Why we need a Sociology of Population Section
A message from Section Chair, Judith Treas

When I was in graduate school sometime during the Pleistocene Age, I asked a professor why the ASA didn’t have a section on population. It turned out that some prominent demographers had decided against doing anything that might detract from that other organization, the Population Association of America. Although PAA had been around since 1930, the professional association was just stepping up to become the power that it is today. PAA has 3000 members from a host of disciplines, a leading journal (Demography), a Washington presence looking out for the interests of demographers, and a terrific annual meeting.

The ASA Section on the Sociology of Population is new. Our bylaws weren’t even around in the last century. We have a healthy membership (nearing 500). We have this newsletter and a list-serve that targets your announcements to the people who care. At the annual ASA meetings, we have exciting sessions that spotlight emerging issues in population research. We also have a complement of roundtables where everyone—from graduate student to senior luminary—can workshop their research to an intimate group of people who really share their interests. And, we have that great off-site reception, which gets you free beer, appetizers and out of the conference hotel. There is a lot going on for the modest section dues of $12 ($5 for students).

That said, why do we need an ASA Section on the Sociology of Population when we already have PAA?

First, while sociologists cast a big shadow at the interdisciplinary PAA meetings, we have few opportunities for disciplinary reflections on how the sociology of population differs from, say, the economics of population. Our section has the luxury of exploring the distinctive contributions of the sociology paradigm. For the 2012 ASA Meetings in Denver, our own chair-elect Katherine Donato, fresh from her duties editing the American Sociological Review, invites submissions for a session on “Disciplines and Demography: Finding the Sociology in Population Processes.” John Iceland will organize an open-call session on “Demographic Approaches to Inequalities and Disparities,” as will Lori Hunter on “Population, Environment, and Context.” With the Family Section taking the lead, there will be a joint session on the demography of the family.

Second, the section provides a place where new professionals can cultivate their sociological networks in a world where academic jobs for demographers are still usually packaged into disciplinary departments. In the crush of the crowd, the section offers a home base for its members, particularly its student members who have not yet filled their calendars with ASA committee meetings and publisher appointments. In 2012, we’re rolling out more activities to meet the needs of graduate students. Anthony Paik is organizing our roundtables for 2012, and he promises special tables devoted to mentoring and professional development.

Do plan to participate in the 2012 meetings in Denver, pay your dues, and remind others why they, too, should be members of the Sociology of Population Section.
Lee and Bean Win O.D. Duncan Award

Jennifer Lee and Frank D. Bean, both of the University of California-Irvine, have been awarded the Sociology of Population Section’s Otis Dudley Duncan Award for their book, *The Diversity Paradox* (Russell Sage, 2010). The award was announced by award committee member, Eddie Telles, at the 2011 section reception in Las Vegas. Other members of the award committee were Craig St. John (chair) and Christine Himes.

The *Diversity Paradox* uses census, survey, and in-depth interview data to examine patterns of intermarriage and multiracial identification among Asians, Latinos, and African Americans. Lee and Bean analyze where the color line, and the economic and social advantage it demarcates, is drawn today and on what side of it members of these groups fall.

The authors show that Asians and Latinos with mixed racial ancestry are not constrained by strict racial categories in several geographic areas of the United States. Racial status often shifts according to situation, with individuals choosing to identify along ethnic lines or as white, and their decisions are rarely questioned by others. Asians and Latinos also intermarry with whites at moderate to high rates, which is viewed as part of the process of becoming American.

African Americans, in contrast, intermarry at significantly lower rates than Asians or Latinos. Multiracial blacks often choose not to identify as such and are typically perceived by others as being black only, underscoring the stigma still attached to being African American and the entrenchment of the one-drop rule. Jennifer Lee and Frank Bean conclude that many Asians and Latinos, on the other hand, are relatively successful at disengaging their national origins from the concept of race.

According to the members of the award committee, *The Diversity Paradox* is an important book that will change the way we view immigration, the second generation, race and racial politics.

