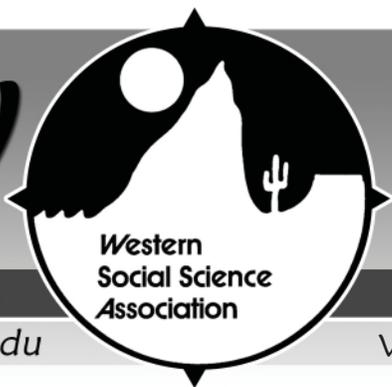


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SSA NEWS

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Scholarship - Service - Collegiality

Volume 39, Number 2

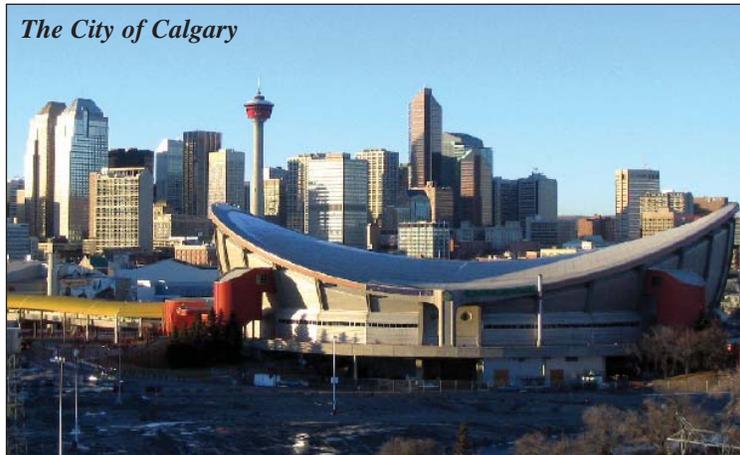
SPRING 2007

Calgary Awaits the WSSA Conference

DOREEN BARRIE
WSSA President

Calgarians are very proud of their city and will be delighted to show it off in April when the conference is held here. It is growing at a breath-taking pace, almost 50 individuals move into the city every day! In 2004, Calgary was rated the healthiest city in the world by the Mercer Worldwide Quality of Life Survey. The ranking is based on availability of health care, sanitation, air quality, water potability and other factors. Calgary water gets world class treatment i.e. there is primary, secondary and tertiary treatment of waste water. In many other cities there is only secondary treatment. Tap water tastes pretty good!

The city's location close to the mountains, is a bonus and many people in Calgary travel there on weekends to hike, ski or engage in other recreational activities. Within the city there is a pathway and bike-way system, totalling 840 kms (520 miles), making it the most extensive in North America. It is used by people of all ages who jog, rollerblade, walk their dogs and ride



The City of Calgary

their bikes. The city also has the most year-round sunshine in the country--even when the mercury dips well below freezing, the sun makes it all more bearable.

Calgary is a white collar city home to the head offices of
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

The WSSA Elects New Leadership

by JIM PEACH
WSSA Past President

An excellent group of candidates stood for election to office in the Western Social Science Association this winter. **Rick Adkisson** of New Mexico State University advances from President-Elect to President. As President-elect, Rick has been hard at work assembling the WSSA program for Calgary. **Phadrea Ponds** of the U.S. Geological Service in Fort Collins, Colorado is the new President-Elect. Phadrea has served WSSA in several capacities in the past and we look forward to her new leadership

role. Her main WSSA duties over the next year will be to coordinate the program for WSSA's 50th annual conference in Denver in 2008.

Jack W. Hou, Professor of Economics at California State University, Long Beach has been elected Vice-president. Jack has attended the WSSA since 1991, and took over as Sector Coordinator for General Economics in 2001. He was elected to the Executive Council in 2004, and has chaired the Financial Affairs Committee. Jack's new duties include serving as scribe for WSSA Executive Council meetings and to coordinate the student paper competition.

Irasema Coronado, **Vic Heller**, and **Tom Isern** were elected to three year terms on the WSSA executive Council. Irasema Coronado is associate professor of Political Science and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at El Paso. Irasema has been affiliated with the Association of Borderlands Studies for many years. Vic Heller is the Director of Executive Education, Associate Director of the Center for Professional Excellence, and an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Vic has also been the Section Coordinator for the Public
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Preparing for Calgary

PAGE 5

Sustainability:
Finding Place

Explaining Canada and Canadians

BY DOREEN BARRIE
University of Calgary

Canada's relationship with the U.S. has been likened to sleeping with an elephant and a recent cartoon illustrated the relationship from the American perspective. It showed an elephant and a disconsolate mouse sitting on a bed and the elephant saying: "But I never said you were the only one." This neatly captures the fact that while Americans loom large on the Canadian horizon, the super-power has other distractions. As WSSA is poised to hold its first ever conference in Calgary, (and as I am honoured to be your first Canadian President) I thought it would be useful to try and explain Canada to Americans. I realize this is somewhat presumptuous, not to mention ambitious, because volumes have been written on the topic.

