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**American Sociological Association**  
**Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology**  
**Council Meeting**

Saturday, 12 August 2006 7 pm

**Call to Order**

**Minutes of Council Meeting, August 2005**

**Introductions: Official Welcomes**

**Treasurer's Report**

Norm Dolch

**Chair's Report**

Diane Pike

**Report on Pre-Conference**

Greg Weiss/Jeanne Ballantine

**Committee Reports**

**Awards**

Idee Winfield

**Cooperative Initiatives**

Keith Roberts Marlynn May

**Membership**

Susan St. John

**Nominations**

Wava Haney

**Program**

John Zipp

**Publications**

Steve Sweet

*Newsletter*

Anne Eisenberg

**Committee on Teaching Nominations**

Kathleen McKinney

**Student Rep Update**

Beth Cavalier

## Continuing Business 2006

### Action STLS and SoTL 2005

Wava Haney and Kathleen McKinney

In the STLS By-Laws, Article 1.2 Goals of the Section, there are four goals with goal (c) having eight sub-parts. Goal (c) is "facilitating excellence in teaching at all levels through the promotion of" a variety of activities listed as 1-8. Goal (c) 2 states "the development of scholarship on teaching and learning at all levels".

Clearly, the Section has done that with its SoTL Workshop at James Madison University; subsequent publication in *Teaching Sociology* of several articles from that workshop; presentation of SoTL papers during STLS paper sessions; and authorship by ion of Section members of SoTL research published in *Teaching Sociology*, other journals and in books. Kathleen has asked Council to engage in a discussion of "strategies to better encourage and support sociologists to do and to apply scholarship of teaching and learning work--and especially SoTL work where students have been actively involved beyond research subject." Some of the strategies she offered as examples (e.g., small grants, travel grants and an award for SoTL work), if adopted would involve changes in the Section By-Laws.

Next year will be the fifth year since the By-Laws were reviewed and revised (at the time of the change in the Section name). I propose that the three past chairs of the Section (i.e., Kain, Ballantine and Haney -- who represent each of the three institutional types) together with the Chair and Chair-Elect for 2005-06 (Pike and Zipp) collect and review comments on ways that the Section might move forward in implementation of the Section goals and sent any proposals forward to Council by June 1, 2006.

Update and further discussion required.

## New Business

### 1. Replacement of 2 council positions:

- Completion of Susan Farrell's term as 2 year institution representative
- Appointment of Awards Committee Chair
- Reappointment of Membership Committee Chair

### 2. Institutionalization of Pre-Conference Workshop Diane Pike /Greg Weiss

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Action item: Propose that the Pre-conference teaching workshop be a permanent offering of the Section on an annual or biannual basis, alternating themes.

### Option 1.

We own it. Thus it is institutionalized within the Section not ASA per se. ASA would help get us a room but all the rest—advertising, catering with hotel, photocopying, materials etc., handling registrations and money—would all be ours to manage and handle. We would have no entitlement in the ASA program, would have to do our own badges etc. It would be more work for us, but ours to control and we could do it every year.

### Option 2

This workshop can't actually be institutionalized at the ASA level; courses and workshops are recommended by Carla but tweaked and altered by the program committee. No guarantee that there would be a "course/workshop" on teaching each year (there are only 4 courses offered). ASA would do more operational work and it would be "official" in the bigger arena but we would have to take our chances as to when and if it is offered.

**Issues:** How many people need to be involved in the workshop? What are direct and indirect costs? Rewards for those who do the work—honoraria? (teaching expertise isn't free)

Workshop Topics—Substantive areas; new teachers, seasoned teachers, SoTL. But there is also the issue of "level 2" or advance intellectual work in substantive areas of teaching; graduate seminar model with rewarded experts.

Cost: If not a member, charge them \$12 additional and then they become a member automatically. Who will be the leaders and for how long?

How much of our funds are we willing to commit to subsidize this?

