

## ASA Submits Amicus Brief in U.S. Supreme Court Case on Affirmative Action in College Admissions

by William T. Bielby, ASA President

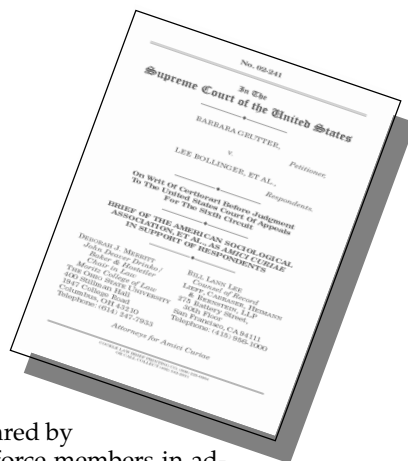
On April 1, 2003, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the lawsuits challenging the use of race in admissions at the University of Michigan. While the specific cases before the Court involve undergraduate (*Gratz v. Bollinger, et al.*) and law school (*Grutter v. Bollinger, et al.*) admissions at Michigan, the impact of the court's decisions are likely to be more far-reaching than the 25-year-old *Bakke* decision on race-conscious admissions. Should the court's ruling overturn *Bakke* and declare the use of race unconstitutional, admissions procedures and financial aid programs would be affected in both public and private institutions throughout the United States.

In early September, in response to a member resolution approved at ASA's 2002 Business Meeting, Council authorized ASA to develop an amicus brief that would summarize sociological research that addresses the need for considering race as a factor in college admissions. Officially, ASA's submission is on behalf of the University of Michigan Law School in the *Grutter* case and the Student Intervenors (minority students who were granted permission by the court to intervene as co-defendants), but the issues raised in the brief also apply to undergraduate admissions to the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (i.e., the *Gratz* case).

Council authorized a subcommittee led by Past-President Barbara Reskin of the University of Washington to assemble a task force of sociologists with

expertise on race and discrimination, who were charged with identifying and synthesizing the scholarship relevant to the Michigan cases. Reskin volunteered to draw upon task force drafts to compile the final document. Participating on the Amicus Task Force with Reskin were Walter Allen (University of California-Los Angeles), William Bielby (University of California-Santa Barbara), Laura Gomez (University of California-Los Angeles), Cedric Herring (University of Illinois-Chicago), Sam Lucas (University of California-Berkeley), Doug Massey (University of Pennsylvania), Ruben Rumbaut (University of California-Irvine), and ASA Executive Officer Sally Hillsman.

Preliminary discussions were conducted via conference call in December, and partial drafts on specific topics were



prepared by task force members in advance of a two-day meeting held at the ASA Executive Office in mid-January. The meeting was both an exhilarating and exhausting experience for everyone involved. There was spirited debate and discussion, considerable writing and rewriting, and seemingly endless quests to track down relevant articles, data, and

See *Amicus*, page 11

## Robert K. Merton Remembered

by Craig Calhoun, SSRC

Robert K. Merton, one of the towering figures on whose shoulders contemporary sociology rests, died Sunday, February 23, 2003. He was 92.



Robert K. Merton  
1910-2003

Merton was born July 4, 1910, and his extraordinary life story evokes both a very American trajectory appropriate to the holiday birthday and the universalism of science. Merton's parents were Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, and indeed the future RKM was born Meyer R. Schkolnick. The family lived above his father's small dairy products shop in South Philadelphia until it burned down, without

insurance, and his father became a carpenter's assistant. Merton's family lacked wealth, but he insisted his childhood did not lack opportunity—and cited such institutions as a very decent public high school and the library donated by Andrew Carnegie in which he first read *Tristram Shandy*. Indeed, suggested Merton in 1994, that seemingly deprived South Philadelphia slum provided "a youngster with every sort of capital—social capital, cultural capital, human capital, and, above all, what we may call public capital—that is, with every sort of capital except the personally financial."

The name Robert King Merton evolved out of a teenage career as an amateur magician. Merton took up conjuring and other magic partly through taking his sister's boyfriend as a "role model" (to borrow a phrase literally his own). As his skill improved, he sought a stage name, initially "Merlin." Advised that this was hackneyed, he changed it to Merton. Already

See *Merton*, page 8

## Bylaws Tune-up

Periodically, ASA undertakes a systematic review of its governing documents (i.e., Bylaws and Constitution) in order to: (1) identify actual and potential conflicts among the various directives, (2) locate vague guidelines, and (3) ferret out any outdated information. This activity is a natural consequence of the fact that these documents endure an evolution over the years through modifications by Council. As Council votes on and implements changes to the Association's governance structure and activities, the resulting changes must be reflected in these documents. In addition, the communications technology revolution has changed the way organizations operate, and there are consequences for our governing documents to catch up with this new context. So, this past year, at the request of the ASA Council and staff, the Association's Legal Counsel undertook a thorough review of the ASA Constitution and Bylaws.

Counsel delivered a report with

See *Bylaws*, page 11

## 2003 Candidates for ASA Offices

See page 6 to view the professional biographies of the current candidates for:

**President-Elect**  
Richard Alba and Troy Duster

**Vice President-Elect**  
Caroline Hodges Persell and David Snow

**Secretary-Elect**  
William Roy and Franklin Wilson



## 2003 Annual Meeting . . . The Question of Culture

## Multimedia Portrayals of a Communications Center: Race and Film in Atlanta

Third in a series of articles highlighting the sociological context of ASA's next Annual Meeting location . . . Atlanta

by Dana White and Alex Hicks,  
Emory University

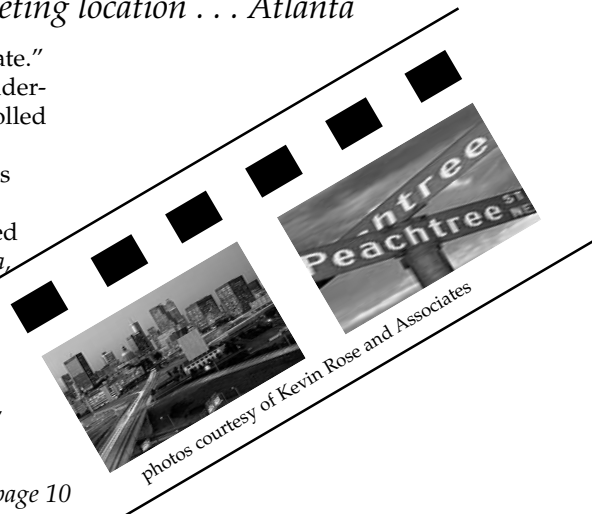
From its establishment in 1837 as a regional railroad hub named "Terminus," Atlanta has functioned as a center of transportation, communications, and distribution. The city re-emerged from its 1864 burning by the forces of General William T. Sherman, again as railhead nexus for the Southeast, hosting international expositions in 1881, 1887, and 1895. During this era, Atlanta promoted itself ceaselessly, shamelessly, as the capital of a New—albeit segregated—South. Booker T. Washington's apparent

acceptance of this "separate but equal" doctrine in his address at the 1895 Cotton States Exposition came to be called the "Atlanta Compromise." But slowly, with accelerating force from the early 20th century, numerous Black Atlantans—from Washington's contemporary W.E.B. Du Bois to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.—would reject this politics of accommodation, challenged it in the courts and in the streets, eventually overturning racial segregation.

### No Time for Hate

As the civil rights movement unfolded, Atlanta presented itself to the

nation as "The City Too Busy to Hate." Unlike other Southern cities, its leadership preached and practiced controlled change. Atlanta could embrace relatively progressive racial policies because, as political scientist Clarence N. Stone has demonstrated in *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988* (1989), a cohesive coalition of business leaders and governmental officials assumed civic leadership during the 1940s and 1950s. Late in the 20th century, Atlanta would become the trans-



See *Atlanta*, page 10

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The Executive Officer’s Column

Public Sociologies – An Agenda For Collaboration

At the close of the ASA Council meeting on February 2, several of us bid farewell saying, “See you next weekend in North Carolina.” We were eagerly anticipating the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) winter meeting, held in Wrightville, NC, focusing on “how to be an effective feminist public intellectual.” ASA Council member Barbara J. Risman, North Carolina State University, is the SWS President. ASA Council member Jennifer Glass, Iowa State University, and ASA President-Elect Michael Burawoy would attend. I would be joined by ASA



ASA Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman (right) leads a workshop on talking to policymakers.

staff Carla Howery (a former SWS President), Jean Beaman, and Kerry Strand.

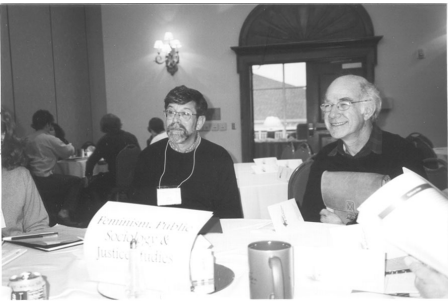
That weekend is now a mere memory but a stimulating one of a very energized gathering that drew *twice* the attendees as usual. If the SWS meeting theme has a familiar ring to it, that is because ASA President-Elect Michael Burawoy had independently chosen “Public Sociologies” as the theme for ASA’s 2004 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Indeed, the weekend following the SWS gathering,

the 2004 Program Committee met to continue planning for that ASA meeting. As Robert K. Merton, my teacher and long-time generous colleague to so many of us, would remind us, serendipity is powerful. The ASA Program Committee benefited from ideas and names of colleagues coming from the SWS event, as the SWS event had benefited from our preliminary explorations of Burawoy’s chosen theme. The timing was obviously perfect. But when you add the convergence of groups on similar intellectual and professional issues and ideas, then you know good things are going to happen.

Burawoy has done more than announce a theme and await session ideas. He has been personally writing and speaking about his ideas, and listening to the responses. Several exchanges have appeared in *Footnotes’* Public Forum (e.g., see December 2002, p. 6, and January, 2003, p. 8). He plans to participate in various state sociological society meetings (Pennsylvania and Georgia) and the Society for Applied Sociology.

Risman tapped Burawoy to speak at the SWS plenary session where he took issue with critics who lament the disappearance of public sociology, saying, “To be sure, the 1950s was an era of heroic public sociologists, of C. Wright Mills, David Riesman, and Daniel Bell, but they were few and far between. They were indeed heroic; it was after all the repressive era of McCarthyism!”

In particular, Burawoy challenged the views of Orlando Patterson’s *New York Times* obituary-tribute to David Reisman, titled “The Last Sociologist.” Calling Patterson’s vision an “elitist conception of public sociology,” Burawoy argued that “today we have to expand our horizons, and expand the meaning of public sociology to include a wide range of publics—not just the readership of national media, which is an amorphous, invisible, passive, public made up of strangers, but also the much thicker publics that must begin with our students, extending to local



ASA President-Elect Michael Burawoy (right) and Jeff Leiter, North Carolina State University, participate in a workshop on public sociology.

communities....” He reflected, “Indeed, the prototype of the public sociology of today is the feminist movement that first constituted its public, and then brought that public to self-awareness and mobilization. And in this view, SWS represents the archetypal mediator between professional and public sociology.” This stirring call permeated two days of workshops on speaking to the media, sharing research with policymakers, and giving back to the participants in ones’ studies.

While SWS has long been a part of my professional life, this was my first SWS meeting as ASA Executive Officer. How satisfying it was for me to be able to report on the actions of the ASA Council, of only a week before, to file a Supreme Court amicus brief in the University of Michigan case, bringing solid social science research on discrimination, diversity, and affirmative action to bear on an important legal case that may well be this generation’s equivalent of *Brown v. Board of Education*. How satisfying it was to see the ASA display table with a wide array of important scholarly and teaching materials, including, especially important in this context, sample copies of *Contexts*, our award-winning magazine that directly speaks to new publics.

SWS has been supportive of ASA’s initiatives. For years, SWS has made a donation to the ASA Minority Fellowship Program, and its members mentor a



# Social Science Community Celebrates NIH Deputy Appointment

by Johanna Ebner, Public Affairs/  
Information Office

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Elias A. Zerhouni announced the appointment of Raynard Kington as Deputy Director of the NIH. His appointment was effective on February 9, 2003. Kington's appointment is a very encouraging sign to the behavioral and social science communities, because of Kington's longstanding support for these sciences and promotion of social science research at the NIH. He was especially effective and visible in his role as director of NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), where he has served NIH's director's office since November 2000. He also served as Acting Director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) for nine months in 2002.

"I am delighted to have Dr. Kington at my side as Deputy Director during this critical time for biomedical research," said Dr. Zerhouni. "He has shown great talent and has the right combination of skills and experience to help the NIH move forward in these revolutionary times for the biomedical sciences."

"This is the best news in a long time—for Raynard, for ASA, and for science," said ASA Executive Officer Sally Hillsman upon hearing the news. "A person with a varied social and behavioral sciences background in one of the highest-ranking positions within the National Institutes of Health is important and significant news for sociologists."

As recently as 2001, ASA formally recognized Kington's contributions to social science when he was the honoree at ASA's Annual Meeting Science Policy Breakfast, a venue for celebrating the accomplishments of key national science policymakers who have an impact on sociological research and practice.

Upon his appointment, Kington stated that "NIH is the main engine behind medical discovery in this country and it is a great honor to be given this opportunity. I am looking forward to working with Dr. Zerhouni and the NIH leadership to help set the course for biomedical research in the 21st century."

## Goals

One of Kington's goals, which he was able to address within OBSSR, is to further support an NIH commitment to researching disparities in health. He believes that it is important that research answers fundamental scientific questions about why some people enjoy long, healthy lives while others appear locked into life trajectories notable for their

relative brevity and poor quality.

"By placing these questions at the top of NIH's scientific agenda, NIH is sending an important message to the research community," said Kington. He believes that the welcoming of behavioral and social sciences to solve health problems is an important step toward improving the health of the public.

Kington's research has focused on the role of social factors, especially socioeconomic status, as determinants of health. His current research includes studies of the health and socioeconomic status of black immigrants, differences in populations in terms of willingness to participate in genetic research, and racial and ethnic differences in infectious disease rates. His research has included studies of the relationship between wealth and health status; the health status of U.S. Hispanic populations; the determinants of health care services utilization; the economic impact of health care expenditures among the elderly; and racial and ethnic differences in the use of long-term care.

## Background

Kington came to NIH from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As Director of the Division of Health Examination Statistics in the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), he led the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, a comprehensive, ongoing survey of the health status, health behaviors, and diet of people in the United States. Before joining CDC, Kington was a Senior Scientist at the RAND Corporation, where he co-directed the Drew University/RAND Center on Health and Aging.

Kington holds a number of academic degrees. He earned his undergraduate BS and medical degrees from the University of Michigan and completed his residency training in internal medicine at Michael Reese Medical Center in Chicago. He was later appointed Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, earning his MBA and his PhD in Health Policy and Economics from The Wharton School.

The previous Associate Director of the NIH, since 1993, was Ruth Kirschstein. She was also NIH Acting Director from January 2000 to May 2002. With a 46-year history with NIH, she will now serve as a Senior Advisor to Zerhouni. □



Raynard Kington

# ASA Council Supports Sociologist Weber

Sociologist Lynn Weber, director of the women's studies program at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, has been embroiled in a controversy that emerged in the spring of 2002 regarding a set of guidelines she uses to create open and civil dialogue in her classroom. Some students had complained that the guidelines as implemented in the classroom infringed on their speech rights. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, Inc. (FIRE) took up the cause and launched an e-mail writing campaign to protest Weber's approach. There is even a threat of a lawsuit being initiated by the South Carolina FIRE chapter. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* covered the controversy in its September 27, 2002, issue, with many letters to the editor following well into October.

Weber's guidelines are well known to many sociology faculty, particularly

those who teach courses centering on race and gender. Faculty in women's studies, sociology, and beyond expressed concern about the ferocity of the criticism of Weber and her guidelines, fearing that this development could have a chilling effect on faculty willingness to teach controversial subjects with open classroom discussion.

The guidelines, which were published in *Women's Studies Quarterly* (vol. 18, Spring/Summer 1990), ask students to "acknowledge that racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, and other institutionalized forms of oppression exist, and to agree to combat actively the myths and stereotypes about our own groups and other groups...." The eight-point guidelines are designed to ensure civility and free speech, not limit it, according to Weber. She hopes that they create an atmosphere in which "race, class, gender,

See Weber, page 11



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

✓ **National Academies may study process of appointing government science & technology advisors . . .** The National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy (COSEPUP) met in February with other groups, including former White House science advisors and public health representatives, to discuss a perceived need by some in the science community to collect data on the process by which appointments are made to federal government science advisory panels. The suggestion that COSEPUP investigate this topic has emerged in a Washington abuzz with allegations that the Bush administration is unduly biasing advisory panels through a politically tainted selection process. (See February 2003 *Footnotes* page 3, "Bush administration appoints human subjects research advisory panel members.") Many in the scientific community have been concerned in recent months over the composition of a number of committees, including the Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP). But systematic data on the process by which scientists and others are selected to advise the executive branch will be a key ingredient to the Academies' effective formulation of guidelines on how best to ensure qualified, balanced advice, according to some COSEPUP members. If COSEPUP takes on the project, it could analyze the "federal government's capacity to select highly qualified individuals for the top S&T-related advisory committees in the executive branch," according to a draft charge. A review of legislation governing the provision of advice to the government, the *Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972* (FACA), might be included in its mission in order to examine whether FACA and related policies are "adequate to safeguard the independence of, and maintain an appropriate balance in, scientific and technical federal advisory committees." It was suggested that the primary task of such a committee should be to address the question, "What are the risks of poor advice or advice that is colored by ideology?" COSEPUP mainly conducts studies on cross-cutting issues in S&T policy and was chartered by the Academies to serve the President's Science Advisor, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Chair of the National Science Board, and heads of other federal research and development departments and agencies, as well as chairs of relevant congressional committees. It also monitors developments in U.S. science and technology policy for the Academies.

✓ **Human subjects legislation . . .** Last spring, U.S. House of Representatives members Diana DeGette (D-CO) and James Greenwood (R-PA) introduced a bipartisan bill (HR 4697) to address concerns about human subjects in medical experiments. Among other objectives, the bill, *The Human Subjects Protection Act of 2002*, would have extended Common Rule protections beyond the domain of federally funded research, set guidelines for and authorize resources for IRBs, and address informed consent. It also would provide new authority for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and specifically to its Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP). The idea was to give OHRP the means to help prevent accidental deaths and injury such as occurred in medical experiments in recent years. The bill did not progress beyond committee last year but DeGette announced in February at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that she would re-introduce the legislation. Of concern to some in the behavioral and social science communities is that the bill treats all human subjects similarly—regardless of level of risk—thus overburdening certain types of research. In its draft, the bill requires written consent of all human subjects, a complication for studies involving children and others unable to legally consent to participate in research. Social science organizations are monitoring this proposed legislation, ready to respond.

✓ **Medical/health researchers scramble to understand impact of federal government standards for electronic health information under HIPAA . . .** Health and Human Services Department (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson announced in February final security standards (i.e., the Privacy Rule) for protecting individually identifiable health information that is maintained or transmitted electronically (see [www.hhs.gov/ocr/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/)). He also announced modifications to a number of the electronic transactions and code sets adopted as national standards. Both final regulations are required as part of the administrative simplification provisions included in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). According to Thompson, the "national standards required under HIPAA will make it easier and less costly for the health care industry to process health claims and handle other transactions while assuring patients that their information will remain secure and confidential." Health insurers and certain health care providers and clearinghouses must establish procedures to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic health information by April 14. Researchers and IRBs now are scrambling to determine their roles relative to the Privacy Rule, and federal health research agencies are struggling to provide clear and timely guidance (e.g., see information provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at [www1.od.nih.gov/osp/ospp/hipaa/](http://www1.od.nih.gov/osp/ospp/hipaa/)), but there is much to resolve. Related to this, NIH issued a statement affirming support for data sharing and stating that data sharing is "essential for expedited translation of research...to improve human health...." Starting with the October 1, 2003, receipt date, investigators submitting an NIH grant application seeking \$500,000 or more in direct costs in any single year must include a data sharing plan or state why sharing is not possible. NIH encourages applicants to discuss their plan with their NIH program contact (see [grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-02-004.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-02-004.html)). The HHS security standards were published as a final rule in the February 20 *Federal Register* with an effective date of April 21, 2003. Most covered entities will have two years (until April 21, 2005) to comply. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implements and enforces the security standards, transactions standards, and other HIPAA administrative simplification provisions, except for privacy standards, for which the HHS Office for Civil Rights has enforcement responsibility. NIH is not an enforcing agency. The complete text of both final rules is available at the CMS website ([www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2)). See a summarizing fact sheet on HIPAA at [www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/hipaa.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/hipaa.html).

