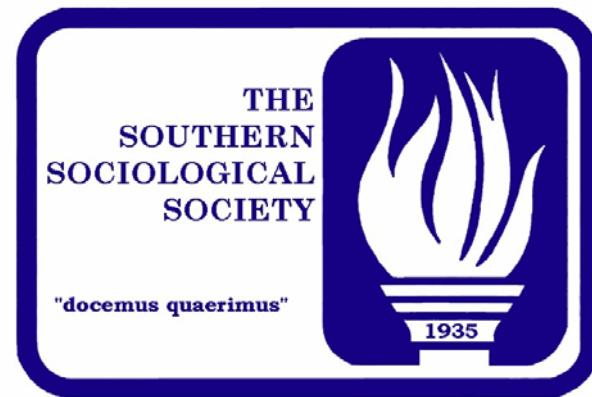


The Southern Sociologist



TSS

Volume 38 Number 1 Summer 2006

Sociology with a Southern Face— and an Agenda

Ron Wimberley
SSS President

There may be normal years for the Southern Sociological Society. Last year certainly was not. And this year probably won't be either. We can hope, however, that this year it's not because of hurricanes, but because of good things.

We're certainly off to a busy start. The southern (sur)face of sociology may appear fairly smooth although I keep finding that there's a lot going behind it. No doubt, previous SSS presidents and officers already know that.

Now it's our turn as new officers. So I'd like to again welcome President-Elect Larry Isaac, Vice President Karen Campbell, Vice President-Elect Jeanne Hurlbert, and Executive Committee Members Chris Ellison and Angella Lewellyn Jones, as well as Bill Falk who is the newly elected member of the Publications Committee. Welcome to the learning curve!

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From the Editor:

This issue reports on the 2006 Annual Meeting and introduces the theme for the 2007 Annual Meeting. More information about next year's meeting will be in the fall edition. Please send your comments and information for future editions to

Bob Freymeyer (mailto: rhfreym@presby.edu)

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Sociology with a Southern Face

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What's Normal and What's Not

Many SSS activities are normal ones: preparing for next year's program, organizing for our next meeting's local arrangements, seeking candidates for our annual election, thinking of nominees for awards, membership renewals, and the like.

But some SSS experiences this year are not business as usual. As I noted in an emailed letter about a month ago, we were certainly welcomed in New Orleans by the hotel, restaurants, and local businesses as well as by a proclamation from Mayor Nagin for our *avant garde* return to New Orleans for a conference of our size (see [page 8](#)). We did good.

However, the mail to New Orleans was still slow, and the materials for the Executive Committee's review of award nominees did not reach us until the last day of the meeting. Therefore, this year's new awardees could not be announced until after the meeting. It was a real pleasure for me to inform the recipients and report to the SSS membership the names of those we shall honor at our 2007 meeting in Atlanta—Dick Simpson for the Roll of Honor, Bill Falk for the Charles S. Johnson Award, and Woody Beck for the SSS' first Distinguished Lecturer Award. You can find more about this elsewhere in this issue of the *TSS* ([page 13](#)).

You'll also find more in this issue about the money we have raised and the SSS RFP for sociology programs hurt by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (see [page 9](#)).

Still another item in this issue is not exactly unique, but you haven't seen anything like it since 1991. That's the call for applications for a new SSS Secretary-Treasurer. After over 15 years of service, Marty Levin is stepping aside from that post. While we'll miss his contributions and his institutional memory, we must turn to finding someone who can take on the job. Nominations anyone? Contact President-Elect Larry Isaac, Larry.W.Isaac@vanderbilt.edu, who is chairing this search. Please do this by July 1.

What's New

In addition to the above activities of the SSS this year, the Executive Committee and I have discussed some new agenda items. These are to establish a new SSS journal; representation for the SSS and other regional associations on the Council of the American Sociological Association; promoting SSS endowment funds; displays for increasing SSS visibility at the ASA and other meetings; and, perhaps, a midyear meeting of the SSS Executive Committee. Want to read more about it?



Ron Wimberley receives the gavel from outgoing President Judith Blau.

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Sociology with a Southern Face

(Continued from page 2)

Plans for a New Journal. *Social Forces* has been an official journal of the SSS for longer than almost any of us can remember, and I believe it will remain as such. Last year, however, discussions about the relationship between the SSS and *Social Forces* reminded us that the SSS does not own or control *Social Forces*. Nor does the SSS receive revenue from it. Discounted subscriptions to SSS members do amount to nearly half of our regular dues.

The concept of a new SSS journal is now in its formative stages, and there are a number of questions to be addressed if the idea is to be feasible. For example, how would startup costs for the new journal be supported? Would we want a commercial publisher to handle its business operations? Would SSS members get subscriptions to one or to both journals included in their dues? Or, could members just get the one of their choosing with an optional discounted subscription to the other? These and other questions need answers, and the Executive Committee is exploring the possibilities along with advice from the Publications Committee and others.

To that end, early this year I asked my colleague, Charles Title, to draft a proposal for such a new journal, and this proposal was presented to the Executive Committee at our annual meeting in New Orleans. That proposal, of course, is just a starting point. Input will be needed from SSS members regarding the choices that are involved. This is something that will be thought about and discussed before and during our next annual meeting in New Orleans.

I suspect that many of us will want to continue receiving *Social Forces* no matter what, but are willing to consider having a second refereed journal over which the SSS has ownership, control, and receipts.

