Letter from the President

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to a new year of Wisconsin Sociological Association (WSA) membership! This past October, we held our conference jointly with the Wisconsin Political Science Association (WPSA) at Ripon College in Ripon, WI. What a success! Among WSA constituents, we had over thirty folks attending from as far away as River Falls (234 miles). Besides faculty participation, thirteen undergraduate students showcased their research projects, two of whom also received the WSA annual “Outstanding Student Paper” award. The WSA and WPSA take pride in the mentoring of undergraduate research in our state, and in the talent and hard work of our undergraduates.

Jackie Clark and Ripon College provided a beautiful setting for the meeting. Ripon College President Zach Messitte kindly greeted us during the lunch hour and provided his fascinating view of education today and his visions for the future. Thanks also go to Wes Chaplin, President of the WPSA for his collaborative effort to help bring it all together!

Sessions were well-attended and the interdisciplinary nature of the participants made for provocative discussion. Besides general paper sessions related to Sociology, Political Science, or a blend, there were sessions on Study Abroad Education, Experiential and Online Learning, and Undergraduate Student Research. I learned some great tips on service-learning assignments from Greg Peter of UW-Fox Valley as well as a creative in-class collaborative learning exercise related to “State Building” from Wes Chaplin from UW-River Falls. For example, in designing service-learning, besides ensuring the project links to the curriculum, that partnerships with the community are respected and maintained, or that there is some kind of reflection assignment included, it is very important to give students a large responsibility in the service planning. Students benefit from identifying not only the organization they wish to serve but also in defining the desired learning outcomes, the plan for the implementation of their service, and how to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their work. What a great way to foster leadership among our students!

Read on in this newsletter to learn more about the student paper awards as well as our other award winners. Recognizing the commitment of our colleagues is an important piece to doing our work. Also find out more details about next year’s conference to be hosted at UW-Whitewater, October 10, 2014. And finally, discover how WSA is going digital!

As your new President of WSA, I look forward to the years to come!

Leda Nath

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WSA Officers

President:
Leda Nath

President-Elect:
Sheila Bluhm

Secretary:
Robert Greene

Treasurer:
Marlene Fisher

Editor, SI:
Margarita Alario

Nomination Committee Members:
Jackie Clark
Carol Miller
Wayne Thompson
Mark Eaton
Tricia Davis

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www.uwrf.edu/SOCI/WSA/Index.cfm www.facebook.com/TheWSA
New Sociological Imagination Editor

Margarita V. Alario, Ph.D. is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Criminology and Anthropology as well as a member of the Environmental Sciences Major at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. She is the author of a book, several chapters in books, and over 21 articles in peer-reviewed journals. She also served as a guest editor for a special issue on environmental issues with the International Journal of Contemporary Sociology. She has been the recipient of the Fulbright Award, among several other national and international Awards. She serves in the Award Committee of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences. In 2012 she accepted to be a permanent member of the Board of the Klima Forum Latin-American Network as well as becoming a Research Associate. KLN is an independent network of scientists, academics, journalists, among other disciplines, for Latin America. Her research interests include social scientific theories of risk, energy policy, environmental and technological risks, social and environmental impact assessment of climatic changes, and natural resources, governance and conflict.

From the Editor: As the incoming Editor of the Sociological Imagination journal, I am committed to continue the peer-reviewed demands upheld by this journal. One of my interest as Editor is to invite qualified Guest Editors to pursue special issues on multiple topics. Given my field of expertise, environmental issues and problems, broadly defined, are of keen interest. And while this is a primarily sociological journal, I hope to see member of other disciplines share their research with us.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Awards

In the WSA 2013 Undergraduate Paper Competition we had some great submissions. Papers submitted for the award may vary in their nature and methodology. They are judged in terms of their employment of a distinctly sociological perspective, their demonstration of critical intelligence, and their contribution to existing knowledge. The papers were very well received by the reviewers — and I think that tells us something about the dedication of the WSA Faculty in supporting students doing undergraduate research.

Third place goes to Diana Mantey from UW-Whitewater. Her advisor was Dr. Bob Greene. Diana’s paper was titled “Shortchanged Boys: Restrictions in Educational Literacy and its Effects on Young Males.” Her paper examines masculinity in American society, the socialization of contemporary boys, and how an existing myth implying that young boys are extremely susceptible to the violence and aggression portrayed in the media and popular culture has resulted in young boys being “shortchanged” in terms of literacy in education. One reviewer commented that the paper had one of the better abstracts seen. There was also a clear indication the focus of the paper was sociological in nature. Another reviewer commented that the paper “stimulates thought — which a good paper should do! The theoretical discussion was clear, well argued and internally consistent.”

Second place goes to Jena Roscizewski from Ripon College. Her advisor was Dr. Marc Eaton. Jena’s paper was titled “Kennel Confessions: The Creation of Fictive Kin Among Animal Shelter Employees.” Her paper is a good application of two theories — Goffman’s ideas of dramaturgy and Weston’s idea of fictive kin within the context of an animal shelter. One author commented, “the real strength of this research is that the author didn’t simply look at the connections between variables but discussed a sociological process!” The latter is a much more difficult paper to write, and the reviewer admired the outcome. Furthermore, the contribution to...
The Sewell research award is given for outstanding research contributions in sociology. The 2013 Sewell award was given to two superb candidates, Professor Marvin Free at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Professor Helen Rosenberg at University of Wisconsin-Parkside. These two awardees are very impressive having set high standards for their research. Professor Free has published a co-authored textbook in criminology and a book and several journal articles on wrongful convictions of African American men. Professor Rosenberg has published books and journal articles on deinstitutionalization and mental disorder as well as works on community policing. Both of these researchers are exemplars of the public sociologist. Their work spans the arenas of academic sociology, evaluation research and public policy research. Leda Nath, UW-Whitewater, introduced Professor Free and Wayne Thompson, Carthage College, introduced Professor Rosenberg at the 2013 WSA awards luncheon at Ripon College.