# ASA Council in Action . . .

## Brief Summary of Recent ASA Council Actions

The ASA Council met on February 1-2, 2003, in Washington, DC, and one of its key decisions included giving the ASA Executive Office permission to post Council minutes on ASA's website in place of publishing the full text of the minutes in *Footnotes*. This keeps the minutes highly accessible while allowing interested members to read a briefer summary of Council meetings in the printed newsletter, all while reserving space in *Footnotes* for other items of interest. Complete minutes of the Council meeting will be posted on the ASA website at [www.asanet.org/governance/minutes.html](http://www.asanet.org/governance/minutes.html) after they have been approved by Council.

So, the following is not an exhaustive list of Council actions but simply a summary of the highlights of the February Council meeting:

- Reviewed the latest draft of the amicus brief in the case of *Grutter v. Bollinger, et al.* Understanding the timing constraints of filing the brief with the Supreme Court, Council authorized the amicus subcommittee (i.e., President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, and Secretary) to approve the final draft with the understanding that updated drafts will be sent to Council members.
- Affirmed appointment of liaisons to outside organizations: Cecelia Ridgeway to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Economic/Political Section, Carl Meyer to the AAAS International Section, Barbara Schneider to the AAAS Education Section, Paul Roman to the Decade of Behavior, and Charles Hirschman to the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics.
- Adopted on a one-year trial basis a travel policy that asks members attending ASA governance-related meetings to purchase their own tickets and seek reimbursement within prescribed cost guidelines. Maximum costs by region will be reviewed and adjusted periodically.
- Considered but declined a proposal to provide a free section membership to all new student members.
- Selected sites for the 2006 and 2007 Annual Meeting. (Announcements of cities and states will be in *Footnotes* when contracts are final.)
- Directed the Executive Office to use geographic rotation as one factor when selecting future annual meeting locations.
- Congratulated Claude Fischer for the successful launch of *Contexts* magazine and for having received the Association of American Publishers' Best Journal in the Social Sciences Award for 2002, and for having won recognition from within the discipline and without. Council appreciates the extraordinary vision, leadership, dedication, sociological insight, and effort shown by Fischer.
- Expressed its appreciation to former Executive Officer Felice J. Levine for her vision and leadership in the successful launch of *Contexts* as an important vehicle to convey the uses and contributions of sociology within the discipline and beyond.
- Agreed to move forward with plans to make ASA journals available online as part of each print subscription, at no additional cost to members.
- Increased non-member individual subscription prices by \$10 per subscription, and increased institutional subscription rates by \$20 per subscription for 2004.
- Adjusted JSTOR from a five-year window to a two-year window.
- Allocated an additional 30 pages for *Sociology of Education* in 2003.
- Adopted the use of a three-year

- moving average calculation beginning with 2004 to determine ASA Sections' session and financial allocations, with the provision that for the next three years no section will be disadvantaged by the loss of sessions or budget allocations.
- Placed on the spring 2003 ballot changes in the Bylaws (see article on page 1).
  - Authorized the Executive Office to place a copy of the full, approved Minutes of Council meetings on the ASA website, and to place a summary of selected actions and discussions in *Footnotes*.
  - Adopted a budget for 2003 as proposed by the Executive Office and Budget Committee.
  - Approved plans to disseminate the report of the Task Force on Articulation.
  - Noted this task force's commitment to quality instruction of the discipline. To that end, Council recommended that any faculty member teaching a college level course in sociology have at least MA-level (or equivalent) preparation in sociology.
  - Created three new task forces (see article on page 7).
  - Added mentoring and marginality as a regular part of the agenda for the Department Chairs conference at the Annual Meeting.
  - Endorsed the creation of a mentoring program to support sociologists who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) or who want to focus on LGBT scholarship.
  - Agreed to move ahead with the editorial project proposed by the Centennial Publications Committee to produce a volume on the last 100 years of American sociology.
  - Agreed to move ahead with planning for a possible centennial documentary to present sociological accomplishments to the American public.
  - Created a subcommittee of Council to work on international activities in conjunction with the ASA centennial.
  - Committed up to a total of \$75,000 from American Sociological Fund for centennial activities (\$20,000 seed money for the proposed documentary, \$25,000 for the proposed volume on 100 years of American sociology, and \$30,000 for other centennial events).
  - Voted to affirm the academic freedom of Professor Lynn Weber and all faculty to develop strategies or guidelines to encourage open and civil classroom debate, to support the discussion and dialogue of controversial issues that are inherent to the study of inequality and other core subjects, and to direct the ASA President to write a letter containing this motion to be sent to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and the Chair of the Sociology Department of the University of South Carolina as well as to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (see article on page 3).
  - Received and reviewed the report of the Task Force on Journal Diversity.
  - Reviewed costs associated with annual meeting services, and asked that the Executive Office provide the membership with details on the high cost of selected audio visual and other services.
  - Reviewed the status of association finances and investments at the end of 2002.
  - Reviewed the costs associated with providing journals to members.
  - Met in executive session to select editors for, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *Teaching Sociology*.
  - Considered but declined a suggestion for adopting interest groups as an alternative to small sections. □

# Doing Eye-opening Policy Work in Washington, DC

by Susan Halebsky Dimock, ASA 2003 Congressional Fellow

I've just finished my sixth week working for Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) on healthcare issues. Because of his membership on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, I am in a position to closely observe healthcare policymaking, an area in which both the process and subject matter have broad sociological relevance.

Health issues are especially challenging because of their breadth and complexity. As a graduate student, working on my PhD dissertation, many advisors and readers were concerned that my research topic was too broad. But by Capitol Hill standards, it was rather narrowly focused. In fact, the breadth of policy and legislative issues I cover for Senator Reed has converted me into a bit of a generalist. This is not a bad thing, as I am learning a great deal about a wide range of important and timely issues. The growing list of issues I am responsible for includes antibiotic resistance, antibiotic short-ages, direct-to-consumer advertising of drugs, bioterrorism, chronic care, quality care, geriatrics, cancer, the National Institutes of Health, and substance abuse. And in recent weeks I've been familiarizing myself with Medicaid claiming by public schools.

In future *Footnotes* columns I will discuss the substance of the issues I deal with, but this month I will describe the unique nature of finding a nonacademic job in Washington, DC. Compared to finding a "real" job (i.e., one not underwritten by a fellowship), finding a position on Capitol Hill for which my ASA fellowship was applicable was relatively easy. If only every graduate student going on the academic or nonacademic job market could have such a pleasant experience, at least as job searches go. I sent out roughly a dozen cover letters and resumes and the majority of the congressional offices called to schedule an interview. I received multiple job offers and even turned down interviews! But keep in mind that from their perspective, my services were free, because the ASA congressional fellowship pays my salary. While getting this job was not so difficult, there are many employers in DC seeking to hire PhDs. It is challenging to find such a job, but it is possible. My own experience—and that of other PhDs in nonacademic jobs—suggests that the skills and abilities employers seek include being able to accomplish work on short deadlines, multi-task, communicate clearly in verbal and written form, and manage a committee and a large research project.

A number of PhDs in nonacademic jobs stressed that having a PhD was a significant credential in DC because it meant to prospective employers that the applicant could think, organize, and

analyze. Through graduate academic training one develops the ability to discern the relevant questions to ask about an issue or a situation and one knows how to take steps to solve the problem or address the issue. PhDs working outside academia also stressed that having substantive expertise in an area is not essential on the job market: if one has the necessary skills and abilities, a PhD signals to employers that the applicant can quickly learn new subject matter on the job.

A PhD does provide real-world skills and abilities; a person need only frame them as such in their resume, cover letters, and interviews. For example, in looking at DC job listings I've seen the following skills, which all PhDs acquire during their graduate work: the ability to support a position with argumentation and logic, the ability to combine and integrate diverse types of information, the ability to suspend judgment and to work with ambiguity, and the ability to implement and manage all phases of a complex research project. While academia has provided PhDs with tools that are perhaps more theoretically and empirically advanced than those used outside of academia, graduate training has also provided critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are essential in the nonacademic world.

Now, where to look for a job... Nonacademic PhDs that I spoke with work in a variety of settings, including government, think tanks and nonprofit organizations. At one end of the spectrum are think tanks such as the Urban Institute that focus on academic research. A sociologist at the Urban Institute enjoys the benefits of a research institution without the teaching responsibilities and is expected to publish in peer-reviewed journals. The federal government may be the other end of the spectrum. A person can pursue a research position with the government or can do administrative work in the government. In between, there are many large and small think tanks and nonprofits in DC that employ PhD research staff.

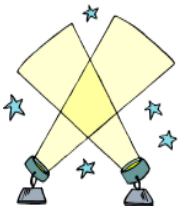
Additionally, there are many for-profit consulting firms that hire PhDs to work on government contracts. Government jobs are easy to learn about (see [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)), but difficult to come by. If pursuing this avenue, count on at least six months between submitting your application and being hired. Also, it is important that applicants familiarize themselves with the proper resume format and the "knowledge, skills, and abilities" section of the government job application process. For non-government jobs there is not one ideal place to look. *The Washington Post* website ([www.washingtonjobs.com](http://www.washingtonjobs.com)) is quite useful, and there are also job listings online that are specific to Washington (such as [www.washingtonnetworkgroup.com](http://www.washingtonnetworkgroup.com)). Many nonprofits post job openings on their websites. Thus, it is useful to first compile a list of groups whose mission or work suits your interest area, and then watch their postings. □

*This column is the first in a series by ASA Congressional Fellow Susan Dimock, who is serving on the staff of Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) for six months.*



Susan Halebsky Dimock





# Spotlight on Departments

An occasional column showcasing accomplishments and innovations in sociology departments

## Not Just Sociology at U. of Wisconsin-Green Bay

by Jean Beaman, Academic and Professional Affairs

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay’s Social Change and Development (SCD) department prides itself on being an atypical sociology department. Its innovative and interdisciplinary program emphasizes social science and critical history and immerses students in historical, comparative and critical perspectives, critical thinking, problem solving, citizenship, and democracy.

The department consists of 11 faculty, including sociologists, anthropologists, historians, economists, and political scientists. Students are encouraged to develop critical perspectives in order to understand the world in which we live. Throughout its many courses, SCD focuses on “the problem of why and how societies and cultures around the world change and the question of whether those changes promote justice, equity, democracy and development of human potential,” explains Professor Andrew Austin.

According to Austin, the underlying logic of SCD is C. Wright Mills’ sociological imagination, allowing students to place their life in the context of the society and world in which we live. “SCD stresses the central elements of ‘good sociology’: historical thinking, critical theoretical approaches, and democratic participation and community engagement.” The department aims to produce graduates with “superior preparation in the social sciences,” says Austin. SCD complements advanced study in sociology as it trains students in sociological analysis. Because the university offers only a minor in sociology, many students major in SCD. There are currently more than 50 students in the department.

SCD offers four emphases: American Social Issues, which covers social change and problems in American society; Global Studies, which focuses on the Third World and international development; Law and Justice Studies, for students interested in law school; and Women’s Studies. Students can also design a more specific emphasis. The department offers a range of courses including Freedom and Social Control; Women and the Law; Historical

Perspectives on Social Change (a required course); Power and Change in America; and Feminist Theory.

Although there are no admission requirements to the major and minor, the curriculum is very rigorous. Majors are required to take Portfolio in Social Change and Development, both at the beginning and end of their program. This requirement allows them to assess their progress and accomplishments in the major as preparation for life outside college. Courses in writing are also required. Students can also minor in Social Change and Development and often combine this with a major in a related discipline. In addition, the department funds the Center for History and Social Change, which promotes historical study through lectures and seminars.

SCD also emphasizes internships and research projects as a way for students to apply knowledge and get “hands-on” learning. “SCD’s internship program is rooted in the idea that the modern university in a democratic society should play a role in preparing students to participate actively in shaping their communities,” says Austin, who serves as internship director. Austin has recently worked on a large-scale truancy assessment project in the city, which involved students at every stage.

SCD is one of many interdisciplinary departments at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, a mid-size university with 5,000 students. The University’s “Green Bay Idea” stresses interdisciplinary programs, critical thinking, problem solving skills, and citizenship. While all students complete a general education program, they synthesize knowledge from several subjects in their interdisciplinary programs. The Social Change and Development department is an example of such a program in that it firmly stresses that to understand the past, our own lives, and our own society, one must understand the world.

For more information on SCD, contact Andrew Austin, Social Change and Development, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311, (920) 465-2359, austina@uwgb.edu. □

# A Supreme Court Challenge to Legal Aid

by Douglas Snyder, Prince George’s Community College

A current case before the Supreme Court of the United States illustrates how a social movement is vulnerable to challenges, mainly litigation, even when the movement has a long-standing positive history. For the past ten years, a conservative Washington, DC, nonprofit organization, the Washington Legal Foundation (WLF), has been trying, by means of law suits, to dry up a principal source of funds currently used in state legal aid programs. These programs deliver professional services to the poor and indigent involved in civil legal matters.

WLF is seeking injunctions to stop these state administered programs from using any Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) as a source of funds. IOLTA provide interest from a variety of funds that if held in separate client accounts would be too small an amount and/or too short-term to draw interest in excess of service charges. However, aggressive lobbying and filings by legal aid advocates have led to legislation or court rulings in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, allowing these trust accounts to be pooled. As a result, a considerable amount of money to fund legal services is generated.

WLF has provided legal representation in three U.S. District Court suits to declare IOLTA unconstitutional as a prohibited taking of property under the Fifth Amendment. WLF attorneys first filed in Massachusetts in 1993 and filed more recently in the states of Texas and Washington. In prior state and federal suits and in the Massachusetts case, IOLTA had consistently been declared constitutional, based upon a ruling that nothing of value had been taken. Recently, however, the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Texas IOLTA program was unconstitutional. At the same time, the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court found that the Washington state program was constitutional. WLF successfully appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court for a ruling on the Washington suit. The court heard oral arguments in December in the suit against the Washington program. The suit seeks an injunction to stop use of IOLTA explicitly in Washington and implicitly in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

### Historical Impetus

The history of IOLTA programs provides an interesting example of the diffusion of an innovation. The first use of IOLTA for legal aid took place in Australia in the early 1970s. There, like elsewhere, legal aid supporters were searching for creative ways to fund these programs, rather than relying on *pro bono* efforts or direct government funding.

Soon thereafter IOLTA programs emerged in several Canadian provinces.

The first state to start using IOLTA was Florida in 1981. By the end of 1987, 45 states and the District of Columbia had adopted IOLTA programs; the remaining five states later followed. Both the American Bar Association and the legal aid network played key roles in the spread and popularity of IOLTA. A major stimulus leading to the current widespread use of IOLTA in the United States was a 25-percent cut in federal funds for legal services during the first year of the Reagan administration. A further incentive for the development of strong state programs was prohibitions on the use of federal funds for class-action suits, lobbying, and union organizing. In a number of states today, IOLTA comprise over half of total funds allocated to legal services. Nationally, IOLTA are the second largest funding source after the federal Legal Services Corporation. Total IOLTA funds are estimated at \$150 million of the total expenditures of \$850 million. IOLTA programs cost taxpayers nothing.

### Decision Impact

The Supreme Court must decide whether to support WLF’s claims that IOLTA constitute a “taking” of private property. If the case is decided in WLF’s favor, legal aid funds in at least the 26 states with mandatory programs will be jeopardized. During the December hearing, several justices, notably “swing voter” Sandra Day O’Connor, seemed skeptical that IOLTA, which would result in little or no return to individual clients, could be considered a taking. But two possible rulings besides a total stoppage of IOLTA income are of concern to legal service advocates: (1) Individual clients could opt out of having their IOLTA used for legal aid to the poor; (2) IOLTA programs could be made voluntary in the 26 states now with mandatory programs.

With either outcome, income from IOLTA to fund state legal service programs would decrease sharply, dealing a severe setback to the drive for equal justice in this country. It is estimated that current funding of legal aid programs allows them to serve just 15 to 20 percent of those living in poverty who need legal advice and representation. The Supreme Court decision is expected in June.

*Doug Snyder was appointed recently by the outgoing Maryland governor to the Board of Directors for the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC). MLSC distributes grants to agencies serving the poor in civil cases. He is presenting a roundtable paper, “Legal Aid in the United States: Past and Current Challenges,” at the Sociology of Law Section’s August 16 session at the ASA Annual Meeting in Atlanta. He can be reached at Dsnyderphd@aol.com. □*

## Vantage Point, from page 2

scholar who is selected for an award. SWS not only voted to join ASA’s amicus brief as a signatory but also made a contribution to defray the costs of its filing. Granted that by that North Carolina weekend in February I was a bit dazed, having just attended a long string of intense weekend meetings. But when I periodically became confused as to whether I was working at a particular moment on an ASA task force issue, with ASA Council members, with a regional association, or on an SWS project, the fuzziness evaporated as I realized the strong overlap in our people and our interests. Perhaps,

as Durkheim noted, times of conflict bring us together. But there is more going on within sociology than a reactive stance. Sociologists are not waiting to be asked, not passively adopting a Rodney Dangerfield “no respect” attitude and merely sighing about it. In many of our overlapping circles we find that our ideas, evidence, and perspectives speak to other audiences about important ways of understanding the world. While we are not always in agreement as sociologists, we are going public about what we have to offer, and we are doing it together as sociologists. □

## ASK ASA...

**Our sociology program is due for its once-a-decade review. We have a joint program with anthropology and social work. What are the standards ASA sets for a sociology major and how can our department be accredited by those standards?**

The ASA offers a consulting service called the Department Resources Group (DRG) to assist departments with program reviews. The reviewers who serve on the DRG are nominated on the basis of their expertise in teaching, curriculum design, and expertise with specific teaching challenges (e.g., the introductory courses, teaching research methods). They attend special training sessions at the Annual Meeting.

When you call the Executive Office (202-383-9005 ext. 323), staff will make recommendations for colleagues to serve on the reviewing panel who come from similar types of institutions as yours, and who have particular expertise in areas on which you want to focus. There is no charge for ASA’s service; the department pays the expenses of the visitor and a reasonable honorarium.

In terms of standards, the most useful resource is the booklet, titled *Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major*, which suggests sample goals and a process for departments to examine their curriculum. An ASA task force is in the process of updating this 1990 document.

The ASA does not accredit programs. There is a Commission on Applied and Clinical Programs that does accredit programs with applied and clinical emphases (See [www.sociologycommission.org/](http://www.sociologycommission.org/). Contact Commission Chair: Harry Perlstadt at Michigan State at [perlstad@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:perlstad@pilot.msu.edu) for more information). Most liberal arts disciplines do not accredit programs, although psychology and chemistry are two exceptions.

When you have a combined department with a field like social work that has an accrediting mechanism, it is important to have some national norms information on sociology that can serve as a proxy for formal accreditation. The ASA homepage contains research reports on many aspects of department life, and a recent survey of departments will soon produce additional data on issues such as enrollments and course offerings. Feel free to call ASA for other information and advice on making the strongest possible case for your program.

- Carla B. Howery, Academic and Professional Affairs

# Candidates for ASA Offices in 2003

In accordance with election policies established by the ASA Council, biographical sketches for top office candidates are published in *Footnotes*. The biographical sketches appear below in alphabetical order by office. Biographical sketches for all candidates will be available when ballots are mailed to all current voting members in early April.

