Presidential Letter

It gives me great pleasure to write to you for the first time as the President of the Eastern Sociological Society. Pleasure, and a bit of anxiety as well. This chair has been occupied by some outstanding social scientists, men and women I greatly admire. I am well aware of the very big shoes I must now have to try to fill.

My task was not made any easier by my immediate predecessor, Nancy Denton, who decided to “raise the bar” by which my Presidency will be judged by having one of the most successful ESS meetings in our history. If you were among the more than 1200 people who joined us in Boston, you know as well as I what an outstanding job President Denton did, and what a thrill the meetings were. Talk about a hard act to follow! On the other hand, I take some comfort in the fact that I inherit the organization at an auspicious moment. In recent years the Society has been energized by a tremendous infusion of “new blood,” while at the same time many of our true stalwarts have remained engaged and active. Our executive committee is a great blend of old and new faces, and one of the most diverse (in every way I can think of) in our history. I am fortunate to serve with a power house of a vice President, Annette Lareau, who has already taken the initiative to launch several efforts you will be hearing about in the coming months. Membership has been going up for several years, and thanks largely to the efforts of the magnific-ent Mahons (Jim and Emily) our administrative house is in order and our finances are in the best shape they have been in living memory (which is to say we are almost close to solvent). This is not bad for an organization staffed almost entirely by volunteers.

And speaking of volunteers…I’ll bet you knew this was coming next)...we still need YOU! I am heartened that so many have answered calls for participation, and I apologize to those of you we may not have gotten back to. But please do remind us of your interest in working with ESS, on committees, organizing panels and – particularly those of you in the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area, working on local arrangements. (continued page 3)

Meeting Highlights

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society held February 23-26 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel proved to be a record breaker! Over 1100 people registered for the meeting – undergraduates, graduate students, academics, publishers, applied sociologists from all over the United States and the world. All came to participate in “The Places of Our Lives,” a lively four days of meetings, networking, and socializing, and book browsing – planned and executed by ESS President Nancy Denton and her Program Committee chaired by Glenn Deane and Kirsten Lauber, both of SUNY Albany.

At the heart of any Annual Meeting are the Plenary Sessions that underscore the theme, present evocative new data or theories, and (not least) provide the occasion for the receptions that allow members to mingle. This year the plenaries included “Place, Culture, and Inequality” with Thomas Gieryn, Xavier De Souza Briggs, Elijah Anderson, and Richard Alba serving as panelist. “How Sociology Looks at Place” was examined by Douglas Massey, Robert J. Sampson, Sharon Zukin and Robert Rindfuss. On Saturday, Nancy Denton pulled the various thematic and plenary strands together with her Presidential Address, “The Importance of Places in Our Lives.” (continued on page 5)
The “Author Meets Critics” session on Viviana Zelizer’s *The Purchase of Intimacy* did not follow the standard format for such panels. Instead of prominent specialists, the critics in this session were seven Stony Brook University graduate students, who prepared three analytic reviews of Zelizer’s book.

The critics explored key themes from *The Purchase of Intimacy*, including discussions of the origins of relationships as determinants of their intimate dynamics, the relationship of Zelizer’s perspective to Goffmanian interaction theory, and the political valence of the book in different national and historical contexts. Deirdre Caputo-Levine, Allwyn Lim, and Celine Wills used elder care arrangements to argue that otherwise identical nursing relationships that originate in formal organizations (such as nursing homes) have fundamentally different dynamics than those that begin as family ties. David Roelfs and Zheng Zhao synthesized Goffman’s “rules of irrelevance” with Zelizer’s connected lives perspective to analyze the conditions under which market transactions might or might not alter the dynamics of intimacy. Louis Esparza and Pablo Lapegna observed that Zelizer’s connected lives perspective could be used to justify progressive programs like wages for housework or conservative programs like privatization of medical care, depending on the surrounding political context.

In her response, Zelizer argued that many of the arguments made were consistent with her larger argument, that the book and these papers constituted a joint challenge to prevailing economic sociology perspectives, and that much further work was needed to fully develop many of these points.

The session was lively, challenging, and filled with ideas worth pondering.

