

Great Plains Sociological Association Newsletter

Volume 20 Issue 1

September 2005

**The 2005 annual conference will be held October 27th and 28th
at the *Downtown Holiday Inn* in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
Sioux Falls is just 50 miles south of Brookings.**

The Holiday Inn, located at 100 West 8th Street, has a nice, cozy atmosphere. It is right downtown, not that far from *Minerva's* restaurant and various shops, and even closer to the night life.

Rooms are \$69 per night regardless of how many people we can squeeze into the rooms. Please **make your reservations by September 30th** by calling **605-339-2000**. We cannot guarantee you a room after that date. You can also call 1-800-HOLIDAY; the Great Plains Sociological Association is the reservation group. The Holiday Inn also accepts "state rates" for all South Dakota state employees.

A map of Sioux Falls can be found at:

<http://sociology.sdstate.edu/gpsa/map-siouxfalls.pdf>

Cheryl Hartman (chartman@kilian.edu; 605-221-3100) and **Marta Mohr** (mmohr@kilian.edu; 605-221-3100) are the local arrangements committee. This is ideal, as Kilian Community College is just a few blocks from the Holiday Inn. If you have any questions about Sioux Falls and the downtown area, they will be very helpful.

2005 Conference—*THE BREADTH OF SOCIOLOGY*

Daniel Lichter will be our keynote speaker.

Dr. Lichter is the director of the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center at Cornell University. He is also the Ferris Family Professor of Life Course Studies, Professor of Social Policy and Management, and Professor of Sociology.

Dr. Lichter received an undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University in 1975; he received an M.S. from Iowa State University in 1977 and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1981.

Since that time, Dr. Lichter has become an expert on rural family issues particularly as they relate to poverty—livelihood strategies of nonmetropolitan single mothers; well-being among America's

children; rural children and youth at risk; families and households in a multicultural society; rural America in transition. The list goes on.

He is very prolific; indeed, he and his co-authors have published nineteen articles and booklets since 2000. Since 1983, he has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on at least twenty-six projects.

He has published works in such journals as *Rural Sociology*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Social Service Review*, *Social Problems*, *Youth and Society*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Journal of Social and Economic Measurement*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Demography*, *Family Planning Perspectives*, and *Population Research and Policy Review*.

2005 PROGRAM—*THE BREADTH OF SOCIOLOGY*

The theme of the 2005 conference is “**The Breadth of Sociology.**” By picking this theme, we want to emphasize professional sociologists’ entire range of interests and activities. Indeed, we want to have sessions, panels, and roundtables that address a range of topic areas.



We expect our members will be keeping us up to date on their latest research activities. Paper

sessions dealing with both **research projects just completed** and **research in progress** are the mainstays of our conferences. But we also want to encourage members to organize panels, especially teaching panels. Some of the more interesting and useful sessions we have attended over the past 20 years are those that dealt with **teaching sociology.**

Sociologists throughout the Great Plains region are doing **sociological practice**, and we want to laud their activities. And we want to encourage more sociologists to get involved in their communities, whether they want to do needs assessments, program evaluations, community development, applied demography, organizational sociology, clinical work, or advocacy. Thus, we are encouraging applied and clinical sociologists to attend this year.

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Shannon Lane and Carole Kiecker are the program co-chairs for the 2005 GPSA conference. They are very active in promoting and organizing this year’s program. They can be contacted at:

Carole Kiecker
Sociology Department
Box 504, RM #201
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007-1296
605-688-4900
carole.kiecker@sdstate.edu

Shannon Lane
Sociology Department
Box 504, RM #201
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007-1296
605-688-4900
shannon.lane@sdsstate.edu

Paper submission is on-line this year.

The form doesn’t ask for much, and it is quite easy to fill out. You can find the form at:

<http://sociology.sdstate.edu/gpsa/spring05/online submission.htm>

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS

Each year at the conference, the GPSA sponsors two or more student paper competitions. These competitions are open to undergraduate and graduate students. Student papers must be sponsored by a GPSA member and can be on any topic related to the field of Sociology.



Please submit a single copy of the paper by e-mailing it to Terry Nelson, the chairperson of the committee.

tnelson@mtmc.edu

Submit your paper by September 30, 2005.

See set of rules and regulations—<http://sociology.sdstate.edu/gpsa/competition.htm>

GPSA OFFICERS

We have an eager officer corps again this year.

