



WSSA NEWS

Volume 49, Issue 2

Fall 2017



President's Soapbox



by Barbara Bonnekessen
President

During the last WSSA Council meeting, we slightly adjusted the mission statement to include that WSSA aims to “promote social justice, equitable treatment, and the application of due process to all peoples.” I have definite opinions about these three concepts, opinions that are informed primarily by my background as a cultural anthropologist and as a German who grew up with the “Never Again!” oath we swear to all peoples in the world.

But in the USA, I am a registered alien. Until November 2016, that meant that I present myself for a background check every ten years, that I am forbidden to engage in any political action or activism (from voting to protesting), that I have no political representation, but that in all other aspects, I was a proper human being, despite the term “alien” invoking that extraterrestrial feeling that use of “foreigner” would not. But that has ended.

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Featured Article

Upcoming Conference Changes



by Larry Gould
Executive Director

I think that we are all aware of the increasing fractionalization of American politics. While we want to ensure an open discussion of social science issues, we also want to create a safe environment in which these discussions can be held. So, we are making the following three changes.

Many conferences are starting to feel the impact of “Conference Crashers”. These are non-conference people staying in the conference hotel, who register in the conference room block, and try to attend receptions and other food events, without paying the conference fees. They take eat up food that should go to attendees, and more importantly, they take up the lower-rate rooms that are needed by legitimate attendees.

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Viewing the Journal

Membership in the Western Social Science Association includes a subscription to *The Social Science Journal*. Members have always received their printed copy of the *Journal* at the address they gave when registering for the conference or paying annual dues.

Members will continue to receive their printed copies, as usual. However, our publisher, Elsevier, gives members another option.

Members can log into Elsevier's website and view *The Social Science Journal* for free, using their Western Social Science Association member ID number.

Now you can read the *Journal* on your laptop, tablet, or smart phone, wherever you are.

Your member ID number is the registration ID number that was on your online receipt when you preregistered for the last conference.

WSSA NEWS

2017 - 2018

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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 the social sciences, as well as to promote social justice, equitable treatment, and the application of due process for all peoples. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA now draws on scholars and others in over 30 disciplines, or "sections," from all over the world. WSSA convenes an annual conference, publishes the *Social Science Journal*, a juried quarterly research journal, and the *WSSA News*, the association's newsletters. WSSA annual membership dues are included in the annual conference registration. For those who will not be joining us at the conference, but would still like to be voting members and to receive the publications, subscription-only memberships can be purchased from our website. Prices are \$45 (individual); \$60 (includes spouse); \$35 (student); \$30 (retired). For further information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, 2307 Chof Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005, phone: 928-606-2248, e-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu

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President's Soapbox

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Now, there is an office within ICE, the "Victims Of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) Office to acknowledge and serve the needs of crime victims and their families who have been affected by crimes committed by individuals with a nexus to immigration." This office serves "Any person who is affected by criminal activity allegedly perpetrated by criminal aliens"

(<https://www.ice.gov/voice>). There is a long history of "aliens" being equated with "criminals."

Now, the 1974 Privacy Act, covering citizens and legal residents, is adjusted for Homeland Security to "expand the categories of records to include the following: country of nationality; country of residence; the USCIS Online Account Number; social media handles, aliases, associated identifiable information, and search results" for lawful permanent residents, naturalized U.S. citizens, and anybody helping a non-American with a disability (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/09/18/2017-19365/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records>). Not even becoming a citizen removes the taint of being an alien.

Now, a presidential order bans people from traveling into the US for no other crime than their nationality. In the first three months of 2017, that cost the American tourism industry nearly \$2.7 billion (<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2017/9/21/1700334/-The-Trump-slump-continues-700-000-fewer-foreign-tourists-billions-in-lost-revenue>). My own university lost 100 international students, a loss not only of sorely needed revenue, but, much more importantly, of the opportunity for human beings to meet, converse with, and appreciate each other.

Now, Nazis, Klansmen (and women), and their various philosophical offspring march in the streets, harass university professors, demand that black men ought to stop quietly protesting the state's brutality against black women and men, and fervently agitate for women to lose their personhood. And in Germany, where we ought to know and do better, the AfD just moved into government.

I have always taken that oath seriously and have spoken out against racism, sexism, and all forms of discrimination quite loudly. And, yes, I pinned on the safety pin last November. I fully and unashamedly took advantage of the privileged position I inhabit by being seen as white and disrupted American ideas about the dark-skinned alien. And I scoffed at getting The Look, that facial expression people get when I start speaking and they realize they are facing an alien (good gawd, she's got an accent!), I disregarded the frequent "so, when are you going home again?" that never refers to my house, I even took the risk of identifying as an agnostic in a country where few people agree that religion is a personal choice.

But now I and a few million of my closest friends have been declared too dangerous to be allowed to live our lives in peace, to contribute to your society with our work, to help those who are targeted by hatred and disdain. We can't even help ourselves.

