

Newsletter

— Southwestern Sociological Association

A Message from the Past President

Our 2006 meeting went off smoothly because of the efforts of many people.

It was an honor to be president, but everyone should know that the real job, a tough job, is the program chair. This time it was Cheryl Robinson. She made it look easy to be the SSA convention director.

Douglas Eckberg has been such a huge help to our association for years that I can hardly image our ever letting him exit from SSA leadership.

Others are becoming indispensable, Nadine Barrett continues doing wonders in getting young sociologists involved in the association and Michael Cruz has been a helpful presence in various roles. Now Robyn Driskell is stepping up to the plate, having completed the nearly thankless task of running the silent auction. Robyn, of course, is not a new kid on the block and will do fine in working up the program and running the 2007 convention. Behind the scenes of all of our good work have been Bob Beckley, Ray Darville, Tracy Dietz, and other stalwarts. We are poised for continued success, but we need to keep developing leaders, that is, let's all become active and also reach out and grab people of action who will accomplish the work of the SSA.: Uncle SSA needs you! In particular start thinking about filling our needs for Executive Council members and officers positions. We need members for various committees: Volunteer by letting any of the officers know of your interests.

That we are doing fine as an association takes some discussion. Jim Sheffield reported last April

that sociology had 72 sessions, representing a slow increase for the past three years. For the first time we rose in the disciplinary competition from our perennial second place status to a tie with political science, much higher than history in third place. Our number of participants also grew to its highest level in years, still a bit behind political science but still far ahead of history, economics, and the others. Challenges are manifold, however; the profession is fighting all sorts of problems. Full-time faculty members in the country are decreasing as a percent. Between 1971 and 2003, AAUP reports that part-timers went from 23% of faculty to 46%. Most women faculty members are now mainly part-timers. Men are on the same glide path, meaning, among other things, that tenure is going away without anybody having to sign shoot-to-kill orders or even thinking of signing a death warrant.

The SSA also has to fight another national problem, association memberships are declining. This may have all started with the grange, Masonic, and fraternal orders and is now evident everywhere. People are less likely to join with their fellows for anything that is not crucial and lucrative for them. Furthermore regional and state level organizations suffer in comparison to the national level. I see and read about these problems and have been intimately struggling with it in the Texas Association of College Teachers. Faculty members tend to be interested in the academy but not willing to join in helping. TACT works for the general good of universities and has to struggle so hard to gain so little (last Legislative session all that we won was

getting students, not professors, on boards of regents). All of these issues have led to TACT's slow decline in membership, even AAUP is slipping. What does the SSA need to do to keep and attract members? Let's hear your ideas and nominations for officers.

W. Allen Martin
(903) 566 7405



W. Allen Martin displays the plaque given to him for gratitude for his service to the organization.

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Current Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees

Executive Committee for 2006-2007:

President	Cherylon Robinson, University of Texas, San Antonio; crobinson@utsa.edu
President-Elect	Robyn Driskell, Baylor University; Robyn_Driskell@baylor.edu
Vice-President	Janet Huber Lowry, Austin College; JLowry@austincollege.edu
Secretary-Treasurer	Ed Rossman, US Army Corps of Engineers, Edwin.J.Rossman@usace.army.mil
Past President (2006-07)	W. Allen Martin, University of Texas, Tyler; Allen_Martin@mail.uttyl.edu
Executive Council	J. Michael Cruz, Southern Methodist University; jmcruz@mail.smu.edu ; 2005-2007 Ignacio Luis Ramirez, Texas Tech University; lramirez@ttu.edu ; 2005-2007 Maria Cristina Morales, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; cristina.morales@ccmail.nevada.edu ; 2006-2008 Rhonda Evans, 2006-2008
Student Members	Elizabeth Embry, Baylor University; Elizabeth_ninneman@baylor.edu

Other Officers and Committee Chairs for 2006-2007:

