



Western Social Science Association NEWS

Newsletter of the Western Social
Science Association

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3

SPRING 2005

It's Conference Time in Albuquerque

By Jim Peach

New Mexico State University
WSSA President-Elect

The WSSA's 47th Annual Conference in Albuquerque is fast approaching. Even if you are not presenting a paper or performing other conference duties, plan on joining us for another great conference. Thanks to all of you (especially the wonderful section coordinators) who have helped organize the program for the upcoming conference. The program is extensive and exciting. We have about 260 panels and approximately 1,000 different individuals listed in the program. There should be something for everyone. As you can see from the program overview on page 4, we have several special events planned, including open receptions on Wednesday and Saturday, ticketed luncheons on Thursday and Friday, and other special sessions. On Thursday, WSSA President Lisa Nelson will deliver her presidential address and the awards for best student papers will be presented.



Historic Old Town Albuquerque

Friday's plenary luncheon features former U.S. Senator and author Fred. R. Harris. Please join us for these special events.

Many of you will already be familiar with Albuquerque and the conference hotel, the Hyatt, but a few words on these topics are in order. The WSSA has been to Albuquerque several times. Our last Albuquerque conference was in 2002 and we were in the same hotel. There are many

reasons for returning to Albuquerque and the Hyatt. For one, WSSA conference participants seem to like it. Also, the Albuquerque conferences are always among the WSSA's largest. The Hyatt is a full-service hotel with enough meeting rooms for our needs, a good bar (essential for social science research, or so I hear), and a fine restaurant. Yes, a fine restaurant. Close to the hotel are many other restaurants and much entertainment, including live music and movies. Old Town is nearby and contains many more restaurants and shops, but you may want to get a ride. Plus this year Albuquerque is celebrating its 300th anniversary with numerous special events. You won't have any trouble entertaining yourself.

We strongly encourage student participation in conference events. The program contains several panels for students as well as the student paper competition awards. Whether this is your first conference or not, you will enjoy yourself. The WSSA, after all, is the friendliest group of academics that you will ever encounter.

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The Votes Are In! Barrie, Ponds Among the Winners

By Diane Calloway-Graham
Utah State University
WSSA Immediate Past-President

The WSSA is pleased to announce the results of this year's election for WSSA officer and executive council positions. Balloting for the elections concluded on February 22nd, with the Association membership electing two new officers and three new council members. All of the candidates for these positions have an outstanding record of supporting the Association

and we are lucky to have their talents as we move forward with the business of WSSA.

Current President-Elect **Jim Peach** will assume the position of President for the 2005-2006 year. Jim has been very busy as the coordinator for the upcoming 47th Annual Conference in Albuquerque. We look forward to a great conference.

The new WSSA President-Elect is **Doreen Barrie** with the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. She currently is serving as
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Great Expectations for Albuquerque

By Lisa Nelson

Cal. State Polytechnic Univ.-Pomona
President

Hello WSSA members and friends. I'm really looking forward to visiting with each of you at our annual conference next month in Albuquerque. I know there are some great presentations scheduled in each section, and I'm expecting some great exchanges among experienced and budding scholars.

The world, national, and even local events I've been paying attention to in the last year suggest that the need for a productive and informative social science is greater than ever. We really need to address these situations from our disciplinary expertise, but also from the specific places we work. If your college, university, or workplace is like mine, the opportunities to engage in the community and in international exchange opportunities come flying every week.

The last couple of columns here that I've had an opportunity to write have addressed questions of what it means to us to be social scientists, and what it is that we can offer in these times. I reported on the WSSA Executive Council's responses to these questions, and would like to take it further here and in the talk I will give at lunch on Thursday at the conference.

As a point of departure, I would like to share with you the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, in case you are not familiar with them:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

There are many important components of these goals that could be productively addressed by social scientists. I would love to talk to any of you that might be interested in collaborating on such research.

The other aspect I would like to address (why not, given this unique opportunity!) is the role of creativity in research, and techniques for expanding it. We need it, and the world needs us to find it. Cheers, and see you in Albuquerque!

PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



WSSA NEWS

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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).



WSSA News is published three times a year by the WSSA. Editor: Ian Wilson Record. For more info on *WSSA News*, 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).

