



WSSA NEWS

Since 1958

Scholarship - Service - Collegiality

wssa.asu.edu

Volume 41, Number 1

SPRING 2009

WSSA: Reaching New Heights in Albuquerque



Photo of Folklorico Dancing Credit: www.itsatrip.com

By Rick Adkisson
New Mexico State University
WSSA Past President

(5315 ft.). The conference will be held from April 15-18, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque.

WSSA is reaching great heights again. Last year WSSA held its very successful and dynamic 50th anniversary conference in the Mile High City, Denver, Colorado. In the spirit of the upward momentum coming out of the anniversary conference it is appropriate that the 2009 meeting be held in Albuquerque, NM, the Mile High Plus city

Albuquerque is a regular WSSA conference venue, and for good reason. The rich culture of the region is evident throughout the city. Like much of New Mexico, Albuquerque has been uniquely shaped by the intersection of Native American, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures. The ethnic variety, the architecture,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

And the Winners Are...

By Rick Adkisson,
New Mexico State
University

Another exciting election season has ended and the WSSA membership has selected a new slate of leaders. Jack Hou, our current President-Elect, will become President. Jack is an economist from California State University – Long Beach. Besides serving this year as President-Elect, Jack recently completed a three-year term on WSSA

Council, followed by a year as Vice-President. Our new President-Elect will be Gil Fowler. Gill serves in the Mass Communication Division of Arkansas State University. Gil also recently completed a three-year term on the Council. He will be responsible for organizing the WSSA program for our meeting in Reno in 2010. Congratulations to both of you!

The membership also elected a new Vice-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Editor's Note

Hello, Readers,

Hello, Readers, My name is Kate Herke, and as of this past September, I became the new editor of the WSSA News. Those of you who have been with WSSA for a while may recognize the name -- I am the administrative staff of the WSSA all year; during the conferences I also run registration and act as site manager,

relieving the Association's President, President-Elect, and Executive Director of many of the day-to-day operational decisions.

This issue is missing the President's Soapbox, due to circumstances beyond President Ponds' control, but we have filled its space with an article by Tom Isern,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 4

Kudos, Laurels. and
Milestones

PAGE 6

Renewing the
WSSA

PAGE 10

2009 WSSA
Conference Overview

Editor's Note

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Professor of History & University Distinguished Professor, and Director, Center for Heritage Renewal, at North Dakota State University. The President's Soapbox will return next issue.

You may notice that there seems to be a theme in this issue's articles, all of which have something to do with the future of the Association. Oddly enough, that is entirely coincidence -- no instructions as to content were given to any of the writers. Apparently the future direction of our organization is on many minds

For several years, this publication provided little more than information about past and upcoming conferences, and elections of officers and council members. A couple of years ago, the Council decided to make something more of it. We are now trying to make it something worth reading in its own right, something of real benefit to the members.

To that end, we have introduced a "feature article" in each issue, a "Coordinator's Corner" column, and the most recent innovation, "Kudos, Laurels and Milestones". The "feature article" is normally written by Council members, but I am open to suggested pieces by other members. The Corner is written by a volunteer from among the section coordinators, and is intended, in Jack Hou's words, to "let section coordinators share their experiences with other coordinators and also let the general membership have a bit of insight into how the conference is put together." The Kudos items will be submitted by the general membership; the guidelines are at the head of this issue.

I would like to add one more feature: Letters to the Editor. This would be a venue for commentary on both the Association and its conferences. If enough letters are received, of appropriate nature, this feature will debut in the next issue. Letters should be no more than 180 words, should include the author's name and affiliation, and should be submitted by e-mail, at WSSA.Admin@nau.edu, in either WordPerfect or Word format.

Kate Herke
Editor, WSSA News

WSSA NEWS

2008-2009 WSSA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Phadrea Ponds

Fort Collins Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey
pondsp@usgs.gov

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jack Hou

California State Univ.-Long Beach
jackhou@csulb.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Cynthia A. Klima

SUNY-Geneseo
klima@geneseo.edu

PAST PRESIDENT

Richard V. Adkisson

New Mexico State University
radkisso@nmsu.edu

2008-2009 WSSA COUNCIL

Jeff Cortassel (2009)

University of Victoria
ctassel@uvic.ca

J. Gary Linn (2009)

Tennessee State University
Jlinn87844@aol.com

Leila J. Pratt (2009)