Program Chair	Robyn Bateman, Baylor University; Robyn_Driskell@baylor.edu
Membership Chair	Janet Huber Lowry, Austin College; JLowry@austincollege.edu
Nominations	W. Allen Martin, University of Texas, Tyler; Allen_Martin@mail.uttyl.edu
Elections	Beverly Stiles, Midwestern State University; Beverly.stiles@mwsu.edu
Silent Auction	Janet Huber Lowry, Austin College; JLowry@austincollege.edu
Student Awards	Nadine Barrett; nbarrett@schsr.unc.edu
Distinguished Paper & Department Awards	W. Allen Martin, University of Texas, Tyler; Allen_Martin@mail.uttyl.edu
Historian	Robert Beckley, West Texas A&M; rbeckley@mail.wtamu.edu
Parliamentarian	Sara Horsfall, Texas Wesleyan University; shorsfall@txwes.edu
Editor, SSA Newsletter	Tracy Dietz, University of Central Florida; tdietz@mail.ucf.edu
Association Home Page:	http://www.swsociology.org/
Webmaster:	Emily Labeff, Midwestern State University; Emily.labeff@mwsu.edu

Newsletter Submissions

This newsletter is meant to provide information that is timely and of interest to our members.

If you would like to submit something to be included in the next newsletter, please send an e-mail to the newsletter editor, Tracy Dietz at tdietz@mail.ucf.edu.

We are also pleased to now welcome advertisements. If you would like to advertise a position announcement, your graduate program, or a service, please contact me at the above e-mail for more information.

In the next edition:

In the next edition of the newsletter, look for important information about paper submissions for the 2007 annual meetings that will be held March 15-17 at the ***** Hotels in Albuquerque, NM.

Nominations Needed

If you or someone you know is interested in serving as an officer of the Southwestern Sociological Association, we would like to know.

Each year, we are pleased to have such a fine group of candidates for important positions in our organization. W. Allen Martin is our Nominations chair this year and is anxious to begin the process of putting together the slate of candidates. We will need to elect a Vice President to serve a 4 year term, Executive Council Members and a Student Member. Please contact him to nominate yourself or someone else at Allen_Martin@mail.uttyl.edu.

Preliminary Call for Papers for the 2007 SSA Meeting

Make sure to attend the 2007 annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association. The meetings will be held March 15–17 at the **** and Hotels in Albuquerque, NM.

If you are interested in submitting a paper for presentation or organizing a panel or session, you are urged to contact the 2007 program chair as soon as possible.

Students are especially encouraged to participate. The SSA prides itself on be-

ing supportive for students as well as new and established faculty members. The meetings are professional and maintain a high degree of academic integrity but are also friendly and a good place to get started on a career.

For more information, contact Robyn Driskell. Or, e-mail her at Robyn_Driskell@Baylor.edu.

Paper Submission Guidelines

Although completed papers are preferred, abstracts are acceptable. **Send these as attachments to an e-mail.** We will accept submissions in any word processing system that organizers' computers can read. Word (.doc), Plain Text (.txt.), or Rich Text (.rtf) documents are safe bets. The abstract should be 250-500 words and should summarize the main ideas of the paper. We will accept "works-in-progress."

If you do not have access to reliable e-mail, you can mail your submission to the Program Chair or a Session Organizer.

Submissions must include: the names of all authors, their institutional affiliations, complete mailing addresses, daytime

telephone numbers, and **e-mail addresses** (if at all possible) Indicate the status of each author: as a professor, a sociologist outside of traditional academia, a student (specify undergraduate, masters level, or doctoral level), or other status (please specify).

Finally, state if an overhead projector is needed for the paper.

You will receive pre-registration materials shortly after we receive your submission. The Southwestern Sociological Association's pre-registration deadline is late-November (note that this is earlier than the Southwestern Social Science Association's deadline). All participants

must pre-register to appear on the program. Our policy is to accept most submissions. If a submission is rejected, the pre-registration cost will be refunded. A person who misses the pre-registration deadline risks being removed from the program.

The SSA has six awards for outstanding papers written by students (the award is \$100 each), and one Distinguished Paper Award for the best paper written by a practicing sociologist (the award is \$500). Submission requirements are as stated above, but to take part in the competition a completed paper will be due by mid-January. Details can be found in the announcement of the paper competitions.

SSA on the Web

The Southwestern Sociological Association will have a new webpage. Make sure to visit the SSA's new home page at <http://www.swsociology.org/>

You will find important news and information, including contact information for officers and committees as well as archives of old newsletters.

We appreciate hearing from our members and look forward to putting exciting

information about our members and member departments on the webpage.

Please submit any news that you would like to have appear on the webpage to webmaster: Dr. Emily Labeff at Emily.labeff@mwsu.edu.



Distinguished Paper Award Given

The SSA also honors papers submitted by non-student participants in the annual meeting. Those papers considered for the award **MUST** be accepted for presentation at the meeting, presented at the meeting, and not under consideration for any other award sponsored by a SSSA affiliate.

