



## From the President's Corner:

Judith Little

The November annual meeting in Berkeley was quite a success. According to Ed Nelson's figures, 176 people registered for the meeting. That's up from 138 for the previous two years! I heard many favorable comments about the appearance of the program brochure and about the mix of sessions and topics. Special thanks to our stalwart CSA colleagues, Harvey Rich and CSU Northridge, Chuck Powers at Santa Clara University, and Chuck Holm at CSU Dominguez Hills for getting their institutions to contribute to the Friday night reception.

There were a lot of students at the meeting, both undergraduate and graduate, in attendance and as participants. Special thanks to Vern Cromartie at Contra Costa College for incorporating CSA meeting attendance into his course expectations. Those of you in the southern portion of the state might want to start thinking of ways to encourage your students to attend the meeting in Riverside. And it is certainly not too early to begin identifying students to nominate for our student awards!

In addition to increased meeting attendance, our membership is up as well to over 200! Maintaining this membership and increasing it still further requires all of us to reach out to new colleagues in our own departments and in other institutions. You might ask your students what kinds of activities or sessions they would find especially useful at the next meeting, organize those sessions or activities, and bring new student members!

This year the Executive Board and Governing Council will be reviewing our Constitution and By-Laws, including membership and conference fees.

If you have any thoughts or ideas or suggestions you want to share with me, don't hesitate to contact me at [jk11@csuhumboldt.edu](mailto:jk11@csuhumboldt.edu).

### **California Sociological Association 2008 Meeting November 7th and 8th Mission Inn, Riverside**

Send proposals for sessions, panels, workshops, and abstracts of papers to Ed Nelson. [ednelson@csufresno.edu](mailto:ednelson@csufresno.edu)

### **Inside This Issue:**

**Report on 2007 Meeting  
Plenary Session  
2008 Conference  
Student Awards  
Honoring our Mentors  
CSA Handbook  
Executive Council**

## Report on the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the California Sociological Association Beth Hartung

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CSA, held in Berkeley on November 17 and 18, 2007 at the Berkeley Marina Doubletree facility was a great success. Dr. Judith Little, as program chair, organized an array of excellent sessions, from author meets critics, to well-attended student sessions; from sessions focused on the local and particular, to sessions that examined global issues, study abroad, and the state of the discipline itself. The theme of this past year's meeting, Building Communities: Local and Global Landscapes, encapsulated where we as practitioners, students, and activists are taking our discipline of sociology. I heard about several exceptional sessions, and was happy to have attended some as well.

Thanks go to a number of our colleagues. First and foremost, Dr. Judith Little, who since November has taken the reigns as President of the CSA, did a wonderful job with the program. While we have a great group in our association who rise to whatever challenge, the President-Elect has the tough job of keeping track of all the potential sessions and counter program them in a way that will appeal to the most people. The job is largely invisible, but Judy's work ensured that our conference went smoothly. Ed Nelson, our Executive Director and President-Elect, and Charlie Varano, past-President, were our hotel liaisons, working with hotel management for adequate rooms and meeting space, finalizing the buffet menu at the plenary, all the while trying to keep costs reasonable. Jacqueline Carrigan, Vice-President North, furnished screens for all the rooms courtesy of Sacramento State, and saving the association a great deal of money. Ed and Tim Kubal, our webmaster, took care of audio visual set ups. And finally, a special thanks is due all of the session organizers, for filling your sessions with good papers, for encouraging students and colleagues to participate, and for contributing each year to our big event, the annual meeting.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll read about the Plenary, given by Dr. Chuck Hohm, on the state of academic sociology. You'll also read about our two exceptional student award winners for 2007, as well the remarks of Robert Bellah, from the session on Honoring Our Mentors. It was certainly a great honor for me (thanks, Gordon!) to share the podium with Professor Bellah, Gordon Clanton's mentor and former professor, and to hear him speak about his mentor and former professor, Talcott Parsons. One of the things that Bellah addressed in his remarks was the pleasure he took in working with students on *Habits of the Heart*, and how one of those (then) student co-authors had written the best chapter, in his opinion, in the book. As I listened, I was struck by how great and prolific scholars are often also humble as well, and are quick to share credit where due. In an era that doesn't celebrate humility, I was touched.