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
Leila-Pratt@utc.edu

Tom Isern (2010)

North Dakota State University
isern@plainsfolk.com

Irasema Coronado (2010)

University of Texas at El Paso
icoronado@utep.edu

Victor L. Heller (2010)

The University of Texas at San Antonio
victor.heller@utsa.edu

Christopher Brown (2011)

New Mexico State University
brownchr@nmsu.edu

Douglas C. Nord (2011)

Western Washington University
douglas.nord@wwu.edu

Barbara A. Wiens-Tuers (2011)

Penn State Altoona
baw16@psu.edu

EX OFFICIO

Larry A. Gould, Exec. Director

Northern Arizona University
larry.gould@nau.edu

N. Prabha Unnithan, Editor

The Social Science Journal
Colorado State University
prabha@lamar.colostate.edu

Rich Greene

SSJ Book Review Editor
Northern Illinois University
rgreene@niu.edu

Chris Hiryak, Webmaster

Arizona State University
chris.hiryak@asu.edu

Kate Herke, WSSA News Editor

La. Ofc. Of Student Financial Assistance
WSSA.Admin@nau.edu

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, two 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, Yuma Branch Campus, P.O. 6236, Yuma, AZ 85366-6236 (Phone: 928-317-6475; Fax: 928-317-6419; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu)



WSSA News is published two times a year by the WSSA. Editor: Kate Herke. For more info on *WSSA News*, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, Yuma Branch Campus, P.O. 6236, Yuma, AZ 85366-6236 (Phone: 928-317-6475; Fax: 928-317-6419; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu).



Kudos, Laurels, and Milestones

We would like the Association's newsletter to mark the important milestones in our members' careers, acknowledge honors they have received, and extend commendations for their laudable actions and accomplishments. Therefore, this issue marks the first appearance of a new feature, "Kudos, Laurels, and Milestones".

Submissions are invited from all members, and should be made by the beginning of January, for the Spring issue, and by the beginning of September for the Fall issue.

They may be about the authors' own accomplishments, but we hope that at least most of them will be submitted in recognition of the authors' colleagues. We are not looking for basic CV or resume items, but for those things that deserve a little extra recognition.

Content guidelines (*These have been somewhat 'bent' for this first issue*): Items should be about our members, or about former members who played important roles in the Association. The timespan should be approximately one year prior to the issue's publication. Academic accomplishments will probably be the most common, but related non-academic items could also be accepted - for instance, if one were to be elected to City Council, or to receive a significant award from a civic organization. Items can be sent directly to the newsletter editor. They should include the name and affiliation of the recipient and no more than three or four lines per item. Items will appear in the order submitted. (*These guidelines will appear at the end of future columns*)

Lee Lamb, former WSSA President, is retiring from the federal government after 30 years of service. As the Branch Chief for the Policy Analysis and Science Assistance Program at the USGS in Fort Collins, CO, Lee has led a team of social science researchers investigating decision making and negotiation in resource management. Lee has made important contributions to his field, has mentored many students and colleagues, and will be greatly missed. (*submitted by Nina Burkardt*)

Irasema Coronado was recently named Associate Provost of the University of Texas at El Paso. This appointment acknowledges the excellent leadership that she has contributed to UTEP in her previous tenure with UTEP as Department Head of Political Science and as Associate Dean of her College. (*submitted by Chris Brown*)

Christopher Brown (New Mexico State University) gave two invited papers in fall of 2008. The first was entitled,

"What is border environmental security? Perspectives from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada", given at Western Washington University's Border Policy Research Institute 2008 Lecture Series. The second was entitled, "International water resource management: Comparative discussions of the US-Mexico Border & the Middle East" given as the plenary paper for the Student World Water Forum held at the University of Nevada at Reno. More recently, he also gave an invited paper entitled, "Collaborative Research on Transboundary Water Resources: US-Mexico and US-Canada Cases" at a workshop on binational policy hosted by the Association of Canadian Studies in the North American Center for Transboundary Studies.

