



WSSA NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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• SPRING 2004 •

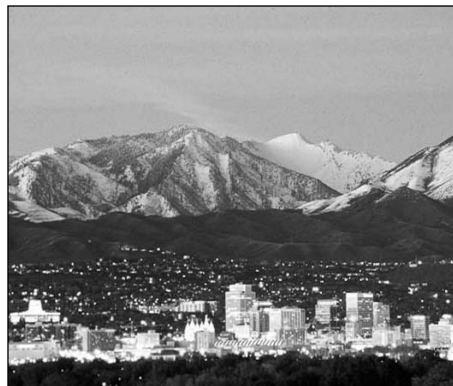
It's Conference Season for the WSSA!

By Lisa Nelson

Cal. State Polytechnic Univ.-Pomona
President-Elect

Let me first thank all of you for an excellent batch of presentation proposals. We have very strong showings in many of our sections this year, providing numerous opportunities for both intra- and inter-disciplinary scholarly exchanges. As you can see from the program overview in this newsletter, we have a number of special events planned: open receptions on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, ticketed luncheons on Thursday and Friday, and several cross-disciplinary mini-plenaries and workshops. Please join us at these special events.

Every year in September the Executive Council of the WSSA meets to visit the upcoming spring conference site. When I arrived in Salt Lake City last fall, I found the airport clean, spacious, and pleasant, and transportation to the Sheraton was convenient and timely. The Sheraton itself is a nice facility, with a pleasant, enclosed outdoor area and pool,



The mountains around Salt Lake City shouldn't have this much snow in April.

and a good-sized, glass jacuzzi with lockers and showers. After checking in, I walked a couple of blocks to join the other Council members for a delicious meal at P.F. Chang's, which some of you may recognize as the progressive Chinese restaurant offering vegetarian dishes and even an option of brown rice rather than the nutritionally useless white rice (Sorry for the editorial comment, white rice lovers!).

The hotel also features an in-house massage therapist, and we are going to

arrange for continuous shoulder and neck rubs (for a small fee) in the ballroom featuring the book exhibits. For shoppers and walkers, there is a very pleasant mall located near the Delta Center (home of the Utah Jazz), and basketball fans will not be surprised to see a major street named for John Stockton, the retired star guard.

As WSSA President Diane Calloway-Graham has noted, we are a conference that strongly supports student participation, and students should keep an eye out for special activities oriented for their enjoyment and professional advancement. We will have an early-morning session on Friday, a panel for the student paper winners, and other forms of recognition. We also will hold a session on how to get published in *The Social Science Journal*. If you're a student or you're bringing students, please make note of these activities.

Finally, a word to those who might think otherwise: this is Utah, but you do not have to bring your own alcohol. The hotel and local restaurants have the same selection that we find in every other city. So "Cheers," and see you in April.

Peach, Barrie Head the WSSA's New Leadership

By Nicholas Peroff

University of Missouri-Kansas City
Past-President

The balloting in the elections for the 2004-2005 WSSA leadership positions concluded on February 15th, with the Association's members electing two new officers and three new Executive Council members.

The new **WSSA President-Elect** is **Jim Peach**, Regents Professor of Economics and International Business at New Mexico State University. Jim

has been a member of the faculty at NMSU since 1980, and currently serves on the WSSA Executive Council. He has been a member of WSSA since the early 1980s. Peach has been affiliated with both the Association for Institutional Thought (AFIT) and the Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS) and was program chair for the ABS in 2000. For ten years, Jim served as editor or co-editor of the *Journal of Borderland Studies*. In addition, he has served as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

INSIDE WSSA NEWS

- 2 *Presidential Soapbox*
- 3 *More Election Results*
- 4 *Conference Overview*
- 6 *WSSA News & Notes*
- 7 *Welcome to Salt Lake!*

The WSSA is a Caring Association

By Diane Calloway-Graham
Utah State University
President

Soon we will all gather together for our conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. As preparation for the conference continues, I am moved to reflect upon my membership in this organization and my positive feelings for it. I first became affiliated with our organization in 1990-91 when I became an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Utah State University. Some of my colleagues in Sociology told me about the Association and I submitted my first paper to the Women's Studies Section for the conference in Denver, Colorado. I enjoyed the conference very much and attended every session in the Women's Studies Section. I especially liked the professional exchange across the social science disciplines. Even though my field of specialty is social work, I found it exhilarating to interact formally and informally with others from a variety of backgrounds.