### California Sociological Association Newsletter

Editor

Elizabeth Nelson  
Professor Emerita  
CSU Fresno  
1142 E. Menlo  
Fresno, CA 93710  
(559) 431-2630  
elizn@csufresno.edu

The California Sociological Association Newsletter is a publication of the California Sociological Association, a not-for-profit organization that represents members in the fields of education, research, sociological practice, nonprofits, and government service. The Newsletter is distributed to all members in good standing with the association.

### Officers of the California Sociological Association

President (2007-08)  
Judith Little  
Humboldt State University  
jkl1@humboldt.edu

President Elect (2007-08)  
Ed Nelson  
CSU Fresno  
ednelson@csufresno.edu

VP South (2007-09)  
Billy Wilder  
CSU Channel Islands  
billy.wagner@csuci.edu

VP North (2006-08)  
Jacqueline Carrigan  
CSU Sacramento  
carrigan@csud.edu

Executive Director (2006-09)  
Ed Nelson  
CSU Fresno  
ednelson@csufresno.edu

### CSA Founding President Charles Hohm Keynote Speaker at 2007 Conference

Dr. Charles Hohm of CSU Dominguez Hills gave the plenary address, "Improving Sociology's Standing in the Academy," at the November meeting in Berkeley. He was the first president and the founder of our state association. He is now the Dean of the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences at Cal State, Dominguez Hills. He taught at San Diego State University from 1973 until 2004, serving as chair from 1985-1991.

In 1990 Dr. Hohm was the founding president of the CSA when he and others recognized the importance of an effective statewide association at a time when the California State University and the discipline of sociology were under siege. Chuck has also served as the president of the Pacific Sociological Association and as editor of *Sociological Perspectives*, the official journal of the PSA.

In his talk, Chuck summarized his research on dean's rankings of sociology compared to other disciplines. Deans are particularly important since they are in the positions that allocate resources to departments, especially faculty lines. In 2006-07 he sent surveys to deans, associate deans and assistant deans in Colleges of Arts and Sciences in American universities that were members of the national organization, The Council of Arts and Humanities. The respondents were asked to select the top two and bottom two departments from a list of 23 disciplines in arts and sciences on a variety of characteristics.



The results were mixed. Sociology was rarely ranked high for academic rigor, was fairly high on for commitment to and concern for students, was low on student success in occupations and graduate school, low on funded research and peer-reviewed publications, high on research ameliorating community problems

and interdisciplinary work.

In conclusion Chuck recommended that sociology improve the rigor of the program by moving to sequenced courses and increasing the minimum required grades. He argued that this would increase the quality of our students as well as improving our image as a department that attracts students to the discipline and improving the success of our students in occupations and graduate school. In addition, as students become involved in rigorous study and research, faculty research would also increase, leading to more grants and publications.

He stressed the importance of sociology in applied disciplines such as education and social work and the way that sociological concepts have spread to other departments in the university and become key to understanding our society, especially race, class and gender.

The keynote was followed by a full buffet reception, free to all who are registered for the conference, and to our honored guests. It was a wonderful time to meet with Chuck and other colleagues and enjoy the delicious food.

Thanks to the departments who co-sponsored the post-plenary buffet:

CSU Dominguez Hills (Chuck Hohm)  
 CSU Northridge (Harvey Rich)  
 Santa Clara University (Chuck Powers)

## 2008 Conference at the Mission Inn



**The 2008 CSA Annual Meeting will be November 7th and 8th at the Mission Inn in downtown Riverside.** We have met there several times in the past and enjoyed the beautiful and historic setting.

The Inn began in 1876 as the Glenwood, a two-story 12-room adobe boarding house, built by Christopher Columbus Miller on land deeded to him by the city as payment for his services as a civil engineer. His son, Frank Augustus Miller, later bought the property, improved and enlarged it, and by 1903 opened the first wing of the current Mission Inn building. The building grew in several stages and now fills an entire block with gardens and towers, arches and stairways. Throughout the site, visitors are able to view paintings, sculpture and furnishings from the Mission Inn collections.

The hotel's rich history and unique architecture led to its designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The Mission Inn is the region's grandest hotel and has hosted many renown people, including the royal houses of Sweden, Russia, and Japan and several U.S. Presidents. President Theodore Roosevelt stayed at the Inn soon after the 1903 Mission Wing was built and took part in the ceremonial replanting of one of Riverside's two parent navel orange trees in the courtyard of the hotel. Andrew Carnegie and David Starr Jordan encouraged Frank Miller's participation in the international peace movement that inspired annual conferences at the Inn. Maude Adams, Sarah Bernhardt, and Madame Modjeska, all played to Riverside audiences in the Loring Opera House (managed by Miller), and retired after performances to rooms at the Inn. Hamlin Garland, Pulitzer Prize winning author, wrote portions of his latest works in the Inn's Alhambra Suite.

