

THIS FILE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL:

Perez, Johnny. 2005. "Professors Win Sociology Award." *Daily Nebraskan* 105 (September 6): 2.

This digital file is furnished solely for private scholarly research under "fair use" provisions of copyright law. This file may not be copied or posted on or transmitted via the Internet or other media without the permission, as applicable, of the author(s), the publisher(s), and/or the creator of the file. This file was created by Michael R. Hill.

Professors win sociology award

By **JOHNNY PEREZ**
Daily Nebraskan

Michael Hill and Mary Jo Deegan are historical sociologists – a title that hardly brings very glamorous images to the mind.

"People (now) think sociologists are social workers," said Deegan, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln sociology professor.

But for Deegan and Hill, editor of the scholarly journal "Sociological

Origins," the importance of a sociologist's work has never been greater.

Sociologists study human society and behavior, Deegan said, a topic that would certainly be of some interest to the general public – but one that has been removed from popular discussion, she said.

Historical sociologists like Deegan and Hill focus on the lessons that can be learned from the pioneers of the subject.

The duo's most recognized efforts are concerned with the contributions to sociology made by women and minority women.

During the recent centennial meeting of the American Sociological Association, Deegan and Hill were given the ASA's Scholarly Book Award for historical sociology.

Winning the award was the result of Deegan and Hill's uncovering, editing and republishing of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "Social Ethics: Sociology and the Future of Society."

Revealing this previously undiscovered work was part of a series of findings that began with unearthing a lost sequel to one of Gilman's more popular books, Hill said.

Extensive searches through archival records and Gilman's journals resulted in the discovery of several other works – including "Social Ethics."

"This is a really long-term scholarly effort that we've both been doing for a long time, and it's really wonderful to get recognized for it," Deegan said.

Gilman's standing in the history of sociology is also significant, Deegan said.

"Early on, there were a lot of women in sociology, and if you put them into the history of sociology, (it) becomes very different," she said.

Being publicly recognized for their endeavors is nothing new for Hill and Deegan, but both said the biggest reward comes from making new discoveries about the contributions of women and minorities to the field during its formative years.

Failure to incorporate these discoveries into classroom teaching and textbooks would compromise the validity of the history of sociology, Deegan said.

"The fun of discovering all this stuff is weaving together a story that nobody has ever seen before," Hill said.