Preface

Our purpose in writing this text is to convey both the excitement of sociology and its relevance to our lives. The excitement of sociology comes from what it studies: social life and social organization. Sociology encompasses all aspects of society: family life, community change, individual development, group differences, and gender inequality, to name a few. It involves a unique way of looking at the world in which we live, forcing us to question the obvious and understand how society and behavior are patterned and organized. People are discovering that sociology provides them with unique skills and abilities in research methods, in applying social theory in the working world, and in using their understanding of social processes, organization, and change.

New to this Edition

As with each new edition, we have retained the characteristics of our introduction to sociology text that make it stand out and have incorporated updates and revisions to insure accuracy and currency. This edition continues to include an emphasis on the relevance of sociology with sections in each chapter on how students can apply specific sociological theories and/or concepts to their professional and personal lives. This edition contains over 136 new references and/or citations. There are nearly seventy revised or new tables and figures containing the most current statistics available at the time of writing, including data that incorporates the most recent decennial U.S. Census (2010) or annual updates. twelve of the twenty-one opening vignettes have been significantly updated or revised (and the others have been updated to reflect the most up to date trends and statistics). Five are new to this edition, including vignettes on preventable disasters (Chapter 5), women in America (Chapter 10), school bullying (Chapter 14), influence peddling (Chapter 15), and health as a social fact (Chapter 20). This new edition now includes Pop Quizzes at the end of each chapter to further enhance student learning. We believe that our book offers a traditional, solid introduction to sociology that encourages students to see its relevance in their lives and the world around them.

Supplements

Supplements for Instructors

- **Study Guide** A thorough and practical student study guide includes learning objectives, chapter outlines, questions, and ideas that help the student review the material presented in this text. Also included are student activities and projects designed to enhance the practical application of sociological concepts.

- **Instructor's Manual** A comprehensive manual provides a wealth of teaching suggestions, objectives and resources, outside activities stressing the importance of sociology to personal lives, suggested readings from short stories and novels, a guide to films, and much more.

- **Test Bank** An extensive test bank of approximately 2,100 questions is available to instructors in both hard copy and electronic forms. Each chapter consists of a variety of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Each question is referenced to the appropriate text page to make verification quick and easy.

- **Distance Learning Solutions** BVT Publishing is committed to providing the ability to administer tests and quizzes over the Internet. We have a strong relationship with Respondus, whose Course Management Software allows for the creation of randomly-generated tests and quizzes that can be downloaded directly into a wide variety of course management environments, such as Blackboard, Web CT, Desire 2 Learn, Angel, E Learning and others.

BVT Publishing also offers direct-to-consumer availability of our textbooks and study guides in an eBook format, for added convenience and affordability.

- **Power Points** A set of PowerPoint slides is available to instructors who adopt this book. The set includes charts, tables, and graphs from the text and additional charts and graphs from other sources.

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New to this Edition!

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BVT*Lab* has an easy-to-use, intuitive interface that allows instructors to quickly set up their courses and grade books, and replicate them from section to section and semester to semester. Multiple choice and true/false questions can be delivered online as practice questions, homework assignments, quizzes, and tests—each of which draws from a separate bank of questions. Homework, quizzes, and tests have assigned start and end times; and tests can be proctored in the computer lab or self-proctored for distance learners. Homework and quizzes offer optional hints and instructor tips. In addition, practice questions can be linked to fully worked solutions and multimedia tutorials. Instructors can preview and manually select questions assigned to students, or they can use the "quick-pick" feature in BVTLab to generate sets of questions.

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Using an assigned passcode, students register themselves into the grade book. All homework, quizzes, and tests are automatically graded and recorded in the grade book. In addition, instructors can manually enter or modify scores, with provisions for extra credit, attendance, and participation grades. Grade books can be replicated from section to section, semester to semester, and can be easily edited or modified if required.

Communications Tools

Instructors can post discussion threads to a class forum and then monitor and moderate student replies. Important notifications can also be sent directly to each student via email.

www.BVTLab.com

Supplements For Students

BVT*Lab* is a comprehensive online learning environment designed to help students succeed. It provides a complete online classroom, as well as the practice questions, learning aids, and communication tools that students need for success. Even if your instructor does not use the lab as a classroom, you are always welcome to visit as a guest and take advantage of the many free resources.

Practice Questions Students work through hundreds of practice questions online. Questions are multiple choice or true/false and are graded instantly for immediate feedback.

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Chapter Summaries A convenient and concise chapter summary is available as a study aid for each chapter.

Discussion Forum An online discussion forum allows students to interact with each other and the instructor to explore challenging concepts and share other resources, while providing an online community for distance learning.

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About the Author

Laurence ("Larry") Basirico earned his BA in sociology from Hofstra University (1972) and his MA (1974) and PhD (1983) at Stony Brook University. He is professor of sociology at Elon University where he has been since 1983. He was chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology from 1994 to 2004 and resumed his role of department chair in 2009. Dr. Basirico's research primarily has been in the areas of social interaction, identity, socialization, the family and culture—as applied specifically to rock groups, arts and craft communities, family reunions, and marital relationships. His major teaching areas are introduction to sociology, self and society, and the family. Dr. Basirico was also dean of international

programs at Elon for five years (2004 to 2009), spearheading one of the most successful study abroad programs in the United States and overseeing efforts to internationalize the campus. While he was dean, Elon won the prestigious Paul Simon Internationalization of the Campus Award, the highest award given by NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

In 1988, he joined forces with J.Ross Eshleman and Barbara G. Cashion to write Sociology: An Introduction (Scott Foresman, Little Brown and then with HarperCollins Publisher), the precursor for this textbook. That book was one of the first sociology textbooks that focused on how students could apply sociology in their lives. He has now assumed primary responsibility for the 5th edition of Introduction to Sociology with Best Value Textbooks.

Dr. Basirico is married with three children and lives in Burlington, North Carolina. He is a lifelong music lover and learner dedicated primarily to guitar these days, but with a background in piano. He regularly walks around golf courses chasing a little white ball into never before seen natural habitats.

J. Ross Eshleman, PhD received his doctorate from Ohio State University and is currently Professor Emeritus at Wayne State University. His past teaching experience includes serving as Department Chair of Sociology at Wayne State University and Appalachian State University, two Fulbright grants to the Philippines at the University of Santo Tomas and De La Salle College, a year with the National Science Foundation, and two university teaching awards.

Dr. Eshleman has directed five institutes for teachers of high school sociology with grants through the National Science Foundation. His publications include numerous editions (ten of his own and two co- authored) of a sociology of the family text.

Dr. Cashion received her PhD from the University of Maryland and taught at a variety of universities, including Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and Shippensburg University of PA. She has special interest in the sociology of medicine and has worked in group health insurance settings, at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and in the pharmaceutical field.

Dr. Cashion has published on related topics in a variety of journals. She is currently retired from teaching and is living in Hagerstown, MD. There she continues to develop her interests in music and fine arts, especially in the sociology of American art. Dr. Cashion has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Acknowlegments

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We feel it is imperative to make sure that our textbook is as current, relevant, and engaging as possible, as well as providing the greatest utility benefit to instructors and students alike. If you have any comments and/or suggestions from which future editions of this book may benefit, please let us know. We welcome your emails and will give due consideration to each and every one. Please send your communications to: contactus@bvtpublishing.com.