Chapter 3

Moving Forward at Century’s End:
ASA at 2002–2004

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

On the eve of its Centennial year, the American Sociological Association is a strong and healthy organization, well poised to serve its membership, the profession, and the discipline of sociology into the 21st century. Reflecting on the substantial contributions of ASA over its 100-year history, and at the same time looking forward, Executive Officer Hillsman observed recently that the ASA’s “operational efficiency, productivity, and program quality (e.g., its publications, annual meetings, academic alliances, minority affairs, research on the profession, policy and media relations efforts), all contribute to the Association’s future prospects to continue as the premier representative of professional and academic sociology in the United States.” (Footnotes, February 2005)

New challenges to the nation, the profession, and the ASA have emerged over the past several years. In this context, from 2002 to 2004, the Association expanded its services, its membership, section activities and membership, and maintained subscriptions to journals and other institutional services at a healthy level. This period culminated in a record-breaking attendance at the 2004 Annual Meeting. The Association addressed a range of challenging science policy issues, including ASA’s role as a publisher of scientific journals. The ASA leadership continued to think creatively on how to raise the visibility and relevance of ASA and sociology, to enhance and streamline Association services and operations, and to find new ways to link sociology’s contribution to the public good. The Association also launched a program of planning and activities leading to the commemoration of its Centennial in 2005.

Context and Issues

A defining issue for the nation in 2002 was the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on America on September 11, 2001. In late 2001 and throughout 2002, sociologists in general, as well as the Association through its leadership, turned their attention to how they could contribute knowledge and expertise to addressing the problem of terrorism. The ASA Executive Office facilitated this process in various ways, including by disseminating relevant materials and resources and referring sociological experts on key issues to public discussions. The opening Plenary Session of the 2002 ASA Annual Meeting, “The Challenge of September 11: The Social Dimensions of Terrorism,” explored the effects of terrorism from religious and cultural perspectives, and a large number of sessions on the 2002 Annual Meeting Program included discussions on other aspects of this issue.
The Association also reacted to policies enacted by the U.S. Government as part of its response to the “Global War on Terror.” In January 2002, ASA Council passed a resolution calling for certain measures to ensure public access to data sets that were being removed or restricted by the federal government in the months following the terrorist attacks. Also, an ASA member-initiated resolution against the U.S. invasion of Iraq was approved overwhelmingly by the membership in the spring 2003 ballot.

The ASA Council turned its attention to other national disciplinary concerns as well. Under the leadership of ASA President William Bielby, the ASA continued to focus on the issue of collecting data on race categories. Council decided unanimously to urge California voters to reject Proposition 54, which would have forbidden public agencies from collecting data on the race, ethnicity, and national origin of its citizens. Another member-initiated resolution on opposition to a U.S. Constitutional Amendment banning same-sex marriages was supported by ASA Council and by the vote of the membership in the spring of 2004. In 2003 and 2004, ASA also joined with other professional societies in two amicus briefs deemed vital to sociology and the Association: the ASA brief in the Michigan affirmative action case (2003), and the JSTOR brief in *Faulkner v. National Geographic Society*, a case with important implications for ASA as a scholarly publisher.

The 2004 Annual Meeting, which featured the theme of “Public Sociologies,” was the culmination of a year-long effort by President Michael Burawoy to raise professional and public awareness of “sociologies that transcend the academy and engage wider audiences. Our potential publics are multiple, ranging from media audiences to policy makers, from think tanks to NGOs, from silenced minorities to social movements. Teaching is central to public sociology: students are our first public for they carry sociology into all walks of life . . .” (ASA homepage). Held in San Francisco, the 2004 Annual Meeting was the best-attended meeting in the Association’s history, with overflowing crowds at the many plenary and regular sessions. President Burawoy worked extensively at outreach before the meeting. He visited regional and aligned sociological association meetings to present information about the topic of the meeting and its special events and programs, and secured a grant to bring to the meeting public sociologists, public intellectuals, and activists from developing countries and the former Soviet Union.

**Leadership Changes**

The Association marked an important transition in 2002: A new period in ASA’s history began with the appointment of Sally T. Hillsman as ASA Executive Officer effective May 15, 2002 to succeed Felice J. Levine. Hillsman, with specialties in crime and justice, came to ASA from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), U.S. Department of Justice, where she had served as Deputy Director from 1996 to 2002.

Executive Officer Hillsman serves the Association at a unique and special time. As Hillsman noted in her January 2005 column in *Footnotes*, “It is a once-in-a-century privilege to be the ASA Executive in office at an historic moment—the 100th anniversary of this organization.” Centennial events will draw attention to past accomplishments, and as Hillsman noted, “the ASA has helped build and support a membership and a discipline that has contributed richly to our society and our world through its scholarship and in intellectual collaboration (and creative tension) with sister disciplines’ studying behavior, culture, and society through the economic, political, psychological, cognitive, and natural sciences.” (*Footnotes*, January 2005:2) As the Association moves into its Centennial year in 2005, Executive Officer Hillsman is dedicated to working with the membership and the ASA leadership in creating a memorable commemoration of this historic event.

Executive Officer Hillsman’s background in research and administration has been demonstrated on pressing issues of electronic publishing, a new ASA website, ethics, Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), and social science funding. Building on achievements in the Executive Office of the past
twenty years, she has undertaken a process of refining administrative and programmatic functions that have evolved over the years into a structure of Executive Office departments to improve service and accountability. While these efforts are still ongoing, progress on key fronts indicates continued growth and professionalization of services offered by the Association to its membership.

In collaboration with the science policy community, Executive Officer Hillsman is working to ensure that important science issues are firmly on the nation’s agenda. Hillsman brings sociology’s perspective to key science issues by implementing policies of the ASA Council on vital science issues, and by participating in a range of joint efforts with the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSA) and other learned societies on such matters. These initiatives educate and inform policy makers on the relevance and contributions of the social sciences to national policy issues (e.g., on terrorism and disasters). Collaborative efforts by Executive Officer Hillsman and leaders of other scientific and professional societies have also challenged policies and practices of the U.S. government, which have adversely affected (or have the potential of doing so) the integrity of scientific processes.

