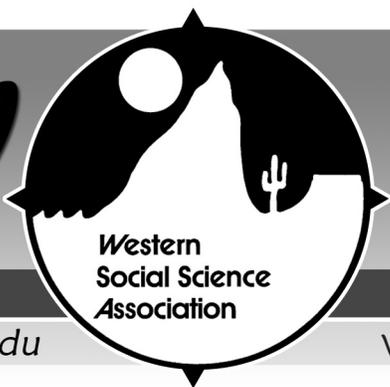


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# SSA NEWS

Since 1958

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Scholarship - Service - Collegiality

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 2

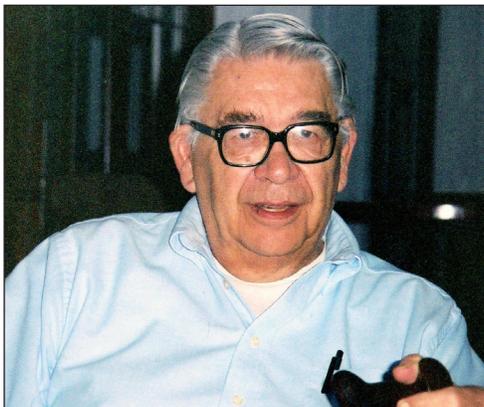
SPRING 2006

## WSSA Loses Longtime Friend & Supporter

IN MEMORIAM TO VINE DELORIA  
by Steve Pavlik

Vine Deloria, Jr., one of the nation's foremost authors, scholars, intellectuals, civil rights leaders and a long time supporter of the Western Social Science Association, died on November 13, 2005 in Golden, Colorado. He was 72.

A member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Deloria first burst onto the national scene in 1969 with the publication of his best-selling *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*. In the years that followed, he published nearly 25 books, hundreds of articles, and held a multitude of positions from which --in his own words--he "sought to plant the seeds of ideas and raise doubts about what we believe." For nearly 40 years Deloria stood as the most widely recognized and respected



VINE DELORIA, JR. (1933 - 2005)

spokesperson for Native America. Indeed, for many people he was Native America.

Deloria served in the U.S Marines from 1954 to 1956. He received his B.S. from Iowa State University in 1956, a Masters degree

in theology from the Lutheran Seminary in 1963, and a law degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1970.

From 1964 through 1967, Deloria served as the Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the nation's leading Native American advocacy organization. During those years he revitalized NCAI into an effective weapon in the ongoing struggle of Native Americans to achieve equal rights, and for the federal government to recognize the sovereign status of tribes. Deloria followed *Custer*--a book that had become the "Bible" of the Indian civil rights movement, with the publication of a series of other works, including *We Talk, You Listen, Of Utmost Good Faith*, and *Behind the Trail of Broken Treaties*. Collectively, these publications enlightened the public as to the centuries

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## THE WSSA ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

by LISA NELSON  
WSSA Past President

A fine group of candidates stood for election to office in the Western Social Science Association this winter. Congratulations to **Rick Adkisson** and **Kant Patel**, who advance to President-Elect and Vice-President beginning on the Saturday morning of the upcoming conference. Rick Adkisson is Professor of Economics and International Business at New Mexico State University, and has recently been appointed editor of the *Journal of Economic Issues*. His WSSA responsibility over the coming year will be to coordinate the 2007 program for the WSSA conference in Calgary, Alberta. Kant Patel is Professor of Political Science

at Southwestern Missouri State University. A longtime member of WSSA (over 25 years!), he will be serving as scribe for Executive Council meetings, and coordinating the next student paper competition.

**Jeff Corntassel, Leila J. Pratt, and Gary Linn** have been elected to three-year terms on the WSSA Executive Council. Jeff Corntassel is Assistant Professor and Graduate Advisor in the Indigenous Governance Program at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. Leila J. Pratt is Hart Professor of Economics at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Gary Linn, who filled in a one-year Council vacancy prior to being elected to a three-year term this year, is Professor in the School of Nursing and Center for Health Research at Tennessee State University.

