels and reception to give students opportunities to network with sociological practitioners

A lively discussion of how to support MSS Strategic Priority F – helping sociology make a difference – yielded ideas for several new initiatives to be proposed to the MSS Board for discussion at the fall 2011 Board meeting.

We are looking forward to a productive year.

committee report

Report from the Publications Committee

By Joel Best, Chair

Committee Members:

*Dana Britton 2011
 Michael Sauder 2011
 *Steven Buechler 2012
 *Jan Thomas 2012
 *Joel Best 2013
 *Terry Besser 2013
 *Kathleen Abrahamson 2014
 *Kathleen McKinney 2014

Co-chair 2010-11
 Co-chair 2010-11
 Chair 2011-14

Ex-officio

*Brian Donovan Co-editor TSQ
 *Bill Staples Co-editor TSQ
 Karla Erickson Past editor TMS
 *Michael Haedicke Editor TMS
 *Lauren Tiffany MSS

*in attendance

I. The Publications Committee tasks were reviewed:

Reports: Student Paper Competition Awards – Terry and Michael

- Terry reported that there were about a dozen undergraduate submissions this year and about 20 graduate papers. She and Michael used the same format as last year with six judges for each group. The only problem they had was that seven of the undergrad papers came from the same school. We noted that we will need to do a better job publicizing this contest and encouraging students to send in papers.
- Next year Kathleen McKinney will coordinate the grad student competition and Kathleen Abrahamson will coordinate the undergraduate competition.
- Bylaws indicate the competition should be named and since it is the 75th anniversary of MSS we should consider someone who has played an important role in the society's longevity.

Report on *The Sociological Quarterly* Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award – Dana

This year we held the bi-annual award for best *TSQ* paper. Dana coordinated this award. Each paper was randomly assigned to three members of the Pubs Committee resulting in about 28 papers each. Committee members read and ranked them and the top nine papers were read by all. While this was a lot of work for the committee members, we all agreed it gave us a much better idea of the types of articles appearing in *TSQ*. This information was useful in selecting a new editor and thinking about the future direction of the journal.

Report on TMS – Michael Haedicke

Michael is the new editor of TMS. He reported on the focus groups he ran at the meetings with a diverse group of MSS members. The purpose of the groups was to get a better understanding of how people use TMS, what people like about it, and what they would like to see in terms of changes to the newsletter. Twenty people participated. People saw the function of TMS as: information transfer, community building, generating buzz, professional development, and making members feel part of the organization. Suggestions for improvement included thinking about content that represents the organization beyond the annual meeting, special columns written by members, using the newsletter as a teaching aid (profiling members in non-academic jobs, etc.), consider changes in content and format.

Report from Wiley Blackwell representative Jill Yablonski and *TSQ* Editors Brian and Bill

- *TSQ* has had a good year (see report).
- Impact factor and number of citations rose.
- Ranking of *TSQ* among 114 sociology journals rose to 55 from 63.
- Turnaround time for manuscript review is about 60 days.
- Wiley Blackwell is very happy!

Publications Committee continued next page.

committee report

Publications Committee continued from previous page.

II. Report on Search for New TSQ Editor

a. Committee: Jan Thomas, Steven Buechler, Joel Best, Dana Britton and Peter Kivisto

b. Summary and recommendation

- We had thr applications for the job and interviewed all at the meetings.
- There was a unanimous decision to recommend the editorial team of Betty Dobratz (Iowa State) and Lisa Waldner (St. Thomas) for this position. The journal will be housed at Iowa State.
- The Board approved this decision. Incoming chair, Joel Best, contacted all the candidates to let them know the decision. He will work with Lauren and the new editors to create a Memo of Agreement outlining the terms of the appointment and the commitment of resources from MSS and the home institutions.

III. Strategic Plan

a. Priority D: Enhance Status and Visibility of MSS Publications

i. We discussed our priority area and agreed that the function of TMS and the website need further and continual discussion and evaluation. We are concerned about the amount of work that continues to be added to Lauren's position and think we may need to consider having a webmaster at some point. We will also be submitting a request for funds to hire a professional to conduct a communications audit of our website, newsletter (TMS), email "blasts" and other forms of communication with our members and potential members. We believe it is time to consider how these are being used and can be used more effectively. Joel will contact Lauren about getting estimates.

ii. We also discussed institutionalizing a session at the annual meeting on getting published and/or being a reviewer.

- Joel will coordinate a special session on the history of TSQ and would like a committee member to organize a session on getting published with the TSQ editors (probably outgoing).
- We will plan on coordinating the getting published session with the student director and maybe with book exhibitors.
- Contact will be made with the program chair about these sessions.

IV. Next Year

a. Nominations for new members – an open call will appear in the TMS and committee members will send recommendations of new members to Joel.

b. New budget needs to be prepared at least one month before the fall board meeting – communication audit (will need to get some estimates on this).

committee report

Report from the Sociological Practice Committee

by Bill Lovekamp, Chair

Committee Members Present: Bill Lovekamp (Presiding), Donald LaMagdeleine, Hisako Matsuo, Christine Patterson, Catherine Siebel, Brad Wing.
Committee Members Absent: Leah Rogne.

Guests Present: Ehren Stover-Wright, Luis Posas, Christine Bevc, Michael Gillespie, Deborah Shub, Chloe Bird.

The Sociological Practice Committee sponsored Session #189, "Social & Policy Issues in Higher Education," organized by past committee member Char Kunkel.

The committee met at 3:30 and hosted a reception prior to our committee meeting. We had several interested visitors working and/or interested in applied sociology who attended the reception. At the committee meeting following the reception, we discussed the MSS strategic plan, our role in fulfilling the goals of the strategic plan, and future possibilities for activities at the upcoming MSS meetings such as sessions, workshops, receptions, etc. We intend to propose and co-sponsor at least three sessions that focus on applied sociology and approved co-sponsoring sessions with a few other committees. We will be contacting these other committees in the coming months. Our current plan is that Christine Bevc will propose a translational research session, Don LaMagdeleine will propose an applied sociology and organizational leadership session, Catherine Siebel will propose a public and applied sociology session, and Deborah Shub will propose an applied sociology session (to be co-sponsored with the Committee for Women in the Profession).