Representation on the ASA Council. Most sociologists are not members of the American Sociological Association. However, many of those who are not ASA members are members of regional sociological associations. And, some of us are members of both our regional and national-level associations.

Apart from the overlapping, individual-level memberships, there are only courtesy ties between the regional associations and the national association. As professional sociological associations are currently organized, there are no formal organizational linkages through which regional associations can be represented in the governance of the American Sociological Association. What we're discussing is a plan for how the regional associations could become represented on the governing Council of the American Sociological Association.

Sociology—at the regional and national levels—could be strengthened by regional-association representation with the ASA. Sociology would be better connected from top to bottom organi-

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Sociology with a Southern Face

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zationally—at the macro sociological level—and not merely at the level of individual memberships. The ASA would benefit from being better connected at all levels and better able to identify with sociologists throughout the United States. The regional sociological associations would benefit from having formal representation in ASA governance. Perhaps this could be accomplished by having one or more rotating positions for representatives from the various regional sociological associations on the ASA Council. State sociological associations might somehow fit into this as well.

These are some initial ideas. Over the years, I have discussed such possibilities with members and officials of the SSS and other associations including the ASA. From what I gather, such formal representation across geographic levels of sociological associations has instant appeal to many sociologists, and especially to those in regional and state associations. To put such a plan into effect, agreements need to be thought out by SSS members and officers as well as those of other regional sociological associations and the national ASA. The SSS Executive Committee has asked me to begin by contacting officers of the other associations. I am also asking for the thinking and suggestions of our own Committee on the Professions.

So let's talk it over. Such structural changes will require a multiyear process within and among the associations involved. And, I believe, all of sociology will be strengthened through the better organizational relationships.

Promoting Our SSS Endowments. As sociological associations go, the SSS has some money but not a lot. Among the several ways of funding the SSS—mainly through dues and registration fees—we also maintain endowment funds, and we can establish still other general or special endowments. Unlike some professional academic associations, and as noted earlier, we do not make money from journal subscriptions.

Stronger endowments can improve our financial strength and help protect us through bad times. Many may wish to make such contributions, and some may wish to provide for the SSS from their estates.

The Finance Committee as well as the Executive Committee and perhaps an ad hoc committee will be developing plans to promote our endowment funds. Meanwhile, please start thinking about how you might like to contribute, and let us know.

Visibility at the ASA and Other Meetings. At the ASA meeting in Philadelphia last year, I saw displays from other sociological associations, but I was surprised to find that we did not have an exhibit there. And when I tried to arrange to have the SSS display shipped to another

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Sociology with a Southern Face

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sociological association meeting, I discovered that the SSS does not have a mobile display.

The SSS, now in its 71st year, needs to maintain and improve its visibility. Therefore, we need one or more displays to promote our Society to others. Consequently, we shall be developing one or more formats that we can use in the other professional meetings we attend. This should help us attract new members as well.

Our low visibility may be related to our declining membership numbers; each may contribute to the other. So, we'll move on both fronts. Let's make the SSS more visible to other groups, and let's try to get more members.

A Midyear Executive Committee Meeting? The SSS Executive Committee does not customarily have midyear meetings apart from our regular annual meetings. With our many committees and agenda items, however, the Executive Committee is tightly scheduled during our annual meetings. In fact, Executive Committee members often miss program sessions in which they would like to participate or attend. A midyear Executive Committee meeting might help spread the work over the year, and maybe more SSS business could be accomplished overall.

Electronic meetings have been found to be inadequate and unsatisfactory. Although midyear meetings would require further personal expenses for Executive Committee members, we may give it a try.

The 2007 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, April 11-14

Next year's annual meeting will be in Atlanta, April 11-14, at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel where we met in 2004. In case you've missed it, the program theme is "Sociology with a Southern Face." The program chairs are Don Woolley at Duke University and Linda Treiber at Kennesaw State University. Further program information and announcements will be in the next issues of *TSS*.

Begin to prepare your ideas for the 2007 program. "Sociology with a Southern Face" will focus on sociological issues of the southern region as well as us as the South's sociologists and what we are doing in the region.

Yes, this is probably not a normal year for the Southern Sociological Society. But I hope it will be a good year for sociologists with southern faces. Thanks for your ideas, and best wishes for your work.

Ron Wimberley

REALIZING “THIS BRIDGE WE CALL HOME”:¹

SHARING STORIES, DOING SOCIOLOGY, AND MAKING TRANSFORMATIONS

DANIELLE ANTOINETTE HIDALGO
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR
MARCH 2006

“This bridge we call home” is about creating and sustaining a space of resistance and transformation, a space where social inequalities are challenged and new directions are opened up for interpretation, debate and social change. I believe our conference exemplified just that type of transformation. This article serves as the 2006 Local Arrangement Committee’s final contribution to *The Southern Sociologist*. In the article, I would like to note some of the highlights of the conference and, again, I would like to thank all of the attendees for a very successful conference.

THURSDAY: THE FIRST DAY...