**Unique Author Meets Critics Session**

Michael Schwartz

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**New Mission for the Committee on the Status of Women**

Laura Steck West and Tamara L. Smith

The Committee for the Status of Women solidified the mission statement for the group, developed proposals for CSW action in the organization, and introduced strategies for enacting these objectives at their annual meeting. As outlined in the CSW mission statement, the committee’s purpose is to promote and highlight the success of women in the ESS organization, emphasize the challenges that women continue to face in the organization and the profession, provide panels and training focused on women’s academic, professional and research issues, and to alert the larger ESS audience to the importance of understanding how these issues affect women.

The committee plans to continue collecting statistical data on the status of women in sociology and academia, as illustrated in the CSW flyer included in the 2006 ESS registration packet. Sessions planned for future meetings will address the experiences of women of color in ESS and in the profession; sexual discrimination and harassment in sociology professions; work-life concerns among women in the profession. In addition, the CSW plans to contribute a regularly featured column to the ESS newsletter and to establish an informative link on the ESS web site. The newsletter column and web link will provide detailed descriptions of the activities, events, and sessions sponsored by the CSW. Following the success of CSW activities at the 2006 ESS Meetings in Boston, co-chairs Tamara L. Smith and Laura West Steck are excited about continuing our work on the committee and bringing an invigorating presence to ESS.

Laura Steck West and Tamara L. Smith
Presidential Letter (continued from page 1)

One of the best things about the ESS has been that it has long been open to students and sociologists in non-traditional careers, while also retaining the interest and involvement of some of the leading figures in American social science. In that spirit I really do want to hear from everybody who wants contribute (and if we don’t get back to you right away, please believe me that it is not because we did not want to hear from you, only that I am disorganized). Our Society, as I have learned over last few months, has a distinguished history but almost no permanent infrastructure. It is what its members make it, and it is remade every year. That is a challenge, particularly for those of us in the leadership, but it is also very exciting.

I should also tell you that some big changes are afoot at Sociological Forum. The term of the current editor, Robert Max Jackson, ends at the end of this calendar year. I want to thank “Jackson” as he is known to his friends (and pretty much everybody else) for the fine job he has done in keeping maintaining the high standards of the journal and I look forward to working with him in other capacities. As I write we are in the midst of a search for a new editor and are concluding negotiations with a new publisher as well. By the time I write you next, we should have big news on both scores. In the mean time, I want to thank Leslie Miller-Bernal and the rest of the publications committee for heading a long and complicated process that, in the end, will put the journal on a surer footing than it has ever known. Finally, I urge you to bring your ideas, your scholarship and your intellectual engagement to our meeting in Philadelphia in March 2007. The theme is “New Diversity, Persistent Inequality.” (continued on page 11)

Rose Laub Coser Dissertation Award

The winner of the Rose Laub Coser Dissertation Award for 2006 is Michelle Poulin from Boston University. Her dissertation is titled: "Strategizing AIDS Prevention: The Exercise of Sexual Agency among Adolescent Girls in Rural Malawi".

Poulin proposes to identify the factors and conditions that enable adolescent girls to develop and implement successful strategies of HIV prevention in the context of the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. While most research focuses on gender inequality with women and girls seen as vulnerable to infection because of their need to exchange risky sex for basic survival needs, this focus diverts attention away from the ways in which young women and girls despite their poverty and powerlessness do exercise agency and control over their sexual lives. For example, the majority of adolescent girls are not infected, even in poverty-stricken rural Malawi, the country with the 8th highest HIV prevalence in the world. The focus of this project, in contrast, is on young women who provide examples of success at avoiding infection, and thus may influence public health programs intended to provide support to those who are struggling to survive an epidemic.

