From the President, Michael Hughes

Congratulations to President Charles Tolbert and his Program Co-Chairs, Michael Irwin and Dawn Robinson for planning and organizing the excellent meeting in Atlanta! Attendance was up over our last Atlanta meeting, sessions were interesting, well organized, and well attended, and Charles gave a stimulating, thought provoking and exceptionally useful presidential address that will be a substantial contribution to the literature. I am already thinking of ways I can use his insights and methods in my own research. I had my first exposure to professional sociology at the Southern meeting in 1971 when I was a graduate student, and I have not been quite the same since. I hope that you are looking forward to the 2005 Charlotte, NC, meeting as much as I am. The Southern meeting has always been, and remains, my favorite professional meeting. The SSS met in Charlotte in the mid-1980s, and much has changed since then. Our meeting place, the Hilton Charlotte and Towers, is located in Charlotte’s uptown section, well known for a great selection of restaurants, shops, and cultural opportunities.
President Hughes’ Column

(Continued from page 1)

tunities, including live music. The Levine Museum of the New South (which offers an interactive and interpretive history of the post-Civil War South; see www.museumofthenewsouth.org) and The Mint Museum of Craft and Design are within walking distance from the hotel. The Mint Museum of Art is within a short taxi ride (check the Mint museums at www.mintmuseum.org). Charlotte is also home to the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center (http://www.blumenthalcenter.org) and the Charlotte Bobcats of the NBA (http://www.nba.com/bobcats/). The Bobcats schedule for 2004-2005 (their first season!) is not yet available, but chances are that they will be playing in Charlotte in mid-April.

Charlotte’s many cultural opportunities provide a great context for the meeting theme, “Culture and the Quality of Life.” This theme draws together different strands of my own research career, but it is also a conceptual umbrella that I believe draws together the work of many sociologists who are working to both understand and improve the human condition.

Sociologists have often studied quality of life by looking at variability in affect and emotion: life satisfaction, happiness, distress, mental disorder, and so on. But quality of life is determined not only by affect, but by motivated action, material resources, identities, and social relationships and networks and the meanings people attach to them. Because of its influence on how people make sense of what they do, how they link to one another through shared symbols and meanings, how they reward each other and themselves, and how they organize social structural opportunities in meaningful ways, culture is fundamental to how people realize the key elements that enhance the quality of their lives.

There is often tension in sociology between the themes of explaining and improving social life. But the institution of sociology would probably not exist if it were not for the promise of sociology to both improve and explain. Sociology is also sometimes conflicted over whether structural or cultural explanations are more essential to understanding social phenomena, but neither sort of explanation works very well without elements of the other. The theme of “Culture and the Quality of Life” is intended to draw together strands of sociology that involve improving and explaining social life.

(Continued on page 3)
through understanding the interplay and interdependence of cultural and social structural elements. I think that if you are involved in applying, teaching, or doing research in sociology, your interests fall in this area. I invite your participation.

The Call for Participation will be issued this summer. Watch for it, mark your calendars for April 13-16 and make your plans to be in Charlotte, NC, for the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. See you there!

The honor of being selected as President of the Southern Sociological Society is accompanied by challenges, new experiences, and lessons to be learned. Marty Levin, our Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Tolbert, other recent past-presidents, Pat Martin, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Rebecca Adams, Maxine Atkinson, and Ken Land, and Michael Irwin and Dawn Robinson, the Program Co-Chairs for the 2004 meeting, have been enormously helpful with their wisdom and advice. I thank them all. And they better look out; I will be on the phone to them soon!

Michael Hughes
Virginia Tech

Call for Nominations of Officers of the Southern Sociological Society for 2005

President, Vice President, Executive Committee (2), and Publications Committee (1)

Please send nominations to:

Beth Rushing, Vice President of SSS
School of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Georgia College & State University
Milledgeville, GA 31061

   tele: 478-445-4441
   fax: 478-445-0873
   beth.rushing@gcsu.edu

Deadline: August 15, 2004
From the Past-President, Charles Tolbert

Thanks so much to all of those whose work culminated in a splendid annual meeting in Atlanta. Mike Irwin and Dawn Robinson and the Program Committee did a terrific job. Mindy Stombler and the first-rate Local Arrangements Committee had everything ready for us. As always, Marty Levin ran registration and the rest of the business side of the operation with great skill and tact. In a new twist, Marty and Troy Blanchard teamed up on a precedent-setting program CD-ROM. Also new and very welcome was our new Recording Secretary, Lynne Cossman. She kept the officers informed and in step. Your elected and appointed officers on the Executive Committee dutifully and cheerfully met for many hours. I thought the Executive Committee meetings amounted to a watershed of sorts in strategic thinking. You will learn more in the months to come about our efforts to automate more of the program work and to do so online. And, the prospect of data projectors in our session rooms as early as next year is a very exciting one. Throughout the meeting, Mike Hughes masterfully engineered a smooth transition to his presidency.

