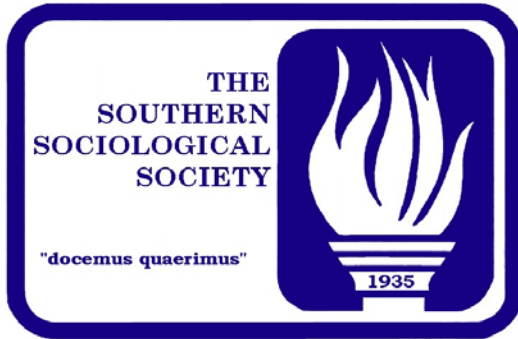


The Southern Sociologist

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From the President: "New Orleans is Fast Approaching"

I hope you had a great holiday season, and your new year is off to a great start.

By the time you read this message, New Orleans will be only a little over two months away, and I could not be more excited. When you were asked to submit your papers and ideas to the meeting theme, "Stalled Revolutions? Gender Inequality in the 21st Century," you responded with a record number of submissions. Most of the nearly 200 paper sessions will have five presenters. In addition, we have 17 "author-meets-critics" sessions, 3 presidential plenary sessions, and of course, the mini-conferences, "changing and unchanging institutions" and "gender politics and policies." Program chairs extraordinaire, Shannon Davis and Sarah Winslow, have done a tremendous job organizing what is likely to be the largest SSS meeting in recent memory. I thank them for their hard work and diligence in putting the [program](#) together; I thank all of you for your commitment to the Society.

Planning for the New Orleans meeting reminds me that we will be meeting in a new venue in 2015, the Astor Crowne Plaza. This hotel is centrally located on the western edge of the French Quarter (@ Canal and Bourbon), and it is perfect for us. All of the paper session will be located in the meeting rooms on the second floor mezzanine level. The second floor ballrooms will enable us to gather collectively for the plenary, poster, roundtables, and honors sessions, and the

(Continued on page 2)

Contents

From the Program Chair.....	3
Free Things to do in New Orleans.....	5
Odum Awards for Student Papers.....	9
Member Satisfaction with 2014 Annual Meeting.....	10
The Teaching Corner.....	13
Sociological Practice Brief.....	17
Opportunities.....	21
Southern Sociological Society.....	25



(Continued from page 1)

hallway on this level is large enough to accommodate tables representing groups of interest to us. The hotel is well-designed to facilitate networking and lively discussion both inside and outside the meeting rooms (and, having sampled from both the breakfast and dinner menus, I can personally vouch for the excellent restaurant located in the hotel). Please reserve your room early and plan to stay for the entire meeting. When our members fill our room allotment in the conference hotel, it improves SSS finances.

In addition to a new conference venue, I am excited about two other innovations that you will see at #SSS2015 conference. First, you will recall that in late 2014 the nominations committee put out a call for nominations for the 2015 elections. This year elections will be held right after the New Orleans meetings, when enthusiasm and membership numbers are at their peak. At the "Welcome Reception" on Wednesday night, the slate of candidates will be available for a meet-and-greet. In addition to catching up with friends, plan to talk with the candidates about their visions for the SSS. Second, at the time of this writing, Executive Officer David Brunsmas has negotiated with a tech company to provide an app for your mobile device, enabling you to access and search the program. We will, of course, have ample printed programs for all those who want them; we are excited to offer this innovation for those who prefer to use their mobiles to plan their participation in the program. And while in NOLA, please tweet generously about and to #SSS2015.

I could go on about the upcoming meeting, but I will stop. I am and will continue to provide updates via the SSS listserv facility. Until March, best wishes for a productive and happy spring semester. See you in NOLA!

Dave Maume

Election Results

President-Elect, Christopher Ellison (University of Texas-San Antonio)

Vice-President-Elect, Angela Lewellyn Jones (Elon University)

Executive Committee, Zandria Robinson (University of Memphis)

Executive Committee, Katie Acosta (Georgia State University)

Publications Committee, Adia Harvey Wingfield (Georgia State University)

Publications Committee, Verna Keith (Texas A&M)

Additionally, the Constitutional amendment was approved.

From the 2015 Program Chairs

Shannon N. Davis and Sarah Winslow

It's hard to believe that #SSS2015 is just a couple short months away! We're absolutely thrilled and overwhelmed by the record-shattering response to this year's call—nearly 1100 presentations submitted by over 1600 authors, including over 100 full sessions submitted by our members. We have a full slate of plenaries, Author-Meets-Critics sessions, paper sessions, workshops, poster sessions, roundtables, and research incubators. ([Preliminary Program](#)) Given the incredibly high volume of submissions and the space constraints we're facing at our new location, the Astor Crowne Plaza, meeting attendees and presenters will notice more five-paper sessions and roundtables than in past years. We hope this change will only add to the possibilities for meeting new colleagues and exchanging ideas. This promises to be a jam-packed, intellectually stimulating meeting!

We wanted to take this time to highlight just a handful of the truly exciting things in store for you in New Orleans. In addition to the numerous Author-Meets-Critics sessions we've mentioned in our recent emails to members (featuring scholars such as Eli Anderson, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Kathy Edin and Timothy Nelson, and Darren Sherkat), we have a plethora of sessions devoted to the conference theme, "Stalled Revolutions? Gender Inequality in the 21st Century." We're especially pleased with the range of topics these cover, from a session entitled "Sport and Stalled Revolutions: Women's Sports," organized by Daniel Buffington and Kylie Parrotta and featuring work by Michael Messner; to a session on "New Directions in Work and Inequality," organized by Krista Brumley, Dustin Avent-Holt, and Sheryl Skaggs and featuring work by Irene Padavic and Sarah Damaske; to a session on "Gender and Group Processes," organized by D'Lane Compton and featuring Alison Bianchi, Lisa Walker, Jessica Collett, and Jodi Clay-Warner. SWS-South has also sponsored and co-sponsored a number of sessions related to the conference theme, including several on gender in the academy. In honor of the 10th Anniversary of the storm, we have planned a Hurricane Katrina Symposium, featuring nearly a dozen panels and paper sessions. We encourage you to attend these important sessions.

