



WSSA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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• FALL 2003 •

Setting the Future Course of the WSSA

By Nicholas C. Peroff

University of Missouri-Kansas City
Immediate Past-President

I am writing to ask for your help in setting the future course of the Western Social Science Association. One of the ways that our future is determined is by the selection of new leadership for the association. Those who serve as Section Chairs are often taking the first step toward leadership in WSSA; many Executive Council Members first offered their time and talents by acting as coordinators for their disciplinary sections. Others have consistently attended the annual conferences, maintained their memberships, and promoted the association to colleagues and students. These are all good ways to serve and support WSSA. While not all members aspire to serve as an elected officer of the association, many find it a rewarding and natural progression of their service to WSSA.

As immediate Past-President of WSSA, I serve as chair of a Nominating Committee for next year's election of



The WSSA leadership brainstorms during one of their fall meetings.

council members and officers. I am in the process of forming the committee, and we will present our slate of candidates to the council for approval during our September 2003 council meeting. Elections will be held sometime early in 2004.

As a member of WSSA, each of you has the ability to offer direct nominations for council seats. According to WSSA's

Constitution:

The Committee shall submit to the Fall meeting of the Executive Council one or more nominees for each office to be filled. Members may offer additional nominations by petition signed by five (5) members sent to the Executive Director; prior to the Fall meeting, post-marked no later than August 1. Upon ratification by majority vote of the Executive Council the Council shall send the list of nominees (including those by petition) to the membership. The Executive Director shall mail the completed ballots to the membership (Article II, section 4).

If you, as a member, wish to nominate another member for a council seat, this is the way to do it. You are also free to contact me to suggest a potential nominee so that the committee can contact that person directly to assess their interest in serving

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WSSA News Going On-line

During the last Executive Council meeting we discussed a variety of ways in which we could reduce the cost of doing business. In the last year, the cost of the *Journal* has increased by about \$5.00 per year per member and, of course, the cost of putting on the conference continues to increase relative to the inflation rate. One of our biggest non-conference costs is *WSSA News*. Each issue of the newsletter costs about \$800 to print, which doesn't include setup costs.

After experimenting with various formats, we have determined that *WSSA News* can be put on-line in Adobe Acrobat format, which will

download very quickly. So what does this mean for you, and how will you know when the newsletter is posted? We will send you a postcard announcing important info, such as deadlines for conference registration and paper submissions, along with an announcement that *WSSA News* is ready for viewing on-line. In addition to reducing production costs, the postcards will allow us the chance to focus on info of urgent importance to members, while promoting greater use of WSSA's website. So what if you're not online? *WSSA News* will be mailed to you, but only upon request.

-- Larry Gould



WSSA Encourages Student Involvement

By Diane Calloway-Graham
Utah State University
President

It is a pleasure to serve as President of the WSSA this year. I am excited about our upcoming conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. It will be nice to host our membership in familiar territory. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about what is happening with our WSSA Student Involvement Committee. Our association has always taken a great interest in developing the professional skills of students.

The Student Involvement Committee is chaired by Sandra Davis, WSSA Vice-President. Committee members include Phadrea Ponds and Mary Conroy, past Executive Council members, and Ellen Maccarone and Richard Yon, graduate student members. During the Las Vegas conference the committee, with input from the Executive Council, identified four goals and possible activities to achieve these goals. The first goal is to provide a setting at future conferences where graduate students can connect and network. The committee is in the process of planning a graduate student reception for the Salt Lake City conference as a step towards implementing this goal.

PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



The second goal is to continue to provide panels that assist students in their professional development. David Freeman and Bob Watson conduct a panel on publishing in the *Social Science Journal* at each conference. Larry Gould has conducted a panel on Preparation of the Professional Portfolio. These presentations have been very successful in providing a forum for graduate students preparing to go on the job market. It is the hope of the committee to recruit faculty from other universities and colleges to assist with these and other special panels.

The third goal is to encourage more graduate student participation in panels. The association also encourages bachelor-level student participation, with the hope that these students will continue their education. Each year, the WSSA sponsors a student paper competition where both an undergraduate and graduate student are honored for their research. These papers are presented at the conference. They also receive a plaque and an honorarium for their future education.

The final goal is to develop a more effective system for communicating information about the WSSA and the conference to graduate students. At this point the committee has written a letter that will be sent out to graduate schools and graduate student councils. They have identified about 110 universities (with the addresses of the schools and the degrees offered) that match the sections at our conference.

It is very refreshing and exciting to see the ideas and work already taking shape since our conference in Las Vegas. I want to thank all of the committee members for their hard work. I especially want to recognize Ellen Maccarone and Richard Yon for representing our graduate students with such enthusiasm. I encourage all of our membership to support the WSSA's push to increase our student membership and participation. I look forward to seeing all of you in Salt Lake City!