Noting the sociological salience of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region, numerous “Katrina Sessions” offered varied accounts from local scholars and many researchers throughout the country. In addition to these sessions, two panel sessions brought together students, faculty, and local organizations, all of whom are continually negotiating the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. Students and faculty eloquently offered their personal narratives from a decidedly sociological perspective. Graduate student and local arrangements committee member Jennifer Day read from her journal as she analyzed her experiences with the masculinization of space directly after she returned to New Orleans. As all of the graduate students on the panel concurred, graduate student Kristen Barber discussed our perpetual “state of limbo” since Tulane University’s renewal plan essentially “cut” our PhD program. Professor April Brayfield began her portion of the talk with a forewarning that she might not be nearly as coherent nor as articulate as the other panelists, a direct reflection of her chaotic lived experiences since Katrina. Her talk, however, was every bit as thought-provoking and articulate as the other stories as she shared her narrative of evacuating to California, rebuilding her life and home, and dealing with the ongoing struggles that we all face as New Orleanians. The narratives were moving, sociologically significant, and more insightful than any of us had expected.

FRIDAY: A FULL DAY...

Friday began with the unveiling of professional muralist, Turbado Marabou’s gorgeous mural (see page 9), commemorating the great tragedies wrought by Katrina and the unique, cultural nuances of New Orleans. Throughout the day, conference attendees took part in a workshop organized by Turbado where he discussed the varied and complex dimensions of his work

¹See Anzaldúa and Keating (2002)

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REALIZING “THIS BRIDGE WE CALL HOME”

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and asked participants to place their paint-covered hands on the edges of the canvas. As Judith Blau has said of Turbado’s pieces, his “murals reflect deep social wisdom of the sort that only artworks can capture, and of the sort that enhances the different kind of understandings that we social scientists have.” In addition to interactions with Turbado’s piece, attendees could see more Katrina sessions, numerous sessions on central sociological topics, and, finally, the Presidential Honors and Address.

The evening closed with our incredibly successful Silent Auction. SWS-South, in conjunction with the local arrangements committee, presented the Auction. SWS-South², a regional chapter of Sociologists for Women in Society, typically hosts a silent auction to raise money for the ASA Minority Scholarship fund. This year, given the meeting’s location, President Blau requested that SWS-South organize a larger version of the Silent Auction with proceeds to be donated to the SSS Katrina Fund and Gulf Coast Historically Black Colleges and Universities affected by Katrina as well as the ASA Minority Scholarship fund. Over 200 items were donated by members to the auction; the items ranged from professional photography, handmade jewelry and scarves, to autographed research monographs and novels that came in handy on the plane ride home. All in all, the Auction raised \$2,071 to be distributed among the three targeted funds. Florence Bonner of Howard University purchased Turbado’s mural.

SATURDAY: COMING TO AN END...

Coming full circle, the conference ended on a good note. The weather in New Orleans was gorgeous—a perfect day for a stroll in the French Quarter—and conference attendees started slowly returning home.

As local arrangements chair, I must say that I was worried about a conference coming to New Orleans so soon after Katrina. I was worried about both the physical state of the city and the varied emotional states of New Orleanians. Conference attendees, however, were open and respectful of our varied narratives and the struggles that we continue to face. I have said that the positive changes in New Orleans are “slow in coming.” This remains true. The success of our conference, however, elucidates our resilience and the support of our sociological community. Thank you...

Shannon N. Davis contributed to this article.

²For more information on SWS-South, please see <http://www.irss.unc.edu/cathy/SWS-South/home.htm>

New Orleans Welcomes Sociologists Back

BE IT KNOWN THAT
MAYOR C. RAY NAGIN
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

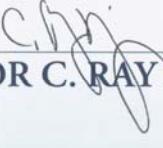
HAS THIS DAY PROCLAIMED

*A Special Day
Of Honor
Bestowed Upon*

Southern Sociological Society

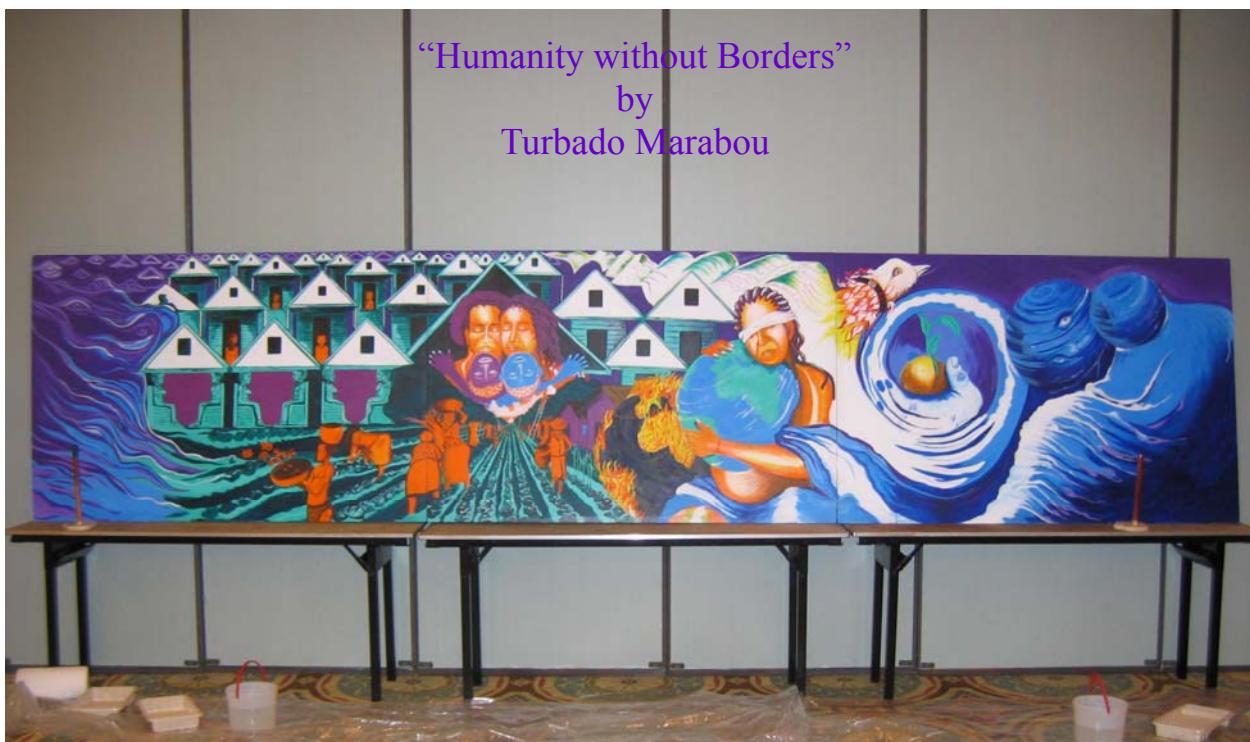
*In appreciation of your commitment to the recovery of
New Orleans by holding your annual conference in our
city and in recognition of your continuing research
into the effects of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita*

