



From the President's Corner by Charles Varano

2006 Annual Conference in Riverside focuses on "Dreaming California: The Myth, The Image, and the Possibilities of California"

As spring comes and goes (and for many of us in California it has been a brief spring), another semester or quarter draws to a close and summer awaits us. For some this is a period of travel, rest and reflection, or perhaps a summer course and completing a favorite private or professional project. But for CSA officers, it is a period of hard work and planning for our annual meetings in Riverside, California at the historic Mission Inn, November 10-11, 2006. This year's conference theme is "Dreaming California: The Myth, The Image, and the Possibilities of California," and we encourage members and future members to consider organizing a session or presenting a paper. Dr. Beth Hartung from CSU Channel Islands is organizing this year's conference and you can send her proposals at elizabeth.hartung@csuci.edu. The conference rate at the Mission Inn will be \$128 + 11% tax per night for a standard room. Our mem-

bers need to reserve rooms by October 9, 2006, in order to receive this rate. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-843-7755. Callers should mention they are coming to the Mission Inn for the CSA meetings.

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President's Corner (continued...)

The conferences we have held at the Mission Inn have always been exceptional events, with intriguing programs, outstanding accommodations, and memorable keynote speakers. This year we will continue a wonderful event started last year in Sacramento of holding the keynote speaker address Friday evening, followed by a fully-catered reception for all to attend. This event proved to be a great opportunity for people to mingle and discuss the keynote address and session topics, as well as enjoy good food and friends. Please make plans to attend this event as it will replace the Friday and Saturday luncheons that we scheduled in years past.

The CSA board members recently met at the Pacific Sociological Association meetings held in Hollywood, California, April 20-23, 2006. During this meeting we discussed many issues facing the CSA, the most important of which are the rising cost of hotel costs for conferences and the importance of involving new members in the governance of this organization. We can't do much about the first issue given that all professional associations are facing rising conference costs. But we will continue to seek out accessible and affordable venues that offer our members comfortable accommodations in enjoyable settings. One way we can keep costs reasonable and continue offering our members a catered reception on Friday evenings is by encouraging our friends and colleagues to join the CSA and attend our conferences. The more people that attend and stay at the conference hotel, the better we are able to negotiate lower conference costs. This also means that those attending must pay the yearly membership dues and conference registration fees. For us to be able to organize and hold these conferences we must pay for the conference site. And given that our intellectual growth and professional lives require conference participation, we must all contribute financially for our collective well-being. We also want to reach out to faculty and students throughout California and beyond to encourage them to become involved. One reason our yearly dues and registration fees continue to remain low is because of the volunteer efforts of many professors, graduate, and undergraduate students in helping to govern our association and organize our conferences. Please consider volunteering for some of the things that need to be done. (Without an Executive Director we especially need everyone's help—or consider becoming the Executive Director). As I've discovered over the years, you'll learn a lot, meet wonderful people throughout the state, and help make a positive difference in the personal and professional lives of your colleagues and peers in sociology. Sounds like a win-win proposal in my book, hope to see some new faces in Riverside this year.

DEADLINE for submitting material for the next issue of the newsletter is one month before the next issue, i.e., April 1st, August 1st, and December 1st—the earlier, the better.

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.

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Doing Sociology

Judith Little

I didn't go into Sociology with the idea that I would become an applied sociologist. Years ago, projects started landing on my desk, quite literally! I would find a note saying, "Judith, please call" I would call, and found myself the recipient of an invitation to become involved in a project. I'm not sure how people found me in those early days, but I'm delighted they did. I find working with community groups and organizations a lot of fun and the projects are always interesting and challenging. Now I routinely include community partners and a real project in the graduate research methods courses that I teach. Since our master's program has a track in practicing/applying sociology the students find these assignments relevant and useful to their applied sociology training. At times I have been able to get a small amount of funding to support students (both undergraduate and graduate) to carry these projects to completion. More often, I compensate students with unit credit for seeing projects through to the end when a project cannot be completed in one semester (which is rare indeed!). Most, but not all, projects involve the development of a survey instrument.

