

N *California Sociological Association* NEWSLETTER

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SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING CONFERENCES

J. Daniel McMillin (CSU Bakersfield)

National and Regional:

February 16-18, 2005. *The American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences.* Las Vegas, NV. www.aabss.org.

February 17-19, 2005. *Western Society of Criminology.* Honolulu, HI. Theme: Meeting the Challenge: Translating Research Into Practice. www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/.

March 17-29, 2005. *Eastern Sociological Society.* Washington, DC. Theme: Sociology and Public Policy. www.essnet.org.

March 31-April 3, 2005. *Midwest Sociological Society.* Theme: Mobilizing for Change. Minneapolis, MN. <http://themss.org>.

April 7-10, 2005. *Pacific Sociological Association.* Portland, OR. Theme: Public Sociology--What is Our Purpose, What Are Our Priorities. www.csus.edu/psa.

April 13-16, 2005. *Southern Sociological Society.* Charlotte, NC. www.msstate.edu/org/sss/.

April 14-15, 2005. *National Council on Family Relations, and The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.* Theme: Families and Security. Washington, DC. www.ncfr.org or www.aafcs.org or contact Nancy Gonzalez at nancy@ncfr.org or Mary Ellen Saunders at mesaunders@aafcs.org.

International:

January 25-27, 2005. *First World Conference on Crime Aggression, and Violence in Urban Cities.* St. George's Grenada, West Indies. Theme: Developing Crime Prevention Policies for Peace, Justice, and Security in Urban Cities. www.globalresearchinstitute.com.

May 5-7, 2005. *The First International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.* University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Theme: Qualitative Inquiry in a Time of Global Uncertainty. www.qi2005.org or contact inf@qi2005.org.



**The
California Sociological
Association Newsletter**

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The California Sociological Association Newsletter is distributed to all members who are in good standing with the Association. Unsolicited articles, book reviews, and letters are invited and should be mailed to the editor at:
editor@californiasociologists.com.
The DEADLINE for submission of articles to be included in the next circulation is APR.1, 2005

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OBSERVATIONS FROM MY PASTURE

Susan Garfin (Professor of Sociology Emerita and Past President of the CSA)

One Thursday in early December I returned to my former place of employment, Sonoma State University, to attend the School of Social Sciences holiday party. It was a good party; I saw many colleagues and former students. As we talked, two themes came to the fore over and over again. For the graduating senior students it's time to leave school and figure out what to do next. Among my former colleagues a different thread emerged: the weight of the academic work load which seems to be getting heavier by the day resulting in less time for intellectual work and professional interchange. Even in the few months since my June retirement, the increase in the number and intensity of administration-mandated faculty tasks has been remarkable.

How do both themes relate to the CSA? Let me try to explain. As I seem to say over and over again, the CSA is unique in its balance among at least three types of membership: sociological practitioners, students, and faculty. For our students who love their major but don't know where it will take them or what careers are available for them after graduation, the CSA serves as a forum in which they can begin to participate professionally as well as interact with their peers. They can also meet faculty from graduate schools that interest them and learn about a variety of careers and programs that are open to them.

For faculty and practitioners, as we well know, the CSA provides a comfortable venue in which to meet colleagues, present and hear professional papers (i.e., deal with substance, not bureaucracy), explore the job market, discuss innovative teaching, and much, much more.

The CSA has been around for fifteen years now, and we've filled an important niche among professional sociological associations in California. We need to stay strong and grow—especially today as the world of work and the student world both come under pressure from declining support. The CSA was born in part as a response to budget cuts affecting Sociology in the CSU. Now budget cuts are again wreaking havoc with the much of the public sector in California. Beyond that, what affects our schools and work places also has an impact on the CSA.

In some ways, strong as the CSA has become, it is an organization at risk. As we all know, those of us who belong to the CSA find ourselves stretched thinner than ever before. For CSA officers it's hard to find time to keep the work of the organization on the front burner. For others it's difficult to conceive taking on a major position in the CSA organization because of conflicting workload demands. The result is that the CSA tends to slip out of sight except for when newsletters arrive and just before and during our annual meeting in the fall. In addition, as 2005 begins, although the CSA has an excellent slate of officers elected for the next year, we do not yet have an Executive Director to replace Val Callanan. The question is, will we find one? Will we also be able to keep the CSA vital throughout the year and not just when we convene for annual meetings? Who will set up the annual meeting?

OBSERVATIONS FROM MY PASTURE (continued)

Susan Garfin (Professor of Sociology Emerita and Past President of the CSA)

The CSA governing council is not unaware of these problems. Not only have we spoken about how to modify the post of Executive Director; we also have talked about how to keep the CSA running more smoothly and as a richer part of members' lives throughout the academic year.

At our last general membership meeting in Riverside in October, 2004, those who attended agreed that the post of Executive Director is too large for a single individual to carry. Both Jim Glynn and Val Callanan, the CSA's two past Executive Directors, did stellar jobs for the organization. But the position burned them out and exhausted them. As the organization has grown, so have the demands on the Executive Director. It is now too much to ask a single person who is working full time to fill the role of Executive Director as the position was formerly envisioned. And, we are a low-budget organization. We don't have the money to hire someone for the post.