ATTESTED TO THIS
Twenty-fourth Day of March
Two Thousand and Six


MAYOR C. RAY NAGIN

SILENT AUCTION GREAT SUCCESS

SWS-South and the Local Arrangements Committee for this year's annual meeting raised a total of \$2071 from the Silent Auction held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Over 200 items were donated to the auction. The money raised was contributed to the SSS Katrina Fund, Gulf Coast Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the ASA Minority Scholarship Fund.



Muralist Turbado Marabou created "Humanity without Borders." This mural commemorates the victims of Katrina and celebrates the aspirations of the members of the diaspora. Howard University purchased the mural in the Silent Auction.



SSS members
browse during the
Silent Auction.



2006 SSS Awards



Delores P. Aldridge of Emory University receives the plaque for the Charles S. Johnson Award from President Judith Blau.

President Blau presents Idee Winfield of the College of Charleston the Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award.



2006 SSS Awards



(**Editor's Note:** At the Southern Sociological Society's annual meeting in New Orleans, Abbott L. Ferriss, Professor of Sociology Emeritus, Emory University, was awarded the Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award for "outstanding service to the SSS." Dr. Ferriss expressed his appreciation extempore. He has reconstructed his remarks here.)

At first I thought it was a matter of longevity, for I have attended SSS meetings for some sixty years. However, considering the pleasure and satisfaction I have had working with the many brilliant members of the Society, I have gained much professionally and personally. You in the audience have the opportunity, also, to gain professionally by serving this and other sociological societies, aiding in the solution of problems of the profession. I urge you to find ways to contribute to professional societies, serving on committees, entering in discussions, presenting results of your research, and so forth.

Economists center their work on **money**. Psychologists feature **personal adjustment** in its many forms. Ask yourself what sociologists focus upon as the overriding theme of their theory and research. Would you agree that there are many, many, not one, criteria?

But here is one on the horizon for Sociology: the ***Quality of Life***. It is a value orientation — true. But money of the economists and personal adjustment of the psychologists, also, are values. I urge you to add measures of the quality of life to your next research study. Measures of subjective and objective quality of life are reasonably standardized, and may be identified in the pages of ***Social Indicators Research*** and the new journal ***Applications of the Quality of Life***. In doing so, you will contribute to the understanding of how to enhance the quality of life and thus contribute to improving the general welfare.

2006 SSS Awards

Odum Awards

Undergraduate Awards



Diya Surie from Centenary College in Louisiana won an undergraduate Odum Award for her paper "Ideological Foundations of Healthcare Inequality: A CrossCultural Study."

Alexandra Hendley of Southwestern in Texas won an undergraduate Odum Award for her paper "Barreras del Lenguaje: Children's Negotiation of Adult-Centered Exclusionary Structures."



Graduate Award

Miyuki Fukushima, a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, won the Odum Award for the best graduate paper for her work on "Bonds to Conventional Society: A Comparison of Japanese and American College Students."

2007 SSS Awards

(Editor's Note: Because of mail delivery problems, the 2007 SSS Award were not announced at the 2006 annual meeting. These award recipients will receive their awards at the 2007 annual meeting.)

2007 Roll of Honor Award

This 2007 award goes to **Richard L. Simpson**, Professor Emeritus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a past president of the Southern Sociological Society, and a long time editor of *Social Forces*. His name is enrolled on the *Roll of Honor* which is the greatest recognition given by the Southern Sociological Society. Awardees must have made significant contributions to sociology and made stellar contributions to the discipline across their careers. Dick Simpson's personal contributions to scholarship and as a devoted mentor for graduate students were repeatedly praised in his nomination letters. Central to this recognition was Dick Simpson's contribution to all of Sociology in his role as editor of *Social Forces* from 1969 to 1972 and from 1983 to 2004. His editorial leadership directly contributed to the development of a great deal of important sociological scholarship over the years. The prominence of the journal, *Social Forces*, owes much to the tireless work of Richard Simpson.



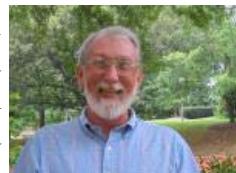
2007 Charles S. Johnson Award

William W. Falk, University of Maryland at College Park, has earned the Southern Sociological Society's 2007 Charles S. Johnson Award. Bill Falk is recognized for his distinguished scholarly contributions on race and the South. These contributions extend across his career as well as in his latest book, *Rooted in Place: Family and Belonging in a Southern Black Community* (Rutgers University press, 2004).



