

# DE PAUL UNIVERSITY



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The Eastland Disaster Historical Society  
Ted Wachholz, President  
Susan Decker, Vice President  
Barbara Decker Wachholz, Secretary

Dear Ted, Susan and Barbara,

Once again, thank you very much for your excellent lecture in my introduction to Sociology class on Wednesday, October 25, 2000. It was so well presented, organized and informative! And your photos and video were a wonderful asset, as well as the detailed depiction of the events leading up to the actual sinking of the Eastland. An immensely interesting lecture, overall.

And thank you for all of your efforts planning and arranging for this event, and also to Jean Decker for her contributions as Society Treasurer.

I was quite moved by your presentation. And I am grateful that you were willing to be a part of my class and my students' learning experience in sociology. From their comments after your lecture and at the end of the quarter, I can tell you that they were both intrigued and fascinated by the Eastland phenomenon. The inclusion of the Eastland Disaster into my curriculum this Fall was a perfect means of teaching the students how sociology can be used in the real world. In this case, to assist in uncovering the social meaning of the Eastland Disaster, then and now. Your participation in this course definitely sparked their sociological imagination!

I have enclosed copies of the students' essays which they also submitted to me for a grade. Students were given the option of whether or not to submit their individual essays to the

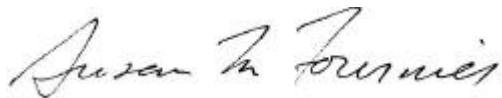
Eastland Disaster Historical Society. I am proud to report that nearly all of the students requested that their papers be submitted. They expressed excitement at being able to make a lasting contribution and at the possibility of being published on your website. Except where indicated, you may feel free to use these essays on the website and in your future presentations, with proper acknowledgement, of course.

As requested, I have also included a copy of my introductory comments the day of your presentation. Additionally, I have provided you a copy of my lecture notes as presented previously to my class based on my own research into the sociological literature and concept of "social amnesia." You may, with acknowledgement, also use these notes on your website and feel free to incorporate them into any future presentations or publications.

Your presentation and the topic of the Eastland Disaster are well suited to the university level. I know that my students are excited at being a part of this rebirth of such an important part of Chicago's history. And I am as well.

Keep up the good work! It's a fascinating endeavor you're engaged in and a meaningful one, not just for us, but for future generations as well.

With warm regard,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Fournier". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Susan M. Fournier, PhD