PRESIDENTIAL SOAPBOX



Canada, the second largest country in the world, has a small population (now about 32 million people), prompting a former Canadian Prime Minister to complain that "Canada has too much geography and not enough history." It could be argued that in our case geography is destiny: it is bound up in our history, has dictated economic options and also influences Canadian political culture.

Thanks to our geography, we have abundant resources: oil and gas, minerals and forests are all a gift of the terrain. Most of these are exported south, in fact, 85% of Canada's

exports go to the U.S. Because much of Canada is so cold and so remote, three-quarters of the population lives in a narrow band that extends about 200 miles from the American border.

Canada has only one neighbour, a neighbour that shares a common heritage and some important values. However, there are many differences as well.

Perhaps the most important difference is that while Americans have a very strong sense of who they are and of their place in the world, Canadians are a work in progress. In other words, the Canadian identity and sense of self is fluid. It has become fashionable to refer to the country of Canada as a post-modern nation, that is, a country that is diverse, inclusive and tolerant.

The country would have fallen apart if politicians had tried to impose a single language and culture on a population of French and English inhabitants. Sadly, the needs and interests of Canada's native

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WSSA NEWS

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THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes *The Social Science Journal*, a juried, quarterly research journal, and *WSSA News*, the Association's newsletter, two times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are \$40 (individual); \$50 (includes spouse); \$25 (student); \$25 (retired). For information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, c/o Northern Arizona University, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Box 15302, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011-5302, SBS 1100 (Phone: 928-523-9520; Fax: 928-523-6777; E-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu).



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The Section Policy Committee Report

BY CYNTHIA KLIMA

Chair of WSSA Section Policy Committee

During the annual Executive Council in Calgary in September 2006, the report by the Section Policy Committee was submitted concerning creation of new sections at the WSSA annual conference. As Chair of the Section Policy Committee, I submitted the following policy for those desiring to create new sections for our annual meeting:

1. Formal presentation at WSSA's Executive Council meeting with new section's written rationale, which should be at least two pages in length and include a discussion of the area of social science, the section's uniqueness, and the potential support of its membership for participation, i.e. actual meeting presentations.
2. All Council members should be in receipt of the above information at least two weeks prior to the Council meeting.
3. Following the potential new section's presentation, there shall be a vote by Council members with the outcome of [a] reject, [b] accept, or [c] deferral for further study to an appropriate subcommittee.

The above items were accepted unanimously by the Council. The Committee further recommended the following policy concerning absence of a section from WSSA meetings. This has not been an often-see problem at our annual meetings, but from time to time, a section fails to submit papers for presentation. In that event, the Committee suggested that:

1. Failure of a section to participate at the WSSA annual meeting should automatically make that section

a candidate for possible termination at future meetings.

2. This failure will be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting and the current chair of the section should be invited to address the issue with the Council on the section's future viability.
3. Data should be presented on said section's past participation, for example, the number of presentations over the past 5 years.
4. The Council should vote with an outcome of [a] continuation of the section's affiliation with WSSA with reservation, or [b] deferral for further study to a subcommittee, or [c] termination of the section.

The Council discussed this in detail and a fourth option [d] was added to the list, stating that the section should be placed on a three-year probation. The Council agreed with this last suggestion.

In general, sectional participation has been regular for most sections, although as is often the case, the number of presentations can vary from year to year and from section to section. The policy for creating new sections had not been clarified in-depth, hence our submission of the steps to be taken in order to apply for affiliation with the WSSA. In addition, should future sections find themselves in a situation that prevents that section from regularly submitting presenters and presentations for the annual conference, action was taken to clarify the steps to be followed in order to deal with a particular section's absence. Hopefully, the new policy will enable WSSA to accept or deny newly created sections and streamline the list of sections with regard to those that have not submitted presentations for annual meetings. I would like to thank Gary Linn for his excellent submission of suggestions for presentation at the Executive Council meeting.