## President-Elect

### Present position:

Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Public Policy, University at Albany, SUNY (2000-present). **Former professional positions:**

Associate to Full Professor, SUNY-Albany (1980-2000); Founding Director, Center for Social and Demographic Analysis, SUNY-Albany (1981-1990); Assistant Professor, Cornell University (1977-1980); Assistant Professor, Lehman College, CUNY (1974-77). **Education:** PhD (1974), AB (1963), Columbia University. **Offices held in other organizations:** President, Eastern Sociological Society (1997-1998); Member, Advisory Committee for Program on International Migration, Social Science Research Council (2001-2002); Member, General Social Survey Board of Overseers (1996-2000); Editorial Board, *Social Forces* (1997-2000); Deputy Editor, *Sociological Forum* (1990-1995). **Offices, committee memberships, and editorial appointments held in ASA:** Vice President (2000-2001); Chair-elect, section on Community and Urban Sociology (2002-2003); Member, Task Force for the Re-Examination of ASA Restructuring (1999-2000); Chair, Task Force on ASA Policy Statements (1999-2000); Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review* (1998-2001); Chair, Section on International Migration (1995-1996).

**Publications:** co-author with Victor Nee, *Remaking the American Mainstream*, Harvard University Press (2003); *Ethnic Identity: The Transformation of White America*, Yale University Press (1990); co-author with Roxane Silberman, "Decolonization immigrations and the social origins of the second generation: The case of North Africans in France," *International Migration Review* (2002); co-author with John Logan and Brian Stults, "How segregated are middle-class African Americans?" *Social Problems* (2000); co-author with John Logan, Brian Stults, Gilbert Marzan, and Wenquan Zhang, "Immigrant groups in the suburbs: A reexamination of suburbanization and spatial assimilation," *American Sociological Review* (1999). **Professional contributions:** Chercheur associé, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (2000); co-chair, MEUS (Multi-ethnic United States) module design committee, General Social Survey, 1998-2000; participant, ASA Congressional seminar on immigration, 1998; consultant, Allgemeine Bevölkerungs umfrage der Sozialwissenschaften (ALLBUS) 1996 survey, Zentrum für Umfragen, Methoden und Analysen (1993-1996). **Honors and awards:** German Marshall Fund Fellowship (2002); Guggenheim Fellowship (2000-2001); Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar Fellowship, (1999); Excellence in Academic Service Award, University at Albany (1998); Fulbright Research Award, Mannheim University (1993-



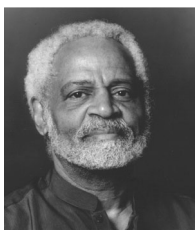
Richard Alba

1994); Elected to the Sociological Research Association (1993); book award, Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in the United States, 1992; finalist, American Sociological Association's Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award, 1992.

**Personal Statement:** I am honored to be a candidate for the President who will organize the centennial ASA meeting, where we will surely celebrate the contributions of American sociology. But we can and should do much more: Looking backwards can help us to reflect on the present situation of our discipline by illuminating the ways that sociology has had its greatest impacts but may have also missed great chances. Looking forwards will bring us face to face with challenges, such as the limits of a distinctly American sociology in an increasingly globalized world, but also with opportunities: one is the value of our deep store of theory and research about diversities of various kinds, along with our own robust diversity in social backgrounds and identities, for understanding the dynamics of multicultural societies. Calling upon our sociological imaginations, we can devise new strategies for meeting the challenges in teaching, advancing knowledge, and promoting a hopeful vision of social change to a fractured planet.

### Present position:

Professor of Sociology, New York University. **Former professional positions:** Professor of Sociology, University of California-Berkeley, 1979-1999 (Chair, 1985-1988); Director, Institute for the Study of Social Change, University of California-Berkeley, 1979-1998. **Education:** PhD, Northwestern University, 1962; MA, University of California-Los Angeles, 1959; BS Northwestern University, 1957. **Offices held in other organizations:** Chair, Board of Directors, Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2002-present; Social Science Research Council, National Advisory Board, 2002-present; American Association for the Advancement of Science, Advisory Committee on Germline Intervention, 1998-2000; National Advisory Council, National Human Genome Research Institute, 1996-1999; Science Advisory Panel, *National Institutes of Health*, Research on Violence, 1993. **Offices held, committee or task force memberships in ASA:** Chair, ASA Task Force for Statement on Race, 2001-2002; Executive Office of the Budget, ASA Council, 1991-1993; ASA Council, 1988-91; Corresponding Editor, *Theory and Society*, 1989-1991. **Publications:** "Social Side Effects of the New Human Molecular Genetic Diagnostics," in Michael Yudell and Robert DeSalle, eds., *The Genomic Revolution: Unveiling the Unity of Life*, Washington, DC: John Henry Press, 2002; "The Sociology of Science and the Revolution in Molecular Biology," in J. R. Blau, ed., *The Blackwell Companion to Sociology*, London and New York: Blackwell, 2001; "The Morphing Properties of Whiteness," in B. Rasmussen, E. Klinenberg, I. Nexica and M. Wray, eds., *The Making and Unmaking of Whiteness*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2001; "Individual Fairness, Group Preferences, and the California Strategy," in Robert Post and Michael



Troy Duster

Rogin, eds., *Race and Representation: Affirmative Action*, New York: Zone, 1998 (originally published in *Representations*, 55, 41-58, Summer, 1996); "The Stratification of Cultures as the Barrier to Democratic Pluralism," in Robert Orrill, ed., *Education and Democracy: Re-imagining Liberal Learning in America*, New York: The College Board, 1997, 263-286.

**Personal Statement:** For the full century of its existence, Sociology in the United States has always had to vigorously engage competing explanations of human social behavior. As I see it, three dominant current competing frames are *The Market*, *The DNA*, and *Individual Willpower*. In the attempt to better explain, for example, poverty, violence, and intelligence—on the one hand, and alcoholism, corporate power and personal greed on the other—the appeal of these competing frames is powerfully seductive. Popular print and electronic media are best attuned to these three major competitors—and the gatekeepers are impatient with complex social analyses. Sociologists can wince at the challenge, retreat from the public encounter, and become increasingly self-referential. Or, we can roll up our sleeves and be better prepared for engaging those debates—starting with our own shifting priorities in self-consciously determining who and what we should better reward in the discipline.

## Vice President-Elect

### Present position:

Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, New York University, 1971-present (assistant professor to professor; at various times: Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Undergraduate Studies). **Former professional positions:** Project Director, Bureau of Applied Social Research, Columbia University, 1968-1971. National Coordinator, College Assistance Program, National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students, 1962-1966. **Education:** Columbia University, MA, PhD, 1967, 1971. Swarthmore College, BA, 1962. **Offices held in other organizations:** President, Eastern Sociological Society, 1995-96. Editorial Board Member, *American Sociologist*, 1990-1998, *Gender & Society*, 1993-1996. Chair of the Book Award Committee of the American Educational Research Association, to select the best research based book on education published in the last two years, 1985-1986. Sociologists for Women in Society: Chair, Anti-Discrimination Committee; member, Publications Committee, 1980s. Chair, Educational Problems Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, 1978-1980. **ASA offices held:** Chair, American Sociological Association Task Force on the Creation of an Advanced Placement Exam in Sociology, 2001-present. Member of the Distinguished Career Award Committee of the American Sociological Association, 1991-1993. Chair, Publications Committee of the American Sociological Association, 1987-1989. Editorial Board Member, *Sociology of Education*, 1993-1995; *Teaching Sociology*, 1982-1985. Chair, Section on Undergraduate Education, 1988-1989; Sociology of Education Section, 1983-1984, American Sociological Association.



Caroline Hodges Persell

**Publications:** "Thinking Sociologically about Digital Technology, Teaching, and Learning: What We Know and What We Need to Know" (with Denzel E. Benson, Wava Haney, Tracy E. Ore, Aileen Schulte, James Steele, and Idee Winfield). 2002. *Teaching Sociology* 30 (2): 140-157. "Civil Society, Economic Distress, and Social Tolerance" (with Adam Green and Liena Gurevich). 2001. *Sociological Forum* 16 (2): 203-230. "Values, Control, and Outcomes in Public and Private Schools," Pp. 387-407 in *Handbook of Sociology of Education*, edited by Maureen T. Hallinan. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum, 2000. "Gender and Education in Global Perspective" (with Carrie James, Trivina Kang, and Karrie Snyder), Pp. 407-440 in Janet S. Chafetz (ed.), *Handbook on Gender Sociology*, New York: Plenum, 1999. *Preparing for Power: America's Elite Boarding Schools* (with Peter W. Cookson, Jr.), New York: Basic Books, 1985. Paperback edition, 1987. **Personal Statement:** If elected, I would work to support and enhance what the ASA does to strengthen research, the public presence of sociology, the teaching and learning of sociology, and a commitment to social justice. Through its publications program, annual meetings, special workshops, and relations with the media, ASA works to improve research and its dissemination. Our field leads in advancing teaching and learning, for example, through the ASA Teaching Resources Center and the Departmental Resources Group. ASA works to advance social justice through the minority scholars and MOST programs.

In these and more ways, ASA supports and enhances society, sociology, and the continuing development of its members. It must continue to serve the public good, and serve as a bulwark against both corporate and political values seeking to diminish the free exchange of ideas. If elected, I will advance these professional ideals, as well as service and intellectual openness within ASA.

### Present position:

Professor of Sociology, University of California-Irvine (2001-present). **Former positions:** Professor of Sociology, University of Arizona (1987-2001); Assistant to Associate Professor, University of Texas (1976-1987); Instructor, Southern Methodist University (1975-1976). **Education:** PhD, University of California-Los Angeles (1976); MA, University of California-Los Angeles (1972); MA in Urban Studies, University of Akron (1971); BA, Ohio University (1966). **Offices held in other organizations:** Board of Directors, Society for the Study of Social Problems (1997-2000); President, Pacific Sociological Association (1997-98); Chair, C. Wright Mills Award Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (1995-96); Vice President, Pacific Sociological Association (1993-1994); President, Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (1992-93). **Offices, committee memberships, and editorial appointments held in ASA:** Publications Committee (2001-2003); Council (1995-98); Chair, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section (1992-1993); Committee on Professional Ethics (1990-1993); Editorial Boards:



David Snow



*American Sociological Review* (1990-1992) and *Social Psychology Quarterly* (1993-2000). **Publications:** Co-editor with S. Soule and H. Kriesi, *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements* (forthcoming 2003); “On the Presumed Crisis in Ethnographic Representation: Observations From A Sociological & Interactionist Standpoint,” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 31 (2002); Co-author with D. Cress, “The Outcomes of Homeless Mobilization: The Influence of Organization, Disruption, Political Mediation, and Framing,” *American Journal of Sociology* 105 (2000); Co-author with R. Benford, “Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment,” *Annual Review of Sociology* 26 (2000); Co-author with D. Cress, “Resources, Benefactors, and the Viability of Homeless SMOs,” *American Sociological Review* 61 (1996). **Professional contributions:** Keynote Speaker, Annual Alpha Kappa Delta Initiation Ceremony, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville (2002); Jensen Lecture, Duke University (1999); Principal organizer, Center for Applied Sociology, University of Arizona (1998); Taft Memorial Lecture, University of Cincinnati (1997); Board of Directors (1999-2001) and Vice President (1995-2001), Primavera Foundation, Tucson, AZ. **Honors and awards:** Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California (1999-2000); Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris (1999); *Down on Their Luck: A Study of Homeless Street People* (with L. Anderson) received the Charles Horton Cooley Award, Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (1993), the Distinguished Scholarship Award, Pacific Sociological Association (1994), and the Scholarly Achievement Award, North Central Sociological Association (1994); Morris K. Udall Fellow, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona (1994); Elected, Sociological Research Association (1992). **Personal Statement:** Among the challenges confronting the discipline in general and the ASA in particular, three strike me as especially critical at this juncture: to continue to embrace and nurture the virtues of diversity and inclusivity in terms of membership, theoretical perspectives, methodological approaches, and substantive interests without simultaneously and unwittingly generating a mix of disconnected interests and voices that ultimately renders what we do indecipherable not only to others but to ourselves as well; to rediscover and vitalize a set of theoretical and methodological principles that under gird and connect our substantive pursuits, and that distinguish us from our sister disciplines in the social sciences, without simultaneously and unwittingly undermining the diversity and openness generative of innovation and creativity; and to understand more fully that the viability of our discipline and practice mandates that we talk not only to each other but that we engage pressing domestic and global issues publicly by conversing with the various polities and publics relevant to those issues. These are broad and complicated challenges, to be sure, but they are fundamental to our enterprise and will thus receive my attention and commitment as an officer of the ASA.

Secretary-Elect

Present position:

Assistant to Full Professor, University of California-Los Angeles, (1976-present). **Education:** PhD, University of Michigan (1977); BA, Emory University (1968). **Offices held in other organizations:** Executive Board, Social Science History Association; Editorial Board, *American Journal of Sociology*; Editorial Board, *Research in Political Sociology*; Publications Committee, Pacific Sociological Association. **Offices held, committee or task force memberships, and editorial appointments in ASA:** Rose Book Series Editorial Board (2002); Dissertation Award Committee (2000-present); Council, Comparative-Historical Sociology Section (1999-2002); Committee on Teaching (1998-2001); Advisory Committee, Preparing Future Faculty (1999-2002); Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Education (1994-1997). **Publications:** *Making Society: The Historical Construction of the World We Live In*. 2001, Pine Forge Press. *Socializing Capital: The Rise of the Large Industrial Corporation in America*. 1997, Princeton University Press. “Aesthetic Identity, Race, and American Folk Music.” *Qualitative Sociology*. 25 (2002): 459-469. “How Many Logics of Collective Action?” with Rachel R. Parker-Gwin. *Theory and Society*. 28 (1999): 203-237.

Personal Statement:

What I offer is a deep commitment to and past achievement in all three pillars of academic



William Roy

excellence. In scholarship, I have published two books in the last five years, along with papers in leading journals. I have won both the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award and the ASA’s Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award. And I have served the ASA as officer in two sections, various standing committees, and teaching related activities. My vision of the ASA is that it first and foremost serve all the members—small college, research university, and non-academic sociologists; those whose professional lives accentuate teaching and those who focus on research; those solidly in the mainstream and those challenging comfortable assumptions; those in secure professional appointments and those struggling for their professional lives. In an era of shrinking material resources and a political context that subdues open inquiry, it is important that the ASA step up its efforts, both internally and externally.

Present position:

William H. Sewell-Bascom Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2001-present. **Former professional positions held:** Assistant Professor to Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1973-2000; Professor and Chair, Department of Afro-American Studies, 1984-1987; Chair, Department of Sociology, 1988-1991; Center for Demography and Ecology, 1994-1999. **Education:** BA, Miles College, 1964; MA,

PhD, Washington State University, 1971, 1973. **Offices held in other organizations:** Member, Bureau of the Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations, 1993-99; Deputy Editor, *Demography*, 1995-1998; Member, Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance, Committee on National Statistics, National Research Council, 1992-1995; Member, ICPSR Council, 1992-1996; Member, American Statistical Association’s Census Advisory; Panel on the 1980 Census Undercount, 1983-1984. **Offices held, committee or task force memberships, and editorial appointments held in ASA:** Co-Editor, *American Sociological Review*, 1999-2003; Member, Council, American Sociological Association, 1989-1992; Member, Task Force on Graduate Education, 1992; Member, Program Committee, American Sociological Association, 1984. **Publications:** “Ethnic Concentrations and Labor Market Opportunities,” pp. 106-140, in Frank D. Bean and Stephanie Bell-Rose (eds.), *Immigration and Opportunity: Race, Ethnicity, and Employment in the United States*. New York: Russell Sage (1999). Franklin D. Wilson and Gerald Jaynes. 2000 “Migration and the Employment and Wages of Native and Immigrant Non-College Educated Workers” in *Work and Occupations*, vol. 27, No. 2 (May), pp. 135-167. Franklin D. Wilson and Roger Hammer. 2001. “Ethnic Residential Segregation and Its Consequences” pp. 272-303, in Lawrence Bobo, Alice O’Connor and Chris Tilly (eds.), *Urban Inequality: Evidence from Four Cities*. New York: Russell Sage. **Personal Statement:** Not available.

## Council Approves New Task Forces, Seeks Member Involvement

On February 2, the ASA Council voted to establish three new task forces to undertake work of priority importance to the Association and its membership. The new task forces are (1) the Task Force on the Assessment of the Undergraduate Major, (2) Task Force to Revise the ASA Areas of Specialty, and (3) the Task Force on Bridges to the Real World.

These task forces will be seated in June, commence their work immediately, and meet for the first time at the Annual Meeting in August. The task force structure was adopted by Council to allow the organization to be flexible and respond in a focused manner to important needs of the discipline. By Council action, task forces have up to two years in which to complete their assigned task.

Nominations, including self-nominations, are sought for these task forces. Nominations should include a statement of interest and a brief biographical sketch on relevant background and expertise. Send nominations and supporting materials to American Sociological Association, Attn: Governance, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005. The deadline for submission of nominations is May 1.

A subcommittee of the ASA Council will review the nominations and select the members. Appointments will be made in early June. In establishing these task forces, Council underscored its commitment to the broad participation of the ASA membership in the Association’s work. Council urges members with relevant interests to volunteer to serve on these task forces.

### New ASA Task Forces & Charges

**Task Force on the Assessment of the Undergraduate Major ...** will undertake research, deliberation, and writing to produce a report to:

- Describe the “landscape” of undergraduate assessment as it pertains to sociology,
- Identify promising practices in sociology departments, including exams, portfolios, assessment imbedded in courses,
- Explore the possibility of and pluses and minuses of a standardized exam and any role ASA might play in its preparation and in keeping norming information,
- Suggest means to help departments consider these options and learn more about them, including events at the Annual Meeting, and
- Create model materials that departments could use to undertake useful assessments.

The report will be presented to Council by January 2005.

**Task Force to Revise the ASA Areas of Specialty ...** will examine and update the categories of areas of interest in use throughout the Association. These areas appear on the membership application form and on the biographical profile for each member. Each member is asked to select up to four areas of specialty, or interest. These data are used for many purposes, including production of customized mailing lists, and monitoring of trends in the discipline. While new categories have been added periodically to coincide with the addition of new sections, there has not been a complete re-examination of the list for more than a decade. The Task Force will be asked to prepare a revised list of specialties for submission to Council by January 2004.

**Task Force on Bridges to the Real World ...** will build upon the work of the “Blue Ribbon Task Force” from the early 1990s. Many persons are drawn to sociology in the hope that they can use their skills to advance social justice at home or abroad. However, neither the training nor the jobs of many sociologists provide the tools or paths to use their sociological expertise to further community-service goals. This task force will seek ways to provide opportunities for more sociologists to develop the relevant skills and create mechanisms to bring those skills to arenas in which they can make a difference. It will consider the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, but will not be limited to those possibilities. The task force will try to develop proposals to institutionalize ties between academic sociologists and the public, especially community- and social-change organizations and the media.

## Merton, from page 1

devoted to tracing origins, he chose a first name after Robert Houdin, the French magician whose name Harry Houdini (himself originally Erich Weiss) had adapted. And when he won a scholarship to Temple University he was content to let the new name become permanent.

At Temple College—a school founded for “the poor boys and girls of Philadelphia” and not yet fully accredited—he chanced on a wonderful undergraduate teacher. It was serendipity, the mature Merton insisted. The sociologist George E. Simpson took him on as a research assistant in a project on race and the media and introduced him not only to sociology but to Ralph Bunche and Franklin Frazier. Simpson also took Merton to the ASA annual meeting where he met Pitirim Sorokin, founding chair of the Harvard sociology department. He applied to Harvard, even though his teachers told him this was usually beyond the reach of those graduating from Temple. And when he arrived, Sorokin took him on as a research assistant. By Merton’s second year they were publishing together.

In addition to Sorokin, Merton apprenticed himself to the historian of science George Sarton—not just for his stay at Harvard but for years of the epistolary exchanges Merton loved. And—serendipity again (perhaps)—Merton decided to sit in on the first theory course offered by the young Talcott Parsons, just back from Europe and working through the ideas that would become *The Structure of Social Action*. The encounter with Parsons did not just inform his knowledge of European theory, but deepened his idea of sociology itself. Still, as he wrote later, “although much impressed by Parsons as a master-builder of sociological theory, I found myself departing from his mode of theorizing (as well as his mode of exposition).” Indeed, Merton was among the clearest and most careful prose stylists in sociology. He edited each essay over and again, and left behind added footnotes and revisions both large and small to a host of his writings. It was easy to imagine that he might have been a professional editor had he not been an academic.

