

SWS **South**



Photograph from the Sociologists for Women in Society summer banquet in Denver, Colorado, August 2012, courtesy of Kris De Welde.

Newsletter Fall 2012

President's Corner

Greetings SWS-Southerners!

Happy fall to everyone! I begin my first President's Corner with my profound thanks to Kris De Welde who served as President for the past two years. Kris allowed herself to be drafted into a job she didn't know too much about and responded by elevating SWS-South to new and exciting levels. Kris, you have left big shoes for me to fill and I will do my best to continue the upward trajectory of SWS-South that you reignited. I am truly humbled to have been elected President and am thankful for this opportunity to serve SWS-South in a new way. Congratulations to our new Membership Chair and Treasurer, Julie Wiest (formerly our Newsletter Editor), our new Secretary, Kylie Parrotta, our new Newsletter Editor, Carmel Price, and our new National Liaison, Sancha Doxilly. Thanks to Marni Brown for her fantastic first year as Vice President; we are looking forward to even more great things from her in the second year of her term.

New Orleans and our annual meeting seems forever ago, as we have seen graduations, summer months (maybe a vacation?), convocations, and hoards of new students to engage and enlighten since we last saw one another. Living in Northern Virginia means I've also seen presidential candidates, vice-presidential candidates, and more political advertisements than a human should have to endure. I am continually reminded that the work we do in our professional lives has direct relevance for our society, whether in our own neighborhoods, our cities or counties, our states, or the country as a whole. And I am continually reminded of how sociological explanations and understandings are missing from broader public conversations. In this presidential season that has accidentally focused attention on wealth and income inequality, I find SSS President Don Tomaskovic-Devey's decision to name "Relational Inequalities" as his conference theme quite prescient. My hope is that we are emboldened to engage in public dialogue around relational inequalities both before and after the annual meeting.

As your new President, I have two main goals for this year. First, I will coordinate the process of revising our bylaws. The officers and I will be presenting a set of revised bylaws in the spring newsletter to be voted on at our business meeting in April. This is a needed activity,

as in most organizations, as our practices no longer quite fit what the bylaws suggest that we do. We need to get our offices, voting schedule, and practices up-to-date so that our bylaws and our behaviors are in sync.

But the bylaws revision is also connected to my second goal/plan for this year, which is also connected to my desire for us to be engaged in our communities around the issue of inequality. Think about our name (and that of the national organization): Sociologist FOR Women in Society –South. What does the FOR mean? If you look at our activities, we typically organize panels and sessions to facilitate our members' (and others') careers. What are we doing FOR women in the South? Until approximately 2006, we had a standing committee called the Vision Committee. The committee worked to find creative ways to build the organization, focusing not on membership activities per se (like individual recruitment) but instead on cultivating and developing the idea of SWS-South in the SSS. I want to reconstitute that committee, with a new charge of coordinating our activist efforts, specifically by organizing our engaging in some (small) activist activity at each year's SSS meeting.

I have spoken with the officers who unanimously agree that not only should we be more active at the annual meeting, but that we can do something starting this year. I represented SWS-South as a panelist at an SWS session in Denver focusing on the work going on in regional and local chapters of SWS. I was very impressed by the work happening at the local SWS chapter at Kent State/Akron. One of the activities that I thought would translate very easily to a regional organization is to coordinate a "panty drive" where the chapter collects new underwear for women and children at a local domestic violence or homeless shelter. If the meeting remains in Atlanta, Marni Brown has offered to find a local organization to be the recipient of the donated items. If the SSS meeting moves locations, we will work with the local arrangements committee (or tap one of you if you are local) to help us coordinate this first effort. We will provide more detail on this experimental endeavor to give back to our host communities as the annual meeting draws closer. And at our business meeting, we will elect a Vision Committee Chair (if this change to the bylaws is passed) who will then be in charge of coordinating our activist/service activity at the 2014 and 2015 meetings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2: President's Corner

Let me quickly address the fact that the annual SSS meeting may not be held in Atlanta. As a member of the SSS Executive Committee I assure you this is and has not been a conversation that has been handled lightly. Don Tomaskovic-Devey, SSS President, brought his concerns regarding the UNITE NOW boycott of the Hyatt (due to working conditions and possibility of worker intimidation around attempted unionization) to the Executive Committee. We unanimously agreed we could not maintain our contract with the hotel unless the labor situation was successfully resolved. And as Don noted in his recent email to the SSS membership, there is still the possibility we will be in Atlanta, and there is a possibility we may move, but the plan is for the dates of the annual meeting to remain the same: April 17-20, 2013.

