

2007-2008 REPORT TO THE EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Review of Newsletter Content

This past year *SPF* has been successful in attracting and publishing commentaries and related features of interest, as well as in presenting official materials of interest to members as set out by the by-laws and tradition. The quality of the features continues to be high, and will likely continue to improve as readers come to receive – and then to expect – intelligent, thought-provoking features on a regular basis. Specifically, along with regular columns by Tom Hood and a “News of Note” feature appearing in every issue, *SPF* published three Presidential Reflections essays, two “Job Talk” features, one “Student Column” feature, four commentaries (two by graduate students) two book reviews, and three letters to the editor/rebuttals.

I am especially pleased with the commentaries by graduate students. I worked closely with Sally J. Laskey and John B. Broussard, the student authors of the two commentaries published this past year, going through numerous revisions and exchanges by email. I believe these give-and-take interactions proved a valuable learning exercise for them. Moreover, as evidenced by a growing number of inquiries, it seems graduate students are coming to see *SPF* as a place to test the waters of publishing. For example, currently I am working with two students who are preparing book reviews for future issues in much the same manner, and two other students have approached me about writing commentaries. I look forward to many more such contributions in the issues to come and in the teaching/mentoring opportunities they afford.

Accordingly, I will continue to actively solicit photo essays, preliminary findings, commentaries, letters to the editor, and the like, from our members, student and non-student alike.

Finally, this last issue we had one paid advertisement, and we may be asked to run it again in the Fall issue as well. With luck, we may have more, and ideally, it would be very good to secure more paying advertisers as a way to defray publishing costs. However, our publication schedule works against our becoming a regular choice for many would-be advertisers. Over the last three years I have had about two inquiries per year to run advertisements for academic positions, but unfortunately, the publication date of our Fall issue could not be guaranteed due to the nature of the materials we are required to include. In each case, I have had to turn away the prospective advertiser. This year we were fortunate in that the advertiser was prepared to run their announcement very early in the calendar year. I will continue to work with any would-be advertiser, but do not envision this ever becoming a regular source of revenue for SSSP.

Editor's Business

This completes the final year of my first term as editor of *SPF*. I have been asked to continue as editor for another three year term, and I have gladly agreed. The administration at my university, California State University, East Bay (CSUEB), has been very supportive and has worked with me in developing a budget that works for SSSP and CSUEB. Noteworthy changes in the budget are additional funds to support additional course buy-outs for the editor, the discontinuation of the editorial assistant position, no funds for miscellaneous expenses, and a reduced honorarium.

The editorial and publications committee chair encouraged me to look into the cost of more release time given the demands of the editorship, and I did. CSUEB administrators agreed to charge only the cost of hiring an adjunct faculty member to replace me for a course release, a substantial savings over what it would normally charge, and much less than my previous employer. Using those figures, I submitted two proposed budgets (see addendum) and was told to pursue my first choice budget. I did, and I was pleased to learn that the Editorial and Publications committee recommended that I be named editor for another three year term, contingent upon the approval of the Board of Directors. Please let me publically express my gratitude for this show of support and vote of confidence. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to continue as editor. I will do my best over the next three years to make *SPF* the best professional social science association newsletter there is.

Let me also publically thank Jenny Lam, the outgoing editorial assistant for her hard work, creativity, and patience with me. I have learned much from her technical knowledge and expertise, and the newsletter appears more stylish and accessible because of her suggestions. Finally, please let me thank Michele Koontz, Tom Hood, Sharon Shumaker and Sarah Hendricks for their continued support and keen editorial eyes.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support.

Ken Kyle, Editor
Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter