Greetings AACS members and friends,

We are honored to welcome noted civil rights scholar Dr. Aldon Morris, Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Northwestern University as our keynote speaker for the 2015 conference in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Morris will be speaking on "Sociology and Social Justice: Confronting Challenges of the Twentieth-First Century."

I am also pleased to announce our very exciting plenary speakers. On Friday morning, Dr. Thomas Kersen of Jackson State University will present "'Insider/Outsider': The Unique Nature of the Sociological Perspective and Practice,” and on Saturday morning, Lecia J. Brooks, Outreach Director for the Southern Poverty Law Center, will present “SPLC Addresses Hate in the Mainstream.” Both of these talks promise to be must-sees for all who consider sociology to be more than just a job.

Time is running out to get your submissions in for the 2015 conference program. The final deadline is August 1st so don’t delay! The city of Montgomery is a fabulous destination filled with history, culture and entertainment. Check out the Visit Montgomery website on your way to registering for the conference and take a look at all the city has to offer as you begin finalizing your travel plans. If you haven’t already done so, be sure to make your hotel reservations soon so you don’t miss out on our great group rate at the beautiful Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa!

This issue of Sociology at Work features AACS member Amy Allen in the “Member Spotlight” discussing her recent experiences sharing applied sociological knowledge with female scholars in Pakistan. Also featured this issue in the “Sociology@Work” section, AACS members Lisa Hall and Christina Ryder share the successes of their mentorship-based public sociology undergraduate RA program at Missouri State University. And don’t forget to check out Steve Steele’s regular column, “Topics, Tidbits and Tools,” where you can download a nifty “brainstorming toolkit”!

See you in Montgomery!
Tina Quartaroli
Editor and CEO
As I stand in front of 20 young, smart, and eager scholars from Fatima Jinna Women’s University (FJWU) in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, I am overcome with inspiration. I see the faces of change for women in Pakistan. These young women are eager, hungry, and ready for change. It is not lost on me, or them, however, that less than 200 miles west of Islamabad in a parliamentary by-election in Lower Dir this month, none of the eligible 50,000 women in the constituency turned out to vote. One report said mosques broadcast warnings to women, and polling stations were guarded by “baton-wielding men” who blocked the few women who did try to vote. Furthermore, when the elections were challenged, the presiding judge cast doubts about the legitimacy and constitutionality of the right for women to vote. As we talk about violence against women, engaging men as allies, and creating communities of safe and peaceful relationships, we also talk about speaking out and using our voices to create change. I am careful to acknowledge the risk for women in Pakistan when speaking out. Most of us are familiar with Malala Yousafzai’s story. She and her parents were outspoken advocates for the education of girls and as she boarded her school bus in a northwest Pakistani district, a gunman asked for her by name, then pointed a pistol at her and fired three shots. And, just this April, one of Pakistan’s most outspoken human rights activists, Sabeen Mahmud, was assassinated as she left an awareness event.

Despite all of this, these young women are in search of ways to change their reality from one of fear to empowerment and justice. As sociologists, we have long understood how social
research and inquiry can be a catalyst for social change. Fellow AACS member Dr. Michael Hirsch (Hutson-Tillotston University) and I jumped at the chance when we were offered the opportunity to facilitate qualitative research method workshops at FJWU. We were also asked to present a lecture about our professional careers. Dr. Hirsch gave an inspiring talk on Opportunistic Research and I talked about my work in the field of violence against women. We spent 5 days at FJWU at the end of May covering topics such as in-depth interviewing, survey and focus group research, program evaluation, and sampling. We talked about giving voices to the experiences of marginalized groups and bringing sociology out of from behind the cloak of academia. We talked about culture, movies, and being a woman in the world. We shared meals, laughs, selfie’s (yes, where there are 18 year olds, there are selfies) and tears with these young women. But most of all we shared experiences of the human condition that transverse cultural divides, we shared our hopes and dreams for a better world.

Below is an excerpt from an email I received after our trip from one of the young women who hopes to create advocacy program and pursue research about domestic violence.

“You and Dr. Hirsch have been really motivating and inspiring in me pursuing research in the future. Not to brag but girls in Pakistan have so much potential. It’s the norms and sometimes social structure that keeps them from reaching where they could. I think it’s [the] same at every place, although its forms might change from society to society. I will talk to some people here who I think would be interested to work in this area as well. Let’s see what we can achieve together #FromPakistanWithLove”

Amy Allen, Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Coordinator, Texas National Guard, may be contacted at amykay.allen@gmail.com.