## 3. Proposal from Ad-hoc Committee on Teaching Award Nominations

Kathleen McKinney

The Ad Hoc Committee on ASA Teaching Award Nominations moves the following: "Starting at the annual meeting in August 2006, the Chair of the Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology (STLS) appoint an ad hoc committee of 3-5 individuals. This committee would:

- 1) Solicit names of people to be considered as possible nominees for the ASA award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching;
- 2) Initially review materials from those persons selected for consideration;
- 3) select one or two nominees;
- 4) Appoint one member per nominee to:

- a) Nominate the individual to the ASA selection committee; and b) help the nominee assemble the materials to be submitted."

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The membership of the ad hoc committee would initially be drawn from interested STLS volunteers, previous recipients of the ASA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and chairs of teaching committees from regional sociological associations. In future years, at least one member of the previous ad hoc committee should also be reappointed to retain institutional memory.

The ad hoc committee would solicit nominees by contacting STLS members, teaching committees of regional sociological associations, former Hans Mauksch Award recipients, past nominees, and other appropriate means as are developed.

The ad hoc committee would complete its work each year in time to submit up to 2 nominations to the ASA selection committee (by December at present). The nominations would not formally come from STLS or be endorsed by STLS, although individual members of STLS would be encouraged to write letters of support.

#### **4. List of "Interested parties" discussion/ Terms on Section Committees**

Review terms and discuss issue of rotating new members in and retiring members off as indicated by terms

#### **5. How to spend funds discussion**

Diane Pike

Report of working group Kain, Ballantine, Haney

**6. Proposal from Steve Steele** to add one corporate and one not for profit member to the Council through official change in By-laws Diane Pike

#### **7. ASA Student Forum Advisory Board:**

Diane Pike

Ideas: panel on Student-Faculty Conversation on Teaching and Learning in Sociology; roundtable by students at Showcase; mini-SoTL workshop to get students involved as co-researchers; co-sponsored happy hour; a volunteer to "take a student to lunch" at an ASA event where section volunteers pair up with and treat a student to lunch during the meetings or in groups; link with ASA Honors program sessions; article in our newsletter from this group;

#### **8. Moderator for new ASA Forum**

#### **9. Official Kudos to retiring council members**

#### **10. Other**

**Adjourn**

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## **ASA Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology** **Chair's Report 2006**

The Section activities this year were successful thanks to the work of many Council members, committee chairs and their members. As Chair, the obligations to the ASA on behalf of the section were all met throughout the year because of the joint efforts.

Particular initiatives of this chairmanship included: efforts to increase the visibility of the Section through the slogan (which totally failed if you can't say it from memory); collaboration with the Section on Education to host a joint reception; bookmarks for the 2006 meetings that can also be shared at regional meetings and by mail; efforts to connect with section members who wish to be more involved; effective co-ordination with the committee chairs and newsletter column; and the promotion of teaching and learning as intellectual work of value to the discipline.

By way of executive summary of the activities accomplished on behalf of the Section by the members, I highlight the following:

- The Awards Committee continued excellent work under the leadership of Idee Winfield. This year's 2006 Hans Mauksch winner is Bernice Pescosolido of Indiana University.
- Thanks to the efforts of the Cooperative Initiatives Committee, and the work of Program Chair John Zipp, there will be a joint reception with the Section on the Sociology of Education. In a related benefit, the mission of this committee to work with others, in this case librarians on the committee, led to the opportunity to use their talents in a workshop on plagiarism organized by Robert Lessor, Sarah Sobierj, and Diane Pike.
- The Nominations Committee provided a strong slate of candidates and their work is appreciated. Many thanks for the leadership of Idee Winfield.
- The Program Committee created a varied set of opportunities, including continuing the roundtable and mini-keynote session. This is a great deal of work and was ably accomplished. John Zipp will ably lead the Section this coming year.
- The Publication Committee is now under the leadership of Steve Sweet who will continue as Chair next year. Several items will be brought to the Council for discussion. The quality of the newsletter is excellent and work to sustain that effort is underway.
- The Membership Committee had more brochures printed and will continue its work to increase membership, decrease attrition, and sustain the work begun in the last 2-3 years.
- This year's PreConference was once again organized by Greg Weiss and Jeanne Ballantine around themes for experienced faculty. Efforts to institutionalize this event are underway.