I attended the business meeting for the Women's Studies Section that first year and soon found myself being nominated as section chair

PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



for the 1993 conference. Of course, I readily accepted because I felt comfortable in this association. The process for learning how to be a section chair was very effective and helpful. After my experience as a section chair, I formed a Women's Studies Council so that we could have more effective coordination for our section. Working over the years with women from a variety of states and backgrounds has indeed been a pleasure. They have been committed to advancing scholarship, teaching, and service as stated in the WSSA's mission.

Well, my involvement did not stop at being a section chair. I was nominated by some of my colleagues to run for the Executive Council and served as a member from 1998-2002. I enjoyed this so much. It gave me an opportunity to become acquainted and serve with many wonderful people who cared about me and the Association. After my term on the WSSA Council, I chaired the Women's Studies Section again. In 2002-03, I was elected as President-Elect of the Association and served as General Program Coordinator for the conference in Las Vegas. I especially liked working with all of the section chairs and Larry Gould, our Executive Director (it's amazing what he does for the WSSA and how much he cares about our success). Our organization is run by volunteers who have strong commitments to our mission. All of the 30 section chairs and affiliated groups put in a lot of hard work to make last year's conference a huge success. I imagine that the same is true for this year's conference in Salt Lake City. I love being a part of an organization where there are many dedicated people who care about making it work. As President of the Association, it's a joy to reflect on all of the people who have cared about me and helped me to be successful at my career as a teacher and a scholar. I appreciate the WSSA, as I know that WSSA and its members CARE!

WSSA NEWS

2003-2004 WSSA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

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Utah State University
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Lisa Nelson
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2003-2004 WSSA COUNCIL

Doreen Barrie (2004)
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N. Prabha Unnithan (2006)
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Jim Peach (2004)
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THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes the *Social Science Journal*, a juried, quarterly research journal, and *WSSA News*, the Association's newsletter, three times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are \$40 (individual); \$50 (includes spouse); \$25 (student); \$25 (retired). For information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, NAU Box 15302, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011 (Phone: 928-523-9520; Fax: 928-523-6777; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu).



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Council Adds Catlin, Pavlik and Starbuck

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

President of the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies. Peach will succeed **Lisa A. Nelson**, who will automatically move up to **President**, replacing Diane Calloway-Graham.

Doreen Barrie, Adjunct Assistant Professor in Political

Science at the University of Calgary in Canada was elected WSSA **Vice-President**, edging out Phadrea Ponds of the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Doreen has attended WSSA meetings for over a decade and has been involved in the Canadian Studies Section. She is currently a member of the WSSA Executive Council and as the only Canadian on the Council, she has been attempting to generate more interest in the WSSA among her compatriots. Doreen's research interests revolve around water, an extension of previous work on environmental protection in Canada and Australia. She has served on the Board of Advisory Editors of *Great Plains Quarterly*. Doreen is involved in her community, taking the most pride in an institute she co-founded a decade ago. It holds a community conference annually to address complex issues like globalization, biotechnology and water.

Six candidates competed for three openings on the WSSA **Executive Council**. Among the newly elected council members is **Dennis Catlin**, at Northern Arizona University in Tucson. Dennis has attended every conference since his appointment to NAU's Criminal Justice faculty in 1999, and he considers the WSSA his primary source of professional and academic development. Dennis is a leader in the area of Distance Education and continues to develop new methodologies for web delivered courses. For the last three years, he has served as the Section Coordinator for the Criminal Justice and Criminology Section and has regularly

presented papers at WSSA conferences. Dennis has served as Regional Director, Secretary, Vice-President and President of the National Association of State Judicial Educators.

Also elected to the Council was **Steve Pavlik**, who teaches social studies and science at Vision Charter High School for Native American students in Tucson, Arizona. Steve has

been an active member of the Western Social Science Association since 1984 and has three times served as co-chair for the American Indian Studies Section at WSSA conferences. He has edited a collection of papers and has published over forty articles on American Indian education, religion, and ethnozoology. He is active with the Centre for Indian Scholars in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and served as the coordinator for the Second Robert K. Thomas Symposium sponsored by that organization.