The O.D. Duncan Award is presented annually to the authors of a recent book making significant contributions to social demography.

Research on Fertility Response to Childcare Availability Wins Distinguished Scholarship Award

Each year, the Sociology of Population Section recognizes an outstanding published article in demography with the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Population Award. The 2011 installation of the award has been presented to Ronald Rindfuss, David Guilkey, S. Philip Morgan, and Øystein Kravdal’s for their paper, "Child-Care Availability and Fertility in Norway." The award was announced at the section reception in Las Vegas by Liana Sayer on behalf of the award selection committee which also included Peter Brandon and Cameron Campbell. Phil Morgan accepted the award on behalf of the authorship team.

In announcing the award, Sayer noted that the award-winning paper brings sociological insight on the importance of spatial and temporal context to a question germane to multiple disciplines: whether the availability of childcare increases fertility in developed, post-demographic-transition societies. Using simulation models on high-quality longitudinal micro-level data from Norwegian population registers, combined with macro data on childcare availability and female unemployment rates at the municipality level, the authors show that moving from 0% to 60% childcare availability increases the number of children ever born by age 35 by 0.67. This equates to a one-tenth of a child increase in fertility for each 10% increase in childcare availability. The authors build the case that child care availability increases fertility at all parity transitions.

In selecting the paper by Rindfuss and his colleagues from a large number of high-quality submissions, the award committee noted that the study is elegantly theorized, methodologically rigorous, and presented in a way that is persuasive and accessible even to non-specialists. The novel empirical results should influence the sociological, economic, and demographic research on fertility, work/family, and gender dynamics. Additionally, the article speaks to timely policy debates including those related to pronatalism, work/life reconciliation, population aging, immigration, and national identity. In announcing the award, Sayer noted that the paper “has potential to inspire graduate students to pursue population studies with a sociological lens.”

The paper by Rindfuss, Guilkey, Morgan, and Kravdal was published in December 2010 in *Population and Development Review.*

Phil Morgan (l) accepting the Distinguished Scholarship Award from Section Chair, Mike White
Two Innovative Student Papers Recognized by Section

The Population Section’s 2011 Student Paper Award has been presented to Daniel Schneider and Elizabeth Gummerson of Princeton University for their paper, “Eat, Drink, Man, Woman: Gender, Income Share, and Household Expenditures in South Africa.” The award was presented by Nathalie Williams, representing an award committee that also included Elizabeth Fussell and Molly Martin. Williams noted that the committee received a large number of high-quality papers, “every one of which had new and interesting ideas to share.”

Williams noted that Schneider and Gummerson’s work stood out for taking a bold and innovative approach to questions that have been considered by much more senior scholars for many years — how gender and income share affect household spending. Moving beyond the traditional focus on married couples, Schneider and Gummerson highlight the fact that many households include additional adults. Their convincing theoretical development and empirical analyses suggest that in households with multiple adults, men and women bargain in gender groups towards gendered preferences in household spending. The paper reinforces the growing recognition that consideration of household members outside the married dyad is crucial for understanding economic dynamics and demographic processes within families.

Honorific mention goes to Christopher Muller from Harvard University for his paper titled, “Northward Migration and the Rise of Racial Disparity in American Incarceration, 1880-1950.” In this paper, Muller draws on arguments from sociology, demography, and history to address racial disparity in incarceration in the United States. He traces a substantial portion of the rise in racial inequality in incarceration between 1890 and 1950 to the response of northern states to the first great African-American migration from the South. The paper provides a compelling explanation of how historical dynamics of racial inequality shape contemporary racial stratification patterns.

The award committee noted that both papers presented new perspectives on old questions and delineated strategies that provide new and compelling insights and directions for future research. According to Williams, “these two papers exemplify the value of junior scholars to the profession—they provided fresh insights and perspectives that can benefit the work of junior and senior scholars alike.”