Finally, we're pleased that members were attentive to the intentional plurality of the term "Revolutions" in the conference title, submitting sessions and papers addressing multiple dimensions of inequality. Elizabeth Vaquera and Lisa Keister organized a session on "Culture and the Reproduction of Social Class," featuring the work of Shamus Khan, while Lisette Garcia brings us two sessions on "Stalled Revolutions: The Continuing Significance of Race." Importantly, we hope everyone will join us on Thursday evening for a critical discussion—"Making SSS a Welcoming and Inclusive Place for All Sociologists: A Brainstorming Session," will feature SSS Past President Leslie Hossfeld, Association of Black Sociologists Past President Earl Wright II, Association of Black Sociologists President-Elect Sandy Darity, Rhonda Sharpe, Bette Dickerson, and James Maples. We're grateful to Nicholas Guittar for organizing this and David Embrick for agreeing to moderate this brainstorming session.

(Continued from page 3)

We could not have done this work alone and, while we likely can't thank everyone here, many people deserve to be singled out for recognition. We're grateful to our Program Committee members for developing a tremendous slate of thematic sessions, invited panels, and Author-Meets-Critics sessions, as well as their work in organizing all the papers submitted via the general call. Thank you Dustin Avent-Holt, Maria Aysa-Lastra, Nick Berigan, Dana Berkowitz, Krista Brumley, D'Lane Compton, Matthew Ezell, Scott Fitzgerald, Lisette Garcia, Angie Hattery, Amie Hess, Brian Hinote, Sue Hinze, Kecia Johnson, Gayle Kaufman, Lisa Keister, Arielle Kuperberg, Debarashmi Mitra, Karen Parker, Carmel Price, Allison Pugh, Tom Shriver, Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl, Sheryl Skaggs, Elizabeth Vaquera, Gretchen Webber, Andrew Whitehead, and Deniz Yucel. Special thanks also go to our mini-conference session organizers: Kris DeWelde, Rebecca Joyce Kissane, Meredith Kleykamp, Carol Ann MacGregor, Jeremy Reynolds, Earl Smith, Kevin Stainback, Andi Stepnick, Linda Treiber, and Jim Witte. The Executive Office—Executive Officer David Brunsmas and Assistant Executive Officer Slade Lellock—have been invaluable in offering guidance, advice, and technical and logistical support. Our Program Assistants Carol Petty and Evan Lybrand have been critical in completing crucial, time-sensitive tasks while also managing their own graduate and undergraduate studies. Finally, our thanks go to President David Maume for entrusting us with this important role.

As you plan to join us in New Orleans in March, please keep in mind the following important reminders. First, become a member of the organization. Information on how to join or renew online or by mail can be found on our [website](#). Second, [register](#) for the conference.

Finally, [book your hotel room](#) at the Astor Crowne Plaza early; given the unusually large expected turnout for this meeting, we will surely fill our room block. You will want to take advantage of the reduced registration and hotel costs by registering early and by booking within the SSS hotel block!

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Shannon N. Davis, George Mason University
Sarah Winslow, Clemson University
2015 SSS Program Co-Chairs

Tabling/Exhibiting at SSS 2015

If you have an organization or are connected to a publisher who may wish to table/exhibit at SSS 2015, we have several possibilities for such exposure.

For publishers or non-SSS organizations, tables are \$500 each. Publishers or individuals wishing to take part in a combined exhibit/table can send books and flyers to the above address along with \$200, and we will display these in a combined exhibit. For SSS organizations, we are charging \$100/table to showcase their organization. Authors should feel free to have their editors/publishers contact David Brunsmas (brunsmad@vt.edu).

FREE Things to Do in New Orleans

(from *New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau*. 2020 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130
504-566-5019, <http://www.neworleanscvb.com/>)

The real magic of New Orleans isn't for sale. It's absolutely free, in many instances. If you're counting your vacation dollars closely, you've come to the right spot. They don't call Mardi Gras "the Greatest Free Show on Earth" or New Orleans "the Big Easy" for nothing. Nothing (or nearly) is what you pay for some great times here.

Visitor Info

Stop by the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitors Center at 2020 St. Charles Avenue, or the French Quarter location at 529 St. Ann Street. Find out what's going on in the city and how to get around with brochures, such as the Official Visitors Guide, or simply call at 1-800-503-NOLA. Another place to gain full information is in the 500 block of Basin Street. Log onto the Web site for upcoming events and to download helpful info: <http://www.neworleanscvb.com/>.

Bargain Transportation

The Big Easy is a way of life that includes getting around without blowing your budget. The colorful public transportation is cheap, simple to access, and efficient.

City Transport

For a \$1.25 you can ride the historic trolleys in New Orleans. The St. Charles line will take you from downtown to uptown, along the glamorous avenue and to the Audubon Park, Tulane and Loyola Universities. Continue on, if you choose, and ride the streetcar into Carrollton. Take the Canal Streetcar all the way to the historic cemeteries, or choose the one that turns up Carrollton Avenue and drops you off at beautiful City Park and the grand Museum of Art. And all for just \$1.25!

French Quarter

Aside from the Mardi Gras, the French Quarter itself is a wonderful free show.

Free French Quarter Guided Tour:

A National Historic Landmark, the French Quarter falls under the aegis of The National Park Service. Park Rangers lead a daily tour for exactly 25 people at 9:30 a.m. Get there at 9 a.m. to get a place. One ticket per person, no absentee pick-ups. The address is 419 Decatur.