A big thank you to our other candidates. We greatly appreciate your offer to serve and hope you will be willing to run again in the future. Thank you also to Susan Barger of Idaho, who will be completing her three-year term on Executive Council this April. Others completing their prior terms are Rick Adkisson and Gary Linn who will be continuing to serve WSSA.

WSSA is a volunteer-based organization that depends on the continuing commitment and generosity of its members for its governance. If you are interested in serving in an elected position, please contact WSSA President Jim Peach, who will be chairing the Nominations Committee this summer. President Peach's e-mail address is [jpeach@nmsu.edu](mailto:jpeach@nmsu.edu).

PAGE 2

Presidential Soapbox:  
Issues of Equilibrium

PAGE 3

New Feature:  
Coordinator's Corner

PAGE 7

Distance Learning in  
the Social Sciences (II)

# Issues of Equilibrium

BY WSSA President JIM PEACH (New Mexico State University)

In the last Presidential Soapbox, I argued that social scientists should spend their time addressing important issues. The discussion in that soapbox focused on the possibility of eliminating the kind of poverty that the United Nations refers to as absolute poverty (the billion or so people who still live on less than one dollar a day). But it is also important for social scientists to maintain a sense of humor and to have some fun. No scientific proof, hypothesis testing, computer printouts, or Powerpoint slides will be offered as evidence in favor of this proposition.

There are many good reasons for having fun in the social sciences--only a few of which are discussed here. First, our subject matter (human beings, either individually or organized as social groups) is genuinely funny and our science will be incomplete if we don't recognize that fact. Second, how can we remain reasonably sane and simultaneously confront truly serious matters without a well-developed sense of humor. Third, a sense of humor can be a source of serious hypotheses and research topics. Fourth, sometimes presenting serious social science research in a humorous fashion has more impact than well-developed professional dullness.

Maintaining and displaying a sense of humor is also in the grand tradition of the social sciences. That is, many great social scientists (including Adam Smith, John Maynard Keynes and Joan Robinson) could laugh at themselves

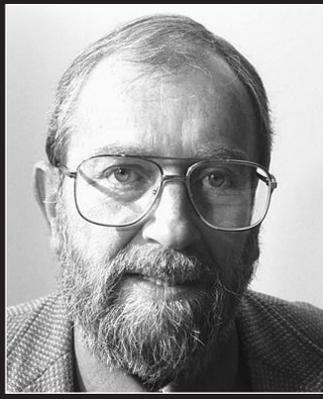
and thoroughly enjoy their subject matter. Who could not be amused, for example, by Thorstein Veblen's quick wit, viciously innocent vocabulary, and multi-page sentences? Veblen also gave us word combinations that continue to delight and inform us. Examples include: "conspicuous consumption," "vested interest," and "amiable inefficiency." Concrete manifestations of conspicuous consumption and vested interests are all too common, but amiable inefficiency is rare and usually confined to expensive restaurants and conference hotels. My word limit prohibits more examples.

How and when should social scientists display their sense of humor? I am almost certain that there are venues in which displaying a sense of humor is inappropriate and too much humor is probably as tiresome

as pages and pages of regression coefficients. Perhaps some underemployed economist could examine the optimal level of humor, but as a working hypothesis, more humor should be displayed and more fun should occur in the classroom (students respond favorably), in responding to memos from deans and department chairs (if they can't take a joke, get new ones), in annual performance evaluation documents (always insert something funny on page 6 or 7 just to see if anyone reads it), in testimony before Congress and other legislative bodies (sorry, but we can't all be as dull or as funny as erstwhile Federal Reserve Chair, Alan Greenspan), in written works (remember Veblen), and certainly at the annual meetings of the WSSA (names withheld to protect the guilty).