Jack Hou (California State University, Long Beach)

President of the Chinese Economists Society, 2007-2008, and Chair of Regents, 2009

President-elect of the Western Social Science Association, 2008-09; General Coordinator of the 51st Annual Conference, April 2009; assuming Presidency in mid-April, 2009

Guest Editor of the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 2008

Invited as special speaker at the IAMO Forum 2008: Agri-Food Business: Global Challenges – Innovative Solutions (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe), Halle, Germany, June 25-27, 2008. Title of talk: "The Challenges Facing China's Agri-Business"

Keynote Speaker at the opening ceremony of the International China Conference of the ICCS, Aichi University, Nagoya, Japan, December 5-7, 2008. Title of speech: "Economic Development and the Harmonious Society of China"

Luncheon speaker at the 47th Annual Conference of the Economic Education Winter: Sino-American Economic Relations, St. Cloud, Minnesota, Feb. 27-28, 2009. Title of speech: "The Reform of China in a Global Perspective"

Made an Honorary Professor, Nankai University, China, December, 2008. Received all eight votes; the only other person to be elected unanimously was William Cohen, former Secretary of Defense under President Clinton

Kate Herke (Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance), accepted the position of Newsletter Editor for the Western Social Science Association.



Research in a North American Context: The Shared History of the Western Social Science Association and the Association for Borderlands Studies

By Christopher Brown (NMSU)
and Irasema Coronado (UTEP)
Members of the Board of the WSSA

Introduction

The United States, Canada, and Mexico have been neighbors on the North American continent since each of these independent nations emerged from their shared histories. Prior to the creation of these nation states, native peoples migrated throughout the hemisphere (Kemp 2007). More recently, trade, migration, media communications, environmental issues, and security concerns have connected the three nations together in many ways in the last few centuries. In the last thirty to forty years, economic integration related to globalization and economic regionalization has elevated each country's awareness of its neighbors and the increasing impacts and relevance each has on and for each other. The establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the early 1990s signaled a high point in this integration. Since the terrorist attacks on the United States of 11 September 2001, security concerns have joined those of economic integration, yielding a complex and interesting web of interactions with major impacts on each society in the three neighbors. Recent approaches to a "North American community" that have been advanced by Robert Pastor (2001a and b, 2004) argue for a distinctly North American perspective by which these interactions can be examined, an idea that has garnered much attention. Staudt and Coronado (2002) contend that "The North American Union (NAU) is an imagined future, but we can seize the structures of opportunity to begin building the bridges and transcending the divisions to act on common interests now" (Staudt and Coronado 2002:173). These authors think that the time for the creation of the NAU is now, and we see much research of interest in exploring this idea in more detail.

Researchers from a range of different disciplines have examined many issues of North American integration, and both the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) and the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS) have played important roles in how this research has been conducted and shared. In this article, we examine the historical trajectory that the WSSA and ABS have traveled in the last few decades and then share some comments on how these inter-related institutions may help drive a shared research agenda in the future.

Some historical context

With its roots as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, the WSSA has long had an interest in and supported a range of social science and humanities research activities. Early sections of the Association included History, Political Science, Economics, Social

Science, and Geography, and research in these areas dealt with issues common to the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. In the early 1970s, regional specialization was advanced in an explicit manner with the establishment of sections dealing with Mexican American Studies (later to change to Chicano Studies), Canadian Studies, and American Indian Studies. These sections and the development of the Association of Borderlands Studies in 1976 provided four important regional foci by which regional research of importance to North America was advanced (Gould, Calloway-Graham, Burkardt, and Herke 2008). Over the years, these sections have cross listed papers in their respective sections in the Annual Meetings and facilitated important dialogue and collaboration on a range of important issues. The enduring and rich friendships that came easily and naturally are a huge bonus to the rewarding work.

Since its inception, the ABS has focused on interdisciplinary research on a range of border issues. These have historically been focused on the U.S.-Mexico border, due to the location of the institutions where many founding members worked and to the research interests of these individuals. During its history, the ABS has participated in all of the annual meetings of the WSSA, providing a warm forum in which researchers at all stages of their career can present research and gather feedback. On a few occasions, the ABS has had a separate annual gathering in addition to participating in the WSSA meetings, but ABS officers and the Board have long recognized how critical it is to both organizations that the ABS actively participates in the WSSA meetings. Both organizations have benefited greatly from this linkage.