WSSA Owes Big Thank You to Larry Gould

By Jim Peach

New Mexico State University
WSSA President-Elect

Thank you Larry Gould! Running an organization as large as the WSSA and making the annual conference a success involves hard work from a lot of people. Section coordinators, the Executive Council, the Editor of the *Social Science Journal*, and numerous others put in many, many hours to get the job done. Frequently unnoticed is the hardest working volunteer and most important person in the WSSA, our Executive Director, Larry Gould.

So, what does Larry do? First, he has a very demanding day job as Associate Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Northern Arizona University. In his spare time, he is the person who keeps the WSSA functioning and keeps the rest of us from making too many (serious) mistakes. His gentle and sometimes not-so-gentle reminders to the rest of us are always on target. Among his many tasks are keeping the membership records and accounts up to date, negotiating with hotels for the best contracts we can get, operating the registration desk at the conferences, seeing that the newsletter is published on a timely basis, maintaining the website, and responding to the questions and complaints of WSSA members and officers. For some of these tasks, he gets some great help from his able assistant, Kate Gould.

Most of what Larry Gould does for the WSSA, he does on



WSSA Executive Director Larry A. Gould

his own, largely without recognition or thanks. He never seeks the spotlight and he is always quick to give recognition and thanks to others. So, here is a well-deserved thank you to Larry Gould for all of the things he has done and will do for the WSSA. He will probably only publish this note after a serious protest, but I may have enough influence to get it in the newsletter. If you happen to see Larry at the conference, thank him yourself. He is not hard to find and not hard to recognize. He is the one frantically solving the problems that you and I create.

Brentwood, Fowler, Klima Among Winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Vice-President of the WSSA, and she also oversees the student paper competition. She has also served as a member of the Executive Council. We are pleased to have her continued involvement in the WSSA.

Three outstanding candidates competed for the position of Vice-President. It was a very close race, with **Phadrea Ponds** being elected to the position of Vice-President. She is with the U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado. Her participation in the WSSA is extensive, having served on the Executive Council and on numerous committees, including the Student Membership Committee.

Six very qualified candidates ran for Executive Council seats. Among the newly elected council members is **Mary Brentwood** of California State University. She has been involved with the WSSA since 1991, when she presented her first paper as a graduate student in the Political Science Department. She has served two terms as a Section Coordinator for the Environment and Natural Resource Management section and chooses the WSSA as her

primary professional organization because of the interdisciplinary nature of the organization.

The second new council member is **Gilbert Fowler** of Arkansas State University. He has been an active participant in the WSSA since 1993. He was recognized as an "Outstanding Section Coordinator" at the Salt Lake City conference in April 2004. He has been a big advocate of involving and supporting graduate students in our Association.

Cynthia Klima, associate professor of German and Russian Languages at SUNY-Geneseo, is the third new council member. She has been very active in the Rocky Mountain Western Slavic Association and the WSSA for the past eight years. She has served as a section chair as well as President and Coordinator of the RMWSA. She currently serves as the Chair of Regional Affiliates for The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

The WSSA thanks all of the candidates who agreed to stand for election. All of our election candidates have contributed significantly to the WSSA. We wish the best to the new officers and council members in the coming year.



2005 WSSA CONFERENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

APRIL 13TH — 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 Attendees Invited)
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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

Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Plenary Speaker Luncheon:
Fred R. Harris
(Ticketed Event)
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

WSSA Combined Business Meeting
and Section Coordinators Meeting
(All Old and New Section
Coordinators Are Required to Attend)
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

APRIL 14TH — THURSDAY

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

Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Presidential Luncheon and Address
WSSA President Lisa Nelson
(Ticketed Event)
11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Student Paper Competition
Winner Presentations
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Special WSSA Panel:
Publishing in *The Social Science Journal*
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Special Session:
"The Academic Job Search
and Life in the Academy"
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

APRIL 16th — SATURDAY

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

Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WSSA President's Reception
(All Are Invited)
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

APRIL 15TH — FRIDAY

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

Albuquerque: Something for Everyone

By Jim Peach

New Mexico State University
WSSA President-Elect

Albuquerque is always among the most popular sites for WSSA's annual conferences and we anticipate a large turnout again for our 2005 conference to be held April 13th through April 16th. As in 2002, this year's conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque. The Hyatt is located in the middle of downtown and its central location makes access to Albuquerque's many attractions easy.