I look forward to seeing you and having fun in Phoenix. And yes, in Phoenix I'll be glad to explain why Alan Greenspan's Federal Open Market Committee statements ([www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov)) are funnier than anything performed by an American comedian since Abbot and Costello first performed "Who's on First?" more than 50 years ago. Alternatively, some of my economist friends might be able to explain why equilibrium is dull and why disturbing equilibrium is an honorable but low-wage profession. If these activities don't suit you, then my colleague Diane Calloway-Graham invites you to an unlisted session of the Women's Studies Section. Of course, you will need to ask Diane for the location, date, and time of this special event. See you soon.

## PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



# WSSA NEWS

## 2005-2006 WSSA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

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**Susan Green Barger (2006)**

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**Gilbert L. Fowler (2008)**

Arkansas State University  
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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, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Box 15302, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011-5302, SBS 1100 (Phone: 928-523-9520; Fax: 928-523-6777; E-mail: [larry.gould@nau.edu](mailto:larry.gould@nau.edu)).



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## A New WSSA News Feature: Coordinator's Corner

BY JACK HOU  
WSSA Council

At the fall (2005) meeting of the Executive Council, I made the suggestion that we create a Coordinator's Corner in *WSSA News* to let section coordinators share their experience with other coordinators and also let the general membership have a bit of insight into how the conference is put together. As no good deed goes unpunished, I was "requested" to write the inaugural piece for the Corner. I am not as presumptuous as to think my method is the best (or even better), but they have worked for me.

I have the luxury of being closely associated with two additional Economics organizations (the Chinese Economists Society and the Western Economic Association), which has allowed me to accumulate a sizable mailing list of my own. I have an informal call-for-papers in the summer, which serves as a heads-up. The formal call-for-papers comes in mid- or late September, when everyone is back in school and have settle into their routine (I have a reminder around late October, and a final call in mid-November).

In this call-for-papers, I write a short e-mail introducing the WSSA and myself, explain the three attachments, and ask them to share with their colleagues or friends that they think may be interested. The first attachment is a much longer letter that describes the WSSA (with the website link), our conference (date, location, etc.), and why they should consider attending. I stress that we keep the cost down and it is smaller (compared to the pure Economics conferences), hence more intimate and friendly. I also stress that we are especially proud of our student presenters. I always quote our Executive Director (Larry) that we are one of the few associations that do not eat our young.

The second attachment is a modified abstract proposal form. In addition to the information asked in the standard form (and the on-line form) I ask for their day/time preference, whether they are willing to serve as discussants for more than one paper (I usually ask for the right to assign them to discuss one paper, as exchanging ideas is the purpose of conference participation), their fields of interest, and whether they are willing to serve as moderator. The last attachment relates to student papers and the best paper competition, demonstrating our commitment to the future generation.

Though the official deadline is December 1st, I request everyone (on my mailing list and their "referrals") to submit all info to me by Tuesday the week of Thanksgiving. This allows me to work on the first draft of the program during the break. After Thanksgiving, I e-mail the preliminary program to all participants, asking them to check in I entered their information correctly and whether the day/time of the panel is feasible. I also ask them to select the papers they are interested in discussing, before I start "assigning" the discussant roles. Since I ask for their schedule preferences beforehand, I minimize the changes I have to make.

At this stage, I make sure that there are no more than three

papers in each panel, so as to give myself a bit of wriggle room to accommodate late proposals and the submittals via the WSSA website. Between the week after Thanksgiving and mid-December (when the coordinators have to submit their program to the Program Chair, out President-Elect), I would have sent out several revisions along the way, each with big bold (RED) letters on when it was revised. I usually submit my "final" program to the Chair days before the deadline, which I'm sure she/he appreciates.

When I send the "final" program to participants in my section, I also ask them to contact me if they need formal acceptance letters (and in what format: electronic with letterhead or hard copy). I also encourage student presenters to consider taking part in the Best Student Paper competition, reminding them that there are two categories: graduate and undergraduate). Just as the WSSA takes pride in these students, so do I. Last year I had 10 student papers (eight of which were graduate students). This year it has ballooned to 22 papers (co-authors may be regular faculty), with two graduate students presenting multiple papers! Both this year and last year, I've had students from abroad attend our conference. I teach at UCLA and as a result will bring six doctoral students to Phoenix.

