

TWO NEBRASKA SCHOLARS WIN TOP SOCIOLOGY HONORS — AGAIN!

Mary Jo Deegan and Michael R. Hill, both of Lincoln, Nebraska, again walked away with top honors in their research specialty at the recent centennial meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Philadelphia earlier this month. Hill and Deegan won the 2005 Distinguished Scholarly Book Award from the ASA Section on the History of Sociology for their meticulous edition of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Social Ethics: Sociology and the Future of Society*. Gilman, who died in 1935, was a pioneering sociologist and is well-known as the author of the classic short story: "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892) and a non-fiction book on *Women and Economics* (1898). *Social Ethics*, written in 1914, was discovered by Deegan and Hill after years of archival and library research. The award selection committee cited the Nebraska researchers "for their enormous scholarly efforts in bringing this lost classic to our attention" and for providing "exhaustive and detailed annotation and endnotes which explain Gilman's vocabulary and sociological references, making it easily accessible and understandable to those who have not yet discovered and are not already familiar with her work." *Social Ethics* was issued by Praeger Publishers of Westport, Connecticut, in 2004.

During award ceremonies at the Philadelphia Marriot Hotel, Hill was also applauded for his research and creative initiative in designing and compiling a *Centennial Bibliography on the History of American Sociology*, a large documentary work commissioned by the American Sociological Association and now available on-line to interested students via the ASA's official website. Yolanda Johnson, a UNL sociology graduate student and the elected student member of the Council of the ASA Section on the History of Sociology, was also officially commended for her energy, leadership, and many contributions to the section during the past two years.

Deegan is professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and Hill is the editor of *Sociological Origins*, a research journal devoted to the history of sociology. Deegan and Hill, who have been life partners since 1981, have between them won all book prizes bestowed by the ASA Section on the History of Sociology since the award was first made in 2002. *Harriet Martineau: Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives*, edited by Michael R. Hill and Susan Hoecker-Drysdale (and a volume in the *Women and Sociological Theory Series*, edited by Mary Jo Deegan) won the 2002 award. *Race, Hull-House, and the University of Chicago: A New Conscience Against Ancient Evils*, by Mary Jo Deegan, won in 2003. No award was made in 2004.

Social Ethics is the third major Gilman book discovered and edited by Deegan and Hill. In 1997, they issued Gilman's *With Her in Ourland: Sequel to Herland* and in 2002 they completed work on Gilman's *The Dress of Women: A Critical Introduction to the Symbolism and Sociology of Clothing*. Both editions were published by Greenwood Press of Westport, Connecticut. In *Social Ethics*, write Hill and Deegan, Gilman builds an ethical framework on the premise that "a world in which children are not loved, well fed, properly clothed, thoughtfully educated, and humanely disciplined is a world ethically at odds with logic and itself."

Adding to their laurels, Deegan and Hill have also been honored by the ASA Section on the History of Sociology for their lifetime contributions to scholarship. Deegan received the Distinguished Scholarly Career Award in 2002. Hill won the same prize a year later in 2003.

Deegan is a native of Chicago, with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She is internationally recognized for her historical research on Jane Addams and the social settlement, Hull-House. Hill attended Omaha Benson High School and earned the B.A. degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He subsequently earned two Ph.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he wrote a dissertation on the intellectual accomplishments of Nebraska's botanist-lawyer, Roscoe Pound. At UNL, Hill (writing under the pseudonym Michael Hilligoss) was a graduate student columnist for the *Daily Nebraskan*.

The American Sociological Association was founded one hundred years ago, in 1905, at a meeting convened in Philadelphia, and immediately became the preeminent professional society for American sociologists. Three early professors who taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln were subsequently elected to the presidency of the Association: Edward Alsworth Ross (1914-15), George Elliott Howard (1917), and Charles Abram Ellwood (1924). Ellwood was named to the Nebraska faculty in 1899 as the first professor specifically hired to teach sociology on the Lincoln campus (he was never paid, however, and left after one year for greener pastures at the University of Missouri). The UNL Department of Sociology celebrated its centennial as a formally-organized academic unit in 2000. As part of their continuing research, Deegan and Hill are currently exploring and documenting the vibrant early history of academic sociology throughout Nebraska. Deegan and Hill live in Lincoln.