William H. Sewell Award Winners: Two!

Wayne Thompson

The Sewell research award is given for outstanding research contributions in sociology. The 2013 Sewell award was given to two superb candidates, Professor Marvin Free at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Professor Helen Rosenberg at University of Wisconsin-Parkside. These two awardees are very impressive having set high standards for their research. Professor Free has published a co-authored textbook in criminology and a book and several journal articles on wrongful convictions of African American men. Professor Rosenberg has published books and journal articles on deinstitutionalization and mental disorder as well as works on community policing. Both of these researchers are exemplars of the public sociologist. Their work spans the arenas of academic sociology, evaluation research and public policy research. Leda Nath, UW-Whitewater, introduced Professor Free and Wayne Thompson, Carthage College, introduced Professor Rosenberg at the 2013 WSA awards luncheon at Ripon College.
George Floro Outstanding Service to the Discipline Award

This award was bestowed upon Leda Nath of UW-Whitewater. In addition to her service to WSA as treasurer, in his nominating letter Ronald Berger wrote, “She has served as a statistical consultant to the Office of Justice Assistance, the assessment coordinator and lecture series host to the Monona Senior Center, a representative to the America for Democracy Program, a panelist at a Wisconsin Academic Advising Association conference, and a consultant on student projects at Madison College.” She also served the Office of Professional and Instructional Development and publishes about teaching sociology. Professor Marvin Free described her as an “outstanding colleague” deserving this recognition.

Newly Elected Officers

We would like to thank you for your participation in the voting process to elect our new officers! We welcome Leda Nath (UW-Whitewater) as President, and Sheila Bluhm as President-Elect (Mid-State Technical College). Also, we welcome Margarita Alario as Editor and Abbey Larsen as Assistant Editor (both form UW-Whitewater) for our peer-reviewed journal, Sociological Imagination. For our awards, Marc Eaton of Ripon College takes over as Chair for the Hans O. Mauksch Outstanding Teaching Award. Carol Miller of UW-La Crosse remains Chair of the George Floro Outstanding Service to the Discipline Award, and Wayne Thompson of Carthage College remains Chair of the William H. Sewell Award. Finally, Tricia Davis of UW-River Falls continues to chair the Undergraduate Student Paper Award. Also, a special thank you to Dorothy Kou who served as a student worker helping with the creation of flyers as well as some key changes related to helping WSA go digital. And let me introduce myself, Bob Greene, continuing as Secretary.

2014 Conference

We are teaming up again with the Wisconsin Political Science Association (WPSA) to bring you another interdisciplinary and engaging conference! On Friday, October 10, 2014, we’ll gather to talk about “Glocalization: Theories, Issues & Practices,” or any other sociological or political science topic. The setting will be the UW-Whitewater campus. If you are interested in organizing a session or presenting a paper or poster, please email Leda Nath at nathl@uww.edu. Stay tuned for how to register for this conference online. In the meantime, renew your membership for 2014 now. You may use the form at the back of this newsletter, or visit our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/TheWSA.

Far left: Secretary Bob Green and Editor Maggie Alario sit for a break at the recent WSA conference. Above and left: Mark Eaton, Abby Larson, Dorothy Kou, and Sheila Bluhm.
The WSA is beginning to incorporate more technology into its operations to make access easier for you. For starters, we maintain our home webpage hosted on the UW-River Falls Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice site (www.uwrf.edu/SCIC/WSA/Index.cfm). There you may access all paper form related to Membership and Student Travel Grants. Additionally, last year we launched a Facebook Page where we sometimes post announcements or photos related to WSA or sociology in general (www.facebook.com/TheWSA). Whether you are Facebook user or not, you may visit and access all information on our Facebook page. On that site, we’ve recently added a PayPal button to renew your membership online!

For the 2014 conference, we will be sending out a one-stop webpage where you may register and pay online. This will be launched in Spring this year. Keep an eye open for an email announcing this!

Don’t despair if you prefer to maintain membership via the paper method. We continue to welcome paper membership via the postal service. You may mail in your membership to Marlene Fisher, WSA Treasurer, Sociology & Criminal Justice Department, 900 Viterbo Drive, LaCrosse, WI 54601.

However you prefer to do it, stay connected to us. Your membership makes for engaging and compelling conversation! Join today!

In the coming months, we will be sending you a Membership Network survey which will be used to create a WI state WSA sociologist database. As members, you are eligible to receive this booklet which highlights members names, contact information, and areas of expertise in teaching, service and research. By completing the survey, you agree to be listed in the booklet. You may indicate in your profile whether you are open or not to be contacted by others for collaboration.

Participation is voluntary, of course!
Membership in WSA includes a subscription to the journal *Sociological Imagination*, informative WSA Newsletters, and the Roster of Wisconsin Sociologists. Also, please consider making a donation to the WSA Endowment Fund (any amount), which serves as a critical resource for funding student awards, student travel grants, and for meeting rising costs of the publication of *Sociological Imagination*.

### Member Information

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**TOTAL** $

Mail your check(s) and this completed form to:

Marlene Fisher, WSA Treasurer  
Soc, Social Work & Criminal Justice  
900 Viterbo Dr.  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

### Optional WSA Endowment Fund Donation:

*(Make a separate check payable to UWSP Foundation)* $