It is an honor to chair this section. Thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Pike  
Chair 2005-2006

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## ASA Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology

### Awards Committee 2006 Annual Report

I am happy to say that the Awards Committee had three excellent nominations for the Mauksch Award. After several e-mail exchanges, the Committee agreed that the 2006 Hans O. Mauksch Award be presented to Bernice Pescosolido of Indiana University.

Many of you are familiar with her work as co-editor of the invaluable resource, *The Social Worlds of Higher Education*, her articles in *Teaching Sociology* on the scholarship of teaching and learning in sociology and preparing graduate students to teach, and her contributions to materials for the ASA Teaching Resource Center. In addition, she has worked tirelessly to promote the quality of teaching in undergraduate sociology at Indiana University and nationally through her many workshops, curricular initiatives, and leadership in the Preparing Future Faculty program and the organizing committee for the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the Awards Committee for their diligent work:

Rebecca Bach, Duke University  
Robert Bausch, Cameron University  
Susan Farrell, Kingsborough Community College  
Betsy Lucal, Indiana University South Bend

Respectfully submitted,

Idee Winfield

### Section on Teaching and Learning Cooperative Initiatives Committee 2005-2006

**Mission Statement:** The Cooperative Initiatives Committee of the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology (STLS) seeks collaborative linkages with ASA Sections and with other professional associations interested in teaching and learning, especially teaching/learning sociology. When appropriate, these initiatives will be pursued in conjunction with the appropriate ASA offices and programs, such as the Departmental Resources Group or the Center for Teaching Resources. However, our linkages may well extend beyond ASA sections and even beyond sociological societies. Our purpose is to enhance STLS by networking and cooperating with other professionals engaged in issues of teaching and learning.

To this end, The Cooperative Initiatives Committee will (pending STLS Council approval):

- a) plan a reception annually or biannually with at least one other ASA section;

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- b) collaborate with regional, state, or specialty associations to plan teaching workshops or sessions at state, regional and/or national meetings;
- c) make contact, as appropriate, with other professional societies to explore mutual interests and opportunities for collaboration;
- d) create and/or be responsive to opportunities to support or participate in grant-programs focused on teaching and learning and the scholarship of teaching and learning;
- e) explore creation of a cross-section, cross-disciplinary communication networks to facilitate current and future collaboration;
- f) consider other collaborative ventures which are not specified above as suggested by or endorsed by STLS Council.

This is a list of possible activities; we do not expect to engage in all of these in a given year.

1. Our committee thought that one way we might connect with regional associations is to host a gathering of representatives from the Teaching Committees of the various regional associations. Such a meeting will occur on Sunday. Letters of invitation to a reception were sent to regional association representatives related to teaching sociology in all regional associations. Three replied that they would be at the ASA meeting and will participate. Although the number participating is small, we will utilize this opportunity to explore further collaborations among regional and state associations and our Section.
2. This year our Section was a co-sponsor of the NCSA day-long workshop for high school sociology teachers in Indiana. (The appropriate state Council for the Social Studies is also always a co-sponsor.) We had about a dozen high school teachers this year. This coming spring the NCSA and the Midwest Sociological Association will meet jointly in Chicago. There is already a high school sociology teachers' support group in Chicago, and I think we will have them actively involved. We just might have a very large attendance at the workshop this year. We will have arrangements for CEU credits for high school teachers in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. *Unless we hear otherwise, we will plan for co-sponsorship of this High School teacher workshop by STLS again in 2007.* We will also explore other avenues for expanding collaboration with high school teachers of sociology/social science/social studies.
3. We did start a nation-wide list serve for high school teachers of sociology this year, with Thomas Steiger from Indiana State serving as the oversight person. The list is a bit anemic at this point, with only about three dozen people on it so far. One problem is getting the word out to high school teachers of sociology. High school teachers do like having someone with higher levels of expertise in sociology as part of certain conversations. So we have six members of STLS who are a part of that list serve—a service to STLS.
4. The Cooperative Initiatives Committee did the leg work for a joint reception with the section on the Sociology of Education, and our officers followed through with the details. This is the first such reception. *Should we plan another such reception next year?* We will have just experienced the first such joint effort, and perhaps we can discuss this as a Council at the Montreal Council meeting;