Prowl the French Market's seven buildings, from the Bazaar and the Red stores to the Flea Market for souvenir bargains in local productions, tee-shirts, jewelry, masks, and assorted oddities. Window shop along Royal, Chartres, Bourbon, and the narrow French Quarter streets for lots to look at including exceptional antiques and a wide variety of art galleries in addition to eccentric

(Continued on page 6)

FREE Things to Do in New Orleans

(Continued from page 5)

wares, strange cards, posters, clothes, Voodoo potions, jewelry, and costumes. Stroll around Jackson Square and look over the artists' shoulders as they sketch and paint. Enjoy the street musicians and dancers, and mock the mimes. At the Café Du Monde, less than \$5 will buy you a cup of great coffee and an order of beignets, along with a window onto the heart of the French Quarter. See the Spanish-inspired architecture of historic St. Louis Cathedral. Many concerts in this great Basilica are also free. The former William Faulkner House at 624 Pirate's Alley offers a stunning selection of books. The Pharmacy Museum at 514 Chartres is worth a visit, and the admission is very low. Learn how the French and Spanish got here and how the Creoles lived. The Louisiana State Museum at 751 Chartres (alongside the Cathedral) maintains five French Quarter sites—The Presbytere, The Cabildo, Madame John's Legacy, The 1850's House, and the U.S. Mint. Each is well worth a reasonable admission price. The changing exhibits at the Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal, are free, and it's an unbelievable bargain. Other historic sites and museums, like Hermann Grima House, Beauregard-Keyes, Gallier House, and the Old Ursuline Convent only charge in the \$4.00 to \$6.00 per person range.

River Walking Stroll

Walk the magnolia landscaped Woldenberg Park. See the vista in and from Spanish Plaza with its refreshing fountain, pretty mosaics, and a cinematic view of the great River. Window-shop upscale emporia at Riverwalk, the Jax Brewery, and Canal Place.

Board the free ferry to Algiers' and the Vantage Point at Riverwalk landing. At twilight, this 45-minute round trip cruise is spectacular. The panoramic view of the Vieux Carre from across the river is worth the expedition any time of day.

Eat a "Lucky Dog"

"A piece of bread, a hunk of meat, and all the mustard you can eat." That's what you get, and it's about what you might pay for half a muffuletta at Central Grocery. The "dogs" are sold at several corners in the Quarter in weenie-shaped mobile carts.

Music, Music, Music

There's something beyond the street musicians, frequent festivals, and free concerts you can always count on: an admit price of \$5.00 gets you into a performance by a jazz legend at Preservation Hall, 726 St. PeterMargaritaville, at 1104 Decatur, offers live music all day and into the night without a cover.

The Graveyard Shift

See the statuary in the famed "Cities of the Dead" for free. Marie Laveau spends her afterlife at St. Louis Cemetery #1, at St. Louis and Basin, just outside the Quarter. Anne Rice once staged her own funeral at the Lafayette Cemetery, where her vampire Lestat broods through his unlife in the Garden District at Prytania and Washington. Be sure you check the cemetery hours before you go...they open late and close early.

(Continued on page 7)

FREE Things to Do in New Orleans

(Continued from page 6)

The Metairie Cemetery, just west of the City, provides free audiocassette tours of the grounds that hold the remains of Confederate soldiers and the jazz great Louis Prima. Metairie Cemetery's grounds and statuary are magnificent testimonials to the deceased.

Central Business & Arts District

The SoHo of the South, the area on the uptown side of Canal Street, from St. Charles Avenue to the river, is a trove of free and low-cost entertainment and the heart of the arts in New Orleans. Get the lay of the land with a visit to the Preservation Resource Center at 923 Tchoupitoulas in the Central Business District. Concise, informative vignettes cover the highlights of each historic neighborhood. Great free map with lots of pictures, and a hands-on course in New Orleans architecture using scale models of Creole and raised cottages and a shotgun house.

The stunning and cavernous Contemporary Arts Center at 900 Camp Street houses changing art exhibits. Free on Thursdays. Just a few dollars otherwise.

Just a block away is the World War II Museum. This museum of our victory over the Nazis and the Japanese is a must-see, especially for those interested in history.

The main arts thoroughfare is Julia Street, dotted with galleries like Simonne Stern and Arthur Rogers. While you're gallery hopping, check out the Thirteen Sisters, a collection of 19th century row houses in the 600 block of Julia.

Street Savvy

Hop the Magazine Street public transit bus to explore an area so cool, only Greenwich Village could give it a run in a hipper-than-thou contest. The street name comes from French Magasin, for "shop" and you'll see just about every trendy item around its six miles of art galleries, funky clothes, vintage accessories, wild costumes, wigs, masks, and antiques. There are over 80 shops of collectibles, used and original jewelry, bookstores, and interesting restaurants.

Audubon Park

Known for its moss-hung oaks, ponds and laid-back ambiance, Audubon Park lies just before Magazine Street meets the river. Stroll, run, or bike along the avenue of Oaks, or hang out like the moss and picnic. Bring stale bread to feed the ducks and turtles. If you've got a bike, a great path runs for miles atop the levee, starting just to the right of the Zoo entrance. All free!

St. Charles Avenue & Garden District

Walk through Audubon Park from Magazine to St. Charles Avenue. At the park entrance take the streetcar back to Canal Street and Downtown...the 13-mile roundtrip passes a stunning array of Creole, Greek Revival, and Victorian fantasies.

(Continued on page 8)

FREE Things to Do in New Orleans

(Continued from page 7)

In the Garden District, a free National Historic Landmark, check out the many magnificent mansions along the charming streets lined with oaks and oleanders. The prices are low and include viewing the world's largest live oak stand.

Mid-City

Experience heart-pounding excitement at the historic Fair Grounds Race Course at 1751 Gentilly Boulevard. Not far away is City Park, beginning at picturesque Bayou St. John and Esplanade Avenue, with hundreds of acres of lush oaks, a grand Museum of Art, golf, tennis, and indescribable picnicking.

Swamp Tour

Take a walk on the wild side at the Barataria Preserve in the Jean Lafitte National Park. No charge except the one you get out of 8 miles of boardwalk and 20 miles of waterway set amid 20,000 acres of swamp, marsh, and old-growth cypress. The park service conducts a free daily tour at 1:30 p.m. You'll see alligators, ibises, herons, and lots of swamp flora and fauna. Also, check out the periodic moonlight strolls, morning and moonlight canoe treks, and bird watching. All free. Check www.nps.gov/jela, or call 504-689-3690, for schedule and directions.