Indeed it is easy to imagine the young Merton turning in any of several directions. His first articles, written as a graduate student and published in 1934–35, addressed “Recent French Sociology,” “The Course of Arabian Intellectual Development, 700-1300 A.D.,” “Fluctuations in the Rate of Industrial Invention,” and “Science and Military Technique.” Ultimately, he wrote his first major study on *Science, Technology, and Society in Seventeenth Century England* (1938), and in the process helped to invent the sociology of science.

By the time he was 40, Merton was one of America’s most influential social scientists and had embarked on a lengthy career at Columbia University. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and honored in a host of other ways. Since he had chosen sociology, he could not win a Nobel prize, of course, but his son did. And at 90, Merton the father would call on his son for help learning enough new mathematics to read exciting work by younger colleagues like Duncan Watts. He remained intellectually active until the end of his life, a witty and engaged presence at conferences, energetic in using email to stay in touch with an extraordinary range of contacts, and still writing.

Merton was perhaps the last of an extraordinary generation of sociologists whose work shaped the basic definition of the discipline in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Along with Parsons, he helped make Emile Durkheim’s notion of functional analysis central to the field—though Merton preferred to speak of “structural-functional analysis” and tried to avoid reduction of an approach to an orthodoxy or “ism.” Merton eschewed the building of grand theoretical systems in favor of what he called “middle-range theories” designed to guide empirical inquiry. He made famous the distinction of “manifest” from “latent” functions, denied that social cohesion could be assumed as ‘normal,’ and gave analysis of social conflict more attention than did Parsons, though not enough to escape the widespread criticism of functionalism that started in the 1960s.

A crucial argument of Merton’s early work was that science is misunderstood as the product of individual geniuses able to break free from conventions and norms. Instead, he stressed the “ethos of science,” the normative structure specific to the field that encouraged productivity, critical thinking, and pursuit of continually improved understanding. He was not always happy when students left the Mertonian fold in their efforts to push sociology forward, but he did always recognize that this was how science worked.

Sociology of science remained the field closest to Merton’s heart. But his contributions also deeply shaped the later development of such disparate fields of study as bureaucracy, deviance, communications, social psychology, social stratification, and indeed social structure itself. Indeed, his work was pivotal to the emergence of some of these as subfields. In the course of his simultaneously theoretical and empirical analyses, Merton coined such now-common phrases as “self-fulfilling prophecy,” and “role model.”

Somewhat surprisingly for a theorist, Merton was also one of the pioneers of modern policy research. He studied an integrated housing project, did a case study of the use of social research by the AT&T Corporation, and analyzed medical education. Most famously, working with his Columbia colleague Paul Lazarsfeld and a range of students and colleagues, he carried out studies of propaganda and mass communications during World War II and wrote the classic, *Mass Persuasion* (1946).

Merton and Lazarsfeld formed an enormously productive partnership, training generations of students and developing a program of theoretically informed but empirically rigorous research. Though Lazarsfeld was generally considered the methodologist of the pair, Merton also innovated in research methods, developing (with Marjorie Fiske and Patricia Kendall) the “focused group interview” that gave rise to the now-ubiquitous focus groups of political and market research. As Merton later remarked, focus groups are no replacement for surveys based on representative samples. Still, he said, he wished he could be paid a royalty fee whenever the technique was used.

Merton’s writings were not only broad ranging but extraordinarily influential. Their influence can be attributed to the fact that, in addition to having the virtues of clarity and sheer intellectual creativity, his writings were addressed to working sociologists, providing an interpretation of the craft and tools for its improvement. They were the ideal teaching tools for graduate students. While Merton wrote several important books, the extended essay was his chosen form and his classic book, *Social Theory and Social Structure* (originally published in 1949 and revised and expanded in 1957 and 1968) is a collection of some of his best. He worked hard

to give each a precise organization, often offering a classificatory scheme to assist readers in applying his conceptualizations to different empirical phenomena.

Merton not only coined but loved memorable phrases and the patterns of association and evocation in which they were passed on. One of his most famous books traces the phrase, “if I have seen farther it is by standing on the shoulders of giants,” through centuries of use. The phrase is most commonly associated with Sir Isaac Newton, though with the widespread success of *On the Shoulders of Giants* (1965), Merton must be a very close second. What Merton showed with dazzling erudition and more than a few entertaining digressions was that the aphorism originated with Bernard of Chartres in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This corrected not only those who cited merely Newton but those who credited the phrase to ancient authors, including apparently nonexistent ancient authors, perhaps thinking thereby to accord it greater dignity and impress readers with their Latin references (that South Philadelphia high school taught Merton four years of Latin).

Merton’s book became famous enough to be known (at least among initiates) by the acronym “OTSOG.” This was partly because it was so engagingly written, a scholarly detective story in the form of an epistolary novel (remember Merton’s early reading of Tristram Shandy). But it is also a serious inquiry into the phenomena of scholarly reference and citation, the development of reputations, and the place of science amid humane knowledge.

Merton continued to address the relationship between the first appearances of ideas and the occasions when they begin to have more serious influence, noting how many basic scientific advances were anticipated by “prediscoveries” that failed to change the way scientists thought. That in turn raised the question of why this should be, whether in any specific case it was because the “prediscoverer” lacked stature, or because the context wasn’t ready, because a crucial connection wasn’t made, or because an empirical or practical test wasn’t identified. The role of chance connections—serendipity—in scientific breakthroughs became another enduring focus for Merton’s boundless curiosity and careful scholarship. Though he recently allowed a manuscript on the topic to go to press, he did not regard it as finished and one suspects that on this, as was true of so many of his themes, he had countless more index cards squirreled away, footnotes waiting to be added.

Of course, as Merton showed, discoveries once well known could be forgotten, leading to rediscoveries, especially by the young. Some of Merton’s own work has itself been subject to partial eclipse and rediscovery, as for example the recent vogue for identifying causal ‘mechanisms’ that can function in explanations of disparate phenomena reproduces important aspects of his notion of middle-range theories.

Near the end of his life, Merton remarked on the oddity of living long enough to write contributions to the *festschriften* of so many of his students. The explanation was not mere longevity, of course, but the fact that he was extraordinarily influential as a teacher. As important as each was as an individual intellectual, both Merton and Lazarsfeld may have been even more important as mentors and animators of an intellectual community at Columbia—and indeed beyond, at the Social Science Research Council, the Center for

Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and the Russell Sage Foundation. Merton was a mentor to such disparate but important sociologists as Peter Blau, James Coleman, Lewis Coser, Rose Coser, Alvin Gouldner, Seymour Martin Lipset, Alice Rossi, and Arthur Stinchcombe. He was equally influential in social studies of science, which became increasingly interdisciplinary, with students including Steven and Jonathan Cole, Harriet Zuckerman, and Thomas Gieryn. In the work of all, one can see not only Merton’s specific ideas but the distinctive style of combining theory and research characteristic of Columbia sociology during his time there.

Robert Merton is survived by his wife and collaborator Harriet Zuckerman, by three children, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren—and by thousands of sociologists whose work is shaped every day by his.

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A few weeks after I arrived at Columbia, I encountered a tall man outside my office. He was busy moving boxes. I ignored him and went into my office. Hours later, I went out. He was still there. He looked suspicious to me, so I stopped and introduced myself. He said, “I know who you are.” I said something like “Well, I don’t know who you are,” and of course, he said, “I am Robert Merton.” I turned white, but recovered enough to ask “would you like to have lunch sometime?” Bob said, “No.” While I was thinking “he got me there, for not recognizing him,” he said, “but you can come over to my apartment and have a scotch.” And so, sometime later, I did.

Then, and in subsequent conversations, I learned a little more about Bob Merton. First, he was enormously gifted. Every conversation was serious and demanding. I had to think when I talked with him, and think hard. Second, talking with Bob Merton improved one’s own mind. He demanded intensity and clarity, and was always willing to correct sloppy thinking. He was thus a brilliant builder of people. And third, Merton was a brilliant builder of institutions. Working with him in the *Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy* (the new *Bureau for Applied Social Research*), Bob always reminded me with pleasure that he “never directed the bureau.” With me, and perhaps others, that was true, technically, but not substantively. He was always in control, and that is fitting, for Merton was one of the true giants of the discipline. And so it seemed that he would live forever, carefully influencing and helping us shape the direction of the department, the Institute, and the discipline.

His death is a profound loss to social science, and to Columbia social science in particular, whose distinguished history owes much to the remarkable work that he did, on social structure, science, the fundamentals of sociological thinking, and empirical research, for so many years. This work will continue at Columbia though certainly with less brilliance and grace than if Bob were still with us. We were lucky to have so much time, and we will miss Robert Merton with the same intensity that he lived his life.

*Peter Bearman, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia University*



# Sociologists Remember Robert K. Merton

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On my last visit to Robert Merton, just before he died, I found the same man, keen to talk of ideas, as I first encountered when I was his student in the 1960s and the decades to follow. His book on serendipity just published, he was eager to pursue my question about the correspondence between serendipity and paradigm shifts, and spoke at length about it. Scholarship and ideas—a love of language—and their transmission to students, colleagues and the public were the forces that motivated Merton.

I wrote my dissertation in the 1960s on the question of why there were so few women in the professions and in public life. Using his conceptual framework of the dynamics of status sets I noted the patterned undermining of women’s access. I mention this because unlike many women students elsewhere discouraged from writing on gender issues, Merton encouraged me and he later asked me to write a chapter on sex roles for his book on social problems. He was important in the careers of scores of women scholars, among them noted feminist scholars Alice Rossi and Rose Coser.

Sometimes unjustly viewed as conservative, RKM’s sociological vision inspired the work of students who were to create new (and often oppositional) paradigms and new social programs. Among them were Alvin Gouldner and Lewis Coser, who was to found the socialist journal *Dissent*. It is an example of Merton’s own analysis of “obliteration by incorporation” that his conceptualizations of “unanticipated consequences” and the “self fulfilling prophecy” are not credited to him today, as is his profound influence on the analysis and identification of institutionalized discrimination and structural constraints on those who do not have the means to achieve success.

RKM was a magnificent editor and he gave his time and language skills unstintingly to students, friends, and new scholars. He marked up their manuscripts with a myriad of editorial corrections enhanced by his collection of rubber stamps to highlight a good idea with a light bulb or to underscore something for special attention with a pointed finger. In his editing of my book *Deceptive Distinctions*, RKM even went to the trouble to prepare me psychologically, so that I would not feel crushed by his red ink and the many suggestions that sharpened my work.

Further, I found he knew how to respond intimately, but always respectful of privacy, when people were experiencing hard personal times.

I was privileged to study with him and from time to time to be in his company as a friend. I carry, as a heritage, from exposure to his ideas, a passion for the sociological vision. As with others, it was his ultimate gift.  
*Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, City University of New York-Graduate Center*

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I first met Bob Merton over 60 years ago, when he sought me out at my Mexico City apartment. From that time on our lives have been intertwined, first through his close friend Kingsley Davis, and afterwards because of our long period together as members of the Columbia University Sociology Department.

Together we strove in many shared enterprises, we fought, and we loved one another. Bob enriched the lives of almost all sociologists now alive (and many of the dead as well) even when they are ignorant of that impact. And

that influence will not diminish quickly now that he has gone.

Many of us will mourn him personally. It is indeed a loss. As one of his distinguished students, Cynthia Epstein, wrote to me: “I am devastated. I thought he would live forever.” But he will of course.

We mourn, and shall mourn. But what a glorious ride he enjoyed! Not merely that his intellectual work was admired, and early on. In addition, scholars in our own and in many other fields actually used the tools and ideas he created.

As most creators of analytic tools learn, the demand for them is not high. Sociology, most academics agree, has hardly been granted any royal standing, while sociologists themselves typically denigrate their field and its tools more than anyone else does. By contrast, Merton and I agreed that sociology made an enormous contribution to 20<sup>th</sup> century intellectual life even if few recognize that historic fact, while he himself has been greatly honored within and outside the field.

Merton’s work was greatly respected, but he was also charismatic; some would say that he was even glamorous. I witnessed his tricks when he performed as a magician, but he was even more magical when he carried out some sociological analysis before an audience or on paper.

He was a self-aware performer, but the product was not tricks or trivia. He earned the widespread admiration he received, for he *empowered* his listeners and readers. Many had an Aha! experience when they saw what he was demonstrating. He convinced them that with these new sociological tools they could perceive, explore, analyze, and reveal the social forces that would turn out to be as real. They would not be ephemeral cocktail gossip, opinions dashed off as witicisms, but the dynamics that actually shape our lives. Now, he exhorted, you can do these things too.

Believing deeply in both sociology and in his responsibility for getting it just right, he worked hard and long on his manuscripts. He intended his contributions to be worthy of being read as literature, and mostly he succeeded. His dedication made us more willing to aim just a bit higher, for we should be creating seriously.

We pass this place just once, and mostly we do not control the shape and details of our destinies. Sometimes, we are just lucky. Merton was. But so are we who now can say, “I knew Bob Merton up close; he was a great figure.” And even if your knowing was somewhat less, you can still feel lucky.

*William J. Goode, George Mason University*

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In a characteristically gracious inscription to a copy of the 1985 edition of his delightful book, *On the Shoulders of Giants*, Robert Merton addressed me as a “colleague-at-a-distance.” I would have welcomed this appellation no matter where or when he employed it, but I thought Merton’s sending me *this* book *thus* inscribed was wonderfully apposite, for I had once briefly stood on the shoulder of a giant, who was himself standing on the shoulder of another giant. The giant on whose shoulder I stood was Merton himself.

I hadn’t meant to consort with giants, but the main driving force in my life—trying to understand anomalies in my data—pushed me there. In the course of assessing the relationships between conditions of work and personality, I had unexpectedly found that men employed

in bureaucratic firms and organizations had more self-directed values and orientations than did men employed in less bureaucratized enterprises—even taking into account their educational attainments and all sorts of other social characteristics. How could that be, when Merton had shown, in his justly famous essay, “Bureaucratic Structure and Personality,” that bureaucracy embodies “structural sources of overconformity”? True enough, my data supported the belief that *some* of the conditions attendant on bureaucratization—in particular, close supervision—are conducive to a certain literalistic conformism. But, my analyses also showed that *other* conditions associated with bureaucracy—in particular, the job protections it affords, and the more substantively complex work that bureaucrats do—have countervailing effects. The key to my anomalous finding lay not in repudiating the validity of Merton’s analysis, but in extending that analysis to encompass a greater range of structural conditions.

I must admit, though, that I was a little concerned that Merton might not see it that way: not many scholars take kindly to questioning one of their most renowned works. I needn’t have been concerned. Merton’s reaction to my paper was to treat me (then at an early stage of career) as colleague, increasingly as friend, and in a decades-long exchange of reprints and letters, and in occasional meetings, to warmly encourage my work, even (with Harriet Zuckerman) to resurrect my little-known PhD thesis in their series, *Dissertations in Sociology*. I choose my giants well. (So did Merton, his giant in my anecdote being, of course, Weber.)

*Melvin Kohn, Johns Hopkins University*

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When Professor Merton’s assistant, called me at home in May 1998, I was studying for my final exam in Contemporary Sociological Theory. Annoyed by the interruption (as any first-year graduate student would be), I mistook her for a telemarketer and almost missed the chance to interview for the post she then held. With the fates on my side, that call began a five-year relationship with RKM: my teacher, my mentor, my employer, my friend, and ultimately my surrogate grandfather. We spent countless hours in his study reviewing research for his latest projects, editing proofs for publication, preparing correspondence, solving computer crises, or sometimes just talking about days gone by.

Of course he was hard to please, and of course he was demanding and sometimes downright cranky. But what he asked of others never approached what he asked of himself and what he contributed on a daily basis. In addition to laboring over his own work-in-progress, I watched him edit an endless succession of manuscripts by students and scholars from around the world. And even in his final months, he opened his study and his famous files to researchers from across disciplines. And somehow he always found time to read and criticize my work. His perceptive (and sometimes unsolicited) suggestions guided me along an academic path that I never could have predicted.

And so when I re-discovered RKM’s little-known “Self-Emancipation Proclamation,” I deeply understood his pledge: “TO REMOVE AT LONG LAST the albatross hung around my neck in the form of ever-urgent deadlines.... BE IT FINALLY UNDERSTOOD that this Self-Emancipation Proclamation shall remain

in effect until the end of my days, in the fervent hope that until then I shall have nothing but joy (along with the inevitable patches of suffering) in my work.”

May we all be so lucky.  
*Elizabeth C. Needham, Columbia University*

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I first saw Bob Merton in April 1947 at the meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, held that far-off year at the Columbia Faculty Club. I was then a first-year sociology graduate student at Yale, fresh from four years in the infantry, and had come down from New Haven with a friend, anxious to learn more about sociology. My friend pointed out the celebrities at a plenary session. There was Robert Lynd, wearing his midwestern black minister’s suit, and C. Wright Mills in Madison Avenue double-breasted gabardine. And Merton, boyish at age 36, wearing a Harvard tweed jacket and smoking a pipe. He looked young, precocious, and wise—and by 2003 he had not changed much. He was remarkable then and remarkable until his death. One defining characteristic of Bob was his enduring precocity.

I did not see him again until 1951, when I enrolled at Columbia after spending four years doing research in Japan. He was Mr. Theory at Columbia, while Lazarsfeld was Mr. Method. The irony of this is that most of us learned at Columbia that there is a very fine line between theory and method—some say they are the same. Hanan Selvin, a student of Bob’s and a friend and contemporary of mine, memorably wrote in a Lazarsfeld *Festschrift*, “we were satellites not of one sun, but of two, for Robert K. Merton and Paul F. Lazarsfeld so dominated sociology during these three decades that no lesser figure of speech will suffice.”

A second defining characteristic of Bob Merton was his 35-year collegial relationship with Paul Lazarsfeld. There are few examples in the history of science of two such brilliant and accomplished colleagues maintaining such a strong personal and scientific relationship for an extended period of time. They co-authored or co-edited relatively few publications, but their influence on each other’s work is immeasurable; as one privileged to have written a number of biographical articles on Lazarsfeld, I can attest that Bob was never far in my mind from the text I was writing.

A third characteristic—and if space permitted I could describe many more—was his cultural erudition. He always seemed to have read everything and to have known everything. His famous 1965 book *On the Shoulders of Giants* traces in the manner of classical humanism the origins of the aphorism commonly ascribed to Newton: “If I have seen farther, it is by standing on the shoulder of giants.” And in a 1984 paper he traced the origins of what has become known as the Kelvin Dictum: “When you cannot measure it, when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meager and unsatisfactory kind.”

Precocious and erudite. Very Mertonian. And like most of us at Columbia, something of a Lazarsfeldian as well. Not a bad way to be remembered.

*David L. Sills, Executive Associate Emeritus, Social Science Research Council*

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With the passing of Robert K. Merton, we have lost the premier sociologist of the 20th century.

His work, always seminal, brilliant,

See **Merton**, page 10

## Merton, from page 9

and sound, initiated research traditions in mass communication and mass persuasion, deviance, medical sociology, bureaucracy and organization, reference group theory, the sociology of knowledge, sociological theory, applied sociology, and above all the sociology of science. Through his students and through those whom he influenced, all these traditions persist in good health to the present. Many of his words inform our ordinary language—"unanticipated consequences," "self-fulfilling prophecy," "focus group," to name only the most evident.

Bob Merton possessed the rarest talent of integrating theoretical concerns with rigorous empirical research. His work displayed both imaginative flair and impeccable rigor, both generality and focus, both abstractness and clarity. His scientific standards were never

## Atlanta, from page 1

portation and communications center for the Southeast, broadly defined as an area stretching from Savannah to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico to the Mason-Dixon line.

By century's end, Atlanta would house regional offices for most major American corporations, as well as many international ones, and serve as corporate headquarters for Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, and the Turner Communications division of Time-Warner Corporation. It would become the site, along side Emory University, Georgia State University, and the Georgia Institute of Technology, of the six-member Atlanta University Center, the world's largest concentration of historically Black institutions of higher learning. A cosmopolitan center for the South, it would become a center of Afro-American prosperity and political empowerment. However, "relatively progressive" and "cosmopolitan" hardly precluded an era of social conflict and tumultuous change stretching across much of the 20th century.