If we do another reception with a different section, it seems to make sense to coordinate with a section that shares our section day (or is a day before or after ours). We might also consider co-organizing a session on Teaching \_\_\_\_\_ (whatever their subfield is). Our section day will

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be Monday. If we worked with a section that meets Sunday, we could do the reception on Sunday evening—and then invite the folks to join us at Just Desserts. (Marlynn suggests we consider Collective Behavior or Communication and Information, and he raises the prospect of working with two other sections.) Which section should we work with? Here are the options:

**The following share our section day:**

Aging and the Life Course  
Asia and Asian America  
Children and Youth  
Crime, Law, and Deviance  
Sociology of Culture

Economic Sociology  
Labor and Labor Movements  
Marxist Sociology  
Methodology  
Social Psychology

**The following meet the day before ours:  
after ours:**

Animals and Society  
Collective Behavior and Social Movements  
Analysis  
Communication and Information Technologies  
Sociology of Education  
Sociology of Emotions  
Evolution and Social Behavior  
International Migration  
Medical Sociology  
Political Economy of the World-System  
Race, Gender, and Class  
Technology  
Theory

**The following have section day**

Community and Urban Sociology  
Ethnomethodology & Conversation  
History of Sociology  
Latina/o Sociology  
Sociology of Law  
Mathematical Sociology  
Sociology of Mental Health  
Political Sociology  
Sociology of Population  
Science, Knowledge, and  
Sex and Gender

5. There are a number of opportunities for liaison work with the American Library Association. Sally Weimer, who is on our committee, is a link to some relevant subunits within the American Library Association. For example ALA's Association of College & Research Libraries' (ACRL) has an Anthropology & Sociology Section (ANSS) with several committees/groups that are potential collaborators:

a) The American Library Association, Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), Anthropology & Sociology Section (ANSS), Instruction & Information Literacy Committee (whew! That is quite a name!) has created a *draft* of Information Literacy standards for Anthropology & Sociology; this draft was discussed and partially revised at their annual meeting. Carla Howery and Ed Kain (Southwestern U.) attended the meeting and provided input from sociology. Carla is circulating that document for comment. The ANSS Section web page is at <http://www.lib.odu.edu/anss/>.

b) Liaison Committee (of which Sally is a member).

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The ALA ANSS Sociology Librarians Discussion Group invited Ed Kain to the ALA midwinter meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in January, to discuss strategies and techniques to work with faculty and librarians to collaborate and foster cooperation in library instruction and information literacy. Again in June at New Orleans the Soc Libs Discussion Group discussed issues of working with faculty, outreach to faculty & students, information literacy in sociology, and other topics. Ed Kain also attended.

**Opportunity:** The ACRL Council of Liaisons met during ALA annual conference in New Orleans in June 2006. Sally Weimer is applying to be the ACRL liaison to ASA and requesting that ASA be one of the scholarly organizations designated as Liaison to ACRL. Since it involves identifying the appropriate strategic goals of ACRL that coincide with ASA goals she would enjoy having a collaborator in that process. ACRL strategic plan is at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/whatisacrl/acrlstratplan/stratplan.htm>

**Opportunity:** There was also a proposed round table here at ASA on **Information Literacy and Teaching Sociology: Library and Web Resources**. Three librarians, including two on our Cooperative Initiatives Committee, were willing to do a program on this, but their proposal to ASA seems to have gotten lost in the shuffle. We might want to sponsor this next year as a Section.

6. Lynn Richie began a project supported by the ASA Teaching Enhancement Fund: a web site intended to become a repository of guided internet assignments (WebQuests, Virtual Explorations, Scavenger Hunts). These assignments are available to anyone interested in teaching/learning about sociology using web resources. This would be a great resource for high school teachers, too, if we can get the word out. She does continue to need help in producing materials for each of the specialty areas.
7. Our plate was full and we did not do anything with the Teaching Sections of other professional societies (e.g. Psychology; History; Geography). That was determined to be of lower priority by the Council last year.
8. *Are there other priorities to which Council wants the committee to direct its attention in the coming year?*