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY’S UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROGRAM
By
Lisa Hall and Christina Ryder
Missouri State University’s sociology program is a public sociology program. Faculty in the program strive to engage multiple publics: students and the community. Students in the program learn, from their sociology instructors, how to incorporate the sociological perspective into all of their coursework. Majors are then mentored by faculty researchers as they systematically apply their skills in the community, helping local agencies and organizations to provide effective, culturally competent and sustainable services.

As a direct reflection of the department’s public sociology emphasis and the public affairs mission of the university, the sociology department has begun efforts to formalize paid undergraduate research opportunities for students. Students are paired with faculty members conducting community-based research through the department’s Center for Social Science and Public Policy Research (CSSPPR). To date, 10 students have been paired with faculty and participated in projects related to homelessness, health, poverty, and education. The recent ‘Doula Foundation of Mid America’ (DFMA) program evaluation conducted by CSSPPR, faculty mentor Dr. Lisa Hall, and undergraduate research assistant Jaime Orlando (SOC RA), is one current example of the program.

Doulas are non-medical professionals who give support to mothers before, during, and right after, the birth of their children. They provide a hand to hold, a shoulder to cry on, and massage techniques to relieve pain during birth. The mission of the Doula Foundation is “to be a source of emotional care, advocacy, and comfort for all mothers and their families during pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood” by empowering soon-to-parents and “providing services that ease the physical and emotional challenges of childbirth” and “encouraging the bond between parent and child” (http://doulafoundation.org/). The vision of the Doula Foundation is to nurture families - ultimately contributing to the overall health and well-being of the community. In 2014, the Doula Foundation (with a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health) asked the sociology department at Missouri State University to determine the degree of impact the organization had on their clients. The majority of the Doula Foundation’s clients are under-resourced, under-supported, and under-served women who are commonly referred through the local Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

The study consisted of: (1) secondary analysis of intake paperwork (to provide a descriptive narrative of the population served over a 5 year period), (2) a client satisfaction survey, and (3) interviews with a sample of clients receiving services. Results indicated that 12.5% of clients were 20 or younger; 8.1% were living alone; 2% were homeless, living in a shelter or with a foster family; 16.6% did not have a high school degree; 70% indicated their pregnancy was unplanned; and 83.6% said they could not have otherwise paid for doula services on their own. Results noted that women with doula support (compared to national and/or state averages) had lower rates of elective inductions and interventions, including C-section rates; higher rates of initiating breastfeeding immediately after birth and higher rates of breast feeding for more than 6 months. Ninety-four percent of clients reported being “well” and “very well” emotionally supported during birth by their doula; 84.7% reported being “well” and “very well” physically supported; and 87% ranked the doulas’ overall helpfulness at an eight or above, on a ten point scale. Clients also reported feeling comforted, encouraged, trustful, less scared and more prepared for the future after taking the parent-child class also offered by the Doula Foundation. The benefits of the foundation sponsored baby yoga classes included meeting
other mothers, socialization of babies, quality mom-baby time, and the chance to share stories as well as get advice. Interviewees elaborated on their experiences, which revealed variation in their support network, as half had significant others as well as friends and family on whom they relied. All interviewees indicated however that the support of doulas was particularly helpful and meaningful.

The program, while not only providing useful data for the Doula Foundation, also has had positive impacts for the department’s students and faculty as well as the university. Undergraduate SOC RA, Jamie Orlando, presented at the Lamaze & DONA Joint Conference on September 19, 2014 and again at the Midwest Sociological DONA Joint meeting on March 29th, 2015. Jamie stated that the research process made an incredible impact on her.

I learned how to apply practical skills outside the classroom, including interviewing, analyzing data, and report writing. I also learned the importance of doula services, knowledge I would not have acquired otherwise. However, what is even more eye-opening is working with this at-risk population. As sociologists we constantly study how an unequal society creates at-risk populations. Through this project I have been able to meet people who have really been given the short-end of the stick in our society, but whose lives have been made better by an organization who chooses to care for women. It reminds me that as a society we have a long way to go, but as a community we can have lasting impacts on individuals if we so choose.

Sociology major Jessie Ferguson, as one result of the relationship forged between the program and the foundation, is now serving an internship with the DFMA’s Director of Communications and Special Events. Jessie stated, “I felt so official because they gave me my own email address…my very own desk…and I even got to sit in on an "intake" with [the family care specialist] as she met with a couple for the first time. Such an exciting day!”