Starting from the 2005 conference, I have written a personal letter to each student presenter, thanking them for their participation and commenting on their performance (positive comments, of course). For those that have done a truly impressive job, I make sure the letter is very very strong. In a separate e-mail I suggest to the students to keep this letter and perhaps include it in their job market packet (in their graduate school application for undergraduate presenters). I am not certain, but the significant increase in student presenters at Phoenix may be attributed to this practice.

When I send out the call for papers, I ask people to be as flexible as possible with their day/time preferences; this allows me to try and have only one session at each time slot. This serves many purposes. It maximizes attendance and hence the discussion in each panel. For those that are not interested in a particular panel, it allows them to attend other sections and do some inter-disciplinary sampling. It maximizes the hotel room pick-ups and minimizes the break-out rooms needed; both are important to the financial picture of the WSSA. To help facilitate people's flexibility, I organize Friday or Saturday night dinners as social events for participants.

As a final miscellaneous note, I make it clear that we do not supply Powerpoint projectors, as it is too expensive. This year I had two presenters request slide projectors. This is rather rare in the economics discipline. I communicated with the presenters and asked whether they meant an overhead projector. In both cases this was what they really meant--had I not double-checked this would have increased the cost to the WSSA.

I am throwing out my two cents worth with the hope of attracting more experienced and more successful Section Coordinators to step forward and share their methods and experience to better us all.

# Introducing Plenary Speaker Larry A. Hammond

BY LARRY GOULD  
WSSA Executive Director

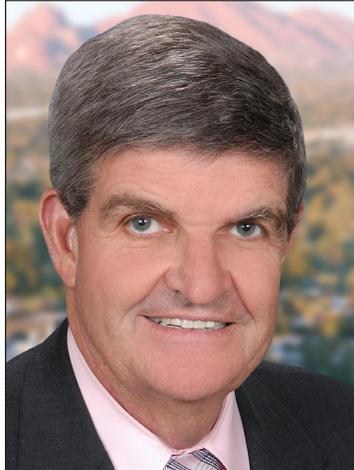
Larry A. Hammond is a criminal defense and civil litigation practitioner and member of the firm of Osborn Maledon, P.A. He is currently the Chair of American Judicature Society's Criminal Justice Reform Committee. He serves as the chair of the Arizona State Bar Indigent Defense Task Force and is a member of the National Steering Committee of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. He also served as chair of the Justice Project, a project created by Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice. Hammond served as deputy assistant attorney general for the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice during the Carter Administration. He served as an assistant Watergate special prosecutor and was a law clerk to Justices Powell and Black. He is a graduate of the University of Texas Law School.

Mr. Hammond's presentation will focus on wrongful convictions (see abstract below). Since 1992, 163 innocent people have been exonerated resulting from the use of DNA. In the 20th century about 400 wrongful convictions have been uncovered, of which 150 people had been executed. There have been 340 exonerations since 1989.

There are nine causes of wrongful conviction: false eyewitness identification, false confession, police and prosecutorial misconduct, snitch testimony, junk science, indigent defense, plea bargaining (especially in death penalty states), harmless error rule, and state felony murder statutes.

Mr. Hammond's presentation is a very timely topic for the social science community and one that will prove to be an eye opening experience for all those present. Here's a sneak peek:

*THE QUESTION NO LONGER IS WHETHER: The Causes of Wrongful Convictions and What We Can Do About Them*



Larry A. Hammond

*"There was a time, not so very long ago, when many people within the criminal justice community debated hotly the question whether our system of criminal justice results in the conviction of the innocent and, at the same time, allows the real perpetrator to remain free to prey on other victims. Those days are over. DNA changed all of that. We no longer ask the question whether wrongful convictions occur; instead we ask much better questions--questions like, 'What can we do to assure that wrongful convictions cannot occur in the future?'"*