The Rose Laub Coser Award is given annually to a graduate student for an outstanding doctoral dissertation proposal in the area of the family or gender and society. The award was established to honor the late Rose Coser, a former president of ESS and recipient of its Merit Award. This year the committee, chaired by Nancy Naples from UConn, received a greater number of submissions than the previous year. The other members of the committee were Michelle J. Budig, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Shirley Jackson, Southern Connecticut; Marnia Lazreg, Hunter College and Graduate Center, CUNY; and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, American University. Because of the quality of this years submission the committee selected two honorable mentions: Phyllis Brashler from Northeastern for her work titled: "Flirting with Feminism: The State & the Battered Women’s Movement in Massachusetts and Amy Steinbugl from Temple University for her work titled: "Race Has Always Been More Than Just Race’: Gender, Sexuality and the Negotiation of Race in Interracial Relationships".

“the majority of adolescent girls are not infected, even in poverty-stricken rural Malawi, the country with the 8th highest HIV prevalence in the world”
Sorokin Lecture

Charles Willie: A New Look at Situation Analysis in Sociology

In his lecture, Dr. Charles Willie explored the school integration movement from the perspective of situation analysis with the understanding that situation analysis is essential in analyzing social effects.

Willie structured his lecture around Sorokin’s concepts of the dialectics of complimentarity and reciprocity. The principle of complimentarity states that people are necessary and essential for the survival of other people. Individuals need groups and groups need individuals in order to survive. However, although two are complementary, they do not relate to each other in the same ways. The group has the function of sustaining each individual within it. The macrosocial is the foundation of the microsocial. So, within the institution of education, education has the two-fold goal of individual enhancement and community advancement.

He explained that most school equity movements have been initiated by people of color who were segregated in urban areas. Residential segregation has been more extreme for blacks than for any other groups. Concentrations of blacks have contributed to their demands for equity in education because as whites have left the inner cities, they have conceded power to blacks in these areas. The concept of dominant and sub-dominant can be extended to groups. Willie argued that a subdominant population is likely to intensify its push for action when it grows into a majority group with a homogeneous population.

Willie suggested that Sorokin was on to something important when he introduced the concept of complimentarity because within the United States, we continue to try to remake people of color in the image of whites. Willie argued that it is dysfunctional in society for the minority to act as the majority because the groups should act in complimentarity—doing for the other what the other cannot do for themselves. We should be looking at how the uniqueness of one person added to the uniqueness of another results in a whole that is stronger than its parts. We must embrace principles of difference before we can understand principles of complimentarity. The distribution of talents is an asset to society and to each individual’s survival within the society.

Although “a caste system finds its clearest representation in schools,” dominance is not intrinsic. Dominance/sub-dominance is a variable function. With the changing demographic of the county, it would seem that a population becoming more balanced should learn more about complimentarity and negotiation. The idea of integrating schools is correct if we remember that each person has something to give and to receive from others. Willie ended his lecture by promoting the idea that we need more spaces and places where people can have associations in complimentary ways.

Report from the Committee on the Status of Women

“Career Trajectories of Women in Sociology; Issues Women Face in the Classroom; Building Bridges between ESS and SWS”

“The principle of complimentarity states that people are necessary and essential for the survival of other people.”

“The ESS Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) sponsored a number of informative and productive sessions at the 2006 Winter Meetings in Boston. These sessions were well attended. Career Trajectories of Women in Sociology,” featuring panelists Anita Garey, Mindy Fried, Joanne Ardovini, and Angie Beeman, addressed the diverse careers available to women in sociology; discrimination in sociological professions; and balancing the demands of professional and family life. “Issues Women Face in the Classroom.”

Susan A. Farrell, Denise Copelton, Dana Ann Hysock, and Joanne Ardovini, lead the workshop “Issues Women Face in the Classroom” that focused on women’s experiences of sexism perpetrated by students and faculty, and tips for dealing with the diverse issues that women face in classroom settings.