A change in Association leadership also took place in 2004, when Arne L. Kalleberg who served as Secretary of the Association from 2001 to 2004, was succeeded by Franklin D. Wilson who will serve as Secretary from 2005 to 2007. Kalleberg’s period as Secretary was characterized by his effective leadership in ensuring a smooth transition in the Association’s changes in Executive Officers and the Association’s development of a new strategy for investing its assets.

2. HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNCIL ACTIONS: 2002–4

From 2002 to 2004, the ASA Council took action on a range of issues important to sociology and the Association, including (1) issuing statements and resolutions on collecting data on race and ethnicity, (2) signing amicus briefs, (3) voting resolutions stating ASA policies based on member initiatives, and (4) approving other important changes relating to ASA policies and procedures (e.g., on investments, awards, and gifts).

Data on Race and Ethnicity

Statement on Race

The Association took several important initiatives in recent years that emphasize the need for collecting and using data on race and ethnicity to advance sociology and public discourse on social policy. Established by ASA Council in January 2000, the Task Force on the Statement on Race was asked “to craft an ASA statement on race that reflects and draws upon sociological knowledge and expertise.” The members of the Task Force were Troy Duster (Chair), Diane Brown (Council Liaison), Manuel de la Puente, Bette J. Dickerson, Deborah K. King, Sharon M. Lee, Felice J. Levine, Suzanne Model, Michael Omi, Willie Pearson, Jr., Ivan Allen, C. Matthew Snipp, Roberta M. Spalter-Roth (ASA Executive Office Staff Liaison), Edward Telles, Hernan Vera, Lynn Weber, David Wellman, David R. Williams, and J. Milton Yinger.

The ASA Council Statement on “The Importance of Collecting Data and Doing Social Scientific Research on Race,” based on the Task Force Report, was presented at a press conference at the 2002 Annual Meeting in Chicago. In introducing the work of the Task Force, President Barbara Reskin and Executive Officer Sally Hillsman reiterated ASAs strong commitment to the value and importance of sociological research on race, and to the importance of collecting sound data to enable that process. Troy Duster, the Chair of the Task Force, emphasized the importance of collecting data on race as fundamental to research on the causes and consequences of racial disparities across a wide spectrum of social institutions. He noted that, not to have data on race would preserve the status quo with respect to racial disparities in areas such as health care, labor markets, communities, and schools.
California Proposition 54

The ASA Statement on Race was cited by Council as strong and persuasive empirical evidence for taking a formal position on Proposition 54 in the California election of October 7, 2003. Council voted unanimously to approve a statement which urged California voters to vote “No” to Proposition 54 (“The Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color and National Origin” [CRECNO]), which if “approved, would eliminate the ability of California citizens to hold both their state and local governments as well as private entities accountable regarding prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, and national origin. Researchers would lack the data to inform policymakers on this critical issue. ASA urges California voters to allow their governmental entities to collect the necessary data to support evidentiary research on race, ethnicity, and national origin.” (Council Minutes, August 20, 2003)

Congressional Briefing

In addition to Council actions, an ASA Congressional briefing on “Racial and Ethnic Data: Why we Collect it; How We Use It in Public Policy,” sponsored by the Spivack Program, was held on May 28, 2003. A panel of experts, including the Hon. Thomas C. Sawyer (former U.S. Rep. from Ohio) (moderator), Troy Duster, Brian Smedley (Institute of Medicine/The National Academies), and Gerald R. Sanders (Virtual Capital of California, and former San Diego Police Chief) addressed key issues relating to the importance of data on race for policy across a wide number of areas (Appendix 25).

Defense of Scientific Integrity

From 2002 to 2004, several actions taken by the federal government raised serious challenges to the social sciences and to the integrity of the scientific process. Council responded to these situations by passing resolutions placing it on record as strongly objecting to these violations and intrusions by political processes in areas vital to fields of science. As it has done since the 1980s, ASA continued to work in close collaboration with COSSA and other professional and scientific organizations in responding to these situations.

Peer-Review Process

On August 20, 2003, Executive Officer Hillsman reported to Council on an initiative by two members of Congress to defund five National Institutes of Health (NIH) behavioral and social science grants which had been approved in a peer-reviewed process. Four of the five grants under assault addressed aspects of sexual behavior and function. The proposed legislation was defeated by only two votes in the House of Representatives, despite considerable efforts of COSSA, the ASA and other scientific organizations to educate and inform the members of Congress on the significance of the peer-review process for scientific research in all fields. Hillsman noted that an assault on scientific peer review had also occurred in 1991 and 1992 (see Chapter 2), and recommended that Council again take action opposing any attempts to restrict funding for high quality, peer-reviewed research.

Council voted unanimously to approve the following statement: “The American Sociological Association strongly opposes any action by Congress that would restrict the ability of the National Institutes of Health to fund high quality, peer-reviewed research and affirms its support for the ability of NIH to support high quality, public health-related research on sexual function and sexual behavior. . . . The ASA considers such actions to be a serious threat to the integrity of the peer review process and the independence of scientific thought, and represents political intrusion into scientific research. We direct the Executive Office to oppose such actions publicly and to take all appropriate steps to help ensure these studies are not de-funded.” (Council Minutes, August 20, 2003)
Appointments to Scientific Organizations

Discussion in Council in August 18, 2004 reflected grave concerns in the science community regarding the U.S. Government's disregard for the independent role of scientific research, particularly as manifested in policies on Executive branch appointments to scientific advisory bodies, and U.S. Government vetting of scientists in international scientific roles. As a result of this situation, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) engaged in a major effort to develop a report (the third since 1992) on how to improve the process of presidential appointments of scientists to advisory committees and policy positions within federal agencies (the report was to be released after the fall 2004 elections). In addition to the comment to NAS prepared by COSSA, ASA Council approved a statement to be issued on behalf of ASA on this issue. Council also voted to make a public statement on the related issue of government vetting of scientists for international bodies, and to bring this statement to the attention of the National Academy Board on International Science Organizations.

In May 2004, ASA also joined more than 30 other American organizations in science, engineering and higher education in signing a Statement and Recommendations on Visa Problems Harm ing America's Scientific, Economic, and Security Interests. This action was taken in response to the increasingly negative consequences to higher education of recent changes to U.S. visa policies.