Making the Population Section more student-relevant
Commentary by Student Representatives, Jessica Cohen and Jennifer Buher Kane

Boosting student participation in the Sociology of Population section remains a key initiative for the Population Section Council. While section membership has grown modestly, the number of students joining the section has fallen short of expectations. After gathering some anecdotal evidence from fellow grad students and faculty members, we have uncovered two possible reasons why this might be the case. First, it seems that conference funding is an issue. In a financial pinch, students may have to choose between attending the ASA meetings or the meetings of the Population Association of America. For many population-oriented sociologists, this choice often leads away from ASA attendance since PAA’s primary focus is on demography. And, since student section membership is often linked with conference participation, this can dampen student participation overall.

This is related to the second reason: some students feel that networking opportunities with senior scholars are more plentiful at PAA since more senior faculty may attend sessions at PAA versus ASA. We invite other students to share their perspectives (please do by emailing one of us!), but in the meantime we offer the following as potential solutions.

First let us say that as recent job-market candidates, we too feel the pain of strategically securing conference networking opportunities while balancing tight budgets. So, at this year’s roundtable, we would like to change the format a bit to help meet student’s networking needs. We plan to have at least one junior and one senior-level faculty member at each roundtable.

We hope this will both enrich the roundtable discussions and provide some targeted one-on-one networking time for presenters with faculty members who are interested in the same research area. The Council is also currently devising ways to provide more conference funding for students. Stay tuned.

Third, joining ASA’s Sociology of Population section is a way to brand yourself as both a demographer and a sociologist, which may come in handy on the job market. From our limited experience, it seems to us that many jobs are not advertised as straight population/demography, but rather are housed within a specific department (i.e., Sociology) that calls for a focus on demography. Joining the section and participating in ASA’s Sociology of Population conference sessions is a way to distinguish yourself as both. Fourth, we would like to draw your attention to the 2012 session organized by Chair-Elect Katharine Donnato on the Sociological Insights on Population. The emphasis here is on “sociological.” We’re sure it comes as no surprise to many of you that one common critique of demography is its lack of theoretical rigor. This is our opportunity to strengthen this aspect of population science, and we strongly encourage grad students to take advantage of this opportunity by submitting a proposal along these lines to either this session or to the roundtables.

For all of these reasons, we hope that our student members will continue to participate actively in the section activities, that faculty members will consider covering the cost of membership in the Population section for their grad students, and that all of you will help to spread the word about the great professional opportunities offered by the section. These are small prices to pay for a long-term investment in the development of the next generation of population sociologists.

Please email us with your questions and suggestions about how to make the section work better for student members (Jennifer Buher Kane: jbkane@unc.edu; Jessica Cohen: jcohen8@stmarytx.edu). We’d love to hear from you!
Council Meeting Minutes, 2011

Sociology of Population Council Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike White, at 7:20 am on August 20, 2011 at Payard Patisserie & Bistro, Las Vegas

Present (9):
Council members: Rebecca Clark, Lori Hunter, John Iceland, Jennifer Buher Kane, Zhenchao Qian, Jennifer Van Hook
Chair (2010-2011): Michael White
Chair-elect (2012-2013): Katharine Donato
Secretary/Treasurer: Kyle Crowder

White reported that, because of scheduling conflicts, incoming Chair, Judith Treas, is unable to attend the Council Meeting. White and Treas will meet later in the day to discuss transition issues and other section business, and Treas will attend the Section Business Meeting.

Meeting Activities: Chair White provided an overview of section activities for the 2011 meetings.

The section is sponsoring and organizing three sessions, including one roundtable session (total of eight tables), and a joint session with the Family Section. Following tradition, the joint Family-Population session at the 2012 meeting will be organized by the family section and will count as one of their ASA-allotted sessions.

The Business Meeting will be held immediately today, immediately following the roundtable sessions and in the same room. White encouraged council members to attend and to remind others of the meeting.

A joint reception and awards ceremony with the Family Section will be held this evening at Trevi. The off-site location was selected this year to reduce costs.