And, how lucky can we be? In April, 2005 the city of Albuquerque begins its 300th birthday celebration. The celebration will continue for more than a year and will include many special events and activities. On Friday, April 15th, there will be a ribbon cutting at the expanded Albuquerque Art & History Museum as well as the opening of the first of three exhibits from Spain, "El Alma de Espana" featuring the "Old Masters." Opening ceremonies begin on April 16th (Saturday) at Balloon Fiesta Park and will include a balloon lift-off, bands from throughout the State, horse groups for parade, formal greetings, speeches, proclamations, release of doves, , music and fireworks. Also on April 16th, there will be music and fireworks in the Civic plaza directly across the street from the Hyatt. More information about these events can be found at: www.albuquerque300.org

The Duke City offers many other attractions. A visit to Historic Old Town with its central plaza and numerous shops and restaurants is a must. Albuquerque has a small but excellent zoo, a wonderful botanical garden, and an aquarium. The Museum of Natural History will give you the opportunity to see exhibits of what the area once looked like including a glimpse of dinosaurs. The rebirth of downtown Albuquerque is clearly evident along Central Avenue, which is just a few blocks from the hotel. Or, take a hike along the Rio Grande and its numerous nature trails. Albuquerque is not Reno or Las Vegas, but if gambling is your thing, there are several casinos in and

around town.

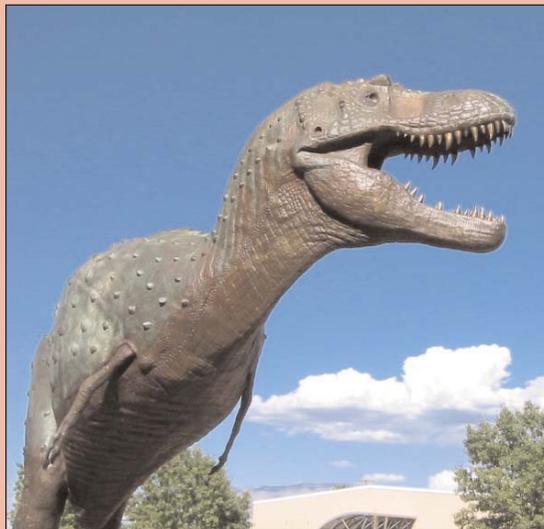
If this is not enough, then take a side trip. Santa Fe is an easy hour's drive north or visit nearby Acoma Pueblo, the oldest continuously inhabited city in America. If you have a little more time, the Bosque del Apache is about two hours south of the city and has bird-watching galore. Within a few hours are White Sands National Monument and Carlsbad Caverns, which are "must-see" places at some point in your life.

The WSSA also has some very special events planned for the conference. On Wednesday, April 13th, all participants are invited to WSSA's opening reception at 6 p.m. While there are no sessions on Wednesday, plan to arrive early enough for the opening reception, which is always a great time to relax and visit with both old and new friends. On Thursday at lunch-time, WSSA President Lisa Nelson will deliver her presidential address. On Friday, we are honored to have former U.S. Senator Fred Harris as our plenary speaker at lunch. Reserve your spot for both luncheon events early. On Saturday evening, everyone is invited to the President's Reception to celebrate the end of another successful conference.

And yes, we do have numerous panels and excellent papers organized around WSSA's thirty different sections. The section coordinators (many thanks to all) have been working hard to put together a great program. Although the final program is not finished, early reports indicate a very large and diverse set of panels. One of the really nice things about WSSA is the opportunity to attend and participate in sessions outside of your own discipline. Take a close look at the program and I am certain you will find sessions worth attending in many areas. When you need a short break from the sessions, the publisher's book exhibit and paper display are

well-worth your time. Bob Watson has been working hard on arranging the book display and I am sure it will be a good one.

Finally, don't hesitate to ask me or other WSSA officeholders or members of the executive council about other things to do or how to make the conference more enjoyable. We look forward to seeing you in Albuquerque.



Top: Albuquerque's Museum of Natural History.

Bottom: The scene outside of Albuquerque Plaza.

