• Happy New Year – Reflecting on Past Performance and Looking Forward with New Goals

• News from the ASA
  o Positive Impact of Sociology – send your examples.
  o Please post or distribute -- students joining the ASA for the first time receive a free bright-yellow messenger bag!
  o For anyone renewing or joining the ASA, one click will get you information about disability services at ASA Annual Meetings.
  o Reminder: Bring an award-winning sociologist to your campus. Sorokin Lecture deadline – Feb. 1

• Resources for Department Chairs
  o Department Chairs Guidelines – online resources from three institutions.
  o Criteria for Evaluating the Department Chair – two lists to consider.

• Teaching Tidbits
  o TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology – a place for faculty to get credit for their teaching excellence while raising the profile of the department.
  o LIBRARY OF CONGRESS – Digital Collections and Services.

• Articles
  o “2 Studies Shed New Light on the Meaning of Course Evaluations” (Chronicle)
  o "Maryland’s Towson University Conquers Graduation Gap" (Washington Post)
  o “Picking on Social Science” (Inside Higher Ed)

• Professional Opportunities to Share with Students & Faculty
  o Calls for papers – Publications
  o Calls for papers – Meetings
  o Meeting Announcements
  o Funding
Happy New Year – Reflecting on Past Performance and Looking Forward with New Goals

Dear Professor Vitullo:

Winter has come with its chill winds, that time when the earth turns inward and quietly prepares for the next season of renewal and new growth. For many of us there is a parallel process, as we take time to reflect on the past year and set new goals for the year to come.

The role of department chair includes an imposing array of responsibilities on top of the usual research, teaching, and service requirements of the professoriate. Moreover, in this technological age, the amount of information coming across our desks and demanding our attention in a given day has expanded to a dizzying level. Finding ways to manage this load and remain relaxed and productive is essential for our well being. Fortunately, technology also offers a variety of ways to access resources to help manage that load. Reflecting on 2010 and looking forward to 2011, three resources I’ve been using are the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, David Allen’s now nearly classic, Getting Things Done (2001), which I have listened to as an audio book, and of course, TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology.

This issue of Chairlink includes a variety of resources to help you reflect on past performance – of sociology faculty and yourself in the role of chair --as well as resources for a new year of efforts to engage students, build effective departments and programs, foster faculty development, and find some balance along the way. I hope you find this edition of Chairlink useful. If you have feedback—positive or negative—about this or any issue of Chairlink, please send it to me at mvitullo@asanet.org.

With warm regards,

Margaret Weigers Vitullo, PhD
Director, Academic and Professional Affairs Program
News from the ASA

- Positive Impact of Sociology – send us your examples.

The American Sociological Association is seeking examples from your departments of social and behavioral research, primarily federally funded, that has produced significant benefits for society.

There is a growing concern that the benefits of federal funding for social and behavioral sciences -- particularly that provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF), but also by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) -- is not publicly known. Your examples will be made available to the public and will be used to help defend federal funding for social and behavioral sciences.

Thus, we are asking you to provide one to five of your best examples of such research benefits. Specifically, we are asking for examples of social and behavioral research that has received support from federal agencies and that has resulted in nationally significant and demonstrable economic, national security, social, or policy benefits. These examples should be historic in nature and have either qualitative stories or quantitative data that can be used to demonstrate their value. Examples might include social or behavioral research that has:

- resulted in new companies and/or the creation of jobs,
- saved lives or significantly improved public health,
- enhanced national and/or homeland security,
- resulted in enhanced economic productivity,
- produced significant government savings/efficiencies,
- improved energy efficiency, helped to protect the environment, or helped preserve vital natural resources,
- informed the development of federal legislation or regulations, or
- helped to address major social or behavioral challenges in other areas such as education, agriculture, transportation, or reducing poverty.

For each example, it is important that information regarding the specific research and research findings, the value of the research, the name of the principal investigator(s), and the federal agency(ies) that supported the research be provided whenever possible. It is also important that a point of contact be provided from whom we could seek additional information.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact ASA’s Director of Public Affairs, Brad Smith (bsmith@asanet.org).