If you are like so many Americans who right now say something akin to "it's not that bad" or "nothing will happen – it's all just words" or who just turn away because what happens to other human beings is just not their problem, then continue to

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Featured Article

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That prompted the first change : The WSSA Executive Council has discussed a stricter adherence to the wearing of nametags by conference attendees, so in the hope of discouraging these conference crashers, we have now decided that the wearing of names tags while attending conference events and while in the conference area will be mandatory.

The second change is also an attempt to discourage "Conference Crashers": all conference events will now require "tickets". The Welcoming Reception, the Friday Morning Breakfast and the Presidents' Reception will remain free to all registered conference attendees, but we will be asking attendees at the time of conference registration if they plan to attend any or all of these events. Based on the individual responses we will provide appropriate "ticketing" in the conference registration packet.

For the past several years WSSA has provided an open bar at the receptions. Our legal representative has informed us that that this could lead to liability issues. If some attendees drink more than they should because the drinks were free, and then get into trouble because of the excess drinking, the Association could be held responsible. This prompted the third change : Beginning at the 2018 conference, we will give each attendee, at events at which alcohol is served, two free drink tickets. Additional beverages can be purchased for cash at the reception bar.

To sum up, the following changes are now in effect :

- 1.) Nametags are now mandatory for all conference events.
- 2.) Tickets are now required for all conference events.
- 3.) The Association will provide two free drinks at the Welcoming and President's Receptions, but any further drinks must be purchased by the individual attendees.

WSSA 2018 Exempt From California Travel Ban

by Larry Gould
Executive Director

The State of California has put into effect a travel ban for state-supported travel to Texas. We have been in contact with the Attorney General's Office in California concerning the impact of the travel ban on scholars from California who might plan to travel to the WSSA Conference in San Antonio in April of 2018. The representative from with Attorney General's Office stated to WSSA individually and to the news media collectively that the ban on travel would not impact any contractual agreements that were in place prior to the implementation of the ban. The contract with the Hyatt Regency San Antonio was signed in April of 2013, years before the implementation of the travel ban. WSSA was advised that faculty members seeking travel funds from any of the state-supported institutions should make their travel office aware of this exemption when requesting travel funds for attendance at the April 2018

President's Soapbox

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do nothing. But if you are a WSSA member who is convinced that to “promote social justice, equitable treatment, and the application of due process to all peoples” is, indeed, at the heart of the Social Sciences and therefore of WSSA, go read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>), the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/512/07/PDF/N0651207.pdf?OpenElement>), and my personal favorite, CEDAW (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>).

And then act on them.

Because we've done this before:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.*

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Martin Niemöller

Reflections on San Francisco



by Michèle Companion
WSSA President 2017-2018
Immediate Past-President 2018-2019

It is hard to believe that another WSSA conference has come and gone! San Francisco was a great venue for socializing, exploring, networking, and presenting. I loved the hotel staff and the beautiful flowered and shady grottos immediately outside the hotel to explore or just sit peacefully. There were amazing restaurants a stone's throw away to sample and stellar views of the Bay to enjoy. Outside the hotel, along Market Street, artists' booths provided a variety of fascinating people to talk to (I'm a sociable sociologist – I chat with everyone!) and creative gifts to peruse.

However, most exciting to me, as your President, was seeing so many old friends and lots of new faces! We had scholars attending from as far away as South Africa! We also had an incredible set of future colleagues presenting at the Student Poster competition (thanks to Bill Schaniel and Chris Brown for organizing this!). I hope you had a chance to hear these scholars present their work and to vote. Great stuff! One of the things that I truly love about WSSA is our commitment to our future and current colleagues. It is more than just a motto; our dedication to scholarship and collegiality is central to who we are as an organization and as a collection of individuals. This is reflected in our paper competitions for undergraduates and graduate students.

It is also demonstrated through our Outstanding Emerging Scholar Awards. I was honored to present the awards this year to a trio of individuals who truly embody the award title. They presented incredible papers at the conference. I hope you had a chance to say hello to them or hear their presentations.



Dr. Subini Annamma, Department of Special Education, University of Kansas, was the 2017 Past-President's awardee. She is pictured, above left, with then-**Immediate-Past President Heather Albanesi** after receiving her award.



Dr. A.J. Faas, San Jose State University Department of Anthropology (pictured above right), is the President's Outstanding Emerging Scholar Award winner for 2017. A.J. is headed off to address the United Nations on the impacts of climate change on indigenous populations, along with **Julie K. Maldonado** (UC – Santa Barbara), who was the 2016 President-Elect's Outstanding Emerging Scholar winner.

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Dr. Lauren Balasco, Political Science and International Studies, Pittsburg State University (pictured below), was presented with the 2017 President-Elect's Outstanding Emerging Scholar Award by **Barbara Bonnekesen**.