In 1986, the ABS established the Journal for Borderlands Studies (JBS), a peer reviewed journal in which members and other border researchers publish their work and share their research with a broader audience than the attendees at the annual ABS conference. Historically, the major focus of the articles published was the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, reflecting the heritage of the ABS and its members, but this regional focus expanded with the rise of integration in Europe that occurred with the emergence of the European Union. In 2001, Martin van der Velde and Henk Von Houtum of the Radboud University of Nijmegen in The Netherlands joined the editorial team of the JBS, and their participation helped broaden the regional focus of the JBS. This broadened focus also extended to the U.S.-Canada border with the increasing participation by some very productive researchers in Canada. The end result is that the Journal now publishes actively on border issues related both to Europe and to the North American context for which Robert Pastor has advocated. Evidence of the active role of the ABS in this integration of research on North America is the recent naming of Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, a policy researcher at the University of Victoria in Canada, as the North American Editor of the JBS. Brunet-Jailly has also capably served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the ABS for the

last few years, and the contributions that he and his colleagues from Canada have made to both the ABS and the JBS have been very valuable.

Recently, these linkages have gained renewed energy due to a series of related activities and efforts. In 2007, Dr. Doreen Barrie “took the WSSA to the Great White North,” when she organized the first annual meeting of the WSSA to take place north of the 49th parallel in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our siblings to the North, the meeting was a great success. Calgary was also the location where members of the WSSA and ABS made a wonderful connection with senior staff of the Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S. (ACSUS).¹ In a panel session hosted by the ABS entitled “Exploring Funding Opportunities in Joint U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico Research,” researchers from these three organizations had a most engaging dialogue on funding challenges in advancing research in a North American context; we also began a rich discussion on a much wider range of issues that has borne much fruit, as noted below. |

Some comments on potential for continued collaboration

The above connection between the WSSA, ACSUS, and the ABS led to invitations to WSSA and ABS researchers to participate in a workshop entitled, “North American Perspectives on Borders and Security: Developing a Policy Narrative” that was held in January of 2009 in San Diego, California. The workshop was jointly sponsored by ACSUS, the Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University, and the North American Center on Transboundary Studies, a border research center at Arizona State University. The workshop clearly reflects the type of integration advocated by Pastor, and the WSSA and the ABS were both very well represented at the conference. Members of the WSSA and ABS gave papers on a range of topics including transboundary water research (Christopher Brown), linkages between security and the media (Manuel Chavez), comparative examinations of border security (Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly), and a policy narrative for North American borders (Victor Conrad).

The linkages that have blossomed between the WSSA, the ABS, and ACSUS will be further enhanced when WSSA and ABS Board members participate in the 2009 Biennial ACSUS conference that will be held in November of 2009 in San Diego, California. Douglas Nord, a member of the WSSA Board, is the program chair, and Christopher Brown, a Board member in both the ABS and WSSA, will be presenting a paper and representing both organizations at the conference. Participation in these types of events is visible evidence of the connections that members of the WSSA and ABS are making on a range of research efforts, and these connections clearly have the potential to help further advance an exciting research agenda

1 With its secretariat located in Washington, DC, ACSUS is an interdisciplinary organization that supports studies of Canadian issues in the U.S. through biannual conferences, publication of *The American Review of Canadian Studies*, and numerous other activities (ACSUS 2008).

into issues of importance to all of the border regions in North America. This emerging research agenda is the specific topic of a series of panels to be held at the 2009 Annual Meetings of the WSSA and the ABS, and we extend a warm invitation to all members of both organizations to join us in these panel sessions in Albuquerque.

Some closing comments

In this brief article, we have shared with our readers a bit of the rich history of the WSSA and the ABS that has unfolded as members have worked together on research in the North American context. The work done to date has certainly helped inform the dialogue on a range of important issues, and the people involved can feel good about these accomplishments. On a more personal level, the activities and achievements detailed above have also provided a wonderful chance to build warm, friendly, and productive relationships that many of us value. The future looks to be even brighter and more interesting, and we warmly invite the membership of the WSSA to join us in this most interesting journey. *Nos vemos en Albuquerque!*

References

- Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S. (ACSUS). 2008. Website describing the history and work of ACSUS; URL is located at <http://www.acsus.org> and was accessed on 6 January 2009.
- Gould, L., D. Calloway-Graham, N. Burkardt, and K. Herke, 2008. *Western Social Science Association: A History 1958-2008*. Flagstaff, AZ: Western Social Science Association.
- Kemp et. al. 2007. “Genetic analysis of early holocene skeletal remains from Alaska and its implications for the settlement of the Americas,” *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 132(4), 605-621. doi 10.1002/ajpa.20543
- Pastor, R. A. 2001a. “Bush’s North American Agenda.” *The Washington Post*.
- Pastor, R. A. 2001b. “Post-NAFTA: How North America Has Changed.” *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.
- Pastor, R. A. 2004. “North America’s Second Decade.” *Foreign Affairs*. Volume 83, No. 1.
- Staudt. and Coronado, Irasema 2002 *Fronteras No Mas: Toward Social Justice at the U.S. Mexico Border* USA: Palgrave MacMillan