Amicus Briefs


Grutter v. Bollinger

The case involved the University of Michigan Law School, which followed an official admissions policy that sought to achieve student body diversity through compliance with the Bakke case. The Michigan Law School admissions policy looked beyond factors such as undergraduate grade point average and Law School Admissions Test score in order to ensure that a “critical mass” of underrepresented minority students is accepted for enrollment at its Law School. When the Law School denied admission to Barbara Grutter, a white Michigan resident with an outstanding academic record, Grutter filed suit alleging that she had been discriminated against on the basis of race in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The case was eventually appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which held that the Michigan Law School’s “narrowly tailored use of race in admissions decisions to further a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body is not prohibited by the Equal Protection Clause or the Civil Rights Act of 1964.”

Former ASA President Barbara Reskin led the efforts to prepare an ASA amicus brief in support of the Michigan policy. The ASA brief (also signed by the Association of Black Sociologists, the Law and Society Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and Sociologists for Women in Society) argued that an extensive body of research by social scientists demonstrated that race and ethnicity profoundly affect the life chances of individuals and how they are treated in society. The brief argued that because race shapes experiences of individuals and is a “defining life experience, universities have a compelling interest in considering race when selecting students . . . Research has established that considering race among many other factors produces graduates of all races who become leaders in law, medicine, science, and public life. Declaring student’s race out of bounds in admissions decisions would deny admissions officers crucial information to contextualize other life experiences and accurately measure academic performance.” (No. 02-241:4)
Faulkner v. National Geographic Society

In 2004, ASA joined JSTOR in an amicus brief in the appeal of Faulkner v. National Geographic Society. This case is one of a series that had been filed in recent years by freelance writers and photographers objecting to reproduction of their work in extended electronic forms. The writers and photographers generally contend that publication of original print works containing their pieces in other, generally electronic, formats (such as a CD-ROM) constituted a “revision” of the original publication, and therefore violates the original copyright.

JSTOR approached a number of professional associations in 2003 about joining as co-signatories on its amicus curiae brief in the Faulkner case. The central issue for ASA was that, since ASA holds the copyright for its journal content, it should not be required to obtain a new copyright when it made this content available online, for example, in JSTOR type formats. Executive Officer Hillsman, the Secretary, Secretary-Elect, and the three ASA Presidents (current, Elect, and Immediate Past) consulted with the ASA legal counsel on whether to join in the amicus brief. On June 22nd, 2004, EOB voted unanimously to authorize the ASA to join in the amicus curiae brief submitted by JSTOR to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. ASA Council supported this decision.

Member Resolutions

War in Iraq

A member-initiated resolution against the U.S. Government’s invasion of Iraq was proposed in the spring of 2003 by a group of ASA members called Sociologists and Political Scientists Without Borders. The resolution was signed by more than three percent of the Association’s voting membership, therefore requiring Council under the ASA Bylaws to present the resolution to the full membership for a vote if Council did not endorse it. ASA Council took up the member resolution in a meeting held by conference call on March 31, 2003. Council decided to publish the resolution with contextual material in Footnotes (April 2003) and on the ASA homepage in preparation for submitting it to a vote of the full ASA membership. In the spring 2003 ballot, members were given the option to vote on the member resolution, and also to register their views on the war via an opinion question on the ballot. The resolution against the war passed by 66 percent of the voting membership—thus placing the ASA on record against the war in Iraq. In a separate question, 75 percent of the voting membership responded affirmatively to the question “do you call for an immediate end to the war against Iraq?”

On August 19, 2003, ASA Council considered the complaint of James Tucker of New Hampshire and some other ASA members alleging that the member resolution adopted by Council was in violation of ASAs Code of Ethics. Executive Officer Hillsman reported that “COPE had met to examine this complaint and found that it did not meet the standards set out for filing a complaint under the official COPE policies and procedures.” Council directed that a letter summarizing the COPE decision and the discussion in Council be sent to Tucker.

Ban on Gay Marriage

On March 26, 2004, a member-initiated resolution was submitted to ASA on a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prohibit same sex marriage. The Caucus of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Sociologists, the ASA Family Section, and the ASA Sexualities Section jointly sponsored the resolution that was signed by more than three percent of ASA voting members. Council met by conference call on April 7, 2004 to consider the resolution, voiced strong support for it, and voted unanimously to submit the resolution directly to the ASA membership on the 2004 annual ballot.
A large majority of voting members (75 percent) responded affirmatively when asked, “Do you endorse the membership resolution opposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting same sex marriage?” Recognizing that some members might be opposed to amending the U.S. Constitution to prohibit same sex marriage but would endorse other legislation to ban same sex marriage, Council also voted unanimously to place a separate opinion question on the ASA ballot: “Do you personally favor or oppose legislation that bans same sex marriage?” A large majority (79 percent) of ASA voting members responded that they opposed such legislation. Kalleberg reported that under the ASA Bylaws, the member resolution is now the official position of the Association (Council Minutes, August 17, 2004).

Business Meeting Resolutions, August 2004

Members also introduced two resolutions during the Business Meeting of the ASA Annual Meeting on August 17, 2004. The first resolution on “Graduate Students as Employees,” affirmed the rights of graduate students and research assistants to unionize. A motion was introduced for Council approval of this resolution as Council position. After debate on the issue, Council voted to accept the resolution in principle recognizing graduate students and teaching assistants as employees. Several members of Council “asked that the minutes reflect that this is a decision of the ASA Council and does not imply support of the membership for this resolution.” (Council Minutes, August 17, 2004)

A second resolution on “Labor and ASA Conventions,” called on the Association to adopt a policy of union preference in negotiating hotel and service contracts for all meetings organized by the Association. President Burawoy summarized for Council the complexities involved in site selection for meetings, and a consensus emerged that a vote on this issue should be deferred pending consultation with ASA legal counsel.

Other Council Actions/Policy Issues

Collaboration with Aligned and Regional Associations

As noted in Chapters 1 and 2, ASA has placed a high priority on nurturing collaborative efforts with aligned organizations and in developing a strong working relationship with regional, state, and other sociological associations. Appendix 28 contains a list of organizations (including the regional, state, and aligned associations) with which ASA maintains close ties.