In “Building Bridges between ESS and Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS),” panelists Laura West Steck, Tamara Smith, and Denise Copelton, along with other session participants, addressed possibilities and proposals for strengthening the relationship between ESS and SWS through instituting an ESS chapter of Sociologists for Women in Society. The CSW also co-sponsored the regular paper session “Rosa Parks: The Woman, The Movement and Social Change” with the Committee on the Status of Minorities. This session featured authors Paul Murray, Patricia Warren, Marla Kohlman, and Fahra Bano Ternikar.
Meeting Highlights (continued from page 1)

Prior to the Presidential Address, ESS Awards were presented in a session chaired by ESS VP Karen Cerulo. The Candace Rogers Award was presented to Jeffrey Dixon of Indiana University. Michelle Poulin of Boston University received the Rose Laub Coser Award, with Phyllis Braslsher of Northeastern University and Amy Steinbugler of Temple University receiving honorable mention. Eiko Ikegami of the New School for Social Research received the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award for Bonds of Civility: Aesthetic Networks and Political Origins of Japanese Culture. Michele Lamont of Harvard University was introduced as the 2006-2007 Robin M. Williams, Jr., Lecturer and Vincent Parrillo of William Paterson University was honored as the outgoing 2005-2006 Lecturer. The ESS Merit Award was presented to Charles V. Willie of Harvard University for his outstanding contribution to the discipline and to the Society. And Steven and Janet Alger, of College of St. Rose and Siena College respectively, were honored for their 10 years of service to the society as joint editors of the ESS Newsletter.

This year ESS was graced with two outstanding lectures. The traditional Robin M. Williams, Jr., Lecture was offered by Vincent N. Parrillo of William Paterson University, who spoke on “U.S. Diversity, Past, Present, and Future. Courtesy of the American Sociological Association, we also hosted the Sorokin Lecture in which Charles Willie of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education gave “A new Look at Situational Analysis in Sociology.”

There were over 20 Thematic Sessions this year, ranging in topic from “Place and Crime” to “Global Intersections – People Out of Place” to “Cyber Places of Our Lives.” The depth and breadth of topics covered suggest that the conference theme harnessed a river of research that had been flowing within the society.

As has become the norm in recent meetings, the 76th Annual Meeting also provided space for “Mini Conferences” – “The Sociology of War, Peace, and Military Institutions” organized by Morton Ender of the United State Military Academy and “Culture and Cognition” organized by Karen Cerulo, of Rutgers University and ESS Vice President. The Association of Humanistic Sociology also hosted a special session and reception organized by Corey Dolgan of Worcester State University.

Authors met critics in thirteen lively sessions on topics as varied as immigration, adoption, place, race, war, terror, and “purchased intimacy.” Authors included Prudence Carter, Douglas Massey, Kathrin Zippel, Joel Podolny, Nancy Foner, Sherri Grasmuck, William Falk, Judith Lorber, Jeffrey Olick, Barbara Katz Rothman, Lynn Chancer, Lee Clarke, and Viviana Zelizer.

Students and veterans alike flocked to the “Conversations with…” sessions that featured leading sociologists who have literally changed the way we think: Peter Berger, Theda Skocpol, Stanley Lieberson, Mark Gottdiener, and Eviatar Zerubavel.

Graduate and undergraduate students were treated to sessions and workshops specifically designed with them in mind. Saturday, all day, we were treated to over 100 posters created by undergraduate students in sessions sponsored by the Committee on Undergraduate Education chaired by Susan Ross of Lycoming College. Victoria Newquist of Fordham University and Aaron Tester of Skidmore College walked away with the honors, but the decision was a difficult one for the judges given the quality and depth of the work displayed. Graduate students were featured in Dissertation Workshops organized by Magali Larson.

Teaching workshops offered “how to’s” on using census data, teaching online, and learning and research, just to mention a few. The Committee on the Status of Women, chaired by Tamara Smith of SUNY Albany and Laura West Steck of the University of Connecticut, offered four lively sessions that were well attended – as were those sponsored by the Committee on Undergraduate Education (chaired by Donald Cunnigen). This year, the two committees joined forces to sponsor a joint session on “Rosa Parks: the Woman, The Movement, and Social Change.”

Those who needed a break from workshops and sessions joined Will Horton of Northeastern University for two sociological tours: “The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Boston’s Roxbury and Dorchester Neighborhoods” and “Boston’s Back Bay: America’s Largest Urban Development Project.”