Casino or Not, That is the Question

By **Larry A. Gould**
Northern Arizona University
WSSA Executive Director

Over the last several years, the WSSA has conducted two surveys concerning issues important to the membership and conference attendees. Site selection for the conference is, of course, an important issue. The results from the most recent survey suggests that most attendees either like to occasionally attend a conference held at a casino or that it makes no difference to them. A small--very small--number of members don't like casinos at all and I don't blame them. I should note, however, that our highest attendance in recent years has come when the conference was held in Reno and Las Vegas.

When we look at a potential site, we consider catering and A/V costs, proximity to the airport, hotel size and presentation of the facility, and, above all, the guestroom costs. We also consider past attendance at the conference if it was previously held in a city under current consideration. For upcoming conferences, we have looked at San Antonio (\$185.00/night), San Diego (\$170.00/night), Salt Lake City

(\$110.00/night), and Kansas City (\$160.00/night, plus \$7,000 per day conference room rental). All of these rates are in 2005 prices with a 3 to 5 percent maximum yearly increase until the conference.

Those attending the last conference in Salt Lake City had a really great time; however, attendance was very low. Salt Lake City simply did not attract the attention of many potential attendees.

Many members want to go back to San Diego; however, the only place that can accommodate us is the Town and Country, which in addition to high guestroom costs has a catering rate about one third higher than other hotels.

So what do we do? How about Reno?! The Hilton in Reno has offered us a rate of \$99.00 per night with a maximum of 3 percent yearly increase on guestrooms until the conference in 2010. Most importantly, the conference center and hotel area are separated from the casino. Again, I don't

want any of the people who don't like casinos to think that we are not paying attention to you. We are. In fact, by the time we get to Reno in 2010, it will have been about 10 years between casino visits as opposed to once every 3 years on average in the 1990s.



Is Reno the answer to the conference question?

Former Senator Headlines Program

By **Jim Peach**
New Mexico State University
WSSA President-Elect

One of the highlights of the upcoming WSSA conference in Albuquerque no doubt will be the plenary address by renowned speaker Fred R. Harris. In addition to his current position as Professor of Political Science at the University of New Mexico, Harris has a long and distinguished career of public service. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma, College of Law in 1954 with numerous awards for his academic performance.

In August 2001, he was presented with the Outstanding Teaching in Political Science Award by the American Political Science Association and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honorary society.

After practicing law and serving in the Oklahoma State Legislature from 1956 to 1964, Professor Harris was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1964 and served as National Democratic

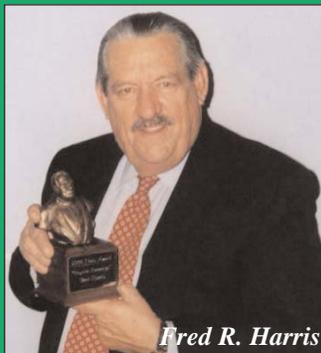
Party Chair from 1969 to 1970. He is a very dynamic speaker who has won numerous teaching awards. He also is fluent in Spanish.

Professor Harris also is the author or editor of 20 books, including three works of fiction. His works of fiction include *Coyote Revenge* (1999), which was the Winner of the 2000 Nero Wolfe award, and *Easy Pickins* (2000). His latest novel (*Following the Harvest*) was released in October 2004.

A small sampling of his non-fiction books includes: *Alarms and Hopes* (1968), *Deadlock or Decision: The U.S. Senate and the Rise of National Politics* (1993), *In Defense of Congress* (1995), and *Locked in the Poorhouse: Cities, Race, and Poverty in the United States* (Co-editor, 2000).

The title of his plenary address will be: "The Baby Bust: Who Will Do the Work? Who Will Pay the Taxes?" The plenary address and luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 15th.

Additional information about Professor Harris can be found at www.unm.edu/~polsci/faculty_listing/Harris.htm.



Fred R. Harris

News and Notes from the WSSA

FINALIZING ALBUQUERQUE AND PLANNING FOR PHOENIX

We are in the final stages of getting ready for the conference in Albuquerque. Catering menus, room assignments, and A/V equipment requests are being finalized at the same time that we are pre-registering attendees. Do to the hard work of the Section Coordinators, the Executive Council and Jim Peach, our Program Coordinator and President-Elect, along with the wonderful staff at the Hyatt, things are moving along smoothly.