Section Membership: White reported that section membership has held steady for the past few years (493 in 2009, 484 in 2010, and 494 in 2011). ASA reports about 25 individuals who renewed ASA membership that did not renew their section membership. These were offset by new membership for a slight gain over the year.

Crowder reported that the 2% growth in Population Section membership between 2010 and 2011 is well below the average annual growth for all sections (9%). The Population Section is ranked 23rd in terms of overall membership, 35th in terms of student members (100), and 42nd in terms of low-income members (7).

Council members expressed an interest in developing a campaign to encourage population centers and departments to subsidize membership dues for graduate students and junior scholars.

Council members discussed factors that may be limiting the growth of the section membership. The proliferation of new sections may be having an impact as members choose membership in sections related to their more specific interests (e.g., International Migration; Race, Gender, and Class; Community and Urban Sociology) rather than affiliating with the more general Population Section. Several council members also suggested that many population scientists may be getting associated with the more general Population Section, a group with which we have already established a strong collaboration. Lori Hunter will take the lead in investigating possible collaborations with the Environment and Technology Section on a Population and Environment session.

White reported that he and Judith Treas had discussed the possibility of increasing the number of awards made by the section and asked council members to consider the kinds of awards that might be worthwhile.

White and Treas also discussed the possibility of developing some strategies to raise funds specifically to support student travel to the meetings. With the council’s approval, White agreed to work with Treas and Donato to develop these strategies and to seek ASA approval for the fundraising effort.

Voting: White reported that the Population Section had the highest turnout (68.14%) of any ASA section in the recent election of officers.

Secretary-Treasurer Report: Crowder reported that the balance in the section account has increased by $53 since the same time last year.

This stability in the account reverses several consecutive years of net losses, reflecting a stabilization of section expenditures. Crowder reported on major sources of income and expenditures. Primary sources of income are from the base allocation from the ASA (level based on size of the section) and a portion of the ASA dues paid by each members of the section. The total annual income for the section was $2375.

Expenditures for the section this year include: 1) $1850 for the refreshments and venue for the annual reception and awards ceremony (costs are about 34% lower for this year’s reception because of off-site location and cost-split with the Family Section); and 2) costs associated with section awards (cost of plaques for all authors on works receiving any of the three awards plus a $500 travel award for the winner of the Student Paper Award). These costs fluctuate from year to year but the total is typically quite close to annual section income, increasing the importance of containing costs as much as possible.

Council discussed and reaffirmed the strategy of seeking off-site locations and holding joint receptions in order to contain reception costs. Council also discussed ways to control the high and unpredictable costs associated with awarding plaques to all authors on each of the three award-winning pieces of research. Crowder proposed that in the future, the section should purchase a single plaque for each award, regardless of the number of authors. The council developed and approved the alternative strategy of purchasing no plaques but presenting all authors on each award-winning piece with a certificate. Council also voted that all certificates should be ordered by a designee of the section chair in order to contain costs and ensure uniformity of the certificates.

Bylaw revisions: White presented a proposal to modify the section bylaws to specify the term and duties of student members and reflect the current names of the section awards. These changes were discussed and unanimously approved by the council. White will communicate with the ASA Sections office to ensure that section members will have the opportunity to vote on the ratification of the bylaw changes during the next ASA vote.

Council members discussed the possibility of additional revisions to the bylaws to specify roles and activities for council members. White asked that council members develop and send specific proposals to incoming chair, Judith Treas.

Zhenchao Qian proposed the addition of bylaw language about

(Continued on page 5)
Council Meeting Minutes (continued)

Sociology of Population Business Meeting called to order by Chair, Mike White, at 5:30 pm on August 20, 2011 at Cesar’s Palace, Las Vegas.

Welcome: Chair Michael White welcomed the members in attendance, distributed the meeting agenda, and introduced incoming Chair (2011-2012), Judith Treas, Chair-elect, Katharine Donato, and Secretary/Treasurer, Kyle Crowder.