In August 2004, Executive Officer Hillsman noted that an ASA priority continues to be “outreach to the aligned associations, looking to the Centennial as an opportunity to embrace the diversity of the sociological community. She commended Michael Burawoy for his outreach effort to the regional and state associations in preparation for the 2004 Annual Meeting.” (Council Minutes, August 18, 2004)

In 2004, as part of its preparation for its Centennial year, the Association undertook a project to extend collaboration with state, regional, and aligned sociological associations by broadening the Sorokin lectures. Established by ASA in 1967 with a $10,000 gift from Pitirim Sorokin, the winner of the ASA Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award was invited to present the Sorokin Lecture at a regional sociological association meeting. However, as regional meetings grew in size and complexity, it was apparent that the audience for the ASA Sorokin lecture could be broadened.

In August 2004, Council voted unanimously to expand and revise the current Sorokin Lecture into the ASA Award Winning Sociologists Sorokin Lecture Series, in which any of the winners of major ASA awards in the past two calendar years could be asked to deliver a lecture at a state, regional, or aligned sociological association meeting, or on a campus. The Sorokin Fund and the American Sociological Fund will provide support for up to four such lecture trips in a calendar year beginning in ASA’s Centennial Year in 2005 (Council Minutes, August 17, 2004).
Collaborations with Federal Science Policy-Focused Associations

The Association also worked closely with the COSSA (the Consortium of Social Science Associations of which ASA is a founding member), the Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Science Research (CAHT-BSSR), the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), the Decade of Behavior (ASA is represented formally on both the staff committee and advisory committee), the Behavioral and Social Science Coordinating Committee at the National Institutes of Health (BSSR-CC), BSSR-COSSA (coordinated by staff of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to keep the research community abreast of issues affecting behavioral and social science research), the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS), the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), and the Coalition for Health Funding. These collaborations help ASA and its Executive Office keep abreast of science issues in the federal policy arena, and when necessary, take collective action on matters of concern to the social sciences. The Executive Officer regularly reports to the ASA Council on these matters and provides Council with the necessary background information to take action as needed.

Changes in ASA Investment Strategies

During 2003 and 2004, led by Secretary Arne Kalleberg, the EOB undertook a comprehensive review of the Association’s investment policy and portfolio. As of June 30, 2004, the Association had about $7.1 million in long-term assets invested in a balanced portfolio of fixed income and equity investments managed by Fiduciary Trust International, Inc. Approximately 57 percent of the long-term assets invested by the Association are funds owned by ASA, and may be used by it for whatever purposes Council deems appropriate. The remaining 43 percent are held by the Association and invested on behalf of donors (e.g., the Sorokin Fund, the American Sociological Fund), and may be used by the Association only in accordance with the donors’ restrictions.

In January 2004, the EOB interviewed potential new managers on investment strategies, and also created an Investment Committee consisting of Secretary Kalleberg, Michael Aiken, Paul DiMaggio, Lois DeFleur, and Franklin Wilson, and staffed by Executive Officer Sally Hillsman and Controller Les Briggs. Secretary Kalleberg presented an extensive report to ASA Council of EOB’s findings and decisions on August 17, 2004. EOB concluded that moving ASA’s assets toward far greater diversification as well as using a passive investment strategy would be advantageous to ASA, and selected an investment manager for these funds who invested exclusively in the very large portfolio of mutual funds developed by Dimensional Fund Advisors (DFA).

A priority issue for EOB in analyzing investment strategies and evaluating potential investment advisors was ASA Council’s concern since the 1980s with ensuring socially responsible investing. EOB concluded that a passive investment strategy utilizing DFA mutual funds would be consistent with ASA’s past position on socially responsible investing, and presented a detailed rationale for its position to Council. ASA Council voted strong support for EOB’s decision, finding these actions to be in keeping with its position on responsible investing of ASA funds (Council Minutes of August 17, 2004).

Gifts and Awards

Following his death in 2003, the family of William “Si” Goode, the 63rd President of the American Sociological Association in 1972, offered to make a substantial contribution to the ASA in support of a dissertation grant in his memory. In January 2004, Council voted to accept the gift and establish a competitive travel grant for a PhD candidate conducting cross-cultural or comparative dissertation research to be administered by the Executive Office until the funds are exhausted.

A new award in honor of Lewis A. Coser was also established by the ASA Theory Section in 2004 with gifts from his many friends and colleagues. The Lewis A. Coser Award for Theoretical Agen-
da-Setting will be bestowed on an annual basis to “a mid-career sociologist whose work... holds great promise for setting the agenda in the field of sociology” and exemplifies the “sociological ideals Coser represented.” The award is intended to be a prestigious discipline-wide award “that reinforces the centrality of theory in the discipline of sociology.” (ASA homepage) The recipient will receive a financial award and present the Lewis A. Coser Award Lecture at a section session at the ASA Annual Meeting in the following year.

In 2003, at the urging of then President Michael Burawoy (and over the objections of the Committee on Awards), Council established a new ASA honorific award, the “Distinguished Coverage of Social Issues in the Media,” and referred it to the ASA Committee on Awards to develop the criteria and process for nominations and selections. The first such award is to be made at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

**Governance: ASA Council Bylaws Changes**

In February 2003, Council voted to make changes to the Bylaws in order to clarify certain sections, resolve inconsistencies and other technical problems, and update certain provisions in light of new forms of communication (Footnotes, May 2003:28–9). (See Appendix 15.)

With the 2003 election, members were offered for the first time the option to vote electronically via the internet or to cast their votes by paper ballot as they have done in the past. The Council minutes of August 19, 2003 indicate that a majority of members (54 percent) voted via the internet.