WSSA NEWS

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THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes the *Social Science Journal*, a juried, quarterly research journal, and *WSSA News*, the Association's newsletter, three times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are \$40 (individual); \$50 (includes spouse); \$25 (student); \$25 (retired). For information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, NAU Box 15302, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011 (Phone: 928-523-9520; Fax: 928-523-6777; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu).



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WSSA News and Notes

Call For Papers for 2004 WSSA Conference in Salt Lake City

As summer draws to an end, you may be looking for a venue to present your latest work. The annual Western Social Science Association Conference will be held in Salt Lake City next spring (April 21-24), and I would like to encourage you to participate. All you need to do is identify the Section that best fits your interests, and send a brief (150 words or less) abstract of your paper to the Coordinator of that Section.

The Sections and volunteer Coordinators are listed on the following two pages of this newsletter. I would especially invite you to step outside whatever you may feel is your normal paradigm and explore some new territory. We have disciplinary and multi-disciplinary sections, and this is an excellent conference to try out new ideas.

Perhaps you have some colleagues at other institutions that you enjoy working with. Why not bring yourselves together next spring with a proposal for a whole panel? Simply provide the section coordinator with the abstract of each participant's paper and a proposed title for the panel.

We're looking forward to a great conference next spring, and I look forward to seeing you there!

-- Lisa Nelson

Clift's Presentation in Vegas Profound, Insightful, and Humorous

For those of you who attended the Vegas conference's Plenary Speaker Luncheon, it was a real treat. Eleanor Clift, contributing editor to *Newsweek* magazine, a regular panelist on the

popular TV show "The McLaughlin Group," and a political analyst for Fox News, was our speaker. Her remarks about the future of a Madam President were profound, insightful, and humorous. She was candid and forthright about the future of a woman becoming the President of the United States. She discussed many women candidates and their chances of becoming Madam President. She mentioned Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole, Nancy Paillasse, Condoleezza Rice, and many others. She seemed to think that Condoleezza Rice is in the best position for becoming Madam President. Her address spoke to signals of societal change that hint towards the acceptance of a woman president in the near future. It was a pleasure to have a popular nationally recognized speaker informing us of women's involvement in blazing the leadership trail of our nation.

-- Diane Calloway-Graham



Author Eleanor Clift delivers her plenary address at Las Vegas last spring.

WSSA's Las Vegas Conference Features Impressive Publishers' Exhibit

The Publisher's Exhibit at the Las Vegas meeting was operated by The Library of Social Science (LSS), a professional exhibit management firm. I felt the LSS did an outstanding job with the Exhibit and the feedback from those in attendance was also positive. As such, the

WSSA Executive Council has asked LSS to manage the Exhibit at the upcoming Salt Lake City meeting. They have promised to again have hundreds of books and materials on display and titles available for sale at discounted rates.

If there is a book you would like to see exhibited, simply contact me with the request (including author, title, publisher) at rpwatson@fau.edu. Be sure to stop in at the Exhibit in Salt Lake City!

-- Robert P. Watson

Setting the Course for the WSSA's Future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on council. Council membership requires a commitment to attend meetings (one in September and two-Wednesday and Saturday-during the spring conference) and a willingness to support the mission and goals of WSSA by serving on a committee or providing other assistance. We attempt to achieve academic and geographic diversity and to balance the needs of affiliate groups with the broader needs of the association.

You can contact me at 211 Bloch School, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, 64110, or by phone at 816-235-2341 or via e-mail at peroffn@umkc.edu. Our Executive Director, Larry Gould, is at Northern Arizona University, Box 15700, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011-5700.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Western Social Science Association. I look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City next April.

WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

WSSA'S 46th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SALT LAKE CITY APRIL 21-24, 2004

CALL FOR
PAPERS!

PLEASE
POST!

The Western Social Science Association invites proposals for papers to be presented at its 46th Annual Conference, to be held in Salt Lake City on April 21-24, 2004. Submit paper proposals and abstracts to the most appropriate Section Coordinator(s) listed below by December 1, 2003.

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PLEASE NOTE: Acceptable formats include papers, panels and roundtables. The DEADLINE for all proposals and abstracts is DECEMBER 1, 2003. Please include the following with your proposal: (1) Title of Presentation; (2) full name, affiliation, address, telephone number, FAX, and e-mail addresses of each author; and (3) Abstract NOT EXCEEDING 150 words. Scholars willing to serve as moderators or discussants should indicate their interest by December 15, 2003. All participants are required to pre-register for the conference by March 1, 2004. For more info, contact: GENERAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR, Lisa Nelson, Department of Political Science, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, Pomona, California, 91768, Ph: 909-869-4739, Fax: 909-869-6995, E-mail: lnelson@supomona.edu.