Free Tours by Foot

Free Tours by Foot is pleased to present the only FREE, tip-based walking tours of the French Quarter and Garden District. These interesting and informative sightseeing tours will take you through many of New Orleans's legendary neighborhoods and cemeteries. Reservations are required: (504) 222-2967 www.freetoursbyfoot.com

In the end, New Orleans isn't about what you can buy or how much things cost. It's about lingering over good times and good company. This is The City that Care Forgot. We always remember that the point of life is living it. And, living it up. That's the real magic. It isn't for sale. It's absolutely free.

Special Airport Shuttle Fares

SSS has arranged a *discounted round-trip* fare of \$35.00 for every ticket purchased through the Society's custom Airport Shuttle link: <http://airportshuttleneworleans.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=SOSOCSOC0315&LOGON=GO>.

To obtain this discount: make your original reservation online using the *group's custom* link listed above and book at least 24 hours prior to your flight arrival time. For more details about the Airport Shuttle, and to see other services available, visit: <http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com>.

Odum Awards for Undergraduate and Graduate Papers

Are you working with a student who has written an outstanding paper? Consider nominating the student for the Odum Award, which carries a cash prize of \$100 and up to an additional \$200 toward expenses of attendance at the SSS meeting. The Odum Award recognizes outstanding research papers by undergraduates and graduates in the southern region or by students outside the region with work mentored by current SSS members. One award may be given each year for the best undergraduate paper and best graduate paper submitted on any sociological topic.

Eligibility: The paper must have only one author and conform to the style guidelines and length conventions of *Social Currents*. The student author needs not be a member of the SSS. The author is expected not to have presented the paper at another professional meeting. Papers will be judged on the basis of originality, clarity of exposition, conceptualization, and analysis. Faculty are asked to nominate no more than one student paper in each category per year. Students who have gone on to graduate or professional school are eligible for the undergraduate award if the paper was written when they were enrolled in an undergraduate degree program.

Authors of the Odum Award-winning papers are expected to attend the SSS Annual Meeting to receive their award. Students are expected to present their papers at the annual meeting. If the winning paper had not previously been submitted and accepted for presentation at the time the committee makes its award decision, the paper will be added to the program.

Nominating Procedure for **Undergraduate Papers:**

- The undergraduate papers should be submitted by a member of the SSS who attests that the author meets the conditions of eligibility.

Nominating Procedure for **Graduate Papers:**

- Graduate students may submit their own papers. Submission should come with the endorsement of a member of the graduate institution's faculty who is a member of the SSS and who attests that the author is a student in good standing.

Deadline: Email the nominated paper by January 15.

Please email materials to Hugh Floyd (hhfloyd@samford.edu).

Snail mail can be sent to:

H. Hugh Floyd, Department of Sociology,
Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive,
Birmingham, AL 35229.

A Brief Report on Member Satisfaction with the 2014 Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC

David L. Brunsmma, SSS Executive Officer

As we look forward to the upcoming meeting in New Orleans (March 25-28, 2015), I wanted to look briefly backward on how the SSS membership felt about the 2014 annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Shortly after the meetings, from May 28 to June 5, 2014, the Executive Office deployed an Annual Meeting Satisfaction Survey using Google Forms in order to assess various dimensions of membership satisfaction with the 2014 SSS Annual Meeting in Charlotte (April 2-5, 2014) with the goal of improving the annual meeting experience in 2015—and beyond. The survey was sent through the Mail Chimp SSS Email List containing some 4200 past and present SSS members and/or conference attendees. The survey contained a broad range of questions and was designed in consultation with Executive Committee to capture the experience of the annual meeting for our members.

In total 170 people responded to the survey—about 17% of those who attended SSS 2014. Of the 170 respondents, 97.6% attended SSS 2014. Given this sample, we focus here on the 166 individuals who did attend SSS2014. These respondents are between 21 and 80 years old ($M=39.7$, $SD=14.08$). Thirty-eight (38%) percent of respondents are women, while 62% are men. The racial/ethnic makeup of these respondents is: 82.6% White, 10.3% Black, 3.9% Latino, 1.9% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1.3% Other. These respondents have been SSS members between 0 and 45 years ($M=7.58$, $SD=8.69$). Half (50%) come from Research Intensive Universities, 28.3% from Colleges/Universities, 14.5% from Liberal Arts Colleges, 2.4% from Community Colleges, and the rest from Other types of institutions. Slightly over four percent (4.2%) are Sustaining Members, 56.6% are Regular, 30.7% are Graduate Students, 5.4% are Undergraduate Students, and 3.0% are Emeritus/Emerita Members. The number of annual meetings that these respondents have attended range between 1 and 40 ($M=6.16$, $SD = 7.08$). Whites have attended more meetings than nonwhites (6.59 vs. 4.71, $p=.007$).

A new initiative for SSS2014 was encouraging Pre-Registration for the conference—89.8% of respondents did so. The vast majority of respondents (95.2%) were on the program in some capacity: 85.5% were Presenters; 18.7% were Presiders; 18.1% were Organizers; 12.7% were Committee Members; 6% held Other types of Capacities on the program; 5.4% were Discussants; 3% were Officers of the Society. Of course, many respondents played multiple roles in SSS 2014 as is highly typical of our energetic membership.

President Hossfeld upgraded the physical program significantly for SSS 2014, with glossy covers, a brand new layout, advertisements, and many other innovations. The overall rating for the physical program was high on the 2-5 scale ($M=4.40$, $SD=0.78$).

(Continued on page 11)

Member Satisfaction with the 2014 Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 10)

When asked if respondents would benefit from a digital copy of the program, 72.3% reported that they would. When further asked if there were a digital copy of the program, would the physical program still be necessary, 51.2% said that a physical copy still would be desired in addition to the digital one. We will be rolling out a brand new app to enhance the meeting experience for SSS 2015!

