



# WSSA NEWS

Since 1958

Scholarship - Service - Collegiality

wssa.asu.edu

Volume 42, Number 1

SPRING 2010

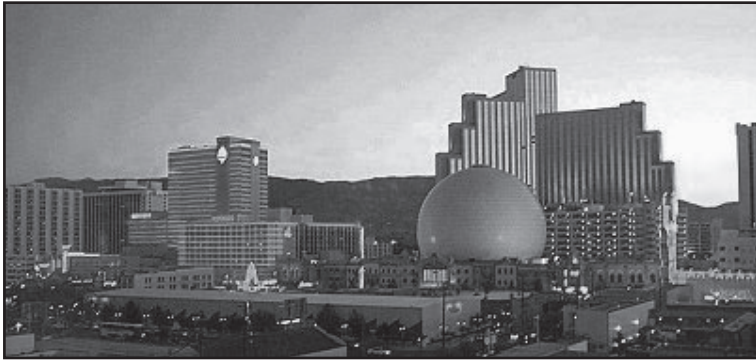


Photo of Reno

## What to Do at the Reno Conference??

By Gil Fowler,  
President-Elect



I hope that you plan to join us as we celebrate "Social Sciences: Addressing the World's Challenges" in Reno this April for our 52nd Annual WSSA Convention. The New Year has

come and gone and it's now time to begin our preparations in earnest. Edits can still be made, presentation materials scrutinized and travel arrangements contemplated as we move toward the southwest. And the annual celebration is on track to be one of the best ever. Certainly we want to thank our outstanding group of section coordinators for their work in recruiting and organizing the program; it will be extensive, exciting and open to all. And even if you are not on the program, we hope you

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 12*



The Truckee River, Reno, NV

## Voters Pushing Electrons: Comments, Anyone?

By Kate Herke, Newsletter Editor

Participation in recent elections for Association officers and Council Members has been very light in recent years. It has been speculated that this might be partially due to the mail-in format: busy members simply feel they don't have time to deal with paper ballots. So, this year the Executive Board unanimously decided to move the election to an on-line format. Since most members spend a great deal of time on their computers, it was thought that moving to web-based voting might result in greater participation from our members. This year, instead of mailing out ballots and biographies of the candidates to the membership, as we usually do, we mailed notices containing one-use pin codes and URL's for the candidates' biographies and for the voting website. In

order to ensure the anonymity of the votes, pin codes were randomly generated, and were added, on separate sheets in random order, to members' dues notices. Members visited the biography page, then went to the election site and used their pin codes to vote. Once the votes were submitted, the pin codes were automatically invalidated for further use.

Since this newsletter will be sent to the publisher prior to the voting deadline, we can't report here on the results produced by the new procedure. However, the Executive Council would greatly appreciate members' comments – so, what do you think of the electronic voting procedure? You can tell us, by sending comments to this newsletter, at [WSSA.Admin@nau.edu](mailto:WSSA.Admin@nau.edu).

## Change in Membership and Dues

Larry Gould,  
Executive Director

Historically, the WSSA has not required attendees at the annual conference to be members of the Association. The reason for this has been obscured by time, but is probably related to the fact that, until the most recent Social Science Journal contract the Association had to pay at least \$5.00 per member, per issue, for each member receiving the Journal. That cost is no longer a part of the contract; in fact, the Association is now able to send the Journal to members at no cost.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 11*

PAGE 3

State Lotteries: A Hidden Tax

PAGE 4

President's Soapbox

PAGE 6

Social Science and Gambling

PAGE 9

Constitution Revised

PAGE 14

Wanted Posters

PAGE 15

52nd Conference Overview

# Board Actions

Leila Pratt,  
Vice-President

**A**t this year's annual meeting in Reno there will be a large area for poster displays. Section co-coordinators and faculty should encourage students to bring posters and display them during the conference.

The Grand Sierra Resort and Hotel will have wireless internet available throughout the building for the conference in April. However, there is a fee for using this service (see a discussion of these fees else where in the newsletter). In addition, WSSA will be sponsoring an internet café which will be available to all registered participants. Computers and wireless internet connections will be available free of charge.

The council voted to change the membership and dues beginning with the 2011 conference in Salt Lake City. These changes are explained in an article in the current newsletter.

The Council moved to present to the membership at the 2010 business meeting a new Constitution for their approval. Members are encouraged to express their opinions and concerns regarding the revised constitution to any member of the Executive Council prior to the annual business meeting.

---

## Thanks and Adieux to Irasema Corona

Chris Brown,  
Council Member

**A**fter several years of service to the WSSA Executive Council and the WSSA membership, members of the Executive Committee bid farewell to our wonderful colleague. In her time as a member of the EC, Irasema has worked hard to promote diversity among the Council and WSSA, helped integrate activities of the WSSA and the Association for Borderland Studies, and brought a valuable perspective to our work. As is so often the case with someone of her caliber, her talents are needed at her home institution, the University of Texas, El Paso, and she has regretfully left the EC. We thank her for her hard work and wish her the very best. We also say a warm and sincere thanks to Gary Linn, a former member of the EC who has graciously agreed to serve out the rest of Irasema's term and also help the WSSA in the areas of membership and marketing.

# WSSA NEWS

## 2009-2010 WSSA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**Jack Hou**

California State Univ.-Long Beach  
[jackhou@csulb.edu](mailto:jackhou@csulb.edu)

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Gil Fowler**

Arkansas State University  
[gfwler@astate.edu](mailto:gfwler@astate.edu)

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Leila J. Pratt**

University of Tennessee  
[Leila-Pratt@utc.edu](mailto:Leila-Pratt@utc.edu)

### PAST PRESIDENT

**Phadrea Ponds**

Fort Collins Science Center,  
U.S. Geological Survey  
[pondsp@usgs.gov](mailto:pondsp@usgs.gov)

## 2009-2010 WSSA COUNCIL

### Tom Isern (2010)

North Dakota State University  
[isern@plainsfolk.com](mailto:isern@plainsfolk.com)

### Eileen M. Luna-Firebaugh (2012)

University of Arizona  
[eluna@u.arizona.edu](mailto:eluna@u.arizona.edu)

### J. Gary Linn (2010)

Tennessee State University  
[JLinn@aol.com](mailto:JLinn@aol.com)

### EX OFFICIO

### Larry A. Gould, Exec. Director

Northern Arizona University  
[larry.gould@nau.edu](mailto:larry.gould@nau.edu)

### Victor L. Heller (2010)

The University of Texas at San Antonio  
[victor.heller@utsa.edu](mailto:victor.heller@utsa.edu)

### N. Prabha Unnithan, Editor

The Social Science Journal  
Colorado State University  
[prabha@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:prabha@lamar.colostate.edu)