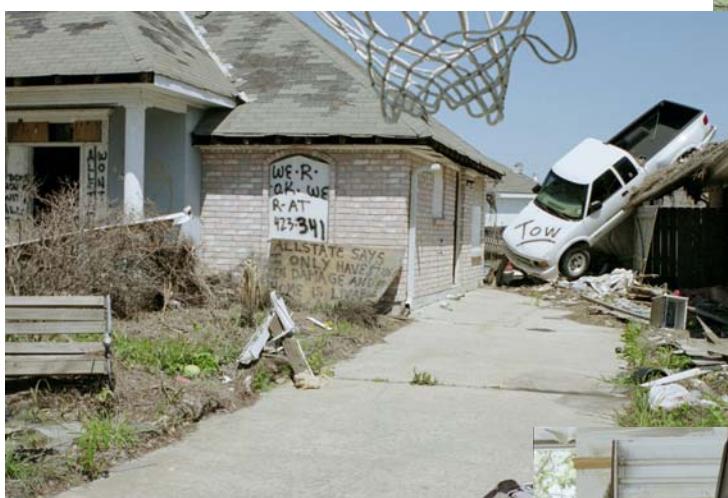
2007 Distinguished Lectureship Award

E.M. Beck of the University of Georgia is granted the Southern Sociological Society's first Distinguished Lectureship award. Woody Beck was nominated for this award based on his sustained intellectual contribution to sociology in his publications as well as his charisma as an excellent speaker. He is a gifted lecturer and has been a major figure in stratification and in the political economy of racial inequality for decades.



Scenes from New Orleans

Editor's Note: I had the opportunity to tour St. Bernard Parish and the Lower Ninth Ward with a friend who grew up in New Orleans. His boyhood home in which his parents still lived pre-Katrina was flooded as were the homes of many of his relatives and friends. Below are pictures from our tour.



St. Bernard Parish: the red **X** found on most houses was painted by search and rescue personal. The writing on the house to the left was probably painted by the homeowner.

Playground constructed by ABC's Extreme Makeover



Scenes from New Orleans



The Lower Ninth Ward: property close to the levee break



FEMA Cities (above) and FEMA roofs—blue tarps (left) are widespread

SSS SECRETARY-TREASURER POSITION

The Executive Committee of the Southern Sociological Society invites applications for the position of Secretary-Treasurer. The term of the new Secretary-Treasurer is to commence as soon as possible but no later than June 2007. The Secretary-Treasurer is appointed by the Executive Committee for a five-year term, which may be extended annually thereafter. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer are listed below. A history of service to the Society is desirable, but not required. This is an unpaid position, but some benefits do accompany the office (e.g., travel and hotel expenses covered for annual meetings, and funds are available to assist with data entry and maintenance). If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please contact SSS President-Elect, Larry Isaac by July 1, 2006. He can be reached at larry.isaac@vanderbilt.edu or by regular mail at Department of Sociology, VU Station B #351811, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-1811.

Description of the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer:

The Secretary-Treasurer shall (a) receive, have custody of, and disburse the funds of the Society subject to the authorization of the Executive Committee, (b) maintain a record of all receipts and disbursements, prepare financial statements, keep individual records of members' dues payments, send out dues notices, and carry on the routine business and fiscal affairs of the Society, (c) arrange for an independent audit of the accounts annually and be bonded in an amount to be determined by the Executive Committee, (d) prepare and distribute membership lists biennially, provide mailing lists for Society publications, and send out periodic communications to the membership, (e) certify the eligibility of nominees for elective offices and the eligibility of members in any balloting, (f) send out, receive and maintain records of all ballots of elections and other matters voted upon by the membership, (g) sign contracts and other authorized documents on behalf of the Society in addition to, or when appropriate, instead of, the President, (h) carry out or supervise solicitation of advertising and other procurement of revenues for the Society, and (i) be responsible for depositing important papers and records with the Society Archivist. The Secretary-Treasurer may appoint an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee. The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer is not a voting member of the Executive Committee and his or her term ends at the same time as that of the Secretary-Treasurer. [SSS—Constitution and Bylaws, Article VI, Section 5]. The S-T is ex-officio member of the Executive Committee and the Publication Committee and chairs the Finance Committee. The Secretary-Treasurer will also have final authority over the SSS web site, but need not be the webmaster for the site.

Update Yourself, and Ask Your Friends

Please check the SSS website at <http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/>, click onto “Membership Management” and “Change of Address or Update sociodemographic Information,” and see if your information is correct. If you’re receiving this electronic issue of TSS, your electronic address may not be a problem for you. But as I use our membership list from our website, I often find that address information needs updating. This is especially the case for members who have taken new jobs or who have moved in the past few years.

If you know of anyone who may be a member but who has moved and/or taken a new position, give them the SSS web address and ask them to update their listing. Otherwise, they will probably never see the current issues of *TSS* or receive announcements for our annual meeting or other SSS information.

If you know of any who are not currently SSS members, give them the web address and invite them to join or rejoin the SSS through the web options under “Membership Management.” Although the SSS Membership Committee consists of representatives from each of our major states, all of us have nonmember colleagues and friends who we can ask to join the SSS.

Ron Wimberley
SSS President

2006 Reports and Minutes

Full text of the reports of all SSS committee reports as well as minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and annual Business Meeting are available at

<http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/tss/2006Reports/2006Reports.pdf>.