### Film Chronicle

The history of changing race relations, prominent in chronicles of the national civil rights movement, is receiving a new and telling analysis in the work-in-progress of Emory film scholar Matthew Bernstein and Emory urban historian Dana F. White. This work investigates cinema across the color line in Atlanta, from 1895 through 1996.

Their study has four foci. One is directed toward the construction of "theater biographies" of Atlanta's major movie palaces, its segregated White theaters and its so-called "Colored" theaters as well—their locations, their ownership and management policies, and their popularity among Atlanta's Black and White moviegoers.

A second focus considers the movie business in Atlanta, which has been a profitable business. Atlanta has been a major distribution center for Hollywood films across the Southeast and Atlanta's "Film Row" is the site where national companies maintained regional offices with complex distributional policies. In Atlanta itself, movies were sent to individual theaters only at particular times; and within this system, Black theaters were considered to operate quite on their own. Thus, the popular *Imitation of Life* (1934), one of the first Hollywood films to deal seriously with racial themes, which premiered at the Fox movie palace for three weeks in December 1934, was pulled from distribution in White-only theaters after

compromised. We have not known, and will not soon know a greater master of language in our ranks. His prizes and honors were uncountable and all deserved. As a critic he was always selective, never wholesale, and ever gracious and generous in his sharpness.

We who were his friends know how steadfast and devoted he was to us. He respected and wanted to know what we knew, but it always happened that we learned more from him than he from us. His presence was charismatic but in no way intimidating. It was a joy to be with him. We will greatly miss but not forget this man of stature, grace, intelligence, wit, and humanity.

Neil Smelser, University of California-Berkeley

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Mentorship supplied one vivid strand in the varicolored fabric of Robert

two months. Significantly, during the hiatus, the film played for a full week at Bailey's Royal Theater, the premiere Black theater on Auburn Avenue.

### Censorship

Bernstein and White, in the third and fourth legs of their work, will focus on film reception, both audience response and censorship. Concerning the latter, an official City Censor operated in Atlanta from 1914 to 1962, paying close attention to matters of race, as well as general propriety, in films shown throughout the city. (Bernstein and White have acquired a copy of all the extant records of that office's operations.) Atlanta censors, for example, ensured that White Atlantans would never see Warner Bros.' 1937 film about the notorious Leo Frank case, Mervyn LeRoy's *They Won't Forget*, much as they had assured that *no* Atlantans ever saw Universal's big-budget version of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1927). Such bannings reflected the views of the local cultural custodians about what types of topics were appropriate for film viewing in the city. However, they have been just one part of the history of film going in Atlanta, along side demand and supply and popular cultures, White and Black, local and national.

At the 2003 ASA Annual Meeting, Bernstein and White will participate in a special session, titled "Black Movie Fandom in Atlanta, c. 1935." This will center on the presentation by White of "Reception by the Numbers: A Headcount of Movie Fans in Black Atlanta" and by Bernstein of "'And the envelope please': Analyzing the *Atlanta Daily World's* 1935 Movie Contest," plus commentary on these papers by sociological discussants. In addition Bernstein and White will, with the cooperation of Turner Classic Movies, assist the ASA in the presentation of a two-evening film festival/symposium, titled "Warner Bros. versus Atlanta." This will combine showings of that studio's *I Was a Fugitive from a Chain Gang*, Oscar winner of the National Board of Reviews award for best picture of 1932, and its 1937 lynching drama *They Won't Forget*. Each showing will be introduced by Bernstein, followed by discussions, facilitated by Bernstein and White, on the sometimes-tumultuous interactions among the national film producers and disparate groups within the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia. □

Merton's intellectual life. His mentorship took two forms: individual and collective. Individually, scholars at the Russell Sage Foundation, where Merton long served as senior savant, often heard the rapid staccato of his manual typewriter in the knowledge that one of them would soon receive an impeccably typed, elegantly phrased, and often uncomfortably acute point by point review of a recent paper, presentation, or conversation. They also knew that if he attended their session of a seminar, Merton would remain silent through most of the discussion, then deliver a telling review of argument and evidence coupled with concrete suggestions for (a great deal of) further work, as well as an invitation to a private parley.

Collectively, Merton complemented his own investigations of science, bureaucracy, reference groups, and community attachments with didactic essays that identified extremely general social phenomena—unanticipated consequences, self-fulfilling prophecies, anomie, and many more—and told other people how to think clearly about those phenomena. In those essays, he mentored the world. Individual and collective mentorship converged, furthermore, when Merton reminded many a younger scholar, gently but firmly, that an ostensibly new idea bore resemblances to one that Merton himself had laid out with characteristic clarity years before or (worse yet) that the youngster had misrepresented a Mertonian argument. We miss our mentor.

Charles Tilly, Columbia University

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I only met Robert Merton twice, but that was enough to leave a lasting impact. The first time was near the start of my second year at Columbia, and I was still nervous about even belonging to a sociology department (my PhD is in engineering), let alone being left face to face with the great man. Instead of exposing me for a fraud, however, he told me that he was quite aware of my background as well as my work, and that as far as he was concerned I had been a sociologist all along—no matter what my CV said. I felt redeemed, honored, and overwhelmed all at once. More than anything, however, I felt obligated not to disappoint him. The next time I saw him—at a workshop in honor of Paul Lazarsfeld, and implicitly him—we exchanged only a few brief words, but the effect was the same: he had expectations of me and I wanted to meet them. In part, I'm sure my reaction was just that of a young man being flattered by the attention of an elder statesman, but there was something else as well. In one brief perusal he had understood not only the specifics of my work, but the larger picture as well; in fact, he seemed to understand my intentions pretty much the way I understood them. To Merton, these events probably passed without much notice, but to me they spoke volumes about a man who not only could reach out across 60 years and engage so completely a new set of ideas, but who, with more immediate matters to deal with, would take the time to do so. We can all thank him for his work, for which he more than deserves to be remembered. But I want to thank him simply for his empathy, for which I will remember him and which is not as common as it sounds.

Duncan Watts, Columbia University

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Magic is a first key to understanding the great sociologist whom we memorialize. Robert K. Merton emerged from the chrysalis of Merlin the teen-age

magician practicing in South Philadelphia. Like Merlin, he always kept an insistence on perfection, on endless polishing, polishing which yet is kept private. At Harvard, Merton turned to examining magic's leading modern competitor, science. He probed beneath surface detail for a deeper understanding of how it worked as an institution. Then, along came Social Studies of Science to scan the backstages of science. This generated some wonderful case studies and much airing of peccadilloes, but only the Mertonian view offered any coherent explanation of the magic of science itself. Merton could explain deep topics in apparently common-sense ideas and prose, as if by magic, and this skill aided him to inculcate and diffuse variants and adaptations as apt more widely, as to the study of professions.

South Philadelphia was run by a strong political machine, and political savvy is another key to Merton coming from his early background. Merton developed into a major boss during the growth of American sociology. He kept up with and helped hundreds of sociologists and used his connections to build up our institutions. So did his teacher, Talcott Parsons, and both were characterized by a ruthless albeit sophisticated drive for power. Merton was able to call the shots in much of sociology, and more broadly in allied disciplines, pure and applied.

Merton was a master of the brief essay, which he used to unearth causal mechanisms with claims to some universality and often labeled by phrases as memorable as jingles. Yet he also was partner in large-scale and long-term studies. The accomplishments we memorialize derived from 70 years of unrelenting work and writing, with attention to detail as well as to person and to exact nuance of thought.

Harrison C. White, Giddings Professor of Sociology, Columbia University

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In 1965, Robert Merton advised us to stand *On the Shoulders of Giants*. He was already one of the giants many of us had found of great value. By that time, his several books and a score of articles had enriched—in content and in style—the sociological literature. And that was only the beginning. Many more important books and articles appeared through the next several decades, enriching the literature in social theory, the sociology of science, social psychology, and a wide range of other topics.

He had taken his first course in sociology, about 1930, with George Simpson, then a professor at Temple University. Years ago, George described to me, with great delight, the sparkle that Merton brought to his class by his questions and his comments. The clarity and enthusiasm of his young scholar's participation in the class convinced the professor that, once Merton settled on a career he would be a star. That prediction was fulfilled not only by his writing but by his excellent teaching, his numerous public lectures, at home and abroad, and by the richness and generosity he showed to his wide circle of friends.

I happened to be in Philadelphia in 1994 when Merton was being honored by the American Council of Learned Societies. His autobiographical response to the award was a modest appraisal of the "social and cultural capital" he had shared, even as a boy in a deteriorating area of Philadelphia. From whatever backgrounds, we have all shared richly in the social and cultural capital created by Robert K. Merton.

J. Milton Yinger, Oberlin College

## Amicus, *from page 1*

citations. By the meeting’s end, substantial portions of the brief had been drafted in rough form, but at that point two things were clear: on the one hand, we were covering much more scholarship than could be included in the brief, and on the other, significant gaps remained in our coverage of relevant research.

Facing a hard deadline of mid-February, Reskin took the drafts from the task force and worked day and night (literally) to identify and incorporate additional research and to refine the argument to address as effectively as possible the issues before the court. The brief itself had to be submitted not directly by the ASA, but by attorneys with legal standing to practice before the Supreme Court, and Reskin was able to rely upon the guidance of two highly accomplished attorneys—Deborah Merritt and Bill Lann Lee—who provided their services *pro bono*. Merritt, a distinguished law professor at Ohio State University, who has collaborated with Reskin on research on gender stratification in law, clerked for both Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (in the Court of Appeals) and Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (in the Supreme Court). Bill Lann Lee, who served as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Clinton administration, is now a Partner with Leiff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, specializing in civil and human rights practice. Merritt and Lee crafted the legal argument, which provides the framework for the social science evidence presented in the brief. In addition, Merritt worked closely with Reskin in writing and rewriting final drafts, which needed to conform both in physical form and legal phrasing to a highly formal format prescribed by the court.

The ASA brief (accessible at [www.asanet.org/media/AmicusBrief\\_ASA.pdf](http://www.asanet.org/media/AmicusBrief_ASA.pdf)) summarizes social science research, arguing that race is a defining life experience of persons of color in the United States. It explains how race influences the neighborhood contexts where African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and other persons of color are raised as children and live as adults, and how it profoundly affects their experiences in schools. Effective legal arguments must frame the issue in constitutional terms recognizable to the justices. Thus, the ASA brief states that the centrality of race in people’s lives warrants universities’ *compelling interest* in considering race among other life experiences. The brief concludes that prohibiting the consideration of race “would deny admissions officers crucial information to contextualize other life experiences and accurately measure

academic performance.” Addressing an important legal issue in the Michigan cases, the brief explains why individualized consideration of race in the context of an entire applicant file is appropriately *narrowly tailored*, in contrast to plans such as those that guarantee admission to the top 10 percent of high school graduates, which treat *all* applicants above the threshold identically and have proven ineffective in recent research by Marta Tienda and her colleagues in promoting genuine racial and ethnic diversity.

Council approved the ASA amicus brief at its February 2003 meeting. Other signatories to the ASA brief are the Law and Society Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Association of Black Sociologists, and Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). The American Psychological Association submitted a separate brief, as did the American Educational Research Association. It is anticipated that more amicus briefs will be submitted in the Michigan cases than in any other matter to come before the Supreme Court. Some 200 amicus briefs were filed in support of the university and many of them, as well as other legal documents, can be found at the University of Michigan website ([www.umich.edu/~urel/admissions/legal/](http://www.umich.edu/~urel/admissions/legal/)).

Reskin described her experience in putting together the final draft as similar to “running a marathon.” Assisting her in the effort were graduate students at the University of Washington (Alesha Durfee, Beth Hirsh, Nika Kabiri, Amon Emeka, Nadia Morgan, and Jen Hook), as well as numerous sociologists from across the country who responded to last-minute appeals for suggestions for additional research to incorporate into the brief. Reskin and the Amicus Task Force also received extraordinary support from Executive Officer Sally Hillsman and her staff, especially Torrey Androski. SWS also provided financial resources in support of the brief’s development. All of the sociologists and the attorneys participating in producing the brief volunteered their time. ASA’s Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy supported some of the expenses associated with publishing the brief.

Although Reskin said the work on the brief was among the hardest things she has ever done, she said she would do it again in a minute. “We have an enormous amount of first-rate scholarship that is highly relevant to major public policy decisions.” She hopes that the ASA will continue to find ways to bring its scholarship to the fore in the pursuit of social justice. □

## Bylaws, *from page 1*

nearly two-dozen recommended amendments to the current Bylaws, and after reviewing the recommendations ASA Council approved submitting those changes to the voting membership. Members will vote on these proposed changes in the spring election. The precise word changes will be presented in the ballot mailing.

This article provides a brief overview of the proposed changes, but feel free to visit the ASA website (at [www.asanet.org/governance/amendments.html](http://www.asanet.org/governance/amendments.html)) to see more details as well as a copy of the Bylaws with the proposed changes incorporated into the existing text.

### Proposed Changes

- The proposed changes include a modification to the ASA Constitution to address a conflict with Bylaws regarding how Council can take formal actions (i.e., with regard to a quorum) between physical/in-person meetings. In addition, the change eliminates a conflict with the District of Columbia laws, to which ASA is bound as a corporation.
- When the Committee on Committees was re-established, effective 2002, a number of Bylaws clauses were changed to reflect this change. However, there remained inconsistencies that required correction. Responsibility for recommending members to serve on the ASA Awards Selection Committees and the Awards Committee shifted to the Committee on Committees. Members will be asked to approve amendments to correct these inconsistencies.
- At the August 20, 2002, meeting, Council voted to offer members the option of voting by electronic means as well as by paper ballot in the 2003 election. Legal Counsel thus proposed Bylaws amendments to make the method of voting more flexible. Related to this, amendments are proposed to remove references to “mail ballot” and “by mail” for membership votes, and to give Council the authority to determine the procedures to be followed in conducting elections and other ballot measures, provided that such procedures protect the privacy of members and ensure an accurate and fair count. To permit voting for the annual election (and other ballot measures) by means other than a mailing, and to clarify that

## Weber, *from page 3*

and other power dynamics do not inhibit learning,” she explained in the September 27, 2002, *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Among her critics is FIRE Executive Director Thor Halvorseen, who countered in the *Chronicle* article that Weber’s guidelines “are a threat to freedom of both speech and conscience” and that it is not appropriate to “require students to hold certain arguments as unquestionable truth in order to participate in a class without penalty.”

Weber has used these guidelines for almost two decades and often leads workshops on teaching controversial subjects. She and colleagues Bonnie Thornton Dill and Elizabeth Higginbotham, when they were a part of the University of Memphis’s Center for Research on Women, received the ASA’s Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award in 1993. Weber’s syllabi, and these guidelines, appear in the ASA’s teaching resource collection on *Teaching Sociological Concepts and the Sociology of Gender*.

In response to this situation, the ASA Council at its February 2003 meeting approved a resolution in support of Weber’s academic freedom. Arguing in favor of the resolution, Council member Barbara Risman noted that Weber’s guidelines are used quite widely. She

Members’ Resolutions may be submitted more than once each year, voting members will be asked to approve ten technical amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

- The current Bylaws indicate that the incoming President (and other officers) assume office “one day prior to the date announced for the close of the Annual Meeting.” Under the old five-day meeting schedule, this allowed the outgoing President to preside at the Annual Business meeting and pass the gavel to the incoming President at that time. However, with the move to a four-day Annual Meeting, the Business Meeting now occurs on the *last* day of the meeting. Therefore, an amendment is proposed to change the term of office to begin on the last date of the Annual Meeting.
- In 1999, when Council and the membership voted to re-instate the Emeritus membership category, it is not clear that the language added to the Bylaws fully reflected the intention of Council at that time, which was that members could move to Emeritus status following ten years as full voting members of the association. Council proposed amending the current language to indicate that Emeritus status is open only to *full* voting members of the Association.
- As regards the publication of ASA’s Annual Audit, each year an extensive summary of the Association’s financial audit is printed in *Footnotes*. With increasing options to distribute information to members by means other than printed form, Council recommends that the Bylaws permit distribution of this information by any means deemed appropriate or necessary by Council. For example, with this change, the Executive Office could request Council’s agreement to placing the full audit report on the ASA website, while having a briefer summary in *Footnotes* referencing the website. In addition to freeing up space in the more costly print medium, this change would allow members access to audit financial information on an ongoing basis.
- Like the immediately preceding item, Council recommends that voting members approve an amendment that addresses how member resolutions are publicized. Specifically, this amendment would allow communication of member resolutions by publication or other means. □

encouraged Council to support Weber’s academic freedom and take a public stand for faculty rights to create guidelines for classroom discussion.

Specifically, among the elements of the Council resolution was a vote to: (1) affirm the academic freedom of all faculty to develop strategies or guidelines to encourage open and civil classroom debate, and (2) support the discussion and dialogue of controversial issues that are inherent to the study of inequality and other core subjects.

ASA President William T. Bielby has conveyed the Council resolution to the University of South Carolina’s Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the University President, and to the Chair of the Sociology Department as well as to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (see article on page 4).

### ASA Council motion:

The ASA Council wishes to affirm the academic freedom of all faculty to develop strategies or guidelines to encourage open and civil classroom debate. We support the discussion and dialogue of controversial issues that are inherent to the study of inequality and other core subjects. The motion carried unanimously. □

### Supreme Court Matter Is Focus of 2003 ASA Annual Meeting Presidential Plenary Session in Atlanta

Oral arguments are to be presented on April 1 to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Gratz and Grutter v. Bollinger, et al.*, and the court is expected to announce its decision in June. The implications of that decision for sociology (and vice versa) will be discussed at a Presidential Plenary Panel being planned for the 2003 Annual Meeting in August, titled *Taking Measure of Race*. We are fortunate that attorney Deborah Merritt, Director of the John Glenn Institute of Social Policy, has agreed to participate on the panel and to provide her insights on the relationship of social science and law to social policy, based on her experience working with ASA on the amicus brief.

Also participating will be Stanford Law Professor Michelle Alexander, who headed the American Civil Liberties Union’s Racial Justice Project and has been involved in the public debate over the “Racial Privacy Initiative” (RPI) that will be going before California voters in March 2004. If approved by the voters, the RPI would ban public institutions (including colleges and universities) from classifying any individual by race, ethnicity, color, or national origin. Much of the scholarship summarized in the ASA’s amicus brief in the Michigan cases and in the ASA’s Statement on Race (see [www.asanet.org/media/asa\\_race\\_statement.pdf](http://www.asanet.org/media/asa_race_statement.pdf)) applies to the debate over the RPI.



## Correction

The February issue (“Call for Papers”) incorrectly referred to a forthcoming volume on **Medicalized Masculinities** ( edited by *Dana Rosenfeld and Chrostopher Faircloth*) as a journal. We apologize for the error.

## Call for Papers

### CONFERENCES

**Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)** invites papers to its 33rd Annual Conference on August 13-16, 2003, in Atlanta, GA, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Theme: “Front-Loading Social Reality: Critical Demography and Black Superiority in Wealth, Status, and Power.” Deadline: April 30, 2003. Contact: Frank Harold Wilson, ABS Program Chairperson, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201; fax (414) 229-4266; e-mail chocchip@uwm.edu.

**ESPAnet Conference**, November 13-15, 2003, Copenhagen, Denmark. Organized by the Network for European Social Policy Analysis. Theme: “Changing European Societies: What Is the Role for Social Policy?” Deadline for paper proposals: June 1, 2003. For more information visit: <www.sfi.dk/espamet> or contact Jon Kvist at jk@sfi.dk.

**Global Awareness Society International** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, May 22-25, 2003, Washington, DC. Theme: “Challenges of Globalization in a Changing World Order.” Interested persons are invited to submit abstracts for individual presentations and complete panels. Contact: James C. Pomfret, Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA 17815; (570) 389-4504; fax (570) 389-3599; e-mail pomfret@bloomu.edu; <orgs.bloomu.edu/gasi>.

**Gypsy Lore Society Annual Meeting**, May 30-31, 2003, Ann Arbor, MI. Papers are invited on any aspect of Romani or traveller society and culture. Send short abstracts by May 1, 2003, to: William G. Lockwood, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; (734) 764-7274; fax (734) 763-6077; e-mail wgl@umich.edu. Further details are available at <www.gypsyloresociety.org>.