The WSSA Issues Call for Nominations

BY DOREEN BARRIE
WSSA President

Get involved! The Western Social Science Association WSSA depends almost entirely on volunteers to set policy and do the work of the association, and there is plenty of work to be done. Each year, the WSSA elects several new officers, including: president, president-elect, vice-president and three new council members. The president-elect always has the most work to do, including organizing WSSA's 30-plus sections and roughly 900 papers into panels for the

next annual meeting. The president-elect (barring a rebellious membership) becomes president the following year and continues to serve as immediate past-president for another year. The vice-president serves a single term of one year. Council members (we need six candidates to fill three positions) serve three-year terms.

The nomination process takes place between the annual conference and the fall (September) meeting of the Council. If you are interested in being nominated, please contact Doreen Barrie who will chair this year's nomination committee. Doreen can be reached at: dpbarrie@ucalgary.ca.

News & Notes: Preparing for Calgary, Denver

An Overview of the Conference

For the first time in its history, WSSA is holding its annual conference outside of the United States. The conference will be held from April 11-14, 2007 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. As usual, the conference will open on Wednesday night with the welcoming reception where you will have a chance to relax with your friends and colleagues and rest up in anticipation of three full days of stimulating, collegial, interaction. WSSA's excellent section coordinators have assembled over 200 panels across all of the disciplines represented at WSSA. Given our location and the "Crossing Borders" theme of this year's conference it is no surprise that Canadian Studies has some 20 panels, American Indian Studies has 19 and the Association for Borderlands Studies has 28. Many other disciplines are well represented as well and a new (tentative) session, Human Communications, will be participating for the first time. Great job section coordinators! The conference couldn't come off without you.

On Thursday, we will have the chance to attend two special sessions focusing on important Canadian issues. One panel titled "Anticipating the Future: Calgary's Initiatives for Success" (Thursday at 9:45) will discuss the challenges faced by Calgary, Canada's fastest growing urban center. The second special section is titled "A Nation within a Nation: What Does it Mean?" This session (Thursday, 2:45) will be a roundtable discussion on Quebec and its recently granted status as "a nation within a unified Canada."

WSSA President and University of Calgary Professor, Doreen Barrie, has been working extra hard to make our visit to her city an enjoyable experience. You will notice that several conference events, from coffee breaks to receptions, have been sponsored, either partially or fully, by various Canadian groups and institutions. This year's plenary luncheon has been funded by the Canadian government and the University of Calgary is hosting a reception on Friday evening. Please take note of the sponsors, listed in the program and named at the events, and thank their representatives when you see them. And of course, thank Doreen and Executive Secretary, Larry Gould, for their hard work too.

With great participation, friendly hosts, and a beautiful site, WSSA's 2007 conference promises to be a conference to remember. I hope you enjoy all that is planned. Thanks to all involved.

-- Richard V. Adkisson

The Coordinator's Corner

As President-Elect of WSSA I have learned at least one important

lesson. Without the section coordinators, WSSA's conference would not be the rich and enjoyable event it has become. I thank each of you for your help and patience as I attempted to combine your individual programs into a unified whole. You do excellent work.

Next year, WSSA will meet in Denver for its 50th anniversary conference. President-Elect Phadrea Ponds will be organizing the program for this very special occasion. I hope you will be as helpful to her as you have been to me, especially as the 2008 conference promises to be an even larger than usual conference. Phadrea will be contacting you shortly after the Calgary conference with the call for papers and other information.

On Friday, April 13th at 4:45 p.m., there will be a section coordinators' meeting in Imperial Ballroom 6. We ask that all old and new section coordinators attend so that we may get feedback and provide information about next year's conference. This is the only time where we actually get everyone involved in planning the program into the same room so please make sure that your section is represented. I'll see you there.

-- Richard V. Adkisson

WSSA's 50th Anniversary: Make Plans for Denver

As many of you know, the 50th Anniversary of the Association will be celebrated at our Annual Meeting in Denver, in April of 2008. We have had the pleasure of having had several receptions for Past-Presidents at the last three conferences. Many of the Past-Presidents have provided us with some very interesting stories and some of the material missing from the Association Files. Additionally, Nina Burkardt (Archivist for Life) and I have had the opportunity to visit the Library of Denver, where our records are stored. Nina and I with the able assistance of Diane Calloway-Graham are going to make other trip to the archives in the summer of 2007 to gather more material for display at the Anniversary Meeting in Denver.

If you have any info, materials, old records, programs or other information that you would like to add to the archives or have as part of the historical display planned for the 50th meeting please let me know so that we can make arrangements to attain the materials.

If you have amusing stories about the Association or its Annual Conference please let me know. I have heard a lot of rumors about blizzards in Salt Lake City, booking the conference in two different cities for the same year and some stuff concerning slightly odd behavior at some of the conference. This can make for interesting reading.