- Please post or distribute - students joining the ASA for the first time get a free bright yellow messenger bag!
The American Sociological Association is committed to aiding in the socialization of students into the discipline and profession. ASA continues to expand its student initiatives in support of future sociologists who represent the next generation of scholars, researchers, teachers, and mentors. Student members receive many great benefits such as discounted journal rates, reduced registration costs for the ASA Annual Meeting, free access to the online Job Bank, and various other promotional discounts on insurance, car rentals, office supplies, and travel. All individuals who join ASA as students automatically become members of the ASA Student Forum.

Student membership is only $20, plus the cost of a journal. For a limited time, ASA is giving new student members an exclusive free gift of a high-quality bright yellow messenger bag, with adjustable shoulder strap, side pockets, and Velcro flap closure.

Join online at http://www.asanet.org/members/join.cfm
Enter PRONEWST11 in the promotion code on the final payment screen. The free gift will be sent within 2-4 weeks. Offer only applies to new ASA student membership.

For more information, visit the ASA website or e-mail membership@asanet.org.

- For anyone renewing or joining the ASA, one click will get you information about disability services at ASA Annual Meetings.

When individuals renew or join the ASA, they have the opportunity to say that they would like to receive information about disability services at ASA Annual Meetings. In the online submission process, this option is at the bottom of the “Demographic Information” page. Meeting Services and Academic and Professional Affairs staff are working together to make ASA events accessible and welcoming to all ASA members. This question helps us identify people who need services themselves, or who have a particular interest in receiving information about accessibility issues.

- Reminder: Sorokin Lecture Series Deadline is February 1, 2011.

Through the Sorokin Lecture Series, you can invite any of the winners of major ASA awards from the past two calendar years to deliver a lecture on an academic campus (or at a regional or state meeting). ASA covers the costs of travel and up to two days of hotel accommodations. The host would cover registration (if applicable) and meals. Contingent upon available funding, the ASA can support up to four such lecture trips each calendar year. For more information, click here.
Resources for Department Chairs

- **Department Chair Guidelines** – online resources from three institutions.

Want to know how evaluation of faculty is handled in another university? What about staff wage and work hour guidelines? Would it be helpful to see how department budgets are planned in another university and compare it to your own institution’s process? Check out the links below for a wealth of useful information for department chairs in any college or university.

- **“Department Chair’s Toolkit”**
  University of Wisconsin – Madison

- **“Administrative Guidelines for Academic Department Chairs”**
  Gustavus Adolphus College.

- **“Department Chair’s Handbook”**
  College of St. Benedict / St. John’s University

- **Criteria for evaluating the Department Chair – two lists to consider.**

We provide students the criteria that will be used to evaluate their work. We provide junior faculty the criteria that will be used in making tenure decisions. But what criteria should Chairs use in reflecting on the past year and setting goals for the next? If your institution does not have a set of clear criteria, here are two lists for you to consider.

- **“Responsibilities of Chair (or Director) of Department (or School)”**
  Northern Illinois University.

- **“Guidelines and Information for Department Chairs”**
  University of California, Santa Barbara
  Scroll down to “Evaluation Criteria.”

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**Teaching Tidbits**

- **TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology.**

Looking for fresh ideas for your spring courses? TRAILS contains teaching resources by more than 1,000 authors in 70 different subject areas. Having resources accepted for publication in TRAILS also provides a way for faculty demonstrate their teaching excellence. A subscription ($25 for ASA members, $100 for non-members) gets you unlimited downloads and submissions for a full year.

- **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: Digital Collections and Services.**
“Access to print, pictorial and audio-visual collections and other digital services” from the Library of Congress, including maps, photographs, veterans’ first-person narratives, historic newspapers, and more. Resources to help sociology lectures and activities come to life.

Articles

- “2 Studies Shed New Light on the Meaning of Course Evaluations.” *(Chronicle)*
  By David Glenn
  Under the mandate of a recently enacted state law, the Web sites of public colleges and universities in Texas will soon include student-evaluation ratings for each and every undergraduate course. …Bored how should the public interpret those ratings? Are student course evaluations a reasonable gauge of quality? Are they correlated with genuine measures of learning? And what about students who choose not to fill out the forms—does their absence skew the data? Two recent studies shed new light on those old questions. Read the full article.

- “Maryland’s Towson University Conquers Graduation Gap.” *(Washington Post)*
  By Daniel de Vise
  Towson University, a Maryland institution that has yet to produce a Nobel prize or a Rhodes Scholar, is gaining a national reputation for something else it doesn’t have: a gap in graduation rates between whites and underrepresented minorities.