Here are just some of the projects my students and I have been involved in: customer/client satisfaction surveys for KEET-TV (our local PBS station), for the North Coast Growers Association (our organic farmers' market folks), for the Arcata Co-operative grocery store, for the Arcata Endeavor (which operates a service center for poor and homeless folks). We've been involved in projects for the Humboldt State University Library and Faculty Development. One of our program's master's alumni is the owner of the Humboldt Patient Resource Center (a medical marijuana dispensary), and he's given me several projects over the years. We've surveyed the city and campus police, doctors, patients, and patients' family members. We did a social impact assessment for HPRC looking at the traffic on dispensing

days compared to non-dispensing days, and asking patients what they do on the days they receive their medicine to get a sense of what economic impact they have on the city. We've done an evaluation of the Arcata Economic Development Corporation's artisan business training workshops.

I find working with community groups and organizations a lot of fun and the projects are always interesting and challenging.

We've gathered information on what kind of housing development would induce non-resident workers to move to the city of Orick. The most recent project that is almost completed is a survey of Blue Lake city residents of their use of and satisfaction with a variety of city services. This project was sparked by a particularly disturbing conflict between Blue Lake police and some city residents.

Just one year ago I became the director of the Center for Applied Social Analysis and Education (CASAE). The Center has a staff of three of our master's programs alumna. CASAE has done many program evaluation projects over the years including Healthy Start, Wrap-Around Humboldt, and MYCOR (a program for mentally ill offenders). We currently work with Humboldt County Probation Department on two projects for juvenile offenders and with all of the Americorps projects in the county. With ever scarcer federal and state dollars, it's a real challenge finding enough projects to support the paid staff. So if any of you know of projects that I could bid on, do clue me in!

Judith Little
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Dr. James Wood with his student
Tamiko Wong, SDSU

Student Award Call for Nominations

The CSA has two awards for outstanding students: one for undergraduates and one for graduate students. The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award is designed to honor a current California undergraduate student (or one who graduated 2005-06 for the 2006 award) who has completed 9 units of sociology with a GPA of at least 3.0 and has earned distinction in scholarship and/or in service to school, community, or the CSA. The Distinguished Graduate Student Award is designed to honor a current graduate student enrolled in a California 4-year college or university (or who has completed an MA or Ph.D. degree in 2005-06 for the 2006 award). The student should be enrolled in (or have completed within the past year) a course of graduate study in sociology completing 20 graduate units of sociology with a GPA of at least 3.5. To be nominated, the student should have earned distinction in outstanding scholarship and/or outstanding service to the school, community or CSA. The CSA president, president elect, and the two vice presidents form the student-awards committee. Nominations must be made by current CSA members.

Nominate your outstanding students by sending the following information to Charlie Varano--cvarano@csus.edu:

- Full name, address, phone and email address of the nominee
- 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.
- Clear statement of basis on which the nomination is made with as much supporting detail as possible (and possibly other letters of recommendation).

Since you know now who your best students are, the deadline for getting nominations to Charlie is July 1st.

Call for Session Organizers and Presenters

Several people have proposed sessions for the 2006 meetings, and there is still time to organize a session, roundtable, or other special event. Contact Beth Hartung, 2006 program chair, at Elizabeth.hartung@csuci.edu no later than July 1, 2006. (You can also contact her at (805) 437-3274 or at Sociology Program, CSU, Channel Islands, One University Drive, Camarillo CA 93012.)

If you would like to submit a paper and abstract that fits in one of the sessions listed below, contact the organizer as soon as possible, but no later than August 1, 2006. If your paper or abstract doesn't fit these topics, contact Beth: Elizabeth.hartung@csuci.edu and she'll try to fit it into a session.

Proposed Sessions for the 2006 CSA Meetings in Riverside, CA:

Media, Identity and Representation

Organizers: Michael Johnston and Laura Robinson
e-mails: Johnston@ucla.edu or Lauracr@ucla.edu

Student Teams as an Educational Strategy

Organizer: Michael Johnston
e-mail: Johnston@ucla.edu

Understanding Organizations through Experiential Learning

Organizer: Roy Childs
e-mail: rchilds@pacific.edu

Race & Sexualities

Organizer: Carole Campbell
e-mail: ccampbel@csulb.edu

Sociology of Education

Organizer: Harvey Rich
e-mail: vcsoc001@csun.edu

Astrasociology

Organizer: Jim Pass
e-mail: jpass@astrosociology.com

California, Housing, and the American Dream

Organizer: Beth Hartung
e-mail: Elizabeth.Hartung@csuci.edu

AKD-sponsored session: Undergraduate student papers

Organizer: Chuck Powers
e-mail: cpowers@scu.edu

Graduate student papers

Organizer: Chuck Powers
e-mail: cpowers@scu.edu

Please let the session organizers know whether you are a teacher, student, or practitioner with enough detail we can organize similar papers together.