46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Q & A about Salt Lake City 2004

By Diane Calloway-Graham and Lisa Nelson

WSSA President and
WSSA President-Elect

Lisa: What does Salt Lake City have to offer?

Diane: Well, it is very metropolitan but reminds you of a friendly small western town. As you are aware the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 were hosted here, which enhanced the community's profile with more shopping and sightseeing. There are two beautiful mountain ranges--the Wasatch to the east and the Oquirrh to the west. I love the mountains. I cannot imagine living anywhere else. There are ten world-class ski resorts. I live to ski in the winter. Hiking, rock climbing, and mountain biking are just minutes away. The city is a thriving cultural center-home to one of the nation's finest regional symphony orchestras, world-class opera, dance, and theater companies, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and a myriad of art galleries. Salt Lake is also the gateway to ten national parks within a day's drive. I think there are many attractions to keep you entertained.

Lisa: Tell me about the shopping?

Diane: Well, one of my mottos has always been "shop until you drop." Within seven blocks of the Sheraton City Center Hotel is the Crossroads Plaza and the new outdoor shopping mall, the Gateway. Of course, I like the Crossroads Plaza because Nordstrom is located there. I have recently been thinking of taking up stock car racing along with my skiing and golf. I discovered they have a racetrack at Crossroads Plaza. You can race remote control cars at scale speeds up to 200 mph. This is good news because I had to stop speeding on the highways. Larry will love this, but what former police officer wouldn't. The Gateway is a haven for shoppers. There is everything from state-of-the-art sports equipment to clothes. They also have an IMAX 3D Experience and a world-class movie theatre.

Lisa: What about museums or other attractions?

Diane: Let me talk about a few of them. The Utah Museum of Natural History is located at the University of Utah. They have the Dinosaur Discovery Hall, an exhibit on Utah's Native Americans and the natural wonders of Utah, and there are always special touring exhibitions. The Clark Planetarium is a state-of-the-art star theatre with space/science exhibits, and a planetarium store. The Gallivan Center is an outdoor living room with a skating rink, amphitheater, and 16 unique art pieces recreating a natural Utah theme. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Historic Temple Square offers many attractions and events for those interested in the history

of the state. Temple Square also has many beautiful flower gardens for your enjoyment. The Clark Planetarium, Gallivan Center, and Historic Temple Square are located downtown.

Lisa: What about restaurant choices?

Diane: There are so many great restaurants to choose from and yes, you can drink in Utah. All the restaurants serve beer and other beverages that have the same alcohol content as you would get in any other state. There are two shopping villages I suggest you visit. Foothill Village has an eclectic mix of restaurants and 30 specialty shops. Gardner Village is the restored Gardner Mill, built in 1877. It houses a restaurant and country store. There are historic homes renovated into quaint shops and there's a day spa. Historic Trolley Square also is one of Utah's premier shopping destinations. It houses the Hard Rock Café. Who knows? Maybe the Osmonds will show up--not!

Lisa: What about transportation?

Diane: The Utah Transit Authority serves the entire Wasatch Front, including the Ski Salt Lake Resorts, with buses and TRAX light-rail. UTA fares are \$1.25. Single ride TRAX tickets, along with bus transfers, are valid for 2 hours from time of purchase. All day passes are available for \$2.50 and are good for unlimited local bus and TRAX rides for the day of purchase.

Lisa: How do I submit a proposal to present in Salt Lake?

Diane: You can submit your proposal via the website (<http://wssa.asu.edu>). Please note which section you wish your proposal to be sent to for review. The deadline for proposals is December 1, 2003.

Lisa: So how do I register for the conference?

Diane: Conference participants are required to pre-register and pre-registration must reach the WSSA Business Office by fax or mail no later than April 9, 2004. Be sure to renew or join the WSSA membership (\$40 for individual members, \$25 for students and retired members). Conference fees are \$65 for regular members, \$35 for students/retired members, \$95 for non-WSSA attendees, and \$45 for non-WSSA student attendees.

Lisa: What's the scoop on the Sheraton City Centre Hotel?

Diane: To receive the conference rate, you must register by March 20, 2004. The hotel number is (801) 401-2000. It features 362 comfortable guest rooms, an outdoor heated pool, an indoor whirlpool, a fitness facility, plus the Olio restaurant and The Bar lounge. The hotel is seven blocks from historic Temple Square and is near many fine restaurants.



Downtown Salt Lake City offers majestic views of the surrounding mountain ranges, especially in winter.

Student Paper Competition Update

Student Paper Competition Winners Recognized at Las Vegas Conference

On Friday, April 11th, at the President's Luncheon, WSSA Vice-President Bob Frye announced the two winners of the 2003 WSSA Student Paper Competition. Rebecca Allen of Creighton University received the undergraduate award for her paper entitled "Abigail Adams, Gender, and Why America Failed to 'Remember the Ladies.'"