  The suburban Baltimore school joins Virginia’s George Mason University on a list of 11 higher education institutions nationwide where graduation rates for minority students meet or exceed those of whites, according to an analysis by the Education Trust, a Washington-based think tank that focuses on racial and ethnic achievement gaps. Read the full article.

- “Picking on Social Science” *(Inside Higher Ed)*
  A bid to question the merits of federal funding for social and behavioral science research may be failing to capture the public’s attention, even as it signals that larger and more polarizing battles over science, federal policy and money could lie ahead. On Aug. 13, Rep. Adrian Smith, (R-Nebraska) posted a clip on YouTube announcing the launch of YouCut -- an attempt to get citizens to crowdsource ways to cut the federal budget. In YouCut’s first foray, Rep. Smith invites viewers to share their impressions of grants for research that have been awarded by the National Science Foundation. Read the full article.
Professional Opportunities to Share with Students & Faculty

Department Affiliates receive advance notice of calls for papers, meetings, and funding opportunities that will appear approximately a month later in Footnotes.

- **Call for Papers – Publications**

*Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change*, a peer-reviewed volume, encourages submissions for Volume 33 of the series. This volume will have both thematic and open-submission sections. For the open-submission/non-thematic section, submissions appropriate to any of the three broad foci reflected in the series title will be considered. The special section will focus on “new” and “old” media in social movements, conflicts, and change. We encourage submissions on the relationship between older media and social movements, conflicts or change, or between “new” media and social movements, conflicts or change. Deadline: May 16, 2011. Contact: Jennifer Earl at jearl@soc.ucsb.edu and Dena Rohlinger at drohling@fsu.edu. For more information, visit <info.emeraldinsight.com/products/books/series.htm?PHPSESSID=ao67n2qdmb56lqa36v0k6mivb1&idd=0163-786X>.

- **Call for Papers - Meetings**


**The 3rd Joint Conference of the German, Austrian and Swiss Sociological Associations**, September 29, 2011-October 1, 2011, Innsbruck University, Austria,. German/English. Theme: “The New Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere.” Abstract deadline: April 1, 2011. Contact: frank.welz@uibk.ac.at. For more information, visit <www.soziologie2011.eu>.

**The York Deviancy Conference**, June 29-July 11, 2011, University of York. Theme: “Critical Perspectives on Crime, Deviance, Disorder and Social Harm.” The conference theme is broadly conceived and we encourage papers from a variety of critical perspectives. We particularly encourage papers that are speculative, theoretically informed, and future oriented, as well as those straying outside the usual parameters of mainstream criminological thought. We seek papers that draw on diverse topic areas providing variously constructive, polemical, considered, and critical discussions of key elements of socially harmful and criminal behaviors. We are particularly keen to hear from those working around economic harms; globalised and networked forms of criminality and harm; environmental criminology; “invisible” problems of criminality and hurt; psycho-social assessments of, among other things, violence and abuse, and treatments that bring in spatial considerations. Deadline: January 31, 2011. Contact: Josine Opmeer at josine.opmeer@york.ac.uk; <www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/deviancy-conference>.

- **Meeting Announcements**

February 3-6, 2011. *Sociologists for Women in Society 40th Anniversary Winter Meeting*, El Tropicano Hotel, San...
Antonio TX. For more information, visit: <www.socwomen.org>.

**February 15-25, 2011.** *XX International Conference on Addiction Problems* Tioman Island of Malaysia. Theme: “Drug Addiction Prevention And Molding a Healthy and Sober Life Among Young People.” Contact: tel./fax: +7 (831) 421 13 21 or 251 96 59; mayurov@sandy.ru or mayurov@mail.ru; <www.intacso.ru> or <www.intacso.com>.

**March 24-27, 2011.** *Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting*, St Louis, MO. Theme: “The Dynamics of Inequality.” Contact: Mary Zimmerman or Pooya Naderi at mss2011@ku.edu; <www.theMSS.org>.


**June 29, 2011-July 1, 2011.** *The York Deviancy Conference*, University of York. Theme: “Critical Perspectives on Crime, Deviance, Disorder and Social Harm.” Contact: Josine Opmeer at josine.opmeer@york.ac.uk; <www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/deviancy-conference/>.

