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February 1998 CSA Newsletter

California Sociological Association

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Number 2

SACRAMENTO SUCCESS

Jim Glynn, Bakersfield College

Quite possibly, it was the CSA's best conference so far.

After two successive years of attendance that was somewhat below par, the Eighth Annual Meetings of our association was well attended, and the two-day affair experienced very few glitches. However, the hotel personnel did such a good job of straightening out the situation that most members were not even aware that some things were not proceeding as planned. For example, Friday's lunch was scheduled for John Q's Lounge. However, half an hour before our lunch break, I found out the John Q's Ballroom had been set up instead, and there was no time

to move the group back to the lounge. However, both rooms are on the sixteenth floor with equally good views of the Sacramento skyline.

Both lunches were sold out, the food was a vast improvement over our experience in San Francisco, and the speakers were both informative and entertaining. On Friday, Senator Vasconcellos informed us that he is forming a committee to help him determine if he should proceed with his plan of running for governor in the next gubernatorial election. He emphasized the importance of various racial and ethnic groups working together to solve some of the state's social problems.

On Saturday, Robert Gurian, who is the lobbyist for the California Faculty Association, sprinkled amusing anecdotes through his discussion of higher education's struggles with the governor and the legislature. Both presentations were followed with a question-answer period as time allowed.

This year, the CSA presented two student awards: one for the outstanding graduate student, and other for an undergraduate. Tomas Jimenez of Santa Clara University was the recipient of the undergraduate award and presented a paper, "Can We Be Pals? Race and Identification with the Socially Marginalized." The graduate award went to Monica Neville of CSU, Dominguez Hills who, along with Susan Fellows, presided over a roundtable discussion: "How Does Sociology Change People?"

Just as last year's conference introduced a CSA "first," a demonstration of flamenco dancing, this year's meetings had two unique sessions. The first was a "Meet the Author" session, in which students got to speak informally with Earl Babbie (Chapman University). The second involved participation of our colleagues from south of the border. Chuck Hohm (San Diego State University) presided over a session of papers by Rudolfo Cruz, Norma Ojeda, and Jorge Sanibanez, all from El Colegio da la Frontera Norte (Northern Border University), which is on the Baja peninsula just south of Tijuana.

At the closing business meeting, the participants confirmed the Mission Inn in riverside for this year's meetings, which will be held October 23-24. The group also voted for me to try to schedule the 1999 conference for Berkeley.

The downside is that the hotel facilities cost considerably more than we had anticipated because we failed to meet our room-use guarantee. What does that mean? In order to book a convention at most hotels, the sponsoring agency (in this case, the CSA) has to guarantee (really, this is just a wild guess) how many rooms the hotel has to set aside for guests. Generally, meeting rooms are offered free or at a reduced rate if the members secure their reservations about a month before the conference. But in Sacramento, we did not have enough reservations by the cutoff date in order to qualify for even reduced rates. Although the overall turnout was excellent, most members found other accommodations (family, friends, or less expensive rooms in small motels in the area). We'll have to work on this problem in the future. Unfortunately, the inexpensive motels do not have facilities large enough for the CSA program.

Another problem with requiring the facilities of a larger hotel is that the conference lunches are too expensive for the budgets of many of our members. So far, I've been able to negotiate an "off-the-menu" meal for about \$5 less person person than the hotel would like to charge. Still, our per-person rate has fluctuated from about \$13 per plate at Humphrey's Half Moon Inn in San Diego in 1991 (it was a few bucks more in 1996) to \$19 for the rabbit feed that we received in San Francisco in 1995.

I'm sure that knowing some of the reasons for our successes and failures will someday prove to be valuable. But, as George Bernard Shaw once observed, "Hegel was right when he said that we learn from history that (human beings) can never learn anything from history." On the other hand, Yogi Berra, a baseball sage and master of rhetoric, reminds us that you "can learn a lot simply by watching."