The best to all of you and looking forward to seeing many of you in Calgary and yet many more of you in Denver.

-- Larry A. Gould



Sustainability: Finding Place in the World

BY MARY BRENTWOOD
California State University, Sacramento

Envision the Earth as a spaceship traveling through the galaxy. Like a real spaceship, this Spaceship Earth has limited supplies of energy, space, clean air, food and water. The analogy of the Earth to a spaceship was first proposed by Buckminster Fuller, the innovative architect. We use this analogy because it demonstrates that the Earth does not have a limitless supply of resources to sustain a growing population of humans. In the last 30 years, a relatively short period of time, many scientists, philosophers and environmentalists have expressed concern that humans cannot continue to indefinitely increase human population, industrial development, use of non-renewable resources and consumption.

Many of us have heard the term sustainability or sustainable development, but what do these terms really mean and how do we realistically incorporate sustainable practices into our lives? Can we continue our current rate of growth and use of resources? This is the basic question behind issues of sustainability, but what does sustainability look like? I propose it is imbedded in our feeling for, what has been called, a sense of place. The poet Gary Snyder says, "...one of the key problems in American society now is people's lack of commitment to any given place." Intimately knowing a place helps us to know ourselves. The land gives us clarity and focus. We belong to the landscape—we are at home. Farmers, ranchers, native Americans, people who live close to the land, know our lives are entwined with the land. This means that, in general, if we don't love where we live we don't really pay attention when another strip mall is built in the neighborhood. We don't notice when farmland is made into housing developments, or when the old oak tree on the corner is removed to widen the road.

In *The Unsettling of America*, Wendell Barry wrote, "The way the economic system is now, we are all penalized for staying in one spot and doing something well. All land is threatened

by this because we don't stay in one place long enough to say, 'I really love and know this place.'"

People who root themselves in places are more likely to care for those places. They are more likely to know their place, to be friends with their place and to advocate for their place. If we stop being migrants and start becoming inhabitants, we have a better chance of paying respect to where we are. We will make home for ourselves our children and our fellow creatures. We usually don't make an effort to save what we don't love. The

ecologist, Aldo Leopold wrote that only when humans come to love, respect and admire the land will they act in ways that benefit it. If we can feel the molecules of the river where we live flowing in our blood, the result will be an ethical revolution that, as Leopold would say, will serve to take the conceit out of humans.

John Muir understood the concept of becoming an advocate for a place he loved. Without his passion and persistence, those of us living today might not be able to enjoy the immense beauty of Yosemite National Park. As a preservationist Muir believed land should be protected from human activity that was strictly economic or utilitarian.

How do we become friends with our place? Gary Snyder tells us to intimately know our place. In *The Dream of the Earth*, Wendell Berry suggests knowing the characteristics of our bioregion will provide a context for re-inhabiting the Earth. Human interaction with specific bioregions produces distinctive human cultures. Both native and modern cultures identify with salmon as an icon in the

Pacific Northwest, and snakes as power symbols in the high deserts of Northern Arizona. The solution to ensuring humans live sustainably with the interacting life systems of the Earth is simple; humans must realize that progress at the expense of the entire life community upon which we depend will lead to the diminishment of human life. Humans must join the Earth community as participating members and foster the prosperity of the bioregions to which we belong.



Aravaipa Canyon,
Arizona (Photo by
Pete Prebus)

Calgary Awaits the '07 WSSA Conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

oil and gas, engineering and high tech companies. The former dominate and it is not surprising that the U.S. is our biggest customer, importing more crude oil from Alberta than from any other source in the world. With the booming economy (average increases in GDP growth in recent years have been in the region of 12.7%) and low unemployment, the province of Alberta is a magnet for people from all parts of Canada and beyond.

The constant stream of people flocking to the province is putting a strain on the infrastructure as schools, hospitals and roads cannot keep pace with the explosive growth. Nevertheless, even though the population is now over one million, Calgary still seems like a small city with a friendliness lacking in other places.

The conference hotel is located in the heart of the downtown area, on Steven Avenue mall which, in 2002 was declared a national historic district. There are numerous restaurants and

cafes within a few blocks of the Hyatt and a wonderful museum, the Glenbow, is across the street.

The weather in April is unpredictable (as it was in Reno and Denver some years back), it can be warm and sunny but it could also be cold and perhaps snowy. Do check the forecast before you pack.

There are many tourist destinations within a few hours of Calgary so you should think seriously about tacking a few days onto your trip. There is Banff which is a ski resort just over an hour from Calgary. There is the Tyrell Museum in Drumheller, about two hours away and Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump also a few hours to the south and west. We will put links to some sites on the WSSA website.