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Roberts and Marlynn May for the Cooperative Initiatives Committee  
July 18, 2005

The Cooperative Initiatives Committee

Keith Roberts (Co-Chair)

Marlynn May (Co-Chair)

Beth Cavalier

Pauline Manaka

Wendy Ng

Lynn Ritchey

Barbara Walters

Sally Weimer

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**Membership Committee Report**  
**Submitted by Susan St. John, Chair**  
**July 17, 2006**

Members: Greg Weiss 4 (06)  
Stephanie Alexander student (06)  
Jeff Lashbrook 4 (06)  
Laura Nichols 4 (07)  
Lynette Osborne U (07)  
Michelle Smith 2 (07)  
Scott Desmond U (07)

Summary of 2005-6 Activities:

It is exciting to see the membership continue to grow and to have the May count above 600. The Membership Committee thanks all of you who have recruited new members and involved continuing members in the many exciting Section endeavors. "if you teach, you belong!" has been a wonderful slogan.

**Community College Listserv:** We continue to maintain the CommunityCollege Listserv. However, in the past few months participation has declined. While membership and participation seems to be high immediately after ASA, a new challenge may be maintain and growing the listserv of about 61 members.

**Section Brochures:** Unfortunately, we were unable to locate the original layouts for the Section brochures. However, we were able to color-copy the brochures at \$ 150.00 per 500. We received the first 500 as a donation from the Social Sciences Division of Corning Community College and Joyce Hallenbeck at the Corning Community College Office Services can print more as needed. The new brochures are on lighter paper and semi-glossy. Brochures will be available for ASA 2006.

Goals for 2006-7:

1. Maintain a presence the Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology on professional listservs.
2. Make sure a representative contacts regional meeting organizers and arranges for a SoTL member to take section brochures to the meetings.
3. Update a general announcement encouraging membership. Submit Section announcements to regional organizations prior to their newsletter deadlines.
4. Each committee member should make a contribution to the membership committee effort. Ideas will be collected in September for our efforts in 2006-7.

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**Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology**  
**Program Committee Report**  
**John Zipp, Chair**  
**August, 2006**

The continued increase in membership allowed our section to have four sessions at the 2006 meetings. Thanks to the Program Committee: Darlaine Gardetto, David Jaffee, Kathryn Loscocco, Kathleen McKinney, Bernice Pescosolido, Jeffrey Will and Idee Winfield for all their efforts in putting together what we hope is an excellent and inviting program. Diane Pike also provided invaluable assistance, advice and moral support through the whole process. We all are extremely fortunate to have her as section chair.

In addition to our own sessions, there are two other features of this year's meetings. First, based on the tremendous success of the pre-conference workshops for early career faculty, Jeanne Ballantine and Greg Weiss are offering another pre-conference workshop, this year dedicated to experienced faculty. Second, through the fine work of Marlynn May and Keith Roberts and their Cooperative Initiatives Committee, we are co-sponsoring a joint reception with the Section on Education. Diane Pike and Education Section Chair Pamela Barnhouse Walters are taking the facilitating this section. Depending on its success, we may want to consider similar efforts at future meetings (probably every other year). Next year's program will be in fine hands with Susan Farrell as program chair.

**2006 Program**

*Section Day Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>*

**8:30-10:10 Paper Session: Research on the Teaching and Learning of our Students: SoTL in Sociology**

**Presider:** [Kathleen McKinney \(Illinois State University\)](#)

**The Role of the Introductory Sociology Course on Students' Perceptions of Achievement of General Education Goals**

[Jay R. Howard \(Indiana Univ/Purdue Univ Columbus\)](#), [Aimee Zoeller \(Indiana and Purdue University at Indianapolis\)](#)

**A Questionnaire Study of Views and Correlates of Success in Sociology**

[Kathleen McKinney \(Illinois State University\)](#)

**Bridging the Divide Between Methods and Technology: Linking up Software to Qualitative Methods Instruction**

[Sharlene J. Hesse-Biber \(Boston College\)](#), [Jeannette Belcher-Schepis \(Department of Sociology, Boston College\)](#), [Xiaoxia Chen \(Boston College\)](#)