Now you, too, know about the caliber of the facilities at the Sheraton Colony Square. Those of us involved in planning and running the meeting were very impressed with the staff led by convention manager Mary Griswold. We can all look forward to gathering there again in three years.

Lastly, I continue to be very pleased and flattered with the response to the presidential address. Several of you asked for the slides to show your classes. The slides and the script have been posted on a website at:

http://www3.baylor.edu/~Charlie_Tolbert/SSS_presentation_with_notes_v3.htm

Thanks again to all of those who made the 67th meeting of this Society such a fine success. See you in Charlotte next April for number 68.

Charles Tolbert, II
Martin Levin Wins First Distinguished Service Award

The Southern Sociological Society recently recognized Martin L. Levin, its current secretary-treasurer, for “significant professional contributions over a lifetime.” Levin is the Thomas L. Bailey Professor of Sociology and head of the department of sociology, anthropology and social work at Mississippi State University. A MSU faculty member since 1993, he also co-directs the Rural Health, Safety and Security Institute, a part of MSU’s Social Science Research Center.

A scientific investigator in issues ranging from marital disruption to adolescent behavior, he has received research funding from the National Science Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and Exxon Educational Foundation, among others. Levin previously has been honored with a NATO Senior Fellowship in science and an appointment to the governing council of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research.

In addition to the Southern Sociological Society, he is a member of the American Sociological Association, where he has served on the Committee on Professional Ethics. In Mississippi, he is a member of the State Department of Health’s Committee on HIV Prevention Evaluation.

Levin holds bachelor’s degrees in industrial management and chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His doctorate in sociology was completed at Johns Hopkins University.
It’s late spring. Another semester has been completed. The summer months provide college professors time to relax, reflect, and reenergize so that we can begin fall semester with new ideas and enthusiasm. Sometimes, however, we need more than a little rest and relaxation to spark new teaching ideas. This column is designed to give quick ideas for classroom activities and assignments, and below you will find an idea that easily can be integrated into several different courses. (And as always, you may submit your teaching ideas for this column to me at bidwelllm@longwood.edu.)

For those of you who really want to be immersed in teaching ideas, consider attending the second annual *The Teaching Professor* conference, sponsored by Magna Publications, May 20-22, 2005. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield in Schaumburg, IL. For more information about the conference visit www.teachingprofessor.com or call 1-800-433-0499. And speaking of professional meetings, don’t forget about your undergraduates. There are many opportunities for students to present their papers at regional meetings, such as the SSS annual meeting. Some conferences, such as the Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium, the Arkansas Undergraduate Sociology and Anthropology Symposium, and the Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium, are designed specifically to profile undergraduate research and presentations. So as you plan your upper-level courses for next year, you may want to design an assignment that will allow students to develop a paper that could be delivered at a professional meeting.

**Tip for Teaching Several Sociological Concepts**
(including symbolism and symbolic interactionism, gender, and social norms)

Fred Milano, professor at Appalachian State University (milanofa@appstae.edu) has students conduct a content analysis of popular magazines, looking at the subliminal and symbolic aspects of advertisements. Students are asked to convert the advertisements into PowerPoint slides, which they present to the class along with their interpretation and analysis. To promote
critical thinking, Milano tells students to separate the advertisements into distinct categories. Some categories useful for this assignment are:

- Advertisements that depict cultural standards of beauty or attractiveness (these advertisements then can be linked to discussion of eating disorders);
- Advertisements that depict scenes of real or potential physical violence against women (such as a woman being shown alone with the shadow of a male figure hovering in the background);
- Advertisements with sexual symbolization and imagery (Milano points out that oranges, peaches, cherries and other round or elliptical shapes often represent females, while cigarettes, pencils, lipsticks, and other phallic shapes represent the male);
- Advertisements that use children to convey innocence, purity, or believability;
- Advertising themes that use horror, death, or symbolic mutilation;
- Advertisements that show rigid gender role stereotyping.

