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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology.
University at Buffalo,
State University of New York, 1994

M.A., Sociology
University at Buffalo,
State University of New York, 1989

B.A., Political Science
Public Policy and Public Administration
College at Cortland,
State University of New York, 1985

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Associate Professor,
Eastern Kentucky University, August 2000 –to present
- Assistant Professor,
Eastern Kentucky University, August 1995 -2000
- Visiting Professor,
Buffalo State College, State University of New York, 1994-1995
- Lecturer,
University at Buffalo, State University of New York, 1993-1994
- Research / Teaching Assistant,
University at Buffalo, State University of New York, 1987-1993

RECENT SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

McSpirit, S., Scott, S., Gill, D., Hardesty, S. and D. Sims. 2007. Risk Perceptions after a Coal Waste Impoundment Failure: A Survey Assessment. *Southern Rural Sociology*. Special Issue: Communities and Disaster, *Forthcoming*.

Wigginton, A., McSpirit, S. and D. Sims. 2007. Heavy Metal Accumulation in Hot Water Tanks in a Region Experiencing Coal Waste Pollution and Comparison between Regional Water Systems. *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, *Forthcoming*.

McSpirit, S and N. McCoy. 2005. Addendum: The Commonwealth of Kentucky Releases Monies for Independent, Outside Assessment of the Martin County Watershed, May 2006. *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 11(1 &2), Special Double Issue: The Environment and Environmental Activism in Appalachia: 59-64.

McSpirit, S. Scott, S. Hardesty, S. and R. Welch. 2005. EPA Actions in Post Disaster Martin County, Kentucky: An Analysis of Bureaucratic Slippage. *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 11(1 &2), Special Double Issue: The Environment and Environmental Activism in Appalachia: 30-58.

Scott, S., McSpirit, S., Hardesty, S. and R. Welch. 2005. Post Disaster Interviews with Martin County Citizens: "Gray Clouds" of Blame and Distrust. *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 11(1 &2), Special Double Issue: The Environment and Environmental Activism in Appalachia: 7-29.

McSpirit, S. Scott, S. Hardesty, S. and R. Welch. 2002. Researching Issues and Building Civic Capacity after an Environmental Disaster. *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 8(1): 132-143.

_____. 2002. The Martin County Project: A Student, Faculty and Citizen Effort at Researching the Effects of a Technological Disaster. *Southern Rural Sociology*. 18 (2): 162-182.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

McSpirit, S., Wigginton, A., and D. Sims. An Exploratory Assessment of Heavy Metal Concentrations in Privat Wells in the Eastern Coal Region of the Big Sandy Watershed, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Wigginton, A., McSpirit, S. and D. Sims. The Use of Single-Indicator Test Kits and Inter-metal Correlations to Assess Water Quality in Coal Production Areas of Appalachia, USA.

Gasteyer, S., McSpirit, S., Wigginton, A., Sims, D. and J. Hansen. Total Water Management: Implications for Community Development and Community Recovery.

McSpirit, S., Faltraco, L. and C. Bailey. *Ecological and Community Problems and Partnerships in Appalachia and the South. Status: Contract awarded: University Press of Kentucky: November 2004. Spring 2008 manuscript delivery anticipated.*

McCoy, N., McCoy, M., Grayson, M., Carter-North, P. and S. McSpirit. Forthcoming chapter: Martin County Coal Waste Impoundment Failure: Citizen, Student and Researcher Perspective.

RECENT FUNDED RESEARCH

McSpirit, S. and A. Wigginton. 2006. Well-Water Study, Heavy Metal Concentrations and Correlations in Coal Slurry Impacted Areas of Martin County, KY: Citizen Training in the Use of Portable Test Kits. *Funded Through: National Science Foundation, EPSCoR Program. Funding Period: June 2006 to June 2007. Award Amount: \$25,000.*

McSpirit, S. 2005. Kentucky State Budget Appropriation to EKU of \$150,000: Monies awarded to conduct and administer independent water testing of Martin County Watershed with citizen oversight and participation in research design. *Funded Through: KY Cabinet of Environmental and Public Protection. Funding Period: June 2005 to June 2006: Award Amount: \$150,000.*