**International Colloquium**, September 24-26, 2003, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Theme: “International Governance after September 11: Interdependence, Security, Democracy.” Proposals are invited for panels. Deadline: April 30, 2003. Contact: Alex Warleigh, Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research, Queen’s University Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN, Ireland; fax +44 2890 272 551; e-mail A.Warleigh@qub.ac.uk; <www.qub.ac.uk/gov>.

**Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference**, October 17-19, 2003, Minneapolis, MN. Deadline for submissions: April 30, 2003. Contact: Gary Burns at gburns@niu.edu.

**Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences** Annual Conference, November 6-8, 2003, Boston, MA. Submission deadline: March 24, 2003. Contact: Mary Rogers, SPHS Program Chair, Diversity Studies, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514-5750; (850) 474-2031; e-mail mrogers@uwf.edu. More information at: <jewel.morgan.edu/~sophia/sphs/sphs.html>.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Distance learning and cross-campus shared research exercises** at the undergraduate level. A new syllabi set volume is currently being prepared and both introductory and advanced level course materials are requested. Distance learning syllabi and curriculum may include: Site-to-site cable transmission; local access cable transmission; WebCT or other Internet course offerings. Cross-campus exercises may include any form of shared communication and cooperative learning between equivalent classes at two different universities. Please send all submissions electronically to: Meredith M. Redlin; e-mail meredith\_redlin@sdstate.edu. Syllabi and exercises should be either in Word or WordPerfect format.

**The Handbook of Sustainable Development Policy and Administration** aims to explain the diverse and controversial issues regarding the multidimensional sustainable development phenomenon. The volume will include chapters on related themes, and will be published by Marcel Dekker Inc. (New York) by the end of 2003. The editors invite contributions, including theoretical papers, comparative studies, and country case studies. Deadlines: March 15, 2003, for submission of paper proposal (200-250 words); July 15, 2003, for submission of completed paper; September 15, 2003, for submission of the final draft of the paper. Contact: Gedeon M. Mudacumura, School of Public Affairs, Pennsylvania State University, 777 W Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057. For details e-mail gmudacumura@tre.state.pa.us.

**Political Power and Social Theory** is an annual review committed to advancing interdisciplinary, critical understanding of the linkages between class relations, political power, and historical development. The journal welcomes both empirical and theoretical work and is willing to consider papers of substantial length. Contact: Diane E. Davis, Editor, *Political Power and Social Theory*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, #9-521, Cambridge, MA 02139; e-mail ppst@mit.edu; <ppst.mit.edu>.

**Women’s Issues in Criminal Justice Series** is seeking papers to be included in a volume to be published by Prentice Hall. Papers should focus on the treatment of women victims in the media and/or in the criminal justice system. Of particular interest are papers dealing with female victims and the police, courts, and/or correctional systems, the presentation of female victims in the media, global female victimization, minority women as victims, women in non-traditional occupations as victims, and vicarious victims. Contact: Cynthia L. Line, Department of Law and Justice Studies, Rowan University, 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08028; (856) 256-4500; e-mail line@rowan.edu.

## Meetings

**March 27-29, 2003, North Central Sociological Association Annual Meeting**, Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Dean A. Purdy, Executive Officer, North Central Sociological Association, Department of Sociology, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403; (419) 372-2217; fax (419) 372-83061; e-mail dpurdy@bgnet.bgsu.edu; <www.ncsanet.org>.

**April 11-13, 2003, ASIANetwork**, a consortium of 125 North American colleges which promotes the study of Asia, 11th annual spring conference, Furman University, Greenville, SC. See <www.asianetwork.org>.

**April 12, 2003, 30th Annual Western Anthropology/Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference**, Santa Clara University. Contact: Charles Powers, Anthropology/Sociology Department, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053. Conference website: <www.scu.edu/anthrosoc/conference/>.

**April 23-26, 2003, Polish Asia and Pacific Council Association World Conference**, The Gromada Hotel and Congress Centre, Warsaw, ul. 17 Stycznia 32, Poland. Theme: “Dialogue Among Civilisations: The Key to a Safe Future.” Contact the conference organization office: “Dialogue among Civilizations—The Key to a Safe Future” Poland, 00-491 Warsaw, 6 M. Konopnickiej Street; (48 22) 339 06 21, fax (48 22) 339 06 29; and Poland, 05-230 Kobylska n. Warsaw, 4a Zaciszna St.; (48 22) 799 91 80; e-mail prap@post.pl.

**April 25, 2003, Thomas Jefferson School of Law Third Annual Women and Law Conference**, San Diego, CA. Theme: “Beyond the Glass Ceiling: The Maternal Wall as a Barrier to Gender Equality.” Contact: Cindy Marciel, (619) 297-9700, ext. 1410; e-mail cmarciel@tjsl.edu.

**May 27-29, 2003, Justice Studies Association 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, Albany, NY. Theme: “Through the Prism of Gender and Culture: Social Inequalities and Restorative Justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Contact: Dan Okada, 2003 JSA Conference Chair, Division of Criminal Justice, California State University-Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6085. <www.justicestudies.org>.

**May 29-31, 2003, Seventh Annual Conference on Holidays, Ritual, Festival, Celebration and Public Display**, Bowling Green University, Ohio. Contact: Jack Santino, Department of Popular Culture, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0226; fax (419) 372-2577; e-mail jacksantino@hotmail.com.

**May 30-June 2, 2003, International Conference**, Maharashtra, India. Hosted by the SNDT Women’s University (Mumbai) and Centre for Women’s Development Studies (New Delhi). Theme: “Empowering Women through Information and Knowledge: From Oral Traditions to Information and Communication Technologies.” Contact: Conference Secretariat, SHPT School of Library Science, SNDT Women’s University, 1 Nathibai Thackersey Road, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020, India; +91-22-2208-5439; e-mail conference@gendwaar.gen.in. For more details visit <gendwaar.gen.in>.

**May 31-June 5, 2003, Institute for Research on Unlimited Love and the Metanexus Institute Conference**, Villanova University, Villanova, PA. Theme: “Works of Love: Scientific and Religious Perspectives on Altruism.” See <metanexus.net/conference2003> for more details.

**June 6-7, 2003, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**, a multi-disciplinary conference on Polish, Polish-American, and Polish-Canadian Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Theme: “Democracy, Social Cohesion and Ethnic Pluralism.” Contact: Thaddeus V. Gromada, Chair 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, PIASA 208 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016; fax (843) 768-8387; e-mail tgromada@mindspring.com. <piasa.org>.

**June 26-28, 2003, University of Tampere Research Institute for Social Sciences and Department of Sociology and Social Psychology, Department of Women Studies**. The Second Tampere Conference on Narrative, Tampere, Finland. Theme: “Narrative, Ideology, and Myth.” Conference website <www.uta.fi/conference/narrative>.

**July 8-10, 2003, International Visual Sociology Association Conference**, University of Southampton, United Kingdom. Theme: “Images of Social Life.” E-mail cknowles@soton.ac.uk or mail Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, United Kingdom.

**September 13-15, 2003, Open Minds Conference**, Warsaw, Poland. Theme: “Europe in Global World: Blending Differences.” Details at: <www.openminds.edu.pl>.

**September 18-22, 2003, ECPR 2003 General Conference**, Marburg, Germany. Theme: “Organised Crime, Politics and Civil Society.” Contact: Felia Allum, Co-Chair, European Studies and Modern Languages, University of Bath, Bath, UK; e-mail f.s.alum@bath.ac.uk.

**October 3-5, 2003, Ford Foundation “Emerging Leaders, New Directions” Initiative** with the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. Theme: “Sustainable Feminisms: Enacting Theories, Envisioning Action: A Cross-Border Conference.” Contact: Sonita Sarker or Scott Morgensen, Women’s and Gender Studies, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105; e-mail sarker@macalester.edu or morgensen@macalester.edu; <www.macalester.edu/wgs>.

**October 24-26, 2003, Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society Biennial Conference**, Chicago, IL. Contact: IUS 2003 Conference, IUS Secretariat, Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Department of Sociology, Art-Sociology Building, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-1315; e-mail IUS@socy.umd.edu.

## Funding

**The American Institute of Indian Studies** announces its 2003 fellowship competition and invites applications from scholars who wish to conduct their research in India. Deadline: July 1, 2003. Contact: American Institute for Indian Studies, 1130 E. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60637; (773) 702-8638; e-mail aiis@uchicago.edu.

**The Fulbright Scholar Program** is accepting applications for its 2004-2005 awards. Application deadline: May 1, 2003. Contact: Council for International Exchange of

Scholars, 3007 Tilden Street NW, Suite 5L, Washington, DC 20008-3009; (202) 686-7877; e-mail apprequest@cies.iie.org. More information at: <www.cies.org>.

**IREX** is pleased to introduce the new Starr Collaborative Research Grants Program, created to highlight contemporary issues facing the communities of Eurasia, the Near East, and Asia. Maximum Award: \$20,000. Application deadline: May 1, 2003. Contact: IREX, Attn: Starr Collaborative Research Grants, 2121 K Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037; e-mail collabgrants@irex.org. More information at <www.irex.org/programs/starr>.

**The National Institute on Drug Abuse** is accepting applications for grants to support research on the epidemiology, etiology, prevention, and treatment of drug abuse. The institute is particularly interested in the relationship between chronic stress or post-traumatic stress disorder and drug use, abuse, and dependence. Deadline for letters of intent is May 19. Deadline for applications is June 18. For full announcement see: <grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfe-files/RFA-DA-04-001.html>.

**The National Institutes of Health (NIH)** invites applications for grants in support of research on mind-body interactions and health. Applicant institutions may request funds to support infrastructure and research designed to (1) enhance the quality and quantity of mind-body and health research and (2) develop new research capabilities to advance mind-body and health research through innovative approaches. Deadline for letters of intent is June 16, 2003. More information can be found at: Mind-Body Interactions and Health: Research Infrastructure Program <grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OB-03-004.html>; and Mind-Body Interactions and Health: Exploratory / Developmental Research Program. <grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OB-03-005.html>.

**Pathways Linking Education to Health**, (RFA-OB-03-001) from the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institute on Aging, National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Link to: <grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/2003/03.01.10/index.html>.

**Social and Demographic Studies of Race and Ethnicity**. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) invite qualified researchers to submit research grant applications on the demography and social science of race and ethnicity in the United States. The goal of this program is to encourage research that will improve understanding of race and ethnicity in social science and demographic research. See <grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-03-057.html>.

## In the News

Several sociologists were quoted in a January 18 *New York Times* article about social class in U.S. society: **David B. Grusky**, Cornell University, **Kim Weeden**, Cornell University, **Paul W. Kingston**, University of Virginia, **Robert Perucci**, Purdue University, **Earl Wysong**, Indiana University-Kokomo, **David W. Wright**, Wichita State University, and **Erik Olin Wright**, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Leo Bogart** was quoted in the January 5 *Dallas Morning News* on corporate co-optation of youth counterculture.

**Camille Z. Charles** and **Douglas S. Massey**, both from the University of Pennsylvania, wrote an article in the January 10 *Chronicle of Higher Education* on minority students and racial stereotypes.

**Stephen Cole**, SUNY-Stony Brook, was featured in the January 31 *Chronicle of Higher Education* in an article that discusses his controversial new book that says affirmative action has many unintended negative consequences for minority students.

**Judith Cook**, University of Illinois-Chicago, was quoted in the *Chicago Tribune* on December 12 in an article about innovative programs for employing people with mental illness.

**Mathieu Deflem**, University of South Carolina, discussed his work on the history of international policing on the local PBS station on November 2002.

**Peter Drier**, Occidental College, wrote an article in the January 27 *The American Prospect* contrasting George W. Bush’s opposition to affirmative action with his own privileged background that gave him preferential entry into elite universities.

**Troy Duster**, New York University, was featured in the February issue of *Scientific American* for his research and work on genetics and race.

**Kathryn Edin**, Northwestern University, was mentioned in the January 5 *Monterey County Herald* for her research on marriage in an article on marriage and American society.

**Amitai Etzioni**, George Washington University, was quoted in the January 2 *Baltimore Sun* in an article about people and their New Year’s resolutions.

**Reynolds Farley**, University of Michigan, was quoted extensively in the January 5 *The Detroit News* in an article on the social and economic state of American society despite current challenging and worrisome times.

**Mark Fishman**, Brooklyn College, was quoted in the January 3 *The Tampa Tribune* in an article on reality television shows.

**Michael Flaherty**, Eckerd College, was interviewed on the January 1 *Talk of the Nation* program on National Public Radio about how people experience time.

**Doug Hartmann**, University of Minnesota, was quoted in the January 5 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* on perceived underrepresentation of Midwesterners on television.

**Carol Joffe**, University of California-Davis, wrote an op-ed column in the January 22 *San Francisco Chronicle* on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*.

**Ellis Jones**, Sacramento City College, **Ross Haenfler**, University of Colorado, and **Brett Johnson**, University of Colorado, were profiled in the February 2003 issue of the *Coloradan* in an article, titled “Grad Students Write Handbook to Better the World,” highlighting their book, *The Better World Handbook* (New Society Publishers, 2001).

**Donald Kraybill**, Elizabethtown College, was quoted in the January 5 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in an article about a local controversy in Nittany, PA, where a ban on horse ownership is considered discriminatory by local Amish residents.

**John Logan**, University at Albany, was quoted in a front-page article in the January 13 *Washington Post* about the Washington, DC, mayor’s goal of increasing the number of residents in the city.

**Paul Luebke**, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, was interviewed on the *CBS Evening News* on New Year’s Day and again the following day on the *CBS Early Morning Show*, discussing Sen. John Edwards’ chances of capturing the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004. On January 3, KMOX News Radio in St. Louis interviewed and asked him to compare the relative strengths of Edwards and Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt as presidential candidates.

**Robert Manning**, Rochester Institute of Technology, was interviewed on January 30 on National Public Radio’s *All Things Considered* about the history of consumer debt in the United States.

**Stephen J. Morewitz**, Morewitz & Associates, published an opinion article in the *National Law Journal* on January 20. His article was based on his new book, *Stalking and Violence: New Patterns of Obsession and Trauma* (Kluwer, 2003).

**Steven H. Murdock**, Texas A&M University, was quoted in the January 17 *Chronicle of Higher Education* in an article on the declining Hispanic and other minority student enrollment in Texas universities.

**J. Timmons Roberts**, College of William and Mary, wrote an article in the January

*Continued on next page*

In the News, continued

5 *Daily Press* on overdevelopment in Williamsburg, Virginia.

**Richard Sennett**, New York University, was featured in an article in the January 10 *Chronicle of Higher Education*, regarding his career writing about and studying social class issues.

**Gregory D. Squires**, George Washington University and **John F. Zipp**, University of Akron, wrote an article with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee historian, **Marc V. Levine**, on the persistence of inequality and segregation in Milwaukee that appeared in the January 19 issue of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

**Rodney Stark**, University of Washington, was quoted in the January 5 *Perth Sunday Times* (Australia) on the link between gender and religiosity.

**Arlene Stein**, Rutgers University, wrote an editorial in the January 5 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on the politics of George W. Bush’s support for religious organizations to provide services traditionally provided by the government.

**Jim Stockinger**, University of California-Berkeley, was interviewed on the Public Broadcasting Service’s *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, on January 8 about faculty employment status (i.e., part-time, full-time, tenured) and the quality of college/university teaching.

**Marta Tienda**, Princeton University, was featured in the January 24 *Chronicle of Higher Education* as having led a team of sociologists who reported on the state of minority enrollment in Texas universities after affirmative action was repealed in that state.

**Christopher Uggen**, University of Minnesota, was quoted in the January 1 *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* in an article on crime in the Twin Cities.

**Allen Williams**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was quoted in the January 27 *Daily Nebraskan* in an article on the effect on diversity of ASA’s MOST program in his university’s sociology department.

**Richard Wunderlich**, College of St. Rose, was featured in the January 1 *The Record* on his work and research on the Pinocchio fairy tale.

**Robert Wuthnow**, Princeton University, wrote an article in the January 24 *Chronicle of Higher Education* on the scientific study of religion.

**Lewis Yablonsky**, California State University-Northridge, had two articles published in the op-ed Commentary pages of the *Los Angeles Times* (September 19, 2002 and January 14) on American death rows and the death penalty.

**Fenggang Yang**, Purdue University, was quoted as a leading scholar on Chinese Christianity in the article “A Chinese American Awakening: Immigrants Help to Reenergize U.S. Christianity” in the January 11 *Washington Post*.

**Sharon Zukin**, Brooklyn College, was quoted in the January 5 *Chicago Tribune* in an article on an ethnic enclave neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, and in the January 5 *New York Times* on the future of Brooklyn as a cultural center.

Awards

**Paul Gellert**, Cornell University, and **James Raymo**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, are two of 15 recipients of this year’s Abe Fellowship to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern.

**Bernice Pescosolido**, Indiana University-Bloomington, received the Wilbert Hites Mentoring Award, an IU system-wide award to the outstanding mentor.

**Francisco O. Ramirez** and **John W. Meyer**, Stanford University, received major grants from the National Science Foundation and from the Bechtel Initiative on Global Growth and Change to study the expansion and impact of the world human rights regime throughout the twentieth century.

**Rogelio Saenz**, Texas A&M University Sociology Department Chair, has been selected to receive the 2003 Outstanding Latino/a Faculty Award in Research and Teaching in Higher Education by the American Association of Higher Education Hispanic Caucus.

**Carla Shirley** and **Kathryn Henderson**, both from Indiana University-Bloomington, each received the Lieber Associate Instructor Award, an IU system-wide award for outstanding teaching.

**Fenggang Yang**, Purdue University, and **Helen Rose Ebaugh**, University of Houston, won the 2002 Distinguished Article Award by Society for the Scientific Study of Religion for their “Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications.”

**Robert Zehner**, University of New South Wales Planning and Urban Development Program (Sydney, Australia), has been selected to receive a Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

People

**Tim Bartley**, **Tim Hallett**, **Ethan Michelson**, and **Fabio Rojas** will be joining the faculty of Indiana University-Bloomington as assistant professors in the fall.

**Glen Elder**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, received an honorary degree from the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State University in January.

**Joe Feagin**, University of Florida, was asked to do the first Occasional Paper for the Office of Minorities in Higher Education, American Council of Education, which was just published as *The Continuing Significance of Racism: U.S. Colleges and Universities*.

**Gene Rosa**, Washington State University, was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Committee to Review the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan.

**Christine Williams**, University of Texas-Austin, is the new editor of *Gender & Society*.

Members’ New Books

**Elizabeth A. Armstrong**, Indiana University-Bloomington, *Forging Gay Identities: Organizing Sexuality in San Francisco, 1950-1994* (University of Chicago Press, 2002).

**Lonnie Athens**, Seton Hall University, and **Jeffrey Ulmer**, Pennsylvania State University, *Violent Acts and Violentization: Assessing, Applying, and Developing Lonnie Athens’ Theories* (JAI Press, 2003).

**Thomas C. Calhoun**, Southern Illinois University, and **Constance Chapple**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *Readings in Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Justice* (Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2003).

**Mary Jo Deegan**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *The New Woman of Color: The Collected Writings of Fannie Barrier Williams 1893-1918* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2002).

**Joe Feagin**, University of Florida, and **Karyn McKinney**, Pennsylvania State University, *The Many Costs of Racism* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2003).

**Steven J. Gold**, Michigan State University, *The Israeli Diaspora* (University of Washington Press, 2002).

**Michael Hechter**, University of Washington, and **Christine Horne**, editors, *Theories of Social Order: A Reader* (Stanford University Press, 2003).

**Robin Humphry**, University of Newcastle (UK), **Robert Miller**, Queen’s University (Northern Ireland), and **Elena Zdravomyslova**, European University and Centre for Independent Research (Russia), *Biographical Research in Eastern Europe: Altered Lives and Broken Biographies* (Ashgate, 2002).

**Denise B. Kandel**, Columbia University, editor, *Stages and Pathways of Drug Involvement: Examining the Gateway Hypothesis* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).

**Joseph A. Kotarba**, University of Houston, and **John M. Johnson**, Arizona State University, editors, *Postmodern Existential Sociology* (Alta Mira, 2002).