There were many sessions at SSS 2014 as well as many types of sessions. We asked respondents how many of each session they attended as well as how they would rate the quality of those sessions (4-point scale ranging from 2=poor to 5=excellent). These are summarized as follows (there were no significant differences across major characteristics of respondents):

Session Type	Attend Range	Attend Mean	Quality Mean
Paper Sessions	0-25	4.08	3.96
Plenary Sessions	0-4	0.98	4.38
Roundtables	0-8	0.24	3.81
Author Meets Critics	0-3	0.21	4.11
Posters	0-8	0.41	3.97
Presidential Sessions	0-5	0.78	4.26

Other new initiatives were the Book Signings (10.8% went) and the Meet the SSS Authors session (15.7% went).

There were several Mini Conferences at SSS 2014 as well. The following table summarizes the percentage of respondents who attended these Mini Conferences as well as their rating of the quality of these Mini Conferences:

Mini Conference	% Attend	Quality Mean
Sociology of Food	19.3%	4.40
Teaching	12.7%	4.00
NCSA	3.00%	3.69
AKD	1.20%	3.43

(Continued on page 12)

Member Satisfaction with the 2014 Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 11)

When asked if respondents would like to see SSS continue to share meeting space with other organizations (e.g., NCSA, AKD, etc.), 73.5% would like to see this practice continue, 13.3% would not, and 13.3% did not respond to this question.

We focused on improving the registration process, the conference swag, as well as the amount and quality of beverages as well as food at SSS 2014. The following summarizes satisfaction with these initiatives (there were no significant differences across major characteristics of respondents):

Item	Quality Mean
Registration Process	4.59
Beverage	4.39
Food	3.84
Conference Materials	4.52
Conference Staff Was Helpful	4.68
Conference Facilities	4.44
Overall Organization	4.67

The majority of respondents (59%), when considering the length of sessions, would like to continue to see 75 minute sessions, while 25% would like 60 minute sessions, and 14.5% would like sessions to be 90 minutes. Concerning the length of time respondents would like to see between sessions, 78.9% would like 15 minutes, 12.7% would like 20%, and 7.8% would like 10 minutes. When respondents considered potential length of time for lunch break each day of the conference, 50% wanted 60 minutes, 38% would like 75 minutes, 8.4% would like 45 minutes, and the rest would like 30 minutes.

We also asked the extent to which respondents felt welcome at SSS 2014 ($M=4.49$, $SD=0.78$). I could find no significant differences across major characteristics of respondents.

Overall, SSS 2014 was a resounding success for the vast majority of the participants who responded to the survey. We hope to increase the response rate for the SSS 2015 Member Satisfaction Survey. We also are excited to have used these results to make SSS 2015 even better—early indications are that it will be amazing.



James N. Maples, Editor

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Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

Nicholas Guittar (Committee Chair), Valdosta State University

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Susan Ambler, Maryville College

Kris De Welde, Florida Gulf Coast University

DeAnna Gore, University of South Carolina Aiken

Message from Nicholas Guittar, Committee Chair

Hello and Happy Holidays! We (the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges) are eagerly awaiting the 2015 meetings in New Orleans. This is sure to be one of the most dynamic meetings in recent memory. As expected, CSCSC has planned a slate of sponsored and co-sponsored sessions—one related to the conference theme, two related to the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and a few other sessions on teaching and the job market. The details of these outstanding sessions follow. In addition to these sessions, we've organized what we hope will be one of the most engaging sessions of the 2015 meetings: "Making SSS a Welcoming and Inclusive Place for All Sociologists: A Brainstorm Session." For this session we've arranged an impressive panel of experts on SSS, diversity and inclusion, and organizational effectiveness. The session will begin with the insight of our panelists, but even more important is the fact that this is a fully interactive session. The second half of the session is a breakout, roundtable session. We want to know what YOU think about how SSS can be a more welcoming and inclusive organization. What faults do you see? How can we better reflect the diversity of our membership? These and other questions will be at the center of this brainstorming session. We ask that you show up ready to contribute to this important dialog as we work to create

(Continued on page 14)

The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 13)

actionable items which will be shared with the Executive Committee. In addition to sessions and panels, we also hope to see you at the CSCSC lunch in New Orleans, and you're all welcome to join us at the CSCSC business meeting. More information on these activities and much more coming soon.

The following is a brief list of our sponsored and co-sponsored sessions:

- 1) Making SSS a Welcoming and Inclusive Place for All Sociologists: A Brainstorm Session (Co-sponsored by the Committee on Sociology in Community & Small Colleges, the Committee on Race & Ethnicity, and the Committee on Gender & Sexuality)

Teaching-centered sessions/panels:

- 2) Applying for Jobs at Various Types of Institutions (Sponsored by Sociologists for Women in Society-South, and the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges)
- 3) Writing Cover Letters for Teaching-oriented Job Searches (Sponsored by the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges)
- 4) Innovations in Teaching Undergraduate Students (Sponsored by the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges)

Sessions/Panels that tie into conference theme and/or 10th anniversary of Katrina:

- 5) Survivor Scholars on Hurricane Katrina (Co-sponsored by the Committee on Sociology in Community & Small Colleges and the Ad-hoc Committee on Disaster Relief)
- 6) Victimized Black and Brown Bodies in Post-Katrina New Orleans (Co-sponsored by the Committee on Sociology in Community & Small Colleges, the Committee on Race & Ethnicity, and the Ad-hoc Committee on Disaster Relief)
- 7) Teaching about Gender Inequality in the 21st Century (Co-sponsored by Committee on Sociology in Community & Small Colleges and Committee on Gender & Sexuality)

Nicholas A. Guittar
Valdosta State University

Teaching Note

Using a Simulation to Highlight the Struggles of Living in Poverty
Bobby Jo Otto, LaGrange College

The beliefs in hard work and equal opportunity are dominant in American society. This ideology for success is so ingrained that when discussions of institutional racism and structural barriers are discussed in relation to social mobility, students often scoff, especially first-year students. In my Introduction to Sociology course, after discussing basic sociological concepts, I

(Continued on page 15)

The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 14)

focus on institutional inequality. Throughout the years, I have been met with denial, criticism, and the cry that I am anti-American. Because of this response, I have incorporated a number of activities into my lectures that highlight social inequality.

