

2006-2007 REPORT TO THE EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Review of Newsletter Content

Generally speaking, over the last year, *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter (SPF)* has continued to serve as the primary means of reaching our membership with important professional association news. Also, it has continued successfully to serve as a venue for members to communicate with one another.

Specifically, since becoming editor, I have incorporated the suggestions of the editorial and publications committee to include a news-of-interest feature, “News of Note.” I have introduced the “Job Talk” column to speak to the needs and concerns of members in the early stages of their careers. This column has run regularly since its inception. In the last issue, I introduced the “Student Column” as a place for both undergraduate and graduate students to consider matters specifically of interest to them. It is my hope that this column will become a regular feature as well.

Also, I have solicited and published a number of books reviews as well as essays for the Presidential Reflections series. In addition, a number of members have come forward with unsolicited commentaries, essays and even a couple of letters to the editor to be published in the newsletter. I take this as a sign that bodes well for the future of *SPF*. As more members come to view the newsletter as a viable outlet for their work, it seems likely that the quality of *SPF* will continue to improve, further increasing its visibility among members and perhaps increasing the visibility of SSSP among non-members as well.

I will continue to actively solicit contributions for the columns features as well as commentaries, letters to the editor, and the like. To facilitate these efforts, I have asked that new web-pages providing detailed information for potential contributors and advertisers be linked to the official SSSP website. I would like to thank Mary Walker for her assistance in these matters. I believe our website, and especially our pages devoted to *SPF* have been made more accessible due to her efforts.

As for other new innovations, look for the first-ever photo essay to appear in *SPF* in the summer 2007 issue, courtesy of Luis Fernandez. Similarly, Phoebe Morgan, who in a past life was a photographer, has volunteered to serve as “staff photographer” at the upcoming meetings and retreat. Accordingly, look for clear and flattering photographs of the annual meeting and retreat to appear in the Fall 2007 issue (a needed departure from last Fall’s issue I must admit).

Newsletter Business

This marks the end of my second year as editor of *SPF*. As of today, editorial assistant Virginia Ellen and I have produced five issues of *SPF* (Volume 36, Number 3 through Volume 38, Number 1) in a timely fashion. Currently we are working on the Summer 2007 issue (Volume 38, Number 2). We hope to have this issue completed and ready to send to the printers by the end of May, 2007. This will be the last issue on which Virginia Ellen works. I am indebted to

her work feel her knowledge and expertise has greatly enhanced the quality of the newsletter.

This will also be the last issue that is produced while I am at Penn State Harrisburg. Future issues will be prepared from my new academic home, CSU East Bay's Department of Public Affairs and Administration. Nevertheless, I am requesting no change in budget for the coming year. When I accepted my new academic position, the Dean agreed to respect and accept the financial arrangements between SSSP and PSH as part of my employment at CSU East Bay. Therefore, I request that last year's budget be replicated in the following year.

Similarly, I have been working with Jennifer Cabrejas and Victoria Jensen at CSU East Bay's Research and Sponsored Programs Office to transfer the remainder 2007 funds, and to establish an appropriate account to allow the continuation of my editorship. Thus far, no problems have arisen and I have developed a very good working relationship with the various administrators and offices at CSU East Bay. Along those lines, I would like to thank Michele Koontz and Tom Hood for their assistance in this matter.

In addition, I recently contacted some of my new faculty colleagues in Public Affairs and Administration at CSU East Bay to ask them to recommend graduate students with the interest and skills necessary to serve as editorial assistant. Based upon our conversations, I am confident that I will be able to identify and hire a capable graduate student from our programs to serve as editorial assistant.

Finally, once again I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the *SPF* this year. I am grateful for the continued support offered by Michele Koontz and Tom Hood, and I am indebted to Virginia Ellen for her dedicated service as editorial assistant. I welcome the committee's suggestions and recommendations, and I am grateful for the honor the committee has afforded me. I am not sure if now is the time to make my desires known, but if I were offered the editorship of *SPF* for another three year term at the end of my current tenure, I would gladly accept the offer.

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