Nominations Committee Seeks Candidates

The SSS Nominations Committee requests nominations for elected officers and committee members in Southern Sociological Society. In the fall, members of SSS will vote for

- * President-Elect (who will become President for 2008-09);
- * Vice-President-Elect (to become VP in 2008-09);
- * two members of the Executive Committee, who will serve 3-year terms (2007-10);
- * one member of the Publications Committee, to serve a 5-year term (2007-12);
- * one member of the Publications Committee, to finish a term that ends in 2008.

The SSS Handbook of Operations specifies the following eligibility requirements (p. 28): "To be eligible for nomination, a person must be a voting member whose dues have been paid for the fiscal year during which the election is held and for at least three of the four preceding years." If you are uncertain whether a possible candidate is eligible, send her/his name anyway.

Please, **by June 1**, send (1) names of persons you would like to nominate to run for offices or committee memberships; (2) the office or committee for which you are nominating each; (3) contact information (e-mail address, phone numbers), if you have it; and (4) one sentence describing the nominee's qualifications. Self-nominations are perfectly appropriate. It is important to SSS that our officers and elected committee members represent the diversity of southern sociologists. So . . . think expansively!

Thanks in advance for your help. Please send all information to

Karen Campbell
Vice President
karen.e.campbell@vanderbilt.edu
615-322-7533

2007 SSS Annual Meeting
April 11-14, 2007
Sheraton Colony Square
Atlanta, Georgia





The Teaching Corner

**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 Carrie Cokely, Committee on Community and Small Colleges, Department of Sociology, Meredith University (<mailto:cokely@meredith.edu>).

It has been my privilege to serve as chair of the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges. I hope you have learned from and enjoyed reading tips on teaching. The next edition of the Teaching Corner will be edited by Dr. Carrie Cokely, Meredith University.

The two teaching activities in this column deal with experiential learning in the classroom.

SEARCHING FOR HOMOGAMY- ELIMIDATE II

Dr. David Knox, Professor of Sociology at East Carolina University, and Ms. Kristen McGinty, graduate student in Public Health (who played the game as an undergraduate), first shared this exercise at the National Council of Family Relations annual meetings.

Homogamy has long been associated with marital happiness and durability. In the style of the popular television show "Elimidate," an in-class exercise shows how a homogamous partner might be selected and then the couple go out on a "real" date. The exercise is appropriate for any class in marriage and the family. The exercise requires one class period of 50 minutes and 10 minutes of a second class.

Prior to playing the game, the instructor should provide information on homogamy as related to marital satisfaction, the nature of open-ended questions, and the potential for rejection in interpersonal relationships.

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1. Place five chairs at the front of the room. Recruit five student volunteers to play the game. One student must be the 'dater' and the other four students serve as potential 'datees.' (Note: the participants must not be involved in a current relationship and be open to an interracial relationship. Each student should be asked to give three descriptive words about himself or herself to start the game.)
2. The 'dater' attempts to identify the 'datee' most like him or her by asking each 'datee' two open-ended questions (e.g., "What are your religious values?" "What is your idea of having fun?"). Additional questions are then solicited from other class members and from the instructor.
3. The 'datees' ask the 'dater' open questions followed by the class members and instructor.
4. After asking the questions, the instructor announces that any of the 'datees' who do not feel the dater would be a compatible/homogamous partner should return to their seat.
5. 'Dater' identifies the one out of the remaining 'datees' with whom he or she has the most in common. (Dr. Knox provides a rose for the student to present when choosing.)
6. The couple goes out on an actual date with the agreement that they each pay their respective costs and drink no alcohol or be sexually intimate.

The couple reports their perception of the date to the class the next class period. Each should report when the other is out of the room

This exercise alerts students to the principle of homogamy in marriage partner selection, allows the opportunity to discuss rejection in interpersonal relationships as positive, and gives students opportunities to practice open-ended interviewing techniques. Ten classes have played the "Eliminate II" game.

For a more complete description of the class activity including more specific comments on implementation and outcome contact: Professor David Knox (<mailto:Knoxd@ecu.edu>).

ANALYZING INEQUALITY

Dr. Christine A. Wernet, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina Aiken, uses the following exercise to demonstrate income inequality in the United States. She suggests a simple exercise to demonstrate stratification in the United States that is effective in Introductory Sociology and Social Stratification. Students enjoy this activity and it offers a memorable and understandable way for students to keep inequality in perspective.

The exercise can be easily completed in 15-20 minutes of a class period and requires two bags of Tootsie Rolls.

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The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 20)

1. At the beginning of class divide the students into five equal rows. For example, a class of twenty-five students would sit in five rows of five.
2. Proceed with lecture on social class and income inequality in the United States, and draw the following diagram on the board to show how income is distributed in the population. The first box represents 100% of the total population in the

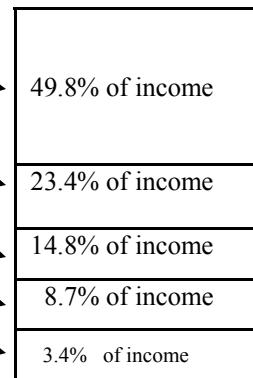
United States, and the second box represents 100% of the total income earned (Kerbo 2006).