Now, for those of you who are wondering why I would be attending the President's Luncheon in a t-shirt, I promise I wasn't being disrespectful! I was representing for our WSSA Gives Back Fund-raising partners, the SF-Marin Food Bank! The WSSA Gives Back is truly one that belongs to my heart. Having been a child growing up on food commodities, childhood hunger and its impacts are the central drivers in my career and personal life. I have always been impressed with the way WSSA has developed initiatives that contribute to our host communities. We do this fund-raiser annually during the Poster Competition at the Friday breakfast. I have been honored to be the event coordinator for several years now and I am so happy to see that it has become a part of our organizational culture.

Thanks to the WSSA, who matches your individual contributions dollar for dollar, and to all of you contributed this year, we raised \$3000! **Cody Jang** (pictured below), from the SF-Marin Food Bank, accepted our check. He let us know that our contribution would provide 9,000 meals!

That is truly incredible.

I'd love to be able to take credit for getting this successful fund-raising model up and running, but I can't. I inherited it from **Heather Albanesi**, our Immediate Past-President in 2016-2017.



She really got this up and running for the WSSA. I was pleased to recognize her as a food champion for all of her incredible work over the years.

I can only hope that I have left **Tony Amato**, who will be taking over for our conference next year in San Antonio, a model that will continue to grow!



Thank you for the incredible opportunity to be your President. I look forward to continuing to serve you as your Immediate Past-President. See you in San Antonio!



Submissions to WSSA News:

The WSSA News accepts proposals for articles of general interest from members, including students, faculty, researchers, and public agency employees.

The articles should be written from a social science perspective, on topics that should be of interest to social scientists in other disciplines, who are well-educated but not necessarily very familiar with the writer's discipline. They should NOT be anything that would appear in a peer-reviewed journal - they need to be much more reader-friendly, even humorous, if the writer is so inclined.

Potential authors should write about something that just interests them, that isn't formal enough, or doesn't have enough weight, for a scientific publication, but that they'd like to "put out there". These may include observations of interesting behavior, explanations of (social science) pet peeves, essays on topics that are important to understanding the world but are little understood outside the author's field, etc.

Articles may be any length from a couple of paragraphs to a couple of pages, and do not need much, if anything, in the way of footnotes and citations, although those would be welcome if the writer thinks they would be useful. Cartoons and other alternate forms of visual communication may also be submitted, and illustrations for the articles are welcome.

Articles must be original, and they may not have been previously, or concurrently, published.

Acceptance of any submission is solely at the discretion of the editor.

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN---ANTONIO? A TUTORIAL FOR TEXAS VISITORS

by Debra D. Andrist

Sam Houston State University



Those of us of a certain vintage may have remembered the Burt Bacharach/Dionne Warwick song referenced in the title above as we found our way in 2017 to the WSSA conference. However, while we weren't actually in San José, we WERE in neighboring San Francisco. In 2018, we will find our way to the second "San" in a row, San Antonio, Texas (which precedes our next "San," San Diego, in 2019). The Western Social Science Association's 2018 conference will take place in San Antonio, Texas, April 4, 2018, through April 7, 2018.

With the resources of several websites, this introduction to the Lone Star State focuses on some lesser-known facts and lore. To prepare you for your visit, did you know that Texas is famous for

"BIGGEST AND BESTEST AND MOSTEST" CLAIMS

Texas is larger than any country in Europe. It's the second-largest state in the USA, but if it were a country, it would be the world's 40th-largest in terms of land area. An independent Texas would also have the world's 14th-largest economy, just behind Spain and ahead of Mexico.

- ◆ El Paso is closer to California than it is to Dallas.
- ◆ According to the 1845 state constitution, Texas may, if it so desires, subdivide into five smaller states.
- ◆ Texas has, at one time or another, flown the flag of six separate nations: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America and the USA.
- ◆ The 825,000-acre King Ranch in South Texas is larger than the state of Rhode Island, and has about 50,000 head of cattle and over 2,000 miles of fencing.
- ◆ The fastest road in the USA is in Austin. At 85 miles per hour, the 41-mile stretch south of the state's capitol is the Autobahn of the States.
- ◆ Seven Texas cities have all had their turn at being the state's capital: Washington on the Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco, West Columbia, Houston and Austin.
- ◆ Inspiring Body of Christ Church, a Dallas megachurch, spent \$4.7 million on an aquarium wall.

SOME NOTSOBESTEST "BIGGESTS" AND "MOSTEST"

- ◆ A hurricane that struck Galveston in 1900 was the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history. Although an exact total of those killed is impossible to ascertain at this late date, estimates range from 6,000 to 12,000. By comparison, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 claimed 1,800 lives.
- ◆ Texas' carbon dioxide emissions are higher than any other state, and higher than all but six countries in the world. Much of this is due to emissions produced during petroleum refining and chemical manufacturing.
- ◆ Texas has a total of 130,500 acres of farmland (crop farming, as opposed to ranching), more farmland than any other state. Texas, however, is also losing what remains of its open land at a rapid rate—1,572 square miles of farmland, prairies and woodlands have been eliminated over the past 10 years. This is more than twice the amount of lost land as the next biggest offender, Florida.