White thanked outgoing council members, Sara Curran and Elizabeth Furstenberg, for their service to the section. White also thanked past Chair, Bob Hummer, for his efforts to provide a strong organizational structure to ease the transition from one chair to the next.

Election Results: White introduced three newly-elected members of the Section Council: Rebecca Clark, Jessica Cohen (student representative), and Christine Himes.

White reported that the Population Section had the highest turnout (68.14%) of any ASA section in the recent election of officers. White thanked the members of the nominations committee – Karin Brewster, Sarah Burgard, and Eric Fong – for putting together a strong slate of candidates.

Section Activities: White provided an overview of section sessions for the 2011 meetings, noting that attendance at the section sessions was solid. White reminded attendees of the Section Reception and Awards Ceremony to be held at Trevi, a short walk away, immediately following the business meeting.

White thanked Shannon Monnat for her work in identifying the location for the reception and establishing the contract for services. White also thanked Kate Cagney and Katherine Morris for helping to arrange the reception in Chicago before the announcement that the meetings had been moved to Las Vegas.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Secretary/Treasurer, Kyle Crowder, reported that the section took in $53 dollars more than it spent last year. Crowder provided an overview of sources of section income (base allocation from the ASA and dues and expenditures (annual reception and awards costs). Crowder reported that the council has voted to eliminate the purchase of plaques for all section award winners, and approved the continuation of efforts to coordinate joint receptions with the Family Section in sites away from the conference hotel.

Crowder noted that these practices will only continue if the joint, off-site receptions continue to meet the needs of our members. Crowder invited members to send their impressions of the off-site reception to him or to the section chair.

Crowder reported that section membership for 2011 (494) increased slightly from 2010 (484) and is now just above the previous high recorded in 2009 (493). Crowder also noted that the level of growth in section membership has been modest in comparison to the average growth rate across all sections and that student membership has grown especially slowly for the Population Section. The section would need to add just over 100 more members to exceed the threshold for the allocation of an additional section at the annual meetings.

Crowder invited members to submit announcements of job changes, conferences, and other professional opportunities for the fall/winter newsletter. He also would like to hear other member ideas about the use of the newsletter page space to meet the mission of the section and, especially, to bolster student participation in the section.

Report from Council Meeting: White reported that the Population Section Council has voted to revise the section bylaws to specify the length of term and duties for student representatives on the council and to match the description of section awards with the current names of these awards. Members will have the opportunity to vote on the ratification of the bylaw changes during the spring ASA vote.

White reported that the council had discussed ideas for improving section outreach to, and services for, student members and invited member input on these issues. White also invited section members to send ideas about increasing collaboration (e.g., joint sessions) with other ASA sections but noted that we are already collaborating with the section, Family, with which the Population Section shares the most members.

Planning for 2012 Meeting: Incoming Chair, Judith Treas, thanked Michael White for his service to the section, noting his attention to bylaw revisions, strong meeting coordination, and efforts to establish effective communication with section members.

Treas reported that planning for section activities at the 2012 meeting are already underway. The Population Section will, once again, have a joint paper session with the Family Section and will also pursue possible collaborations with other sections with activities scheduled for the same or adjacent days. In response to a question from the audience, Treas, White, and Crowder noted that the section does not receive any extra session slots for collaboration with other sections but that joint sessions are a way to increase the overall number of sessions that may be of interest to population scientists. For the 2012 meeting, the joint Population-Family session will count against the Family Section’s session allocation.

Treas invited members to submit ideas for the 2012 program and student outreach activities. In response to an audience query, Treas noted that, while the section does not generally have a one-topic session, the main strategy has been to keep session themes broad enough to allow for wide participation of members.

Treas distributed volunteer forms and invited members to participate on the section committees.

Other Business: Section member, Stewart Tolnay, reported that attendance at most of the section sessions was disappointingly low and suggested that the section focus on ways to encourage greater participation. White noted that this is a regular point of discussion for the section council and invited members’ ideas about how to improve participation and the overall value of the section sessions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Council Meeting Minutes (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Crowder suggested that council consider adding a Secretary/Treasurer-elect position to allow for a one-year overlap of the incoming and outgoing Secretary/Treasurer. Because this change could not be ratified before the election of the next Secretary/Treasurer, the council agreed to table this discussion for a future meeting.