### Christopher Brown (2011)

New Mexico State University  
[brownchr@nmsu.edu](mailto:brownchr@nmsu.edu)

### Rich Greene

SSJ Book Review Editor  
Northern Illinois University  
[rgreene@niu.edu](mailto:rgreene@niu.edu)

### Douglas C. Nord (2011)

Western Washington University  
[douglas.nord@wwu.edu](mailto:douglas.nord@wwu.edu)

### Betsy Rankin (2011)

Centenary College of Louisiana  
[brankin@centenary.edu](mailto:brankin@centenary.edu)

### Kate Herke, WSSA News Editor

WSSA Conference Manager  
Louisiana Office of  
Student Financial Assistance.  
[WSSA.Admin@nau.edu](mailto:WSSA.Admin@nau.edu)

### Leslie R. Alm (2012)

Boise State University  
[lalm@boisestate.edu](mailto:lalm@boisestate.edu)

### Chris Hiryak, Webmaster

Arizona State University  
[chris.hiryak@asu.edu](mailto:chris.hiryak@asu.edu)

### Donna L. Lybecker (2012)

Idaho State University  
[lybedonn@isu.edu](mailto:lybedonn@isu.edu)

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, two 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, Yuma Branch Campus, P.O. 6236, Yuma, AZ 85366-6236 (Phone: 928-317-6475; Fax: 928-317-6419; E-mail: [larry.gould@nau.edu](mailto:larry.gould@nau.edu))



*WSSA News* is published two times a year by the WSSA. Editor: Kate Herke. For more info on *WSSA News*, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, Yuma Branch Campus, P.O. 6236, Yuma, AZ 85366-6236 (Phone: 928-317-6475; Fax: 928-317-6419; E-mail: [larry.gould@nau.edu](mailto:larry.gould@nau.edu)).



# State Lotteries: A Hidden Tax

Leila Pratt,

Hart Professor of Economics

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

In the United States, lotteries can be traced to colonial times. They remained popular until the late nineteenth century, when bribery scandals, among other problems, caused them to be outlawed in all states. They began to reappear in 1963 when New Hampshire introduced the New Hampshire Sweepstakes. A short time later, New York introduced a lottery. Neither of these early modern lotteries was very successful, likely because both featured high ticket prices and infrequent drawings.

In 1970, New Jersey, influenced by a favorable marketing study and a need to raise additional state revenue, initiated a lottery. Unlike the ones in New Hampshire and New York, the New Jersey lottery featured low ticket prices (50 cents) and weekly prize drawings. It was a huge success and sparked the modern growth in lotteries. Between 1971 and 1975 the number of states operating lotteries increased from 3 to 12. During this same time, growth in lottery ticket sales averaged almost 44 percent in real terms. Over the next five years only two new states added lotteries and the real growth rate in lottery ticket sales slowed to only 12 percent. Between 1981 and 1984 growth recovered nicely. Three new states added lotteries and ticket sales grew in real terms by approximately 24 percent. In 2006, forty-one states had some form of lottery and these lotteries sold \$53.7 billion worth of tickets.

Although lotteries have grown rapidly over the last several years, they account for only a small part of state revenues. In 2006, according to the Bureau of the Census State Lottery Report, proceeds from lottery sales were less than 1% of total state revenues. In fact, net lottery proceeds have decreased from 1.19% of state revenue in 1997 to 0.95% of state revenue in 2006 (the latest year for which data is available). This was less revenue than from motor vehicle licenses (1.07%) or tobacco (0.82%).

The above suggests that lotteries should represent a relatively light burden on consumers. However, the use of lotteries as a revenue source has generated much criticism, primarily because they are considered by many to be an implicit tax which is regressive. Let's examine this claim.

State lotteries are public enterprises that are established by law as monopolies — the sole provider of a good that has few or no suitable substitutes. Normally, a public enterprise is created because the private sector cannot provide the good or service due to some type of market failure, such as occurs with public goods or externalities. Lotteries, however, are created for the primary purpose of generating

revenue. These revenues are an excise tax.

By law a certain proportion of the proceeds from lottery ticket sales is returned to the public in the form of prizes. This amount ranged from 52 to 78 percent in 2006. Another portion of the income from ticket sales is set aside for administrative expenses. These ranged from 1.19% to 16% in 2006, with an average of 4%. The remainder of the proceeds is state revenue.

If revenue were not needed by the state then the lottery could be run on a break-even basis. In that case the price of a lottery ticket could be set equal to the sum of the amount of the ticket income that must be set aside for prizes, plus the commissions paid to the establishments that handle ticket sales for the state, and the administrative cost. At that price all money obtained by ticket sales would be paid out in prizes or other costs. In other words, the price of the ticket would be the same as the average cost of producing the ticket. However, all states operating lotteries currently mark up the price of lottery tickets above the average cost. Thus all states practice a form of markup cost pricing. The markup is the tax revenue per ticket.

In Tennessee for example, the lottery tax is approximately 27.7 percent of the selling price ( $100\% - (66.7\% \text{ (prize)} + 5.6\% \text{ (administrative expense)})$ ). As a percentage of average cost the tax is 38.3 percent. (To obtain this value, divide the tax rate of 27.7% by the cost of 72.3 %.)

Thus Tennessee levies an excise tax of approximately 38.3 percent on every lottery ticket sold. Other states operating lotteries impose similar excise taxes. This is an extremely high tax rate. It is also relatively costly to collect. It costs the state about 5.6 cents to gain a dollar in net revenue under the lottery scheme, but only about two cents to gain a dollar of revenue from other tax sources.

This extremely high tax rate may result from a reluctant acceptance of lotteries as a revenue source by state policy makers. This may be especially true when there is great resistance to lotteries on moral grounds. In this case, the lottery tax is similar to a "sin tax" or a "sumptuary tax", that is, a tax designed to discourage consumption or promote moral behavior. However, this argument seems unreasonable in light of the advertising and marketing campaigns that accompany lotteries. A more realistic view of state lotteries is that they are profit maximizing monopolies. However, the monopoly profits earned in this case are tax revenues.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Vol. 42, No.1  
Spring 2010

PAGE 3

# President's Soapbox

By Jack Hou, President, 2009-2010

The 52nd Annual Conference of the WSSA will be held in Reno, Nevada, "the Biggest Little City in the World". The conference will be held in the Grand Sierra Resort, a large hotel that offers fun and games for all ages, with a wide range

## PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



of eateries that will assure you will always find something to your taste. The staff at the Resort are truly warm and hospitable; I can personally guarantee that. You may want to plan to stay through the whole conference; not only does the city itself have a lot to offer, there are also many exciting day trips one can take (after you've participated in all the exciting sessions the Conference has to offer, of course!).