Milano notes that the advantages of this assignment are that it helps students develop a sociological imagination and students are active, rather than passive, in the learning process.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ARKANSAS UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

The Twenty-fifth Annual Arkansas Undergraduate Sociology and Anthropology Symposium was held in March at Hendrix College. This Symposium serves to encourage the undertaking of undergraduate research and the reporting of research findings. It provides an opportunity for fellowship and scholarly stimulation among faculty members and students from colleges, universities, and schools in Arkansas and the surrounding region. This year marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of this symposium by James Bruce at Hendrix College. Dr. Bruce also organized this year’s Symposium.

About fifty students and faculty attended the symposium’s keynote address by Dr. Anna Szafranek of the Technical University of Lublin, Poland who spoke on "Creating Humanized Spaces for People Through Architecture: A Social Psychological Viewpoint." This address was made possible by the financial support received from a research symposium grant from Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society and by support from the office of Hendrix College Provost Robert L. Entzminger.

(Continued on page 8)
Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium

The Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium was held at the University of Georgia on March 1, 2004. Thirty-eight papers were submitted from schools throughout the southeast. The award for the best paper went to Shawn Trivette from Tennessee Technological University, second place was awarded to Angela Zetter from the College of Charleston, and third place was awarded to Michelle Mohr from Augusta State University. This symposium was first held at Emory University in 1982, and in 1990 the University of Georgia agreed to co-host it every other year. The 2005 symposium will be held at Emory University.

Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

On Friday, April 23, Newberry College hosted the Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium where college students from around the region presented original papers in a daylong conference. This year, there were fourteen sessions on topics such as Health and Medical Issues; Death, Dying, and Life after Death; Crime and Law; Sex and Pregnancy; Family Issues; Economic Issues, Inequality and Poverty. Fifty-nine students participated in the program representing USC-Aiken, Lander University, Newberry College, Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, The Citadel, Coker College, Columbia College, USC-Columbia, and Presbyterian College.

In addition to the presentations, there was also a competition for best paper. Seventeen papers were submitted before the conference and judged by a three-person panel. First place was awarded to Teresa L. Cooper from Lander University for her paper titled “Abortion Attitudes.” Second place went to Nan Binnarr from Columbia College for her paper “Variables in Sex Role: Interpretation of Southern Aging Women.” There was a tie for third place between Aimee Bussells from the College of Charleston for her paper on “In Whose Interest? A Look at Structural Adjustment Programs, Inequality, and the Developing World,” and Clarice L. Watts from Newberry College for her paper titled “Emotional Intelligence and Academic Achievement.”
2004 Annual Meeting A Success

Attendance was up for the 2004 Annual Meeting held in Atlanta at the Sheraton Colony Square. The Program Committee led by Dawn Robinson, University of Iowa, and Michael Irwin, Duquesne University, produced a diverse and exciting Program. President Tolbert gave an informative and interesting address on “Minding Our Own Business: Local Retail Establishments and the Future of Southern Civic Community.” He used examples from his own family’s businesses to exemplify the changing nature of the southern community. Additionally, the program included several other sessions directly related to the theme “Southern Sociology: Legacy and Promise” including the plenary session on “Subsets of Southern Sociology: The Contributions of Allied Associations to the Sociological Enterprise.” Charles Longino, Wake Forest University; Thomas Hood, University of Tennessee; Ronald Akers, University of Florida; and Maxine Atkinson, North Carolina State University, presented in this plenary.

Committee Reports, Executive Committee Minutes, and Business Meeting Minutes Available Online

Full text of the reports of all Southern Sociological Society committees as well as minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and annual Business Meeting are available at

Scenes from 2004 Annual Meeting

SSS Past-Presidents gather to honor Distinguished Service Award winner Marty Levin.

Enjoying the Presidential Reception
Martin Levin, Mississippi State University, received the first Distinguished Service Award at the annual meeting (see story page 5). Kathleen Slevin, Chair of the Committee on Honors, also announced several other award winners. These recipients will receive plaques recognizing their achievements at next year’s meeting. Awards went to Barbara Risman, North Carolina State University, for the Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award; Maxine Atkinson, North Carolina State University, for the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award; and Catherine Harris, Wake Forrest University, for the Distinguished Service Award.