The program and the doula study were featured on January 20, 2015 as a “Hot Topic – Expert Source” by the MSU Office of University Communications. The story was entitled “Struggling expectant mothers find empowerment with doulas: Sociology research assistant program partnered with Doula Foundation,” and was written by Nicki Donnelson. Then, local public radio station KSMU aired an interview with two faculty members, Christina Ryder and Lisa Hall, on May 12, 2015 called “Empowering Women, Easing Transition to Motherhood,” during The Missouri State Journal time slot.

The figure, below, illustrates the interworking relationships between the sociology program, students and community agencies.
The Missouri State University CSSPPR and department plans on offering two additional SOC RA opportunities in the fall of 2016 to work on four anticipated community based projects with other local nonprofit agencies. As with previous students, fall 2015 SOC RAs will be mentored by faculty researchers as they apply their skills in the community, helping these local agencies and organizations better understand the needs of the community, their programs, and the results of their efforts to address social issues and problems.

Lisa Hall may be contacted at LCHall@MissouriState.edu
Christina Ryder may be contacted at CRyder@MissouriState.edu

Topics, Tidbits, and Tools

FORESIGHT THROUGH BRAINSTORMING

By
Steve Steele
How often have we been asked to come up with a new idea or consider options for a possible problem solution? The result: Someone offers - “Just go ahead and ‘brainstorm it!’” Everybody knows how... it’s simple, right? Well, “NOT right.” Brainstorming doesn’t mean a t-group, a discussion group, a “rap” session. It is a dynamic strategy to expand the dimensions of thinking by using the power of each individual brain and the synergy of human interaction. When it is done well, brainstorming can develop and expand new worlds. When it is done poorly, it produces nothing of value.

While brainstorming is methodological “good stuff,” it has its limitations. While the process should produce more ideas than the sum of the individuals in a group, it doesn’t always reach the “limits” of thought on a problem or an idea. Also, it doesn’t always produce “good ideas.” Some weeding out is necessary. A little caution is required: don’t assume that you have ALL the new ideas around a topic. You should have “more” ideas, and this is in itself is a valued outcome. But, other sources of creative solutions or new ideas need to be added.

So here’s one way to do it:

Doing it …

**Mindtools** provides a brief, but effective strategy for brainstorming:

“Group Brainstorming

Step 1: Prepare the Group

Step 2: Present the Problem

Step 3: Guide the Discussion”

Then, see how to take the brainstorm to the next step.

See the details on [http://www.mindtools.com/brainstm.html](http://www.mindtools.com/brainstm.html)

(You can get a free Brainstorming toolkit by signing up for the Mindtools newsletter!)

Stop by each quarter and see if you can use the tool outlined. In the meantime, **“Get a bigger toolbox!”**

**Want to recommend a tool for inclusion in this section?** Send your recommendation, your name, affiliation and the tool website to sf.steele@comcast.net
Greetings from the Welcoming Committee of AACS,

We hope you are gearing up for a great time in Montgomery, Alabama! This year’s conference theme is "Social Justice from the Local to the Global: Sociology on the Move." We look forward to providing a professional AND friendly atmosphere whereby individuals can engage in meaningful dialogue about the application of sociological knowledge for beneficial social change and celebrate the progress we as a society have already made.

Come to the conference to learn about the work we are doing, from presentations and workshops focused on current research undertakings to applied teaching strategies, clinical experiences, policy work, and advocacy and activism (among other applications), and come share your work with us! There will be copious opportunities to discover sociology in action and to network/meet with friends, new and old, including a speed socializing, networking and “card swap” event on Friday evening. So remember to bring plenty of business/contact cards and get ready for some fun!

We welcome practitioners, advocates, activists, academic faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and anyone who shares a genuine interest in using sociology to make our communities - and the world - a better place. So come to learn, come to share, come to gain skills or show them off in our student competitions (the Judith Little Problem Solving Competition and/or the Student Project Competition), and come to network in our social events. Bring yourself and bring a friend – the more, the merrier!

We look forward to seeing you in October!

Alison Marganski, Welcoming Committee Chair
amarganski@vwc.edu
CALL FOR PAPERS

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa
at the Convention Center
201 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

October 8-10, 2015

“Social Justice from the Local to the Global:
Sociology on the Move”

Deadline for submissions: August 1, 2015

Please click here for submission materials and registration information*

* Please note that you must be registered for the conference by August 15, 2015 to be included in the program.

Click here to reserve your room at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at our group rate of $139/night or you may call the hotel directly at 334-481-5000 and use code “AACS”

Please direct all program inquiries and submissions to 2015 Vice President and program organizer Karen Albright at AACSsubmission@gmail.com.