**J. Scott Long**, Indiana University-Bloomington, *From Scarcity to Visibility: Gender Differences in the Careers of Doctoral Scientists and Engineers* (National Academy Press, 2002).

**Douglas S. Massey**, **Camille Z. Charles**, **Garvey F. Lundy**, and **Mary J. Fischer**, all from University of Pennsylvania, *The Source of the River: The Social Origins of Freshmen at America’s Selective Colleges and Universities* (Princeton University Press, 2002).

**Sarah H. Matthews**, Cleveland State University, *Sisters and Brothers/Daughters and Sons: Meeting the Needs of Old Parents* (Unlimited Publishing, 2002).

**John Torpey**, University of British Columbia, editor, *Politics and the Past: On Repairing Historical Injustices* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.)

**Yvonne Vissing**, Salem State College, *Women Without Children: Nurturing Lives* (Rutgers University Press, 2002).

**Rose Weitz**, Arizona State University, *The Politics of Women’s Bodies: Sexuality, Appearance and Behavior* (Oxford University Press, 2002).

**Barry Wellman**, University of Toronto, and **Caroline Haythornthwaite**, eds., *The Internet in Everyday Life* (Blackwell, 2002).

Other Organizations

The Political Sociology section of the ASA honored *The Journal of Political and Military Sociology* for its 30<sup>th</sup> year of uninterrupted scholarly publication.

**Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems**, a research and public education project of the George Washington University Medical Center, seeks to increase access to treatment for individuals with alcohol problems by providing research-based information and tools to help curb the health care and other costs associated with alcohol use. More details at: <www.ensuringsolutions.org>. E-mail info@ensuringsolutions.org.

**Seeking a new editor.** *International Sociology* is a quarterly journal published by Sage (London). The journal has been established by the International Sociological Association to publish papers that deserve worldwide circulation and reflect the research and interests of the international community of sociologists. The editor should have a vision for the direction of sociological research in the global age and the most promising trends and developments. Expressions of interest should be submitted by the end of July 2003 to: Susan McDaniel, ISA Vice-President, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4, Canada; (780) 492-0488; fax (780) 492-7196; e-mail Susan.McDaniel@ualberta.ca. <www.ucm.es/info/isa/is.htm>.

Contact

My students and I are interested in speaking to people who are interested in the integration of sociological theories and issues into regular K-12 subjects. This is because most public and private schools do not permit the study of sociology in the regular curricula and my hope is to speak to those interested integrating sociological theorist tests and subjects of interest for the benefit of children in schools where it is not offered as an elective subject. We also seek people who can help analyze self-esteem surveys. Contact: I.T. Motkin, or Korin, or Michael at ttzio22@ureach.com or 101students@ureach.com.

Caught in the Web

*The State of Preservation Programs in American College and Research Libraries* is now available at <www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub111/pub111.pdf>.

Summer Programs

**The Impact of the Internet on Society**, June 2-13, 2003, University of Maryland College Park. The Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland is hosting the third annual Graduate Student Workshop at the University of Maryland. 30 to 50 leading scholars and experts who study the behavioral aspects of information technology will discuss current issues and research. Student participants will receive up to \$750 as a support grant as well as room and board. Students will develop original research projects as the basis for their thesis, dissertation, or other publication. Application deadline: April 1, 2003. Contact: Graduate WebShop, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-1315; (301) 405-6421; fax (301) 314-6892; e-mail webuse@socy.umd.edu. <www.webuse.umd.edu>.

**Prague Summer Seminar.** Based on her research and experiences in the Czech Republic, Phyllis Raabe will be offering a seminar on “Women, Work, and Family—Is the Czech Republic Different?” in Prague from June 28 to July 27, 2003. This seminar will examine the interesting sources of gender equality and inequality in the Czech Republic (including the important role of social policies) and will feature talks by several Czech faculty. The Seminar, a part of the University of New Orleans Prague Summer Seminars, is available to both students and faculty and can be taken for credit or on a non-credit basis. Further information about the course and registration is available at <www.uno.edu/prague/photo> or by email: iziegler@uno.edu or praabe@uno.edu.

Deaths

**Robert Alford**, CUNY-Graduate Center, died on February 14.

**Helena Lopata**, Loyola University Chicago, died on February 12.

**Joseph B. Maier** of Maplewood, NJ, and a Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University, died on November 22, 2002.

**Ruth C. Schaffer** died on January 28.

**Marcello Truzzi**, Eastern Michigan University, died on February 9 after a long bout with cancer.

**Charles Warriner**, University of Kansas, died of a massive stroke on February 8.

Obituaries

**Ivan J. Fahs (1932-2003)**

Ivan J. Fahs, professor emeritus of sociology at Wheaton College (IL), died on January 5, 2003, in his home from end-stage renal failure, a complication of a heart transplant eight years earlier. Survivors include his wife Joyce, his mother Elsie, his children Daniel, Stephen, and Aimee, and 12 grandchildren. Ivan was born in Binghamton, NY, on June 12, 1932. He earned a BA from Wheaton and MEd and PhD degrees from Cornell University. After teaching at Greenville and Bethel (MN) Colleges and doing medical research in Minnesota and at Harvard Medical School, he joined Wheaton’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology in 1981 for the final 20 years of his professional life.

After earlier heart by-pass surgery, in 1995 Ivan received a heart transplant that provided a sense of urgency and thankfulness to his exemplary teaching. In 1996 he chaired the City of Wheaton’s Task Force on Homelessness. On November 4, 2002—“Ivan J. Fahs Day” in Wheaton—he received Illinois’ Studs Terkel Humanitarian Service Award in recognition of his work on behalf of the homeless.

During his 20 years of teaching at Wheaton College, Ivan Fahs worked closely with undergraduate students. He was the subject of a feature story in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for his unusual pedagogical simulations, including having students incarcerated or living as homeless. Students also developed papers from the research methods course Ivan taught for further purposes, winning more than 50 awards in student paper competitions. About 15 of his Wheaton College students went on to earn PhDs in sociology and related fields.

Continued on next page



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## Obituaries, continued

Ivan Fahs was my department chair during the mid- to late-1980s. He mentored me as a newcomer to Wheaton, traveled with me to conferences and then to Moscow to do collaborative research, studied the Hmong church in Wisconsin with me, and provided wise counsel in countless chats and bull sessions. Ten minutes into my haircut on January 9, my barber Don paused to blurt out, “Well, I saw that Dr. Fahs died.” To which I replied, “Yup, my buddy.” “Everybody’s buddy,” Don corrected me before continuing. “About once a month, Dr. Fahs would come in, and for 20 minutes, I would have him all to myself. What a privilege it was to know him.”

Ivan Fahs was everybody’s buddy to all who knew him. In the end, he will be remembered as a humble but energetic man who loved his God, his family, his students, and the downtrodden. We will miss him.

*Jim Mathisen, Professor of Sociology, Wheaton College (IL)*

## Official Reports and Proceedings

### Minutes of the First Meeting of the 2002-2003 Council August 20, 2002, Chicago, IL

**Officers Present:** William T. Bielby (President), Michael Burawoy (President-Elect), Barbara F. Reskin (Immediate Past President), Ivan Szelenyi (Vice President), Bernice Pescosolido (Vice President-Elect), Elijah Anderson (Immediate Past Vice President), Arne L. Kalleberg (Secretary)

**Council Members-at-Large Present:** Linda Burton, Craig Calhoun, Esther Ngan-Ling Chow, Robert D. Crutchfield, Jennifer Glass, David Grusky, Deborah K. King, Rhonda F. Levine, Victor Nee, Barbara Risman, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Pamela Walters

**ASA Staff Present:** Sally T. Hillsman, Janet Astner, Karen Gray Edwards, Lee Herring, Michael Murphy, Jean Shin

#### 1. Call to Order

President William Bielby called the meeting to order at 8:42 am on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in the Lake Erie Room of the Hilton Chicago Hotel. New members of Council were introduced and welcomed to the meeting: Esther Ngan-Ling Chow of American University, Jennifer Glass and the University of Iowa, Deborah King of Dartmouth College, and Rhonda Levine of Colgate University. The agenda for the meeting had been distributed in advance of the meeting; the agenda was approved as presented.

#### 2. Report of the President

Bielby reported that planning for the 2003 Annual Meeting was well underway. The Program Committee held its last face-to-face meeting in Chicago at the 2002 meeting. Plans for the plenaries and other events in and around the hotel related to the theme of culture are nearing completion. The only problem was a slight decrease in the number of sessions. While this is a problem in the eyes of some, for others it means they are pulled in fewer directions simultaneously.

There is some concern among Program Committee members about how Atlanta will affect attendance. The Chicago meeting just completed was an overwhelming success with excellent turnout. The last time ASA met in Atlanta in 1987, however, attendance was down from some other cities.

The theme of the 2003 Annual Meeting, “The Question of Culture,” is an invitation to critically assess how the concept of culture is used across the full range of areas of social inquiry and to take stock of alternative approaches to theory, method, and explanation developed outside of our discipline. What is the empirical and theoretical status of the concept of culture, not just in fields that deal centrally with symbolic realms such as arts, media, and religion, but also in traditionally more materialist and structuralist subfields such as demography, organizations, and stratification? How has “the cultural turn” changed our understanding of social categories such as gender, race, class and the way we study social processes ranging from identity formation to globalization? How do we address issues of meaning, representation, and interpretation, and what are their implications for sociology as an explanatory science? The 2003 Annual Meeting will be an occasion for lively debate on these and related issues, for sharing new ideas for theorizing and research, and for experiencing first hand the cul-

ture of Atlanta, one of the world’s most vibrant multicultural urban centers.

Barbara Risman asked the Executive Office to explore the possibility of hiring a vendor to provide an Internet café at the meeting. She reported that she, and probably many others, found it difficult and frustrating to not have access to e-mail while at the meeting.

#### Centennial Planning

Council engaged in a substantial discussion of the 2005 centennial of the American Sociological Association, considering various alternatives for celebrating and recognizing this milestone event.

A sub-committee on ASA History and the Centennial chaired by Craig Calhoun had been created previously by President Reskin to consider publications related to the centennial. This group felt that there were basically three options: (1) compile a commissioned book on the history of the ASA; (2) edit a diverse collection of historical perspectives on American sociology; and (3) create a website with someone specifically designated as editor.

Members of the sub-committee had spoken with some of the publishers present at the meeting. Several of them expressed interest in an edited volume. When questioned about the audience for and goals of such a volume, members of the sub-committee reported that the book would be intended to inform the membership about the rich history of the association. Since the primary audience would be members of the association, the volume would be limited unless it could be woven into the overall history of sociology, which would provide a larger audience.

A number of alternatives were explored, including reissuing some older sociological classics with expired copyrights, a series of articles representing difference perspectives on the development of the association, and republishing key historical articles. It was proposed that the History of Sociology section be invited to participate, along with the previous ASA Presidents. However, there is very limited time so it was agreed that for something to be ready by 2005, work to finalize ideas would have to be completed in time for the February 2003 Council meeting.

**Council voted to create a sub-committee of Council members, Publications Committee members, and others as needed, to review publications options for celebration of the ASA Centennial and to recommend to Council specific proposals that should happen with guidance on how those ideas should be put into place.**

President Bielby selected President-Elect Burawoy to chair this sub-committee.

A second sub-committee on Centennial Outreach, appointed by President Reskin, was chaired by Pam Walters; members are Pam Walters, Robert Crutchfield and Victor Nee. This sub-committee presented a series of issues for Council feedback: What audiences do we want to reach? What messages do we want to convey? How do we convey these ideas?

This group’s mission was to focus on methods of communicating with an audience that goes beyond sociology itself. This group saw its focus as less on ASA as an organization and more on American sociology. The sub-committee suggested focusing on key sociological facts, understandings, and debates that had been sparked by sociological research, all of which could lend the material to looking forward, not just backwards. The group asked Council for some direction on how to proceed with their work. Options were considered along with pros and cons of each idea.

**Council voted to commend the committee for its work and to ask it to specify proposals and to establish the feasibility of the proposals. Council also asked the committee to start the process of soliciting membership input on these proposals.**

Finally, Council turned to the international component of the Centennial. Council considered the possibility of collaborating with the International Sociological Association (ISA) for the 2005 Centennial. It was suggested that ASA collaborate with ISA by helping the ISA Council of National Associations, a group that meets every other year and is hosted by national associations, hold its planning meeting for the 2006 ISA meetings in the United States. In conjunction with the 2005 ASA Centennial year, ASA could offer to host a combined meeting of the ISA Executive Committee, Program Committee, and Council of National Associations. President Bielby asked Secretary Kalleberg to ask Douglas Kincaid, ASA’s representative to ISA, to explore the idea more fully (including costs, what “hosting” would mean specifically, can ASA afford to undertake this effort, and would this tie the hands of the 2005 ASA President too severely) and to bring more details to Council at the next meeting.

**Council voted to endorse the idea of having the ASA host at some site (e.g., Miami, Philadelphia) the ISA leadership for the planning meeting in conjunction with the 2005 meeting, if the costs are deemed reasonable. International participation is gen-**

**erally encouraged for ASA meetings, but especially for the 2005 Centennial annual meeting. To the extent that ASA might decide in the future to seek external funds to subsidize international participation, Council favors participants from less developed regions of the world with a diversity of international participation.**

#### 3. Report of the President-Elect

President-Elect Michael Burawoy reported that he had selected “Public Sociologies” as the theme for the 2004 Annual Meeting, which also builds upon the 1988 Presidential address by Herbert Gans. Sessions at the meeting will focus on the multiple publics (i.e., the inclusive notion of public sociology); how public sociology is dependent upon professional and academic sociology; and how public sociology varies in different countries. To prepare the program, Burawoy proposed the following for appointment to the Program Committee for the 2004 Annual Meeting: Patricia Hill Collins, Joyce Iutovich, Verna M. Keith, John Lie, Cecilia Menjivar, Bernice Pescosolido, Walter W. Powell, Barbara Risman, and Rhonda Zingraff. In addition, Burawoy will serve as Chair, Sally T. Hillsman will participate in her role as Executive Officer, and Arne L. Kalleberg will participate in his role as Secretary. Burawoy also indicated that Emmanuel Wallerstein would be an advisor to the committee.

**Council voted to approve the recommendations of President-Elect Burawoy for appointments to the 2004 Program Committee.**

#### 4. Report of the Secretary

Secretary Arne Kalleberg presented several items for Council information, discussion, and approval.

##### COLA Adjustment for 2003 Membership Dues

EOB recommended a 2.5% COLA adjustment for 2003 membership dues as permitted by the ASA Bylaws. Rounding, and holding low-income and student dues steady, produced the following rates.

**Council voted to approve a COLA adjustment of 2.5% in the membership dues rates for 2003.**

##### Re-examination of Membership Dues Categories

Several years ago, EOB adopted a guideline that the Executive Office and the Council should periodically review membership income categories. To examine this issue, data are needed on a number of issues, including overall economic factors, professional salaries within the field, how other comparable organizations handle dues, and the history of ASA dues structure changes. Executive Office staff will compile for review by EOB at its January 2003 meeting.

##### Development Campaign

The idea of launching a development campaign was raised by President Portes during his Presidential year. Recently, the suggestion had been made to consider conducting this campaign in conjunction with the 2005 centennial celebration. Kalleberg reported that tying a development campaign to the centennial might not be the best approach. The idea is to raise money, which requires that we campaign with a specific goals; a development campaign tied to the centennial would not be tied to specific projects or purposes. In addition the weak state of the economy makes this an inopportune time. Therefore, EOB recommended to Council that the idea be tabled. Council generally agreed with this conclusion.

#### 5. Report of the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Hillsman provided an extensive update on the transition and Executive Office functions yesterday during the final 2001-2002 Council meeting. In the interest of time, she referred everyone to that report.

#### 6. Information Technology Update

ASA Director of Information Technology and Services, Kevin Brown, provided an extensive written report on technology, including overall analysis of ASA systems and system security and firewall. Members now have access to numerous services via the ASA website, including online access to ASA journals, online membership renewals and changes, online registration for the Annual Meeting. Future plans include development of a disaster recovery plan, a document management system upgrade, investigation of new remote desktop access methods, and continued enhancements to online services for members.

#### 7. Electronic Enhancement of the Election

Executive Officer Hillsman presented a proposal to offer ASA voting members an additional option for casting their ballot in future elections beginning in 2003. In addition to the current paper ballot system, she and EOB proposed adding an electronic aspect to the election so that members may access candidate materials online and cast their ballots online.

As part of this proposal, all biographical materials and statements by all candidates for ASA-wide and section offices will be online. In addition to giving members access to more information more easily than ever before, no longer printing this information will save thousands of dollars in printing, collating, and postage expenses. The proposal for 2003 was outlined in an extensive written report.

Hillsman noted that while cost was not a driving factor in the development of this proposal, cost is nonetheless something that cannot be ignored. Overall election expenses have increased over the last four years by more than 25% from \$43,285 to \$54,089. The addition of an online balloting system will cost approximately \$8,250 for development in the first year, but will also reduce other expenses by nearly twice that amount. It is projected that election expenses could drop from \$54,089 for the 2002 election to roughly \$40,000 annually.

Hillsman reported that the participation rate in the annual election hovers at around 30%. This move to electronic ballots is not expected to give a huge boost to the participation rate, except possibly for international members, but will likely be viewed positively by the ASA membership that is increasingly using web-based methods of participating in association activities.

Hillsman indicated that ASA Bylaws currently require that ballots be distributed by mail; however they are silent on how members may cast their vote. ASA’s legal counsel has reviewed the Bylaws and offered the opinion that Council has the authority to interpret the present Bylaws as consistent with the proposed action. Hillsman noted that a number of other issues in the Bylaws required attention and that Executive Office staff would undertake a thorough review with Legal Counsel. It is likely that a series of Bylaws amendments will be proposed for addition to the 2003 ballot, including an amendment regarding the voting procedure.

One member suggested including a question on the upcoming dues renewal to ask members if they preferred voting electronically, giving us a sense of member preferences. There was no opposition to the proposal. Following discussion, the following was proposed and accepted:

Noting that current ASA Bylaws require distribution of election ballots by postal means, but do not specify a particular method for their return, Council voted unanimously that implementing electronic voting for ASA elections is consistent with the Bylaws. Under this system, in 2003 members will receive paper ballots by mail but will then have the option of casting their vote on the paper ballot or online at a secure site. Council also voted to submit to the membership the necessary changes to ASA Bylaws to permit Council to determine the best methods for future elections consistent with the principles of fair and secret balloting.

#### 8. Annual Meeting Issues

Janet Astner, Director of Meetings Services, reported that the 2002 Annual Meeting had been a very positive meeting in terms of member feedback, attendance overall and at sessions, and hotel feedback. This year marked the first time that ASA has made a distinct effort to promote its extensive roster of educational seminars, workshops, and courses to ASA members. A special brochure was created and mailed to all members at the end of May. One goal of this promotional effort was to encourage members not to base attendance decisions solely on whether they are presenting a paper on the program, but also to consider attending the meeting to take advantage of the educational component. Registration for these seminars was very strong this year, with several seminars selling out completely. Initial feedback was very positive. The 2003 Program Committee will look at these workshops later this fall and will consider continuing this pattern.

##### Annual Meeting Fees

Secretary Kalleberg reported that EOB reviewed registration fees for the 2003 Annual Meeting and recommends to Council a \$10 increase for general member and non-member registration fees. In addition, EOB recommends to Council small increases in fees for several categories of events and services.

**Council voted unanimously to approve the following changes in 2003 Annual Meeting registration categories and fees: (1) increase by \$10 the pre-registration fees for full member and non-member categories, (2) modest increases for events and services (as outlined in Table 4 of the written report and as outlined above), and (3) modification of the registration structure to include the new Secondary School Teacher category.**

#### 9. Committee on Sections

Lynn Smith-Lovin provided a report on the meetings of the Committee on Sections during the course of the Annual Meeting.

##### Update on Sections-in-Formation

Smith-Lovin reported that there are currently two sections-in-formation: (1) Animals and Society, and (2) Ethnomethodology and Conversational Analysis. Sections-in-formation are given two years in which to recruit at least 300 members before they can become full-fledged sections. Animals and Society has until September 30, 2002 to reach this number, and Ethnomethodology has until September 30, 2003 to reach this number. As of August 1, 2002, Animals and Society had recruited 239 members and Ethnomethodology had recruited 142 members. Members of Council agreed to follow existing guidelines regarding these sections, noting that if Animals and Society had not recruited at least 300 members by the deadline their status as a section-in-formation would cease and they would have to begin the process anew.