Pleasantries aside, I would like to discuss some serious business. As I outlined in the Fall Newsletter, the Executive Council has been working towards revising our Constitution to update our mission. We, as members, should identify ourselves as the Association that fosters interdisciplinary studies and promote our annual conference as the ideal arena in which to expand one's scope of research by attending sessions outside of one's own disciplines.

At the Fall Council meeting, we worked tirelessly and did, in fact, revise the WSSA Constitution. This document will be put forward at the 2010 conference for a vote of approval by the general membership. The discussion and vote will be part of the WSSA Business Meeting (usually late afternoon on Friday). I encourage you to study the proposed Constitution, and to plan to be at the business meeting and participate in this important and historical vote. The Constitution can be downloaded at <http://wssa.asu.edu/announcements/default.htm>

The WSSA is also facing another related challenge: our membership is aging and dwindling. This is partially related to the identity issue we have been grappling with, but also to the fact that travel funds are diminishing and other related obstacles. Partially in response to this, we have added to the

duties of the President, the President-elect, and the Executive Director the responsibility to visit the appropriate administrators of the major university where our future conferences will be held, during the Fall Council meetings at those sites. For those who are unfamiliar with the Council activities, we usually meet twice a year; once during the annual conference, and again in the Fall, at the hotel where the next annual conference is to be held.

We started this practice for the 2009 Conference in Albuquerque. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all those from the University of New Mexico, and all the other New Mexico universities that make the 2009 Conference such a success.

This past September, 2009, we met with the Provost, the Deans of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Business, plus quite a few Department Chairs from the University of Nevada, Reno. In 2010, we will undoubtedly have a large contingent from that University.

At the upcoming 2010 conference, I would like to encourage our members to introduce yourselves when you see an attendee wearing a conference badge showing the University of Nevada. Welcome them to the conference and be an ambassador for the WSSA. By putting our best foot forward, hopefully we can convince them to join us in Salt Lake City in 2011. Even if we are only able to attract a fraction of these new local participants, it will be a wonderful start. By doing this year-in year-out, we will undoubtedly be well on our way towards building a solid foundation for new membership growth.

This leads to my final proclamation as President of the WSSA. Please join me in identifying ourselves as scholars interested in understanding the various aspects of the society we live in, trying to understand the many perspectives of the complex world around us, working hard to find solutions to the problems that inevitably exist in any human interaction. Please promote the WSSA and our Conference as the ideal place to foster interdisciplinary understanding and collaboration. When you perform your task as WSSA Ambassador, please add your appreciation of the WSSA onto the above small kernel and show just how truly wonderful the WSSA is.

As I come towards the end of my term as President, let me thank you all for this privilege. **See you at the Conference.**

# Kudos, Laurels, & Milestones

**Kudos** Orn Bodvarsson, St. Cloud State University, organized the 47th annual Economic Education Winter Institute, on the theme of Sino-American economic relations, February, 2009. It marked the launching of a partnership between St. Cloud State and Nankai University Binhai College (NUBC) in Tianjin, China. Bodvarsson spoke at the Tianjin conference on his research with Jack Hou (California State University, Long Beach) and others on rural-to-urban migration in China and participated in meetings and discussions focusing on partnership activities. (Submitted by Jack Hou, California State University at Long Beach)

**Kudos** Jack Hou, California State University-Long Beach, and Orn Bodvarsson, St. Cloud State University, were both keynote speakers on the International Symposium on Research of Aging Economy, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, November, 2009. Their paper, "The Regulation of Migration in a Transition Economy: China's Hukou System", was recently listed on SSRN's (Social Science Research Network) Top Ten download list for Labor: Public Policy & Regulation. (Submitted by Jack Hou)

**Laurels** Walter Kiang, California State University-Los Angeles, received the Chinese American Professional Society (CAPS) Service Award in November, 2009, at the 30th Anniversary Conference of CAPS. (Submitted by Walter Kiang)

**Milestones** Walter Kiang, California State University-Los Angeles, was elected President of the CSU-LA School of Social Work Advisory Board, November, 2009. (Submitted by Walter Kiang)

**Milestones** Steve Patrick, Boise State University, was promoted to Full Professor in 2009 and elected as Chair of the Department of Sociology. (Submitted by Steve Patrick)

**Milestones** Paul Tang, California State University-Long Beach, retired after 30 years of philosophy teaching and research in higher education. He has received several university and national awards and honors for his service. (Submitted by Paul Tang)

---

## Upcoming Journal Article

*Prabha Unnithan,  
Editor, Social Science Journal*



The lead article in Volume 46 (4) of the Social Science Journal is by Dr. James McHugh, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Akron. Entitled, "Iago the Meritocrat: Conflicting Interpretations of Individualism in the Early Modern Period," the article skillfully melds literary historical and political analysis. We asked Dr. McHugh to provide some back-

ground and context on this unusual article. He responds:

"This article reflects one of the more underappreciated subfields of political science: politics and literature. It is an example of the interdisciplinary effort to link a fuller understanding of the social sciences through an applica-

tion of humanist research. It also reflects a personal fascination that many people have with one of Shakespeare's most infamous villains. Iago has a special appeal for many people, despite his villainy. This article suggests that this fascination is a result of Iago's motivation, which may be a reflection of a sense of entitled outrage at having been passed over for promotion and, thus, humiliated for reasons that ignore his merit as an accomplished soldier and leader. That attitude may reflect a more profound cultural conflict between the conservatism of late-medieval thought and the early values of modern liberal thought that were just beginning to emerge around the time that Shakespeare wrote this play. Therefore, the article offers a literally dramatic exposition upon a theme that resonates within modern society--the belief that people should receive preferment and recognition because they earned it. In other words, Iago may be a monstrous villain for the acts that he commits but we, the modern audience, "get him" at a certain, fundamental level and his monologues directed at that audience reinforce that shared belief. Shakespeare's play helps us to understand the rise of these early, market-place-related values that have particular resonance within Western society, today."



# Gambling and the Social Sciences

*Mark W. Nichols,  
Professor and Chair, Department of Economics,  
University of Nevada, Reno*



This April, the WSSA will hold its annual meeting in Reno, Nevada. Not surprisingly, this will be held at a casino-resort hotel. Nevada legalized gambling in 1931, and as few as twenty years ago would have been the only western state holding this or any other conference at a casino-resort hotel. Up until 1991, Nevada and Atlantic City, where casinos first began operating

in 1978, were the only places in the United States with legalized casino gambling.