**September 29-October 1, 2011.** *The 3rd Joint Conference of the German, Austrian, and Swiss Sociological Associations*, Innsbruck University, Austria. Theme: “The New Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere.” Contact: frank.welz@uibk.ac.at. For more information, visit <www.soziologie2011.eu>.

### Funding

**2011 Wisconsin Longitudinal Study Pilot Grant Program.** The Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will award two to three pilot grants to investigators using the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) data for scholarly research. The WLS provides an opportunity to study the life course, careers, retirement, intergenerational transfers and relationships, family functioning, physical and mental health and wellbeing, morbidity and mortality, and gene-environment interactions from late adolescence to the retirement years. Selected recipients will receive $5,000 to support their research, and a travel stipend to WLS training workshops. The training workshop will take place in Madison on August 11-12, 2011, while the research workshop will be held one year later. Deadline: May 27, 2011. Contact: Carol Roan at (608) 265-6196; roan@ssc.wisc.edu; <www.ssc.wisc.edu/wlsresearch/pilot>.

**Catalyzing New International Collaborations Program.** One component of the National Science Foundation’s strategic plan is to increase the extent to which U.S. researchers engage with the international research and education community. It is the Office of International Science and Engineering’s (OSIE) aim to identify opportunities for international engagement that will enable transformative research, new modes of investigation and networking, and development of a diverse, globally-engaged workforce. This solicitation offers support for the exploratory phase of an international collaboration with the strong expectation that the next phase will involve submission of a follow-up proposal for continued funding of the collaborative research. OISE supports the initial phases of a collaboration which then generates a competitive research proposal to an NSF disciplinary program. This solicitation offers the opportunity to experiment with new modalities for supporting international collaborations. OISE can support workshops that may immediately precede or follow a larger scale conference when they add an international dimension that is focused on
building research collaboration. For more information, visit <www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12815>.

The Dirksen Congressional Center invites applications for grants to fund research on congressional leadership and the U.S. Congress. A total of up to $35,000 will be available in 2011. Funds of up to $3,500 will be awarded. Grants will normally extend for one year. The Center encourages graduate students who have successfully defended their dissertation prospectus to apply and awards a significant portion of the funds for dissertation research. Applicants must be U.S. citizens residing in the United States. Organizations are not eligible. Research teams of two or more individuals are eligible. No institutional overhead or indirect costs may be claimed against a Congressional Research Award. Deadline: March 1, 2011. Contact: Frank Mackaman at fmackaman@dirksencenter.org; <www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_CRAs.htm>.

National Institutes of Health Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet) Short-term Mentored Career Development Awards in the Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences for Mid-career and Senior Investigators (K18). This funding opportunity provides candidates with protected time to achieve a shift in the focus of their research direction in the basic behavioral and social sciences, or to substantially enrich current basic behavioral and social sciences research (b-BSSR) research programs through the introduction of tools, theories, or approaches from other disciplines or scientific areas; it is not a substitute for research project support. Two categories of candidates are targeted: (a) biomedical or clinical researchers with little experience in basic behavioral and social sciences research; and (b) investigators in the basic or applied behavioral and social sciences who wish to build new components or domains of basic-BSSR into their research programs. Deadline: January 24, 2011. For more information, visit <oppnet.nih.gov>.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and Census Bureau Seek Proposals on Methodological Questions. NSF and the U.S. Census Bureau invite teams of researchers to submit proposals for the conduct of long-term interdisciplinary research and educational activities on methodological questions of interest and significance to the broader research community and the Federal Statistical System, particularly the U.S. Census Bureau. The activities should advance both fundamental and applied knowledge, and contribute to the training of the next generation of researchers in research skills of relevance to the measurement of economic units, households, and persons. The two agencies will use the awards to create a Network of Nodes (NoN) with complementary research foci. NSF and the Census Bureau will define the research program to include the major measurement challenges of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences relevant to the U.S. Census Bureau. Nodes may conduct independent research activities and/or partner with existing Census Research Data Centers (RDCs). In FY 2011 NSF expects to make 8 to 12 awards with anticipated spending of $18.5 million subject to the availability of funds. Deadline: February 11, 2011. Contact: Cheryl Eavey, (703) 292-7269; ceavey@nsf.gov; <www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10621/nsf10621.htm>.