Great changes are happening in America as a result of lawyers, scientists and citizens getting together to talk about the root causes of wrongful convictions now that we no longer dispute whether they occur. This speaking invitation provides an opportunity to talk about some of those things that are happening around the United States. Larry Hammond will visit about this question from two distinct perspectives. He chairs the Justice Project of Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice--an Arizona-based Innocence Project. From this perspective he will discuss what projects like this one are doing to help identify wrongful convictions to assure that the innocent are released and the guilty pursued. He also is the Immediate Past President of the American Judicature Society and has been involved, along with former Attorney General Janet Reno and many respected scientists and criminal justice system experts, in creating a National Commission and Institute to bring the best of forensic science to bear on improvements in the criminal justice system. He will discuss what we have learned from the DNA exonerations and particularly from doing detailed post-mortems of some of the more notorious wrongful convictions in Arizona and elsewhere. His luncheon address will provoke debate among social scientists and lawyers dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice.

## A Bit of Free Advice: Those Who Rule the World Show Up

Several years ago one of my student leaders shared the following quote at the start of our planning meeting: "Those who rule the world show up." I interpret this quote as a call to become involved. I have found in my own career when I show up with the attitude that I want to be involved and contribute, I can make a difference. One of my first WSSA meetings was in Denver in April 1991. I presented at the Women's Studies section and attended all of the panels. I decided to show up at the Women's Studies business meeting and the next thing I knew I was nominated to be the Chair of the section. I graciously accepted and have been heavily involved in the WSSA leadership for over 12 years. I have served as Women's Studies Section Chair three times, a term on the Executive Council, President-Elect/Program Coordinator, President, Immediate Past President, and now as a Past President. I now assist with the newsletter and serve as Chair of the *Social Science Journal* Committee.

The Executive Council is the eyes and ears of the WSSA.

The Council's officers include: the immediate Past President, the Executive Director, the *Social Science Journal* editors, nine Council Members, the President (Chair of the Council), Vice-President (in charge of the Student Paper Competition), and President-Elect (Conference Program Coordinator). The Council meets regularly twice a year at the conference site. The Executive Council's purpose is to represent the members of the WSSA by managing its affairs and policies. Each Council Member is supported by their own institution for travel and conference expenses. Serving on the Executive Council has been very rewarding. I've learned a lot about leadership and organizing a conference. I've developed a network of colleagues and cherished friendships. If you want to get involved, I recommend you attend your section, volunteer to be a section coordinator, and attend the WSSA Business Meeting and conference receptions. To become a leader and make a difference you have to show up.

-- Diane Calloway-Graham, WSSA Past President

# 2006 WSSA CONFERENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## APRIL 19TH — WEDNESDAY

Continental Breakfast for  
Executive Council  
7:30 a.m.

WSSA Executive Council  
Meeting  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Conference Registration  
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WSSA Welcoming Reception  
(All Attendees Invited)  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## APRIL 20TH — THURSDAY

Conference Registration  
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Presidential Luncheon  
and Address

WSSA President Jim Peach  
(Ticketed Event)  
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Student Paper Competition  
Winner Presentations  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## APRIL 21ST — FRIDAY

Conference Registration  
7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Breakfast: A Taste of Calgary  
7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Plenary Speaker Luncheon:  
Larry A. Hammond  
(Ticketed Event)  
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

WSSA Combined Business  
Meeting and Section

Coordinators Meeting  
(All Old and New Section  
Coordinators Are Required  
to Attend)  
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Special Session:  
Social Science Journal  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Student Reception  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## APRIL 22ND — SATURDAY

Conference Registration  
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit  
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WSSA President's Reception  
(All Are Invited)  
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

## The 50th Anniversary of the WSSA Fast Approaches

**M**ark your calendar for the 2008 WSSA conference in Denver, Colorado. This will be the 50th anniversary of the Western Social Science Association; thus, it seemed appropriate to have the conference located geographically close to its roots. WSSA is a regional association of social scientists. It was founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, when the Social Science Section of the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science reconstituted itself as an independent organization. On January 1, 1975, the name was officially

changed to the Western Social Science Association to reflect the geographical representation of the Association's membership, although we do get many who travel from many parts of the United States and from foreign countries.