Gene H. Starbuck, Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado, is the third new member of the

Executive Council. Gene has been a member of

WSSA since the late 1970s, and has presented papers the last several years. He was honored with the Outstanding Section Coordinator award for the past two years that he has been the Sociology Section Coordinator, and he continues in that capacity. His recent publications include *Families in Context*, a textbook by Wadsworth. The past two years has found him serving as the Self-Study Coordinator for Mesa State's continued accreditation from The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

WSSA would like to thank the other nominees, who although not elected, expressed their gratitude for being nominated. Their support of WSSA is much-appreciated.

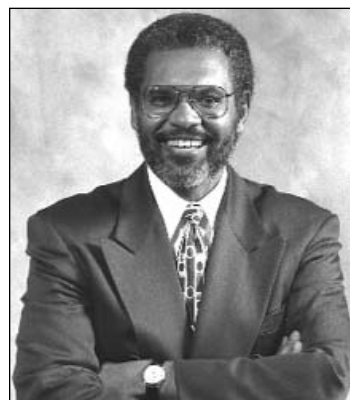


Oliver to Deliver Plenary Address

Dr. Melvin Oliver, a foremost expert on race relations in the United States, will address WSSA conference attendees at the Plenary Luncheon, slated for April 22nd. The sociologist, recent Vice-President of the Ford Foundation, and incoming Dean of Social Sciences at the University of California at Santa Barbara, is co-author, with Thomas Shapiro, of the highly influential book *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*. In 1996, the book won the C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the Outstanding Book Award on the subject of human rights from the Gustavus Myers Center. In 1997, it received the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Scholarly Publications Award.

Most recently, Dr. Oliver contributed to the production of "Race, the Power of an Illusion", a three-part series that aired on PBS that challenges many beliefs and understandings about race.

-- Lisa Nelson



Dr. Melvin Oliver (Photo courtesy of www.nhi.org)

2003 WSSA CONFERENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

APRIL 21 — WEDNESDAY

Continental Breakfast for Executive Council

7:30 a.m.

Executive Council Meeting

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Conference Registration

2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WSSA Welcoming Reception (All Are Invited)

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

APRIL 22 — THURSDAY

Conference Registration

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

Concurrent Panel Sessions

8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon: Dr. Melvin Oliver

"Race: The Power of an Illusion"

(Ticketed Event)

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Mini-Plenaries

Richard Koenigsburg: "The Political Psychology of War, Genocide and Terrorism"

2:45 p.m.

Dean Louder: "The French-Canadian Presence in the American West"

4:30 p.m.

Student Paper Competition

Winner Presentations

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

APRIL 23 — FRIDAY

Conference Registration

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

Continental Breakfast

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Special Panel for Graduate Students

Robert P. Watson and Sandra Davis:

"The Academic Job Search & Life in the Academy"

8:00 a.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions

8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. 1:00 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

President's Luncheon

WSSA President Diane Calloway-Graham

(Ticketed Event)

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

2004 WSSA Combined Business Meeting and Section Coordinators Meeting

(Old and New Section Coordinators Are Required to Attend)

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WSSA Special Session: Publishing in *The Social Science Journal*

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Student Reception

(New This Year)

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 24 — SATURDAY

Conference Registration

7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit

7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions

8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. 1:00 p.m. to 6 p.m.

WSSA Executive Council Meeting

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Mini-Plenary: Peter Kraus

Grant-Writing Workshop

9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

WSSA President's Reception (All Are Invited)

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WSSA NEWS & NOTES

STUDENT AND PAST-PRESIDENT RECEPTIONS

Receptions have always been an important part of the WSSA conference. There is the opening reception, various section and affiliated group receptions, and the President's reception. The opening reception on Wednesday evening and the President's reception on Saturday evening are sponsored by the WSSA and we encourage all members to attend these events. There is great food and wonderful company. So please come!

This year we will be adding two new receptions. First, there will be a Student Reception for all of our graduate and undergraduate students presenting at the conference or attending as participants. The purpose for this gathering is to create an opportunity to network and become acquainted with other students and the WSSA association in an academic conference setting. This is our first year sponsoring this and we hope that all of the students will join us for a successful reception. Second, we will be having a Past-President Reception for all of our past presidents in the Association. Having this reception is a lead-up for planning our 50th anniversary conference, as we bring together various leadership from over the years. It is an informal opportunity to learn, gain wisdom, and gather information about our past and our future. We will all be together in Salt Lake City soon and I hope you will plan on attending the various receptions at the conference.