We also discussed the possibility of gathering biographies of current MSS members who identify as practicing sociologists to share, hosting another reception or a dinner for practicing sociologists next year (co-sponsored with the Social Action Committee), organizing a panel or workshop focusing on students for practice, and looking into contributing mini-articles and/or commentaries that provide a public sociology perspective on contemporary social, political, and other trends. This might happen in either *The Midwest Sociologist* or some other online forum.

We are also going to consider additional ways to initiate outreach efforts to similar and relevant national level organizations, including the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS) and ASA's section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology (SPPS). This outreach is intended to increase mutual awareness and possibly increase membership/involvement in the MSS by attracting sociologists within (and outside) the region interested in applied sociology, sociological practice, public sociology, and clinical sociology.

Our overarching goal in all of these activities is to continue promoting the practice of sociology in ways that extend beyond the academy and consider ways to increase involvement of clinical and applied sociologists at future MSS meetings.

Finally, Brad Wing has graciously agreed to be nominated as chair of the committee for 2012-13.

committee report

Report from the Committee on Teaching and Learning

By Brandon Hofstedt, Chair

Committee members present: Brandon Hofstedt (chair); Meghan Burke (nominated to serve as incoming chair 2013); Helen Moore (past-chair); Carol Jenkins (past chair); Janet Enke; Sydne Hart; Patrick Archer; Rosalee Dallman; Molly Dingel; Madeline Slowik; Stacie Tiemeyer.

Absent: Jodie Hertzog; Aditi Mitra; Megan Nielsen.

The MSS Committee on Teaching and Learning (CTL) addressed four areas related to the work of the committee: (1) MSS Faculty Development Certificate in Teaching and Learning, (2) nominees for committee membership, (3) nomination of 2013 committee chair, and (4) MSS Departmental Award in Teaching Excellence.

(1) As outlined in the MSS Strategic Plan submitted by the ad hoc subcommittee on the MSS Strategic Plan, CTL discussed taking on the responsibility of a Faculty Development Certificate (FDC) in Teaching and Learning. The CTL generated a list of session and workshop areas related to faculty development and established a subcommittee responsible for identifying and organizing the components of the FDC. Utilizing the information collected from CTL's annual meeting, the subcommittee is first to identify topical and content areas relevant to faculty development (e.g., broadly related to teaching, scholarship, and service). Second, the subcommittee will identify specific sessions and workshops as well as specific individuals with expertise in the areas identified in hopes of developing

high quality sessions and workshops. Third, the subcommittee will introduce its work back to the full committee for approval and guidance in implementing the FDC for the 2012 annual meeting in Minneapolis. The CTL will co-sponsor all sessions and workshops that are part of the FDC.

(2) CTL discussed a call for names of potential nominees for committee membership. Names of potential nominees will circulate during May and June, and the chair will forward the recommendations made by the CTL to the MSS board.

(3) As part of the CTL's attempt to maintain campus diversity in its membership and in chair representation, the committee tried to identify a community college representative to chair the committee for 2013. Due to the inability to identify a community college representative willing to serve as chair, the committee voted to suspend rotating to a community college representative for one cycle. This allowed for an open call for a 2013 chair from any school type. Committee members voted and agreed unanimously to nominate Meghan Burke as Chair of CTL for 2013.

(4) In an attempt to recruit more applicants, the CTL discussed strategies for advertising the MSS Departmental Award in Teaching Excellence. Although CTL did not give out the award this year, the committee did sponsor a session with the past winners of the award highlighting the approaches utilized by the winning departments in their applications.

committee report

Report and Action Plan from the Committee on Student Issues

By Chad McPherson, Chair

Committee members in attendance: Chad McPherson (outgoing chair), Pooya Naderi (incoming chair), Sadie Pendaz, Priya Dua, Ryan Sheppard, Kenneth Sanchagrin, Neil Quisenberry, Courtney Irby, Ben Hayter, Christina Gomez, Ilana Demantas, Lauren Tiffany, guest Miriam Brown.

1. ROLES AND OBLIGATIONS OF COMMITTEE

MEMBERS: the committee discussed the formalization of duties and obligations.

- a. All student committee members will monitor the hospitality suite for 2 hours (approximately) at each Annual Meeting.
- b. One student member of the committee at-large, each year, will be a judge on the three-person committee-sponsored Undergraduate Poster Competition. This member will serve on the judging panel with two student directors.
- c. Committee members will be asked to participate in Committee sponsored sessions (to be discussed in detail below), and preferably, consider organizing or co-organizing one of the sessions.
- d. Faculty members of the committee will act as resources to recruit their students to volunteer to monitor the student hospitality suite if need be.

2. REPORT ON THE STUDENT HOSPITALITY SUITE:

- a. St. Louis 2011: 127 visits, 104 different student members.
- b. Offering coffee is crucial. I strongly encourage future student directors to make sure their budget for the suite includes money for coffee. This year, Student Director McPherson donated his own coffee pot. (I'll be happy to bring one to future events.)
- c. Next year, we will schedule slots for monitoring the suite that mirror times of the sessions. In this way, we will ensure that monitors need to only miss one session time as opposed to two in order to attend to the suite.
- d. Next year, the committee will create a bulletin board to be placed in the suite. The board will provide information and opportunities on and at the meeting. (Thank you, Ryan Sheppard, for the wonderful idea.)
- e. Next year, the committee will co-sponsor two semi-formal interactive sessions in the suite (see below).

f. **ISSUE—LACK OF PUBLICITY/AWARENESS OF THE HOSPITALITY SUITE:** Discussion with visitors, and committee members, made clear that annual meeting attendees were still unaware of the existence and location of the hospitality suite. The committee agreed that raising awareness of the suite is crucial if the suite is to serve its purposes.