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WSSA Expands Social Media Presence

WSSA created its first continuing social media presence just about a year ago, with a page on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/wssapage/>).



The Association has recently decided to expand its media presence, and will open accounts on several other sites. We will announce new accounts as they are opened, on the “Latest News” section of the WSSA website, in the WSSA newsletter, and of course on our other media sites.

Social Media falls under the direction of the WSSA Communications Director. When the only site that needed to be monitored was Facebook, monitoring it could easily be incorporated into the Communications duties, but as we expand, we expect the workload to expand as well. In the most recent Executive Council meeting, Council member Meghna Sabharwal volunteered to assist with the day-to-day operations of the sites.

Dr. Sabharwal first got involved with WSSA as a doctoral student at Arizona State University. She presented her work at the 2006 conference in Phoenix, has been presenting subsequently in the Asian Studies section. She is the current section coordinator of Asian Studies, and in many ways owes her launch to her academic career to WSSA. She is currently serving on the WSSA executive council, and is the coordinator for social media. She is requesting all section coordinators to send her pertinent information related to awards, publications, and achievements of WSSA members that can be highlighted on the Facebook page of WSSA. Please send materials to me-ghna.sabharwal@utdallas.edu



Meghna Sabharwal is a tenured associate professor and a Ph.D. Director at The University of Texas at Dallas in the [Public and Nonprofit Management program](#). Her research expertise lies in public human resource management, specifically related to workplace diversity, job satisfaction, performance, comparative human resource management,

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VARIABLE WEATHER

- ◆ On March 27, 1984, in Amarillo (pronounced Am-a ril-a), the temperature was a chilly 35 and there was snow on the ground but in Brownsville, the mercury hit a record-breaking 106 degrees.
- ◆ A Texas law states that to “modify” the weather, placing a notification in the local newspaper first is required. (This is a real law that is on the books.)

OTHER UNIQUE LAWS

- ◆ It is illegal to graffiti a cow. Since a cow is a chattel (property), defacing it would be considered vandalism. In a state where livestock has a

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What is an authentic Czech Kolache?



by Mark Melichar
Tennessee Technical University

The 60th Annual Conference of the WSSA will be held in San Antonio, TX. If you have never been, it is Texas’ 3rd largest metropolitan area and has been made famous by its lovely Riverwalk. This may all be familiar to you, but what may not be is a certain type of pastry found throughout the Lone Star state: kolaches. My beef with kolaches found in Texas is just that, the beef. The first time I came across these “kolaches”, I was shocked and appalled, as any good Czech would be. As I have come to know and love them, traditional Czech kolaches are something much different.

Thousands of Czech immigrants made the journey across the Atlantic Ocean during parts of the 19th and 20th century, and settled in many different places around the United States. However, two states in particular stand out as magnets for Czech immigrants: Nebraska and Texas. Growing up in Nebraska a mere ten miles from the self-proclaimed Czech Capital of the U.S.A., and having half of my family heritage identify as Czech, I was well aware of kolaches since an early age.

Traditional Czech kolaches are sweet pastries filled with either a fruit or cheese filling (I have also seen poppy-seed or nuts). If you have never had one, the closest comparison that comes to mind is a Danish, but of course I’m biased to think kolaches are superior.

So, when your plane touches down in San Antonio next spring and you need a little snack, make sure you try an authentic Czech kolache; I guarantee you won’t be disappointed. You may also be curious and want to try the Texas version filled with meat, and by all means, go ahead, but please don’t call it a kolache.

Future Conferences

2019 San Diego, California –

Manchester Grand Hyatt
April 24, 2019 through April 27, 2019

2020 Portland, Oregon --

Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront
April 1, 2020 through April 4, 2020

2021 Albuquerque, New Mexico --

Albuquerque Hyatt Downtown
March 24, 2021 through March 27, 2021

2022 Denver, Colorado --

Denver Marriott City Center
March 30, 2022 through April 2, 2022

2023 Tempe, Arizona --

Tempe Mission Palms
April 12, 2023 through April 15, 2023

bigger impact on the economy, these rules are clearly delineated and it is still punishable by hanging.

- ◆ In Galveston, it is illegal to have a camel run loose on the beach. The law stems from the 1850s practice of importing these animals to Texas for transport, but they were not effective and merely roamed the area for years.

“FIRSTS” IN FOOD & DRINK

- ◆ The first-ever frozen margarita machine was invented by a Dallas restaurateur who took his inspiration from the Slurpees at his local 7-11. You can still get a margarita at Mariano's Hacienda Ranch, but the original machine now sits idle, on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Americana.
- ◆ An Athens man was one of the first to claim invention of the hamburger. He's said to have created them at his lunch counter in the 1880s, and then sold them at a stand at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.
- ◆ Fritos were invented in the 1930s in San Antonio and are today produced by the Plano-based Frito-Lay Company. They're an essential ingredient in that Texas convenience store staple, Frito pie.
- ◆ Lamesa claims to be the birthplace of chicken-fried steak, and hosts an annual Chicken-Fried Steak Cook-off each April. It turns out that Lamesa's claim has no basis in reality (although the dish itself has undoubted Texas origins), but former Governor Rick Perry nevertheless declared the city to be the official home of chicken-fried steak.
- ◆ The soft drink, Dr Pepper, was invented by a Waco druggist in 1885.