It was indeed a landmark conference – bursting at the seams (literally – we had two “overflow” hotels!) with people, ideas, and enthusiasm. We expect that the energy will continue to grow as we plan for “New Diversity, Persistent Inequality,” the 77th Annual Meeting to be held March 15-18, 2007, at the Sheridan Hotel in Philadelphia.
Michele Lamont: Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lecturer 2006-2007

The Eastern Sociological Society is pleased to announce that Professor Michele Lamont, Department of Sociology, Harvard University, will be the Robin Williams Lecturer for 2006-2007. As part of her duties, Professor Lamont will give two public lectures on her research to universities. By tradition, these universities are institutions that, due to resource constraints, are unable to bring faculty to campus for colloquia. Universities and small colleges submit a brief application and thereby compete to have the Robin Williams Lecturer come for a visit. The lectures will take place during the spring semester 2007 at a mutually convenient time. In addition, Professor Lamont will give a public lecture during the Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting in Philadelphia March 2007. Applications to have a Robin Williams Lecturer come to campus will be due November 1, 2006. Details are posted on the ESS website (i.e., www.essnet.org).

Call For Papers: New Diversity Persistent Inequality

The theme of the 2007 meeting will be “New Diversity, Persistent Inequality”. Social, cultural and demographic changes have made the United States a very different society than it was four decades ago. The resumption of mass immigration has changed our racial and ethnic boundaries. New social movements have challenged the traditional roles of women and minorities. Cultural changes have transformed the ways in which individual and group identities are constructed. Yet, for all of these changes, America remains a profoundly unequal nation, and in many spheres this inequality is growing. For the 2007 Eastern Sociological Society meetings we invite social scientists to think critically about how American institutions and American life are coping with the challenges of new diversity while at the same time confronting the stubborn persistence of social inequality in American life. How, for example, does the presence of new immigrants change (or not change) racial stratification? How can new ways of thinking about gender and sexuality be incorporated into sociological thinking about inequality? How do we deal with the spatial cleavages in American life, be that between inner cities and suburbs or between “red states” and “blue states”? What are the social impacts of the growth in economic inequality in the United States, and why have political responses to this inequality been so muted? These are, of course, only a few examples, and we hope the scholars who participate in the meeting will bring as a broad diversity of approaches to these questions as possible.

Please check the web site periodically for forthcoming updates.

Student Posters Sessions well attended on Saturday

Saturday, over 100 posters created by undergraduate students were showcased near the book exhibit. This event was sponsored by the Committee on Undergraduate Education chaired by Susan Ross of Lycoming College.
Conversations with Stanely Lieberson

An informal discussion between Stanley Lieberson and Dalton Conley, with ample Q&A with the audience, the majority of the session focused on Lieberson’s interest in, and research on, names. Lieberson commented that he has always had a fascination with first names, then questioned “and why not?” Lieberson told the audience that we unfortunately tend not to study the things we’re fascinated by.

Lieberson argued that names, and the imagery associated with them, have an impact on initial impressions. He then quipped that he had heard somewhere that Stanley is associated with “super macho,” revealing his light-hearted sense of humor and setting the tone for the session. Lieberson argued that names are special in that they are “relatively free” and are a matter of taste. Names are immune from other influences, as there are no companies pushing for particular names to be chosen and no monetary reasons why a parent would choose one name over another for their child. Names are “pure cases,” according to Lieberson, and as such, we are able to figure out the internal dynamics of naming.

Lieberson also critiqued recent studies on names, such as the study conducted by MIT economists Bertrand and Mullainathan (2004), which found evidence of racial discrimination based on the (race-imbued) names of applicants on fictitious resumes. Lieberson argued that this was a “messed up study” and that names themselves have images, aside from the issue of race. While understanding the goal of this research, Lieberson’s concern the study ignores other factors.

Conley responded by asking if it is really possible to separate out race in such a race-salient society. Lieberson replied, “it’s sticky,” and argued that perhaps the names also indicate something about social class, for instance, thereby making them class stigmatized as well.

After discussing other research on the decline in hat wearing and the mechanisms underlying popular names, the session ended with a brief discussion of Lieberson’s current research interests. His two main focuses are the use of evidence in social science research and a new study looking at names to study cultural globalization (i.e., whether one society, the U.S., is the dominant center of names).