To join AACS or renew your membership, please visit our website at www.aacsnet.net
CALL FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

2015 Judith Little Problem Solving Competition
Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Conference
October 8-10, 2015
Montgomery, AL

We are soliciting student teams for the Judith Little Problem Solving Competition, which will run concurrently with the annual conference October 8-10th in Montgomery, Alabama. The Judith Little Problem Solving Competition (JLPSC) provides students a meaningful way to exercise their sociological skills. It is a networking opportunity for participants and also provides students a professional experience they can include on their resumes. All students receive a certificate of participation.

The JLPSC coordinator will solicit a problem from a local Montgomery agency or organization that is suitable for a sociological solution. The competition begins with meeting the representative from the community agency on Thursday, October 8th, during the first session of the conference. The rubric that judges will be using will be distributed to students at that time. Student teams will have the remainder of the conference to develop a solution. Students are encouraged to attend conference sessions that may help them develop their solutions. Students are also encouraged to interview conference attendees for information and suggestions. Online research is also encouraged but students should not purchase any additional materials to enhance their presentations. More detailed instructions will be sent to faculty who express interest in sponsoring a team.

Solutions are due on Saturday, October 10th, during the last session. Teams will present their solutions to an adjudicating body of judges who are AACS members and a representative of the agency providing the problem. The solution they present should be framed as a professional (oral) report to the client agency or organization with a printed one-page executive summary. No additional materials should be bought for presentation. The winning team and an honorable mention team will be announced at the completion of the adjudication process. Winning and honorary mention team members will be recognized on the AACS website. A plaque bearing the names of the winning team and faculty advisor will be sent to their respective college or university. Each team and all its members will receive a certificate of participation and a letter from the AACS president. The winning and honorable mention recognition will be included on the individual student certificates.

Teams will be made up of 3 to 5 students with a faculty sponsor. Undergraduate and graduate student teams may enter but not on the same team and will not compete against each other at the conference. All students participating in the JLPSC receive a reduced conference rate of $100!

Interested faculty sponsors should contact Judith Little Problem Solving Competition Coordinator, Miriam Boeri at mboeri@bentley.edu to receive more detailed information for participating teams. Thank you for your interest and see you in Montgomery!
CALL FOR PAPERS
Student Project Competition
Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Conference
October 8-10, 2015
Montgomery, AL

Are you a graduate or undergraduate student doing work in the areas of applied, clinical and/or public sociology?

Are you a faculty member, instructor, or advisor of students engaging in sociological related work?

If you answered YES to either question, then this call for projects is for you…

AACS is interested in learning about what students are doing with sociology. We encourage you to submit any student projects relating to applied, clinical, and/or public sociology to the Student Project Competition! The projects should be completed in time for the conference, and it may involve one individual student or a team. It may also involve graduate or undergraduate level work. All submissions should be in a format appropriate to the project and may include:

- papers
- professional-style reports
- video montages/films
- posters
- other creative means

Submitted projects using a poster will be presented during the regular student poster session on Thursday night while all other submitted projects will be presented during scheduled student project presentation session(s).

This competition is an opportunity for students to share and get extra recognition for their work. All student conference participants are invited as long as all project authors are students.

The recipients of the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Project Award and the Outstanding Graduate Student Project Award will each receive $250.

So, please consider sharing your work with us and spread the word to any interested parties who may hold the future of sociology in their hands!

For more information, please contact Student Project Competition Coordinator, Alison Marganski at amarganski@vwc.edu.
Nominations and Governance Committee Report
Submitted by Bob Kettlitz, Chair
rkettlitz@hastings.edu

2015 AACS ELECTION RESULTS

To my fellow AACS members,

Thank you for voting in the recent elections for the 2015-2016 leadership. This year we voted for President-Elect, Vice President-elect, and three Board Members at Large.

Here are the results of your 2015 - 2016 election votes:

President-elect: James Wiest
Vice President-elect: Newman Wong
Members at Large: Karen Albright, Elizabeth Breese, and Melissa Scardaville

I would like to congratulate the newly elected officials, and look forward to their leadership.

Again, members thank you for taking the time to participate in the selection of our leadership for the coming year. If you have any questions about the ballot or voting process, please contact me at rkettlitz@hastings.edu.

I look forward to seeing you in Montgomery!

Robert (Bob) E. Kettlitz, Ph.D.
Immediate Past President and Nomination and Governance Committee Chair

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Site Selection Committee Report
Submitted by Steve Steele, Chair and President-elect
sf.steele@comcast.net

Conference Theme for AACS Denver Meeting 2016 Announced!