- i. Big signs posted near the registration desk.
- ii. Stickers on name tags of student members.
- iii. Send student attendees a postcard a week prior to the meeting.
- iv. Notes on student member name badges.
- v. *Other suggestions, by committee members, or otherwise, are encouraged.*

3. UNDERGRADUATE POSTER COMPETITION PROCEDURES & EVALUATION FORM:

Based on an evaluation of the judging procedures and judging criteria by the panel of three judges at this year's meeting, the outgoing chair has reconfigured suggested judging procedures. Undergraduate posters will still be assessed on ten indicators spanning four areas of assessment: the logic of the argument, the clarity of the argument, the visual presentation, and the conclusions drawn by the student(s).

4. PLAN FOR COMMITTEE-SPONSORED

SESSIONS: We evaluated Committee-sponsored session offerings. This year, the committee co-sponsored three sessions: Undergraduate Advice to Sociology Teachers, Surviving Graduate School, and How to Publish Thesis and Dissertation research. We strongly encourage the upkeep of all four sessions. In addition, for next year, we will co-sponsor two additional sessions:

- a. Session on "How to Network and the Practice of Networking."
- b. Another session. *WE ENCOURAGE SESSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR REQUESTS.*
- c. We will partner with the Minority Scholars Committee to construct a session specifically tailored towards issues of international students.
- d. This year, committee member Irby, and colleagues from Loyola organized a session titled "From One Graduate Student to Another: Advice on Teaching." We thank Courtney and colleagues for organizing such a

Student Issues Committee continued next page.

committee report

Student Issues Committee continued from previous page.

session and feel it would be advantageous to encourage others to host similar sessions. We strongly encourage the Loyola graduate students to consider organizing this same session next year (and hope we can boost attendance!)

5. ROLE OF STUDENT ISSUES COMMITTEE IN THE MSS STRATEGIC PLAN: The committee discussed the three priorities (listed below) with which the Long-Range Planning Committee and the Board of Directors tasked the committee and student directors. As this report reflects, our goal is to responsibly attend to each of these priorities and the accompanying action plans.

- a. Expand size and diversity of leadership and membership at MSS.
- b. Student Directors: Enhance the utility, vitality, and good fellowship at the Annual Meeting.
- c. Actively expand opportunities for professional development and continuing education.

6. FILM FESTIVAL REPORT: Pooya Naderi, this year's Student Program Assistant, organized a film festival at the annual meeting. Although we would like for attendance at the two nights of the event to increase, the committee strongly encourages that the film festival be retained and planned for next year's meeting. Further, Pooya craft a plan that will move the festival towards institutionalization.

7. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION, OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Committee would like to invite nominations for committee membership. Prospective committee members will be voted on at the fall 2011 board meeting. We thank Ryan Sheppard for inviting her student Miriam Brown to the committee meeting. Miriam would like to be considered as a candidate for committee membership. Nominated for committee membership at this point:

- a. Miriam Brown, St. Olaf, brownme@stolaf.edu
- b. Whitney Ferrin Rodriguez, Loyola University Chicago, wrodriguez2@luc.edu

8. ACTION ITEM: The Student Issues Committee unanimously voted to request that the Board of Directors approve and allocate increased funding for Student Travel Grants. Based on limited department-based, institutional, and external funding for travel to professional conferences, the Student Issues Committee believes that it is in the best interests of the society, and so as to actively encourage the present and future health of its membership, to increase travel grants. At present, 90 travel grants are awarded each year for student participants (who are on the program) at the annual meeting. **We request that the board consider a recommended substantial increase of 60 more travel grants for the 2012 society meeting. The board has agreed to discuss the issue at the 2011 fall board meeting.**

committee report

Report from the Committee for Women in the Profession

By Gina Petonito, Chair

The Women in the Profession Committee (WIP) was pleased to select Andrea Nichols as its Jane Addams award winner for 2011. Andrea Nichols is a young scholar working in the area of domestic violence. Her research methodology, feminist advocacy, is designed to advance the economic empowerment of women enabling them to use her research to inform the policies and practices of various stakeholders. She and her service-learning students work with various local domestic violence shelters and victim advocacy groups on fundraising, education and awareness of domestic violence, and hands-on support for domestic violence victims.

Members of the award subcommittee were: Gina Petonito, Denise Krall and Linda Evans. Gina Petonito presented the award to Andrea Nichols at the first common session of the MSS meeting on Thursday, March 24 that began at 2:45pm.

As chair of the WIP, Gina Petonito served on the subcommittee that helped Professional Issues and Standards Committee select its first Contingent Faculty Travel Grant.

The WIP discussed its definition of diversity and presented these ideas to the MSS Board. The Women in the Profession Committee would like to see a wide range of diversity in both membership and leadership positions including but not limited to: race, ethnicity, color, religion, ability, and sexual orientation.

Aware that women may be overrepresented in particular institutional settings, the Women in the Profession Committee offered these additional concerns with regard to diversity in membership and leadership: career stage, position, educational affiliation, and people working outside of sociology. Career stage includes: undergraduate students, graduate students, early-, mid -and late-career stages. Professional position includes: contingent, tenure track, tenured, and full time non-tenure track faculty. Educational institutions include: universities, four-year and community colleges, satellite campuses, and public and private institutions.

Finally, the WIP would like to see represented in the membership and leadership women who subscribe to the mission of the MSS but are outside sociology departments in multidisciplinary programs such as American Studies and Women's Studies or women who are involved in sociological practice. The WIP attends to such diversity concerns when nominating members for their own committee.

The WIP Committee would like to co-sponsor a session with the Minority Scholars Committee and another session with the Sociological Practice Committee to further explore these issues.

The WIP would also like to support a breast-feeding friendly environment at the next MSS meeting, and has presented a suggestion to that effect to the incoming program chair.