After answering several questions, one audience member asked Lieberson to speak about his progression in sociology over the years, having started out as a cultural sociologist and ending up as one as well. Despite his long and distinguished career, to this Lieberson simply replied, “I’m not a cultural sociologist. I’m in process, man.”

"We unfortunately tend not to study the things we’re fascinated by."

“’I’m not a cultural sociologist. I’m in process, man.’”

ESS 2007: New Diversity, Persistent Inequality

76th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society
March 15-18, 2007
Sheraton Hotel

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For the 2007 Eastern Sociological Society meetings we invite social scientists to think critically about how American institutions and American life are coping with the challenges of new diversity while at the same time confronting the stubborn persistence of social inequality in American life.

“We haven’t made much progress in our lifetime,”

“Coping with the challenges of new diversity “
Protecting Home: Class, Race, and Masculinity

Sherri Grasmuck was the author featured on the Author Meets the Critics session (#105) at the ESS gathering in February 2006. Her book Protecting Home: Class, Race and Masculinity in Boys’ Baseball (Rutgers University Press, 2005) drew an attentive audience and three appreciative critics: Professors Carlo Rotella (Boston College), Robert Adelman (Georgia State), and Samantha Friedman (Northeastern University).

All three praised the book for numerous virtues, including its “rich ethnography”, readability, and skillful use of photos, humor, and social inference in its analysis of the fascinating material gathered in this intensive exploration of social class, masculinity, and racial integration via the all-American sport of baseball in one local community.

This compelling analysis of a single case observed at length once again demonstrates the utility of such an in-depth look by its assiduous linking of microprocesses to a wider social terrain. via concepts such as micro and macro networks, the social context for change, gender and macro networks, social construction. Problems often studied in specialized, piecemeal fashion are here rendered in their complex interconnectedness. The ensuing discussion proved stimulating and constructive and would have extended far beyond the allotted time.

The Politics of Sexual Harassment

Another excellent book highlighted in an Author Meets the Critics sessions was Kathrin Zippel’s new book The Politics of Sexual Harassment: A Comparative Study of the United States, the European Union, and Germany (Cambridge University Press, 2006). The question to ask with regard to the book is not what does Zippel’s research/scholarship offer to sociology, but to what fields doesn’t it make a contribution? Zippel’s book is the first book-length comparison of the politics of sexual harassment in the US and EU and its member states; it is uniquely comprehensive in its coverage of the diffusion of sexual harassment from the US to the EU; and it is interdisciplinary in its approach. Drawing on theories of comparative feminist policy, gender and welfare state regimes, and social movements, Zippel explores the distinct paths that nations have taken to address the issue of harassment.

For Zippel, feminists are the heroines of the sexual harassment story because they were crucial actors in the initiation process of the legal and policy developments in the US, the EU and Germany, by naming the issue of sexual harassment and bringing feminist expertise and discourses into the legal and political domain. Diane Rosenfeld, a Lecturer of Law at Harvard University, heartily agreed, emphasizing the path-breaking work of legal scholars, most prominently Catherine MacKinnon in creating sexual harassment law from a woman’s perspective. While Mary Daly, Professor of Sociology at Queen’s University in Belfast, agreed that a feminist framework is a critical component for the study of sexual harassment, she had some doubts as to the causal role feminist activism played, at least in the EU. Frank Dobbin, a Harvard Sociologist was less convinced about feminists’ role in the spreading of sexual harassment policies throughout the workplace. Daly concludes that Zippel has done for sexual harassment what other feminist scholars have done for care and patriarchy, raised these concepts to a heavyweight status within their disciplines. Daly found feminist agency “well-theorized” in Zippel’s work. She especially liked the way in which Zippel’s conclusions “sit well with those of other work. Overall the book says something significant about the conditions under which an issue emerges and gets established on the policy stage. I am thinking here about factors like recognition, legitimacy of the actors involved, efficacy of the channels/routes taken, and so forth.” (continued on page 11)
Search for Next Editor of Sociological Forum

Robert Max Jackson, who will complete his period as editor of Sociological Forum, on December 31, 2006, has provided distinguished leadership to Sociological Forum since January of 2002. ESS wishes to thank him for his notable efforts on the society’s behalf. The Society now must begin its search for his successor.

