Betty A. Dobratz, Iowa State University, and Lisa K. Waldner, University of St. Thomas, have begun work as new co-editors of the society’s flagship journal, *The Sociological Quarterly*.

Dobratz and Waldner were selected from a field of several applicants by the Publications Committee in the spring of 2011. Initially hesitant to choose co-editors who worked at different campuses, the Publications Committee was impressed during the team’s interview by their well-thought-out plans for working together in spite of their distance from each other, and their long record of successful collaboration. Acting Publications Committee Co-chair Jan Thomas said of the Dobratz-Waldner team’s interview, “They absolutely hit it out of the park.”

The board of directors unanimously affirmed the committee’s choice. During the past year, Dobratz and Waldner have set up their office at Iowa State University in Ames, hired a managing editor, learned the online submission system, recruited reviewers, and prepared their initial issues for publication. Their first co-edited issue will be distributed to members and subscribers in January 2013, and features a special section on first-person ethnographies, with ethnographies of a border militia and a school for privileged students.

“We’re learning very fast about what it means to be a generalist sociological publication,” said Dobratz. “The biggest challenge has been the sheer number and variety of manuscripts.”

Dobratz reports that the full team is in touch constantly by email, and meets weekly with managing editor Leslie Kawaler by Skype. “We play off each other, learn from each other,” said Dobratz. “We often – but not always - share the same perspective.”

Both long-time MSS members, Dobratz and Waldner brought deep experience in publishing as well as a history of successful collaboration to their editorship. Their most recent collaborative project was a book titled *Power, Politics, and Society: An Introduction to Political Sociology*, which was co-authored with Timothy Buzzell, and published this year by Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.

Dr. Betty A. Dobratz received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1982. A professor of sociology at Iowa State University, she also holds a rank-only appointment in political science and is an affiliate of the Women’s Studies program and the ISU Center for the Study of Violence. Her main areas of research and teaching are in political sociology and social inequality. She has authored, co-authored, or co-edited 15 books or journal issues, about 50 research articles or chapters, and numerous other works. She received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Mid-Career Award for Excellence in Research/Artistic Creativity. She regularly teaches undergraduate courses in political sociology and social inequality.

Dr. Lisa K. Waldner is professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of St. Thomas. She received her Ph.D. at Iowa State University in 1992, where her major professor was Dr. Betty Dobratz. Her research interests are broad-ranging, and include social inequality, AIDS knowledge and prevention, and hate crimes. She has published extensively in several journals on a variety of topics including gay skinheads, anti-gay hate crimes, domestic violence, sexual coercion, AIDS education, identity issues of lesbian
NEW MANAGING EDITOR

The new managing editor of The Sociological Quarterly is Leslie Kawaler. A graduate of Cornell University, and a former attorney, Kawaler has worked as a freelance editor and proofreader since 1989. Kawaler encouraged more MSS members to step forward as reviewers: “Reviewers get an early look at new research in their field, and reviewing others’ articles helps hone your own skills as a writer.” (See related article, page 14.)


—WITH THANKS TO A HISTORY OF MSS, BY PAST PRESIDENT SUE WRIGHT

and gay adolescents, and political participation. Previous book chapters have appeared in publications from Routledge, Oxford University Press and Temple University Press. She has received the Undergraduate Research and Collaborative Scholarship award from the University of St. Thomas for her work with students.

Waldner marvels at the path she has taken from grad student to co-editor: “I went to my first MSS meeting in 1986 when I was a grad student - and I never dreamed I would someday have the honor of co-editing The Sociological Quarterly.”

Both new editors invite MSS members to submit articles to TSQ. Waldner believes the peer review process assists authors in refining their work. “I really see our job as helping authors develop the best articles for TSQ but also assisting other authors in moving their projects forward – even if they end up publishing in another journal,” Waldner said.

Dobratz described the journal’s requirements: “We look for each article to contain sound theory, the author’s empirical results and an appeal for a generalist audience,” said Dobratz. “Take a look at the author guidelines that are accessible through the TSQ web page and if your article fits the guidelines, we’d like to see it.”

Both Dobratz and Waldner expressed gratitude to their institutions for supporting their appointment as editors. Both were deeply appreciative of immediate past editors, Brian Donovan and William G. Staples of the University of Kansas, and past managing editor, Ada Van Roekel, for their work with the journal, and their assistance during the transition.

Congratulations to Betty Dobratz and Lisa Waldner on your appointment as co-editors of The Sociological Quarterly, and best wishes from your fellow MSS members as you tackle the work ahead.
At The Sociological Quarterly (TSQ) we strive to publish high quality papers regardless of substantive area, theoretical orientation, or methodological approach. The 2011 Journal Citation Reports ranked TSQ 39 out of 137 sociology journals. Although anyone can submit a paper, we encourage MSS members to do so.

As editors of a generalist journal, we are especially interested in empirical papers guided by an appropriate theoretical framework. Successful papers demonstrate importance, feature valid data, and are creative and innovative. Importance means quickly making a case for publication by answering the question “So what?” Valid papers use data that can actually answer the research question posed. Creative and innovative papers explore ideas that span subfields interesting to a variety of scholars. To submit a paper, review the author information section on the back cover of every issue or visit the Wiley-Blackwell TSQ page: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1533-8525.

We strive to keep the average manuscript turnaround time under sixty days. To accomplish this, we rely on evaluations by qualified peer reviewers. Even a speedy rejection helps authors move forward with revisions. Prompt reviews of ultimately accepted manuscripts provide authors additional time to improve the quality of their papers.

We use a blind review process and share with reviewers the publication decision and all reviewer comments. Seeing how other reviewers evaluate the same paper ideally helps one become a more effective reviewer and researcher. Helpful reviews provide constructive criticism to authors by pointing out potential problems and offering advice on a way to move forward with projects if possible.

As editors, we especially appreciate reviews that are consistent with the publication recommendation. At times, some reviewers recommend “Revise and Resubmit” even though the reviewer believes the paper suffers from one or more “fatal flaws.” Other times reviewers are extremely negative in the confidential comments to editors but offer much softer feedback to authors. This confuses authors who cannot understand why their paper is being rejected. We ask reviewers to check the appropriate manuscript decision box but refrain from putting publication recommendations in their comments to authors.

We especially encourage all published TSQ authors to accept our invitation to review. No one can be published without the labor of reviewers. Paying it forward by reviewing manuscripts of potential TSQ contributors supports other scholars and expresses appreciation for the past work of TSQ reviewers. We also encourage junior scholars and graduate students to review for TSQ in part because they are often very current in the literature and can gain important experience in the research process.

We are continually adding to our database of reviewers on Scholar One. We invite anyone interested in becoming a TSQ reviewer to send their vita to our Managing Editor, Leslie Kawaler, at tsq@iastate.edu with “reviewer” in the subject line. Reviewers are listed annually in the final issue for a volume and can receive a 30% discount on selected Wiley-Blackwell publications.