OTHER FOOD FACTS

- ◆ The World's Largest Calf Fry (fried bull testicle) Cook-Off is held in Amarillo. The Testicle Festival organizers encourage attendees to “have a ball with Jesus.” The festival raises funds for Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Girlstown USA, which are group homes for local youth.
- ◆ Jason Aldean's hit song “Take A Little Ride” was originally released with lyrics referencing Texas beer, Shiner Bock, but he was forced to re-record it with the beer name changed to “Rocky Tops” due to an endorsement deal he'd signed with Coors.
- ◆ Texas has not one, but two official state peppers, the main pepper is the jalapeno but the chiltepin is the official state native.

ICONIC ANIMALS

- ◆ The Texas state small mammal is the nine-banded armadillo, which cannot roll itself into a ball but can float across rivers by inflating its intestines.
- ◆ The Texas Longhorn's horns can extend up to seven feet tip-to-tip.
- ◆ Texas has a state flying mammal, the Mexican free-tailed bat. This bat is well-known to rum drinkers, since it's the species pictured on the Bacardi label (which is NOT a Texas brand).

TEXANS

- ◆ One of the oldest human skeletons found in the Americas is that of “Midland Man,” who is actually a woman. These remains, which are at least 9,500 years old (some estimates put the age at a lot older), were uncovered by a pipeline welder while working on a ranch in Midland in 1953.
- ◆ After losing the 1835 race for Tennessee's seat in the United States Legislature, Davy Crockett told a crowd of Tennesseans, “You may all go to Hell, and I will go to Texas,” which as we know from history, didn't work out very well for him, either.
- ◆ Sam Houston may have been born in Virginia and served as governor of Tennessee before heading west to Texas, but, as transplants are supposed to say, “he wasn't born here but he got here as fast as he could”. However, he refused to side with the Confederacy when Texas seceded at the outbreak of the Civil War, was forced to retire as governor, and died shortly thereafter.

"Librarian's Pick"

We have all perused the stacks of new book fliers that start to collect near the registration desk at the conference. We think we could improve communication between our members, and add another service that we offer to members, if we add a column to our newsletter that offers a small feature to promote new books written by our members.

We will do this in the Winter issues, if any members have submitted books for the column. These could be books that our book vendor brings to the conference, or books that members bring themselves, or simply books that our members notify us have been published within the last year.

These would not be book reviews, simply the book cover and relevant publication info, along with a short blurb describing the book (*factual description! no rave reviews* ☺).

This column may help our members reach a broader audience and be another "perk/incentive" related to continued membership.

Student Paper Competitions for 2018 and thereafter



by William Schaniel
University of West Georgia (retired)
WSSA Student Grant & Award Coordinator

For 2019 and thereafter : The Undergraduate Paper, Graduate Paper and Wicks Dissertation Prize Competitions next year will be streamlined for to make the competition easier for student participation at all levels. Students will be able to enter all three competitions when they submit their paper title and abstract to a section.

Within each section submission will be checkboxes so students will be able to submit their title, abstract, and author information to a section and notify the section coordinator that their papers need to be evaluated early in the acceptance/rejection process. They will then submit the same information plus the full paper through the separate submission process for the student paper competitions. This will ensure that the paper is reviewed by the Awards Committee in time for the award deadline, and that it is also accepted to a section before that deadline.

A checklist with detailed information concerning the competition process and procedures will be sent to the students when the paper is submitted for the award (*similar to what is on the WSSA website*), and the Student Grant & Award Coordinator will contact the head of the section to which the abstract had been submitted.

For 2018 : It will take some time for the new submission programming to be put in place, so for 2018, our current process remains in place, with a few additions, detailed on the "Competitions and Awards" page of our web-

site, <http://www.WSSAweb.com>. The student paper title, abstract, and author information must be submitted to a section by **December 1**. The full student papers must be submitted for award review by **January 15th**. The competition winners will be notified **mid-March**. Please read the information on that page if you intend to compete for one of the awards.

Along with submitting a paper that meet the competition length and style requirements, students must also submit a "Paper Competition Eligibility Form" signed by their sponsoring faculty.

The best papers will receive a check (*undergraduate and graduate papers will receive \$800; and the Wicks Dissertation Paper Award recipient will receive \$1,000*), a certificate, and registration reimbursement at the WSSA meeting, the papers will be reviewed for possible publication in the The Social Science Journal.

Registration confers WSSA membership for one year, including a subscription to The Social Science Journal.

