

EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

Educational Problems Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems
Visit us at www.sssp1.org

From the Desk of the Chair

I hope that you are all doing well despite the wintry weather in many parts. The Winter newsletter includes information on the Graduate Student Paper Award and a tribute to Dr. Rena Joyce Gordon by her husband – and member – Dr. Art Gordon.

I hope to see many of you at the meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, March 15–18, here in Philadelphia. For more information, please visit www.essnet.org.

Until the Spring–
Billie Gastic
Division Chair, 2005–2007

Research Matters: Creating Knowledge,
Policy and Justice

57th Annual Meeting of the Society for
the Study of Social Problems

August 10–12, 2007
New York, NY

Don't Forget to Cast Your
Ballot for Our Next Division
Chair!

Graduate Student Paper Award – Deadline May 14th

Papers must address a contemporary educational problem and may be empirical or theoretical in nature. Authors must be current graduate students or recent graduates with conferral dates no earlier than January 2007. Only unpublished, single-author papers will be considered. Papers must not exceed 30 double-spaced pages (excluding notes, references, tables and figures). All papers must include a 150–200 word abstract and be prepared for anonymous review with the author's name and institutional affiliation appearing only on the title page. Winners will receive a small monetary prize and a complimentary ticket to the awards banquet at which all winners will be recognized. All papers must be submitted electronically (as an attachment) to the Division Chair, Billie Gastic (bgastic@temple.edu), by the above deadline. Please include your name, institutional affiliation and contact information in the body of your email.

Member Seeks Feedback on Book Project

Art Shostak, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Drexel University, would like to hear from members who are interested in sharing their ideas related to a new book that he is working on entitled *Schooling Tomorrow's Seers Today: Creating a High School for Futurists*.

Dr. Shostak would like to share a blueprint-of-sorts to enable especially progressive school districts to open the nation's first magnet or charter high schools for teenagers eager to explore what would be entailed in becoming a long-range planner.

He would welcome curriculum ideas, leads to vital books and resources, anecdotes, and, especially, ideas about how to earn attention from young people unlikely to readily consider this exciting new career option.

Art can be reached at arthur.b.shostak@drexel.edu.

Member Update

Leonard Gordon, Professor and Associate Dean Emeritus at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – Sociology, Arizona State University will become Dean of the ASU Emeritus College starting July 1st.

Congratulations Len!

** Please share news of your academic, scholastic and professional accomplishments with your Divisional colleagues. Email Billie Gastic (bgastic@temple.edu) with details about your most recent book, article, presentation or promotion. Let us know if you have just defended your dissertation or if you have changed jobs. Short (1 single-spaced page) essays, articles, book reviews, research briefs or commentaries are also welcomed. **

A Tribute to the Founding Editor of *Complementary Health Practice Review*. Rena Joyce Gordon, PhD

By: Leonard Gordon
*Professor and Associate Dean Emeritus
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences–Sociology
Arizona State University*

Originally published in
Complementary Health Practice Review, Vol. 11 No. 3, October 2006 1–2

Complementary Health Practice Review editor Susan Gaylord invited me to write a tribute to my wife, Rena Joyce Gordon, the founding editor of *CHPR*. Rena died of pancreatic cancer on Thanksgiving morning 2005. I am very glad to write this tribute to my remarkable wife and academic colleague. Doing so brought back recollections of discussions of what to call the journal. After much feedback and discussion with the then pending Editorial Board and Advisory Board members, Rena and I liked the sound of the acronym “CHPR”—just the right health-related research aim of the journal then, and now.

Rena and I had both entered emeritus status in 2002. After many trips to visit family and friends, and other just-for-fun trips to far-ranging locales including Mexico, Russia, and Thailand, we were stunned when Rena was diagnosed with fourth-stage pancreatic cancer early in February 2005. The prognosis was not encouraging. After reviewing Rena’s CT Scan, CA 19-9 cancer blood marker, and other test results, oncology physicians at the Mayo Clinic in our home town of Scottsdale, Arizona, asked Rena if they could help with information on hospice assistance. We knew that meant that they did not expect Rena to survive more than 6 months.