Total Population

20% of the population

100% of the population

Total Income



100% of the income earned

3. Pick a number from one to ten, without sharing this information with the class. Then ask the first student in row 1 and in row 5 to pick a number. The student whose number is closest to yours is the richest group in the exercise.
4. Divide 2 packs of tootsie rolls (approximately 100 pieces of candy) among the rows, each tootsie roll represents 1% of the total income earned in the United States. (It makes it easier if the Tootsie Rolls are divided before class.)
 - The poorest group, at the bottom of the population rectangle gets 3.4 tootsie rolls, you can round up to 4 candies if you wish. As you hand out the candy emphasize that there is not enough for each student to have her/his own tootsie roll.
 - The second row (or fifth of the population) gets 8.7% of the total income (i.e., 8.7 or 9 tootsie rolls).
 - The third row (or fifth of the population) gets 14.8% of the total income (i.e., 14.8 or 15 tootsie rolls).

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The Teaching Corner

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- The fourth row (or fifth of the population) gets 23.4% of the total income (i.e., 23.4 or 23 tootsie rolls).
 - The fifth row (or fifth of the population) gets 49.8% of the total income (i.e., an entire bag of tootsie rolls).
5. Ask the class how they feel. Encourage discussion at this point. Ask the rich if they want to share their tootsie rolls.
6. Point out that while individuals often complain about paying taxes that the rich still have more tootsie rolls than they know what to do with and the poor still barely have one tootsie roll each.

Kerbo, Harold R. 2006 *Social Stratification and Inequality: Class Conflict in Historical, Comparative and Global Perspective*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

On April 20 and 21, over 100 students and faculty participated in the Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium held at Presbyterian College. On Thursday evening Robert Hummer, University of Texas Austin, delivered the keynote address entitled: "Religious Involvement and Mortality in the United States: Evidence, Controversy, and Next Steps." Dr. Hummer also spoke at lunch on Friday on "Graduate School and Other Uses for a Sociology Degree." Joel Thayer, Francis Marion University, and Susan Webb, Coastal Carolina University served as judges for the student papers competition. The posters were judged by Dr. Hummer and Barbara Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken.



Emily Smith, Presbyterian College, display her certificate for first prize in the student paper competition.

Joel Thayer presents the second place award in the student paper competition to Annaleigh Porter, College of Charleston.



Sarah Holbert, Lander University, receives the award for best poster from Bob Hummer.

Opportunities

SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION 2006 Call for Submissions

You are invited to submit abstracts for papers and/or completed papers for the 2006 annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association (SDA). You are also invited to suggest topics for panels and poster sessions (see below). This year's meeting will be held November 2-4, 2006 at the Durham Hilton Hotel in Durham, NC. (For emerging details, please check <http://www.fsu.edu/~sda/>). This SDA web page includes a "forms" page for submitting your proposed session topics and paper abstracts.

Presentations of research in both applied and academic sociology 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! ALL PAPER AND SESSION SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH THE SDA WEB SITE TO RECEIVE PROPER CONSIDERATION!

Please email Barbara Johnson (barbj@usca.edu), this year's program chairperson, if you have any questions regarding a potential submission. Presentations by (or coauthored with) students are especially welcome; they can offer a student a significant first professional meeting experience. SDA also awards cash prizes to the best undergraduate and to the best graduate student paper (see details below). Please send all proposals and abstracts by June 20, 2006, to the SDA web site.

The SDA web site will ask you for:

- Your name
- Name(s) of any co-authors or other presenters if you are proposing a session
- Descriptions of paper(s) or poster(s)/topics of proposed session(s)
- Institutional affiliation(s)

Complete contact information (email address, telephone number, fax number, and mailing address)

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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 Samia El Badry (samia@teknecon.com) by September 1, 2006.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award

SDA presents a cash prize and a certificate for the best undergraduate paper presented at the meeting, both of which are presented at the annual business meeting. Please send your complete paper, in electronic format, to Samia El Badry (samia@teknecon.com) by September 1, 2006.

IMPORTANT: Submission of a paper for one of these awards should only be done after the paper has been included on the program for the conference. It must be submitted through the SDA web site first.

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



Member News

(Editor's note: The following is a press release concerning an article published in the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* by Robin Simon and Ranae Evenson. This article received extensive media attention in the US and abroad.)

Depression may be lifelong parent trap

BY JILL ELISH

Parenthood is wonderful, joyful, rewarding and depressing.

A study by Florida State University professor **Robin Simon** and Vanderbilt University's **Ranae Evenson** found that parents have significantly higher levels of depression than adults who do not have children. Even more surprising, the symptoms of depression do not go away when the kids grow up and move out of the house.

Empty nest parents, as Simon and Evenson call them, are no less depressed than non-parents. The researchers, who analyzed data from the National Survey of Families and Households, theorize that parents are still involved in their adult children's lives and continue to be concerned about them. That has an emotional cost.

"Parents have more to worry about than other people do - that's the bottom line," Simon said. "And that worry does not diminish over time. Parents worry about their kids' emotional, social, physical and economic well-being. We worry about how they're getting along in the world."

One of the most interesting findings of the study, which was published in the American Sociological Association's *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, is that there is no type of parent that reports less depression than non-parents, Simon said. That is significant because other major adult roles in the United States, such as being married and employed, are associated with enhanced emotional well-being.

They also found that certain types of parents have higher levels of depression than other parents. Parents of adult children, whether they live at home or not, and parents who do not have custody of their minor children have more symptoms of depression.

This means that parents living with their minor children, whether they are biological, adopted or stepchildren, have the least symptoms of depression - a finding that contradicts the assumption that these parents have the most distress.