-- Diane Calloway-Graham

INSIDE THE WSSA: A/V EQUIPMENT COSTS

This is one of a continuing series of articles that attempts to provide our members with a behind the scene view of WSSA. One of the biggest costs at the WSSA or any other conference is for the rental of A/V equipment. Over the years, WSSA has endeavored to provide most of the A/V equipment needed for our presenters. The cost of the equipment can vary considerably from one site to another, i.e. about \$15,000 in Oakland to about \$9,000 in Las Vegas. The rental cost for an overhead projector in Salt Lake City will be \$28.00 and the screen rents for \$25.00. If you consider that we generally have 25 concurrent breakout sessions over three days, the cost of just the overhead projectors will come to about \$3,975 not including tax. Add to this the cost of other commonly used equipment such as video monitors (\$195.00 per use), VHS (\$100.00 per day), slide projectors (\$50.00 per day), and tape players (\$35.00 per day), and the overall cost increases significantly. The last piece of equipment for which we receive requests is LCD Projectors (commonly referred to as PowerPoint). It is clear that LCD Projectors will one day replace the overhead; however, the current rental cost makes it highly prohibitive for the WSSA to support the use of them at this time. The rental cost in Salt Lake City is \$450.00 for the use of the projector and up to \$3,500.00

for the rental of some of the special lenses that would be needed for the larger breakout rooms. At the present time, the projected cost of renting LCD projectors for the conference ranges from a low of \$12,000 to a high of \$30,000 in addition to other equipment that we rent. To cover the additional cost we would have to increase the conference fee by \$17.00 to \$42.00. This is not something that the Executive Council would be in favor of and certainly the attendees would not be thrilled with the type of increase. We hope information such as this, and the cost of catering and guestroom articles, prove to be a help to the members. If you questions, please let us know. This is your Association, we are just the elected and appointed caretakers.

-- Larry A. Gould

WSSA CONFERENCE TO OFFER BOOK EXHIBIT

Once again, the WSSA is pleased to offer a book exhibit at the spring conference. The exhibit will be managed by the Library of Social Science, as it was at the Las Vegas meeting. Be sure to visit the exhibit to see the latest books from a variety of publishers. Literature and discounts from publishers will also be available, and the exhibit is a great location to meet and catch up with colleagues!

If you have books you would like to see exhibited at the meeting, you may request to have them exhibited by contacting the Library of Social Science at LssBookExhibits@cs.com or by completing the book request form (and forwarding it to LSS) located on the WSSA website.

-- Robert P. Watson

A SIDE NOTE TO THE ELECTIONS

Over the last couple of years, the Executive Council of the WSSA has sought new and different ways to get the membership more involved in and connected to the Association. This is one of the more important aspects of the current five-year plan. We have begun providing more information on the operations of the Association in the newsletter, sought higher profile plenary speakers for the conference, changed the receptions to make them more inviting, added a small reception for students, and put the newsletter and other important information on line. It is often difficult to assess the results of the aforementioned changes. One recent change that we made was to mail election ballots to members rather than rely on the ballot in the newsletter. To say the least, the response from the membership has been overwhelming. The number of ballots returned in this election is almost twice the number of ballots returned in the last two elections. While we will continue to seek ways to further involve and inform the membership, I think that we can chalk this one up as a success.

-- Larry A. Gould

Welcome to Salt Lake City (Part 2)!

By Diane Calloway-Graham
Utah State University
WSSA President

Welcome to Salt Lake City, the greatest metropolitan outdoor destination in the West. Salt Lake combines the accessibility and sophistication of a major metropolitan area with the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of a mountain resort.

In this issue, I will be highlighting dining and nightlife, shopping, and transportation. There are many opportunities for fine dining and nightlife, shopping, and transportation. Here are some of the highlights for dining and nightlife:

Olio Ristorante: Located right in the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. It serves pleasingly simple Italian fare.

First Press Club: Located in the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Provides jazz music.

Market Street Grill: Located within walking distance of the Sheraton at 48 W. Market St. The phone number is 801-322-4668. This lively restaurant serves only the freshest fare. For breakfast, lunch or dinner, this is probably the most popular seafood restaurant in town. Fresh fish and other deep-sea delicacies are flown in fresh each day from around the country. The place has a classic look.