Annual Meeting continued from page 1

night – this year participants were bussed to the historic Soulard neighborhood. On Friday, members went across town to tour the Scott Joplin House where the musical genius composed his brilliant music, from ragtime to opera. Saturday’s tour involved only a walk across the street to the Old Courthouse, site of the Missouri Supreme Court’s Dred Scot decision, which upheld slavery and was a key element leading to the Civil War.

Those who spent much of the past seven months working on the annual meeting were gratified to see the three days unfold smoothly, and to see their colleagues engaged in the various sessions and activities, generally having a great time. Much of the credit for this goes to Pooya Naderi, our stellar Assistant Program Chair and Student Director, who put in countless hours on program details and email correspondence and to Carrie Wendel-Hummell, who took the lead on coordinating and scheduling the sessions, and, of course, to our incredibly wise and competent Executive Director, Lauren Tiffany. Program chairs require lots of hand-holding and I was fortunate to have so many hands to hold. Special thanks also goes to Vicky Herbel, Local Arrangements Chair, and her volunteers; Student Directors Chad McPherson and Sadie Pendaz; Stu Shafer, who coordinated the Book Exhibits; Bull Frog Distribution, who donated many of the films for the Filmfest; and James Walther of Emerald Group Publishing, Inc. who provided funding for the Meet the Authors luncheon. I would also like to thank the Downtime Band of St. Louis who energized the reception and the dancers among us. We very much appreciated Angela Buckner and the other members of the Hilton Ballpark staff who were always accommodating and easy to work with. Finally, thanks to my predecessors, Peter Kivisto and Diane Pike; their hard work made our task so much easier.

As previous MSS Presidents have noted, organizing the annual meeting begins as a challenge and ends with a satisfied feeling of “civic engagement” and of contributing to the fabric that sustains us as sociologists. I certainly felt that as I left St. Louis on Sunday afternoon. My best wishes to President-Elect Linda Lindsey, Maryville University (St. Louis) and her Student Director, Priya Dua, University of Missouri, Columbia, as they begin working toward 2012. We look forward to gathering in Minneapolis for their meeting and to begin the next 75 years of the MSS. -Mary Zimmerman

Future MSS Annual Meetings

2012

Thursday - Sunday March 29 - April 1
Minneapolis Marriott

2013

Wednesday - Saturday March 27 - 30
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

2014

Thursday - Sunday April 3- 6
Hilton Omaha

2015

Thursday - Sunday March 26 - 29
Kansas City Marriott Downtown

2016

Wednesday - Saturday March 23 - 26
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

opportunity for service

Brief Descriptions of MSS Committees

The Annual Meeting Committee is charged with facilities planning, local arrangements, and the smooth operation of the annual meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society.

The Endowment Committee reviews proposals for expenditure of endowment fund interest, and makes recommendations to the board in reference to such proposals.

The Finance Committee monitors financial policies and procedures concerning investments, budgets, MSS expenditures, treasurer compliance with MSS financial policies and maintenance of both unrestricted and restricted funds. The committee is headed by the treasurer-designate.

The Long Range Planning Committee shall continually consider the long-range goals and needs of the Midwest Sociological Society and shall assess and oversee the Society's programs and committees to ensure that those goals and needs are being appropriately addressed.

The Minority Scholars Committee shall monitor the profession in relation to minority issues, gather information on such issues, and when it deems appropriate, recommend to the board and to the membership, and carry out action aimed at increasing equality of minorities in the profession and in society.

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall nominate slates of candidates for the elective offices of the society, supervise the polling of the membership by written or electronic ballot, count the returned ballots, and notify the Secretary of the names of those elected.

The Professional Issues and Standards Committee shall view all questions of professional ethics and conduct, as well as issues of academic freedom that are brought to the attention of the society.

The Publications Committee shall oversee, monitor and recommend policy to the board concerning publication of *The Sociological Quarterly*, and *The Midwest Sociologist*, and administration of the Student Paper Competition.

The Social Action Committee shall take under consideration proposals for social action by the society submitted either by individual members or other committees of the society. It is also responsible for soliciting nominations and selecting recipients for the two annual Social Action Awards.

The Sociological Practice Committee will explore ways that clinical and applied sociology may be highlighted within the Midwest Sociological Society.

The Student Issues Committee shall develop and recommend policy to the board and monitor activities related to representation of the interests of student members of the Midwest Sociological Society.

The Teaching and Learning Committee shall concern itself with issues related to sociology education at all levels. It shall continually evaluate the development and implementation of teaching pedagogy and student learning in the discipline, and shall make the results of such evaluations available to the membership of the MSS.

The Women in the Profession Committee, toward the end of producing equality of opportunity for women, shall keep under constant review the position of women in the profession, gather information on such issues, and, when it deems appropriate, recommend action to the MSS board and the membership.

opportunity for service

Publications Committee Seeks Two New Members

The MSS publications committee seeks two new members to serve three-year terms beginning in spring 2012, and ending in spring 2015. Interested MSS members may apply directly, or nominate others.

The committee is charged with overseeing, monitoring and recommending policy to the board concerning publication of *The Sociological Quarterly*, and *The Midwest Sociologist*, administration of the annual student paper competition. The committee also judges the biannual TSQ Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Award; advises the board on the operation of the website; solicits applications for new editors for the society's publications; makes recommendations to the board with respect to the appointment of editors; and advises the editors on policy.

Please send applications by email to Publications Committee Chair Joel Best. Please include your vita and a brief application letter as Word or pdf attachments. Applicants who have experience with refereed publications are encouraged to apply. Nominations will be accepted **until Aug. 1**.

Questions?

Please send questions about the committee's work to:

Publications Committee Chair Joel Best, joelbest@udel.edu

To apply-

Please indicate in your cover email that you are applying for the committee membership.

Send your vita and brief application letter, as attachments, to:

Publications Committee Chair Joel Best, joelbest@udel.edu

Committee applicants-
Please remember:

- Committee appointments are made by the board of directors, at their fall meeting, after taking many factors into account.