Renewing the WSSA



By Tom Isern,
North Dakota
State University

The Western Social Science Association is middle-aged. Last year we celebrated its fifty-year anniversary. In terms of my discipline, History, if the WSSA were a building, it would be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In terms of personal maturation, after age fifty, I can tell you, all sorts of things start to happen it's best not to talk about in polite company.

Association records indicate that our annual meetings peaked in attendance and participation during the late 1990s, when about 950 people attended each conference. In recent years our attendance has been rather stable at about 750-825. This does not mean the association is diminished intellectually or substantially. It certainly does indicate there have been some changes in the profession, including, for one thing, an aging professorate, with fewer young scholars out building careers assertively in the professional associations. It also indicates we should be attending self-consciously and deliberately to the renewal of the WSSA for the sake of its future.

Our exceedingly capable and sometimes blunt executive director points out that if our conference attendance were to increase, our financial position would be much better, and not just as a matter of linear improvement. Rather we would see a quantum level improvement in the terms we would be able to negotiate with hotels and other providers, resulting in a better and more economical conference experience for all.

Institutions and associations, I believe, have the capacity to renew themselves. Now, as the nation slides into recession or maybe worse, some might say we can't do much about that—travel dollars are tight, the profession is hunkering down. To them I say, we should learn a thing or two from Warren Buffet and position ourselves in tough times to emerge prosperous in better times. The guard is changing, and we need to see that the new guard is on our side.

Quite a bit can be done by individuals taking matters in hand. For instance, I bring graduate students to the conference, funding their travel substantially out of my overhead account. That way if everyone else is mad at me, at least I will have someone to talk to at the meeting. It's good for the graduate students, who are building vitae through participation and learning the ways of the profession. In addition, though, I am thinking specifically of the future of the association and seeking to induct young scholars into it.

My main point in this little essay, however, goes beyond the potential of individual efforts. In the heyday of WSSA conference attendance and participation, what made it that way? It was not just the demographics of the professorate;

it was the mentality of the professorate. We were young, we were involved, and we were full of ideas in response to our changing society. Group studies and other edgy fields emerged and found in the WSSA a congenial place to incubate and grow. In other words, the association grew as active scholars responded to changing needs and opportunities by founding and cultivating new sections.

To position the WSSA for future growth, we may not have to be all that original or radical. We may need merely to do again what we did a generation ago. Perhaps it is time for a discussion along these lines.

1. What are the emerging fields in the social sciences now?
2. Are there any of them that require a venue, or an additional or alternative venue, for definition of the field, presentation of research, and networking with colleagues?
3. Who are the players in these emerging fields?
4. How might they be persuaded to bring their academic enterprise into the house of the WSSA?

In the scan of emerging fields, certain types would be especially attractive for cultivation, including, but not limited to, the following.

1. Fields that are attracting young scholars specifically. For instance, there are pop culture studies going on in fields I am not even able to understand, and may not wish to understand, but I do understand that those fields have energy and appeal.
2. Fields that respond to some pressing social need, and thus usually have money thrown at them, and thus possess practitioners with liberal travel budgets. Disaster management, for instance, is such an emerging field.

There are many things needful to the care and feeding of a complex academic association such as the WSSA. Attending to business in our existing sections, improving and promoting the overall conference experience, keeping up our intellectual vigor and generous collegiality, all these things are important. Personally, I have a certain attraction to strategic initiatives. I think it's a good idea to throw the ball on first down now and then. I would encourage readers of this essay, and all our other members, if you see emerging fields out there that might offer opportunities for the future of the WSSA, talk to one of the members of the council.