Congratulatory letters from the WSSA President-Elect will be sent to the students' department chairs, deans, provosts and other administrators at the students' home institutions. Excellent papers that are not chosen as the Best Undergraduate Paper may receive a certificate of honorable mention, a cash prize of \$400, registration reimbursement at the WSSA Conference, and congratulatory letters.

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CINEMA

- ◆ Bugs' Bunny's catchphrase "What's up, Doc?" originated in the 1920s at North Dallas High School, alma mater of Looney Tunes animator, Tex Avery.
- ◆ When Academy Award librarian Margaret Herrick first saw the Academy Awards statuette in 1931, she remarked that it looked like her uncle -- a Texas native named Oscar Pierce. Since then, it's been dubbed the Oscar after the Texan.
- ◆ The Edna Ferber novel "Giant, which was turned into a Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean movie, was based in large part on events occurring at the King Ranch.

UNIQUE PLACES

- ◆ The National Helium Reserve north of Amarillo holds over a billion cubic meters of helium. It was originally established to supply gas for airships.
- ◆ Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Art Museum in San Antonio has over 700 different types of artwork made from toilet seats. (San Antonio is also home to several well-worth-the-visit traditional art museums, the McNay and the San Antonio Art Museum among them.)
- ◆ Texas used to have a Cockroach Hall of Fame. A former exterminator opened the tourist attraction in Plano after coming across unusual roaches. It's since been closed.

ICONIC MUSIC

- ◆ The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) banned "Deep in the Heart of Texas" during work hours. According to The Guardian's site, it "could not be played during the Second World War on programs that might be heard by factory workers, who might neglect their lathes to join in the song's clapping routine."
- ◆ The popular singer from Port Arthur who went on to become one of the most successful singer-songwriters of all time, Janis Joplin, was nominated "Ugliest Man on Campus" at the University of Texas at Austin.

GUNS

- ◆ There were 28,690 registered machine guns in Texas in 2013.

PRISONS

- ◆ Up until 2011, Texas offered inmates a special request for their last meals but that practice stopped after an inmate ordered: "Two chicken-fried steaks smothered in gravy and onions or the cheese omelet with ground beef, tomatoes, onions, and bell and jalapeno peppers" and then never ate any of it.

AND FINALLY, "TALKIN' TEXAN" (County Line BBQ features a taped tutorial in its restrooms)

VOCABULARY

- ◆ fixin' to: to prepare rather than repair, as in other states

PRONUNCIATION

- ◆ Ra-FEAR-ee-oh: spelled Refugio, a small town in Texas
- ◆ Puh-LASH-us: spelled Palacios, another small town
- ◆ Per-duh-NAL-ease: LBJ's version of the Pedernales River near his ranch
- ◆ y'all: we'd like to welcome y'all (otherwise known as "you all") to Texas for WSSA in 2018!

And, there's so much more interesting information about Texas available on various websites, among them the sources of this "article."

<http://www.movoto.com/guide/tx/texas-facts/>

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/slideshow/Weird-facts-about-Texas-ount102562.php>

Spotlight



WSSA Spotlight Organization: The San Antonio River Foundation

*by Anthony J. Amato,
Vice President, WSSA,*

with assistance from Robert Amerman



When many people imagine San Antonio, they think of three attractions: the Spurs, the Alamo, and the Riverwalk. Each has defined the city in the popular imagination, but the last of these three warrants a closer examination from social scientists because it has been integral to the city's

social space and sense of place. Now imitated around the world, the Riverwalk is more of an experience than it is a simple passage or right of way. The recently expanded fifteen-mile (twenty-four-kilometer) San Antonio River Improvements Project corridor incorporates public art, outdoor education, and the pleasures of locomotion, all in a newly packaged river experience. As such, it is an outstanding example [of the public art, outdoor education, and trails movements](#) that have taken hold over the past three decades.

Beneath the impressive masterpieces and concrete deeds that form the façade of the Riverwalk, there is a deeper story of people and organizations. The Riverwalk experience that residents and visitors enjoy would not be possible without a non-profit organization, the San Antonio River Foundation (SARF, www.sariverfoundation.org). The foundation's mission is "to enhance the San Antonio River Basin as a vibrant cultural, educational, ecological, and recreational experience." The Foundation formed in 2003 out of necessity: the San Antonio River Authority, responsible for managing the river, is bound by a public charter that does not permit it "to fund amenity projects." Thus, the work of making the river attractive and accessible has fallen on the non-profit foundation. With much work and in steps and stages, the SA River Foundation has helped its partners and citizens create a cultural corridor for a public that extends beyond the bounds of exercise and civil-engineering enthusiasts. Without SARF-funded projects, the Riverwalk so many know and love would be plain grass and pavement along revetments and floodwalls, indistinguishable from the myriad of other trails that run along streams and flood control structures across the country.