Today the landscape has changed dramatically. All western states, with the exception of Utah and Hawaii, have some form of “casino” located within their border. In fact, 37 states, up from 2 states twenty years ago, have either commercial casinos, Indian casinos, and/or racetrack casinos. While many of these locations, particularly the Indian casinos, would not be capable of hosting the WSSA, the fact remains that casino gambling has become widespread in the United States in a relatively short period of time. Rapid growth has also occurred in Canada, Australia, and many parts of Europe.

In 2007, revenue for commercial casinos in the U.S., including racetracks, was approximately \$34 billion, of which Nevada accounted for approximately 35%, or \$12 billion. This is before taxes, salaries, and other expenses are paid. Revenue for Indian casinos was estimated to be \$26 billion, a figure that is likely inaccurate given that many tribes are not required to publicly report the revenue earned from casinos. In contrast, lotteries take in approximately \$25 billion. Given the size of casino gambling revenues, it is easy to see why governments seeking new sources of tax revenue have considered casino gambling.

This rapid growth in casino gambling has been accompanied by rancorous debate among the residents in jurisdictions where casino legislation was proposed. Proponents of legalization stressed the economic benefits thought to result from the establishment of a casino. Increased job opportunities, a new (or enhanced) tourism industry, and increased tax revenues were compelling arguments, especially in economically depressed communities which had few other options available. Opponents, on the other hand, tended to stress the social problems believed to result from casinos and the change in the nature of the community itself, as many expected the gambling industry would become a

major force in the daily life and politics of the community. Crime, divorce, bankruptcy, and a change in traditional community values were seen as problems that would inevitably accompany casino legalization.

Despite the level of acrimony generated by casino legalization, an empirical foundation for the debate has largely been lacking. One of the goals of my research has been to provide an objective, multi-dimensional, and interdisciplinary assessment of the impact of casino gambling. Much of this began in earnest about ten years ago when myself, Grant Stitt, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Nevada, and David Giacomassi, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Memphis, received a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to examine the impact that casino gambling has on crime and quality of life. As an important aside relevant to WSSA members, one of the aspects of our proposal responsible for its approval by the Department of Justice was the interdisciplinary makeup of the principal investigators.

There were three main components of the research plan. The first consisted of site visits to each of the eight communities selected for inclusion in the study in order to interview community leaders to get their views on why casino gambling was introduced into the community and their perspective on the impact the casino had on their community. A broad spectrum of community leaders were interviewed, from mayors to police chiefs and heads of social service agencies. The second major component of the research consisted of telephoning several hundred residents in each community to obtain their opinions regarding the impact of the casino on the community and their views on how the casino affected day-to-day living within the community. The third component consisted of gathering bankruptcy, divorce, suicide, and crime data for the eight casino communities and a matched set of control communities. Importantly, by gathering data directly from police departments we were able to obtain “Part II offenses,” which include more minor offenses such as simple assault, prostitution, and DUI, which many criminologists believe are more likely to be associated with casinos than are the more serious “Part I offenses”, such as murder and forcible rape. In addition, the crime rates were calculated using both the residential population of the community and the “population at risk”, which includes visitors in the crime rate population calculations.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the 128 community leaders we interviewed were much more in favor of casinos than their corresponding citizens. Approximately 2/3 of community leaders thought the casinos had a positive impact on quality of life, whereas only 50% of the 2,768 residents we surveyed thought the casinos were good for the community. Generalizing, local citizens were much more dispassionate about the casinos than their community leaders.

Results indicate little consistency in crime trends for the communities studied. For example, when examining per capita crime rates across all communities, only larceny and liquor violations were found to be significantly higher in the casino com-

munities relative to their non-casino counterparts. However, when examining crime rates for the population at risk, residents plus visitors, no significant differences were found. There were, however, significant differences across communities. For example, both Biloxi, MS, and Peoria, IL, had large increases in crime relative to their counterparts. Alton, IL, in contrast, had large decreases in crime relative to its control community. These mixed results suggest that there are contextual factors operating in communities that explain the variation in crime rates associated with casinos. Discovering those contextual factors requires social scientists.

Finally, we found no significant contribution from casinos to the rates of suicide or divorce. However, bankruptcy rates generally increased following the legalization of casino gambling. The exception to this was Biloxi, MS, where bankruptcy rates had actually fallen. In speaking with several bankruptcy counselors in Biloxi, many told us that the casinos had provided jobs in a very economically depressed community, allowing bankruptcy to be avoided in some cases.

Since the completion of this study, I have gone on to examine many other gambling-related issues. These include the impact that casinos have on social capital (it is lower in the area immediately surrounding the casino), bankruptcy rates in other communities (there is evidence that casinos export bankruptcy to other states), and the growth and stability of gambling revenue as a tax base (it grows faster than sales tax but slower than income tax revenues and also slows over time). Recently it has been reaffirmed that casino gambling is not recession proof. As of October 2009, revenues in Nevada have declined, generally at double-digit rates, for 20 straight months (and counting)!

For all of the issues that I have described more work needs to be done as there is no clear, definitive evidence on the impact of casino gambling. In addition, there are numerous other issues surrounding gambling that have yet to be explored. For example, what has driven the rapid spread of gambling? Indeed, Indian casinos have expanded very rapidly since passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988. Yet, very little is known about their impact. Some tribes have been financially very successful. For example, both Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut have annual revenues that exceed \$1 billion, which is more than all of the casinos in Reno combined! Most tribes, of course, have much smaller operations. The impact that Indian casinos have had for Native Americans and surrounding communities is largely unexplored.

Many of the issues surrounding casino gambling involve complex, multifaceted human behavior. What drives people to gamble and why some become addicted is not fully understood. Similarly, the decision to commit suicide, get a divorce, or commit a crime is not one-dimensional. Therefore, a better understanding of the determinants of these behaviors is necessary to disentangle the role played by gambling. An interdisciplinary approach, both within the social sciences and between the social sciences and traditional sciences, will yield a more satisfactory investigation.

Chances are good that you live within a day's drive of a casino, something that would likely not have been true as few as 20 years ago. The gambling landscape in the U.S. and throughout the world has changed. What are the consequences of this expansion on communities, economies, and people? Despite the controversy surrounding this question, academic research has been relatively scant. While this is beginning to change, more research is needed, particularly interdisciplinary research. Interdisciplinary cooperation is one of the strengths of the WSSA and, in addition to seeing you in Reno, I hope to see more of its members and future members (i.e., current students) applying themselves to the study of gambling and its consequences.

## Ocean and Lotion

*Kate Herke,  
Conference Manager*



**R**eno is dry. Climatologically speaking, I mean, not alcoholically. There's a river running through the city, and lots of trees and flowers, but if you come from a place with normal humidity, just take my word for it, you're going to find Reno decidedly arid. This has its good points. A wet towel hung overnight will be bone dry in

the morning; your hair won't frizz; without the haze of humidity, the beauty of the scenery has an extra clarity; and you won't notice any sweat (or, in Miss Manners' term for ladies, "glow" ☺) - it evaporates before you can feel it.