Odum Award Winners:

Shawn Trivette, Tennessee Technological University receives the Odum Award for best undergraduate paper from President Tolbert.

Melissa Sloan, Vanderbilt University, receives the Odum Award for best graduate paper.

Koji Ueno, Vanderbilt University, receives the Odum Award for best graduate paper.
News About Members

Lynne Cossman Wins Outstanding Woman Faculty Award at Mississippi State University

Lynne Cossman, an Assistant Professor of Sociology in Mississippi State University's Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, was recently awarded the Outstanding Woman Faculty Award by the President's Commission on the Status of Women. The award rewards excellent performance in the areas of research, teaching and service. Cossman's nomination included the support from colleagues in several colleges. Her colleagues were particularly impressed with her Robert Wood Johnson Foundation award to study access to care for Medicaid patients in Mississippi and her service to the College and University in directing Women's Studies. Cossman has been a member of the Society since 1992 and is currently serving the Society as Recording Secretary.

James Bruce Retires from Hendrix College

Dr. James R. Bruce is retiring from the faculty of Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas. Dr. Bruce, Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, has taught for thirty years at Hendrix and served as department chair for twenty-five years and Social Science Area Chair from 1994 to 1998. From 1967-1974 he taught at Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Tulane University, in 1973. While teaching at Hendrix College, he has also taught at the Arkansas Governor's School for the Gifted and Talented during the summers of 1980-1989. Dr. Bruce founded the Arkansas Undergraduate Sociology and Anthropology Symposium in 1979 and has served as President of the Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association, the Arkansas Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Arkansas Conference of the American Association of University Professors. Dr. and Mrs. Bruce plan to live in retirement in Conway but to travel to Central Europe where Dr. Bruce will continue his research on the social and cultural developments in post-communist Poland.
Demographic Transitions

FRED BATES


Dr. Bates was born December 2, 1924, in Tennleytown within the District of Columbia in what is now known as Northwest Washington, DC. During World War II he joined the US Army Air Corps and served as a Ball Turret Gunner on a B24 plane. He did 50 missions with the 15th U.S. Air Army Air Corps in Italy.

Dr. Bates entered George Washington University on the basis of his war record and scores on achievement tests he took when leaving the service. During his time at George Washington he married Hettie Dowtin of Troy, SC, who was then working in the office of the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Fred completed both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in less than three years.

After receiving his PhD degree in 1954 from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, he worked as a faculty member at NC State College, Cornell University, Louisiana State University and in 1963 he became Head of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work at The University of Georgia where he continued to work in various capacities until 1995. He did research, assisted by Hettie, in Guatemala, Italy, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Mexico, Peru, Thailand, and Indonesia.

During the course of his career Dr. Bates published six books, hundreds of journal articles, and dozens of research reports. His work impacted several areas of sociology as well as numerous students and colleagues.

The family request that memorials be made to the Troy Cemetery Association. PO Box 23. Troy, SC 29848.

Carla Alphonso, Presbyterian College, and her husband Curt announce the birth of their son Luke Carlton Alphonso. Luke was born on April 27, 2004, and weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces.
Opportunities

Joint Meeting of the Wisconsin Sociological Association and the 15th Conference on the Small City

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Theme: “Governing the Small City.” Presentations on all aspects of small city life, especially governance, are sought. Selected presentations published in the conference Proceedings, Volume 15. Contact: Robert Greene, President, Wisconsin Sociological Association, rwgreene@execpc.com; or contact Robert Wolensky, Center for the Small City, rwolensk@uwsp.edu. Deadline for commitments to organize sessions or present papers: May 31, 2004. For more information see www.uwsp.edu/polisci/smallcity/Call_for_Papers.htm.

Journal of Contemporary Ethnography

Scott A. Hunt is the editor-elect for the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography. JCE publishes theoretically, methodologically, and substantively significant studies based upon participant-observation, unobtrusive observation, intensive interviewing, and contextualized analysis of discourse as well as examinations of ethnographic methods. Submissions from all substantive areas and theoretical perspectives are welcomed. Email manuscript submissions (in Word or WordPerfect format) may be mailed to: sahunt00@uky.edu. Hardcopy submissions and all other correspondence should be sent to Scott A. Hunt, Editor, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Department of Sociology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0027. A processing fee of US$10 must be submitted via a check or money order made payable to the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography.