See you in Albuquerque again, and, I'm confident, at many great meetings in future.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION:

Publishing in *The Social Science Journal*

By

Prabha Unnithan, SSJ Editor

Are you a social scientist who is:

- *A graduate student who wants to submit a paper for publication, but is unsure (and nervous) about the process and requirements?*
- *A young scholar in the social sciences who is looking for an established and reputable peer-reviewed publication outlet?*
- *An established academic who is seeking to introduce your graduate students or newer colleagues to the world of academic publishing?*

Over the years, the WSSA has made tremendous efforts to help graduate students, young scholars and established academics by providing a nurturing, educational and inter-disciplinary environment for their ideas and academic presentations. The 2009 Albuquerque Conference will include a professional development session in which interested authors (wannabe, new and established) can learn about opportunities to submit their work in WSSA's official journal, *The Social Science Journal* (SSJ), which is published by Elsevier.

This year's special publication session will be held on Thursday, April 16, at the 2009 WSSA conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The session will commence immediately after the Professional Development Luncheon, and will run from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. At this session, Prabha Unnithan (Colorado State University), Editor, and Rich Greene, (Northern Illinois University) Book Review Editor, of the SSJ will discuss their editorial philosophies, submission (both traditional and online), review, and decision-making procedures for articles and reviews submitted to them. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask general questions regarding SSJ's publication process. Please make use this opportunity to learn more about academic publishing and SSJ and to encourage your students and your colleagues in their research efforts!

SSJ Book Reviews

Rich Greene, the book review editor of our association's journal, is looking for reviewers. Email him at rgreene@niu.edu to request a list of the *The Social Science Journal* books that we have acquired.

Why write a book review? Because in addition to the professional reward, writing a review can take you in new directions and help enhance your expertise in an area of research. Authors and publishers also depend on you to help assess the importance of a given book. WSSA has a tradition of recruiting young scholars into social science disciplines by welcoming reviews from its members. If you are new to academia or are in graduate school, writing book reviews can lead to quick publications in between your more comprehensive manuscripts. See a recent issue of *The Social Science Journal* for some example reviews and don't hesitate to contact Rich Greene to get started.



Council Actions

Cynthia A. Klima, WSSA Vice-President

There were numerous actions taken during the annual WSSA Executive Council Meeting in Albuquerque this past September (Sept. 18-20, 2008). The Council approved the following items:

1. The current slate of candidates running for Executive Council was approved unanimously.
2. The Council discussed the role of local people and local universities in our annual conference meetings. It was decided that the President-Elect and President of WSSA will both arrive early before each Council meeting to meet with members of the local university and with residents involved with tourism (chamber of commerce, for example). This will assist WSSA in gaining connections to locals and to local venues for attendees in the spring. The President will be responsible for organizing those meetings.
3. The immediate Past President will be responsible for contacting members of the Executive Council concerning conference sponsorships and all other follow-up duties preceding WSSA's next conference.
4. The editor of the *Social Science Journal*, Prabha Unnithan, introduced a slate of six replacement editors. The Council accepted all six.
5. Kate Herke was unanimously selected as the Newsletter Editor for the WSSA Newsletter. The position will be a three-year term. It was then decided that all submissions to the newsletter would be due by January 31, 2009.
6. Inaction: The Council discussed the Economic Development Administration's proposal to have WSSA act as peer reviewers for grant competitions. It was decided that the Council would be unable to give the project the attention it deserved, and the proposal was thus declined.

Discussions proposed for the April 2009 Council meetings : consider splitting registration and membership; more student involvement and the Student Involvement Committee; underperforming sections within WSSA. are other items slated for further conversation.

20th Biennial Conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS)

The Western Social Science Association has partnered with the ACSUS to promote Canadian Studies in the United States. The next meeting of the ACSUS will be in San Diego, California, November 18-22, 2009. More information can be viewed at www.ACSUS.ORG.

The ACSUS biennial conference, established in 1971, is the leading international event focusing on Canada and its relationship with United States, North America and the world. The event provides an important forum for academic, policy and government communities to interact within a prism of intersecting perspectives.

Conference Sections include: Anthropology, Sociology and First Nations – Visual and Performing Arts – Business, Trade and Economics – Gender, Identity and Diversity – Geography, Resources, Environment, History – Border Issues and Migration – Foreign Policy and Defense – Literature in English – Literature in French – Politics and Government – The North – Quebec and the French Presence in North America – Education – Canada in Comparative Perspective – Life Science and Technology

For further information please contact David Archibald, ACSUS Executive Director at info@acsus.org.