Before discussing race, gender, and sexuality, I focus on social stratification and poverty. When I talk about social stratification, I specifically focus

on the distribution of income and wealth and how generational wealth is instrumental to home ownership, educational attainment, and economic advancement. Although my students are aware that income and wealth are unevenly distributed, they are definitely surprised when they learn how the top 1% holds roughly 50% of all American wealth. After laying this foundation, I then examine poverty, which my students relate to more, since many are currently experiencing the difficulties of juggling work and school.

Although I conduct a number of activities/discussions during this section, I believe that the simulation *playspent* (playspent.org) does a great job of opening my students' eyes to the difficulties of living in poverty. For this assignment, students must perform the stimulation at home, then write a two page response about the choices they made during the simulation while relating their experiences back to class discussion/readings.

At the beginning of the activity, students are tasked with choosing between three jobs—a warehouse worker, an office temp, or a restaurant server. This past semester, many of my students chose to work in the warehouse specifically because of the position's stability. After students choose their "occupation," the goal of the simulation is to make it through the month without going broke. They have to make difficult decisions concerning health insurance, housing, joining a union, attending their child's musical/sporting event, paying a collection agency, and the type and amount of groceries they purchase, among other scenarios. After (almost) each important decision, data are provided highlighting the consequences that these decisions often have for low-income families. For example, after grocery shopping, the result screen states that "almost 15% of American households had a hard time getting enough to eat at some point during 2012" (playspent.org). The result screens, as well as the *real* life feel of the simulation, gives students a more in-depth examination of the struggles that exist for low-income families.

After students complete the simulation and write their response, we discuss their reactions during the next class period. The majority of the class talks about how tough it was, and how they think making it through the month with a low wage job is almost impossible, especially with a family. Some make it through the month, but often because they had to have their kid skip a birthday party, forego joining a union, and/or buy the bare necessities for groceries. While many students realize the purpose of this activity, students still respond with stereotypes about those who live in poverty. The main generalizations I hear blame the victim, such as—"if peo-

(Continued on page 16)

The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 15)

ple in poverty went to college or got a better job, they wouldn't have to make such choices." Statements like these, however, are great teaching moments because I then inundate them with data that debunk common poverty myths. This time is when I discuss, in greater detail, how the consequences of poverty intersect (e.g., poverty leads to lack of (or no) health insurance which leads to inadequate

health which then leads to higher levels of stress which...I continue until the cycle becomes circular), while debunking the myths of generational poverty, black poverty, and welfare dependency. Overall, I think this simulation does a great job showing students how low-income families have to make tough decisions every day.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Bobby Jo Otto

Bobby Jo Otto is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at LaGrange College. Her research interests primarily focus on race, poverty, and educational inequality. Although she enjoys research, teaching is her true passion, specifically because of the "ah-ha" moments.

2015 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

The 2015 Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium will be held at College of Charleston. The Symposium provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to present their research at a professional meeting. Presentations in any area of Social Science are welcome. The conference will kick off with an exciting keynote address at 7 p.m., Friday, April 17. Students whose papers are accepted will give a 10-12 minute presentation of their research on Saturday, April 18.

All presenters will receive *Certificates of Participation*. The two best papers and two best posters will receive a *Certificate for Excellence in Undergraduate Research* and a cash prize.

Interested students should email Dr. Tracy Burkett (burkett@cofc.edu) the following items with the term "CUSSS" in the subject line:

1. Abstract (approximate 200 words) that reflects the general content of the paper or poster, author's name, and institutional affiliation by **Monday, March 30, 2015**.
2. Specify the presentation format: paper session or poster session.
3. Specify the equipment that is desired for the presentation.
4. To participate in the paper competition, completed papers must be submitted electronically by Monday, **April 6, 2015**, to Dr. Tracy Burkett (burkett@cofc.edu).
5. A registration fee of \$15.00 which includes lunch will be required for all participants (including accompanying professors).



Sociological Practice Brief

Committee on Sociological Practice

Media Training for Sociologists Heather Downs and Julie B. Wiest

WHY DO SOCIOLOGISTS NEED MEDIA TRAINING?

Academics seem to be under increased pressure to prove their own worth, as well as that of their university and discipline. An article, interview, or news story is frequently used as proof of the effectiveness of one's program or the importance of one's scholarship. With the vast reach of the Internet, 24-hour news networks, and social media, expectations—and opportunities—for academics to operate effectively in an increasingly media-saturated world have increased. Here are just a few of the benefits of media training for sociologists, their institutions, and the discipline:

- Media stories featuring or written by sociologists can increase general knowledge about sociology, who we are, and what we do. This exposure also may provide more legitimacy for sociological work in the public's eye and help recruit new sociologists.
- News media exposure is free publicity for one's institution. Universities and colleges are facing increased competition, and good publicity can improve the public image of the institution, assist in the recruitment of the best students and faculty, and attract donors.
- Media exposure can be a fantastic networking tool. Promoting one's work in the media can lead to new job opportunities, new research collaborations, speaking engagements, and publications.

SOME MEDIA BASICS

Understanding how media outlets operate can improve one's relationship with journalists, reduce frustration when working with media outlets, and increase one's chances of successfully promoting one's work.

- Journalists are interested in stories that incorporate one or more of the seven traditional news values: timeliness, impact, prominence, proximity, unusualness, conflict, and human interest. When attempting to publicize work or offering expertise for a news story, be sure to emphasize the applicable news values.
- Journalists work on tight deadlines and generally need quick call-backs from sources.
- Journalists will be more responsive to op-eds, columns, and press releases that are publication ready. Try to write like a journalist: written pieces should not exceed lengths that are typical for that publication, should avoid discipline-specific jargon, and should follow the publication's style. (Most print and online media outlets follow Associated Press style.)

(Continued on page 18)

Sociological Practice Brief

(Continued from page 17)

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Academics are frequently called upon to serve as expert sources for news media stories. There are several things to consider before, during, and after giving a media interview.