After committee consideration the 2016 Denver conference theme has been announced by President-elect, Steve Steele: “Creating, Building and Designing with Sociology.” Steele’s rationale for this theme is fivefold:
1. To tie the elements of the program to the Association’s mission.

2. To open the conference to program and project leaders, business and government professionals who use sociology everyday (wittingly or unwittingly) to create new realities. (Mission #1 in AACS bylaws says “individuals interested in the application of sociological knowledge...” does NOT say only sociologists.)

3. To go beyond the “Sociological Imagination” to “Sociological Creativity.” We can draw on our tools as craftsmen, artists, builders, leaders.

4. To encourage other disciplines to feel at home with us sharing their strategies, projects, policies and programs for improving the human condition.

5. To entertain and use our historically valuable community warmth as a tool for convergence of learning and action, networking and relationships to enhance growth to suggest not insist the use of sociological knowledge for beneficial social change.

Thanks to AACS CEO, Tina Quartaroli and Vice President-elect, Jim Wiest, the Doubletree by Hilton Denver Tech Center is the approved site for the 2016 Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Meeting on October 6-8, 2016. The Doubletree by Hilton Denver Tech Center is in beautiful Greenwood Village, Colorado. The site provides a wonderful set of facilities, with easy light-rail access to downtown Denver and Denver International Airport (DEN). The AACS group room rate will be an exceptionally reasonable $119.00/night. As you make your travel and conference plans for 2016, make sure you include the 2016 AACS Meeting.

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Finance Committee Report
Submitted by Michael S. Fleischer, Chair
mikefleischer@cs.com

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the AACS Board approved a pricing plan for 2016 membership dues and Denver annual meeting fees. 2016 dues for regular and international (standard) members of AACS will be reduced by $10, from $100, to $90; student and retired members of AACS will pay the current rates of $45 and $60, respectively; organizational members will continue to pay $220. The 2016 pricing plan also offers a lifetime membership in AACS, which provides a long-term savings to members who can afford a lump-sum payment. For a one-time fee of $1000 (equivalent to ten years of standard membership in AACS at the current rate of $100 per year), each lifetime member in AACS infuses the Association with funds that can be earmarked to offset increases in the membership dues and annual meeting fees of student members, encouraging their wider involvement and participation in the Association.

2016 annual meeting fees for regular and international members of AACS will remain at $250. Non-members of AACS, who choose only to attend the 2016 Denver conference, will incur an increase of $10, raising their current fees from $325, to $335. Annual meeting fees for student members of AACS will be reduced by $10, lowering their current fees from $125, to $115.
Students who are not members of AACS, and choose only to attend the 2016 Denver conference will pay $160. The new pricing plan adds annual meeting categories for retired sociologists, who will pay $180 to attend the 2016 conference, a savings of $70 off the $250 fee for standard members, and retired sociologists who are not members of AACS. Students who attend the 2016 Denver conference as organizational members of AACS, another new pricing category for 2016, will pay $100, a $15 savings off the regular student member fee of $115. Students who are organizational members of AACS include students in institutions that have had their postsecondary programs in applied, clinical, and public sociology, or sociological practice, accredited and paid by the Commission on the Accreditation of Programs in Applied and Clinical Sociology (CAPACS) at the current rate of $220 per year. Faculty who attend the 2016 Denver conference as organizational members of AACS will pay the current fee of $225, a $25 savings off the standard member fee of $250.

In 2016, AACS members who hold credentials as Certified Sociological Practitioners (C.S.P.), and Certified Clinical Sociologists (C.C.S.) will continue to pay an annual renewal fee of $50, to support their credentials. The fee remains significantly lower than the certification fees of Sociology's closest sister social and behavioral scientific disciplines and allied occupations (e.g., Psychology, Social Work, Professional Counseling, and Forensic Counseling).

The pricing plan for 2016 incentivizes non-members of AACS to become members of the Association in all but one membership category. Members pay a lower, combined fee for their memberships and conference participation than nonmembers, who pay more to only attend the 2016 Denver annual meeting. Only standard members of AACS will pay more in 2016, for their combined fees, $340, than non-members, $335. The additional $5 will help defray the $15 charge that AACS absorbs for every member's subscription to the *Journal of Applied Social Science* (JASS).

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**Marketing, Membership and Development Committee Report**
Submitted by Lubomir Popov, Chair
Lspopov@bgsu.edu

The Marketing Committee continues to disseminate the second Call for Papers with the new extension date, July 15, 2015. Please join this effort and send the CFP to the associations where you have posting privileges.