- Nominations made by the committee itself are considered by the board, but are not a guarantee of appointment.

- In any given year, there are more applicants for committee membership than there are openings for new members, so if your first application does not succeed, please do not take it personally; and please do try again.

Other Committees Seeking New Members

Except for the Publications Committee, at top of page, please contact the MSS office [MidwestSS@centurytel.net] to signify your interest in committee service.

These committees are all seeking new members:

- Annual Meeting
- Endowment
- Finance
- Long Range Planning
- Minority Scholars
- Nominations & Elections
(Needs one committee member each from Illinois, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin.)
- Professional Issues & Standards
- Social Action
- Sociological Practice
- Student Issues
- Teaching & Learning
- Women in the Profession

student opportunity

49th Annual Midwest Sociological Society Student Paper Competition in Honor of R. Dean Wright

The Midwest Sociological Society announces the 2012 Student Paper Competition. The competition is open to currently-enrolled undergraduate and graduate student members of MSS. Papers are judged through a blind review with separate panels of judges for graduate and undergraduate papers.

Three prizes in each division: 1st Prize: \$250 2nd Prize: \$150 3rd Prize: \$100

plus waiver of annual meeting registration fee.

Prizes may be picked up by the winner at the annual meeting in Minneapolis.

MSS reserves the right not to award prizes, or to award 2nd or 3rd prizes but no 1st.

----- Rules for the 2012 Competition -----

Papers

1. Research-based papers involving research on human subjects must secure Institutional Review Board approval prior to beginning research; or undergo an equivalent review procedure and describe it in the methodology section of the paper.
2. Papers may be co-authored by students, but not by students and faculty. Advisors are expected to provide guidance, but not to assist with writing the paper. A student may author or co-author only one paper in the competition.
3. Students may nominate their own work. With a student's permission, an advisor may submit a paper on a student's behalf.
4. Maximum text length is 25 double-spaced pages (12-point font), not counting abstract, references, tables or figures.
5. Students who submit papers to this competition may submit the same paper to sessions at the annual meeting and/or to the editor of *The Sociological Quarterly* for publication consideration.

Submission Procedures and Deadline

6. Student competitors must pay MSS dues for 2012 prior to submitting a paper. Pay online at www.TheMSS.org
7. The paper may be submitted as two to three pdf files [preferred!] or as two to three text files, but it must be submitted as two to three documents, as follows: (1) A cover sheet including title of the paper; the name, institutional affiliation, email address, telephone number, mailing address and the graduate or undergraduate status of the author(s); and the name, email address, telephone number, and mailing address of the student's advisor. (2) The paper itself must include NONE of the identifying information from the cover page, but must include, at the top of its first page, the full title of the paper, followed by the abstract, if one is included. (See www.theMSS.org for sample documents.) (3) IRB certification or appropriate documentation must be submitted as a third document, for research-based papers involving human subjects.
8. **All submissions must be received by January 9, 2012.** Send submissions electronically ONLY to: MidwestSS@centurytel.net. [**IMPORTANT: Do not send submissions to the competition chairs.**]
9. Your submission will be acknowledged by email when received. If your submission is not acknowledged within 72 hours of your sending it, it is your responsibility to follow up with the MSS Executive Director at: midwestss@centurytel.net; or with a call to (608)787-8551.

Notification of Competition Result / Questions / Other

10. All competitors will be notified of results by February 1, 2012.
11. Questions? Please contact Graduate Competition Chair Kathleen McKinney at kmckinne@ilstu.edu or 309-438-7706, or Undergraduate Chair Kathleen Abrahamson at kathleen.abrahamson@wku.edu or 270-745-6973.
NOTE: DO NOT send papers to the chairs!
12. NO reviews will be provided to competitors, either verbally or in writing.

professional opportunity

Call for Applications for MSS Research Grants

The MSS Endowment Committee offers research grants up to \$1,500. Grant winners are expected to be present at a special invited session and will receive an award of recognition at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting **the following year**. The application submission process **opens January 1, 2012, and closes before midnight, February 15th, 2012**. **Applicants must be current members of the Midwest Sociological Society.**

The committee is currently in the process of rewriting the application requirements. Watch for full information to be posted on the MSS website and in the fall TMS.

Call for Applications for MSS Visiting Scholar / Visiting Researcher Grants

The MSS Endowment Committee is accepting applications for the Visiting Scholar/Visiting Researcher Program. The purpose of the program is to support the dissemination of scholarship and research by providing funds for leading researchers and scholars to make short visits to colleges, universities, and state association meetings to share their knowledge and skills with faculty and students. The host school or association may be in the nine-state Midwest Sociological Society region (The Dakotas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin) and must not have a Ph.D. program in sociology. Or an at-large member of the MSS whose host institution has no Ph.D. program in sociology may apply on behalf of his or her institution.

The invited scholar/researcher must be a member of the Midwest Sociological Society at the time of application. (To determine whether a scholar/researcher is an MSS member in good standing, please contact MSS at MidwestSS@centurytel.net.) The grant provides up to \$1000 (as long as funds are available) to cover transportation costs, incidental costs for the scholar/researcher while traveling to/from the host institution, and reasonable hotel/lodging expenses, while the host school provides meals, hospitality, and any honoraria. The scholar/researcher contributes his or her time and skill.

Visiting Scholars/Researchers may, among other things, participate in:

- Workshops on methodologies of interest
- Seminars on special sociological topics
- Public lectures on current issues
- Conferences with faculty members on their research
- Meetings with students interested in advanced work
- Classroom presentations
- Keynote presentations at state association meetings.

Applications can be submitted by host institutions year-round, and require a letter containing a plan for the visit, a letter of support from the host's dean or equivalent academic administrator, the contact information for the invited scholar/researcher, a tentative schedule of dates and times, and a travel budget. You may name one or more scholars you would like to have for a visit. If you have no nominees, indicate the fields or specialties of particular interest to your students and faculty, and the committee will seek to recruit a scholar/researcher for the visit.