But those of you who come from places where 60% humidity is considered dry will need to take some precautions to combat the slight problems that the dry air can cause. While the arid conditions may do nice things for the hair, your skin, lungs, and nose won't be equally happy. Anyone who's seen a moisturizer commercial knows what happens when your skin gets too dry. Unaccustomedly dry lungs can cause a mild sensation of tightness in the chest. Combined with the moisture lost

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 12*



Vol. 42, No.1  
Spring 2010

PAGE 7

# The Wardrobe Changes, WSSA Remains the Same

*Donna Lybecker,  
Council Member*



Looking back with amusement, I remember my first WSSA conference in April 1997. Wearing my mini-rucksack and pants which probably had too many pockets, I walked into both my first experience with the Western Social Science Association and also my first professional conference. The introduction was fantastic for a “stylishly dressed” young graduate student. I gave a paper, talked to fellow scholars who gave me tips, and met graduate students from a number of different universities. Years later, what keeps me coming back year after year? It is the friendly-yet-professionally-rigorous atmosphere and the people whom I now call friends.

Over the years I have changed my wardrobe, and I have changed the roles that I play at the conference, but I have not changed my annual trip to the WSSA. I would like to share a few thoughts about my experiences in hopes of encouraging others to maintain a regular presence at the WSSA. In particular I hope that my comments persuade graduate students of the vast opportunities and benefits of the WSSA. Today wearing skinny jeans and knee boots,

allow me to offer a timeline of lessons I have learned at WSSA:

1. Scholars you meet at the WSSA make excellent co-authors. Moreover, they are great contacts for grants, jobs, and professional announcements from universities, government agencies, and other organizations around the US.
2. Submit to the WSSA's Outstanding Graduate (or undergraduate) Student Paper competition—if you win, you get your photo in this newsletter!
3. The many excellent Associations who hold their meetings jointly with WSSA (Association for Borderland Studies, Association for Arid Lands Studies, etc.) also deserve your attention. They offer first-rate, brain-expanding panels and are worth checking out.
4. When you skip a year to move cross-country for your first job, people notice you are missing.
5. The people you meet at the WSSA are great contacts for writing letters of reference and letters for promotion. Not only will they step up, but what they deliver will make you turn five shades of red (and wonder if your letter was mixed up with the one for that over-achiever down the hall).
6. Of course you should run for Executive Committee—fun colleagues and a true voice in governance (Did I mention I am a political scientist? I know “a true voice in governance” when I see it.)
7. And finally, wear what you want! Lucky for me, WSSA attendees do not judge you on your wardrobe.

**See you all in Reno!**

## Congratulations on Revitalized Sections

*J. Gary Linn,  
Recruitment and Retention Coordinator*

The role of the WSSA section coordinator at times can be challenging. This is certainly the case when the coordinator is trying to put together a robust program when university travel budgets are cut or eliminated. Nevertheless, in these economi-

cally difficult times three of the sections, African and African American Studies, Chicano Studies/Land Grants, and Human Communication, have shown remarkable growth in participation. WSSA wishes to congratulate Theodore Ransaw, Section Coordinator for African and African American Studies; Aileen Lucero, Louis Holscher and Eric Romero, Section Coordinator for Chicano Studies/Land Grants; and Brant Short and Dayle Hardy-Short, Section Coordinator for Human Communication for their success in significantly expanding participation in their sections. Their leadership and hard work is much appreciated.



# Constitution Revised

Larry Gould  
Executive Director



After many years of successful operation, the Executive Council of the WSSA charged a committee composed of several past-presidents, the current president, and the executive director to review the practices of the Association, to compare those practices to its current constitution, and to propose appropriate revisions to, or a complete change in, that constitution. The charge also included development of a policy manual for the Association, but that can only be accomplished after the membership votes on passage of the proposed new constitution.

The committee (Jack Hou, Diane Calloway-Graham, Orn Bodvarson, Nina Burkhart, Phadrea Ponds, and Larry Gould) met during the summer of 2009. After long deliberation, we wrote a first draft of a proposed new constitu-

tion, which was submitted to the entire Executive Council. The Council reviewed the proposal prior to our September meeting, revised it at the meeting, and endorsed it to be submitted to the membership for approval. That will be done at the WSSA Business Meeting at the 2010 annual conference.

The proposed new constitution reflects the growth of the Association, the more detailed work of the Executive Council, and the need to develop very specific business practices. Additionally, the new constitution is designed to provide specific tasks and areas of responsibility to members of the Council, either as written in the constitution itself or as authorized in the operations manual.

**All interested members are strongly encouraged to go to <http://wssa.asu.edu/announcements/default.htm>, click on the “WSSA Constitution – Draft” link, and review the document prior to the April conference’s business meeting. All members in good standing at the time of the meeting are eligible to vote on adoption of the new constitution.**

## Strengthening Links

Christopher Brown,  
Council member



Dr. Christopher Brown, Department Head of Geography at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and Board member of the WSSA Executive Committee, recently presented an invited plenary paper at the 25th Anniversary Symposium of the Center for Applied Geography at the Catholic University of Peru. The center is a focal point of applied geographic research in South America, and much important applied geographic research has been done there. The paper was entitled, “The Use of GIS to Advance Management of Transboundary Water Resource

Management in North America.” As the only researcher from North America invited to the conference, Dr. Brown was able to share important work being done on the U.S.-Mexico border with colleagues from Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Spain, and France. The work was of special interest to Peruvian researchers, as the Peruvian government has not historically been supportive of border research due to security concerns. Such efforts by Dr. Brown are related to some ongoing work he has done as a member of the WSSA Executive Committee to strengthen links between the WSSA, The Association for Canadian Studies in the US, and the Association for Borderland Studies. The focus of this work is a comparative examination of US-Canada and US-Mexico border issues. Out of discussions at the conference, high ranking officials at the Catholic University of Peru have inquired after a *convenio* by which researchers at NMSU could work in Peru, and researchers from Peru could work at NMSU. Dr. Brown will be working with NMSU staff in the Office for International Programs to explore development and signing of such a *convenio*.



# Reno is a Gateway City to the Spectacular Lake Tahoe Recreation Area

Gary Linn,  
Council Member



Just 35 miles southwest of Reno, Nevada, is the breathtakingly beautiful Lake Tahoe recreation area. If you are looking for an Alpine Lake that rivals, if not surpasses, the mountain lakes of Europe such as Como, Lugano, and Maggiore in sheer beauty, you will find it at Tahoe. Mark Twain was so impressed with the pristine condition and aesthetic qualities of Lake Tahoe that he wrote

in his memoir, *Roughing It*, "Three months of camp life on Lake Tahoe would restore an Egyptian mummy." You will agree when you view the profoundly blue translucent waters of this vast lake framed by the snow-capped, towering pine-covered Sierra Nevada mountains.