McSpirit, S. 2004. Subcontract awarded to conduct a survey assessment of West Virginia Communities for Coal Impoundment Project, National Technology Transfer Center, Wheeling Jesuit University. *Funded through: Continuing Congressional Resolution, Mine Safety Health Administration Funding Period: January 1-2006 to December 2006: Award Amount: \$23,000.*

Bailey, Conner; McSpirit, S. and Lynn Faltraco. 2005. Conference proposal on academic and community outreach for environmental problem-solving. *Funded through: Auburn University. Funding Period: February 2005. Award Amount: \$12,000.*

McSpirit, S. 2003. Sabbatical Leave Award: (Highest Ranked). *Funded through: Eastern Kentucky University. Funding Period: 2004/2005 Academic Year. Award Amount: \$22,000.*

McSpirit, S. 2003. The Martin County Project Phase II: Building Civic Capacity through Community-Based Environmental Decision-making. *Funding renewal: Flex-E-Grant Program, Appalachian Regional Commission. Funding Period: June 2003- December 2003. Award Amount: \$19,000.*

McSpirit, S. 2001. The Martin County Coal Waste Project: Researching Issues and Building Civic Capacity after an Environmental Disaster. Funded through: *Flex-E-Grant* Program, Appalachian Regional Commission. *Funding Period*: September 2001-February 2002. *Award Amount*: \$10,000.

McSpirit, S. 2000. The Martin County Coal Waste Spill: Disaster and Community. Funded through: University Research Committee, Eastern Kentucky University. *Funding Period*: Winter 2001. \$2,300.

FUNDED RESEARCH, PENDING:

WERF: Water Environmental Research Foundation. Letter-of-Intent Submitted, August 2007. Proposal to Study Impacts of Coal Slurry on Local Stream Ecology in Eastern Kentucky, Appalachia. Submitted through: Drs. Andrew Wigginton and David Price. Eco-toxicology and Environmental Assessment Laboratory, University of Kentucky.

RECENT REPORTS

McSpirit, S., Wigginton, A. D. Sims. 2006. *Assessment of Finished Water, the Public Water System: Martin County, KY*. Release date: October 2006. Available online: http://www.anthropology.uky.edu/martincounty/PDF/Water_Final.pdf

LaSage, D. and Caddell, M.J. 2006. Chemistry in Bottom Sediment of Crum Reservoir, Martin County, Eastern Kentucky Compared to a Reference Reservoir in Central Kentucky. Release date: October 2006. Available online: http://www.anthropology.uky.edu/martincounty/PDF/res_study.pdf

Hansen, J. and McSpirit, S. 2006. Independent Assessment of the Martin County Water District. Available online: http://www.anthropology.uky.edu/martincounty/PDF/MCWD_Assmnt.pdf

McSpirit, 2005-2006. *Closeout Report and Monthly Status Reports: Memorandum of Agreement, EKY and KY EPPC*. Available online: <http://www.anthropology.uky.edu/martincounty/mcwtp/statusreports.htm>

McSpirit 2006. Midterm Financial Report: Memorandum of Agreement, EKY and EPPC. Available online: http://www.anthropology.uky.edu/martincounty/PDF/midterm_frpt.pdf

McSpirit 2005. *Public Risk Perceptions Regarding Coal Waste Impoundments, A West Virginia Study: Mingo and Wyoming Counties*: Contract deliverable to Coal Impoundment Project, National Technology Transfer Center. Currently available online through the *Sludge Safety Project*: <http://www.sludgesafety.org/>

McSpirit, S. and M. Dieckmann. 2003. Response to ATSDR Petitioned Health Consultation: Martin County Coal Slurry Release. Available online: http://www.anthropology.uky.edu/MCSPIRIT/mcpt_ATSDR_cvr.htm. Report.

McSpirit, S. 2003. Section: Campus Safety. Campus Climate and Diversity Report. Eastern Kentucky University.

McSpirit, S. 2003. Sections: Introduction and Sample Representativeness. *Campus Climate and Diversity* Report. Eastern Kentucky University. Report.