Call for Nominations

The Nominations Committee, headed by soon-to-be Past President, Phadrea Ponds, will be meeting soon. Nominees will be needed for President-Elect, Vice President, and three Executive Council positions. If you would like to nominate someone, or to submit your own name, please send a written nomination to Phadrea Ponds, at pondsp@usgs.gov. Please note that you need to ask any potential nominees if they are willing to accept the nomination before submitting it.

Coordinator's Corner

Scott Carson, University of Texas-Permian Basin
Section Coordinator, Economics (General)

In the 1970s and 1980s, cosmologist Carl Sagan popularized the physical sciences with the PBS series *Cosmos* and called for research efforts for 'Big Science.' Richard Steckel—noted economist, anthropologist, and historian—recently called our attention toward 'Big Social Science.' To meet Steckel's challenge and extend Sagan's vision into the social sciences, associations such as the Western Social Science Association will continue to provide excellent opportunities where interdisciplinary social scientists meet and exchange ideas to push the social science agenda forward.

Instances of big social science are abundant and many of these efforts require large but manageable data collection efforts. For example, the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMs) offers social scientists staggering access to several US and international census population data sets. The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Science Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan offers access to over 7,000 contemporary social and political science data sources. The Center for Population Economics uses a large set of Civil War pension records and specializes in large life-cycle and intergenerational data sets to study demographic, epidemiological, medical, and economic processes. Possible contributions the WSSA can offer these large and growing data sources may be specifically western in nature and can include large data sets for western land allocation, water rights and usage, census and epidemiological data sources, and political voting records.

Sagan and Steckel cover diverse areas of science and social science, but their unifying theme is the emphasis that brings life to the Western Social Science Association. At the WSSA we hold that some of the highest forms of scholarship require the combination of several fields and large data sources to produce truly original research, a theme that as section coordinators we can emphasize and perhaps plan cross-sectional panels to facilitate the dialogue and data sources for future social science research.

Professional Development Luncheon:

Development of the Professional Portfolio and How to Document Your Path to Promotion and Tenure

Presenter: Larry A. Gould, PhD
Associate Vice President and Campus Executive Officer
Northern Arizona University – Yuma Branch Campus

When: Thursday, April 16, 2008, 11: 30 AM to 12:45 PM
Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque, NM

Who Should Attend: This is a special presentation intended for graduate students, new scholars on the path to promotion and tenure, and/or scholars in need of information that will aid in the development of a professional portfolio.

Cost: \$10.00, which includes the cost of the lunch

Registration is limited, reservations are recommended.

Topics Covered:

- Development of the professional vita
- Development of the extended vita
- Development of the teaching, service and scholarly portfolios
- Development of statements of philosophy on teaching, service and research
- Organization of files for tracking the story of your progress toward promotion and tenure or promotion



Western Social Science Association

51st Annual Conference Program Overview

April 15–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
3:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

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

April 16–Thursday

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

Coffee Break
9:15 a.m.

Professional Development
Luncheon

WSSA Executive Director Larry Gould
(Ticketed Event)
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

SSJ Professional Development
Session
SSJ Editor
Prabha Unnithan
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Coffee Break
2:30 p.m.

Student Paper Competition
Winner Presentations
2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

April 17th — Friday

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

Continental Breakfast (All Attendees
Invited)
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.

Presidential Luncheon
and Awards Ceremony
WSSA President
Phadrea Ponds
(Ticketed Event)
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Coffee Break
2:30 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.

April 18th— Saturday

Conference Registration
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WSSA Executive Council Meeting
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 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.

Coffee Break
9:15 a.m.

Screening of the movie "Made in LA"
2008 National
Emmy Winner
(sponsored by the WSSA and the
Association of Borderland Studies)
4:30-6:00 p.m.

WSSA President's Reception
(All Are Invited)
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



WSSA: Reaching New Heights in Albuquerque

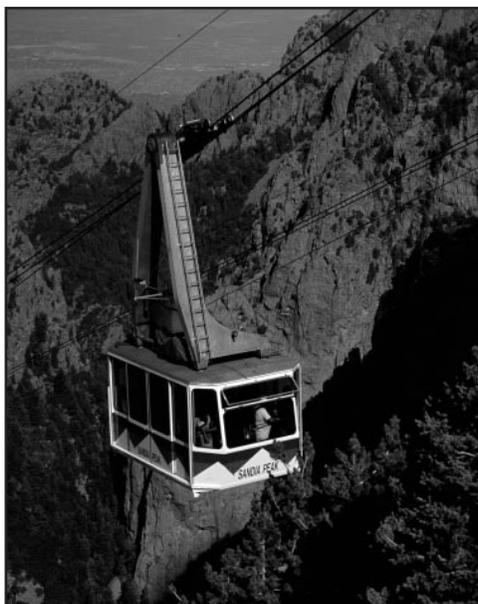
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the art, and even the pace of life give the city a one-of-a kind feel. This is not to mention that the mild spring weather provides a welcome respite to our members and participants from the northern regions.