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**Student Committee Report**
Submitted by Marilyn Dyck, Chair
marilyn@thedoorway.ca

Student Ideas Moving AACS Forward...

4 months countdown to 2015 AACS Annual Conference. Thank you to each student who responded to our survey last month [N=16]. AACS as an organization is growing and has the
potential to make an even stronger impact. To do so, the organization hopes to create more opportunities to listen, learn, and involve students overall.

Top six things you named that motivate you to attend an **AACS conference**:

- Network with other students
- Attend conference presentations
- Find Job opp’ties
- Meet professional applied sociologists
- Network in field
- Attend skill building workshops

**YOUR suggestions for AACS conference planning strategies:**

- Allow for more networking opportunities between students
- Establish spaces where students can talk, relax, network, and plan
- More student sponsored areas for student interaction/networking/child inclusive?
- Networking specific sessions
- Open time for casual networking
- Resume and Portfolio building opportunities; ideas to improve chances in job applications/interviews
- Round table discussions which group together people working on similar projects
- Student meet and greet, open dialogue of current research proposals
- Restructuring of Applied programs
- Student specific groups

*Our AACS Student committee is already working on implementing your thoughts into action for 2015 and beyond!*

93.33% of you were born between 1976 and 1994.
You study in 11 cities from 12 states and 3 countries.

**YOUR study majors:**

- Administration and Leadership Studies
- Advertising / Applied Sociology
- Applied Sociology / emphasis Family Studies
- Community Development
- Health Sociology
YOU are the people who will take sociology perspectives into the future and APPLY them to understanding and problem solving our increasingly troubled world.

Please join us in Montgomery AL, October 6-8, 2015!

Member News


AACS Vice President Karen Albright has published eight articles in the last several months. She was recently interviewed by Science Daily about one article, "Smoking and (Not) Voting: The Negative Relationship Between a Health-Risk Behavior and Political Participation in Colorado," which appears in Nicotine & Tobacco Research. The study finds that smokers are less than half as likely as nonsmokers to vote. These results extend previous work on smokers' distrust toward political institutions and offer further evidence of smokers' increasing marginalization in society. Dr. Albright's interview has been also featured in The Science Times, Colorado Cancer Blogs, and Medical News Today.

AACS member, Miriam Boeri, was quoted in the Washington Post on April 20, 2015: But “correlation does not mean causation,” sociology professor Miriam Boeri wrote recently on The Conversation under the headline, “Why are politicians still referring to marijuana as a gateway drug?” Moreover, many of the most widely quoted studies claiming marijuana is a gateway drug — including the 2014 experiment — have been challenged, Boeri wrote. Citing more recent studies, she argued that poverty, social environment, association with hard drug users and mental illness are actually much better predictors of hard drug use. “Crime has not increased in states that have legalized marijuana; it’s actually gone down. Surprisingly, opiate overdose deaths have gone down as well,” she said. “If anything, marijuana can work as a gateway out of hard drug use.” (byline Michael E. Miller)

Boeri’s article dispelling the gateway myth prompted a few radio interviews and an invitation to speak at the Marijuana Policy Forum held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst before an audience of policy-makers and stakeholders.
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

*Sociology at Work* publishes original essays, interviews, research and practice notes, teaching and mentoring notes, research reports, film and book reviews, book/publication announcements, and other items of interest related to the practice of applied, clinical and public sociology. In addition, we are also pleased to publish your announcements such as book releases, member news and accomplishments, calls for papers, and job opportunities. Please send submissions to incoming editor Newman Wong at newmancwong@gmail.com. The newsletter publishes quarterly in summer, fall, winter, and spring.

CALL FOR PAPERS

*The Journal of Social Science* (JASS) is the official, peer-refereed publication of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS). JASS reflects more than 25 years of journal sponsorship by AACS and its predecessor organizations, the Society for Applied Sociology and the Sociological Practice Association. *The Journal of Applied Social Science* is the direct amalgamated successor of two previously published journals: *The Journal of Applied Sociology* and *Sociological Practice: A Journal of Applied and Clinical Sociology*. *The Journal of Applied Social Science* publishes research articles, essays, research reports, and teaching notes a wide range of topics of interest to the sociological practitioner. Specifically, we encourage submission of manuscripts that, in a concrete way, apply social science or critically reflect on the application of social science. For more information, visit [http://jax.sagepub.com/](http://jax.sagepub.com/) or email JASS Editor Jammie Price at jammieprice@gmail.com.
CALL FOR JOURNAL EDITOR

Journal of Applied Social Science

The Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS) seeks applications for a new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Applied Social Science for a minimum three year term beginning January 1, 2016. Reflecting more than 25 years of journal sponsorship by AACS and its predecessor organizations, the Society for Applied Sociology and the Sociological Practice Association, the Journal of Applied Social Science (JASS) publishes research articles, essays, research reports, teaching notes, and book reviews on a wide range of topics of interest to the sociological practitioner. Specifically, we encourage submission of manuscripts that, in a concrete way, apply social science or critically reflect on the application of social science. The opportunity to serve as Editor-in-Chief of JASS represents a chance to influence the content of the journal and help shape the science and practice of the profession.