Here are some facts about Lake Tahoe and the surrounding areas' recreation amenities. Tahoe, situated at 6,223 feet, is the largest Alpine lake in North America. It is 22 miles long and 12 miles wide with 193 square miles of surface and 71 miles of shoreline. The deepest point in the lake is 1,472 feet, and it is fed by scores of mountain streams. Due to its extreme depth, Lake Tahoe does not freeze, and during the winter and early spring months, it takes on a deep blue color reflecting the sky. An all-weather road circles the lake. The complete excursion is 72 miles and covers the relatively undeveloped California side and the built up Nevada shore, which includes several sizable casinos. Perhaps the most scenic portion of Lakeshore Drive runs from Tahoe city at the mouth of the Truckee River to Tallac, southeast of Emerald bay. If you choose this route, you will pass beautiful Meeks Bay and

the glacially carved Emerald Bay, which contains the lake's only island. Further on, you can stop, view, and possibly tour the Ehrman mansion and Vikingsholm Castle, which is an excellent example of medieval Scandinavian architecture.

With an elevation over 6,000 feet, winter usually lingers well into April in the Tahoe recreation area. Therefore, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling should be available both before and after the WSSA meeting (April 14-17, 2010). As you approach Lake Tahoe from Truckee on route 89, you can stop at the site of the 1960 winter Olympics, Squaw Valley. Even if you are not a skier, it is well worth your while to visit the resort, take in the view, and watch skiers descend the steep mountain, which is often wrapped in blowing clouds of snow. Snow depths in the winter months can often reach into the double digits, but by April the deep drifts have usually melted or been pushed off the roads by plows. If you have begun the Tahoe lakeshore drive and are looking for a place with great local ambiance for lunch, try Gar Woods Grill and Pier on beautiful Carnelian Bay. They make an excellent hamburger and have a varied menu. Also, if you have a designated driver, try one of their Tequila shooters, which is a house specialty. As you head south on Route 89, you will also encounter two other prominent ski resorts – Tahoe Ski Bowl and Heavenly Valley. At one time, Heavenly Valley was the largest ski resort in the United States.

If you push on along the south shore of Lake Tahoe, you will eventually come into State Line, Nevada. Since the 1960s, this community has had several large casino hotels, and many motels and shops. If you visit the casino hotels, be sure to ride the elevator to the splendid restaurant atop Harveys Wagon Wheel. It offers spectacular views of the lake and the snow-covered Sierra Nevada mountains.

Overall, a trip to Reno would not be complete without a side trip to Lake Tahoe. Be sure to bring your camera.

For more information, consult: Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority

Phone: (530) 544-5050  
[www.virtualtahoe.com](http://www.virtualtahoe.com)

## Coming Soon: Social Networking

Donna Lybecker, Council Member

Keep your eyes peeled for WSSA on Facebook. We are expanding our reach to include Facebook and other social networks. Watch for the links.

Donna Lybecker, Idaho State University, will be in charge of the Association's Social networking sites through April, 2012.

# Change in Membership and Dues

Larry Gould, Executive Director

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The current pricing structure has proven, even after many attempts to clarify it, to be confusing to attendees. This continues to create a tremendous workload for staff. It is all too often the case that non-members will register for the conference at the membership price. This means that we have to contact them individually to get this straightened out, which often requires several emails and/or phone calls, additional checks or special on-line transactions, etc.. Additionally, the multiple types of membership and non-membership require much more effort to track for mailing, dues notices, newsletters and additional inquiries.

Receipt of the *Journal* and the Newsletter are among our benefits for our members. Additionally, the feeling of membership in an organization is more likely to lead attendees to return to the next conference.

At the Fall 2009 Executive Council meeting, it was decided that, starting in April of 2010, the Association membership will consist of two large categories or groups: Those attending the conference and those not able to attend the conference but wishing to receive the *Journal* and the Newsletter.

There were several possible ways to frame this; however, the best way appeared to be to make the cost of conference attendance the same for everyone, and make membership (with its included subscription to the *Journal* and newsletter) “free” as part of conference registration. Those not attending who wish to remain members would be able to purchase a subscription on-line.

The advantages to this include:

1. Easier tracking of attendees

2. More advertising and repeat notice of the Association through the receipt of the *Journal* and newsletter by a larger number of people
3. Removes the appearance of a “penalty” in terms of cost for being a member and attending the conference
4. Attendees are more likely to be able to recover the full cost of the conference, including the “free” membership, from their institutions.
5. Most importantly, it removes the feeling of being an “outsider” from those who would otherwise be registered as “non-members”
6. Reduces the confusion on our webpage for pre-registration

To facilitate this change, we are also changing the dates of the membership year. Keeping our current membership year, January 1 through December 31, would mean that there could be many people who originally choose to pay for a subscription only, then want to pay conference registration when they decide, in February for instance, to attend the conference. That would force us to do essentially what we have been doing until now – have a broad range of prices. Changing the membership year to run from April 1 through March 31 would greatly decrease that problem, although we can’t get rid of it entirely. The current calendar year basis for membership also means that the many people who wait to renew their memberships until they register for the conference frequently miss the March issue of the *Journal* and the Spring issue of the Newsletter; changing the membership year should eliminate this problem entirely.

## Meet the 2010-2011 Candidates

*Phadrea Ponds,  
Immediate Past President*



The 2009 Nomination Committee – composed of Immediate Past-President Phadrea Ponds, chair, and Past Presidents Nina Burkardt, Diane Graham, Nick Peroff and Rick Adkisson – is pleased to have been able to present a strong slate of candidates for the 2010-2011 WSSA Executive Board. According to our constitution, the current President-Elect, Gil Fowler of Arkansas State University, will assume the position of 2010-2011 WSSA President at the end of the 2010 conference, and our current President,

Jack Hou of California State University-Long Beach, will take up the duties of the Immediate Past President. According to precedent, the nominees for the other positions were announced during the annual fall meeting of the current Executive Council. Victor Heller, University of Texas at San Antonio, was nominated to succeed Gil Fowler as President-Elect. Tom Isern, North Dakota State University, was nominated for Vice President. The six Executive Council nominees were Heather Albanesi, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Ross Burkhardt, Boise State University; Scott Carson, University of Texas – Permian Basin; Louis Holcher, San Jose State University; Daniel J. McInerney, Utah State University; Theodore Ransaw, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Debra Rose Wilson, Middle Tennessee State University.

As the voting deadline was at approximately the same time as this newsletter is being published, it is not possible to name the winners in this issue. However, the successful candidates will take up their new positions at the end of the 2010 conference. and their information will appear on the WSSA website “Officers” page shortly afterward.



## What to Do at the Reno Conference!!

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

will take the opportunity to join us in Reno for another great networking and learning experience. Average temperatures for April are roughly 50 degrees (64 degrees F high and 35 degrees low), and the Grand Sierra Resort is spruced up and waiting to be our host, so it should be a pleasant outing for all.

To date, well over 200 panels are scheduled along with a number of special events. As you can see from the Program Overview in this issue, we have a strong lineup and there are likely to be some nice surprises as we near the April event. Although your Executive Council will have been hard at work before many of you arrive on April 14th, the general conference begins with a welcome reception for all attendees and guests on Wednesday evening at 6:00pm.

On Thursday, a number of special activities are set. We strongly encourage you to support the Association's mission of encouraging student involvement by attending the Student Paper Competition Winners presentation, at 2:45 pm that afternoon. That will be followed by two special events at 4:30. Fulbright Ambassador John Holian, who has participated in two Fulbright exchanges to the Ukraine (one for teaching and one for research), will host a special session titled "Fulbright Scholar Awards: A World of Opportunities for Faculty and Professionals", for those wondering what a Fulbright actually is.

Scheduled in the 4:30 time block, he will share what one needs to consider in the application process and how to plan for and have a successful Fulbright experience. Scheduled at the same time, American Indian Studies will air the first of two movies open to all attendees. Entitled, "The Chief's Prophecy, Survival of the Northern Cheyenne Nation," this documentary addresses the many problems facing people on the southeastern Montana reservation: unemployment, poverty, alcohol and drugs. Produced by University of Arizona doctoral student Leo KILLSBACK, the film also gives reason for hope if the tribe will return to the old values early tribal leaders held dear. There will be time for questions and answers following the presentation.

On Friday, WSSA President Jack Hou will deliver his presidential address at a ticketed luncheon (tickets may be purchased at the time of registration and a limited number may be available at check-in). Later that afternoon we will have the opportunity to vote on a new WSSA Constitution at the WSSA Business Meeting which begins at 4:30 pm. Immediately following that meeting, the Section Coordinators will begin plans for the 53rd annual convention to be held in Salt Lake City in April 2011. All old and new section leaders must attend.

On Saturday afternoon, the second AIS-sponsored video will be presented. A special screening of "Canoe Way" that documents the annual Tribal Journeys of the Pacific Northwest coast Salish people will begin at 4:30 pm. According to promotional materials for the production, each

stroke of the paddle illustrates a prayer as the indigenous tribes and First Nations from Oregon, Washington, Canada and Alaska follow their ancestral pathways through the waters of Puget Sound, the Inside Passage and the Northwest Coast, allowing families and youth to reconnect with the past and each other. The production by Cedar Media of Tacoma, Washington, allows the audience to "witness first hand, through the words and images of a proud people, as they share the story of the resurgence of the cedar canoe society – how it has opened a spiritual path of healing through tradition." There will be time for questions and a short break before the final conference event.

The conference will officially conclude with the President's Reception open to all attendees at 6:30 Saturday evening. The reception will provide refreshments, and music for dancing.

Throughout the three days, concurrent panel sessions for the 25+ special-interest areas will run from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. And the traditional Publisher's Book Exhibits will run from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Thursday/Friday and from 8:00 am to 1 pm on Saturday.

And while we want you to enjoy the academic portions of the conference, there will be many opportunities to make new friends, renew acquaintances, and begin working on ideas for next year's conference. And yes, take in the ambiance of Reno, Lake Tahoe and the region. Details regarding Reno itself and the Grand Hyatt are available on-line and in the fall 2009 WSSA Newsletter.

## Ocean and Lotion

*Kate Herke, Conference Manager*

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7*

through the skin, the moisture loss through the lungs can produce surprisingly rapid dehydration. And the inside of the nose will also be unaccustomedly dry, which can be uncomfortable.

Fear not! There are easy fixes for all of these things. You know what to do about the skin: just bring moisturizing lotion. All that's necessary to keep dehydration at bay is to drink lots and lots of water. That helps keep the lungs comfortable as well. For the nose, if it becomes too dry, or better yet, before it's too dry, any drugstore can provide saline nasal sprays, like "Ocean" and "Ayr", that will rehydrate those sensitive tissues quickly and easily.

The dry air, and the altitude, make the sun a little fiercer too, so be sure to bring along a hat and sunscreen. If you attended last year's conference, you already have the most appropriate chapeau: a nice baseball cap, with the Association's name imprinted!

# State Lotteries: A Hidden Tax

Leila Pratt,

Hart Professor of Economics

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The supply of lottery tickets is perfectly elastic. That is, any number can be sold at the price set by the monopoly supplier, the state. Because supply is perfectly elastic, the implicit excise tax is shifted forward to the consumer. Thus the buyer of a lottery ticket bears the full burden of the tax.

More interesting than the distribution of the lottery tax burden between the producer and the consumer, is the distribution of its burden among various income classes. Most of the criticism of lotteries centers on the allegation that they are a highly regressive tax. That is, a tax which imposes a larger burden on individuals with lower incomes or a tax where revenue as a percentage of income falls as income increases.

At first glance, a lottery tax, like a sales tax, does not look very regressive. After all, tax revenue collected from a lottery ticket sales is a constant proportion of the ticket price. This means that a lottery tax can be considered to be regressive only if expenditures on lottery tickets are greater for low income groups than for high income groups. In other words, expenditures on lottery tickets must rise less rapidly than income.

Since the probability of winning the lottery is so small it appears that a person who buys a lottery ticket is behaving irrationally. This follows from the fact that the marginal utility or satisfaction of money, like that of any other good, diminishes as more of the good is consumed. That is, each additional dollar expended gives an individual less utility or satisfaction than keeping the dollar he already has. Thus, even if the odds of winning are fair, for example, even money for correctly calling heads or tails in a coin toss, gambling cannot be explained on economic grounds since one of the basic assumptions of economics is that individuals behave rationally.

However, Milton Friedman and Leonard Savage showed in a 1952 article that for some income groups, especially the poor, the marginal utility of money increases rather than diminishes. In other words, Friedman and Savage argued that individuals in low income groups, who are striving desperately to move out of poverty, have little to lose by gambling but a lot to gain if they hit it big. For these people, the lottery is not irrational. In fact, it may be their only hope of obtaining a large enough sum of money to move out of poverty.