This year several excellent papers were submitted to the committee and we are pleased to announce that the paper, "Does Regional Environmental Regulation Sacrifice Social Justice" by Diane Bates from the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at the College of New Jersey received the award.

If you are interested in being considered for next year's award, you must write and submit a full paper that will be presented at the annual meeting and submit the paper to W. Allen Martin, the Distinguished Paper Award Committee Chair. Contact him Allen.Martin@mail.uttyl.edu for more details.



Eril Hamilton, Diane Bates, and Amber Deane show off their certificates for a job well done

Student Paper Awards

The Southwestern Sociological Association encourages student participation and actively seeks to help defray the cost of travel to the conference by making the Student Paper Award available to students at the Undergraduate, Master's, and Ph.D. level. The award is 200.00 in each category. Awards are made to papers that are meritorious. The SSA may award this to more than 1 paper in a particular category, should the committee deem papers worthy. Winners are announced at the General Business Meeting of the SSA.

Paper Submission Guidelines for Student Paper Award:

1) Papers should be authored by students.

2) The paper must be accepted for presentation in the Sociology program (or in a session that is cross listed with Sociology) at the annual Southwestern Social Science Association meeting.

3) The paper may not exceed 25 pages (not including tables/graphs/charts or references).

4) Students must provide contact information in a cover letter, including a working email address, and must state the competition category (Undergraduate, Master's, or Ph.D. level).

5) Papers should be ready for "blind review" by committee members, so that all identifying information must be removed

from/left out of headers and footers within the document.

6) Because the award is designed to encourage participation at the annual meeting and help defray the cost of travel, the paper and the author must attend the annual meeting. The author must be present to deliver the paper at the meeting.

For more information, contact Nadine Barrett at nbarrett@schsr.unc.edu.

Student Award Recipients

Three students were awarded outstanding paper awards for their scholarship at the 2004 annual meeting. Each year, the SSA is pleased to review scholarly papers that have been submitted and accepted for presentation at the annual meeting by students.

The committee elected to make awards to three students at this year's annual meeting. Each recipient was recognized at the business meeting and presented with certificates and \$200 each.

Outstanding PhD-level Paper:

"Deteriorating Mexican-American Health: The role of Health Insurance," by Helen (Xiuhong) You and Eril Hamilton, University of Texas

Outstanding MA-level Paper:

"Internalized Homogenativity in South Africa LGBTQ Communities," by Amber Deane, Texas Woman's University

Outstanding Undergraduate Paper:

"An Application of Agnew's Strain Theory to

Academic Misconduct," by Bailey Dawn Cato, University of Oklahoma.

Awards are given only to presenters who will be presenting at the annual meeting and who submit the completed paper to the committee by the deadline.

Albuquerque Silent Auction Needs Your Help

Please think about something you have to donate to the cause of fundraising for the Minority Affairs Program of the ASA. Since we will be in New Mexico this year, it should be easy to transport so as not to discourage the bidders and encumber the SSA with postage expense. I do have relatives in town so might be able to arrange some shipping, but let's be creative and gear up for the even greater challenge of a successful auction in Las Vegas in 2008 by

breaking the record in 2007. Last year, the auction, under the direction of Robyn Driskell earned \$838.

If you have question, please contact jlwry@austincollege.edu and we will try to work out arrangements.

Janet Lowry

Constitution Changes and other News

Changes to the SSA By-Laws

Sometimes you can feel like a member of the Keystone Cops. The nice thing is that in an organization you have friends to help get you through it. We've been adjusting the By-Laws to our Constitution, and at the San Antonio meetings we found that we had been working from not one, not two, but three different versions of them.

Let me explain.

Before 1999, we had what we might for simplicity call the "original" set of By-Laws. In the process of gaining our status as a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, we adopted a much longer and more detailed set. However, in the passing of offices, some people (me, for instance) somehow still had the original ones. To complicate matters, we have passed changes to the By-Laws, which have been made to the original ones. So there are now three versions. Before the General Business Meeting in San Antonio, Allen Martin

(President), Bob Beckley (Historian), Ed Rossman (Secretary Treasurer), and I sat down to see what further changes needed to be made in order to reconcile the three. Those changes were passed at the Business Meeting.

Later this summer, the corrected, reconciled, and edited By-Laws will replace the version now on the SSA Web site, available for all to see. One, official version. And may Saint Max have mercy on us all.