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Member News

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"Young children in some ways are emotionally easier," Simon said. "Little kids, little problems. Big kids, big problems."

Parents who are married also have fewer symptoms of depression than those who are unmarried, a finding that surprised neither researcher. But they were surprised - shocked, actually - to find that the effects of parenthood on depression were the same for men and women. These findings are inconsistent with some earlier studies and with the assumption that parenthood is more consequential for the emotional well-being of women, Simon said.

The findings do not mean that parents don't find any pleasure in their roles; it's just that the emotional costs can outweigh the psychological benefits. That's because, as the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child, but in the United States, parents don't necessarily have community support or help from extended family.

"It's how we do parenting in this society," Simon said. "We do it in a very isolated way and the onus is on us as individuals to get it right. Our successes are our own, but so are our failures. It's emotionally draining."

The value of a study like this is that it presents a realistic view of the difficulties associated with parenthood and encourages parents to seek greater social support, Simon said.

"Parents should know they are not alone; other people are feeling this way, too," she said. "This is a really difficult role, but we romanticize it in American culture. Parenthood is not the way it is in TV commercials."

Demographic Transitions

**Thomas R. Ford
(1923-2006)**

We report in sorrow the death of Thomas R. Ford in Lexington, KY, on April 27, 2006. In a quiet, modest, occasionally forceful, and always effective way, Tom Ford was more than a “triple threat.” His major contributions spanned the fields of rural sociology, sociology, sociology of the South, demography, international development, and Appalachian culture. He served as President of the Rural Sociological Society in 1972-73 and of the Southern Sociological Society in 1976-77. Most of Tom’s professional career was spent at the University of Kentucky, where he served from 1956 until his retirement as Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Developmental Change in 1990.

Tom’s graduate students would claim that his major contribution was in guiding and supporting them through their graduate education and into their careers. When the department launched a Distinguished Alumni Award, it soon became apparent that almost everyone who was being honored was a student of Tom Ford’s. As a result, the department formally renamed the award the Thomas R. Ford Distinguished Alumni Award.

One student who had never taken a course with Tom wrote, on hearing of his death, “I had reason to seek his advice about a sometimes strange admixture of academic and personal concerns. There was not a single time when he failed to be concerned, supportive, and willing to offer useful advice... He was a good person who never expected a drop more from others than he demanded of himself. The personal and professional model that he so consistently provided shaped my career...” Not surprisingly, Tom was a recipient of the University’s Sturgill Award, given annually to recognize excellence in graduate education.

Faculty colleagues as well as students valued Tom’s guidance because he was willing to accept people and career paths on their own terms, to deal with disagreements without losing perspective, to recognize the sometimes hidden strengths in people, and to be frank but kind when pointing out aspects of performance that needed to be improved. Beyond his skills as a mentor, Tom was fun to be around. Regardless of the situation, he could find humor in it and entertain his companions with stories and wry observations.

Thomas R. Ford was born in 1923 in Lake Charles, LA. He earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at L.S.U and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt. During World War II, Tom was a pilot in the 413th AAF Squadron, flying many missions over Germany. He retained his love of flying and continued to fly for recreation and professional trips until his final illness interfered. Tom also had a passion for tennis and almost always found an hour in the middle of his long working days to join other

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Demographic Transitions

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tennis devotees for a set or two. This, too, he continued as long as his health permitted.

When Tom came to the University of Kentucky in 1956, sociologists had faculty appointments in two Colleges—Arts and Sciences and Agriculture. Although a majority of the faculty supported a unified department, their budgets and ultimate responsibilities continued to be tied to the College of their primary appointment. Both as a faculty member and a department Chair, Tom provided the leadership, patience, diplomacy, and persuasion needed to make this awkward arrangement work. In fact, Tom's efforts to unify previously hired sociologists and to include newly appointed medical sociologists in departmental affairs were instrumental in leading the University to consider Sociology one of its significant strengths.

Professionally, Tom provided expertise that often transcended traditional specializations. His study of the health characteristics and status of Kentuckians, published in book form as *Health and Demography in Kentucky* by the University of Kentucky Press, was a basic document in the planning of the University's then new Medical Center. He devoted his sabbatical leave periods to the study of cultures in several developing countries (Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica) and was looked to for his knowledge of Latin American cultures. His edited volume, *The Southern Appalachian Region: A Survey*, developed with a grant from the Ford Foundation and also published by the University of Kentucky Press, helped guide the creation of the federal Appalachian Regional Commission and remains a classic historical work on Appalachia. Tom served as a member of President Lyndon Johnson's National Advisory Committee on Rural Poverty and was a contributor to the Committee's still vibrant report, "The People Left Behind."

Tom is survived by his wife of 56 years, Harriet Lowrey Ford, their four adult children, Margaret, Janet, Charlotte, and Mark, five grandchildren, and a body of devoted friends who cherish the memory of his wisdom, his energy, his expertise, his humor, his kindness, and his "can do it – let's do it" spirit. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, University of Kentucky, 915A South Limestone, Lexington, KY 40503-1048.

Robert Straus
James Hougland
University of Kentucky

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/>

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 <i>Social Forces</i>	23.00
without <i>Social Forces</i>	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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<http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/Creditcards/Creditcards.htm>

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST

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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.

TSS

The editor reserves the right to publish or not to publish any submission. Also, there may be times when submissions need to be edited. This will be done where appropriate, but in no case will the substance of any submission be changed without the prior consent of the author.

Next Issue Deadline: August 15, 2006