To apply, mail materials to:

Gail Wallace, Ph.D. * University of Alabama at Birmingham * Department of Sociology HHB 460B *
1530 3rd Ave South * Birmingham, AL 35294-1152. Phone: (205) 996-2301 Email: gwallace@uab.edu

call for award nominations

Call for Nominations: MSS Distinguished Book Award*

The Midwest Sociological Society invites nominations for the MSS Annual Distinguished Book Award to recognize outstanding contributions to sociological research, theory and policy analysis. Eligible books advance sociological analysis in an original and substantive way and must have been copyrighted in 2009, 2010 or 2011. Books nominated during the past two years will automatically be considered again, if still eligible. The author (or one co-author) must be a member of the MSS with a history of some involvement in the Society, such as conference presentation or publication in *The Sociological Quarterly*. The award includes a \$250 prize. The selection committee is appointed by the MSS President.

All nominations are welcome. A complete nomination consists of a one-page letter of nomination identifying: 1) the nominated book title, author(s), publisher and copyright date; 2) the nominated author's contact information (name, institutional affiliation, phone, mail and e-mail addresses); and 3) a short statement indicating why the book deserves recognition. In addition, 4) nominators are responsible for arranging THREE review copies to be sent to the MSS Executive Office along with the nomination. (Questions? Contact the exec office at (608)787-8551 or by email to MidwestSS@centurytel.net.) **Nominations and review copies are due Sept. 30, 2011.**

***Important note:** Before beginning a nomination for this award, please see the complete guidelines and nomination criteria online on the Awards & Grants page at www.TheMSS.org or request them from the MSS executive office at MidwestSS@centurytel.net or (608) 787-8551.

Call for Nominations: Award for Teaching Excellence*

The Departmental Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes departments that have created innovative programs, curricula, or teaching and learning strategies for the effective education of graduate or undergraduate students in the discipline of sociology, and includes a \$1000 prize. An award that promotes strategies and recognizes exemplars for teaching reform and revitalization speaks directly to the MSS mission of “advancing sociological knowledge, teaching, and practice for social scientific purposes and social betterment.”

Departments should submit their applications to the executive director of the MSS, who will forward them to the MSS Committee on Teaching and Learning for evaluation. **Applications are due this year by Nov. 15, 2011.**

***Important note:** Before beginning a nomination for this award, please see the complete guidelines and nomination criteria online on the Awards & Grants page at www.TheMSS.org or request them from the MSS executive office at MidwestSS@centurytel.net or (608) 787-8551.

call for award nominations

Call for Nominations for the 2012 Annual Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award

The Women in the Profession Committee invites nominations for the Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award. Service to girls and women has traditionally been invisible and under-rewarded in society and in the discipline of sociology. This award is one effort to reward and make visible such efforts and to highlight positive role models who advance girls' and women's issues, causes, or status through personal involvement in service activities. Named after Jane Addams, this award will recognize, highlight, and award a modern-day individual who embodies the passion, dedication, and activism of Jane Addams through efforts to improve the status of girls or women. Individuals may receive the award for a sustained record of service to girls or women or for an intensive, short-term effort on behalf of girls or women. Award recipients may have performed such service inside or outside of the academy, in the Midwest, or beyond.

Nominations require a 1-2 page letter. Letters must clearly indicate the way in which the nominee has improved the experiences of girls or women, either in the academy or in specified communities, and should also indicate why these contributions are award-worthy. All current members of MSS are eligible to receive this award. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominators need not be MSS members. Nomination letters should include email, phone, and mailing contact information for the nominee.

Nominations are due by Nov. 1st 2011.

Upon receipt of the nomination, the Award Coordinator will contact the nominee by email and request the following additional documentation: Current curriculum vitae, brief statement of service philosophy regarding girls or women's issues, information about the service for which he/she is nominated, and two letters of support (one of which one should be from the community service agencies (or colleagues/former students if the service has been academic) with whom the nominee has worked). Letters of support need not be included in the packet mailed to the Award Coordinator. **All documentation is due by January 10th.**

The WIPC committee will make selection based on the following criteria:

- Service philosophy statement (clear articulation of service philosophy, evidence of action combined with theory)
- Strength of service (possible measures include amount of commitment (time, level); strength of letters of support; sustainability—if applicable; originality)
- Vitae (possible measures include indication of service as long-term commitment; service integrated with scholarship)
- Letters of nomination will be kept on file. All non-awarded nominees will be asked to resubmit updated documentation for consideration for the following year for no more than 3 years.

Awardee will be recognized in the following manner:

- Recipient will be presented with the award at the MSS annual meeting in Minneapolis.
- Recipient will receive a commemorative plaque.
- Recipient will receive a \$300 contribution in his or her name to a service organization (broadly defined) to which he or she has contributed time, effort and energies.
- WIPC will include an article in *TMS* about the winner.

All nominations and supporting documentation should be sent electronically to the Chair of the Women in the Profession Committee: Gina Petonito, petonig@muohio.edu. Letters of support may be sent by email, fax, or postal mail to: Gina Petonito, Department of Sociology and Gerontology, Miami University, 4200 East University Boulevard, Middletown, OH 45042-3497. Phone number: (513) 217-4177. Fax number: (513) 727-3462.

membership matters

Remedies for some common membership dilemmas

MOVING?

Change your address for all MSS publications with one e-mail to: MidwestSS@centurytel.net.

Don't know when you expire?

To determine when your MSS membership expires, just check the label on this issue of *TMS*. If it says, "2011," or "LIFE," your membership is current. Please plan to renew for 2012 *before Jan. 31st* to ensure that you remain eligible for MSS grants and awards, and receive your publications without interruption.

Not receiving publications?

If you should miss any issues of *The Midwest Sociologist* or *The Sociological Quarterly*, due to moving or other problems, please request replacement from MSS exec director Lauren Tiffany at MidwestSS@centurytel.net.

Not receiving MSS email?