Send you comments, suggestions, or materials for The Southern Sociologist to the editor Bob Freymeyer mailto: rhfreym@presby.edu
SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION 2004 CALL FOR PAPERS

Interested persons should submit abstracts for papers and sessions for the 2004 annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association (SDA). The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2004.

This year's meeting will be held October 14-16 at the Marriott Hotel on beautiful Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. (For emerging details, please check http://www.fsu.edu/~sda/).

Presentations of research in both applied and academic demography are welcome, as are related topics in economics, sociology, geography, political science, public health, epidemiology, and psychology. Though SDA is known for regional emphases and membership, we encourage the membership and participation of individuals from any region of the country or world.

The structure of presentations is flexible: potential contributors are encouraged to not only send abstracts for individual research papers, but also for complete sessions, thematic sessions, panel discussions, software demonstrations, and more! Please mail to: rhummer@prc.utexas.edu or call (512-471-8391) Robert Hummer, program chairperson, if you have questions.

Presentations by (or coauthored with) students are especially welcome; they can offer a student a significant first professional meeting experience. In fact, SDA awards modest cash prizes to the best undergraduate and to the best graduate student paper (see next page).

Please send all proposals and abstracts by June 30 to Robert Hummer. Electronic submissions (in the form of Word, WordPerfect, or .pdf attachments) are preferred. Please send to: rhummer@prc.utexas.edu

Please include:
• Your name
• Name(s) of any co-authors or other presenters if you are proposing a session
• Title of abstract(s) or presentation(s)
• Institutional affiliation(s)
• Complete contact information (email address, telephone number, fax number, and mailing address)

(Continued on page 16)
2004 SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION STUDENT PAPER AWARDS

The SDA makes awards for the following types of student papers presented at the annual meeting:

***Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award***
SDA presents an award for the best graduate student paper delivered at the annual meeting. The winning student receives a cash prize and a certificate, both of which are presented at the annual business meeting. Please send your complete paper, in electronic format, to Robert Hummer, program chairperson, (rhummer@prc.utexas.edu) by September 15th, 2004.

***Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award***
SDA awards a cash prize and certificate for the best undergraduate paper presented. The winning student receives a cash prize and a certificate, both of which are presented at the annual business meeting. Please send your complete paper, in electronic format, to Robert Hummer, program chairperson, (rhummer@prc.utexas.edu) by September 15th, 2004.

SSS Listservs Transferred to Mississippi State

Please note that effective May 1, 2004, Southern Sociological Society Listservs transferred from a University of North Carolina server to Mississippi State University. Because of this transfer, addresses for posting messages changed. The new address for posting messages to SSSNET (listserv for exchange of information and ideas among members) is: sssnet@lists.msstate.edu.

As you may have already noticed, all members are currently being added to SSSANN (for official society announcements only) and SSSNET. If you experience any problems receiving SSS messages or posting messages to SSSNET, please contact Troy Blanchard, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer at: tcb44@ra.msstate.edu.

Thanks to James Cassell for his efforts in maintaining SSS Listservs in the past.
SOUTHERN VINTAGE SOCIOLOGY

Ronald C. Wimberley
North Carolina State University

Editor’s note: Recent editions of TSS have included remembrances from several long-time members of SSS. The article also examines the Society’s history. The following material is excerpted from an article published in the Spring/Summer 1974 edition of The Southern Sociologist. A complete recording of the session is available from Ron Wimberley (mail to: Wimberley@NCSU.EDU).

When the Southern Sociological Society met in Atlanta, April 1973, there was a session called “Where Did the Southern Sociological Society come from: Tales From Some Folks Who Stood in the Waiting Room.” The general purpose was to tell tales, spin yarns, and recollect experiences concerning the origin of the Society and the early development of sociology in the South.

Participants were William E. Cole, the University of Tennessee; C. Horace Hamilton, North Carolina State University, Emeritus; and Joseph S. Himes, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. William C. Capel, Clemson University, contributed comments from the audience.

To the regret of those on the panel, it was not possible to relate information on all the events and personalities that should be mentioned in a document of this sort. Much more could be said. It is known by a smaller portion of sociologists each year. However, these remarks do offer a perspective of the past for newer generations of sociologists. For those who shared such experiences, these notes will, no doubt, stimulate memories.