**3. GOVERNANCE: STRUCTURAL CHANGES**

**Sections**

Memberships in ASA sections were 21,386 at the end of the 2004 Membership Year—the highest number ever (see Appendix 14). In the first meeting of the 2005 Council, Past President Michael Burawoy commented that Sections are “one of the most wonderful things about the ASA and urged Council to do nothing to tamper with the current Section system. He noted that some Sections would never become large entities, but they were nonetheless vibrant groups that contributed to the value of the ASA.” (Council Minutes, August 18, 2004)

How Council should handle situations when a section membership falls below the required 300-member level continued to be a subject of discussion. The Committee on Sections (COS) considered various options for dealing with this issue. At the Council Meeting on August 20, 2002, Lynn Smith-Lovin speaking for COS, reported that as an alternative to small sections, “the committee asked Council to consider the formation of ‘interest groups’. Interest groups may not have enough people to constitute an official section, or necessarily want the organizational costs and benefits of full section status, but would like to have a session on the program at annual meetings, and perhaps a room to hold a business meeting.” Council endorsed the idea in principle but asked the Executive Office to assess the long-term implications of such a change. In January 2003, Council voted not to move forward with an “interest group” structure because of both policy and administrative concerns with its feasibility.

Over the past several years, three sections attained full section status: Labor and Labor Movements (2002), Animals and Society (2002), and Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis (2004). On the recommendation of the Committee on Sections, in August 2004, Council voted to approve a new Section-in-Formation on Evolution and Sociology (see Appendix 17).

On the recommendation of the Committee on Sections, Council also voted to increase the maximum number of awards a section may present each year to five single-category awards per year.
Task Forces and Committees

Council created three new task forces in February 2003: Task Force on the Assessment of the Undergraduate Major, Task Force to Revise the ASA Areas of Specialty, and the Task Force on Bridges to the Real World (that merged with the Task Force on the Institutionalization of Public Sociology, created in January 2004).

Most of the task forces appointed since 1999 (after the reorganization of the ASA Committee structure in 1998 and 1999) completed their work from 2001 to 2004 and submitted final reports (see Appendices 16 and 24). The Task Force on Opportunities Beyond Graduate Education: Post Doctoral Training and Career Trajectories (established in February 2001) was disbanded with no report. The three Task Forces established in February 2003 (and 2004) remain active.

Status Committees

When the ASA committee structure was reorganized, Council also authorized four committees on the status of the following groups in sociology: persons with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; racial and ethnic minorities; and women. Council mandated that the work of these status committees be reviewed “in five years to evaluate how they fit in relation to the Association’s goals in these areas.” (Council Minutes, February 1999)

The Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Persons in Sociology presented an 85-page Report to Council in August 2002 of its findings on major aspects of the professional experience of LGBT people in the discipline. The Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology, presented an extensive preliminary draft of its Report in 2003, and a final Report on August 17, 2004. Members of Council discussed favorably the work of these two committees; Council voted unanimously to extend their work for an additional five years, and requested their Reports be made available on the ASA’s homepage.

The Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Sociology requested an extension to complete its report, as did the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology. Both will submit final reports to Council during 2005.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICE INITIATIVES

Under the leadership of Executive Officer Sally Hillsman, the Executive Office activities relating to programs and functions are being institutionalized in six departments: (1) Operations and Meeting Services, (2) Publications and Membership, (3) Governance, Sections, and Archives (4) Research and Development, (5) Public Affairs and Public Information, and (6) Information Services and Technology. In addition, three key ASA Programs—the Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP), the Minority Affairs Program (MAP), and the Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy—continue to serve the membership. The MAP Program Director now also oversees some student activities of the Association, including the ASA Honors Program and the Student Forum.

ASA Departments manage programs and provide services to the Association, its members, and the wider public. Departmental functions encompass the core of programmatic activities in given areas (e.g., the Publications and Membership Department continues to manage the publication program of the ASA, and the Public Affairs and Public Information Department conducts media outreach to raise the visibility of sociology and the Association). However in some areas functional activities were expanded or modified: The Operations and Meeting Services Department coordinates office administration and human resources functions in addition to all functions relating to Association meetings; the Publications and Membership Department directs the publications program of the ASA, and also handles all membership services and conducts outreach beyond the Association. In addition to coordinating activities relating to the Fund for the Advancement of the
Discipline (FAD), the Research and Development Department provides expanded services to ASA Council, committees, and task forces. (See Appendix 29.)

ASA Departmental Activity: 2002–4

Publications and Membership Department

The internet continues to expand and offer new opportunities for disseminating scholarship in sociology. In 2004, ASA began to provide online as well as print access to all ASA journals through Ingenta, a database and access system to scholarly journals. The Association set a goal in 2003 of having “online access to all ASA journal content—past and current—through the JSTOR/Ingenta combination compete within two years. By the 2006 volume year, 2004 and later issues will be available through Ingenta, and 2003 and earlier issues will be available through JSTOR.” (Council Minutes, August 19, 2003). This increased access to online journals was made possible by Council’s decision to adjust the “moving wall” on ASA journals in JSTOR from five years to two years by 2004.

*Sociological Methodology* and *Sociological Theory* became available on JSTOR in 2002. In 2003, Council also voted to return all typesetting and editorial functions of *ASR* to the Executive Office by 2004.

Both *Contexts*, the new general perspectives magazine of the ASA, and *City and Community*, a journal of the Community and Urban Sociology Section (CUSS), began publication in 2002 and have been well received. In 2003, *Contexts* was named the best journal in the social sciences by the Association of American Publishers’ (AAP) Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division, and as one of the ten “Best New Magazines of 2002” by the *Library Journal*.

After several years of testing, the ASA introduced the Journal Builder software for use by the editorial offices of the ASA journals in 2004. Journal Builder is an online manuscript tracking system that keeps track (and produces reports) on manuscript submission, editorial and production lags, and final decisions on acceptance of manuscripts for publication.

New technologies have also created new challenges in the publication program. In August 2002, ASA Council appointed a Subcommittee of Council and the Committee on Publications on Electronic Publishing consisting of Carol Heimer (Chair), Bernice Pescosolido, William Bielby, Robert Crutchfield, Arne Kalleberg, and Sally Hillsman to examine some of these issues (e.g., the applicability of copyright laws in electronic versions of articles posted on websites, the implications of open access to journals) and ASA policies regarding electronic publication. The Subcommittee presented a preliminary report in February 2003, and continues its work.

