Notes from the SSS President

I tell my students in my Human Societies course that there is a continuum from complex, decentralized, deeply democratic societies, such as the Ejidos in Latin America, to liberal societies such as the United States, with an enfeebled civil society, market-driven exchanges, high individualism, competition, a high level of indifference about others, and a high level of political apathy.

A hand shoots up:

“But Professor Blau, that can’t be right. We Americans volunteer, are involved in serve-learning, my church is sponsoring athletic activities in a poor community in Durham. Some of us are working with university housekeepers to help them get a better wage”

My canned reply:

“Yes, you are right. There is some research evidence American society is

(Continued on page 2)
Notes from the President

(Continued from page 1)

on a new path away from its liberal tradition and in directions that reinforce pluralism, inter-
group networks, solidarities. Let’s see if we can document this a bit. I will write your examples
on the board.”

My reply on 2/28:

“I would like to share with you how academic societies work these days. People work unself-
fishly; they dedicate their time; and they generously collaborate with others. There is no par-
ticular recognition for all this, and certainly no remuneration. People do this motivated by the
love of their academic discipline and their conviction that it is important to ensure the health of
that discipline into the future.”

It has been my pleasure….

…. to have learned more about how a sociological society works as a small society. Working
over the past months with the members of committees, especially with Dave Brunsma and Dave
Overfeld, from the University of Missouri, and networking over months with the Chairs of
Committees, SWS-S, the organizers of Katrina panels, and others.

It has been my special pleasure to work with Danielle Hidalgo and, indirectly, with the other
members of the Local Arrangements Committee. Through the long months of their diaspora, the
members of the committee laid the groundwork for what they would be doing when they re-
turned to New Orleans. Their unfailing good citizenship sets a high bar for the rest of us. They
also teach us something about “social glue,” which is, after all, what society is.

Judith Blau
UNC Chapel Hill

2006 SSS Annual Meeting
March 22-25, 2006
The Monteleone Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana
The 69th Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, in the beautiful Hotel Monteleone, one of our favorite locations, the French Quarter, New Orleans, Louisiana, is ready for you! With a theme of Diaspora to focus our attention this year—a focus that has taken on deep, critical meaning since the devastation and uncertainty following Hurricane Katrina—we have much in store for you.

We have some twenty stellar sessions focused on Hurricane Katrina, eight thematic sessions (including a special plenary session by Cynthia Epstein, President of the ASA), eight engaging author-meets-critics sessions, four documentaries, and an outstanding (and packed) schedule of panels, paper sessions, poster sessions, roundtables, music, poetry, and much more (you may even see a mime).

We also have muralist Turbado Marabou creating a mural in the registration area to commemorate the theme and New Orleans—his mural and a host of other goodies and memoranda await your purchase at the Silent Auction (see page 6) (after President Blau's address, please bring items to donate), the proceeds of which will benefit SSS Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, the ASA Minority Fellowship, and Gulf Coast Historically Black Colleges affected by Hurricane Katrina.

We are especially pleased to offer a conference-within-a-conference when, on Saturday (from 8-4 in the Queen Anne Ballroom), special sessions of the top disaster sociologists and interdisciplinary teams will come together to report very new findings and to discuss the future of New Orleans—these sessions are vitally important. Please consider extending your stay and attending this incredible day of very important sessions!

I know this will be one of our most memorable SSS meetings!

The final program for the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society to be held at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, LA, March 22-25 is currently available for viewing at:
A HOMECOMING:
MAKING SPACE FOR RENEWAL

DANIELLE ANTOINETTE HIDALGO
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

FEBRUARY, 2006

Returning to New Orleans felt much like “a personal [and] global identity crisis” (Anzaldúa in Anzaldúa and Keating (eds.) 2002: 541). Although I have felt this sense of crisis in many aspects of my life as a graduate student, the changes that have taken place in New Orleans have made my own personal identity crisis especially salient. The ongoing Sociology of New Orleans is an everyday reality for all of us who have returned or simply never left.

Sections of New Orleans are being rebuilt. In Uptown New Orleans, close to Tulane University, I wake up in the morning to the constant din of construction. As I take my daily walk to campus, I cannot help but notice that things have indeed changed. Debris lines the sidewalks, traffic zigzags haphazardly in opposite directions down one-way streets, neighbors and friends exchange narratives of change, uncertainty, and hope, restaurants and cafés keep shorter hours—spaces of hope glimmer through the rough patches.