MSS sends important news and deadline reminders about the annual meeting during the four months preceding the annual meeting. MSS also sends an occasional email 'blast' with other information of importance to members. If you are not receiving occasional emails from MSS, make sure you're subscribed by sending an email with 'Subscribe Me!' in the subject line to: MidwestSS@centurytel.net.

<p>Other questions about MSS or MSS membership? Contact the MSS executive office at: MidwestSS@centurytel.net or (608) 787-8551.</p>

Code of Ethics of the Midwest Sociological Society

Members of the Midwest Sociological Society subscribe to and are bound by the Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association.

To read the Code in its entirety, please visit the ASA online at www.ASAnet.org and follow the link to "Ethics."

MSS members are reminded that sexual or racial harassment is unethical in any professional setting, and that the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society constitutes such a professional setting. Instances of harassment should be reported as soon as possible to the Professional Issues and Standards Committee.

To view the MSS grievance procedure in its entirety, please go to the MSS website - www.TheMSS.org - and click through to the "About MSS" page; or email MidwestSS@centurytel.net and request a copy.

MSS Board of Directors Will Meet Sept. 9-10 in Minneapolis

Members of the Midwest Sociological Society are encouraged to submit suggestions, requests, and items of business to the Board of Directors for attention at the fall board meeting. To ensure inclusion on the fall board meeting agenda, please send your request to the MSS Executive Office [MidwestSS@centurytel.net] no later than August 15.

membership matters

Membership Census

MSS Member Census 2002-2011		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Asterisk indicates state hosting annual meeting.	Illinois	281	*295	177	195	191	*339	230	211	*256	215	
	Iowa	107	95	90	102	120	113	95	*135	121	114	
	Kansas	86	85	92	72	81	87	75	96	92	87	
	Minnesota	120	117	92	*167	119	124	113	156	139	138	
	Missouri	96	108	*121	109	105	105	*119	82	93	*122	
	Nebraska	58	60	59	65	*94	65	57	74	67	70	
	North Dakota	12	11	15	21	24	19	29	17	27	14	
	South Dakota	28	31	28	30	45	26	13	21	14	13	
	Wisconsin	*86	98	74	108	65	92	60	84	78	61	
	Other***	258	310	291	326	273	409	321	250	361	267	
	TOTAL		1132	1210	1039	1195	1117	1379	1112	1126	1248	1101

See the Jobs & Opportunities page at www.TheMSS.org for job listings, calls for papers, and opportunities. Check the website often. Listings are updated frequently.

The Mission of the Midwest Sociological Society

The Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) is a nonprofit, regional, professional society dedicated to building community among sociologists and to advancing sociological knowledge, teaching, and practice for social scientific purposes and social betterment.

The MSS:

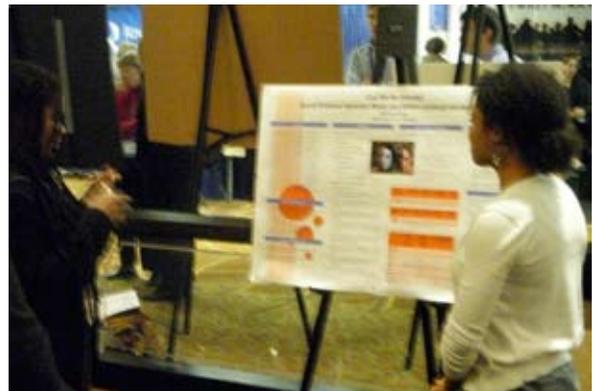
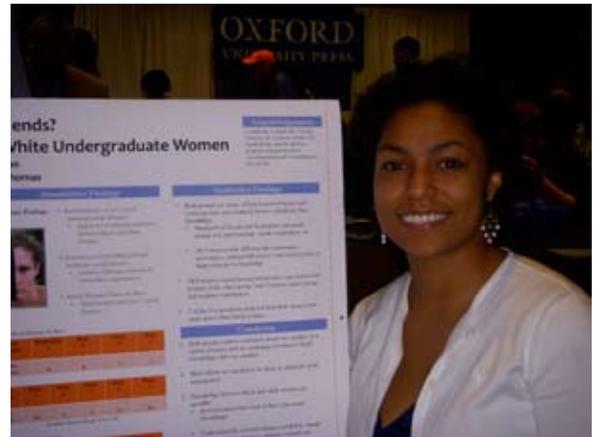
- ◆ Upholds the highest ethical standards of the social and behavioral sciences and strives to protect the academic freedom and rights of its members.
- ◆ Provides engaging forums for the sharing, critique, dissemination, and application of social scientific knowledge, especially through its annual meeting and its journal, *The Sociological Quarterly*.
- ◆ Is characterized by a spirit of voluntarism and collegiality, encouraging active participation from all interested persons in furthering the sociological enterprise.
- ◆ Encourages the professional development and careers of its members, at all educational levels and in profit and nonprofit organizations.
- ◆ Welcomes all those interested in the discipline to join the society, regardless of theoretical or methodological approach, and strives to achieve the values of diversity, inclusion and equality in all activities of the society.
- ◆ Carries out its mission primarily within a nine-state area –Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin– yet maintains a strong tradition of welcoming a national and global membership.

Photos from the 2011 Annual Meeting



As always, the MSS exhibits hall was at the heart of the action, offering a good place to rendezvous with friends and colleagues and providing a venue for several events, including award ceremonies, the traditional ice cream social, the Undergrad Poster Competition, and the Meet-the-Authors luncheon.





Nineteen undergraduates from thirteen different schools entered posters in the Undergraduate Poster Competition. Topics ranged from Facebook to the effects of religious involvement on depression.