Research and Development Department

The Research Department conducted a new survey of sociology departments in 2002 and continued to track a 1996 cohort of 634 PhDs with respect to careers and job opportunities. A Membership Data File has been extracted annually in recent years from the ASA NOAH membership database and continues to provide vital information on membership activities and trends. In addition, the Department compiles information and conducts analyses on sociology and sociologists from other sources (such as the National Science Foundation). Research reports, research briefs, as well as data from these secondary sources are published regularly in various formats by the ASA (see Appendix 24).

ASA’s research staff is also developing other projects to advance understanding of the profession and discipline of sociology, for example, a survey of sociologists working outside the academy. Research Department staff has also been working with the National Science Foundation and the
Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology to provide data and analyses for federal efforts to promote the recruitment and retention of women and minorities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce.

**FUND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE DISCIPLINE (FAD)**

The Program on the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD) was placed under the Department of Research and Development in 2002. FAD is a small grants program designed to support innovative, groundbreaking research and other scientific research projects, and to create new networks of scientific collaboration. FAD is funded jointly by the Sociology Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the ASA (see Chapters 1 and 2). The maximum amount of each award in 2004 is $7,000.

In 2004, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a three-year grant of $165,000 to the American Sociological Association (ASA) to support FAD from August 2004 through July 2007. The current award includes for the first time, funding to disseminate more broadly the work of the FAD grantees.

**Public Affairs and Public Information Department**

Through its Public Affairs and Public Information Department, ASA promotes and gives visibility to sociology and the Association by participating in the national science policymaking arena, monitoring key national legislative and policy developments affecting sociological research and sociologists, and engaging in efforts to enhance opportunities for sociologists’ contributions to policy. The Public Affairs Office also manages the editorial and pre-production of the *Footnotes* newsletter.

Public Affairs activities of the Association from 2002 through 2004 included:

- Sponsoring Congressional briefings, aimed at educating policymakers and the wider public. These included briefings on reactions to terrorism (June 2002), the collection of racial and ethnic data (May 2003), human dimensions of disasters (October 2003), and immigration policy (April 2004) (see Appendix 25).

- Supporting exhibits through the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), an alliance of organizations concerned with the future of the sciences, and the increased federal investment in the National Science Foundation's research and education programs. In 2004, the ASA sponsored the research of Bruce Western and Devah Pager at the CNSF exhibit held each spring on Capitol Hill.

- Participating in the Decade of Behavior initiated in 2000 to bring policymaker and public attention to the importance of behavioral and social science research. The National Advisory Committee selected ASAs nominee, David R. Williams, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, for the Decade of Behavior's inaugural Research Award. The Decade will sponsor a Congressional briefing in which Williams participates.

- Representing sociology and the social science community on the Secretary of Commerce's Census Advisory Committee. Executive Officer Sally Hillsman represents ASA on the Committee and is participating in efforts to ensure the scientific quality of the 2010 Census, the American Communities Survey, and the further protection of data on vulnerable populations (such as Arab-Americans). Sociologists Robert Hill and Corinne Kirchner are also members of this and related Bureau of the Census committees focusing on issues of racial and ethnic classifications and the inclusion in the census of persons with disabilities.

- Monitoring key national (and some state-level) legislative and policy developments affecting sociological research, sociologists, and the ASA. For example:
• In November 2004, the ASA provided comments in response to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) draft proposal for Enhanced Public Access to NIH Research Information. In response to pressure from various sources to provide timely access to publications emanating from government-funded health research, the NIH developed an “open access” plan that would post peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts on NIH's PubMed Central database six months after journal publication. In its comments, the ASA raised a number of questions about the underlying premises of the proposal as well as the overall process through which it was developed. In coordination with other scholarly societies, ASA offered a series of recommendations to NIH for the implementation of the proposed public access plan.

• In September 2003, the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued an interpretation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the Trading with the Enemy Act, with serious implications for the ASA publishing program. These Acts and their amendments were interpreted by OFAC “as meaning that publishers may only publish materials from embargoed countries [e.g., Cuba, Iran, Sudan, and Libya] if they are in camera-ready form and are not subject to ‘substantial alteration’ which would include peer review, copy editing, design or translation.” (Council Minutes, August 17, 2004) Executive Officer Hillsman met with OFAC officials in the fall of 2004 to express the concern of the Association as a publisher of scientific materials, and to urge a reversal of the decision on these restraints on publication. At the end of 2004, OFAC reversed its decision in the area that most threatened ASA by recognizing that journal submissions from embargoed countries that had been peer reviewed and edited by U.S. publications were indeed exempt from embargo. However, legal suits and other actions taken by publishers and authors' associations continue to seek changes to the government's position with regard to other media, such as film.

• Engaging in efforts to advance sociologists' contributions to policy—especially at the national level and across federal agencies and other executive offices. For example, based on efforts by the Public Affairs Office, sociologists Lee Clarke, Kathleen Tierney, and Mansoor Moaddel have been invited by the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to make presentations on ASA's behalf to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, other public audiences, and to staff of the President's National Science and Technology Council.

• Working with nearly 10 Washington, DC-based coalitions to advance the cause of social science through advocacy efforts.

Information Services and Technology Department

The Information Services and Technology Department manages the ASA Information Technology (IT) systems and infrastructure. In 2003, ASA Council approved a project to redesign the ASA website to coincide with ASA Centennial year publications and projects. Upgrades were also made to the ASA computer and information system in 2003 and 2004: (1) In late 2003, the internal document management system was upgraded with considerable improvements in storage and retrieval of documents, (2) Throughout 2004, ASA worked with JL Systems to develop an e-commerce system, permitting members to purchase ASA publications and other products directly from the website, and (3) Computer system performance was greatly improved by replacement of both the network server and the servers that provide support for all ASA listservs. (Appendix 29 contains a description of the technical specifications of the new hardware.)

Highlights from Programs of the ASA: 2002–4

The Association continues to serve sociology and Association members through its programs on Academic and Professional Affairs (APAP), Minority Affairs (MAP), and the Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy.
Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP)

The Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) continues to focus on advancing the discipline of sociology by working with academic departments and department chairs through the Department Affiliate Initiative, the Departmental Resources Group, Chairlink, the Annual Chairs Conferences, and the various continuing education programs at the Annual Meeting. APAP also continues to add to the extensive collection of resource materials produced by members and the Executive Office and distributed through the ASA’s Teaching Resources Center (see Appendix 22). In addition, a High School Affiliate Program was established in 2003 to link high school social studies departments to the ASA similar to department affiliates.