In checking with other oncologists, including the Virginia Piper Cancer Center in Scottsdale associated with the University of Arizona School of Medicine, Rena entered initially into chemotherapy treatment and then a Stage 2 clinical trial referred to as SNS 595. Two oncologists treating Rena worked with a naturopathic physician to administer vitamin C treatments. Entering into November, Rena’s symptoms were controlled to a

A Tribute to Rena Joyce Gordon (cont'd)

point where she was able to meet with a graduate student every Friday to write our family history and every few weeks was able to go out for a light dinner with family and friends. The combination of the allopathic conventional treatment with integrative complementary and alternative treatment—the CAM often referred to in *CHPR* articles—did appear to have a positive effect. Rena survived 4 months longer than the initial oncology prognosis indicated. Until the last week she was alert and active. When Rena died 1 month before our 50th wedding anniversary, I was grateful for the longer time we and our family and friends had than we had been told to anticipate.

Regarding Rena's founding editorship of *CHPR*, the academic background to her successful launching of the journal in its present form relates initially to her interest and training in earning her PhD in geography at Arizona State University. Her specialty was medical geography involving epidemiological research. Her efforts resulted in two editions of the *Arizona Rural Health Atlas* (1984, 1987) published by the University of Arizona School of Medicine. Rena's work for 15 years as a research lecturer in the UofA Medical School's Department of Family and Community Medicine brought her attention to the integrative complementary work of the DFCM's Andrew Weil, nationally known integrative medical specialist. Rena then saw and participated in the merger of research-based traditional and complementary medical practices as Director from 1983 to 1989 of the UofA School of Medicine's Rural Health Office headquartered in Phoenix.

The coalescence of factors that resulted in Rena's acceptance of the editorship of *CHPR* occurred in 1999. Rena had been a contributing editor, working with editor-in-chief Carolyn Chambers Clark on the *Encyclopedia of Complementary Health Practice* (Springer, 1999). Carolyn Clark was the outgoing editor of the journal *Alternative Health Practitioner* (*AHP*), immediate predecessor to *CHPR*, then published by Springer, and now by Sage. That year Rena was invited to be a visiting associate professor at the new ASU East Campus where the Provost Charles Backus and Vice Provost David Schwalm wanted her to help lead in the development of a new bachelor's degree program in Human Health/Wellness with the purpose of developing "an integrated understanding of human health by studying its physical, mental, spiritual, social, economic, environmental and emotional dimensions." The ASU East Campus offered to be the supporting locale of the reformulated *AHP* journal to that of *CHPR*, with Rena accepting the offer from Springer Press to be the founding editor.

A Tribute to Rena Joyce Gordon (cont'd)

In the last issue of *Alternative Health Practitioner* (Winter 1999), Rena wrote about the pending journal's approach to keep "readers abreast of multidisciplinary research from the academy and from clinical practitioners to enrich the dialogue among and between them."

Rena then wrote:

Lastly, beginning with Volume 6, *Alternative Health Practitioner* will have a new name, *Complementary Health Practice Review* (CHPR). The name change reflects the mission of providing a research-based review of developments in the field, including the increasing use of science-based alternative and complementary health modalities. (*AHP*, Volume 5, Number 3, Winter 1999, p. 185)

As this tribute ends, I note Rena's ending in each issue of her *CHPR* editorial comments as editor: "To your good health." And I add Rena's editorial comment as editor emeritus in the April 2003 *CHPR* issue on treating depression in which she noted an article in *The New York Times* that called attention to the research finding that physicians have only recently seriously considered the research and practice of the mind-body link. That editorial was entitled "Depression: A Little Gershwin, Please" (Mr. Gershwin wrote our favorite music) and it ended with Rena expressing to all:

Wishing you a song in your heart.

*For more information
about the Educational
Problems Division,
please contact:*

Billie Gastic, Ph.D.
College of Education
Temple University
bgastic@temple.edu

Seeking Editorial Assistance

If you are a graduate student looking to increase your involvement in the Division, please consider applying for the Assistant Editor position. Although this is an unpaid position, you will gain valuable editorial experience, have the opportunity to connect with and learn more about your colleagues in the Division and take part in decision-making regarding the content and design of this newsletter. Please contact Billie Gastic (bgastic@temple.edu) if you are interested.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.sssp1.org

“The Society shall be a non-profit corporation to promote and protect sociological research and teaching on significant problems of social life and, particularly, to encourage the work of youth sociologists; to stimulate the application of scientific method and theory to the study of vital social problems; to encourage problem-centered social research; to foster cooperative relations among persons and organizations engaged in the application of scientific sociological findings to the formulation of social policies; to foster high quality of life, social welfare, and positive social relations in society and the global community and to undertake any activity related thereto or necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the foregoing purposes.”