The above comments made an economic argument for the lottery being a regressive tax. Now, however, we need to look for empirical evidence to support this claim. Several studies have been published that indicate the lottery tax is in fact regressive.<sup>1</sup> For example, a study by Roger E. Brinner and Charles T. Clotfelter, which examined lotteries in Connecticut, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, found that "...absolute expenditures rises to a peak in the middle income range and then declines." That is, families with the highest income group spend less than families in the lowest income group. In fact, their study found that families in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 income group had the highest expenditures on lottery tickets in the three states studied. On average these families spent twice as much on lottery tickets as families at either extreme of the income ranges.

The growing popularity of state run lotteries indicates that more and more states are using these games of chance to provide additional sources of revenue. At the same time, the public is being provided a new good which it desires. Lotteries, however, are an inequitable revenue base. The high profit the state receives as a monopoly supplier is in reality an extremely high sales tax which is regressive.

Notes

1. In addition see Clotfelter (1979), Clotfelter and Cook (1987), and Hansen (1995)

References

Brinner, Roger E. and Charles T. Clotfelter. "An Economic Appraisal of State Lotteries". *National Tax Journal*, 1975, v28 (4), 395-404.

Clotfelter, Charles T. "On the Regressivity of State Operated 'Numbers' Games". *National Tax Journal*, 1979, v32 (4), 543-548.

Clotfelter, Charles T. and Philip J. Cook. "Implicit Taxation in Lottery Finance". *National Tax Journal*, 1987, v40 (4), 533-546.

Friedman, Milton and L.J. Savage. "The Expected-Utility Hypothesis and the Measurability of Utility". *Journal of Political Economy*, 1952, v60 (6), 463-486.

Hansen, Ann. "The Tax Incidence of the Colorado State Instant Lottery Game". *Public Finance Quarterly*, v23 (3), 385-398.

Visit. Relax. Network.  
Shop. Hang out.  
Even promenade!

This year's conference venue will have most of the breakout rooms surrounding a very large central area. We've arranged to have seating areas with small tables scattered throughout the space, the vendor area will be there, and we'll have the coffee breaks and the open Continental Breakfast there.

Now, as most of you may know, the ballroom areas of many hotels are somewhat less than festive in appearance, sans decoration. One might even say "drab". Help us add

**Color! Style! Flair!**

The Grand Sierra will be providing some plants, and so forth, but what we would really like to do is fill the room with appropriate items that would tend to encourage casual interaction even among strangers – which is a stuffy way of saying that we want "conversation pieces"!

And by that we mean : **POSTERS!!!**

**FACULTY:** please bring posters proclaiming the merits of your respective institutions and programs – this is a great opportunity to recruit!

**STUDENTS:** there will be no organized or judged poster session, no listing in the conference program -- but please bring posters anyway! Use this as practice for "the real thing". Use it as a way to get your name in front of future teachers and/or employers. Use it to have a little fun – it doesn't need to be "serious" – lighten the mood, brighten somebody's day.

**EVERYONE :** got something you'd like to promote? Something to say? A conversation you'd like to start? Bring a poster!

Let your creative juices flow!

Of course, we'll be happy to have the standard "mass-market" posters that your institutions provide. But if you feel like doing a little self-expression, give it a whirl. There's no particular theme, although it would be nice to have some that do reflect this year's conference theme. The only restrictions are that they need to be "relevant", to the conference, or the association, or the social science community . . . . . and of course "fit for public consumption". We get to decide that, and we give you fair warning that the decisions will be both strictly subjective, and absolutely final.

Last minute additions will be accepted, but if at all possible, let me know by e-mail ([WSSA.Admin@nau.edu](mailto:WSSA.Admin@nau.edu)) that you will be bringing a poster, so I can make arrangements for it.

*Kate Herke,  
Conference Manager*

# WSSA 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

## Program Overview

Reno, Nevada

### April 14<sup>th</sup> --Wednesday

Continental Breakfast for  
Executive Council  
7:30 a.m.

WSSA Executive Council Meeting  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Conference Registration  
3:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

WSSA Welcoming Reception  
*(All Attendees Invited)*  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

“Fulbright Scholar Awards: A  
World of Opportunities for Faculty  
& Professionals”  
John Holian, Cleveland, Ohio  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Screening of the movie “The  
Chief’s Prophecy, Survival of the  
Cherokee Nation”  
*(sponsored by the  
WSSA and American Indian Studies)*  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WSSA Business Meeting  
“Vote on New Constitution”  
4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Section Coordinators Meeting  
*(All Old and New Section Coordinators Are  
Required to Attend)*  
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### April 15<sup>th</sup> --Thursday

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

Coffee Break  
9:15 a.m.

Coffee Break  
2:30 p.m.

Student Paper Competition  
Winner Presentations  
2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

### April 16<sup>th</sup> -- Friday

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

Continental Breakfast *(All Attendees  
Invited)*  
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 6:00 p.m.

Presidential Luncheon  
WSSA President  
Jack Hou  
*(Ticketed Event)*  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Coffee Break  
2:30 p.m.

### April 17<sup>th</sup> --Saturday

Conference Registration  
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WSSA Executive Council Meeting  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

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

Coffee Break  
9:15 a.m.

Screening of the movie “Canoe  
Way”  
*(sponsored by the WSSA and American Indian  
Studies)*  
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WSSA President’s Reception  
*(All Are Invited)*  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Western Social Science Association  
c/o Larry Gould, Chief Executive Officer  
Northern Arizona University - Yuma Campus  
P.O. Box 6236  
Yuma, AZ 85366-6236  
SBS 1100

## On the 'Net

*Kate Herke, Conference Manager*

The Association is offering a new amenity at this year's conference. The registration room, most of the break-out rooms, and the vendor display all surround a large open space in this hotel. To take advantage of that, we are turning that area into a kind of community gathering space. It will be filled with scattered conversational groupings of chairs and small tables, and perhaps a small sofa or two, decorated with greenery and such by the hotel management and, hopefully, with posters by our attendees. This space is also where we will be holding our coffee breaks and Friday's Continental Breakfast.

In a quiet and out-of-the-way 'corner' of the room will be our newest amenity, our own miniature version of an Internet Café. It will contain at least one internet-connected computer, probably more, for our attendees to use, for checking e-mail, etc. We hope that this will help ease the jitters for those whose attachment to their e-mail accounts has reached the addictive stage (grin).

As the potential-user-to-computer ratio is extremely high, we will limit use to no more than 10 minutes per user.

If that computer happens to be in use whenever you have time to use it, the hotel offers two other options. There is wireless internet available in most rooms, for a fee, and two internet-connected computers in the hotel's Business Center, available 7am-9pm Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday, and 10am-4pm Sunday, also for a fee.