Kevin Spears of Colorado State University won the graduate award for his paper "The Colorado River Delta and NGO Interaction."

Each winner received a check for \$500, an engraved plaque, a free one-year subscription to the *Social Science Journal*, free conference registration, and the opportunity to present the winning paper at the 2003 conference in Las Vegas.

Frye reported a sixty percent increase in the number of student entries for 2003, thanked all who had helped publicize the competition, and praised the quality of the submissions. He was assisted in the judging of the papers by a committee composed of WSSA Vice-President candidates Sandy Davis of Colorado State University and Gary Linn of Tennessee State University.

-- Bob J. Frye

The Scoop on the WSSA's 2004 Student Paper Competition

Plan now to encourage your students to submit their original research papers for the WSSA's 2004 Student Paper Competition. Winners in the undergraduate and graduate categories will receive cash awards (\$500), free conference registration at the 2004 conference at Salt Lake City, a one-year free WSSA membership (including the *Social Science Journal*) and the opportunity to present their papers at the Salt Lake City Conference. The paper must be received on or before February 1, 2004. Papers are judged based on a) advancement of knowledge, b) appropriateness for a broad social science audience, c) quality and implementation of research design, d) definition and significance of topic, e) analysis of findings and discussion of their implications and f) clarity of writing. Papers cannot exceed 25 pages (which includes bibliography, tables, figures, appendices and other supporting materials). The cover page and abstract do not count as part of the 25 page limit. Papers longer than 25 pages will not be read (strictly enforced). All pages must be double-spaced and in 12 cpi font. Papers may

not be theses or dissertations previously presented or published. Authors may wish to consult the *Social Science Journal's* style guide for formatting information.

The WSSA covers a wide range of social science disciplines. For listings of the sections for 2004, please refer to the Call for Papers, located in the center spread pull-out or see the WSSA Web Site at <http://wssa.asu.edu/>. Please indicate undergraduate or graduate status, institutional affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail address. Papers must be received on or before February 1, 2004. To participate, e-mail the paper (in Word or rich text format) to Sandra.Davis@Colostate.edu or send three (3) paper copies to Professor Sandra Davis, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado, 80523.

-- Sandra Davis

WSSA Encourages Student Involvement in Salt Lake City Next Spring

WSSA is pleased to announce a special call for student papers for the annual conference in Salt Lake City (April 21-24, 2004). Faculty members are strongly urged to encourage graduate students to submit proposals directly to the appropriate section chair (see list in newsletter). Graduate and undergraduates students are invited to submit papers to the student paper competition (see flier in newsletter). Conference information is also found at <http://wssa.asu.edu>.

WSSA is a vital organization that can offer great opportunities for graduate students wishing to present papers at professional conferences. The atmosphere is collegial and provides mentoring and network possibilities.

The aim is to provide an intellectually stimulating and supportive atmosphere for students across disciplines to present original work and to promote excellence in student scholarship.

We are also very excited to announce that this year for the first time, there will be a graduate students' reception. This will give graduate students an opportunity to network with each other and learn more about conference activities and the Western Social Science Association. If graduate students have questions about the conference or WSSA they are encouraged to contact two WSSA graduate student members: Ellen M. Maccarone (ellenmac@phil.ufl.edu) and Richard Yon (prez1@bellsouth.net).

-- Phadrea Ponds



Kevin Spears of Colorado State University (left) receives his award for his paper "The Colorado River Delta and NGO Interaction" at the WSSA conference in Las Vegas last spring.

WSSA Is Going to Calgary and Denver

At the April 2003 conference in Las Vegas, a survey was circulated asking attendees to pick from a list of potential sites which ones they favored for 2007 and 2008. The clear choices were Denver (Downtown) and Calgary. Since the April meeting we have secured a contract with the Hyatt Regency in Calgary for the April 2007 meeting. This will be the first time that we will be crossing an international boundary for the conference. While this might be a bit risky, it was felt that with the very large representation in Canadian Studies and other affiliates that the risk was worth taking. We also have a great deal of support from the Canadian Government. I have visited the hotel and the surrounding area. To say the least, it is a great hotel and downtown Calgary is a great location for attendees to spend some of their down time while at the conference.

We decided to hold the 2008 conference in Denver. This will be the 50th anniversary of the Association; thus, it seemed appropriate to have the conference located geographically close to its roots. We are currently working with three hotels in the downtown area to determine which will best suit our needs. The three are the Adams Mark, the Hyatt and the Marriott. All of them are great facilities with many positive attributes. I expect that the final decision will be a difficult one.

— Larry A. Gould



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WSSA News

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NAU Box 15302
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Future WSSA Conference Sites

2004

**Sheraton City Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
April 21-24**

2005

**Hyatt Regency Albuquerque
Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 13-16**