A Note from Carol Miller, WSA President

WSA recently lost an important and active member. George Floro passed away on September 19th, 2011. He was 92.

George was past editor of the Wisconsin Sociologist (which later became the Sociological Imagination) and developed the mission, or should I say, spirit of the journal. From his perspective, the journal was not just a publication for sociologists to share their work, it was a venue for communication between sociologists, especially those in Wisconsin. He valued the connections the journal and WSA fostered, which humanized our profession.

The WSA has an award dedicated to George Floro. This award is presented to a member or a department that has offered applied sociological insights to help governments or communities solve local problems or that has increased public awareness of the value of sociology in understanding the world we live in. This award is dedicated to George because that’s what he did. George often presented papers or posters about the work groups of people were doing in their own communities, using sociological insights, whether they knew it or not. Of course, George wasn’t just studying these groups; he was a member, dedicated to serving the communities in which he lived.

As Leda Nath, WSA treasurer wrote, “He had an amazing life of service!” Past president Greg Peter said it best, “George was the embodiment of the sociological imagination and of the WSA, we will all strive to be like him.” Tricia Davis, editor of Sociological Imagination, said “He was an inspiration!” According to George’s son, Chuck Floro, George was “…still learning from life’s experiences during his last days, writing a statement which will appear in a [forthcoming] book…” It’s wonderful to know that George’s vision of sociology and sociologists lives on.

George Floro’s obituary: http://www.alpineavalanche.com/obituaries/article_a0cd1ba-e301-11e0-8abe-001ce4c002e0.html
The Investigations Continue!

The WSA and WPSA met in La Crosse, Wisconsin on October 14th, 2011, and we discovered that our faculty and student members are exploring and analyzing important social and political issues. Topics of research papers presented at the conference included, the effects of proposed mining operations in Wisconsin, infusing diversity and service learning in higher education, political activism and lobbying, medical biases and more. In addition to the myriad of research and teaching ideas exchanged, fourteen students presented papers and posters, providing them an important professional experience in a relaxed and supportive venue.

Morning presentations were followed by our luncheon and awards presentation. The WPSA presented their award for outstanding student paper. The WSA announced the winners of the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition and the Hans O. Mauksch and George Floro Awards for teaching and service to the discipline of sociology.

After lunch, students met informally with Carol Miller to discuss their plans for graduate school, while faculty participated in the workshop, “Tested Teaching Tips Workshop: How to Get Your Students So Engaged They Won’t Even Realize They’re Learning Something!” Jo Arney (WPSA), Timothy Dale (WPSA), Jackie Clark (WSA) and Leda Nath (WSA) shared their methods of generating stimulating discussions in the classroom and online. Workshop participants received a certificate of completion. Finally, at our afternoon business meeting, WSA members discussed future meeting sites and the future of the organization’s journal, *The Sociological Imagination*. We also requested nominees for President-Elect and Secretary, two positions that will be open for 2012-2014. Leda Nath (current treasurer and President-Elect nominee) suggested that we contact public relations offices at our various universities and colleges to get assistance in spreading the word about the benefits of membership and participation in WSA.

We certainly accomplished a lot during our one-day annual meeting! Of course, the most valuable reward of our conference is getting together with colleagues from around the state to share teaching and research ideas and to find out what’s going on in each other’s departments.

Call for Submissions!

*Sociological Imagination* wants your interesting sociological research or theory article. Get valuable feedback on your manuscript and get your article published in WSA’s official peer-reviewed journal.

For submission guidelines go to: [http://www.uwrf.edu/SOCI/SociologicalImagination.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/SOCI/SociologicalImagination.cfm)

Send submissions to:

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New Sociological Imagination Editor in 2012

Kathleen A. Lamb will take over as editor of *SI* next year. Dr. Lamb is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. An Ohio native, Professor Lamb received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Bowling Green State University in 2005 and was awarded tenure at UWSP in 2010. Currently in her eighth year at the University, Professor Lamb teaches courses in introductory sociology, marriage and family, adolescence, childhood, and cross-cultural perspectives on the family. Her current research focuses on links between mentoring during adolescence and civic and political participation during young adulthood among Latino and African American youth. An ardent traveler and foodie, Professor Lamb was coordinator for the 2007 fall semester abroad to Poland and East-Central Europe, and has journeyed to Ireland twice as well. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, going to the gym, reading, walking/hiking, spending time with friends, and planning her next travels. Welcome aboard Dr. Lamb!
WSA Elections

WSA is having elections for secretary and president-elect. Your ballot is enclosed with the newsletter along with information on the candidates. Online balloting is preferred—follow the link in the attached ballot. Alternatively, you may submit your ballot to WSA president Carol Miller at cmiller@uwlax.edu or via snail mail to the address at the right by December 12, 2011.

2011 WSA Award Winners

The George Floro Award for Outstanding Service in the Discipline was awarded to the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. As the letter of nomination for them read, “The UWW members of the WSA have participated actively in the WSA over the last thirty years, but just as importantly have displayed a commitment to the discipline at the state level, been recognized nationally for contributions to teaching and fought to keep the association journal a vital part of the WSA.”

The Hans O. Mauksch Award for Outstanding Teaching was awarded to Jennifer Flad, from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Dr. Flad was recognized for her dedication to students. Leda Nath wrote, “She stands out in our department as one of the most loved and effective professors among faculty and students at UWW while also maintaining a reputation for being challenging.” Additionally, Dr. Flad has taken full advantage of many professional development opportunities. She is a former UW-system Teaching Fellow. As one student stated, “There should be more professors like Dr. Flad because she provides a fun and intellectual style of learning. That is what college should be about.”

The Undergraduate Student Paper Competition First Place Winner was Ethan Rogers from UW-La Crosse for his paper “Substance Use and Risky Behavior among High School Students: A Partial Test of the Ecological Risk Factor Model.” The Second Place Winner was Molly Boss, also from UW-La Crosse for her paper “The Importance of ‘My Wife and Kids’ to the Desistance Process.”

We’re on the web: http://www.uwrf.edu/SOCl/WSAWelcome.cfm