Other business: The council reaffirmed the practice of bundling section listserv messages in weekly broadcasts rather than sending announcements individually.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 am.
Call for Nominations — 2012 Population Section Awards

Sociology of Population Section Student Paper Award

The Sociology of Population Section announces the call for papers for the Student Paper Award in social demography. The deadline for submission is February 15, 2012. This award consists of a certificate and support for travel expenses to attend the 2012 ASA meeting in Denver. The following are criteria for submission:

1. The unpublished or published paper can be sole-authored or have multiple student authors. While there is no page limit, papers should be concise and focused. This is not a dissertation award competition. No faculty co-authors are allowed.
2. All authors must be currently enrolled in graduate school or have completed their Ph.D. degrees on or after January 1, 2012.
3. The paper must use a sociological perspective to address an issue of relevance to contemporary demography, broadly defined. Purely technical papers are not eligible.
4. The paper need not be on the ASA program.
5. Membership in the Population Section of the ASA is not a requirement for this award.
6. The cover page of the paper should include a title and an abstract, but should have no other identifying information, such as name, university affiliation, address, or acknowledgements. A single copy of a cover page containing the author's name, affiliation, address, and other identifying information should also be included. The paper should be submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper via email by the deadline date.

Send your paper and the name and telephone number of the registrar of your degree-granting university to:
Elizabeth Fussell, Chair of the Population Section Student Paper Award Committee at fussell@wsu.edu. Other members of the selection committee for 2012 are Molly Martin and Nathalie E. Williams.

Award for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Population

The Sociology of Population Section seeks nominations for an award recognizing an outstanding published article in demography or population studies by a sociologist. The nomination deadline is February 15, 2012. To be eligible, articles must have a 2010, 2011, or 2012 publication date. Self-nominations are accepted. Accompany nominations with a short letter explaining the significance of the work and its contribution to the sociology of population.

Send the nominating letter and an electronic copy of the article by email to: Liana Sayer, Chair of the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Population Award Committee at sayer.12@sociology.osu.edu. Other member of the selection committee for 2012 are Peter Brandon and Cameron Campbell.

Otis Dudley Duncan Award

The 2012 Otis Dudley Duncan Award will be presented to the author(s) of a recent book that has made significant contributions to social demography. Books published in the last three calendar years (2010-2012) will be considered. Please send nominations by email to the Committee Chair, with copies to the other Committee members. Send hard copies of nominated books to all three Committee members. Nominations and books should be received by February 15, 2012.

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For more information on section awards visit http://www2.asanet.org/population/awards.html
Stephanie Bohon (University of Tennessee) and Bridget Gorman (Rice University) will be the new editors of Population Research and Policy Review effective January 1, 2012. PRPP is the official journal of the Southern Demographic Association, and it publishes papers using any method (well executed) that contributes to the field of demography by making substantial policy or intellectual contributions that are of interest to wide range of readers.

The Oklahoma Sociological Association will be holding its annual meeting and conference at Cameron University on the 28th of October, 2011. Maxwell Kwenda is the outgoing president of the organization. The theme of the conference is “Doing Sociology: Advancing Sociological Knowledge Through Practice”. The keynote address will be given by Dennis R. Johnson the regional director of the US Census Bureau - Kansas City Office. Steve Barker of the Oklahoma state data center will be there to provide additional information. If you are in the area, please consider joining us for this event. More information and registration forms are located at http://osa.cameron.edu