Candidates for the editorial board may submit proposals to Professor Richard Alba Chair, Editor Search Committee, Eastern Sociological Society, University at Albany, SUNY, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222 before June 15, 2006. Nominations by persons other than candidates are welcome. Candidates should be scholars who have published extensively in leading journals. Preference will be given to those with previous editorial experience. Proposals from or nominations of women or minority candidates are encouraged.

Proposals should include: a 2-4 page statement of planned editorial policies and innovations for Sociological Forum; a complete Curriculum Vitae; a statement of previous journal and/or book editorial experience; names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three senior scholars familiar with one’s work and collegial relationships; and a letter addressing the possibility of support for service as editor from one’s own academic institution.

Colleges or universities, customary, offer at least modest support for members of their faculty who serve as journal editors. Such support may include released time from other duties, secretarial, administrative, and/or research assistance, office space, access to supplies, and/or direct financial assistance. Initial proposals need not include formal commitments to support, but should reflect discussion with a chair, dean, or other authorized official about the parameters of possible support.

The journal is in the process of signing a contract with a new publisher which will include more substantial financial support than in the past. This support will include supporting an editorial board meeting at the annual meeting of ESS and moving to a more sophisticated on-line submission and tracking system for the management of the review process. The Committee will begin to review proposals as they are received and will submit a ranked list of three leading candidates to the President and the Executive Committee as soon as possible so that the new editor can participate in the transition to a new publisher.

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Candidates for the editorship may submit proposals to Professor Richard Alba Chair, Editor Search Committee, Eastern Sociological Society, University at Albany, SUNY, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222 before June 15, 2006. Nominations by persons other than candidates are welcome. Candidates should be scholars who have published extensively in leading journals. Preference will be given to those with previous editorial experience. Proposals from or nominations of women or minority candidates are encouraged.

Proposals should include: a 2-4 page statement of planned editorial policies and innovations for Sociological Forum; a complete Curriculum Vitae; a statement of previous journal and/or book editorial experience; names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three senior scholars familiar with one’s work and collegial relationships; and a letter addressing the possibility of support for service as editor from one’s own academic institution.

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In January 2006, The Black College Mystique authored by Charles V. Willie, Richard J. Reddick and Ronald Brown was published by Rowman and Littlefield. It is a book about contemporary leaders of historically black colleges and universities, their missions and unique ways these schools teach and mentor students.

Published in the 2006 winter edition of Voices in Urban Education, sponsored by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University, is Willie's article on "The Real Crisis in Education: Failing to Link Excellence and Equity.” The article states that excellence and equity are complementary and should always be kept together, although our nation has tried to pursue excellence along because it lacks the will to strive for equity too.

Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs at Syracuse University, the third Annual Charles V. Willie Distinguished Lecture was delivered by its namesake in March 2006 on “Building Community in Higher Education.” Scholars who have participated in this lecture series in the past are Richard J. Light and John N. Gardner. Willie was chairman of the Department of Sociology and Vice President for Students Affairs at Syracuse before his appointment at Harvard University in 1974.

Willie was a guest lecturer at Temple University, February 2006, participating in the celebration of Black History and Women's History Months. The lecture entitled “To Whom Does the Mainstream Belong: Minorities or the Majority? Women or Men?” was sponsored by Temple Universities Libraries.

The Post-Standard daily newspaper in Syracuse, New York, dedicated a full article to Charles Willie’s interpretation of why Martin Luther King, Jr. was an effective leader of grassroots social actions. The article entitled “Without His Mentors, We Couldn’t Honor King” was written by Sean Kirst and published Monday, January 16, 2006. King and Willie were classmates at Morehouse College in Atlanta from 1944 to 1948. While pursuing the B.A. degree, both Willie and King had academic concentrations in sociology.

Cheryl G. Najarian of the University of Massachusetts Lowell has published a new book with Routledge Press titled Between Worlds: Deaf Women, Work, and Intersections of Gender and Ability.