From 2002 to 2005, APAP led the NSF-funded project, Integrating Data Analysis (IDA), an effort to build the quantitative literacy and research skills of sociology undergraduate students throughout the entire sociology curriculum of a department. This project was a collaborative initiative with the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN) at the University of Michigan (see Chapter 2).

In addition to these core activities, APAP was substantially involved in the Task Force on the Advanced Placement Course in Sociology for High Schools, and the Task Force on the Assessment of the Undergraduate Major, both of which delivered final reports to Council on August 18, 2004. The APAP also continued a program of outreach to community colleges and began an initiative on the professional MA degree.

The Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) project was formally completed by APAP with a three-day Capstone Conference on December 5–6, 2002. For more than two years, four sociology departments (along with three other social science disciplines) participated in the PFF project, which was designed to produce various training models and enhance the graduate experience in preparation for faculty careers.

Minority Affairs Program (MAP)

The Minority Affairs Program (MAP) encompasses the core Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), as well as the other programs that provide support to students and minorities, or those that relate to health issues more broadly. The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), which was established in 1974 with funding primarily from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), continued its program of support to minority sociology doctoral students, with the 31st cohort of students now participating (Appendix 23). In April 2005, the ASA was awarded a continuation of the grant by NIMH for the MFP Program covering the period 2005 to 2010. Also, ASA Council voted unanimously to approve funding for one additional non-NIMH MFP Fellow in 2005 and 2006 from the ASA’s general operating funds.

With the consolidation of programmatic activities into departments, the Honors Program and the Student Forum were placed under the direction of the MAP Program Director (along with other student-related activities of ASA).

The Association has long emphasized programs and activities that focus on student members. The ASA Honors Program (see Chapters 1 and 2) and other activities centered on the Annual Meeting, the Dissertation Award, employment and career materials specifically designed for students, and special incentives for students to join the ASA have been created over the past twenty-five years.

In 1999, Council approved the institution of a Student Forum to “strengthen students’ connections to the American Sociological Association and the discipline.” (Footnotes April, 1999:3) Students who join the ASA automatically became a part of the Student Forum and receive special mailings and electronic communications to encourage their participation. These services have been greatly enhanced with a special section for students on the ASA homepage, which, in addition to the Student Forum, now includes newsletters and other special features designed for students.
Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy

The Spivack Program continues to sponsor Congressional briefings, and each year, to provide funding to support a Congressional Fellow, and several projects under the Community Action Research Initiative (CARI). Congressional briefings were held on “Reactions to Terrorism: Attitudes and Anxieties” (June 2002), “Racial and Ethnic Data: Why We Collect it; How We Use It in Public Policy” (May 2003), “The Human Dimensions of Disasters: How Social Science Research Can Improve Preparedness, Response, and Recovery” (October 2003), and “A Nation of Immigrants: Current Policy Debates Meet New Social Science Research” (April 2004) (see Appendix 25).

Other Programs and Activities

Support for Individual Sociologists

Over the past several decades, funding opportunities have been available to individual sociologists through a variety of programs offered by the ASA. Funding for these programs was obtained primarily from NSF, various programs of the NIMH, other restricted funds of the ASA (such as the American Sociological Foundation), and ASA membership drives. Over the years smaller amounts (typically for travel and special events) have also been obtained from other sources (e.g., the MacArthur Foundation and the Smithsonian). These programs generally have been administered by ASA in a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

In addition to funding through the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), the ASA provides support to individual sociologists through the Spivack Program Congressional Fellowships and the Community Action Research Initiative grants (CARI), the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline (FAD), and the Teaching Enhancement Fund (TEF).

International Activities

On August 19, 2003, the Task Force on the International Focus of American Sociology submitted its final report to Council. The Report noted that while Annual Meeting Programs and committee activities generally showed increased attention to international issues, levels of participation in ASA meetings by foreign sociologists (especially by non-Europeans) were low, in part due to the lack of available funding. Also, the Task Force found that ASA teaching materials generally had a low level of international content (see Chapter 2).

The Association continues to place a high priority on activities on international issues, including human rights. ASA was actively engaged in the case of the Egyptian-American sociologist Saad Eddin Ibrahim who was sentenced on July 29, 2002, by the Egyptian State Security Court to seven years in prison on charges widely believed to be politically motivated (see Chapter 2). ASA worked closely with AAAS’s Human Rights Action Network, sent letters of protest to Egyptian officials, and provided information on the case on the ASA website. Saad Eddin Ibrahim was released in December 2002 and acquitted in March 2003. He was a special guest at the 2003 ASA Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

As noted in Chapter 2, in 2002, ASA again obtained a travel grant from NSF to support sociologists participating in the International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress Meeting, held in Brisbane Australia from July 7–13, 2002. The grant supported partial travel expenses for 33 persons to attend the meeting.

A panel discussion at the ISA entitled “The Internationalization of American Sociology: A Centennial Challenge for the ASA in 2005 and Beyond,” featured Craig Calhoun (Social Science Research Council and ASA Council member), Executive Officer Sally Hillsman, Secretary Arne Kalleberg, A. Douglas Kincaid (the ASA representative to the ISA), and Immanuel Wallerstein (Yale University). The session was designed to generate discussion and ideas for a Centennial event.
featuring an ISA component. At the presidential session on the last day of the ISA meeting, Neil Smelser (University of California-Berkeley) was awarded the ISA’s first Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize for a distinguished career in sociology.

In 2004, a grant was obtained from the Ford Foundation to bring public sociologists and activists from developing countries and the former Soviet Union to the 2004 Annual Meeting. The grant provided support for 25 persons from more than a dozen countries to attend the meeting.