Douglas Eckberg

Past-Past-President

Greetings from Next Year's President

I want to thank everyone who participated in the 2006 SSA annual meetings for your contribution to a successful event. Sociology was one of three disciplines within the SSSA that maintained its previous level of participation and, indeed, was the only discipline to increase its number of overall sessions from the previous year. Twenty seven percent of our membership attended the meetings including many of our colleagues from Louisiana. Those who were not able to attend were missed.

As Program Chair this year, I was especially pleased with the level of student participation in San Antonio. Special kudos to Dianne Dentice, TWU, who organized five undergraduate paper sessions; Russ Long, Del Mar College, the undergraduate poster session and Raquel Marquez, two graduate paper sessions. A total of thirteen graduate and undergraduate papers were submitted for the student paper competition, and Nad

ine Barrett, UNC- Chapel Hill, Chair, Student Paper Competition, noted the especially high quality of the papers submitted. Sociology once again hosted the student reception, and thanks to James Ordner, UT – San Antonio and Amber Deane, TWU, for serving as our representatives. We welcomed Elizabeth Embry, Baylor University as our new student representative to the Executive Council. And Nadine Barrett proposed amendments to the SSA Bylaws that detail the role of the student representative on the Executive Council and creates a committee to track student development and participation in SSA. This participation is essential to the continued growth and vitality of SSA but more importantly serves as a vehicle for mentorship opportunities and professionalization of our future colleagues.

There is much work to be done in the com-

ing year, allowing for increased opportunities for participation in our organization. We have a newly created committee that includes myself along with Tracy Dietz, Michael Cruz, and Gideon Sjoberg to develop guidelines for the Norma Williams Outstanding Service to SSA Award. Doug Eckberg, Ed Rossman and Allen Martin are revising the bylaws. I would also like to form a committee to investigate the possibilities for increasing our use of technology at our annual meetings. Access to PowerPoint and other technology continues to be a problem. SSA cannot depend on financial support from SSSA for funding of increased use of technology. At the 2006 annual meetings, the cost of a PowerPoint setup in one room for one day was over \$500. We averaged five rooms per day for a projected cost of \$2500 a day if we equip all rooms or a minimum of \$6000 for the convention, a figure that exceeds our entire annual budget. If anyone would like to serve on this committee or has ideas for increasing access to technology at the meetings, please let me know.

Cherylon Robinson, UT San Antonio

Southwestern Sociological Association

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Don't forget to select sociology as your affiliate when you renew your membership. Please remind colleagues that this is important.

If you have an e-mail address and would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to Tracy Dietz at tdietz@mail.ucf.edu.



Call for Help to Keep Meeting Costs Down!

The introduction of the many internet travel agencies and programs that allow you to bid for lower room rates or book room rates in hotels near the conference hotel may seem like a blessing.

However, it is important for you to realize that the contracts that are negotiated by SSSA require that the organization promise to fill a specified block of rooms for a specified period of time during the conference.

The price for the conference meeting rooms is part of this negotiation and dependent upon the organization meeting those room obligations. If we do not fill the rooms that we promise to fill, the organization must pay a fee for not fulfilling the contract requirements.

In turn, this will increase meeting registration fees for future meetings as well as room rental rates. So, please help the organization and ultimately yourself by fighting that urge to book a room at a hotel near the conference hotel next year.

We've gone paperless

To keep our mailing costs down and to help to protect just a few trees, the SSA has decided to move to an electronic newsletter.

By sending the newsletter electronically, members will not only be able to receive the newsletter quicker, but it will save the organization \$500-\$600 per year, not to mention the extra time, blood, sweat and tears that the paper version costs (those are donated by me)

Plus, you will be able to forward the electronic copy to colleagues and students who might like to read their own copies.

The new paperless newsletter will be sent to all SSA members whose e-mail addresses are on file. If you would prefer that a paper version be sent to you, please send me an e-mail indicating this and I will mail you a paper copy.

Also, you will be able to access the newsletter on the SSA website

Keeping your e-mail address current

We have always had a lot of trouble with out-of-date mailing addresses and it is likely that especially for students that the e-mail addresses that we will be using to distribute the newsletters will be even more problematic.

I would like to remind you to let me know that your e-mail address has changed by sending me an e-mail with the following in the reference line: SSA new E-mail Address. I will then be able to keep your e-mail address up-to-date and you will not miss anything.

And, as a reminder for those who have SPAM blockers enabled, you will need to allow e-mail from my e-mail account to get the newsletter.