

The State Of *Social Problems Forum*, Annual Report

Currently I am soliciting contributions for the Fall, 2006 edition of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*. Having successfully completed three issues with the superb assistance of editorial assistant Virginia Ellen, I will be looking for a new editorial assistant to begin working with me for the Fall issue. My heartfelt thanks go to Virginia for her hard work and for sharing her expertise with me.

As per the recommendation of members of the publications committee, we have instituted a "News of Note" feature in our first three issues, and we will continue running installments of this feature in each future issue. In the second issue we inaugurated the first installment of a regular column devoted to the needs and concerns of graduate students and of junior faculty seeking tenure and promotion. The first two installments featured excerpts from an extended interview with Anne L. Schneider, former Dean of the College of Public Programs at Arizona State University.

In addition, Virginia and I made a number of cosmetic changes to the newsletter. Chief among these changes is greater use of a dual column format for articles and the like. However, we have chosen to keep the cover format that Steve Couch and Anne Mercuri put together. Not only do we feel that the cover is sharp looking, but keeping it helps to maintain a sense of continuity between the Steve's tenure and my own.

We have produced the first three issues in a timely fashion and have done so within budget. Accordingly, I have requested the same budget for the next year. Given a change in my academic affiliation, I may be managing next year's budget through my new employer, Cal State East Bay. As of September, 2006, I will officially begin work as an assistant professor of public administration at Cal State East Bay. However, I have been granted a one-year leave of absence so that I may fulfill my contractual obligations to Penn State Harrisburg. In essence, I will be employed by both PSU and CSU next academic year. I am awaiting word from my new Dean concerning moving *Social Problems Forum's* affiliation to Cal State East Bay. As soon as this is finalized I will inform Michele Koontz and the Publications Committee.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed material to the Newsletter this year. I am grateful for the support offered by Michele Koontz and Tom Hood, and I am especially grateful for the assistance and expertise offered by Virginia Ellen as she served as editorial assistant. Also, I am indebted to Steve Couch who made the transition painless, and to the Publications Committee for allowing me the opportunity to serve as editor. Many thanks to each of you.

Following in the footsteps of Steve Couch's tenure, I have been actively soliciting guest coordinators for new "Perspectives on Social Problems." Also, I have been contacting past SSSP presidents to solicit essays for the "Past Presidential Essay" essays that Steve initiated, and will publish future essays in that series as I can. In addition, I have secured commitments from a number of members to provide book reviews to appear in future issues, and I have material to include in the next few editions of the junior faculty and graduate student column.

I will continue to actively solicit contributions for these features as well as commentaries, letters to the editor, and the like. I welcome suggestions and comments from members of the Publications Committee, and I am grateful for the honor the committee has afforded me.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you for your continued support.