Editorial duties include receiving manuscript submissions and managing their peer review through an online submission system; communicating with authors, potential authors, and our publishing partner, Sage Publications; organizing, recruiting, and working with an Editorial Board and Associate Editors; organizing and submitting copy for each issue to the production editor at SAGE; checking proofs; planning future issues; and maintaining regular communication with the AACS Executive Office. In addition, the Editor prepares and presents a semiannual report to the AACS Board of Directors and Publications Committee and conducts an Editorial Board meeting during the AACS Annual Meetings each October.

Institutional Support: Like all non-staff positions in AACS, the JASS editorship is a volunteer position. The organization appreciates the importance of institutional recognition of the intellectual and practical challenges of the Editor-in-Chief’s position and thus values support from candidates’ home institutions. The Editor’s institution typically provides support in the form of release time, office space and equipment, student assistants, telephone, and mailing expenses. Graduate Assistant support and adequate space to house the journal are highly desirable with other kinds of institutional support significant for the success of operations. Candidates who are unable to get substantial institutional support will also be considered with the expectation that the institution ensure that needs central to the journal’s success are adequately met. Candidates should give serious consideration to the feasibility of serving as Editor-in-Chief in relation to the resources available to them, and they should address these considerations in their letter of application.

The AACS Board is open to different editorial models such as a co-editorship and invites the candidate(s) to propose such models.

A completed nomination package includes an electronic letter of application that addresses the candidate’s qualifications and offers a sense of their vision for JASS; the candidate’s CV; two to four letters of support from published scholars familiar with the candidate’s work, experience and suitability for the task of journal editing; and a letter of institutional support from the candidate’s home institution. The candidate must be an AACS member at the time of application to be considered for appointment.

The search committee, led by AACS CEO/Executive Director Tina Quartaroli and current Editor-in-Chief Jammie Price, will begin reviewing materials immediately with an anticipated transition period beginning September 2015 and the new editor taking over full editorial responsibility on January 1, 2016. Please send all completed nomination packages to tquartaroili@gmail.com.
Program Overview

- A nationally accredited program in applied sociology
- 30 semester hours (3-4 semesters of classes)
- Core Required Courses:
  - Sociology in Applied Settings, Sociological Theory, Statistical Applications in Sociology, Research Methods, and Class, Gender, & Ethnic Issues in Applied Settings
  - 15 semester hours
- Three elective courses – Topics in Applied Sociology - 9 semester hours
- Sociological practice experience – 6 semester hours fieldwork
- Low student-faculty ratio
- Graduate assistantships available
- Nearly all classes are taught in the evenings, students may also hold a full or part-time job
- Post-graduation employment typically in for-profit, non-profit, & government sectors
- Seven full-time sociologists
- Possibility to pursue a doctorate in Sociology.

Employment Settings

- Community Organizing
- Human Resource Management
- Market Research Analysis
- Nursing Home Administration
- Social Service Agencies
- Community Planning
- Non-Profit Agencies
- Evaluation Research
- Health Care
- Law Enforcement
- Research Consulting
- Teaching in community or 2-year colleges

Contact Information

Dr. Chet Ballard
Graduate Sociology Coordinator

Office 229-333-5491
Email cballard@valdosta.edu
The Commission on the Accreditation of Programs in Applied and Clinical Sociology

What Does CAPACS Accreditation Do?

- Verifies that your program in applied, clinical, and engaged public sociology, or sociological practice is well-grounded, and provides students with a strong background in sociological theory, methodology, skills, and practical, "hands-on" experience

- Affirms that your Program is committed to the highest standards in postsecondary sociological education and training, ethics, quality improvement, and peer review

What are the Benefits of CAPACS Accreditation?

- Improves the quality of sociological education and training for your students
- Ensures the allocation of needed resources for your program
- Increases your students' opportunities for job and career placements
- Enhances the marketing of your program

For more information, please visit www.CAPACS.net
What Is Certification?