In addition, if you are a student, please indicate what level of degree you are currently working on.

Remember, all presenters must be members of CSA and register for the conference. This may be waived for a few special guests, e.g., judge invited to be on panel on domestic violence, officials from the city in which the meeting is held. Presenters from other disciplines or professions usually register but do not join, e.g., anthropologists presenting research on the topic.

Attendance at Sacramento Conference Session, 2005



Conference Information

2006 Keynote Speaker Robert Scheer

We are pleased to announce that Robert Scheer will be our keynote speaker at the 2006 CSA meetings in Riverside. Robert Scheer has over 30 years of experience as a journalist and is well known for his social and political Op/Ed pieces. He was managing editor and editor in chief of Ramparts magazine as well as their Vietnam correspondent in the late 60s. He has been a national correspondent for the Los Angeles Times and his nationally syndicated column ran there for 12 years. Currently he is a columnist with the San Francisco Chronicle and editor of Truthdig.com.

Scheer who graduated from City College of New York was a Maxwell fellow at Syracuse University and a fellow at the Center for Chinese Studies at UC Berkeley. He has also been a Poynter fellow at Yale and a fellow in Arms Control at Stanford. Currently he teaches at USC. He has written six books including Thinking Tuna Fish, Talking Death: Essays on the Pornography of Power, America after Nixon: The Age of Multi-nationals, and With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush and Nuclear War. Most recently he co-authored The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us About Iraq.

The keynote address will be on Friday, November 10 at 5 p.m.

What is the Mission Inn?

The Mission Inn in downtown Riverside is a unique building with a fascinating history. It began as a 12-room adobe boarding house and was enlarged and improved over the years. It now fills an entire city block with towers, balconies, arches, stairways, and gardens. Inside, the various rooms display paintings, sculpture, and furnishings collected from all over the world. Over the years, many famous people have stayed there. Special rates make the hotel affordable for small conferences, and the CSA has enjoyed several meetings there.

The Mission Inn is about 30 minutes from the Ontario International Airport, and the hotel provides a courtesy shuttle for registered guests to and from the airport. For more information about the Mission Inn, visit their website at <http://www.missioninn.com>.

2006 Conference Facts

What:

Dreaming California: the Image, the Myth, and the Possibilities of the California Dream

When:

November 10-11, 2006

Where:

Mission Inn
Riverside, CA

Cost:

Membership Pricing

Member - \$25.00/year
Student Member - \$10.00/year
Lifetime Member - \$250.00

Conference Pricing

Conference Registration - \$20.00

Mission Inn Details:

Conference Rate --
\$128.00 + 11% room tax/night

Reserve rooms by Oct. 9, 2006 in order to receive this rate. Be certain to mention the conference when you make your reservations.

Phone: 1-800-843-7755

Address: 3649 Mission Inn Ave.
Riverside, CA 92501

Plan to attend the annual CSA conference and encourage your colleagues and students to participate. For more information on the 2006 program contact:

Elizabeth Hartung
Professor of Sociology
One University Drive
CSU, Channel Islands
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805)437-3274

Elizabeth.Hartung@csuci.edu

Executive Board News

Looking for an Executive Director

The CSA has been operating by committee since Val Callanan resigned as Executive Director in 2003. Ed Nelson has been Treasurer-Membership chair responsible for maintaining the membership files and the accounting and financial records.

Gary Gretser and others in the south have been making arrangements for the fall meeting at the Mission Inn. Charlie Varano is making arrangements with the Sacramento hotel for the 2007 meeting in the north.

We definitely need someone to take on the official position as Executive Director. It is important to have someone to take over the overall responsibility and long-term planning even if some of the functions are delegated. Nominations, including self-nominations, are encouraged.

Please contact

Charlie Varano (cvarano@csus.edu)
for more information.

Member News & Notes...

Wonder why this section is so bare? We need to hear from you!

This area will feature assorted information about members including hirings and promotions, newly published books or articles, and other notable achievements.

But we can't print it unless you send it!

For inclusion here, or for other newsletter submissions, please contact:

Elizabeth Nelson

California State University Fresno

559.431.2630

elizn@csufresno.edu



CSA Executive Board and Governing Council

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