The Population Studies Center of the University of Michigan expects to have openings for postdoctoral fellows sponsored by NIA and NICHD. Positions to start on or about September 1, 2012. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in demography, public health, or one of the social sciences (e.g. sociology, economics, anthropology, psychology or history) at the starting date. Applicants for the NIA positions should be intending to focus their efforts during the postdoctoral fellowship on aging related research, broadly defined, while applicants for the NICHD positions should be intending to focus on population research. Selection will be based on scholarly potential and compatibility with the interests of a faculty mentor. Fellows devote most of their time to independent research, but may also take selected courses and/or teach on a light-load basis if opportunities are available. Positions offer exceptional opportunity for collaboration with staff of the Population Studies Center and Survey Research Center on major projects in the U.S. and overseas. Term of appointment two years. Stipend commensurate with experience, based on levels mandated by NIH. Candidates must be citizens of Permanent Residents of the United States at the time of application. Screening of applications will begin on January 13, 2012 and will continue until positions are filled. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, 1-2 page statement of research interests detailing your planned research while at PSC and examples of written work via email to Ms. Heather MacFarland (hmacfarl@umich.edu). Statement of research interests is essential and should reflect plans for research during the postdoctoral period, rather than simply a summary of previous research. Also, please arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent directly from the author to Ms. MacFarland via email. All documents should be in PDF format and contain the applicant’s last name in the file name. For more information about the Center see: http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Carolina Population Center (CPC), located on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, anticipates several openings for Postdoctoral Scholars in the NICHD-supported Demography and the Social and Health Sciences training program in 2012-13. The positions are one-year appointments, with renewal for a second year based on progress in the program. The salary range is based on the current NRSA schedule, $38,496 to $53,112 in 2011-12, with health insurance, and a travel allowance. Candidates with a background in demography and PhDs from disciplines such as sociology, economics, geography, biostatistics, epidemiology, and other areas of public health are encouraged to apply. CPC’s postdoctoral training programs attract exceptional scholars from a broad range of disciplines. Trainees work one-on-one with faculty preceptors on significant research projects, attend and lead weekly seminars, and study population issues as well as ethics and the protection of human subjects.

CPC also seeks exceptional students admitted or currently enrolled in doctoral programs at UNC-CH during the 2012-13 academic year for its NICHD-supported predoctoral training program in Demography and the Social and Health Sciences. The positions are one-year appointments, with possibility of renewal based on an annual competition. CPC funding is possible for up to four years of graduate studies at UNC-CH. Benefits include an annual stipend based on the current NRSA schedule, $20,772 in 2011-12, health insurance, tuition and fees, and a travel allowance. Candidates with a strong interest in demography, regardless of doctoral discipline, are encouraged to apply. CPC’s predoctoral training program attracts exceptional scholars from a broad range of disciplines. Trainees work one-on-one with faculty preceptors on significant research projects, attend and lead weekly seminars, and study population issues as well as ethics and the protection of human subjects.

Application instructions for both the postdoctoral and predoctoral programs are due no later than January 26, 2012. Additional information is available at http://www.cpc.unc.edu/training, or by contacting Jan Hendrickson-Smith, Training Program Coordinator via email at jhsmith@unc.edu or phone at 919.966.2160.

The Population Research Institute at Penn State anticipates an opening for a postdoctoral fellow in Family Demography and Individual Development, starting August 15, 2012. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in demography, family studies, or a related social science discipline by the starting date. A strong background in quantitative analysis of social science data is desirable. The training program is oriented toward a postdoctoral research apprenticeship in two areas: family demography, and life course development processes and outcomes. We seek trainees with either 1) training in demography who wish to broaden their disciplinary base by acquiring substantive expertise in individual development throughout the life course, or 2) a disciplinary background in individual development who seek to acquire the perspective, tools and techniques of demography. The interface of family demography and individual development science is an area of particular strength among Population Research Institute faculty associates. Selection will be based on research scholarly potential and compatibility with the interests of faculty mentors. A postdoctoral fellow devotes most of his/her time to research collaborations with co-faculty mentors and independent research and research grant proposal writing, but also audit selected courses to broaden disciplinary expertise. Fellowships are for one year, renewable for a second. Candidates must be U.S. citizens (or Permanent Residents) at the time of application. Screening of applications will begin on January 16, 2012 and continue until the position is filled. Email letter of application along with 1) a three-four page statement describing a) research interests and career plan, b) research study proposal, c) proposed post-doctoral faculty mentors at Penn State, 2) a curriculum vitae, 3) example of written work, and 4) three separately sent letters of recommendation to: Angela Jordan (akj3@psu.edu). Penn State is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. For more information about the Population Research Institute and training programs see: http://www.pop.psu.edu or contact Dr. Valarie King, Training Program Director.
What’s in the works for the 2012 meetings?