Position Announcement
Pacific Lutheran University
Department of Sociology and Social Work
Tacoma, WA 98447-0003

The Department of Sociology and Social Work at Pacific Lutheran University invites applications for a full-time tenure assistant professor position in Sociology. The appointment will begin September 1, 1998. Primary teaching responsibilities will be a combination of any of the following areas: methods, deviance, social policy and/or sociology of religion, and some participation in the PLU's freshmen core. We are interested in candidates who can address the perspectives of women and American ethnic minorities in our curriculum. Candidate should have a Ph.D. in sociology at time of appointment. Preference will be given to candidates with commitment to and excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Send personal letter of application outlining teaching and research areas, sample syllabi, three letters of reference, grade transcripts, and current curriculum vitae by March 15, 1998 to: Anna Y. Leon-Guerreo, Chair, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447.

Pacific Lutheran University is a comprehensive institution enrolling 3600 students. As a "New American College," PLU accents integration between liberal arts and professional programs. In the best Lutheran tradition, the university's primary mission is to educate students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership and care.

Pacific Sociological Association
The 69th Annual Meeting, April 16-19, 1998
Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, CA
Theme: The Value of Sociology
Contact: Dean Dorn, Secretary Treasurer
Department of Sociology, CSU, Sacramento
(916) 278-6254, <http://www.csus.edu/psa>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Ninth Annual Meetings

Plan now to attend the Ninth Annual Meeting of the California Sociological Association, Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24, at the Mission Inn in Riverside.

Program Chair Gordon Clanton welcomes your proposal to present a paper, to lead a discussion, to organize a panel, to organize a session, or otherwise to participate.

Building on our very successful meetings in Sacramento last November, we shall continue the CSA traditions of maximizing student involvement and focusing some of our attention on California social problems and issues.

The program theme for the 1998 meetings will be "Has Sociology Made the World Better?" -- but proposals are welcome on all aspects of sociology. The theme is designed to encourage us to reflect on the social impact and the moral significance of our research and teaching as sociologists.

Further priorities for the Riverside meetings include:

- * Tapping the enormous educational and cultural resources of the greater Los Angeles area.
- * Increased participation by UC faculty
- * Increased participation by community college faculty
- * Increased participation by part-time faculty and sociological practitioners
- * Increased participation by graduate and undergraduate students
- * More attention to the links between micro and macro, between theory and research, between sociology and social policy
- * More attention to the teaching and learning of sociology
- * More attention from the media

Send your proposals and suggestions by July 1 to:

Gordon Clanton, Department of Sociology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182-4423, 619/594-1321

CSA Panel at PSA Meetings --

CSA president-elect Gordon Clanton, San Diego State university, will chair a panel and discussion on "The Future of the California Sociological Association" at the Pacific Sociological Association meetings in San Francisco, Friday, April 17, 1998, 12:00-1:45 p.m.

The panelists will include CSA President Chuck Powers and all of the former presidents: Charles F. Holm, San Diego State University; John Kinch, San Francisco State University; James Glynn, Bakersfield college; Hal Charnofsky, CSU, Dominguez Hills; Phylis Cancilla Martinelli, St. Mary's College; Earl Babbie, Chapman University; and Robin Franck, Southwestern College.

The session will be something of a California caucus at PSA. This is a great opportunity for us to present the CSA to California sociologists who are not now members of our state association--and to hear from potential constituents about their needs and interests.

All CSA members are encouraged to attend, to contribute to the discussion, and to bring other California sociologists to join us.

PRESIDENT'S LIBRARY

By Chuck Powers, Santa Clara University

What Does the Future Hold for the CSA? One year ago, there was a suggestion that CSA should consider disbanding if turnout and excitement at our annual meetings continued to decline. Fortunately, turnout for the Sacramento meetings was so high and participation was so energized that optimism about CSA's future has rebounded. However, we should not let our current optimism distract us from the underlying identity crisis our organization faces. unless we explicitly embrace and self-consciously pursue the goals which distinguish CSA from ASA and PSA, the CSA will be nothing more than a localized clone of those more prestigious organizations.