The National Science Foundation-Census Research Network will provide support for a set of research nodes, each of which will be staffed by a team of scientists conducting interdisciplinary research and educational activities on methodological questions of interest and significance to the broader research community and to the federal statistical system, particularly the U.S. Census Bureau. The activities will be expected to advance both fundamental and applied knowledge as well as further the training of current and future generations of researchers in research skills of relevance to the measurement of economic units, households, and persons. Deadline: February 16, 2011. Contact: Cheryl L Eavey at (703) 292-7269; ceavey@nsf.gov; <www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide>.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is seeking applicants for the Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research program. This program provides one of the few funding opportunities for outstanding researchers throughout the stages of their careers to explore bold new ideas for improving the nation’s health or health
care system. Deadline: January 19, 2011, 3:00pm EST. For more information, visit <www.rwjf.org/cfp/ia>.

**Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)** is partnering with The Human Factors/Behavioral Sciences Division (HFD) of the Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate to launch a special competition to fund survey experiments that will advance our understanding of questions central to HFD’s mission. Surveys should allow for an in-depth, theoretically informed exploration of factors that may contribute to terrorism-related attitudes, beliefs, judgments, and behaviors. To fill this gap, HFD and TESS are partnering to sponsor a set of survey experiments. We invite researchers from multiple social and behavioral science disciplines to submit brief proposals (5 page maximum) describing an experiment to test theoretically-derived hypotheses about the factors that affect individuals’ attitudes, beliefs, judgments and/or behaviors related to (a) terrorism/extremist violence and/or (b) government policies and measures to counter terrorism/extremist violence. The deadline for this competition is January 21, 2011. For more information, visit <tess.experimentcentral.org>.

- **Fellowships**

**Beyster Fellowship.** Fellowships are available for the study of employee stock ownership, profit sharing, broad-based stock options, and broadened ownership of capital in the corporation/society. Fifteen $25,000, $12,500, or $5000 fellowships will be offered by Rutgers University's School of Management and Labor Relations to doctoral candidates, recent PhD graduates, and scholars in the social sciences. Fellows may be in residence at their own university or visit Rutgers. Deadline: January 31, 2011. Contact: Joseph Blasi at beysterfellowships@smlr.rutgers.edu; <smlr.rutgers.edu/research-and-centers/beyster-fellowship-and-fellows-programs>.

**The College of Brockport Presidential Fellowships.** Women and Gender Studies at the College at Brockport welcomes applications for the next round of Presidential Fellowships. These non-tenure track, two-year term appointments are rooted in bringing diversity in knowledge and identity to the campus. Contact: Barbara LeSavoy, Director, Women and Gender Studies Program, 201E Dailey Hall, The College at Brockport- SUNY, 350 New Campus Drive Brockport, NY 14420; (585) 395-5799; fax (585) 395 5999; blesavoy@brockport.edu; <www.insidehighered.com/career/seekers/posts/view/163048>.

**The Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (DPDF)** supports early-stage graduate students in the humanities and social sciences in formulating competitive doctoral dissertation proposals. DPDF provides fellows with up to $5,000 to support pre-dissertation research during the summer of 2011, as well as sponsors their required participation in two workshops framing the summer. Students apply to one of five research fields led by two research directors; twelve fellows are selected for each research field. Deadline: January 28, 2011. For more information, <programs.ssrc.org/dpdf/>.

- **Competitions**

**The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship** will be awarded to an advanced sociology PhD student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school. A student advanced to candidacy (ABD status) in an accredited PhD program in sociology in the United States is eligible to apply if she or he studied at a U.S. two-year college either part-time or full-time for at least one full academic year. The Scholarship carries a stipend of $3500 from Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) and an additional $300 from the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) to be used to support the pursuit of a PhD as well as a one-year membership in SWS and SSSP. To honor Hess’s career, the committee will look for: Commitment to teaching, especially at a community college or other institution serving less-privileged students; research and activism in social inequality, social justice, or social problems, with a focus on gender and/or...
gerontology being especially positive; service to the academic and/or local community, including mentoring and activism; and high quality research and writing in the proposal and letter of application. Deadline: April 1, 2011. Contact: Denise Copelton, Department of Sociology, The College at Brockport-SUNY, 350 New Campus Dr., Brockport, NY 14420; dcopelto@brockport.edu.