Rebuilding, however, is not a constant throughout the city. Other sections of the city remain in a devastated and depressed state. As I travel away from “home,” and out of the Uptown area, homes that were once whole and livable are no longer standing. Burnt out—through and through—or totally misshapen, the stark reality of the storm and its aftermath is undeniable. One has to experience it and reflect on the sociology of it to truly understand its impact. And there is so much left for us to understand, debate, dis-

(Continued on page 5)
cover, and change. Our upcoming conference in New Orleans intends to do just that—continue this important social and political dialogue, and public action.

The Local Arrangements Committee has continued this dialogue throughout our planning. Currently, we are busy finalizing a number of activities and events for the conference. One of our main events is a Silent Auction, organized by SWS-South’s Idee Winfield and Shannon Davis (see story page 6). We are also busy collecting photographs for a Pre- and Post-Katrina slide-show that will run throughout the duration of the conference. If members are interested in submitting their photos, please let me know. In terms of volunteering opportunities with local organizations, I am currently working on a list that I will post on our interactive website: http://ssssconference2006.blogspot.com/2006/02/blog-post.html. Please make sure you look at all of the announcements posted in February and March. In addition to volunteering information, you will find updates regarding transportation from and to the airport, parking near the Monteleone Hotel and throughout the downtown area, the local dining guide, other local activities, and links to local news.

The everyday lives of New Orleanians and the social institutions of our city are always in constant flux. Since the hurricane, however, this constant fluidity has often felt like chaos. Uncovering the sociological implications and addressing the sociological questions are, without a doubt, especially urgent now. As our preliminary program and innumerable local activities exemplify, sociologists are making a contribution that I believe our upcoming conference will undoubtedly underline.

LAC Contact Information: Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo – mailto: dhidalgo@tulane.edu
SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT
KATRINA RELIEF FUND, KATRINA SURVIVORS

SWS-South typically organizes a silent auction at the annual SSS meeting to benefit the ASA Minority Fellowship program. This year, in conjunction with President Judith Blau and the New Orleans Local Arrangement Committee, SWS-South is coordinating a Silent Auction that will benefit not only the ASA Minority Fellowship Program, but the SSS Katrina Relief Fund and Gulf Coast Historically Black Colleges that were affected by Hurricane Katrina as well. But the success of this venture depends on you. We need your donations for the auction, and we need you to be present at the Annual Meeting to bid on and purchase some of the treasures for yourself. This is definitely one event you won’t want to miss!

Did you receive unwanted or duplicate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa gifts?
- Save them for the Silent Auction (Remember, one person’s junk is another’s treasure.)

Just published a new book?
- Consider donating an autographed copy for the auction.

Have a creative hobby?
- Make a one-of-a-kind item to donate!

IN ADDITION TO MEMBER-DONATED ITEMS, THE AUCTION WILL FEATURE A NEW ORLEANS-THEMED MURAL AND OTHER CRAFTS BY NEW ORLEANS ARTISANS.

Visit the Local Arrangements Committee Website for information on some auction items:

Bring your donations to the SSS Meeting in New Orleans or mail them to either of the auction’s co-organizers, Shannon Davis (SWS-South Treasurer) or Danielle Hidalgo (Local Arrangements Chair).

Shannon Davis
Carolina Population Center
University Square
CB 8120, Rm. 501 East
123 W. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2524
shannon_davis@unc.edu

Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo
Tulane University
Department of Sociology
220 Newcomb Hall
New Orleans, LA 70118
daniellehidalgo@gmail.com

*** (use UPS or FedEx to send items to Danielle) ***
ASA Breakfast with Department Chairs

The American Sociological Association Research and Development Department is pleased to invite Department chairs for an early morning breakfast during the Southern Sociological Society Meetings at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans March 22-25, 2006. The ASA Breakfast with Department Chairs will be held on Friday, March 24, 2006, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Riverview Room.

ASA will be updating Chairs on what it has learned from three recent projects that should be especially helpful to department chairs and asking Chairs to comment on the results.

* Since the chairs’ meeting at last year’s SSS meeting, ASA has completed the survey of undergraduate majors, "What Can I Do with A Degree in Sociology?" Roberta Spalter-Roth, Director of The ASA Research and Development Department, will present the results of this survey and discuss how these findings can be used to re-conceptualize sociology curriculum so that an undergraduate sociology degree can be seen as a "practical art" with more value in the market. These findings should be useful for chairs considering revising their curriculum in the face of top-down assessments, budget challenges, heavy teaching loads, and loss of faculty lines.