Despite being a little uncertain about where the SSS meeting will be held, SWS-South is already planning on making a big impact on the meeting. Under Marni's fantastic guidance, we have approximately seventeen sessions organized and/or co-sponsored by SWS-South in the works. Working with Don Tomaskovic-Devey and his Program Chair, Steve McDonald, we are organizing two thematic sessions. The session entitled "Being a Public Intellectual (and Talking about Gender) in an Era of Soundbites and Anti-Intellectualism" will include Stephanie Coontz and Pepper Schwartz. Second, we are sponsoring "Beyond Publications and Teaching Evaluations: Public Sociology as a Remedy to Relational Inequalities", highlighting the ways our members and many SSS members are already activists in their communities. There will be co-sponsored sessions across all areas of research, teaching, and professional development – something like the best feminist buffet ever! (Well, minus the beignets of last year...) For more information see:

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

Make sure to renew your SWS-South membership with Julie Wiest (jwiest@highpoint.edu). Print copies of the membership form to share with your students and colleagues who you think would benefit from membership in SWS-South. In fact, you could just pay for their initial membership as a gift! Julie is also

working hard on getting us new web space; look for more information from her on this important issue. You may also remember that we are working on the guidelines and criteria for our new awards to be voted on at our business meeting in the spring. Rebecca Bach, our Awards Committee Chair, will be providing more information in the coming months. Please take the time to review the guidelines and provide feedback, just as we did at the business meeting in New Orleans. This is one more way SWS-South can cultivate gender scholars and scholarship; let's work together to create a fantastic set of awards!

We are in the midst of uncertain times. Higher education is undergoing significant changes. States are cutting back to public institutions, and private institutions are under increased scrutiny, making it harder for individuals affiliated with colleges and universities to engage in and share the results of their scholarship with their peers. The influence of the Great Recession on American life may not be known for a decade or more. We as sociologists have more to study than ever before, especially related to the annual meeting's theme of "Relational Inequalities". And on top of that, the Southern Sociological Society annual meeting site is still in flux, less than six months from the meeting. We all know the importance of these meetings for the careers of our colleagues at small colleges and universities, as well as for graduate and undergraduate students (not to mention ourselves). I implore you to plan to attend the meeting regardless of the location. Know that SWS-South will continue to provide space for networking, mentoring, and intellectual exchange and will work to be a welcoming presence no matter which city happens to be our host.

Please feel free to email me about anything SWS-South related, especially if you have ideas or thoughts on how we can do more FOR women in society through SWS-South.

Happy fall, Happy Thanksgiving, happy exams, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year...

*Shannon Davis
President, SWS-South*

Notes from the Membership Chair/Treasurer

Greetings from your newly elected membership chair/treasurer! I am excited to serve SWS-South in this position, though I know I have a lot to live up to! Please join me in thanking Shannon Davis for her many years of service in this position and congratulating her in her new role as our president – we surely are in good hands! And I leave the newsletter editor duties in Carmel Price's capable hands; congratulations to her as well!

It was wonderful seeing many of you in New Orleans in March, and I wish to extend another warm welcome to our new members. Our membership year is April 1-March 30. As of October 1, we had 151 members. Of those, 113 could be considered active members (i.e., they have paid dues within the last five years), and 49 have paid dues for 2012-2013. Thank you to those who responded to my recent membership renewal reminder and for helping to recruit new members at your home institutions. Remember, you can renew/pay dues (or ask me about your membership status) any time of the year. Dues are relatively inexpensive (\$15 for faculty; \$5 for students and unemployed members), so perhaps think about a gift membership for a colleague or student. The membership form is included in this newsletter; you can print it to mail with your dues for the year or give it to a prospective new member. You also may renew or join via the membership page on our website: <http://www2.irss.unc.edu/SWSS/join.html>.

The membership committee has continued to work on recruitment. In what has become a yearly activity, we contacted all of the SWS chapters in the Southern region in early September to re-introduce our organization, explain the benefits we offer, and invite their members to join; we welcomed several new members from these efforts. We also are planning to continue the successful Southern Hand program at the 2013 SSS meeting in Atlanta, and we are grateful that Nick Guittar has once again agreed to lead this effort. Because of Nick's hard work last year, we were able to extend a Southern Hand to 17 newcomers at the SSS meeting in New Orleans. Thank you for your continued participation in this program. Professional meetings can be overwhelming to first-timers, and the assistance we offer through this program represents the friendly and supportive nature of our organization. We hope for similar levels of participation in Atlanta – this means, of course, that we need many of you to volunteer to be mentors for newcomers, so look for the call in the spring. As in past years, we will organize a special membership activity at the upcoming SSS meeting (for which we will seek funds from SWS); look for details in the spring newsletter.

The membership committee this year consists of Kris De Welde (past SWS-S president), Denise Bissler, Nick Guittar, and Brandy L. Simula. All are welcome to join! If you would like to join the committee, or just have questions, comments, or suggestions for the committee, please contact me at jwiest@highpoint.edu.

Financially, we are in good shape as an organization. As of October 1, we had \$1,174.84 in the bank. This is after reimbursing Meghan Conley, our SWS National Liaison, for her expenses related to attending the 2012 SWS Winter Meeting, as well as donating \$940 (from auction proceeds and donations) to the Brees Dream Foundation in memory of April Brayfield. Expected expenses this year include sending our new liaison, Sancha Doxilly, to the 2013 SWS Winter Meeting; acquiring a new domain name and Web host for our website (as discussed at our last business meeting); and purchasing new badge ribbons for the annual meeting.