The SA River Foundation has approached the improved Riverwalk with an eye for its cultural, environmental, and educational potential. In addition to the renowned soaring sculptures and shimmering lights, the acclaimed attraction is taking on an even bolder addition, Confluence Park. Slated for completion in late 2017, the park's centerpiece is a lofty ramada with adjacent canopies, which serve as metaphors for San Antonio's watershed and aquifers. Extending out from the centerpiece will be thriving examples of the three major biomes surrounding the San Antonio area: Texas grassland, Oak Savanna, and Trans Pecos Chihuahuan desert. The park will also feature solar power, low-impact design, rainwater capture, and a green roof, all to teach sustainability and inspire stewardship.

The Riverwalk is a feat of social organization. In many other cities, state or local government would fund the art, entertainment, and comforts for public works. But, along the San Antonio River this task, by rule, falls on the shoulders of a non-profit and its private donors. In its work with the river, the foundation is an excellent example of philanthropy by one definition of the term. The organization has stepped up and stepped in to perform functions that neither governments nor markets are performing. There is a lot to see along the Riverwalk, but there is as much to see in the social and cultural currents that flow beneath its surface. The San Antonio River is a rare confluence of the public art, outdoor education, and trails movements, and the San Antonio River Foundation, along with the River Authority and its city and county governmental partners, have turned a river channel into a space that promises to reshape social and natural relationships for the better.

Audio/Visual/Wi-Fi Information/Technical Support

LCD Projectors

During the Conference there will be an LCD projector, screen, and electronic support table in each breakout room. The LCD projectors are equipped to support VGA, Type B USB, Type A USB, and HDMI connections. Each LCD projector will have the cables for VGA, USB, and HDMI connections. We are not able to provide specialty connections that may be specific to individual laptops. You should bring with you any of the specialty connections (Dongles) required by your computer. These devices are most often found on MacBook computers, as well as on smaller laptops.

USB Thumb Drive Support for Power Point Presentations

If you are considering using a Thumb Drive or similar USB type of drive to make a PowerPoint presentation you must consider the following:

Step 1

If you want to convert one slide, scroll through the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation and display the slide that you want to convert to JPG format on your screen.

If you want to convert all of the slides to individual JPG files, there is no need to go to any specific slide.

Step 2

Go to "Save As" on the Microsoft PowerPoint main menu. Navigate to the folder where you want to save the new JPG file and type in a name for the file in the "File name" box.

Step 3

Click the arrow next to the "Save as type" dropdown box and find "JPEG File Interchange Format." (Listed on most versions of PPT as JPEG or JPG) Click "Save;" this will bring up another dialog box. This will create a FOLDER with all of the former PPT slide converted to JPG files.

Step 4

Choose "Current Slide Only" if you only want to convert the slide that you selected in step one, or click "Every Slide" if you want to convert the entire presentation. The program will save the file as a JPG file and deposit it on your hard drive or USB portable memory stick.

Step 5

This step is critical for your presentation slides to be displayed in the correct order. You will find, once the presentation folder is created, that there will be a series of jpg files numbered "Slide1.jpg" through however many slides you created in the original PPT file. It is essential that you rename slides 1 through 9 by placing a zero in front of the slide number. For example "Slide1.jpg" should become "Slide01.jpg".

Wi-Fi Support

All of the hotel properties with which we contract offer Wi-Fi in the guestrooms. The cost of this varies from one hotel to another depending on the contract concessions that we were able to get. Additionally, many of the hotels with which we have contracted offer Wi-Fi in the lobby of the hotel. None of the hotels offer free Wi-Fi in the breakout rooms. If you wish to use Wi-Fi in making your presentation, you should be prepared to pay for individual Wi-Fi connections in the breakout rooms. Otherwise, download your presentation to your computer prior to your presentation.

Technical Support

To keep the cost of the conference reasonable, rather than contracting with the hotel for LCD projectors, WSSA provides the projectors used at the conference. Since hotel staffs only provide technical support for their own equipment, this means that there will be only limited technical support available during the conference; thus, it is essential that you be familiar with technical issues that may be related to your particular device and software. If you are making a presentation that requires audio, you should be aware that, while our equipment supports audio, it may not be loud enough for people in a large room to hear the sound.



The Bert & Phyllis Lamb Prize in Political Science

was created to support and reward undergraduate work that highlights the belief that [innovation](#), knowledge from a variety of fields, and tenacity combined with honed writing and communication skills promotes good government .

The Prize committee has chosen to present its award to the chosen recipient during the Awards Ceremony held on the Saturday evening at the conclusion of each WSSA Conference.

Shown below are the responses of previous winners to the question "WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?"

CLAIRE MCMORRIS (2017 Recipient)

I graduated in June 2017 from Oregon State University, Summa Cum Laude, with distinctions as an Undergraduate Research Fellow and Phi Beta Kappa. At the end of this school year I was also recognized with the University Honors College Outstanding Thesis Award and the Music Minor Award. After graduating I worked as a 1st grade teaching assistant for a local summer school serving underprivileged youth, and enjoyed some much needed vacation.

My research on Oregon Measure 97 extended beyond my Lamb Prize submission. In April I presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, and another version of my research is currently under review for publication in the Policy Studies Journal.