* Also to be discussed are the use of academic work-family policies by the 1996/1997 cohort of sociology PhDs, the relation of these policies to time use and scholarly productivity, and the need for more equitable policy distribution. Currently these policies are under-used, especially by men, and their impact in increasing faculty productivity does not seem to be understood by administrators.

* Finally, ASA’s study of sociology PhDs employed outside of Ivory Towers will be examined. Not all sociology PhDs lead academic careers, and the new study attempts to track them down in order to learn what they do all day long, what skills they are using, and whether they think of themselves as sociologists. An important question is whether there is a disconnect between the skills they use on the job and their training, and, if so, should graduate curriculums be modified to address this skills gap?

For more information, or to RSVP that you will attend, please contact:

Roberta Spalter-Roth
Director, Research and Development Department
American Sociological Association
1307 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-4701
202-383-9005, ext 317
mailto: spalter-roth@asanet.org
Scenes from New Orleans

Photos by Kenneth Gould
Barbara E. Johnson, Chair
Committee on Small and Community Colleges

“The Teaching Corner” features innovative ideas to enhance student learning. If you have a classroom exercise, an out-of-class assignment, or a favorite video that you have found effective in helping students understand course material, please send a brief description to Barbara Johnson, Committee on Community and Small Colleges, Department of Sociology, University of South Carolina Aiken, Aiken, SC 29801 (mailto: barbj@usca.edu).

Teaching Sessions in New Orleans

The Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges encourages you to become involved by attending the annual meeting in New Orleans. The Program Committee has put together an outstanding program offering something for everyone, and these meetings provide a great opportunity for networking to share and learn ideas about teaching and the discipline.

Members from the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges have organized and sponsored two special sessions on teaching. Carrie Cokely from Meredith College will be presiding and presenting in Paper Session #5: Teaching Tips and Techniques for the Small College Classroom. Carla Alphonso, Presbyterian College, has organized a panel on Bringing Sociology into the First Year Experience (#59)

Don’t miss other teaching related sessions including: #1 Research Service Learning: Engaging Undergraduates in Community Based Research, Roundtable #9 on Teaching Sociology, Session #138 Creative Pedagogy: New Ideas for Teaching Sociology, and #152 Undergraduate Teaching: Teacher Training, Styles and Evaluation.

To enhance opportunities for collegiality, Max Wilson, Flagler College, will co-ordinate a group dinner to a nearby restaurant on Thursday, March 23. Anyone interested in joining the group, please meet in the Hotel Monteleone Lobby at 7 p.m.
Departmental News

N.C. State Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Turns 85

In September 1920, after a two-week trek from Missouri to North Carolina on muddy, pot-holed roads that battered their automobile, Dr. Carl Taylor and graduate student Carle Zimmer-man arrived on the campus of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering. Their task: build a new program in sociology, the first of its kind at what is now known as North Carolina State University. The pair got to work quickly, within a year granting the first master’s degree in sociology at N.C. State. And, in 1926, the fledgling sociology program awarded the university’s first-ever Ph.D. — also the first sociology Ph.D. granted by any southern university.

Now celebrating its 85th anniversary, the N.C. State Department of Sociology and Anthropology conducts an innovative program of teaching, research and extension that focuses on solving real-world problems. “The founding of sociology here [at N.C. State] had great impact on what was happening in sociology in the South and on a national level,” said Dr. Ron Wimberley, William Neal Reynolds professor of sociology and unofficial department historian. “Today, our rural sociology program ranks in the top handful of programs across the country, and many of the department’s faculty are nationally recognized experts in their fields.”

In the 1930s and 1940s, the burgeoning rural sociology program conducted a number of studies in “diffusion of innovations,” also known as “technology transfer,” that helped farmers understand how to use new practices and technologies to improve their crops. Some of the program’s early models continue to help shape modern-day diffusion of innovations work throughout the U.S., Wimberley said. The program also was an early leader in environmental sociology, conducting significant research in areas such as soil conservation and soil fertility, he said.

However, he added, the department’s strong suit has been community sociology. From the 1930s to the 1970s, the rural sociology program established demographic and community development research and extension to improve the quality of life of rural communities throughout North Carolina. Researchers developed ways to enhance democratic practices and get citizens involved in their communities, in areas such as education, health and business. This work continues today. “This research was critical because economic development means much more than bringing in new businesses,” Wimberley said. “The sociological community as a whole has to function in order for the businesses to stay and for its residents to prosper.”