Moderator: Dr. Cole, what were some of the major events you recall that led to the organizing of the Southern Sociological Society?

Cole: I think there were several things. First, there was the growing organization of sociology in the nation. Then there was the long fight for a better system of race relations in the South. There was the growing quality of southern higher education. Also, the problem of the depression’s impact upon the South was a factor. Another event was the leadership of the sociologists. These were some of the things that motivated, I think, the organization of the Society.

Then, in addition to this, I think we need to give credit to certain individuals, particularly Dr. Krueger of Vanderbilt, who was head of the department at Vanderbilt for a long time. Dr. Krueger was an interesting man. He was employed by President Kirkland when he had just finished his degree at the University of Chicago and he was baldheaded. He decided before he came to Vanderbilt that he would buy him a wig. So he bought a wig. When he came to the Chancellor’s of-

(Continued on page 18)
Well, Dr. Rupert Vance at Chapel Hill was greatly interested. Dr. Charles Comillion of Tuskegee, Dr. Charles Johnson of Fisk, Dr. Odum, of course, and Dr. Wilson Gee at the University of Virginia—these were all men who were interested in development of a southern society.

**Moderator:** What seemed to be the precipitating events leading up to the first meeting?

**Cole:** Well, there were two decisions to be made. One was whether or not to develop a society. This decision we crossed easily enough. The thought was that we had enough sociologists in the South and that southern sociology was far enough advanced, particularly if we merged with the rural sociologists and have them come to our meetings. This would give us a supporting population.

Another decision was whether or not we should have a segregated society. Only one man held out for a segregated society. This was Dr. Gee at the University of Virginia. Dr. Gee was a South Carolinian, and he felt that a racially integrated society would be the cause of a lot of disruption and dissenion. So, we kind of steamrolled Dr. Gee. He was a little upset and he didn’t come to the first two or three meetings, I believe, but after that he joined in and later became president of the Society. I think he was very proud of the attendance of the blacks and the participation of the blacks in the society. The handling of black attendees was not an easy thing in those days. Our first meeting was in Knoxville and at the Andrew Johnson Hotel and …

**Himes:** What year was that?

**Cole:** 1933, I believe. We were served a banquet and one of the reasons we could meet at the Andrew Johnson and have a banquet was that Tennessee Trades and Labor Council which had been organized by the TVA was integrated and they met frequently at the Andrew Johnson and were served meals. We met there, as I recall, two years in succession because we could have a banquet. Later, when we had difficulty having a banquet we simply dispensed with the banquet. This seemed to be the sensible thing to do rather than create an embarrassing situation for both blacks and whites. The third year, I think we went to Birmingham. We met at the Tutweiler Hotel and I think Bill Capel, Ron, has some comments about this meeting. The history of the Society is really a story of race relations in the South in a real sense of the word.

**Capel:** As a matter of fact, I was a very young sociologist then. I went to my first sociology meeting at the Tutweiler Hotel in Birmingham. I will tell the experiences that we had about the integration because it stuck in my mind so very viv-
idly at the time. As I recall it, there were four of what we in those days called colored members. The proper designation today would be blacks. I think there were four at the time and we were greeted in Alabama by Senator Tom Heflin who wore a long frock coat and what we call “a-gates-ajar” collar. If you don’t know what a-gates-ajar is, you’re too young to be in the audience. He mentioned the population of Alabama and he mentioned only the white population in his opening remarks.

Also, I might recall, I think the main, centrally agreed upon problem in the South was to get rid of southern tenancy on the farm. The tenant problem on the farm was the most serious southern problem that we had, as I recalled the ’36 meeting many years ago.

**Moderator:** How did you find this, Dr. Himes?

**Himes:** I was just thinking, as Dr. Cole was saying, that the history of the Society has in one respect been a matter of race. My first meeting was 1947, which, incidentally, was at the Andrew Johnson Hotel in Knoxville. And I recall that the black members could not stay in the hotel, but there wasn’t any serious problem about attending meeting sessions. We stayed in the black neighborhood of the city, and this was true for a number of years.

I remember, probably the last meeting where living was segregated, where the black members could not stay in the headquarters hotel, was one that occurred in Asheville, NC, probably ’62 --- yes, that for me was a very hard meeting. The arrangements were difficult. In the 1947 meeting at the Andrew Johnson Hotel, there was one unpleasant hotel employee, I think, to the service elevator – something of that sort. He made quite a to-do of it, and it got to the Society management and was quickly straightened out, and that sort of thing, I think, I don’t remember as having happened since then.