Best of luck with the rest of your semester!

*Julie B. Wiest
October 2012*

TREASURER'S REPORT	
SWS-SOUTH	
2011-2012	
By Shannon Davis	
BALANCE 4/5/11	\$824.18
INCOME	
Dues and Contributions	\$835.06
Auction Proceeds	\$385.00
Interest on Savings Account	\$0.67
TOTAL	\$1220.73
EXPENSES	
SWS National Liaison Reimbursement (Afflerback)	\$184.30
SWS National Liaison Reimbursement (Flatt)	\$705.88
Quilt Stand	\$31.94
Bank Expenses	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$942.12
BALANCE 3/23/12	\$1102.79

Announcements & Celebrations!

Tanetta Anderson successfully defended her dissertation this past spring at Case Western Reserve University and began a new position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at Central Connecticut State University this fall.

Marni Brown and her partner Casey welcomed their daughter, Emerson Croft Brown, to the world on August 24, 2012. Casey carried and Marni was fortunate to legally adopt her on October 9th. They are very proud parents! Marni also accepted a new job as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Georgia Gwinnett College.

Kris De Welde, Florida Gulf Coast University, was appointed to Director of General Education at her institution.

Mary Frank Fox, at Georgia Tech, is co-chair of the Social Science Advisory Board of the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

Angela Jones, Elon College, is now serving as the SWS Network News Editor (thanks, Angela!). If you have any regional and local news that you want to be known nationally and internationally then please notify Angela at ajones5@elon.edu.

Beth A. Rubin, at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, was elected into the SRA and welcomed into the association during the Denver meetings this past August. She was also appointed to Director of Public Policy at UNC Charlotte. Beth recently served as SSS President; her Presidential Plenary talk, "Shifting Social Contracts and the Sociological Imagination," is now published in *Social Forces*.

Julie B. Wiest, at High Point University, published an article (with Mary Duffy), "The Impact of Gender Roles on Verdicts and Sentences in Cases of Filicide," in *Criminal Justice Studies* in October 2012.

Keep news and announcements coming, send to **Carmel Price** at carmel.price2967@furman.edu, SWS-South wants to help celebrate your many milestones and accomplishments!



Photograph from the American Sociological Association annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, August 2012, courtesy of Kris De Welde.

SWS-South Officers 2012-2013

President: Shannon Davis, George Mason University (sdaviso@gmu.edu)
Vice President: Marni Brown, Georgia Gwinnett College (marnialyson@gmail.com)
Secretary: Kylie Parrotta, North Carolina State University (klparrot@ncsu.edu)
Treasurer/Membership Chair: Julie B. Wiest, High Point University (jwiest@highpoint.edu)
Newsletter Editor: Carmel E. Price, Furman University (carmel.price2967@furman.edu)
Electronic List Keeper: Sandra Godwin, Georgia College & State University (sandra.godwin@gcsu.edu)
Webmistress: Perry Threlfeld, George Mason University (pthrelf1@gmu.edu)
Awards Committee Chairs: Rebecca Bach, Duke University (rbach@soc.duke.edu)
Tom Hood, University of Tennessee at Knoxville (tomhood@utk.edu)
SWS National Liaison: Sancha Doxilly, Duke University (sld28@soc.duke.edu)
Southern Hand Coordinator: Nick Guittar, University of South Carolina - Lancaster (nguittar@mailbox.sc.edu)

Find archive newsletters here: <http://www2.irss.unc.edu/SWSS/newsletter.html>

SOCIOLOGISTS FOR WOMEN IN SOCIETY - SOUTH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name (please print): _____

Home Address: _____ Work Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

Please place an asterisk next to your preferred mailing address.

1. Are you interested in serving on a committee in the Southern Sociological Society? If so, check the committees in which you are interested and for which you feel qualified to serve.

- Committee on the Profession Program Committee Site Selection Committee
- Elections Committee Nominations Committee Committee on the Status of Women
- Committee on Honors Publications Committee Committee on Sociological Practice
- Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Membership Committee
- Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges Committee on the Status of Students

2. Are you interested in running for an office or serving on a committee in SWS-South? If so, check the office in which you are interested and for which you feel qualified to serve. Many of the officers have committees. Write "Committee Member" beside the officer with whom you would like to serve.

- President Vice President Secretary Treasurer/Membership Chair
- Newsletter Editor SWS-South Archivist SWS-National Liaison

Dues: \$10 New member \$15 Regular \$5 Students and Unemployed Contribution: \$ _____
(The membership year is April 1 - March 31)

PLEASE MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM, ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK FOR DUES TO:

Julie B. Wiest
High Point University
Drawer 33
833 Montlieu Ave.
High Point, NC 27262