(Continued on page 11)
In 1963, the rural sociology, general sociology and anthropology programs merged to form one Department of Sociology and Anthropology. While the department’s early programs in technology transfer, community, demographics and environmental sociology continue to flourish, its scope of work has broadened to envelop a number of different areas of focus. Today, these include poverty and inequality, archaeometry, forensics, cardiovascular mortality, child abuse, family issues, biotechnology and food safety, as well as programs involving leadership development, industry needs assessment, conflict management and dispute resolution, and recycling and waste management, among many others. “To say that our work is diverse is an understatement,” Wimberley said. “All of our efforts in teaching, research and extension are driven by our mission to make a real difference in people’s lives, here in North Carolina and throughout the world.”

“Shared” today by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the department comprises nearly 700 undergraduate and graduate students, more than 30 full-time faculty and a dozen staff. The department’s student load is among the highest at N.C. State. The department has awarded 314 sociology master’s degrees and 132 sociology and rural sociology Ph.D. degrees. It also offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in seven majors. A master’s degree program in anthropology is under development, with anticipated launch in fall 2007.

Since its founding 85 years ago, the N.C. State Department of Sociology and Anthropology has enjoyed a rich history and a tremendous record of achievement, Wimberley said. But, he added quickly, there’s no looking back. “This is a department on the make,” he said. “We’re trying to be the best sociology and anthropology department we can be, focusing not on where we’ve been, but where we’re going.”
Member News

On New Year's Day Richard Kania departed and Mario Paparozzi stepped up to be the Chair, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Dr. Kania moved on to be the Head, Department of Criminal Justice at Jacksonville State University, after serving as Chair at UNCP for six years. Kania earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Virginia, was a department chair at Guilford College before going to UNCP, and also was a Senior Fulbright Professor in Poland in 1997-1998 and in the Republic of Belarus in 2004-2005. Dr. Paparozzi has his Ph.D. in Sociology from Rutgers University. He joined UNCP in 2003, coming from the College of New Jersey where he was the Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Center. Previously he had a distinguished career in corrections in New Jersey, and is a past-president of the American Probation and Parole Association, a member or the Manhattan Institute's Council to Reinvent Probation, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Crime Victims' Legal Center.

Opportunities

Mid-South Sociological Association
Call for Participation

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association will be held in Lafayette, La, October 25-28, 2006.

The theme for the meeting is Sociology in Ill-Starred Times: Crises, Survival, and Reconstruction. The theme is intended to include crises associated with war, terrorism, and rapid political and economic change, as well as traditional disaster research. The conference will also feature live music by local musicians, access to Lafayette’s Downtown Alive festivities on Friday night, and a special session on local Louisiana folklore. All interested parties are encouraged to join MSSA, submit papers, and attend. Visit MSSA’s website at http://www.midsouthsoc.org for current information or contact President-Elect and Program Chair Carl L. Bankston III, mailto: cbankst@tulane.edu.
CALL FOR PAPERS
ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIOLOGISTS
STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS

UNDERGRADUATE COMPETITION

The Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) is now accepting papers for its annual Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. Students who are members of ABS qualify for the competition. The top three winners of the competition will receive cash awards. They will also present their papers at this year’s ABS conference held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, from August 8-11, 2006. The papers are to be no longer than 20 pages, including references. The papers cannot be under consideration for publication at the time of submission. Additionally, an abstract of no more than 200 words should be submitted with the paper.

GRADUATE COMPETITION

The Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) is now accepting papers for its annual Graduate Student Paper Competition. Graduate students who are members of ABS qualify for the competition. The top three winners of the competition will receive cash awards. They will also present their papers at this year’s ABS conference held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, from August 8-11, 2006. The papers are to be no longer than 30 pages, including references. The papers cannot be under consideration for publication at the time of submission. Additionally, an abstract of no more than 200 words should be submitted with the paper.

Students should please submit six copies of the paper and abstract to:

ABS Student Paper Competition
Association of Black Sociologists
4200 Wisconsin Avenue NW, PMB 106-257
Washington, D.C. 20016

Please indicate on the envelope and cover page which competition, undergraduate or graduate, you are entering.