Being a relatively young city, Calgary cannot boast many historic buildings but the cultural scene is vibrant and there is an infectious sense of possibility that pervades the city.

The WSSA Elects Its New Leadership

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Administration Section at WSSA since 2001. Tom Isern, Professor of History at North Dakota State University, is a regular and long-time participant in and organizer of WSSA programs. He has served as section coordinator in various years for Rural Studies and for New Zealand and Australian Studies.

Please welcome all of those who were elected. New WSSA officers begin their terms at the conclusion of the annual con-

ference. WSSA is a volunteer organization that depends heavily on the continuing commitment and generosity of its members for its governance and leadership. Thanks are due also to the other candidates on this year's ballot (Edwin Maloy, Elizabeth Rankin and Judy Reinhartz). This year's nominating committee consisted of Jim Peach (Chair), Diane Calloway-Graham, Lisa Nelson, Oscar J. Martinez and Dell Champlin. As chair of the nominating committee, I wish to thank them for their help and good humor during the nomination process.

Soapbox: Explaining Canada and Canadians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

people, now referred to as First Nations, were neglected. Until the Depression, a multi-cultural population from all parts of Europe settled the prairies. However, in the last few decades, immigrants from all over the globe have flowed into almost every province.

Thus Canada had to deal with diversity very early in its history taking some halting steps towards cultural accommodation in the 18th century. The path was not always smooth but it provided the only way forward. In addition to the French the English and First Nations, people from over a hundred countries now call Canada home. As these ethnic groups have not been forced to abandon their customs and traditions, Canadian society has been described as a mosaic.

It would be a mistake to conclude that Canadians live in a Zen-like state of peace and harmony. Quebec, where 85% of the population is French-speaking, has twice held a refer-

endum on the question of separation from Canada. Canada's policy of multiculturalism within a bilingual framework is also contested by some who are apprehensive about the fluidity of the Canadian identity. They feel that newcomers will swamp the country and impose their values on the population. Nevertheless, research shows that most 20-somethings enthusiastically embrace an inclusive society where cultures meet and intermingle. It could be because Canada has been preparing for the imperatives of the 21st century for over 200 years.

When U.S. President John F. Kennedy addressed Canada's House of Commons, he pointed out that "geography has made us neighbours, history has made us friends and commerce has made us partners." The relationship between Canada and the United States continues to thrive despite occasional differences. Thus President Kennedy's comments are as applicable today as they were in 1962.



The Government of Canada

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marking the

**Western Social Science Association's
first conference in Canada**

with a

Keynote Address

by

The Honourable Elaine McCoy

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**Friday, April 13, 2007
11:45 AM**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel
Imperial Ballroom
Calgary, Alberta**

*Please note that reservations are required for this luncheon.
Your prompt response is appreciated.*

**RSVP: Marisol.Villavicencio@international.gc.ca
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U.S. Embassy Wishes WSSA Attendees Well

To the Western Social Science Association members:

We in the United States are delighted to hear that the 49th annual WSSA conference will take place in Calgary, Alberta this April. We think you'll find the City of Calgary and its people to be as friendly and accommodating as we do.

Some of the strongest regional ties between the United States, Canada, and Mexico are found in western North America, and Calgary is certainly no exception. The city celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2005, and our U.S. Consulate General just passed the same milestone in the fall of 2006. The Consulate was opened because of the rapid and dramatic influx of Americans to the region --there were times when hundreds of settlers from the U.S. arrived daily, looking to put down roots. And put down roots they did--today, the Calgary Consular District has one of the largest concentrations of Americans living outside of the United States!

Your organization's commitment to the discussion and study of the social science is key to our mutual understand-

ing, our shared sense of space, and our strength as a continent. And in that spirit, I'd like to congratulate you for your work, and wish you every success with this year's WSSA conference.

Sincerely,

Patrick Linehan
Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs
United States Embassy Ottawa

A Travel Reminder for WSSA Attendees: Please be advised that, as of January 23rd, with the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), all travelers heading into the United States by air will need to have a valid passport in order to enter the country. WHTI pertains to American citizens as well, so if you don't have your passport, please go to www.travel.state.gov/passport for more information. This phase of the WHTI only applies to air travel; land borders are not yet affected.



**FUTURE
CONFERENCE
SITES**

2007
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
April 11-14, 2007
Hyatt Regency

2008 - 50th Anniversary
Denver, Colorado
April 16-19, 2008
Hyatt Regency

2009
Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 15-18, 2009
Hyatt Regency