Photos from the 2011 Annual Meeting

Plenary Speakers



**Peter Kivisto's
Presidential
Address told us why
"We're *Really* All
Multiculturalists Now!"**



**Plenary speakers
included Chloe Bird,
of Rand Corporation,
who delineated
the inequalities of
American health care
in her talk.**



Meet the Authors Luncheon



New this year: A Meet-the-Author luncheon. More than 100 participants took advantage of the opportunity to meet in small groups with MSS member-authors. And thanks to sponsor, Emerald Group Publishing, there WAS a free lunch.



annual meeting 2011

Andrea Nichols is the 2011 Recipient of the Women in the Profession Committee's Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award

By Gina Petonito, Committee Chair

The Women in the Profession Committee (WIP) was pleased to select Andrea Nichols as its Jane Addams award winner for 2011.

Andrea exemplifies the letter and spirit of the Jane Addams award. The criteria state that the award is an "effort to reward and make visible such efforts and to highlight positive role models who advance girls' and women's issues, causes, or status through personal involvement in service activities" and that the awardee must embody "the passion, dedication, and activism of Jane Addams through efforts to improve the status of girls or women." The award winner "may receive the award for a sustained record of service to girls or women or for an intensive, short-term effort on behalf of girls or women."

Andrea is a young scholar who has been working in the area of domestic violence. Her dissertation focused on domestic violence using the methodological approach of feminist advocacy. Her goal is to advance the economic empowerment of women, enabling them to use her research to inform the policies and practices of various stakeholders. She extends her concern for domestic violence issues in the classroom, providing service-learning opportunities for her students in the areas of domestic violence. She and her students work with various local domestic violence shelters and victim advocacy groups on fund raising, education and awareness of domestic violence, and hands-on support for domestic violence victims. Her colleague Darlaine C. Gardetto calls Andrea a "dedicated scholar activist for women;," Paula Rutkowski, Director of Programs for Legal Advocates for Abused Women, reports that Andrea works "tirelessly behind the scenes without any expectations or thought of recognition, just her desire to advance women's issues."

Andrea is passionately committed to women's issues, is a role model for her students and the community on behalf of women, and clearly embodies the spirit of Jane Addams for the modern day.



Women in the Profession Committee Chair, Gina Petonito, at right, presents the Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award to Andrea Nichols.

Social Action Committee Presents Awards



The Social Action Committee solicited nominations and selected two grass roots organizations working on issues of social justice in the Midwest to receive the annual MSS Social Action Awards.

This year's recipients were Building a Sustainable Earth Community in Kansas City, Kansas, and the Community Food Network in Dearborn, MO. Each group received a \$1000 contribution to further their work.

At left, Social Action Committee Chair Lee Miller presents the award to Richard Mabion, who accepted on behalf of Building A Sustainable Earth Community.

annual meeting 2012

Sociological Understandings of the Global Transformation

Marking the 75th anniversary of our first annual meeting, MSS 2012 brings to the forefront the global connections that increasingly inform our sociological work, especially related to social change. The sociological truism that serves as the thematic foundation for MSS 2012 is a deceptively simple one: We are globally connected in a single economic, social, and environmental space, but we certainly are not united in the space we share. You are invited to join colleagues in Minneapolis to explore the many facets of our discipline's globalized discourse to better understand the global transformation that has profoundly influenced all levels of our social and individual lives.

Our thematic exploration also allows us to capitalize on the synergy generated by the most recent five years of innovative and successful MSS programs. Viewed through a global lens, each program offers a myriad of provocative, meaningful streams of sociological inquiry. These include questions posed by:

- Helen Moore and Jay Weinstein (2007-NCSA): How is social policy shaped by a financially integrated global economy that may eclipse public sector goals to those of the private (corporate) sector? How does a globalized Main Street/Wall Street divide play out in policies related to immigration and migration, outsourcing and globalized labor, health care, human rights, and security and peace initiatives
- Susan Stall (2008) on making sociology more public: How can we communicate our powerful, structurally-based explanations for global transformation to audiences outside the academy who largely rely on media-inspired, individualistic-based views?
- Diane Pike (2009) on teaching sociological scholarship: How do we demonstrate that our discipline offers a necessary conceptual foundation and skill set to successfully maneuver the global economy?
- Peter Kivisto and Debra Swanson (2010-NCSA) on the social transformation of communities: How are communities and neighborhoods reinventing themselves in light of new forms of diversity fueled by globalization?
- Mary Zimmerman (2011) on intersecting inequalities that are systematically global: How do we analyze dynamics of globalization that widen existing inequality and counter development efforts at poverty reduction, especially for women?

MSS 2012 is a celebratory year. Highlighting questions from selected programs with an eye to their global overlay cannot do justice to our long and illustrious 75-year history. Delve into our online archives at www.TheMSS.org to discover more. Then join me in Minneapolis to share in the results of this discovery.

Serve as a session organizer for MSS 2012! Go to the online portal at www.TheMSS.org before the August 31 deadline. Enter proposed session title, session format, and preferred sub-disciplinary category. Send comments, questions, or suggestions to me at: MSS2012@maryville.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Linda Lindsey
Maryville University of St. Louis
MSS 2012 President-Elect and Program Chair

The Midwest Sociological Society
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La Crosse, WI 54601



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Coming soon in *The Sociological Quarterly* Vol. 52, No. 3 Summer 2011

How Americans Understand Racial And Religious Differences: A Test Of Parallel Items From A National Survey
—Doug Hartmann, Daniel Winchester, Penny Edgell, and Joseph Gerteis

School Discipline and Disruptive Classroom Behavior: The Moderating Effects of Student Perceptions
—Sandra Way

The Uneven Patterning of Welfare Benefits at the Twilight of AFDC: Assessing the Influence of Institutions, Race, and Citizen Preferences
—Ben Kail and Marc Dixon

Consequences of Black Exceptionalism? Interracial Unions with Blacks, Depressive Symptoms, and Relationship Satisfaction
—Rhiannon Kroeger and Kristi Williams

Leaving In Doves: Exit Chains in Network Attrition
—Stoyan Sgourev

Institutionalizing Social Movements: The Dual Strategy of the Korean Women's Movement
—Doowon Suh

Limited Access: Gender, Occupational Composition, and Flexible Work Scheduling
—Rebecca Glauber