Among Albuquerque's most popular attractions is the Old Town district where the city came to life in 1706. The San Felipe de Neri church anchors the district. The traditional Spanish plaza across from the church is surrounded by many unique shops, galleries, and restaurants. Also in the Old Town area are the Museum of Natural History, the Rattlesnake Museum, the Albuquerque Museum of Art & History and the National Atomic Museum (just to name a few). Almost always alive with activity, Old Town provides a great place to wind down after an intellectually rigorous day at the WSSA conference. Best yet, it is only a short drive (or a slightly long walk) from the conference hotel.

The city also offers many dining opportunities, many within

walking distance of the conference hotel. McGrath's Bar & Grill is located in the Hyatt Regency and there are some 15 restaurants within



Sandia Peak Tram Credit: Jay Blackwood

a few blocks of the hotel on the Downtown Street Mall and Central Avenue. Somewhat further away, just east of the University of New Mexico, is Nob Hill, home of many fine dining options.

If you want to come a few days early or stay for a few days after the conference, there are plenty of great opportunities for side trips. Santa Fe, the oldest continuously occupied city in America, is only about a one-hour drive to the north. The Sandia Peak Ariel Tramway just east of town offers beautiful views of the mountains and city from an altitude of over 10,000 feet. There are several Native American pueblos and reservations in the area and a few casinos for those so inclined. For details please check the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau website (<http://www.itsatrip.org/>). The website provides a calendar of area events as well.

Most important of all – come to Albuquerque to meet your colleagues, discuss your research, and enjoy the stimulating, scholarly, and collegial atmosphere that is WSSA. I'll see you there.

Registration Reminder

March 31, 2009: deadline date for online pre-registration.
April 1-11, 2009: late pre-registration with \$10 price increase.
April 12-14, 2009: no registration.
April 15, 2009: on-site registration begins at 3:00 PM

Regular: Members, \$75 Non-members, \$105
Students (without full-time employment): Members, \$45 Non-members, \$55
Retirees (no longer employed full-time in field): Members, \$55 Non-members, \$65
Non-presenting Spouse/Partner/Guest: \$25
Professional Development Luncheon: \$10
Presidential Luncheon and Awards Ceremony: \$25



Vol. 41, No.1
Spring 2009

PAGE 11

Western Social Science Association
c/o Larry Gould, Chief Executive Officer
Northern Arizona University - Yuma Campus
P.O. Box 6236
Yuma, AZ 85366-6236
SBS 1100

And the Winners Are...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

President. In a tight race Leila Pratt came out the winner. Leila is an economist from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and has just finished a three-year Council term. She will serve a one-year term as VP. In that capacity, Leila will be responsible for organizing the student paper competition and serving as one of its judges, and for taking the minutes of Council meetings. Congratulations to you, Leila and thanks to your worthy opponent, Gary Linn.

Finally, each year three of the nine WSSA Council members are replaced. Outgoing council members are Jeff Corntassel, J. Gary Linn, and Leila J. Pratt. Thanks to all of you for your outstanding service. Filling their shoes for the next three years will be Donna L. Lybecker, political scientist from Idaho State University, Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, lawyer from the University of Arizona, and Les Alm, political scientist from Boise State University. Congratulations! We all look forward to your leadership, wisdom, and insight as you help WSSA continue to grow and improve. As is often the case, we had a competitive and close-run Council election. Our thanks to the other candidates, Peter Jacques, Theodore Ransaw, and Betsy Rankin. We hope all of you will consider running again.

The new officers' terms will begin at the end of the April conference in Albuquerque.



FUTURE
CONFERENCE
SITES

2010
Reno, NV

2011
Salt Lake City, UT

2012
Houston, TX

2013
Denver, CO

2014
Open, but looking at
Calgary, Albuquerque
or San Diego