At the beginning of September I was hired as the Government Relations Coordinator at my alma mater, Oregon State University. In this role I assist in higher education advocacy efforts at the state and federal level. I plan to apply for graduate school sometime in the next few years for a Master's in Education Policy.

QUINN MASSARONI (2016 Recipient)

I am a full-time member of the Marketing and Communication team at Coastal Medical, the largest physician-owned primary care provider and Accountable Care Organization in Rhode Island. Working for a healthcare organization has allowed me to learn about the healthcare industry from within and has given me experience in the health communication field. I am continuing my formal education as well and have one year left of graduate school as I pursue a Masters in Communication at Bryant University. I have recently begun developing a thesis topic and will be spending most of my last year working on that thesis. Similar to my submission for the Lamb Prize, this research will focus on environmental issues which continue to be important to me.

Beyond my professional work and my education, I have "retired" from collegiate soccer but have continued to play twice a week in a more casual setting. In my limited free time I enjoy visiting my family in New York State and hiking.

DAVID BELCHER (2015 Recipient)

I am currently in the second year of law school at U.C. Berkeley School of Law. I was the commencement speaker when I graduated from U.C. Davis in December 2015 (which was two quarters early). After graduating, I received the 2016 Veloyce Glenn Winslow Junior Award from U.C. Davis, which honors the "graduating man believed to be the most outstanding in the areas of leadership, scholarship, integrity and service in the campus community."

Between graduation and starting law school, and this past summer, I worked in the Major Crimes Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. I was a law clerk on the Robert Durst murder trial (Robert Durst is the subject of the HBO mini-series, The Jinx). During my time at the District Attorney's Office, I organized discovery evidence, participated in witness interviews, drafted witness summaries and motions, and conducted legal research. The Los Angeles Times quoted some of my legal writing related to the case.

At Berkeley Law I have been involved in a few different activities. I am the vice president of Berkeley Law's running club. I (along with my twin brother) founded the Boalt Crossword Club, and the law school's intramural Ultimate Frisbee team, the "Hammers of Justice." I am also the programming editor of the Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law. This summer, I will be doing litigation work at the law firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath, in Los Angeles.

I am looking forward to graduating from Berkeley Law next year, and advocating on others' behalf as an attorney—though I am unsure at this moment whether that will be in a District Attorney's Office or law firm.

Lamb Prize Videos

"Preparation and Innovation" by Quinn Massaroni, Recipient of the 2016 Lamb Prize.

"Application, Innovation, and Outcome" by David Belcher, Recipient of the 2015 Lamb Prize.



Western Social Science Association
Conference Registration – Membership Renewal - for 2018
Conference: April 4 - 7, 2018, in San Antonio, TX, USA
Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk

123 Losoya St
 (210) 222-1234

For online hotel registration, go to www.WSSAweb.com

**PLEASE
 PRINT
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Your name badge, registration confirmation, and receipt will be based on the information you provide here.

Name _____

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IF NEEDED, Address line 2: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ University/Agency/Organization: _____

Email address: _____

- Check your choice of program : I prefer the online program, & do not need a printed program
 I prefer a printed program

Your 2018 WSSA **conference registration will include membership** from 04/01/2018 to 03/31/2019. Pre-registration must be done online by March 19, or received by mail no later than March 19, 2018, to receive the discounted rates shown below. Regular registration rates will apply after those dates. Paper pre-registrations will not be accepted after March 27; online registration will be closed after March 27; onsite registration will begin at 3:00pm on April 4. Cancelled registrations cannot be refunded after March 27.

To pre-register on-line for the 2018 conference, please go to www.WSSAweb.com

Conference pre-registration rates:

- \$150 individual members / \$180 after Mar. 19
- \$90 student member (full-time students, only) \$110 after Mar. 19
- \$110 retired member (not employed full-time in field) \$120 after Mar. 19
- \$30 spouse/partner/guest (who is not participating) \$40 after Mar. 19

Name of guest: _____

As it should appear on nametag

Special Events at conference (optional):

- \$25 each ticket, President's Luncheon & Awards Ceremony, on Friday, April 14, 2017

___ # of tickets _____ Total amount for tickets

IF paying by check,
Total amount enclosed:

\$ _____ for WSSA 2018 conference registration (which includes membership) and/or special events

For Payment by Check Only, mail this form and your check (\$US) for the total amount owed to: Larry A. Gould, WSSA Executive Director, 2307 Chof Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005.

**Mailed pre-registration forms
must be received by March 27, 2018.**

IF you **know** that you will not be attending the 2018 conference, you may still renew your membership, and retain your voting rights and subscription to the *Social Science Journal* and the *WSSA News*, either on-line at www.WSSAweb.com (after January 15, 2018), or by sending this form and your payment to the address above.

___ \$45 Individual ___ \$35 Student ___ \$30 Retired ___ \$60 Joint membership
 (spouse/partner name for joint membership: _____)