The CSA has already achieved something worthwhile. It has done so because we have, if sometimes only implicitly, maintained two distinctive goals which set us apart from ASA and PSA. The first is to maximize student involvement in the life of our profession. The second is to create a forum for the presentation of sociological research dealing specifically with problems and policy issues facing the State of California.

The alternative to having distinctive and uplifting goals is to do the same things which larger and more prestigious organizations already do: provide yet another place for people to expand their resumes by presenting papers and provide yet another place to meet with colleagues for intellectual exchange. But if CSA only does what ASA and PSA also do, the CSA will operate in a limited mode as the professional forum of last resort.

Our path to success is to act self-consciously on the purposes which distinguish the CSA from the ASA and PSA. This will require extra forethought and work to achieve the two goals noted above. In order to facilitate student involvement, program chairs will have to plan a significant number of sessions designed with student participation in mind, and recruit faculty who are willing to organize and prepare student participants. In addition, the general membership will need to maintain an atmosphere with the presence of students in mind. Creating a meaningful forum for discussion of California problems and policy options also implicitly carries burdensome responsibilities. If we ask non-sociologists to come and listen to us, we are implicitly promising our best collective effort to deliver a balanced careful and objective body of work from which others can draw useful insights. And we are committing ourselves to an on-going dialogue with people whose views can differ substantially from our own.

The California Sociological Association is uniquely positioned to do things which ASA and PSA cannot do. We can have a meaningful impact on the professional socialization of significant numbers of young people. And we can become a recognized forum for California social issue/public policy discussion. There is room for us to accomplish much more than we already have, if we keep those goals clearly in focus.

See you in Riverside! (Send your suggestions to Gordon Clanton, 1998 Program Chair and President Elect, California State University at San Diego.

CSA PICKS MISSION INN FOR '98
James A. Glynn, Bakersfield College

Just like Bogey and Bacall. And Nancy and Ron, the former U.S. President. And Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, hollywood stars of the past, and members of royal families from such diverse countries as Sweden, Russia, and Japan. The CSA will enjoy the splendor and historic features of the Mission Inn in Riverside for our Ninth Annual meetings, October 23-24.

Built in phases, beginning in 1876, and including a forty-five million dollar renovation that began in 1985 when the hotel closed and ended on the eve of 1993 when it reopened, the Mission Inn reflects many architectural styles, each of which is keyed to some of the most intriguing features of California's twenty-one famous missions. For example, Mission San Gabriel was the inspiration for the eastern facade, and the design of the north facade was based upon the Carmel Mission.

Within the hotel itself, visitors are impressed by the five-story spiral staircase in the Rotunda, the Ho-O-Kan room with its Oriental Courtyard, and the St. Francis Chapel, the focus of which is a gold-leaf altar from Mexico, augmented by religious statuary and Tiffany stained-glass windows. Both Friday and Saturday luncheon meetings of the CSA will be held in the Spanish Art Gallery, where diners will be surrounded by millions of dollars worth of European oil paintings.

The wall of the Presidential Lounge features portraits of the U.S. presidents who have been guests of the hotel. Just beside the Lounge entrance is a chair especially designed for a visit from President Taft. While David Letterman continues to get laughs from his remarks about the girth of our current leader, President "Bubba," he would have had a field day if he'd been around during Taft's administration. The dimensions of the "Taft Chair" would dwarf the current president and make most sumo wrestlers seem almost trim.

The Inn is located on Seventh Street and is directly across from the main Street Mall. Because of the proximity of the University of California campus, the area is dotted with antique vendors, a variety of boutiques, and book stores. Each of the hotel's 240 guest rooms (including 30 suites) is unique. Some have special little nooks, chambers, and art objects. If you look at the posted room rate (they differ according to size and other features) you'll see what a bargain the CSA's rate of \$89 per night is. But, remember that you must make your reservation by September 22 in order to qualify for the reduced rate. The fee for the rooms is based on single or double occupancy, but additional guests are permitted for \$15 each, and children under the age of 18 are allowed free of charge.