The Mission Inn is an oddly-integrated collection of arcades and gardens, turrets and domes, flying buttresses and spiraling staircases, catacombs and carillon towers. It is home to collections of fine art and Spanish cannons, stained glass and ceramic tile, saints and dragons, bells and wrought iron, lacquered Asian temple guardians, and life-size papal court figures. The chapel was designed specifically to accommodate a massive Eighteenth Century gold-leafed cedar altar from Mexico and seven impressive Louis C. Tiffany stained-glass windows.

The Mission Inn is about 30 minutes from the Ontario International Airport. . For more information about the Mission Inn, please visit their website at [www.missioninn.com](http://www.missioninn.com).

**Send your proposals for sessions, panels, workshops, and abstracts of papers to Ed Nelson**  
[ednelson@csufresno.edu](mailto:ednelson@csufresno.edu)

CSA Website is [www.csufresno.edu/csa](http://www.csufresno.edu/csa).

**Thanks to Sioban Caruso-Tuthill who expertly formatted the Newsletter for the past two years. We really appreciated it!**

## Student Awards 2007

Every year the California Sociological Association gives awards to outstanding students—one undergraduate and other a graduate student. (Each receives a plaque and a check for \$100.) This year the honorees were Lianna Hart for the undergraduate award and Brian Soller for the graduate award.

Lianna earned a B.A. in Psychology and in Women's and Gender Studies and a Minor in Sociology at Sonoma State in May of 2007. Her double majors were awarded with distinction and her minor degree, Summa Cum Laude. Letters of support for her nomination from Dr. Cindy Stearns and Dr. Kathy Charmaz used adjectives like "extraordinary," "industrious," and "sophisticated." In her nomination narrative, Dr. Milligan notes that while Ms. Hart "...was not a sociology major...she decided that sociology was her intellectual home after taking a course from Professor Cindy Stearns... and that sociology seemed the more intellectually useful of the two disciplines. Dr. Milligan worked with Ms. Hart on a series of projects involving looking at mothers of children with autism. She has presented on various related topics at the Annual Western Departments of Anthropology and Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference, at the Pacific Sociological Association Conference, and at these meetings. As an undergraduate student, then, Ms. Hart completed a major research project in the areas in which she hopes to specialize in graduate school: disability studies, health care and illness. In the current semester, as she applies to graduate programs in Sociology, she is serving as a volunteer teaching assistant in Dr. Kathy Charmaz' Survey of Sociology Theory course and a teaching assistant for Dr. Stearns' Sociology of Reproduction class.

Brian Soller began his undergraduate education at Chabot College in Hayward and then transferred to St. Mary's where he earned his B.A. in Sociology. As a M.A. student in sociology at CSU, East Bay, Mr. Soller is concurrently enrolled in a graduate quantitative research course at UC Berkeley, and has earned a certificate in statistics. Mr. Soller received letters of support from Dr. Benjamin Bowser, interim Dean of the College and Professor

of Sociology and Social Services, and from Professor Carl Stempel. Mr. Soller exemplifies the best of our students in the CSU: that is, he is the first member of his family to earn a college degree, he is self-supporting, and he has maintained an excellent record in his graduate work. After finishing his M.A., he plans to enter a doctoral program with a specialization focus in research methods and sub-



stance abuse studies. His professors write about his ability to produce beautifully written, methodologically sound work, and are most complementary about his Master's thesis which analyzes ADD Health data through the theoretical lens of social and cultural capital to explain adolescent drug use. Dr. Jennings notes that Mr. Soller has gone "far beyond what is required to succeed" in his program; Dr. Bowser ranks him as one of the top five graduate students in many years, and Dr. Stempel said that "Mr. Soller is the full package, combining outstanding writing, methodological and theoretical skills. I can not imagine a more deserving candidate for your award."