At least when it comes to section activities, it is never too early to start thinking about the future. So, while we are just a few short months removed from the 2011 ASA meetings, planning for 2012 section activities is well underway.

The 2012 meeting of the American Sociological Association will take place August 17-20 at the Colorado Convention Center and Hyatt Regency in Denver. ASA President, Eric Olin Wright has chosen the theme “Real Utopias: Emancipatory Projects, Institutional Designs, Possible Futures.”

Once again, the Sociology of Population Section will have a busy slate of activities at the meetings. We are currently investigating potential sites for the all-important section reception and awards ceremony (see the call for award nominations on page 6) and the slate of section-sponsored sessions is set. Based on the number of active members, the section has been allotted a total of four section sessions.

As in past years, the section will enhance opportunities for participation by dedicating one of section sessions to roundtable discussions. Anthony Paik (anthony-paik@uiowa.edu) will organize these roundtable sessions with the assistance of the student representatives on the section council. This year the focus will be on the effort to create opportunities for student members and junior faculty to receive feedback on their work from more senior members of the section (see page 3 for more on this and other efforts to enhance the relevance of the section for student members).

In addition to the section roundtables, Section Chair Judith Treas has developed themes for the three remaining section-sponsored sessions that should have broad appeal to our members:

♦ Disciplines and Demography: Finding the Sociology in Population Processes
  Session Organizer: Katherine Donato, Vanderbilt University (katharine.donato@vanderbilt.edu)

♦ Demographic Approaches to Inequality and Disparities
  Session Organizer: John Iceland, Pennsylvania State University (jdi10@psu.edu)

♦ Population, Environment, and Context
  Session Organizer: Lori Hunter, University of Colorado, Boulder (lorimaehunter@comcast.net)

In addition to these sessions, the Population Section is once again collaborating with the Family Sociology section on a joint session (this year counting against the Family Section’s session allocation):

♦ New Demographic Data and Research Approaches to Studying Families
  Organizer: Wendy Manning, Bowling Green State University (wmannin@bgsu.edu)

The deadline for submission of your work to these and other ASA sessions is January 11, 2012 at 3:00pm (EST). The complete list of ASA sessions is available at http://www.asanet.org/meetings/Call_for_Papers.cfm.

More Announcements

(Continued from page 7)

Please consider nominating a colleague for one of the 2012 PAA Awards. All nominations are due on December 31, 2011.

The awards are:

Clifford C. Clogg Award. This award recognizes mid-career achievement in population studies and demography, broadly defined. It honors outstanding innovative scholarly achievements of a population professional who shall have attained his or her highest professional degree within the previous 10 to 20 years.

Dorothy S. Thomas Award. This award is presented annually for the best graduate student paper on the interrelationships among social, economic and demographic variables.

Mindel Sheps Award. This award recognizes scholars for their outstanding contributions to mathematical demography, demographic methodology, and the modeling and analysis of population data.

Early Achievement Award. The Early Achievement award recognizes the contributions of PAA members who have made distinguished contributions to population research during the first ten years after receipt of the Ph.D. This new award should not be confused with the Clifford C. Clogg award.

Please visit the PAA website at http://www.populationassociation.org/ for more information about these awards and how to submit a nomination.

The Sociology of Population Section newsletter publishes announcements of major job changes and opportunities for professional development. If you have an announcement for the Spring 2012 newsletter, please contact Section Secretary/Treasurer, Kyle Crowder, at kylecrow@uw.edu.