A docent tour of the facility, which includes its history and knowledgeable commentary on its many art works, is offered several times per day. I strongly recommend the tour; it will make your visit one that you'll never forget. This year's conference will be even more memorable if you give a paper, lead a roundtable discussion, demonstrate a technique, or participate on a panel. If you'd like to be on the program for the Ninth annual meetings, please contact our president-elect and this year's program chair, Gordon Clanton, Department of Sociology, San Diego State University, San Diego, Ca 92182-4423; (619) 594-5449.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPENING

DIRECTOR OF MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK, Tenure Track

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology seeks a founding faculty member to establish and direct an accredited Masters of Social Work (MSW) Degree Program. The successful candidate will coordinate a distance-provided MSW program offered on our campus by a sister campus and direct the Department's and University's efforts to secure "candidacy status" for a fully accredited and permanent MSW program of our own.

Qualifications: The department seeks to establish a research-based, professionally oriented MSW degree program and desires candidates with similar interests and appropriate backgrounds. The successful candidate will assume principal responsibility for establishing such a program, and recruiting additional faculty. Candidates with funded research experience and professional publications will receive the strongest consideration, as will those who have special knowledge and experience in establishing accredited MSW degree programs.

We are especially interested in hiring someone of great energy and professional focus, who also shares a genuine interest in interdisciplinary issues and collegiality.

Requirement: DSW degree, with an MA in either Sociology or Anthropology is preferred, OR an MSW degree, with a Ph.D. in either Sociology or Anthropology. Candidates must also have at least two years full-time experience teaching in an accredited MSW degree program.

Background: California State University, Bakersfield is located 100 miles north of Los Angeles, and serves a region long bereft of professional Social Work expertise. This is the University's effort to meet this need. The service region is very large and particularly underserved by MSW personnel. In addition to the great need for professional education and training, substantial need exists for a very wide range of applied research efforts, and community programs. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology, www.csubak.edu/socanth/, consists of eight sociologists and four anthropologists, and leads the University in funded research awards. It is anticipated that the Department will be renamed to reflect the addition of the MSW degree program.

Rank and Salary: Rank open, salary dependent on qualifications and experience.

Starting Date: September 1, 1998

Application and Closing Date: Applications will be considered until April 15, 1998, or until filled. Those interested in this position should submit a letter of application responsive to the position announcement, vita, and three letters of recommendation to:

Dr. Kenneth L. Nyberg, Chair, MSW Search Committee, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, CSU, Bakersfield, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099, (805) 664-2109, knyberg@csubak.edu (Dr. Nyberg will be attending the Annual Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Orlando, FL, March 5-8.)

CSUB fosters and appreciates ethnic and cultural diversity among its faculty and students and is committed to increasing the diversity of the faculty to reflect the diversity of the campus community. Applications from women, ethnic minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are welcome.

25th Annual Western Anthropology/Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference
Saturday, April 25, 1998

Program: Undergraduates will present their original research and ideas in a conference format.

Purpose: To prompt and recognize original research at the undergraduate level in Anthropology and Sociology. To facilitate communication and professional exchange among students and faculty from college and universities throughout the Western United States.

Registration Fee: There will be a \$20.00 registration fee for: (a) all students whose papers are accepted for presentation, (b) all session chairs, and (c) any visitors wishing to attend the luncheon.

Type of Papers: Empirical, theoretical, and review papers are invited. A completed paper or abstract of at least one-half page in length, with name and telephone number of student author(s) and faculty sponsor(s) should be submitted by February 17, 1998.

Conference Chairperson: Dr. Kichi Iwamoto, Anthropology/Sociology Department, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053-2061, 408/554-2794.