McSpirit, S., S. Hardesty and R. Welch. 2002. *The Martin County Project: Researching Issues and Building Civic Capacity after an Environmental Disaster*. Retrieved August 30, 2003. (http://www.anthropology.uky.edu/MCSPIRIT/Martin_Cnty_Final_Report.html)

OTHER FUNDED RESEARCH

Carey, K., Taulbee, T., McSpirit, S. and J. Palmer. Campus Climate Survey and Diversity Report, Eastern Kentucky University. *Funded through*: Office of the President, Office on Diversity, Office of Student Affairs, and the Office of Institutional Research. *Funding Period*: April 2003-September 2003.

McSpirit, S. 2000. Enough is Enough: Chemical Weapons and Incineration in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. *Funded through*: University Research Committee, Eastern Kentucky University. *Funding Period* Spring through Summer 2000. *Award Amount*: \$3,200.

McKinney, M., Mc Spirit, S. Kentucky Provider Survey: HIV Counseling and Testing of Pregnant Women (Contractor) *Funded through*: Center for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Program. Kentucky Department for Public Health. *Funding period*: October 1997 through August 1998. *Award Amount*: \$47,000

OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

McSpirit, S., Jones, K., Chapman, A. & Kopacz, P. 2000. Identifying Grade Inflation at an Open-Admissions Institution. *College Student Journal*. June 2000. 34.2.228-235.

McSpirit, S., Chapman, A., Kopacz, P., & Jones, K.. 2000. Faculty Ironies on Grade Inflation. *Journal of Instructional Psychology*. 27. 2. 104-109.

McKinney, M., McSpirit, S., & Pomeroy, C. 2000. Prenatal HIV Prevention Practices in a Low Seroprevalence State. *AIDS Education and Prevention: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. 12.3. 253-262: (Selected by the *National Pediatrics Association* as part of its training packet on HIV counseling and testing of pregnant women).

McSpirit, S., Kopacz, P., Jones, K & Chapman, A. 2000. Faculty Opinion on Grade Inflation: Contradictions about its Cause. *College and University*. 75.3. 19-24.

McSpirit, S., & Jones, K. 1999. Grade Inflation Rates among Different Ability Students, while Controlling for other Factors. *Educational Policy Analysis Archive (EPAA)*.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS: (In Chronological Order)

- McSpirit, S. (2000). Faculty Development Grants Award. (\$500.00) Funded through: Office of Academic Affairs. Funding Period. Summer 2000.
- McSpirit, S. (2001). Faculty Development Grants Award. (\$500.00) Funded through: Office of Academic Affairs. Funding Period. Spring 2001.
- McSpirit, S. (2003). Faculty Development Grants Award. (\$300.00) Funded through: College of Arts and Sciences. Funding Period. Spring 2003.
- McSpirit, S. (2003). University Research Committee Award. (\$350.00) Funded through: Office of Academic Affairs. Funding Period. Spring 2003.
- McSpirit, S. (2003). Student Technology Fee Award. (\$1500) Funded through: Student Government Association. Funding Period. Spring 2003. Use: Purchase one PC work-station, Student Sociology Lounge
- McSpirit, S. (2004). Faculty Development Grants Award (\$300) Funded through: College of Arts and Sciences. Funding Period: Spring 2004.
- McSpirit, S. (2004). Faculty Development Award (\$200.00) Funded through: Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work Funding Period: Fall 2004.
- McSpirit, S. (2005) Internal Award (\$2000) College of Arts and Sciences; Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work; Appalachian Studies Center: Supplemental funding for Spring 2005 AU Workshop. Funding Period: February 2005
- McSpirit, S. (2005) Cost Recovery (\$4,500.00) College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work, Recovery of Indirect Fees from MOA for improvements in technology (computer) infrastructure for project team.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

SETAC: Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC). (November 2007). An Exploratory Assessment of Heavy Metal Concentrations in Private Wells in the Eastern Coal Region of the Big Sandy Watershed, Kentucky and West Virginia. Poster Presentation Accepted for Milwaukee Conference Sessions, with: Wigginton, A. and D. Sims.

SETAC: Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC). (November 2007). The Use of Single-Indicator Test Kits and Inter-metal Correlations to Assess Water Quality in Coal Production Areas of Appalachia, USA. Poster Presentation Accepted for Milwaukee Conference Sessions, with: Wigginton, A., and D. Sims.

SETAC: Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC). (November 2006). Heavy Metal Accumulation in Hot Water Tanks in a Region Experiencing Coal Waste Pollution and Comparison between Regional Water Systems. Poster Presentation Accepted for Toronto Conference Sessions, with: Wigginton, A., and D. Sims.