While all of this is occurring, we are also planning the Fall 2005 Executive Council Meeting in Phoenix. It has been a long time since WSSA has held its conference in the Valley of the Sun and we are really looking forward to returning. The Wyndham, located in the downtown area near the Arizona Center and the Heard Museum, is one of Phoenix's finest hotel properties. Other attractions only a short walk from the Conference Hotel are the Phoenix Civic Plaza, the shops and restaurants of Arizona Center, America West Arena, Bank One Ballpark, the Herberger and Orpheum Theaters, Symphony Hall, and the Dodge Theatre.

The Wyndham is only a short ride from Sky Harbor Airport, which serves as a hub for America West and Southwest Airlines, along with American, Delta, Air Canada, Alaska and many others.

-- Larry A. Gould, Executive Director

SECTION COORDINATORS' CORNER

In the last issue, I discussed how the WSSA is, and always has been, decentralized in its approach to the organization's membership recruitment. The key role in this decentralized approach is the Section Coordinator. The WSSA's health as an organization is directly related to the health of the sections. Since the WSSA does not maintain a centralized database all the potential members of the organization, the lifeblood of WSSA is in the sections' lists of active and potential members.

There is an issue that is an extension of this very important fact. The first real direct notification that WSSA members receive regarding an upcoming conference comes from the sections coordinators when they mail out the Call for Papers for their section. This is a very important communication. What I want to point out is that early notification to members through the Call for Papers serves two very important functions. First and most obvious is that it gives section members sufficient time to prepare their papers for submission. However, there is an equally important function that an early call for papers serves. In these days of tight travel budgets, faculty must make early decisions about what professional meeting they will attend in the next year. Early mailing of our Call for Papers serves to draw attention to our meeting and encourages faculty to consider our meeting in their plans.

I would like to encourage all section coordinators to get their Call for Papers out to their Sections in May to insure full consideration of our meeting by our members.

-- Dennis Catlin, WSSA Executive Council

A NOTE FROM YOUR COLLEAGUE ROBERT WATSON

Hello, Colleagues. I regret to say that I will be unable to attend the conference next month. My schedule has simply become unmanageable, as I have many conference, journal, board and speaker series engagements.

In fact, on May 1st I am resigning from numerous boards and foundations as well as my many campus committees and administrative tasks such as graduate director, athletics representative, etc. It took some time, but I finally learned to say NO! :-)

I am freeing up my schedule to refocus my energies on a run for Congress for 2006. I have been speaking and giving media interviews throughout south Florida nearly every day for the past year, and have been building a campaign organization and network of supporters in anticipation of filing the paperwork and hiring the campaign team this summer.

I will try to stay active with the WSSA, as I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 6 1/2 years with all of you. There is not another association--or executive council, for that matter--with as many warm individuals as the WSSA. It has been a real treat to work with everyone, and my heart is heavy that I am unable to make what was to be my last conference in my official capacity with WSSA and SSJ. I'll be in touch. And have a blast in Albuquerque!

-- Robert P. Watson, SSJ Book Review Editor

GO WIRELESS IN ALBUQUERQUE

Take advantage of the free, publicly accessible wireless space across the street from the Hyatt (conference hotel) in the Civic Plaza. Albuquerque was the first city in New Mexico to provide free wireless at various city hotspots such as Civic Plaza. Sit down at one of the tables in the Plaza with your favorite wireless device (laptop computer, PDA, Pocket PC) that contains a wireless network adaptor and browse the Web and check and or send e-mail. The plaza is wired by a T1 line that makes the Internet accessible at 1.544 megabits per second. As long as you are within a 1000-foot line of sight of the antennae (all spots within the Civic Plaza) then you can take advantage of this free service. Starbucks customers seated in the outside café at the corner of the hotel have been successful at connecting to the service, however, you won't be able to connect within the hotel, so venture outside and enjoy the weather while you surf the web.

-- Rich Greene, WSSA Executive Council



CALL FOR PAPERS WSSA 2006 PHOENIX



Wyndham Hotel, Phoenix



Downtown Phoenix



Camelback Mountain, Phoenix

CALL FOR PAPERS

**WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION**

**48TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WYNDHAM HOTEL
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
602-333-5000
APRIL 17 - 23, 2006**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
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PLEASE SEE:**

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