To pursue this just a little further, you remember just a few years ago, the black sociologists in the American Sociological Association discovered that there were enough causes for them to organize the Caucus of Black Sociologists as a kind of internal, in-house pressure group. Well, last year, or year before, the black members of this Society – some of the members – met to consider the question of having a caucus. They couldn’t find any causes, so they just said, “Well, let’s forget about it,” and I think this has been one of the very interesting and significant aspects of the Southern Society: That
black members – certainly throughout my 25 years of membership – have participated significa-
antly in the program, the committees, and policy-making, the visible positions, the whole bit, that we’ve really never felt that we needed a caucus for black sociolo-
gists to fight our causes.

Some of you may remember I was president in 1965-66. Charles S. Johnson was the first black president – in when?

Cole: ‘41? ’44?

Himes: ’45 – sometime in the 1940’s before I came to the state. I was president in 1965-66 and Charles U. Smith of Florida A & M University is president-elect at this time. This is sort of symbolic of our participation in the association.

Now, unless some of my brothers hear me and think I am going around saying, “Heaven has broken out all over the place,” let me protect myself by remarking, “Heaven is not here.” You know, we just see the entrance and we’re facing the right direction and we’re marching and some day heaven will break out in the Society, I have no doubt.

Cole: There have, of course, been dissatisfactions among the blacks from time to time. You know, you have episodes and incidents in hotels and things like this, but by and large we’ve had few problems compared to the attendance of the black population in the Society. We’ve had good participation, I think, by and large, by the blacks.

We had some interesting problems in the early days about cost – cost of meals and cost of hotels. I remember one time we had a protest meeting over the cost of hotel rooms. I think the price of rooms then was $4.00, and there was some protest over this.

Moderator: How were the early meetings in the section? Were there sections or were there just people getting together?

Himes: No, one meeting.

Cole: And of course one of the things that has happened in the Society over time is that in the program we have a much more interesting national mix now than it was. We had, in the early days, a fair representation from the Southwest. Later the Southwest organized their own society, and we lost some attendance out there with some criss-crossing of the lines.

Editor’s Note: The discussion continued with a number of other stories about the founding of the Southern Sociological Society, and its early years. Some of these stories will be reprinted in future issues of TSS.
The Southern Sociological Society (SSS) is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the development of sociology as a profession and scientific discipline by the maintenance of high academic professional and ethical standards and by encouraging:
(a) effective teaching of sociology;
(b) valid and reliable methods of research in the study of human society;
(c) diffusion of sociological knowledge and its application to societal problems;
(d) cooperation with related disciplines and groups;
(e) recruitment and training of sociologists; and
(f) development of sociology programs in educational and other agencies.

Members receive Social Forces, The Southern Sociologist, and a membership directory (biennially). An annual meeting is held in the spring, usually mid-April. Membership is open to any person who can assist in promoting the objectives of the society. Persons wishing to join SSS may send dues directly to the Secretary-Treasurer. Please include your first middle and last name, address, phone number, where employed, and sex. For statistical purposes, we also ask you to include your race and/or ethnic group and three areas of specialty. Husbands and wives may be joint members. One spouse receives publications and dues notices, but both vote, receive separate listings in the directory, and are eligible for reduced registration rates at the annual meeting.

The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Membership classes, annual charges and dues are:
- Regular ...........................................................50.00
- Emeritus with Social Forces.....................................21.00
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Dues, subscriptions, membership inquiries and address changes should be addressed to:
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P.O. Box 6245
Mississippi State, MS 39762
http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/Creditcards/Creditcards.htm

The Southern Sociologist (TSS) is the official publication of the Southern Sociological Society. It is published electronically three times a year in the months of June, September, and January. The purpose of TSS is to report the news, announcements, and information of interest to the profession and to serve as a medium of communication for the SSS membership on issues affecting the profession.

To bring you the news, we need your news! Please send any news of your department and/or colleagues for possible publication in TSS. Articles pertaining to the state of the profession or the discipline are also welcome. To appear in a specific issue, submissions must be received by the below deadline.

In addition to news and other information, I am also interested in any thoughts you may wish to suggest regarding the format and/or content of TSS. Please send these to me as well.

Next Issue Deadline:
August 15, 2004