Water Management Council. (2006 September). Presentation on Findings from Public Water Testing Project (Memorandum of Agreement) in Martin County, KY and Discussion of Possible EPA Grant on Emergency Warning Systems/ Source Water Protection.

Rural Sociological Society. (2006 August). Poster Presentation on Findings from Public Water Testing Project (Memorandum of Agreement) in Martin County, KY. Louisville, KY.

Rural Sociological Society. (2006 August). Paper Presented on Findings from Public Water Testing Project (Memorandum of Agreement) in Martin County, KY. Louisville, KY.

Appalachian Studies Association. (2006 April) Poster Session on Findings from Public Water Testing Project (Memorandum of Agreement) in Martin County, KY. Dayton Ohio.

Mingo/ Wyoming County Risk Assessment: A Survey Report of Resident Views on Coal Impoundments and other Activities related to Coal Mining, Regulation and Enforcement (April 26, 2005). Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Williamson Campus, Armory Drive, Williamson, WV. Public Meeting and Outreach, Coal Impoundment Project, National Technology Transfer Center, Wheeling Jesuit University.

Researching the Aftermath of the Martin County Coal Waste Disaster through Community-based Participatory Methodologies (February 2005). Workshop on book project, *Academics and Activists*. Auburn University.

State Environmental Quality Commission (February 2005). Emergency Action Planning for Coal Waste Impoundments and for other Moderate and Significant Hazard Dams for Kentucky.

Proposed Survey Design: (2004 November) Coal Impoundment Project. National Technology Transfer Center, Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling WV.

Martin County Project: (2004 April) Coal Impoundment Project. National Technology Transfer Center, Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling W.V.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Institutional Review Board. 2006-2007. Member. Task of Board: Review and approve research proposals based on ethical guidelines and content.
- Institutional Review Board. 2006-2007. Member. Task of Board: Review and approve research proposals based on ethical guidelines and content.
- Institutional Review Board. Spring 2006. Interim Member. Task of Board: Review and approve research proposals based on ethical guidelines and content.
- Honorary Degree: Nominated, Fall Semester 2004. Mr. Mark Grayson, ECU alumni and middle school social studies teacher and former editor of *Martin County Sun* for Honorary Degree. Nomination and nominating materials reviewed and sent forward by the University Honorary Degree Committee. University conferred this highest award on Mr. Grayson during the Spring 2005 Graduation Commencement.

- College of Arts and Sciences. 2004. Special Committee on Technology. Survey Design and Development. Spring 2004. Faculty Technology Needs Assessment.
- Statistician. Summer 2004. Student Mental Health Needs Assessment. Survey Assessment. Eastern Kentucky University. Student Counseling Center. Summer 2004.
- Statistician and Report Contributor/ Writer. Spring 2003-Fall 2003. Campus-Wide Diversity Project. Survey Assessment. Office of Institutional Research. Eastern Kentucky University.
- Statistician and Report Writer. Fall 1998/Spring 1999. Campus Survey on Grade Inflation. Survey and Records Assessment. Faculty Senate. Special Committee on Grade Inflation, Eastern Kentucky University.
- Graduate Faculty. Fall 2003- to present.
- Master's Committee, Fall 2003/ Spring 2004. Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy: Master's Thesis: *Comparison of Sensory Profile Scores of Children with Myelomeningocele to a National Sample of Children without Disabilities*. Provided regular statistical and research design supervision of quantitative study. Thesis Approved and Accepted by Graduate School in accord and on-time with Student's Professional Goals: May 2004.
- SPSS Workshops. 1999-2005. Provide SPSS training workshops for Academic Computing/ ITDS Staff and provide other campus workshops for faculty through Academic Computing/ ITDS. Campus Consultant (Informal/ not official). 1995- to the present. Regularly assist students and faculty across campus on their research projects, use of SPSS and statistical analyses: Though offered, have never accepted payment for assisting EKU community in their research or theses projects.

DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS (Since Tenure 2000)

- Tenure and Promotion Committee, Fall 2007
- Chair, Hiring Committee, Sociology Program, Spring 2007
- Member, Policy Review Committee, Fall 2006
- Member, Social Committee, 2006-2007
- Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee. Fall 2005
- Member, Social Committee, 2005-2006
- Member, Foundation Professor Committee (Ad Hoc). Fall 2003.
- Chair, Tenure and Promotion Committee. Fall 2002.
- Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee. Fall 2000.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, 2004-2007

Awards/ Endowment Committee Member, 2007-2008. Rural Sociological Society. The committee decides on research awards to new Ph.D. and graduate students within the Society and organizes a silent-auction for annual meetings.

Awards/ Endowment Committee Member. 2006-2007. Rural Sociological Society. The committee decides on research awards to new Ph.D. and graduate students within the Society and organizes a silent-auction for annual meetings.

Special Committee Member. January 2006-to present. Rural Sociological Society. The special committee is providing input regarding future research funding priorities for the rural development program area within the USDA National Research Initiative (NRI) competitive grants program. The task of the committee will be to identify and prioritize key research themes that might be recommended as areas of emphasis for future NRI program funding.

Reviewer, 2004-to present. *Society and Natural Resources*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

1. Appalachian Studies Association
2. Rural Sociological Society
3. Southern Rural Sociological Society
4. International Association for Society and Natural Resources

RECENT COMMUNITY SERVICE

March 2007: Consulted with citizen groups and an interim sub-Committee of the West Virginia Legislature on the prospects and feasibility of conducting a community-based independent statewide assessment of the impacts of deep-mine slurry injection methods on well water and the groundwater table in West Virginia.

November 2006: Worked with Various Partners/ State and Federal Regulators on Big Sandy Watershed to Submit an EPA Implementation Grant to Develop a Regional Early Warning and Response System among water utility operators on the Big Sandy River and to develop a Source Water Protection Plan. Grant submitted to US EPA through the Big Sandy Area Development District, November 16, 2006.

August 2006: Worked with the citizen's group, *SAVE: Supporting Appalachia's Vital Environment*, -and with staff at the Big Sandy Area Development District, to develop an EPA proposal to implement a CREEK Watch project at Sheldon Clark High School. Grant submitted to EPA through the Big Sandy Area Development District, August 15, 2006.

2003-2005: Worked with members of the *SAVE* organization and water district officials in Martin County, KY for the release of additional Natural Resource Damage Settlement monies for capital improvements to the Martin County Water District, Water Treatment facility. March 2005. \$150,000 Appropriation for Independent Testing and Citizen Oversight of Watershed Monitoring, Martin County Kentucky: Appropriation awarded to ECU for administration and independent assessment of watershed. Initiative started from earlier Martin County Project work and our set of recommendations that ensued. This project was successfully completed in August 2006 in partnership and coordination with ECU, University of Kentucky, Martin County Fiscal Court, our Citizenry Advisory Panel and Martin County Water District.

January 2005: Testimony before State Environmental Quality Commission: Emergency Action Planning for Coal Waste Impoundment Communities in Kentucky. Our project has been advocating emergency planning legislation for coal waste impoundments since 2003.

September 2003 to present: Community Involvement and Organization with newly founded citizens' organization in Martin County, KY, *SAVE –Supporting Appalachia's Vital Environment*. *SAVE* incorporated in November 2003 under the civic-capacity building component of our second-phase *ARC Flex-E-Grant* initiative.

2003 to present: Information Support to *SAVE* Members, Martin County on Bill for Emergency Action Planning for Coal Waste Impoundment Communities, General Assembly 2004. Bill sponsored by Senator Ray Jones, Pike County and sponsored by Representative Robin Webb, Lawrence County. Kentucky Resources Council called the Joint House and Senate EAP Resolution "one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation in 2004 General Assembly." During the 2007 legislative year, it was passed (with no dissenting votes) in the House of Representatives and passed through each Senate Sub-Committee. The resolution's passage was pending a final Senate floor vote. However, the resolution was never called up for a vote during the last days of legislature.

TEACHING AREAS

- Statistics and Research Methods
- Community-based Field Methods
- Environmental Sociology
- Risk and Society
- Applied Sociology
- Collective Behavior

RESEARCH AREAS

- The Environment and Society
- The Environment and Communities
- Environmental Decision-making Strategies
- Disaster Planning and Response Strategies
- Community Development and Organization