Davita Silfen Glasberg of the University of Connecticut was featured in an article in the University of Connecticut "Advance" showcasing a new course she developed with Bandana Purkayastha (UCONN), “Human Rights in the United States.” The course is the latest addition to a growing interdisciplinary Human Rights Minor program at the university.

Jean Shin leaves McDaniel College to become the new director of the Minority Affairs at the American Sociological Association. Shin has coordinated the employment table at the ESS annual meetings for the past two years.

In Memory of Elliot Freidson and Mary Holley

On a sad note, we remembered two outstanding members of ESS who died during 2005: Eliot Freidson and Mary Holley. Freidson was president of the Eastern Sociological Society 1985-1986 and spent most of his academic career and New York University. Mary Holley was Treasurer of ESS from 2001 to 2003 and spent most of her academic career at Montclair State University in New Jersey. They both will be sorely missed.
Zippel responded to the thoughtful and well-formulated questions by locating her work at the intersection of work and sexuality, noting that feminists have long argued that the economic sphere is never politically or sexually neutral but instead is gendered. And finally, she more directly addressed the issues raised by Daly and Dobbin by reiterating that her comparative work shows how each jurisdiction varies according to its socio-historic setting and legal structures. She makes clear that she did not intend to delimit changes in sexual harassment laws and policies to feminist activism alone. Rather, her intent was to note the strong and critical role feminist agency played in getting the issue of sexual harassment onto the agenda of each country and the European Union.

American Society of Criminology Student Paper Competition

The Division on Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology is sponsoring a student paper competition. Any student currently enrolled at the undergraduate or graduate level. Papers should be of professional quality and must be about or related to feminist scholarship; gender issues; or women as offenders, victims or professionals.

Papers must be no longer than 35 pages including all references, notes, and tables; utilize an acceptable referencing format such as APA or MLA; be type-written and double-spaced; and include an abstract of 100 words. Submissions must include verification of student status. Papers by multiple student authors are acceptable. Papers may not be published, accepted, or under review for publication at the time of submission. Papers must be submitted by September 15, 2006 to the Awards Committee.

The Awards Committee will evaluate the papers based on significance of the topic, conceptualization, analysis (if appropriate) and clarity of the writing. A winner will be presented a plaque by the Division on Women and Crime at the American Society of Criminology annual meeting in Los Angeles and a $500.00 cash award to the winner of the undergraduate paper competition and $250 to the winner of the graduate paper competition. In cases in which there are multiple authors, the award will be divided among the recipients.

Please provide 4 copies of submissions to: Stacey Nofziger, Ph.D.; Department of Sociology; Olin Hall 247; University of Akron; Akron, OH 44325-1905; Email: sn18@uakron.edu; Phone: 330-972-5364; Fax: 330-972-5377

An Invitation for Contribution Authors

Sage Publications has announced that it will publish in 2007 a two-volume, multidisciplinary Encyclopedia of Social Problems, a premier reference tool for students, scholars, and professionals with a wide variety of specialties.

General Editor Vincent N. Parrillo invites author contributors for the 700 entries of varying lengths (500, 1,000, 1,500, or 2,500 words). If you are interested in writing an entry (with a byline), send an e-mail to parrillov@wpunj.edu, giving your name, affiliation, address, phone number, c.v., and a short list of subject areas of greatest interest to you.

Presidential Letter

That is, of course, deliberately broad and intended to spark the broadest possible discussion of social inequality in American life. We live in difficult often depressing times. Yet, I am reminded of what the long time editor of the Nation Victor Navasky, used to say: “What’s bad for the country is good for The Nation.” So too with Sociology. Bad times bring out the best in us as sociologists. Bad times remind us of why we decided to dedicate our lives to the study of society in the first place. Which I suppose means that this should be a very good time for sociology. Looking forward to seeing you all in Philadelphia.
The Eastern Sociological Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in sociological scholarship and instruction. It has approximately 1000 members, most of whom live and work in the Northeastern United States. The ESS sponsors a professional journal (Sociological Forum), a four-day Annual Meeting in the spring, a newsletter, numerous award competitions, an employment service, and a listserv.

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