The Certified Sociological Practitioner (C.S.P.) credential is awarded by the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS) to experienced professional sociological practitioners who demonstrate excellence in their practice of applied, clinical, or public sociology.

Certification credentialing is a two-step process. To become certified, you first submit application materials including a portfolio representing your academic and practice background and current practice. If your application is approved you will be given the opportunity to present your portfolio for peer review at an AACS meeting or another regional or national sociology meeting. For those applicants unable to attend one of the meetings cited above, the use of video conferencing technology will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, international applicants would be given this consideration. In all cases, the Certification Committee will make the final decision.

Who Is Eligible?

Practicing sociologists with either a Master’s or Doctoral degree may apply for certification by the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology. Those practicing sociologists with interdisciplinary degrees are also eligible if their practice features a strong sociological component. Applicants holding a Ph.D. must be able to document at least 1,500 hours or one year full-time working as a practicing sociologist in the last 5 years. Applicants holding a M.A. or M.S. must be able to document at least 3,000 hours or two years full time working as a practicing sociologist in the last 5 years.

You must be a member in good standing of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS) to apply for certification.

What Does It Cost?

The Certification Application Fee is $200 and is due at the time of application. The Portfolio Demonstration Fee is $100 and is due at least 2 weeks prior to the Portfolio Demonstration. Annual certification renewal is $50 due at the time of your annual AACS membership renewal.

For more information about Certification, please contact AACS Certification Chair: Tina Quartaroli, tquartaroli@gmail.com
2014-2015 AACS Leadership

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>President</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:atadams@alasu.edu">atadams@alasu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Karen Albright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Karen.Albright@ucdenver.edu">Karen.Albright@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Beverly Ross</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bevross13@verizon.net">bevross13@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Michael Fleischer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikefleischer@cs.com">mikefleischer@cs.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Stephen Steele</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sf.steele@comcast.net">sf.steele@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President-Elect</td>
<td>Jim Wiest</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwiest@hastings.edu">jwiest@hastings.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Robert Kettlitz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rkettlitz@hastings.edu">rkettlitz@hastings.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large Members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubomir Popov</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ispopov@bgnet.bgsu.edu">Ispopov@bgnet.bgsu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libby Larsen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:larsen@calu.edu">larsen@calu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Marganski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amarganski@vwc.edu">amarganski@vwc.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Stolley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kstolley@vwc.edu">kstolley@vwc.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Cohen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrew.cohen@yale.edu">andrew.cohen@yale.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newman Wong</td>
<td><a href="mailto:newmancwong@gmail.com">newmancwong@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Xiao</td>
<td><a href="mailto:xiaohong@ntu.edu.sg">xiaohong@ntu.edu.sg</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Dyck</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marilyn@thedoorway.ca">marilyn@thedoorway.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawad Fatayer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfatayer@hotmail.com">jfatayer@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AACS Representative to CAPACS</td>
<td>Michael Fleischer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mikefleischer@cs.com">mikefleischer@cs.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPACS Representative to AACS</td>
<td>Miriam Boeri</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mboeri@bentley.edu">mboeri@bentley.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Representative</td>
<td>Mueni Rudd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mueni93@gmail.com">mueni93@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student Liaison</td>
<td>Gina Castillo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gcastill@linfield.edu">gcastill@linfield.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification Committee Chair</td>
<td>Tina Quartaroli</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tquartaroli@gmail.com">tquartaroli@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Gina Castillo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gcastill@linfield.edu">gcastill@linfield.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AACS Journal of Applied Social Science (JASS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Editor</td>
<td>Jammie Price</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jammieprice@gmail.com">jammieprice@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Editor</td>
<td>Jeffry Will</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwill@unf.edu">jwill@unf.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting Editor</td>
<td>Jay Weinstein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jay.weinstein@comcast.net">jay.weinstein@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Editors</td>
<td>John Glass</td>
<td><a href="mailto:glass@collin.edu">glass@collin.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miriam Boeri</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mboeri@bentley.edu">mboeri@bentley.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tina Quartaroli</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tquartaroli@gmail.com">tquartaroli@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology at Work Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Tina Quartaroli</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tquartaroli@gmail.com">tquartaroli@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AACS CEO/Executive Director</td>
<td>Tina Quartaroli</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tquartaroli@gmail.com">tquartaroli@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AACS Executive Officer</td>
<td>Fonda Martin, <a href="mailto:sac_aacs@emich.edu">sac_aacs@emich.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Michigan University</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Home of the AACS Executive Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>926 E. Forest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ypsilanti, MI 48198</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel 734.845.1206</td>
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