##### Interest Groups

Smith-Loving indicated that for some time, the Committee on Sections has been considering options for handling sections that fall below the required minimum of 300 members. Recognizing the desire of relatively small groups of ASA members (i.e., fewer than 300) to meet regularly at annual meetings to discuss substantive issues of common interest, 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.

Currently, the only way for such groups to have an official session is to become a section. Therefore, COS has seen a proliferation of requests to form sections, raising concerns about the possibility of “too many” in the Association that would be unlikely to achieve sustaining membership numbers. Some sections (especially some formed recently) have found it difficult to meet or maintain the membership of 300 people needed for continuing section status.

The Committee on Sections therefore asked Council to consider an alternative means for such groups to have opportunities for intellectual exchange at annual meetings operating as a full section. The committee asked Council to consider allowing the formation of “interest groups” with the following stipulations:

a. ASA members who wish to form an interest group must present to the Committee on Sections a petition with at least 100 signatures of bona fide ASA members. As part of the petition, organizers must draft a brief rationale for the interest group, and describe its anticipated activities.

b. Organizers must select a “convener” who will represent the interest group and serve as its sole contact for all ASA business.

c. Once the signatures have been certified, COS will consider the petition in a timely manner. Two criteria will govern the decision to grant “interest group” status: (i) The proposed substantive focus must be a legitimate and proper area of sociological inquiry; (ii) The proposed substantive focus must not overlap significantly with any existing section or interest group. COS may at some time also decide to limit the total number of interest groups.

d. If the petition is approved by COS, the interest group becomes an official ASA entity for subsequent annual meetings (the exact number of meetings is to be determined). To continue its existence for a longer duration, the interest group must provide a new petition with 100 bona fide signatures and an updated rationale. There is no limit to the number of times an interest group may renew itself.

e. An interest group will be entitled to one regular session at each annual meeting. The convener of an interest group will provide the ASA program committee with a title for its session, as well as the name of its organizer, and must conform to the schedule of deadlines for sessions organized by sections.

f. Apart from the conditions just discussed, the ASA will not provide any other services to interest groups (e.g., run elections, prepare and send newsletters, collect dues, prepare annual budgets, maintain website space and so forth).

g. Existing sections or sections-in-formation may choose instead to become an interest group, by following the above stipulations. Interest groups may become sections by satisfying established criteria.

Members of Council supported this concept in principle, noting that it creatively addressed long-standing problems with the current section structure, but raised several questions about its operations and consequences. First, is there some way to avoid the recurring petition mechanism outlined in item (d) of the proposal? Second, is it possible to place interest groups on the dues statement and assess a nominal charge for interest group membership?

Third, by the terms of this concept, there is a potential for a large number of interest group sessions, which would come out of the program

*Continued on next page*



Minutes, continued

committee’s allotment. Council expressed concern that this could crowd out the remainder of the program.

Finally, it was noted that sections have a detailed Sections Manual that defines what they are allowed to do and not do. Before interest groups can be recognized, a detailed set of policies and procedures will need to be developed.

Following an extensive discussion, Council voted to support the general idea of the Committee on Sections’ concept with several amendments. Council noted that many details will need to be addressed and analyzed by the Executive Office staff prior to implementation, including issues of charging a nominal fee, tracking members, and mechanisms for managing such information. Council agreed that the Committee on Sections needs to prepare a set of detailed rules and regulations for consideration at a future Council meeting.

**Council voted to endorse the idea of the Committee on Sections for the establishment of interest groups with the following amendments: (1) in line 3 to delete the bracketed optional wording “or working groups”, (2) to change item (d) to read “If the petition is approved by the Committee on Sections, the interest group will be recognized for the subsequent 3 annual meetings. To continue its existence, the interest group must meet standards to be determined by the Committee on Sections.” (3) to insert at the end of item (d): “Whether there will be a dues charge will be determined by a subsequent action of Council, (4) to delete in item e use of the word “regular” and substitute the appropriate ASA meetings language (e.g., “session”), (5) to add to item (g): “Existing sections that fall below the approved minimum number of 300 members for 3 consecutive years would be automatically restructured as interest groups unless the Committee on Sections recommends that there are overwhelming reasons that the group remain a section. Council also voted that there will be a one year delay after implementation of interest groups before there will be any mandatory movement of sections to interest groups, and that the Committee on Sections will be charged with determining what rules and regulations must be assembled and provided. [12 in favor, 1 opposed]**

Three-Year Moving Average

A suggestion was made during the annual session of the Committee on Sections with Section chairs that ASA to consider changing to a 3-year moving average system for determining section session and budget allocations. Executive Office staff will examine this proposal and run models to determine the financial and programmatic impact of this proposal and will report back to Council at its next meeting.

Free Section Membership for New Student Members

The Population Section has asked if it would be possible to give all new student members one section membership automatically in their first year of membership free of charge. Again, it was noted that there are financial and procedural implications of this proposal. In addition to the implication of sections and ASA losing the student section membership fees, there would be difficulty in the office determining the status of students. As with the item above, Council asked the Executive Office staff to examine this proposal and assess the implications of implementing the proposal as presented.

10. Executive Office Reports

Extensive written reports were provided to Council with updates on recent activities for each major programmatic area of the organization.

Academic and Professional Affairs Program

The Academic and Professional Affairs Program is focused on advancing the discipline through a number of ongoing efforts: the Preparing Future Faculty effort, collaboration with the MOST program, a series of annual meeting education efforts, and the NSF-funded project on undergraduate education.

Minority Affairs Program

A total of 39 MFP graduates were present at this annual meeting. A number of activities were planned for those graduates, including an all-day orientation for the new MFP Fellows at the start of the meeting. Plans for the upcoming academic year were reviewed.

A member of Council suggested that the name of the Minority Fellowship Program be changed to the Minority Scholars Program. There was agreement, however, that we must review the details of the NIMH grant that supports the program, which may dictate the name of the program. In addition, it was suggested that we solicit input from MFP graduates about such a name change. Council asked Executive Office staff to investigate these issues and report back at its next meeting.

Research Program on the Discipline and the Profession

The Research Program on the Discipline and the Profession is actively engaged in numerous efforts, including a departmental survey, a PhD cohort survey, and an analysis of the 2002 membership. Plans for the remainder of 2002 were reviewed.

Spivack Program on Applied Social Research and Social Policy

The Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy is directed to advancing the uses and contributions of sociology to social policy. Activities during 2002 were reviewed, including the Congressional Fellowship, Congressional Seminars, professional workshops, and the community action research program.

Public Information Program

Council was briefed on media inquiries that the ASA Public Information Office has handled over the last six months, as well as other activities of the office including press releases, Footnotes, promotion of ASA publications and activities, promotion of the new journal Contexts, and development of tools and strategies for public information.

Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline

The Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline is designed to nurture the development of scientific knowledge by funding small, groundbreaking research initiatives and other important scientific research efforts. Nine grants were awarded in the winter round of reviews. A FAD funding workshop was organized for this annual meeting.

11. Committee Appointments

A key activity of the August meeting of the new Council is to review recommendations for appointment to committees. These recommendations come from several sources.

Nominations from the President

President Bielby presented recommendations for the appointment of ASA members to be representatives to outside, non-ASA groups (e.g., representatives to AAAS).

Council approved recommendations from President Bielby for appointments of ASA members to serve as representatives to outside organizations.

Nominations from the Secretary

Secretary Kalleberg reported that the Executive Office and Budget Committee is composed of the secretary (who functions as chair), the current president, the immediate past president, and the incoming president, and 3 at-large members who each serve a 3 year at-large term. Each year the secretary presents a ranked list of candidates for one of the three at-large positions. Important skills for service on this committee include administrative experience, and knowledge of budgeting. Kalleberg presented five names in ranked order for service on EOB. Members of Council reviewed and accepted the list as presented.

**Council voted unanimously to approve the ranked recommendations of the Secretary for appointment to the opening on the Executive Office and Budget committee.**

Nominations from the Executive Officer

In addition to the committees established by the Bylaws and the award selection committees and task forces, there are several committees that serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Office. Executive Officer Hillsman presented ranked lists of candidates for appointment to these advisory committees. Members of Council reviewed the candidates for the various advisory committees and accepted the lists as presented.

It was noted that while several different committees or individuals are preparing lists of people for possible service on committees, it is important to monitor the lists to ensure that specific members do not receive multiple appointments. Because there are far more members than committee openings, it is desirable to have as many members as possible participate. While Council did not want to make this a binding rule, they did suggest that, as much as possible, each member should hold only one appointment. Council seeks nomination of good, qualified people without significant overlap.

**Council voted unanimously to approve the ranked recommendations of the Executive Officer for appointments to the ASA Advisory Committees.**

Nominations from the Committee on Committees

Following a hiatus, the Committee on Committees has been reinstated by action of the membership. The newly reconstituted committee met for a full day to develop a slate of candidates for appointment to ASA components. Council carefully reviewed the ranked slates of candidates for each committee.

**Council made one amendment and then voted to approve the ranked recommendations of the Committee on Committees**

**for appointments to ASA components. [1 opposed]**

12. Report from the Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons in Sociology

Roberta Spalter-Roth reported that over the course of the last three years, this Committee has been developing a review of major aspects of the professional experience of LGBT people in the discipline. The results of that review have been compiled into an 85-page report which was distributed to members of Council. The report’s Executive Summary provided an overview of the report, an overview of the research findings, directions for future research, and 6 specific recommendations. Spalter-Roth reported that the committee would like to work on the structures needed to implement the report’s recommendations.

Members of Council expressed their appreciation to the committee for this effort. Noting that this item came up late on the agenda after several members had already left the meeting, it was proposed that Council accept this report with thanks and that the recommendations be reviewed more thoroughly at the next Council meeting.

**Council voted to accept the report of the committee with thanks to the members for their hard work. Council indicated a commitment to carefully review the recommendations contained in the committee’s report at the next Council meeting.**

It was agreed that recommendation 5 could move forward now, rather than wait six months for the next Council meeting.

Council agreed that the chair of the LGBT committee should communicate their recommendation to the Contemporary Sociology editors immediately rather than wait 6 months for the next Council meeting.

13. Proposal for a Task Force on Assessment of the Major

ASA member Jon Lorence proposed the formation of a new task force to address student learning. Specifically, Lorence was concerned about the issue of standardized testing. Many states are requiring state universities to conduct outcome assessments for every major. Private institutions are also moving increasingly in the direction of requiring such standardized testing.

Lorence argued that an ASA nationally normed test could be administered to graduating seniors as part of a sociology department’s effectiveness evaluation. ASA members have previously been involved with development of tests such as the Graduate Record Examination in sociology (which is no longer examination).

Carla Howery, ASA Deputy Executive Director, offered a modification to this proposal suggesting that a task force entitled “Task Force on the Assessment of the Undergraduate Sociology Major” be created with a somewhat broader mission to:

Describe the “landscape” of undergraduate assessment as it pertains to sociology;

Identify promising practices in sociology departments, including exams, portfolios, assessment imbedded in courses, and so forth;

Explore the possibility of and pluses and minuses of a standardized exam and what role, if any, ASA might play in its preparation and update over time; and,

Suggest means to help departments consider these options and learn more about them, including proposals for relevant events at the annual meeting.

Council carefully reviewed the background and details of such a task force and a national standardized test. Caution was urged by many members, including a concern about the amount of time, work, and sophistication required to develop and administer such a test. Following an extensive discussion, it was agreed that a decision on this proposal was premature.

**Council voted to table this proposal until the final report of the Task Force on the Implications of Assessment of Faculty Productivity and Teaching Effectiveness is received so that Council can determine if that task force adequately covered the issues proposed for this new task force.**

14. 2002 Budget Review and Analysis

Members of Council received financial statements for January through May 2002 as well as projections of revenue and expenses through the end of fiscal year 2002. Data from actual 2001 performance was also provided for comparison purposes.

Secretary Kalleberg reported that the approved 2002 operating budget included a deficit of \$1,159 (excluding losses on the Association’s long-term investments). However, based on financial data through the end of May, EOB was currently projecting a deficit of approximately \$231,000 (excluding losses on investments). A portion of this operating deficit is attributable to lower than projected rev-

enues and a slight increase in transition year expenses over what was originally budgeted.

Kalleberg reminded Council that projections are always tricky, especially when major activities such as the annual meeting, occurred in the latter half of the year. EOB will closely monitor the financial picture as it develops during the remainder of the year and will construct a 2003 budget for presentation at the next meeting of Council.

15. Follow-up Business

Business Meeting Resolutions

The Annual Business Meeting of the American Sociological Association was held on Monday morning, August 19, 2002 during the Annual Meeting. Reports were presented by the ASA President, President-Elect, and Executive Officer. In addition, members were invited to present issues of concern for discussion and forwarding to Council. Members in attendances voted to send three resolutions to Council: (1) a “bill of rights” for researchers in relation to Institutional Review Boards (IRBs); (2) an amicus brief in the University of Michigan Law School affirmative action case, Grutter v. Bollinger; and (3) support for Hilton Chicago hotel workers in their negotiations for a new contract.

IRBs

ASA member Harry Perlstadt of Michigan State University and Jack Katz of UCLA requested Council’s endorsement of a “Researcher’s Bill of Rights” including:

The right to be told of the waiver to documented informed consent provisions contained in 45 CFR46 and have the waivers considered precedent;

The right to use data collected by state agencies under human subjects provisions governing those agencies under IRB standards no higher than state law;

The right to apply federal regulatory criteria that exempt research from IRB review without IRB review of the exemption;

The same rights to associate with and observe people, ask questions, and publish the information they acquire as does any person whose rights of assembly, inquiry, and publication are protected by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution unless the receipt of funding for research specifically requires prior review and approval of research procedures; and

The right to fair and uniform procedures and to due process.

Members of Council reviewed the resolution and discussed possible next steps. There was general agreement that IRB reviews can be challenging to field workers, but there was also agreement that steps were already being taken to address many of the issues raised by the resolution. There was also agreement that posing researchers’ rights against the rights of human participants in research would be counter-productive.

Following discussion, Council agreed that there is widespread concern about problems with IRB’s review of social science research, but that the way to address those issues was to improve existing processes rather than seek emancipation from it as outlined in the proposal.

**Council voted unanimously to reaffirm its commitment to the association’s strong leadership role and efforts to improve the human research protection system and its operation. Council appreciates the need for federal rules for the protection of human subjects. Council urged the Executive Office, along with the Committee on Professional Ethics, to consider specific issues that may need to be addressed at the national and local levels to ensure the advancement of research in accordance with best ethical practices. Council further commands the Executive Officer to work with HHS’ National Human Research Protection Advisory Committee as well as other scientific societies and related organizations to further this goal.**

Amicus Curiae Brief

Grutter v. Bollinger is an affirmative action case involving the University of Michigan Law School. This case is likely to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2003 term. It was suggested that this case could have considerable ramifications for the future of race and gender in admissions procedures for professional education. A resolution passed by a business meeting requesting that the American Sociological Association apply the weight of sociological research to the legal argument by writing an amicus curiae brief for the Supreme Court in this case. Specifically, it was proposed that ASA:

Contribute to Grutter v. Bollinger with an amicus curiae brief that provides relevant sociological data and research that supports the student intervenors’ case for affirmative action.

Endorse and help build the march on the U.S. Supreme Court on the date of the hearing in Grutter v. Bollinger.

Council supported the general concept of an amicus brief but expressed concern about the lack of detailed information on the case and the specific scientific data to be assembled. There was also agreement that amicus briefs can be expensive to prepare and that any brief must have a solid scientific foundation.

**Council voted to affirm the value of sociological knowledge for court decisions regarding matters such as this. In accordance with existing Council policy on making decisions, such as this, Council established a subcommittee to explore whether other scientific societies are taking action in the case, to consult with the University of Michigan, to explore funding sources and to report back to Council via electronic communication for a final vote. Council sub-committee members include: Reskin, Bielby, Burawoy, Kalleberg, Hillsman, with consultation from Craig Calhoun regarding foundation activity.**

Following the Council meeting, the Council sub-committee quickly organized to learn more about the case of Grutter v. Bollinger. The sub-committee learned that the attorneys for the student intervenors had not approached any other scholarly association, although they are considering approaching the AERA. The attorneys reported that what they needed was a substantive review; legal professionals will be available to integrate that review into a legal document. The sub-committee found that the ASA should not incur legal expenses associated with drafting the document.

Therefore, the sub-committee recommended that Council authorize an ASA amicus brief that summarized sound sociological research that addresses the need for affirmative action in legal education. This action, they felt, was consistent with other ASA initiatives, including the project synthesizing sociological research on race, and the Association’s recent policy statement on race.

The sub-committee proposed a drafting structure modeled after National Research Council committees, in which experts agree on the terrain the amicus brief should cover and then draft sections within their expertise. The sub-committee reported that Barbara Reskin was willing to chair that group and to orchestrate and write drafts of the entire document.

The preceding information was provided to members of Council in a memo from President Bielby, along with the recommendation of the sub-committee. Council members voted overwhelmingly in favor (16 in favor, 1 abstention) of proceeding with preparation of an amicus brief in the case of Grutter v. Bollinger

Hilton Hotel Employees

Several ASA members brought to the attention of the membership that workers at the Palmer House Hilton and the Hilton Chicago, a majority of whom are women and people of color, were in negotiations with the Hilton Corporation for a wage and benefits increase. The workers, through their union, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Local 1, had voted 98% in favor of a strike starting August 31<sup>st</sup>. It was reported that more than 500 ASA meeting attendees had signed a statement in support of the workers. The Business Meeting passed a resolution to urge Council to formally support the hotel workers in their quest for increased compensation.

**Council voted unanimously to direct the Executive Officer to send a letter to the Hilton leadership and the leaders of HERE Local 1 indicating ASA’s support for improving the compensation of the hotel employees in the current labor dispute.**

Selection of Dates for Mid-Year Council Meeting

The winter EOB meeting will be January 11-12, 2003. Based on this, Council members considered options for the next Council meeting for early 2003. Members agreed to meet on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, with some members arriving on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> for other meetings (e.g., FAD). The Executive Officer was asked to investigate the possibility of holding the meeting on the west coast.

It was suggested that Council meetings be scheduled farther in advance to avoid conflicts for individual Council members. Possibly as soon as the election results are known one of the first acts of the new President-Elect would be to set meeting dates for mid-year Council meetings.

16. Adjournment

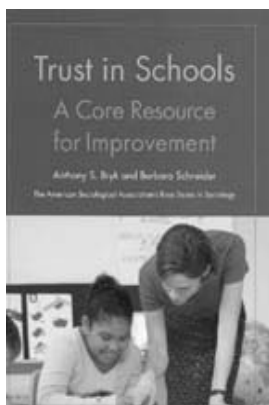
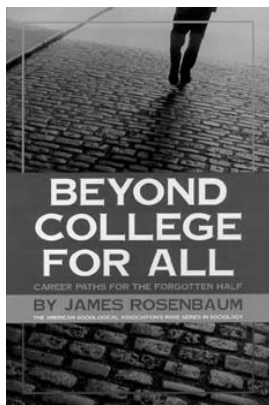
With no further business for consideration at this meeting, President Bielby adjourned the meeting at 4:03 pm.

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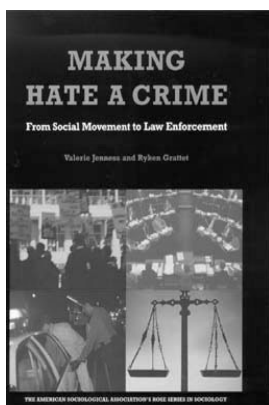
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The ASA Committee on Publications is pleased to announce that Charles Camic and Franklin Wilson have agreed to extend their service as editors of the *American Sociological Review* for one additional year through 2003. The appointment of a new editor (or editorial team) for 2004 and beyond is scheduled to occur in early 2003; the transition to new editorial offices is expected to take place in summer 2003. Until then, all manuscripts and other editorial correspondence should be directed to:

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