To deal with this problem and with the issue of making the CSA a lively year-round organization, after the Riverside conference a committee of southern California CSA members has been meeting. Their goal is to find a way to restructure the position of Executive Director, to subdivide it into several manageable parts that a number of CSA members can take on. The restructuring is still in process and should be announced soon. Hopefully, this will be a starting point for the CSA's smooth transition into a more efficient organization. But, restructuring on paper is not enough. The CSA will still need volunteers to fill whatever new positions are created. This is where the larger membership comes in.

Ironically, it is at a time like the present when workloads and pressure on members are greatest, that it is most important that CSA members consider seriously taking on a CSA position. California sociologists need the CSA more than ever, and believe me; the CSA needs more California sociologists as part of its structural core. Working for the CSA is not a thankless task. Just the opposite is true. In addition to the professional benefits of being a CSA member, there are personal benefits as well. We have a varied and interesting membership. We have a stimulating annual program. In an era of increased bureaucracy and less and less opportunity to interact with other sociologists, the CSA provides a refreshing, stimulating, and even relaxing escape from routine. To badly plagiarize from JFK and suggest to you, "Think both of what the CSA can do for you and what you can do for the CSA." Get involved.

A GOOD MEETING

Susan Garfin (Professor of Sociology Emerita and Past President of the CSA)

Our October 2004 annual meeting in Riverside was another tremendous success. Our new CSA President Gary Crester and the Program Committee (Shoon Lio, Bonnie Ross, Elizabeth Nelson, Beth Hartung, Faye Waschs and Jessica Orpilla) put together a varied, engaging program with two outstanding keynote speakers: former California State Senator and Assemblyman, Tom Hayden, and USC Professor, Michael Messner. Executive Director, Val Callanan, as always, went the extra mile to arrange our accommodations, luncheons, meeting rooms and more. Newsletter Editor, Veronica Van Ry kept the newsletter information flowing to you all, and Harvey Rich chaired the Student Awards Committee. As always, session organizers and presenters were a vital part of the conference. Many students and others volunteered their time to take care of AV needs, registration, and a variety of other tasks. Thank you to all and to others who were part of the event. Thanks also to all who attended the Riverside meeting. It was easy to be President of an organization with so many enthusiastic participants. I look forward to seeing you all in Northern California in 2005.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR CSA STUDENT AWARDS

Hardly a CSA newsletter goes to print without the announcement of the CSA's student awards on it. Over the years the CSA has honored a number of outstanding graduate and undergraduate students, and we seek to honor even more. Please think seriously about the students you know and have taught and those who have contributed actively to departmental life on your campus. Take the time to nominate a student for the CSA's undergraduate or graduate award. Below are the criteria for the awards.

The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award:

This award is designed to honor a current California undergraduate student (or one who has graduated within the year preceding the CSA meeting for which s/he has been nominated for the award) who meets the following criteria:

- a) Has completed 9 units of Sociology with a GPA of at least 3.0.
- b) Has earned distinction in any of the following ways:
 - 1. Outstanding scholarship
 - 2. Outstanding community and/or school service
 - 3. A combination of the above

Nominations should include the following information:

- a) full name, address, phone and email address for the nominee
- b) a summary of student's college career including schools attended, number of units of sociology completed and sociology GPA, major, and (if known) future school or career plans.
- c) a clear statement of basis on which the nomination is made with as much supporting detail as possible (and possibly other letters of recommendation).

The Distinguished Graduate Student Award:

This award is designed to honor a current graduate student enrolled in a California 4-year college or university or one who has completed an MA or Ph.D. degree within the year preceding the CSA meeting for which s/he has been nominated to receive an award. The student should meet the following criteria:

- a) Be enrolled in (or have completed within the past year) a course of graduate study in Sociology.
- b) S/he should have completed 20 graduate units of Sociology with a GPA of at least 3.5.
- c) S/he should have distinguished her/himself in any of the following ways:
 - 1. Outstanding scholarship and publication
 - 2. Outstanding service to the school, community, profession including CSA
 - 3. A combination of the above

Nominations should include the following information:

- a) full name, address, phone and email for the nominee
- b) a summary of the nominee's graduate career including schools attended, number of graduate units of sociology completed and GPA, degree program, and (if known) future study or career plans.
- c) a clear statement of basis on which the nomination is made with as much supporting detail as possible (and possibly other letters of recommendation).

All nominations must be made by current CSA members. Nominations for both the undergraduate and graduate awards may be submitted electronically or in writing to the President of the Association, who will chair the Awards Committee. The President will forward the nominations and all supporting materials to other members of the committee. Whenever possible the Awards Committee will be composed of the President Elect and two Vice Presidents of the Association. If either of the two Vice Presidents cannot serve, the President will appoint a replacement. The committee chair will solicit nominations for the award in a timely fashion (approximately May 15-October 1 of each year) via email or newsletter or other notification to the membership.

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS AND PAPERS

California Sociological Association 16th ANNUAL MEETING

November 4-5, 2005

At the beautiful Doubletree Hotel and Executive Center
on the Berkeley Marina waterfront
Berkeley, California

For more information about the conference, contact
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See our website: www.californiasociologists.com

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