**What is Racism? A Project to Assess Undergraduate Sociology Students' Understandings of Racism**

[Laurie Russell Hatch \(University of Kentucky\)](#), [Carey Ruiz \(University of Kentucky\)](#)

**10:30-12:10 Session: False Divides: Research and Teaching**

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Presider: [Bernice A. Pescosolido \(Indiana University\)](#)

Living Life as a Sociological Servant Leader in the "Blurred" Borders that Divide Teaching, Service, and Research

[Katherine R. Rowell \(Sinclair Community College\)](#)

Macroteaching: Some Lessons from a Longitudinal Assessment Project

[Daniel F. Chambliss \(Hamilton College\)](#)

The Professoriate as a Lifework: The Necessity of Finding Synergies in Teaching and Research

[Emily Fairchild \(Indiana University\)](#)

Necessary Knowledge: Overcoming the Division of Pure and Applied in Research and Teaching

[Craig Calhoun \(Social Science Research Council\)](#)

**12:30-2:10 Session Teaching to Transform: Challenges and Successes**

Session Organizer: [Karyn A. Loscocco \(U Albany\)](#)

Presider: [Darlaine C. Gardetto \(St. Louis Community College\)](#)

Student and Faculty Perspectives on Civic Engagement: Benefits, Barriers, and Policy Implications

[Helen Rosenberg \(Univ of Wisconsin-Parkside\)](#), [Anne A. Statham \(University of Wisconsin-Parkside\)](#)

White Privilege in the College Classroom: Toward Pedagogical Strategies

[Brenda Wilhelm \(Mesa State College\)](#), [Sarah Swedberg \(Mesa State College\)](#), [Melissa Shea \(Mesa State College\)](#)

Collaborating for Social Change: Local Politics and the Poughkeepsie Institute

[Anne R. Roschelle \(SUNY New Paltz\)](#)

Teaching Human Interaction/Teaching Humanity

[Susan Walzer \(Skidmore College\)](#)

**2:30-4:10 Section on Teaching & Learning in Sociology Hans Mauksch Award Ceremony (one-hour)** Speaker: *Greg Weiss*, 2005 Mauksch winner.

Session Organizer: [John F. Zipp \(University of Akron\)](#)

Presider: [Diane Pike \(Augsburg College\)](#)

Followed by **Section Business Meeting** (3:30-4:10)

**4:30-6:10 Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology: Roundtables, Keynote and Reception-- False Divides? Teaching as Intellectual Work**

**Table 01. Teaching Techniques**

Session Organizer: [David D. Jaffee \(University of North Florida\)](#) Session Organizer: [Jeffry A. Will \(University of North Florida\)](#)

Discussant: [Melinda Jo Messineo \(Ball State University\)](#)

Teaching Progressive Sociology: Strategies for Overcoming Student Resistance

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[Darby E. Southgate \(The Ohio State University\)](#)

[Teaching Research Methodology and Statistics More Accurately](#)

[Randa I. Nasser \(Birzeit University\)](#)

**Table 03. Teaching Sociology Through Current Events and Popular Culture**

Session Organizer: [David D. Jaffee \(University of North Florida\)](#)

Session Organizer: [Jeffry A. Will \(University of North Florida\)](#)

Discussant: [Robert C. Bulman \(Saint Mary's College of California\)](#)

[Understanding Changing Gender Roles through Popular Music](#)

[Carol A. Minton \(California Baptist University\)](#)

[The Challenge of Disruptive Events](#)

[Pamela S. Behan \(University of Houston - Downtown\)](#)

**Mini-Keynote Address:** *Idee Winfield, College of Charleston*

*Evening events*

**6:30pm-8:15 Section Reception: A New Collaboration**

**The Sociology of Education and the Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology**

**Food, giveaways, and interesting colleagues!**

**9:30pm-11:00 *Just Desserts:* A Teaching Enhancement Fund Benefit Reception (Ticket required)**

*Other section events*

**Pre-Conference Workshop Thursday Aug 10 9-4:30, Pre-registration required.**

**New Knowledge on Teaching and Learning: A Course for Experienced Faculty**

In recent years the scholarship of teaching and learning has stimulated conversation about new approaches to teaching and to working with students and has examined the effectiveness of both traditional and newly developed teaching techniques. Experienced faculty are often looked to as models and mentors by newer faculty and teaching assistants and must be up-to-date on recent trends and developments. This workshop is designed for experienced faculty who serve as role models, who would like to learn about and discuss new ideas and approaches to teaching, and who wish to consider ideas to revamp their own courses. The course will feature expert and award-winning faculty teachers, the latest philosophies and techniques in teaching, and opportunities to share teaching strategies with other faculty members.