Preparing for a print interview (newspapers, magazines, blogs, trade publications, etc.)

- Avoid the on-the-spot interview. If contacted by a reporter, ask what she or he is interested in knowing and her or his deadline. Then tell her or him that you will call back.
- Before calling back well ahead of deadline, spend some time gathering needed information and organizing your thoughts. Find recent studies on the topic, review your own work, and search for official statements from relevant groups. Create your own talking points and try to anticipate follow-up questions. Try to develop one or two sentences that succinctly and clearly state the overall lesson you would want readers/viewers to remember.
- If you do not want to do the interview, recommending someone who is willing to speak with the reporter is polite, if appropriate.

Preparing for an on-air interview (television, radio, documentaries, online video, etc.)

- If you will be seen by viewers, be sure to dress professionally and simply; avoid bright colors and complicated patterns.
- For on-camera interviews, maintain eye contact with the interviewer and avoid making furtive glances at the camera.
- To help you prepare, be sure you know the setting of the interview ahead of time and whether or not you will be the sole speaker or among several panelists.
- Practice enunciating your words and speaking without fillers (e.g., “uh,” “um,” “you know,” etc.).
- If it is not a live interview, keep in mind that the video usually will be edited and viewers/listeners may not hear the questions posed. Restating the question in your answer and speaking in complete sentences is generally appreciated.

During the interview

- Think before you speak. You cannot take back what you say to a reporter, nor are you likely to be permitted to review the story before it is printed or airs. Take a moment to think about each question and frame a clear, succinct, and jargon-free response (to avoid being misquoted).
- If you would like to offer any information that you do not want published, clearly state that it is “off the record” *before* providing the information. Oftentimes, however, remaining silent is better in these cases, as journalists generally do not want information they cannot use in print or on air.
- If you do not know the answer to a question or prefer not to answer (especially for controversial topics), simply say “I have no comment about that” or indicate that the subject falls outside of your area of expertise.

(Continued on page 19)

Sociological Practice Brief

(Continued from page 18)

- As the interview winds down, offer to repeat or clarify any information the reporter is unsure about. Provide spellings for all names you mention, and double-check that the reporter knows how to spell your name, your exact title, and your institutional affiliation.

After the interview is printed or airs

- Send a copy or link to your dean, division chairs, university marketing or press officer, and other interested parties.
- Email the reporter to thank him or her for the opportunity.
- Include the citation on your CV, yearly faculty activities report, and tenure/promotion file.

WRITING FOR THE MEDIA

If you want more control over your contributions to media outlets, you can consider writing your own media pieces. You may even be asked by media outlets to write a short column or opinion piece. There are several different kinds of media writing you can consider.

- **Op-eds:** Op-eds generally are written by experts offering their informed opinions on issues or events that are currently in the news, and they may be published in newspapers, magazine, blogs, and trade publications. You may be asked to write an op-ed, or you can write one and send it to media outlets unsolicited (contact the op-ed editor or editorial page editor). Be sure your op-ed is timely, adheres to that publication's established word count and style, and offers a fresh perspective on the issue or event you are discussing. You can send your op-ed to more than one media outlet at the same time, but some outlets require first publication rights or exclusivity, so be sure to check on those preferences if you have your heart set on a particular publication.
- **Columns:** Columnists generally are well-known experts in their field and write regular, scheduled columns for publications about particular topics. See if your local newspaper is looking for a columnist in your area of expertise, or contact the editorial page editor to offer to serve as a periodic guest columnist.
- **Blogs:** You can start your own blog or contribute to an existing one. For example, Huffington Post allows academics to contribute single opinion pieces or maintain a regular blog on its site. Many professional organizations also maintain blogs to which members can contribute.

INCREASING YOUR MEDIA EXPOSURE

You do not have to sit back and wait to have your work "discovered" by a reporter. There are several things you can do to increase exposure for your work, your university, and yourself.

- Most universities maintain a list of faculty members willing to speak to the media, along with their areas of expertise. These lists are either made available to local media outlets, or your university's press office refers to it when contacted by reporters. If you are willing to speak to the media about your areas of expertise, contact your university's press office and get on that list.

(Continued on page 20)

Sociological Practice Brief

(Continued from page 19)

- Introduce yourself to the internal marketing or press officer, tell him or her about your areas of research, and let him or her know that you are willing to serve as an expert. And do not forget to send periodic updates about your current research projects, grants and awards you have received, and your students' activities; officers are always looking for faculty and student accomplishments to promote to both internal and external audiences.
- Learn how to write a press release, especially if you do not have a university press officer or faculty liaison. Talk to a public relations professor at your university or check out a how-to book at your library. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Associated Press Stylebook, which outlines the standard journalistic writing style. Writing like a journalist (and, thus, minimizing the need for editing and rewriting) will increase the chances that your press release gets picked up by media outlets.
- Do not be afraid to reach out to local reporters who cover higher education or subjects related to your area of expertise. Look for contact information on the publication website, or contact an editor or producer to find out to whom you should speak. Reporters are always looking for good contacts and will appreciate your willingness to help.
- Keep up with news so you know what is going on, the history of news stories, and the relevant contexts. This activity also will help you identify what information has not been covered and what contributions you could offer (as an expert source or opinion writer).
- Get on social media. LinkedIn and Twitter are excellent outlets for promoting your current projects and recently published work. You can also consider launching your own website, with information about your areas of expertise, publications, teaching philosophy, current research projects, and upcoming presentations.
- If you find yourself in demand or plan to give regular media interviews (especially on air), you may want to consider attending a media training class or hiring a media coach.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are several additional resources that may help you to become more media savvy and start promoting your work.

