

Patricia N. Lackey
1928-1995
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, EMERITUS

A.B., Southern Missouri State College; M.A., Ph.D., Sociology, University of
Pittsburgh, August 15, 1968
California State University, Fullerton From September 1, 1966 to September 1, 1992
Birth: August 18, 1928; Death: September 8, 1995

Pat Lackey joined the Sociology Department at California State University, Fullerton in the Fall of 1996. A native of Missouri, she quickly became a Californian and remained one until her untimely death on September 8, 1995.

Her colleagues and hundreds of students and friends, who came to know her, knew her as a no-nonsense and truly traditional sociologist. Even the radical movement of the 70's could not and did not influence Pat from staying the course. She resisted the so-called "pop courses."

In her twenty-six years of service at California State University, Fullerton, Pat taught such diverse courses as History of Social Thought, Law and Society, Sociology of Knowledge, and Social Stratification. Pat was instrumental in the development of the internship program in Sociology Department. She served as internship coordinator for several years. In 1989, she became the recipient of the civic internship award.

Pat served on many department and university committees, among which the curriculum and research committees are noteworthy.

Pat's teaching was paralleled by a number of on-going research projects, culminating mostly in published articles. However, Pat's finest hour came in 1987, with the publication of her book on her most admired social theorist, Talcot Parsons: *Invitation to Talcot Parsons' Theory*.

Among the many scholars reviewing her book, one by Professor Eugene B. Gallagher of the University of Kentucky states "Parsons gone but he has left to Sociology a legacy of theory spanning five decades. This legacy is as much a mine that invites exploration as it is a finished conceptual repository merely awaiting outward transport...Professor Lackey's introduction to Parsons is a well organized approach to each of the main topics on the Parsonian agenda. Her work offers trustworthy guidance to the reader who is seriously interested in penetrating the depth and scope of Parsons' thought."

A dedicated academician, Pat devoted her time and energy to reach students who were lost in the maze of sociological issues. Theory and philosophy were her favorite interests: they were her profession and avocation. She was the only one of us in the Sociology Department to have a blackboard installed in her office where she spent much of her time explaining and clarifying issues to her students, and she was remarkably successful with this method.

An avid theater goer, Pat often organized trips with her students to see popular plays with socio-psychological perspectives. With a pleasant and friendly personality, she was always surrounded by students and friends.

Pat Lackey was the embodiment of enormous knowledge, both in and out of sociology. A strong and well disciplined, yet compassionate person, she was always available to help and serve Sociology Department and the university.

At her retirement, we all knew we were going to miss her friendship and wise counsel, but we were happy that she was going to pursue a retirement full of challenge and more contribution to this university and her community.

Let us celebrate a fruitful life and tremendous achievements of Professor Pat N. Lackey, who was a colleague, a trusted friend and above all, a unique human being.

Submitted by
Houshang Poorkaj
Professor of Sociology
April, 1996