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary we have been going through our archives so we can remember our history at this conference and celebrate our many accomplishments. If any of you have stories to share, please e-mail me at [diancall@hass.usu.edu](mailto:diancall@hass.usu.edu).

-- Diane Calloway-Graham, WSSA Past President

Presidential Address, Thursday, April 20, 11:30 a.m.



Vol. 38, No. 2  
Spring 2006

PAGE 5

# In Memoriam: Vine Deloria, Jr. (1933-2005)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of racial and social injustice that Native Americans had endured, and served to establish Deloria as Indian Country's leading intellectual. The ideas and writings of Deloria played a major role in the passage of important reform legislation including the Indian Education Act (1972), Indian Self-Determination Act (1975), and the American Indian Religious Freedoms Act (1978).

In addition to his intellectual contributions, Deloria was also a major force civil rights activist in the purest sense. His testimony as an expert witness in the four trials that followed the American Indian Movement's takeover of Wounded Knee, South Dakota in 1973 helped win the inclusion of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty into these hearings--a major legal and strategic accomplishment in that it brought historical treaty rights into a contemporary legal proceeding.

But Deloria understood that sovereignty and self-determination meant little unless an informed cadre of Native people existed to implement and protect these rights. Consequently, he entered the next phase of his career, accepting a tenured appointment as professor of law and political science at the University of Arizona in 1978, where he created the first Master's degree program in American Indian studies in the country. In 1990 he left Arizona for the University of Colorado. He retired from full-time teaching in 2000, but for the next five winters Deloria remained professionally active, teaching a course in treaties at the University of Arizona's College of Law.

As a university professor, Deloria continued his research and writing in the area of Native American policy and law. Two books which he co-authored with Clifford Lytle, *American Indians, American Justice* and *The Nations Within*, and later a third, *Tribes, Treaties, and Constitutional Tribulations* (co-authored with David E. Wilkins), are used as standard works in Indian law and policy classes throughout the country. He also toiled to retrieve and compile documents--including many long lost and forgotten treaties--critical to understanding and studying American Indian law and policy. This work culminated with the monumental *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy* (with Raymond DeMallie) and *The Indian Reorganization Act: Congresses and Bills*. Most of our current understanding and interpretation of treaties, tribal sovereignty, and the "government-to-government" relationship between tribes and the federal government we owe to the work of Deloria.

Deloria was widely recognized as the country's leading authority on tribal religions and an outspoken champion of American Indian religious freedom. In 1973, he published *God Is Red: A Native View of Religion*--a book that cemented his reputation as one of the most important religious theorists of our time. In 1974, *Time* magazine named him one of the 11 most important "shapers and movers" of the Christian faith. In 1999 he also published *For This Land: Writings on Religion in America*--a collection of many of his works on this topic. Deloria realized that no person is truly free if he or she is denied the right to fully carry out the tenets of their religious beliefs. When it

became clear in the late 1980s that the American Indian Religious Freedom Act had failed to protect tribal sacred places and certain religious practices, Deloria again stepped forward. His advocacy and writings played a major role in the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 and amendments to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act in 1994.

In recent years, Deloria championed a different type of freedom -- intellectual freedom. Throughout his life he encouraged young Native people to see the validity and importance in the wisdom of their tribal past. He believed that traditional knowledge offered an alternative means to address many of the issues that have long plagued American society and argued persuasively that western philosophy and science are not the ultimate sources of truth in regard to understanding the mysteries of our universe. Starting in 1992, Deloria sponsored a series of conferences--eight to date--designed to foster traditional knowledge and to build a network of people--spiritual leaders, elders and scholars--who could share this knowledge. His own writings in

this area, including *The Metaphysics of Modern Existence*, *Red Earth, White Lies, Power and Place: Indian Education in America* (with Daniel R. Wildcat), *Evolution, Creationism, and Other Modern Myths*, and a final book scheduled to be released this spring, *The World We Used to Live In: Remembering the Powers of Medicine Men*, do not tell people what to think, but rather encourage them to find their own way intellectually rather than to simply accept and follow established dogma.