Port O' Call Social Club: Located at 400 S. West Temple in close proximity to the Sheraton. It is one of the biggest, baddest, most hoppin' clubs in town. It has three levels of pinball, pool tables, occasional live entertainment, interactive trivia games and televisions at every turn, there are plenty of things to keep you entertained. They serve chili verde, nachos, burritos and burgers.

P.F. Chang's China Bistro: A swank downtown bistro with traditional Chinese food with a modern twist. They are located within walking distance of the Sheraton at 174 W. 300 S. The phone number is 801-539-0500.

Club Piastra: Downtown business types and foreign travelers come to this centrally located bar for a drink and contemporary Italian cuisine. One-night memberships are available. They are located in the Marriott Hotel at 220 S. State St. The phone number is 801-961-8700.

Shaggy's: The crowd here is mostly the hipster and post-college set. People show up just to see the tacky furniture, and stay for the inviting atmosphere, fun crowd and comfortable seating. Located at 200 S. 150 W., its number is 801-359-2215.

The Loin House: Constructed in 1855 as a residence for Brigham Young and his family. There are no tours, but The Pantry Restaurant on the lower level is open to the public.

Here is some information on transportation from the airport and getting around Salt Lake City:

Sheraton City Centre Hotel: They have free transportation to and from the airport. Pick up your luggage and then go to any of the complimentary phones around the airport. Contact the Sheraton, and they will tell you an approximate pick up time and where to meet.

Utah Transit Authority: UTA operates both the area bus system and TRAX, the city's light-rail system. Most visitors will find TRAX more useful than the buses. The north-south TRAX



The Mormon Temple's Assembly Hall is just one of many of Salt Lake City's scenic attractions.

line runs between the Delta Center and 10000 South Sandy; the east-west line runs between downtown and the University of Utah. TRAX trains operate Monday thru Saturday roughly 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 15-minute intervals during daylight and at 30-minute intervals after dark. Buses generally run Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to midnight with limited service on Saturday. The fare for both trains and buses is US \$1.25 with free transfers allowed between trains and buses. There's a "fare-free

zone" for buses within the downtown area including on the north-south line between the Delta Center and the Courthouse Station at 450 South. Phone: 801-287-4636.

Rental Cars: Dollar Rent a Car, 801-575-2580; Advantage Rent a Car, 801-531-1199; Alamo Rent a Car, 801-575-2211; Avis Rent a Car, 801-575-2847; Hertz, 801-575-3495.

Some of the best shopping is located at the following places and TRAX is the best way to access these places:

Gateway: An outdoor shopping mall located at 450 W. 100 S.

Trolley Square: Indoor shopping mall. It also has many fine dining establishments. It is located at 700 E. 600 S.

Crossroads Plaza: An indoor shopping mall, where Nordstrom is located (my personal choice for shopping). It is located at 50 South Main.

ZCMI Center Mall: An indoor shopping mall located directly across the street from Crossroads Plaza.

I hope this information is helpful as you plan your conference trip to Salt Lake City. See you in Salt Lake!

The Verdict: Calgary in '07, Denver in '08

At last April's conference, a survey was circulated asking attendees to pick from a list of potential sites which ones they favored for 2007 and 2008. The clear choices were Denver (Downtown) and Calgary. Since the April meeting we have secured a contract with the Hyatt Regency in Calgary for the April 2007 meeting. This will be the first time that we will be crossing an international boundary for the conference. While this might be a bit risky, it was felt that with the very large representation in Canadian Studies and other affiliates that the risk was worth taking. We also have a great deal of support from the Canadian Government. I have visited the hotel and the surrounding area. To say the least, it is a great hotel and downtown Calgary is a great location for attendees to spend some of their down time while at the conference.

We decided to hold the 2008 conference in Denver. This will be the 50th anniversary of the Association; thus, it seemed appropriate to have the conference located geographically close to its roots. We are currently working with three hotels in the downtown area to determine which will best suit our needs. The three are the Adams Mark, the Hyatt and the Marriott. All of them are great facilities with many positive attributes. I expect that the final decision will be a difficult one.

-- Larry A. Gould



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WSSA News

**The Western Social Science Association
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Flagstaff, AZ 86011**

Future WSSA Conference Sites

2004

**Sheraton City Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
April 21-24**

2005

**Hyatt Regency Albuquerque
Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 13-16**