## Other Conferences

### Pacific Sociological Association

April 10-13, 2008

Portland, Oregon

For more information:

[www.pacificsoc.org](http://www.pacificsoc.org)

### American Sociological Association

August 1-4, 2008

Boston, Massachusetts

For more information:

[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)

## Honoring Our Mentors

Gordon Clanton-San Diego State University

At one point last summer I attempted to set up a CSA session on my mentor Robert Bellah, now retired from UC Berkeley. But Bob insisted that we not devote a whole session to him, in part because he did not want to burden his collaborators and former students, who might feel obligated to participate. So I went to Plan B: A session devoted to **Honoring Our Mentors**, in which I would present on Bellah and other panelists would speak about their mentors. The goal would be to embody and celebrate the social and generational quality of sociology.

This proved harder than I would have guessed. Some CSA regulars who might have contributed were not able to attend the conference this year or had other commitments at the conference. I sought a panelist who could help honor the late Jim Wood, but the people who knew Jim best were unavailable. Some women told me that they did not have a mentor, that most of their male professors had been indifferent or hostile. Ouch! I hope we are past that now.

Despite these complex logistics, the session was rewarding for those who attended. I introduced the session and offered a few words in remembrance of Jim Wood. Jim was an effective mentor to many students over a 30-year career at SDSU. Jim was a skilled leader of the Sociology Department, an officer in the California Faculty Association, and a great champion for sociology and for public higher education.

CSA President Beth Hartung (CSU, Channel Islands) presented on her mentor: "Helen Moore: The Political is the Personal." Beth affirmed the importance of finding a mentor who supported her vocational choice and provided a role model of a woman professor at a time when there were very few women in the field. Beth's remarks stimulated a useful discussion about how the position of women in the academy has changed over the last half century.

My presentation was titled "Robert Bellah: Sociology, Religion, and the Public Intellectual." Bellah's early essays on "Civil Religion in America" and "Religious Evolution" led to his books *Habits of the Heart* (1985), which has sold more than 500,000 copies, and *Religious Evolution* (forthcoming), his magnum opus. Bellah is a model of the engaged intellectual. In recent years his speeches and writings have taken on an increasingly prophetic tone, as he warns against the corrosive effects of excessive individualism that puts the common good at risk.

Bob Bellah made gracious and thoughtful comments about the two presentations, but divided most of his time between his own mentor (Talcott Parsons) and his collaborators on *Habits of the Heart* and *The Good Society* (Richard Madsen, William Sullivan, Ann Swidler, and Steven Tipton).

Bob remembered Parsons as a popular professor who encouraged his students and found the best, even in their lamest efforts. He supported students in their



Research, whatever direction they chose. Characterizing Parsons' level of abstraction as "stratospheric," Bob showed a genuine affection for his mentor and high regard for the interdisciplinary Harvard Department of Social Relations, where Bob received his own education and then later taught, prior to his move to Berkeley in 1967.

Regarding the *Habits* group, Bob described the complex process of collaboration in which each co-author contributes to the writing and rewriting of every chapter, an unusual strategy in an academic world where the common practice is to staple together chapters written by disparate authors, with an introduction by the lead author or editor. Here again, Bob's respect for and affection toward his collaborators was apparent.

The rich discussion that followed included comments about other mentors and role models, touching on topics such as teaching teachers to teach, teaching scholars to write, and the promise and perils of engagement.

## THE CSA HANDBOOK

Gordon Clanton, San Diego State University  
gclanton@mail.sdsu.edu

**Because the success of the California Sociological Association depends on the effectiveness of its officers and the coordination of their activities, the CSA HANDBOOK lists tasks and timetables for all CSA officers.** ([www.csufresno.edu/csa](http://www.csufresno.edu/csa)).

Having this information easily available through the CSA website makes it easier for CSA officers to know what their duties are — and more likely that necessary tasks will get done on time.

The CSA HANDBOOK includes:

- I. The Executive Board and Governing Council
- II. Constitutional duties of the Executive Board
- II. Constitutional duties of the Governing Council
- IV. Common obligations of all CSA officers
- V. Duties and deadlines associated with various offices
  - A. President
  - B. President-Elect/Program Chair
  - C. Vice-Presidents North and South
  - D. Executive Director
  - E. Newsletter Editor
  - F. Executive Editor
  - G. Members of the Governing Council

Each section includes both Constitutional duties, including duties prescribed in the By-Laws, and other duties.

Three exhibits show content for a Call for Proposals, Conference Update, and Press Release.