News From Dominguez Hills
Jeanne Curran

We have developed a website for a Journal on Postmodern Thought for our students. Perhaps some of your students would be interested as well. We hope that the "almost official now" opening of our website will be of interest to other sociologists, particularly those with an interest in phenomenology and intertextuality. The site may be accessed at:
<http://www.csudh.edu/dearhabermas/>.

Dr. Herman Loether retired this January. Many of you will know him and may want to wish him well.

Robert Christie is hard at work on a new methods book, combining distance learning. Sharon Raphael is considering designing an Internet course on her interests in gerontology. Jeanne Curran and Tkata are pursuing their interest in Habermas through intertextuality and the building of rational discourse skills.

The department now has its own server, and expects to add strength in distance learning.

On Tenure
James L. Woods

I'm afraid all the voluntary assessments in the world will not adequately address the onslaught that has been directed against higher education in the 1990s. From the huge budget cutbacks and attempted dismantling of entire academic departments in the early 1990s to attacks on tenure throughout the 1990s to the divisive merit pay scheme of recent years and now the large-scale corporate technology initiative (CETI/SIP), our university, the CSU, and American higher education have been under siege! There is a genuine struggle of competing interest over who will control the modern university. Will it be the faculty, administration, corporations, or other bodies?

The answer is not yet in, but the struggle continues. Whether or not we will soon get 3-5 year contracts, on semester contracts, or no contracts at all is much less connected to voluntary assessments than to our political strength as a faculty. We fought and won battles in the early 1990s and we can do so again. But we have to keep focused on where the problems really lie and what we have to do to properly address them. The bottom line is that if we don't build some sort of accountability into the system, eventually (maybe sooner, maybe later) someone outside will do it for us. Merit pay is but the tip of the iceberg, with 3-5 year tenure contracts hovering on the horizon.

When I was new at CSU, my first impression was that the cost of tenure was greater than its value (sorry folks--don't blame me too much on this). I saw a good deal of non-performance by tenured faculty, and did not see examples of abuse of academic freedom. I would have had mixed feelings, but would have supported a move to limit tenure. Ten years later, and a little wiser, and a lot more cynical, I have changed my mind. I now feel we need tenure -- not for protection of academic freedom, but for protection against administrative abuse.

CENSUS BRIEF

Condensed by: James A. Glynn, Bakersfield College

According to the latest "Census Brief," a publication of the Bureau of the Census, half of our nation's children (persons under 18 years of age) must deal with at least one of the six risk factors that could result in a range of negative outcomes, from dropping out of school to committing crime.

Risk factor 1: Poverty. In 1970, 15 percent of children lived in families that were below the poverty threshold; in 1995, this increased to 21 percent.

Risk factor 2: Welfare Dependence. As expected format e above data, welfare dependency has increased to the point that 15 percent of the nation's children lived in families that rely on cash assistance or food stamps.

Risk factor 3: Both Parents Absent. In 1990, less than 1 million lived in a household where neither biological parent was present. By 1996, the number grew to 1.4 million.

Risk factor 4: One-Parent Families. In 1970, 12 percent of children lived in one-parent families. In 1996, this soared to 28 percent.

Risk factor 5: Unwed Mothers. In 1970, only one percent of children lived with a never-married mother. In 1996, one of eleven children were in this situation.

Risk factor 6: High-School Drop-out Parent. Although there has been an improvement (19 percent in 1996) from 1970 (38 percent) in children living with a nongraduate parent, the current conditions are still unacceptable for positive outcomes for today's children.

Currently, 25% of children suffer from one risk factor, 12% form two risk factors, and 13% from three or more. Contact Ken Bryson, "America's Children at Risk," at (301) 457-2465 or try the Census Briefs Public Information Office at (301) 457-2822 or its e-mail cenbrf@census.gov .