- The Poynter Institute (<http://www.poynter.org/>) offers information and training that is intended for journalists but is valuable for anyone who wants to understand journalism better.
 - The Public Relations Society of America (<http://www.prsa.org/>) offers information and training for improving public relations and communication skills.
 - The Op-Ed Project (<http://www.theopedproject.org/>) is a resource that seeks to increase the range of voices and quality of ideas that appear in media.
 - SheSource (<http://www.shesource.org/>) is a repository of female experts available to speak on diverse topics.
 - The Women's Media Center (<http://www.womensmediacenter.com/>) works to increase the visibility and power of women in the media.
-

Opportunities

Family Pictures Needed for 2016 SSS Annual Meeting

The 2016 theme for the meeting is the Politics of Marriage. The meeting will include two mini-conferences on the theme: one focusing on same-sex marriages and the movement for equality and one on how marriage patterns are becoming ever more distinguished by class, race, and ethnicity.

We are designing the graphic ourselves, and we would like to do it with a collage of pictures of SSS families in all their glorious diversity.

If you are willing to have a family photo of yourselves and your family (however you define family!) in the collage please send the photo directly to Barbara Risman, the 2016 president, at brisman@uic.edu. We cannot promise to use all of them, but we will definitely use as many as we can. The higher the resolution the better!

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





Call for Reviewers

Do you enjoy reading books in economics, social science, humanities? Join our community of book reviewers!

Vernon Press—a small independent publisher committed to excellence in scholarship—is seeking experts to join its community of book reviewers.

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- Get advance notice of exciting publication opportunities, occasional competitions and prize draws.
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- First-time reviewers receive a small honorarium (\$50) and a choice of two free books from our current or future titles.
- Experienced scholars may propose new series and receive additional benefits for their role as Editors (subject to publisher approval).
- Young scholars receive support from the publisher and fellow community members and gain valuable experience in the process of peer review.

To join please send a brief message expressing interest to: reviewers.community@vernonpress.com. In your message please mention your full name, academic affiliation, area(s) of expertise, and provide either a paragraph-long biographical note (and/or) a list of publications.

2015 Annual Meeting
March 25-28, 2015
Astor Crowne Plaza
New Orleans, Louisiana





National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Using the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Mathematics to Study Crime

June 3 – July 24, 2015

<http://www.cis.uab.edu/UABCrimeREU>

This NSF summer program is designed for undergraduate students who want “hands-on” research experience and for those who are interested in pursuing post-graduate degrees in fields such as Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Public Policy, and Sociology. The program is targeted to current undergraduate students with at least 60 hours of college credit. Twelve (12) students will be selected. Per NSF guidelines, only undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens, U.S. Nationals, or permanent residents of the United States will be eligible. Students who complete an undergraduate degree before June 2015, will not be eligible. Students from underrepresented groups and from teaching-intensive universities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Students will have the opportunity to work closely with faculty from UAB’s Department of Justice Sciences and Department of Computer and Information Sciences. The REU faculty members are nationally recognized for their expertise in working with large data sets, data mining and manipulation, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and DNA analysis. Students will conduct research in one of three core areas:

Criminal Justice
Digital Forensics
Forensic Science

Students will work with a faculty mentor in their research track for 40 hours per week to complete one or more projects during the summer experience. In some cases students may work with a local criminal justice agency as part of their project. Each Friday during the program, students will attend a luncheon that includes presentations from local criminal justice professionals. Students will make a presentation of their research experience during the final luncheon. Students will also receive tours of several major criminal justice agencies in Alabama.

Students selected for the program will receive free lodging, food (up to \$25 per day), and travel (up to \$250) to UAB. Students will receive a stipend of \$475 per week, which will be paid every two weeks according to UAB’s biweekly compensation plan. Students will enjoy access to UAB libraries, labs, dining facilities, and the Campus Recreation Center. Tours of the Birmingham area and special events are also planned.

The application is available at <http://www.cis.uab.edu/UABCrimeREU>. **The submission deadline is January 30, 2015.** All materials must be submitted electronically. Please contact **Dr. Kent Kerley** at krkerley@uab.edu if you have questions.



CALL FOR PAPERS



Society for the Study of Social Problems

In Pursuit of Social Justice

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites submissions for the 65th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, August 21-23, 2015. The program theme selected by President Marlese Durr is “Removing the Mask, Lifting the Veil: Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century.” The submission deadline is January 31, 2015.

SSSP is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. If you are involved in scholarship or action in pursuit of a just society nationally or internationally, you belong in the SSSP. You will meet others engaged in research to find the causes and consequences of social problems, as well as others seeking to apply existing scholarship to the formulation of social policies.

For meeting information visit: <http://www.sssp1.org>. Please e-mail sssp@utk.edu, if you have any questions.

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS AND OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The SSSP is pleased to announce the 2015 Student Paper Competitions and Outstanding Scholarship Awards. In order to be considered for any of the Student Paper Competitions, applicants are required to submit their papers through the Annual Meeting Call for Papers, <http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/611/>. This process will ensure that winning papers are both designated and included in the program. Please note that students may only submit to one division and that each division has its own deadline and submission process. The Award requirements are available at: <http://www.sssp1.org/file/2015AM/2015STUDENTPAPERCOMPETITIONS.pdf>

FUNDING

The SSSP is soliciting applications for the 2015 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Persons identified as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Asian-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native and accepted into an accredited doctoral program in any one of the social and/or behavioral sciences are invited to apply for the \$12,000 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Applications are due by and must be received no later than February 1, 2015. Applicants will be notified of the results by July 15, 2015. All applicants must be a current member and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States when applying. For further information and an application, visit http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/261/Racial/Ethnic_Minority_Graduate_Scholarship/. Contact Amanda Lewis, Chair, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee with all questions at aew@uic.edu.

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

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 online access to *The Southern Sociologist* and coming soon will have access to *Social Currents: The Official Journal of the Southern Sociological Society*. 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 Executive Officer. 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 and annual dues are:

Sustaining.....	120.00
Regular	60.00
Emeritus.....	no cost
Student	25.00
Department.....	varied depending upon institution type

Dues, subscriptions, membership inquiries, and address changes should be addressed to:

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The Southern Sociologist (TSS) is the official publication of the Southern Sociological Society. It is typically published electronically four times a year in the months of May, September, January, and March. 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: February 15, 2015