Students can also submit the paper and abstract electronically in either Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, or PDF format mailto: studentpaper@blacksociologists.org. Again, please indicate in the email and cover page which competition, undergraduate or graduate, the submission is intended. The submission deadline for the competition is May 1, 2006. Please visit the ABS website at http://www.blacksociologists.org for further information about the Association of Black Sociologists and the Student Paper Competitions.
North Carolina Central University seeks applicants for two tenure-track positions in Sociology. Rank is open commensurate with qualifications and the positions will be effective August 1, 2006. Successful candidates will demonstrate strong quantitative research skills. Candidates must be qualified to teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The first position calls for a substantive specialty in two of the following areas: urban sociology, demography, spatial analysis and comparative sociology. The second position calls for specialization in two of the following: social psychology, theory, gerontology, deviance, and medical sociology. Successful candidates will be expected to teach introductory statistics and/or quantitative research methods as well as upper division and graduate courses in their areas of specialization. The PhD in Sociology is required. Candidates will have a publication record or research projects near completion. The positions have come open due to retirements and expanding enrollments at the undergraduate and the graduate levels. North Carolina Central University is a rapidly growing urban comprehensive university in the 16 school University of North Carolina System. Durham is a city of over 200,000 located in North Carolina’s Research Triangle with three major research universities and other major cultural attractions located within twenty miles of the campus. North Carolina Central University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap. Formal review of applications will continue until both positions are filled. Send your letter of interest, curriculum vita, and a list of three references to Chair of the Sociology Search Committee, Department of Sociology, North Carolina Central University, 1801 Fayetteville Street, Durham North Carolina 27707.

Send your comments, suggestions, or materials for The Southern Sociologist to the editor Bob Freymeyer mailto: rhfreym@presby.edu
Demographic Transitions

**Allen W. Imershein**, Ph.D., 61, died Sunday, December 4, 2005, in Tallahassee, Florida. During 2005, he successfully recovered from three difficult operations associated with Crohn’s Disease, only to learn that an undetected cancer had spread beyond the possibility of treatment. Al was born on July 28th, 1944, in Buffalo, NY, and grew up in Buffalo and Coral Gables, Florida. He earned a Bachelors Degree from Duke University, a Masters Degree from Yale Divinity School, and a Masters and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a member of the sociology faculty of Florida State University from 1973 to 2005, rising through the ranks from assistant to full professor, where he played an active role in the development of the department throughout those years. Al founded and directed the Institute for Health and Human Services Research at Florida State University, which supported the research of faculty and graduate students over many years. He served on the Florida State University Faculty Senate where he was an advocate for liberal arts education, particularly for entering first-year students. He served as a Visiting Scholar at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health and at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. In the year prior to his death, he was elected Vice-President of the Southern Sociological Society.

Al’s research and teaching concerns focused on health, human service organizations, and social policy. Al was intensely interested in social theory and his publications appeared in our leading journals including the *American Sociological Review* and *American Journal of Sociology*. He was dedicated to working with both graduate and undergraduate students and received a University Teaching Award and a Teaching Incentive Program Award from Florida State University. Al’s Socratic method of instruction challenged students to analyze and think rather than memorize and repeat.

In addition to teaching and research, Al was a social activist who devoted himself to university and community service. He was instrumental in establishing several organizations in the local community, including the United Church of Tallahassee. He was active in local politics and was a strong advocate for social justice and progressive environmental policies.

Al’s colleagues and acquaintances will remember him as an energetic, gregarious, and faithful friend. He was a beloved father, husband, brother, and social activist. He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Donna Crowley of Sopchoppy, FL, his son Chris and wife Dawn of Chapel Hill, NC and a sister Norma Barton of Bethpage, Tennessee. His family asks that contributions in his memory be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL, 32308, the United Church of Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32308, or to a favorite charity.

Submitted by:
Patricia Yancey Martin (Florida State University), Michael Armer (emeritus, FSU), and James D. Orcutt (Florida State University)
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 and online access to The Southern Sociologist and to a membership directory. 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 gender. For statistical purposes, we also ask you to include your race and/or ethnic group and three areas of specialty.

The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Membership classes, annual charges and dues are:
Regular .......................................................... 50.00
Emeritus
with Social Forces .......................................... 23.00
without Social Forces ..................................... no cost
Associate (non-voting) ................................. 48.00
Student .......................................................... 25.00

Dues, subscriptions, membership inquiries and address changes should be addressed to:
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Secretary/Treasurer
Southern Sociological Society
P.O. Box 6245
Mississippi State, MS 39762
http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/Creditcards/Creditcards.htm

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLLOGIST

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The Southern Sociologist(TSS) is the official publication of the Southern Sociological Society. It is typically published electronically three times a year in the months of May, 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.

INFORMATION WANTED . . . CONTRIBUTE TO TSS
To bring you the news, I 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 the next issue, submissions must be received by the deadline below.

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.

Next Issue Deadline: May 1, 2006