Respectively submitted,

John Zipp University of Akron Program Chair

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**Report of the Publications Committee of the Section on Teaching and Learning**  
**June 6, 2006**

Publications Committee Members 2005-2006

Stephen Sweet (Chair)  
Monte Butte  
Todd Callais  
Anne Eisenberg (Editor *Teaching/Learning Matters*)  
Marilyn Krogh  
Helen Moore  
Katherine Rowell  
Jan Thomas

The publications committee is pleased to report the following activities that occurred during 2005-2006.

The section continues to publish its newsletter *Teaching/Learning Matters* under the expert editorship of Anne Eisenberg. During 2005-2006, three issues were published and distributed to all section members. An informal review of other published newsletters by the American Sociological Association (conducted by Anne Eisenberg) indicates that our newsletter ranks in the top four in terms of volume of content.

In October 2005, a subcommittee was formed (Stephen Sweet, Helen Moore, Monte Butte, Anne Eisenberg) to discuss the future direction of the newsletter. We discussed a number of concerns, including the number of issues to be composed each year and the prospects of shifting publication to electronic format. We concluded that the current schedule of three issues per year and mailed newsletters remained most desirable, in addition to posting it on the section website maintained by John Zipp. We designated a plan to work with the editor of *Teaching Sociology* to generate additional submissions. A goal is to have 2 issues of newsletter content in advance of publication deadlines.

We concluded that the newsletter would benefit by SoTL members either volunteering to write articles themselves, or by section members deliberately encouraging colleagues to submit materials. In this respect, members of the publications committee were especially active in the past year. In the forthcoming year we ask that all SoTL committee members embrace this responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Sweet  
Publications Committee Chair

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## ASA Forum Moderator

**From Karen Edwards** Section Chairs: The ASA is developing a new system of message forums that allows open communication among ASA members and others interested in the discipline. Users will be able to post their own topics (within the limitations of the Code of Conduct) within a number of different forums (e.g., Teaching, Students). In the new system, each section will have its own forum.

While other forums in the system will have ASA staff moderators (to loosely monitor the forums for violations of the code of conduct), we are proposing that each section appoint its own moderator for their forum. The moderator will have the ability to edit posts and topics within the forum (which should be done only in cases of a violation of the code of conduct). ASA does not intend, except in cases where a violation has been reported to the system administrator, to be involved in the moderation of your forum. We believe that the new system will encourage open communication in a way that the restricted current forum does not. We are excited about these forums. ASA Council will review a presentation of the new forums at its upcoming meeting in Montreal. We are optimistic that they will approve launching the new forums after the Annual Meeting.

Note that the forums will not be restricted to ASA or section members, but will be open to anyone interested in participating. (We do, however, have a security function that requires registration and responding to an e-mail link to weed out "trolls.") While we only have a development site at this point, we are asking sections to self-select a moderator. At this point, what I need is: Preferred user name Temporary password (can be changed later) E-mail address Welcoming message (approximately 100 words) When you send this message, please also let me know which section the information applies to.

An example of a welcoming message is this one, that Lee Herring prepared for the "Current Events/In the News" forum: Welcome to ASA's discussion forum devoted exclusively to current events and recent news. This forum is the place to discuss developing news or news stories including those that have been featured on the ASA main homepage. Discussion relating to current national and international news stories is appropriate, especially as it relates to sociological theory or research. Specific forums can't be made active until they have been assigned a moderator and have a message posted within them. (That's why I'm encouraging a welcoming message.) So, I'd appreciate your quick response as we would like to finalize our presentation to Council in early July.

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