President, Don Arwood
donald.arwood@sdstate.edu

Secretary/Treasurer, Patricia Joffer
patricia.joffer@sdstate.edu

Vice President, Jason Karsky
jakarsk1@wsc.edu

Past President, George Youngs
george.youngs@nds.u.nodak.edu

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



Audit Committee—Jason Karsky (chair), Carole Kiecker, and Don Arwood

Editing/Journal Committee—Gary Goreham (chair), Ron Stover, and Jennifer Wilson

Honors & Awards Committee—Brenda Donelan (chair), Shannon Lane, and Kailash Gupta

Local Arrangements Committee—Cheryl Hartman (chair) and Marta Brosz Mohr

Membership Committee—Curt Stofferahn and Gary Goreham

Nominating Committee—Don Arwood and Tom Osowski

Program Committee—Carole Kiecker and Shannon Lane

Student Paper Competition—Terry Nelson (chair), Kailash Gupta, and Elizabeth Williams

Ethics Committee—Jason Karsky (co-chair), Leretta Smith (co-chair), Brenda Donelan, Omer Durfee, Terry Nelson, and Daphne Pederson Stevens

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR

Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Service Awards

The GPSA sponsors two awards: Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Service. Please recognize our exemplary members by nominating them for one of these awards. You can do so by filling out the accompanying forms and sending them to Brenda Donelan, the chair of the Honors and Awards Committee.

Brenda Donelan
 Sociology & Political Science
 1200 South Jay Street
 Northern State University
 Aberdeen, SD 57401

GPSA HAS ESTABLISHED A MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Why has our membership dropped so precipitously?

That was the question that those GPSA members who attended the 2004 business meeting of the Great Plains Sociological Association asked themselves when they reviewed the decline in the number of paid memberships over the last ten years. As the members examined the data, more questions arose. Who has dropped their membership? Why did they drop their membership? Why don't we have more new members joining? What would entice potential members to join? It became obvious that we had two issues to address: Why the decline and why more don't join.

In order to address these questions, the outgoing GPSA President, George Youngs, appointed Gary Goreham and Curt Stofferahn to a committee to begin to gather

data to answer these questions. They are considering developing a web-based survey which they can email to former members as well as potential members. Gary and Curt are looking for contacts at all of the departments which typically have had GPSA members. The contacts would be responsible for distributing the website address for the membership survey to their faculty and graduate students. They are also looking for membership lists with email addresses from previous years. Finally, if anyone would like to serve on the committee, they are looking for more volunteers.

Contacts and volunteers can contact either Gary at gary.goreham@ndsu.nodak.edu or Curt at curtis_stofferahn@und.nodak.edu.

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
2005 GPSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 27-28, 2005**

Please Print

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

E-Mail: _____

Prepayment

Membership.....\$ _____

Conference Fee..... \$ _____

Thursday Evening Meal.....\$ _____

Donation.....\$ _____

TOTAL.....\$ _____

Annual Membership

Professional Membership: \$20

Student Membership: \$5

Conference

Professional Conference Fee: \$10

Student Conference Fee: \$5

Meals

Thursday evening meal: \$20

Friday Lunch: On own

Students Please Indicate Status

Undergraduate Student []

Masters Student []

PhD Student []

Please mail registration form and your prepayment to Patricia Joffer by **September 29, 2005**. Please make checks payable to the GPSA.

Patricia Joffer Sec/Treas. GPSA
South Dakota State University
Box 504, Scobey 214
Brookings, SD 57007

See you in Sioux Falls!

Sioux Falls – Holiday Inn City Center

100 W. 8th Street

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Phone: (605) 339-2000

Group rate: \$69.00 per/night (State rates for SD residents accepted – please present proper ID)

A map of Sioux Falls can be found at:

<http://sociology.sdstate.edu/gpsa/map-siouxfalls.pdf>

GREAT PLAINS SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

I nominate _____ of _____
(nominee's name) (College)

for GPSA Award for Excellence in Service.

In support of this nomination for excellence in service, I submit the following.

[Information can be on this form and/or by attaching additional sheets.]

1. Summary of candidate's superior service to the university and its impact on students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, and/or others.

2. Service on departmental, college, university and/or association committees.

3. Community and other volunteer activities.

4. Honors, recognitions, and awards received.

Name of nominator _____

Signature _____

Relationship to nominee (student, advisee, etc) _____

Please Send to:

Brenda Donelan
Sociology & Political Science
1200 South Jay Street
Northern State University
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Deadline for submission is September 20, 2005