Meeting Schedule

April 16-18. Southwest Anthropological Association. Sacramento, California. For further information contact George Rich, Department of Anthropology, Sacramento State University, Sacramento, CA. Telephone: (916) 278-5627.

April 16-19. Pacific Sociological Association. 69th Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. Theme: "The Value of Sociology." Program Chair: Jean Stockard, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Telephone: (541) 346-5005. E-mail: jeans@oregon.uoregon.edu. You may also obtain information about the PSA and the annual meeting at the following website: <http://www.csus.edu/psa>.

June 17-19. Northwest Council on Family Relations. Eugene, Oregon. Theme: "Families in the West: Culture and Diversity." Send proposals to Gretchen Zunkel, 9326 62nd Place W., Mukilteo, WA 98275. For accommodations contact Conference Services at 1220 University of Oregon, university Housing, Eugene, OR 97403. Telephone (541) 346-5265. FAX (541) 346-4268. E-mail: houcon@oregon.uoregon.edu.

August 6-9. Rural Sociological Society. 61st Annual Meeting. Portland, OR. Theme: "Rethinking the Future of Democracy." Website: <http://lapop.lsu.edu/rss>.

August 20-22. Society for the Study of Social Problems. San Francisco, CA. Theme: "Committing Social Change: Breaking and Entering the Establishment." Website: <http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~sssp>.

August 21-25. American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. Theme: "Inequality and Social Policy: A Challenge for Sociology." Website: <http://www.asanet.org>.

October 22-25. Society for Applied Sociology. 16th Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. Theme: "Creating Links to the Community." Contact Steve Steele, Executive Officer, Society for Applied Sociology, Anne Arundel Community College, Division of Social Sciences, 101 College parkway, Arnold, MD 21012. Telephone: (410) 541-2269. FAX: (410) 541-2239. E-mail: ssteele@clark.net. Website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~appsoc/>.

November 14-17. National Council on Family Relations. 60th Annual Conference. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Theme: "Families in a Global Context: Media, Environment, and Peace." Contact: National Council on Family Relations, 3989 Central Avenue, NE, #550, Minneapolis, MN 55421. Telephone: (612) 781-9331. FAX (612) 781-9348. E-mail: ncfr3989@ncfr.com. Website: <http://www.ncfr.com>.

December 2-6. American Anthropological Association. 97th Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Theme: "Population and the Anthropological Imagination." Contact AAA Meetings Department, 4350 N. Fairfax Dr. Ste. 610, Arlington, VA 22203. Telephone: (703) 528-1902 ext. 2. E-mail: liz@aaa.mhs.compuserve.com.

1999 Conferences

August 6-10. American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL.
November 9-14. National Council on Family Relations. Los Angeles, CA.

2000 Conferences

August 12-16. American Sociological Association. Washington, DC.
November 7-13. National Council on Family Relations. Minneapolis, MN.

Undergraduate Conferences

April 25. 25th Annual Western Anthropology/Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference. Santa Clara, CA. Contact Kichi Iwamoto, Conference Chairperson, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053. Telephone: (408) 554-2794.

Position Announcements

San Jose State University is currently recruiting for two tenure-track Sociology positions to start in Fall 1998:
Sociology of the Family, PVIN: SS98-030
Social Psychology, PVIN: SS98-056
For more complete information regarding these positions, please contact:
Search Committee (include PVIN on all correspondence)
Sociology Department
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0122

Editor:

J. Daniel McMillin, Department of Sociology/Anthropology and Applied Research Center, California State University Bakersfield, 9001 Stockdale Hwy., Bakersfield, Ca 93311-1099, (805) 664-2386, FAX (805) 664-2132, dmcmillin@csubak.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, and government service. Partial support for the newsletter is also provided by Ray Geigle, Dean of School of Arts and Sciences, CSU, Bakersfield.

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.

Officers of the California Sociological Association:

President: Chuck Powers, Santa Clara University

President Elect: Gordon Clanton, San Diego State University

Executive Director: James A. Glynn

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