Deloria attended his first WSSA conference in 1979 and agreed to coordinate the American Indian Studies section the following year. He was clearly impressed with his early WSSA experience and saw its annual conference as a vehicle to help establish his newly-created AIS university program on an intellectual level equal to that of other disciplines. He obtained a small grant to bring his faculty and students to San Diego in 1980, marking the start of rapid growth for AIS in WSSA. In time, the AIS section grew to be one of WSSA's largest. Deloria enjoyed a special relationship with WSSA, which became the only conference he regularly attended during his lifetime. In 2002, Deloria--known for his wit, humor, irreverence, and insight--delivered the WSSA keynote address in Albuquerque. His address "Reforming the Future: Where Is the Academy Going" was a clarion call for higher education to make serious changes in how it prepares its students to accept the challenges of the future.

In closing, Vine Deloria, Jr. cast a long shadow over America's intellectual, cultural and political landscape. With his passing, Indian Country lost its brightest light, a warrior and visionary who changed forever how this country views and deals with Native people, and more importantly, how Native people view themselves and their place in history and contemporary society. He was a national treasure, the likes of which we may never see again. He will be painfully missed, but his work and legacy will live on in the many Native and non-Native people he touched during his all-too-short stay on this Earth.



Vine Deloria, Jr.

# Distance Learning in the Social Sciences: Part II

by DENNIS CATLIN  
WSSA Council

Below is the second part of a two-part article. The first part appeared in the Fall 2005 issue of WSSA NEWS.

**M**y own institution, Northern Arizona University (NAU), is committed to distance learning. The following is a profile of current distance learning programs at NAU ([www.distance.nau.edu/AboutDL/](http://www.distance.nau.edu/AboutDL/)):

NAU has been providing higher education opportunities through Distance Learning to Arizona citizens for 25 years. Initially these services were delivered via television and only focused on a few core programs. With advances in technology, NAU now employs a variety of mediums to deliver curriculum globally.

NAU offerings have more than doubled in the last three years, with increased emphasis on on-line degree and certification programs at both the bachelor and master degree levels. NAU currently offers over 65 degree, certificate, and endorsement programs--many of them available on-line. Likewise, programs are also available at the local level via campuses located throughout Arizona. NAU Distance Learning reaches across many disciplines, including Social and Behavioral Sciences, Education, Arts and Sciences, Forestry, Health Professions, Engineering, and more.

The dynamics are changing to include additional student populations looking for alternatives to the traditional classroom setting. About 30 percent of NAU Distance Learning students are under 29 years of age and enrolled in undergraduate programs. NAU Distance Learning continues to adapt to serve an evolving student population driven by different educational needs.

NAU is committed to incorporating new learning opportunities in its repertoire of traditional learning. With a strong commitment to education, continued faculty involvement, and visionary staff, NAU continues to be a leader in distance learning and is dedicated to helping students meet the demands of an ever-changing world.

In Fall 2005, NAU offered over 300 on-line courses. A significant number of the on-line course offerings in NAU's distance learning program are in the social sciences. The following represents a few examples of the social science offerings:

**Anthropology:** Human Kind Emerging, Study Abroad Cultural Immersion, Ancient Civilizations: The Roots of Cultural Diversity

**Criminal Justice:** Drug Issues and the Law, Research Methods in Criminal Justice, Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice--Victimology

**Geography:** Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, World Geography East, Ecotourism, United States Geography

**History:** Historians and the Study of History; Science, Technology and Society in the American West; Recent America

**Political Science:** State and Local Politics, Public Personnel Administration, Public Organization Theory, Topics in Public Policy--Promotion of Democracy

**Sociology:** Topics in Contemporary Social Issues--Race, Class and Gender; Environment and Society; Sociocultural Aging; Deviance

My faculty appointment in Criminal Justice is dedicated to the distance learning environment. Since I am at the Tucson Campus of NAU and not on the main campus, all of the courses I teach are via the distance-learning format. I regularly teach a number of on-line, web-only courses. These courses include Criminal Justice Administrative Systems, Decision Making in the Criminal Justice System, and Comparative Justice Systems. I also teach courses via our Interactive Instructional Television System (IITV) that have a web-enhanced component. The IITV system allows me to be in Tucson and teach courses to students throughout the state.