**Upon their election or appointment, all members of the Executive Board and the Governing Council are urged to read, download, and print out Section IV (Common obligations of all CSA officers) and the appropriate part of Section V (Duties and deadlines associated with various offices).**

The CSA HANDBOOK will be expanded, updated, and modified to provide an evolving institutional memory for the Association. As Dilbert says, "Let's not re-invent a dead horse."

The CSA HANDBOOK is a community project. If you are now serving or have ever served in any CSA office, please forward your suggestions for additions and changes to Gordon Clanton  
gclanton@mail.sdsu.edu

## Thank You to Outgoing Officers

**Scott Coltrane** (UC Riverside) completed his term as Vice-President South.

**Shannon Gleeson** (UC Berkeley) completed her term as the representative from the University of California

**Veronica Van Ry** completed her term representing practitioners

**Michael Johnston** completed his term as the representative of graduate students.

**Siobhan Caruso-Tuthill** completed her time as newsletter co-editor.

## Welcome to New Officers

**Ed Nelson** (CSU Fresno) was elected President Elect/Program Chair.

**Billy Wagner** (CSU Channel Islands) was elected Vice President South.

**Vern Cromartie** (Contra Costa College) was re-elected representative for the community Colleges.

**Roy Childs** (University of the Pacific) was re-elected representative for private colleges and universities.

(The practitioner position is now vacant. Please volunteer if you'd like to represent practitioners on the council.)

**CSA Executive Board and Governing Council 2007-2008**

<p><b>President (2007-08)</b> Judith Little Professor and Department Chair Coordinator, College Faculty Preparation Program Coordinator, Criminal Justice Minor Director, CASAE Department of Sociology Humboldt State University Arcata, CA 95521-8299 (707) 826-4561 jkl@humboldt.edu</p>	<p><b>President Elect (2007-08)</b> Ed Nelson Professor of Sociology Director, Social Research Laboratory 5340 N. Campus Drive--SS 97 Fresno, California 93740-8019 (559) 278-2275 ednelson@csufresno.edu</p>	<p><b>Vice President-South (2007-09)</b> William E Wagner III Associate Professor of Sociology One University Drive CSU, Channel Islands Camarillo, CA 93012 (805/) 37-3314 billy.wagner@csuci.edu</p>	<p><b>Vice President-North (2006-08)</b> Jacqueline Carrigan Associate Professor of Sociology Department of Sociology California State University Sacramento Sacramento, CA 95819-6005 916 278-6801 carrigan@csus.edu</p>
<p><b>Executive Director (2006-09)</b> Ed Nelson Professor of Sociology Director, Social Research Laboratory 5340 N. Campus Drive--SS 97 Fresno, California 93740-8019 (559) 278-2275 ednelson@csufresno.edu</p>	<p><b>Archivist/Newsletter Editor</b> Elizabeth Nelson Professor Emerita CSU Fresno 1142 E. Menlo Fresno CA 93710 (559) 431-2630 elizn@csufresno.edu</p>	<p><b>Webmaster</b> Tim Kubal Department of Sociology California State University Fresno, CA 93740 559-278-5145 tkubal@csufresno.edu</p>	<p><b>California State University (2005-08)</b> Faye Wachs Assistant Professor of Sociology Psychology and Sociology Department California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Pomona, CA 91768 (909) 869-3903</p>
<p><b>University of California (2007-10)</b> Michael Johnston UCLA Center for East-West Medicine 3770 Keystone Ave., # 313 Los Angeles, CA 90034 johnston@ucla.edu</p>	<p><b>Community Colleges (2007-10)</b> J. Vern Cromartie Professor of Sociology Chairperson, Social Sciences Department Contra Costa College 2600 Mission Bell Drive San Pablo, CA 94806 (510) 235-7800, ext. 4537 j_vern_cromartie@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Private College &amp; Universities (2007-10)</b> Roy Childs Professor of Sociology Research Director, Jacoby Center for Public Service and Civic Leadership University of the Pacific Stockton CA 95211 (209) 946.2103 rchild@pacific.edu</p>	<p><b>Practitioners (2007-10)</b> [Vacant]</p>
<p><b>Undergraduate Students (2007-08)</b> [Vacant]</p>	<p><b>Graduate Students (2007-08)</b> [Vacant]</p>		<p><b>Immediate Past-President (2007-08)</b> Elizabeth (Beth) Hartung Professor and Chair Sociology and Anthropology One University Drive CSU, Channel Islands Camarillo, CA 93012 (805) 437-3274 elizabeth.hartung@csuci.edu</p>