5. CENTENNIAL PLANNING

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the American Sociological Association in 1980, the editors of *The American Sociologist* (TAS) invited past officers of the Association to “comment on the positive and negative accomplishments of the Association, and their hopes for what it might become.” (February 1981, Editor’s Page) Two volumes of articles were produced from these contributions: the first (February 1981) traced the evolution of the Association through the 1960s, and the second (May 1981), examined sociology’s future. It is noteworthy that concerns expressed then about fragmentation, diversity, participation, and egalitarianism continue to the present (albeit perhaps in different forms). Also evident is the recurring nature of some of the debates and tensions—including, for example, on sociology as a profession and discipline; on goals and objectives for the Association; and on how best to optimize infrastructures to serve members, advance sociology, and promote the public good.

A variety of publications are also planned to mark the Centennial in 2005: A Council Subcommittee on Intellectual History, under the direction of Craig J. Calhoun, is preparing an edited volume on the history of sociology in America, which will be released during the Association’s Centennial celebrations at the 2005 Annual Meeting. An Advisory Committee was appointed for the project consisting of Andrew Abbott, Troy Duster, Barbara Laslett, Alan Sica, and Margaret Somers.

In addition to this volume on the History of the Association commissioned by Council, *American Sociological Review* editor Jerry A. Jacobs is preparing an Editor’s Comment on “ASR’s Greatest Hits” to examine the influence of this important journal. *Teaching Sociology* is planning a special issue in honor of the Association’s Centennial. The ASA Section on History of Sociology is also preparing a book on *Plural Histories of Sociology*, which will be issued as an ASA Section publication. A light-hearted look on topics about or of interest to sociologists in the form of cartoons from *The New Yorker* Magazine was released by ASA in November 2004. The hardcover volume is branded with ASAs’s name and includes a special cover cartoon commissioned for the publication and an introduction by President Troy Duster. The volume was produced by CartoonBank.com, a subsidiary of *The New Yorker* Magazine, which holds rights to all images published in *The New Yorker* magazine over the last 75 years.

Centennial Events and Projects

The ASA Council has been planning Centennial events and publications since February 2001, when Council members discussed at length some ways to mark its 100th anniversary. In December 2000, the Committee on Publications formed a Subcommittee to generate ideas about special publications for the centennial, including special issues of journals, “reviews,” and so forth. The February 2002 Council launched a process for planning, organizing, and creating initiatives to mark the Centennial.

A Centennial Subcommittee of Council on Public Outreach and Events, consisting of Victor Nee, Roberta Spalter-Roth, Pamela Walters, and Robert Crutchfield, is exploring projects to reach people beyond the ASA regarding how sociology contributes to society. The Council Subcommittee
on International Collaborations is considering ways to link events with an international focus to the Centennial celebration. The 2002 International Sociological Association Meetings (ISA) meetings in Brisbane Australia featured a panel discussion titled “The Internationalization of American Sociology: A Centennial Challenge for the ASA in 2005 and Beyond,” which was designed to generate discussion and ideas for a Centennial event featuring an ISA component.

In August 2003, Council agreed to co-sponsor a meeting of the ISA Committee of National Associations (CNA) in the United States in conjunction with the ASA 2005 Centennial Annual Meeting. The CNA encompasses the 55 collective members of the ISA national and regional members. At the 2002 ISA World Congress, the ISA Executive Committee approved an initiative to revitalize the CNA, including sponsorship of a meeting prior to the 2006 World Congress in conjunction with the ASA Centennial meeting; this was approved by the ISA Executive Committee in March 2003 and by the ASA Council on August 20th that year.

Douglas Kincaid of Florida International University, ASA’s representative to the ISA, and Sujata Patel of Pune University, ISA Vice President for National Associations and Chair of the CNA, have been organizing and fund raising to hold this meeting in South Florida just prior to the ASA Centennial meeting in Philadelphia in August 2005. ASA Council agreed to provide $14,000 in matching contributions and the 2005 Program Committee has provided space in the invited portion of the program for the participation of the CNA attendees who come to Philadelphia. In addition, both the current president of the ISA and the immediate past-president will present at the Philadelphia meeting. The president of the Italian Sociological Association will also make a presentation to the ASA in Philadelphia honoring the ASA centenary.

The Association plans a variety of activities and events in honor of the Association’s Centennial. In addition to the publications highlighting the Association and sociology’s past, an enhanced ASA website will feature historical records, photos, documents, data, and the volumes on the history of the ASA. A reception on Capitol Hill and media events are being planned, a Centennial Store on the ASA homepage has been set up, and a wide variety of products and instructional resources are being prepared or planned to celebrate ASA’s 100th birthday. ASA commissioned a new logo for the Centennial. The Centennial logo appears on stationery, special commemorative stamps, and on a variety of special products and memorabilia available from the Centennial Store on the ASA homepage.

A timeline of important events in the Association and sociology’s history is being designed and will be featured on large banners to be displayed at the Annual Meeting (the timeline will also be available on the ASA homepage). The content for the banners was prepared with contributions from sections and others in the ASA. The banners will be created on materials that can be shipped easily so that they can serve as instructional and resource materials on sociology in other venues beyond the Annual Meeting.

A range of other ideas are also being considered to celebrate ASA’s 100th birthday, including expanding the Sorokin lecture series, producing film/video presentations and exhibits, and targeting events at regional and specialty sociological associations. Two documentaries created by sociologist Gale Largey, one on the Presentation of Presidents and another on Lester Ward, the first President of the American Sociological Society, will be premiered at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

**The Focus of the 100th Annual Meeting**

ASA’s centennial will be the focus of the 100th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in August 2005. A Centennial Subcommittee of the 2005 Program Committee chaired by Caroline Persell, and including Troy Duster, Patricia Hill Collins, Jill Quadagno, and Sally Hillsman is at work planning the Centennial program of the 2005 Annual Meeting. The program will focus on the past, pres-
ent, and future of the discipline of sociology, the ASA, and other aligned organizations within the context of social and historical events of the past century. ASA President Troy Duster has chosen “Comparative Perspectives, Competing Explanations” as the theme for the 100th Annual Meeting. The theme is conceptualized as being broad enough “to address a wide historical sweep, and yet have sufficient focus to provide a framework in which to address key aspects of the social history of the discipline—its contemporary situation and its potential future development.”