While many faculty members do not believe there can be significant interpersonal interaction during on-line instruction, I have found just the opposite. In a classroom of 25 students, I find that the relationship is one to 25. In the on-line setting the relationship is one-to-one 25 times. When a question is posed in the class setting, frequently only a few people will answer the question. When I pose a question in my on-line classes, everyone must answer the question. In addition, everyone must ask a clarifying question of at least one other student. I find that I can better judge the students comprehension of the material in the on-line setting. Further, I have found that the anonymity of the on-line setting frees many students who would otherwise be intimidated in the classroom setting. They have a tendency to be more forthcoming in their one-on-one e-mail exchanges. I get to know the on-line students as personally as I do students who are in class.

My first experience with delivering an on-line course was in 1998. I believe I made the mistake then that all new on-line instructors make. I tried to use the same class structure and student assessment process for an on-line class that I had been using in the classroom. I learned very quickly these methods do not necessarily translate. In my experience, on-line delivery requires a new set of skills and a different instructional and evaluation paradigm. In an interview in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Barbara B. Lockee, an assistant professor of instructional technology at Virginia Tech, makes the case that (Carnevel, 2001, para. 12):

"The delivery mode we know for a fact does not impact the learning. It's the design of the instruction that impacts the learning, and also what the students bring to the instructional situation. Instead of comparing, say, our online multimedia-authoring course to the face-to-face course, we would look to see that our distance learners are achieving our intended outcomes no matter how they're getting it."

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Vol. 38, No. 2  
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PAGE 7

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## The WSSA is Bound for Calgary, Alberta in 2007

As many of you know, WSSA will be holding its 49th Annual Conference north of the 49th parallel in April 2007 in Calgary, Alberta in Canada. This is a historic occasion as it will be the first time WSSA has crossed the border. As a Calgarian, I assure you that the experience will be a positive one.

In addition to the usual high quality of panels in various sections, there are a number of reasons why the conference will be memorable. Calgary is a vibrant city, it has the youngest population in Canada with an average age of 35 years. About 73% of the population has attended a post-secondary institution.

The University of Calgary and other sponsors will host a reception on campus for all those registered at the conference. Academics from many departments intend to participate in the conference and encourage their graduate students to attend. There is a great deal of excitement in Calgary at the prospect of hosting this first WSSA conference in Canada. During the 1988 Winter Olympics, Calgarians earned the reputation of being warm and hospitable and every summer, visitors to the Calgary Stampede enjoy western hospitality.

Calgary has a wonderful geographic location within reach of

many world-famous attractions. Banff National Park in the Rocky Mountains is an hour away to the west. The mountains are visible from the Hyatt where the conference will be held. Approximately an hour east of the city is the world-famous Royal Tyrell Museum



of Paleontology in Drumheller. The museum which opened in 1985, has 35 complete dinosaur skeletons on display, the largest such assemblage in the world. Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was used by aboriginal peoples of the Plains for more than 5,000 years. They killed buffalo by driving them over a precipice. Guides at the Interpretive Centre are members of the Blackfoot Nation. Not far away is the Frank Slide site of the greatest landslide in North American history. In April 1903, 82 million tons of limestone crashed from the summit of Turtle Mountain and buried a portion of the sleeping town.

Googling any of these will convince you to tack a couple of days onto your trip so you can visit these attractions.

Calgary and Phoenix are sister cities so it is fitting that they will be hosting WSSA in consecutive years.

-- Doreen Barrie, WSSA President-Elect



FUTURE  
CONFERENCE  
SITES

2007  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
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Hyatt Regency

2008 - 50th Anniversary  
Denver, Colorado  
April 16-19, 2008  
Hyatt Regency

2009  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
April 15-18, 2009  
Hyatt Regency